

January 2013

Battalion Commander Update

Marines and Sailors, Staff and Officers, Family and Friends,

Happy New Year from the Command Deck at 1st Battalion, 12th Marines. In the past year, 1/12 has become one of the premier artillery battalions in the USMC. Numerous battery and battalion live-fire exercises have sharpened the command's artillery skills. These skills will be further strengthened with a comprehensive training plan that will conclude with the battalion's participation in an integrated live-fire exercise in California later this year.

Although we are focused on training, the battalion knows that its strength comes from its families. The Battalion Town Hall in November was a success and we will build on this event for next year. The focus for Family Readiness in the coming months will be to prepare Battery C families for their future deployment in the spring as well as preparing Battery E families for the battery's return from Okinawa. The Battalion will also plan, coordinate, and host a Family Day aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii in the spring as well.

As the Marine Corps draws down its numbers, the Marine Corps will only retain its best and most highly qualified personnel. Therefore, for the Marines selected for promotion and approved for reenlistment, I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations from the Sergeant Major and myself. Your record speaks for itself.

As we enter our tenth year of continuous combat operations with an all volunteer force, it is imperative that we recognize the selfless service and sacrifices our Marines and their families make for the defense of our Nation, values and way of life. The decision to enlist is most often an individual leap of faith, but the decision to re-enlist is usually a family decision, made with full knowledge of the kind of hardships that life as a Marine family can demand. To those Marines who have decided to re-enlist and the families that continue to support them, thank you for your loyal dedication and service.

As you can see, we will be busy this year. I want you to know we will do all we can to ensure the communication between Headquarters and your Marines is always open and want to ensure you are apprised of all future major events. If you have any questions about the battalion's events or direction, please reach out to your Battery Leadership and, if needed, the Battalion Family Readiness Officer.

It is an honor to serve with you and I look forward to seeing you all at work and during liberty.

Semper Fidelis

LtCol Michael Roach, USMC

Commanding Officer 1/12