



**U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND  
U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, EUROPE  
EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM POLICY  
STATEMENT**

Our Marine Corps Unit, Personal, and Family Readiness Program (UPFRP) is designed to enhance the ability of the individual Marine and their family to successfully balance the challenges of military lifestyle, family, career, and mission. As the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM) and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe (MARFOREUR), I am ultimately responsible for the program and for the support we provide to our Marines and families to help them achieve and maintain that healthy balance.

As part of our support network, we have a robust Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) ready to support all our Marines, whether deployed or in garrison.

The EFMP is a mandatory program which enables our Marines to focus on their Marine Corps mission with confidence that their families have the resources and support they require at home. The primary focus of the EFMP is to ensure the continuum of care for eligible Marine Corps family members with special needs. This will serve to assist military families in better managing the dual demands of a Marine Corps career and the special needs of their special family member.

According to MCO 1754.4B, an exceptional family member includes a family member enrolled in DEERS who possesses a diagnosed physical, intellectual, or emotional need that requires specialized medical or education services. Enrollment in the EFMP is designed to assist the sponsor with assignment to a duty station where appropriate services to support the family member(s) are available.

I require all commanders and leaders to familiarize themselves with the MCO and EFMP to promote awareness and appropriate use to their Marines and families. Leaders must work to change a subtle culture of misinformation - wiping out myths and removing stereotypes through education and information and making EFMP an integral part of our leadership mindset. Commands, families, and service providers must work together to create and maintain a climate of mutual respect and trust, with the knowledge and confidence that enrollment in the EFMP will not prejudice selection, assignment, or promotion opportunities.

If you require more information or you have questions, please consult MARFORCOM EFMP Program Manager, Ms. Karina Phillips, at 757-445-6875, by cell at 757-358-0885, or by e-mail at [phillipskm@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:phillipskm@usmc-mccs.org) or the MARFOREUR EFMP Command Appointee, MGySgt Darby Carter, at DSN 314-431-2526, by cell at 0172-288-4588, or by email at [darby.carter@mfe.usmc.mil](mailto:darby.carter@mfe.usmc.mil). Semper Fidelis!

ROBERT B. NELLER  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL

Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command  
Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Europe