



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-MHF
11 May 93

WHITE LETTER NO. 4-93

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: MARINE CORPS FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

1. Recently, allegations of a Marine seriously and repeatedly abusing his spouse were directed to the attention of senior level officials in the Department of the Navy and Congress. This report was made by the mother of the victim after she had made numerous efforts to obtain assistance from the Marine's command. This woman perceived a lack of interest by the Marine Corps and believed there was no other recourse to ensure her daughter's safety and protection.

2. Unfortunately, incidents of family violence occur in both American society and in our Marine Corps. Such behavior is unacceptable in our Corps, and renewed efforts at eliminating child and spouse abuse are aggressively underway.

3. The Family Advocacy Program was established to prevent, intervene, and treat abusive behavior within families. For many years this program was jointly implemented through the Family Service Center (FSC) and the Naval Medical Treatment Facility. Effective 1 October 1991, the Family Advocacy Program became command sponsored with all social service aspects delivered through the FSC. I believe that this reorganization has enhanced program accountability and will continue to improve the quality of services to Marines, sailors, and their families.

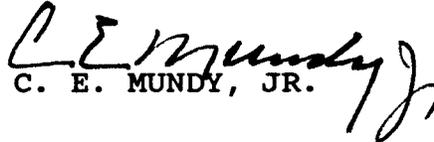
4. The program goals of victim protection and offender accountability remain unchanged. Commanders should, in appropriate cases, initiate administrative or disciplinary proceedings to hold offenders accountable for their actions. Further, all incidents of abusive behavior shall be reported to the Family Advocacy Program Managers at the FSC. However, if a Marine or sailor is considered not to have potential for further military service, a commanding officer may begin separation procedures under MARCORSEPMAN, paragraph 6210.

5. To meet the program goals, we must maintain a coordinated community response in which family violence is prevented whenever possible and reported to proper authorities whenever suspected. Commanding officers will ensure that all reports of family violence are investigated, and that victims are afforded a safe environment. I expect others who have a role in preventing and

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treating family violence to work together in responding to the needs of these Marines, sailors, and their families.

6. The Marine Corps is truly a "family," including all those who contribute to its combat effectiveness--Regular and Reserve, civilian and military, sponsor and family member. The value we have so often expressed, "we take care of our own," must be addressed and applied to every member of the Marine Corps family. The well being of each member is the responsibility of all.


C. E. MUNDY, JR.

CMC-SPD
11 May 93

ERRATUM

to

WHITE LETTER 3-93

MARINE CORPS FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

1. Destroy White Letter 3-93
2. Replace with White Letter 4-93, attached hereto.

Distribution: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge