

## Letter from the Command Master Chief

As your Command Master Chief, I'd like to personally congratulate you on your orders to Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center (MARMC) and welcome you to the largest maintenance activity in the Navy. I'm sending this letter separately from your Welcome Aboard Package just in case the package gets lost in the mail, or for some reason, it doesn't get forwarded to you from your command. If you have dependents and are interested in Navy housing, you should communicate with the Navy Housing Office personnel at the following address or visit their website:

<http://www.nsa-norva.navy.mil/housing/>  
Norfolk Naval Base Housing  
7924 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Norfolk, Va 23505-1217

Immediate permanent housing upon arrival is rarely available, but you'll be ahead of the housing situation by exchanging information as early as possible. Civilian rental housing in the Virginia area is available, although it may be difficult to find affordable rental housing especially for large families and for those families with pets. Again, the Housing Office can provide you with booklets on available civilian rental properties.

You should be advised that upon arrival at MARMC your BAH will change from previous zip code to current zip code. It is your responsibility to ensure that during the check-in process at PSD Norfolk, you request BAH for current zip code be restarted. No documentation is required for E-5 and above. A request chit for E-4 and below must be run through new chain of command. The climate in Norfolk is moderate year round, but you will need a full sea bag of uniform items. We shift to the summer uniform in April and to the winter uniform in October. The utilities and khaki uniforms are authorized year round. Military exchanges and commissaries are plentiful in the area and will accommodate all of your shopping needs. Both are open seven days a week and are within walking distance from the Naval Station. Childcare development facilities at the local bases are available, but often times have a long waiting list. The Fleet and Family Support Center also can assist you with information on childcare in the local community as well as the Navy Family Home Care Program. You can reach them at (757) 444-2102 or visit their website at: <http://www.ffsncorva.navy.mil>

Our MWR facilities are excellent. We have several full gymnasiums with ongoing sports programs, weight lifting, aerobics, softball, basketball, swimming pools, game rooms, racquetball, tennis courts, bowling alley, clubs, fitness centers featuring nautilus, cardiovascular room, professional staffing with full locker rooms, only to mention a few. Educational opportunities are very easy and accessible in the Norfolk area. Navy CAMPUS can assist you in furthering your education from starting your Associate's degree to completing your Master's degree program from several different colleges. Let's face it, with the draw down in forces, competition for advancement is becoming more and more keen, and one way to make yourself more competitive is to obtain a degree, which you can easily do while assigned to MARMC. Norfolk has a full range of opportunities, recreation and entertainment. Norfolk offers everything from beautiful beaches to lush mountains. Busch Garden's, Kings Dominion and Water Country USA are all very

popular and easily accessible. Virginia has something to offer for everyone. Some additional numbers you may find helpful are:

MARMC Manpower - Commercial (757) 444-1954 ext. 3288

MARMC Quarterdeck - Commercial (757) 444-1954 ext. 0

CMC- (757) 443-3872 ext. 1004 or 1005

Again, welcome aboard.

S.R. Ketchum

CMC