



SEMPER FI SOUND OFF

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

Spring 2010

President's Letter

I believe that YOUR Dana Point 5th Marine Regiment Support Group is unparalleled in its ability to execute relative to our extensive Mission and Outreach Plan. That plan, simply stated, is to benefit our 5th Marines and their families whether deployed or here at Camp Pendleton. Since the Support Organization was re-engaged at the beginning of 2008 we have been able to provide the following with the Community's support of donated time, talent, and financial resources:



Beer Garden hosted by the Support Group and manned by Friends of the Fifth Volunteers

- ▶ Mailed 1,000+ Care Packages Overseas
- ▶ Provided Emergency Aid to our Marines & Families
- ▶ Completed the 5th MAR Memorial Park Picnic Area
- ▶ Installed New Weight Equipment-Capt Yurista Combat Fitness Center
- ▶ Delivered multiple truck loads of Food, Clothing, Appliances
- ▶ Raised significant funds to defray Marine Birthday Ball Costs
- ▶ Completely renovated & refurbished the Family Readiness Room

Here is your opportunity to give back to our 5th Marines who are doing the heavy lifting in the war on terror fighting for our freedom.

For us to maintain and increase the level of Support and Outreach that is required by the Regiment, it is imperative that we raise the level or awareness, and encourage further involvement by our community, companies, churches, synagogues, and other non-profit organizations. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Support Group.

To find out how you might lend a helping hand, contact us at SupportRMarines@cox.net or (949) 378-7984. Become a Friend of the Fifth. We know that, by virtue of our own experience, getting involved with our 5th Marines and their families, will be very rewarding. Log onto our website www.DanaPoint5thMarines.com. Donate to the DP 5th Marine Regiment Support Group using a credit card or our PayPal account. Online you will also find out about upcoming 5th Mar events. Don't miss the fun!

I thank all of you for your heart for service and honoring our Fighting Fifth.

Semper Fi With Respect,

Pete Hammer, President

Dana Point Whale Parade



Fighting Fifth Line Up Before the Parade

The annual Festival of Whales Parade provided a wonderful backdrop for the Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group and the 5th Marine Regiment to be involved.



LtCol Bill Vivian and SgtMaj Alphonso Mack with Son Dylan Greet the Citizens of Dana Point

Along the parade route all the viewers had an opportunity to wave their flags provided by the Support Group as the Fighting 5th marched by along with vehicles and color guard. A special treat was to see **Sgt Major Mack**, his son and **Lt. Col Vivian** riding in cars secured by the City of Dana Point. It is exceptionally rewarding to be

a partner with the City of Dana Point. We are extremely proud and fortunate to involve our Marines as a Patriotic Centerpiece at these City-sponsored events.



Whale Festival Color Guard



Afghanistan Army Officer Delegation hosted at Jack's Restaurant

The Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group along with the 5th Marine Regiment Command at Camp Pendleton were called on by the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Command **BGen Larry D. Nicholson**, Commanding General and his most senior Staff NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) **SgtMaj Ernest Hoopii** to host a dinner at Jack's Restaurant in Dana Point on Monday evening, January 18th for an Afghanistan Army Delegation of 8 Officers. This elite group was led by **BGen Muhaiuddin Ghori**.



BGen Muhaiuddin Ghori Afghani traveled across the world for Jack's famous pizza

Our Afghan counterparts were visiting Camp Pendleton to help facilitate and educate selected 1st Marine Division Units aboard the

base who will be part of the increased Marine presence in Southern Afghanistan.

The host of the event, **Jack Loconsolo**, the owner of Jack's Restaurant and former Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group board member helped to set the tone for an evening not to be forgotten. The sentiment of the Afghan leaders really underscored the leadership prowess of BGen Larry Nicholson. The Afghan officers present expressed great respect for the General. BGeneral Nicholson was the commanding officer of the 5th Marines out of Camp Pendleton and was instrumental in revitalizing the relationship with the 5th Marines and Dana Point. BGen Nicholson wanted the Afghan officers to come to Dana Point and meet the City Officials and the Support Group because he believed we represented the best of what America is about. It was indeed a great honor.



Afghan Army Commander presents a flag from Afghanistan to then Mayor Lisa Bartlett and Dana Point City Manager Doug Chotkevys

Letter from Col. Buhl



Dear Family and Friends of the Fighting Fifth, the Corps' most decorated Regiment,

Spring has arrived and we are rapidly approaching a grand reunion on the battlefields of France at Belleau Wood where our Regiment distinguished itself in June of 1918. It was here that our Regiment stopped the German Army and saved Paris, earning the coveted French Fourragere. For the first time since 1918, the Regiment, to include all of our battalion colors, will gather again on that storied battlefield. After our France trip the Regiment will celebrate her 93rd Birthday, here at Camp San Mateo, in our beautiful and serene 5th Marines Memorial Park, amid the bustle of battalions readying for deployment and major construction projects spread across our camp.

2/4, the "**Magnificent Bastards**", have just returned from a very successful WESTPAC deployment, highlighted by contingency operations on the Horn of Africa. They are immediately readying additional companies for service in Afghanistan. 3/5, the "**Consummate Professionals**", are training hard in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan in September. 2/5, "**Retreat Hell**", returned from their short, but busy deployment to East Asia in January and immediately re-deployed Companies F and G in support of counter-insurgency operations, to include specialized training of the Afghan Army. 1/5, "**Make Peace or Die**", recently returned from an eminently successful deployment to Afghanistan. There they turned the population of the Nawa District away from the Taliban. Their template for success has set the highest standard for all U.S. Marine battalions that have followed them.

In between training with the Indian and Japanese soldiers, winter and summer training exercises in the Eastern Sierras, combined arms training in the Mojave Desert and marching up and down the hills of Camp Pendleton, we have enjoyed sharing our off-duty time with the finest community in the United States, the City of Dana Point. The love and support from the great people of Dana Point, and our own 5th Marines Dana Point Support Group has been unconditional and unmatched. Serving in the 5th Marines family is a very special thing. On behalf of the 4800 Marines and Sailors, and their families, who make up our Regiment, **Sergeant Major Mack** and I wish you all good things in the coming months — we are proud to serve.

Semper Fidelis,

Col. Willard Buhl



Dana Point Grand Prix of Cycling

The Dana Point 5th Marine Support Group was privileged to support not only the City of Dana Point but also the Cycling Foundation who put on the Grand Prix on Sunday, April 11th in Dana Point. What an awesome event to see the cyclists compete on our streets for position, standings, and of course prizes. Even the young children were able to have their event and get a medal for being part of the excitement!

The Marines had 2 armored vehicles on static display. This provided opportunities for the children to climb in and out of the vehicles with proud parents snapping

pictures. Even a few civilian adults were cited looking out from behind the wheel.

In addition, the 5th Marine Support Group "manned" the beer garden with many volunteers providing micro brewed beer donated by Strauss. Fun was had by all!

If you haven't had an opportunity to walk around and enjoy the Dana Point Grand Prix plan to do so next year. Consider volunteering at one of our Support Group events. You will be inspired just brushing shoulders with our fine Marines.



The kids were wowed to meet the Marines and climbed all over the Static Display of Military Vehicles

1st Battalion, 5th Marines' recent Commanding Officer LtCol William McCollough speaks at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point



The stage was set by America's proud Marines

On April 14th, The Support Group hosted a briefing at the beautiful Ocean Institute, so that the residents of our communities could hear the real success story of **LtCol McCollough's** recent command of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in his 7 month deployment in Afghanistan. In May 2009, LtCol McCollough deployed to Afghanistan where his Battalion seized the Nawa District of Helmand Province, participating in Operation KANJARI. LtCol McCollough's personal decorations include the Bronze Star with "V" device, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star.



LtCol Bill McCollough

LtCol McCollough captured the audience's attention as he described how his "Boots on the ground" Marines under the leadership of his Officers and Senior Enlisted Personnel embedded themselves with the Afghanistan people and won over their hearts and minds. Demonstrating integrity; doing what they said they would do, all while abiding by the customs of the region allowed Marines to earn the respect of the Afghanistan leaders and people. The humanitarian effort of affording medical care, building roads and repairing buildings showed our genuine desire for this country to rebuild and renew an economy that can thrive without the old corrupt influences.

LtCol McCollough gave us a fascinating depiction of a well-executed strategy. Everyone in attendance was proud of these exceptional Marines who are daily putting their lives on the line for Operation Enduring Freedom. Ridding Afghanistan of the forces of terror and lending dignity and prosperity to this region will ultimately lead to keeping America safe in our own borders.

You Can Make A Difference!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Support Group Organization. Volunteers are needed who can provide their time, talent, and expertise in whatever measure to accomplish our mission of taking good care of our 5th Marines and their families, whether deployed or here at Camp Pendleton.

Upcoming 5th Mar FUNdraising Events

June 9: 5th Marine Birthday Celebration

Cannon's Restaurant, Dana Point

June 28: Combat Golf Tournament

Tee off at Camp Pendleton

July 24: 5th Marine Car Wash

South Shores Church



American Hero

Since our last edition of the Semper Fi Soundoff last winter, it is with heavy hearts that we inform our Friends of the 5th about the loss of one of our own brave Marines who died while fighting in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.



LCpl. Justin J. Swanson, 21, of Anaheim, CA, died November 10, 2009, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

For Lcpl. Swanson, Duty, Honor and Country were more than words. They were a way of life.



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Donations are gratefully accepted.

Secure donations may be made at www.DanaPoint5thMarines.com

Veterans Memorial Dedicated

On Monday, April 12th the newly developed Veterans Memorial was dedicated just off Selva Road adjacent to the Strands. The off-and-on rain didn't deter the hundred or so people to participate in this ceremony. The City of Dana Point, the Veteran's of Foreign War, and the 5th Marines all played a part in this impressive dedication to all five services; Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard.



Col. Willard Bulh, commanding officer of Dana Point's "adopted" 5th Marine Regiment spoke and presented an impressive flag encased in a frame that has flown over Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan. This tribute will be located at the Dana Point City Hall.



Fifth Marines' Command at the Dana Point Veteran's Memorial Dedication

If you haven't visited the Memorial, take a few minutes to remember all the veterans of Dana Point including our fallen comrades in arms. This is a serene, beautiful place to contemplate the ultimate sacrifice made by our service men and women through American history.

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Support the Fighting 5th!

Log on to our website now at www.DanaPoint5thMarines.com & Facebook OORAH!

Here you will find many great new interactive features, such as:

Facebook Fan Box: Become a fan of the DP 5th Marine Regiment Support Group.

Donate Online: Donate to the DP 5th Marine Regiment Support Group using a credit card or 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!

Join our email list: Click on the link titled "join our email list" and enter your email address. We won't sell or share your information with anyone. Keep informed on our news, information, fundraising activities, and great community events.

Become a "Friend of the Fifth": For a nominal fee, become a "Friend of the Fifth Member" and receive discounts at the website store and selected community events. You will also receive a special gift just for joining! Your tax-deductible donation and membership will allow us to continue our worthy mission of supporting our warriors who are fighting for our freedom.