

2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES



LT COL JOHN M. REED

Commander's Commentary

Families and Friends,

The purpose of this newsletter is to reach out to you as a source of great strength for 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. I want to include you as members of the 2/7 Marine Family. Each Marine or Sailor in this amazing organization of over 1200 men relies not only on those on their left or right in training or in combat, but they also gain a sense of purpose and peace from a loved one. For all of your support in this matter, I thank you.

My wife and I are thrilled with the status and potential of my program for Family Readiness. I have spoken with spouses and parents and I resoundingly hear the need for communication and information. There are many methods to ensure we are doing our best in this regard and this newsletter is a simple one. You will find useful information and additional contact numbers on our official website at: <http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/div/7mar/2bn/>. I would also like to introduce my Family Readiness Officer, Katie Clark, to help as my point of contact for questions or issues for resolution. Her contact information is in the FRO section of this newsletter on page four.

2nd Battalion, 7th Marines will deploy in January 2010 to join the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) as Battalion Landing Team 2/7. From Okinawa, BLT 2/7 will embark aboard amphibious ships to conduct exercises and operations throughout the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. We will serve as an expeditionary force in readiness to deter hostilities, strengthen our military ties with foreign partners, and be the first to fight in that area if necessary. The Marines and Sailors of BLT 2/7 will see new parts of the world and experience other cultures. I will assure you that before the battalion deploys that it is trained and ready - right down to each individual man. The battalion will be spending more time in the training areas and on firing ranges during the summer and fall months. Some of the time will be spent on California's coast exercising our amphibious raid profiles. We will schedule a two to three week period for time off or for pre-deployment leave as we call it in the last half of December and into the first week of January.

If you are in Twentynine Palms, I encourage you to visit the command post to talk with me and Sergeant Major Brookshire. Do not hesitate to call or write either. As the Commander, I assume the personal obligation to keep you informed and assured that your Marine or Sailor is well and serving honorably. Finally, I appreciate your partnership and support.

Semper Fidelis!

John M. Reed
Lieutenant Colonel, USMC
Commanding Officer

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Consider the significance of, or just enjoy, the children's story on pages 2 and 3.
- ◆ Many awards and promotions are announced throughout the Company pages. Congratulations!!
- ◆ Look to the back page for important announcements
- ◆ Newsletter contributions should be submitted to FRO Katie Clark (see page 4).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Chaplain's Chosen</i>	2
<i>FRO's Fountain</i>	4
<i>Salty Sally</i>	14
<i>H & S Company</i>	5
<i>Echo Company</i>	6
<i>Fox Company</i>	8
<i>Golf Company</i>	10
<i>Weapons Company</i>	12



Chaplain's Chosen

From the Chaplain...

Pastor Max Lucado is a favorite of mine. Some of you may have heard of him and some of you may have read some of his writings. Several years ago at a Pastor's Conference, during one of the sessions the following story was told. Now, I have to admit, as a clergyman holding two advanced degrees in theology, I was somewhat offended that the presenter of this session would use a children's book as the basis for his topic. I wanted to hear from St. John of the Cross or St. Augustine or Dr. John Stott about the deep mysteries of God, but instead I was going to get an illustrated children's book? Some lessons are so simple though; we do not need to hear them with all the flowery language or with an obscure (though precise) theological utterance. Some things are indeed simple and should be kept that way. After you read the following story, you'll understand.

The Wooden People by Max Lucado

The Wemmicks were small wooden people. Each of the wooden people was carved by a woodworker named Eli. His workshop sat on a hill overlooking their village. Every Wemmick was different. Some had big noses, others had large eyes. Some were tall and others were short. Some wore hats, others wore coats. But all were made by the same carver and all lived in the village.

And all day, every day, the Wemmicks did the same thing: They gave each other stickers. Each Wemmick had a box of golden star stickers and a box of gray dot stickers. Up and down the streets all over the city, people could be seen sticking stars or dots on one another.

The pretty ones, those with smooth wood and fine paint, always got stars. But if the wood was rough or the paint chipped, the Wemmicks gave dots. The talented ones got stars, too. Some could lift big sticks high above their heads or jump over tall boxes. Still others knew big words or could sing very pretty songs. Everyone gave them stars.

Some Wemmicks had stars all over them! Every time they got a star it made them feel so good that they did something else and got another star. Others, though, could do little. They got dots.

Punchinello was one of these. He tried to jump high like the others, but he always fell. And when he fell, the others would gather around and give him dots. Sometimes when he fell, it would scar his wood, so the people would give him more dots. He would try to explain why he fell and say something silly, and the Wemmicks would give him more dots.

After a while he had so many dots that he didn't want to go outside. He was afraid he would do something dumb such as forget his hat or step in the water, and then people would give him another dot. In fact, he had so many gray dots that some people would come up and give him one without reason.

"He deserves lots of dots," the wooden people would agree with one another.

"He's not a good wooden person."

After a while Punchinello believed them. "I'm not a good Wemmick," he would say. The few times he went outside, he hung around other Wemmicks who had a lot of dots. He felt better around them.

One day he met a Wemmick who was unlike any he'd ever met. She had no dots or stars. She was just wooden. Her name was Lulia.

It wasn't that people didn't try to give her stickers; it's just that the stickers didn't stick. Some admired Lulia for having no dots, so they would run up and give her a star. But it would fall off. Some would look down on her for having no stars, so they would give her a dot. But it wouldn't stay either.

'That's the way I want to be, thought Punchinello. 'I don't want anyone's marks.' So he asked the stickerless Wemmick how she did it.

"It's easy," Lulia replied. "Every day I go see Eli."



"Eli?"

"Yes, Eli. The woodcarver. I sit in the workshop with him."

"Why?"

"Why don't you find out for yourself? Go up the hill. He's there."

And with that the Wemmick with no marks turned and skipped away.

"But he won't want to see me!" Punchinello cried out.

Lulia didn't hear. So Punchinello went home. He sat near a window and watched the wooden people as they scurried around giving each other stars and dots.

"It's not right," he muttered to himself. And he resolved to go see Eli.

He walked up the narrow path to the top of the hill and stepped into the big shop. His wooden eyes widened at the size of everything. The stool was as tall as he was. He had to stretch on his tiptoes to see the top of the workbench. A hammer was as long as his arm. Punchinello swallowed hard.

"I'm not staying here!" and he turned to leave. Then he heard his name.

"Punchinello?" The voice was deep and strong.

Punchinello stopped. "Punchinello! How good to see you. Come and let me have a look at you."

Punchinello turned slowly and looked at the large bearded craftsman. "You know my name?" the little Wemmick asked.

"Of course I do. I made you."

Eli stooped down and picked him up and set him on the bench. "Hmm," he spoke thoughtfully as he inspected the gray circles. "Looks like you've been given some bad marks."

"I didn't mean to, Eli. I really tried hard."

"Oh, you don't have to defend yourself to me. I don't care what the other Wemmicks think."

"You don't?"

"No, and you shouldn't either. Who are they to give stars or dots? They're Wemmicks just like you. What they think doesn't matter, Punchinello. All that matters is what I think. And I think you are pretty special."

Punchinello laughed. "Me, special? Why? I can't walk fast. I can't jump. My paint is peeling. Why do I matter to you?"

Eli looked at Punchinello, put his hands on those small wooden shoulders, and spoke very slowly. "Because you're mine. That's why you matter to me."

Punchinello had never had anyone look at him like this--much less his maker. He didn't know what to say.

"Every day I've been hoping you'd come," Eli explained.

"I came because I met someone who had no marks."

"I know. She told me about you."

"Why don't the stickers stay on her?"

"Because she has decided that what I think is more important than what they think. The stickers only stick if you let them."

"What?"

"The stickers only stick if they matter to you. The more you trust my love, the less you care about the stickers."

"I'm not sure I understand."

"You will, but it will take time. You've got a lot of marks. For now, just come to see me every day and let me remind you how much I care."

Eli lifted Punchinello off the bench and set him on the ground.

"Remember," Eli said as the Wemmick walked out the door. "You are special because I made you. And I don't make mistakes."

Punchinello didn't stop, but in his heart he thought, "I think he really means it."

And when he did, a dot fell to the ground.

There's a lot in that story to consider. Are you a giver of stars and dots? If so, why? Are you a receiver of stars or dots? If so, why? Do the stars or dots you receive in life really matter to you? Do you believe that the stars and dots of life matter to your Maker? And finally, how much time are you spending with your Maker? If you're interested in this story as a book, it is available as **You Are Special** by Max Lucado (There is an entire Wemmick series available). I pray you will think on these things, and share this story with your children.

Blessings,

Fr. Russ



FRO's Fountain

Dear Families and Friends of 2/7 Marines and Sailors,

Many of you have probably been wondering about me and what benefits come with having a civilian FRO. I am a Marine wife of fourteen years, the mother of three school-aged children, and now your dedicated Family Readiness Officer (FRO). Having previously served as a Key Volunteer, and then a Key Volunteer Coordinator for an infantry battalion during a MEU / Combat deployment, I come to 2/7 with experience and compassion. I invite you to get to know me better as we embark upon the next deployment. I am certainly interested to learn more about you and how I can best meet your needs.

With the realization that personal and family readiness is a vital contributor to operational readiness, the employment of civilians to assume the responsibilities of Active Duty FROs has relieved many Marines of the stress related to having this collateral duty in addition to their primary job. As important as any FRO may have considered these duties, there was simply never enough time to do the job as well as he or she would have wanted to. This inherently had a negative impact on either the readiness of a Marine / Sailor, the volunteers who took on such a heavy task, or both.

Still, there is more work to be done than any one person can do in a forty hour work week. For this reason, volunteers are as important as they ever were to the success of a family readiness program. It is understood, however, that Key Volunteers were overburdened with expectations and often found it difficult to find balance. The new direction of Family Readiness aims to ease that burden by having a civilian employee in the FRO position and reducing the duties expected of volunteers with a variety of positions to be held. I've heard it referred to as the Key Volunteer Network on steroids.

All this being said, please have patience with me as I put the program together. If you aren't hearing from me, I probably don't have accurate contact information for you, despite the number of times you may have given it to others. Call me, send me an e-mail, be sure to get what you need by asking for it. My office is located inside the Fox Co office which is clearly marked on both sides of our new building at 3rd Street and Bourke Road. Stop in for a visit, but you may want to call before making a special trip so I know you are coming. I am often running (in my car) around the base, but I am also here for you. Be a part of the solution, the future of family readiness.

Semper Gumby,
Katie Clark
Family Readiness Officer

760-830-5872 Office
760-910-5219 Work Cell
katharine.l.clark@usmc.mil

Salty Sally (continues on Page 14)

Dear Salty Sally,

I've heard that there won't be a KVN anymore. Where will I get my information from?

Feeling Lost in Golf

Dear Lost,

In addition to the newsletter, website, and hotline, there is a new program called the Mass Communication Tool (MCT) which allows the FRO to communicate the exact same message to everyone within the unit at the exact same time. These messages can be by phone, e-mail, or both, so be sure to tell the FRO how you want to be contacted. You may have received the first phone message sent by 2/7 on May 8. Spouses are automatically eligible to receive communication through this tool, and additional family members can be included with the Servicemember's written consent. Please feel free to contact the FRO for more details.

Sincerely,

Salty Sally



Headquarters and Services Company

Dear Friends and Family,

Our Marines and Sailors have been hard at work supporting the Battalion since our return from deployment in December 2008. In recent months we have said goodbye to numerous members of the company who served with distinction during the last deployment in Afghanistan. As they depart, we welcome many new Marines and Sailors to the company every week. These Marines and Sailors join us during a critical period as we reconstitute the company and begin working toward the next deployment.

In the coming months, we will continue to focus on leadership fundamentals, combat conditioning, and annual training as our team grows toward full-strength. Expect the Marines and Sailors to participate in daily physical training, Battalion PT events, and numerous field and classroom training throughout the coming months as the Battalion prepares for the upcoming deployment. H&S Company has participated and proven to be a heavy hand in all the Battalion Field Exercises. Most recently H&S Company has supported Battalion Buddy Team and Fire Team Certification, Tactical Small Unit Leader Certification (TSULC) and Train the Trainer (T3). Additionally, the Battalion will undergo a full Commanding General's Inspection and Logistics Readiness Inspection in the beginning of June. In the future you can expect H&S to support Battalion Squad attacks and Company Patrolling.

These events will require extensive work on the part of the Marines and Sailors to ensure the Battalion is sufficiently prepared and continues to excel. The Marines and Sailors of H&S Company continue to be the backbone of the Battalion as they participate in and support various training evolutions. There is no doubt that the Marines and Sailors of H&S Company will be there to answer the call.

Semper Fidelis,
T. T. Garlock
Company Commander

Headquarters & Services Company Announcements:

Awards:

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Corporal Flores, Jonathan L.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

Staff Sergeant Hernandez, Marcuss A.

Letter of Appreciation:

Lance Corporal Smith, Adam G.
Corporal Brown, Michael K.

Promotions to Lance Corporal:

Anderson, Michael J.
Davis, Nathan S.
Mohammed, Salahadin A.
Murphy, Daniel J.

Promotions to Corporal:

Ahern, Brendan O.
CardonaGonzalez, Ismael
Cracraft Jr, Roy D.
Luna, Robert W.
Martin, Kyle W.

Promotions to Sergeant:

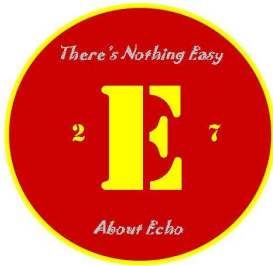
Moran, Thomas W.

Promotions to Gunnery Sergeant:

GamboaLara, Juan
Kelly, Kenneth J.

Promotions to Master Sergeant:

Lav, Barvan



Echo Company

Dear Family and Friends of Echo Company, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines,

My name is Captain Zeb Philpott, and I received the guidon of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines on 29 May 2009 from 1stLt Brandon Schroder. My wife and I are arriving from Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, VA. It is an honor to be here serving with you.

The past month has been turbulent with regards to training and deployment news. We have finally received confirmation that we will deploy this winter as part of 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) stationed in Okinawa, Japan. This is a significant change of mission that will bring new challenges and opportunities for all of us. The Marines of Echo will have a chance to operate from ships and to experience different cultures and countries than those with which they are familiar. The most likely missions that 31st MEU will receive would be disaster relief, training of foreign forces, and other humanitarian-type operations. Additionally, the Marines will train alongside many of our coalition partners like the Australians, South Koreans (ROK Marines), and Philippine Marines.

The past five months have been busy with training and schools. We will now focus our training on helicopter operations in preparation for the MEU. This will be something new to many of the Marines, and it will require a lot of training to become proficient. You may be asking "How does this affect time off, especially during the summer?" It won't be easy, but we will maximize liberty as much as we can. You should know that future training will be conducted here at 29 Palms and at different venues throughout the Marine Corps, including Camp Pendleton, San Diego, and possibly Bridgeport, CA. However, the entire Battalion will have a leave block during the month of December, in addition to several holidays and 96-hour liberty periods. We will work hard and secure as soon as we can.

I will do my best to keep the Marines, Sailors, and families of Echo Company informed of the unit's progress throughout our training cycle and leading up to our deployment. Please feel free to contact the Company Office at (760) 830-6319 if you have any questions. Thank you for all of your dedicated support to the Marines and Sailors of Echo Company.

Semper Fidelis,
Captain Zebulon C. Philpott
Echo Company

Upcoming events (Marines in the field):
In addition to Battalion events on Page 15

- October 14 - 16
- October 19 - 23
- October 26 - 30



Echo Company Announcements:
Awards:

Purple Heart:

Private First Class Walter, Trenton N.
Lance Corporal Cozart, Charles R.
Lance Corporal Gravitt, Michael R.
Lance Corporal Nielsen, James C.
Lance Corporal Phillips, Allen J.
Lance Corporal Rodgers, Justin R.
Lance Corporal Rodriguez, Steven R.
Lance Corporal Thurlow, Alan M.
Lance Corporal Warren, Ray C.
Corporal Fisher, Brian A.
Corporal Rattan, Scott D.
Sergeant Hamby, Stephen M.
Staff Sergeant Young, Harold A.

Navy Commendation with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Lance Corporal Wolf, Andrew J.
Staff Sergeant Good, Amos W.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Lance Corporal Franklin, Charles M.
Lance Corporal Kwan, Chee H.
Corporal Bonin, Christopher R.
Corporal Burton, Reuben P.
Corporal Rice, Samuel P.
Corporal Terrall, Willy Z.
Corporal Tromp, Georgewalt T.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

Private First Class Walter, Trenton N.
Lance Corporal Bentzen, Andrew T.
Lance Corporal Nielsen, James C.
Lance Corporal Perez, Jose R.
Lance Corporal Smith, James E.
Lance Corporal Wallin, William B.
Hospitalman Lewis, Jelani K.
Corporal Bretz, Nathan, A.
Corporal Desvoignes, Alex S.
Corporal Fisher, Brian A.
Corporal Rattan, Scott D.
Corporal Rojas, Ramon
Corporal Ross, Jeremie A.
Corporal Saldivar, Jose I.
Sergeant Hamby, Stephen M.
Sergeant Kokes, Levi F.
Sergeant Riedel, Robert M.
Sergeant Taylor, Darren M.
First Lieutenant Fenton, George P.

Promotions to Private First Class:

Begay Jr, Jack A.
Bowen, Ryan D.
Brady, John L.
Carpenter, Andrew R.
Castro, Joel E.
Cline, Zachary R.
Cooper, Avery S.
Cox, Bradley C.
Flaherty, Eric L.
Harris, Brandon G.
Henson, Victor D.
Hepler, Mathew D.
Hunt, Edward G.
Jirsa, Max J.
Mangham, Trey R.
Mercado, Kristopher
Mironov, Vladimir V.
Muller, Chance M.
Olley, Patrick J.
Quigley, Nicholas S.
Rosser, Daniel C.
Salgado, Andrew L.
Shirley, Patrick B.
Snodgrass, James S.
Stembridge Jr, David K.
Stewart, Blake W.
Stewart, Christopher G.
Struble, Timothy L.
Swan III, Francis L.
Whitlow, Kyle L.

Good Conduct Medal:

Corporal Diaz, Joshua
Corporal Escobedo, Nicholas R.
Corporal Haeuptle, Corey C.
Corporal McNamee, Michael T.
Corporal Mills, Jonathan C.
Corporal Peckhamwichman, Nathan J.
Corporal Roskens, Grant M.
Corporal Taylor, Randal J.

Promotions to Lance Corporal:

Allen, Jared A.
Armand, Christopher G.
Baker, Jordan G.
Berra, Nicholas J.
Castillo, Ricardo J.
Curtner, Jonathan A.
Doolady, Cameron K.
Francis, Dustin Q.
Heisey, Tyler M.
Hughes, Kamron W.
Hurtado, Jose A.
Laroux, Justin G.
Lomeli, Luis A.
McMahon, William C.
Miles, Taylor C.
Moman, John M.
Owens, Matthew P.
Prieto, Herman J.
Ross, Luke P.
Smith, Brandon J.
Warner, Colton J.
Weeks, Zachary N.
Wilson, Matthew D.
Zanolini, Nicholas A.

Promotions to Corporal:

Fisher Jr, Brian A.
Garrido, Jeffrey S.
GuzmanMayorga, Jesus F.
Hoyos, German A.
Parent, Travis R.
Rice, Samuel P.
Romatoski, Bryce J.
Roskens, Grant M.
Ross, Jeremie A.

Promotions to Sergeant:

Riedel, Robert M.



Fox Company

Fox Company spouses, family, and friends,

My name is Captain Rudy Salcido, and I assumed command of Fox Company on May 29, 2009. My predecessor, First Lieutenant Daniel Socci, served in Fox Company as a Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer, and as Commanding Officer. His selfless service to the Marines of Fox Company will never be forgotten, and his "Fox" Family wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

I am humbled and honored to be serving as your Marine's Commanding Officer. I understand that I do not only serve the American Sons in Fox Company, but also his family and friends. I assure you that Fox Company is an extension of your family and friendship. Your support is an integral part of every Marine's readiness for future deployments. The company has been back from their deployment from Afghanistan since December, and the company has had many key leadership changes. While several of our Marines and Sailors have either accepted orders to different duty stations or re-entered the civilian sector, we have also added many new Marines into the Fox Family. We welcome Gunnery Sergeant Webb and First Sergeant Torres to our company staff, as well as three new platoon sergeants and four new platoon commanders. The Fox Family continues to focus on our future deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The preparation on our future deployment will be time-consuming and the Fox Family is going to need your unconditional support and patience. Prior to my arrival, Fox Company invested three weeks of training during the Tactical Small Unit Leader's Course (TSULC) into our small unit leaders. The months of March, April, and May found Fox Company mastering individual skills, ranging from marksmanship to fire and movement up to the squad level. Since my arrival, Fox Company has successfully certified all the platoons in platoon attacks and we have received the company's future mission; we have been designated Battalion Landing Team 2/7's Boat Company. The company will have the unique opportunity to undergo several weeks of specialized training aboard Camp Pendleton and Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California in small boat operations.

Again, I am humbled and proud of each Marine in the company as they serve our Country and Corps in the time of war. I am grateful that they have a solid family foundation back home and your support to carry them through any mission, any clime or place. On August 21, 2009, the company will be hosting a company family event. Details will follow, but mark your calendars as this event is not only for the Marines of the company, but to be shared with his family and friends. I sincerely look forward to meeting you in the near future and welcome any questions or comments you may have. You can contact me through the Company Office at (760) 830-5190.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Rudy G. Salcido
Commanding Officer
Fox Company

Upcoming events (Marines in the field):
In addition to Battalion events on Page 15

- August 31 - October 8
- October 11 - 16
- October 26 - 30



Fox Company Announcements:

Awards:

Purple Heart:

Private First Class Heart, Clifford G.
 Lance Corporal Besendorfer, Brandon W., *Second Award*
 Lance Corporal Erickson, Michael W.
 Lance Corporal Guerrero, Noel A.
 Lance Corporal Sonneborn, Jacob A.
 Corporal Monaghan, Alexander R.
 Hospitalman Third Class Daniel, Edwin L.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

Lance Corporal Erickson, Michael W.
 Corporal Frossard, Wesly A.
 Corporal Linick, Justin P.
 Corporal Marroquin, Nehemias A.
 Corporal Nickels, Christopher B.
 Hospitalman Third Class Daniel, Edwin L.
 Hospitalman Third Class Hall, Joshua S.

Certificate of Commendation:

Lance Corporal Christianson, Erik A.
 Lance Corporal Fulton, Dustin D.
 Lance Corporal Guerrero, Noel A.
 Lance Corporal Loetscher, Andrew P.
 Lance Corporal Machuca, Moises
 Lance Corporal Pelayo, Adalid F.
 Lance Corporal Stingl, Christopher L.
 Lance Corporal Winkler, David J.
 Corporal Rolon, Serjio V.

Meritorious Mast:

Lance Corporal Beattie, Travis R.
 Lance Corporal Boon, Jaret E.
 Lance Corporal Schmitz, Richard E.
 Corporal Salvas, Matthew L.

Letter of Appreciation:

Lance Corporal Gregory, Christopher S.

Promotions to Private First Class:

Arias, Miguel A.
 Arreguin Jr, Peter
 Ashmore, Ryan J.
 Ehrhart, Ethan M.
 Gutierrez, David D.
 Havlicek, Marc G.
 Heart IV, Clifford G.
 Kendrick II, Michael W.
 Lietzau, Jess C.
 Lightfoot, Matthew T.
 Lovos, Kevin
 Lundstrom, Eric J.
 Mansfield, Brandon C.
 Nelson, Benjamin R.
 Purcell, Christopher W.
 Salinas, Humberto A.
 Savinov, Paul O.
 Sheets, Michael J.
 Shomoh, Ryan M.
 Southwick, Joshua S.

Promotions to Lance Corporal:

Angiano, Joshua
 Burgess, Terren A.
 Burrell, Keith M.
 Carey, Austin L.
 Compton, Kevin J.
 Cooper, Adam T.
 Culver IV, Oliver P.
 Ellis, Lyle M.
 Fry, Joshua S.
 Gilbert, Del T.
 Gloor, Skyler C.
 Henson, Keith
 Holmes, Justin R.
 Jones, Alex C.
 Kaaumoana, Kaiako K.
 Kelso, Sean A.
 Larosa, Jarrod G.
 Mhlader, Duane R.
 Miller, Geoffrey D.
 Ochoa, Cesar
 Papaleo, Fred J.
 Pinter, John J.
 Rogers, Dustin R.
 Schaefer, Brandon D.
 Schlotzhauer, Chad A.
 Theurer, Jacob G.
 Tilley, James R.
 Trzcinski, Brandon M.
 Wick, Daniel T.
 Wilson, Skylar R.
 Winkler, David J.

Promotions to Corporal:

Agee, Daniel C.
 Frossard, Wesly A.
 Ludwig, Shaun M.
 Mundt, Michael D.
 Perreault, Chad W.

Promotions to Gunnery Sergeant:

Paschall, Yancey E.



Golf Company

Dear Family and Friends of Golf Company ("Gunfighters"),

GUNFIGHTERS My name is Captain Marcelo Castro and I assumed command of Golf Company on June 29, 2009. I humbly welcome the opportunity to serve alongside the outstanding Marines and Sailors of Golf Company. My wife and son will soon be joining me in Twentynine Palms. I look forward to the relationships we will further build with the Golf Company family.

The Marines and Sailors of Golf Company have been impressively executing a rigorous training schedule since arriving back from deployment last December. Upon completion of the battalion's post deployment leave period in January, the company immediately engaged in two battalion training events and several concurrent training events to begin the initial pre-deployment training cycle. During the month of February, the company's leadership participated in a week long "Train the Trainer" course which aided in the development of the company's training plan in preparation for the battalion's three week Tactical Small Unit Leaders Course (TSULC). Several of the company's Marines also participated in a two week Combat Hunter Course which developed and tested Marines in basic combat tracking, combat profiling, and observation techniques that have become regularly used in our current areas of operation.

During the month of March, the company's fire team leaders participated in the battalion's three week Tactical Small Unit Leaders Course (TSULC) which thoroughly tested and certified the company's fire team leaders in their basic day and night individual, buddy team, and fire team live fire skill sets. Platoons are currently participating in day and night platoon live fire attacks as well as refining their patrolling skills in preparation for the battalion's future deployment.

Each and every Marine and Sailor in Golf Company has been significantly involved in the initial training cycle and has performed very well. The demands and challenges your Marines face on a daily basis are no less significant or rigorous than those faced on a deployment, and for those Marines who have recently joined us in the past couple of months these challenges have become their understanding of the level of performance expected of them within Golf Company. The battalion's future deployment to Okinawa to serve as part of the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) will be a significant and welcomed challenge and as always Golf Company Marines will continue to prepare for any mission, any time, anywhere. Your Marines and Sailors understand the enormous challenges that lie ahead and they have demonstrated a sharp focus on mission accomplishment.

Golf Company will do its best to keep the Marines, Sailors, and families of Golf Company informed of the unit's progress throughout our pre-deployment training cycle and leading up to our deployment. Please feel free to contact the Company Office at (760) 830-5882 if you have any questions. Thank you for all of your dedicated support to the Marines and Sailors of Golf Company.

Semper Fidelis,
Captain Marcelo B. Castro

Upcoming events (Marines in the field):
In addition to Battalion events on Page 15

- September 28 - October 2
- October 5 - 9
- October 19 - 23



Golf Company Announcements:
Awards:

Navy Cross:

Corporal Gustafson, Brady A.

Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Corporal Billington, Joseph A.
Corporal Carper, Steven W.
Sergeant Canada, John L.
Sergeant Holter, Lance H.

Purple Heart:

Lance Corporal Allman, Alexander R.
Lance Corporal Mantalica, Luke N.
Lance Corporal Ruchti, Tanner R.
Lance Corporal Ybaben, David M.
Corporal Billington, Joseph A.

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Lance Corporal Byram, Matthew M.
Lance Corporal Harkins, Eric C.
Corporal Flores, James P.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Lance Corporal Allman, Alexander R.
Lance Corporal Comstock, Cody S.
Hospitalman Medrano, Oscar
Corporal Caggiano, Christopher M.
Corporal Cain, Sean L.
Corporal Eager, Joseph S.
Corporal Ersepke, Adam J.
Sergeant Kramer, Robert W. - Gold Star in lieu of third award

Good Conduct Medal:

Corporal Hernandez, Brandon K.

I MEF NCO Leadership Award:

Sergeant Kramer, Robert W.

Instructor's Choice Award at Infantry Squad Leaders Course:

Corporal Hicks, Tyson C.

Promotions to Private First Class:

Apodaca, Erasmo H.
Aragon, Adam J.
Barricklow, Bryan A.
Carter, John C.
Garrido, Christian A.
Hovermale, Nicholas A.
Jimenez Jr, Jose J.
Jordan, Joseph P.
Kass, Christopher D.
Lawler, Ryan C.
Lepe, Alexis N.
Marchena, Joshua J.
McCann, Matthew T.
Neely, Todd L.
Nichols, Dale S.
Nicholson, Christopher K.
Nillo, Chad B.
Owens, Samuel T.
Quick, Jordan A.
Richardson, Alec A.
Rivera, Aaron
Rooker, Michael L.
Sherrell, Robert J.
Vowels, Kyle M.
Walcott, Caleb S.

Promotions to Hospitalman Apprentice:

Jones, Joshua K.

Promotions to Lance Corporal:

Adams, Thomas J.
Badillo, Jose L.
Beckman, Craig M.
Benavidez, Jeffrey D.
CaudilloMorales, Jose J.
Chiles, Marshall T.
Corrales, Christian I.
Gwartney, Ryan W.
Hall, Benjamin
Hicks, Jacob K.
Jones, Ashton W.
Juarez, Alejandro B.
Juarez, Christopher W.
Juarez, Eric
Kelbatyrov, Mikhail
Martinez, Jonathan L.
McLaughlin, Andrew J.
Miller, Matthew J.
Myers, Randall L.
Pevehouse, Clinton W.
Plummer, David R.
Saephan, Sou C.
Sanchez, Julian D.
Todd, Kevin M.
Upshaw, Chasen
Voigt, Jacob W.

Promotions to Corporal:

Jones, Lucas M.
Smith, Marc B. - Meritoriously
Stanton, Cody L. - Meritoriously

Promotions to Hospitalman Third Class:

Vallejo, Samuel

Promotions to Sergeant:

Durham, Justin E.

Promotions to Gunnery Sergeant:

Leedale, James E.

Births:

Private First Class Andrew Hudson - Baby Girl
Private First Class Aaron Rivera - Baby Girl
Lance Corporal Nicholas Bridges - Baby Girl
Lance Corporal Christopher Clark - Baby Girl



Weapons Company

Greetings Weapons Company Family,

My name is Capt Ross Schellhaas, I assumed command of Weapons Company on Feb 4th 2009, before that I was the Fox Company Commander for the last deployment and had a lot of opportunities to work with several Marines in Weapons Company. I was ecstatic to learn that I would serve with Weapons Company again as the company commander. I am proud and honored to serve along side such incredible Americans, which are supported by an equally amazing group of Americans, the families: wives, girlfriends and families of our Marines.

As you all know we've been very busy getting ready for the next deployment. This has kept us out in the field and in other venues such as Camp Pendleton for long periods. Due to our being part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit we have a lot of other mission essential tasks we must become proficient at. This will have us down at Camp Pendleton and spending significant time in the field. This will keep your Marine away from home more than anyone wants, but please be assured that the training we do will give your Marine the best tools to meet any challenge. I ask that you make the most of the sparse time you are afforded with your Marine and prepare now for the inevitable separation that will come.

If you have any questions please contact us at 830-5869 and we'll do our best to assist you in anyway possible.

Semper Fi

Capt Ross Schellhaas

Upcoming events (Marines in the field):

In addition to Battalion events on Page 15

- July 22-24 Live fire training
- July 29- August 13- Bn field exercise
- August 24-28 CAAT will be in Camp Pendleton
81s will be in the field @ 29 Palms
Snipers will be in 29 Palms



Weapons Company Announcements:

Awards:

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Staff Sergeant Johnson, Brian
First Lieutenant Guthrie, Ryan

Navy Commendation Medal:

Staff Sergeant Solum, Timothy
Staff Sergeant Yanez, Damon

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device:

Corporal Ford, Caleb H.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

First Lieutenant Ingold, Matthew

Certificate of Commendation:

Hospitalman Apprentice Escasa, Michael P.
Lance Corporal Wells, Marc L.
Lance Corporal Teske, Jacob

<u>Promotions to Lance Corporal:</u> Bravo, Sergio C. Diedrich, Cody C. Ertl, Brandon Garcia III, Trinidad Jacobs, Jared Kemp, Mitchell F. Menger, Dustin Rose, Troy S. Selig, Dustin S. Tejada, Florencio Toledo, Bryan O. Tyree, John D.	<u>Promotions to Corporal:</u> Stafford, Cassidy
	<u>Promotions to Master Sergeant:</u> Collazo-Sanchez, Ivan

<u>Recently Married Marines:</u> Private First Class Kenneth Ramsey Lance Corporal Joshua H. Moore <u>Births:</u> Staff Sergeant Juan A. Rojas - Baby Girl
--



Salty Sally (continued from Page 4)

Dear Salty Sally,

I've heard the term, "In Loco Parentis" Is this part of my General Power of Attorney? Where can I get more information about this?

Thank you,

In Need of Info

Dear In Need,

"In Loco Parentis" means "in place of a parent" and is not part of a General Power of Attorney. A Special Power of Attorney for the Care of Children gives another adult or institution the ability to act as a minor's parent in the natural or legal parents' absence. If your Servicemember deploys, it can be helpful to plan ahead and arrange for such care in case of an emergency. A Family Care Plan is a useful tool in being prepared, and is actually required for Single Parent Servicemembers and Dual Military families. The FRO can give you more information about putting together a Family Care Plan. For assistance with any type of Power of Attorney, you should contact the Legal Assistance Office at (760) 830-6111.

Informatively,

Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

I'm new to the military lifestyle. I want to learn more. Is there a program that explains all of the benefits and what to expect on our new journey?

Thank you

Clueless

Dear Clueless,

You're in luck! The official Marine Corps program Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge & Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) is offered on base. A L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses session is currently held once per month. Additional variances of the curriculum include L.I.N.K.S. for Marine Parents, L.I.N.K.S. for Teens, L.I.N.K.S. for Kids, and even L.I.N.K.S. for Marines. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC 29 Palms) is the only installation to offer a CAX version of L.I.N.K.S. which is a hands-on exploration into the life of a Marine. All are not conducted as frequently as the popular Spouses session, but are growing in availability as demand increases. Navy family members are also welcome to attend, as the program covers many topics relevant to all branches of service. By participating in this program, you will gain invaluable information and get connected with other people who are living a similar lifestyle. It will make a significant contribution to your ability to embrace all that military life has to offer. To get a schedule of upcoming sessions, contact your FRO or the L.I.N.K.S. program directly at (760) 830-1696.

Enthusiastically,

Salty Sally

2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

Upcoming Family Events

2D Battalion, 7th Marines
ATTN: Family Readiness Officer
Box 788262
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

Katie Clark
Office: 760-830-5872
Work Cell: 760-910-5219
E-mail: katharine.l.clark@usmc.mil

August 21 - Fox Company Family Day

August 27, 4-7 P.M. - Battalion Family Pool Party @ Officers/SNCO Pool

September 11 - Weapons Company Family Day

September 24 - Jane Wayne Day

December 7 - Pre-Deployment Brief

December 11 - Battalion Family Day

Next Newsletter: October 2009

<http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/div/7mar/2bn/>
Hotline: (760) 830-1538, option 2
(800) 759-7602, option 2

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically or need to submit a correction of your mailing address, contact the FRO.

DISCLAIMER: PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL DATES ARE ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE! NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY TO GIVE YOU ACCURATE INFORMATION, CHANGE IS WITHIN THE NATURE OF WHAT WE DO. EVENTS WILL BE ADVERTISED CLOSER TO THEIR ACTUAL DATE WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE FRO TO VERIFY DATES BEFORE MAKING PLANS.

Battalion Events:

Overnight Training Events:

20 Jul – 24 Jul
29 Jul – 13 Aug
11 Nov – 22 Nov

Other Important Dates:

16 Dec - 4 Jan Pre-Deployment Block Leave
6 Jan – 8 Jan Bn Flight Window for Deployment



COMMANDING OFFICER
FAMILY READINESS OFFICER
2D BATTALION 7TH MARINES
BOX 788262
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92278

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
PERMIT NO 8
29 PALMS CA