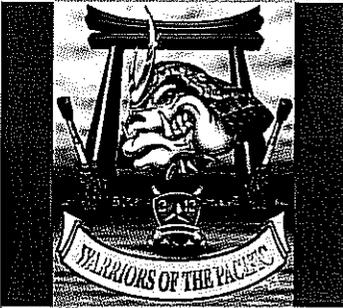


Volume 1, Issue 3

July 22, 2004



3D BATTALION 12TH MARINES 3D MARINES DIVISION

Battalion News

Commander's Message by LtCol Studdard

On behalf of my family and I, thank you to the 3/12 family for welcoming us into the unit. This is a proud battalion with an unsurpassed tradition of victory in battle. It is very evident that the winning spirit and commitment to excellence remains as strong today as it has been in our glorious past. I am honored to serve with such a dedicated team of Marines.

As the 3/12 veterans know, ours is one of the busiest battalions in the Marine Corps. We are bound for Yausubetsu, which is located on the northern most Japanese

island of Hokkaido, and, after a short break in Okinawa, we



LtCol Studdard with wife Melissa, and Daughter Alexis, and son Ward

return to mainland Japan and Mt Fuji for another exercise. Additionally, we have Marines participating in operations from Russia to the Indian Ocean. We also have two of our stellar Marines,

Captain Kevin Moody - Ginny's husband - and Captain Andre Salvanera enroute to Iraq to help fight the war on terrorism. Please keep the Moody family and the rest of our Marines in your thoughts and prayers as we answer the nation's call.

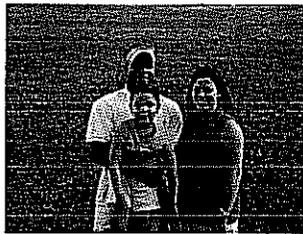
We will soon welcome B 1/11 into our ranks as we bid farewell to M 3/11. For the families of Battery B, your Marines will be well cared for and well trained. Our KVN leader, Ivette Birney will contact you soon and will assist you in any way possible. We welcome you all to our battalion.

Meet Your Key Volunteer

Rachel Esprit

My name is Rachel Esprit. I was born and raised in the Dayton Ohio area. I studied Psychology at Wright State University. When I was a student at WSU, I met my husband Bryan Esprit. Bryan and I have been married for nearly seven years. We have a 5 year old daughter named Lauren and we are expecting our daughter in September 2004.

we arrived in mid-June. This our first time on Okinawa and we are still in the process of settling in and



Capt. Brian Esprit, Wife Rachael, and Daughter Lauren.

meeting new people, and learning the unique customs of Okinawa.

Jennifer Dorris

My name is Jennifer Dorris, and I am married to Danny Dorris. We have been married ten years, and have two great children, Rebecca Dorris is eight years old and Justin Dorris is six years old. I was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina and my husband was born in East Point, Georgia. My husband and I were married in July 1994, after his first tour here in Okinawa. Then we had our three year tour in North Carolina, where our daughter Rebecca was born. After that we did a three year tour in Abilene, Texas were my husband was a Recruiter and our son Justin was born. From Texas we went to Camp Pendleton, California were I

attended Glendale Career College to get my certification to be a surgical technician. I graduated in June of 2001. We finished our tour in California and decided to come to the beautiful island of Okinawa, to have a chance to experience a different way of life and to see how different parts of the world are, if not for us then for our children. My dream is to someday be a Nurse, but right now I am living part of my dream to see the world and for my children to see and experience all they can. I have to say this is the place to do just that, Okinawa is a great place to be. We have been on island now a little over six months and I really do love Okinawa, there is a lot to do, and see. So if you are just getting here "Welcome" I hope you like it as much as I do.

When the Heart Smiles Written By: RP2 John Paul C. Boulden

“Tac, tac, tac, tac-tac tac-tac-tac”, the sound of the diesel engines roared their mighty voices as a team of five convoyed to the small villages located in the training area of Lop Buri, Thailand during the Cobra Gold 2004 Joint Combined Arms Exercise to offer gifts to the residents as a token of appreciation for their hospitality. Our Previous LtCol Langley, Sergeant Major Paumpai and CPL Livesay joined the 3/12 Religious Ministry Team (RMT) of Chaplain Ianucci and RP2 Boulden in one of four Community Relation Projects (COMRELS) helping to spread friendship, gratitude and respect through the country of Thailand.

For the majority of the month of May the residents of the villages in the training area have patiently endured the passing of loud vehicles, planes and helicopters at all times of the day and night stirring up dust in their usually tranquil neighborhoods. They have seen the 155mm Illumination rounds or “illumes” light up their sky at midnight and have heard the destructive explosions of war created by the artillery batteries of Mike, Alpha, and the Thai Artillery. Their vast cultivated fields have turned into maneuvering areas. However, in the midst of all the discord, the villagers never failed to wave and smile as the convoys passed. Little children flocked on their bicycles and in bare feet to the training areas with awe and excitement and watched from the dirt roads as the batteries set up and tore

down simulating live combat. The waves and smiles filled the Marines and Sailors with feelings of patriotism and gratitude.



LtCol Langley with villagers who live in the Lop Buri training field.

“Mothers waved the tiny hands of their sons and daughters every time we passed.” LCPL Marwitz of the Fire Direction Center recalls.

Upon arrival at the first village, the volunteers dismounted their vehicles in their cam-

ouflage utility uniforms, including flack jackets and kevlar, looking worn and tattered from the training exercise but radiating with joy in their intentions. Sgt Maj Puumpai, a former resident of Thailand who is fluent in both English and Thai, located the Village Elder and asked permission to give gifts to the people as an extension of friendship and gratitude. The Elder responded happily with dignity and instructed the volunteers to leave the gifts with him and he would disseminate them among his fellows. A crowd of villagers gathered as cases of water, bags of rice, over 100 matching shorts and shirts jerseys, and toys including balls, trucks, and educational drawing books were unloaded. “Car-cun-crup...car-cun-ka” (translated as thank you...thank you) and beautiful smiles and waves were received in return.

As the hummers arrived at the second village, located approx 7 kilometers from the first one over rough terrain, the Elder was located while Sgt Maj Puumpai spoke with the little chil-

dren and translated their responses. “I am in fifth grade.” A young girl dressed in shorts and a red polo-styled shirt replied to the Sgt Maj in her native tongue with a smile on her face and in her voice. “I’m eleven,” a little boy excitedly added. “We get out of school at one o’clock.” The fifth grader responded as LtCol Langley jokingly asked why they were not in school at 1300. All present spoke the language of the heart and enjoyed giving over 40 toys and educational books as well as over 100 matching short and shirt jerseys to the children and Elder. As the convoy departed everyone waved and smiled to their newfound friends.

The joyful experience marinated in the hearts and minds of the Marines and Sailors on the long and rough journey back to “the main”. An impact had been made. A cultural exchange had taken place behind the symbol of gifts and gestures. The gifts of friendliness and acceptance freely exchanged between the Marines and Sailors and the residents of Lop Buri displays the love and compassion that people of all cultures share. As the vehicles were parked and the sun hid behind the beautiful mountainous terrain of Thailand, the troops settled back into their workstations. The villagers enjoyed, once again, the quietness and serenity of their neighborhoods. Everyone rested well that evening knowing that more was accomplished than precision training. A deeper meaning of Cobra Gold 2004 was created, making Thailand, “The Land of Smiles”, mean much more than a simple facial expression.

COMMUNITY AWARE- NESS WORKSHOP

Date: Friday August 13th

Location: Courtney Chapel

Time: 1300-1600

Have you ever asked yourself, “What is SOFA STATUS and how does it affect me?” “What are my rights as an American living overseas, does the constitution really work for me under Japanese law?” “Family Advocacy has a certain

reputation—What is the truth behind what we hear and what Family Advocacy really does?” “Are there any programs or interventions for adolescence before they get into trouble?”

Continue on page 3

Congratulations to those who worked hard, and were promoted in this Quarter.

Private First Class

Adrian Martinez
Paul Bradley
Jose Martinez
Tobby Trickey
Christopher Aguirre
Kyle Homer
Chris Hoover
Chris O'Brien
Lawrence Reed
Owen Baumann
Andrew Bregg
Kenneth Brignoni
William Duffy
Miguel Garcia
Joseph Leugers III
Alberto Ocasio
Joshua Settle
Brett Sloggett
Logan Steed
Roy Truitt III
Andre Valmore
Hilton Arrubla Torres
Jason Swift
Cleveland Bullock
Michael Rivera

Lance Corporal

Christopher Stricker
Michael Sawatzky
Cody Peterson
Justin Fichter
Joshua Shelf
Terrynce Adams
Joseph Cagle
Alan Koehler

Corporal

Ethan Sylvester
Nathan Aseltine
Trevor Brown
Armonzo Smith

Religious Program Special

Petty Officer 2nd Class

John Paul C. Boulden

First Lieutenant

Scott Rapin

Captain

John Rojas

Lieutenant Colonel

Christopher Landry
Samuel Studdard

Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Events

July

We will see M 3/11 conducting a turn-over with B 1/11 from Camp Pendleton. Meanwhile Romeo Battery and Marines from HQ Battery will do an artillery exercise in Yausubetsu, located in the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

August

In August, Romeo Battery and the HQ Battery Marines will return from Yausubetsu in the middle of the month. Congratulations, Mike 3/11. They will be returning back to the United States and the remainder of B 1/11 will arrive here. Recovery and maintenance will be short but intense once again because the whole battalion will be getting ready to deploy to Camp Fuji for another month.

September

For most of September and into October the battalion will be deployed to Camp Fuji. While there we will be evaluated on our combat readiness.

October

We can see another exercise in Fuji for Romeo Battery. In fact they might as well not even leave Fuji and do a double header, but we'll see.

Nov. & Dec.

- 4 Nov Battalion Marine Corps Ball
- 13 Nov Division Officer Ball

**Marine of the Quarter
Regiment**

LCpl David M. Burke
Of Romeo Battery

**NCO of the Quarter
For Battalion**

Cpl Joshua P. James
of Mike Battery

**3D Marine Division Sailor
Of the Quarter**

RP2 John Paul C. Boulden
Of 3/12

Meritorious Promotion to Sergeant

Juan A. Martinez
Of Mike Battery

COMMUNITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP Continued

If any of these questions are those you have asked before, this is a workshop you MUST attend. Do not assume you know the answer, come and verify it is correct!

AGENCIES IN ATTENDANCE:

- *Legal
- *Lester Medical
- *Camp Commanders
- *Personal Services Center
- *Substance Abuse Center
- *MCB Base Inspector
- *Family Advocacy
- *PMO

Come listen to what they have to say, but most importantly COME SHARE YOUR ISSUES OR CONCERNS AND BE HEARD**FREE childcare provided onsite, please RSVP for childcare to Ivette Birney 622-8146 or LtCol Bowman 622-9394

** FREE PRIZES/GIVEAWAYS



Marines

The Few. The Proud.

**3D BATTALION 12TH
MARINES 3D MARINES
DIVISION**

Unit 36110
FPO AP 96602-6110

Family Readiness Officer
Major Lagore
623-7762

Chaplain's Office
Chaplain Ianucci
RPSA Arnett
623-7757

Key Volunteer Coordinator
Ivette Birney
622-8146
Ivettebirney@hotmail.com

We're are on the Web!
[Http://3div/](http://3div/)
Look for Key Volunteer page

Loneliness Hits Us All by Chaplain Ianucci



It is truly amazing that almost a year has gone by since I arrived here at the Battalion. I can remember how I fumbled around in my first few weeks trying to understand the workings of a Marine Artillery Battalion. As a Catholic Priest, I came here alone. Since arriving, I have been on 3 Relocation Shoots, a deployment to Thailand for Exercise "Cobra Gold," and now I am leaving for my last Relocation Shoot in Yausubetsu.

Our Battalion is always on the move, which makes all of our schedules and lives very hectic and, at times, chaotic.

I have found that when families are separated from each other it puts added stress and pressures on everyone. It isn't just the married personnel and their families that are subjected to these stresses. Our single Marines and Sailors also feel the pressures that come with deployments.

Most recently, we as a command "family" have experienced, and are still dealing with, the death of one of our Marines who took his life, and another who attempted suicide. Personal pressures can build up if not released in the proper manner. The simple act of talking to your loved one or someone close to you is vital in helping each other find wholeness. We also need to notice when our normal communication skills are not working and seek new ways of reaching out to resources and help. Life is not always easy, even if you have a strong faith. We have ups and downs, and to suffer alone is the most awful feeling that there is. Also to lose the zest for life is very damaging.

In dealing with our Marines and Sailors over the past months, I have found we all have one thing in common. Loneliness. It is one thing to be alone, but another to be Lonely. Being "Lonely" means without companions; DESOLATE. When anyone finds him or her self in a difficult situation, the phrases I hear most often are: "No one will understand;" "I cannot tell anyone;" "There is no one there for me." The statements are hard to hear, and most of the time are not correct. In a state of loneliness we can't see past our problem or find any hope. We can't even see the people around us who are willing to help if only we had the courage to open up and ask. I often find that if we notice someone's behavior change, if they are becoming more quiet or less communicative and they if they start to isolate themselves from others; it is a sign that the time has come to ask some hard questions.

When we notice someone's behavior change, we usually say, "How are you?" But do we take time to really listen for a response? We hear, "Everything's OK," and keep walking. What I am telling you is that at times like these we need to follow-up with questions like; "I noticed your behavior has changed, has anything happened over the past few days; is something bothering you; are you really OK?" Allow time for a response. Most people will warm up to talking about their situation when they know someone is interested and really wants to listen.

When we join the Military, it is often said that we are joining a family. If we are truly a family, then we have the obligation to help each other through life's crisis. From PFC to General, we are all "First Responders" in such situations. First Responders are those who care and act with Moral Courage. I have spoken to the entire Command about what it means to be a First Responder, and now I am sending my message to you - the wives of our Marines and Sailors. If you want to know more about this, see me or a Chaplain in your area. There is a also great video available on recognizing and helping people in stress. But most important when it comes to your family is being able to talk to your spouse about anything and a willingness to work through it together. When the listening stops, and the arguing begins - seek help. Family Advocacy, Personal & Family Counseling, Joint Services Family Shelter, Crisis Hotline, Navy & Marine Corps Victims Advocate Program, and, of course, the Chaplain, are all there to help and support our Marines, Sailors and their "Families." That means you! It is all there because you count, and you are important.

Key Volunteer Coordinator Message Written By: Ivette Birney



Hello everyone, for those of you who do not know me...WELCOME to 3/12, I am your KV coordinator Ivette Birney. As your KVC I would like to welcome all of our new families to the 3/12 family!!! A special welcome goes to our new Co, LtCol Studdard, his wife Melissa, and their children Alexis and Ward.

As many of you know, the KV's tearfully said goodbye to LtCol Langley not too long ago and were waiting to see what direction our incoming CO was going to take us. We are very pleased to say that as family oriented as we were before, our new CO has even higher aspirations to making sure You the spouse enjoy your tour here, making sure You the spouse take pride in saying "I belong to 3/12" (and yes, as he has stated, this is also YOUR command, not just your Marines') and making sure you and your families are taken care of. As your coordinator I will be working closely with him in making sure this is a reality. Any ideas or suggestions please pass them along to us; we would love to hear them!

On another note, our KV network has added two wonderful women to its team. Jennifer Dorris and Rachel Esprit, welcome welcome. Ginny Moody will be leaving us for a few months but will be returning refreshed and ready to assist again. Please get to know your KV's; they are here for you! Share your concerns, ideas, or suggestions with these ladies; they can be a very important voice for you!

Contrary to many myths out there, confidentiality is of great importance here. Whatever negative experiences you have had within other commands, we do not have those issues here and I am always striving to make our network better. EVERY KV goes through a screening process here beginning with training, meeting with myself and/or other KV's, and meetings within various levels at the command. If you have ever been interested in becoming a KV, please take the training or just contact me and I will point you in the right direction. I am currently looking for someone who is fluent in the Japanese language to come and assist me, call me at 622-8146 for details please! Also, by making your email address known to your KV (if you are not sure who she is please let me know) she can keep you up to date with information via your email versus calling you at a time which could be inconvenient to your family. If the number the command has on file to reach YOU is your husband's cell phone, please give them the correct one. Being a very deployable unit, if the command needs to give you important information or advise you as to an emergency concerning your husband....how can they reach you when surely HE has his cell phone with him?? Now one of you might be saying, my husband never goes anywhere so ... accidents happen anywhere at anytime INCLUDING just sitting in their office so please make sure all contact information is up to date, this is only to benefit you in the long run.

Ivette Birney
ivettebirney@hotmail.com
622-8146

Do you have an Idea for the BN Newsletter? Submit your suggestions to Ivette Birney.

Goodbye but not Farewell

With the war in Iraq continuing to call forth good men and women, we here at the 3D Battalion 12TH Marines are ask to send Marines and Sailors to fight this war. Two good men are being called to service in war. Capt Kevin Moody and Capt Salvanera will be reporting for duty in Iraq to join the battle securing peace, and bringing freedom to the Iraqi people. They will be there for the next 7 months, and then returning

to us here at 3D Battalion 12TH Marines.

We would like the Moody's and Capt Salvanera to know we will remember them and wait for their safe return home to us and their family.



Capt. Kevin Moody and wife Ginny

The Moody's have been a true gift to the 3/12 family. The Staff here at 3/12 would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Ginny Moody as a Key Volunteer. Her time and energy was greatly appreciated and felt by all.

She was an asset to the Key Volunteers network family. We await her return to us. Thanks Ginny!

Let always remember all our service members who are away from their homes and families and are doing their part for the "War on Terrorism."



Capt. Salvanera