



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS FORCES COMMAND
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 Marines and their families to successfully balance the challenges of military lifestyle, family, career, and mission. As the Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM), families are a priority and I am committed to the UPFRP and the support provided to our Marines and families. We must make every effort 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 Marines, whether deployed or in garrison, regardless of their rank or time in service.

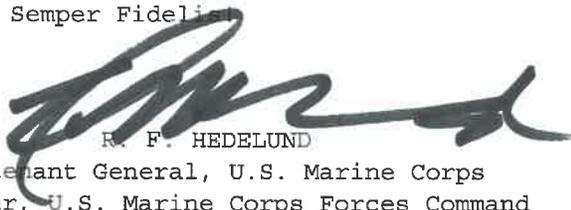
The EFMP is a program that enables our Marines to focus on their Marine Corps mission with the confidence that their families have the resources and support they require at home. The primary focus of the EFMP is to ensure the continuum of care for eligible Marine Corps family members with special needs.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

As defined in MCO 1754.4B, an exceptional family member includes any 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 assists the sponsor with assignment to a duty station where appropriate services to support the family member(s) are available.

All Commanders and leaders will familiarize themselves with EFMP to promote program awareness and support appropriate use of their Marines and families. Leaders at all levels will eliminate any perception or propagation of misinformation - wiping out myths, removing stereotypes, and replacing them with the facts through education and information. EFMP must be an integral part of our leadership mindset - it's all about readiness - for Marines and families. Commanders, families, and service providers must work together to create and maintain a climate of respect and trust, with the knowledge and confidence that enrollment in the EFMP will not prejudice our Marines in any way.

This program works. Recent studies by the Center for Naval Analysis found that Marines utilizing the EFMP serve longer and are highly competitive for advancement when compared to the overall service population. There is no institutional stigma - the Marine Corps is committed to ensuring you are able to serve, to the maximum extent possible.

If you require more information or you have questions, please consult MARFORCOM EFMP Program Manager, Ms. Karina Phillips, in the office at 757-445-6876, by cell at 757-358-0885, or by e-mail phillipskm@usmc-mccs.org. Do what is right - lead from the front - and remain Semper Fidelis.



R. F. HEDELUND
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command