

TALON TIMES

Mission: Plan, direct and control all air operations in support of amphibious forces, and provide combat-ready detachments to deployed Amphibious Ready Groups.

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TACRON TWELVE
JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK...

Dear Talons, families, and friends,

It is common in our Navy that as we become comfortable in one place, it is time to move on. My time with TACRON TWELVE is quickly coming to an end. Our Change of command will occur on November 15th, just a few weeks away. There will be the expected speeches, but I would like to take a moment of your time to share a couple of my personal thoughts.

First and foremost, I would like to tell you how fortunate and proud I have been to be your Commanding Officer. There is no finer squadron or group of Sailors, Chiefs, and Officers that one can command. Talons have taken on every challenge, met every mark, and excelled in every mission assigned. Your service to this command, our Fleet Commanders, your Navy, and your country make me proud to have been a Talon every day. Please accept my hearty congratulations and BRAVO ZULU on a job exceptionally well done.

As my departure nears, our mission continues. Detachment (Det) FOUR is embarked aboard the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) in support of Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN and Amphibious Forces, SEVENTH FLEET. They've completed several exercises including VALIANT SHIELD, a U.S.-only exercise focused on integration of joint training with units from the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Det FOUR recently completed the exercise PHIBLEX 2012, a bilateral exercise with the military forces of the Philippines, and they were able to conduct port calls in Guam, Subic Bay, Philippines, Sepangar, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Det FOUR has several more missions and exercises to conduct prior to their return from deployment in December. In the meantime, Det TWO has been progressing through their deployment training and is nearly complete. They successfully completed their Joint Expeditionary Warfare Laboratory (JEWL) evaluation last week and are completing the last few items on their pre-deployment checklist. Det TWO will deploy in January and will undoubtedly excel given their pre-deployment performance.

Last month, we witnessed the advancement of several Talons to Chief Petty Officer with OSC (SW/AW) Lemak and OSC (SW/AW) Contrano proudly pinning on their anchors. Congratulations on your accomplishment. As the cooler weather settles in and the leaves turn somewhat brown here in San Diego, these signal the approach of several events. Our Annual Chili Cook-off, Halloween costume contest were quite successful, and our Thanksgiving and Holiday celebrations are right around the corner.

In closing, I wish each and every one of you the very best in the future. It has been an honor to serve with you and for you. My family and I will truly miss being a part of the finest command in the Navy. **TALON PRIDE!**

My best to you and your families,

CDR Vince Martin

Vincent.martin@navy.mil

619-437-2594





FROM THE MASTER CHIEF'S DESK

By CMC ELLIS

Greetings, Talons and Families!

With the holiday season and the coming year rapidly approaching, the squadron is as busy as ever and change is in the air.

On November 15th we will have our Change of Command ceremony as Commander Martin departs after a highly successful command tour to the next challenge of his career and we welcome Commander Hopkins into the “driver’s seat”.

Very soon after the Change of Command, we will have our annual Christmas party. Planning and fundraising for the party has been ongoing for quite some time with a lot of our Sailors volunteering their efforts to make it an event you won’t want to miss! I look forward to seeing each of you there.

As always, we will do our best again this year to ensure that every Sailor has the opportunity to take some leave or liberty and spend time with family and friends during the holiday breaks. As we do, I ask that everyone take the time to plan ahead, pay attention to the weather and be safe in all that you do. We look forward to a safe and happy holiday season for the entire Talon family with all of our personnel returning safely to face the coming year.

Only a few months into the new year, we will be wishing the traditional “Fair winds and following seas” to our Command Ombudsman as her husband, Chief Spencer Holloway, transfers to his next assignment. Our Command Ombudsman has done an awesome job taking care of our Sailors’ families and helping them through the challenges of Navy life and all that goes along with it. Now we’re looking for the next husband or wife to take on this challenging, but very rewarding role. Anyone interested may contact our current Command Ombudsman or myself directly and we will do our absolute best to answer any questions you may have and get you all the information and training you’ll need to feel comfortable in the job. The Ombudsman is the link between our Sailors’ families and the command, reports directly to and is supported by the Commanding Officer, and is entitled to certain benefits that go along with the job. Please let us know if you are interested!

In closing, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Commander Martin for the outstanding leadership he has provided to the squadron and the steadfast support he has provided to the extended Talon family during his tour as our Commanding Officer. Our best wishes for your family, your happiness and continued success follow wherever you go.

~~~~~\*Fair winds, Sir!\*~~~~~



## The Ombudsman Corner



Phone: 1-619-796-2478

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

**Hello Talons! One way an Ombudsman supports the command mission is to take care of its families.**

**When service members are confident and reassured their loved ones are cared for they are able to focus on their job. As your Ombudsman, I am here to assist you in any way that I can! Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have. I can be reached by email or phone any time of day or night.**

**\*\*\*Have a safe and happy autumn everyone!\*\*\***



**Military Family Month was established in 1993 by the Armed Services YMCA, with the U.S. Government recognizing the occasion every year since. President Barack Obama proclaimed November 2009 as Military Family Month, calling on all Americans to honor military families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in the support of our service members and our Nation. 2012 will be the 18th year that the United States of America recognizes the service and sacrifices of our Military Families.**

**Here are a few tips from the Armed Services YMCA on how you can help Military Families this November:**

**For Military Families...**

- Bring comfort to military children with the free photo quilt program for children of deployed with Operation Kid Comfort.
- See if your Military Family is eligible for a free YMCA or Private Fitness membership through the YMCA-DoD Initiative with the Armed Services YMCA. Watch for the free Sears Heroes at Home Registry Sign ups, for free gift cards for Military Families. Signups usually happen in Late Fall.

***[Click here for their webpage.](#)***

- Connect with your children with a free taping of a service member reading a book to their child with United through Reading.
- Enjoy Family Bonding at your local SeaWorld Theme Park, which offers free admission for Military Families thru their Heroes Program **valid at SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA, and Adventure Island.**  
*[Click here for more information.](#)*
- Is Money tight? Check out the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society for no interest \$300 Loans, no questions asked, just for Military Families, so that they can avoid the pitfalls of Payday Lenders.  
*[Click here for information on their Quick Assist Loan.](#)*



## **FOCUS: Family Resiliency Training™ for Military Families** **Strengthening the Home Base!**

**FOCUS (Families Over Coming Under Stress™)** provides resiliency training to military children and families. It teaches practical skills to meet the challenges of deployment and reintegration, to communicate and solve problems effectively, and to successfully set goals together and create a shared family story.

### **Site Location**

**Naval Base San Diego**

Dolphin Alley

Naval Base Bldg. 265

San Diego, CA 92136

Phone 619.556.6075

Fax 619.556.6076

[SanDiego@focusproject.org](mailto:SanDiego@focusproject.org)



## **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 [www.sandiegomom.org](http://www.sandiegomom.org), or call 619-461-4164)

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### **Armed Services YMCA San Diego's** **Super Parent Holiday Shopping Day**

**Get ready to celebrate the 2012 holiday season with our annual toy program!**

If you are an Active Duty military family and meet the criteria list below you are eligible to sign up online for our holiday program lottery. Selected Super Parents can choose two toys for each of their children at the event.



### **Requirements:**

- From any branch of *active duty* military service
- E5 and below families living in the San Diego metro service area (56 freeway and south to the border, Ramona and west)
- *And/or* stationed at a San Diego duty station (unfortunately they cannot accommodate families stationed/living at Camp Pendleton for this program)

**Lottery enrollment begins online Thursday, November 1st at 9:00 am and ends Thursday, November 8th, 2012 at 9:00 am.**

For more information regarding this event, you may visit <http://www.militaryymca.org/>

***\*Following that week, waitlist lottery enrollment will open up online to rank E-7 and below.\****

***\*Families selected in the lottery will be invited to the event on December 12th. Please make sure you are available to attend before you sign up.***



**The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.**

**Our Vision: We are a private, non-profit, volunteer, service organization. As a Center of Excellence, we are committed to ensure that all available resources are used to assist personnel of the Naval Services - active, retired, and their eligible family members to achieve financial self-sufficiency and find solutions to emergency needs.**

### **NMCRS San Diego, FSO**

**Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**

Bldg. 270, 3115 Dolphin Alley

PO Box 131470

Naval Base San Diego

San Diego, CA 92170

e-mail to: Barry

White, [barry.white@nmcrs.org](mailto:barry.white@nmcrs.org)

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 0800-1600

**Phone:** (619) 238-1587/1589

**DSN:** 526-8283

**Fax:** (619) 531-0083

**Additional Services:** [Thrift Shop](#)  
[Information](#), [Visiting Nurse](#)



## **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)**





# American Red Cross

As a reminder, the American Red Cross announced that it will move to a single telephone number for its emergency communication services.

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. This 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.

Also, keep in your thoughts and prayers all of those affected by Hurricane Sandy. You can always reach out to them by donating to the Red Cross if you'd like. Your financial donation can make the biggest and most immediate impact. The Red Cross is also urging immediate blood and platelet donations to support the blood needs of those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

*\*For more information about the American Red Cross, and how you can reach out and donate, visit their website at <http://www.redcross.org/>\**

# Year of the Chief

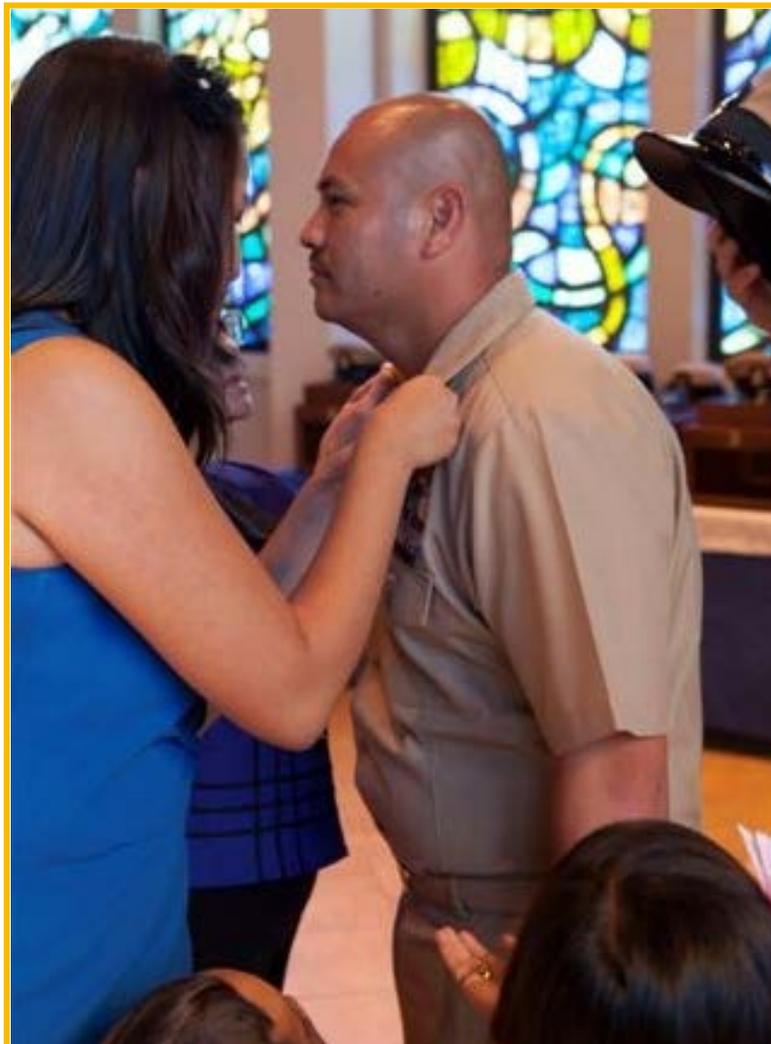
By ACC(AW/FMF/SW) Joanne L. Saalfrank

Every year board eligible First Class Petty Officers anxiously await the arrival of the summer season knowing that in just a month (give or take a week) the Chief Petty Officer selection results will be released.

This year which was designated as the “Year of the Chief”, two TACRON TWELVE First Class Petty Officers received the honor and privilege of being selected to join the ranks of the Chief Petty Officer.

Upon notification of being selected, OS1(SW/AW) Contrano and OS1(SW) Lemak spent six grueling weeks preparing lectures, participating in physical training and fund raising in support of the Khaki Ball that culminated on 14 September when they were welcomed into the Chief’s Mess, donning their khaki uniforms and anchors that were proudly pinned on.

**Congratulations and welcome to the Chief’s  
Mess OSC(SW/AW) Billy Contrano...**



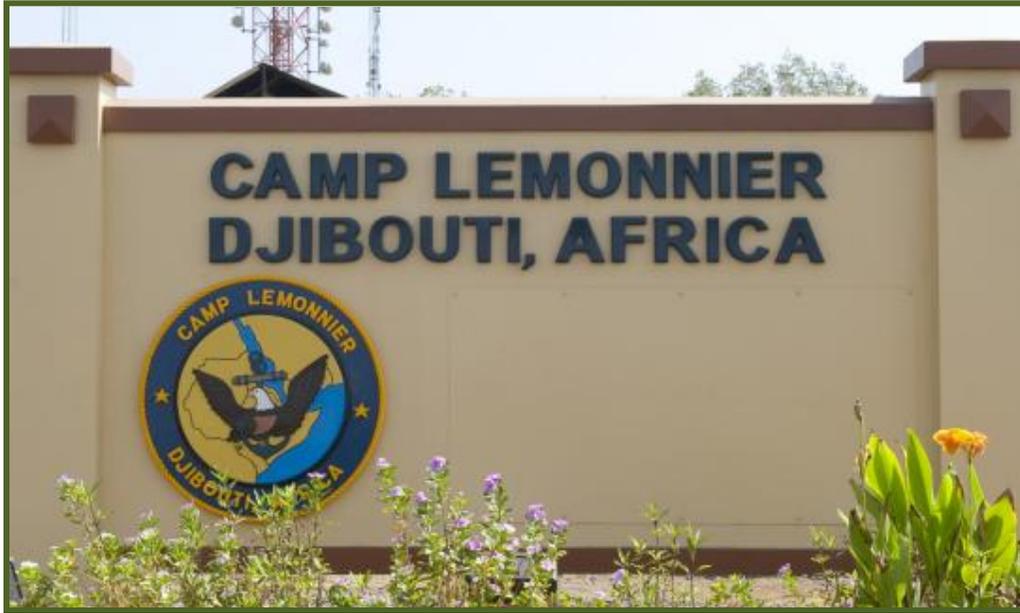
## ...and OSC(SW) Keith Lemak!



**Pictured above and below: OSC(SW/AW) Contrano getting involved in the physically demanding part of the initiation process in becoming a Chief Petty Officer.**



## **Going the Extra Mile: IA Tour in Djibouti**



**It is the perpetual focus of TACRON TWELVE to serve this country with pride and honor, and fulfill every given opportunity to provide selfless contingent support at any given time, whether it is out on a Detachment, or in a foreign country and potential war zone. At this command, we also have the privilege to serve this nation by being assigned to an Army unit (batallion or company) on a TAD/TDY status as a voluntary Individual Augmentee (IA). These personnel can be used to fill shortages or when an individual with specialized knowledge or skill sets is required. TACRON TWELVE takes pride in the selfless efforts of AC2 Wailani Ali, AC3 Daniel Ward, and YN3(AW) Luis Alcantar as they have volunteered themselves and gone the extra mile, or in this case extra thousands of miles, to Djibouti, Africa for an IA tour.**

**AC3 Ward has taken on a significant involvement in his temporary unit by taking on the position of Assistant Command Fitness Leader (ACFL). Showing Soldiers how Navy does it, he has led countless morning PT session greatly increasing Army fitness test scores. AC3 Ward has also qualified as Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist (EIDWS), and has held training contributing to many others being qualified.**

**AC2 Ali is the division's Training Petty Officer (TPO) and maintains Training Jackets for 12 Controllers, assigning weekly training to them. AC2 Ali is also a SAPR Victim Advocate (VA) for the base. "I stand duty with a duty cell phone and duty bag for 1 week and during this time, I am not allowed to leave camp. We have to always be ready just in case we are ever needed".**

**Although YN3(AW) Alcantar has not been in Djibouti quite as long as AC2 Ali or AC3 Ward, in his short time there he has made a significant impact within the command. YN3(AW) Alcantar has improved, by his attention to details, the maintaining of documents that are crucial to each service member's records. His is directly responsible for his department running more efficiently than it did before he arrived.**

**It is undeniable that all three of these IA service members (*pictured below*) have been vigilant in filling the critical positions that are currently needed in Djibouti, while boldly representing TACRON TWELVE and the United States Navy to the best of their abilities. We are looking forward to their safe arrival home, and they will remain in our thoughts and prayers!**



**Pictured above are TACRON TWELVE's IA Tour Volunteers (from left to right): AC3 Daniel Ward, YN3(AW) Luis Alcantar, and AC2 Wailani Ali enjoying some command revelry at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa.**



## ***TACRON TWELVE's Quarterly Spotlight***

### ***The Enduring Efforts of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant***

TACRON TWELVE would like to make special recognition and put the spotlight on a certain hard-working department within this command that has been fundamental in ensuring that operations are kept at a smooth-flowing rate. This department has REALLY demonstrated commendable efforts during this Quarter, and continues to do so... **BRAVO ZULU** to TACRON TWELVE's 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Department! Their efforts have led to the extensive and significant enhancement of this command.

The command's re-carpeting project was no easy feat. Working as a team, they were able to accomplish this evolution in record time and help organize each department in a manner that left our daily routine to flow as normal as humanly possible. Our command appearance definitely shows an amazing improvement thanks to their efforts and teamwork.

In addition to their relentless daily tasking, the outstanding Sailors of 1<sup>st</sup> LT were able to accomplish the installation of new window blinds throughout the entire command. This project resulted in an instant boost in the aesthetics of each department.

Throughout each day, these sailors work hard to ensure our command's upkeep and presentation, but also include time to stay involved in community volunteer efforts and participation in TACRON TWELVE's many Color Guard events over the past quarter. AC2(AW) Laessig and AN Massari took charge and showed exemplary leadership by ensuring that each evolution was completed efficiently with great attention to detail and organization.

TACRON TWELVE would also like to make mention of our Mess Division, led by CS2(SW/AW) Taylor. They consistently put forth an exceptional effort, keeping our sailors content and supplied with their necessary sustenance and wants throughout the day. The Mess is always an enjoyable and clean environment for our shipmates to spend amounts of time each day in between their tasks thanks to these hardworking individuals.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant department is also comprised of our N4 Logistics Supply Division who dedicated countless hours to ensuring the completion of our command's Fiscal Year 2012 ordering and inventory of all necessary supplies. They maximized the available funding and fulfilled the command's supply requirements to maintain our command's needs and the items necessary to complete our tasks each day at Homeguard, as well as for our deployed Detachments.

In summary, multiple entities make up 1<sup>st</sup> LT. All of which are hardworking, dedicated, and motivated sailors. They will not only complete any task set forth, but will work together with positive attitudes and camaraderie that shines on a daily basis!





# DETACHMENT FOUR

By CDR Mike Biemiller

Detachment FOUR is now on the home stretch of an epic deployment. From the beginning I knew we would have a successful cruise and execute all challenges smartly and efficiently. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work side by side some of the best sailors in the Navy. We have a great team out here and it has been a joy to work with everyone. Our sailors had a 100% success rate in earning their primary warfare pins with several more earning their secondary pins. Several upgrades and position qualifications were also earned. Time has gone by fast and it is hard to believe we will all be back in sunny San Diego soon.

By the end of August, we had all come together as a fully functioning detachment and team. We began our at sea period at the beginning of typhoon season and were greeted by our first gale, causing us to get underway about a week early at the end of August. The team came together fantastically and got onboard the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (BHR), ready to go with only a day's notice. We were rewarded with an overnight in Yokosuka while we dodged the storm, then back to Okinawa to finish the on-load. The first leg of our journey would take us from Okinawa to Guam. Our first operational challenge was the AIT (Amphibious Integration Training) period. Simply put, the time when the ARG and the MEU learn to work together. This was immediately followed by a very successful CERTEX, conducted at the same time as OPERATION VALIANT SHIELD in the vicinity of Guam, which we passed with flying colors. CERTEX 2012 amphibious operations were conducted in the Marianas on the islands of Tinian and Saipan, a first for the 31<sup>st</sup> MEU, and a great learning experience setting the stage for future training missions in the area.

## OPERATION PORT CALL (a.k.a. OCTOBER)

After a month at sea, our first stop was Guam. Beautiful beaches, snorkeling in Tumon Bay, and great food were just some of the things we enjoyed while in Guam. After a few days we got back onboard for a week long transit to Subic Bay, Philippines to offload for PHIBLEX 2012. We had an enjoyable few days in Subic visiting the local vendors and sampling all Subic had to offer along with some pretty cool MWR tours out to Corregidor, Manila and elsewhere. Then, there was ten more days out to sea for PHIBLEX, a joint training exercise with the PI military. Lots of rain made for some wet Marines on land, but we stayed occupied and dry back here on the ship. Upon completion we pulled back in to Subic Bay for another few days for on-load and a repeat of Subic port call #1. We were underway again for three days down the coast to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. Overnight liberty was granted for those who chose to do so. More food, tours and fun. At this point we had all pretty much lost track of time and money. But who cared!, Hong Kong, was around the corner. Three long transit days later we anchored in Victoria Bay, a short 30 minute water taxi ride to downtown Hong Kong. Food and fun (too much) in Lan Kwai Fong, shopping in Kowloon, Stanley Market, and more tours rounded off the month... Wallet empty, belly full, time to finish this up and head back to Okinawa.

*(Continued on next page)*

## WRAP IT UP

Our last exercise was to be KEEN SWORD 2012. Was... Due to last minute tasking we are underway somewhere in the South Pacific in support of a certain operation in support of... I could tell you of course, but... Well, you know the rest. Morale, however, still remains high as we look forward to wrapping this up to head on home.

Well that about sums it all up. Some of us will see you shortly after we pull back in to Okinawa, another chunk mid December, and the rest mid January after turnover with the next DET. Enjoy the holidays and have some turkey and eggnog for all of us out here. Since I won't see you until 2013...*Akemashite omedetou!* 明けましておめでとう.

Sayonara,  
CDR Mike "Beemer" Biemiller



**Pictured above is DETACHMENT FOUR, On board the BHR.**



**The BHR acknowledging Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October 2012.**



## **DETACHMENT TWO Prepares to Replace DETACHMENT FOUR**

By LCDR Andrew Bogie

With the holiday period fast approaching, our deployment also looms just around the corner. Det TWO morale and anticipation are high as we are looking forward to the upcoming 2013 Spring Patrol!

We've recently completed an inspection of training records and the Joint Expeditionary Warfare Lab (JEWL) in preparation to deploy. Our Det has performed remarkably well thus far, demonstrating excellent technical proficiency, motivation, and overall team cohesion. While many of our sailors are veterans of previous TACRON deployments, we also have many new personnel who are eager to gain the experience.

Overall, we have an impressive mix of both experienced and fresh faces. I am certain that we will accomplish a great deal of training, and that our sailors will earn many qualifications and designations as we all go "haze grey and under way"!

We're nearly ready to embark on our upcoming adventure and we'll be busy into the holidays making final preparations. We are looking forward to international port visits, as well as some enjoyable liberty time abroad.

We'll make our next Talon Times report from the "high seas", and look forward to sharing tales of our trials, tribulations, and seafaring adventures with our Shipmates, family and friends remaining stateside!

# Exemplary Sailors: **TACRON TWELVE's Bluejacket, Junior, and Senior Sailor of Quarter**

Every Quarter of the Fiscal Year, TACRON TWELVE's leadership meticulously selects three Sailors through a competitive boarding process who demonstrate commendable performance to serve as the most qualified representation for other Sailor's of their rank, and for all TACRON TWELVE personnel. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY-12, AC3(AW) Luis Suarezcampos was selected as the Bluejacket of the Quarter (BJOQ), AC2(AW) David Ybarra as the Junior Sailor of the Quarter (JSOQ), and the recently-advanced OSC(SW) Keith Lemak as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter (SSOQ). Let's take notice of their accomplishments and exactly how they achieved being selected as the BJOQ, JSOQ, and SSOQ, along with finding out a little bit about exactly how they got to where they are in life and within the Navy!



## \* 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Fiscal Year 2012 BJOQ \*



AC3(AW) Luis Suarezcampos traveled from Latin America to the eastern United states where he was raised for most of his life. While working as a Veterinary Technician Assistant, he volunteered time to time for the American Red Cross and was a member of his High School Lacrosse and Football team.

After graduating high school, he furthered his education with a Major in International Business and a Minor in Criminal Justice. On December 07, 2010 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After completing Air Traffic Controller "A" School he checked into TACRON TWELVE as his first command.

He was then deployed with Det THREE for the Spring Patrol of 2012 on board the USS ESSEX (LHD-2), and participated in the historical hull swap of the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) and the USS ESSEX in which the original homeport of the ESSEX was swapped with the homeport of the BONHOMME RICHARD.

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**During deployment, he became the Det THREE subject matter expert for the Theater Battle Management Core System (TBMCS) used to prepare and disseminate the current Air Battle Plan of the day. While underway, AC3(AW) Suarezcampos prepared and briefed “pilot briefs” prior to flight quarters each morning.**

**As he dutifully trained other Det THREE personnel on programs and systems used to maintain the safety of airborne aircraft, he also became an Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist (EAWS) receiving his pin in Japan. He also attended Command Fitness Leader school and became the newest TACRON TWELVE Assistant Command Fitness Leader. Upon returning from deployment, he attended Tactical Combat Casualty Care school making him a MAT/ERT member. He was then selected as TACRON TWELVE’s**

**FY-2012 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter) BJOQ. AC3(AW) Suarezcampos has also earned two personal awards, which include a Sea Service Ribbon and a Letter of Commendation.**



## **\* 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Fiscal Year 2012 JSOQ \***



**As a military brat during his childhood, AC2(AW) David Ybarra moved between Arizona and Guam, and eventually ended up spending most of his his adolescent years in southern California.**

**After graduating high school, he went on to pursue his college education, and worked as a contractor for the United States Marines. After two years of college, he made the choice to enlist in the United States Navy to help further and pay for the rest of his education.**

**Upon completion of “A” School to become certified as an Air Traffic Controller, he received orders to Naval Base Coronado. In 2009, he checked-in to his second command, TACRON TWELVE. He was deployed with Detachment TWO for the 2011 Fall Patrol on board the USS ESSEX (LHD-2). While deployed, he obtained his Tactical air Control Center Supervisor (TACCSUP) qualification as well as his Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist (EAWS) qualification.**

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He also assisted in the revamping of the Passenger, Mail and Cargo (PMC) program for the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) that is used to facilitate the mobilization of all personnel and shipments of various types on, and off the ship.

As he returned from deployment, he transitioned into taking over as the Leading Petty Officer for TACRON TWELVE's Training Department. As a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Coordinator, he planned and organized three volunteer weekends at the music festivals *Coachella* and *Stagecoach*, which resulted in earning of nearly \$4,000 for TACRON TWELVE's MWR funds.

Due to his consistent efforts, AC2(AW) Ybarra was then selected as the TACRON TWELVE and COMTACGRU ONE Junior Sailor of the Quarter. He is only a mere two classes away from successfully acquiring his Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management, and looks forward to completing these classes prior to deploying in early 2013. While on deployment he looks forward to working towards his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualification and becoming dual warfare qualified.



### **\* 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, Fiscal Year 2012 SSOQ \***



Recently advanced OSC(SW) Keith Lemak was born on the East Coast and graduated from high School, moving on to attend college for one year. He enlisted in the United States Navy and graduated Recruit Training in March of 2005. Upon completing Recruit Training, he went to Operations Specialist "A" School in Dam Neck, Virginia and graduated at the top of his "A" school class.

He reported to his first duty station in Mayport, Florida aboard the USS GETTYSBURG (CG-64) in July of 2005. While stationed aboard USS GETTYSBURG, he was promoted to OS3, OS2, and OS1 all while achieving his ESWS qualification. He also earned the Naval Enlisted Classification (NEC) as an Air Intercept Controller.

*(Continued on next page)*

As he steps into the ranks of a Chief Petty Officer, OSC(SW) Lemak is proud to say that he has deployed four times to include a Counter Narcotics Deployment, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM Deployments, the Baltic Operations Deployment, and an Anti-Piracy Deployment.

In February 2010, he transferred to Manama, Bahrain to DESTROYER SQUADRON FIFTY. He planned and participated in many bilateral and coalition exercises in the Arabian Gulf. He also worked for Combined Task Force 152 (CTF-152) while stationed in Kuwait. Chief Lemak was recognized as the U.S. FIFTH FLEET Sea Sailor of the Year in 2010.

In March 2011, Chief Lemak transferred to TACRON TWELVE. His achievements while stationed here include Senior Sailor of the Quarter of both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters of FY-2012, receiving the NEC as Air Intercept Controller Supervisor, becoming a Chief Petty Officer, and earning his Bachelor's Degree of Science in Management from the University of Phoenix. Chief Lemak is currently deployed onboard the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) as a part of TACRON TWELVE's Detachment FOUR.

"My advice to the junior Sailors is to never settle. Set goals, track them, and achieve them. Every goal I have set while a member of the TACRON community has been achieved through hard work, dedication, and the assistance from my shipmates. Having a mentor is a way to have someone help guide you in the direction you want to go. Without the help of my many mentors throughout my career, I wouldn't be where I am today," Chief Lemak stated while deployed.



*TACRON TWELVE will continue to shine with each passing Quarter, and with the selection of new, highly-qualified and impressive Sailors to represent this command, and their fellow Sailors within the United States Navy...*

***BRAVO ZULU, SHIPMATES!***



**\* \$\$\$Command Fundraising Gains Momentum\$\$\$\***

## **TACRON TWELVE's Dedicated MWR Team**

**TACRON TWELVE's MWR team, along with all who have graciously volunteered to assist them, have all been exceedingly busy these past months as they have actively raised over \$4,000!**

**The fundraisers "kicked-off" and hit the ground running with over 10 hours and between 20-30 volunteers running booths at the Charger's Football Games at Qualcomm Stadium, facilitating the purchase of various stadium-style food items and drinks by the game's audience and stadium employees as they work in high-intensity situations and incorporate the fundamentals of customer service, as well. Working these games has brought in an impressive \$2,300 in profits so far!**

**TACRON TWELVE's second largest fundraiser included a fun-filled day that involved the participation of COMTACGRU ONE, TACRON TWELVE and TACRON ELEVEN personnel by holding a "Pie-In-The-Face" competition, a costume contest and the Annual Chili Cook-Off.**

**The Annual Chili Cook-Off went very well with various volunteers submitting delicious and original chili dishes from each command. With the combined efforts, and the enduring taste buds of the Commodore, and the Skippers of both TACRON ELEVEN and TACRON TWELVE, all of the chili underwent a painstaking judging process that left a couple of people winded and breaking a sweat (some of those chili's were quite HOT!) But overall, it was a very enjoyable, and mouth-watering experience for everyone. The tastiest chili was judged by considering the overall presentation and creativity of the various ingredients used to create it. The winner for the 2012 Chili Cook-Off was OS2 Johnson from, TACRON TWELVE! The costume contest went just as well as the other events with all different types of costumes winning individually.**

**One of our single biggest, and most successful fundraisers was the "Pie-In-The-Face" competition. With all three commands combined, we raised a total of almost \$2,100! This year's Command Holiday will be nothing short of an extravagant and memorable occasion with plenty of prizes that everyone who joins us for the festivities will have the opportunity to win!**

**All of the work put forth to generate funds for the command can oftentimes be quite strenuous and never go unnoticed or unappreciated by all of their fellow Talons. TACRON TWELVE has really come together to unite and work on building an even more stronger fundraising team that will lead to significant contributions towards the festivities of the 2012 Command Holiday Party, and fund all the aspects involved in making it a success!**



# WELCOME ABOARD!

CDR BANDINI  
CAPT EARHART, USMC  
ENS PENNINGTON  
IT<sub>2</sub> GILBERT  
IS<sub>2</sub> FELKER  
OS<sub>2</sub> COOK  
CS<sub>2</sub> TAYLOR  
A<sub>3</sub> PARTLOW  
AC<sub>3</sub> SHOUSE  
AC<sub>3</sub> ONEVATH  
OSSA COLASITO  
OSSA THOMAS  
AN NATIVIDAD  
AN PHILLIPS  
AN AYALARIOS  
AN DALEY  
AN DARROUGH  
ACAR WALLER  
ACAR GOMEZ



## Fair Winds and Following Seas...

CDR MARTIN  
LCDR KOSLOSKI  
LCDR MORALES  
LCDR BASS  
LT DOLAN  
LTJG SPALDING  
LT CASON  
LT COOK  
ACC GUIVARA  
OSC CONTRANO  
AC<sub>1</sub> NGIRAINGAS  
AC<sub>2</sub> WHITT  
AC<sub>2</sub> SCZEPANSKI



## AWARDS

Navy Commendation Medal

ACC GUIVARA

(Continued on next page)

*Navy Achievement Medal*

*LCDR BASS  
LT CASON  
LT DOLAN  
LTJG SPALDING*

*Good Conduct Medal*

*ACC SAALFRANK  
AC2 KLINE  
AC2 KRAMARCHUCK  
AC2 HARKINS  
OS2 MIRANDA  
OS2 CRUMP  
IS2 JERAN  
AC3 CHHAY  
OC3 CROWE*

*Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal*

*AC2 KLINE  
OSC LEMAK*

*Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist*

*AC3 SPICER*

*Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist*

*AC2 MAINVILLE*



***ADVANCEMENTS***

*OSC LEMAK  
OSC CONTRANO*



**TACRON TWELVE** has had a dynamic 4<sup>th</sup> and final Quarter of FY-12 with countless personal achievements, vastly successful fundraising events, selfless volunteer work, and impacting personnel who have come and gone and made a significant impression on the Navy. Let us unite and continue to travel down that same road of starting a chain reaction of many great Quarters to follow!



# \* GALLERY \*



**Official Judges of the 2012 Annual Chili Cook-Off (from left to right): CDR Perkins (VTC-11 CO), COMTACGRUONE Commodore CAPT Weissenfels, and CDR Martin (former VTC-12 CO)**



**Spirits were enthused as VTC-12 CO, CDR Hopkins (middle), judged the Costume Contest involving IT2 Gilbert (left) and OS2 Johnson (right).**

## There were definitely several amusing moments during the Pie-In-The Face Competition...



Everyone at the command came together for the entertaining “Pie-In-The-Face” auction to place bids on who would get the privilege of hitting the top-earning “Pie-In-The-Face” nominees that has the most money contributed to their name in the face. Pictured above is the auction for Chief Rowlands.

\*\*\*This bidding alone raised \$200!\*\*\*



IT2 Gilbert (left) and OS3 Morphis (right) were the lucky winners of the auction and really got Chief Rowlands (middle) good!

*(Gallery continued on next page)*

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**OS1 Tuiasosopo (left) has a stare-down with IT1 Fecteau (left) in a failed attempt to intimidate him enough to avoid getting hit...**



**Looks like it didn't work, OS1!**



**OS2 Cook (right) wanted to put that pie in AC2 Stewart's (left) face so badly that she was even willing to climb on a chair to get on his level... Now, that's dedication!**



**CDR Hopkins (left) even made an attempt to go in for a group hug and “share” some of the pie with ACAR Gomez (right) after she hits him in the face with it! I don’t think she was into that idea...**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>ACCM ELLIS</i>  | <i>AC3 BOLOSAN</i> |
| <i>CS2 TAYLOR</i>  | <i>AC3 PARTLOW</i> |
| <i>OS2 DANIELS</i> | <i>AN DARROUGH</i> |
| <i>AC3 ONEVATH</i> |                    |

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>CDR HOPKINS</i> | <i>AC2 LAESSIG</i> |
| <i>IT1 FECTEAU</i> | <i>IS3 PARSONS</i> |
| <i>IT2 GILBERT</i> | <i>AC3 SHOUSE</i>  |
| <i>IS2 FELKER</i>  |                    |

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>CDR TEACHOUT</i>  | <i>OS2 JOHNSON</i>       |
| <i>AC2 MAINVILLE</i> | <i>AC3 SPICER</i>        |
| <i>OSC ROWLANDS</i>  | <i>ACAN SUAREZCAMPOS</i> |

