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SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF
SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD L. GREEN
SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
OF THE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
ON
SINGLE SERVICEMEMBERS AND FAMILY READINESS PROGRAMS
ON
14 FEBRUARY 2017

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SgtMaj Ronald Green
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Sergeant Major Green assumed his current post as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on February 20, 2015. A native of Jackson, Miss, he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in November 1983.

He has been meritoriously promoted to the ranks of private first class, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant and staff sergeant.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Green has been assigned numerous duties to include: field artillery cannoneer; field artillery nuclear projectileman; tower operator; drill instructor, senior drill instructor and drill master; battery section chief and battery gunnery sergeant, Assistant Marine Officer Instructor at Southern University and A&M College; first sergeant of Inspector-Instructor Staff, B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment; and sergeant major of Headquarters Marine Corps Henderson Hall, Marine Corps Forces Europe/Marine Corps Forces Africa, and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

He has deployed to Somalia with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) during Operation Restore Hope in 1993; to South America in support of Operation United Americas (UNITAS) in 2002; and with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006.

Sergeant Major Green holds a B.S. in Cybersecurity and a M.S. in Cybersecurity Policy from the University of Maryland University College.

Introduction

Chairman Tillis, Ranking Member Gillibrand, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide you with an update on the commitment of the Marine Corps to our Marines and their families.

The Marine Corps continues to maintain its commitment to the Nation, remaining forward-deployed and ready to respond to crises around the world. With the dynamic pace of current and future demands, our Nation's leaders require, and the American people expect, your Marines to answer the call, to fight, and to win. Thanks to your lasting support and leadership, the Marine Corps has always been the Nation's expeditionary force in readiness. The Marine Corps is dedicated to our essential role as an expeditionary force that Congress and the American people can call on as the most ready force, when the Nation is least ready.

Your Marines are the foundation of the Marine Corps. They are the Corps' most sacred resource, and always will be. Taking care of Marines and their families is a key element of overall readiness and combat effectiveness. The adage "we recruit Marines, we retain families" remains as true today as ever. Our comprehensive package of programs and services seek the holistic readiness of our Marines and families.

Our Single Marines

The Marine Corps is by far your most junior service. The average age of your Active Component Marines is 25 years; 65percent are under 25 years of age or younger and 56 percent of your Marines are single. As a result of these dynamics, programs to support single Marines and their dependents are important.

Our Single Marine Program (SMP), as the consolidated voice for all single Marines and Sailors to the Commanders, develops initiatives and programs to enhance morale, recreation, community relations, and personal development in order to improve total force readiness, unit

cohesion, job performance, and retention within the Marine Corp. The SMP identifies quality of life (QOL) concerns and developing QOL solutions that focus on readiness, leadership development, personal growth, community outreach, and recreation. The SMP incorporates commanders and leaders in the SMP QOL process allowing them to directly influence the issues with living on base, such as parking, chow hall, the Exchange (MCX), and anything else which directly influences the QOL for single Marines.

The SMP allows for participation in a wide variety of social, competitive, and educational activities that may include the great outdoors such as paintball, deep sea fishing, river rafting, mountain biking, and hiking. In addition, excursions to Washington, DC, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and New York City are just a few of the opportunities SMP offers. The SMP social, recreation, and fitness programs within Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) deployment support provide for participation in leisure activities when forward deployed away from the home installation in austere environments.

Each installation establishes an SMP Council that is comprised of an executive council, unit representatives, an SMP Coordinator, and Senior Enlisted Advisor. Councils conduct monthly meetings where members discuss leisure activities of interest, community involvement projects, and QOL issues that are relevant to single Marines. Unit representatives are responsible for providing information to members of their units to ensure engagement at the unit level. This provides a direct link between the Unit's Command Team and what Installation SMP is providing for single Marines.

The SMP helps mold the public perception of our military through continuous volunteerism in the community by participating in Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, Adopt a

School, beach cleanups, or Veterans Homes visits. In 2016, over 7,000 single Marines provided nearly 30,000 volunteer hours.

Lastly, in January 2016, 112 Marines traveled from installations around the world to attend the 2016 SMP Leadership Symposium. The symposium consisted of three days of leadership training that included educational sessions, networking opportunities, professional development, and mentorship. The symposium also offered many opportunities for operational Commanders and senior enlisted leadership to engage directly with the single Marines that serve in leadership roles at their installations.

Family Readiness Programs

The Marine Corps continues to strive to provide robust family readiness services for our Marines, attached Sailors, and families. Our Family Readiness Programs continue to methodically adjust programs to post-Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) footing, while also taking into account the unpredictable and demanding operational tempo before, during, and after deployments.

Our portfolio of Family Readiness training programs provide Marines, Sailors, and families with the tools and resources needed to successfully meet the challenges of military life and enhance mission readiness by providing preventative services and assistance (e.g., Stress Management, Anger Management) that is offered to all Marines, Sailors, and their families. The focus is to increase awareness and provide skill-building tools and readiness for individual and family development.

Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB) reinforces and sustains a state of personal and family readiness through a continuum of resources that are offered at finite and predictable touch points across the life-cycle and development of Marines, Sailors, and their

families. Training is provided at the unit level, through partnerships with Family Readiness Officers, and other supporting resources of the unit. Training opportunities at the installation level are also provided and promoted throughout the installation. MCFTB Computer Based Training (CBT) courses have been fully incorporated into MarineNet to expand and enhance accessibility. All authorized patrons are able to register for an account and utilize the CBT on MarineNet.

Family Readiness Program Training (FRPT) builds on a strong unit Command Team influence that has become the focal point of the Marine and Family Programs across unit and installation levels. The FRP Trainer's responsibility is to provide training for the Unit Command Team Training, Family Readiness Officer (FRO) Training, Commanding Officer/Senior Enlisted Spouse Training, Command Team Advisor/Family Readiness Assistant Training, Operational Security Training, and Volunteer Management Training.

Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills, commonly referred to as L.I.N.K.S., is the signature training for MCFTB. This year marks the 20th anniversary in which L.I.N.K.S. was formalized as an official training component that serves as an organizational socialization tool to aid Marines, Sailors and families in similar phases of their life. L.I.N.K.S. provides an introduction to the Marine Corps culture and lifestyle, thereby increasing participants' knowledge, and empowering them with tools to enhance self-sufficiency. L.I.N.K.S. also teaches and informs participants about the many military and community resources and benefits available to them at the local installation and the surrounding areas.

LifeSkills Training and Education promotes positive adjustment and improved individual and family functioning, providing workshops on life competencies in areas that are not currently offered by other MCCS entities. These workshops focus on communication, relationships, and

wellness. Conquering Stress with Strength (CSWS) – is a newly developed training in collaboration with Behavioral Health and MCFTB. CSWS is an evidence-informed workshop, presented in a format that is non-clinical, relevant, and useful to Marines, Sailors, and families. CSWS workshops focus on cognitive restructuring, emotional regulation, and problem solving skills development.

Readiness & Deployment Support Training (RDST) provides deployment workshops to Marines, Sailors, and family members, to include children, which encompass all phases of their servicemember's deployment from Redeployment to Return and Reunion classes. MCFTB trainers work in conjunction with unit FROs to focus on educating and preparing Marines, Sailors, and families for all types of deployments and family separation topics. During deployment, a series of practical application workshops are provided which allow Marines, Sailors, and families to engage in fun activities, understand the support of the military community and learn new skills that empower their ability to thrive in the military lifestyle. Lastly, Return and Reunion training provides a series of interactive workshops which are specific to spouses, parents/extended family members of the Marine, and children about the expectations and positive reintegration.

In FY 2016, the Marine Corps extended childcare development center hours to a 14-hour minimum, ensuring military families are able to have access to care for their children when they are on duty. The Marine Corps, like other services, has been looking at our long-range options of our current childcare programs and how to improve access and usability. This includes the participation in MilitaryChildCare.com that provides a single gateway for military families to find comprehensive information on military-operated or military-approved childcare programs

worldwide. This system is to make it easier on families to navigate the process and to facilitate more expedited access to childcare.

The readiness of our deployable forces is our priority. The primary mission of our Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is to improve the quality of life for families that support a member with special needs. EFMP ensures that sponsors with a family member with special needs will have those special needs considered during the assignment coordination process. We maximize family support funds based on the greatest need. Critical EFMP care services include (1) Effective assignment of Marines and Exceptional Family Member (EFM) continuum of care; (2) Individualized family case management support; (3) Care navigation training for EFM Advocates (parents/sponsor); and (4) Access to legal services.

Conclusion

Overall, our single Marine and family readiness programs have one overarching goal: to take care of our own and their families. The Marines of our Corps represent the American people who have stepped forward and sworn to defend and protect our Nation. By ensuring that we take care of all Marines and their families, we fulfill our responsibility to keep faith with the honor, courage, and commitment they have so freely given.

With your support, a vibrant Marine Corps will continue to meet our Nation's call.