



Unit, Personal & Family Readiness Quarterly Newsletter for Blount Island



1st Quarter, 2014

Edition 7

~Command Team~

- **Commanding Officer**
Col Matthew Crabill
904-696-5100
- **Headquarters
Company Commander**
Major Miguel Toledano
904-696-5374
- **Senior Enlisted
Advisor**
1stSgt Trace Bolding
904-696-5058
- **Deputy FRO**
MGySgt Anthony Tabron
904-696-5053
- **Advisors/ Assistants**
Mrs. Shanna Beehler
Mrs. Arlene Tabron
- **MCLC FRO**
Mrs. Salina McBride
229-364-3315
- **Single Marine Rep**
Sgt Karl Siefken
904-696-5448
- **Chaplain**
Mayport Quarterdeck
904-270-5401

~In This Issue~

- E-Marine
- Upcoming Events
- Available Resources

www.bic.usmc.mil



Commanding Officer's Comments

As we welcome in a New Year it is with great anticipation that I look forward to all that's in store for our unit. Collectively we accomplished much and triumphed over every obstacle during 2013, therefore I'm confident the same spirit of teamwork will be our source of inspiration and strength no matter the challenge. Stay the course and remain focus continues to be the resounding guidance relayed from our senior leadership. Our collective efforts continue to produce extraordinary results as we pursue operational and administrative excellence despite the enormous personnel, and fiscal challenges throughout the Corps. As we enter into this New Year, personal dedication and collective focus toward mission accomplishment continues to be the common drumbeat. Not content to rest on our past successes, our leaders continue to inspire their Marines and Sailors to greater levels of success.

Speaking of success, let's not forget our Family, friends, and volunteers who continue to be the mark of success, and deserve our sincere thanks for their unwavering commitment. Mission accomplishment and safety remain priority one, as we press forward into 2014, providing steady reliable support to the war fighter. It is an honor and a privilege to lead this phenomenal team of Marines and Sailors.

**Semper Fidelis,
Col Matthew R. Crabill**



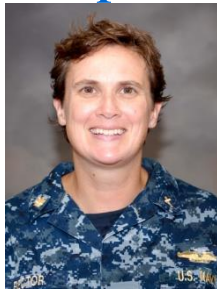
First Sergeant's Comments

Command Family,

I would like to take a moment to wish you all a Happy 2014 New Year. Do not forget to take advantage of your educational benefits that are currently available. In the past year, great amounts of turbulence have questioned if the tuition assistance program would continue or dissolve. At the moment, it is still holding strong. If you have already met your required PME it is another way to show the Marine Corps that you are trying to improve, which in the end can make you more promotable. Take a moment to think of everything that you have during this holiday season and take the time to let those that mean so much to you know it.

**Semper Fidelis,
1stSgt Trace M. Bolding**

Chaplains Corner



A church member, who previously had been attending worship services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening and the minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself at home but said nothing. In the silence, he watched the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was gone. Soon, it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the sermon; I will be back in church next Sunday". I've always found it amusing when people give me unsolicited justifications why they don't go to church. I've been in line at the commissary, in my uniform, and had the person in front of me blurt out why they don't go to church. "Hey man, I'm just here to pay for my milk and cereal; no judgment here." Most give me their excuses within the first 30 seconds of entering my office.

The top two reasons, according to all of this spontaneous information, why people don't go to church is #2, the church is full of hypocrites. My response to this one is usually, "Well, you should go to church, because I think you'd fit right in." We're all hypocrites, me included. The #1 reason people tell me why they don't go to church, "Chaps, I can worship God anywhere; the golf course, the beach, fishing, etc..." To this I usually ask them, "But do you really, and asking God to help you make par or land the big one doesn't count; and taking His name in vain really doesn't count."



EFMP Office
Quantico, VA



571-931-0524
EFMP Website
www.quantico.usmc-
mccs.org
Robin White
571-931-0526



We try to do a lot of things on our own, and I personally feel that with the saturation of all of this technology we have become even more removed from fellowshiping with others. I remember my first deployment to Afghanistan; there were no internet connections other than on our work computers, and even that was not reliable. As a battalion, we did several BBQ events that included group sports, and there was a lot of card and board game playing going on, especially over at the Danish USO club. By my second deployment they had Wi-Fi available in the living spaces. Once the Marines and Sailors were through with their work you wouldn't see them again until their next shift.

The majority of us fall into that false notion that we can do everything on our own; worship, learning, working, living, even dealing with our problems. Problem is we weren't created to be alone; if we were, then why did God create so many people? Genesis 2:18 says, "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'" Most people have heard this during a wedding ceremony, but it goes further than just talking about marriage, at its heart it tells us that two are better than one (Eccl 4:9), and sometimes, 3 or 4 or 5 is better than 2. The writer of Proverbs gives us all some great advice when he says, "Loners who care only for themselves spit on the common good" (Proverbs 18:1 from *The Message Bible*). Going it alone can quickly get us into trouble. Even Jesus, who chose 12 disciples to follow him around, sent out 72 disciples in pairs (Luke 10).

It's a new year, and perhaps you made a resolution to get back into church, or synagogue, or mosque. I encourage you to stick to that resolution. Or perhaps you've been struggling with something, a problem or a decision, trying to handle it all on your own, but you've gotten nowhere, except maybe in a deeper hole. This year, instead of going it alone try asking for help from your spouse, family, friends, co-workers, your faith community, or a chaplain. As the author of Ecclesiastes reminds us: "It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps. But if there's no one to help, tough! By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 from *The Message Bible*).

May God bless each of you in this new year.

Lt. Karen Rector
Staff Chaplain
CNSL Ministry Center, Mayport



As members of the Military Family Team there are many resources that are available to you and your families. The Family Readiness Command Team is here to support you and assist you in any way that we can.

Contact us:

Email:

smbbicfro@bic.usmc.mil

!

Upcoming Events

April's Volunteer Appreciation

June Family Fun Day

Please contact me with questions about any upcoming events.



Deputy FRO's Comments

Families and Friends,

One resolution I have made and will try to keep is to rise above the little things. Build on yesterday's success, and learn from yesterday's failures. Live in today! The main thing is that you all are doing an amazing job. On looking back, September was a busy month as we celebrated our Hispanic Heritage and ROTO 4 redeploying. So I say thank you for serving, there is no "one good day" to be a Marine. There is no "one day" better than any other. Let's congratulate the individuals that participated in and supported the Marine Corps 1/2 Marathon and 5K Run, Hoorah! It is always an honor to be a part of the Marine Corp Birthday, where Marines and Family came together to celebrate 238 years. HOORAH!! I would like to thank everyone for their participation at the Holiday Party; it is always good to make someone smile during that time of year. With the utmost appreciation, we would like to thank MajGen Broadmeadow (Mrs. Broadmeadow), and SgtMaj Davenport (Mrs. Davenport) for extending a visit to Blount Island Command. Let us all stay alert and safe as we move into this New Year.

Families, friends, and volunteers, again thanks for all you do. The support you give to your Marines and Sailors help drive our mission success. THANKS!!!

Anthony L. Tabron Sr.
Deputy Family Readiness Officer, Blount Island

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man.

~ Benjamin Franklin ~

**Make A Difference
Get Involved!"**



Get Motivated!!



Single Marine Program Coordinator (SMP)



I would first like to wish everyone and their families a very happy new year. I hope 2014 brings joy and prosperity in all you accomplish both personally and professionally. As stated in last quarters' newsletter, the SMP has decided to focus the majority of its volunteer efforts towards Don Brewer Elementary School beginning January 23, 2014. We plan to make this a bi-weekly effort for the children. We will also be rendering services at the local food bank (Second Harvest) helping to distribute food to those less fortunate in the poverty stricken areas of Duval county and surrounding areas. I am very happy to announce we have just received our stamp of approval to request funding for our quarterly and monthly events beginning with paintball for the month of February and ending this quarter with a trip to Kennedy Space Center in early March 2014. I, along with the Single Marines and Sailors, are extremely excited to finally see this program take flight in what has been a long battle to make happen. I also want to thank everyone involved aiding in our efforts to get the program where it is today and the positive place I know it will be in the coming months. We have changed our monthly SMP meetings to be held at various locations throughout Jacksonville to the 1st Thursday of each month at 1500. February's meeting will be held at Salt Life Food Shack located at 1018 3rd St N, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250. All are welcome to attend.

Karl A. Siefken
Single Marine Coordinator, Blount Island



WELCOME ABOARD!



MSgt Major
GySgt Hall
Sgt Vanek

HM3 Smith
HM1 Pate
HM1 Schupback

Retirement Ceremony for MGySgt Marbary (Dec, 2013)





BRAVO ZULU



Promotions

CWO3 Mendoza
Sgt McFate
HM1 Schupback

Awards

Navy Commendation Medal:

GySgt Barrett

Navy Achievement Medal:

Sgt Barnett

Sgt Ford

Sgt Robertson

Retirements

MGySgt Marbary

GySgt Barrett

Sgt Kruger

Re-Enlistments

MSgt Tellis

SSgt Hecker

Sgt Carolino



CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

LtCol Kissoon
MGySgt Whiteside

MSgt Schmarje
HA Wollett



RECENTLY RETURNED WELCOME HOME!!!!

CWO3 Christopher Moore

Ssgt Justin Chandler

Sgt Peyton Hebert

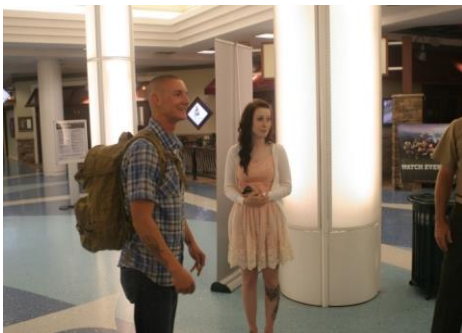
Sgt Daniel Nguyen

Sgt Michael Stull

HM2 Justin Lachney



ROTO 4 Home Coming



The Prayers of Officers

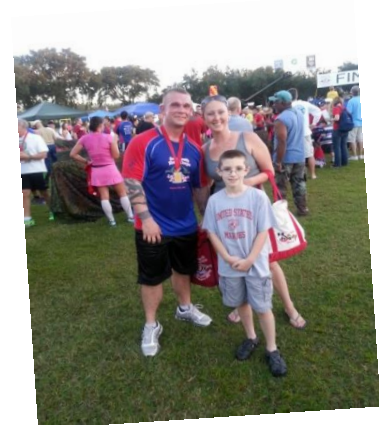
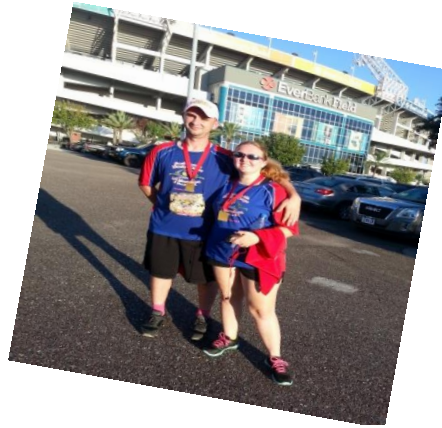
One day, three O-3s were hiking together and unexpectedly came upon a wide, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so. The **Air Force Captain** called out to God, praying, "Please God; give **me** the strength to cross this river."....POOF! God gave **him** big arms and strong legs and **he** was able to swim across. It did, however, take **him** more than an hour and **he** almost drowned a couple of times. Seeing this, the **Army Captain** prayed to God saying, "Please God, give **me** the strength and tools to cross this river....POOF! God gave **him** a rowboat and oars. **He** was able to row across but it an hour, it was very rough and **he** almost capsized several times. The **Navy Lieutenate** saw how things worked out for the other two, so when **he** prayed to God, **he** said, "Please God, give **me** the strength, tools, and the intelligence to cross this river. POOF! God turned **him** into a **Marine Sergeant**. **He** looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, and walked across the bridge.



This quarter in photos

Marine Corps 1/2 Marathon and 5K Run









MAKE YOUR SPONSOR, SPONSOR YOU!!!!!!

Below is a list of benefits that you will receive from registration

- Access to command calendar information
- Access to photos taken at command events
- Point of contact information for command family readiness team
- DSTRESS access
- Local resource information
 - o And the list goes on.... Register today!!!!!!

Here's The Latest eMarine News!!!

The eMarine Mobile View is now live! To access the eMarine mobile you must use a mobile device (a mobile phone or tablet) when you go to www.emarine.org <<http://www.emarine.org>> . Remember that you will use your current eMarine login user name and password to login to the mobile view.

Some tablets are identified as microcomputers, which means that depending on the mobile tablet that you use and its operating system, you maybe be taken to the full eMarine site. If that is the case, all you have to do is click on the "Display Mobile View" link located in the footer of the eMarine page.

If you use an iPhone to access the eMarine Mobile View and the page and banner looks distorted, all you have to do is back out of eMarine, clear your internet cache (history and cookies), close and reopen your internet browser and access eMarine.org.

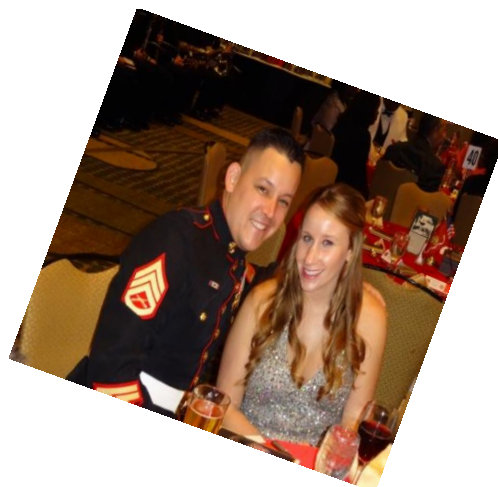
**Marine Corps Ball
2013**



"Happy 238th Birthday



“Semper Fi Marines”



Holiday Party 2013



Resources to Know



Military OneSource

Great 24/7 resource available online to all military service members and DoD employees.

Topics include: financial, deployment, reintegration, moving and much more. You can sign-up for newsletters, request counseling and take personal assessments; all in one place.

Services are private, confidential and FREE! Military OneSource's goal is to provide tools and resources to support our entire military community.

www.militaryonesource.mil

Single Marine Program

The Single Marine Program was established to provide a forum for Marines to identify quality of life ideas and issues and recommend solutions, after all change starts from the bottom up. Through participation in the planning and coordination of programs and activities Marines have a direct influence in their execution.

Come join motivated single Marines. The Blount Island Cmd representative is Sgt Siefken.

D-STRESS

From the everyday stressors of life to the stressors related to combat, stress can affect even the strongest Marine.

The DSTRESS Line was developed by the Marine Corps to provide professional, anonymous counseling for Marines, attached Sailors, and families when it's needed the most. [1-877-476-7734](tel:1-877-476-7734)

USO of the Greater Jacksonville area

– The Greater Jacksonville area USO exists to serve those who so courageously serve our nation. They extend the welcoming touch of home to members of the armed forces and their families throughout Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

<http://jaxuso.org/>

Blount Island Command Website

–Our website includes many links to make the transition into our Command smoother for our new members and their families.

www.bic.usmc.mil

Fleet and Family Support Centers

There are support centers available at both Mayport and NAS Jacksonville. The support centers host events, and offer a variety of classes to include anger management, parenting, and financial planning.

www.cnmc.navy.mil/mayport/FleetAndFamilyReadiness/index.htm

www.cnmc.navy.mil/jacksonville/FleetAndFamilyReadiness/index.htm