



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

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

Winter 2011

Create Holiday Magic

Dear Friends:

As the holiday season approaches, please be aware that we have nearly 1,400 of our Fighting Fifth Marines deployed in Afghanistan standing in harm's way to defend the freedoms we so sacredly value and cherish. Nearly a third have spouses and children who are left behind here at Camp Pendleton to keep the home fires burning. As Your Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group, our heart-felt charge is to make sure these troops and their families are well taken care of during this lengthy period of separation.

Here are ways you can help this Holiday Season:

- ❄ Sponsor a Thanksgiving Dinner for Marines and their families.
- ❄ Adopt a Marine and his family through **Operation Joining Forces**.
- ❄ Buy goodies, write cards or donate online to Operation Joining Forces so we may fill and send care and comfort packages to Afghanistan. Your gift goes directly to the front lines.
- ❄ Donate to **Operation Gift Cards** for the holiday party for Marines and families left behind or purchase gift cards and mail them via the enclosed self-addressed envelope.
- ❄ Volunteer for the Christmas party on December 10th.

Please 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. If you prefer, your check or credit card contribution may be sent to the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group via the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

This edition of Semper Fi SoundOff is dedicated almost entirely to our Support and Outreach efforts. I am grateful for the eager volunteerism you have demonstrated throughout the year, for your continued financial help when called upon and for the smiles and encouragement our Support Group receives so we may remain motivated to keep "charging the hill." Your generosity at this critical time of year will allow us the honor and privilege of offering the support and outreach our 5th Marines so richly deserve.

Semper Fi & Happy Holidays, Terry Rifkin, Director of Support & Outreach



*Terry Rifkin
Director of Support & Outreach*

Let Us Honor and Pay Tribute

Let us honor and pay tribute to these brave men. They responded to the Nation's call with gallantry, valor, courage and dedication. Our thoughts and prayers are with our fallen 1/5 and 2/4 Comrades in Arms, their Families, and Brothers. God Bless Our Heroes. They will not be forgotten.



Lance Corporal Joe M. Jackson
 Lance Corporal Ronald D. Freeman
 Lance Corporal Nicholas S. O'Brien
 Corporal Gurpreet Singh
 Lance Corporal John F. Farias
 Lance Corporal Robert S. Greniger
 Sergeant Daniel J. Patron
 Sergeant Adan Gonzales Jr.
 Sergeant Chad D. Frokjer

Lance Corporal Joshua B. McDaniels
 Lance Corporal Sean M. O'Connor
 Lance Corporal Jared C. Verbeek
 Corporal Kyle R. Schneider
 Lance Corporal Norberto Mendez-Hernandez
 Sergeant Joshua J. Robinson
 Corporal Michael J. Dutcher
 Gunnery Sergeant Ralph E. Pate Jr.



Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Dunning
 Lance Corporal Benjamin W. Schmidt



OPERATION CARE & COMFORT

Goodies List:

- ✓ beef jerky
- ✓ sunflower seeds
- ✓ nuts
- ✓ chewing gum
- ✓ chocolate
- ✓ peanut butter/cheese crackers
- ✓ instant hot chocolate
- ✓ instant coffee
- ✓ ground coffee (1lb bag or can)
- ✓ crystal light
- ✓ protein bars
- ✓ tooth brush holders
- ✓ Q tips
- ✓ granola bars
- ✓ unscented soap
- ✓ deodorant
- ✓ zip lock bags
- ✓ dry skin cream (facial)
- ✓ germ hand lotion (Sm & Lge)
- ✓ unscented baby wipes (large resealable packages)
- ✓ disposable razors
- ✓ shaving cream (Sm & Lge)
- ✓ white cotton socks
- ✓ sun screened lip balm
- ✓ tuna/chicken salad etc. meals
- ✓ trail Mix
- ✓ dried fruit (snack packs and larger)

SENDING LOVE ACROSS THE MILES TO OUR BRAVE AMERICAN HEROES

Currently Regimental Combat Team Five (RCT-5) under the Command of **Col Roger Turner** and our 2/4 commanded by **LtCol Bill Vivian** are deployed in Afghanistan.

Your goodies, cards, support and appreciation for their service will let them know that you are here for them. Moral support for those In-Country is so important. The troops are penetrating new and very hostile territory in Afghanistan and good wishes from home will mean so much.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Call to Action for All Friends of the Fifth

The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group will be collecting Goodies this holiday season for our troops in Afghanistan. We ask you to remember our Fighting Fifth Marines who are far from family and home. Many are in crude and unsafe circumstances.

Goodies campaign will end December 16th in order for packages to be delivered before the Holidays.

Drop off Locations for goodies:

- Dana Point City Hall, 33282 Golden Lantern Street, Dana Point; Harbor Grill, 34499 Golden Lantern Street, Dana Point Harbor; Starbucks, 32515 Golden Lantern Street, Dana Point; Union Bank, 34177 Pacific Coast Highway, Dana Point; Sunsets, 34700 Pacific Coast Hwy, Capistrano Beach; Jack's, 24462 Del Prado, Dana Point; Dana Point Chamber Office, 24681 La Plaza, Suite 115, Dana Point; South Shores Church on Sundays, 32712 Crown Valley Parkway, Dana Point; Pacific Western Bank, 34180 Pacific Coast Highway, Dana Point; Coffee Importers, 34531 Golden Lantern Street, Dana Point; Capo Beach Calvary, 25975 Domingo Avenue, Capistrano Beach.

Too busy to shop? Please consider making a secure online donation at **DanaPoint5thMarines.com** and let our volunteers do the shopping for you. Postage is close to \$15 per box to mail. Your donations allow us to send even more care packages to our Marines.

You can also help in the following ways:

- For a special treat: Write a holiday card to a Marine. At your church or school, have children make cards. (Remember, these men will not be with their children for the holidays and these cards really put a smile on their faces.)
- Put a collection box in your place of business and ask your fellow-workers to contribute.
- Ask your neighbors to shop for our Marines.

Our Marines will definitely feel the love across the miles. Thank you for making all the efforts you make so that our Troops know you appreciate their service and sacrifices. Without the support of our grateful community, our mission could not be accomplished.

OPERATION GIFT CARDS

The Marines and families will be having a **Regiment Holiday Party** for those who remain behind at Camp Pendleton. Santa and his workshop will be filled with toys for the small children. There will be music, food, and fun to lift the spirits of our Marines and families.

Gift cards are *especially* needed for our teens and single Marines. You can help by purchasing gift cards and mailing them via the enclosed self-addressed envelope or making a donation online.

Suggested gift cards for teens, single Marines and families at Camp Pendleton:

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





Sergeant Major and Son Join Forces in Afghanistan

Some fathers teach their sons how to throw a ball and others show their sons how to fish. **Sgt Maj Ernest Hoopii**, Regimental Combat Team 5 Sergeant Major, taught his son how to be a Marine.

Lance Cpl Sean Hoopii, a fire team leader with 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, is currently serving alongside his father for the second time in Southern Helmand Province.

“Sean is like my mini-me,” said the elder Hoopii, a native of Maui, Hawaii. “As a kid he would get dressed up in utilities and go out in the woods. I would have a vest for him and a vest for myself; and we would have canteens, a map, compasses and a GPS, and we would go patrolling in the woods.”

The Sergeant Major explained that his son is a third generation Marine on both sides of the family. The younger Hoopii said seeing the strong bond that Marines share and the way they take care of one another is why he ultimately decided to join the Corps.

Though cut from the same cloth, the younger Hoopii offers, by his account, the more accurate picture of their roles in the RCT. “He handles the bigger picture of making the political aspect of this work, and I make people act accordingly,” he said. “I’m the gunfighter, Dad’s the politician.”

Although most parents worry about sending their son or daughter into a combat zone, the father and son duo have been in this business for a while and do not share that same mentality.

“It is comforting for me to know my son is in my chain of command where I have some over-watch,” said the Sergeant Major. “I am luckier than most parents will ever be, you know, I’m on the same battlefield with my son. As a matter of fact, we joke that we spend more time together in Afghanistan than we do at home.”

Levity aside, this pair of Marines has spent quite a bit of time in Afghanistan. They are each currently serving their third tour of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group salutes this extraordinary father and son for their commitment to service and Country. We would be remiss not to acknowledge the sacrifices of the entire family with son **Kevin** and wife **JeanMarie** left behind in North Carolina. A big “Oo-Rah” for Jean Marie. She is the proud Family Readiness Officer for Sean’s unit, the 1/9, based out of Camp Lejeune, NC. Semper Fi and thank you to this dedicated and patriotic family!



Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 24 • 1:00 p.m.

Mahe Restaurant

24961 Dana Point Harbor Drive

On Thanksgiving Day Mahe Restaurant of Dana Point is hosting a complete, plated Thanksgiving Dinner, Open Bar, Dessert and Coffee for our our Active Duty Marines, their families, Wounded Warriors and Veterans.

We would like to invite all friends, guests of Vets and supporters of our 5th Marines.

Each and every one of you is welcome to join in the Thanksgiving Dinner Festivities for **\$20/Person**. For civilians there is a no-host bar.

If you would like to Sponsor a Marine(s), family member(s), Wounded Warrior(s), or Vet(s) or make a reservation to attend yourself, please contact **Pete Hammer** (949) 378-7984.

You may donate and pay online **DanaPoint5thMarines.com**.



Operation Joining Forces

Adopt a Marine and his Family

We still have dozens of Marines waiting to be adopted. Please answer the call!

You can adopt a Marine and his family while he is deployed in Afghanistan.

The 5th Marine Regiment Headquarters Company will be deployed for a year.

That’s a long time to be away from home and family. “Operation Joining Forces” allows Friends of the Fifth in our local communities and even around the country to adopt a single Marine or a Marine and his family left behind while in Afghanistan.

As a nation, we owe our brave service members and their families more than gratitude. We owe them our support. In the spirit of service, each of us can play a role and in doing so, we may demonstrate our appreciation for the remarkable sacrifices our American Military families are making for our freedom and safety.

Let’s get these last Marines adopted before the holidays. Let’s have no Marine left behind! Please register online at **DanaPoint5thMarines.com**.





From the Desk of Colonel Turner

I would like to extend greetings and our most heartfelt thanks to our friends in the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group. It is no surprise that you have managed to maintain a high level of support for our Marines and Sailors since RCT-5 arrived in Afghanistan. On behalf of all of our Marines, I would also like to thank you for the many thoughtful and considerate care packages – they significantly impacted unit morale and were accepted with gratitude.

Since the transition of authority of southern Helmand province with Regimental Combat Team 1, we have been working with our Afghan counterparts to continue the progress made in security, governance and infrastructure development over the last year in the Marjah, Nawa and Garmsir districts.

RCT-5 Marines and Sailors partner with Afghan National Security Forces on a daily basis, advising their counterparts in every aspect of the counterinsurgency fight. In all three districts, Marine and Afghan forces work at every level – starting at the regimental level and continuing all the way down to the squad-sized patrol bases scattered through our area of operations. These partnering efforts are the key to success in southern Helmand as coalition forces begin to transition authority of security operations with Afghan forces.

District governments in our Area of Operations continue to build critical infrastructure for the people of southern Helmand. The most visible signs of progress have come in the form of improvements to the education systems in Marjah, Nawa and Garmsir. Several new schools have been opened in each district, providing previously unavailable resources to educate the next generation of Afghan leaders.

The fact that progress is being made in southern Helmand province is undeniable. We look to continue the work of all those who came before us to build a better future for the people of Afghanistan through partnership with Afghan security forces and the Afghan government. None of this would be possible without your continued support back home. On behalf of the Marines and Sailors of RCT-5, thank you for all that you do.

Semper Fidelis, Colonel Roger Turner, Commanding Officer, Regimental Combat Team 5



Baby Shower



On October 16th, the Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group co-hosted a Baby Shower with Family Readiness Officer **Kim Merkel** and her Team of volunteers for 16 women currently pregnant or who recently gave birth. Each of their husbands are deployed with Regimental Combat Team 5 (RCT-5) in Afghanistan. There were special gifts, shower games and lunch for these extraordinary women. Thank you to our generous community who made this special event possible!



Thanks to Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary who recently sent school supplies to the children of Afghanistan as part of the Marine's ongoing peacekeeping mission.

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Donate Online: Donate to the DP 5th Marine Regiment Support Group using a credit card or via our 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 go directly to support our Fighting Fifth!

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