

HMLA-469 FAMILY READINESS



Commander's Intent:

HMLA-469 is ready for combat - enabled by Marines with well informed, supportive, and strong families.

Family Readiness = Mission Readiness

Background

Many of us have heard the old saying, "If the Marine Corps wanted me to have a spouse, they would have issued me one!" This once narrow view of Family Readiness is certainly out dated. Since the terrible attacks of 9/11, the deployment tempo within the Marine Corps has seen a significant increase, in some cases very significant. The Marine Corps saw the impact of increased operational tempo on the families and knew something needed to be done to assist with Family Readiness.

What is Family Readiness?

Per MCO 1754.6A, "Family readiness is defined as families who are prepared and equipped with the skills and tools to successfully meet the challenges of the military lifestyle. Family readiness directly affects the fundamental purpose of the Marine Corps to make Marines and win battles by building commitment and raising morale, thereby increasing unit readiness."

Why is Family Readiness important?

Family readiness is as important as combat readiness. We know that military families endure a lot. And every Marine and sailor bears the responsibility of ensuring their family is well-prepared for any and every event that comes their way.

Who can help if there is a problem?

- **Chain of Command:** Marines look out for Marines. We always have and we always will.
- **Family Readiness Officer (FRO):** The Family Readiness Officer is Mrs. Samantha Dunn. She is a civilian who works directly for me. She assists Marines daily at the squadron and remains here at Camp Pendleton to assist the families of HMLA-469 when the squadron deploys. She is my main point of contact for communication with HMLA-469 family members during deployment.
- **Family Readiness Command Team:** This includes me, the XO, the Sergeant Major, our wives, the squadron Family Readiness Advisors and Assistants, and the MAG-39 Chaplain.

Life in the Marine Corps is challenging, yet rewarding. Often, it is harder on the families than the actual Marines working long hours on the flight line and deploying to combat! Use the myriad personnel and resources available to keep your family life happy and balanced. **Family Readiness = Mission Readiness!**



Lieutenant Colonel Stephen J. Lightfoot
Commanding Officer, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469

"Attack with Vengeance!"