

A To Newsletter

January / February 2008

Commander's Corner

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy and healthy New Year from Alpha Company, 4th CEB. The month of December has seen the company remain very busy with the Toys for Tots program, and the amount of children we are helping has grown even more this year. This is the time of year when Alpha Company focuses on giving back to the community.

As you head into the new year please keep our deployed Marines in your thoughts and prayers. 1st Platoon has been extremely busy since arriving to Iraq and they have been very successful in every mission they have taken on. We all look forward to 1st Platoon's return this spring. The Company will plan this year's family day to coincide with the return of the platoon from Iraq.

The company is excited about the upcoming training opportunities over the next three months. Alpha company will be training with our sister company Delta Company in January at Fort Knox and will travel to Quantico, Virginia in February for additional training. These drill weekends will be longer than the normal weekends most families are used to. The Marines are due to arrive at the reserve center on Thursday evening versus Friday evening. Having a few longer drill weekends will give the company more time to train down range and allow us to be more flexible with our summer training dates. I would like to thank you all for your continued support of Alpha Company in everything we do.

First Sergeant's Corner

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

Important Information

The following messages will affect Marines and/or their families in the new year. To keep up to date on all of the latest information that may impact your careers please look at ALMARS and MARADMINS, which are periodically released on the Marine Corps Website.

- Heads up! In June 2008 the Marine Corps is planning to implement a combat readiness test to be conducted in conjunction with physical fitness tests. Some of the new events include the casualty carry course, the ammunition re-supply course and a maneuver under fire course.
- 2008 will bring a 3.5 percent pay raise for all military personnel. For further information and to review the latest pay charts visit www.usmc.mil.

F.Y.I

- Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to military spouses to obtain professional certification or to attend post-secondary or graduate school. They normally range from \$500 to \$1,000 and may be used for tuition, fees, and school room and board. Spouses of uniformed servicemembers, including active duty, National Guardsmen, reservists, retirees and survivors of any branch or rank are eligible to apply. Applications will be accepted online at www.nmfa.org/scholarship Jan. 1 through Feb. 29.

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Promotions, Awards and Retirements

Promotions:

Congratulations to Gunnery Sergeant McLain on his December promotion.

Awards:

There were no awards given in the month of December.

Retirements:

Gunnery Sergeant Smith retired on December 8th. We'd like to congratulate him on a successful career and wish him good luck in all of his future endeavors.

Toys for Tots

A Company pulled together to conduct a very successful Toys for Tots drive this year. Your hard work and the generosity of the community resulted in a happy holiday for 12,000 children in the Charleston, Huntington and Beckley areas. More than 27,000 toys were given out all together.

Upcoming Training

In January A Company will be conducting MOUT training in Fort Knox, KY.

In February A Company will conduct swim qualifications at MCB Quantico, VA.

Helpful Websites

<http://www.usmc.mil>

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org>

http://mfrc.calib.com/Ending_Freedom/index.htm

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

<http://www.redcross.org>

<http://www.va.gov>