



- ◆ Ensure a safety and support response plan is in place for the family member's special needs if applicable, i.e. power loss, evacuations and adverse weather i.e. typhoons.
- ◆ Familiarize Marines with services available at MCAS Iwakuni including MCCS Marine and Family Services.
- ◆ Ask the installation EFMP Coordinator to provide an EFMP brief or information to your Marines.

Marines who have a family member with special needs are typically successful Marines because they are used to multi-tasking, responding to emergencies and handling enormous amounts of stress on a daily basis.

In addition to the installation EFMP Coordinator, these Marines are an excellent source of support and guidance for your junior Marines. They were or are in similar situations and understand the financial and emotional challenges associated with caring for an EFM.

## RESOURCES

EFMP MCAS Iwakuni  
mccsiwakuni.com

HQ EFMP  
manpower.usmc.mil

Military One Source  
militaryonesource.com

Leaders Guide for Managing Marines in Distress  
usmc-mccs.org/leadersguide

Exceptional Family Member Program  
MCAS Iwakuni  
Bldg. 636, Child Development Center  
☎ 253-5601  
Off base/Cell phone: 0827-79-5601  
ombiwaefmp@usmc-mccs.org  
mccsiwakuni.com

\*MCCS welcomes people of all abilities. If you need assistance, please call the EFMP office.



# INFORMATION FOR LEADERS

## EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM



# Who we are

The mission of the Marine Corps Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is to assure continuum of care for eligible Marine Corps family members. By identifying families with special needs and maximizing the provision of services, the quality of life provided to the Marine Corps family is enhanced while meeting the mission of the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps defines special needs as any medical (physical, mental and emotional) or educational condition diagnosed by a qualified medical or educational provider. The EFMP supports the special needs of its families through enrollment, assignment coordination, and family support services.

## Respite Program

The challenge of providing continuous 24/7 care to an EFM without support can place even the most resilient Marine family under significant stress. Marine families may quietly endure the burden of caring for an exceptional family member alone and may not be aware of the assistance they can receive from an EFMP Coordinator. The financial cost of hiring someone to provide respite care is difficult for some Marines to afford. The EFMP respite program is designed to reduce the stress by providing temporary rest periods for eligible enrolled family members who provide care for their family members.

## PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY

The confidentiality of the Marine and their family during the assignment coordination process is always a priority. Only the EFMP Manager and Headquarters Analyst have access to the medical and/or education need of the EFM. The diagnosis or prognosis of an EFM is not shared with assignment monitors or local command. EFMP Managers are required to provide name(s) and the enrollment category of any Marine to the Commanding Officer of the Marine's unit.

## LEADERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

In accordance with MCO 1754.4B, leaders are responsible to ensure the following:

- ◆ Marines enroll family members in EFMP when a special medical or educational need is identified.
- ◆ Ensure Marines who meet the eligibility criteria are enrolled in the EFMP and utilize the support that is available from the installation EFMP Coordinator.
- ◆ Enrollment is updated as their family member's condition changes and is required to be updated every three years.
- ◆ Ensure EFMP enrollment information is not reflected in service record books, officer qualification records, command records, or in performance appraisals and confidentiality is maintained.
- ◆ Command personnel are aware of this Order. Include EFMP information in unit briefs.
- ◆ Enrolled sponsors check in and out with the Installation EFMP Manager as part of the PCS check in and out processing.
- ◆ Remain Behind Element (RBE) is identified and prepared to handle EFMP command functions during deployment.

## WHAT ELSE CAN LEADERS DO?

- ◆ Understand the stress and impact the medical condition or educational need has on the entire family.
- ◆ Watch for signs of prolonged stress associated with the challenges of supporting a family member with exceptional needs, such as, increased alcohol/drug use, indicators that there has been maltreatment, abuse or neglect towards the family member.
- ◆ Emphasize the benefits of enrolling in the EFMP. Talk to your Marine about ways in which the EFMP Coordinator can help.
- ◆ Ensure any Marine who is enrolled in the EFMP has a Family Care Plan.
- ◆ Allow a reasonable time for medical appointments or other related obligations. Marines whose family members have disabilities are responsible to handle the special needs of the EFM when the primary caregiver is not able.
- ◆ Support EFMP Coordinator recommendations.
- ◆ Assure your Marines understand that asking for help will not in anyway impact their career.
- ◆ Establish an environment in which seeking help is welcome and expected to protect the readiness and effectiveness of the unit. Here are some things you can do:
  - ◆ Communicate with your Marine.
  - ◆ Ask how the family member is doing and whether the medical and community support needs are being met.
  - ◆ Emphasize that their own health is important too and they should take a break and get some needed respite care occasionally.

