

IRONHORSE UNIT, PERSONAL, AND FAMILY READINESS POLICY

As Marines, our nation expects us to be 'Always Ready.' This expectation goes not only for our active duty Marines and Sailors, but everyone associated with our unit. Our families and loved ones are essential to our readiness; they, like us, must be prepared for HMH-461 to answer the nation's call.



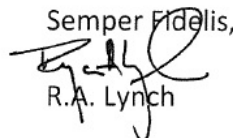
Balancing the challenges of our military lifestyle, our training, and our deployments with the responsibilities of being a husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter is difficult for even seasoned service members and families. Finding that balance is easier when each Marine, Sailor, and family member is engaged with our family readiness programs.

A member of the Ironhorse Family. Throughout my career, the Marines that I've served with, both at home and abroad, have become a part of my family. I have relied on them just as my wife Eleanor and our children have relied on squadron families to help them make it through tough deployments and hardships. As you join the Ironhorse family, Eleanor and I wish to extend to you and your family a warm welcome and a hope that you will be an active participant in our family readiness program and/or single Marine program.

How we communicate. We have a talented and smart uniformed Family Readiness Officer (FRO) who is our conduit for family readiness. 1stLt Lillie is your link between the squadron, the Marine Corps, and fellow family members. It is my responsibility and 1stLt Lillie's job to make sure that our Ironhorse families are well informed and that everyone understands the benefits, entitlements, programs, and services provided by the Marine Corps, DoD, and the community to help find the balance we all need. He is responsible for helping you and our families prepare for the challenges of a deployment and the hardships that we face in the military. If you have questions, concerns, or need help – please contact 1stLt Lillie for assistance.

Being prepared. My number one priority for the squadron is readiness. One pillar of readiness is the readiness of our families. Like the Marines they support, ready families are adaptable, flexible, and resilient. They are prepared for us to deploy and are ready to rely on each other should the need arise. We have a strong network of families across our squadron that are here to help each other, regardless of whether we are deployed or not. For our families, I would ask you to prepare, as your Marine does, and use the strong network of families so that we can all be 'ready'.

Refs: MCO 1754.9 (UPFRP Program)

Semper Fidelis,

R.A. Lynch