



2D TANK BATTALION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

Issue 3-2016

Message from the Commanding Officer

Marines, Sailors, and Families of the Ironhorse,

On the 22nd of June I took command of this great battalion so this is my first opportunity to formally reach out to many of you, especially the family members. I am Lieutenant Colonel Lance Langfeldt, my wife's name is Cristy and we have three boys – Clay (17), Colin (16), and Devon (14). I have had the opportunity to meet many of you but my family and I look forward to meeting each of you as soon as possible. As a former member of 2d Tank Battalion and the 2d Marine Division, I am excited to be back amongst some of the best Marines, Sailors, and families in the Corps.

The Marines and Sailors of the Ironhorse continue to meet operational demands head on and excel in every regard while doing so. Our operational requirements are currently to support the Black Sea Rotational Force Combined Arms Company (BSRF-CAC) in a deployment to Eastern Europe as well as sourcing a tank platoon to each Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) deployment (22nd, 24th, 26th). We currently have 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company deployed with the BSRF-CAC that will be returning soon. Next to deploy in support of BSRF-CAC will be 1st Platoon, Bravo Company. In addition, Captain Newport, former Commanding Officer of Bravo Company was selected to command the BSRF-CAC on this same deployment. Our tank platoon from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company has recently returned from their deployment with the 26th MEU. In addition to their stellar performance on the MEU, Gunnery Sergeant Lowery (Platoon Sergeant) and his crew competed in the Sullivan Cup Tank Gun-

nery competition upon returning from the deployment. 1st Platoon, Alpha Company is currently deployed with the 22nd MEU and 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company is preparing to begin training with the 24th MEU for a deployment in early 2017.

Despite continuously supporting deployments, the Marines and Sailors of the battalion remain focused on the training and maintenance readiness necessary to ensure a combat ready tank battalion. Alpha Company recently returned from their semi-annual gunnery qualification. Bravo Company completed an Integrated Training Exercise in 29 Palms in May-June. Both companies have continued to focus on company level training while simultaneously preparing platoons for BSRF and MEU deployments. Marines from Headquarters and Service Company remain highly committed to training and maintenance while supporting both companies and the overall effort of the battalion. In July, we conducted a battalion level field exercise called IRON FOX. The intent of the training was to integrate Fox Company, 4th Tank Battalion into 2d Tank Battalion with the eventual goal of absorbing them into our battalion in the event we are called upon for battalion level combat operations. The exercise focused on platoon and company level training that included amphibious operations, tank-infantry integration, offense/defense, and fire support training.

In early July we conducted the 2d Tank Battalion Beach Bash and Car show. There were several great cars and motorcycles that entered the show



and it was apparent that many in the battalion take a lot of pride in their vehicles. The weather was excellent and a perfect day to be at the beach. A special thanks to all the family members who attended and those who helped support the event. I would like to maximize every opportunity in the future to continue these kinds of events. If you were not able to make it, I hope to see you at the next family readiness event. There will be additional information forthcoming regarding dates and venue.

Please feel free to contact our Family Readiness Officer (FRO), Noreen Towle for any questions about our Family Readiness Program and how we can support you or if you are interested in volunteering your time to support the battalion. She can be reached at 910-451-6343 (office), 910-372-2741 (cell), or at noreen.towle@usmc.mil.

Semper Fidelis,
LtCol Lance J. Langfeldt
Commanding Officer
2d Tank Battalion, 2d Marine Division

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

H & S Co.	2
Alpha Co.	3
Bravo Co.	4
Chaplain's Corner, Family Readiness	5
Single Marine Program, Promotions	6
Reenlistments, Retirements, The Last Dirt People	7-8
Spouses Corner, Who Am I?	8-9

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

Hello Marines, Sailors, Families, and Friends of Headquarters and Service Company! I hope everyone has begun enjoying this summer season!

H&S Company has been busy the last several months conducting various tactical and live-fire training exercises aboard Camp Lejeune. Some highlights from our last several training events include an un-stabilized gunnery qualification at SR-10, a live-fire AT4 and grenade range, Military Operations Urban Terrain (MOUT) training and convoy training.

When H&S Company was back in garrison they stayed very busy as well. H&S Company participated in the Division Change of Command Ceremony and Division Run, the Battalion Commander's Change of Command, Sergeant Major's Post and Relief, multiple battalion physical training events and the completion of the annual physical fitness test.

Over the next several months the battalion will be preparing for the Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office (FSMAO) inspection and the Commanding General's Readiness Inspection (CGRI). Headquarters and Service Company are highly integrated with the inspections and success the battalion rests heavily with-in the sections of H&S Company.

I would like to thank all the hard work that the Marines and Sailors have put in the last several months and the support of all the

families and friends. I look forward to a successful and safe summer. Semper Fidelis!

1stLt Christopher T. Varga
 Headquarters and Service Company Commander
 2d Tank Battalion, 2d Marine Division

Training Events and Dates from the Past Quarter:	
Division Combat Skills Center Machine Gun Course	4-8 Apr
Phil Downer PME	11 Apr
GST Testing	11-15 Apr
Rifle Range	11-15 Apr
Amphibious Operations	13-17 Apr
Combat and Field Trains Machine Gun Shoot	19 Apr – 1 May
Officers Mess Night	20 Apr
Sergeant Major Post and Relief	27 Apr
Rifle Range	9-15 May
Combat and Field Trains FEX	16-20 May
AT4 Range	17 May
Grenade Range	18 May
CBRN Training	19 May
Camp Lejeune Enhanced MOUT	19 May
Battalion PT and Prayer Breakfast	23 May
II MEF Op Pause	24 May
Officer Hail and Farewell	26 May
Division Run	3 June
Corporals Course	6-24 June
PFT	9 June
Swim Qualification	14 June
Rifle Range	13-19 June
Change of Command	22 June
Swim Qualification	23 June
PFT	24 June
CMP Shoot	28-29 June

ALPHA COMPANY

First and foremost, I must say thank you for continuing to support your Marine and allowing Alpha Company the ability to train to the highest levels of mastery. My name is Capt Brent Goddard II and I assumed command of Alpha Company on May 22. I am extremely proud and motivated to be back in front of Marines of such high caliber. This past quarter has been packed with great training for your Marines.

All of April was consumed by maintenance on the tanks, a rifle range, and a gray belt course.

In May, GySgt Lowery and his crew competed in the Sullivan Cup. They stood toe-to-toe against the best tank crews in the United States Military and represented the Marine Corps well. At the same time the company supported the Ace in the Hole foundation during the Licalzi run in New York. All while the Marines prepared for our gunnery evolution in June.

June was dominated by our semiannual gunnery and red platoon supporting Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) for 3rd Battalion 6th Marines. Your Marines rose to the occasion qualifying 8 crews, 3 sections, and 1 platoon. Two crews qualified superior with Cpl Silkwood taking the honor of company high score.

Your Marines have performed exceptionally well at all the tasks we have put in front of them. I am extremely proud of all their hard work and amazing accomplishments

Looking ahead, the company will begin to prepare for an upcoming Tank Commanders course, pistol/rifle ranges, a trip to Ft Stewart's Close Combat Tactical Trainer, and a Company Field Exercise. This will sharpen our skills which will culminate with an Integrated Training Exercise (ITX).

Thank you again for your continued support.

Capt Brent Goddard II
Alpha Company Commander
2d Tank Battalion, 2d Marine Division



BRAVO COMPANY

BRAVO COMPANY MARINES, SAILORS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS:

As you all know, the third quarter of the fiscal year has been an extremely busy one for the "Brawler" Marines and Sailors. The company spent approximately 40 days at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA, participating in Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-16. ITX is a service level exercise, and really the premier test in tactics, techniques, and procedures for ground combat Marines. The Marines performed exceptionally well, and spent the better part of 30 days in the field supporting their infantry brethren. With temperatures approaching 115 degrees throughout much of the exercise, the Marines continued to demonstrate the mental fortitude that has made Company B the "go to" company within the battalion.

Currently the Marines are executing their post ITX leave period. Hopefully this has given your Marine or sailor the chance for some much needed family and down time. Second Platoon, Company B is getting ready to head out the door and deploy in support of Combined Arms Company, Black Sea Rotational Force 16.2. This is an excellent opportunity as the platoon will participate in Theatre Security Cooperation Exercises with many of our NATO partners throughout Europe. It also gives the USMC tank community the opportunity to showcase our skilled Marines and their prowess with the M1A1 Main Battle Tank.

The upcoming quarter will see Third Platoon CHOP to become part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and First Platoon will execute a deployment for training to Ft. Stewart, GA in sup-

port of Operation ARROWHEAD THUNDER, a division level training exercise. As always, Bravo Company is busy, but undoubtedly our Marines

over as the Company Commander in July, as I will be leaving to serve as the Company Commander for the Combined Arms Company. It has truly been a privilege, and humbling experience to serve alongside your Marines and Sailors. I want to thank you for your support and understanding as I know we demanded a lot from your loved ones. Thank you again for being such a wonderful part of the Bravo Company "Brawler" family.

The battalion will be continuing its relationship seminars throughout the next quarter. These are great opportunities for couples, married or unmarried, old or new, to get together and help learn skills and techniques for healthier relationships. Again, your Marine or Sailor has all of the information if you are looking to attend,

Some future dates to keep in mind:

2nd Platoon Deploys to BSR
July 2016 – Jan 2017

3rd Platoon CHOP to MEU:
August 2016

Operation Arrowhead Thunder:
August 2016

Semper Tanks,

Captain Kevin Newport
Bravo Company Commander
2d Tank Battalion
2d Marine Division



and Sailors will rise to the challenge.

1stLt Andrew Geisler will be taking

Chaplain's Corner

Often one thinks about community relations (COMREL) projects as something one does on deployments. Often a Marine or Sailor will tell their families about the good time they had engaging with orphans or helping to build a school in some far-off country during a COMREL project that they volunteered to do while on liberty.

Well, at 2d Tank Battalion we also conduct COMRELS here at home! And what's more... we open most COMRELS to family members as well as our Marines and Sailors. These home-based COMREL projects are a great way for family members to serve alongside their Marine/Sailor in meaningful ways.

On 30 July, 2d Tank Battalion is conducting a home-based COMREL in the Wilmington area. We're partnering with Habitat for Humanity help build a house. We'll be putting siding on a house this time. No prior experience building houses needed! If you're willing to show-up, learn, and give swinging a hammer a shot, you'll do just fine. This COMREL is open to all Marines/Sailors of 2d Tank Battalion and their family members ages 14 and older.

We've also been able to secure shower facilities at a local YMCA so you can work during the day, shower and change clothes after helping with the

house, and then enjoy a night out in Wilmington! If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sgt. Maxwell at 910-451-2424 or alexander.j.maxwell@usmc.mil for more details and to register.

May God Bless,

Chaplain LCDR Jason Constantine
2d Tank Battalion, 2d Marine Division



2D TANK BATTALION FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM

2d Tank Battalion held a Beach Bash and Car Show on 7 Jul 2016 in order to provide a relaxed atmosphere for the Marines, Sailors and the family members of the Iron Horse Battalion. A big thank you to NAPA, The Auto Hobby Shop, the USO, the Single Marine Program and Marine Corps Family Team Building for supporting our event.



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2D TANK BATTALION SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

The Single Marine Program (SMP) serves as the voice for single, unaccompanied Marines and any other single active duty service member in identifying Quality Of Life (QOL) concerns, developing QOL initiatives, and providing recommendations through advocacy, recreational activities and providing recommendations through advocacy, recreational activities, special events and community involvement.

The program encourages single/ unaccompanied Marines to provide input and ideas toward programming for SMP component areas:

- Quality Of Life (QOL)
- Recreation
- Community Involvement

For more information or to get started with the program, go to <http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/smp/>.



PROMOTIONS

April

PFC Adams, Jordon
LCpl Campbell, Samuel
LCpl Curran, Christopher
LCpl Martinez, Irving
LCpl Robinson, Keano
LCpl Skelton II, James
LCpl Tarr, Trae
Cpl Keegan, Sean
Cpl Matos, Luis
Cpl Porath, Joshua
Sgt Cassidy, Ronald
Sgt Desbrough, Brandon
Sgt Gregalunas, Ryan

May

PFC Smith, Jordan
LCpl Ledford, Max
LCpl Lopez, Alejandro
LCpl Louth, Cody
LCpl Montz Jr, Shawn
LCpl Rose, Gabriel
LCpl Scott, Matthew
Cpl Bowman, Aaron
Cpl Elander, Austin
Cpl Foster, Ryan
Cpl Ingles, Brandon
Cpl Marroquin, Michael
Cpl Solis Jr, Juan
Cpl Vanwart, William
Sgt Beauregard, Ryan
Sgt Lewis, Derek
Sgt StennerLoera, Rainer
SSgt Spalek, Sebastian
1stLt Montambo, Chase
1stLt Mills, James

June

LCpl Allen, Brione
LCpl Burgos, Henry
LCpl Morrison, Javier
Cpl Doyle, Damon
Cpl Gomes, Michael
Cpl Helgrenimpelido, Sean
Hogan II, Michael
Cpl Lehman Seth
Cpl Matteson, Nicholas
Cpl Meyers, Christian
Cpl Mosley, Lyndon
Cpl Nixon, Lionel
Cpl Palmerton, Tristan
Cpl Webster, Jason
Sgt Henson, Tylor

July

PFC Edwards, Tyler
LCpl Bass, Kyle
LCpl Clement, grant
LCpl Frazee, Rayan
LCpl Ray, Dallas
Cpl Faupel III, Paul
Cpl Green, Christopher
Cpl Hufford, Alexander
Cpl Juniel, Jamar
Cpl Matos, Luis

RE- ENLISTMENTS

Cpl Glon, Gavin
Sgt Brown, Darrell

RETIREMENTS

The Watch

For years this Marine has stood the watch. While many of us lay about our bunks at night, this Marine stood watch. While others of us were attending schools, this Marine stood the watch. As our families watched the storm clouds of war brewing on the horizons of history, he stood the watch. This Marine looked ashore and saw his family often needing guidance, but he knew that he must stay because he had the watch.

For years he stood watch so that our fellow countrymen could sleep soundly, in safety, knowing that this Marine would stand the watch. Today we are here to say ~ the watch stands relieved. Relieved by those you have led, guided and trained. Marine, you stand relieved. We have the watch.

Fair winds and following seas Gunnery Sergeant Saxman, Staff Sergeant Aaron Johnson, and Staff Sergeant Joshua Salgado.



The Last Dirt People

Article by: Noreen Towle

With the restructuring of the line companies with the Marine Corps tank battalions, largely due to budgetary cutbacks, a phenomenon that hit 2d Tank Battalion particularly hard, it is with a heavy heart that we deactivated the anti-tank TOW (Tube-launched, optically-tracked, Wire-Command link guided missile) and Scout platoons. Heavy hitters within the battalions, the anti-tank TOW platoon engages the enemy in a counter-mechanized supportive measure which utilizes the TOW in

“Humorously, Tankers infer that the infantry are not elevated enough to ride in tanks. All jest aside, when the TOW and Scout platoons were deactivated, 2d Tank Battalion truly lost an asset which will be missed.”

order to destroy enemy armored vehicles. The Scout platoon performed reconnaissance, limited security and assistance in controlling the Battalion’s

movements.

Within tank battalions, TOW and Scout Marines are commonly referred to as “Dirt People,” “Dirt Pigs” or

“Crunchies” because they must perform their duties on the ground (as Marines from the infantry do), jokingly making a crunching sound when they are run over. Humorously, Tankers infer that the infantry are not elevated enough to ride in tanks. All jest aside, when the TOW and Scout platoons were deactivated, 2d Tank Battalion truly lost an asset which will be missed.

All, save two, of the 2d Tank Battalion

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and Scout platoons have gone to serve in either infantry or reconnaissance units. Sergeant Ryan Beauregard and Corporal Thomas Johnson are the remain behind troops who now training their fellow Marines on the principles and duties needed to ensure the full width and breadth of the Battalion's mission is accomplished.

Sergeant Beauregard is originally from Michigan and had always wanted to serve in the Marine Corps infantry. He has deployed to Afghanistan, and will be going to school to become a reconnaissance Marine this summer. Corporal Johnson is from Virginia and always knew that he would join the military, given the strong tradition of service for all the males in his family. He chose the Marine Corps because he wanted to be the best, a choice well made. As with Sergeant Beauregard, Corporal Johnson will be attending school this summer to become a reconnaissance Marine, signaling a final farewell to 2d Tank Battalion's last two "dirt people."

SPOUSE'S CORNER

THE ART OF FUNCTIONING WITHOUT YOUR OTHER HALF

Anna DeFelice

If you have ever been a military spouse, for any amount of time, you know that with this lifestyle there aren't any guarantees.

Whether its an MOS, a duty station, a promotion, or next months pay check, things are always changing and are usually not what you are expecting. You learn to live ready to make last minute changes and roll with whatever situation comes your way. There does seem to be, however, at least one tried and true guarantee

that I have discovered during my time spent as a military spouse, no matter how much you desperately avoid it, you and your spouse will definitely spend numerous chunks of your time in the military apart.

We all knew this coming into it though, didn't we? When most people think military, their minds typically jump to deployments. Oh, but if we only really knew what we know now! If we knew that it was not just deployments that would determine whether or not we were sleeping under the same roof. That it would be one school after another that were just never quite long enough for us to tag along, or that there could be field ops upon field ops that would keep our Marines away, or that they could possibly have duty... again... on yet another important weekend... Knowing any of these things probably would not have stopped most of us from following our Marines to the ends of the Earth (or at least from coast to coast), but we could have been forewarned, prepared, ready to brace for impact.

Its not all bad though, at least I'd like to think not. I try to convince myself that time apart makes us stronger, makes us appreciate time together more, and I think it does. I have learned, however, that being away from each other gets a tiny bit easier after each time. Don't get me wrong, its never easy, and I do not think it is how a marriage was meant to function. But I think that as spouses, we grow and learn more about the military, its tempo, and the commitment our Marines have and are making, we learn to function, and function well, when we are without our other half. In fact, I believe that there is an art to it, and whether or not you chose to put that art into practice will determine how well you survive and even thrive during these inevitable times apart. The first lesson I've learned through experience and extensive talks on the topic with other military spouses is that there needs to be a shift in our mindsets when our significant others are gone for a long period of time. I've realized that when my husband is coming home each night, I depend on him... a lot. I plan my day around him getting home, having dinner ready, catering to him and serving him while he's there. I also count on him for a daily debrief of our days, recounting the details, blessings, and annoyances. All of these things help us feel connected in our marriage and keep our lives intertwined on a daily basis. When he's gone, these things disappear, and we are lucky if we share a few texts or a few minutes worth of a phone call. So when he leaves, my first step is to embrace a more independent mindset. I cannot depend on him for the things listed above. My

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schedule is my own and my day will be what I make of it. Period.

The second tactic I have found to be extremely important is to surround myself with community in whatever way possible. Now, I realize that this often is not an option. Some of the time spent a part happens to be while we are in a new place and it takes time to meet people in a new place, I get that. But in those times, I even find it helpful just to be around other people in public, like going to a coffee shop to read or getting out and doing some shopping, anything to get out of the house and keep myself sane. Structure also falls under this category. Setting up outings with friends, working, volunteering, all of these things are great options to help ease the time spent away from your spouse.

Another piece of this art is found in making an effort to really enjoy the time apart. Now trust me, I know most of us wouldn't define the time spent away from our spouse as enjoyable (at least

not most of the time) but there are still things we can do that we enjoy our own, maybe things you don't really get to partake in while your spouse is home. This was a tough one for me because being married at a young age, I realized I didn't really know what my hobbies were, or what things in particular I really enjoyed to do. So through trial and error, I explored my options! Whether it be exercise, reading, crafts, movies, the beach, or any number of other hobbies,

“The first lesson I’ve learned through experience and extensive talks on the topic with other military spouses is there needs to be a shift in our mindsets when our significant others are gone for a long period of time”

finding something that I could look forward to while my husband was away made the sting a little less painful. Finding an enjoyable hobby also plays a role in building some structure for yourself, especially if you're not working at that time.

The final piece of this struggle I'm calling an art was and is huge for me, and that's finding others who have gone through and are going through similar situations.

Most of the time, that's other military spouses. I think this is so helpful because when we first start the journey of being a military spouse and living a good amount of time apart from our Marines, it's incredibly easy to feel alone, and as if no one else in the world knows how hard that time is. But finding other people in the same situation is encouraging. It teaches me that other people have made it through and survived, that it doesn't have to be all bad.

These tools I've listed may not be the same for everyone, and might not be necessary

for a lot of spouses. But hopefully if you've been in, or are going through a time away from your spouse, this can help, or at least spark some ideas for what may work for you!

If you are interested in submitting an article for the spouse's corner please submit it to noreen.towle@usmc.mil.

WHO AM I?

Born in Bronx, New York, I was a fidgety, active, energetic, big headed child. Growing up, I participated in football, basketball, and track. I was even a part of a B-Boy (break dancing) dance crew who periodically performed for our school. I enjoyed making people laugh and showing off especially when it came to attracting the attention of the opposite sex. One time, I tried to catapult myself over a wall to impress some girls. I ended up falling on a rock which put a gash in my forehead. Needless to say, the girls were not impressed, however, the gash did catch their attention and they came running over to care for me. Today, I still play sports such as basketball, football and 2K basketball. I am a part of the motorcycle club, Split Face. “Music is me” meaning I enjoy all music to include rap, Hip Hop, R&B, Classic, Pop, Country and Classical music.

Can you guess Who I Am? Sending your guesses to the FRO: Noreen.towle@usmc.mil. The first correct guess will win a \$5 gift card. The Answer to last quarters Who Am I is Sgt Cronk.

