



# Cutting Edge News

## Upcoming Events

- October 12th from 5-7pm Spouses Meet and Greet
- October 23rd from 8:30-1130 Marriage Enrichment (The 5 Love Languages)
- October 29th from 6-8pm Volunteer Meeting
- October 30th from 5-8pm Battalion Trunk O'Treat

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## Message from the Battalion Commander, LtCol Greeley



Friends and families of The Cutting Edge,

Greetings from the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. The Battalion arrived safely at the Corps' high altitude training venue safe and sound and the men have been going after the training at full throttle. It took a few days for all of us to adjust to the thin air but the cooler temperatures were welcomed immediately. We have also enjoyed some excellent instruction on how to conduct operations in mountainous environments. Training has included mountain communications, mountain medicine, mountain survival skills, and some technical climbing and rappelling.

It is challenging and rewarding work and your Marines and Sailors are doing great and the experience here is priceless as it develops our small unit cohesion and teamwork. We do, however, miss the comforts of home and being with our loved ones, but we will be home soon enough and ready to enjoy four days off with you at the end of October.

As always, thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you upon our return.

Very respectfully,

LtCol Ted Greeley  
Commanding Officer  
3d Bn, 7th Marines



HM3 Ingram, Cpl Brown, LCpl Bailey, HM3 Orbaun, Cpl Wellman, Cpl Flaa, and Sgt Mahaffey salute LtCol Greeley



Marines/Sailors address the Battalion after receiving their awards. During a later interview LtCol Greeley observed "Most striking is the humility each and every one of these individuals displayed when accepting their awards"



Sgt Mahaffey, 3/7 Weapons Company, receives a Bronze Star with Combat "V"

*"Selfless acts in combat, whether engaging the enemy or helping fellow Marines, truly embodies the command philosophy of being part of something bigger than yourself"*

~LtCol Greeley

## Headquarters and Services Company

Family and friends,

Without question, your Marines and Sailors from Headquarters and Service Company are in full swing supporting the audacious training regimen for 3d Battalion, 7th Marines. Since our last correspondence, we have been engaged in a multitude of events focused both on enabling our rifle and weapons companies training as well enhancing our own Marines' personal skills. The entire Battalion has embraced aggressive, realistic, and focused training. If it were not for the diligent work from your loved ones, none of it would be possible. In the past month, H&S has supported two rifle companies training evolutions in Big Bear, California which proved to be excellent events...except for a few rather large bears menacing quite close to the Marines' patrol bases. Additionally, we enabled Lima Company's task to aid a large contingent from the United Arab Emirates in their training from global security cooperation deployments. Because of the unique nature of each of these actions they had the highest level of visibility from military commanders and civilian leadership. Further, your Marines and Sailors continued to progress during numerous training opportunities including the rifle range, professional education schools, and physical training evaluations. Indeed, your loved ones are extremely busy preparing their units and themselves for future operations in harm's way.

The near future has H&S deploying to the Marine Corps' Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, California. Each Marine and Sailor will have the opportunity to learn and practice skills required for success in mountainous environments. Certainly this will be tough, exhausting training, but H&S will grow as a unit during the coming months. Following the Company's month in the mountains, the next major event is the annual Marine Corps Ball in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our institution's customs and traditions separate us from all the other armed services. I would implore all of you to attend this year's ball as our unit's spirit and professionalism will be on full display. Planning for the Ball encompasses much more than just buying tickets, booking hotel rooms, and preparing uniforms. Your loved ones have the most current information regarding the Marine Corps Ball and should be sharing it with you. Timelines, places, family plans, etc have all been announced for you to correctly plan that weekend. If you have any questions do not hesitate to get your Marine or Sailor to provide you with answers because the Ball is just as much about you as it is our Corps.



SI Marines prep for awards ceremony

If that were not enough, the "Silly Season" will be on our door step quicker than we all think. Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Years are rapidly approaching. In this, everyone must be fully aware of the liberty times and leave dates in order to properly prepare. Again, your Marines and Sailors are the best source of information for this. I will offer to you, however, that we are always more than happy to assist you in getting that information. 3d Battalion, 7th Marines has been blessed with an active and effective family readiness team. Our Family Readiness Officer is a wealth of information regarding our training schedule and special events. Please utilize her and the family readiness system as much as you can.

I could not be more proud of H&S Company. Their prowess and work ethic knows no bounds and has enabled the Battalion to succeed at every juncture of the training work up so far. I am well aware that none of it would be possible without the continuous support and patience that you all provide. Please know that the work you do for your loved ones has a profound effect on our ability to always accomplish the mission at hand. I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future. God Bless.

Semper Fidelis,  
M. D. Simon  
Capt USMC

## India Company

To the family and friends of India Company,

Another month has passed and the Marines and Sailors of India Company continue to stay busy and train hard. Highlights from this month's training include a company patrolling exercise (PEX) at Big Bear Recreational Area in the San Bernardino Mountains. This training exercise afforded India Company an opportunity to practice patrolling skills in a wooded and mountainous environment. Working in this type of terrain is very different than the wide open and mostly flat training areas of Twenty-nine Palms in which we are accustomed to training. This PEX also helped prepare the company for the Battalion's upcoming training at Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, CA. As always First Sergeant Nunez and I appreciate your continued support for the Marines and Sailors of India Company.  
Semper Fidelis,

Captain Matt Speers





Kilo Mortarmen: Cpl Galvez, LCpl Barahona and LCpl Blan conduct fire missions in support of Kilo Company Patrols during Big Bear PEX

## Kilo Company

Family and friends of Kilo Company,

September was an eventful month for Kilo Company with the Marines continuing to distinguish themselves personally and professionally. The Company performed exceptionally well during 3rd Battalion 7th Marines (3/7) evaluated squad attacks on range 108. Marines were tasked organized into three squads of thirteen men and executed a simulated attack on an enemy trench line during the day and at night. The attacks were designed to evaluate the skills of fire team and squad leaders primarily in fire and movement, the building block of Marine Corps tactics, where one Marine provides accurate lethal suppressive fire on a target while another moves to a covered position. Live fire training is generally the culminating event in Kilo Company's training plans, used to evaluate the proficiency of infantrymen, assaultmen, machine gunners and motarmen. A special thanks to our squad leaders Lcpl Rumsey, Kinney and Corporal Brown who all put in outstanding performances at a challenging evolution.

The Company also conducted a Patrolling Exercise (PEX) in Big Bear California from 10 – 14 September. The Marines were tasked to establish patrol bases in complex mountain terrain and operate continuously for 48 hours. The Marines averaged 900ft of elevation gained to occupy two separate patrol bases at roughly 8,000 feet of elevation. The Big Bear PEX was an excellent opportunity to test our patrolling tactics and techniques prior to deployment to Bridgeport California for MNTEX 7-12.

Kilo Company departs for Bridgeport on Sunday the 21st of September and will return on the 19th of October. Planned training highlights include a week and a half of mountain mobility training and a week-long battalion field exercise (FEX).

On a personal level, my wife Vanessa and I would like to thank everyone from the 3/7 family for the outpouring of love and support at the birth of our first child Blake Jane Harmon. As a new father with time to reflect, I find a renewed commitment to the Marines and our mission. I hope that in the challenges our families continue to face in long hours and separation from loved ones, we might find solace in the belief that our efforts to make better Marines will ultimately result in better husbands, sons and fathers as well.

Semper Fidelis,  
M. B. Harmon  
Capt USMC



Sgt Lineman goes all out at his last Kilo Company Training evolution Big Bear PEX 1-12

## Lima Company

Family and friends of Lima Company,

The Month of September has been an eventful one for Lima Company Marines and Sailors. I would like to congratulate Corporal Jovi Skinner who was meritoriously promoted to his current rank after winning the board at division level. Congratulations Cpl Skinner. Additionally I would like to recognize Lance Corporal Travis Kutemeier who was the recipient of the Military Spouse Appreciation Contest Award presented by Colonel Sellers. Lance Corporal Kutemeier's essay described in details the many challenges and sacrifices that military spouses contend with on a daily basis. For taking the time to recognize his wife and for his award, we congratulate Lance Corporal Kutemeier. We also extend thanks to all the Lima Spouses for their sacrifice and the support they provide to their Marines and Sailors.

The Marines and Sailors of Lima Company dedicated many long days to the training and mentoring of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Soldiers during the Unit Enhancement Training (UET) 12.4 from 6-20 September. Lima Marines supported multiple training and live fire ranges, combat conditioning hikes, and countless hours of instruction for the UAE soldiers. The hard work and sacrifice of the Marines contributed to the continued development of strategic partnerships between the Marine Corps and the UAE Armed forces. Immediately following the conclusion of UET 12.4 the Company embarked for Bridgeport Mountain Warfare Training Center. The Marines will hone their mountain warfare skills while contending with both the elements and the challenging terrain. Lima Company is looking forward to the challenge and the training which the Marines and Sailors will receive.

As always we thank the Lima Spouses for their continued support and encouragement.

Semper Fi,

Captain William Milana



Winner LCPL/PVT section - Military Spouse Appreciation Contest ~LCpl KUTEMEIER, TRAVIS (Spouse - Shayla Shutes) - 3rd Battalion 7th Marines

## Weapons Company



HM3 Orbaun, 3/7 Weapons Company, receives the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V Device from LtCol Greeley on September 18th, 2012

*“It is truly inspiring to see a Sailor in Marine pattern utilities, wearing a Navy rank insignia, Fleet Marine Force pin, and a Navy Achievement Medal with a Combat V”*

*~LtCol Edward C. Greeley*



HM3 Ingram, 3/7 Weapons Company, receives the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V device from LtCol Greeley on September 18th, 2012



## Chaplain's Corner

Dear Marines, Sailors, and Families of 3/7,

It's too easy to complain; and sometimes I find myself falling into the trap of negativity. But two things have struck me as of late. The first came during the bus ride up to Bridgeport, while driving through a dilapidated little town. Paint was peeling off of houses; roofs were falling in; porches falling over. A nearby mine was closed, and little seemed to be going on. It was a veritable ghost town, except people still lived in it. Looking at this scene, a Marine on the bus commented, "29 may be bad, but it could always be worse." There was a great deal of truth in his joke.

The next day, I heard that some of 3/3's Marines (who are at Bridgeport with us) were complaining about being stationed in Hawaii. That's right: complaining about living in a place where other people pay big bucks to visit.

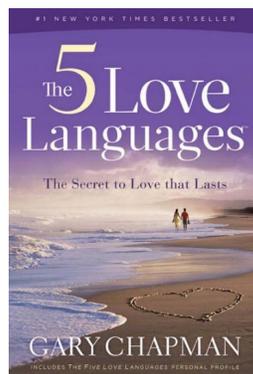
If you let it be, the grass will always be greener on the other side. On the other hand, those with a positive attitude will always bloom where they are planted. And they will be happier for it. I gave a hard-to-hear sermon one time, and no one in the congregation liked it except Brother Jack. When I asked him about it, he poked a little fun at himself, saying, "You could preach that I'm going to hell, and I still would get excited to pack my bags for the trip." In any event, Jack led a happier life. He chose to focus on the good, and not dwell on the bad—unless there was something he could do about the bad to make it better.

I think that some of us, like Jack, are born to be more positive than others. But even if your natural disposition is to find the negative, you can discipline and train yourself to look for the good as well. In doing so, your stress will decrease, resiliency will increase, and relationships will improve. Focusing on the positive is just plain good for the soul.

Faithfully Yours,

LTJG Bryant

### **3/7 Marriage Enrichment: The 5 Love Languages** **October 23rd from 0830-1130 am**



The Five Love Languages is an ideology developed by Dr. Gary Chapman that discusses relationships between couples. He stresses to his audience in his book that all people express their love for one another in various ways and it is essential for couples to identify how they communicate their love to one another so that they are able to improve upon their relationship.

This class will be taught by Mr. Lee Risper from the MCFTB

\*Childcare is FREE if you reserve it with the FRO no later than 4pm on October 16th.

Email names and ages of children to the FRO:  
andrea.tatayon@usmc.mil



## In "FRO" mation

Good afternoon 3/7 Family and friends,

During the month of October the Battalion is hosting some great events:



On October 12th from 5-7pm at Building 1707 the Family Readiness Team is hosting a Spouse's Meet and Greet and Cupcake Wars Competition.

Do you make a cupcake that can make a grown man cry? If so join us for Cupcake Wars!

Bring a Bakers dozen (12+1) of your best cupcakes to the Meet and Greet. For judging purposes please cut 12 of the cupcakes into fourths. (sample) Leave one cupcake whole so that we can see your finished product. Winner of the Cupcake Competition will receive:

Bragging rights, your recipe on eMarine and in this newsletter, and a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Commissary.

Mr. Lee Risper will also be on-hand to teach the 4 lenses class, a personality assessment which gives better insight into communicating with others.

Dinner will be served and Child care for this event is FREE. Call or email to reserve a space with the FRO no later than **4pm on Friday, October 5th.**



On October 30th the Battalion is hosting Trunk O' Treat from 5-8pm at the UMA parking lot

Bring the children out in their costumes to Trick or Treat, play carnival games and participate in a costume contest. For more information or to volunteer to decorate a trunk please shoot and email to the FRO.

If you have any questions about anything I have mentioned here, if you are in need of a specific resource, or even if you just want to chat, please remember that I am here "FRO" you.

Warmly,

Andrea Tatayon  
Family Readiness Officer  
3d Battalion, 7th Marines



Congratulations to our Family Readiness Volunteer Training graduates: Jess Greeley, Nicole Quinn and Tonya Middleton



L.I.N.K.S. tradition, The passing of the cake from the spouse who has been married the longest (Amanda Adcox) to the spouse who has been married for the shortest period of time (Maureen Harvey).



PFC B-dog says "Volunteering with the Family Readiness Team is a barking great time. OORAH!"



Battalion L.I.N.K.S. graduates: Front row from left to right: Nicole Quinn, Maureen Harvey, and B-dog Harvey. Back row from left to right: Jess Greeley, Lisa Billingsley, Amanda Adcox, Jenna Tonking, Megan Murphy, Morgan Begin with proud FRO, Andrea Tatayon

## Upcoming events

### Family Fall Festival-October 26th

This year's Family Fun Festival will be held on Friday, October 26, on Felix Field from 1800-2100. There will be FREE Jupiter jumps, crafts, games, a hayride, and more! Tickets are available for food (a meal of one hot dog, drink & chips is 3 tickets & includes a train ride), pony rides (2 tickets), the petting zoo (2 tickets), cupcake walk (2 tickets), & cotton candy (1 ticket). Pre-sale tickets are \$10 for \$12 or tickets are \$1 each the day of the event. Pre-sale tickets are available at REC ITT inside the Main Exchange (Bldg 1502). This event is open to all hands & children are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite costume.

### Combat Center Fire Department Chili Luncheon- October 15th

The Combat Center Fire Department invites you to attend the 15th Annual Open House and Chili Lunch - a limited number of discounted presale tickets are now on sale. This popular event takes place on Friday, October 12 at the Fire Department (Bldg 1516) from 1000 to 1400. Tickets are only \$2.00 (one ticket will get you a bowl of chili OR a hot dog). Please call 830-5239 or 830-6871 to request your tickets now.

### FREE movies at the Sunset Cinema

Every Saturday at 1030 the base theater offers a FREE family-friendly movie! Upcoming FREE movies include:

October 06: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (rated PG)

October 13: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules (rated PG)

### Solutions to Parenting Challenges-October 17th

Do you have a toddler or preschooler? Solutions to Parenting Challenges answers discipline questions and provides education on supporting your child's growing independence - the next class is 17 October 12 - to register please call 830-7622.

### L.I.N.K.S. CAX-October 18th, 8-5pm

This event will take you beyond the classroom and allows you to catch a glimpse of the training village, take a ride in a seven-ton and enjoy a field meal, MRE style.

Participants will also learn some more about the Marine Corps including customs, courtesies and dress, career planning, deployment readiness and an overview of what our community and the high desert have to offer!

Childcare will be available and must be reserved no later than October 10, 2012. Space is limited.

Registration is required for participation, visit MCFTB29.com to register today!

Call 760.830.1696 for further information.

### Want to Connect with 3/7? Check us out on Facebook!



#### The Battalion Fan page:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/285859098110/#!/3rdBattalion7thMarines?ref=ts>

#### 3/7 Wives group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/285859098110/>

#### 3/7 Parents group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/285859098110/#!/groups/3rdbattalion7thmarineParents/>

### American Red Cross Babysitter's Academy

Sign up today to attend the American Red Cross Babysitter's Academy.

Receive training in babysitting, pediatric first aid and CPR, and water safety.

When: 22-25 October 1700-2000 Daily

Where: Village Center Training Room

Who: Open to all 11-17 year olds

Cost: \$85

Call 1-800-691-1205 or visit

[safetyschooling.com](http://safetyschooling.com) to register today!

### USMC BIRTHDAY ENDURANCE RUN - REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

In honor of the 237th USMC Birthday, Semper Fit is hosting a 237 mile endurance run. The event will begin at 1730 on Friday, October 19 & end on Sunday, October 21 (the end time is determined by team completion).

This event is open to everyone 18 years & over (retirees, active duty, family members, & civilian employees). Each team will have 10 participants. You may stop by the MCCS Sports Department (Bldg 1341) to register. The registration deadline is Wednesday, October 17.

**Are you  
interested in  
learning more  
about what is  
happening on the  
base?  
Check out  
Mccs29palms.org**

**3D BATTALION 7TH  
MARINES**

Building 1416  
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center  
Box 788263  
Twentynine Palms, Ca 92278-8263



**3/7 Marines and Sailors to register:**

- Go to [www.emarine.org](http://www.emarine.org)
- Click  (top right corner of the screen)
- Choose "1st Marine Division > 7th Marine Regiment > 3rd Battalion (California, UIC: M13160)"
- Register as a Sponsor, and fill in the required information
- Enter your name **AS IT APPEARS IN MOL**
- Enter your birthday in **MMDD** format (i.e., Jan 5 is 0105)
- Enter the unit RUC M13160

Once you've signed up, please take a moment to invite your spouse, significant other, parents, siblings, or other Family Members!

