

TALON TIMES

Holiday Edition

TACRON TWELVE
DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

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FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK...

TALON Families,

Your Sailors and Marines have done a tremendous job this year supporting the USS BONHOMME RICHARD and USS ESSEX Amphibious Ready Groups. Whether it be controlling flight operations off the coast of Yemen or supporting President Obama's visit to Indonesia, the TALON team successfully accomplished each and every mission. I cannot emphasize how proud I am of their achievements. It always amazes me to see the selfless dedication and impeccable character displayed by your Sailors and Marines. I'm truly blessed to serve with these fine shipmates!

Many thanks to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) committee, specifically AC1 (AW/SW) Ivy Faulkner, for a spectacular Holiday party on December 2nd. What a memorable night celebrating and enjoying each other's company. Congratulations to OS2 (SW/AW) Vanessa Sutgrey and AC1 (AW) Charles Jones for being advanced to the next paygrade! It was an honor to meritoriously promote both of them in front of their shipmates. Bravo Zulu to AC1 (AW/SW) Cameron Porter who was selected as Commander, Tactical Air Control Group ONE's Air Traffic Controller of the Year! Well done TALONS!

As I type this article, Det THREE is wrapping up a successful six month deployment to the Western Pacific onboard the USS ESSEX. Fortunately, some of our Det THREE sailors will be redeploying back to the United States early and have the opportunity to enjoy the holidays with families, friends and loved ones. However, the majority of Det THREE personnel will remain in Okinawa, Japan on standby for potential contingency operations. Additionally, two of our shipmates will spend their holidays away from home as "individual augmentees." IT1 (SW) Jeremy Fecteau will continue to serve in Afghanistan while YN3 April Crawford will spend her holiday in Iraq. I ask that you please remember all of our deployed TALONS in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season. We're all looking forward to their safe return.

On behalf of the men and women of TACRON TWELVE, I'd like to extend my warmest holiday wishes and sincere appreciation for all of your efforts in supporting the command this year. Thank you. The Navy wouldn't be where it is today without the tireless efforts and support of our Navy Families.

Sincerely,
CDR Mel Yokoyama, USN
Commanding Officer, TACRON TWELVE





The Ombudsman Corner



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Happy Holidays everyone! Here are just a few of the wonderful events taking place in and around San Diego this holiday season. As always, please feel free to contact me for further information. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday to you and yours!

Holiday of Lights at the Del Mar Fairgrounds

Now through Sunday, January 2, 2011 • Nightly from 5:30 pm

Over 400 sparkling lighted displays

Displays include favorites such as Candy Cane Lane, Toyland, Del Mar Racetrack, the Twelve Days of Christmas and Elves at Play

MWR Price: Up to 5 people per car \$11.75



San Diego Bay Parade of Lights

Sunday, December 12 • 6-10 pm • FREE

The 39th Annual Parade of Lights is here! Relax and enjoy a crisp evening of boats decorated and twinkling for the holiday season. The evening ends with fireworks followed by the famous Parade of Lights in the San Diego Bay!

Julian Events

Dates: November 1st -December 31st

Check out the many activities happening up in our neighboring city Julian from November until the end of the year, for more information visit: <http://www.julianca.com/events/index.htm>



DISNEY MILITARY SALUTE

3-Day Park Hopper* \$97.25

Any 3 Days through October 1, 2011

For Active Duty, Retired, National Guard & Reservists Blackout dates- December 24, 2010-January 1, 2011, February 18-21, April 17-23 and July 1-4, 2011 *Restrictions Apply – Check with an MWR Ticket Office for details or visit www.mwrtoday.com.

San Diego Zoo One-Day Deluxe Admission with Guided Bus Tour and Sky Ride~

December 10-January 2 at the San Diego Zoo! (Except December 24)
What kind of exotic animal gets its wings every time a jungle bell rings? Find out for yourself this December at the Jungle Bells celebration, when the San Diego Zoo is transformed into a magical winter wonderland. You will find a nightly tree-lighting ceremony, bell ringers filling the air with music, and lighted animal figures dotting the grounds. Dr. Zoolittle has an interactive “Night before Christmas” show, and you can make some new friends during 'Animal Magic for the Holidays' critter presentations. Munch holiday specialties, take a 'Candy Cane Lane Magical Journey,' and experience even more seasonal cheer-Zoo style!

MWR Price: Adult \$31*, Child (3-11 yrs) \$22.25

**Active duty FREE with military ID*



San Diego Zoo's Safari Park

Enjoy a safari into adventure at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park. Featuring huge open enclosures with herds of African and Asian animals, the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park brings you thrillingly close to wild and endangered animals. Experience Journey into Africa in an open-air vehicle inspired by the legendary safari trains. Get an up-close view of animals such as white rhinoceroses, giraffes, Cape buffalo and Roosevelt's gazelles on the 2½-mile tour. Remember, no passports needed for this trip of a lifetime!

San Diego Zoo's Safari Park One-Day Admission

MWR Price: Adult \$31*, Child (3-11 yrs) \$22.25

**Active duty FREE with military I.D*



Petty Officer Promotions

On November 23rd, the Navy released the names of 15,664 Sailors who were advanced for the Fall Petty Officer Advancement Cycle. With advancement at 16.7%, the Active Duty list included 2,983 new E-6's, 5,697 Sailors moving to E-5, and 6,984 joining the Petty Officer ranks as E-4. That percentage was up slightly from the May cycle (16.4%) but down from 2009 (19.9%). Competition was tight; although available quotas increased from the spring by more than a thousand, the number of people who passed the test also jumped by 4,600. Ten Sailors from TACRON TWELVE advanced! We have two new First Class Petty Officers: IS1 Ficken and AC1 Porter. Promotions to Second Class found OS2 Daniels, AC2 Gray, AC2 Scott, and AC2 Tai trading in their old crows. Finally, we welcome AC3 Andrews, AC3 Harkins, AC3 Kramarchuk, and AC3 Spicer to the ranks of Petty Officer as they put on chevrons for the first time. Congratulations to all the Sailors who advanced during this cycle!





Christmas Party

On Thursday December 2, 2010 we held our annual Christmas Party at Anchors and Spurs in National City with VTC-11 and CTG-1. Sailors and their spouses started rolling in looking like they were dressed to impress!

First was dinner, with a scrumptious buffet and delectable desserts to devour. As everyone enjoyed dinner and drinks, they were on the edge of their seats waiting to hear their number called for a raffle prize.

Shortly after dinner, CDR Yokoyama had a couple of big announcements. He placed two phone calls, one to OS3 Sutgrey and the other to AC2 Jones. He told them both that they were out of uniform and were to put on the new rank of OS2 and AC1 immediately; they had just been Capped! It was exciting news and fellow shipmates were very happy for those two outstanding Sailors.

After the good news more drinks, music, and prizes followed! OS1 Gonzales was the lucky winner of the grand prize; a big screen TV! We brought another successful Christmas Party to a close with friendship, memories, and the thoughts of our fellow Shipmates deployed around the world.



 **NASNI vs. NAB** 
Flag Football Islander Bowl Champions 2010
TACRON TWELVE "TALONS"

The Tactical Air Control Squadron TWELVE (VTC-12) Talons flag football team wrapped up a successful season on November 23rd with a 35-14 victory over the Naval Air Station North Island's top team, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Detachment (AIMD), during the Islander Bowl Championship. The Talons earned a trip to the bowl by compiling a 7-1 record and defeating Amphibious Construction Battalion One (ACB-1) in the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado championship. A high-powered offense, led by quarterback AC3 Travon Daigle, proved to be the key as few

opponents were able to find an answer to the combination of speed and playmaking that provided an ever-present threat. The defense was no slouch as well, consistently stepping up in the final minutes of games to ensure



victory. Despite roster changes and injuries throughout the season, the Talons overcame any adversity that presented itself and played together as a team.

None of this year's success would have been possible without the strong fan support provided by all of VTC-12. Numerous Talons sacrificed their personal time to cheer on the players on the field.

Many of the players on the flag football team will also be showcasing their talents on the basketball court, as the VTC-12 basketball team looks to build upon last year's success. Come show your support!

Welcome Aboard!

**AC2 Scott
AC2 View
ACAN Ward**

Fair Winds and Following Seas...

**CS3 Hardy
ACC Patterson
Maj James
LS1 Pineza
OS1 Gonzales**

Congrats to our 2010 Sailor of the Year

LS1 Pineza

And...

Air Traffic Controller of the Year

AC1 Porter

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

OS3 Johnson- 12/9

AC3 Mainville- 12/12

OS3 Warner- 12/13

IT3 Alisa- 12/18

OSC Rowlands- 12/18

AC3 Spicer- 12/22

ACAN Jackson- 12/26

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

AC3 Le- 1/1

LCDR Nink- 1/4

AC2 McCastle- 1/14

AC1 Porter- 1/16

LCDR Dolan- 1/18

LCDR Dewey- 1/27