

Good morning DSOCers,

During our 2019 DSOCs, the District Commanding Officer defined his vision for family readiness which included enlisting the help of those who have attended DSOC as unofficial ambassadors-at-large who have received resources and information and can “pay it forward”. The connections and friendships formed during DSOC stretches our capacity to reach every family and serves as a trusted source of support, calm, and comfort as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. Be reassured that we are fully engaged, receiving and implementing daily updates...often several times throughout the day... from our higher headquarters. You are our priority and we share your regards for the safety of our production recruiters, our families, and all who are an integral part of the Mighty 8th. We remain in partnership with you, heeding your concerns as they are our concerns, too.

What I would like to share with you is what I have seen occur behind the scenes in response to COVID-19 as planning continues to occur: I have seen excellence, professionalism, proactive determination, concern, and unity. I have seen leaders work within their parameters to meet a threat head on. I have seen that we are indeed stronger together. We lean on each other, rely on each other’s expertise and common sense. I have seen our families check on each other, support the challenges of balancing extended spring breaks, work, and navigate an introduction to home school. To see strength and resiliency emerge even through tears, worry, and uncertainty is incredibly hopeful and inspiring to me.

Moving forward, we ask you to continue joining us on our journey of *paying it forward*. We have more than 1500 family members throughout our District. We are our best resource, our best advocate, our first line of defense for recognizing stressors and need. Continue to send your messages and emails to us sharing your concerns. Resources that you can pass along as we remain calm and supportive of each other include:

- Navy Marine Corps Relief Society <https://www.nmcrs.org/>
- American Red Cross Hero Care app <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/news-and-events/press-release/American-Red-Cross-Launches-New-Hero-Care-App.html>
- Military OneSource <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>
- DStress Line <https://usmc-mccs.org/services/support/dstress-line/>
- Department of Defense Education Activity <https://www.dodea.edu/dvhs/index.cfm>

Thank you so much for all that you do. You are needed.

All the best,

Lisa