

**COMMANDING OFFICER**  
**1st Battalion, 3d Marines**

**UNIT AND FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM**  
**POLICY STATEMENT**



Our battalion's mission is one of the most important that any organization can have inside or outside of the Department of Defense. Our Corps and our nation cannot succeed without the hard, diligent work of our Marines and Sailors. Subsequently, I have no doubt that the support of our families is critical to our success. Our families can be extremely proud of what our Marines and Sailors are doing. Very few men and women ever attain the skill and achieve the level of professionalism that our Marines and Sailors have.

Serving in an infantry battalion is challenging duty that requires long hours of our Marines and Sailors. I greatly understand the importance of family time to both our Marines, Sailors, and their families. We strive for our command to achieve a level of efficiency that allows us to maximize time with family and friends. The purpose of our family readiness program is to enhance readiness, foster cohesion, and create both formal and informal support systems for our families. We should strive to have some fun in the process.

This command will have a highly accessible means of open communication with our families. Concerns made by our Marines, Sailors, and their family members will be treated with the utmost importance.

While we are blessed to be stationed in Hawaii, being based outside of the continental United States can also pose unique challenges for our families. I highly encourage our families to become familiar with and take advantage of services provided by Marine Corps Community Services, Marine and Family Team Building, Military One Source, and others. I also highly encourage spouses to take advantage of LINKS (Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills) training when it is offered. See this webpage to learn more about LINKS: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/links/>.

Melissa Whipkey is our Deployment Readiness Coordinator, (808) 257-2196, and can answer pertinent questions and provide assistance. Our Marines and Sailors should never hesitate to seek out the answers to questions or concerns that he or she may have. The chain of command and the family readiness program are here to ensure that our families and our Marines and Sailors have all the information and support they need.

  
A. G. GOURGOU MIS  
LTCOL, U.S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING OFFICER