

Welcome aboard to all family members!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family to VMM-263. You have become part of a very special organization which has a rich history and strong ties to Marine Corps tradition. While our squadron accomplishes its mission, it is recognized that our operational tempo is very high and can be cause for confusion and stress on our families. To help our families cope with the fast pace we have an active Family Readiness Team headed by our Family Readiness Officer, Jenn Parrish. Jenn is here to provide information, referral and answer any questions you may have for all of our squadron families. The Family Readiness Team is committed to our families and their well-being. For any questions, please contact Jenn at 910-449-4698 (office), 910-467-3560 (blackberry) or jennifer.parrish@usmc.mil.

For those who would like to learn more about what programs are offered I strongly encourage you to register for a Lifestyles, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills (LINKS) session. The LINKS program is a tremendous program that teaches Marine spouses about life in the Marine Corps. Even senior Marine spouses, who have been in the Marine Corps family for many years, have attended and praised the program. LINKS sessions provide information and tips on a host of things that range from base services, moving, deployments and Marine Corps history and traditions. LINKS sessions are taught by other Marine spouses who, because of their own experiences, are able to provide a first-hand look at Marine Corps family life from the spouse perspective. Please contact Jenn for a class schedule.

To stay abreast of all squadron events and activities we have several venues for you to utilize. First is our command newsletter which is issued every quarter. The newsletter will include information on upcoming base events, squadron activities, Family Readiness events, and other general squadron news. These newsletters are sent out via email and also posted to our eMarine page. In addition, we use email to disseminate information on upcoming classes, events, resources and other time-sensitive information. We also have a Facebook page at: VMM-263. To also keep you informed, please visit our website at <http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmaw/mag26/vmm263/Pages/default.aspx> For fast and accurate results, please ensure we have your most current contact information and that you are registered at www.eMarine.org.

My wife Angela and I are excited to have you and your family aboard. We have some great talent, many friendly and fun people, and have a variety of family and social functions planned. We hope to make your family's experience as part of the VMM-263 Family rewarding, enjoyable and memorable. Again, welcome aboard.

T. P. MITALSKI