

Quality of Life

Discussion

The Marine Corps is committed to efficient, effective, and equitable management and delivery of Quality of Life (QOL) programs and services to Marines and their families wherever they are stationed. Caring for Marines and their families is an essential part of the Marine Corps ethos.

QOL programs directly impact readiness and operational responsiveness. As the Nation's force in readiness, the Marine Corps believes its QOL programs act as a force multiplier to maintain the highest levels of operational readiness and responsiveness. Marines can focus on mission accomplishment when they know that they and their families are supported by a comprehensive system of programs and services that enable them to thrive in the demanding military lifestyle. From a long-term perspective, QOL has a positive effect on recruiting, retention, and motivation to serve. These programs are tools for commanders to enhance, develop, and support Marines on an individual or unit basis. They are also a resource for Marines and their families.

The Commandant's QOL priorities are: pay and allowances, appropriate and responsive health care, bachelor and family housing, and proactive, supportive community support programs. These programs are consistent with those of DoD and the Marine Corps has committed significant resources and effort to them.

The Marine Corps has revolutionized its approach to the delivery of community support programs to Marines and their families in the 21st century. Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) bundles the capabilities of previous support systems, such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Voluntary Education; and Family Services, and has added significant service dimensions designed to build strong Marines, families, and communities. MCCS is an integrated support system, which eliminates bureaucratic stovepipes and empowers commanders to apply resources in the best ways to achieve results.

MCCS is delivered through five operational pillars: Marine Corps Family Team Building, Semper Fit, Personal Services, Business Operations, and General Support. These pillars operate interdependently to provide a combination of programs and services that Marines need. MCCS provides commanders a fully equipped toolbox to specifically address basic life requirements, prevention and intervention for social ills, health and fitness support, and other basic community welfare requirements.

Marine Corps Position

The Marine Corps has made a significant and ongoing commitment to Quality of Life programs in order to sustain and support Marines and their families thus enhancing retention and readiness.