

## Partnership with the Marine Corps to assist with transitioning Marines, Marines already out and those still on active duties. Current Issues;

1. Suicide Awareness and Prevention
2. Homelessness
3. Housing & Relocation Assistance
4. Employment
5. Education

Issues #3,4,5 can lead to #2, which ultimately can lead to #1.

This partnership has been in the works since April and with the help of Maj/General Regner and Maj/General Whitman we officially committed to the partnership at the our Mid-Winter Conference.

Marines, this is a commitment to a Mission we are taking very serious, it comes directly from the CMC General Neller and it will be accomplished from the National, Department and Detachment levels. No exceptions, no excuses. This will not be an easy Mission, but it is a Mission we as Marines can and will handle by working as a Marine Team. These five areas will require a Nation wide base of information and POC's throughout the Marine Corps League. We are in this for the long haul and there is no end date, because as long as there is a United States Marine Corps and there are Marines needing our help we will help.

That being said, where do we start? First, we need to bring these Marines, FMF Corpsman and FMF Chaplains into the Marine Corps League while they are still on active duty and follow them through to transition and beyond. We are putting in a program under honorary membership to bring them in as Honorary -Active Duty. All Division, Department and Detachment Commandants will receive a copy of how the program will work and how we will follow them through to transition. By this time if the membership is done right we should have a good idea what these Marines are transitioning into and what they may need in the way of employment, housing and education. Some of them may be going back to a stable life. We keep them involved in the Marine Corps League and we stay in touch in case they run into hard times. Like I said in the beginning problems with issues 3-5 can ultimately lead to 1 & 2. We must stop that from happening.

Now we have to work on setting up our League wide base of information and POC's. Start with Housing, Employment, and Education. We start at the National Level, The top four Officers put together a list of anyone they know in the these categories and pass that to the Divisions, The Division Commandants add any contacts they may have and send it to the Department and they in turn send it to

every Detachment. At the Detachment level because because you work closely with your community's you can put together small 2,3,or 4 man teams (another version of the Fire Team Concept) and get lists of businesses willing to hire, real estate companies willing to help and anyone in the education field especially at the college level. Take all that information and send copies back up the chain for everyone at all levels to maintain. We should be able to compile a massive network of contacts throughout the Marine Corps League.

As for the top two issues of Homelessness and suicide awareness those will require a bit more work, but we can set up the same network. At the National Level we already have a contact for Homeless Veterans, Mike Clark so we would need one in every Department and every Detachment. Homeless Marines will not be that easy to find, probably through information from outsiders or other Marines. Suicide awareness, in this area I believe we are going to need someone within the Marine Corps League with the knowledge and experience dealing with potential suicide issues, possibly a VSO, or someone in the psychology field, or maybe someone that has thought about suicide and they themselves were talked out of it.

The majority of the hands on work with Marines, Corpsman and Chaplains are going to be done at the Detachment level where we have the Boots on the Ground in the communities. The Departments and National will be passing on any information we receive. This will be a much easier mission if we can get them into the League and keep in contact by keeping them interested and busy. Give them a Mission, a reason to keep moving forward.

Marines, this is not an optional mission; this is a direct request for assistance from Hdq's Marine Corps for our help with our Marines. We committed with out hesitation. If we fail at the National Level, we all fail, if one Department fails, we all fail and if one Detachment fails, we all fail. Failure is not an option, we will leave no Marine, FMF Corpsman or FMF Chaplain behind, and those Marines that may already be lost, and we will find them and bring them back. Again, this Mission has no completion date so lets get to work.

Semper Fidelis  
Dennis Tobin  
National Jr. Vice Commandant