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SUBJ: SHIPMATES 11: RESPECT OUR SHIPMATES - YEAR OF THE COAST
GUARD FAMILY

A. PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY DIRECTIVE, STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY
FAMILIES

1. ON DECEMBER 8, 2010, THE PRESIDENT APPROVED THE REPORT ON
STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES: MEETING AMERICAS COMMITMENT.
PER REF A, THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST LADY, THE UNIFORMED SERVICE
CHIEFS (INCLUDING THE COAST GUARD), AND OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS
JOINED TOGETHER IN A COMMITMENT TO ENSURE OUR MILITARY MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO BE THEIR BEST.

2. AS HIGHLIGHTED IN MY STATE OF THE COAST GUARD ADDRESS, 2011 WILL
BE THE YEAR OF THE COAST GUARD FAMILY. AS OUTLINED IN MY
COMMANDANTS DIRECTION, TOGETHER WE WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF
LIFE FOR OUR COAST GUARD MEMBERS AND MILITARY FAMILIES. I AM
PLACING A RENEWED EMPHASIS ON ENSURING THAT OUR POLICIES,
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REFLECT THIS COMMITMENT. IN MY MIND, THE
HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE AT THE
HEART OF OPERATIONAL READINESS.

3. THE YEAR OF THE MILITARY FAMILY WILL BUILD UPON OUR EXISTING
POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES WHILE ALSO EXPLORING NEW
OPPORTUNITIES TO SHORE-UP AND BOLSTER THE SUPPORT FOR OUR
MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. WE WILL LOOK ACROSS PROGRAMS
AND PROVIDERS TO EXAMINE THE SERVICES THAT IMPACT OUR PEOPLE -
AND THEREFORE OUR OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS. INCLUDED WILL BE
THE HOUSING PROGRAM, CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, FAMILY SUPPORT
PROGRAMS, MILITARY PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT POLICIES, HEALTH CARE,
AND OUR CHAPLAIN SERVICES.

4. AS REFLECTED IN REF A AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 PRESIDENTS BUDGET,
THE COAST GUARD WILL BE IN LOCK STEP WITH THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
ON THIS ENDEAVOR. THE 2012 BUDGET INCLUDED 20 MILLION DOLLARS FOR
HOUSING AND OVER 9 MILLION DOLLARS FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE SUPPORT SERVICE
INITIATIVES PRESENTLY UNDERWAY:

A. HOUSING. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION AND MAINTENANCE OF
OUR FAMILY AND UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING INCLUDE:

(1) HOUSING ASSET LINE. WE HAVE STOOD UP THE SHORE
INFRASTRUCTURE LOGISTICS CENTER (SILC) AND CREATED SPECIFIC
PRODUCT LINES TO FOCUS ATTENTION AND GROW EXPERTISE ON FACILITY
MAINTENANCE AND CONDITION ISSUES.

(2) NEW HOUSING LEGISLATION. THE COAST GUARD RECEIVED AUTHORITY IN THE 2010 COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT TO SELL REAL PROPERTY AND PLACE ANY PROCEEDS FROM SUCH SALES INTO A DEDICATED COAST GUARD HOUSING FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECAPITALIZING FAMILY AND UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING. THE FIRST PROPERTIES WE INTEND TO SELL WILL BE THE FORMER COMMANDANT, VICE COMMANDANT, AND CHIEF-OF-STAFF QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, DC, IN ORDER TO REINVEST IN OUR CG HOUSING PROGRAM.

(3) NATIONAL HOUSING ASSESSMENT. WE ARE UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OWNED FAMILY HOUSING AND UNACCOMPANIED PERSONNEL HOUSING, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF FACILITY CONDITION, CONFIGURATION, HOUSING DEMAND AND AVAILABILITY, ENERGY AND WATER USE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ISSUES, DATA AND INFORMATION SYSTEM CORRECTION AND RECONCILIATION, MAINTENANCE PROGRAM REVIEW, AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS.

B. CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES. THE PRESIDENTS 2012 BUDGET ALSO INCLUDES MANY IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

(1) CHILD CARE SUBSIDY. WE PROPOSE TO REDESIGN THIS PROGRAM, INCREASING ACCESS TO CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR COAST GUARD FAMILIES AND THE AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY AVAILABLE AT MOST INCOME LEVELS. IMPROVEMENTS ARE ALSO INCLUDED FOR FAMILY (IN-HOME) CARE. THIS EFFORT WILL BETTER ALIGN THE COAST GUARD WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CHILDCARE STANDARDS.

(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (CDC). WE PROPOSE TO HIRE ADDITIONAL CRITICAL TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS AT CDCS TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCREDITATION OF THE COAST GUARDS NINE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

C. WORK-LIFE PROGRAMS. WORK-LIFE PROGRAMS PROVIDE MANY SERVICES DESIGNED TO ASSIST OUR PEOPLE AND FAMILIES COPE WITH LIFE CHALLENGES.

THE WORK-LIFE WEBSITE ([HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE](http://www.uscg.mil/worklife)) IS PRESENTLY UNDER REVISION TO INCORPORATE MORE USER FRIENDLY FEATURES TO ACCESS DESIRED RESOURCES. A WORK-LIFE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY LAUNCHED CG-WIDE WILL GUIDE THE IMPROVEMENT OF THESE PROGRAMS.

D. OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM. A VIABLE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM ENSURES A CRITICAL COMMUNICATION LINK BETWEEN THE COMMAND CADRE AND UNIT FAMILY MEMBERS, AND PROVIDES AWARENESS AND ACCESSIBILITY TO INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS. THIS YEAR WE HIRED THE FIRST DEDICATED OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM MANAGER. MS. CHRISTINE DEGRAW HAS ALREADY STARTED REDESIGNING THE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM TO IMPROVE OMBUDSMAN RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT FOR THESE SELFLESS VOLUNTEERS. I AM ALSO COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING TWO NEW REGIONAL OMBUDSMAN COORDINATORS TO SUPPORT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN THE FIELD.

E. TRICARE. THE COAST GUARD IS A FULL PARTNER IN THE MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM, A GLOBAL MEDICAL NETWORK THAT PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE TO MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN 2011, AN EXPANDED BENEFIT OPTION, TRICARE YOUNG ADULT (TYA) COVERAGE, IS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO OFFER MEDICAL COVERAGE TO MILITARY MEMBERS CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF 26. THIS BENEFIT OPTION IS FEE-BASED AND REQUIRES ENROLLMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM AND OTHER TRICARE PROGRAMS, VISIT THE TRICARE WEB SITE ([HTTP://WWW.TRICARE.MIL](http://www.tricare.mil)).

F. MILITARY PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT. WE WILL EXAMINE AND DEVELOP NEW PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PRACTICES, SUCH AS SCREENING, SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT POLICIES, TO PROMOTE STABILITY AND ENHANCE UNIT CAPABILITY AND MEMBER PROFICIENCY. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, I RECENTLY DIRECTED THE REDUCTION OF EARLY ROTATIONS FOR MEMBERS IN COMMAND CADRE AND KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

G. CHAPLAINS. OUR CHAPLAINS ROUTINELY PROVIDE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH ESSENTIAL PASTORAL CARE, SPIRITUAL AND MORAL LEADERSHIP, AND FAMILY, MARRIAGE, AND STRESS COUNSELING. THEY ARE LEADERS IN FINANCIAL COUNSELING, WARRIOR TRANSITION, AND PRE- AND POST-DEPLOYMENT BRIEFS. THEY ARE A SOURCE FOR RETREATS THAT FOCUS ON MARRIAGES AND PERSONAL GROWTH. THESE EVENTS ARE FREE AND AVAILABLE TO SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES. CONTACT A CHAPLAIN NEAR YOU FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND AVAILABILITY.

H. MORALE, WELL-BEING AND RECREATION (MWR). OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS, THE CG EXCHANGE SYSTEM (CGES) HAS INVESTED OVER 9 MILLION DOLLARS IN IMPROVING OUR EXCHANGES AND OUR ACCESS TO QUALITY MERCHANDISE FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES. ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN CGES PROJECTS IS PLANNED FOR 2011. ALSO, CGES NOW HAS THE CAPABILITY TO FORWARD DEPLOY RETAIL SUPPORT TO AREAS WHERE OUR SHIPMATES AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE IN NEED. BECAUSE OF YOUR OUTSTANDING PATRONAGE IN 2010, CGES GENERATED PROFITS ENOUGH TO ENABLE THE MWR DISTRIBUTION TO BE 80 DOLLARS PER ACTIVE DUTY PERSON THIS YEAR, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN OVER 10 YEARS (THE HIGHEST WAS PREVIOUSLY 45 DOLLARS). FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CG MWR PROGRAMS VISIT THE WEB SITE ([HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/MWR](http://www.uscg.mil/mwr)).

5. COMMAND CLIMATE AND LEADERSHIP ARE CRITICAL IN SUPPORTING OUR PEOPLE AND FAMILIES. READINESS BEGINS AT HOME. I CHARGE EVERYONE IN A LEADERSHIP POSITION TO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE USE OF COAST GUARD INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS.

6. ASSISTING ME AS A VOLUNTEER WILL BE MY WIFE LINDA - A MILITARY SPOUSE FOR 35 YEARS AND A WORKING MOTHER. SHE WILL SERVE AS AN OMBUDSMAN-AT-LARGE, AND WILL BE VISITING CG HOUSING, CDCS, CLINICS, SCHOOLS, AND LISTENING SESSIONS WITH SPOUSE ORGANIZATIONS.

7. THIS YEAR OF THE FAMILY ALCOAST IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF UPDATES THAT YOU CAN EXPECT REGARDING MY DIRECTION TO PREPARE FOR TOMORROW WHILE SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES TODAY.

8. ADM BOB PAPP, COMMANDANT, SENDS.
9. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.
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