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MARINEFORCESRESERVE | DECEMBER 2014

COMMUNICATOR BY THE NUMBERS

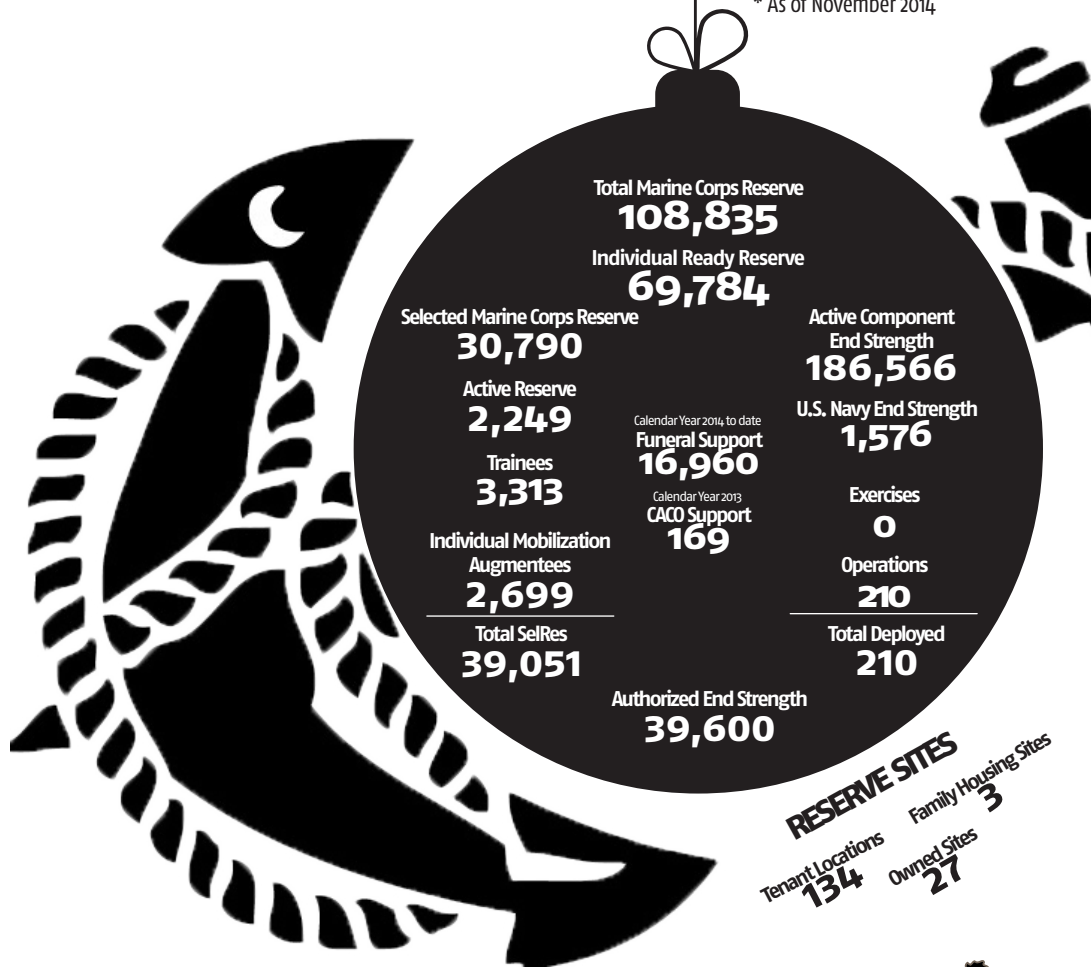
* As of November 2014



LT. GEN. RICHARD P. MILLS

Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

"The holidays are a time for enjoying friends, family and festive events. Unfortunately, there are scammers and hackers ready to take advantage of you and your family's joy this season. Always be mindful of your surroundings and aware of possible attempts to steal your money or gifts. Be especially vigilant online where hacking and phishing schemes are on the rise. Marines and Sailors – thank you for all that you do as a part of Marine Forces Reserve. May you have a joyous and safe holiday season whether you are at home or abroad. Semper Fidelis."



RESERVE SITES
 Tenant Locations **134**
 Family Housing Sites **3**
 Owned Sites **27**



Happy Holidays!

LEADERSHIP

Secretary of the Navy	Hon. Ray Mabus
Commandant of the Marine Corps	Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.
Assistant Commandant	Gen. John M. Paxton Jr.
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps	Sgt. Maj. Micheal P. Barrett
Commander, Marine Forces Reserve	Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills
Executive Director, Marine Forces Reserve	Mr. Gregg T. Habel

Sergeant Major, Marine Forces Reserve	Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Spadaro
Command Master Chief, Marine Forces Reserve	CMDCM Eric E. Cousin
4th Marine Division	Maj. Gen. Paul W. Brier
4th Marine Aircraft Wing	Maj. Gen. William T. Collins
4th Marine Logistics Group	Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann
Force Headquarters Group	Brig. Gen. Helen G. Pratt

Scams and Swindles:

Are your Holidays at risk?

During the peak holiday season, Marines and Sailors are responsible for keeping their personally identifiable information safe while making various financial transactions. The Better Business Bureau released a list of this year's top scams and how to protect your identity and finances.

Phishing Scams

Counterfeit retailer websites:

- Websites that look similar to real retailer Web pages, could actually be fake.
- These sites may send bad merchandise, or steal your information and credit card number.

Malware e-cards:

- Email greeting cards appearing to be from a friend could be a trick to steal personal information.
- The email containing a link that downloads harmful software onto your computer.

Santa scammers:

- Emails offering to send a personal letter from Santa to your child could be a phishing scam.
- The scam is used to collect personal information for identity theft.

Protect Yourself

- Do your research and check your card activity daily.
- Call a working customer service number or find a physical store location to ask if websites you are using are legitimate.
- Always use a credit card instead of a debit card when shopping online.
- Grammatical errors or spelling mistakes could be a major red flag.

Financial and Property Scams

Gift card scams:

- Gift cards are a target for con artists this time of year.
- Thieves secretly copy the numbers off the cards, sometimes scratching off the security codes.
- By checking online or calling the 1-800 card number the thieves can tell if the card has been activated.
- By the time you try to use the same card, the money is gone.

Grandparent scams:

- As families gather for the holidays, scammers will target the elderly.
- They may receive a desperate call or email from a "stranded" grandchild or loved one claiming they've had their wallet stolen and need money wired to them immediately.

Mall pickpockets:

- Thieves take advantage of busy malls and frantic shoppers to steal purses and wallets.

Fake charities:

- Lookout for "sound alike" charities and street-corner collectors.
- Research before giving.

Bogus coupons:

- Coupons or discount codes are often sold online and in-person at a fraction of their face value.
- Coupons or codes could be completely worthless.

