



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

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

Winter 2013

President's Message

To live up to the legacy of the Marine Corps' most highly decorated Regiment, our Support Group has to mirror their excellence. I can say unequivocally that our Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group does just that.

Some feel that with the war in Afghanistan winding down, and our Fighting Fifth now stateside, our mission to assist our Marines, Sailors and families is not as compelling and perhaps there is greater need elsewhere. Though there is certainly a lot of need and many worthy causes, it is essential not to forget that at a moment's notice there could be Marines in harm's way again; whether it be in Syria, Africa or some other God forsaken hotspot. In the event that our Nation is threatened, our 5th Marines will be America's 911 Force and the first to fight.

There is an old Chinese military proverb "The More We Sweat in Training, The Less We Bleed in Battle." Our Marines are training aggressively to deploy in response to our national security needs and maintaining a high state of readiness in their professional development. They must focus on their mission to be that kind of elite fighting force and we need to have their backs so there are fewer distractions at home.

Civic organizations such as ours, answer the call to provide resources that bridge the gap caused by military budget cuts and sequestration. For DPSG to provide morale-building services not

covered by our Marine Corps allows our Marines to focus on their priority of "mission readiness." We understand that it is the families who need encouragement and support since they are the remain-behind force if their infantry husbands and loved ones are called to serve.



President Terry Rifkin

This holiday season is a time of giving. Won't you answer the call? Here's how:

- Sponsor a Marine for Thanksgiving Dinner at Still Water Restaurant in Dana Point
- Donate a toy for a Marine child
- Donate a gift card for a Single Marine or Marine Family
- Consider making a tax-deductible donation on our secure website www.DanaPoint5thMarines.com or utilizing the enclosed self-addressed envelope

I am honored and grateful for our Patriotic friends not only in Orange County, but am proud to say across the country, who are always faithful. Along with our honorable Marines, you keep me inspired in my service.

Semper Fidelis, Terry Rifkin, President

OEF Monument Vision to Reality

If you have not viewed our new video "Operation Enduring Freedom Monument Vision to Reality" please visit our website at www.DanaPoint5thMarines.com and view it. This is a superb documentary with tremendous heart by **Jonathan Jenkins**, of Progressive Production Services.

This is the amazing story of the OEF enduring tribute for our 89 fallen heroes that traveled from sea to shining sea; Vermont to San Mateo and was finally unveiled in the 5th Marine Memorial Park at the journey's end. This monument was made possible by the generous outreach of so many "Friends of the Fifth," Adoptive Cities, and Marine Supporters.

Please allow the time to watch this documentary. The 10-day journey of the OEF Monument to San Mateo, home of the 5th Marine Regiment, escorted from Coast to Coast by our Patriot Guard Riders and the final dedication ceremony that took place on June 6, 2013 in the Memorial Park at Camp Pendleton is absolutely compelling and will bring tears to your eyes.

You will hear the then 5th Marine Commanding Officer **Col. Roger B. Turner** addressing his Marines and



also **General John F. Kelly**, the Commander of U.S. Southern Command and Gold Star Father, only moments after seeing his own son's name on the monument. These riveting speeches along with hearing taps and viewing the family members go to the memorial and trace the name of their loved ones will never be forgotten and are documented in this Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group exclusive video. You will undoubtedly share the sorrows and scorching pain along with our Marines, Sailors, Wounded Warriors and Gold Star families as they pay tribute and honor to those they will never see again.

This documentary will preserve the memories of our American Heroes and those who loved them.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Our Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group is working along side of some wonderful community friends to sponsor a special day of thanks for our Marines, Sailors, and Families. **Collins Holdings**, in conjunction with **Still Water** and **Mahe Restaurants** will host their third annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Still Water Restaurant in Dana Point on November 28th.

Still Water will be serving the traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings and dessert. There will be transportation to and from the base for safety so that our families can enjoy the fun which will include great raffle prizes and a big screen television for the Turkey Day games.

This Thanksgiving Dinner is open to ANY of our Wounded Heroes, Active Duty Marines, Sailors and their families. We especially hope to host our Single Marines who are alone and far from home for the holidays.

Will you sponsor a Thanksgiving Dinner for an American Hero and his family? For just \$35 per person, you can say "Thank You" to those who have given so much for our country. Go to DanaPoint5thMarines.com, click on the Thanksgiving Banner and contribute.



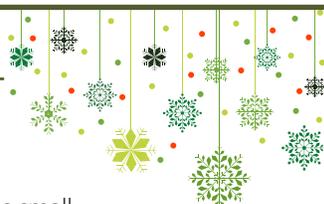
HOLIDAY MAGIC 2013

It's time to create some holiday magic for our Marines, Sailors and Families! Santa will be visiting the Regiment for their December holiday party. We hope his workshop will be filled with toys for the small children and lots of gift cards for our Marines and families.

Purchase a toy for a Military child and from November 15th-December 15th drop it off at any of the locations listed below (and on our website DanaPoint5thMarines.com) under the Holiday Magic Tab.

Drop off locations in Dana Point:

- Dana Point City Hall, 33282 Golden Lantern
- Harbor Grill, 34499 Golden Lantern, Dana Point Harbor
- Jimmy's Famous American Tavern, 25001 Dana Point Harbor Drive
- Jacks, 24462 Del Prado
- Dana Point Chamber Office, 24681 La Plaza, Suite 115
- Pacific Western Bank, 34180 Pacific Coast Highway
- Coffee Importers, 34531 Golden Lantern Street
- Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort and Spa, 25135 Park Lantern
- Luciana's Ristorante, 24312 Del Prado
- Dana Point Community Center, 34052 Del Obispo Street
- Shorecliffs Golf Club, 501 Avenida Vaquero (San Clemente)
- Ricardo's Place 32082 Camino Capistrano (San Juan Capistrano)



Operation Gift Card
Donate to Operation



Gift Cards for the

holiday party for Marines and families. Gift cards are especially needed for our teens and single Marines.

Gift Card suggestions:

Gas Cards * Walmart * Toys R Us * Albertsons * Ralphs Target * Sears * Movie Tickets * Fast Food: McDonalds, Carls Jr., Burger King, etc. * Best Buy * Costco * iTunes

You may purchase gift cards and mail them via the enclosed self-addressed envelope or visit our website at DanaPoint5thMarines.com and click on the "Holiday Magic" Tab to make a secure, fully tax-deductible PayPal donation to support these needed Outreach efforts.

Ever-faithful, we thank you for the generosity you demonstrate year-round for our brave defenders. Our Mission is ongoing. Our supporters are the wind beneath our wings. You are OUR heroes and you keep us inspired by your willingness to join us in our important missions.

Semper Fi & Happy Holidays!

Nancy Jenkins, Director of Support & Outreach

Companies for the Courageous

Companies for the Courageous is a corporate sponsorship program of the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group. This program provides a strategic bridge needed due to the diminished funding caused by budget cuts and sequestration.

The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group salutes **Pacific Western Bank** for becoming our Founding Company for the Courageous. Ooh-Rah!

COMMANDMENT LEVEL SPONSOR



Your Company can help our American Heroes
Call 949-353-5375 or visit DanaPoint5thMarines.com



Change of Command

Meet the New Commanding Officer and Sergeant Major



Col. Jason Q. Bohm comes to the 5th Marine Regiment Family from his previous post as the Director of the Marine Corps Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives. Col Bohm’s goal is to maintain “brilliance in the basics” keeping the Marines ready to fight at all times. He is a Marine’s Marine and just the kind of Commander to ensure that as the Nation’s Crisis Response Force that his men are ready when called to serve. Please read his column, “From the Command Post” to learn more about Col Bohm’s priorities and you will surely see his commitment to excellence in the growth of his Marines and readiness to defend America’s freedoms. Col Bohm and his wife, **Sonja**, have three children; **Ashley** (19), **Ethan** (17) and **Emily** (15).

Sergeant Major Wiggins comes to the 5th Marine Regiment from the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion. He brings to our Devil Dogs his distinguished abilities and time-tested expertise; the very attributes every Marine who wears the uniform will be inspired to possess. He has vast span of experience, leadership and personal awards that will undoubtedly help him accomplish his mission of bringing our Marines back to the old breed of Marines. SgtMaj Wiggins and his wife, **Pam**, have a daughter **Andrea-Danielle** (19).

We couldn’t be more pleased to have this dynamic duo take the reigns of this historic Regiment.

Pain is Temporary, Pride is Forever

The 5th Marine Grizzlies may have had few victories this football season, but they gave it their all for a respectable showing. Even with steady attrition due to deployments, our 5th Marines demonstrated extreme hustle and heart as they fought the fight to bring honor to our Regiment. Many thanks to our kind donors who contributed to the uniforms for this good looking group of guys!



Fighting Fifth Honors Historic Legacy of the French Fourragere

Marines and sailors officially became part of the storied 5th Marine Regiment during a ceremony aboard the 5th Marine Parade Deck at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, on October 23rd.



Col. Bohm has brought back the tradition of holding a Fourragere ceremony to emphasize a new Marine’s commitment to upholding the rich history of the Fifth Marine Regiment.

A perfect guest speaker for the day was a former 5th Mar Commander and wonderful friend to our Support Group, **Maj General Nicholson**, Commander of the 1st Marine Division. He shared the history of the Fourragere and how it was a combat decoration instituted by Napoleon for units distinguished in battle. After a unit of Flemish troops retreated under fire, it was ordered that any further misconduct on the part of troops should be punished by hanging. Determined to regain their honor, the Flemish warriors wore a reminder of their disgrace-coiled around one shoulder, a rope in the shape of a hangman’s noose, at the end of which dangled a long spike. In their next battle, the Flemish troops fought with such gallantry, that the noose and spike became a mark of distinction and honor.

In 1918, Marines of the 5th and 6th Marines Regiments, were honored with three citations for their brilliant courage, spirit and tenacity as part of the Marine Brigade of the American Expeditionary Force. The Croix de Guerre with two palms and one gilt star were awarded for their actions in battle, including the Battle of Belleau Wood. It was then that the regiment earned the nickname the “Fighting Fifth.”

The 5th and 6th Marine Regiments were then permanently awarded with the Fourragere to wear and maintain on selected uniforms. All members of the Regiment are authorized to wear the decoration on the left shoulder of the uniform, while they remain members of the unit.

The purpose of the Fourragere ceremony is two-fold: to welcome the new service members into the Regiment, and to emphasize what it means to be part of the Regiment. For a Marine or Sailor to accept the Fourragere symbolizes their commitment to live up to the legacy, history and tradition of the Regiment and to pass on the rich heritage of those that went before them in the most decorated Regiment in the Marine Corps.

Col. Bohm said “It’s not so much what we did yesterday or what is in our past, but more importantly, what are the Marines and Sailors with the Regiment going to do to build on the legacy of those that went before us.”



From the Command Post

It is my distinct honor to be at the helm of the Marine Corps' most decorated Regiment. I watched the 5th Marines perform extraordinary feats throughout my career and consider it an absolute privilege to now be one of the Fighting Fifth! My joy in finally joining the ranks of the Regiment was amplified when I first met **Terry Rifkin, Pete Hammer, Nancy Jenkins** and all the other great folks that comprise the Dana Point 5th Marines Support Group and learned about the outstanding love and support you have for our Marines and Sailors.

This is my wife **Sonja's** and my fourth tour at Camp Pendleton. In each of the previous tours I was fortunate enough to receive similar support from other communities across the North County, but I can honestly say that Dana Point has taken its support for our Marines, Sailors, and our families to a level I don't think anyone could have ever imagined. It is truly impressive and we are humbled by the dedication, tireless efforts, and compassion that I have seen demonstrated by every citizen of the community. The Marine Corps takes great pride in "taking care of our own," but Dana Point has added a layer of confidence that our families will be taken care of if and when our Nation next calls on us...and it will call.

We are at a cross roads in the operational employment of the 5th Marines. As the drawdown in Afghanistan continues, it is possible that we may have seen the last deployment of any unit of the 5th Marines into this theater. However, we remain ever vigilant and ready to rejoin the fight if needed. As the Nation shifts focus toward the Pacific Theater, 5th Marine Units are now focusing their deployments toward the east. 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines will be returning shortly from a deployment to the Western Pacific and Okinawa as the Ground Combat Element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). They will be replaced by 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, and the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines will replace them after approximately six months. Support for the 31st MEU will become a steady state requirement of the Regiment. The 1st

Battalion, 5th Marines is scheduled to deploy to Darwin, Australia as part of the new Darwin Rotational Force for approximately six months.

The Headquarters Company of the Regiment is not scheduled to deploy at this time, but stands ready as part of the Nation's Crisis Response Force. It is currently assigned as the lead Regiment for the First Marine Division's Crisis Response Force and is assigned as the First Marine Expeditionary Brigade's Ground Combat Element. What this means in layman's terms is that the Regiment will be amongst the first to go if a crisis or contingency occurs requiring U.S. ground forces. This also means that we have our Headquarters Marines and Sailors on a short tether to be able to rapidly respond when the call comes...resulting in half of the unit needing to remain local during the holiday season. We do this willingly and are excited about the opportunity to get back in the fight.

Below are the three top priorities I established for the Regiment. I'm sharing them with you to let you know that your support enables us to focus on these priorities. Thank you for all you do. Sgt Maj Wiggins and all of our Marines and Sailors look forward to our next engagement with you.

1. Man, train, and equip the most ready battalions, detachments, and individuals to deploy in support of our National Security needs.
2. Ensure a high state of readiness of those units not deployed to respond to any crisis, or contingency, if and when our Nation calls.
3. Assist in the professional and personal development of our Marines, Sailors, and their families to help them meet their full potential.

God Bless and Semper Fi, Colonel Jason Bohm



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OOH-RAH! Log on to our website now! DanaPoint5thMarines.com.

Donate Online: Donate to the DP 5th Marine Regiment Support Group using a credit card on our secure PayPal Link. 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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