



# MOSS CREEK MARINES ADOPTED UNITS



Pictures Of This Unit Not Available

**ADOPTED UNIT NO. 24**  
**2nd BATTALION, 6th MARINES**  
**900 MARINES**

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**Subject:** FW: Various

**From:** Guwill

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2010 2:32 PM

**To:** Moss Creek Marines

**Subject:** Various

Fellow Moss Creek Marines--

One of our adopted units 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines has asked for and we have purchased six (6) DVD Players and have asked for movies on DVD to go with the DVD players--Makes sense--Do any of you have any movies on DVD that you are ready to throw away or want to donate? If so, Please let me know and I will pick them up or you can bring to one of our lunches or meetings--

I have also checked with Leatherneck Magazine about acquiring copies of the November Birthday Issue which will be running the article about the Moss Creek Marines--I can order a copy for all of you non-Leatherneck Magazine subscribing infidels for the low price of \$4.95 which will include shipping to your address--Please let me know if you are interested--

Semper Fidelis!

Fred

# The Spartan Sentinel



FROM THE BATTALION CO & SGT MAJOR



To the family and friends of Second Battalion, Sixth Marines,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all Marines, both past and present, a HAPPY BIRTHDAY. According to our fourth Command Principle, "we will never forget who we are and where we came from." So this birthday message is about the past, present and future. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 we held a memorial for First Lieutenant James R. Zimmerman who was killed on 2 November, 2010. He was our 15<sup>th</sup> Marine killed in action against the enemy. This message is in part from the memorial address given just a few days ago. However, as is often the case, the message is also meant to remember all of this country's heroes, both past and present, that have given their last full measure so that others may be free.

Our remembrance begins in 1918 with the heroism of a young man named Private Joseph Kelly. This Marine was a city boy from Chicago, Illinois. He was short in stature, but strong in mind with the heart of a lion. On the morning of October 3rd, 1918, his courage came to the forefront in a place named Blanc Mont Ridge, France. His Medal of Honor Citation speaks to his heroism. **"Pvt. Kelly ran through our own barrage (artillery) a hundred yards in advance of the front line and attacked an enemy machinegun nest, killing the gunner with a grenade, shooting another member of the crew with his pistol, and returning through the barrage with 8 prisoners."** Although this event was early in our unit's history, this type of courage would be the norm for members of this Battalion during countless engagements throughout World War I. Second Battalion, Sixth Marines has continued to fight in almost every climb and place spanning 92 years of history. This unit saw combat action on Tarawa, Saipan, and participated in the occupation of Mainland Japan during World War II. Its Marines and Sailors helped establish peace in Lebanon in 1983 relieving First Battalion, Eighth Marines after the Beirut Bombing, and later would help the Haitian refugees on the Island nation of Cuba in the early 1990s. More recently, the men of this Battalion fought on the streets of Fallujah in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007.

Today, the men of this Battalion are once again engaged in combat operations against a determined foe. The Marines vigorously take the fight to the enemy in very complex terrain. Through the will of the Battalion, we have taken the fight to the enemy and now fight them on the ground of our choosing. Their will is shaken and we have the advantage. Over 800 children attend school on a daily basis, children fly kites in the streets, the community park will soon break ground, and the first restaurant in Marjah has seen steady business since its opening two weeks ago. The Marines' aggressiveness has bought us precious time to make the mission about the people where it appropriately rests. The people of Marjah need our help and we will continue to give it to them.

So, what about the future? We do not have much control over that, but what we know is that our actions today fundamentally impact tomorrow. The history books will say that Second Battalion, Sixth Marines faced daunting odds during this deployment. But through resolute will, iron discipline, relentless aggressiveness, and deep compassion, the Battalion has made significant progress in Marjah. They will mention bazaars that were once fields of fire for the enemy and villages uniting and defending themselves. They will vividly describe actions against the enemy in places like the 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 blocks. And historians will write about men of tremendous courage who died doing what Marines do- attacking the enemy. The children of Marjah will come to learn of the exploits of Second Battalion, Sixth Marines as they attend class in their newly constructed high school. The Marines of this Battalion now have lived the battalion's motto: From Belleau Wood to Marjah "Ready to Fight" since 1917.

In closing, as we come down the home stretch of our deployment we must remain vigilant. I ask each of you to continuously communicate this one comment to your loved one: "Be a better unit when you leave, than when you arrived." We continue to be blessed with the tremendous support from the homefront and as a result, we fight with a happy heart. On behalf of the entire Battalion, thank you.

Semper Fidelis!

Lt Col Kyle B. Ellison  
Commanding Officer  
Second Battalion, Sixth Marines  
Marjah, Afghanistan

SgtMaj William Frye  
Sergeant Major  
Second Battalion, Sixth Marines  
Marjah, Afghanistan

## THE MARINES OF THE 79<sup>TH</sup> "FOX" COMPANY

Family and friends of Fox (79<sup>th</sup>) Company, 2d Battalion 6<sup>th</sup> Marines, thank you for your dedicated support and prayers during this deployment. Without a doubt in my mind, each of you has been part of the success of our company thus far. Please know that every ounce of effort counts, and the Marines and Sailors of Fox Company remain focused on the mission at hand. We have made a considerable amount of progress in Marjah and the good community relations with the local populace provides its own reward at the sight of smiling children attending school.

There is much to be proud of and rest assured that your Marine and Sailor is fighting the good fight and staying strong and steady until the very end. As the deployment comes to an end, there is a sense of satisfaction within everyone because the actions of Fox Company have made a difference in people's lives. The people here now welcome the Marines and Sailors into their homes for chai tea and light conversation. These partnered patrols allow the citizens of Marjah to see that the ANA and the ANCOF are here to protect the people and bring security to their country. Inside COP Turbett, Sailors and Marines are training and mentoring the ANA in medical and military skills classes. All of this is being done in order to allow the Afghan Army and Police force to take ownership of their own security here in Marjah and the surrounding areas.

Some of the most profound accomplishments thus far in Marjah include the first successful elections in over seven years, a public school with an attendance of 400 students daily and a multitude of projects which have improved the local community. A few weeks ago, the bazaar next to COP Turbett held one of the most successful meetings in all of Marjah. This accomplishment is just another major step in the direction of a free and prosperous country. Since the school's opening day, the Marines and Sailors continued to spread the word of the importance in education; now we have an evening English class where 50 adult males study the English language. Through the support of the Marines and Sailors, local contractors have improved roads, canals, and bazaars. Due to the hard work of the Afghan people and the Marines, Marjah has been given a face lift making it a safer place to live. With all of these steps forward, Marjah will continue to improve making it more difficult for the Taliban to gain the support of the people and operate within our company area of operations.



As for the life on COP Turbett, the Marines and Sailors are doing well. For the upcoming Marine Corps Birthday the Marines will enjoy steaks and cake which everyone is excited about. The temperature has cooled down considerably, with highs in 70s during the day and as low as the 40s at night. On their down time the Marines and Sailors enjoy playing volleyball with the ANA, playing cards and working out.

Marines who reenlisted: LCpl Christopher Walker

Promoted to Corporal: LCpl Joshua Gaither, LCpl Tyler Hoffman, LCpl James Hughes, LCpl Michael Kilcullen, LCpl Scott Lewis, LCpl Christopher Panilaitis, LCpl Christopher Walker

Promoted to Sergeant: Cpl Jason Snivley, Cpl Caustevius Willis

Promoted to Staff Sergeant: Sgt Derek Browning

Fox Family Additions:

HN Curry and wife Alexis Lopez baby boy "Aiden Curry"

Semper Fidelis,

Company Commander

Captain Manuel O. Zepeda

Company First Sergeant

1stSgt Jonathan M. Wyble



## THE 96TH COMPANY, HEADQUARTERS & SERVICES

Dear Loved Ones of Headquarters and Service Company Marines and Sailors:

Another month has flown by for the Marines and Sailors of Headquarters and Service Company. Through the changing weather, your loved one has done his utmost to support the Battalion's success at providing a better future for the people of Marjah.

October has seen many changes, from the weather (highs from the 90s to 70s, lows from the 70s to 40s) to enemy action to Battalion operations. The Battalion, as supported by your Marines and Sailors has had great effect upon the enemy, capturing or killing many of their leadership, while simultaneously building great capability within our partners. With the help and counsel of your loved ones, the Afghan National Army (ANA) Kandak (Battalion) has moved into their own base adjacent to FOB Marjah. This added responsibility and independence is illustrative of the effective and patient partnering of your loved ones and their Afghan counterparts. That we can take Afghans from all over the country, of different tribes, cultures, speaking different languages, many lacking basic literacy, and have them successfully run their own camp is indicative of the hard work put in by your Marine or Sailor to batter down cultural and linguistic barriers for the common good. We

continue to teach the ANA skills from communications to first aid, to infantry skills. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the ANA medical staff, assisted by the BAS, treated 180 locals including 30 women in a highly successful medical outreach program. A local security program started by the Battalion has been spectacularly successful as well, with the police swamped with applications for local block elders registering their own neighborhood watch type members. This program has been highly successful and is instrumental in denying the Taliban places to hide and people to intimidate. We now see effective local security answering to, and coordinating with, police leadership and ridding their areas of criminals and Taliban elements. I believe this is the turning of the tide, as there are few refuges for the enemy to hide in, as well as giving the locals buy-in to their own security in a manner which ensures they are legitimate and will be part of a local police force in the future. Towards the end of the month, the Battalion Staff is getting into turnover planning with our replacements, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marines. This detailed and time consuming planning is necessary to ensure a smooth transition and a change of Marines that results in continuing to move progress forward. As we get closer to our rotation date, know that our mission continues to be one of progress for Afghan National forces and the people of Marjah.

We would be doing a disservice to our replacements and the country if we applied any less than all our efforts to improve the area and destroy the enemy.

As your Marines and Sailors continue with this deployment and get closer to its end, I ask that you continue to support them and I encourage you to send letters and positive news from home, just as much as I encourage your Marine to write home. Remember that the smallest thing to you may be amplified by imagination and distance, and as the deployment grinds on, we strive to fight complacency and keep the Marines focused on the mission at hand. I salute wives, girlfriends, and family members who participated in the Marine Corps Marathon, held on October 31<sup>st</sup>. 64 friends and families members of the Battalion ran the marathon, 10k or helped support those who did. The day prior to the race, they visited 2/6 Marines at Bethesda Naval Hospital, giving comfort to our wounded warriors, some of whom were awarded their Purple Hearts that day by the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, General Amos and Sergeant Major Kent. Leadership at all levels strive to uphold all the Command Principles, especially taking care of each other before, during and after combat. Please feel free to contact the Company First Sergeant, 1stSgt Orellano, or myself

if you have any questions or concerns and we will strive to answer them.

### PROMOTIONS:

SSgt Padgett  
Sgt Gladney  
Sgt Havlock  
Sgt Goddard  
Cpl Vasquez

### AWARDS:

#### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Cpl Ruiz  
Cpl Murrow

#### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

SSgt Abrams

#### Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist

RSPN White  
HN Curry  
HM3 Grabosky  
HMR Hart

Semper Fidelis,

Commanding Officer,  
Headquarters and Service  
Company,  
1st Lt Nathan Bedle  
Nathan.Bedle@afg.usmc.mil

Company First Sergeant,  
Headquarters and Service  
Company,  
1st Sgt Phillip Orellano  
Phillip.Orellano@afg.usmc.mil





**Spartan Babies  
"Born Ready"**

Fox Company  
HN & Mrs. Curry

Weapons Company  
LCpl & Mrs. Oeser

Echo Co  
Sgt & Mrs. Davis

Golf Company  
Cpl & Mrs. Gilbert  
LCpl & Mrs. Peacock  
LCpl & Mrs. Tullos



**For More Information**  
Call 910-449-9501

**2/6 Family Events**  
**5 December - Holiday Party at Marston Pavilion**  
**10 December - Spouse Return/Reunion Brief by MCFTB**  
**12 December - Monthly Potluck and Welcome Home Banner Making**

**CAMP LEJEUNE BASE HAPPENNINGS**

Fri, 19 Nov – The **Budget for Baby** Workshop from 9 to 11 am is being sponsored by the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society at bldg 524 McHugh Blvd. Call 910-451-5346/5584 to register



Fri, 19 Nov – **Free Movie Night** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Tarawa Terrace Community Center and the movie is **The Karate Kid**. Call 910-450-1687

Fri, 19 Nov – **LINKS for Tweens** ages 9-12 from 6 to 7:30 pm at the LINKS House on Midway Park, call 910-451-1299 to Register

Sat, 20 Nov – **Holiday Craft Fair** at the Paradise Point Officers' Club from 9 am to 5 pm. FREE admission and open to the public, this event continues on Sunday from 12-4 pm



Mon, 22 Nov – **Kids-N-Reunion** workshop from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the Russell Marine and Family Center, Bldg 40, Rm 136 & 139. Call 910-451-0176 to register

Mon, 29/30 Nov – The **7 Habits of Highly Effective Military Families** is being offered FREE by Marine Corps Family Team Building from 6:30 to 9 pm each evening at their training facility on Midway Park. To register or for more info call 910-451-0176

Fri, 3 Dec – The **Budget for Baby** Workshop from 9 to 10:30 am is being sponsored by the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society at bldg 524 McHugh Blvd. Call 451-5346/5584 to register



Tues, 7 Dec – **Well Baby Clinic** from 10 am to 12 pm at Tarawa Terrace Community Center sponsored by Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, call 451-5346/5584

Fri, 10 Dec – **Relocation Workshop** from 9 am to 12 pm at the Russell Marine and Family Ctr, bldg 40, Brewster Blvd, call 910-449-9704 or 910-451-1055



Thurs, 16 Dec – Free **Liberty Fun Run** at 1130 am, The Jingle Bell 5K, call 910-451-0092

Fri, 17 Dec – The **Budget for Baby** Workshop from 9 to 11 am is being sponsored by the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society at bldg 524 McHugh Blvd. Call 451-5346/5584 to register



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**We've got help.**

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**Click here.**

[www.tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com)



## 2/6 Parent Team Chatter



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time when we all come together to share our thankfulness for our common blessings, to show gratitude for all we have received, and to express our appreciation to those whose lives have enriched us. This Thanksgiving Lynne and I both want to pay a special tribute to our 2/6 Marines and Sailors who have fought for the freedom we all enjoy.



Lynne and I continue to be amazed at the active communication tools that have been provided by the 2/6 Command and established by others during this deployment. The active communication and support that continues among the 2/6 Parents and friends is constant. We have never seen such a great, active, caring, and supportive group of parents and friends. WE ARE A FAMILY!!!!

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION has and continues to be so paramount during this deployment.

Access your Facebook home page and just type or copy and paste "The Official 2d Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment group" in the search box. It will take you to the page. Do not confuse this page with a Facebook entitled The Unofficial 2/6 Support Group, which is NOT from the command. You will find numerous pictures from Afghanistan, videos, comments, and discussions that are daily posted.

We have an active 2/6 Chat on MarineParents.Com each Monday from 9:00pm through 11:00pm Eastern Standard Time at the following web address: <http://www.marineparents.com/connections/chat.asp> The interaction and sharing has been great.

Great way to find news, photos, and family support –just check out the 2/6 Marine Corps Support Forum located at: [http://www.usmcparents.com/forum/forum.asp?FORUM\\_ID=98](http://www.usmcparents.com/forum/forum.asp?FORUM_ID=98)

Remember to send FREE postcards to your Marine/Sailor. Go to:

<http://www.operationpostcards.com/welcome2.aspx>

Motomail is a fast, easy, free way for the families and friends of deployed Marines and Sailors to send letters to their love one. These "one way" letters are downloaded, printed, and ready for delivery, usually in 24 hours. [www.motomail.us/login.cfm](http://www.motomail.us/login.cfm)

Remember to get the latest information each week by calling the 2/6 Hot-line at:1-800-230-8762, press 2, wait a second and press 2 again. It is updated every Monday by 11:00 am Eastern Time.

If we can be of any assistance, please let us know.

SEMPER FIDELIS!

Nelson & Lynne

[crkresid@aol.com](mailto:crkresid@aol.com)

## AROUND THE AREA HAPPENINGS

Fri, 19 Nov – **The Nutcracker Ballet** at Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St in Wilmington, NC, call 910-632-2285 for ticket info



Fri to Sun, 26 to 28 Nov – **Craftsmen's Christmas Classic Arts & Crafts Festival**, Greensboro Coliseum Complex, Greensboro, NC. For more info call 336-282-5550



Fri, 26 Nov – **Swansboro Christmas Flotilla** from 6 to 8 pm downtown with Santa arriving by boat, for more info call 910-326-1174



Fri, 26 Nov thru 27 Dec – **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas by the Sea** at Carolina Beach, NC will have fire pit storytelling, caroling, live nativity scene, music and treats all in various coves decorated by local businesses, for more info call 910-458-6885



Fri, 26 Nov thru Sun, 28 Nov – **The Christmas Carousel Holiday Festival** with over 250 exhibitors at the Jim Graham building on the State Fair Ground, Raleigh, NC, call 336-855-0208

Sat, 27 Nov – **Festival in the Park** from 10 am to 4 pm at Wrightsville Beach Park, 321 Causeway Drive, Wrightsville Beach, NC, for more info call 910-256-2120



Sat, 4 Dec & Sun, 5 Dec – **Old Wilmington by Candlelight**, a tour of the finest private homes, churches and historic sites in the downtown Wilmington area, \$25 before Nov. 20, then \$30. Call 910-762-0492



Sun, 5 Dec – **Candy land Christmas Event** at the Children's Museum of Wilmington on 116 Orange Street. Come visit Santa, enjoy caroling and making gingerbread houses and other crafts and goodies for your holiday. Call 910-254-3534

Sun, 5 Dec - **8th Annual City of Wilmington Holiday Parade** beginning at 5 pm on Front and Water Streets, call 910-341-7855



Sun, 5 Dec – **Poplar Groves Plantation Christmas** from 12 to 5 pm, Decorated for the holidays, the Manor House is full of the old fashioned charm you remember. Bring a cozy blanket for cuddling on the hayride, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy the Arts & Crafts Show and the Gift Shop will be open. Call 910-686-9518

Sat, 11 Dec and 18 Dec – **Christmas Candlelight Tours at Tryon Palace** in New Bern, beginning at 10 am, call 1-800-767-1560



Sun, 12 Dec thru Thurs, 23 Dec – Wilmington's **Holiday Lights Trolley Tour** at 6 and 7:30 pm each evening, call 910-763-4483



For Information Call  
Roy Ells or Louis Summerville  
at 910-451-0174

### Some Useful Web Sites:

**Financial Planning**  
[www.humtech.com/  
Marines/Financial](http://www.humtech.com/Marines/Financial)

**Financial Readiness Information**  
[www.militaryhomefront.  
dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)

**Pay and Allowances**  
[www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas)

**Income Tax Preparation and Planning/IRS**  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Consumer Services and Rights**  
[www.consumer.gov](http://www.consumer.gov)  
[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

**Savings Bonds**  
[www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov)

**TSP**  
[www.TSP.gov](http://www.TSP.gov)

**Military Saves**  
[www.americasaves.org/  
national/military](http://www.americasaves.org/national/military)

**Investor Education**  
[www.saveandinvest.org](http://www.saveandinvest.org)



**“73rd Company”, 2D Battalion, 6TH Marines, RCT 1**



Dear Family and Friends of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Co,

Once again I would like to thank you for your unyielding support for the Marines and Sailors of the ‘Legion of Doom’. Your letters and care packages help to keep the spirits high and remind us of whom and what we are fighting to protect!

Since our last newsletter things have continued to change in Marjah. School attendance continues to grow, our Afghan partners are getting better and better at their jobs, the markets are getting larger, and security and prosperity is taking a firmer hold. One of the biggest changes here has been the weather. The miserable and oppressive extreme heat and temperatures has given way to cooler days and frigid nights. Average temperatures are in the mid to upper 60’s during the days, and plunging into the 30’s at night. This is good weather for conducting operations, especially with the body armor, gear, and weapons that we patrol with. There is no need for additional gear and equipment from home, what the Marine Corps has issued is more than adequate for the climate and conditions.

As with any other farming community in the winter, summer and fall crops have been harvested and the fields have been prepared for winter planting. The vegetation is drying up and one can see for great distances; the very opposite of the way it was when we got here.

There are still lots of things to be done, but everyone who comes here, from the Regimental Commander to the Division Commanding General, Ambassadors and political figures (and even the occasional reporter) cannot believe the changes that have occurred. Every inch of progress, development, and security is due to the hard work and sacrifice of the Marines and Sailors here in Marjah, as well as the support of their friends and families back home.

Of note, we celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday on November 10<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate, in accordance with tradition, we read the Birthday Message and a message from the Commandant, celebrated the youngest and oldest Marine present, had an impressive steak dinner, and each had at least one piece of cake! It was a good time that I think we all will remember.

Because we are Marines, we will continue to pursue the enemies of peace, wherever they are, until the very last moment we are here. It is that determination, zeal, and commitment that impresses me the most about these men. Part of that spirit they learned in the Marine Corps, but most of it they learned from you!

Finally, I would like to ask for your thoughts and prayers to be with the family of Staff Sergeant Jordan Emrick. Staff Sergeant Emrick was killed Nov 5<sup>th</sup> while conducting combat operations in southern Marjah. He was here, with 2/6, as part of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team supporting Weapons Company. Although he and his teammate were recent additions to the company, the closeness that we all shared made it seem as if they had been with us for years. In the few weeks he was with us he and his teammate disarmed over a dozen IEDs that could have wounded or killed a Marine, Sailor, or innocent civilian. He will be greatly missed; gone but never forgotten.

Semper Fidelis, Capt Neil R Berry

Promotions: Sergeant to Staff: Nathan Gamboa and Joseph Liskey

Corporal to Sergeant: Dustin Lydon



LCpl Stepp



Cpl Dignan

Sgt Hamp



CAAT Two



SSgt Korth - LCpl Wilcoxson



Cpl Reagin



81 MM Platoon Section 2

## *A Note From Your Advisor*

The holiday season has arrived! We know everyone is excited to spend this season with your family and friends. During December the family readiness team has a few events planned to celebrate the season and get ready for HOMECOMING!!!! A Holiday party will be held December 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at Marston Pavilion. There will be baked goods, refreshments, door prizes and Santa Claus! A potluck/sign making party will be held December 12<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 at Marston Pavilion. Flyers will be sent out prior to these events.

The last weekend in October a group of 2/6 spouses, families and friends were in Washington DC for the Marine Corps Marathon. Before the marathon we all went to the Bethesda Naval Hospital to visit our wounded Marines. We were there to spend some time with them and give them 2/6 t-shirts and a few goodies. While there, we were excited to have a chance encounter with Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent and their spouses. They were very gracious and posed for photos with our group and talked with us for a while. The following day was our big event, The Marine Corps Marathon. Everyone did a fabulous job running either the 10k or the full marathon! It was a great way to show our appreciation for the sacrifices our Marines make every day.

We would like to remind you to contact your Company Family Readiness Assistants if you have any questions during the deployment. These ladies have volunteered to serve as information and referral resources for you. They are here to help. Also, remember if you leave the area for any length of time, please inform our Family Readiness Officer, Eric Carlson or your Company Family Readiness Coordinator.

Happy Holidays!

Amanda and Jennifer



## **HOMECOMING !!**

2/6 Family and friends are invited to welcome our returning Spartan Warriors when they come home at a location "TBD" aboard Camp Lejeune. We will alert all of our 2/6 Family through the Mass Communication Tool and by using our 1-800 Information Hotline.

We will announce each wave as they return on the 1-800 info hotline:

**Spartan H&S Company**

**Spartan Weapons Company**

**Spartan Echo Company**

**Spartan Fox Company**

**Spartan Golf Company**

Once a return location has been solidified we will pass the word. We will have music, food and drinks to accommodate all of our well wishers.

Once each group arrives and before you grab your loved one we will have a brief event allowing the team leader to say a few words, toast those who could not return and then you will be able to greet your loved one. We ask that you please abide these rules so our homecoming will go smoothly! Thanks in advance for your understanding and your Cooperation. Semper Fidelis!

The 2/6 Family Readiness Officer  
910-450-8573



## Chaps Corner



*First of all, a huge “thank you” to all our Spartan family and friends that have donated to our deployed team through care packages, and by supporting “Operation Christmas Stocking!” You all are great! We have been overwhelmed by your support. Even more importantly, thank you for your thoughts and prayers. RPSN White and I continue to travel the 2/6 area providing services, support, United Through Reading, and of course—“Mancakes!” (I must confess I borrowed the idea for giant pancakes from Bob’s Grill in Milan, TN!) We were also able to get out with Father Glassmire and RP2 Maxwell and provide Catholic services for most of our positions during the first week of November. Thanks Padre!*

The story is told of a small town in the US that was as beautiful as a picture postcard. Colorful shops with large glass windows lined small, neat streets along a scenic river. A former resident that had moved away years before took a trip back to visit. He was shocked at what he found! The streets had become dirty and unkempt and the once beautiful buildings looked like they all needed a coat of paint. Windows were broken in stores where once-flourishing businesses had resided.

The man asked someone on the street what had happened. He was told that just downstream, a company had been contracted to erect a dam across the valley! The town had been bought out, and would be underwater forever in a matter of months. The things that had been so important, like routine care and maintenance, were now left to fall by the wayside. As the man left in sadness, he realized something—*where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.*

We have worked hard in Afghanistan to give the citizens here both power in the present *and* faith in the future. It has been a long and tough road at times. But we have shown the people of Marjah our hearts and our willingness to stand shoulder to shoulder with them as they struggle to build a better life for themselves. The progress has been slow but steady, and the difference your Marines and Sailors have made over the last six months has been incredible.

As Americans, perhaps we should consider who or what gives us faith in the future and the power to persevere. As you gather around your tables this holiday season, I encourage you to reflect on what is really important in your life. President John F. Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." The holidays remind us of God’s provision and love for us. Let’s live our words by standing firm in the present, looking toward the future, and trusting in the Lord.

Prayer: God, with thanksgiving in our hearts we ask that you help us to turn to you and lean on each other as we continue to fight the good fight. Help us run our race strong to the end. Keep us in your hands as we deal with the pain of separation over the holidays. Give us strength to endure. We pray this in your strong and holy name. Amen.

God bless, --Chaps



## “80th Company”, 2D Battalion, 6TH Marines, RCT 1

Dear Family and Friends of Golf Company,

On November 10th, we celebrate our two hundred and thirty-fifth birthday of our Marine Corps. For some, this is one of many birthdays we have spent overseas while defending our Nation, for many in the Company it is their first birthday spent in harm's way. And I can think of no better way to celebrate our heritage and prestige then by celebrating the birthday with the men and women of this company while defending our nation, and protecting the people of Afghanistan. Today this Company continues the proud history we celebrate each year, and during future birthdays Marines will



Stars and Stripes flown at COP AZADI

celebrate the history we are a part of and making today. As their Company Commander, I have never been more proud of a group of Marines and Sailors as I am today for their commitment to our Nation and our Corps.

This past month has been relatively good considering the progress made within our battle space. With each patrol more and more positive contact is made with the local Afghans and growing support from the people is seen each day. Every success within our area of operations (AO) is due to the unwavering and dedicated efforts of our Marines and Sailors.

Each patrol conducted has a focused effort placed on the people of Marjah, not the Taliban. The Taliban stands as an obstacle to accomplishing our mission and the Marines of Golf Company understand this completely. Your Marines and Sailors have demonstrated the utmost

compassion, understanding and patience with the Afghan people. Their environment, as you are all well aware, is extremely demanding, stressful and dangerous, but this does not prevent the Marines from always protecting the people. Thus far during this deployment Marines and Sailors in this company have pulled Afghan citizens to safety during “fire fights”, treated wounded civilians, carried those wounded to awaiting helicopters, and provided security to children as they attend school. The positive relationship the Marines maintain with the locals is extraordinary considering what the Company faces day in and day out.

During their exhausting movements by foot each and every day, our Marines and Sailors cover three to six kilometers in a half day, speak



Banshee 1

to dozens of Afghans, engage enemy forces, and search multiple fields, homes, and cars. Some days are spent on post defending our various patrol bases and other days are spent with constant movement, but at the end of each day these men protect each other and the Afghan people. Seeing the platoons in action, pushing each day no matter how tired and worn out they may be, is extremely impressive and should make each of you extremely proud.

Families and friends back home may ask if we have made progress thus far in Marjah. And the answer, without any doubt, is yes. Over the past month multiple Afghan civilian lives have been saved due to the actions of our Sailors and Marines, new businesses have opened and jobs provided, roads are being built to allow safe passage for Afghan nationals, and the local primary school has both male and female students attending six



Banshee 2



Afghan children going to school

# “80th Company”, 2D Battalion, 6TH Marines, RCT 1

days a week. Local nationals greet and inform the patrols, visit the patrol bases in order to receive help and local elders continue to provide to the security of our AO. This is incredible considering that four months ago hardly any Afghans approached the Marines, and contact with enemy forces was daily. But even though progress has been made, the road home is still a ways to go. The Company must remain focused with what is occurring today and for the next two months while still in country. I can guarantee that their focus here on the mission is in the best interests for all of us.



Banshee 3

As always, I can never thank you enough for the support you provide the Company. Your support gets them through each day’s adversity, and a letter of support, a voice over the phone, or a package full of holiday “goodies” can never be overestimated. As November and December pass, all of us will miss our families and loved ones during this holiday season. But please remember that what we do each and every day here is so that we can provide a better life to the citizens of Marjah, and so that we can all have the way of life we want to live at home.

Furthermore, during the month of October, Golf Company welcomed an additional unit to the family. The Marines and Sailors of 3rd Platoon, Lima Company, and Scout Snipers of India Company, 3d Battalion, 25th Marines were recently attached to the Company adding a significant amount of combat power to the Golf Company lineup. This platoon has been given a tough part of the



Wild Bill 1



Wild Bill 2

Company’s Area of Operations and their fresh minds are a huge asset to the Company. They have done a fantastic job since their arrival and are a valuable part of the team. The First Sergeant and I are happy to have them and look forward to their continued success as part of the 2/6 team. I would like to say to the families who may be receiving this letter for the first time, we are proud to have your loved ones with us and your continued support is invaluable to their efforts. Welcome aboard!

This month I would like to take a moment and congratulate the newly promoted men and women in our ranks. Promoting a Marine or Sailor is something the First Sergeant and I take great pleasure in conducting. Seeing the fruits of labor for these hard working individuals fills me with an immense sense of pride every day. As you know, Marines are not promoted based on accomplishments alone. They are promoted based on their future potential in our Marine Corps. The Marines and Sailors we have promoted have been performing and often times actually accomplishing the job of the senior rank above them. It is with honor and appreciation that I congratulate these Marines for a job well done and their continued commitment and increase in responsibilities to our United States Marine Corps.

- Promotion to Staff Sergeant: Samuel Santos
- to Sergeant: Dustin L. Lydon
- to Corporal: Ashley A. Cardona
- to Lance Corporal: Christopher A. Bennett



The Promotion of SSgt Samuel Santos At Patrol Base Januup

# “80th Company”, 2D Battalion, 6TH Marines, RCT 1

Lastly, congratulations to the women of Sparta running all the marathons and half marathons back home and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving,

*Semper Fidelis,*

Brandon H. Turner  
Captain, G Company Commander

Jeffrey R. Craig  
First Sergeant



Wild Bill 3



Wild Bill HQ



Spartan PMT

## Raiders of The 78th, Echo Company

To the Family and Friends of the 78th Raiders:

The Marines and Sailors of Echo Company had to overcome another hurdle and adversity as we mourned the loss of our third platoon commander, 1stLt James Zimmerman. James was well known throughout the Company and Battalion, and everyone who knew him respected him as a Marine, Officer, and friend. The phenomenal progress that third platoon has made in our area of operations is accredited to his leadership and dedication to the mission. We will honor his life and hard work by continuing to charge forward and make Marjah better and better each day.

This month we devoted more time to train the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) leading to more effective ANA led patrols. Your sons have developed such close and strong bonds with the Afghan soldiers that makes a difficult COIN mission a little easier to tackle. The soldiers are gaining more and more independence in their daily routine and operations.

The past month was also filled with greater interaction with the local national populace than any other month. On more and more patrols there are friendly faces, handshakes, and most important; local nationals willing to talk about the Taliban and their activities. The enemy is getting weaker, as the local nationals of Marjah are getting stronger.



**Seminole 3 (3rd Platoon)**

In the beginning of the month we opened another school in our area of operation, with an average of 45 students from the surrounding villages. Lessons consisted of the alphabet, spelling, and math. We have been able to supply them with books, back packs, pencils, paper, and various other school supplies. The Marines continue to work hard in getting the word out that schools are open and the attendance grows each day. First and Third platoons received their "school in a box"; and very soon they will have tents up, teachers identified, and kids going to school within their area of operation.

Other progress during the month was marked by safer vehicle travel within the city by paying locals to clear canals along the routes and contracting companies to harden the roads surface. Wells were dug at each of the platoon positions for Marines and ANA soldiers to have water for showers, washing clothes, and other uses. Our biggest project, with the most positive impact, is the "Afsal Charey" Bazaar that is weeks away from completion. This will give the local nationals another shopping venue, provide income to help the economy, and a place for locals in the area to socialize. More importantly, Marines of Company E will have physical evidence of security in their area, and have another great opportunity to build relationships and mingle with local nationals in the area.

The local nationals have started to actively tell the enemy "NO" and standing up what we call the "Neighborhood Watch Program." The Elders, leaders of their block (similar to American city blocks), and the local people within that block are standing up their own police efforts, and report to the formalized Marjah police forces. This program is the first step in long-term security for the people of Marjah.

The weather continues to cool down with highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 40s at night. The weather will continue to drop as we move through the month of November. The Marines were issued cold weather gear before we departed for Afghanistan so they will stay plenty warm.

Please make a note that although mail is critical to the morale of the Marines; the cut off date for you to send mail to your loved one is December 1. Anything sent after that date has a good chance of arriving in country after your Marine or Sailor has already departed for home.

The end of the deployment is rapidly coming to a close, and the Marines and Sailors are extremely excited about that. They have come a long way and the city of Marjah is far better off than it was four months ago. The Marines fully understand the dangerous environment that they are in and they will remain focused on the mission until their boots are off the ground in Marjah.

## Raiders of The 78th, Echo Company

Congratulations to the following individuals and their families:

### Promotions:

Staff Sergeant Christopher Vaughn  
 Staff Sergeant Brian Mason  
 Corporal Steven Alexander  
 Corporal Calvin Ferguson

### New Babies:

Sergeant Christopher Davis and his wife, Alicia, had their baby boy, Kodyn, on October 29.

Corporal Justin Lang and his wife, Jennifer, had their baby boy, Preston, on October 22.

Semper Fidelis,  
 Michael Stansberry,  
 Captain, USMC  
 Commanding

Families and Friends,

As we celebrate the 235<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our beloved Corps, we do so with a heavy heart. We will use our recent loss to recommit ourselves to accomplishing our assigned mission here. The fall season is here and a time to give thanks to all, especially to those who have given "The last full measure of devotion". To those who support us at home, you will never know how much your support means to us and there is no way we can possibly repay you for supporting us through some very trying times. We thank you and we want you to know that your loyalty drives our resolve.

I am as proud now of our Marines and Sailors as I have ever been. We will continue to work hard and stay focused. We hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Birthday to all Marines past and present.

Semper Fidelis.

Eric Cayson, 1stSgt, USMC



Seminole HQs (Four Horsemen)



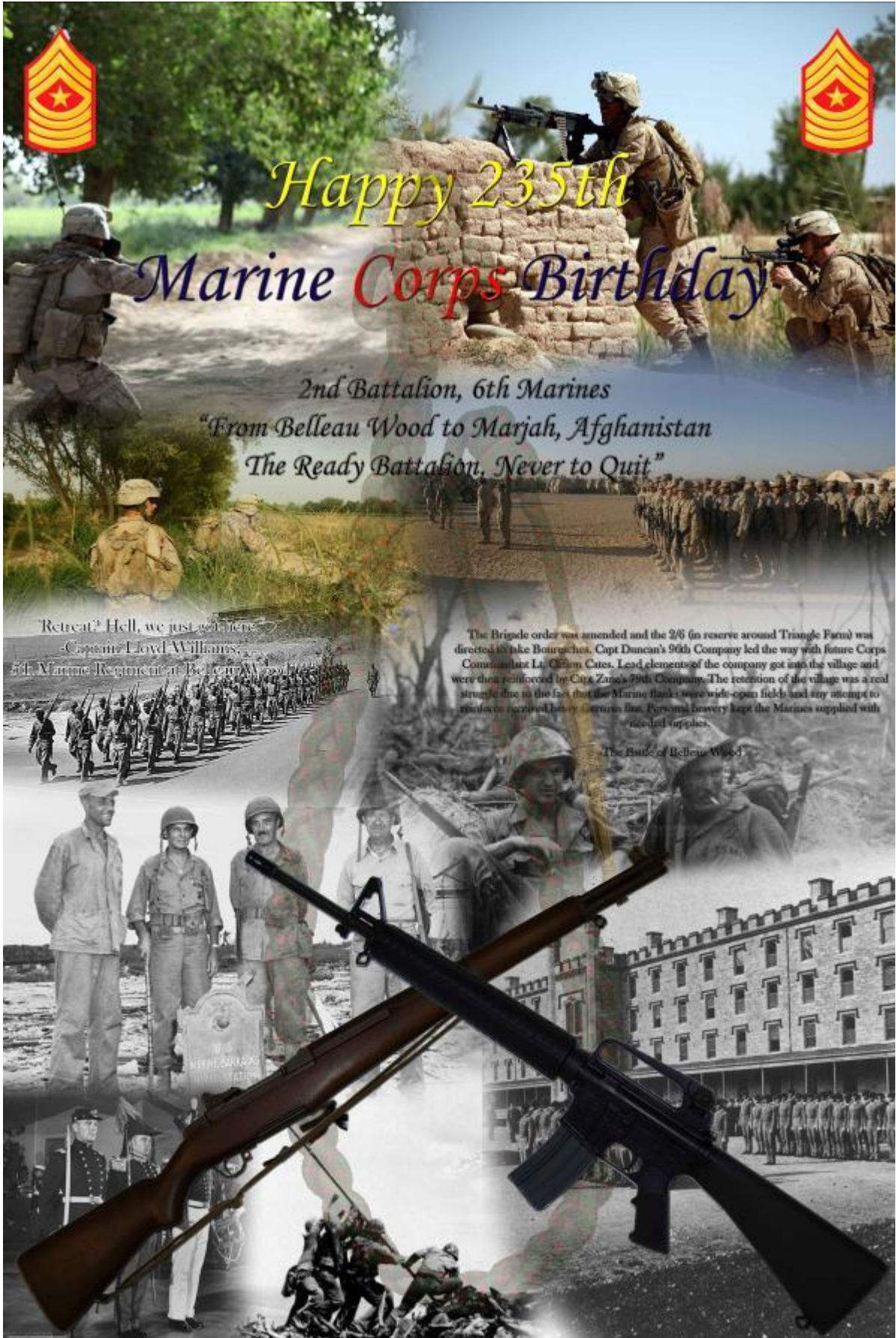
Seminole Mobile Section



Seminole 2 (2d Platoon)

# Sgt Majors Photo Roll Call

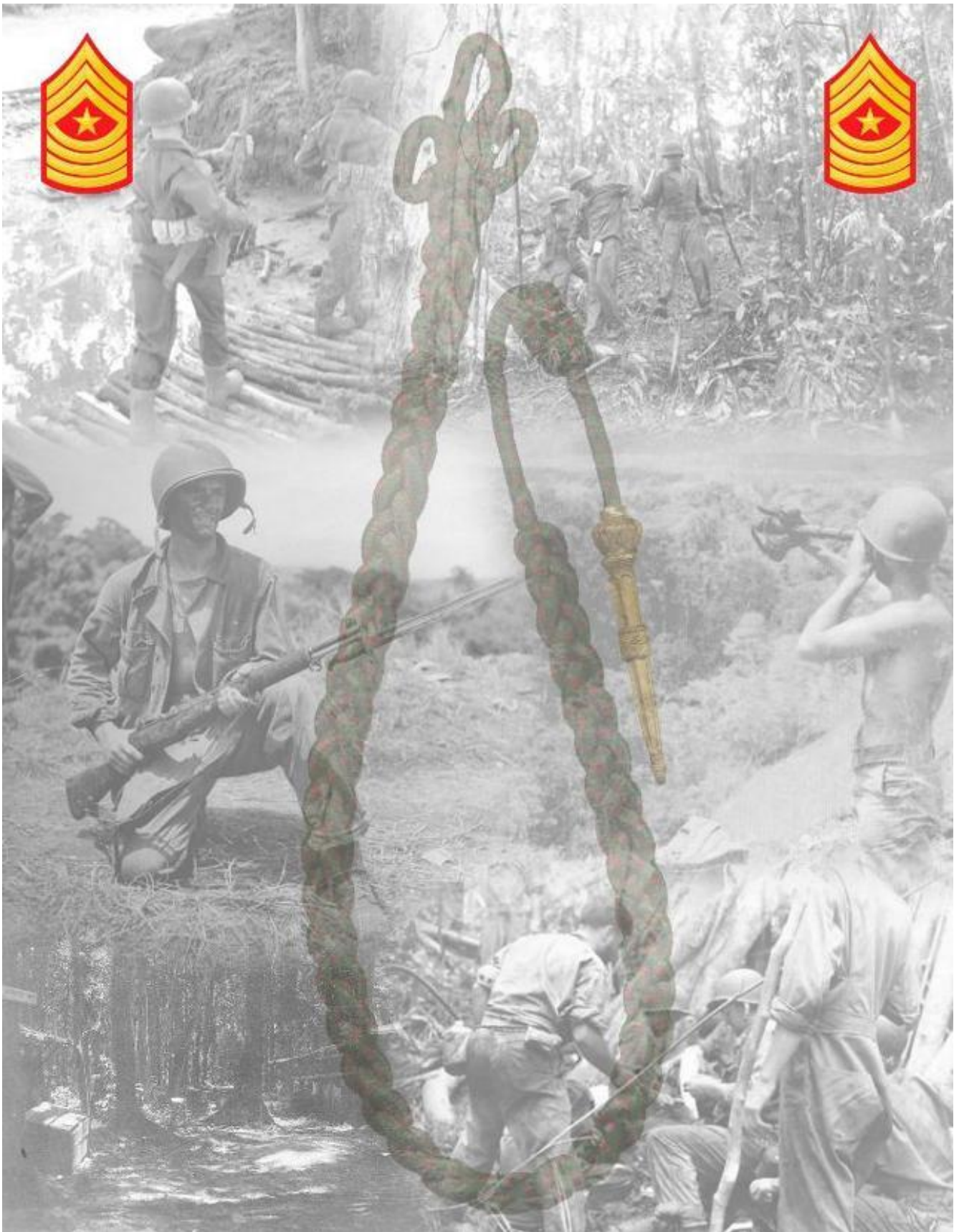




Retreat? Hell, we just got here  
 -Captain Lloyd Williams,  
 5th Marine Regiment at Belleau Wood

The Brigade order was amended and the 2/6 (in reserve around Triangle Farm) was directed to take Bourriches. Capt Duncan's 9th Company led the way with future Corps Commandant Lt. Col. Cates. Lead elements of the company got into the village and were then reinforced by Capt Zane's 9th Company. The retention of the village was a real struggle due to the fact that the Marine tanks were wide open fields and any attempt to reinforce resulted in heavy German fire. Personal bravery kept the Marines supplied with needed supplies.

The Battle of Belleau Wood



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