

U.S. Marine Corps Forces

Europe & Africa

Winter Edition 2013



UNIT, PERSONAL AND FAMILY READINESS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE

**Marine Volunteer Fair
& Brown Bag Lunch**

February 20

**Family Readiness
Volunteer Kick-off &
Training**

February 22

Women's Self Defense

February 28

Welcome Aboard Lunch

March 1

**My Buddy, Tea, & Me
Easter Egg Hunt**

Children's Event

March 23

**Month of the Military
Child Event**

April 27

[http://
www.facebook.com/
FROinGermany](http://www.facebook.com/FROinGermany)



Marine & Family Winterfest 2012



On the first night in December, Marines and family members from the Stuttgart area, gathered at the Swabian event center to kick off the holiday season. Marines and family members have become accustomed to celebrating the holidays with an annual command party. This year, the Family Readiness Team decided to ask for as little help as possible from the Marines while planning this annual event. Our Marines, Civilians, and family members, contribute so much throughout the year, this was a time for them to sit back, relax and enjoy the party.

The Swabian Event Center provided a fantastic Turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. The Panzer Dining Facility, 1/10th Special Forces Group, made delicious festive cakes, and Patch Commissary Manager, Jeff Rose, contributed, gift cards and German Cookie Tins as door prizes.

The kids enjoyed board games and Twister, arts & crafts, sugar cookie decorating, and a holiday movie. The highlight of the evening was the arrival of the "Star" of the party, Santa Claus. Santa Claus arrived inside the bucket on the fire department ladder truck (it was a very cold night). After making his way inside to his chair, children and adults waited their turn to have their picture taken with Santa and whisper their wish list in his ear. There were a few little ones who weren't that fond of Santa, but most of the kids enjoyed his company, chocolate bars and candy canes.

After the kids were all hyped up on sugar, they were treated to a bag of gummy delights on their way to the coat room. The Marine Corps Kids organization also shipped beanies, scarves, baby blankets, bears, and much more for our Marine children to enjoy. These items are handmade by volunteers all over the United States, many are donated in memory of a fallen Marine.

Thanks to all who were able to participate in this year's event. A special "Thank You" to Mrs. O'Meara, MSgt Rodriguez, Sgt and Mrs. Hilleger (aka Martha Stewart) and Cpl Griffin for volunteering to assist with decorations and clean up.



Kathy Nelson, Family Readiness Officer

MARINE FORCES AFRICA

Marines, Sailors & Families,

First, thank you for your hospitality during our visit in November. Cindy and I enjoyed meeting you. We were also glad we had the opportunity to answer your questions at the town hall meeting.

Second, happy **New Year!** With the New Year we have gotten off to a running start. For our MARFORAF Marines, activities in North Africa have kept us busy. Additionally, the potential for sequestration budget cuts has created uncertainty for our nation, our Marine Corps, and I know for many of you. For those that have been around awhile, you will know that we have gone through similar challenges. I will assure you, we have managed the challenges in the past, and we will do so again in the future. We just need to continue to focus on our mission while taking care of our Marines and our families. By doing so, we'll do just fine.

Third, I would like to continue to encourage you to get involved with your community. In this newsletter there is information on how you can become a volunteer with the command's Family Readiness Team or as a community volunteer. I know that living overseas presents unique challenges. I also know that living and working on an Army installation is a new experience for many. While it's not the same as what you may be used to with a Marine base, many of the same resources are available. Volunteering can be a great way to meet others and learn about the different services available in this Army - and Joint-community. It may also help make your tour overseas more enjoyable.

Both Marine Forces Africa and Marine Forces Europe will have a significant turnover of Marines during this summer's PCS season. This will provide an opportunity to get involved as sponsor to assist our inbound Marines and families make a successful transition to our command. To learn more, please contact the Family Readiness Officer, Katherine Nelson at FRO@mfe.usmc.mil

Thank you all for what you do to support the command's mission. Also, special thanks to our spouses and family members who support our Marines. Your support is truly appreciated and is an important part of our success.

Semper Fidelis

MajGen Raymond C. Fox, USMC



MARINE FORCES EUROPE

Marines, Civilian Marines, and families of Marine Forces, Europe and Marine Forces, Africa,

First and foremost I would like to thank each of you for your continued commitment and personal sacrifices made each and every day in the service to our nation. To those who volunteer their personal time and energy to support our Family Readiness Program and Single Marine Program I want to send a special thanks and recognition. .. Andrea Garcia, Jill Velasquez, Nancy Fairfield, Katrina Farrell, Linda Williams, Sonya Mooneyham, Candice Hilleger, Kathy Douquet, Taimi Schweighardt, Thais Jones, Aletta Rice...**THANK YOU!**



Since our last Family Readiness Newsletter there has been plenty of activity within the headquarters. Our Marine Corps Birthday Ball celebration was an exceptional event enjoyed by all...thanks you Major Serano and team! Winterfest at the Swabian was exceptional....thank you Ms. Nelson and all who volunteered to set up and clean the rooms before and after the event.

Since the last newsletter you may have also noticed increased activities among the staffs. Emerging changes within the geostrategic landscape and several recent events within North Africa have had an effect on our “normal.” Combined, these have added to our previous steady-state level of effort for both Marine Forces, Europe and Marine Forces, Africa. This will likely continue for the foreseeable future. Your support is highly appreciated.

As I mentioned within the last newsletter, I am seeking increased volunteer support to enhance our Family Readiness Program, expand opportunities to socialize and network among our Marine families and to ensure our Sponsorship Program is ready for the upcoming PCS season. Kathy has further information on all the opportunities available. I encourage those interested to seek her and/or attend our volunteer kick-off meeting and training on February 22nd.

Again, Angela and I thanks thank you for all that you do each day.

Semper Fi.

BGen J. Scott O'Meara, USMC

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SgtMaj's Corner



Marines & Sailors,

Good job celebrating this past holiday season safely and responsibly. The New Year brings with it continued change and challenges. I am certain the men and women who make up the Marine Forces Europe and Marine Forces Africa will continue to provide outstanding service to the Combatant Commands and the Marine Corps. We will continue to support the organization's mission while improving our proficiency and capability.

These are interesting times for our Nation and the Marine Corps please be patient with the uncertainty that comes with the New Year. It can be a frustrating experience if expectations are not tempered with the reality that often comes with change.

I'm extremely proud of the performance of both organizations. The men and women of Marine Forces Europe & Marine Forces Africa are doing a fabulous job that will have a lasting impact in Europe and Africa.

Semper Fidelis

SgtMaj McCook

SMP Thanksgiving Lunch

Stuttgart single and unaccompanied Marines enjoyed an early Thanksgiving lunch on November 16 compliments of Family Readiness, volunteers and the Panzer Dining Facility. Often our single Marines are called upon to assist with community events and Marine events. This was an opportunity for us to show our gratitude to our hard working Marines. This has become an annual event enjoyed by all who participate. Thank you Marines & Volunteers!





Events available for Single Marines

FREE COMEDY SHOW

February 24 at the Patch Community Club

World-renowned comedian David Deeble will WOW! community members with tricks, interactive skits, and hilarious jokes during this family-friendly performance

Contact snorby@uso.org or vol.stuttgart@uso.org; 07031-15-3345

USO

FREE Monthly Lunch, 1100-1300, The last Wednesday of every month.

- 27 February: Soul Food
- 27 March: – Cajun/Creole.
- 24 April: – Quiches/Casseroles

BOSS

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

BOSS meetings are on the second and last Tuesday of every month, at Patch Barracks, Bldg 2505, 2nd Floor

USO MOBILE CANTEEN

- 26-27 April:

Mobile Hot Dog Canteen. USO volunteers will serve hot dogs, chili dogs, chips, and drinks to the community 1100-1400 both days.

- 26 April at Kelley Commissary;
- 27 April at the Patch Springfest

OUTDOOR RECREATION

16-18 Feb – Night Sledding in Interlaken, Switzerland; \$149 for SWPC participants (includes transportation, lodging, breakfast, night sledding trip, cheese fondue dinner, and guide).

16-17 March – St. Pat's Ski/Board Weekend to Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany; \$75 (includes transportation, lodging, shuttles, breakfast, equipment, ski/board lessons, and guide).

23 March— Snow Day Trip to Garmisch, Bavaria - \$80

30 March - Snow Day Trip to Ischgl, Austria - \$80

5–8 April — Paris Biking and Disney Weekend - \$550

13–14 April – Horseback Riding Beginner Weekend - \$250

11 May – Skydiving; \$100 There is an extra charge for participants over 200lbs.

Outdoor Recreation, Panzer Kaserne- Bldg. 2953

DSN: 431-2774, CIV: 07031-15-2774, www.stuttgartmwr.com

The resources listed below are provided by the HQMC Library Program for Marines and family members not located on an USMC installation with access to the MCCS installation library. These resources are provided for Active Duty and Reserve Marines, USMC DoD Civilians and family members. Please DO NOT share log-in IDs and passwords with non-eligible people.



1. GALE Electronic Databases

Use GALE resources to find eBooks, full text articles and abstracts that are relevant to your needs. The cross searchable databases include collections for criminal justice, military and intelligence, health, sports medicine, academics, and news. The Student Resource Center - Junior offers content that meets middle school standards, and the Student Edition collection offers articles and ebooks on a wide range of high school subject matter. National Geographic Archives: 1888-1994 are now available. Career Transitions, a job search and resume help resource, is also available. For access information, please contact the Family Readiness Officer.

2. Military One Source www.militaryonesource.mil

MOS provides 21 electronic databases to both Active Duty and Family members. There are resources on a variety of subjects for both children and adults to include academic journals for research, genealogy and investment information. There are 9 sources to download eBooks and Audiobooks to various mobile devices. Also offered are an Online Academic Skills Center for help with Math and Writing and Peterson's, which offers access to practice tests for SAT, ACT, ASVAB and many other tests. Registration is required on this site for access to the DoD MWR Library resources. From the Homepage under the Military Life Topics Tab click on Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Under Popular Links, click on DoD MWR Library Resources. Click on READ MORE and this will take you to the login page. Enter your User ID and Password. Choose the widget for the database you wish to search. The Power Searching @My MWR Library widget searches across multiple databases.

3. Online Encyclopedias <http://library.usmc-mccs.org/>

This is the Homepage for the MCCS Libraries online catalog and resource links. Scroll down on the left side scroll down to choose the online encyclopedias. World Book Online includes: World Book Online for Kids; World Book Online Info Center; World Book Online Reference Center; World Book Discover; Living Green; Early Peoples; Inventions and Discoveries; Dramatic Learning; Craft Corner, and Early World of Learning. Also included are versions in Spanish and French. Craft Corner offers craft ideas and instructions for all ages. For access, please contact the Family Readiness Officer.

4. Navy Knowledge Online www.nko.navy.mil

Available on NKO are many electronic resources in a variety of subject areas. Active Duty, Reserve and Retired Marines have access from CAC login or password. Family members in DEERS can register for a guest account. Users can access these resources from the Home Page by clicking on Navy Library e-Content under Reference on the right. On the left side of the page you will see the e-Content listed by subject. Click on desired subject to go to those resources. Subjects include downloadable Audio and eBooks; Careers; College Prep and Study Guides; Do-It-Yourself; Military; History; Genealogy; Health; Journals and Magazines; Legal and resources for children. There are over 60 titles from the CMC list in various formats for downloading under the Audio and eBooks tab-Overdrive. ** NEW Resource – Newspaper Direct; 2200 newspapers from around the globe – 97 Countries, 54 languages, 90 day backfile.

5. Transparent Language Online

The MCCS Library Program has added Transparent Language Online, a fun, effective, and engaging language-learning program for libraries and their patrons to the language learning resources available to the Marine Corps community. The program is accessible via web-browser and will be available for free to all MCCS library patrons. Please contact mccslibraries@usmc.mil to request for remote access instructions for Transparent Language Online. Please include name, rank or USMC affiliation and duty station in your request.

Through their access on www.marinenet.usmc.mil Active duty Marines also have access to deployment and operational languages via a suite of software, courses, and services for language, regional knowledge, and culture training and

(Cont.)

assessment specifically designed to support USMC total force training and professional military education efforts. With the addition of Transparent Language Online, the extended Marine Corps community, including dependents and retirees, has access to a high-quality recreational language learning system.

Transparent Language Online is packed full of pronunciation, speech, grammar, writing, and vocabulary building lessons for over 100 languages. Featuring top-of-the-line coursework combined with extensive social media resources, Transparent Language Online is the most complete language-learning system available to library patrons.

6. Universal Class

The MCCS HQ Library Program offers Universal Class Library Edition, a powerful new online continuing education service. Universal Class offers patrons a unique online education experience. With a growing catalog of over 540 courses, Universal Class is committed to providing the highest quality online training. Over 300,000 students around the world have benefited from Universal Class' unique instructional technologies. With real instructors guiding the learning, engaging video-based lessons, a collaborative learning environment, graded lesson tests, certificates of achievement and Continuing Education Units available for selected courses, students enjoy an engaging and measurable learning experience that helps them master and document their educational goals.

Universal Class offers courses in Entrepreneurship, Arts and Music, Home and Garden Care, Cooking, Computers and Technology, Health and Medicine, Homeschooling, Job Assistance, Law and Legal, Exercise and Fitness, Parenting and Family, Pet and Animal Care...plus 100's more. Patrons may enroll in up to five classes at a time with six months to complete a class. All courses vary in scope, length, and work required. Most courses can be completed in 10 to 20 hours, and with a little diligence, most can be completed within 30 days.

These courses are usually documented with 1.0 CEU (10 contact hours) upon successful completion. Click here for a list of courses. http://www.recordedbooks.com/marketingmaterials/docs/LY9016_UC-SamplePage.pdf

Please contact mccslibraries@usmc.mil to request remote access instructions for Universal Class. Please include name, rank or USMC affiliation and duty station in your request.

7. Digital Magazines from Zinio

View full digital copies of your favorite magazines! You see the exact same material you get in print, plus some issues include features like video, audio and live links. Magazine issues are not checked out so they're always available any time. Read online or download issues to your computer or mobile device to read offline. Over 260 magazines are available. Zinio Apps are available for the following devices: PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire and Blackberry Playbook. Library patrons can only choose from the magazine titles selected by the HQMC Library Program. Access Zinio from <http://library.usmc-mccs.org>

Remotely stationed Marines and families should contact mccslibraries@usmc.mil for access code and instructions. Please include name, rank or USMC affiliation and duty station in your request.

8. Tutor.com www.tutor.com/military

There are two funding sources for this live online homework help program. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program provides funding for Reservists and Guard from all services to both adults and children. OSD provides funding for children only of Active Duty service members and Deployed DoD Civilians. From the Homepage click on the branch of Service then click on eligibility statement. On the next page fill in the required boxes and click on Status and location and choose from the drop down menu. You will then be able to sign in to use a tutor with your User Id and Password. Please remember that adults may use the program only under the Reservist registration.

These resources are provided FREE to our Marines and families. For more information, please contact the Family Readiness Officer at Katherine.nelson@mfe.usmc.mil or the Quantico Library at mccslibraries@usmc.mil

Become a Volunteer

Become a Family Readiness Volunteer at Marine Forces Europe and Marine Forces Africa

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Childcare reimbursement

Mileage reimbursement

Training opportunities

Working with Marines and Families

Working in a Joint Installation environment

Working with a great team of people to help others who appreciate your service

AVAILABLE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Spouses Activities Planning Team

Installation & Community Liaison Team

Hospitality Committee

Volunteer Coordination Team

LINKS Mentor Team

Knowledge Management Team

Anyone interested in volunteering in the Stuttgart community must register in the Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) available through www.myarmyonesource.com

The Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) is the one-stop place for all volunteers to find out about volunteer opportunities in the community.

Check out the site and start volunteering today!





America has a long and proud tradition of volunteer service. Now, more than ever, volunteers are renewing their commitment to help others and making new connections that bring us closer together as families, as neighbors, as communities and as a nation.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities and encourage more people to serve. The Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The program continues as an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires other to make service a central part of their lives.

If you already volunteer and would like to track your hours in order to receive a Presidential Service Award, go to <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/index.cfm> and get registered. This tracking system can be accessed from any location. The following criteria specify the age groups and hours required to receive an award at each level:

Bronze Level:

- Kids: 50 to 74 hours
- Young Adults: 100 to 174 hours
- Adults: 100 to 249 hours
- Family & Groups: 200 to 499 hours



Silver Level:

- Kids: 75 to 99 hours
- Young Adults: 175 to 249 hours
- Adults: 250 to 499 hours
- Family & Groups: 500 to 999 hours



Gold Level:

- Kids: 100 hours or more
- Young Adults: 250 hours or more
- Adults: 500 hours or more
- Family & Groups: 1000 hours or more



For more information on volunteerism, please contact the Family Readiness Office:
Commercial, 07031-153593

SPONSOR PROGRAM

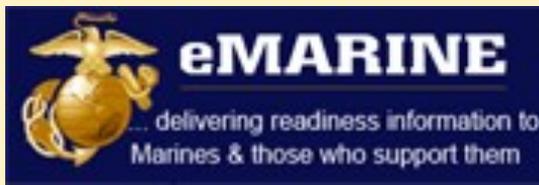
Marine Forces Europe and Marine Forces Africa are expecting many new Marines this PCS season. Appointed Sponsors must attend Sponsor Training and spouses are invited to attend.

When a married Marines relocates to Stuttgart with his/ her family, we encourage the spouse of the Sponsor to get involved in the relocation process. There is online training available for spouses and the Family Readiness Officer is available to conduct training specifically for spouses.

We will no longer be sending hard copy “Welcome Aboard” packages to our new Marines. Instead, they will be assigned an account to the “eMarine” web-site.

All “Welcome Aboard” information is located on eMarine and is updated regularly.

Please check out the eMarine site and make suggestions to the information provided, based on your PCS experience. For more information, please contact the FRO at Katherine.nelson@mfe.usmc.mil or Comm: 07031-153593 or DSN: 431-3593



<http://www.emarine.org/skins/eMarine/home.aspx>

If you are eligible under the **Military OneSource** program, you can complete, save and file your 2012 Federal and up to three State returns online for free with the H&R Block At Home® Basic tool. Log in and use the Quick Link located on the left side of the website or click on "Read More" and use the link provided.

<https://www.militaryonesourceeap.org>



Military INSTALLATIONS

Your official DoD source for installation and state resources available to active duty, guard and reserve service and family members.

Are you planning to PCS soon? Go this web-site and use the online reference tool “Plan My Move” to set up a customized calendar for planning your move. You can also find information on your new duty station. When moving back to CONUS or relocating to another OCONUS locations, you should request a sponsor from the new command.



February 2013

Volunteer of Year for 2012 Nominations now open. Special Volunteer of the Year category nominations include: Family, Youth, Military, Civilian and Military Retiree and need to be submitted to **ACS NLT 25 February 2013**. Download the volunteer nomination packet from their website www.stuttgartmwr.com/acs/avc. For further information, please contact ACS at DSN 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362

Feb 5 - Apr. 9 EDGE! Kid's on the Run 5K Challenge, Patch Fitness Center, This after school program prepares youth for the upcoming MWR Spring Fling 5K on April 13. \$20 includes Training Guide, Mileage log & pedometers, Nutrition & Wellness Classes, weekly strength building workouts, training on race etiquette, Free CYSS EDGE Kid's on the Run 5K challenge T-Shirts. Race day support with food & water at the Start/Finish Line. Register with Parent Central Services. DSN 430-8214/civ. 0711-680-8214/cell 0172-27-1104

Feb. 8, 15, 22 New night for Bingo—every Friday. Every Friday come to the Patch Community Club for the fun and a chance to win thousands in prizes. Finger foods and bingo daubers are available for purchase. Doors open 5 p.m., play starts 7 p.m. Patch Community Club ballroom. DSN 421-5433/civ. 0711-680-5433.

Feb 12 & 14; 26 & 28 Culture College for Newcomers. A free program offered through ACS. Learn German culture and language, take public transportation, visit local sites and get comfortable in your new surroundings. Two day session, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Limited space, must sign up in advance. DSN 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362

Feb. 16 Cosmic Country Night, Galaxy Bowling Center Wear your cowboy duds and receive free shoe rentals, 6 p.m. - midnight. Save \$2 on any large pizza, Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center, Panzer Kaserne, 431-2575/civ. 07031-15-2575

Now - Feb. 15 Youth Spring Sports Registration. Spring sports for youth ages 3-18. Sports will include baseball, softball and soccer. Individual sports will include track & field and tennis. The season begins April 15 until June 8. Participants must have sports physicals valid throughout the season.

Ongoing Activities

- EFMP Playgroup every Wednesday, 3 p.m. Galaxy Bowling Center, for children 5 years old and under.
- ACS Stress Management Class, last Wednesday of every month 10-noon, Brewed Awakenings
- Story Time every Thursday, 11:00-noon at the Patch Library. A different theme each week. For ages 3+ DSN 430-7138/civ. 07011-680-7138.
- Dog Wash - open now at the Auto Skills Center, Bldg, 2926 on Panzer Kaserne. DSN 431-2555/civ. 07031115-2555.