

4 Aug 2014

Dear 3d Battalion, 1st Marines' Families and Friends,

I recently assumed command of "The Thundering Third" and I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My wife Jess and I are honored and humbled to be a part of this incredible outfit and look forward to meeting the families and friends of our amazing Marines and sailors. Each Marine and sailor is a vital member of this organization and his service to the country is something you should be proud of.

The Battalion recently returned from Okinawa and your loved one is already returning to the field or spending long days at work. I want you to know that I appreciate the sacrifices and the support you provide him every day as we prepare for another deployment. As the Commanding Officer, I am responsible for ensuring that every Marine and Sailor is well trained and physically and mentally prepared to do his job during our next deployment. The profession your loved one has chosen necessitates long days, weeks, and sometimes months away from home. Because of these absences, it is imperative that I set the conditions to prepare our family members and relatives for the challenges that may arise while we are away from home.

My aim is to create and sustain a readiness program in which our families are encouraged, supported, and provided with the information and resources required to remain healthy, engaged, and educated. In short, I will do everything in my power to keep you and your service member informed. I strongly encourage you all to participate in any and all Battalion events, attend our Town Hall meetings, and volunteer to help out with projects that will be developed over the upcoming months. You will find that these events are a tremendous way to meet people, gather information and create a strong support network. Of course spouses are encouraged to participate, but so are girlfriends, parents, grandparents and anyone else who members of the Battalion hold near and dear.

Please talk to your Marine or sailor often about your family's readiness. Every single member of this Battalion is required to ensure he has taken the necessary measures to prepare his family for his absence during deployment. The very first step in this process is communication between you and your loved one. This is a team effort and as I stated before, I will support and facilitate communication between you, your Marine or Sailor and "The Thundering Third."

If you have any questions about volunteer opportunities, upcoming events or how to obtain information, please contact the 3/1 Family Readiness Officer Mr. Paul Walters. He may be reached by e-mail at paul.f.walters@usmc.mil or by phone at 760-763-0536.

I am eagerly anticipating the opportunity to meet you.

Very Respectfully,



Edward C. Greeley  
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer  
3d Battalion, 1st Marines