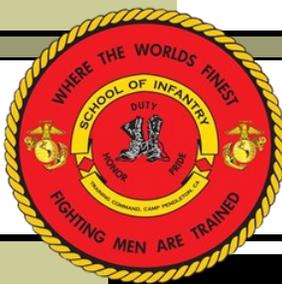


AUG  
2014



# SCHOOL OF INFANTRY

Volume 1, Issue 2

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## Message from the Commander

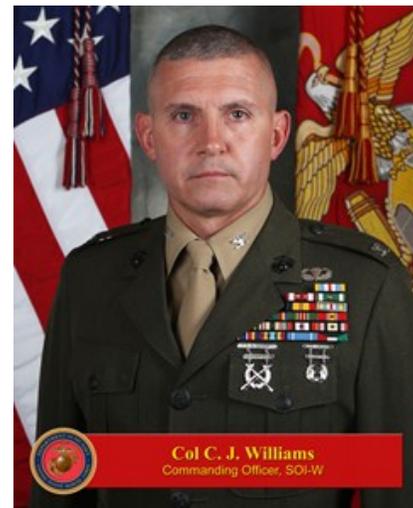
Dear Families and Friends of the School of Infantry –

Welcome to the quarterly School of Infantry (SOI) Newsletter. The goal of this Newsletter is to keep you “up to speed” on the happenings here at the School, to let you know of upcoming events and to publicly recognize the tremendous contributions your Marines make to the Marine Corps.

As the new CO of the School of Infantry, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome you have provided to my family and I, and to keep you informed of the amazing efforts of your spouses, friends and family members here at the School. At the School of Infantry, our Combat Instructors train over half of the United States Marine Corps' entry level population annually. We also train hundreds of Marines in advanced technical and leadership skills. All of this training is supported by the combined efforts of roughly one thousand Marines. 13 years of sustained combat have honed the skills of our Combat Instructors and they excel at passing that knowledge to our students. As we drawdown in Afghanistan, we cannot assume a “peacetime” mindset. Africa, North Korea, Iraq, non-state actors and a host of other threats still exist. The School of Infantry is front-and-center in the effort to deter and defeat these threats by providing the basic and advanced unique expeditionary skills our Marines execute in defense of our national security.

In such a unique organization, family readiness takes many forms. Though the anticipation of a unit deployment does not loom on our horizon, we must build well-prepared Marines, Sailors, and family members who cultivate resilience toward the challenges of the military lifestyle. To that end, information sharing is the principle purpose of the SOI Family Readiness program. Our goal is to keep everyone informed of the schedule, and changes that result from unexpected events like the wildfires earlier this summer. The wildfires caused a rapid evacuation which almost always leads to confusion and friction. The rapid information sharing of our Family Readiness Team and the Marine Spouses helped us focus on getting the students and the staff to safety. For that I want to thank you, for your efforts and your patience.

Finally, I'm looking at the requirement to maintain this newsletter given the SOI (W) Facebook page and the upcoming SOI (W) Facebook Spouses page. I welcome your comments about the value of each.



Col C. J. Williams  
Commanding Officer, SOI-W

C. J. WILLIAMS  
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer

## Sergeant Major's Message

Marines, Families and Friends,

Once again thank you for your hard work and support. July was a busy month with many changes of commands, such as Marine Combat Training Battalion, Infantry Training Battalion and concluding with our very own Change of Command for the School of Infantry (West) as we welcomed Colonel Williams and his family (as he assumes command) and we bid farewell to Colonel Bien and his family (as he embarks on a new journey at MCRD San Diego).



During our last couple of months we have held a couple of spouses' events that were a success. I want to thank you for attending and, our Family Readiness Officer, Mrs. Perkins, for putting it together. I encourage all spouses to continue to support these events and if you have any suggestions, please let Mrs. Perkins know. Jane Wayne Day is 9 August, and quickly approaching. Our staff has done a great job coordinating the event and I'm looking forward to meeting Marines' families.

I also, want to take this opportunity to thank our Marines and supporting establishments for the professionalism they display. Their ability to teach basic or advance combat skills, and mentor our Marines coming from MCRD San Diego or the Fleet Marine Forces speaks highly of the caliber of Marines we have at SOI. This "thank you" includes all the Marines and Sailors that provide continuous support to our four battalions, ensuring that SOI's overall mission is successfully executed. To the spouses, families, and friends of our Marines, as always we know that without your support our Marines would not be able to accomplish their mission—Thank you!

Lastly, I want to say congratulations to all our Marines, who in the last three months have been promoted, received awards and/or won a board at the Regimental level.

I look forward to meeting and working with you in the near future.

Semper Fi,  
C. A. Reina



## Chaplain's Corner

The Caruso Chapel was rededicated to Sgt. Matthew Caruso, at the School of Infantry-West, here, June 23.

The chapel was initially dedicated to Caruso in 1953 and he was awarded the Silver Star Medal in 1950 for shielding Connie Griffin, a chaplain then assigned to the 7th Marine Regiment (reinforced), from enemy fire with his body during an ambush in the Korean War, Dec. 6, 1950.

Caruso's brother and the son, whom he never had the opportunity to meet, stood before a congregation of more than 100 Marines, sailors and civilian friends and family members to share fond memories and words of appreciation.

"My earliest childhood memory was that flag draped casket, and I remember my mother holding me and crying," said Daniel Caruso, a retired Marine aviator, while holding up his father's Silver Star Medal which was pinned on Daniel during a ceremony when he was 4 months old. "I don't remember a thing before that, and if he were here today I would tell my father that 'I wish I could have had you in mine and mom's [lives], but you found a higher calling and I'm proud of you.'"

Caruso's brother John wept while recalling the loss he and his family felt when hearing the news of Matthew's passing.

"I remember receiving the telegram and watching my father turn pale as he read it," said Matthew as his eyes welled with tears. "I was on the burial detail, escorting him home, and a woman who was on the train stopped and said to me, 'Did you know the Marine that was killed?'. I said, 'Yes, ma'am. He was my brother.'"

Caruso is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Smith, who shared her gratefulness to the Navy and Marine Corps for the great appreciation they have shown for the sacrifice he husband made in service to the country.

"It's terrific to be here this time since I missed the first one," said Smith. Smith was unable to travel due to pregnancy during the chapel's initial dedication. "The ceremony was stirring and it's such an honor to be here. My husband made a tremendous sacrifice." By Sgt. Christopher Duncan



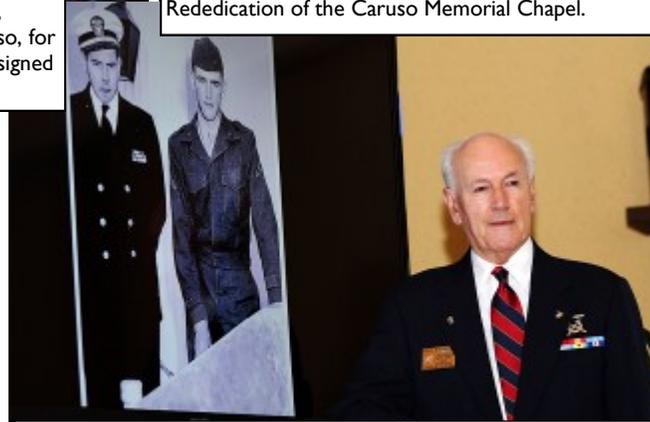
Dan Caruso holds the Silver Star Medal, awarded to his father Sgt Mathew Caruso, for saving the life of the Chaplain he was assigned to protect.



Over 200 Marines, Sailors and Civilians attended the Rededication of the Caruso Memorial Chapel.



Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Sgt Caruso's Widow, joins the congregation in prayer during the rededication service of the Caruso Memorial Chapel.



Judge John Caruso, Brother of Mathew Caruso, is pictured next to a digital image of him with Chaplain Cornelius Griffin, circa 1953.

### UPCOMING CREDO EVENTS

WOMEN'S RETREAT AUGUST 22 -24

**ONLY for active duty servicewomen**

**Rancho Bernardo Inn**  
17550 Bernardo Oaks Dr,  
San Diego, CA 92128

Come and enjoy three days full of rejuvenation, growth, and relaxation. Learn the pathway to success by growing spiritually, professionally and learning how to better understand self and others.

Application Deadline:  
**11 AUG 14**

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT  
RETREAT  
SEPTEMBER 12-14

**For all Active Duty and their spouses**

**Legoland Hotel**

Childcare will NOT be provided.

To Register:

1. Go to: <http://www.mccscp.com/credo>
2. Look at the right-hand side of the page for "Downloads"
3. Open the MCI-W CREDO Application V-1 and fill out the required information
4. Locate the "Type of Retreat" section and select.
5. Route the application to the appropriate members of your chain of command for approval.
6. Fax completed application to 760-725-4661
7. Applications are selected on a "first come, first serve" basis

Contact the Chaplain's office for more information:

**760-725-7401**

## CO's message

Marines, Family, and Friends of Headquarters and Support Battalion, School of Infantry (West), summer started with Family Day at Lake O'Neill and what a blast! Please check out the photos from this special event in this Newsletter. The Battalion will join the Regiment for the next family function, the School of Infantry's Jayne Wayne Day. Please join us on Saturday, 9 August for this amazing opportunity to train like your Marine!

It is also never too early to plan for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Battalion will celebrate this year in Long Beach aboard the Queen Mary on Saturday, 8 November. Mark your calendars; tickets and reservation information will be available soon.

Summer also means personnel new joins, moves, and rotations. Captain Wesley Dyson joined as the Company L Executive Officer and Area 51/52 Guard Officer from 3d Battalion, 7th Marines. Captain Jeremy Pilachowski relinquished command of Company L to Captain Andrew Hodlin. Major (Select) Richard Shinn will come in for Major Chuck Larson as the new Battalion Executive Officer mid-July. Both Major Larson and Capt Pilachowski stay in the School of Infantry family as they move to Infantry Training Battalion.

Also, be sure to "Like" us on FaceBook at "H&S Bn, SOI - W" for our most-recent photos and news.

~LtCol Alison Daly



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## SgtMaj's Message

To the Marines, families, and friends of H&S Battalion SOI-W. As mentioned in our last newsletter, it has been a very busy spring. Your Marines have successfully supported 2 changes of command for Infantry Training Battalion and Marine Combat Battalion. They are still very heavily involved with funeral details for those veterans recently passed which is a very important and sometimes difficult endeavor.

Also, our headquarters is in a transition phase as we are moving facilities by the 11th of July in order to

consolidate both Lima and Headquarters Companies which will then be collocated with us in building 520440.

I would like to thank personally all those families and friends that gathered for our Family Day celebration on Saturday the 14th of June at Lake O'Neill. The turnout was fantastic and the feedback was that it was a success! I will leave you all with a reminder about the upcoming Jane Wayne day scheduled for 9 August and look forward to seeing you all there! Semper Fidelis.

~SgtMaj John Bankus



## Upcoming Events

Family Day at the Lake was a huge success! More than 250 Marines and family members rendezvoused at Lake O'Neill on 14 June 2014, to interact with one another, meet command leadership and other Marine Corps families, and enjoy the pony rides, petting zoo, mini-golf, and other games and exercises as well as enjoy catered pizza and an ice cream truck. We had perfect weather and excellent attendance.

Special thanks to all of those Marines who assisted in the planning and set up of the event, especially Sergeant Michael Summers who was the lead coordinator, and a sincere thanks to all the Marines and family members who attended.

If you were unable to attend Family Day at the Lake, the battalion is already planning for its Holiday Party scheduled for December. More details will follow and we anticipate the Holiday Party to be just as fun and exciting as Family Day at the Lake.

Also, Mark your calendars for 11 November 2014, when H&S Bn will celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday aboard the historic Queen Mary oceanliner in Long Beach, California. The battalion is currently making all of the preparations for this celebration and finalizing details and information. Expect fliers and ticket prices to be available within the next month.

Finally, and as mentioned throughout this Newsletter, be sure to mark your calendars and register for the 2014 School of Infantry (West) Jane Wayne Day on 9 August 2014. This event is open to all spouses and family members of the battalion and will feature live-fire ranges, light armored vehicle rides, a fitness fun area, games and events for children, as well as food. Come experience what your Marine does at the School of Infantry (West).

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## Combat Instructor School Class 3-14

Combat Instructor School Class 3-14 graduated 22 Combat Instructors to include 2 Singapore Marines on 19 June 2014. After 9 weeks of classroom instruction, field exercises, and a demanding



physical training program, these new Combat Instructors will now receive assignment throughout the School of Infantry (West) to train and mold the next generation of Marines. Congratulations to Sergeant Valora, who was selected as the Class Honorman, Gunnery Sergeant Fedelchak, who was selected as the Class "Gun Ho" Recipient, and Staff Sergeant Doyle, who was selected by the students as the Instructor of Class 3-14.

These Marines are now off to do great things.

# Family Day at the Lake





## 2d Quarter Awards

During Second Quarter, the Commanding Officer recognized the following Marines for their outstanding efforts while assigned to Headquarters and Support Battalion, School of Infantry (West):

- Captain John Quail, Operations Section, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Captain Charles Breaux, Logistics Section, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Captain Shamik Songui, Communication Section, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Master Sergeant Richard Valencia, Armory Section, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Gunnery Sergeant Dean Long, Combat Instructor School, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Staff Sergeant Craig Green, Administrative Center of Excellence, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Staff Sergeant Adam Falmoe, Co L, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Staff Sergeant Jared Doyle, Combat Instructor School, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Staff Sergeant Caleb Giles, Combat Instructor School, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Janez, Operations Section, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Staff Sergeant Benjamin Potts, Motor Transport Section, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Sergeant David Wood, Battalion Operations Section, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Sergeant Anthony Pinegar, Supply Section, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Corporal Derick Conklin, Company L, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

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## 2d Quarter Promotions

Congratulations to the following Headquarters and Support Battalion Marines on their recent and certainly well-deserved Second Quarter promotions:

- **To Lance Corporal:** Lance Corporals Anthony Espiritu, Kevin Foskey, Maverick Franco, Weslyn Hood, Humberto Rodriguez, William Swift Jr., and Rebecca Vincent.
- **To Corporal:** Corporals Edwin Alvarado Jr., Pedro Floresestrada, William Gissentanna, Stephanie Larios, Michael Melstrom, Joel Miller, Yordan Poveda, Jennifer Sears, and James Whitaker.
- **To Sergeant:** Sergeants Cody Goeser and Gavin Larson.
- **To Meritorious Sergeant:** Sergeant Adrian Rico.
- **To Gunnery Sergeant:** Gunnery Sergeant Candace Gamez.
- **To Master Sergeant:** Master Sergeant Derrick McCoy.

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## 2d Quarter Births

Headquarters and Support Battalion welcomed the following newest additions to our team during the Second Quarter:

- Son to Cpl Gissentanna





# Marine Combat Training Battalion

## CO's message

Hello families of Marine Combat Training Battalion,

My name is Lieutenant Colonel Phillip Ash and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Commanding Officer of MCT. On 17 July Major Morosoff, your Battalion Executive Officer and I turned over and would like to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Stoddard for a successful tour and his contributions to the MCT Family. I intend to build on his superb work, continuing the high quality results that he consistently achieved.

MCT and SOI West as a whole have undergone tremendous transition this summer with many leadership changes at all levels and across all battalions. Internally, we will be welcoming new company-level leadership over the next several months. Additionally, there will be some changes to the "Program of Instruction" that dictates how we train our junior Marines. In conjunction with this change I have modified some of our weekend training to provide a bit of a respite midway through the 29 day cycle you are all accustomed to. As always, it is our mission to instill "brilliance in the basics" in our junior Marines. While they earned the title "Marine" at recruit training, they will learn the title through our collective efforts, example, and mentorship.

We will remain mission focused, but my wife Denise and I are keenly aware of the training schedule and tempo of our battalion. Thank you for your continued support and I appreciate your flexibility through the summer. I know that every Marine's family feels the strain and I look forward to meeting you all at the Family Town Hall in early September to discuss our way ahead and hear your thoughts. It will take a unified team of informed family members and dedicated professionals to enable the magnificent Marines of MCT to continue to be successful. Denise and I look forward to serving you, your family, and your Marine.

Semper Fidelis

## **Marine Corps Ball:**

This year, Marine Combat Training Battalion will host its own Marine Corps Ball. It will take place at the San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina on Thursday evening 13 November 2014.

## **Retirements this Quarter:**

Staff Sergeant Brian S. Fairchild 31 May  
First Sergeant Juan E. Quijada Jr. 31 May  
Gunnery Sergeant James A. Nease 30 June

## **The following Marines and their families have departed our ranks:**

### **April:**

Sergeant Shawn A. Clemons  
Staff Sergeant James E. Lewis  
Sergeant Jakob M. Chandler  
Sergeant Matthew L. Causey

### **May:**

First Sergeant Jacob H. Rozelle  
Major Jeffrey P. Keating  
Gunnery Sergeant Joseph K. Janez

### **June:**

Sergeant Jason L. Fisher  
Captain Mariano Alvarado  
Sergeant Zachary H. Phillips  
Staff Sergeant Corey R. Wunderlich  
Gunner Thomas A. Pieratti  
Staff Sergeant Mark D. Sorden Jr.  
Staff Sergeant Nelson C. Bonilla  
Sergeant Matthew L. Mulford Jr.  
Staff Sergeant Matthew A. Glover

Sergeant Ryan L. Tomlin  
Sergeant Levi R. Eisenhour  
Gunnery Sergeant Chad A. Sawyer  
Staff Sergeant Carlos R. Mata  
Captain Joseph A. Fontanetta  
Captain Matthew I. Bride  
WO Heriberto Soriano

### **July:**

Sergeant Royce K. Madama  
Staff Sergeant Jesse J. Stevens Jr.  
Staff Sergeant Aaron M. Gordon  
Lieutenant Colonel Kyle M. Stoddard  
Staff Sergeant Mark A. Smith  
Staff Sergeant Julian E. Billmair  
Sergeant Nicholas J. Bazzone  
GySgt Omar Rivera  
Sergeant Earl R. Maddox  
Staff Sergeant Ramon B. Alcoser  
  
Staff Sergeant Ramon B. Alcoser

***MCT Bn would like to welcome the following New Joins during the third quarter:***

*Staff Sergeant Palmer*

*Sergeant Camacho*

*First Sergeant Phoenix*

*Sergeant Ellsworth*

*Sergeant Esteves*

*Sergeant Ditzler*

*First Sergeant Cuza*

*Major Morosoff*

*Staff Sergeant Dare*

*Staff Sergeant Dolan*

*Sergeant Higbee*

*First Lieutenant Walter*

*Captain Abate*

*First Lieutenant Newdick*

*Corporal Demesa*

*Corporal Bogle*

*Corporal Renteria*

*Gunnery Sergeant Kim*

*Lieutenant Colonel Ash*

*Gunner Presley*

## **Promotions**

The following Marines have been promoted to the rank shown:

### 1 April

Staff Sergeant Nelson C. Bonilla

First Sergeant Rozelle (Frocked)

### July 2

Staff Sergeant Crites

### 1 June

First Sergeant Maricarmen Cuza

Gunnery Sergeant Chad A. Sawyer

## **Birth Announcements**

Sergeant Brandon Thaller and Gina Thaller welcomed Kiley to their family on 9 March 2014

Sergeant Joseph C. Redman and Christina Redman welcomed Jonathan on 13 May 2014.

Staff Sergeant Nathan R. Daniels and Tiffany Daniels welcomed Cohen on 14 May 2014.

Staff Sergeant Francisco E. Campos and Erin Campos welcomed Annie to their family on 28 May 2014

Sergeant Shaun Flores and Rosemary Flores welcomed Austin to their family on 6 June 2014

Sergeant Aaron Seamons and Malinda Seamons welcomed Carter Seamons to their family on 9 July.

Staff Sergeant Thomas W. Rogato and Heather CookRogato welcomed Connor to their family on 9 July 2014.

Staff Sergeant Charles A. Palmer and Talana Palmer welcomed Jacob to their family on July 15 2014.

# Marine Combat Training Battalion Continued...





# Infantry Training Battalion

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## Commanding Officer

Families and friends of Infantry Training Battalion (ITB), my name is LtCol Brandon Graham and on 20 June, I took command of ITB from LtCol Jim Fallon. Command of ITB is an extraordinary honor and I'm extremely humbled by the opportunity. My wife (Jolanda) and I would like to thank Jim and Jen Fallon for all the support they provided throughout the turnover process, and we wish them all the best in future endeavors.

The mission of ITB is vital to the Marine Corps and we accomplish our mission because of the character and competence, and through the service and sacrifice, of our Marines. Since the start of fiscal year 2014, ITB has completed 11 training cycles and graduated 2,718 Marines. We currently have Company A, Company B, and Company D in training; and over the next quarter, ITB will train 3 additional classes – nearly 700 more Marines.

On the family front, this past quarter the battalion had an excellent turn out for the Beach Bash at the San Onofre Family Area. Inundated with great food, music, volleyball, softball, etc., a great day was had by all! The main highlight for this coming quarter is Jane Wayne day on 9 August. This is an opportunity for family members to experience a day in the life of their Marine. It will be a great event. Deeper on the horizon we have two terrific events for families. The first is this year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball. We will hold the Ball at the Marriot Marquis in San Diego on 7 November. A little further out on the calendar we will host our annual holiday party in December (details are still being worked for this event). We will make every effort to ensure these events are enjoyable and memorable experiences for all involved.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our Marines' service comes with a cost – a sacrifice of their time and energy. I acknowledge this sacrifice, and I want you to know that their sacrifice - and yours as well - is greatly appreciated and admired. I commend them - and I commend all of you - on choosing a life of service. However, a life of service is not only sacrifice, it also offers many rewards. One of the rewards is the opportunity to meet some of the greatest people you'll ever cross paths with – the families of fellow Marines. I encourage you all to participate and stay engaged in the ITB family and experience one of the many rewards that this life offers. Jolanda and I couldn't be happier to serve with you and we look forward to meeting - and hopefully getting to know - all of you in the coming months.

Semper Fidelis,  
Brandon W. Graham

## Headquarters & I Company

H&I Company continues to support the battalion in its mission to make competent and confident infantrymen. H&I has spent the last three months training the newest infantry Marines. As the company moves through the summer, we would like to recognize all of the great accomplishments the Marines have achieved.

### AWARDS

#### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals

Sgt Maddox was recognized for his efforts as we reluctantly said farewell. He was discharged early June and is beginning a new chapter of his life.

### GRADUATIONS

SSgt Daniels and SSgt Floresmartinez both graduated from the SNCO Academy.

Sgt Fowler, Sgt Tate, and Sgt Crouch graduated from Sergeants Course.

SSgt Perez graduated from Infantry Unit Leaders Course.

Congratulations to all those Marines.

### PROMOTIONS, HAIL, & FAREWELLS

Sgt Rice and Cpl Crowley were promoted and are currently the newest SSgt and Sgt in the company.

H&I Co would also like to welcome 1stSgt Bell, SSgt Daniels, SSgt Perez, Sgt Rodriguez.

H&I Co farewells Sgt St John.

---

## Alpha Company

Company A conducted a change of command in April, with Capt Noe departing to take command of Headquarters and Instructor Company, and the Executive Officer, Capt Potosky, becoming the new Company Commander. We completed our second cycle of the year, Class 10-14, on 24 June 2014, and completed a 4 week rest and refit period to prepare for our current class which began on 29 July 2014.

Company A added one new instructor and a new Executive Officer in June:  
Welcome aboard to Sgt Schukar and family as well as Capt Davidson and family.

Congratulations to our recent graduate from PME schools:  
Sgt Hudson from Sergeants Course as the Gung Ho Award recipient!

Congratulations to Sgt Cox on his promotion to Sgt and SSgt Wenglikowski on his selection to GySgt!

Congratulations to Sgt Corzatt, for being the Company's Combat Instructor of the Cycle.

## Bravo Company

### PROMOTIONS:

SSgt Macias was selected for promotion to GySgt.

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION:

10 June 2014, Sgt Pearce graduated from Sergeants Course as the Honor Graduate.

16 June 2014, Sgt Pearce competed and won first place on ITB NCO of the Quarter Board.

16 June 2014, Sgt Larson competed and took second place on ITB Instructor of the Quarter Board.

### BIRTHS:

26 April 2014, Sgt Larson and his wife Gabriella, had a baby girl at Rancho Springs Medical Center in Murrieta, California.

### TRAINING:

Capt Muller attended the Joint Fires Observer Course.  
Capt Young attended the Expeditionary Warfare School Non-Resident Course

SSgt Hass is currently attending the Infantry Unit Leaders Course.

SSgt Macias attended the Curriculum Development Course.

Sgt Pearce attended and completed the resident Sergeants Course.

Sgt Velazquez is attending the Advanced Infantry Course.

Sgt Martinez, Sgt McNair, and Sgt Ceccareli attended the HMMWV course.

### COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

SSgt Haas continues to work with Heroes For Hire program.

### FAMILY INTERACTION:

SOI Single Marine Program Beach Bash on 30 May 2014 on San Onofre Beach.

Battalion Beach Bash on 6 June 2014 on San Onofre Beach.

### TRANSITIONING INSTRUCTORS:

Sgt Mckinnie transferred to Lima Co.

Sgt Martinez transferred here from CLR 17.

Sgt McNair transferred here from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 9<sup>st</sup> Marines.

Sgt Ceccareli transferred here from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 1<sup>st</sup> Marines.

Sgt Harless transferred to B Co from E Co.

Sgt St. Ann transferred to B Co from E Co.

Capt Kopa and wife Mary Kopa transferred here from 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines.



## Charlie Company

Charlie Co enjoyed a comfortable off-cycle that allowed the instructors time to reset in preparation for a busy upcoming year. However, even in the off-cycle there is work to be done and the instructors of Company C stayed engaged supporting rifle ranges, Combat Marksmanship Coaches Course, various live-fire ranges, and HMMWV courses. Sgt. Calmes and Sgt. Dennison successfully completed Sergeant's Course and Advanced Anti-Tank Missileman Leaders Course, respectively, earning Honor Graduate status. Sgt. Dennison was also selected as the 'Gung-Ho' award winner and class honor man for his class and we add our congratulations to them. The Company also said farewell to three instructors who moved on and we wish SSgt. Kellner, Sgt. Duvall, and Cpl Lopez and their families continued success in their new roles.

Class 11-14 graduated on 22 July and kept your Combat Instructors busy ensuring this newest group of Student Marines was trained hard and to the standard. The amount of work your instructors put forth every day was incredible and I know they are only able to do that with your support and help and I once again express my gratitude for all you do for your Marine.

Sergeant Carl Page IV was selected as the Battalion's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter.

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## Delta Company

### PROMOTIONS:

SgtMaj Gratacos, 13 June 2014

Sgt Granger, 1 April 2014

SSgt Ramos selected to GySgt

SSgt Knight selected to GySgt

### AWARDS:

SgtMaj Gratacos, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, 13 June 2014

Sgt Hayden, Cert Comm, Bn CI of the Quarter, 4 June 2014

Sgt Carlson, Cert Comm, Co CI of the Cycle, 11 April 2014

### BIRTHS:

SSgt Ramos and his wife Brenna, welcomed baby girl Mia, 6lbs 14oz, NHCP 23 May 2014

Sgt Mendez and his wife Tiffany, welcomed their first child, David, 11 June 2014.

### TRAINING:

SSgt Linneman completed Curriculum Developers Course

Sgt Seifert completed Combat Marksmanship Course along with receiving his HMMWV license.

Sgt Forrest completed Combat Marksmanship Course along with receiving his HMMWV license.

Sgt Hernandez completed Combat Marksmanship Course along with receiving his HMMWV license.

Sgt Hellerich completed Combat Marksmanship Course and is currently attending Advance Infantry Course.

Sgt Trejo is currently attending Sergeant's Course

Sgt Acevedo is currently attending Sergeant's Course

Delta Company completed a Quarterly Motorcycle ride to Ocean Beach on June 9th.

### VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

SSgt Linneman is currently a coach in San Clemente for Girls Softball.

### FAMILY EVENTS:

Delta company had a successful family day and dinner hosted by SSgt Linneman and his wife Bobbi on June 14th.



# Advanced Infantry Training Battalion

## CO's message

Marines, Friends and Family of AITB,

I hope summer has brought you some family fun in the sun as well as continued prosperity and happiness. As we near the start of the school year for our children and the end of the Fiscal Year for our battalion planning purposes, it is instructive to look back on what Advanced Infantry Training Battalion has accomplished in FY14. At the end of this fiscal year, Marines of AITB will have trained over 1700 students in advanced and specialized infantry skills. In a time when our DOD and Marine Corps budget are sustaining cuts, we have enjoyed continued success in providing the most realistic and risk minimized training to all our students. The credit for this goes to your Marines. Their commitment, professionalism and continued relentless work ethic are what continue to sharpen the warfighting edge of our Corps. To the families of AITB Marines; THANK YOU for all your support to your Marines. I hope you know how well they perform their jobs of readying the next group of combat leaders to answer the call to arms. They impress me daily. Please join SgtMaj Ortega and I in congratulating those identified below. To the newly promoted and award recipients – Bravo Zulu! To the proud new Moms and Dads – welcome to parenthood... In the cases of follow on babies – Congrats Again!

For the families that were able to make it to our AITB Family Day Beach Bash at Del Mar Beach on 27 June, I am glad you were able to join the fun and I enjoyed seeing you there. Looking at our AITB Family events... Save the date on 14 November 2014 for the celebration of our 239th Marine Corps Birthday at our Marine Corps Ball the Hard Rock Café hotel in San Diego. Also, I encourage everyone to plan now for the holidays as we will have a winter leave block from 20 December '14 through 2 January '15. Live strong and we'll see you at the next family event.

Semper Fidelis!



## Upcoming Events:

Please save the dates for these upcoming events:

AITB will celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Hard Rock Hotel in downtown San Diego on Friday evening, 14 November 2014.





## Recognition

### AITB CI of the Quarter

SSgt Jonathan Briick (IULTC)

### Det HI CI of the Quarter:

Sgt Eduardo O'Campo

These Marines received awards for their superior performance:

### Meritorious Service Medal:

MSgt Lafayette Waters (IULTC)

### Navy Commendation Medal:

GySgt Gabriel Guest (IULTC)

Capt Michael Buckley (IULTC)

Capt Evan Ota (IULTC)

### Navy Achievement Medal:

Sgt Carlos Mendez (IULTC)

Sgt Oscar Reyes (RTC)

Sgt Kyle Shanley (RTC)

Sergeant Adam Jack (Det HI) received a bronze medal for pistol marksmanship at the Armed Forces Inter-Service Pistol Championship.

### LEGION OF MERIT

SgtMaj Bushway upon his post and relief and retirement from the Marine Corps.

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**Promotions** - These Marines were promoted to their present ranks last quarter.

### IULTC

GySgt Jose Cueva  
(Meritorious)

SSgt Troy Hotaling  
(Meritorious)

SSgt Ernest Mendez  
(Meritorious)

GySgt Ricardo Valenzuela

GySgt Dustin Benson

### RTC

GySgt Samuel Shin

GySgt Jesus Cisneros

SSgt Jonathan Crozier

SSgt Bart Cerny

SSgt Xavier Ovando

### DET HI

Cpl Michael Melstrom

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## Birth Announcements

### IULTC

GySgt Ricardo Valenzuela—Son, Rys Mason

Sgt James Wright—Son, Andrew

SSgt Wenzel—Daughter, Mckinley

Sgt Lippert—Daughter, April

### LAVTC

Cpl Mouzakis—Daughter, Emma

### RTC

Sgt Steven Curry—Son, Tanner

### HQ

Cpl Caudillo—Daughter, Khaleesi

From your



Families and Friends of SOI,

Thanks again for another wonderful quarter. There has been several command and personnel changes throughout SOI, and the delay of the release of this Newsletter has unfortunately been the result. However, I am confident that the recent changes and the delay of this newsletter is for the betterment of the product we release to you. Additionally, having new personnel and family additions to our SOI family means new experiences and new ideas to share, thus, a fresh perspective as we move forward.

These past few months have been extremely busy. Besides the summer movers, our families have stayed busy participating in several events over the course of the past few months: Build-A-Bike, SOI Golf Tournament, Kids in the Wild, and Baby Workshop to name a few. Unfortunately this past quarter, we also experienced the Camp Pendleton Fires. I am greatly thankful that all our families were safe, and remained calm throughout the evacuation process. This natural disaster also made one thing apparent, there was/is an immense need to improve our lines of communication. Through the use of our Facebook page, SOI was able to provide real-time updates during the evacuations, and thereafter, but only to those who have taken advantage of this valuable resource. I encourage that all of you “like” our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/School-of-Infantry-West/117183414981162> , it not only serves as a source of information regarding base emergencies, but also to receive information regarding events and other general communication from SOI. I also encourage that you subscribe to the Camp Pendleton Emergency Notification System to get updates on various emergencies aboard the base: [http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/camp\\_pendleton/wens.cfm](http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/camp_pendleton/wens.cfm)

Last but not least, I continue to seek volunteers to help out with various aspects of our Family Readiness Program. Last month I held a Spouses Planning Committee to get input from our spouses and the response was well received, but the actual participation was minimal. I understand that we all have busy lives, but if you’d like to have a voice in what we do here at SOI we’d really appreciate your input and participation—SOI, along with our current volunteers cannot do it alone. The Marines know what they want, but their ideas don’t always align with what their families want or need. Whether you have an hour or more to give, we welcome you. Perfection is a state of constant change. While, I cannot guarantee perfection, I can guarantee that the incremental changes we make to our program mean we are one step closer to achieving it. I ask if you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out. In addition, if you are not receiving information regarding our Family Readiness Program and/or events, or do not have access to our eMarine website, please contact me. I am here to assist and support you in your endeavors!

In closing, thank you for the support you give your Marines and the School of Infantry! I hope you enjoy the second issue of our newsletter.

Warm Regards,

Christina Perkins  
760-763-7202  
[christina.perkins@usmc.mil](mailto:christina.perkins@usmc.mil)

**“Progress is impossible without change, & those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”**

**-George Bernard Shaw**

**Family Readiness Command Team Leadership**

Commanding Officer: Col Williams  
Executive Officer: LtCol Roth  
SgtMaj/Sr Enlisted Advisor: SgtMaj Reina  
Single Marine Program Rep: Cpl Dumais  
Chaplains: LCDR Adams and LT Cochrane  
Command Team Advisors:  
Mrs. Mindy Goulding, SOI(W)  
Mrs. Jolanda Graham, IT Battalion  
Family Readiness Officer (FRO): Mrs. Christina Perkins  
Deputy FROs:  
Capt Shinn , H&S Battalion  
Maj Morosoff, MCT Battalion  
Maj Larson, IT Battalion  
Maj Anzevino, AIT Battalion  
Military & Family Life Counselor\*: Nancy Paddock

\*Our Military & Life Counselor (MFLC), provides licensed, short-term, non-medical counseling services to service member and their families at no cost. Please call 760-218-9222 for assistance.



# SOI(W) Single Marine Program



Cpl Micah Dumais  
SOI(W) Single Marine Program Rep

The Single Marine Program (SMP) at Camp Pendleton, and here at SOI(W), enhances the quality of life for single active duty personnel by providing positive and rewarding outlets through recreation, community involvement, and dynamic facilities. SOI's SMP program is fairly new, but with time and input from our single Marines, SgtMaj Reina, Senior Enlisted Advisor, along with SOI's SMP Reps looks forward to establishing a solid program for our Single Marines. If you would like to get more information regarding SMP events at SOI, contact your SMP Rep. For information regarding base wide events, go to <http://www.mccscp.com/smp/>.



**Single Marine Program Team**

SgtMaj/Sr Enlisted Advisor:  
SgtMaj Reina  
Single Marine Program Rep:  
Cpl Dumais

**Battalion SMP Reps:**

Cpl Dumais, H&S Battalion  
Sgt Owen, MCT Battalion  
LCpl Jakosalem, MCT Battalion  
Sgt Robinson, IT Battalion  
LCpl Tamas, IT Battalion  
Cpl Bantigue, AIT Battalion  
Sgt Labranche, AIT Battalion



# SOI Highlights

**Colonel Bien's last formation leading up to SOI's Change of Command on 9 July, where Colonel Williams assumed command.**



# SOI Highlights

## Golf Tournament



## Spouses' Health and Wellness Event



Spouses were lead through a PiYo session, followed by a nutrition class & smoothie demo presented by Michelle and Allison, Marine Spouses & SOI Volunteers.



# SOI Highlights

## Build-a-Bike

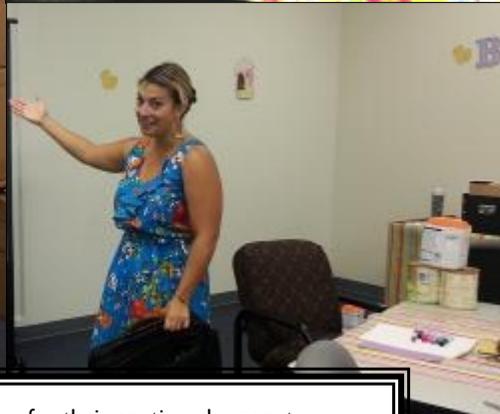
Homefront America provided five SOI children with new bikes. Each child actively participated, alongside their fathers, in building their bike. Adam and Jill, volunteers for Homefront facilitated the event.



# SOI Highlights

## Baby Workshop

SOI, along with various other organization were able to come together and coordinate our Baby Workshop on 26 July. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's volunteer, Cassandra, lead our families through the Budget for Baby class. At the end of class, each family was provided with a Baby Sea Bag full of baby clothes. Resources and information were also provided to our families. And, with the help of Homefront America and The Riflemen Organization, our families enjoyed a BBQ lunch, and goodie bag with various items such as: formula, diapers, wipes, etc.



SOI(W) would like to thank the following organizations and volunteers for their continued support:  
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society  
Homefront America  
The Riflemen Organization  
Cassandra, Elizabeth, Jolanda, Kaylen, Mindy, Art, and Julian—Thank you for making this event a success!

# SOI Highlights

## Kids in the Wild

Kids in the Wild is a pilot program of Homefront America. The program provided 12 military children and their families with the unique opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, learn and appreciate nature in her natural habitat, and explore one of the most beautiful, historic natural landmarks in Orange County, known as the Irvine Ranch Open Space. For more information about Irvine Ranch Open Space and all they offer, please visit: <http://ocparks.com/parks/irvineranch/> and <http://letsgooutside.org/activities/>

