



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

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

Spring 2013

President's Message

I am honored to take the gavel as President of our Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group. As the Board and I look ahead, we are humbled at our daunting mission. We have faith that our Support Organization will set an effective course of action to meet the needs of our Marines, Sailors and Families with the changes in our Country and our Corps.

A recent letter to the Senior Officers at Camp Pendleton from **General James F. Amos**, Commandant of the Marine Corps, details that the sequestration provision under the Budget Control Act reduces the budget \$1.4 billion dollars to the Marine Corps for this fiscal year. Then, over the next 9 years there will be additional reductions approaching \$2 billion. It goes without saying the Commandant will make sure our Leathernecks are the strongest fighting force in the world and assure they are totally prepared for any encounter which may arise. It is certain, however, that these budget cuts will impact our Marines and families more than we can imagine.

We adopted our 5th Marine Regiment, and therefore we have a sacred responsibility

to our Marines and families. This is the top priority of DPSG and all the Adoptive Cities. Help from the private sector and non-profits such as ours will be needed more than ever to fill in the gaps for this financial short fall.

Though all our 5th Marine Regiment Marines are stateside, there are still 68,000 Military men and women in harms way in Afghanistan and we should not forget them and keep them in our prayers. We should also remember that we have 5 million service men and women who are "at the ready" when duty calls; 70,000 of them are at Camp Pendleton.

With the reduction in our Military work force, there are many Marines and Sailors leaving the Corps and looking for meaningful employment in the civilian world. With the exemplary skill set these men possess, we must help with their transition by translating these abilities into civilian jobs and giving a "leg up" with job preparedness and placement. Our Support Group is also focusing on our Wounded Warriors. Our mission is to help them in an ongoing way to reclaim their lives and find esteem and mastery in the world. In this

edition of the newsletter edition, you will learn about some of the ways we have, and will continue

to provide much needed support to those who have sacrificed so much. Lastly, we know that with the recent budget cuts, our families will be stretched thin financially. With this in mind, DPSG will be giving scholastic college scholarships and summer camp awards for our military children.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and never take for granted the commitment you have demonstrated to our Heroes. We must demonstrate our undying gratitude and keep the morale high for those defending our freedom. Their untold sacrifices should be rewarded. I look forward to working alongside each one of you to make a difference in the lives of those who serve our Country proudly.

*Semper Fidelis,
Terry Rifkin, President*



President Terry Rifkin

The Few, the Proud and the Expecting

The forecast for April showers is very certain for the brave women of the 5th Marine Regiment. On April 21st, DPSG will be hosting a Baby Shower to provide outreach and support for any woman who recently had a baby or is currently expecting. When our Troops come home, there seems to be a noticeable increase in our infant population!

Many of these women are far from their extended family on such a momentous occasion. Support is needed for these women while their Marine husbands stay focused on their mission of fighting for our freedom.

We estimate approximately 20 women will be honored that day. There will be special gifts, shower games, and lunch for these extraordinary women. The theme of the Shower will be Seahorses; the logo of the 5th Marine Regiment.

CALL TO ACTION

- Donations gratefully accepted for lunch, shower gifts, party favors and a car seat for one lucky woman! You may donate online DanaPoint5thMarines.com
- Seahorse toys, books, and other party favors to promote the party theme
- Baby diapers and baby clothes are most welcome!

For questions you may contact our Support and Outreach Chairman **Nancy Jenkins** at njenkins@cox.net or call (949) 493-7040.





OPERATION SUMMER CAMP FOR MILITARY KIDS

The impact of long deployments, combat stress, and the loss of a parent are well documented. To date, approximately 2 million children have experienced a parental deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. There are an estimated 700,000 children with at least one parent deployed at present.

Military children of deployed parents are at a higher risk than the norm. An opportunity for building resiliency and esteem can have a great impact for our children of the Military. Because of continuous moves with deployments, many children do not qualify for the scholarships and grants that other civilian children do. They are often not in one place longer than

18 months and do not get the traction in a school system to be recognized.

The sacrifices on the Military children are unimaginable. When asking the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) and the Colonel's wife of the Fifth Marine Regiment what the most valuable experience we could offer to the Military children, it was unanimous, "Summer Camp."

The young military families are having a hard time making ends meet. Summer Camp is just unaffordable. DPSG will be offering scholarships for families who apply.



"Still in the Fight" — Wounded Warrior Time Trials

Each man carried his own battle wounds; PTSD, loss of limbs, scars, traumatic brain injury and in some cases all of the above. Yet, they all competed together to become the "Ultimate Warrior" for the event known as the Wounded Warrior Time Trials.

The Trials are a Paralympic-style competition that swimming, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, track and field, archery, cycling and shooting. More than 300 athletes from nine nations representing our Allied Forces sought spots for the Colorado Springs All-Marine Warrior Games in May. Training and competition during the Trials was fierce, with athletes vying for top placement in team and individual sports so that they may be one of only 50 to represent their sport at the Warrior Games. We were happy to meet 19 of our own wounded 5th Marines still in the fight! What an honor to continue to support them.

Volunteers from the DPSG were on hand to help out at the Cycling event on Sunday, March 3rd and also the Track and Field

event on Tuesday March 5th. DPSG also provided the box lunches for 125 of the competitors at the Track and Field event.

Many thanks to the extreme generosity of our community for the kind donations to make this outreach possible. The athletes really enjoyed the lunches and it was our honor to be part of the games in some small way.

These Warriors are an incredible inspiration. For those who came down to the events to help or just watch and cheer on, it was truly touching to watch the exhausted Warriors with their determination crossing the finish line in the cycling event, or making a basket in the Wheelchair basketball, or fighting for the ball in the Sitting Volley ball games. These events brought tears to our eyes and provide memories for us to cherish forever.

Through athletics, these brave men are reclaiming their active lives. Sports helps them to build confidence and hope. The motto of the Wounded Warrior Regiment; "Etiam in Pugna," Latin for "Still in the Fight,"



Above: Dark Horse Veteran Marine Cpl. Josue Barron earned the bronze medal in the hand crank cycling event.



Right: Pictured here, Pvt. Artem Lazukin, 5th Marine when wounded in Afghanistan. DPSG will provide gas cards to Artem to help with travel to the Naval Hospital.

reminds us all of the unusual valor these men possess still recovering from their life-changing injuries.



Companies for the Courageous Launch Party

Wednesday, April 23, 2013 - 6:00 P.M. • Cannon's Seafood Grill

Learn how your business or company can support our American Heroes and gain the benefits of becoming a DPSG Sponsor.

For interested company representatives, reservations are required. Please call (949) 373-5375.



Advisory Brigade

DPSG is proud to announce the formation of a new Advisory Board. All successful corporations and non-profits avail themselves of the knowledge and expertise of respected people in the business world. With that in mind, we have selected a group of 15 devoted community business leaders who have agreed to be "Commanders" of our Advisory Brigade. By virtue of their hands on efforts and financial contributions, these individuals have played a large part in empowering us to achieve the level of success we have thus far realized to date. It seems only fitting they should be our first Brigade Members.

The purpose of the Brigade is to enable DPSG to profit from the experience of these businessmen and women within the private sector. As a result of the interaction, the Support Group will benefit from their advice, expertise, and business associations ultimately allowing us to better care for those who we serve. With the recent sequestration provisions, this Advisory Brigade may help us spread our network further to companies and corporations so that we may properly do justice to our outreach priorities.



Bob Beaulieu, Senior Vice President and Regional Manager of Pacific Western Bank was selected by the Brigade as Chairman; **Heather Johnston**, Executive Director of the Dana Point Chamber was selected as Vice Chairman; and **Barbara Merriman**, long-time Dana Point resident, as Secretary.

Other respected Advisory Brigade Members are:

- Bruce Beal**, Bruce Beal Law
- Donna Kalez**, General Manager of Dana Wharf Sportfishing
- Jack Loconsole**, Proprietor, Jack's Restaurant
- Jim Miller**, Proprietor, Coffee Importers
- Jim Samuels**, General Manager, Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa
- John Collins**, President, Collins Holdings
- John Hicks**, Proprietor, Harbor Grill
- Jorge Luhan II**, Proprietor, Lucianas Ristorante
- Julie Simer**, Shareholder, Buchalter Nemer
- Nancy Baumann**, CPA
- Col Tom McKeown**, USMC (Ret)
- Col Tom OMalley**, USMC (Ret), TCA/Military Liasion

Thank you to all our esteemed business friends for serving as Brigade Commanders and helping us succeed with our mission.

Our Wounded Warriors Fulfill Dreams



Warriors fulfill dreams of once again having an active life

DPSG will be sending Wounded Warriors to attend Winter and Summer outdoor programs. No individual should be left behind simply because of a disability! This program will provide creative and inspiring challenges with adaptive equipment for our disabled warriors. Our American heroes can once again experience the freedom and exhilaration of outdoor challenges. Our Warriors will fulfill winter and summer dreams of gliding down a

snow-covered mountainside or cruising on a cycle, or skimming over a placid lake. For those who have sacrificed so much, it is our honor to be able to provide an experience that will help change their lives by making the outdoors accessible to them and boost their confidence and capability to be active once again.

Gift from the Heart DPSG Match

Please consider making Wounded Warrior Dreams come true. These programs are approximately \$2,000 for each Wounded Warrior including travel and accommodations for the Warrior and his dependent. If you are passionate about helping to make this program a reality for a Wounded Warrior, for every \$2,000 donation (up to \$20,000) DPSG will match your contribution. Please donate online DanaPoint5thMarines.com.



4th Annual Combat Golf Tournament

Join us for the most fun you'll ever have at a golf tournament!

Come to win and prepare to be challenged by snipers, minefields and obstacle courses.

The Tournament features great raffle prizes, on-course games, lunch, wine putting contest, silent auction and a fabulous dinner after the event at the awards ceremony, plus a special opportunity for DPSG to match your donation in support of our Wounded Warriors.

Monday June 3, 2013
Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club

Registration 10:30 a.m.
Tournament begins 12:00 noon

For more information, call (949) 500-4951.

Register online
DanaPoint5thMarines.com.





From the Command Post

Friends and supporters of the 5th Marine Regiment, I wanted to thank you once again for your continued support. Since our return from Afghanistan last year, the Regiment took advantage of some well-deserved leave to spend time with our families, but, as Marines do, we quickly turned to resetting our equipment to ensure that we maintain a high state of readiness. In December we participated in Exercise Steel Knight, which was a great training evolution at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center in 29 Palms, California, which was designed to ensure we remain proficient in the blocking and tackling of what a Marine infantry regiment does and to integrate the new team as we have been welcoming a lot of new faces to the Regiment.

Currently the Regiment is busy preparing for our next large training evolution, Exercise Desert Scimitar, which again will be located at 29 Palms, CA. This exercise will be larger than Steel Knight and will provide the Regiment another opportunity to test our capabilities and provide us with a larger and more challenging training opportunity where we can continue to build upon the lessons learned in December. All of this tough training ensures that we remain a force in readiness that is ready for worldwide deployment when our nation calls.

In the beginning of March, we were privileged to interact with the Dana Point Community during the Festival of Whales Parade in which about 90 Marines from the 5th Marine Regiment Headquarters Company marched in the parade and posted a static display where we conducted camouflage face painting and allowed participants the opportunity to try on a Marines "kit," the gear we wear in combat and training, and climb in and around a few of our vehicles. It was a spectacular event that we hoped demonstrated our appreciation for all that the Dana Point Community has done for the 5th Marine Regiment.

As the Marine Corps continues to draw down forces in Afghanistan, know that the Marines and Sailors of the Fighting Fifth Marine Regiment are ever ready to answer the call, and your continued support provides us with an additional level of comfort - that when we go forward again we will be able to fight with a happy heart knowing both that we have your support.

Col Roger Turner, Commanding Officer, 5th Marine Regiment



Col Roger Turner with son Max at the Dana Point Whale Parade

Save the Dates!

Cinco De Mayo Grand Prix of Cycling Beverage Garden Sunday, May 5

Visit us on the Del Prado straightaway as the cyclists head towards the finish line

4th Annual Combat Golf Tournament Monday, June 3

Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club

Sponsor a Marine or Wounded Warrior \$175 Underwriting and Sponsorship Opportunities available Register online at

DanaPoint5thMarines.com

Car Wash

Saturday, July 20

Marines will scrub your car shoulder to shoulder with the Dana Hills High School Football Team at South Shores Church 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Summer Concerts in the Park

Stop by our DPSG Beverage Garden and shout out a big "Ooh-Rah!"

Volunteers Welcome!

Call (949) 373-5375



Camo Kids at the Street Faire



Marines at the Festival of Whales

Support Your 5th Marines Donate online today!

OOH-RAAH! Log on to our website now!

DanaPoint5thMarines.com.

Donate Online: Donate to the DP 5th Marine Regiment Support Group using a credit card or secure PayPal account. Every dollar counts, so please donate online today. DPMRSG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible. 100% of your donations will allow us to continue our worthy mission of supporting our warriors who are fighting for our freedom.

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