



**Support Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2009
Minutes**

In Attendance:

Kate McKenney, MCFTB Director
Lori Bardo, FRPT, MCFTB
SgtMaj WR Shaw, VMA-311 SgtMaj
Christa Lamont, MAG-13 FRO
Melinda Hill, MACS-1, FRO
Chaplain Shawn Osborne, H&HS
Mr. Christopher Hamel, MCCS Coordinator
Ms. Angie Radloff, H&HS Assistant
Laura Nerad, MAG-13 Advisor
James Blackburn, MAG-13

Brooke Burgess, L.I.N.K.S, MCFTB
SgtMaj Stanford, Station SgtMaj
GySgt Cendejas, MAG 13 PSD FRO
Karen Trimble, VMA 311 FRO
Chaplain Farmer, MAG-13
Chaplain Hayler, MAG-13
Mary Pittman, H&HS Assistant
Stacy Bilodeau, MWSS-371 Assistant
Rebecca Cameron, MCCS Coordinator
Baron Grover, M&FS Director

Plus approximately 10 additional participants who did not sign in

1. Kate McKenney called the meeting to order promptly at 1100.
2. Kate thanked everyone for coming and explained the purpose of this meeting was to have an installation-wide forum to discuss family readiness issues and to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of MCFTB programs and services.
3. Kate explained the mission of MCFTB was to support the Family Readiness Program, to include FROs, and to provide workshops, events, and classes that are relevant, engaging, and enhance family readiness. All programs are free and offer free childcare.
4. Kate explained current programming and initiatives to increase participation and improve family readiness aboard MCAS Yuma including: our electronic

newsletter, *Bloom*; creating a FRO marketing campaign; new brochures and business card tents; always available to speak at unit level; quarterly Spouse Welcome Aboard; Beyond the Brief Series; and Pre-Deployment and Return and Reunion Briefs for adults and children.

5. Kate asked for support from Commands for MCFTB programs. She asked Commands to ensure Marines are briefed on our programs and information is distributed to all Marines and families in a timely fashion. Kate also asked for Commands to encourage Marines and their families to utilize our programs.
6. Brooke Burgess briefed the LINKS program. She described the new format of LINKS for Teens and Kids. These are both being turned into monthly clubs that will culminate in an end of the school year field trip. Topics covered include internet safety and technology usage, Marine Corps traditions and history, managing money, making friends, building volunteer hours, leadership development, and college resumes.
7. Lori Bardo gave an update on Operation: Ball Gown scheduled for October 7, 2009. She explained the fashion show, expo, free childcare, lottery for ball gown give away room, and food and cash bar that will be available.
8. Christa Lamont, MAG-13 FRO, explained the October 1st deadline for FROs to be fully operational. Currently there is no official order or inspection checklist for the Family Readiness Officers, but MCAS Yuma FROs were up-to-date on known requirements. Deadlines for the Family Readiness Program included phasing out all KVN language in summer 2009; all FROs assigned by July 15; at least one message sent using MCT by August 15th; posting one opportunity on VTT by September 1st; complete FRO training by September 28th; and complete conversion to Family Readiness Program by September 30th.
9. Rebecca Cameron, MCCS Coordinator, explained the MCCS Coordinator's role as a liaison between MCCS and units. They get out information about MCCS events and assist with the execution of events. They have been visiting other installations to share best practices with their counterparts.
10. Chris Hamel, MCCS Coordinator, explained how the coordinators can help with funding issues to include fundraising, the Marine Corps Ball, and unit family readiness funding. To stay out of trouble with contracts, he encourages units to come to him or Rebecca for assistance. They are also working on a solution to the issue of when units deploy and little money remains for family events at home. The coordinators want to make sure the Marines receive the best service possible.
11. Kate reminds group that MCFTB has moved to Building 598, next to the commissary and across the street from the Sonoran Pueblo.

12. SgtMaj Shaw asked if it was possible for MCFTB to come brief his Marines. Brooke agreed to speak at his formation anytime.
13. SgtMaj Stanford offered kind words in regards to the work MCFTB has done in light of the many employee turnovers.
14. The next Family Readiness Support Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 from 1100 to 1200 in the Officer's Lounge at the Sonoran Pueblo. Notices to attend will be sent in early December.
15. The meeting was adjourned.