



Ice Pack Quarterly

21 DECEMBER 2012

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Message from the Commanding Officer



Well hello every one. It has been a whirlwind of a first couple weeks for me. Before I get in to that let me tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida which is about 45 minutes north of Fort Lauderdale. My mother was born and raised in Havana, Cuba and fled the country when Fidel Castro took over. My father is part of the first generation from his family to be born in the United States. Both his parents were born and raised in Finland. I am not exactly sure how the two of them ever got together but they did and the rest is history. I have been married 23 years to my high school sweetheart Denise. We have two beautiful daughters together: Jessica who is 18 years old

and currently a freshman at Point Loma Nazarene in the NROTC nursing program; and Mekayla who is 15 years old and a sophomore at San Diego High School. We also have two dogs, Abigail a highland west terrier, and Egan a 100 pound Rottweiler. As a family we thoroughly enjoy taking our jet ski out into the San Diego bay and zipping around.

I enlisted in the Marines at age 17 in 1986. I attended recruit training at Parris Island and from there reported to Camp Lejeune for Infantry Training School. While at Infantry Training School I took the indoctrination test for the Reconnaissance community and passed. Upon completion of Infantry Training School I reported to 2d Reconnaissance Bn which was then located on Onslow Beach in Camp Lejeune. I attended various schools and deployed often. Most notably was our support of Desert Shield/Storm. At the time I was in my early twenties and a Recon Team Leader. I finished my enlisted service in the summer of 1992 and moved to Denver, Colorado where I attended Metro State College of Denver.

Upon earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in the summer of 1996 I headed to Officer Candidate School followed by The Basic School. From The Basic School I headed for Pensacola, Florida for my MOS training in Air Traffic Control. Since Air Traffic Control School I held billets as ATC Crew Officer, ATC Detachment Commander, Recruit Series/Company Commander, ATC Facility Officer, Detachment OIC in Iraq, Group Assistant Operations Officer/Operations Officer/XO, and Resource Officer at the Pentagon on the Navy Staff to name a few.

As I have had time to receive more detailed briefs from the various staff and key billet holders I am thoroughly impressed by the excellence and professionalism of the Marines of MTACS-38. I have had several opportunities to get around the various locations aboard Miramar to visit the Marines. It is very clear to me that I am super fortunate to be part of such an excellent squadron. The reputation of MTACS-38 around 3d Marine Aircraft Wing is very high. It is my intent to continue the current path of professionalism and excellence and if possible take it to the next level.

As we look toward 2013 we will be very busy. We have 5 major exercises we will be supporting in the next 6 months as well as significant equipment upgrades. Our Group Commanding Officer, Col Barnhill will be relinquishing command to Col Breedon in late summer. Around August of 2014 we will begin our pre-deployment training for our next rotation to Afghanistan.

As a commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps there is no greater privilege or honor than what I have been granted. I look forward to the next 18 months with great anticipation. It is clear to me this will be one of the greatest seasons of my life. The Marines of MTACS-38 are remarkable professionals. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~ LtCol Korpinen



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Message from TACC



We'd like to wish all MTACS-38 family and friends a very Happy Holidays! 2012 has come and gone in a flash and we're all excited for what the Marine Corps has in store for us in the New Year! During the past six months we said farewell to the Rotation 2 (R2) Detachment and welcomed the R1 Det home with a warrior's welcome. The TACC Company Marines quickly settled back into the SoCal daily routine by trading in our dirty boots for flip-flops and heading for the beautiful beaches with our amazing families.

November gave us the opportunity to come together as a Squadron to celebrate the birth of our Corps at Harrah's Rincon Resort and Casino. As usual, TACC Company was the life of the party as we showed our "Gangnam Style" to the rest of the Squadron and the entire world via our 14,255 YouTube hits! The temperatures are dropping and as the feelings of Christmas consume our thoughts, Marines are hurriedly checking out on leave to enjoy time with family and friends.

While Santa's checking his list to see who's been naughty or nice, we're all thinking of New Year's resolutions: a perfect 300 on our Physical Fitness Test (PFT), a meritorious promotion or maybe an ever exciting WTI...

Some of the fun projects your Marines have been busy with lately included the successful work up and completion of a Marine Air Command and Control Systems (MACCS) Integrated Simulated Training Exercise (MISTEX) during October, and gearing up for another one in February. The MISTEX provided a training opportunity for us to work with our sister squadrons in a simulated full-scale amphibious combat operation. We also jumped on an opportunity to put our MRQ-12v(4) (a Humvee with lots of radios) on display for over 1000 civilian visitors at an MCAS Miramar Flightline Hangar Event to show them our Marine Aviation communications backbone.

~TACC Company



Message from H&S: My Brothers' Keeper

For those of you who know me, you probably know I have a 10th grade education which means I absolutely hated school and the idea of homework... So I dropped out and obtained my GED. Why am I not surprised that I was chosen to write a paper? Well, here you go MTACS-38, my Christmas gift to you.

Okay so let's go to my family so you can have a better understanding. I have one brother, Sergio Amatho Alvarez. He is 19 years old and graduated from Wilson Creek High School in June 2012 with four other students. You heard me right; the class of 2012 was five seniors. The same day he graduated was also the day he went down to the recruiting station and signed the dotted line. Four months later he was standing on the "Yellow Footprints" at MCRD San Diego. Sergio graduated from Echo Company, Platoon 2114 on December 14th 2012. The ironic thing is Marines ask me, "Why would you let your brother join the Marine Corps?" My usual answer is, "Why not!?" To better answer that question I would have to go way back so here it goes.

I was born in September of 1989. My brother was born in March of 1993. We have the same mother but different fathers. About six months after my brother was born, his dad past away in a car accident. I don't want to get into too much depth with the whole story, but I am almost four years older than my brother who had to grow up without a dad. Now I don't know why, but my brother always wanted to do everything I did. He would follow me everywhere. It was so annoying. If only someone would have told me how much he looked up to me. I could have done such a better job as a leader and an even better job as a brother.

I wish I knew then what I know now. I had no idea of the impact I was making on someone else and how I could have made a more positive impact. I would have stayed in school so I could have led by example. There were countless times that he would call and say he was going to drop out because I had. I told him not to be like me; not to repeat my mistakes. If I had done the right thing and stayed in school I would have never had to hear that. The most important thing I have learned from Private Alvarez is that when I'm in uniform correcting my Marines or joking around with them, I think about how I messed up as a big brother when I was a kid. I constantly remind myself that I don't want to mess up as a big brother in the Corps. That's what we are. We are brothers and sisters. A little sincerity and respect goes along way. And if I can add one more piece of brotherly advice; stay humble. No matter how high you go in the rank structure, you can always learn something.

~Written by Sergeant Travis E. Cafferty

MTACS-38 H&S Marines that have served in our Armed Forces alongside their siblings:

Rank	Name	Dates of service	Service
Cpl	Pamela Charlson	Dec 2009 to Present	USMC
SPC	Courtney Charlson	Oct 2012 to Present	USA
Sgt	Travis Cafferty	Sep 2008 to Present	USMC
Pvt	Sergio Alvarez	Sep 2012 to Present	USMC
Cpl	Wiley Flowers	Nov 2009 to Present	USMC
LCpl	Scott Flowers	Dec 2009 to Present	USMC
Capt	Daniel Sanchez	Dec 1995 to Present	USMC
Sgt	Alex Sanchez	Jan 1998 to Jan 2003	USMC

Then, Private Cafferty with future Private Alvarez.



Saying Goodbye is Never Easy



After months of preparations and work ups, MTACS-38 said farewell to our Rotation 2 (R2) Marines. Your honor courage and commitment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom is greatly appreciated. We eagerly await your return .



Welcome Home R1 Marines



Though saying goodbye to our R2 Marines was difficult and emotional, it meant that our Rotation 1 (R1) Marines could return home. In eager preparation for their return, MTACS-38 pushed forward to make sure they were all met with open arms. H&S Company's S-4 Chief Gunnery Sergeant Karl pushed hard to make sure every Marine would be taken care of as soon as they disembarked from the plane. Sgt Romero the Embark Chief (a.k.a Hard as Nails) and Cpl Garcia the embark clerk (a.k.a The all knowing) made sure all minor details were taken care. The Family Readiness Officer worked with volunteers to prepare "rack packs" and make beds to ensure the returning single Marines would feel at home when they walked thru their barracks doors. As they always say, it's not the big things but the little things that make a difference in someone life. Thank you FRO! SSgt Dominguez bought a pillow for every Single Marine returning to the barracks rooms. You can imagine how they slept their first night back, knowing that it is him tucking them in. It is like their nice older uncle tucking them in and telling them a bed time story! Welcome home Marines!

~GySgt Rosario H&S Co 1stSgt

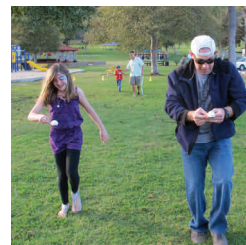


MTACS-38 Fall Family Day



MTACS-38 celebrated it's fall family day at Admiral Bakers Recreation Area on Nov 18th. There were lots of fun activities for children to enjoy such as a bounce house, relay races, tug of war, face painting, and a cake walk. Later, the children enjoyed breaking the piñata which was filled to the brim with candy! The fun was not limited to just the children, both H&S Co and TACC Co Marines participated in a gingerbread house building contest. H&S stuck to the traditional construction of a plain gingerbread house to include a chimney and a front door. TACC Co, on the other hand, decided to construct a MRQ-12 tactical vehicle with their gingerbread supplies. Although their idea was remarkable because it was an exact scaled replica of an MRQ-12 they still lost the contest because they did not use materials that came out of a box i.e. two soda cans.

~MSgt Brown TACC Co 1stSgt



MTACS-38 Wins 101 Days of Summer Challenge



During the 101 Days of Summer, all MTACS-38 remain behind Marines were able to participate in numerous safety briefs and events that improved their safety and physical fitness skills. Some events they participated in were the Stronger Warriors Field Meet, a 5k, Real Colors, Real Stress, Anger management, a resource brief and a boot camp fitness challenge. Even light duty marine were able to participate in each event which allowed MTACS-38 to win the challenge. The 101 Days of Summer Challenge pitted each squadron aboard MCAS Miramar against each other and MTACS-38 came out on top. Great job MTACS-38 Marines!



Promotions August - December 2012



PFC Sewell, William

LCpl Fox, Tyler
LCpl Tecchio, Christopher
LCpl Kemble, Aaron

Cpl Hale, Alexander
Cpl Jensen, Chad
Cpl Kimball, Scott



Cpl Wickersham, Cameron

Cpl Mullins, Ashlee

Sgt Sanchez, Mark
Sgt Romero, Daisy
Sgt Gilbeau, Garrett

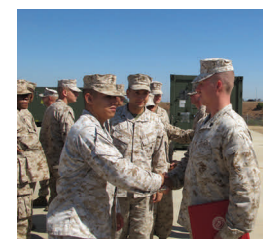


SSgt Blaise, Damien

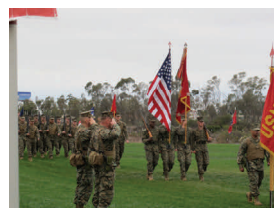
GySgt Lucero, Maricela
GySgt Terrell, Quintero

CWO3 Huntington,
Samuel

LtCol Korpinen, Kevin



Change of Command Ceremony



On December 6th, 2012, the Change of Command ceremony was conducted at the MCAS Miramar Parade Field with an abundance of guests in attendance. The ceremony officiated the handing of reins from Lieutenant Colonel Scott Gondek over to Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Korpinen.

The Marines of MTACS-38 marched proudly and in high spirits along with the 3D MAW Band to conclude the ceremony. I am looking forward to working for the newest officer to take charge of this command.

~ SSgt Zobler



MTACS-38 Family

The Marines who make up the MTACS-38 squadron come from all different backgrounds. It is the melding of these backgrounds that makes MTACS-38 the incredible and spectacular squadron that it is.

There are three Marines in particular who have left an indelible imprint on everyone within the squadron. First is GySgt Aultman. Her devilish charm beguiles you into thinking that she is sweet,

fun, and innocent. But, if you cross her in any sort of way, she will show her true colors and the devil within will come out. It is for this reason that she will be promoted to 1stSgt.

Second, is our SSgt Zobler. He too, at first glance, appears to be kind, gentle, and caring. But his true nature is impish, playful, and lively. His cousins are known as Legolas and Galadriel. We are blessed with the immortal knowledge

that he shares with us each day, "Fear not of man because man must die."

Lastly, our very own MSgt Brown comes from the warrior race of Klingons. He has traveled from his home world of Qo'noS (Kronos) in order to guide the TACC Marines into becoming the next supreme warrior race. He reminds us that "fake motivation carries an expiration date." It is he who will ensure that date of expiration.



Who Am I?



I was born in Monterey Park Ca. When I was young, I was able to learn three languages: Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. My parents would speak to me in Cantonese at home. I went to an English speaking school during the week and on weekends I had to go to school to learn Mandarin. That means I was at school seven days a week, every week! A nickname I had when I was younger was Golo which means tall person in Cantonese. It was given to me by my best friend and his family because they were all shorter than I was. It is a name that has stuck with me ever since. My life today consists of mostly work. I work all week then drive to L.A. to help my family with household work such as gardening and painting. When I am not helping my family, I help my girlfriends family with their household chores and driving them around where they need to go. When I was 13 I was able to go to China with my family. While we were there we played with a lot of firecrackers. One time we threw a ropelike firecracker in the water before it exploded. It exploded in the water and killed a fish. The fish floated to the surface.

Who Am I?

The answer to last quarter's "Who Am I" is Capt Pintek



For the next eighteen months, MTACS-38 will be holding a variety of family readiness classes. The classes will be held on Fridays. These classes will be mandatory for all MTACS-38 Marines. Spouses, fiancés and significant others are invited and welcomed. Classes that have been scheduled are listed below. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the FRO to ensure we have a classroom large enough to accommodate everyone. Please call for more details: Noreen Towle 858-577-9551

January 2013

Budgeting: Jan 18th 2:00-3:00 pm

Car buying: Jan 25th 2:00-3:00 pm

February 2013

Savings, Investing and Retirement:
Feb 1st 2:00-3:00 pm

Insurance Needs: Feb 8th 2:00-3:00 pm

Home Buying: Feb 15th 3:00-4:00 pm

March 2013

Interpersonal Communications:
Mar 8th 2:00-3:30 pm

Fair Fighting 1: Mar 15th 2:00-3:30 pm

Fair Fighting 2: Mar 22nd 2:00-3:30 pm

MTACS-38 Points of Contacts:

Family Readiness Officer:

Office: 858-577-9551

Cell: 858-603-8335

MTACS-38 Duty:

858-577-7748



Important Resources:



www.emarine.org



Navy Marine Corp Relief Society:

<http://www.nmcrrs.org/>



Military OneSource: 1-800-342-9647

www.militaryonesource.com



Operation Homefront:

<http://www.operationhomefront.net/>



American Red Cross:

<http://www.oconus.com/Main/redcross.asp>