



Second Battalion, 4th Marines Association, Inc. The Magnificent Bastards



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Nov 2020 Sea Horse

Presidents Message

245th Marine Corps Birthday and Veteran's Day Celebration

Today—another milestone that you share with millions who have stood where you are now. Millions more, where I stand. Time. History. Sometimes we look at words like time and history as the culmination of events that define who we are, what we've done, who we've helped. Maybe they are. In the Marine Corps and within warrior tribes in our nation we have always asked the question of Why we fight?

What I have come to learn about the "Why" is that we never fight for things, or for money. We fight for people. People who matter to us. Those people who are real, and also for such emblematic souls who require us to represent a set of values and beliefs to which we subscribe. Our ethos. Our contract, not with the Marine Corps, but more importantly with ourselves. That internal and mental treaty that we have signed to require more of ourselves than most can ever imagine. Requiring us to sacrifice. To fight. To kill.

We do this willingly for the people we protect. People we love—you are that protector. Yet what makes you different, more special, even amongst this small tribe of protectors, is that you are also willing to defend, at times, total strangers.

Marines are great at a lot of things. They fight and attack the enemy with unbridled ferocity better than anyone on the planet. They shoot their rifles straighter than any soldier. And they give more of themselves than one Nation could ever ask.

Aside from the brutality we are capable on inflicting on those who oppose our way of life, collectively, Marines are also masters of so many things far removed from war. Marines understand how to read in-between the lines as leaders. You see other words that escape others. Words like love,

compassion, kindness, and caring. Those words are not listed on the leadership traits and principles—or in books that they teach us in the school's professional warriors attend. Marines use those words through their actions—knowing when it's alright to be tough on each other, and when to put your arm around one another and help each other up. Those are the great ones.

Marines take care of those who can't take care of themselves—that is what I've learned. What I have seen firsthand. You're also masters of that. Yet still, you have this remarkable ability to go beyond your love of one another, your brothers and sisters, your family—you have the heart to show compassion for those in need, and at times, even your enemies. That too, is what separates us from others—personally biased, of course—what makes us better.

Most powerfully, through your service as U.S. Marines—the example you show to all, is that you become, and are, the most operative tool for change—more than these words will ever accomplish.

This ceremony and this day tend to remind us of the past. The past 245 years. Lifetimes, and generations that built the foundation of our Marine Corps. They are to be celebrated and remembered, indeed. Yet I believe that a person with only retrospective thoughts can see no future—you are that future. Move forward from today, always asking questions. What can I do to make the Marine Corps better? Am I helping my fellow Marines? Will you live a life inspiring those you serve? Thousands of questions to be asked—you will be the ones who answer them. Along the way, seeking those answers, you will fight. You will protect. You will build upon this foundation of 245 years ensuring it goes on for another thousand—and a thousand more after that. Where my faith may be lacking at times in certain things—it is always affirmed by the men and women and the family I am surrounded by—on the eve of Veteran's day and this birthday. My fellow Marines.

Happy Birthday, and Semper Fi, warriors!

Scott Huesing

2/4 Association President

From the BN CO Lt. Col Patrick Byrne

Since my last update, we completed our pre-deployment training and certification and were set to deploy to Okinawa in May as the Ground Combat Element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our departure was delayed, and we ultimately deployed in June. Upon our arrival in Okinawa, we did an initial period of quarantine and then transitioned to conducting sustainment training and preparing to integrate with the other elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force in preparation for embarkation. Concurrently, Battalion Landing Team 2/4 composited, whereby the battalion attached Charlie Battery from 1/11, an engineer platoon from 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, a light armored reconnaissance platoon from 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and an AAV platoon from 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion. During our training in preparation for embarkation, we had some Marines and Sailors test positive for COVID-19 but, fortunately, nobody developed serious symptoms, and everyone quickly returned to full duty.

We embarked the ships of the USS AMERICA Amphibious Ready Group (USS AMERICA (LHA-6), USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD-18), and USS GERMANTOWN (LSD-42)) in August and immediately transitioned to conducting Amphibious Integration Training, followed by the MEU's Certification Exercise. During both exercises, the Marines conducted full mission profile rehearsals of amphibious raids and other operations we may be required to execute during our time afloat. Without fail, the Marines performed exceptionally and earned a well-deserved reputation for professionalism and tactical proficiency with the senior Navy and Marine commanders.

Following CERTEX, we sailed for Guam and participated in Exercise VALIANT SHIELD with other naval forces from the United States Seventh Fleet. During the exercise, several Marines from across Battalion Landing Team 2/4 went ashore to conduct a fire support exercise on Farallon de Medinilla. Following VALIANT SHIELD, the ships pulled into Guam for a few days; however, nobody was able to go ashore due to COVID-19 concerns.

We returned to Okinawa in October and began preparations for our redeployment back to Camp Pendleton. We will be redeploying shortly - our advance echelon departed shortly after we disembarked from amphibious shipping. Due to a temporary billeting shortfall resulting from all four battalions in the 5th Marine Regiment being back at the same time, and 2/4 being the last battalion to return to Camp Pendleton, the Marines will be billeted in Camp Horno with the 1st Marine Regiment for a few months. The battalion staff will still work out of our normal CP, but we will be splitting time between Camp San Mateo and Camp Horno. As you can imagine, the Marine and Sailors are very eager to get back to the States and have an opportunity to see their family and friends during some well-deserved post-deployment leave. Given the impact of COVID-19, this deployment has been unique; nonetheless, the Magnificent Bastards persevered and built upon the stellar reputation of those who have gone before them.

Thank you for your continued support to the Marines and Sailors of the Magnificent Bastards – it is truly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Pat Byrne

Bastard 6

Greetings Magnificent Bastards, Families, Friends, and Supporters,

With the deployment nearing its end, we can be proud of the enormous accomplishments of the Marines and Sailors of the Battalion Landing Team. The unit exceeded every benchmark and expectation, sometimes during trying conditions. The Fall Patrol has been an enormously successful iteration and each and every one of you should be proud of your Marine or Sailor. We are now shifting our focus to our return to Okinawa and preparations for our re-deployment to Camp Pendleton. The Marines and Sailors are proud of what they have accomplished and are very much looking forward to getting home.

COVID mitigation considerations remain a reality for us. Sadly, we were forced to cancel this year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Further instructions regarding the reception of our re-deployment flights will be passed by our Deployment Readiness Coordinator, Mark Sperling as we get closer to the end. Once again, I thank you for your support to the Marines and Sailors of the Battalion Landing Team. It has meant a great deal to us and has enabled all of our successes.

Pat Byrne
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Battalion Landing Team 2/4
"The Magnificent Bastards"
Headquarters and Service Company

Echo Company

September has been a productive month for the Marines and Sailors of Headquarters and Service Company. The company spent the first few days getting acquainted with life on ship by familiarizing themselves with the Navy's customs and courtesies, ship orientation, and getting their sea legs. For the rest of the month the company was hard at work supporting the battalion during the 31st MEU's training exercises while at sea. The Marines and Sailors have also improved themselves professionally through Lance Corporal Seminar, Corporal's Course, and advancement in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

It has not been all work as the Marines and Sailors have had multiple opportunities to take part in numerous MWR morale events such as game tournaments, movie nights, ice cream socials, and many more. The company has also been able to stay fit with a robust physical fitness spaces. They also have eaten well in the mess hall with a variety of delicious, healthy, quality food.

The following Marines were promoted in September:

Lance Corporal
LCpl Keane Communications Platoon
LCpl McGirth Communications Platoon
Corporal
Cpl. Anunciacion Supply Section
Cpl. Aspeitia Logistics Section
Cpl. Castro Engineer Platoon
Cpl. Hill Communications Platoon
Cpl. Keener Logistics Section
Cpl. Liner Communications Platoon
Cpl. Perez Logistics Section
Cpl. Reeve Logistics Section

Captain

Captain Wilcock III Headquarters Platoon

Also, a congratulations to Hospital Corpsman Third Class (HM3) Azimihashemi, who was recognized on the USS America as the ship's Warrior of the Week!

As we prepare for our disembarkation from ship next month the Marines and Sailors have worked tirelessly around the clock to make sure all the battalion's people and their equipment are transported off the ship and to Camp Hansen safely. Separation from our loved ones is never easy but the Marines and Sailors are looking forward to communicating with their families upon return to Okinawa next month.

**Semper Fidelis,
Alvin McBride
Captain, USMC
Echo Company**

September has been a busy month for the Marines and Sailors of Echo Company. From adjusting to ship life, to conducting a variety of training events, the Company has successfully accomplished a slew of tasks and exercises. I couldn't be more proud of each of our Marines and Sailors. What they have accomplished individually has directly contributed to the company's collective successes.

Echo Company (also known as "Helo Company" for the 31st MEU) has been embarked aboard the USS AMERICA for the past month. In short time the company quickly adapted to the nuances of ship life, and began partnering with both Navy and Marine Corps entities in preparation for two major training exercises; Amphibious Integration Training (AIT) and the 31st MEU's Certification Exercise (CERTX). Aside from day to day infantry centric training, the company also partnered with VMM-262 to conduct helicopter egress training fast roping and hoist operations. In mid-August the company conducted a live-fire combat marksmanship range utilizing the elevator for the ship, and in late August the company partnered with the Navy's MH-60 detachment, HSC-25 DET 6, to conduct live fast roping.

Throughout August the Marines and Sailors of Echo Company also led the execution of two major training exercises: AIT and CERTX. Both training events afforded the company the opportunity to plan, coordinate and execute a helicopter borne airfield seizure during the day and night. The company performed in an exemplary manner, and their competence, professionalism and aggression was recognized by leadership across the MEU. Echo's completion of CERTX directly contributed to the MEU's certification by Expeditionary Operations Training Group to respond to contingencies and crisis throughout the Indo-Pacific Theater of operations.

September ended with the 31st MEU joining the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group for exercise Valiant Shield, followed by a short port visit in Guam. While the COVID-19 Pandemic did not afford our Marines and Sailors the opportunity to debark, they were able to take in an incredible view from the flight deck during daily PT, and experience the might of the "Blue/Green Team". Echo Company is currently working through planning and coordination of another upcoming exercise. I'm continuously impressed by their work ethic, esprit de corps and complete professionalism.

When not planning or actively training aboard ship, rest assured they are maximizing use of two large gyms, a challenging Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, and a phenomenal navy diet aboard the AMERICA. Additionally, the company is proud to congratulate the following Marines for their outstanding achievements:

Lance Corporal Seminar Graduates:

LCpl Austin M. Coffey

LCpl Garrett C. Cross

LCpl Simon C. Derby

LCpl Michael A. Edmund
LCpl Dylan L. Garret
LCpl Nicholas J. Long
LCpl Andrew E. Rakes
Corporals Course Graduates:
Cpl. Nanyaanwar F. Anaciusel
Cpl. Zachary A. Asher
Cpl. Alexander W. Baldwin
Cpl. Caleb Bates
Cpl. Regan J. Carlson
Cpl. Casey A. Chappell
Cpl. Jacob T. Green
Cpl. Donovan S. Guccione
Cpl. Brendan C. Jennings
HM3 Chase Jones
Cpl. Patrick M. Nugent
Cpl. Matthew T. Nyquist
Cpl. Andrew T. Pullman
Cpl. William A. Renfro
Cpl. Matthew J. Sanchez
Cpl. Alexander C. Tong

The following Marines were also promoted during the past month:

Sgt Daniel S. Munoz
Cpl. Reno B. Kennedy
Cpl. Matthew J. Sanchez
Cpl. Anthony R. Peters
Cpl. Alexander C. Tong
Cpl. Steve Willory

As mid-October fast approaches, so too does the end of our 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit 20.2 patrol.

The company will soon be steaming back to Okinawa where your Marines and Sailors will be able to reach back home more regularly. As always, thank you for your continued support. It certainly makes a difference for your Marines and Sailors.

Semper Fidelis,
Daniel Crain
Captain, USMC
Fox Company

Greetings from the land of the rising sun. As the Marines say, "the days go by slow, but the weeks go by fast." I am proud to report that your Marines are in high spirits and have made September a good month aboard the USS New Orleans.

We started the month finishing up some exercises that led to our certification as an Amphibious Readiness Group Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marines were often times covered in sweat moving around 1000 plus lbs. boats in preparation for boat raids. Conducting stern gate launch/recovery was a new one for Fox Company and your Marines performed superbly, please ask them about it.

Middle and last part of the month consisted of numerous classes, martial arts training, and stress shoots. Non-Commissioned Officers have been giving classes to squads and platoon since our arrival. They are well rehearsed and have sustained and expanded our skills in relation to warfighting, history, and general comradery. Likewise, many marines have taken the opportunity to “belt up” within the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. Many hours of ground fighting and leadership development have certainly made your Marines more lethal. Lastly, your Marines performed exceptionally well during an exclusive Paddle Battle Stress Shoot they created for the Navy and others to participate. See results of the paddle below along with other noteworthy events.

The following are Paddle Battle buddy pair winners in Fox Company:

First Place: Cpl. Agrillo/LCpl Thain, Fox 3rd (1 min 35 sec)

Second Place: 1stLt Gonzales/SSgt Tauch, Fox Wpns (1 min 49 sec)

Tied Third: Cpl. Collazo/Cpl. Snyder, Fox 3rd (1 min 52 sec)

Tied Third: LCpl Livingston/LCpl Rodriguez, L. Fox 3rd (1 min 52 sec)

The following Marines graduated from Corporal Course:

Cpl. Christopher Andrade First Platoon

Cpl. Seth Swanson Headquarters Platoon

Cpl. Cameron Thorp Headquarters Platoon

Cpl. Jacob Corey Third Platoon

The following Marines were promoted during the past month:

Sgt Logan Campostrini First Platoon

Sgt Timothy Trewyn First Platoon

Sgt Jeffrey Treadway Weapons Platoon

The following Marines and their spouses welcomed newborns into the family:

Cpl. Ethan Swyers Baby – Emmett Swyres

We look forward to returning to daily contact with you as we move closer to Okinawa and back on Camp Hansen. We cannot wait to start the holidays and be reunited with those we fight for.

Semper Fidelis,

Alan Poe

Captain, USMC

Golf Company

September was a great month for the Marines and Sailors of Company G. After embarking Amphibious Ready Group shipping, we supported several training exercises designed to ensure the readiness of our Navy/Marine team. The bulk of the Company has been embarked aboard USS GERMANTOWN while Third Platoon was embarked aboard USS AMERICA, and the Assault Amphibian Platoon remained at Camp Schwab, Okinawa. In addition to supporting exercises in the region, we accomplished a significant amount of shipboard training. Our Marines and Sailors expended more than 60,000 rounds of ammunition off the deck of the USS GERMANTOWN, conducted martial arts training, and many participated in formal military education.

The following Marines were promoted during the past month:

Capt. William Montgomery Hqtrs Platoon

HM3 William Dallas 1st Platoon

Cpl. Hunter Robinson Hqtrs Platoon

Cpl. Dan Jauregui AAV Platoon

Cpl. Shawntray Watson 3rd Platoon

Cpl. Larkin Walters Weapons Platoon

As we move into October, we remain ready and focused on our assigned mission while simultaneously setting conditions for our return. I could not be more proud of our Marines and Sailors for what they have accomplished in the face of such uncertainty. I also could not be more proud of you for what you have done to support your family and your Marine or Sailor through a deployment during a global pandemic. I want you to know that your tremendous sacrifice and contributions at home are paramount to the success of your Marine or Sailor while forward deployed. Thank you for your continued love and support of the Marines and Sailors of Company G.

Semper Fidelis,
Jesse Moyles,
Captain, USMC
Weapons Company

The last month has gone by quickly for the Marines and Sailors of Weapons Company. Spread across all three ships that define our Amphibious Readiness Groups the unit has been active across area of operations. Marines on the USS AMERICA, NEW ORLEANS, and GERMANTOWN have participated in several Marine Expeditionary Unit exercises designed to sharpen the forces ability to integrate with the Navy and conduct a variety of different mission sets across the range of military operations.

When not directly involved with higher headquarters tasking, the Marines and Sailors have participated in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, "Deck Shoots" with personal and crew serve weapon systems, conducted fast rope operations, aerial gunnery, and an indirect fires exercise on a remote, uninhabited island. The training sustained individual skills and kept the Marines engaged while afloat.

The following Marines graduated from Lance Corporal Seminar:

LCpl Steffan Juste 81s
LCpl David Rendon 81s
LCpl Alex Shibler 81s
LCpl Jeremiah Silva 81s
LCpl Carl Shelton CAAT1
LCpl Graham Peterjohn CAAT1

The following Marines were promoted during the past month:

Cap.t Ian Anderson 81s
Sgt Clayton Cambell SSP
Sgt Austin RobertsDaniel SSP
Cpl. Shiloh Basgall CAAT1
Cpl. Deshawn Brown CAAT1

The following Marines and their spouses welcomed newborns into the family:

2ndLt Alex Macki Baby - Quinnley Joanne
LCpl Preston Harcum Baby - Peyton Rae

As we move into October and the back side of our 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit patrol and deployment we will be heading back to Okinawa where your Marines and Sailors will be able to reach back home more regularly.

Semper Fidelis,
Ben Wearing
Captain, USMC
Charlie Battery

The last month has gone by quickly for the Marines and Sailors of Charlie Battery. The battery has been busy, and the Marines and Sailors have adjusted to ship life extremely well.

The battery has had the opportunity to participate in multiple live fire exercises on the flight deck and around the ship. Integrating with the Navy and enhancing our effectiveness to operate as a battery. Charlie has also been busy bettering themselves in other areas such as Marine Corps Martial Arts, Professional Military Education, Physical Training, and Tactical Decision Games.

The Marines and Sailors of Charlie battery have also practiced reinforcing a notional embassy where they flew via helicopter from ship to the embassy. While at the embassy the battery practiced securing it, riot and crowd control operations, and evacuation operations.

The following Marines graduated from Lance Corporal Seminar:

LCpl Tyler Swinford Btry C

The following Marines graduated from Corporal's course:

Cpl. Arthur Alcazar

Cpl. Jai Brown

Cpl. Deondre Dennard

Cpl. Joe Cuellar

Cpl. Edgardo Lopez Jr

Cpl. Daniel Lu

Cpl. Westly Martin

Cpl. Caleb Williams

Cpl. Dalton Zehring

The following Marines were promoted during the past month:

Cpl. Ezra Escobedo

Cpl. Anselmo Gomezlopez

Cpl. Pookela Naliieluaahloo

Cpl. Santos Reyna

Cpl. Zachary Smith

Cpl. Andrew Tiffin

Cpl. Jacob Toms

Semper Fidelis,

Richard Lynch

Captain, USMC

2020 Magnificent Bastard Awards

LtCol Joseph "Bull" Fisher Leadership Award – Capt. Thomas B. Wilcock III

SgtMaj Joseph J. Ellis Leadership Award – SSgt Vincent M. Glancy

SgtMaj "Big John" Malnar Leadership Award – Sgt Matthew R. Eichel

Sgt Paul H. Foster, LCpl Joe C. Paul & LCpl Jed C. Barker Leadership Award – LCpl Jesse J. Harp

HMCS Walter "Doc" Gorsage Leadership Award – HM2 Nilo Deguira

2020 MAGNIFICENT BASTARDS REUNION

Members and guests of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association were afforded a delightful setting for the 2020 reunion hosted by Kimberly and Scott Huesing at their ranch in Temecula, California on October 10.

Due to the Corona virus, the 2/4 Association had to cancel our original plan to have this year's reunion in the California Bay Area. This Magnificent Bastard's reunion, although quite pared down in size, filled the need for renewed social contact among friends which is so essential to our 2/4 family at this unusual and sometimes, dark, and sad time for many. As always, when friends are together, the sounds of laughter, music, stories can be heard, and many hearts are lightened, and hope becomes so much brighter.

Every precaution was taken to protect the health of the attendees to this event. Guests had their temperature taken, were given a face masks if they needed it and encouraged to use the hand sanitizers. Appropriate social distancing was prioritized in the placement chairs and in the tables when mealtime commenced.

The afternoon events started with a lovely cocktail party at the pool where friendships were renewed and new faces from the past and active duty were introduced and warmly welcomed. An array of beverages and snacks were provided including a basket of carrots for the horses, dogs or perhaps, for the vegetarians in the group?

Following the cocktail hour, we proceeded to the outside barn area where President, Scott Heusing remarked on the importance of our regular gatherings of the Marines represented at this event; Viet Nam era veterans who were the first to establish the 2/4 Association as a means to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Battle of Dai Do, the Ramadi era Marines, which Scott represents and the current Iraq, Afghanistan and active duty Marine Corps.

In addition, Scott spoke of an organization known as Save The Brave that was represented at the reunion by its founder, Nick Velez and many other individuals, friends and neighbors that mutually support both the 2/4 Association and STB an organization the helps veterans deal with post-traumatic stress through outreach programs such as their popular fishing trips for veterans and bolstering Gold Star families and also families that are healing from the effects of veterans who have committed suicide.

Among those recognized were:

Second Battalion/Forth Marines Deployed at the Pacific Rim

Members of The Magnificent Bastards who have passed away, Heather and Joe Juliani - POV Coffee, Bobbie and Tony Valenti and their daughters, Kimberly and Baily Heusing, Nick Velez and his bartender from Bastard's Canteen, and Jerry Gilbert - Honorary Magnificent Bastard.

The meeting ended with saying the "Pledge of Allegiance" and prayer led by Frank Valdez.

Scott mentioned the importance of financial support for Save the Brave and the important work that is being done for veterans every day by this group.

Members were served delicious barbecue from Bastard's Canteen. Live music and dancing were enjoyed at the final hours of this 2020 - 2/4 Reunion.

Please watch the live presentation here.

<https://youtu.be/WDmb2N0IFPU>



Save The Brave Mask



Huesing Barn/Barn



Teresa Del Rio, Scott Huesing, Frank Valdez, Nghia Nghe



LeLe



Sherman



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

1. Horse d'oeuvres 2. Levi 3. Anthony, Nghia, unkn 4. Russ Parker, ? 5.? 6. ?, Ray Del Rio 7. Becky Valdez, Nick Velez 8. Special cookies, Hero's Vodka

It is ok, to not be ok. Reach out for help. One conversation can change a life.

Veterans Crisis Line: Text 838255

Suicide Prevention Line: (800) 273-TALK (8255)