



STEEL RAIN IN FOCUS



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome Home!
- Messages from Company CO's
- MEB-A Marine Corps Birthday Spouses' Dinner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Message from CO 2
- Bn Sgt Maj and Chaplain 3
- HQ and Fox 4
- Alpha and Romeo 5
- Spouse's Dinner 7
- Family Readiness 8

Welcome Home Fox and Romeo!



National Geographic Explorer Channel

A special broadcast about Camp Leatherneck is due at the end of January or February. Your marine or sailor should receive informa-

tion that they can pass along as they are informed of this television special. The Explorer Series airs on Tuesdays at 10pm. The link to the

webpage that presently contains the information is as follows:

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/explorer/4832/Overview>

Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year!

Message from the Commander

"If your season is built on celebrations of your individual faith or a traditional gathering of family around the table I'm confident each of you is thankful for the service of your Marine or Sailor."

Family and Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good spirits and that by now you've worked off your Thanksgiving dinner. Fox and Romeo batteries are back at Camp Lejeune. Alpha Company 2d Recon Battalion, Detachment 2d ANGLICO and 2d Marine Division Military Police Company should arrive around the second week of December. For all of the Marines and Sailors of the Brigade Headquarters Group (BHG) that have recently returned to their loved ones, I hope your reunions were meaningful and rewarding. The impact of their efforts is tangible and intangible at times, but the overall impact is positive and lasting. I'm confident the separation of your loved ones was challenging, but this is why we raise our right hand: to serve our nation.

I'd like to formally welcome Alpha Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion; Bravo Co, 3d Force Recon Battalion; and Detachment 1st ANGLICO to our ranks. Headquarters Company continues to work miracles on Camp Leather-

neck. They provide support to 8,000 Camp residents and directly support 1,800+ members of the BHG in the daily execution of their missions. We'll continue the Rest and Relaxation program through February and we will start our transition to Camp Lejeune beginning in early March with everyone returning home by the end of April. We're all anxious to reunite with our loved ones, but we have a mission that requires our focus and dedication until we touch the pavement at our home stations.

For the Afghan families around us their security and welfare is one of our primary missions. Yesterday we provided medical assistance to a 1 year old girl who received 2d and 3rd degree burns from a tea pot. Our men brought her and her grandfather to the hospital and she is recovering with follow-on treatment. Additionally, we recently built two wells for a local farm as they begin growing wheat for next spring's harvest. Both of these examples are a direct result of a secure

environment and positive relationship we have developed with the surrounding population.

In closing, I wish you a fulfilling and enjoyable holiday season. If your season is built on celebrations of your individual faith or a traditional gathering of family around the table I'm confident each of you is thankful for the service of your Marine or Sailor. For those separated from their loved ones this will be a challenging time but not impossible. Fox and Romeo's recent mission accomplishments highlights the quality of their training and the equipment our nation has provided her most precious asset: her sons and daughters. Our service is a calling that is bigger than our own personal needs. Each of you has invested in our mission during the previous 11 months and I sincerely appreciate your support. Thank you for your continued support and we'll see you next year.

Semper Fi,
C.L. Naler



Battalion Sergeant Major's Corner



Greetings,

I'll start by saying congratulations to Romeo and Fox Batteries and their families for a successful deployment. I know that you are glad to have them home and are just as thankful as I am that they all came home. Your constant support definitely contributed to the success of their

missions. I know that you are just as proud of them as I am. Please know that they played a vital role in any success that the MEB has achieved thus far.

For the families and friends of Headquarters Company we are still executing R&R. I hope you had an enjoyable visit with your Marine or Sailor. We still have more to go and I hope, as well, that you enjoy the time with your loved one.

Your Marines and Sailors have been extremely busy with the RIP of many units and the continued growth of Camp Leatherneck. I want

to welcome Alpha Company 4th LAR to the 5/10 family. We recently celebrated the 234th birthday of our Corps with a cake cutting ceremony and the sharing of the 1st piece with the oldest and youngest Marine present. Despite being deployed we were able to carry on our traditions and reflect our heritage.

In closing I want to wish you all a happy holiday season. As we have done for 234 years we will continue to stand the watch.

Semper Fi,
SgtMaj Whittington

The Marines celebrated their 234th birthday on November 10.

Chaplain's Corner

As I write this article, a lot of change is taking place within the BHG. Fox and Romeo Companies have returned home from a very successful deployment and Alpha Company has gotten busy taking care of business around Camp Leatherneck. However, for most of us life continues on as before as we enter into the last quarter of the deployment. In sports, the end of the game often proves to be the most challenging: athletes are physically and mentally tired and there is a strong temptation to give in to exhaustion if it has been a particularly grueling competition.

Likewise, time is ticking away on our deployment clock. We are nearing the end of our time in Afghanistan and the ball is in our

hands. Victory is in sight if we focus and finish. I know that many of you have faced trials that have left you drained and disheartened while the stress of a very long separation from your Marine or Sailor has taken it toll on you as well. In spite of this, stay motivated! Be encouraged because God very often uses these most arduous of times to get us to: 1. understand what is most important and 2. value what is most important.

This deployment has reaffirmed to me that what is most important is not the number or make of vehicles parked in my driveway, how far my career is going to advance, or even my long-term financial success. I brought nothing into this world and I will take

nothing out of it. Relationships are what matter. My relationship with God and then those relationships with my family and friends top the list. These are what transcend this life. So during this Christmas and holiday season, celebrate knowing that God wants a relationship with you. Use the motivation and heartache that physical separation brings to draw you closer to those who matter most in your life: seek out and give forgiveness, express love and gratitude, and look for ways to cheer one another on, even if you are half a world away.

May the LORD bless you as we enter into 2010,
Chaplain Johnson



"In sports, the end of the game often proves to be the most challenging . . ."

HQ Company



To the family and friends of 5th Battalion, 10th Marines,

Hello to all of the family and friends of Headquarters Battery. We have crossed the half way point of the deployment and all of your Marines and Sailors are continuing to provide the best possible support to the MEB and to the people of Afghanistan. We celebrated our 234th Birthday this month and like those before us, we are making history and upholding the reputation that our coalition partners think of when they think of Marines. With the exit of our brothers from Fox and Romeo, we welcome Alpha Company from 4th LAR as part of our deployed family here at

Leatherneck.

The company has been extremely busy lately assisting several units in the MEB to transition in and out of theater during this rotation. As the BHG, we are providing the continuity required for the initial reception and training for those new to the camp in order to set them up for success forward wherever they may be assigned to operate. Though it may not be exactly the mission that we expected as Artillerymen, we are performing a vital service to all of the Marines and Sailors attached to the MEB. And doing it extremely well.

I would like to say in closing that the Marines and

Sailors of Headquarters are doing well and motivated to finish out this deployment strong. To the Marines and Sailors of Headquarters Battery, We are on the backside of the deployment, but we cannot allow ourselves to lose focus on the mission at hand. We will continue to work hard until our job here is done and we return home with our heads held high.

Sincerely,
Captain Mikeal S. Murray
Commanding Officer
Headquarters Battery, 5/10

Fighting Fox Company

Let me start by saying, "Thank You". First Sergeant and I are as proud of our families back home as we are of the Marines and Sailors of Fighting Fox. Your support and dedication throughout the deployment was evident in our ability to focus and complete this challenging mission.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Nancy Wike and the 5/10 RBE who did a great job keeping us connected to our support network back home. Well done!

This truly has been a challenging and rewarding tour with the "Five and Dime" Battalion. I am sure we will always look back on the last 10 months as a period of professional and personal development - a great combat tour under a great Battalion. Thanks 5/10.

Fox is headed back to its original home – Second Battalion. We look forward to the challenges of transitioning back to a firing battery and dusting off our Artillery skill sets.

Again, thank you for all your support and sacrifice. Have a wonderful and safe Holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all back in the States.

Semper Fidelis

Captain Robert McCarthy

First Sergeant Melvin Lewis

Fighting Fox's Newest Privates

Congratulations to: Jennifer Gutierrez (Jayden) and we are anxiously awaiting

the arrival of Sgt and Mrs. Bazor's, and LCpl and Mrs. Pierce's newborns.

Fox's Regular Promotions

The following Marines were promoted to their current rank during August and September.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

For October

Cpl Daniel Jenkins
Cpl Jeremy Rivera
Cpl James Spoonamore
Cpl Andrew Walker

For November

Sgt Francisco Jimenez
Sgt Brennen Sheley
Sgt Zachary Walton
Cpl Cannon Harford
Cpl Jarvis Norfleet
Cpl Hildebrand Puente

Romeo Company

Romeo Company Family and Friends,

As we come to the end of the deployment, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you all again for the support you have provided for your men over the last seven months. Morale has remained high throughout, and I credit that to all of you. The Marines and Sailors of Romeo have had some demanding duties, but have remained focused and professional. They can return home, proud of their accomplishments. When we return home, the men will be able to enjoy well deserved leave over the up-coming holidays. Please help us to make sure they stay

safe during this period. Often times, the physical and mental stress of an experience like this takes time to surface. If you have any questions or concerns about your Marine or Sailor, please don't hesitate to call myself, 1stSgt Fuller, or anyone else in the chain of command. Again, 1stSgt Fuller and I want to thank all our family and friends for the support throughout the deployment. We all look forward to seeing our families in the near future.

Major Matthew Hawkins

Special congratulations go to the following Marines and Sailors:

- Corporal Adam Tupps – Father to Anya Nikole, 6 October 2009
- First Lieutenant Brock Lennon – Father to Hanna Kate, 21 October 2009
- Sergeant Adam Anderson – Father to Anthony Charles, 30 October 2009

Promotions:

- Sergeant Russell Ryan – 3rd Platoon
- Corporal Adam Tupps – 1st Platoon
- Corporal Zang Yang – 3rd Platoon



Dear family members of Alpha Company,

Greetings from Camp Leatherneck! After too many hours on a plane and a week of turnover from the outgoing company, we have arrived here at Camp Leatherneck and have finally begun to settle in. To say life is good here would be an understatement. From the living conditions, the food in the dining facility, to the hot showers and the speedy mail service none of your Marines and Sailors has much to complain about.

Our mission here at Camp Leatherneck is extremely dynamic, much more so than if we were in LAV's to the South. Your Marines and Sailors

Alpha Company

are directly responsible for the safety of our base while helping the local populace build a better life. The saying, "We do windows" would be appropriate. From helping fix small generators for farmers to teaching them how to more effectively grow wheat, we are doing it all. You all should be very proud of your Marines and Sailors - I certainly am.

In the short time we have been here we have already made a difference in the life of a one year old girl named Spoujmai who accidentally poured hot water on her right leg causing a severe burn. Doc Mckeenan treated her the day after it happened then we followed up with a visit the following day. Unfortunately, her condition had



gotten worse during that 24 hour period so we decided to take her to the base hospital for treatment. We are still waiting to see if she needs a skin graft but without a doubt we made the right call and most likely saved her from losing her leg.

I look forward to reporting many more stories like this in the future. As I have told the company many times, being a Marine is not always about hunting down the bad guys it's also about helping out those who need us. Fortunately for us, this mission allows us to do both.

Semper Fi,
Captain Ed Burns



MEB-A Marine Corps Birthday Spouses' Dinner

On November 7 the spouses of the MEB-A deployed Marines and Sailors were treated to a formal celebration of the Marine Corps 234th birthday. A non-profit organization called Words of Comfort, Hope & Promise hosted the event with a fine dinner, great fellowship, a fantastic speaker, good music, and presents for the ladies who attended. Cynthia Martinez, the founder and president of Words of Comfort, Hope & Promise, graciously attended and emboldened the spouses with her kind words and song. She travelled with a small group from

California for the event.

The speaker for the evening was Mrs. Sandy Hejlik, wife of Lt. Gen. Hejlik, Commanding General, II MEF. Mrs. Hejlik encouraged the spouses with a testimony of her own blessings of being a Marine spouse. Throughout her speech you could hear laughter, see tears, and sense the appreciation that the spouses felt from Mrs. Hejlik's words.

It is difficult to say an appropriate "Thank you" from those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the event. But I am sure that all

who attended would like to express with me the gratitude and thankfulness to all who made the event happen including Cynthia Martinez and those from Words of Comfort, Hope & Promise, Mrs. Hejlik, Mrs. Nicholson, the uniformed personnel and band who worked at ensuring the event was a true celebration of the Marine Corps birthday, and the many others who worked at creating an evening to remember. Thank you.

www.comforthopeandpromise.org



December 17 - Marston
Pavilion
HOLIDAY PARTY
4:00-7:00 pm

*Gunny Clause
Petting Zoo
Gifts for Children
Alpaca's
Holiday Meal
Crafts
Raffle Prizes*

Please RSVP by December 4th to Nancy so she can plan on the food and presents she will need!

Nancy Wike
5th Battalion 10th Marines
Brigade Headquarters Group
2D MEB
Family Readiness Officer
Office: 910-450-8034
Cell: 910-381-7749
Hotline: 1-800-230-8762
Option 4 Option 4
5/10 Website

<http://www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/public/iimefpublic.nsf/unitsites/5bn10mar>
MEB website:
<http://www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/public/iimefpublic.nsf/unitsites/2dmeb>

For those of you expecting family members home soon here is a website to design a free welcome home banner:



Upcoming Events

December

- 3rd - Volunteer meeting at the battalion
- 17th - Holiday Party at Marston Pavilion from 4:00-7:00 pm

January

- 7th - Volunteer meeting at the battalion
- Potluck at the battalion TBD

Dear Families and Friends,

I hope all of you had a wonderful relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. It is hard to believe we have already hit that milestone.

A few weeks ago we were able to welcome Fox and Romeo companies home from Afghanistan. It was a great homecoming. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all the help from everyone that stepped up to ensure all the Marines and Sailors were remembered as they returned home.

On the 24th of November Fox Battery will return to its original home at 2/10. The Family Readiness Officer, Tammy Lovelady is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to meet the families and have an opportunity to work with them. Also on the 24th Romeo Battery will be temporarily going over to 1/10 until the main body of 5/10 returns in April. Katie Weeks is the Family Readiness Officer there and she is fully prepared to step in to assist our Romeo families until they return to us. I am sad to see Fox leave the 5/10 family and appreciate the opportunity given to me to meet so many wonderful young men and their families. I have been able to speak to some of you on several

Family Readiness Information

occasions and some not so much, but it has been wonderful. Lucky for me Romeo will remain in the 5/10 building so I will still have the opportunity to see everyone. No doubt they will be popping into my office frequently to hit the candy basket.

Although Christmas is my favorite time of year this year is a little melancholy because I know many of you are anxiously awaiting the return of your Marines and Sailors. My wish for you this holiday season is joy whether it means taking part in a low key celebration, going all out with friends and family or saving your celebration until your Marine or Sailor comes home.

Please don't forget our Brigade Headquarters Group holiday party on the 17th of December at Marston Pavilion from 4-7. We will have lots of surprises and fun. RSVP's need to be received by December 4th with how many people will be attending and the ages of any children. I hope to see you all there.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy, bright New Year.

Nancy