



MAG-41 NEWS

APRIL 2004



Volume 1, Issue 4



Colonel Hawkins Message

Hello MAG-41 families from the desert plains of Iraq along the historic Euphrates River. I am happy to report that all of your Marines are safe and sound. Spring is here and the MAG and all of its squadrons are doing extremely well, events are planned for your families, and the Marines and Sailors from Texas are busy in the country and out, doing what Marines do—either training and getting ready, or executing what they have trained for in combat, or peacetime forward presence missions.

First, I want to thank you all personally for the show of love and support for your Marines and Sailors as we continue to support operations in Iraq and the Horn of Africa. Your loved ones are performing extremely well, are leading in every aspect of the fight against terrorism and our daily operations. I get positive comments regularly from commanders and senior officers alike that mark MAG-41 Marines as leaders that are motivated, positive, and add value to the effort. I know that these times are difficult with loved ones in combat areas, so know that your leadership over here has their welfare in mind every minute of every day. I work closely with the Commanding General that is leading our MAG-41 Marines in the Iraqi theater and he spends all day tirelessly working to keep your Marines safe.

Reports on the Horn Of Africa are that our MAG-41 Marines from the MAG headquarters, VMGR-234 and MALS-41 are already highly sought after assets for the Joint Command there. No surprise, during OIF I, the Rangers were the most sought after Herc squadron. I could not be happier with the combat performance of America's MAG overseas.

Back home in Fort Worth there is flurry of activity as the next rotation of MAG units prepare for their duty overseas and MALS and 112 stand ready while honing their skills. I would like to say that I am steeled in my belief that proper training and preparation prior to deployment makes the difference. Your Marines and Sailors will be trained, ready, and equipped to succeed in their assigned duties prior to their departure.

Because of where I am, the details of daily life, our routines, what we are doing and how are all being held close to or operational security reasons. Therefore, to keep your Marines safe, I'll wait to tell those stories once we get back. But you should know that we are living well and you should be getting mail, email, and telephone calls regularly. As much as your Marines talk about you everyday, I am sure that is not a problem. The phone system here is cheaper by the minute than what most companies charge in the states, so make sure you take advantage of the Segovia telephone cafés. I am just finishing working the night shift here and can attest that many Marines are waiting to use the phones at night. We are nine hours ahead, so the best time to call is when most of the camp is sleeping. I will be brief so there is plenty of room for my better half to pass the local news.

Once again, thank you all for the love and support.

Semper Fidelis,
Gator



Special points of interest:

- ♦ *JRB Easter Egg hunt for Kids on April 3, 2004*
- ♦ *MAG-41 family day on April 18, 2004*
- ♦ *Free Air Show at JRB/NAS May 15, 2004*
- ♦ *Newsletter now available on MAG-41 website- <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmaw/mag41>*

LtCol Dietrich Message

Hello to all of our families and friends of MAG-41. First let me say thank you to our Key Volunteers who have helped us keep in touch with everyone during this deployment period. Though our mission here is to train, man and properly equip our Marines as best we can, our goal is to do it as effectively and smart as possible. One of the ways to do this is through good communication and providing pertinent information whenever able.

This newsletter and the information it provides is one of the means we have in getting informative news, events and updates out to our Marine families. Additional sources of information come from our MAG Website, scheduled meetings and family gatherings that occur here throughout the year. As you read through this month's newsletter, please mark on your calendars the upcoming events we have scheduled to include our family day picnic in April,

base air show in May and pool party in July. If there are any questions or concerns that you may have, please contact myself here at the MAG or any of our Key Volunteers. Hope to see you at the picnic.

Sincerely,
LtCol Thomas F. Dietrich



A note from Elizabeth Hawkins

Key Volunteer Advisor

SPRING IS NOW HERE AND I HOPE YOU

HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO ENJOY THE WONDERFUL WEATHER WE HAVE HAD. MAG-41 AND JRB/NRS HAVE A LOT OF FUN FAMILY EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU AT SOME OF THEM!

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET VISITED THE MAG-41 WEBSITE, I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO DO SO. IT IS FULL OF INFORMATION AND YOU WILL SOON BE ABLE TO ACCESS YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE AS WELL. THE UPCOMING EVENTS WILL BE POSTED FOR YOU.

I KNOW A LOT OF YOU ARE PLANNING YOUR SPRING AND SUMMER VACATIONS RIGHT NOW. PLEASE KEEP YOUR KEY VOLUNTEER UPDATED IF YOU WILL BE OUT OF TOWN FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME SO WE CAN REACH YOU IF NEEDED. ALSO, IF YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS!

DON'T FORGET, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE A FUN STORY OR A SPECIAL RECIPE PLEASE EMAIL ME AT: HAWKINSEL.CTR@AFR.USMC.MIL

SEMPER GUNBY (ALWAYS FLEXIBLE)

ELIZABETH

Jane Wayne Day

MAG-41 celebrated the first of many JANE WAYNE Day's on March 6, 2004. The intent of Jane Wayne day is to give spouses a better picture of what Marines do, how they train, and what they wear.

The 17 participants started the day with a "check-in" process and then attended a Safety Brief. Then they were divided into three groups and escorted to different areas within the MAG to "experience" real job duties.

Let me mention that everyone was also provided a wonderful free lunch (an MRE –Military Ready to Eat Meal)

One of the areas that the participants were able to experience was the pistol range where they learned how to load and shoot a pistol. Mrs. Judy Rutt from MAG-41 Headquarters shot a 168 out of a possible 191 which labels her an EXPERT shooter! Congratulations Judy.

Then to the F-18 flight simulator where each participant was allowed "flight time" and a chance at landing on a carrier— Kasey Duncan, daughter of GySgt Duncan was able to land it the first time! Way to go Kasey!

While visiting MWSS-473, each of them got to drive a Bull Dozer, Hum-vee and shoot an air assault rifle.

Last, but certainly not least, the entire group was brought back together and were able to ride in the back of C-130 while it taxied on the runway.

At the end of the day, each participant received a certificate as well as their own personal "dog tags". It was a fun day and enjoyed by all!!!

We are planning another Jane Wayne Day later this year – Look for more details about signing up in the future issues of MAG-41 NEWS.

PARTICIPANTS:

Judy Rutt (MAG), Mary Mandik (mother of Otto Rutt– MAG), Peggy Monego(MAG), Lori Peterson (MAG), Maria Ledesma (MAG), Joseph LaTour (MAG), Brandy Olson (112), Araceli Vargas (112), Allison Thompson (MALS), Misty Carter (MALS), Trina Meier (VMGR-234), Shandra Doran VMGR-234), Diane Palkoner (MWSS-473), Crystal Duncan (MWSS-473), Kasey Duncan (MWSS-473) and Britny Chandler (MWSS-473).

PROMOTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to the Marines who were promoted in March 2004. We thank you for your service and all that you do!

- Sgt Hector Ledesma
- Cpl David Rooks



MARCH AWARDS



The GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL was award to SSGT Jennifer Bridges and LCPL Bird—CONGRATULATIONS to both of you!

CONGRATULATIONS to SGTMJR Leal, who received a BRONZE STAR with COMBAT V.



MAG-41 FAMILY DAY

Bring your entire family to **MAG-41 Headquarters Family Day** enjoy games, good food to eat and lots of fun!!!! The festivities for family day are on SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2004 starting at 13:00 (1:00). We will meet on base at the lake front, pavilion #1.

Some of the events you and your family can look forward to: Softball, Three legged race, Volleyball, Bouncy houses and MUCH MORE.

We look forward to seeing ALL of you there!

Now Playing at the Theatre on Base.....

Ticket prices: Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.00

APRIL 2

Welcome To Mooseport— 6:00 pm.
The Cooler— 8:30 p.m.

APRIL 3

Catch that Kid— rated PG —2:30 p.m.
Confessions of a Drama Queen— rated PG — 5:00 p.m.
Miracle— rated PG — 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 4

Catch that Kid— rated PG —2:30 p.m.
Against the Ropes— rated PG-13 — 5:00 p.m.

APRIL 9

Calendar Girls—Rated PG —6:00 p.m.
Hidalgo—Rated PG-13 —8:30 p.m.

APRIL 10

Barbershop 2: Back in Business—rated PG-13 2:30 p.m.
Against the Ropes— rated PG-13 — 5:00 p.m.
Twisted—rated R — 7:30 p.m.

APRIL 11

Welcome To Mooseport— 6:00 pm.
50 First Dates—PG- 13 — 5:00 p.m.



Annual 5K Earth Run

The annual 5k run has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 8th. Register no later than 0830 the day of the run. The run starts promptly at 1130.

Entry fees are \$10.00 for military and \$13.00 for civilians. T-shirts will be given to all participants. 1st and 2nd place trophies to overall winners.

FREE AIR SHOW

The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base will host a FREE Air Show for the entire community on MAY 15, 2004. Gates open at 9:00 a.m., The show starts at 10:00.

The Dallas and Ft. Worth Community has generously supported the troops that have been activated and they also support those involved in the continuing protection of our country.

Please come to the NAS/JRB Air Show and enjoy the talents of the Joint Reserves.



Chaplain's Corner

SPIRITUAL READINESS

The issues connected with both long and short-term separation are many. It is necessary to deal with practical matters such as finances, child care, and job security in a purposeful way, before and during separation. It is equally important to care for spiritual and emotional needs as well. One of the most difficult things we have to do is WAIT, whether it is in anxious anticipation of the separation to begin or in dealing with the seemingly endless days for the return. How we wait makes all the difference.

THE THREE "Ps" OF WAITING

PLAN: "All things should be done decently and in order." (I Cor. 14:40). Do you have a spiritual Plan? Having a strategic plan for life during separation provides a framework and sense of control over our lives. Our spiritual lives also need a plan to be effective. An organized spiritual life with regular times set aside for prayer and worship will make us more receptive to spiritual refueling and more aware of the gift of God's strength and guidance. Waiting for someone is much easier when we are waiting with God and waiting on those he has given to us to serve.

PATIENCE: "Do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Heb. 6:14). Why is it that we often take our frustrations out on the one's we love the most? Why do the arguments seem to increase the closer we get to separation? We have no control over mobilization but we do have control over what we will say to our spouse or children. We will inherit peace in the home and the heart when we choose to "run with patience the race that is set before us." Be positive and hopeful. Listen more and talk less.

PARTICIPATION: "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling...as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:9f). Waiting in fellowship is more supportive than waiting alone. Be aware of the needs of other families and help. Active involvement in command support opportunities and worship communities can provide emotional and spiritual support.

Chaplain Neal Moquin
 MAG 41





If you have any questions or concerns you can contact LtCol J. Clark Leevy the Peace War Support Team (PWST) for MAG-41
 WK: (817)783-7504
 CELL: (817)690-5241
 HM: (817)337-0505

MAG Address:
 MAG-41
 Bldg 1046 Boyington Drive
 NAS Ft. Worth (JRB)
 Ft. Worth, TX 76127

MAG-41 Mission Statement

MAG-41 will train, man, equip, and sustain an expeditionary aviation combat element, CFACC element, an aviation logistics squadron, a fighter-attack squadron, and an aerial refueler/assault support squadron in order to deploy/employ as a MAG/ACE, a special purpose MAGTF, or any combination of capabilities ISO MAGTF or Combined/Joint Warfare.

APRIL is National Smile Month-

Other unique days in April for you to remember:
 April 1-7 Laugh at Work Week
 April 10th National Sibling Day
 April 17th Husband Appreciation Day

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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April 09, 2003

Marine Corps Announces New Operation Iraqi Freedom Toll-Free Hotline for Family Members

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.--The U.S. Marine Corps has established a toll-free Marine Corps Operation Iraqi Freedom Hotline.

The toll-free hotline number is 866-227-2708.

This hotline is intended primarily for concerned family members who are seeking accurate information, useful resources, and helpful referrals related to Marine Corps deployments. The general public is encouraged to go to the Marine Corps homepage at <http://www.usmc.mil>.

This hotline does not provide information on current operations or information on Marine Corps casualties. If a Marine becomes a casualty, the Marine Corps will personally notify all next of kin as soon as possible.

Finally, the hotline does not facilitate news media inquiries. Media queries should be directed to the Headquarters Marine Corps Media Branch at 703-614-4309.

Country to the Corps

Music festival to benefit DFW Marine Corps Families
www.dfwmarinecorpsfamilies.com

Touched by Fire Productions will present the Country to the Corps music festival April 4th, from 2 to 9 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.). Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. 214-747-4422 (for publication). Admission is \$10 (at the door only).

Band line-up:

2 p.m. Traven Tucker - Blues based folk / rock
www.traventucker.com

3 p.m. Nancy Moore and the Light Sweet Crude Band - Texas/Americana
www.nancymoore.net

4 p.m. Boys Named Sue - Country novelty
www.boysnamedsue.com

5 p.m. Kevin Deal and Full Metal Racket - Texas/Americana
www.kevindeal.com

6 p.m. Donny Ray Ford and the Widowmakers - Roots-rockin' gunslinger ballads
www.donnyrayford.com

7 p.m. Eleven Hundred Springs - Texas/Country
www.elevenhundredsprings.com

 * If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we *
 * did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so *
 * welcome. *
 * *
 * Anne Bradstreet *
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