


**Winter
2014**

CBIRF
HOTZONE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



From The Commanding Officer

Dear CBIRF families and friends,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and that 2014 has been good to all of you thus far. I trust that many of you were able to take advantage of the recent block leave periods and partake in some quality family activities along with some rest and relaxation.

We continue to stay busy here at CBIRF, and we are in the process of shaking off all those great holiday meals. As many of you know, we had a very enjoyable Holiday Party, thanks in large part to those of you who cooked meals and brought side dishes – it was a great success, and I think a lot of fun was had by all.

We are currently working on brushing up on many of skills, and familiarizing our new personnel with their responsibilities. Each section is undergoing a two-day refresher of basic CBIRF skills, and our basic courses continue to train new Marines and Sailors. By the time you read this, we will have completed our support to the President's State of the Union Address, and we are making preparations for other upcoming events that will prepare our two Initial Response Forces for their difficult and challenging mission.

For our families, we will also be hosting some events this spring designed especially for you to enjoy. Keep an eye out for an invitation to attend a 'capabilities exercise' here at Indian Head on 28 March; bring the whole family and see a full-scale demonstration of what your Marine or Sailor does here at CBIRF. We plan to show you everything an Initial Response Force does followed by a chance to look up close at all of our equipment as well as enjoy a barbecue lunch.

For those of you who may want to try to be a Marine for a day, we are hosting a CBIRF 'Jane Wayne Day' on 26 April (Saturday). Focused on our CBIRF spouses, you will be able to see firsthand what your Marine or Sailor does by performing some CBIRF tasks, wearing our specialized equipment, rappelling from our towers, enjoying a hearty MRE lunch, as well as experiencing a host of other activities. I hope this will let you experience a little of what we do and that it will be an enjoyable day for all.

Finally, I want to remind you all of the variety of resources that are available to assist you at any time – do not hesitate to ask if you have a question. One of our biggest recent initiatives has been a push to take advantage of the countless personal and couples retreats that occur in this area. Chaplain Marc McDowell offers a list of upcoming retreats for personal growth and marriage enrichment that are held in Maryland and Virginia over various weekends throughout the year – these are free of charge and can give you a weekend away with your spouse. I encourage you to reach out to the Chaplain or Mrs. Higgins if you want to take advantage of these opportunities.

In closing, Robyn and I want to personally thank you for your continued support of your Marine or Sailor, and we look forward to seeing you at our next Town Hall (6 March at 7:30PM) – please remember that we are here to assist you in any way we can.

*Semper Fi,
Col Steve Redifer*

COMMANDING OFFICER

Col Steve Redifer

BATTALION SGTMAJ

SgtMaj Darrell L. Stillings

UNIT CHAPLAIN

LCDR Marc McDowell

(301) 744-2017

FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

Ramona Higgins

(301) 744-5025

FAMILY READINESS ADVISOR

Robyn Redifer

(757) 272-1033

Upcoming Battalion Events

IRF A Mobility Exercise: **Feb 4-5**

IRF B Mobility Exercise: **Feb 6-7**

President's Day Holiday: **Feb 17**

Mission Command Element Exercise: **Mar 3-14**

Spouse's Town Hall with the CO: **Mar 6**

Capabilities Demo for Families: **Mar 28**

Jane Wayne Day: **Apr 26**

CG Readiness Inspection: **May 5-10**

CBIRF's Marine Corps Birthday Ball, November 9, 2013



Military Spouse Education Benefits...did you know?

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program provides up to \$4,000 (over 2 years) of Financial Assistance for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment in portable career fields.

This benefit is available to spouses of active duty service members in pay grades E1-E5, W1-W2, and O1-O2. It offers a maximum financial benefit of \$4,000 with a fiscal year cap of \$2,000. Waivers will be available for spouses pursuing licensure or certification up to the total maximum assistance of \$4,000.

MyCAA requires military spouses to finish their program of study within three years from the start date of the first course, and it is limited to associate degrees, certification and licensures.

Open the hyperlink below or type the URL:

[The MyCAA Website](https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/default.aspx)

<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/default.aspx>

the **Military.com**

SPOUSE EXPERIENCE

An out-of-your-seat, no PowerPoint, win-a-prize workshop to help you build your 'happily ever after' military life!

**Wednesday, February 26
10am to 2pm**

Joint Base Anacostia, Washington DC
The Bolling Club, Bldg 50, Theisen St.
Washington DC 20032

More information for this event can be found at www.spousebuzz.com and click on the "Spouse Experience" link

This is a free event and lunch is provided!

Register Online Today at:

<http://spousebuzz.com/military-spouse-experience>

**CBIRF Promotions
This Quarter**



October 2013

Xavier F. Montañe, Cpl
Christophe M. Searles, LCpl
Mark T. Washington, Cpl
Keith K. King, Cpl
Hunter M. Garrett, LCpl
Alexander J. Jaye, LCpl
Paul M. Norberg, Sgt
Andre T. Kinney, Sgt
Michael J. Smith, Cpl
Christopher J. Oliveri, SSgt

November 2013

Kyle C. Yavorsky, Sgt
Brennan W. MacArthur, Sgt
Edson MejiaJimenez, LCpl
Joshua N. Kelly, LCpl
Kevin J. Nash, Sgt
Jacob D. Thorne, PFC
Easton J. Baker, Cpl
Alexander K. Chase, PFC
Jacob A. Greene, Sgt
Gracia F. Kayinamura, Cpl
Zachary J. Ambrosio, PFC
Donovan E. Plantz, Sgt

December 2013

Skylar D. Forrest, Sgt
Cody W. Niemeyer, Cpl
Brian C. Conerly, Sgt
Oneil A. Campbell, SSgt
Kamo A. Abdulrahman, PFC
Alexander J. Stockel, LCpl
Ronald W. Gilbert, LCpl
Matthew L. Passero, Sgt
Dylan M. Abbey, PFC
David A. Carr Jr., PFC
Benjamin R. Alexander, LCpl
Scott E. Grossinger Jr., Sgt
Jon E. Pynduss, Capt
Timothy S. Bowen Jr., PFC
Brian P. Albertson, PFC
Arica L. Ladner, LCpl
Leonel A. Tappin, Sgt
Michael W. Lévasséur III, Sgt
Christian L. Phillips, Cpl
Vincent P. Barbato Jr., PFC
Sarunas A. Cowell, PFC
Jay R. Church Jr., PFC
Tommy Yang, PFC
Luis E. Bermeo Escobar, PFC
David J. Peck, Cpl
James M. Berrinshaner, LCpl

Meritorious Promotion:

William A. Antczak, Cpl

CBIRF's

Jane Wayne Day

SPOUSES, come and enjoy a fun and exciting opportunity to participate in training exercises that your Marines and Sailors do here at CBIRF!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 26
Downey Responder Training Facility
Stump Neck, MD

Stay tuned for more details to be announced

Photos from CBIRF's Halloween and Holiday Events





From the Family Readiness Officer

Dear CBIRF Marines, Sailors, and Families,

I hope and trust you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season. The new year brings a time to refresh, recharge, and make changes in our lives for the better. We all have resolutions we want to make, sometimes we are successful at our endeavors

and sometimes we run into obstacles that stop us. The one thing to remember is that you are not alone. Every one of us, especially if you are part of the United States military, comes under challenges that can come close to breaking us.

The one good thing about having a challenge in our lives is that it allows us to grow and become stronger if we handle it properly. The military offers so many resource tools just waiting to be utilized. Every Marine and sailor here at CBIRF, along with their spouses and children, have a plethora of options they can explore when faced with obstacles that can cause a challenging situation.

My goal is to support you during this challenging lifestyle that each of you live. If you want to connect with other families, or learn what's available to you in the way of continuing education classes, or find out what local events there are to attend, I'm just a phone call or an email away. I promise I will do my best to assist you. If you're not on the distro list, let me know.

You are part of a family that is truly special and I encourage you to lean on the support that is offered to the military. Don't let obstacles get in the way of what you want to do. Together we can learn how to grow and be stronger from our challenges.

It is an honor and pleasure to work with you and serve you. Semper Fi!

*Ramona Higgins
Family Readiness Officer*

Base Events and Resources Sponsored by MWR



Story time at the General Library

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Enjoy a story and craft starting at 1430. Free for all with base access. 301-744-6649

Computer Assistance at the General Library

The first Monday of each month by appointment. Need help with a certain computer program? Sign up for a 30 minute one on one session. Free for all with base access. 301-744-6649

Information, Tickets & Tours 301-744-4850

Disney on Ice – 100 Years of Magic February

8 & 9 \$19.00 each at the Baltimore Arena

Great Wolf Lodge - Discounts are available, call ITT for information

Stars & Strikes Bowling Center

301-744-4761

Open Bowling Fridays, 1700 - 2100

and Saturdays 1700-2200

Party rental hours available Saturday and

Sunday. Cost (per game): Military \$2,

Civilian \$3, Shoe Rental: \$1

Basketball Tournament

Team registrations are for the 5v5 Basketball

Tournament that will be held in early March.

Free for all military, \$5 for all eligible patrons.

Register now at the Weight House Fitness

Center, or for more information

call 301-744-4661

Attention Spouses:

You are cordially invited to our

CBIRF Family CertEx and Capabilities Demonstration



Come and see your Marine and Sailor in action, and learn about our training exercises!

Friday, March 28th 2014

Indian Head, MD

Enjoy a free lunch!

Details will be passed. Call the FRO for questions.

Hotzone's Featured Photo:



Cpl Daniel Rodriguez holds his five-day-old son Lucas, while donning his dress blues.