



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

The newsletter of the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group

SPRING 2022

President's Message

Dear Friends of the 5th,

I couldn't be prouder to be back as the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group president. I am now going into my 15th year of serving this stellar organization, our beloved Marines, Sailors, and families. I decided to use this picture as I serve in solidarity with our Marines who have deployed and landed safely in Darwin, Australia, with Col Christopher Steele and SgtMaj Justin Stokes.

Our regimental headquarters will be on a six-month rotation to train with the Australian Defence Force and other allied and partner nations to be ready when the Nation calls. As we enjoy our freedoms, let us never forget the men and women who answer the call of duty a world away to protect our country's interests and keep us safe.

When our Marines are deployed, our Support and Outreach demands increase significantly. DPSG has special "Farewells" for the families who are separated for long months and joyous "Welcome Homes" when our Marines step foot on American soil. We hold Baby Showers for children born to our courageous women of the Regiment who have this important milestone with their husbands so far away. Another top priority is to send our Marine Children to Summer Camp and, **NEW** this year, we are now offering year-round scholarships for enrichment programs to help our young ones make friends, stimulate interests, build resilience, and above all SMILE! Anything we can do to lift the morale of our families left behind is very important.

THE FACES



OF



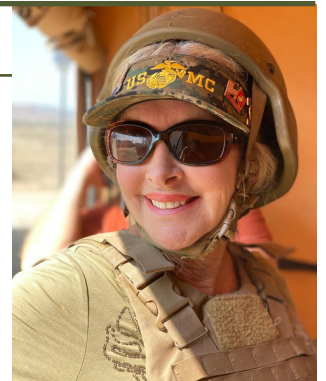
DEPLOYMENT



We are here for any 911 needs not met by our Marine Corps. We are ready to serve our state-side Fighting Fifth if there are challenges at home in the days, weeks, and months with their Marines stationed across the world.

Thank you for "answering the call" for our deployment needs and letting our Marines know a grateful nation appreciates them as they leave the safety and comfort of home and family. Together we will make a difference!

*Semper Fi,
Terry Rifkin, President*



Lord, please place a shield around our service men and women today. Wrap them with love and protection.

-Amen-

God bless America

Keep them safe and protect them until they return home.

Kelly's Treehouse



Support and Outreach Accomplishments and Where Your Donations Go

Where your money goes when you donate to our Marines, Sailors, our Wounded Warriors, and their Families:

- **Provide Summer Camp and year-long enrichment program scholarships** for the children of our Marines to enhance self-esteem and mastery of their studies and sports
- **Host Baby Showers** for our proud ladies of the Regiment who are far away from the support of family for such a special occasion
- **Host Family Days, Single Marine activities, Deployments and Welcome Homes** for our Brave Defenders
- **Care and Comfort Boxes** while our Marines and Sailors are in-country
- **Support to the Family** whether their loved one is deployed or stateside
- **9-1-1 Emergency needs** such as unexpected car repairs, diapers, bereavement support services
- **Defray the cost of the Marine Corps Ball** for our young single Marines
- **Thanksgiving Dinner** for our Marines and their families who are far from home



- **Holiday toys** for each Marine child and gift cards for Single Marines and families
- **Support our combat ill, wounded and injured** from Wounded Warrior Battalion West to play in our Combat Golf Tournament and compete in the Wounded Warrior Trials at Camp Pendleton by providing 1000 Meals for the Brave at this annual event. For those who have sacrificed so much, these activities help improve their self-esteem and remind our Warriors that no matter their disability that they are "Still in the Fight."
- **Remember our fallen** by maintaining the 5th Marine Memorial Park and Garden and adding Monuments and Tributes to those American Heroes wounded in action and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice

Spirit of Hope Award

The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group was recently presented with the prestigious "Spirit of Hope" Award for its outstanding support of the Marines, Navy Corpsmen, and families of the 5th Marine Regiment of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Camp Pendleton. Annually, the Department of Defense honors one organization in each branch of service that epitomizes duty, honor, courage, loyalty, commitment, integrity, and selfless dedication as well as significantly enhancing the quality of life of Service members and their families serving around the world and selflessly contributing an extraordinary amount of time, talent, or resources to benefit Service members. The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group was the sole winner for the Marine Corps in 2021.





From the Command Posts

Greetings from Darwin, Australia,

I hope this letter finds you well. Since the last issue of this newsletter, the regimental headquarters has deployed to Darwin, Australia to form the Command Element of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin (MRF-D) 22.2. MRF-D is a six month rotation in which our Marines, the Australian Defence Force, and other allied and partner nations work together to enhance interoperability and readiness posture in the Indo-Pacific region. This rotation marks the 11th year of a 25-year agreement, and marks the first time that the battle colors and streamers of the Marine Corps' most decorated regiment have returned to Australia since World War II.

In 1942, 5th Marine Regiment arrived in Australia for rest and refit following the Battle of Guadalcanal. There, the regiment received the Presidential Unit Citation for the Marines' bravery during the fight, and there four Marines were presented the Medal of Honor earned through heroism on Guadalcanal. Later, Marines of the regiment fought alongside our Australian allies at New Britain in 1943. Our friendship with Australia runs deep, and we are proud to be here.

We will participate in six international exercises across the continent, and will be completing a comprehensive range of training, to include humanitarian assistance, security operations, and complex live-fire exercises. Currently, we have Marines operating not only in Darwin, but in the vicinity of Melbourne, Canberra, and Brisbane. In addition to our training regime, we have already had many distinguished visitors, including the Commanding General of Marine Corps Forces Pacific, several U.S. Senators, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. In short, we are staying busy! The Marines, Sailors, and I are proud to be forward-deployed and look forward to furthering our already close relationship with our Australian allies. We truly appreciated



Col. Steele and INDOPACOM

your send off in San Mateo and we continue to appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Your support means the world to our Marines and Sailors. Thank you so much for everything you do.

*Semper Fi,
Colonel Christopher Steele, Commanding Officer, MRF-D*

Greetings from Camp Mateo,

"The Regiment" again finds itself split with the "Alpha Command" forward deployed and the "Bravo Command" remaining at Camp San Mateo to support and facilitate the deployment of our infantry battalions. The Bravo Command is up for the challenge and I'm happy to report we are busy with supporting training and exercises for 3 of our 4 battalions on Camp San Mateo. I'm honored to be back at 5th Marines and have the privilege to serve alongside the finest Marines and Sailors you will find anywhere in the Corps. In the coming months, we will be focused on deploying 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines to Okinawa, Japan and welcoming back 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from the 31st MEU. We also said farewell to our XO, LtCol Andy Macak as he assumes command of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines in 29 Palms and welcomed in LtCol Clint Hall. In short, the Bravo Command knows our mission and is ready to work.

Lastly, I wanted to say thank you for the recent support to 5th Marines including the retention lunch, the awesome Spring Carnival and recent send offs. We truly appreciate your time and treasure in helping us make these events special. I look forward to seeing you all in June for the Combat Golf Tournament.

*God Bless and Semper Fidelis,
Colonel AJ Munro, Officer In Charge
5th Marine Regiment Bravo Command*



Col. AJ Munro
Officer in Charge



Hail to our Newest Director, Christian Asis

Christian has more than 25 years of banking experience and is currently a Senior Vice President & Lead Credit Officer with a well-known, national bank. Christian loves baseball, training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and the beach, but above all he loves being a father and a husband. He's tried to combine his passions by volunteering as both the Cubmaster and Den Leader for Cub Scout Pack 705 in Dana Point, coaching youth baseball, serving as the Finance Secretary for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point, and volunteering with the DPSG for the last several years. While members of his family are serving or have served in every branch of our military, the Marine Corps holds a special place in his heart because of his beloved grandfather, MGySgt A. Asis, USMC. Christian is honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve and support the Marines and sailors of the Fighting Fifth as well as their families.



Join us for the most fun you'll ever have on a golf course!

Not a golfer? No problem! Please consider giving a Marine or Wounded Warrior from the Wounded Warrior Battalion West a day of R&R on the links. The proceeds from the Combat Golf Tournament assist in our mission to help the Fighting Fifth Marines, their families, and our Wounded Warriors. Other sponsorships are still available.

JUNE 13TH ARROYO TRABUCO GOLF CLUB

13th Annual COMBAT GOLF TOURNAMENT

TO BENEFIT OUR **FIGHTING FIFTH MARINES**

ONLINE AUCTION OPENS MAY 25!

A Game of Chance

Helicopter Golf Ball Drop
Win \$2,600 if your ball drops in the hole!

**\$13 PER TICKET OR
10 TICKETS FOR \$100**

Please call 949-500-4951. Reserve your spot to be part of the tournament or buy your Ball Drop tickets at danapoint5thmarines.com/combat-golf-2022/



Save the Date

Back by popular demand!

\$45 includes Silent Auction, Dinner, Raffle and Show

A night of laughs to support our Wounded Heroes, Marines, Sailors and Families

LAUGHS FOR LEATHERNECKS NOW IN OUR 8TH YEAR!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th
Doors open 5:30 PM
Show time 7:00 PM

TOM RIEHL	JAY HEWLETT	JAMES P. CONNOLLY	VICKI BARBOLAK	FRITZ COLEMAN

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