



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE HEADQUARTERS GROUP  
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
GruO 1738  
CHAP  
8 May 15

GROUP ORDER 1738

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Distribution List A

Subj: INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS AWARENESS, TRAINING, AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Ref: (a) MCO 1730.6E  
(b) MCO 1754.6C

Encl: (1) iRelate Pre and Post Marriage Checklists  
(2) Unit Implementation of iRelate

1. Situation. This Order describes the policy, responsibilities, and procedures for implementing the Intimate Relationships Awareness, Training, and Enrichment (iRelate) program for I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group (I MHG).

a. First-term Marines, mostly E-4 and below, in committed relationships are overconfident in their ability to navigate the difficulties of marriage and idealistic about marriage, resulting in Marines, E-5 and below, divorcing at a rate three times higher than their civilian peers. These divorces are having a significant negative impact on operational readiness.

b. Couples who participate in intimate relationship training demonstrate improved communication and problem-solving skills, and in general experience happier relationships and marriages. Healthy marriages contribute to individual well-being and overall unit and family readiness. Effectively equipping Marines and Sailors with the appropriate knowledge and skills known to contribute to successful intimate relationships is vital to the readiness of the Marine Corps as a fighting force, and to maintaining the long-term health and well-being of Marines, Sailors, and their families.

2. Mission. In support of references (a) and (b), the iRelate program will be conducted to equip Marines and Sailors, at the E-5 and below pay grades, with evidence-based knowledge and skills to optimally navigate the common challenges of intimate relationships, to prepare them for marriage, and to increase their awareness regarding resources available for marriage enrichment, the prevention of divorce, and the handling of marital problems.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent

(a) Provide subject matter expertise to ensure Marines and Sailors are best prepared with the requisite knowledge and skills suited for intimate relationships and marriage by participating in all stages of this program.

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(b) The I MHG Chaplain is designated the executive agent for this program and its programming throughout the entire I MHG. In this capacity, the I MHG Chaplain shall:

1. Provide oversight of this program and offer support to subordinate units and supporting entities as needed.
2. Consult with supervisory and senior supervisory chaplains to ensure the use of vetted and current iRelate materials.
3. Implement a training program to ensure all subordinate element chaplains and additional instructors are trained in the delivery of the iRelate program. Enclosure 2 offers an example of a Unit Implementation plan for iRelate.

(c) The unit chaplain shall serve as the command representative to administer this program and shall work with all appropriate helping agencies, both religious and secular, to ensure the best possible means to achieve its intent. In the absence of a unit chaplain, commanders shall seek support from the next higher level of command with an assigned chaplain.

(2) Concept of Operations. The iRelate program will be conducted as follows:

(a) Stage 1, Awareness

1. Stage 1 is an ongoing effort intended to educate single Marines and Sailors at the E-5 and below pay grades with current information regarding intimate relationships and marriage by introducing these personnel to researched-based findings regarding relationships, dispelling common myths, and making known the iRelate program requirements.

2. As directed by commanders, but not less than semi-annually, unit chaplains shall coordinate and offer the required Stage 1 class to single Marines and Sailors at the E-5 and below pay grades. Unit chaplains may include appropriate helping agencies to ensure the fullest possible support and impact of this stage.

(b) Stage 2, Training

1. Stage 2 is designed to equip engaged couples for marriage and begins no less than 90 days before a Marine's or Sailor's planned wedding day. The commander may make exceptions to this 90-day requirement on a case-by-case basis. However, in order to offer the best resources, all leaders shall strive to ensure Marines and Sailors adhere to this 90-day window.

2. Marines and Sailors at the E-5 and below pay grades shall complete the seven items listed on the iRelate pre-marriage checklist of enclosure (1) before getting married.

3. Marines and Sailors at the E-5 and below pay grades shall complete the 17 items listed on the iRelate post-marriage checklist of enclosure (1) within the 60 days following their wedding date.

4. Unit commanders may add additional requirements to the iRelate pre-marriage and post-marriage checklists as deemed necessary.

(c) Stage 3, Enrichment

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1. Stage 3 is designed for couples who have been married for at least one year and focuses on successfully navigating the challenges of a young marriage.

2. As directed by commanders, unit chaplains shall regularly coordinate and offer approved Stage 3 products.

3. Unit chaplains shall work collaboratively with all appropriate helping agencies to best utilize additional resources to achieve the intent of Stage 3.

(d) Intervention and Support

1. Intervention and support shall be offered throughout all stages of this program and shall focus on addressing relationship problems as they surface. All couples with identified relationship problems shall be referred to the unit chaplain for consultation.

2. Unit chaplains shall strive to work with all appropriate helping agencies for the purpose of offering optimal resources to couples.

3. Intervention and support consists of but is not limited to: pastoral care and counsel from the unit chaplain, Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) programs, Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), and Families OverComing Under Stress (FOCUS) resources.

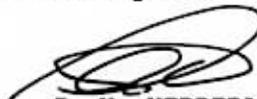
b. Subordinate Element Missions. Commanders shall coordinate with the I MHG Chaplain to establish implementing policy consistent with the intent of this Order.

4. Administration and Logistics Recommendations concerning the content of this Order may be forwarded to the I MHG Chaplain via the appropriate chain of command.

5. Command and Signal

a. This Order is applicable to all I MHG MSEs.

b. This Order is effective the date signed.



J. H. HERRERA

iRelate  
Pre-Marriage Checklist

(Begin 90 days before the planned wedding date)

Planned Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TASK

VERIFIED BY/DATE

TASK	VERIFIED BY/DATE
1. Meet with Chaplain	
2. Meet with Family Readiness Officer (FRO)	
3. Meet with Command Financial Specialist	
4. Complete the "PREPARE/ENRICH" Assessment	
5. Complete the "Before Saying I Do" Class	
6. Obtain a Marriage License in accordance with State requirements	
7. Have SNCO/LPO verify completion of pre-marriage requirements	

Sample: See Unit  
for Checklists

Chaplain

**iRelate  
Post-Marriage Checklist**

(Must be completed within the 60 days following the wedding date)

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TASK**

**VERIFIED BY/DATE**

1. Obtain at least (1) "certified copy" of your marriage certificate from the county/parish where your marriage took place	SNCO/LPO
2. Meet with Family Readiness Officer (FRO) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update family readiness information</li> <li>• Learn about all appropriate resources and programs (e.g., reassignment assistance, new parent support, financial counseling, exceptional family members)</li> </ul> (Spouses are highly encouraged to attend this meeting with the FRO)	FRO
3. Complete/Update Family Care Plan	
4. Enroll spouse in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS). Ensure spouse has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State or government issued photo ID</li> <li>• Second form of ID</li> </ul>	
5. Obtain a military ID card for your spouse	
6. Update Record of Emergency Data	
7. Update W-4 tax withholding information	
8. Ensure Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) beneficiary information is current	
9. Register with Housing Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain a Command Sponsorship Letter from Chain of Command if needed</li> </ul>	
10. Ensure will and powers of attorney are current	
11. Enroll spouse in a Tricare medical plan	
12. Register spouse's vehicle on base if applicable	
13. Meet with the Command Financial Specialist (CFS) regarding a budget	CFS
14. Meet with chaplain to learn about marriage and family resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discuss attending "PREP" or "After the Knot is Tied"</li> <li>b. Discuss attending "LINKS for Couples"</li> <li>c. Discuss "Yours, Mine &amp; Ours: Developing Healthy Blended Families" as appropriate</li> <li>d. Discuss "New Parent Support Group" as appropriate</li> </ul>	Chaplain
15. Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll spouse in the dental plan. <a href="http://www.metlife.com/tricare/index.html#welcome">www.metlife.com/tricare/index.html#welcome</a></li> <li>• Update/combine auto insurance policies</li> <li>• Obtain or update renter's or homeowner's insurance</li> <li>• Update all contact and billing information</li> <li>• Visit MCCA</li> <li>• If spouse changes last name:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Contact the Social Security Office to receive a new Social Security Card. Visit <a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>, or call 1-800-772-1213</li> <li>o Update spouse's driver's license</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
16. Have SNCO/LPO verify completion of pre-marriage requirements	SNCO/LPO
17. Provide a copy of the completed Pre and Post Marriage Checklists to your Chain of Command to be placed in your training jacket	SNCO/LPO

## Unit Implementation of iRelate

- I. First week: Chaplain meets with command team (CO, XO, SGTMAJ, PRO) to discuss:
  - A. "Big picture" of iRelate: Review "iRelate Executive Summary" and iRelate products as needed. Answer any questions.
  - B. Decision Items:
    - 1. Command tone for iRelate.
    - 2. How to communicate mandatory nature of iRelate to all unmarried Marines and Sailors, E-5 and below.
    - 3. How to ensure participants complete pre-marriage checklist before they marry and post-marriage checklist after they marry.
    - 4. Securing the quantity of Certified Financial Specialists (CFS) to meet demand of iRelate.
    - 5. Will the Commanding Officer be available to give the opening remarks for iRelate training?
  - C. Endstate: Command team understands and supports iRelate.
- II. Second week: Chaplain trains SNCOs and Officers (90 minutes).
  - A. Training includes:
    - 1. Introduction and need for iRelate.
    - 2. Introduction to iRelate products.
      - a. PREPARE/ENRICH assessments.
      - b. Pre- and post-marital checklists.
      - c. Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 classes.
      - d. Intervention and Support items.
  - B. Training will require a space with a projector & a screen.
  - C. Endstate: SNCOs and officers understand and are prepared to support iRelate.
- III. Third week (60 minutes): Chaplain meets with command team to discuss "anchoring" iRelate products into training cycle.
  - A. Any unanswered questions about iRelate?
  - B. Endstate: iRelate is fully implemented and "anchored" in the unit.