

## **Change Comes to All of Us...**

If you have ever read the book “Who Moved My Cheese”; you would have realized that in your life and society “change” is bound to happen several times during your lifetime.

As you read and ponder the timeless allegory, the “Maze” is a metaphor for the things you want in life such as a good and safe place for your families to live in; your working conditions to be the same as always and especially a place that is “Normal” to your way of living.

“Who Moved My Cheese” reveals insightful truths about individuals and families dealing with change. In the Marine Corps, this is a reality! The consistent moves, deployments, lost of jobs or incomes, job changes and the unfamiliar surroundings. In the story there are four characters that live in the maze. The characters are Sniff and Scurry, who are little mice and Hem and Haw who are little people who live among the mice.

In the maze they are comfortable where they are in their life and the everyday living conditions and the foods is abundant. There is nothing to worry about because nothing or nobody is going to change that. However, somebody or something did change their life style. The food supply that they knew was always there was disappearing. Sniff and Scurry knew something was wrong, so they went out to find the solution to the “Disappearing” cheese and if necessary make the appropriate changes to their way of life to survive. On the other hand, Hem and Haw does the opposite, they thought, why get worried or even think about moving from the comfortable way of life...things will change back to way they were. This is where people fail to understand that when things change, you need to make the necessary adjustments. If you do not you will be as Hem and Haw, hoping for things to change back the way they were...which will not going to happen and eventually fail in life.

Speaking of change...change can come to all of us and in many different forms. Some of the changes come by the way of a new job, new surroundings, lost of a job or income, getting married or having a child. When change does come, we all hope that we can make the right adjustment to keep us and our families moving forward instead of going backwards.

It would be nice that when change does come to us, that there would only be one adjustment that fits all situations; however, since we live in the REAL world, it does not. We all have to work out and make the proper adjustment to our situation and remember everyone's situation is different. One size does not fit all!

Here are some tips when change does come to your front door:

1. Be ready for the change
2. Anticipate the change
3. Monitor the change
4. Adapt quickly to the change
5. Enjoy the change

It will also greatly depend upon your attitude and your mental ability to make the necessary adjustments that will enhance our way of life. Many come to recruiting duty with a negative attitude, which can create barriers to success. You have to remember that you are in control of your attitude and no one else is.

I'm not saying that you will have all happy moments in life; I'm saying that when you are faced with an obstacle – how are you going to react to that obstacle?

The reason I bring this up is that you are in an organization that is consistently moving and changing – from permanent change of stations to family issues. The Marine Corps is a very demanding organization not only on the Marines, but families also. The Marine Corps asks a lot of our families - to move every three years, which this could be very stressful. They also ask of our family members to move to areas of the country where they are not even remotely familiar with and assume that you and family will adapt.

I encourage you all to work diligently, so when change does come to your front door you will know how to deal and work out the kinks to make sure that you and your family make the proper adjustments.