



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-MHF
2 Nov 92

WHITE LETTER NO. 16-92

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

Subj: KEY WIVES NETWORK/FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

1. The recent conflict in Southwest Asia affirmed the Marine Corps as our National Force in Readiness. Without rapid and assertive deployment, our Nation would not have been able to position itself for the successful liberation of Kuwait.
2. During the Vietnam Conflict, only 16 percent of the American military personnel were married compared to 60 percent during Operations Desert Shield/Storm. Currently, approximately half of the men and women in our Corps are married. These family obligations do not diminish a Marine's mobility or readiness when strong community ties and informed, supportive family networks are in place.
3. Within the Marine Corps, the most effective method of maintaining a line of communication between the command and individual family members has been the Key Wives Network Program. The contribution of the Key Wives volunteers to family readiness during Operation Desert Shield/Storm was invaluable. They worked long hours, often at significant personal expense, to keep family members informed. The Key Wives have earned our appreciation, and they deserve command support.
4. I expect commanders to follow the provisions of MCO 1754.1 and MCO 1754.2 by funding and supporting these programs. A conference was held during 26 - 30 July 1992 with 40 Key Wives volunteers and Family Service Center Staff representing our Regular and Reserve components. The conference was sponsored by this Headquarters to establish a common vision, operational guidelines, and training requirements. A basic standardized training program for the Key Wives volunteers will be published and distributed in early CY93. We will continue to seek other ways in which we can assist you to implement the requirements through identification of funding sources and technical assistance.
5. I want to stress to each of you the value of the Key Wives Network and Family Readiness Programs during peacetime and war. These programs are essential elements in our Total Marine Corps readiness equation.


C. E. MUNDY, JR.