

THINK 13TH!

"Your monthly family connection to the 13th MEU"



Colonel Coffman
13th MEU Commanding Officer

We are now well into our "Pre-Deployment Training Program" or PTP as a composite MEU. This "pre-season schedule" prepares us to sail out of San Diego aboard the ships of the BOXER Amphibious Ready Group as a certified Marine Expeditionary Unit early next year. The heart of this training is three "at-sea periods" off the coast of California later this fall where we will practice our missions as a sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force.

What we will do on deployment--our "regular season"-- is still being shaped by our Chain of Command in Pacific Command and Central Command, and of course by world events. We are excited to be training for our turn as a forward deployed naval force, ready to defend our country and our way of life from the forward edge of American interests across the Pacific and the Middle East. I will provide more information on our deployment as our schedule is set.

Meantime, your Marine will be busy over the next few months getting prepared at individual, team, unit, and MEU level. This month's newsletter includes the key dates and policies for this phase for your review and use. Please contact us if you have specific questions or concerns. For families, our professional Family Readiness Officer Mr. Bryan Vaughn is always a good first stop. Your Marine knows that his best first stop for issues is always his chain of command, starting with his NCOIC or SNCOIC.

My standard for readiness is that each Marine be physically, mentally, and spiritually prepared for combat. While restoring the standards and training focus of our Corps in the late 1970s after Vietnam, Marine Commandant Louis Wilson said: "The battlefield is no place to discover that we should have demanded more of ourselves during the relatively calm days of peacetime."

Your Marine needs your encouragement and support as we commit to our rigorous training schedule this fall. Your Marine also needs your patience and understanding as we work hard in the relative calm of southern California in order to be prepared for the challenging battlefields that await us in the months ahead.

Warfighting is a team sport, and cohesive, well-led, well-trained teams win in combat, and in life! I encourage you to plug in to the extended 13th MEU team as you prepare your Marine and your family for the rigors of a MEU work-up, sea-based deployment, and combat operations in defense of our country.

Warm regards,

D. W. COFFMAN

Volume I Issue VIII
September 2010

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From the SgtMaj's Desk:

Dear Families and Friends:

I hope everyone had a great time at the Beach Bash and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your attendance. The fact that we could get most of the MEU together in one place is a great accomplishment and we have all of our families to thank for that. Furthermore, I cannot begin to tell you how many of our Marines and their families went out of their way to come up and meet my wife and I. As we walked around meeting Marines and their families Fran and I were really impressed with the genuine warmth we encountered.

On August 6th the command welcomed our Ground Combat Element (GCE), Battalion Landing Team 1/1 (BLT 1/1), Aviation Combat Element (ACE), Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 Rein, (HMM 163), and our Logistics Combat Element (LCE), Combat Logistics Battalion 13 (CLB 13) to the MEU. Please welcome them and let's all remember this is ONE big MEU Family.

I am sure most of you can tell we are starting to get into our training phase. If they have not already done so please ask your Marine/Sailor to share with you the upcoming training events. We want everyone to be aware of what we as a MEU have going on during the upcoming months.

As we get back to school please talk to your Marine/Sailor about all those important school events. Although as Marines/Sailors we often miss special events, here in the Fighting Thirteenth we have some great SNCOs that try their hardest to ensure your Marine/Sailor is able to make those important events.

In closing, I would again like to thank you for your commitment and sacrifices allowing *our Marines and Sailors* to be extraordinarily successful in our mission. Just saying THANK YOU cannot express how much we appreciate your continued and steadfast support. If my wife, Fran, or I can ever be of service to you please do not hesitate to contact us.

With warm regards and Semper Fidelis,

J. M. Hidalgo Jr.
Your Sergeant Major

Come Celebrate at the 235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball!

When: October 30, 2010

Where: Harrah's Rincon Hotel & Casino
Valley Center, CA

The Ball Committee has been hard at work in preparation for this year's Marine Corps Ball. The CO and SgtMaj have taken the committee's recommendations and have made several decisions.

This year's ball will take place at Harrah's Rincon Hotel and Casino in Valley Center, CA. If you have not been there before, it is off the 76 East *PAST* the Pala Casino.

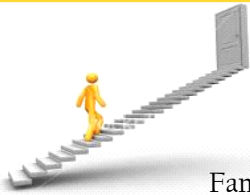
Tickets will be on sale until October 15. You will not be able to purchase tickets at the door. As of now, each ticket is \$50, but fundraising is ongoing to try and reduce the price for E5 and below. The ticket price includes the customary memento. Please be ready to order chicken, beef or a vegetarian meal when you purchase your tickets.

If you would like to stay at the hotel, reservations must be made by October 14. A discounted rate for the night of the 30th is \$129.00 per standard room. To make a reservation call 1-800-427-7247. You must reference the group discount code S1030M to receive the group rate.

Each year the MEU tries to provide childcare at no cost to the family when at all possible. However, at this point we are unable to cover the costs. Childcare will be available at the hotel, but each family must provide payment for their child/ren. We are ***not allowing children under the age of 13*** into the ceremony, so please make arrangements for your younger children.

Our Guest of Honor this year is SgtMaj Bradley A Kasal. He is currently the Sergeant Major for School of Infantry West.

A photographer will be provided to take traditional ball portraits outside the Ballroom. Portraits will be taken from cocktail hour until 2300. Payment must be at time of order by cash or check and packages will range from \$25-\$50.



Update From Our Family Readiness Officer (FRO) “Ladder to Deployment Success”

Families and Friends of the 13th MEU. Next month our Marines and Sailors will be starting their at sea periods working as a Sea Based, Marine, Air, Ground, Task force "MAGTF" . This will compile their final training, exercises, and qualifications preparing them for deployment. The family Readiness officers of the 13th MEU and Marine Corps Family Team Building have been working on a program to get our families ready for deployment. I am excited to announce the "Ladder to Deployment Success" for Military families of the 13th MEU. Each session is designed to prepare your family for the stages of deployment by increasing their resiliency through education, networking and communication to achieve personal and family readiness. This program will assist you in learning to maneuver the Marine Corps lifestyle while making new friends along the way. Sessions will include: Self-Defense, Pay/LES, Legal, and Childcare, Career Planning, Fitness & Nutrition, Resume Services and much, much, more! We will provide "FREE" day care. There will be drawings with several exciting gifts for those spouses that attend all six training sessions during our graduation ceremony. Next week you will receive a flyer with detailed information regarding our first training sessions in October. It will cover class schedules, information, and child care. I hope to see you all there for the fun and festivities. Mark the following dates on you calendars!

Session Schedule:

Saturday, 16 October
Friday, 22 October
Saturday, 6 November
Wednesday, 10 November
Tuesday, 7 December
Saturday, 11 December

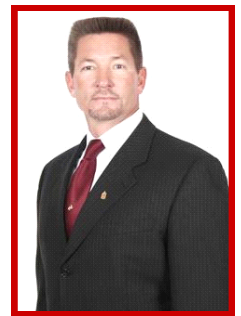
Free Childcare!

Career Planning

Self-Defense

Fitness & Nutrition

Prizes for attending!



Mr. Bryan T. Vaughn serves as 13th Marine Expeditionary Units Family Readiness Officer. He has been serving in this capacity since April 2008. His 23 year career as a Marine entailed being a part of every Marine Component Element of a Marine Expeditionary Unit. His vast knowledge and experience comes from multiple Western Pacific Deployments. His working knowledge of the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and Southern California spans over 29 years. His dedication to the Marines with which he serves has expanded to include their Spouses, Children, and Extended Families. Marines being called to duty to serve in harms way in a foreign country can rest assured that they have Mr. Vaughn to assist their family in their absence. It is his passion to continue to serve his country by serving the Marines, Sailors, and Families of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Family Readiness Officer
Camp Pendleton CA 92055-5363
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Upcoming Training and Workshops for Sept/Oct

Family Readiness Volunteer Training
Oct 12/13Tues, Wed 1800-2100
Oct 27..... Thurs.....0900-1500
L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses
Oct 5/6.....Wed, Thurs.....0800-1300
Speaking With Style
Sept 21.....Tue.....0830-1230
7 Habits of Highly Effective Military Families
Oct 19Tues0830-1530
4 Lenses
Sept 28.....Tues.....0830-1230

Registration is required at least three days prior to training. Childcare may be provided.
For more information on all these courses and more, please contact the MCFTB at (760)725-9052 or check them out on the web: www.mccsp.com/home/Family-Services/Family_Team_Building.aspx



ur Adopted Family!

On October 9, 2007, the City of Anaheim formally adopted the 13th MEU, stationed out of Camp Pendleton, in order to show support for the military personnel and their families. On March 29, 2008, the City of Anaheim, the Adoption Committee and the 13th MEU celebrated this partnership with a formal adoption ceremony. The ceremony honored the traditions and history of the 13th MEU, including a performance by the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar band and the presentation of colors by the 13th MEU Color Guard. Anaheim mission is to continuously generate community wide support, and encourage mutually beneficial interaction between the residents of Anaheim and the Marines, the Sailors, and the families of the 13th MEU, both at their home base at Camp Pendleton and/or when the unit or elements there of are deployed, in order to render support and create strong and lasting ties in the years to come.

The Anaheim Adoption Committee is dedicated to sponsoring the men and women that provide their service to protect our country. The citizen run committee serves as a support system for the 13th MEU and their families by creating special events and activities throughout the year. Events sponsored by the committee include various fundraisers, Christmas gifts and Easter basket drives, gifts for newborns, preparing welcome home bags, and much more. 100% of the proceeds raised or donated are used for the benefit of the 13th MEU. The 13th MEU adoption committee works continuously and tirelessly to support the 13th MEU, both when the unit is at home and deployed. Marines from the 13th MEU often participate in various city functions, giving the Marines and members of the Anaheim community the opportunity to meet and interact. The 13th MEU and their families comprised of approximately 2,200 Marines and Sailors stationed at Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, the 13th MEU supports a variety of operations in the Global War on Terrorism. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, volunteer or become part of the adoption committee please contact us at MEU13th@hotmail.com or visit our website at www.anaheim.net/13thMEU

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Email: MEU13th@hotmail.com
Visit us at: www.anaheim.net/13thMEU
Tax ID # 80-0153575

When is My Marine/ Sailor Going to Be Gone?

Upcoming Exercises...

September - RUT: During the two-week training evolution exercise at Naval base Ventura County, the MEU will conduct several urban training exercises as part of its pre-deployment training. The urban environment is among the most challenging tactical environments MEU Marines may face therefore being ready in "every clime and place".

October - PMINT: Phibron/MEU Integration (PMINT) brings the ARG-MEU team together for the first time during their pre-deployment work-up cycle. The training gives the Marines a chance to get accustomed to the routine of shipboard life and an opportunity to learn their way around in a new environment. PMINT takes place aboard the Navy-ARG ships. The overall focus is to facilitate integration of the Blue/Green team through staff planning exercises and an amphibious landing exercise.

November - C2X: The month long Composite Training Unit Exercise (C2X) combines Blue and Green knowledge, abilities and platforms, the ARG-MEU will further increase its levels of proficiency and add even more tactical tools to be used in defeating possible enemies.

December - CERTEX: CERTEX, the final MEU exercise before deployment, is designed to strengthen the blue-green team's ability to operate together, and respond to various situations while deployed. Certification Exercise (CERTX), a comprehensive, complex training evolution that combined the Navy and Marine Corps' maritime and sea-to-shore capabilities.

Please submit all comments and contributions for the newsletter to
Melanie Wilson
lmsmelanie@sbcglobal.net

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

September Promotions

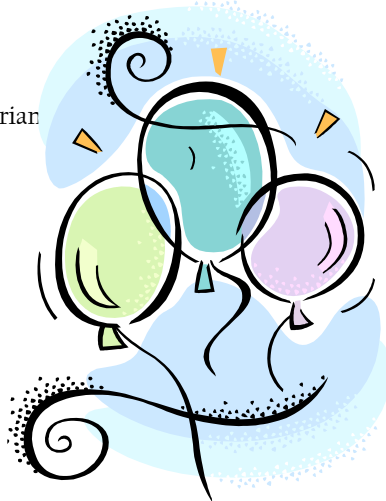
Congratulations to those who were promoted this month!

September and October promotions will be posted in the next Newsletter.

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to those celebrating this month!

9/28 Cpl Andrews
9/23 Cpl Armour
9/26 Sgt Basso
9/17 1stLt Gallais
9/1 GySgt Harrel
9/5 LCpl Hurtado
9/4 Cpl Martinez, Brian
9/11 Cpl Senesac
9/23 GySgt Tallman
9/2 Sgt Webster
9/24 Cpl Wilhelm



The Armed Services Blood Program will be conducting several blood drives aboard Camp Pendleton at the following locations listed below.

- 1) Thursday, 09 Sep: 1st Medical Battalion. From 0900 to 1400 by the 22 Area Grinder.
- 2) Wednesday, 22 Sep: Field Medical Training Battalion. From 0600 to 0900 by 21 Area Grinder.
- 3) Thursday, 30 Sep: School Of Infantry Charlie Company. From 1200 to 1600 by the company H Track/Barracks.

Additionally, for those that will be in the Riverside County area on 18 September, ASBP will be at March Air Reserve Base from 0900 to 1500. The blood drive will be held by the Hap Arnold house bldg 176.

To make an appointment, please visit www.militarydonor.com and enter zip code 92055 for Camp Pendleton. To find out more about the Armed Services Blood Program you can visit us online: www.militaryblood.dod.mil or interact with our staff: www.facebook.com/militaryblood Thank you in advance for your life-saving donation.

Very Respectfully,
Cesar Fontanilla
ASBP Blood Donor Recruiter
Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton
cesar.fontanilla@med.navy.mil

How Well Do You Know Your Marine Corps Acronyms?

Thought we might give you an opportunity to brush up on your acronyms. See how well you know the ones you may be seeing in different publications throughout the rest of the MEU cycle.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. LES | 2. MEU |
| 3. CENTCOM | 4. CP |
| 5. COC | 6. LCAC |
| 7. LAV | 8. ACE |
| 9. MAW | 10. BAH |
| 11. CFT | 12. PFT |

1. Leave and Earning Statement
 2. Marine Expeditionary Unit
 3. Central Command
 4. Command Post
 5. Command Operations Center
 6. Landing Craft Air Cushion
 7. Light Armored Reconnaissance
 8. Air Command Element
 9. Marine Air Wing
 10. Basic Allowance of Housing
 11. Combat Fitness Test
 12. Physical Fitness Test
- Answers:

Will add more in each newsletter!

13TH MEU Beach Bash Unites Marines, Families

Sgt. Jimmy Green
20100908

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. (Aug. 6, 2010)—More than 2,000 service members and their families congregated at Del Mar Beach, Camp Pendleton, Calif., Friday to celebrate the union between the command element and its Major Subordinate Elements, officially building the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Combat Logistics Battalion 13, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163, Reinforced joined the 13th MEU team, and celebrated on the beach signifying this milestone for the work-up season ahead.

The beach bash lasted all day uniting the newest members of the MEU with the veterans and allowing them to build camaraderie.

The 13th MEU commanding officer, Col. David W. Coffman, made note that this was an important day for the MEU in its entirety. This was not just a day at the beach, but a chance for the Marines to look around and become familiar with the Marines they would be serving with on their upcoming deployment and establish new relationships.

“We’ll do it all,” said Coffman. “From cleaning [bathrooms] to killing bad guys, any mission, anytime.”

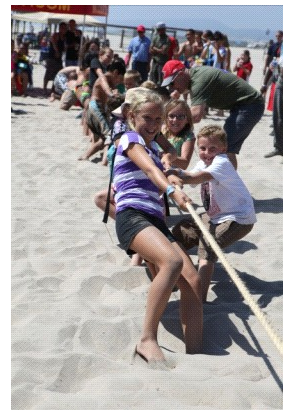
Events at the beach bash included comments from the MEU commander and sergeant major, a barbecue, tug-of-war and volleyball competitions, and jump houses for the kids.

“In my two years with the MEU, I have never experienced such camaraderie between the MSEs,” said Lance Cpl. Shea J. Chant, Administrative clerk, 13th MEU. “It was great to get to know our counterparts and I look forward to working with them in the future.”



Col. David W. Coffman, commanding officer, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, give his closing remarks at the conclusion of the beach bash, reaffirming his welcome to the Major Subordinate Elements joining the MEU and extending his optimism for the upcoming deployment together. *Photo by Sgt. Jimmy Green*

Children of Marines participate in a bout of tug-of-war during the beach bash Friday at Del Mar Beach, Camp Pendleton, Calif., during the beach bash the signified the union between the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit Command Element and its Major Subordinate Elements. *Photo by Sgt. Jimmy Green*



Children line up for their turn to enjoy the inflatable slide at Del Mar Beach, Camp Pendleton, Calif., during the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit’s beach bash. *Photo by Sgt. Jimmy Green*



Members of the newly formed 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit participate in a game of volleyball and a tug-of-war tournament.



Col Coffman's Family Friendly MEU Guidance

To help you keep track of the MEU's schedule and to understand it a little more, Col Coffman has offered us a glimpse into the life of the MEU. Please keep this page to refer back if you are curious as to what is happening next!

CO's Updates can be found at the following number. Throughout the training and the deployment, this message will be updated to keep our families informed.

1-866-676-0662, push "7" for 13th MEU

MEU Life Cycle

1. Off-Season: Oct-Dec '09
2. Training Camp: Jan-July '10
3. Work-ups (Pre-season): Aug '10-Jan '11
4. Deployment (Regular Season): Feb-Sept '11

Who's Who:

Command Element Staff:

- Commanding Officer (CO)—Col Coffman
- Executive Officer (XO)- LtCol Lumalcuri
- SgtMaj Hidalgo
- S1 -(Admin) Capt Wilson
- S2 - (Intel) Maj Whalen
- S3- (Operations) LtCol Coughlin
- S4- (Logistics) Maj Tinkle
- S6- (Communications) Maj Komnick

Special Staff

- Chaplain- LCDR Diconti
- SJA- Maj Kelly
- FRO- Mr. Bryan Vaughn
- Medical Planner- HMCS Thorne
- Public Affairs (PAO)- Capt Avots
- HQCMDT - MSGT Lindsey

Higher Command: I MEF, Lead by LtGen Dunford

Supporting Establishment: MCI-West

SOCAL MEU's: 11th/13th/15th

Additions to 13th MEU Command Element:

Intel Battalion, Radio Battalion, 9th Comm, FORECON, ANGLICO, IPAC, Disbursing, other augments across the sections.

Subordinate Elements of the MEU:

Ground Combat Element (GCE): BLT 1/1
Aviation Combat Element (ACE): HMM-163
Logistics Combat Element (LCE): CLB-13

Blue (Navy Support):

USS Boxer (LHD-4)
USS Green Bay (LPD-20)
USS Comstock (LSD-45)

13th MEU 2010-11 ENDURING MISSION:

On order, 13th MEU deploys as a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) in order to support the theater requirements of Geographic Combatant Commanders.

Bottom line mission:

ANY MISSION, ANY TIME!

Purpose: MAGTF OPERATIONS!

6 Lines of Operation:

- People- Marines, Sailors, Families
- Equipment- Manage and assess readiness
- Training- Attain and Maintain Proficiency
- MAGTF Operations- Execute assigned missions.
- Prepare for the future
- Communicate our message

The 13th MEU is a cohesive, well-led, well-trained warfighting MAGTF – ready, relevant, and responsive across the range of military operations – writing tomorrow's headlines with unequivocal actions on the objective today.

Leave and Liberty Policies

We will attempt to preserve one quality special liberty per month:

Oct 8-11 Columbus Day Holiday

Nov 25-28 Thanksgiving

Dec 23-26 AND

Dec 30-Jan 2 (if not on leave)

Pre-deployment leave block:

Approx Dec 22-Jan 9

TBD Liberty Periods for Jan-Feb pre-sail

Social Events

August 6 Beach Bash

October 30 USMC Birthday Ball

December Holiday Party (Date TBD)

"The battlefield is no place to discover that we should have demanded more of ourselves during the relatively calm days of peacetime."

-Gen Louis H. Wilson, 26th Commandant



Commanding Officer
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