



Newlyweds and Activated Reserve Family Members

If you are new to the Marine Corps lifestyle, it is important to remember that you are not alone. Your Marine more than likely loves being a Marine, and since you love your Marine, you want to do everything you can to support him or her. Where do you begin? For starters, you read the Deployment Handbook so you know how important it is to learn as much as you can about the Marine Corps' culture, benefits, and support systems. Many spouses find that the more involved they become with unit and installation functions, the more they learn and are better able to support their Marine and other Marine Corps family members. While it is important that you and your family are ready for the mission, it is also essential that all Marines and families be in a constant state of readiness.

Encourage your Marine to do all the basics:

- Go to the Installation Personnel Administration Center (IPAC) with a copy of your marriage license and your current address to be listed as Primary Next of Kin on his or her Record of Emergency Data (RED) form. While there, your Marine should update you as the beneficiary on the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance policy.
- You will be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Once you have enrolled in DEERS, you are eligible for health and dental insurance. TRICARE is the provider for health benefits and MetLife is the provider for dental benefits. You will also get a Dependent's Identification and Privilege Card, which is like an entrance ticket to military services (Form DD 1172), such as shopping at the exchange, shopping at the commissary, and being able to use all of the great services your installation has to offer.
- While at IPAC, your Marine may also apply for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), basic allowance for subsistence (BAS), and will be asked if he or she wants to start an allotment of money to be sent to you each month. You will need either an allotment or access to your bank account because your Marine will not always be home on payday!
- Your Marine will have the option to give your information to the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) so that you will get information about what is going on at your Marine's workplace or unit. If you do not wish to receive communication from your FRO, you will need to complete an opt-out form, and your Marine will sign it as well and meet with the Commanding Officer. We want you to be as knowledgeable about your spouse's unit as possible, so we strongly encourage you to receive notifications from your FRO and be involved with your spouse's unit!

After your trip to IPAC, a stop at the installation's Marine Corps Family Team Building Office would be wise. There you will find many great training opportunities for both yourself and your spouse.