

## Section IX: Privileges, Benefits And Entitlements

**A. Pay and Allowances.** In general, the same charts for pay and allowances apply to both Reserve and Active Duty personnel. The most obvious difference is that for drills performed, the Marine earns a day's pay for each drill period (a drill period is a minimum of four hours, a maximum two drill periods may be performed each day). Thus, on a typical drill weekend, a reserve Marine is usually entitled to four days' basic pay for two days' work. Drill pay, however does not include the allowances that are available to Marines on active duty.

While on active duty, the Marine receives active duty pay, plus any applicable entitlements (i.e. Basic Allowance for Subsistence [BAS] and Basic Allowance for Housing [BAH]). While on active duty, Reserve members are eligible for all entitlements.

**B. Insurance Programs.** Information on veterans insurance programs may be obtained from the Department of Veteran Affairs at 1-800-669-8477 or 1-800-827-1000.

- 1. Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.** Members of the Ready Reserve (does not include IRR) and Retired Reserve are automatically insured under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) for \$250,000.00. Members, including Marines, may opt for lesser coverage or no coverage at all. SGLI also offers family coverage for spouse and dependent children in varying amounts. Marines who do not rate full-time coverage may be provided part-time coverage.

For paid Marines, premiums are deducted from their pay. Members of the Retired Reserve must submit premiums directly to the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, 213 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102. Mobilization Training Unit members and Marines on associate or appropriate duty submit their premiums to CG, MCRSC.

SGLI continues in effect for 120 days after a member is released from active duty. Additional servicemen's insurance information may be obtained from the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance at 1-800-419-1473.

- 2. Veterans' Group Life Insurance.** SGLI may be converted to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) in renewable periods of 5-year term coverage. This

program is administered by the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (OSGLI). VGLI is available to:

- a. Individuals released from active duty after August 1, 1974.
- b. Members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard.
- c. Marines who suffer a disability, which renders them uninsurable at standard premium rates.

Members separating from active duty can convert their SGLI to VGLI by submitting the premium within 120 days of separation. After 121 days, the veteran may be granted VGLI provided the initial premium, and evidence of insurability, are submitted within one year after the veteran's SGLI coverage is terminated. Totally disabled members with full-time SGLI coverage at the time of separation, and whose service makes them eligible for VGLI, may purchase the insurance for one year following separation. Members insured under part-time SGLI coverage who incur a disability, or aggravate a preexisting disability during a reserve active or inactive period, can apply for VGLI.

3. **Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI).** Marine veterans with a service-connected disability are eligible for up to \$10,000 life insurance coverage at standard insurance premium rates from the Veterans Administration.
4. **Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI).** Up to \$90,000 of Mortgage Protection Life Insurance is available to veterans through the Veterans Administration.
5. **Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP).** The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan provides retirement eligible Marines an opportunity to select protection for their survivors in the event the Marine should die before reaching age 60. Marines may elect coverage as soon as they are officially notified that they have become retirement eligible. Survivors may include a spouse, dependent children, or a person with an insurable interest in the Marine. Survivor payment can be as much as 55 percent of the retired pay the Marine is receiving, or would have received, at the time of death. Detailed information concerning the program and necessary forms are furnished by CMC (MMSR-5) (1-800-336-4649) at the time members complete 20 qualifying years.

6. **Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP).** Marines leaving initial active duty service are eligible for transitional health care for themselves and their families. Marines completing less than six years of active service are eligible for 60 days of transitional health care. Marines completing more than six years of active service are eligible for 120 days of transitional health care.

Marines leaving active service may purchase extended transitional health care insurance through the CHCBP for up to 18 months. The CHCBP replaced the former Uniformed Services Veterans' Insurance Plan (USVIP). CHCBP can act as a bridge between a Marine's military health benefits and the Marine's civilian health care established through a civilian job or through an individually purchased commercial health care program.

Enrollment in the CHCBP is required within 60/120 days after separation from initial active duty (depending on the length of the Marine's military health care transition period as explained above). Enrollment is optional. Information on CHCBP may be obtained from your active duty unit's health benefits provider located at your unit's medical facility.

- a. **TRICARE.** When on active duty for more than 30 days, reserve Marines have comprehensive health care coverage under TRICARE Prime. When on military duty, reserve Marines are covered for any injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. This includes traveling directly to or from the place where you perform your military duty.
  - (1) Upon being called to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, reserve component members are enrolled in TRICARE Prime. Being enrolled in TRICARE Prime means that as of the effective date of your orders, you are eligible for medical and dental care at any Military Treatment Facility (MTF).
  - (2) Family Coverage. When on active duty for more than 30 days, the reserve Marine family's health and dental care needs are covered under several TRICARE options, all of which are designed to meet their needs. The first step is to enroll or update all eligible family members in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Additionally, the service member **must** complete a registration form before any dependent coverage can take effect. This includes medical and dental coverage.

Contact the TRICARE office located at your nearest military medical facility. Details can be found by visiting the TRICARE website at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).

- (3) Family members are eligible to seek healthcare under either *TRICARE Standard* or *TRICARE Extra* when reserve Marines are called to active duty for more than 30 days. The benefit is automatic. However, to ensure no delay in treatment or claims processing, make sure your family's DEERS records are up-to-date. If your orders direct a recall for 179 consecutive days or more, your family members have the option to enroll in *TRICARE Prime*.
  - (4) DEERS is your key to all benefits. For more information, call DEERS, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Eastern Time, at 1-800-538-9552 (California, 1-800-344-4162), or visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/deersaddress](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deersaddress).
- b. **TRICARE For Life.** TRICARE For Life is comprehensive healthcare coverage for certain retirees and their eligible family members. These retirees may continue to obtain medical services at military hospitals and clinics. Under a program known as TRICARE Plus, some beneficiaries may be allowed to enroll for primary care at military facilities, based on local availability. Check with your local military treatment facility for details.
- (1) Begun on 01 October 2001, the TRICARE For Life program is available to:
    - Medicare-eligible military retirees, including retired guard members and reservists.
    - Medicare-eligible family members and widows/widowers (dependent parents and parents-in law are excluded).
    - Certain former spouses if they were eligible for TRICARE before age 65.
  - (2) There is no fee for TRICARE For Life, except that the eligible retiree must pay their monthly fee for Medicare Part B. This monthly fee for Medicare Part B is automatically deducted from the retiree's Social Security check

once they are enrolled. To take advantage of this benefit, the eligible retiree and their eligible family members must enroll in Medicare Part B and have up-to-date information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). For more information on enrolling in Medicare Part B, beneficiaries should visit the Social Security Administration online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call toll free 1-800-772-1213, TTY/TDD: 1-800-325-0778.

- (3) As a retiree, you are registered in DEERS through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), so any information updates must be made through DFAS (Family members with valid military ID cards are registered in DEERS, thus updates must be made through DEERS). Contact DEERS at 1-800-538-9552 for more information regarding DEERS enrollment.

For more information regarding eligibility, benefits, and other details of TRICARE For Life, contact TRICARE at 1-888-DOD-LIFE (1-888-363-5433), or visit the TRICARE For Life webpage at: [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).

- 7. Dental Insurance for Members of the Selected Reserve.** The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) is a voluntary dental insurance program for the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, and all eligible uniformed services family members. To be eligible, you must have at least 12 months of service commitment remaining and participate in the program for at least 12 months after which enrollment is month to month.

Beneficiaries may seek care from a network of 50,000 providers (you can also use non-participating providers, at an additional cost). The TRICARE Dental Program pays a percentage of a participating United Concordia dentist's bill depending on the service provided; the patient pays the remainder (if any)—the cost share. Members in grades E-1 to E-4 pay a reduced cost share for certain services. TDP limits how much can be paid for dental services annually per enrollee. Each contract period begins February 1 and ends January 31 the following year. To prevent a delay in coverage, make sure your family's DEERS information is up-to-date.

Selected Reserve members are responsible for just 40 percent of the monthly premium; the Government pays the rest. Other Reserve component members are responsible for the full premium. When called to active duty for more than 30

days, you are eligible for dental care at MTFs free of charge, and thus are automatically **disenrolled** from the TRICARE Dental Program.

**Family Members.** Dependent coverage is not automatic, even if DEERS is updated. The service member must complete an enrollment form. Contact United Concordia for details (see below). Eligible family members are invited to enroll, even if you, the sponsor, do not. Family members are responsible for the full premium, except when you are called to active duty for more than 30 days, which reduces the premium share to 40 percent; the Government pays the rest. Although family members enroll under the sponsor's Social Security number, there will be two separate premium payments—one for you, the sponsor, and one for family members. NOTE: Family members are not bound by the 12-month minimum enrollment commitment if the sponsor is ordered to active duty for a contingency operation as defined in law. In this case, you have 30 days from activation to submit the enrollment application. Family members must remain enrolled during the entire active duty period in support of the contingency operation.

Additional information on the TRICARE Dental Program is available at the United Concordia Companies, Inc. Web site at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com), or call toll free 1-800-866-8499 for general information, or 1-888-622-2256 to enroll.

## **C. Commissary/Exchange Privileges.**

### **1. Commissary.**

- a. **Ready Reserve.** Members of the Ready Reserve who earn 50 or more Reserve retirement points to achieve a qualifying year for retirement purposes are eligible for 24 military commissary days. All reserve retirement points must be earned in a reserve status; active duty Marines entering the reserves must earn 50 points as a Reserve Marine before becoming eligible for a commissary card.

Eligibility is based on points earned in the Marines' previous anniversary year, which must have concluded sometime during the previous calendar year. For example, a Marine who earned 50 or more points in an anniversary year ending on 30 June 1999 is eligible for 24 military commissary days during calendar year 2000.

Marines on active duty have unlimited privileges while performing the period of duty. Members or their family members need only show a copy of active duty orders and a military ID card.

Initial and replacement Commissary Privilege Cards will be issued on a calendar year basis. Commissary cards are normally provided for reserve Marines as soon as possible after 1 January each year. Selected Marine Corps Reserve Marines will receive their cards from their respective reserve unit. Members of the IRR, MTU, and IMA will receive their cards from MCRSC. IRR/MTU and IMA Marines may obtain information on commissary cards and privileges from MCRSC at 1-800-255-5082 extension 3395.

- b. **Retired Reserve.** Retired Marines who have completed 20 years of qualifying service for retirement and are eligible to receive retirement pay at age 60, together with their dependents, are eligible for 24 commissary visits per calendar year. Retired Marines will receive their commissary card from HQMC.
  - c. **Family Members.** Family Members of Reservists may utilize available commissaries on an unlimited basis if the service member is on active duty. A copy of the service member's orders and a military ID card are required. Dependents of service members not on active duty but who possess a valid commissary card may utilize available commissaries up to 24 times per year by presenting the service member's commissary card.
  - d. **Former Member.** Former members of the Reserve Component who are eligible to receive retired pay at age 60 under 10 U.S.C. 12731, but who have terminated their military affiliation, are entitled to receive the benefits provided under Chapter 54 Title 10, *United States Code*. A DoD Reserve Component Commissary Privilege Card DD Form 2529 is necessary to obtain access to commissaries 24 days per calendar year for those members not yet age 60. This form is available from the Reserve personnel center that issued the original written notification of eligibility to receive retired pay.
2. **Exchanges.** Reserve Marines and their families are permitted unlimited use of exchange facilities and have access to exchange catalog ordering.

#### **D. Reserve Retirement.**

1. **General.** A Marine must perform at least 20 years of qualifying service to be eligible for retirement with pay at age 60. Additionally, the last six years of qualifying service must be served in a reserve component. However, there is no requirement that the last six years of qualifying reserve component service be continuous. See DOD Instruction 1215.7 and MCO P1001R.1 for additional details.
  2. **Qualifying Year.** A qualifying year of service for reserve retirement is a full anniversary year during which a Marine is credited with a minimum of 50 retirement points.
  3. **Requesting Retirement.** At age 60 officers and enlisted members of the Reserve who have 20 qualifying years of service are eligible to receive retirement pay. Eligible Marines must request retirement. Upon request for retirement, eligible Marines will be transferred to the Retired Reserve on the 1st day of the month following the member's 60th birthday.
  4. **Retired Pay.** Retired Pay benefits, just like reserve retirement, must be requested by the member. Again, retirement and retirement pay are not automatic upon reaching age 60. Requests for retirement and retirement pay must reach CMC at least two months prior to the date of your retirement at age 60. If you need additional information call MCRSC at 1-800-255-5082 extension 3297.
- E. "Gray Area" Benefits.** Retired Marines awaiting pay at age 60 are referred to as "Gray Area" retirees. This category consists of Marines who have completed 20 years of qualifying service required for eligibility for retired pay, and who have requested transfer to the Retired Reserve. Gray Area retirees retain their rank as a member of the reserve component; may wear the prescribed uniform on appropriate occasions; are eligible for a Reserve ID Card; have unlimited access to military exchanges and MWR facilities; may use commissaries up to 24 times per year; and may use space-available transportation within the continental United States on DoD aircraft.
- F. Space-Available Air Transportation.** Qualified reserve Marines may travel on a space-available (Space-A) basis on military aircraft within and between the

continental United States, Alaska, Guam and Puerto Rico. A Marine must have a current and valid military ID card; must be in a drilling status; and must have a DD Form 1853 authorizing the member to use Space-A transportation. The DD Form 1853, which must be signed by the member's commanding officer, may be obtained from the Marines unit or most Space-A transportation facilities. Passengers are offered Space-A transportation on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Marines should remember that Space-A travel is not guaranteed, but it does offer a no/low-cost option for Marines whose drill and travel schedules are flexible. Space-A personnel are categorized in one of six priority statuses. Reserve Marines fall in Category VI, which is the lowest travel priority.

Retired Marines are also eligible for Space-A travel. Retired Marines receiving retirement pay may utilize Space-A travel with their family members outside of the continental United States only.

Marines interested in Space-A travel opportunities should contact the passenger terminal at the military aviation installation in their area for information on schedules and availability of Space-A seating.

**G. Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve.** The Montgomery GI Bill (Selected Reserve) provides education benefits for Marine reserves who: have completed or are completing a six-year obligation in the Selected Reserves, or, if an officer, have agreed to serve six years in addition to their original obligation; have completed IADT; have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate; and remain in good standing with a Selected Reserve unit.

Educational assistance for undergraduate, graduate, or technical training is available under the program. Under most circumstances, benefits end ten years after the date the Marine became eligible for the program or on the day the Marine leaves the Selected Reserve.

Counseling and information on the program is available from the Veterans Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or your unit's administration section.

**H. Reserve Incentives.** The SMCR offers various bonuses to persons enlisting, reenlisting or extending to fill specific MOSs at specific units. Marine Corps

Order 7220.38b contains the policy concerning the Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP). The Commandant of the Marine Corps releases, at the start of each fiscal year, messages delineating current policy and eligibility criteria for the following incentives.

1. **Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve Enhanced Educational Benefits (MGIB-SR Kicker):** The “Kicker” offers Marines an increase in educational benefits in addition to the MGIB basic Benefits. The Kicker offers eligible Marines as much as \$350 in additional educational benefits monthly. As with the MGIB-SR basic benefits, the Kicker is prorated for less than full time study. The Kicker is available for a maximum of 36 months of full time academic pursuit and is retainable as long as basic benefits are available.
2. **Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP).**
  - a. **Enlistment Bonus:** Persons enlisting in an eligible unit and MOS for a term of six years can receive a \$5,000 bonus. The bonus monies are paid over the course of the enlistment, with an initial payment upon enlistment followed by payments on the following anniversaries of the enlistment date.
  - b. **Six-year Reenlistment Bonus:** Marines reenlisting to serve in a qualified unit and MOS can receive a \$5,000 bonus. The bonus is available to Marines who have previously received an enlistment bonus. Marines must be eligible and approved for reenlistment and must obligate to serve satisfactorily for six years. Marines for reenlisting for this program will receive an initial payment upon reenlisting and five subsequent anniversary payments.
  - c. **Three-year and 2nd three-year Reenlistment Bonuses:** Reenlistment bonuses are available for Marines executing a reenlistment or extension for three years in an eligible unit and MOS. The initial three-year reenlistment/extension bonus is \$2,500. The bonus recipient is paid a portion upon reenlisting or extending; the remainder of the incentive is paid on each successive anniversary. Marines who previously received a three-year reenlistment bonus may be eligible for a 2nd three-year reenlistment bonus for \$2,000. Eligible Marines are paid four equal sums: first payment upon reenlisting, and one on each of the following three anniversaries. Marines that reenlist for a six-year reenlistment bonus are not eligible for either of the three-year bonuses.

- d. **Affiliation Bonus:** Marines exiting active duty service who commit to serve the remainder of their Reserve obligation within a qualified unit and MOS are eligible to receive an incentive payment of \$50 a month for a maximum of 24 months. Marines with less than 18 months of service remaining are paid in full upon affiliating. Marines with more than 18 months are paid half of the bonus at the time of affiliation and half on the first anniversary of their affiliation.
3. **Reserve Promotion Affiliation Program (RPAP).** The RPAP offers Lance Corporals and Corporals the opportunity for promotion to Corporal or Sergeant, respectively, if they agree to affiliate with the SMCR. Eligible Marines are promoted to the next higher grade provided they agree to serve two years, from the date of RPAP promotion, in a billet commensurate with the RPAP grade.

#### **I. Reserve Education Benefits.**

1. **Veterans' Educational Assistance Program.** Under VEAP, personnel voluntarily participated in a cooperative educational savings plan with the Federal government. Marines were eligible to enroll in VEAP if they entered active duty for the first time after 31 December 1976 and before 1 July 1985. Some contribution to VEAP must have occurred prior to 1 April 1987. The maximum contribution by a member is \$2,700. Participants in the VEAP program may pursue associate, bachelor, or graduate degrees. Business, technical or vocational education may also be covered.

A member who contributed to the VEAP program has ten years from the date of last discharge or release from active duty to use VEAP benefits.

Additional information is available from the VA website

**<http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm>.**

2. **Vocational Rehabilitation Program.** Veterans are eligible for vocational rehabilitation if they suffered a service-connected disability in active service and are receiving at least 20 percent compensation (veterans with lesser percent disability may also in some cases be eligible); were discharged or released under honorable or general conditions; and need vocational rehabilitation to overcome an employment handicap. The veteran must complete the rehabilitation program within 12 years from the date the member has been notified of a service-connected disability rating.

## J. Service Awards.

1. **Award Inquiries.** Inquiries regarding prior service awards should be directed to the Marine's commanding officers (the unit commander for SMCR personnel, and to CG, MCRSC, for IMA/MTU and IRR Marines), who will then forward the inquiry to the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (Marine Corps), 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Each request should include:

- Full name, grade/rate at time of discharge/separation
- Service or social security number
- Periods of service; indicating active or reserve duty
- Date of last discharge/separation
- Organization: regiment, battalion, group, etc., during the period for which the inquiry is made
- Date and place of birth
- Address at time of last discharge/separation

2. **Initial Issue.** The Marine Corps will accomplish initial issue of awards. Reserve Marines wishing to replace an already issued award may obtain the medal or ribbon from local military exchanges or they may be ordered from commercial sources. Some commercial sources are:

National Capital Historical Sales, Inc.  
P.O. Box 605  
Springfield, VA 22150-0605 (703) 569-6663

Quartermaster  
P.O. Box 829  
Long Beach, CA 90801 (301) 436-6245

Medals of America  
1929 Fairview Road  
Fountain Inn, SC 29644 (803) 862-6425

3. **General.** Reserve Marines may qualify for the following service awards as members of the Marine Corps Reserve:

- a. **Armed Forces Reserve Medal:** This medal is issued to any member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States who completes, or has completed, a total of ten years of honorable satisfactory service under the following conditions:
- The required ten years must have been performed within a period of 12 consecutive years.
  - Such service shall not include service in an Active component of the Armed Forces; however, any period of time during which reserve service is interrupted by service in an Active component of the Armed Forces (including Naval Academy Midshipman Service, AR Program, or mobilization) shall be excluded in computing, and shall not be considered a break in the said period of 12 consecutive years.
- b. **Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal:** This medal is awarded to members of the Marine Corps Reserve who have fulfilled certain designated service requirements within any three-year period of service in the SMCR. The Secretary of the Navy has approved a change in the required years of qualifying service for this award from four years to three years effective 1 January 1996. You will be given the specific requirements for this medal when you join the SMCR.
- c. **Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon:** This ribbon is awarded to Marines who perform duty aboard a Naval Reserve ship or its reserve unit or an embarked active or reserve staff for a cumulative total of 24 months.
- d. **Naval and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon:** This ribbon is awarded to Marines who perform 30 consecutive days or 45 cumulative days of active duty at an overseas duty station, including deployed units and units whose homeport is overseas. Duty on board ships, squadrons/deploying units, or with the FMF does not qualify.
- e. **Arctic Service Ribbon:** This ribbon is awarded to active and Reserve component Marines who perform 28 consecutive or cumulative days of active duty above the Arctic Circle.

- f. **Mobilization Device For the Armed Forces Reserve Medal:** The Mobilization Device or “M Device” has been authorized for wear with the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM). To qualify for this award, Marines must have been mobilized and performed active duty in support of one or more of the following operations on or after August 1, 1990: Desert Shield/Storm (Persian Gulf), Restore Hope (Somalia), Uphold Democracy (Haiti), Joint Endeavor (Bosnia), or Enduring Freedom.

Criteria applicable to the issuance and wearing of the M Device with the AFRM are described in SECNAVINST 1650.1 and ALMAR 383/96. For information concerning the Mobilization Device, SMCR members should contact their Reserve unit’s administration section; IMA/MTU and IRR Marines should contact MCRSC for further information.

- K. Marine Corps Community Services.** Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) is the byproduct of merging the Corps old Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and the Human Resources programs and tailoring them to better meet today’s needs in personal and family readiness. MCCS is designed around five essential capabilities: Marine Corps Family Team Building, Personal Services, Semper Fit, Business Operations, and General Support.

The MCCS mission is to sustain the transformation of Marines and to make significant lasting contributions to combat readiness through the personal and family readiness of Marines and their families. Additionally, MCCS strives to ensure that Marines and their families should receive the same level of access and availability to support services and programs regardless of where they are stationed throughout the Corps. This is challenging considering the absence of base infrastructure and the geographic dispersion of the Marine Forces Reserve. Partnering with other organizations, creatively designing programs and services to meet specific needs, developing ideas from the field, and leveraging available technology are methods employed by MCCS to ensure standardized, modern, and accessible programs are a reality.

Marine Forces Reserve MCCS programs are designed with personal and family readiness in mind, and therefore focus on the needs of Marines and their families. Although eligibility restrictions to some MCCS programs exist while reserve Marines are not on active duty or mobilized, it is imperative that reserve Marines

and their families be familiar with MCCS capabilities. Knowing your resources and support network before duty calls is a key to readiness. Learn more about Marine Forces Reserve MCCR by visiting the MCCR site on the Marine Forces Reserve web page at [www.mfr.usmc.mil](http://www.mfr.usmc.mil).

**L. Marine For Life (M4L) Program.** This program was established to provide sponsorship to the more than 27,000 Marines who honorably leave active service each year. M4L mission is to maintain positive, mutually beneficial relationships with these Marines as they transition to civilian life, and remain in keeping with our ethos “Once a Marine, always a Marine.” Central goals are to:

- Improve assistance to Marines leaving active service.
- Provide sponsorship to ease the transition.
- Keep transitioning Marines within the Marine Corps family.
- Re-emphasize the value of an Honorable Discharge.

The M4L program is headquartered at HQMC Manpower and Reserve Affairs, under the Reserve Affairs Division. M4L representatives will contact the transitioning Marine up to 180 days prior/90 days after the Marine’s EAS and brief them regarding the benefits of the program.

- M4L HQ a solid foundation by providing oversight and direction.
- Hometown Links, who are Marines located at various sites throughout the nation, collocated with USMC Reserve units or USMC Recruiting Command sites. These Marines cultivate relationships with people and organizations that desire to help transitioning Marines return to civilian life.
- Electronic Backbone, a web-based database designed to enable human networking by providing a clearinghouse of contacts.

For more information regarding this valuable program, or to participate, visit the M4L website at **www.MarineForLife.com** (a link to this website is posted on the **www.usmc.mil** homepage). Marines may also reach M4L representatives by calling (703) 784-9140, email **MarineForLife@MarineCorps.com**, or writing to Marine For Life, 3280 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134.