



## 26TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT COMMANDING OFFICER POLICY STATEMENT



### PERSONAL AND FAMILY READINESS

***INTENT: The 26 MEU Team will support our Marines, Sailors, and families through active communication, education on programs and opportunities, and facilitated access to leadership and resources to ensure our Team thrives during the challenges ahead as we conduct out of area training exercises and operational deployments.***

My number one focus is the well-being and cohesion of our Marines, Sailors, and their families. It is the Marine or Sailor and their respective families that matter most. The Marines and Sailors of 26 MEU are the ones who lead our people while operating and maintaining our weapons and equipment to generate our combat power. Without thriving Marines and Sailors, with steadfast support from families from the home front, our cohesion and resiliency will be challenged to overcome the demands of sustained combat operations and the aftermath of war.

As an expeditionary warfighting MAGTF, we must be prepared to “Fight Tonight” in every clime and place. If a Marine or Sailor is distracted by personal challenges, the resulting outcomes could be grave. Therefore, we must continually prepare ourselves and our families for the rigors of training and deploying so our Team can focus on the mission at hand while knowing their families are prosperous back home.

A strong personal and family readiness program is an essential element of combat power. The 26 MEU program recognizes the sacrifices of our families, Marines, and Sailors and actively supports them with open communication, to include resource information and referral. The spirit of our program is inclusive vice exclusive. Its primary purpose is to build personal readiness across our Team by fostering cohesion in order to enable independence when the uniformed member is away on training exercises or deployed overseas. Your participation in our family readiness program is critical to foster relationships and develop this cohesion -- we welcome any support you are able to provide. Your feedback is essential to the relevance of the 26 MEU Personal and Family Readiness Program.

Family readiness is a needed function of command. While the Commander is solely responsible for family readiness in this unit, the assistance of Deployment Readiness Coordinator (DRC) and caring leaders at all levels is pivotal to achieve a healthy program.

At the family level, the individual Marine or Sailor is the most important element of family readiness. No amount of advertising and meetings replaces the individual Marine or Sailor communicating participation opportunities at home. This is our best means to maximize participation to ensure we can overcome the day-to-day challenges of military life together.

For assistance, please contact the 26 MEU Deployment Readiness Coordinator Mrs. Samantha Stedman at: (910) 450-6471 (office), 910-545-5916 (cell) or refer to our official website at: <https://www.26thmeu.marines.mil/> for information, resources, and additional contact details.

  
J. B. REID  
COMMANDING OFFICER

  
C. R. TAYLOR  
SERGEANT MAJOR