



22d MEU



Family Readiness Newsletter

November/December 2011

THE *Holiday* **EDITION**

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"It's the most wonderful time of the year!"



Well, except homecoming. And the birth of a child. And your wedding day. And...

Ok, so it's a really neat time of the year.

Marine Family Readiness



From the Commanding Officer



*"The Marines
and Sailors
continue to
make the
impossible,
possible..."*



Family and Friends of 22d MEU,

The Sergeant Major and I wish you a healthy and happy holiday season! Please continue to remain full of energy to ensure the final months of the deployment are as successful and rewarding as the past eight months. The Marines and Sailors continue to make the impossible, possible – and you contribute to that effort each and every day. Thank you!

Since the last letter, the MEU has come back together. I must say it was great to see the Marines and Sailors embarked aboard Mesa Verde once again on the horizon. Operationally, we remain fully engaged with planning and executing operations in support of contingencies, exercises and sustainment training – this area is busy and the MEU is not wanting for something to do. We continue to find ways to balance our assigned missions and opportunities for liberty – recently the MEU has visited such places as Corfu, Greece; Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates; and Manama, Bahrain. We're not the only ones having fun, the Spouses Birthday Ball was enjoyed by all – thanks to all who planned and participated. Although we are keeping busy, we eagerly anticipate seeing everyone at homecoming and it's your continued support that keeps the fires going out here!

Now that we're in the holiday season approaches, please share the time with your family and friends and over-communicate – it's always worth the effort. Letters and packages are always welcome, though there can be delays in transit especially with the holiday season. I recognize the stresses and strains of a long deployment and how it affects everyone, so the 22d MEU Family Readiness Program, led by Frank "The FRO" Smith and the always active and enthusiastic volunteers, will do their best to keep pace with many interesting and enjoyable events.

Finally, our projected return remains early February 2012 – please continue to be vigilant when it comes to electronic and social media sites as rumors and misinformation continue to abound. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Frank at: frank.smith@usmc.mil or by phone in his office at 910-451-0421 or on his cell at 910-382-0896. Another great source of information is the 22d MEU website at: <http://www.marines.mil/unit/22ndMEU/Pages/welcome.aspx>.

As always, we truly appreciate the daily sacrifices you make for your Marine or Sailor. I wish all of you the very best, a festive and peaceful holiday and please keep the faith!

Sincerely,

Col Eric Steidl

The Sergeant Major Speaks

Family and Friends of the 22d MEU,

I hope this message finds all of you well and in good health. There is no need to tell all of you that this deployment has been demanding on your Marines and Sailors. I also know that it has not been easy for the families. I cannot thank you enough for your continued support. Your Marines and Sailors are without a doubt the most professional, dedicated Marines and Sailors I have had the pleasure to serve with.

We are not complete with our mission and I ask that all of you hang in there for a little bit longer. In a few months we will make preparations for our return home. I do not need to tell you that your Marines and Sailors are counting the days.

As the upcoming Holidays draw near I ask that you take the opportunity to find comfort with Friends and Families. We will make every effort to ensure that your Marines and Sailors have an opportunity to celebrate the holidays. There is no way I or the Commanding Officer can take the place of friends and families during the upcoming holidays but we will give it one heck of a try.

Stay strong and remember that you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Happy Holidays

SgtMaj Chapman



*“...find
comfort
with
Friends
and
Families.”*

From the Family Readiness Officer



Family and Friends of the 22d MEU,

With homecoming swiftly approaching, I hope that I can start your holidays with some joyful news!

We have received official correspondence from the 22d MEU Commander that your Marines and Sailors will be returning to Camp Lejeune on the first week of February 2012. We will not receive an exact date until much closer to the return date; however, once we get more information, we will update you accordingly.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause in making travel arrangements but please remember there are many variables that come into play for their return such as security, planning, and weather. Because of a combination of these factors, the MEU will not be able to release a firm return date until we get closer to homecoming.

We want to ensure our Marines and Sailors' safety. This is privileged information. Please utilize Operation Security (OPSEC); i.e., do not put this information on Facebook, social media sites, or release this information to anyone that does not have a need to know. Remember; THE ENEMY IS LISTENING.

As I receive official word in regards to homecoming, I will release that information immediately. Please continue to be patient and understanding while awaiting future updates.

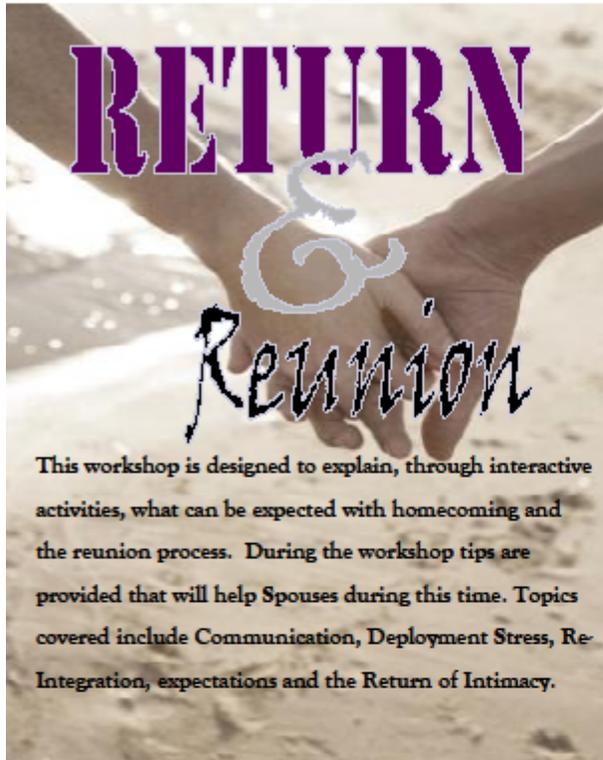
Happy Holidays.

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“Endurance is
patience
concentrated.”

~Thomas
Carlyle





Calling 22D MEU Families

January 7, 2012
9:30am-2:00pm
Marston Pavilion

Workshops are from 9:30-11:30, if you don't have children, please attend the Spouses Return and Reunion. Followed by potluck and banner making. Free child care children 3 and under, for workshop only. **Please RSVP to your FRO with ages of children and potluck dish by January 2, 2012.**

Banner/Sign Making

Join us after the workshops for Potluck and Banner Making. Please bring your favorite dish to share. We will be providing paint and brushes. Bring a sheet and/or whatever you will be making your banner on. Banner/Sign making will be weather permitting because we are doing them outside.

Childcare will begin at 0900. Please to call 450-8467 to make their reservations as soon as possible. All children must be registered with Children, Youth, and Teen Programs at the Resource & Referral Office, Bldg. LCH 4012Butler Drive Midway (910)449-9552/63.



Kids-n-Reunion Workshop

Fun Activities!

Do you want positive ways to help children thru the homecoming process?

Here call your FRO to RSVP!

Chaplain's CORNER

Dear 22d MEU family and friends,

I don't know about you, but sometimes I don't feel very thankful. That may be a surprise for some of you. Chaplains are always supposed to be "up," right? Sometimes, however, when life is chaotic, when nothing seems to be going right, when the deployment seems to just keep going on and on, and when I'm thousands of miles away from my family during the holidays, I just don't feel like being grateful. And that's ok. God does not expect us to put on a happy face all the time. The reality of life right now for the Marines, Sailors, and families of the 22d MEU is not all that fun. This is a long time to be away. We miss you. You miss us. We're well past the halfway mark with this deployment, but time still remains before we come home.

“... GOD
GRANTS US
STRENGTH
AND
ENDURANCE
TO FINISH
WHAT STILL
REMAINS
AHEAD.”

However, this is the time that will make or break us. If we give in to anger, frustration, fear, anxiety, and ingratitude, we have failed the mission—here and back home. Over the next couple of months during the holiday seasons we do need to remember our blessings. This is one way God grants us strength and endurance to finish what still remains ahead. Though at times they may be hard to find, there are a few blessings in all of our lives. Healthy children, good friends, cooler weather, new experiences...whatever big or small thing you can find to be thankful for.

I am reminded of our nation's early history. Times were tough for the early Americans, too. For months before that first Thanksgiving, they suffered unbelievable hardship. We're struggling through a hard time, too, right now, and though we cannot see the end yet, we'll come out on the other side, just like those first Pilgrims.

In 1 Chronicles 16:8-9, we read, "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts." Part of our mission right now—as we continue on—is to remember to be thankful. Even if it's for something small. Being grateful reminds us that God wants to bless us and provide us with wonderful gifts each day. We only have to look around and see them.

So, how can we head into the home stretch of this deployment with grateful hearts? Yes, count your blessings. But also, follow the advice of 1 Chronicles 16:11. "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." If we are looking for Him, we will find strength for the rest of the journey. God gives us something to be thankful for each day (even if all you're thankful for is that the day is over!). Look for your blessing today and find strength for tomorrow.



LCDR Teddy William

22D MEU Chaplain

Volunteer voices & Views



Dec 11, 2011

**Tarawa Terrace /
Softball Fields
2:00pm**

Please wear your Santa Hat, a red or green shirt. We will be playing for fun, so we will mix up the teams. The kids will be playing their own game, so dress them in Santa Hats and green and red shirts. Ornament Exchange, please bring ornament \$5.00 or less.

**22D MEU
MOVIE
WITH SANTA**

**December 3
11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Camp Lejeune Base Theater**



The theater concession stand will be open. Door prizes will be awarded and Santa will hand out a gift to each child after the movie.



Please RSVP your RFO by Nov 21.

TONS OF FUN WAS HAD AT THE DEPLOYED SPOUSES BALL!!!



Section updates

Public Affairs/Combat Camera - GySgt Arthur Rainey and SSgt Wayne Campbell

Over the past several months the Marines of the combined Combat Camera and Public Affairs office have been busy.

Cpl Holt continues to go above and beyond his Military duties as a Combat Videographer and we are excited to announce his long overdue and well-deserved promotion to corporal. **Cpl Raufmann** has reenlisted Oct. 6 for another four years of service and returned to the Bataan after being the only combat photographer on the Mesa Verde. His hard work aboard the Mesa Verde was instrumental in providing the widest possible coverage of all aspects of the MEU.

Cpl Henderson has also reenlisted for another four years and continues to be the steadfast Combat Correspondent on the USS Whidbey Island, covering multiple exercises with BLT 2/2 and CLB 22. **Sgt Blanchard** remains a steadfast force we rely on to tell the story of the 22nd MEU Marines aboard the USS Bataan. Her stories and photos continue to recount the events of the 22nd MEU. She continues to rifle through thousands of photographs and tirelessly lays out and designs the 200-page cruise book, bringing us to about 80 percent completion.

GySgt Rainey remains a steadfast force we all rely on to ensure our office stays in the loop with the MEU units and detachments and BATARG. In addition to his normal duties, **GySgt Rainey** has recently assumed the role as Headquarters Commandant, acting as the liaison between the MEU and the Bataan.

The Combat Camera and Public Affairs office spirits continue to remain high, stay engaged with numerous training opportunities ashore and aboard the ships of the BATARG, and they continually produce a quality product to tell the 22nd MEU's story and show our families, friends and the American public the capabilities of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

Our Marines take pride in updating the 22nd MEU Web site and uploading photos, stories and videos to other sites helping to put the 22nd MEU on the map. We know our families and friends are looking at our Web sites on a daily basis and we didn't want to leave anything out. To see the immense amount of products published, please visit our DVIDS Web site at www.dvidshub.net/units/22meu and our Official Web site www.marines.mil/unit/22ndMEU/Pages/welcome.aspx.



22D MEU FAMILIES AT MIKE'S FARM!

Section updates

S-1 (Administration) - Capt. Michael Beames, Adjutant

As the MEU approaches the end of the deployment, there are a few things you should be mindful of prior to our return. First, incoming mail will be stopped on 27 December. This means any mail sent to the ship after this date will be returned to the Camp Lejeune post office. The mail will be available for pick-up once the MEU returns home. Secondly, once the MEU begins its transit home, the S-1 Section will stop the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion entitlement and the Imminent Danger Pay entitlement. Paychecks will be smaller than what you are used to, so ensure you plan accordingly. If there any questions concerning mail or pay, please ensure your Marine/Sailor contacts the S-1 Section for additional guidance/assistance.

The S-1 Section would like to wish **Sergeant Paszkiet** all the best in his future endeavors. **Sergeant Paszkiet** will depart the MEU this December and begin his new assignment in Quantico. The S-1 would also like to wish **Corporal Lang** all the best as he prepares for his transition for life after the Corps. Both Marines have done an outstanding job for the MEU and the U.S. Naval Service. I couldn't be more proud of the work these outstanding Marines have done. On behalf of the entire S-1 Section, we hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

S-2 (Intelligence) - Maj. Meredith Tobin, Intelligence Officer

We are in the thick of the fall and the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. It seems so long ago that we said goodbye to all our loved ones in Camp Lejeune and made our way to support the Libyan crisis. And just recently when the crisis came to a close with the Transitional National Council in control of Libya, there was a sense of accomplishment in closing of the chapter that started our incredible journey. We were able to mark this significant milestone by having the Mesa Verde and the Intelligence detachment on board transit through the Suez Canal to come join us in 5th Fleet. Through all this, the Marines, whether working in 5th Fleet or 6th Fleet have done a stellar job supporting all the various MEU mission sets and have kept their spirits high and ensuring that we take care of each other.

It's definitely getting to be that time of the year... we're anxiously awaiting the day after Thanksgiving; first and foremost of which is because every day that goes by gets us closer to home. However, the day after our turkey dinner (definitely will not be as good as a home-cooked Thanksgiving), we'll start our holiday decorating. We'll put up a deployment tree, spend some time decorating and sharing stories of our families back home. It will be bittersweet celebrating the holidays but as we continue to execute our mission while forward deployed, we know that there will be many more memories of holidays filled with family and friends when we return home.

Of course, no newsletter update would be complete without a mention of the various promotions and birthdays. Happy birthday to **1stLt Riebe, Cpl Crumley, Cpl Goins, Cpl Steward and LCpl James**. Additionally, celebrating her 0th birthday, **Evelyn Ray Wilbourn** born on 31 October 2011 at 1150. Additionally, **SSgt Rankin, Sgt Johnson and Sgt Marlin** were promoted to their current rank on October 1st. Lastly, a few of the S-2 family have been sent home and they will be assisting in preparing for our return in 2012. **Cpl Gallagher, Cpl Haydon** (who will be PCSing in January) and **MSgt Lee** are now back in Camp Lejeune.

Section updates

Medical - Lt. Jamie Longobardi, Medical Officer

As we gear up for the final stretch of this extended deployment, the medical department is diligently planning and preparing for our much anticipated return, ensuring all health requirements are met and the crew remains healthy and safe.

HM3 Justice and RPSN Larson are anxiously waiting for the much anticipated Navy-wide Advancement results, which are normally released the last week of November or first week of December. In addition, **HM1 Foxworth and HM1 Watts** are busy studying and preparing for their E-7 Navy-wide Advancement examination that is scheduled to take place on January 19, 2012.

As the holiday seasons are fast approaching, on behalf of the medical department, it is with great pleasure; we wish all family members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will

S-3 (Operations) - Lt. Col. Trevor Hall, Operations Officer

The operations section continues to maintain our fast pace since the last newsletter. Since then, the USS MESA VERDE has joined us and we have the entire 22d MEU back together again as the theater reserve for Central Command (CENTCOM).

We have reached the 3/4 mark of the deployment and have recently completed Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) exercises in 4 separate countries. These countries include Djibouti, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, and Bahrain. The events gave us the opportunity to work with our coalition partners to bring strength and stability within the area of operation. The events have been very rewarding for the Marines and Sailors to see positive returns on their efforts and why we are deployed. The TSC events also allow us to conduct sustainment training and maintenance ashore. They kept us very busy, which certainly help the time pass. The USS BATAAN and USS WHIDBEY ISLAND also had the opportunity to conduct much needed port visits.

The MEU continues focus on remaining mission ready to respond to any crisis or national mission task. Some recent activities include ship board live fire training, supporting training ashore, and planning for future training exercises.

We are now reaching the point where we will begin planning our return home. We have plenty of work to do before then, such as conducting vehicle and aircraft wash down and agriculture inspections. We will also be sending select individuals back to CONUS with our quartering party and advance party. Once home, they will work diligently to coordinate and make preparations for our homecoming in early February.

Section updates

S-3 (Operations) - Lt. Col. Trevor Hall, Operations Officer (Cont.)

As the holiday seasons approaches you should be very proud of the Marines in the operations section as they have remained focused and are performing very well. They help plan and control everything the MEU does on a daily basis and strive for the best.

We would like to congratulate the two NCOs from the CBRN section, **Cpl Hembree and Cpl McNeely**, for re-enlisting for another 4 years in our Corps. We also promoted **Sergeant Arnold** on 1 November.

We hope that all of our family members are doing well back home and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

S-4 (Logistics) - Maj. Sean P. Smith, Logistics Officer

Since the last newsletter, the Marines of the S-4 have been busy supporting both training and real world mission requirements. Additionally, the Marines have undergone extensive training, worked numerous support requests, and enhanced their physical fitness. Recently, we enjoyed a much needed liberty port in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which was a welcome break for all from the daily seagoing routine. During this liberty port visit, Marines got to enjoy well deserved time off to relieve some “long deployment” stress while experiencing Arab local culture. This included taking in some home-style cooking, participating in tours, enjoying water parks, amusement parks, sand boarding, diving and many other liberty opportunities while relaxing with friends and perhaps most importantly, having personal time to talk with their loved ones.

Friends, family and loved loves have extended your camaraderie during this deployment by making life-long friendships. Supply and mobility Marines are helping to repair vehicles and mission essential equipment. Motor transport Marines and armorers are helping move supplies and provide support. Friends helping friends has become routine and a way of daily life for the Marines of the S-4.

As we approach this Holiday season, your Marines are looking down the road at the last sustainment training ashore, final wash down, final port visits, all of which as they unfold bring them closer to being physically with their loved ones and their ultimate goal, having a safe and joyous return.

In closing for this holiday season I would like to give you the words of W. C. Jones, “The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other’s burdens, easing other’s loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the Magic of Christmas.”

Section updates

S-6 (Communications) - Maj. Robert Myers, Communications Officer

The end of November marks eight months that 22d MEU has been deployed. Despite the exhaustion that comes with such a lengthy deployment and the monotony that life on ship often presents, Marines in the MEU S-6 continue to do great work. Over the past two months, numerous units within the MEU have gone ashore in Djibouti to conduct training that can't be done on ship. The MEU S-6 has established a small detachment in Djibouti to assist the Marines going ashore, both in the field and at Camp Lemonnier. Additionally, the Marines on ship have been engaged in planning for potential missions in the region, ensuring a state of readiness for which Marines are famous.

At the end of October we had a well earned port visit in Dubai, and it was our first chance to get off of the ship since Greece two and a half months earlier. Most everyone had a great time in Dubai, whether staring up the tallest building in the world, watching skiers at the indoor ski slope in the mall, enjoying great food, or going on a tour in the desert.

Congratulations are due to **Sergeant Taylor**, who was recently selected for promotion to **Staff Sergeant**. **Sergeant Aiken** was recently promoted to **Sergeant** after winning the Command Element NCO of the Quarter board. **Sergeant Allen**, who has been a tremendous addition to the ship's Combat Cargo section, was promoted, as well as **Corporals Allen, Anders, Casey, Mendes, and Neary**. It has been great to see all of these Marines develop during the deployment, and they've come a long way since coming to the MEU nearly a year ago.



The Military Family

UNCLASSIFIED



SECURITY BULLETIN

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense – Reserve Affairs
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
1555 Wilson Blvd., Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 696-1171 x 548
Robert Tizon, Force Protection Officer
roberto.tizon@osd.mil



October 27, 2011

Photocopying of Military Identification Cards



Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC), by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service, have been reported.

Personnel are reminded that the photocopying of US Government Identification is a violation of **Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701** and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment.



Many military members, family members and DoD employees are unaware of this law. Please pass to the lowest level and include in training for force protection, information security and OPSEC.

FPO COMMENTS: Criminal elements and terrorist organizations place U.S. government identifications as a high value logistical element when planning acts against the U.S. military.

Although commercial establishments are not prohibited from asking for military/government identification, many government personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition on duplication of government identification. Unfortunately, there are no safeguards in place to ensure a government identification card won't be counterfeited or "cloned" based on a photocopy by a commercial establishment.

It is recommended that military/DoD personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of the traveler's identification.

***NOTE:** This does not apply to medical establishments (i.e. doctor's office, hospitals, etc...) who are allowed take a copy for the purpose of filing insurance claims; and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.

UNCLASSIFIED

REMEMBER

Should you witness activity that may be criminal or terrorist in nature, contact the Pentagon Force Protection Agency **IMMEDIATELY** at 703-692-2729

Calendar of Events

3 December

Movie with Santa

Camp Lejeune Base Theater

11 AM—2 PM

11 December

MEU Holiday Kickball!

Tarawa Terrace softball field

2 PM

7 January

Return & Reunion Brief/Sign Making Party!

Marston Pavilion

9:30 AM—2 PM

February

HOMECOMING!!!

To RSVP to any of these events

To get more information about the family support group

To get your questions answered

To stay “in the know”.....

Call Your FRO

Useful Information

| Reference | Purpose | Website / Phone |
|--|--|--|
| American Red Cross | Emergency information to Service Members | www.redcross.org or 1-877-272-7337 or Local (910) 347-3581 Camp Lejeune (910) 451-2182 |
| Camp Lejeune Base Housing | Information on how to obtain military housing and check the housing list | www.lejeune.usmc.mil/family_housing.com (910) 450-1627/1628 |
| L.I.N.K.S. | Spouse information. Learn more about the Marine Corps | www.usmc-mccs.org/links/index.cfm |
| MyPay | Pay Statements (LES), and adjust pay | www.dod.mil/dfas/ |
| MOTO MAIL | To send e-letters to deployed service members | www.motomail.us/ |
| Hurricane preparedness | Local Emergency information and help | http://co.onslow.nc.us/emergencyservices |
| Marine Corps Family Team Building | Provides information on resources and services | www.usmc-mccs.org/mcftb/index.cfm (910) 451-0176 |
| Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society | Provides emergency assistance to Families | http://www.nmcrs.org/ (910) 451-5346 Camp Lejeune |
| USO | United Servicemember's Organization | http://www.uso-nc.org/jaxarea.html (910) 455-3411 |
| Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) | Assist with pre and post natal nutrition/support | 2455 Tarawa Terrace (910) 347-3613 |
| Military One Source | No cost professional counseling on any subject. You name it, we can help | http://www.militaryonesource.com 1-800-342-9647 |
| MCCS Lejeune | Services, activities, and events on Camp Lejeune | http://www.mccslejeune.com |
| TriCare | Provides medical resource information | http://www.tricare.osd.mil 1-877-874-2273 |
| New Parent Support Program | Provides information for New Parents | http://www.mccslejeune.com/mcftb/npsp.html (910) 449-9501, Bldg 4012B, Midway Park |
| Relocation Assistance | Incoming/Outgoing moving assistance, loan locker, welcome packages | (910) 451-1055 or 451-1056 |
| Family Member Employment Assistance Program | Provides employment assistance information | 2475 Tarawa Terrace (910) 450-1676 or 4014E, Midway Park (910) 451-3366 |
| Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Information | Information on Base Commands, Schools, Housing, Legal, etc... | http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil |
| Information on any military Installation | Directions, procedures to gain entrance, lodging, childcare | http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil |

**22d Marine
Expeditionary Unit**

Frank Smith, Jr.
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Wwww.lejeune.usmc.mil/2
2meu

We are all excited about our loved ones return. However let us be mindful of the damage sharing dates/times/locations can cause.



OPSEC Guidelines

As a family member of the military community, you are a vital player in our success and we could not do our job without your support. You may not know it, but you also play a crucial role in ensuring your loved ones' safety just by what you know of the military's day-to-day operations. You can protect your loved ones by protecting the information that you know. This is known in the military as, 'Operations Security', or OPSEC.

What is OPSEC?

OPSEC is keeping potential adversaries from discovering critical Department Of Defense information. As the name suggests, it protects US operations - planned, in progress and those completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission more quickly and with less risk. Enemies of freedom want this information, and they are not just after the military member to get it. They want you, the family member.

Unofficial Websites

The posting of pictures and information that is pertinent to your loved ones military unit to personal or family websites has the potential to jeopardize their safety and that of the entire unit. Coordinate with your unit's Family Readiness Officer and have pictures screened before posting. This will ensure that you contribute to OPSEC and keep the force safe.

What Information Is Sensitive?

Examples of Critical Information

The following examples may help you in defining parameters for your communications. It is important to remember that there are many more examples than those listed below:

- Detailed information about the mission of assigned units.
- Details concerning locations and times of unit deployments.
- Personnel transactions that occur in large numbers (e.g., pay information, power of attorney, wills or deployment information).
- References to trend in unit morale or personnel problems.
- Details concerning security procedures.

Little bits of information may seem insignificant. However, to a trained adversary, they are small pieces of a puzzle that highlight what US forces are doing and planning. Remember, the elements of security and surprise are vital to the accomplishment of US goals and collective DOD personnel protection.

Where and how you discuss this information is just as important as with whom you discuss it. An adversary's agents tasked with collecting information frequently visit some of the same stores, clubs, recreational areas or places of worship as you do.

Determined individuals can easily collect data from cordless and cellular phones and even baby monitors using inexpensive receivers available from local electronics stores.