



Jan 2015

ROUNDUP

Official newsletter of the 8th Marine Corps District



New 8-Ball logo on the 8MCD Headquarters building

Announcements

Education Office

With the release of MARADMIN 687/14, significant changes to tuition assistance (TA) policies went in to effect immediately. The list below is a summary:

- First-time users must have 24 months time-in-service, be qualified for promotion, and have completed the Personal Financial Management MCI. First time users must begin with only one course at a time unless they possess an Associate's degree or at least 60 credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- No Marine may enroll in more than two courses simultaneously.
- Marines will be denied the use of TA if their cumulative undergraduate GPA after 15 hours of course work falls below 2.0.
- Marines will be denied the use of TA if their cumulative graduate GPA after 6 hours of course work falls below a 2.5.
- Marines will reimburse the government for any undergraduate coursework grade below a "C."
- Marines will reimburse the government for any graduate coursework grade below a "B."
- TA cannot be used for coursework any higher than the Master's level.
- TA is funded quarterly on a first come, first served basis.
- TA requests cannot be submitted any earlier than 60 days prior to the beginning of a course.

Contact your Education Officer and read MARADMIN 687/14 in its entirety for all the details

Safety

Winterizing Your Car

An emergency situation on the road can arise at any time and you must be prepared. Along with a tune-up, a full tank of gas, and fresh anti-freeze, you should keep in your trunk:

- A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod-type jack
- A shovel, ice scraper and snow brush
- Jumper cables
- Tow chains
- Tool kit

Essential Supplies

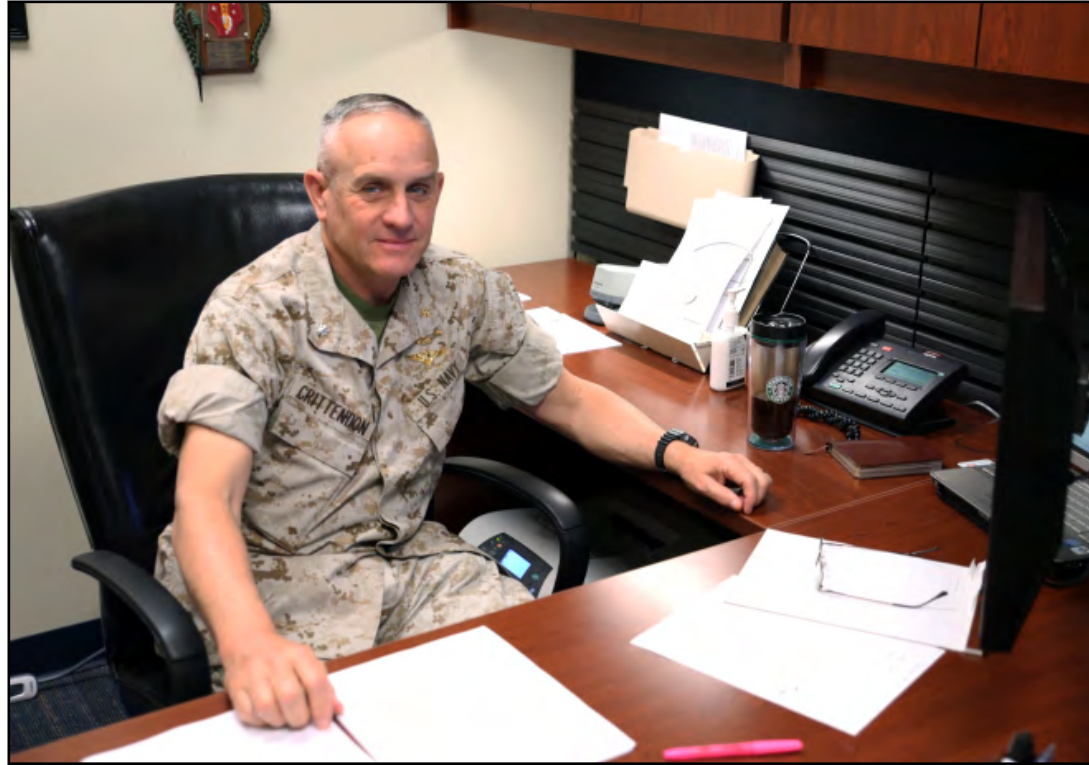
Be prepared with a survival kit that should always remain in the car. Essential supplies include:

- Working flashlight and extra batteries
- Reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth
- Compass
- First aid kit
- Exterior windshield cleaner
- A bag of salt or cat litter
- Wooden stick matches in a waterproof container
- Scissors and string/cord
- Non-perishable, high energy foods like unsalted canned nuts, dried fruits, and hard candy
- In addition, if you are driving long distances under cold, snowy, and icy conditions, you should also carry supplies to keep you warm, such as heavy woolen mittens, socks, a cap, and blanket

Fire place Do's and Don'ts

- Don't use gasoline to start a fire. Use paper, kindling and dry wood.
- Use a screen to keep sparks from popping out of the fireplace.
- Make sure that floor coverings and furniture are far enough away from the fireplace.
- Make sure the flue is clean and open, and that the damper works. Open the damper before starting a fire.
- Don't use your fireplace as an incinerator for trash.
- Make sure the fire is out before you leave it alone or go to bed.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal bucket or other metal container. Make sure they are cool.
- Install smoke detectors and make sure they work.
- Keep a 5-pound fire extinguisher on hand. It should be rated for A-B-C fires, and you should know how to use it.
- Don't use water to extinguish a fire. It can crack the bricks in your hearth. Let the fire burn itself out.
- When burning artificial logs, burn only one at a time. They produce too much concentrated heat for some types of fireplaces.

Spiritual Readiness For Our Life Today



One of the most popular Christian scriptures among military personnel in combat is Psalm 91. The first two verses read as follows, “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” In the stress of a combat deployment, the words “honor, courage, and commitment,” become more than a slogan. They are the ideals by which we live and die. To hope when all seems hopeless, to fight on when all seems lost, these are the attributes of the spiritually ready. Only the spiritually ready have the moral courage to persevere in the face of overwhelming odds. Spirituality is developed in pain and forged in adversity. A person who has lived a sheltered life generally lacks spiritual depth. The term “spirituality” is frequently used but is hard to define. Spirituality is an intangible part of life, very important but difficult to pin down. Some warriors will enter a

combat zone with spirituality they developed in a religious upbringing. Some will find their faith reinforced, others will find their faith tested to the breaking point. Some warriors will develop a “battlefield spirituality” that is similar to the coping skills of combat veterans of every war. The adage “religion is for people who don’t want to go to hell, spirituality is for people who have already been” finds resonance with some warriors who have experienced a difficult past and are living a painful present. Drawing on internal resources under stressful circumstances often becomes the point in which a warrior makes the connection to their spirituality. (Note: Adapted from Marine Corps guide for religious ministry)

Psalm 91 speaks of the strength and shelter we gain from our God in whom we place our trust. I would encourage you to read the whole Psalm and consider how this rich passage speaks to spiri-

tual strength. Spiritual strength may be understood as the ability to put one's trust in power beyond ourselves that controls circumstances, even the circumstances found in combat or right outside our front door. For those of us who take the Bible as our spiritual guidebook, God is the one in whom we place our trust and we are able to echo the words of the Psalmist in all of our circumstances.

The principles discussed above apply beyond deployments and the combat zone. Challenges are found in all aspects of life, including the world of recruiting. Where are you spiritually in this moment? In whom are you placing your trust? Remember that we are to be ready not only for hellish circumstances such as combat, but for the daily spiritual challenges no matter where we find ourselves. Let us all seriously consider our spiritual readiness so that we are ready for tomorrow.

inFROmation



I love the new year. It's a fresh start, a reset, a we've-got-another-chance-to-get-it-right type of happiness that the first month of a new year brings. January is often the start of traditional resolutions as well as a refocusing of intentions and goal setting. It just feels right to be able to reflect on the successes and challenges of the previous year, adjust where necessary, and press "go." In 2015 the 8th Marine Corps District's Unit, Personal, and Family Readiness Program looks forward to continuing its successful District Spouses Orientation Course. Simply referred to as DSOC, the first course (DSOC 1-15) of the fiscal year is scheduled for 17-20 February 2015 here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. DSOC provides 8MCD spouses throughout our 888,000 square mile district area with tools and resources conducive to facilitating a successful recruiting tour. Our area of responsibility is large and encompasses 10 states in the western portion of the United States. Our recruiters and families can be found as far away from the district headquarters as small townships in Wyoming to the tip of Texas in Brownsville. Because of this geographical dispersing, our spouses may sometimes find that they represent the only Marine Corps family in their new communities, a situation that can seem initially uneasy, particularly if that Marine Corps spouse, is not only new to recruiting but also completely new to the Marine Corps. DSOC wraps its arms around the spouses assigned to the 8th, embracing them with experience provided by subject matter

experts, empowering them with a massive network of resources, and setting the tone for an enriched and enjoyable tour away from the flagpole. DSOC's "you can do it" mantra is infectious and paid forward to those within the district who may not be able to make it to the DFW.

For details on the when and where of DSOCs happening in 2015 contact your Recruiting Station Deputy Family Readiness Officer or

L.I.N.K.S.

i-resources

8th Marine Corps District

Family Readiness Resource Guide 2014 Edition



The iResource guide is a comprehensive listing of all of the resources you have available to you, from descriptions of Marine Corps Family Team Building courses to phone numbers and websites for all of the military installations and services available in our District.

Please contact your deputy FRO for your copy, or you can email Melanie Cullum, trainer, for more information

melanie.cullum@marines.usmc.mil



Recruiting: 101



High School students from all over the nation are hand-selected to play in the All-American Semper Fidelis Bowl each year. This year, the East picked up a dominant 24-3 win over the West on January 4, 201 inside the StubHub Center in Carson, California. Each of teams have football coaches and drill instructors to guide and motivate them through out the training, practices and game day events.



RS/RSS Standings

* Ranking based off Attr.%.
Ties broken by Ship.% then Cont.%.

RS RANKINGS

(Lowest % MCRD Attrition FY15 to Date)

SNCOIC	RS	Attr. %	Ship %	Cont %
1. SSgt Arriola	DEN	0.0	160.0	113.3
2. SSgt Sanchez	SAT	0.0	136.4	106.3
3. GySgt Orozco	SAT	0.0	125.0	105.0
4. SSgt Gonzalez	SAT	0.0	112.5	100.0
5. GySgt Lazard	FTW	0.0	111.1	100.0
6. SSgt Alcorn	DEN	0.0	110.0	100.0
7. Sgt Vasquez	SAT	0.0	107.1	107.7
8. GySgt Sharp	DEN	0.0	107.1	105.9
9. SSgt Lawrence	PHX	0.0	106.7	100.0
10.SSgt Knapp	DAL	0.0	100.0	100.0
11.SSgt Williams	DAL	0.0	100.0	135.0
12.SSgt Blake	OKC	0.0	100.0	121.4
13.Sgt Harwell	ABQ	0.0	100.0	106.7
14.GySgt Garcia	PHX	0.0	100.0	104.3
15.SSgt Gates	FTW	0.0	100.0	100.0
16.GySgt McLucas	FTW	0.0	100.0	100.0
17.GySgt Martin	PHX	0.0	100.0	100.0
18.SSgt Larsen	OKC	0.0	100.0	100.0
19.GySgt Benn	DAL	0.0	100.0	100.0
20.Sgt Zubire	HOU	0.0	100.0	100.0
21.GySgt Fyffe	FTW	0.0	100.0	100.0
22.SSgt Fuller	ABQ	0.0	100.0	100.0
23.SSgt Gillis	HOU	0.0	100.0	100.0
24.SSgt Brewster	PHX	0.0	100.0	100.0



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*The Corner Pocket***8412 Standings****(FY15 to Date)**

* Ranking based off Attr. %.

Ties broken by Ship. % then Cont. %.

8412	Recruiting Station	Attr. %	Ship %	Cont. %
1. GySgt Orozco	FTW	0.0	125.0	105.0
2. GySgt Lazard	PHX	0.0	112.5	100.0
3. GySgt Sharp	DEN	0.0	107.1	105.9
4. GySgt Garcia	HOU	0.0	100.0	104.3
5. GySgt Martin	OKC	0.0	100.0	100.0
6. GySgt Benn	FTW	0.0	100.0	100.0
7. SSgt Brewster	SAT	0.0	100.0	100.0
8. GySgt Stuckenschneider	PHX	5.9	106.3	100.0
9. GySgt Kertz	SAT	8.3	109.1	100.0

OSO Standings

Rankings based on PLC/OCC Submissions, Selections, OCS Shipping, OCS Induction and OCS Attrition. Summer 2014 OCS begins 26 May, 2014. Reference Appendix 5 to Annex C to Op Order 1-14.

1.	Capt Lindig	OSO COLLEGE STATION
2.	Capt Marsinek	OSO NORMAN
3.	Capt Jure	OSO DALLAS
3.	Capt Guest	OSO ARLINGTON
3.	Capt Johnson	OSO PHOENIX
6.	Capt Kates	OSO DENVER
7.	Capt Granado	OSO AUSTIN
8.	Capt Tate	HOUSTON
8.	Capt Emison	OSO FORT COLLINS
	Capt Strehl	OSO LUBBOCK