



26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

"A Certain Force in an Uncertain World"

Families & Friends of the 26th MEU(SOC),

Like most Marines, November is probably my favorite month...and with the exception of being home with my family, there's no better place I'd rather be than right here, forward deployed, with the Marines and Sailors of the 26th MEU(SOC) serving our Nation's national security interests. Just thinking about the myriad of accomplishments of this Team and the day-to-day activities across the Marine Air-Ground Task Force is eye watering - you can and should be very proud of your Marine or Sailor...they are winning!



On November 10th, Marines from across the 26th MEU(SOC) took a brief pause out of a very busy schedule to enjoy the camaraderie and celebrate the great deeds of our Corps' past with cake cutting ceremonies in celebration of the 248th Birthday of our beloved Marine Corps. I know that every Marine is looking forward to seeing some pictures from the 26th MEU(SOC) "All Spouses" Birthday Ball.

During November, the "Month of the Military Family", we will reflect on the blessings of our Families and everything we have to be thankful for as part of our Thanksgiving Day celebration. During this reflective season, we recognize and honor the resiliency of our military families who have supported us from the very beginning from our intensive, pre-deployment training program through our dynamic deployment within U.S. European Command and U.S. Central Command areas of responsibility. More so, on Thanksgiving, we are planning to do a "Turkey Trot 5K / Fun Run" on the flight deck of the USS Bataan and I know the men and women are all looking forward to having a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal.

As we transition into this holiday season and finish up the fifth month of our deployment, I am reminded of how grateful I am to wear this unit's patch and truly humbled to serve amongst the ranks of the great Men and Women of the 26th MEU(SOC). These last several months have been busy - you can and should be extremely proud of your Marine or Sailor. I couldn't be any more proud of the Team's performance over the past several months. Every Marine and Sailor assigned to the 26th MEU(SOC) is leading from the front and setting the highest of standard of performance across the board - their engaged Leadership, 'can do' Attitude, and commitment to Warfighting readiness has made significant contributions to our national security interests within multiple Geographic Combatant Commands...and the Team is certainly living up to our motto of being "A Certain Force in an Uncertain World."

I am forever grateful for the continued love, support, strength, and understanding of the 26th MEU(SOC) families. Your steadfast love, patience, and support continues to serve as the strength of our Team – Thank You!

Happy Thanksgiving & Semper Fi!

Semper Fidelis,
Col Dennis "Dolf" Sampson

Major Subordinate Elements (MSE)



BATTALION LANDING TEAM 1/6:



Our Marines and Sailors continue to impress Sergeant Major and I with their cheerfulness in hard times, creativity in developing training opportunities. From live-fire training on the flight decks and small unit classes to professional military education, our team continues to ensure that we remain ready relevant, and capable of answering our nations call across the spectrum of crisis and contingency response operations.

As we approach the beginning of the holiday season, know that although it is difficult to be away from family, friends, and loved ones at home, we have our Marine and Sailor family to support us forward. Although we are away from home, we have a plan to celebrate the holidays with special meals and activities on each of the ships. The bonds that we are seeing built among our team will last a lifetime, forged in shared hardship and a common sense of purpose. We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

We are strong together!

LtCol Scott Helminski & SgtMaj Mike Castillo



MARINE MEDIUM TILTROTOR SQUADRON 162



Golden Eagle Family,

Happy Holidays! Our Marines and Sailors continue to show their resolve as a forward deployed warfighting crisis response force during this holiday season. It is truly amazing to see the level of effort and dedication displayed by our Golden Eagles for every single mission. Make no doubt, your Marines and Sailors are getting it done and performing at an elite level in some of the most challenging environments and conditions. We are where our nation needs us to be and I am extremely proud to be standing beside the members of this team. While we would all rather be eating turkey and watching football on the couch, we understand and are ready to hold the watch through this holiday season.

The monthly and weekly newsletters being released by our Deployment Readiness Coordinator (DRC) Patrick Highers has provided us an opportunity to highlight some members of our team. We will continue to push these out for the remainder of the deployment and do our best to answer any questions from the families with Operational Security (OPSEC) in mind. We will also do our best to include photographs of promotions, reenlistments and other celebratory occasions, as well as our Golden Eagles in action. Please reach out to your Marine or Sailor if you are not receiving these updates and have them add you to the approved roster maintained by our DRC. Additionally, please keep in mind OPSEC with all communications between your deployed loved one and the home front.

Our volunteer network within the Golden Eagle family is FANTASTIC! Our Golden Eagle key volunteers have put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to provide another communication channel and support for family members during this deployment. There have been no shortage of activities and events for deployed family members and there are more planned for the future. Please get with our DRC for a list of those activities and events, as well as if you are interested in participating or becoming a volunteer. A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THE GOLDEN EAGLE VOLUNTEERS!

As always, please reach out to our DRC Patrick Highers for anything. There is nothing too small and we are here to help.

Thank you!
NOBODY DOES IT BETTER!

Major Subordinate Elements (MSE)



COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 22 SOLUM OPTIMUM



Happy Thanksgiving!

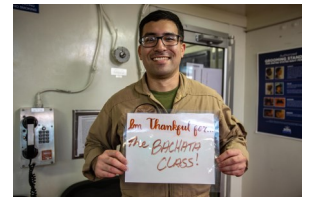
The Marines and Sailors of CLB-22 continue to thrive on deployment with 26MEU(SOC). Whether supporting operations in Europe or the Middle East, I could not be more impressed with the manner in which they perform on a daily basis. They have exceeded all expectations regardless of the task. We hope you all enjoy Thanksgiving, and we can't wait to get back and celebrate future Holidays together.

Solum Optimum

LtCol Luke Sauber
Commanding Officer, CLB-22



Leadership, Attitude, & Warfighting



Happy Thanksgiving from the 26th MEU!

