



MAG-41 NEWS

MAY 2004



Volume 1, Issue 5



Colonel Hawkins Message

Greetings from the Iraqi theater of Operations. I am sorry to report the loss of a friend and fellow Marine, LtCol (Select) Brett "Boo Boo" Bekken. Marines from all over the world mourn the loss of this great American and lift up his family in thought and prayer. He was lost while flying his FA-18 in a Marine ground support mission in the Arizona desert on the 21st of April. The memory and impact of his service and contribution to his country and Corps will endure forever. He will be missed.

As most of you are well aware the tempo of operations here in Iraq has picked up significantly, then dropped off again since my last letter. I am proud to report that all deployed MAG-41 Marines are safe, sound, well fed, warm at night, and making a great contribution to this effort. The nation needs every bit of talent and skill that your Marines possess, so know well that they are needed, excelling, and making me proud. You have every reason to bust your buttons with patriotic pride; the Marines of America's MAG are doing "heavy lifting in the air effort" against the enemy. However, we do not know how long these current operations are going to last due to the slow down in offensive operations.

Even though diplomatic efforts are ongoing as you see in the news, Marines are fighting hard as I write this letter. You can count on the fact that if Marines are fighting, your Marines are a part of the total effort to help support those Marines in some manner. Some are helping to coordinate and plan witheringly accurate fire from aircraft on enemy positions, or flights that we call CASEVAC (casualty evacuation) to get our beloved Marines to medical care as fast as possible. Others are supporting the efforts on the ground with their own specific Marine Corps skills that make the entire process work. Your Marines are helping to fight the enemy and to save lives. You'll be happy to note that your family's sacrifice is part of this nation's effort to help the good people of Iraq survive this desperate attempt of hostile foreign fighters (Mujahdeen), former Sadaam regime elements, and Al Qaeda to stop freedom and democracy from taking root and flourishing. The Horn of Africa Marines are stealing the show ... again. All reports from the MAG-41/VMGR-234 det HOA are that the Air Force has a tough act to follow! Our common boss, Commander Central Command, is impressed with what Marines do with the mighty KC-130. He wants the Air Force to follow the lead dogs and to take some operational pointers from our professionals. Outstanding!

As you probably know by now, VMFA-112 is in the planning stages for an overseas deployment. This will be the first contingency deployment of a Reserve Marine Fighter Attack Squadron in modern times. The Cowboys are the right team for the job! Good luck with your planning and preparations – details to follow when we are able to talk freely about the location and duration.

Until
Next Month, Semper Fidelis, Gator

Special points of interest:

- ♦ *Free Air Show at JRB/NAS May 15, 2004*
- ♦ *Voice Greetings From Home*
- ♦ *Tribute to Brett Bekken VMFA 112*
- ♦ **NEW Marine Spouses Club**
- ♦ *Newsletter now available on MAG-41 website– <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmaw/mag41>*

Thank you to all of our Marines and Key Volunteers that helped make the MAG Family Day and picnic so successful. Despite the gusty winds, all of the kids seemed to have a great time, as did many of the Moms and Dads. A special thanks goes out to our DJ, SSgt Rusty Baker, and his "Mr. Microphone" skills. It's been a busy month here at the MAG and promises to stay that way for a while. Our Marines are working hard at supporting those that are deployed while still maintaining the standards and training requirements at our home base.

LtCol Dietrich Message

Future events include drill weekends, the base air show and preparation for summer deployments.

We will continue to use the Family Readiness Program and Key Volunteer Network to pass information and to keep all of our families up to date with what's going on at the MAG and the status of our deployed Marines. If there is anything that we missed or any additional information that you require, please let us know.

Next event is the NAS Ft Worth JRB Air Show, 15 May. It's going to be a great time for all. Please extend an invitation of this event to all of your extended family, friends and employers that support our Marine Corps family.

Sincerely,
LtCol Thomas F. Dietrich

A note from Elizabeth Hawkins

Key Volunteer Advisor

I want to start by wishing all of the MOTHERS a very Happy Mother's Day— here is a quote that I found that seems to sum up the way I feel about my mother; *"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take."* - **Cardinal Mermillod**

I would also like to thank all of the Marines and Key Volunteers that helped with our Family day— it was great to see so many of the MAG-41 Marines and their families participating in all of the fun. A special recognition goes out to SSgt Rusty Baker, who kept us all entertained with music, games and more! I hope to see even more of you at the Air Show on May 15th.

MAG-41 now has a MARINE SPOUSES CLUB that will start meeting on a monthly basis, you can find more information on page 4.

Don't forget, if you would like to include a fun story or a special recipe please email me at: hawkinsel.ctr@mfr.usmc.mil

Semper Gumby (always flexible)

Elizabeth

WORDS FROM THE SERGEANT MAJOR

Dear Spouses:

For those of you that attended the MAG-41 Headquarters Family Day I hope you had a great time. I would like to thank those of you that assisted behind the scenes to make the event a true success.

For those throughout the MAG, whose spouses are currently deployed, rest assured that our sole purpose at the Headquarters, along with our well trained Key Volunteer Network, is to support you and your family.

I want you all to know that your Marines and Sailors are making a difference in the world. For instance on a couple of recent trips to Kansas City Mo, and San Diego Ca, not one person on any flight that my family or I was on was concerned about terrorist taking over our aircraft. I am sure since September 11th there would have been several Americans that would have attacked the terrorist and tossed him off the aircraft.

We as Americans continue to live our lives as a free people, unafraid as the terrorist would like us to be. We are a strong nation because of the commitment that you and your spouse give. As you continue your day to day life know that supporting your spouse is just as effective as standing next to them where they are currently deployed. I honor you in all that you do now and in the future in support on this war on terror.

Remember someone has to man the perimeter because freedom isn't free.

Gregory Leal
Sergeant Major
MAG-41

PROMOTIONS

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

Cpl Joel Chaverri

Cpl Joshua Tate



APRIL AWARDS



The NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL has been awarded to CPL Christopher Carnell, CPL Vincent Johnson, SGT Tameka Jenkins and SGT Anthony Medrano— CONGRATULATIONS to ALL of you!

CONGRATULATIONS to LCPL Carl Govan who received the CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION—Way to go!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to LTCOL Kenneth Everill who received the SELECTED MARINE CORPS MEDAL.



Remembering Major Brett Bekken

Our heart felt condolences go out to the family and friends of Major Brett Bekken who tragically left us on Wednesday April 21, 2004 in a training exercise in California.

Major Bekken, 36, is a 15 year Marine Corps veteran and was a pilot with the Cowboys of VMFA 112, MAG-41's F/A 18 Squadron.

Major Bekken touched many people along his life's journey and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. We ask that you keep his family and friends as well as the entire VMFA 112 Family in your thoughts and prayers.

There will be a memorial service for Major Bekken at the Naval Air Station...date not determined at this time. For more details, call MAG-41 headquarters at 817-782-7402

"...those who hope in the Lord, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles....." Isaiah 40:31

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

Ticket prices: Adults \$3.00 Children \$2.00

APRIL 30

Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London- PG6:00 pm.
The Lady Killers- rated R 8:30 p.m.

MAY 1

Scooby Doo 2- rated PG —2:00 p.m.
Calendar Girls (last)- rated PG — 4:30 p.m.
Taking Lives- rated R — 7:00 p.m.

MAY 2

Scooby Doo- rated PG —2:00 p.m.
Hidalgo (last)—Rated PG-13 —4:30 p.m

MAY 7

The Prince and Me—Rated PG —6:00 p.m.
Passion Of the Christ— Rated R—8:30 p.m.

MAY 8

Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London- PG 2:00 pm
Secret Window (last)- rated PG-13 — 4:30 p.m.
Passion Of the Christ— Rated R—8:30 p.m

MAY 9

Starsky and Hutch (last) - rated PG 13— 2:00 pm.
Passion Of the Christ— Rated R—4:30 p.m

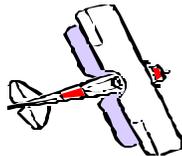
CLOSED ON MAY 14 AND 15 because of AIR SHOW OPEN HOUSE

For additional info call 782-6037



NAS JRB

“Military Salute to the Community” Air Show/Open House



Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base would like to invite our neighbors and surrounding areas to enjoy a fun filled day of the **Joint Reserve Forces** in *“action.”* There will be an aerial demonstration of aircraft actually in use by the military today as well as vintage planes from past years. Military personal will be available at the static displays to answer any questions guests may have. Please make plans to join us Saturday, May 15, 2004.

FREE Admission and Parking (Novelty items, food & beverages will be available for purchase.)

Gates open at 09:00 a.m.

Show starts at 11:00 a.m.

No coolers or pets allowed



Chaplain's Corner

SPIRITUAL READINESS

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (James 1:2-3)

The Marines of MAG 41 and their families certainly experience “trial of many kinds:” Short and long term separations with AT, mobilizations, deployments, civilian job tensions, and the shifting emotions that accompany all of them. Closely following news reports can be a trial in itself for families of deployed Marines, as may be the times in between phone calls or emails from overseas.

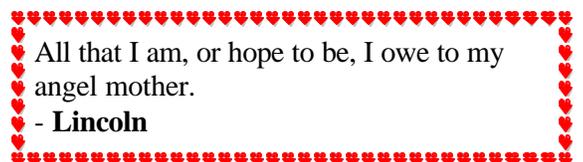
Guidance from James 1:2-3 may seem simplistic at first glance, merely advising people experiencing difficult circumstances to muster a better attitude toward life. Yet the verses describe what empowers people to persevere through hard times, such as humble trust in God, resistance to temptation, and acknowledgment of God as the source of everything good in life. Think about how you can choose to grow in relationship with God and your family by incorporating these elements of persevering faith into your life.

Chaplain Neal Moquin
MAG 41

VOICE GREETINGS FROM HOME

There is nothing better for a Marine that is deployed than hearing the voices of their friends and family that are back home!

- Using any phone your friends and family can record a personal message that will be put on an album and then sent directly to your loved one. To learn more about VOICE GREETINGS FROM HOME call the toll free number (800) 317-9560 or visit their website at www.americanvoiceexpressions.com



All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.

- Lincoln



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:
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 Bldg 1046 Boyington Drive
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 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.

QUICK AND EASY SALAD RECIPE THAT CAN BE USED FOR MOTHERS DAY!

STRAWBERRY FIELD SALAD

- 1 bag (5 ounces) spring mix salad greens
- 1 1/2 cups strawberries, halved
- 1/4 cup pre-crumbled blue cheese (can use feta cheese instead)
- 1/2 cup pre-chopped walnuts or pecans
- Sesame Vinaigrette*

Place the spring mix in a large serving bowl and top it with the strawberries, nuts and blue cheese. Pour vinaigrette over the salad, toss to coat the ingredients well, and serve.

*SEASAME VINAIGRETTE

A little doctoring turns bottled Italian dressing into something any salad would be proud to wear!

- 1/4 cup bottled Italian salad dressing
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon Asian sesame oil

Whisk all ingredients together and then set aside until ready to use.

MAY is National Book Month-

- Other unique days in May for you to remember:
- May 2-8 National Family Week
 - May 6th National Nurses Day
 - May 8th Mothers Day
 - May 15th Armed Forces Day
 - May 31st Memorial Day

ANNOUNCING: NAS/JRB FORT WORTH MARINE SPOUSES CLUB

MAG-41 now officially has a MARINE SPOUSES CLUB that is open to all of the units within the MAG. For those Marines that are not married, your significant other or your parents are welcome to join any of the meetings. The main purpose of this "club" is to have an outlet to meet other Marine spouses and have people to socialize with. We will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month, locations will vary.

Dues will be \$10.00 /year. This money will help us establish an account and then as a club we will decide different ways to utilize the money. We will also have the opportunity to do different fundraisers and that money will be donated to charities or can be donated to different units in the MAG for Key Volunteer events.

If you would like more information on how to join please email Elizabeth Hawkins at hawkinsel.ctr@mfr.usmc.mil

 * The most important thing a father can do for his *
 * children is to love their mother. *
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 * Theodore Hesburgh *
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