

# TALON TIMES

*Mission: Plan, direct, and control all air operations in support of Amphibious Forces. Provide combat-ready detachments to deployed Amphibious Ready Groups.*

TACRON TWELVE  
JANUARY-MARCH 2012

## FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK...

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Dear Talons, families, and friends,

Greetings, I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits as we round into the spring season. The squadron continued to stay busy through the first three months of 2012 and our high operational tempo will continue through the summer. DET THREE recently completed the ESSEX Amphibious Ready Group / 31<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit Certification Exercise and is now participating in exercise SSANG YONG / FOAL EAGLE, a large-scale combined field training exercise with our South Korean allies occurring off the East coast of the Korean peninsula. It is an exercise during which we refresh and improve the combined operational readiness of both military forces. The exercise will conclude at the end of March and will be followed by another exercise, Fleet Synthetic Trainer – Joint, which will occur while the USS ESSEX and USS BONHOMME RICHARD are in port Sasebo, Japan.

Here at Homeguard, DET FOUR successfully completed their air traffic controller team trainer in Pensacola several weeks ago and are working hard to complete their preparations for deployment this summer. Their next pre-deployment event is the Joint Expeditionary Warfare Laboratory (JEWL) Trainer where they will be evaluated in doctrine, tactics, and techniques of Naval Expeditionary Warfare during simulated amphibious operations. DET TWO will also conduct sustainment training in the JEWL trainer to refresh their warfighting skills and maintain combat readiness as the Surge detachment. They are our detachment designated to respond to immediate tasking anywhere in the world.

This past month, eligible Talons participated in the March 2012 Navy-wide Advancement Examination. I look forward to the next group of Talons promoted to the next higher paygrade and the increased level of responsibility that accompanies it. Also, two of our Talons, ACAN Ward and AC2 Ali, recently departed for extended Individual Augment (IA) assignments to Camp Lemonier, Djibouti. Camp Lemonier is the primary base of operations for U.S. Africa Command in the Horn of Africa and is home to Commander, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. ACAN Ward and AC2 Ali will provide critical air traffic control services for the U.S., joint, and coalition aircraft operating from Djibouti.

The next several months will continue to be busy with the TACRON Operational Advisory Group (OAG) conference convening in April to address community issues while exercises BALIKATAN in the Philippines and TERMINAL FURY in Japan will require some of our Talons to deploy for several weeks. Individual readiness and deployability remain critical to our mission accomplishment and it requires the continued commitment from Talons and their families to ensure we can respond to any tasking that comes our way. I want to express my appreciation to the families for their continued and dedicated support for our Talons, allowing us to successfully execute our mission. Stay safe and enjoy the drier and warmer weather coming our way. Talon Pride.

My best to you and your families,

**CDR Vince Martin**  
[Vincent.martin@navy.mil](mailto:Vincent.martin@navy.mil)  
619-437-2594





## FROM THE MASTER CHIEF'S DESK...

**ACCM Ellis**

Greetings Talons and Family!

This is my first opportunity to reach out to you through our periodic newsletter, and I'll try to keep it brief.

This is the first West Coast tour ever for me and my wife, Sandy, and since reporting aboard in June, it's been great! I can't say enough about how awesome the support has been here, both inside the office and outside of work. This is a fantastic group of Sailors and they continually amaze me with the things they are able to do.

We face a lot of challenges these days, including deployment schedules, Enlisted Retention Boards, Senior Enlisted Continuation Boards and the Perform To Serve program, to name a few. The key to successfully navigating all of these challenges is effective and continuous communication. I will do my absolute best to ensure that you know everything I do about what's going on in each of these areas, but I know there will always be questions and concerns that are not answered or addressed by the standard distributed information – so if you're not sure, don't hesitate to ask! If you're a member of the squadron, please use the chain of command. If you're a family member, you can contact either the Command Ombudsman, Mrs. Cortney Holloway, or contact me directly. If I don't have the specific answer you need I'll either steer you to the right people or find the answer for you.

Thanks for staying in tune with what's going on in the squadron. The family members and their support are critical to the ability of our Sailors to keep the necessary focus on their jobs and I am keenly aware of the sacrifices you make in support of your family member's service. Thank you!



## The Ombudsman Corner



By Cortney Carrier-Holloway  
619-796-2478

[tacron12ombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:tacron12ombudsman@gmail.com)

*Hello Talons! In this issue of the newsletter I want to remind you all of the extensive resources available to you online and in the community. I also want to remind everyone what an Ombudsman is and their role in the lives of service members and their families. I am honored and proud to be the TACRON 12 Command Ombudsman and I genuinely look forward to being of service to the sailors and families of TACRON 12 in 2012.*

### **San Diego Military Outreach Ministries**

San Diego Military Outreach Ministries is a community supported charity that reaches out to young enlisted military families in San Diego with a broad range of helping services. For more details, visit their web site [www.sandiegomom.org](http://www.sandiegomom.org) or call 619-461-4164.



### **USO San Diego Downtown Center**

303 A Street Suite 100  
San Diego, California 92101  
Ph: (619) 235-6503

The mission of the local **USO San Diego** is to enhance the quality of life of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and their families worldwide and to create a cooperative relationship between U.S. military communities and involved or supporting civilian communities. The goal of USO San Diego is to extend a sense of comfort in an unfamiliar place to all active duty military and their families. More than 250 volunteers give their time to assist in staffing both centers. These volunteers aid in ensuring American service men and women feel at home in San Diego, whether traveling or stationed here. At the corner of 3rd and A Street, our USO Downtown Center is open every day of the year

from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. to give active duty military personnel and their families a ***home away from home.***

The center offers a comfortable place where they may watch television, play pool, email friends, read, or just relax and hang out.

The 18,000 square foot center offers a variety of programs and services:

- A friendly and comfortable place to relax while off-duty
- Internet and Wi-Fi canteens (network to printers)
- Complimentary snacks and refreshments
- Children's playroom
- Two flat panel televisions with surround sound, DVD movie library, and Play Station
- Entertain Our Troops Program
- No-cost event and meeting space available for military affiliated groups
- Santa Store and Giving Tree Programs
- Easter, Halloween and Thanksgiving Programs
- United Through Reading®
- Ticket distribution
- Community chest
- Resource center with helpful information about San Diego



### [San Diego Armed Services YMCA Paul Hartley Complex](#)

3293 Santo Road

San Diego, CA 92124

858-751-5755

Fax: 858.751.5769

For 90 years, the San Diego Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) has worked to improve the lives of our local junior enlisted service members and their families in mind, body, and spirit by providing free programs and services relevant to the unique challenges of military life.

#### **Family Outreach Programs & Youth & Community Outreach Programs:**

- Marriage Counseling

As part of our free and confidential in-home counseling program, our professional social workers provide couples counseling services. These services are tailored to meet the specific needs and goals of the couple, and could address a wide range of issues, such as: pre-marital counseling, infidelity, effective communication, managing conflict, understanding parenting styles, or deployment/reunification.

- Individual Counseling

The active duty person or spouse may seek individual counseling to address any issues specifically their own, their role in a relationship, or issues such as parenting help and coping with stress while a spouse is on deployment.

- Parenting Education

Our professional social workers can provide information on and assistance with effective parenting. These services are tailored to meet the needs of you and your children, and could address a wide range of issues, such as: understanding children's specific behavioral and developmental needs, assisting with behavioral and sleep issues, effective use of time outs, or a child having difficulty adjusting to a parent's deployment or relocation.

- Information, Resources & Referral

Our professional social workers are in contact with a variety of agencies and community groups that provide a range of services to military families. It can often be difficult just to find the right number to call for the service you are looking for. If you need a service that you do not think we offer, or are having difficulty finding a service you need, let us be your first stop! Call (858) 751-5755 and ask to speak with a Family Outreach Social Worker, or email [familyoutreach@asymcasd.org](mailto:familyoutreach@asymcasd.org).

- Family Emergency Supplies

Are you not able to feed your family until the next paycheck? Families who are experiencing financial distress are able to access emergency supplies once in a twelve month period by contacting a Family Outreach Social Worker. Social workers can also provide food resources and referrals and help with family budgeting. Click [HERE](#) for a link to local food resources.



## **What is 2-1-1 San Diego?**

2-1-1 San Diego is a resource and information hub that connects people with community, health and disaster services through a free, 24/7 stigma-free confidential phone service and searchable online database. 2-1-1 serves the entire population of the County.

Every hour of every day, someone in San Diego County searches for services, from substance abuse treatment to care for a child or aging parent, food, housing or financial assistance. With more than 5,000 health and human service programs, finding help can seem insurmountable. 2-1-1 can help.

By dialing 2-1-1, clients are linked to a live highly-trained Client Service Representative (CSR) who will navigate them through their situations by assessing their needs and then matching them to the best and closest resource in their community. Assistance is confidential and offered in more than 150 languages. 2-1-1's highly trained CSRs, the majority of whom are [Alliance of Information and Referral Systems](#) (AIRS)-certified, provide a wide range of immediate resources to local individuals and families.

### Sittercity Military Program- A DoD Funded Program:

Sittercity provides the following services;

- Babysitters and Nannies!
- Certified CDH/FCC care providers
- Authorized access caregivers
- Senior care
- Pet care
- Housekeepers
- Tutors

To register: [https://www.sittercity.com/register\\_corp\\_1.html?corp=dod&client=67](https://www.sittercity.com/register_corp_1.html?corp=dod&client=67)



<http://www.nationalmilitaryspousenetwork.org>

Is it possible to have it all? Traditionally, the transient military lifestyle has limited the ability of military spouses to create and sustain a career path that meets their deepest goals, talents and aspirations. We believe that by leveraging today's technology and employment trends, it is entirely possible to maintain a rewarding career within the framework and challenges of the military lifestyle.

Our Mission Statement:

We are the National Military Spouse Network (NMSN) - the pre-eminent networking, mentoring and professional development organization committed to the education, empowerment and advancement of military spouses.



### ***What is an Ombudsman?***

*Every Command has an Ombudsman who is a spouse of a sailor at the Command. The Ombudsman serves as the liaison between the command and the families. The Ombudsman is the point of contact for the families. He or she can assist families with navigating through Navy life through resources and information.*

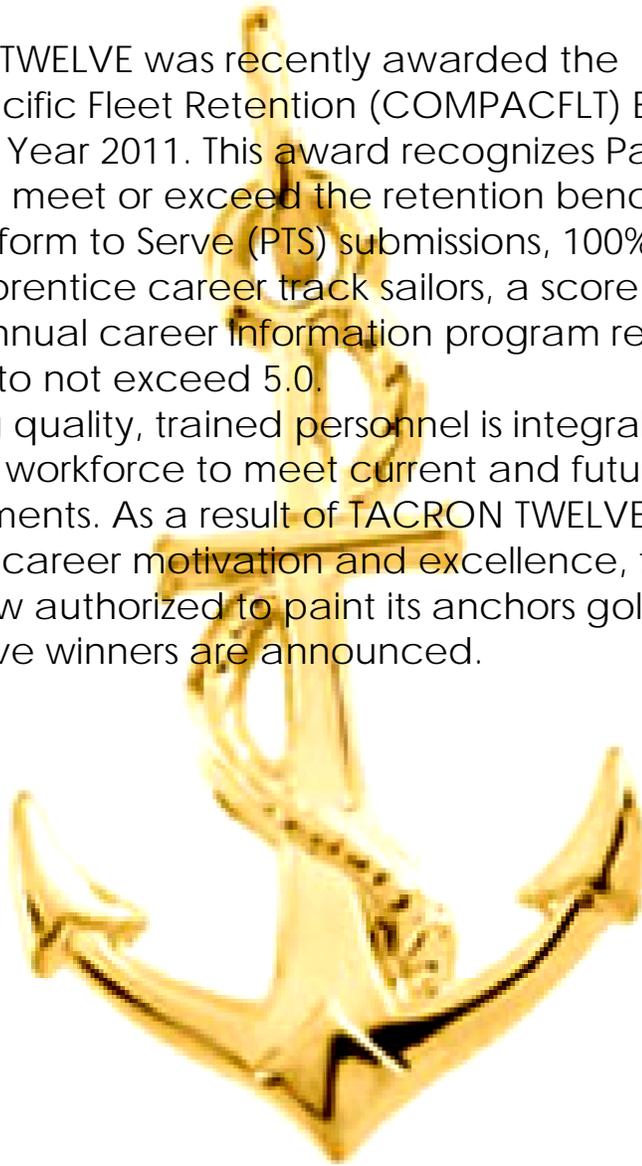
### ***How can an Ombudsman help me?***

*Navy Family Ombudsmen are key resources for family members, particularly during deployments. Ombudsmen maintain current resource files with information on military and civilian community agencies that can help families solve a variety of problems, and successfully meet the challenges they face before, during, and after deployments. In addition to providing referral information, Ombudsmen can facilitate communication between the Command and family members. Ombudsmen are available 24 hours a day to assist service members and their families.*

## **COMPACFLT RETENTION EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR FY11**

TACRON TWELVE was recently awarded the Commander Pacific Fleet Retention (COMPACFLT) Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 2011. This award recognizes Pacific Fleet commands that meet or exceed the retention benchmarks of 100% on the Perform to Serve (PTS) submissions, 100% professional apprentice career track sailors, a score of 85% or higher on the annual career information program review and Zone A attrition to not exceed 5.0.

Retaining quality, trained personnel is integral to shaping the Navy's total workforce to meet current and future war fighting requirements. As a result of TACRON TWELVE's commitment to career motivation and excellence, the command is now authorized to paint its anchors gold until the Fiscal Year Twelve winners are announced.



# IA/GSA Resources

## ***IA/GSA Family Information***

Here are several resources you can use to find more information regarding IAs:

Navy Knowledge Online, or NKO, has the most current, accurate information about IA assignments.

NKO SpouseNET online forum is a forum on NKO for IA families. The SpouseNET Forum provides a secure community for families to communicate with each other. It is monitored by the Navy's Ombudsman-at-Large. You can post comments and questions. (Please Note: A user name and password are needed to access this website.)

Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) was established to help you get answers to questions about IA assignments. Call them toll free at (877) 364-4302.

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is a great source of information. Every Fleet and Family Support Center throughout the Navy offers deployment readiness information specifically tailored to IA deployments.

U.S. Fleet Forces IA/IA Family Support is a useful, informative website for those about to go on or come off IA/mobilization.

## **Pay and Finances**

Managing money can be a challenge for many. If you find this is the case, do not forget your Command Financial Specialist, Fleet and Family Support Center, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and credit unions can help you with your deployment budget. Also, be sure to check out the Fleet and Family Support ([www.nffsp.org](http://www.nffsp.org)) and the Defense Finance and Accounting System ([www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)) websites for more information.

## **Emergencies**

Your command ombudsman or chaplain can direct you to help when you need it. These agencies are also available:

American Red Cross ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org))

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society ([www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org))

### ***IA/GSA Family Connection***

Meet with other IA/GSA family members from around the world in the comfort of your own home! To participate in the IA/GSA Family Connection, you will need a computer with broadband Internet access and a telephone.

#### **To join:**

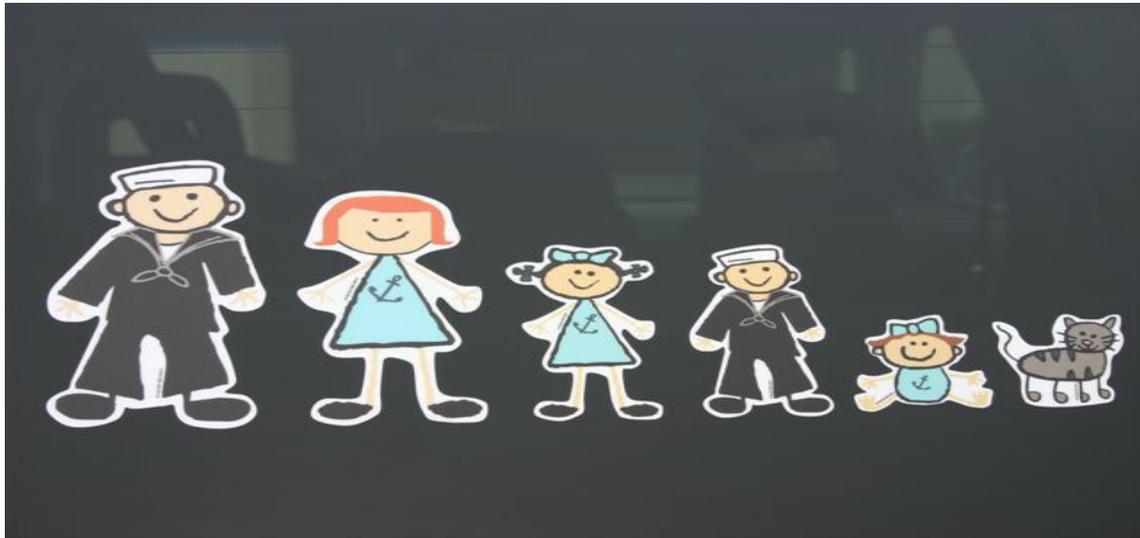
1. Go to the browser address listed next to the date you want to attend. It will take you to a registration website where you'll be asked for a few pieces of information.
2. You will receive a confirmation email from WEBINAR providing the Internet browser address for the session as well as the telephone number to dial.

#### **To attend session:**

1. Insert the website address for the session into your browser window. It will scroll and a box will come up on your screen.
2. Click "Download GoToMeeting."
3. Click "run."
4. A bar will appear in the middle of the page as it downloads.
5. If you arrive before the facilitator, a window will let you know. Do not exit the window. Just wait for the meeting to start.
6. Once completed, the computer will ask you to enter: Name & email address.
7. "Waiting to View Screen" will appear. You are connected.
8. Dial in on your phone by calling: **1-800-791-2345 Code: 40560**

These virtual IA family member discussion groups are hosted by Commander Navy Installations Command and Fleet and Family Support Centers worldwide.

Contact our IA Coordinator, OS2 Cory Johnson at 619-437-3672 for any IA/GSA questions.





# FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN

CONTRIBUTED BY: LCDR DOUG LITO



YNSN Drew Steinke caddied for PGA tour pro Angel Cabrera

Several Talons volunteered to support the Farmer's Insurance Open held at the beautiful Torrey Pines Golf course from January 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. This event was nationally televised on CBS and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities. Admission to the event was free for all service members.

One of the major highlights for our military volunteers at this event was the opportunity to meet PGA golf professionals up close and personal while serving in the military caddy program. YNSN Drew Steinke had the opportunity to caddy for one of his favorite players, Angel Cabrera. LT Brian Dolan caddied for Hunter Mahan. LCDR Doug Lito caddied for "his new favorite golfer," Australia's Nick O'Hern. Between shots, the players chatted with their military caddies about golf and asked many questions about their experiences in the service.

LCDR Lito, LT Dolan, and LCDR Brian Taylor also served as flag pin attendants for several days throughout the tournament. They wore their dress uniforms and held the flag pin, which was actually a miniature American flag, while the golfers putted on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole. The 14<sup>th</sup> hole was the location where all active duty service members and dependents could enjoy free food and drinks while watching the tournament in the Padres' Military Appreciation Tent.



LCDR Lito and LT Dolan meet 3 Padres players in the Military Appreciation Tent

# COBRA GOLD

By LTJG Spalding

Intelligence Specialist Second Class Matthew Jeran recently returned from Thailand upon completing two weeks of participation in COBRA GOLD 2012. CG12 was a joint exercise between, but not limited to, the militaries of the United States, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Japan. Operating out of Khorat, in northeastern Thailand, IS2 Jeran provided support to various simulated operations with his vast in-rate knowledge. Outside of the exercise, IS2 was able to immerse himself in a culture he had never before experienced.

“Having the opportunity to work alongside citizens of foreign countries such as Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore on many joint planning and intelligence products was a great way to build relationships as well as learn how military forces around the world operate.” IS2 Jeran stated upon his return to TACRON TWELVE.

Cobra Gold 2012 provided IS2 Jeran hands-on, real-world experience that will further expand his skill set as an Intelligence Specialist here at TACRON TWELVE.



(IS2 Matthew Jeran with a Master Sergeant in the Thai Army)



## DETACHMENT THREE ON PATROL

By LCDR Travis Hartman

As I sit down to write this article I long for hot water and am bundled up in a jacket and a ski hat. But, despite the temporary lack of some creature comforts, operations are in full swing and morale is high. While we aren't quite to our half-way point, below is our Detachment THREE (almost) mid-term report:

- **FLEXIBLE.** All good plans are a starting point from which to deviate. This certainly held true for our deployment. Schedules changed, personnel swapped, and priorities adjusted with the shifting sands of available assets, training opportunities, and externally-driven requirements. Despite the dynamic environment, the detachment quickly adjusted and has in turn played a significant and important role in the successful execution of the ship's daily operations.

- **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.** In Okinawa, Japan, AC1 (AW) Jones led six Sailors through the first half of the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) curriculum. The FMF qualification process, under the umbrella of the U.S. Marine Corps, is a rigorous training program that includes battlefield first aid, land navigation, and weapons training. Just a few hours flight to the north in Sasebo, Japan, ACC(AW/SW) Guivara mentored detachment members through the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) programs. The EAWS pipeline focuses primarily on Aviation-related operations, while ESWS is a ship operations-based program. Enrollees have found themselves all over the ship in unfamiliar ship's spaces receiving training and PQS sign-offs along the way. A few even had the opportunity to stand and qualify for ship's deck watches. After all of the pre-requisites, one-on-one PQS sign-offs, and a practice board, the soon-to-be-warfare-pin-wearing Sailors will cap off the syllabus with an oral board that tests their knowledge and understanding of shipboard and aviation operations.

- **CERTEX COMPLETE.** Following an abbreviated Amphibious Integration Training window, the detachment kicked off Certification Exercise 2012-1 (CERTEX) off the coast of Okinawa, Japan. The missions started small, but rapidly grew more complex and culminated with an amphibious raid that involved every aspect of the ship's war-fighting systems. Once again we won the day and the detachment's superb efforts were formally recognized during the post-evaluation critique.

- **MILESTONES.** Congratulations are in order for the following personnel that can add another bullet to their resumé:

1. Associate's Degree: OS2(SW) Daniels;
2. Promotion: MAJ Hill;
3. TACCWO: LCDR Bogie, LCDR Taylor, LCDR Threlkeld, LCDR Kosloski, LT Willcox, and LT Wicker;
4. TACCSUP: AC2(AW) Mainville and AC3(AW) Hardgrave;
5. FADIZ: OS1(SW) Tuiasosopo;
6. TAD/TATC: AC3(AW) Hardgrave;
7. ESTAT/ASTABS: AC2 Gibbs, AC2 Graeber, AC3(AW) Hardgrave, ACAN Suarezcampos

Well, the ship has started to warm and there is rumor of hot water. So I'll close by offering a wise, albeit paraphrased, Irish saying which was part of the Chaplain's evening prayer on St. Patrick's Day:

"Those that like you: like you. For those that don't, may He turn their hearts. And if He can't turn their hearts, may He turn their ankles so you may know them by their limp."

# Det 4 Update

*The* Sailors assigned to TACRON TWELVE DET FOUR have been working diligently over the past several months to prepare for our upcoming deployment aboard the USS BONHOMME RICHARD located in Sasebo, Japan. Throughout the rigorous training that we do leading up to deployment, we are periodically evaluated by our parent command, COMTACGRU ONE, who, upon successful completion of our evaluations, will certify us as "ready to deploy".

A few weeks ago, as part of the training and evaluation process, the Air Traffic Controllers of DET 4 picked up and headed off to Pensacola, Florida for Team Training. The trainer is located at the ATC school house and is set up very much like our work center on the ship to include radar scopes, communications equipment and just about everything else needed to simulate air operations at sea. From the outside, it looks like a giant video game, however the simulations are quite realistic and at times, extremely challenging.

As part of our evaluation, the first day began with a written exam designed to gauge the team's knowledge of Amphibious Air Traffic Control operations. This is a difficult 100 question exam that everyone must pass in order to begin training in the simulated environment. Not surprisingly, the team not only passed the exam, but earned the highest average score of any TACRON team to date!



For the next 2 weeks, the team was immersed into the "trainer." The first week was devoted to learning the basics of this unique form of Air Traffic Control to include phraseology, procedures and a familiarization of the equipment that we use. At the end of the week, the team passed a graded simulation session with flying colors... and that's when the fun started! The

following week we concentrated on honing their skills as controllers in an effort to master the complexities of Tactical Air Traffic Control in an Amphibious environment. To make it more challenging, the aircraft flew at 'double speed' with multiple emergencies and casualties. In short, the team performed brilliantly! Most importantly, they learned a lot about the intricacies of this unique



operating environment and readied themselves for deployment. When we weren't working, we ate! One of the bennies of traveling to Florida was taking advantage of all the great food that Pensacola has to offer. Some of our favorites include Five Sisters Soul food and the Shrimp Basket seafood restaurant. The best food by far, however, came from AC2 Daigle's grandmother in Louisiana who cooked up vats of Crawfish étouffée and shrimp gumbo. It doesn't get much better than that! The whole team says "Thanks Grandma!"

It wasn't just the controllers who were working hard; back at the command there was plenty to do in order to ensure that we stayed on track; our shipmates at homeguard kept the press to ensure that we are *mission ready!* These Sailors continue to represent the team, command and the Navy with pride and professionalism.

*Great job DET FOUR! Keep up the good work.*

ACC(AW) Spencer Holloway  
TACRON TWELVE DET FOUR LCPO

## **AWARDS**

### ***NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL:***

***LCDR PRICE***

***LT DOLAN***

### ***NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL:***

***ACI FORTE***

***OSI LEMAK***

***OS2 MEDINA***

### ***COMMAND LETTER OF COMMENDATION:***

***AC2 FOSTER***

***AC3 KATZ***

### ***GOOD CONDUCT AWARD:***

***ACI NGIRAINGAS***

***ACI PORTER***

***AC2 MAINVILLE***

***AC2 YBARRA***

***AC3 SCZEPASKI***

# WELCOME ABOARD

*CDR BIEMILLER*

*AC3 BERTELS*

*ACAN WALLER*

*LT TORRES*

*ACAN BROWN*

*OSSN MORPHIS*

## *FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS...*

*LCDR PRICE*

*AC1 FORTE*

*CS2 COLVIN*

*OS2 MEDINA*

*YN3 CRAWFORD*

*OS3 WARNER*

*LT DOLAN*

*AC2 FOSTER*

*IS2 IRRIZARY*

*AC3 KATZ*

*OS3 ROBERTS*

*AN MASSA*

## **TACRON TWELVE COMMAND PHOTO**



# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

LT DOLAN

AC1 PORTER

AC2 MCCASTLE

AC3 LE

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

AC1 NGRAINGAS

AC2 KLINE

AC2 SCOTT

OS2 DYER

AC2 YBARRA

AC3 CHHAY

ACAN JONES

YNSN STEINKE

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

LCDR MORALES

MAJ THOMPSON

IT1 OGBURN

CS2 COLVIN

AC3 HARDGRAVE

AC3 SCZEPANSKI

# Command Fun PT Days

By ACC(AW/FMF/SW) Saalfrank

In a Command in which personnel are usually broken down by Detachment or Department, it can sometimes play into the “us against them” mentality. One of the ways that TACRON 12 has incorporated into the weekly schedule to combat that mentality is to have a Command Team Building day. Some of the events which have been included in this day are sports such as soccer and softball, games such as ultimate Frisbee and dodge ball, and hikes at Cowles Mountain. All of these activities not only provide a chance to integrate personnel, but provide a fun way of attaining one of the three days of physical training a week required by the Navy.



# TALON SPORTS

Sports continue to play a big part in the TACRON community. Several members of the TACRON TWELVE flag football team, which recently won the N.A.B. Coronado and the overall Coronado Islander Bowl football tournaments, were asked to join the N.A.B. Coronado Allstar Team. This team won the Winter Flag Football Tournament held at North Island, adding more hardware to TACRON TWELVE's already bulging trophy case! Now that flag football has been tackled, the Talons are challenging for the softball and basketball championships. You can expect to see the patented Talon camaraderie, competitiveness, and sportsmanship displayed at all times during Captain's Cup competitions. All personnel are encouraged to come out and play regardless of experience level. It's all about having a good time and coming together as Team TACRON! 😊 Congratulations to those who participated in the flag football tournament.



*N.A.B. ALLSTARS  
2012 NORTH ISLAND  
FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS!*

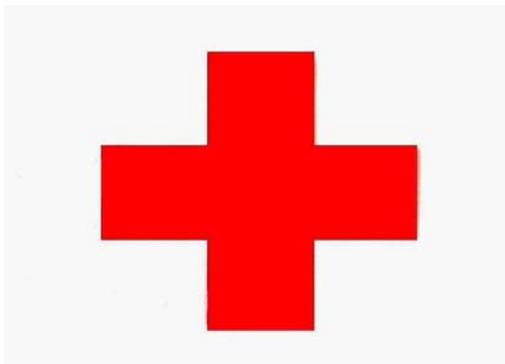


# NAVY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES

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](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 moved 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 remain the same: calling **877-272-7337** direct, accessing the number through a military operator, or calling the local Red Cross station.