



THE HOTZONE

CBIRF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL
2013



FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER

Dear CBIRF families-

I hope this finds each of you well and enjoying the last little bits of summer as we move into autumn. CBIRF has had a busy few months, and we have accomplished quite a bit since our last newsletter.

Your CBIRF Marines and Sailors have traveled far and wide to a number of areas to train for our challenging and difficult mission. In August, IRF B travelled to Perry, Georgia to participate in Exercise Scarlet Response, a multi-day evolution that severely tested our ability to conduct operations over an extended time period, in this case, a forty-eight hour timeframe. You can be proud of your Marines and Sailors, as they gave 100% throughout this exercise in tiring, wet, and challenging conditions – I was very pleased with their positive attitude and can-do spirit throughout the exercise. Additionally, just a few weeks ago, IRF A returned from New York City where they were able to participate in combined training with the Fire Department of New York. The Marines and Sailors learned a great deal from New York City's firefighters, and the training culminated in an exercise at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. For those of you who may not be sports fans, the Barclays Center is home to basketball's Brooklyn Nets and hockey's New York Islanders, so it presented a large, modern, and very complex facility in which to train. The Marines and Sailors assigned to IRF A performed admirably, and I am proud of each and every one of them.

As we move into the holiday season over the next few months, we have several major family events that will be very exciting and will present great opportunities to build camaraderie within our CBIRF Family. On 24 October, we will host our first (and hopefully annual!) CBIRF Halloween Party and Haunted House – we will turn the CBIRF headquarters into a haunted house and will invite our CBIRF families to take a scary tour of building 901. We will also have games and competitions for the smaller children, as well as food and drinks for our guests. This will quickly be followed by our celebration of the 238th birthday of our beloved Marine Corps. This year's event will take place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City and should be quite the event – your Marines and Sailors have given countless hours of their personal time to help raise money to buy down the cost of the ball, and I am confident it will be a spectacular celebration. Finally, we have begun the initial stages of preparing for our annual Christmas Party; ideas are still flowing, so feel free to raise your hand and volunteer to make this a memorable event for all.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your contribution in helping us accomplish our mission – without the support of our families, it would be impossible for us to do what we do. Robyn and I thank you for your tremendous sacrifice and dedication to your Marine or Sailor. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff – we are here to assist you.

Semper Fidelis,
Col Steve Redifer



COMMANDING OFFICER
Col Steve Redifer

BATTALION SGTMAJ
SgtMaj Darrell L. Stillings

UNIT CHAPLAIN
LCDR Marc McDowell
(301) 744-2017

RP2 Long Lee
(301) 744-2088

**FAMILY READINESS
OFFICER**
Ramona Higgins
(301) 744-5025 (office)
(240) 427-7812 (cell)

Some photos to enjoy from Operation Scarlet Response in Georgia



Clockwise from top: patient assessment; confined space extrication; night highway operations; rescue crane rigging operations; cleaning out the decon area; service animal decontamination

From the Family Readiness Officer...

Dear CBIRF Marines, Sailors, and Families,

The military life is one of constant change. As a former CBIRF spouse, I know the demands of the military and the toll it takes on family life.

Family Readiness is a program that promotes self-reliance, as well as resilience, and prepares for periods of need in a crisis or a separation. Know that our program here exists with one focus in mind... to assist you. Balancing a military career and a family can be a challenge, but we can all meet this challenge together. I am here to help and serve any way I can. Please allow me to support you.

Our program also hosts several events throughout the year and the holidays are coming up fast. Stay tuned for all the fun activities we are planning here at the battalion. If you would like to be a part of our volunteer program and help with some of our events, let me know.

If you are not receiving emails from me, or you are not able to get on eMarine, call me and I will help you get connected. My numbers are listed on the front of the newsletter.

Enjoy the fall season and upcoming holiday season, and I hope to see you at the Marine Corps Ball!

Warm regards,
Ramona Higgins
Family Readiness Officer



The 238th Marine Corps Ball

Make your plans now!

November 9, 2013 at the
Hyatt Regency Crystal City

2799 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202



6 pm to Midnight

(Cocktail hour, ceremony,
dinner, and dancing)

Room reservations: 703-418-1234

For childcare options at the hotel,
contact Sgt. Joseph Lorelli at
301-744-2029

CBIRF Promotions This Quarter

July 2013

PFC James Beck - LCpl
 PFC Samuel Bishop - LCpl
 PFC Alan Brooks - LCpl
 PFC Shaun Gravel- LCpl
 PFC Dominic Noble - LCpl
 LCpl John Bloemer - Cpl
 Cpl Quetin Casey - Sgt
 Cpl Matt Matthews - Sgt
 Cpl Coty Roberts - Sgt
 GySgt Jerry Wildman - MSgt



August 2013

PFC Joseph Benitez - LCpl
 PFC Anthony Merriman - LCpl
 LCpl Michael Hamby JR - Cpl
 LCpl Vincent Haws - Cpl
 LCpl Robbie Mosely - Cpl
 Cpl Matthew Lane - Sgt
 Cpl Eddie Perez- Sgt
 GySgt Juan Borunda - 1stSgt

September 2013

Lt Hernandez - Capt
 Lt McCarty - LCDR
 PFC Peter Agacinski - LCpl
 PFC Thomas David - LCpl
 LCpl Kaitlyn Burke - Cpl
 LCpl Robert Knisley JR - Cpl
 LCpl Johnathan Segarra- Cpl
 Cpl Adam Bailey - Sgt
 Cpl Thomas Dean - Sgt
 Cpl Jordan Hiltz - Sgt
 Cpl Zachary Jewess - Sgt
 Cpl Talon Leach - Sgt
 Cpl Joseph Merriman - Sgt
 Cpl Jacoby Norris - Sgt
 Cpl Jasmine Pino - Sgt
 Cpl Jerry Robinson - Sgt
 Cpl Shane Stover - Sgt

Meritorious Promotion:

LCpl Sheldon Ellington - Cpl

FDNY 2013 Some of the training events our Marines and sailors have been engaged in... vehicle extrication training, rope rescue and basket operations, along with a welcome aboard from New York City firefighter Joe Downey, and the passionate 9/11 ceremony.



A Summary of our Battalion Events

September/October

30th Exercise Capital Shield
3rd Town Hall at the Mix House
7th -11th Infantry Patrolling Exercise
14th Columbus Day Holiday
15th -1st Corporals Course
19th LINKS for Spouses
24th CBIRF's Halloween Party

November/December

8th -11th Veterans Day Holiday
9th Marine Corps Ball
28th -2nd Thanksgiving Holiday
7th Battalion Christmas Party
5th -13th Rifle Range
17th -20th Pistol Range
24th -26th Christmas Holiday



Join us for our CBIRF

HALLOWEEN PARTY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
FESTIVITIES WILL
BEGIN AT 5PM!



To be held at the
CBIRF Building 901

GAMES! PRIZES!
COSTUME CONTEST!
OFFICE DECORATING CONTEST!
FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE

*This event is free and
all ages are welcome ~*



*Come on by for some
Halloween Fun!*



LINKS For Spouses!

We'll be hosting another LINKS class for spouses at BLDG 901 on Saturday, October 19th from 9am to 3pm. We'll serve you lunch! Come and learn everything you ever wanted to know about the United States Marine Corps!



To register, email
ramona.higgins@usmc.mil

Call for Volunteers!

We are looking to step-up our volunteer program! If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Readiness officer, send an email to ramona.higgins@usmc.mil or call 301-744-5025.

Some of the volunteer needs we have are event set-up and decorating, administrative help, newsletter fulfillment, welcome aboard packages, spouse get-togethers, and family needs, such as organizing meals or coordinating child care.

We'd love to have you on our team!

Check out what's going on this Fall at MWR!



Heads will Roll Bowling

Friday, October 25 from 5pm - 9pm

Come out for a fun night of bowling. Free for anyone in costume. \$5 for everyone else.

Door Decorating Contest

Departments and Housing residents are all invited to compete for the best Halloween Themed door. Prizes will be awarded in both office and housing categories. Send an email to corey.mccabe@navy.mil by 10/31 to register or for contest information.

MWR Halloween Spooktakular

Saturday, October 26 from 11am to 2pm at the Mix House. Join us for face painting, a pumpkin patch, arts & crafts, a haunted house, hayrides, music and more! This event is FREE and open to all eligible patrons.

Library Trick or Treating and Crafts

Thursday, October 31 (All Day) Children can dress in costume and trick or treat at the General Library. Free and open to all eligible patrons.

Halloween 5k

Thursday, October 31 starting at 11 am, register any time prior to race by calling 301-744-4661. Free for military and anyone wearing a costume. \$5 for all others.

Season Closing of the Tiki Bar

Friday, October 18. Doors open at 3:30 pm, party starts at 6pm. Come by and enjoy great views, great music and lots of fun as we celebrate the end of another fantastic season!

Youth Fishing Derby

November 2, 2013 from 8am to 12pm at the Area 8 Stump Neck Pond. Register at the ITT Office by October 30 to ensure base access. All those attending, including spectators, must be registered. A limited amount of equipment will be available for those who don't have their own. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be provided.

Turkey Bowling at the Mix House

Friday, November 15. Doors open at 3:30pm, fun starts at 6pm. How many pins can you knock over with a frozen turkey? Stop by and find out! Winner will receive a turkey for your thanksgiving dinner.

Turkey Trot 5k

Tuesday, November 26 at the Weight House Fitness Center. Race starts at 11am, register any time prior to race by calling 301-744-4661. Free for military, \$5 for all others.