

TALON TIMES

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TACRON TWELVE
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK...

Hello TALON families,

It is an honor and a pleasure to write my first TALON Times article as the Commanding Officer. First, I would like to recognize the entire command for a tremendous change of command ceremony onboard the USS MIDWAY this past August 4th. The ceremony could not have gone any better and was a fitting recognition and farewell for Skipper Yokoyama and his family while we also welcomed CDR Dan Hopkins, our new Executive Officer, and his family. The flawless ceremony could not have happened without the superb efforts of all involved, especially AC3 Conti and IS3 Williams who did most of the heavy lifting in the planning and coordination of the event, BRAVO ZULU!

I would like to thank Mrs. Currier-Holloway for volunteering to continue serving as our Command Ombudsman. This is a position critical to the success of the squadron and she has done an outstanding job since she assumed those duties a year ago. I am grateful that she'll continue to serve the TALONS and their families. Thank you Cortney.

The squadron is entering a busy period of operations over the next few months. I am writing this article in Korea where I am participating in exercise ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN (UFG) along with eleven other TACRON personnel spread across several locations in Korea and Japan. This UFG exercise gives us the opportunity to train alongside our Korean partners in all phases of naval operations to strengthen our long standing alliance. Concurrently, Detachment TWO is preparing to deploy to Okinawa for the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDFN) Fall Patrol onboard the USS ESSEX while several of their officers are currently participating in exercise UFG. Several members of Detachment TWO are already onboard the USS ESSEX in Sasebo, Japan where they are working hard on earning their warfare specialty pins which are now a requirement for Sailors to earn during their first sea tour. In addition, Detachment THREE is preparing to participate in exercise DAWN BLITZ off the Southern California coast which will prepare them for the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDFN) Spring Patrol beginning early next year in the Pacific Ocean area of responsibility. Overall, the squadron's operational tempo remains high with your TALONS proudly accomplishing the mission and doing it well.

As I completed my first round of C.O.'s calls immediately after the change of command, I impressed upon our Officers and Sailors that our top priorities remain to accomplish our mission of providing outstanding support to our operational commanders and to take care of our TALON family and each other. The contributions of TALON family members are vitally important in allowing your TALONS to perform at their peak and I thank you for your continued support. I look forward to the rewards and challenges of the next 15 months. TALON PRIDE.

Sincerely,
Skipper Martin



The Ombudsman Corner



By Cortney Currier-Holloway
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Hello Talons! I hope you are all having a peaceful and beautiful summer. It seems hard to believe that fall is just a couple of weeks away! Fall can be a busy time- kids are back in school, fall semester has begun, DET TWO is underway etc. As always, please do not hesitate to call or email me, if there is anything I can do to help make this fall a great one for you and your family. I look forward to being of assistance!





Safety Tips

Traveling to School

When parents talk about school safety these days, they're usually referring to the surge in violence at schools. But research shows that school-age children are actually nine times more likely to sustain an unintentional injury - whether on the playground or in school - than to be the victim of violence while at school. In fact, an estimated 2.2 million children ages 14 and under are injured in school-related accidents each year, according to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

Accidents can be prevented if parents are on the lookout for potential hazards. To help you keep your kids free from harm, here are some safety tips from SAFE KIDS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Traveling to and from School

1. Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards.
2. Walk the route with your child before and after. Tell him or her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there aren't many people around.
3. Teach your child never to talk to strangers. Tell him or her never to accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children don't know well or don't trust.
4. Be sure your child walks to and from school with a sibling, friend, or neighbor.
5. Teach your kids - whether walking, biking, or riding the bus to school - to obey all traffic signals, signs and traffic officers. Remind them to be extra careful in bad weather.
6. When driving kids, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible. Don't leave until they are in the schoolyard or building.

7. If your child rides their bike to school, make sure he wears a helmet that meets one of the safety standards (U.S. CPSC, Snell, ANSI, ASTM, or Canadian). Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.
8. If your child rides a scooter to school, make sure she wears sturdy shoes, a helmet, kneepads and elbow pads. Children under age 12 should not ride motorized scooters, according to recent recommendations from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
9. Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars and avoid the driver's blind spot.
10. Remind your children to stay seated at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding. When exiting the bus, children should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.
11. Tell your child not to bend down in front of the bus to tie shoes or pick up objects, as the driver may not see him before starting to move.
12. Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies.

On the Playground

13. Check the playground equipment at your child's school. Look for hazards such as rusted or broken equipment and dangerous surfaces. The surface around the equipment should be covered with wood chips, mulch, sand, pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or fiber material to prevent head injury when a child falls. Report any hazards to the school.
14. Avoid any drawstrings on the hood or around the neck of jackets and sweatshirts. Drawstrings at the waist or bottom of jackets should extend no more than three inches long to prevent catching in car and school bus doors or getting caught on playground equipment.
15. Make sure that the school's athletic director or a custodian anchors soccer goals into the ground so they won't tip over and crush a child.
15. Teach children proper playground behavior: no pushing, shoving, or crowding.
16. Give your child some strategies for coping with bullies. He should not give in to a bully's demands, but should simply walk away or tell the bully to stop. If the bullying continues, talk to the teacher.
17. Make sure your child's school has up-to-date information on recalled toys and children's products. Schools, daycare providers and parents can receive recall information by fax, email, or in the regular mail free of charge by calling the Consumer Product Safety Commission hotline at 800-638-2772, or visiting the organization's web site.

SDHFH'S MISSION STATEMENT

San Diego Habitat for Humanity (SDHFH), a faith-based organization, works in partnership with families to strengthen communities and transform lives by building new homes, rehabilitating existing homes, and making affordable homeownership a reality for people in need in our community.

SDHFH builds simple and decent, affordable homes for ownership by low-income families. Families then purchase their homes through zero-profit, zero-interest mortgages.

Habitat homes are built with donations of money, materials and labor. To date, SDHFH has built 130 homes throughout San Diego County, with over 130 more on the drawing boards.



The First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) President, (LS1 Salamanca) organized and led the FCPOA and along with junior sailors, in support of San Diego Habitat for Humanity Home Build day efforts. He coordinated over 140 volunteer man hours in the organizations home build efforts. Volunteers may be tasked to painting, plumbing, fencing, gardening and other light construction tasks.



FLEET WEEK ENLISTED RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Recently, SeaWorld San Diego honored more than 200 enlisted service members as part of the 2011 San Diego Fleet Week Enlisted Recognition Luncheon. The luncheon is an annual tradition and recognizes personnel from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard for their exemplary service. Service members from commands around San Diego earned the opportunity to attend based on their military performance. Among some of the honorary attendees were TACRON TWELVE's very own AC1 Porter and AC3 Spicer.

Fleet Week San Diego was established in 1997 by community and business leaders who sought to provide a means for San Diego to express their support of Sailors and Marines in a way that would also establish the area as a patriotic, pro-military city.

The Worlds of Discovery parks have always been proud to acknowledge the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families. The "Here's to the Heroes" tribute program has provided free admission to the Worlds of Discovery parks for more than 3.2 million members of U.S. and coalition armed forces and their families.



(Top) Marine Corps Recruit Depot Ceremonial Color Guard poses for a photo with Shamu at the Enlisted Recognition Luncheon.

USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) COMMENCES EXERCISE DAWN BLITZ 2011

TACRON TWELVE DET 3 Sailors boarded the amphibious assault ship USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) which departed San Diego on September 28 to participate in Exercise DAWN BLITZ 2011. BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) joins other San Diego-based sea commands, as well as Marine Corps units from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in the weeklong exercise which will sharpen the troops' ability to plan and conduct an amphibious assault. Sailors and Marines are participate in the exercise which will highlight the blue/green partnership, as well as hone skills needed to maintain operational readiness and core competencies. The exercise is designed to plan, execute and evaluate a Marine expeditionary brigade-level amphibious landing. The benefit of conducting an exercise such as DAWN BLITZ is to sustain our already high level of amphibious experience and readiness in a higher OPTEMPO environment. Utilizing helicopters and jet aircraft, amphibious assault vehicles, hovercraft, and weapons such as field artillery cannons, the troops will stage an amphibious assault operation demonstrating its ability to move units ashore and carry out mission objectives. Together, the Navy and Marine Corps team will show its expeditionary capability to project and sustain combat power ashore in the face of armed opposition.

FIRES EXERCISE

Members from the TACRON TWELVE DET 3 MAT/ERT team that included AC2 Mainville and ACAN Ward, departed San Diego to participate in the 29 Palms FIREX on August 13. During the week long exercise, MAT/ERT members established a Direct Air Support Center (DASC) which transferred the control of both civilian and military aircraft to the Forward Air Controller (FAC). They learned how to signal an aircraft with a signal mirror, had the opportunity to participate in a CASEVAC on a CH-53, and learned how to shoot a mortar. Every morning, members went on hiking trails before flight operations that day. They were given hot-range briefs and the air plan for the day which usually ran from noon until late evening. At the end of the day, they retired to their tents for a true camping experience!



(Top Left) Marines/Sailors participate in CASEVAC exercise on CH-53 during FIREX. **(Top Right)** Marines standby as a mortar is released. **(Bottom Left)** Marines/Sailors acting as Forward Air Controller (FAC). **(Bottom Right L to R)** AC2 Mainville & ACAN Ward act as a DASC during FIREX exercise at 29 Palms, California.



CPO PINNING



Seven Sailors from Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific Fleet (COMNAVSURFPAC) and subordinate commands were promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer (CPOs) at a pinning ceremony held at the base chapel on Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, September 16. The ceremony marks the end of a seven-week induction period designed to prepare new CPOs to perform in the leadership roles for which they have been selected. The title of chief petty officer carries with it responsibilities and privileges unique to the rank of E-7, as compared to other branches of the Armed Forces. Chief Petty Officer's wear a different uniform, and also have their own berthing and messing accommodations. Chiefs are considered "deck plate" leaders and are responsible for mentoring and training Sailors and junior officers, as well as facilitating lines of communication up and down the chain of command.

During the induction period, the new CPOs participated in professional and physical training, and team building exercises such as hiking up San Diego's Iron Mountain Trail. They also performed fund raisers and performed volunteer work in the local community. Chief Petty Officer induction is a training process that has evolved through the years to provide new Chiefs with tools to be effective and ethical leaders. The pinning ceremony is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to the Navy.

The seven new CPOs are: Air Traffic Controller Chief Petty Officer (AW) Spencer Holloway, Tactical Air Control Squadron TACRON 12; Air Traffic Controller Chief Petty Officer (AW/SW) David Kendrick, TACRON 11; Yeoman Chief Petty Officer (SW) Miriam French, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific; and Information Systems Technician Chief Petty Officer (SW/AW) Tim Pearson; Religious Programs Chief Petty Officer (SW) Jennifer Snow, OSC(SW) Shaun Cale; and Yeoman Chief Petty Officer (SW/AW) Angela Quihuiz of COMNAVSURFPAC.



(Top) Sailors of Four COMNAVSURFPAC Commands await to be pinned chief by friends & family at NAB Coronado Chapel. **(Bottom Left)** ACC (AW) Holloway is pinned by his wife Mrs. Holloway & Mentor ACC (AW/SW) Dennis Guivara. **(Bottom Right)** ACC (AW) Holloway & wife pose for a picture after ceremony.

TACRON TWELVE DET TWO (aka The First Ten)

by AC2(SS) View

Sasebo. This was a different experience for us all. Those who had been out on DET before remember spending their time in Kadena. For those who had never been part of ship's company, this was a new experience, too. We all became closer with our Essex counterparts while living with them.

Our early deployment for Talisman Sabre was an interesting start to what is becoming an interesting DET. All of our hard work was finally coming to fruition and we we're excited to finally start applying what we learned in JEWL lab and at the Team Trainer. Boy, were we in for a surprise. After about a day underway, we heard "Engineering Casualty, Engineering Casualty" on the 1MC. We didn't think much of it when the ship stopped for a bit. Then, the Captain came across the 1MC and explained that one of the ship's engines was broken and we were heading back to Okinawa to offload the MEU. Once the Marines and the ACE were off, we headed for Sasebo. It was a stressful week, hearing new rumors every day on where we were going next. In the end, we stayed onboard in Sasebo.

While we were looking forward to our time in Kadena and the opportunities we would have had there, being in Sasebo turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It was an opportunity to study for exams and start working on our Warfare Pins. When the new Air Warfare program instruction came out, TACRON was not included and we were worried that we would not be able to complete the program. Had we been in Kadena, we wouldn't have. But because we were already more than 50 complete, we were waived from the new instruction. By the time you read this article, some of us should be wearing our pins!

All in all, Sasebo gave us time for professional and personal development. It turned out to be an interesting city with great travel opportunities, like Fukuoka and Nagasaki.

We have just joined up with the rest of our Det and are finally underway. Finally doing what we were sent out here to do; finally getting all our TACC position qualifications, finally meeting all of our goals. We honestly have no idea what's in store next as the ship's schedule changes daily. As a full Det now, we're ready for anything. We have been able to overcome every surprise that has been thrown our way. There is nothing we will not be able to tackle.

WELCOME ABOARD!

LCDR THRELKELD

LCDR TAYLOR

AC2 GIBBS

AN MARROQUIN

AR LOPEZ

*Fair Winds and
Following Seas...*

CDR YOKOYAMA

LCDR DEWEY

AC1 FAULKNER

AC1 ROSE

IS1 FICKEN

OS2 FAULKNER

AC2 GORDON

AC2 SALMON

AC3 SHORTS

IS3 MCQUAID

AN MONTANO

SN GOOD

Congratulations to the following TACRON-12 personnel!

Newly Frocked Chief Petty Officer



ACC(AW) Holloway

Recent Designated Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists



AC2(AW) Foster
AC2(AW) Laessig
AC2(AW) McIntosh
AC3(AW) Harkins

Sailor of the Quarter winners for 4th Quarter FY 2011

Senior Sailor of the Quarter: IS1(SW/AW) Wold
Junior Sailor of the Quarter: IS3 Parsons
Blue Jacket of the Quarter: AN Brecheen

Sailor of the Month

AC3 Le (June)
YN3 Hofmann (July)
AN Brecheen (August)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

LCDR Kosloski

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

AC1(AW/SW) Porter (6th Award)
YN3 Hofmann (2nd Award)

Good Conduct

ACC(AW) Holloway (6th Award)
IS1(SW/AW) Wold (2nd Award)

Good Conduct

AC2(SS) View (4th Award)
OS2 Johnson (1st Award)
OS3 Dyer (1st Award)
AC3 Andrews (1st Award)

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal Recipient

AC1(AW/SW) Rose

DET FOUR Sea Service Deployment Ribbon

LCDR Kosloski (3rd Ribbon)
AC1(AW/SW) Porter (4th Ribbon)
AC1(AW) Jones (3rd Ribbon)
AC2(AW) Foster (1st Ribbon)
AC2(AW) Laessig(1st Ribbon)
AC2(AW) McIntosh (1st Ribbon)
AC2 Daigle (1st Ribbon)
OS3 Crump (1st Ribbon)
OS3 Roberts (1st Ribbon)
AC3(AW) Harkins (1st Ribbon)
YNSN Steinke (1st Ribbon)

Commander Navy Region Southwest Flag Letter of Commendation

AN Massari

Commanding Officer Letter of Commendation

AC1(AW/SW) Faulkner
OS2 Palmitese
AC3 Shorts

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1-YNSN ALCANTAR

8/3-ACC GUIVARA

8/4-AN MASSARI

8/4-LCDR WALBORN

8/5-IS1 WOLD

8/8-AC3 EARL

8/14-CDR FULLER

8/17-LCDR LITO

8/17-LCDR PRICE

8/20-OS1 TUIASOSOPO

8/30-IS3 JERAN

8/31-OS2 SUTGREY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/10-AC2 GONZALEZ

9/15-OS2 JOHNSON

9/19-AC1 FAULKNER

9/27-AN BRECHEEN

9/28-AC1 JONES

9/28-ACAN WARD

9/29-ACC HOLLOWAY

9/30-AC3 TIETJE

TALON FOOTBALL TEAM

Talon football is back in action as they take on NAB Flag Football opponents for a chance to hold on to the Islander Bowl Trophy!

The Talon squad headed into the season with a strong chance at repeating their championship run with the return of star QB, AC2(AW) Travon Daigle. He has some new targets to throw to, but still has last year's Wide Receiver's, EN2 Kareem Smith and YNSN Steinke. The Talons have added some new talent they weren't expecting in the form of CDR Martin, the Commanding Officer, CDR Hopkins, the Executive Officer, and several department heads. The Commanding Officer has thrown some nice blocks although he did tweak a few muscles already! On another note, the Executive Officer has been the backbone of the offense down field, having caught many long passes, even diving for some. Unfortunately, he too pulled hammy! We're excited to have our chain of command right there with us fighting to keep our championship trophy.

Just five games into the season, the Talons have put up big numbers with AC2 Daigle in charge of the strike down field. Despite all our players in and out of classes and getting ready for deployment, there always seems to be a good group together working as a team.





MWR Weekly Happenings: A great resource for on-base resources and events!
www.mwrtoday.com/sandiego/about/mwrtw

Fall is almost here! Take the family to the mountains for a fun filled day of apple picking! Visit Julian and enjoy the crisp fall air, pumpkin patches and apple orchards.

Below is a link that will help guide through Julian and all of the wonderful things the town has to offer! www.julianca.com/orchards/index.htm





Disneyland Military Salute 2011

Now through 28 September 2011 active and retired U.S. military personnel or their spouses can purchase:

- ***Disney Military Promotional 3-Day Park Hopper Tickets for \$99 each***

Disney Military Promotional Tickets can be purchased by active and retired U.S. military personnel for themselves and up to five additional family members or friends. No more than six Disney Military Promotional Tickets may be purchased by any eligible member of the U.S. military (or spouse) pursuant to this offer. All tickets and options are non-transferable and must be used by 1 October 2011 (certain block-out dates apply). Active and retired U.S. military personnel can also save up to 40 percent on rooms at select Walt Disney World and Disneyland Resort hotels! This offer is valid for stays most nights now through 1 October 2011, but is not valid at all 24 - 26 November 2011 and 26 - 31 December 2011 at Walt Disney World and Disneyland Resort hotels or 17 - 30 April 2012 at the Walt Disney World Resort hotels.

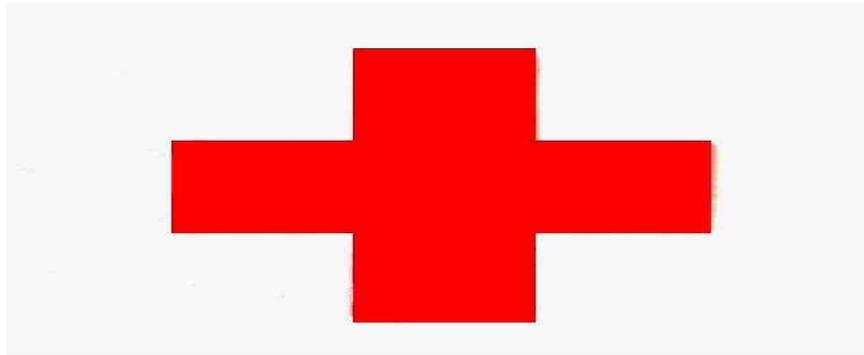


NAVY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES

Visit your local Navy College office! Navy College professionals provide educational services world-wide, anytime, anyplace to Sailors and their families, supporting their life-long learning goals and the Navy's mission. The following link provides information regarding the SOCNAV program and other benefits available to military families. Take full advantage of all of the awesome resources Navy College has to offer and go back to school!

Website: http://www.soc.aascu.org/socnav/Spouses_AidResources





The American Red Cross - Keeping Pace with the Changing Military

As part of an ongoing effort to better serve the military community, the American Red Cross announced that it will move to a single telephone number for its emergency communication services.

Beginning 13 June 2011, at 8:00 a.m. EDT, all military members and their families can use one number- **877-272-7337 (U.S. Toll Free)** to send an urgent message to a service member. The change means that all military members and their families can use this single number to initiate an emergency communication, regardless of where they live.

A call to **877-272-7337** allows Red Cross emergency communications services to put military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, the birth of a service member's child or grandchild or when a family faces other emergencies.

Additional Red Cross services such as case management and emergency financial assistance also are available. For those stationed overseas, the three options for calling will remain the same: calling **877-272-7337** direct, accessing the number through a military operator, or calling the local Red Cross station.

