



TACRON TWELVE
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2010

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FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK...

TALONS and TALON Families,

Greetings from the Republic of Korea! I'm currently embarked onboard the ROKS DOKDO in Pusan, South Korea participating in Exercise ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN (UFG) 2010. This is a tremendous opportunity to mentor our Korean counterparts onboard their amphibious flagship. The ROKS DOKDO is an LPH (Helicopter Transport Amphibious Ship) constructed in Pusan, South Korea and commissioned on July 3, 2007. The TACRON "experience" is truly unique in the opportunities we have to work side by side with our strategic partners, afloat or ashore.

As I type this article, your Detachment ONE recently returned from Exercise RIMPAC while embarked onboard the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) operating in the vicinity of Hawaii. Detachment TWO is on well-deserved leave after a six month deployment to the Western Pacific. Detachment THREE is forward deployed to Okinawa, Japan participating in Exercise UFG and preparing to embark the USS ESSEX (LHA 2) for Fall Patrol 2010. Detachment FOUR has stood up and in work-ups as it prepares for a six month deployment to the Western Pacific.

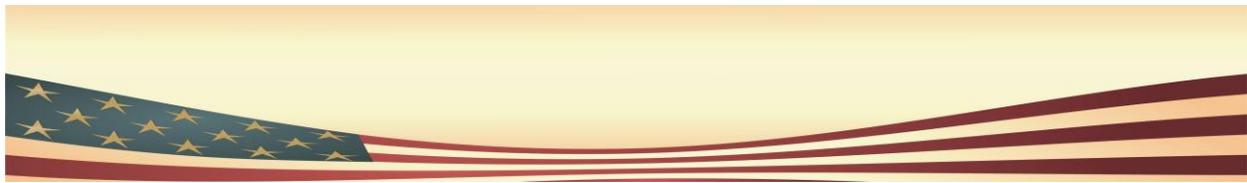
Few outside the military fully grasp the sacrifices that our TACRON Sailors, Marines and their families make day in and day out. I cannot say it enough; we are indebted to our families as they endure sacrifices associated with our deployments and preparations for future deployments.

Luckily, we have a new addition to the TALON team that will assist you during these deployments. Please join me in welcoming aboard our new Command Ombudsman, Mrs. Cortney Currier-Holloway. Cortney arrives with a tremendous wealth of Navy experience having lived overseas and throughout numerous duty stations within the United States. THANK YOU Cortney for supporting our TALON families. Our jobs would be difficult without the untiring support, understanding and selfless dedication from volunteers like you. Your contribution to TACRON TWELVE is invaluable.

TACRON TWELVE is committed to readying its Sailors and Families on all fronts. If you have any questions or recommendations to make this a better tour for you, please don't hesitate to contact me at mel.yokoyama@navy.mil.

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





Dear TACRON 12 Family and Friends,

August 23, 2010

Please allow me to introduce myself! My name is [REDACTED] and I am happy to be of service as your Command Ombudsman.

What is an Ombudsman? Adapted from a Scandinavian concept, the Navy Family Ombudsman Program was established in 1970 to link families with deployed service members. Navy Ombudsmen are trained volunteers and military spouses within the command. Ombudsmen serve as a crucial resource, especially during deployments, for all family members including spouses, parents, and extended family members. Appointed by the Commanding Officer, Ombudsmen serve as a communication link between the families and the Command Leadership. Ombudsmen are also valuable contacts for information and referrals to military and civilian community resources. Ombudsmen work closely with the Commanding Officer and Command Senior Enlisted Leader to raise awareness of family issues and act as an advocate for families. The Ombudsman Code of Ethics guarantees support of the command's mission, professionalism, and confidentiality within program guidelines.

How can my Ombudsman help me? Your Ombudsman can help you find the resources you need to solve almost any problem, from critical emergencies to routine requests. Your Ombudsman will also keep you informed regarding current events and programs having to do with the command and family support. As a liaison, the Ombudsman passes information from families to the command as well as sharing information from the command leadership as appropriate. As your Ombudsman, I will contribute to the command newsletter and post pertinent information and resources on the command Facebook page. Ombudsmen have a direct link to the command, and are the source of official and accurate command information, especially during emergencies.

How do I contact my Ombudsman? Your Command Family Ombudsman is standing by to assist you 24 hours a day. You can reach me by email at tacron12ombudsman@gmail.com. The command will be providing me with an Ombudsman contact phone in the near future and I will make the number available to you as soon as possible. I will be taking routine question calls between the hours of 8:00 AM-8:00 PM, and you can reach me 24 hours a day in an emergency. Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]





The Ombudsman Corner



By

www.tacron12ombudsman@gmail.com

Hello everyone! This being my first newsletter as Command Ombudsman, I wanted to say how excited I am to have the opportunity to work with the service members and families of TACRON 12. I am looking forward to “opening the doors” for you to the great programs, information and resources that the Navy and our communities have to offer military families. I recently attended an Ombudsman Resource Fair in which I was educated on and given access to literally hundreds of resources and services available to military service members and their families. These services include, but are not limited to childcare, financial services, spousal employment, tutoring services, tuition assistance, counseling services etc. I encourage you to reach out with any questions you have and start taking advantage of all of these wonderful programs.

Summer is almost over and that means it is back to school for our children. Here are just a few of the resources available to help with a smooth transition and a successful school year:

~**Student Online Achievement Resources** or **SOAR** is a free of charge internet-based program for students in grades 3-12. SOAR helps families manage their children’s education with innovative technology. Parents can monitor their child’s progress from anywhere in the world. In addition, parents are provided with resource materials that will assist their child in areas where they may need help. Follow the link www.MilitaryStudent.org for more information.

~**Tutor.com** is a free online tutor for students K-12. Professional tutors are available to help with all math, science, social studies, and English subjects- from elementary to advanced levels. Your child will work one-on-one with a tutor in an online classroom with an interactive whiteboard, file sharing and instant messaging until the problem is solved and the material is understood. Tutor.com also offers assistance with essay writing, test prep, GED prep and résumé writing and more! Follow the link www.tutor.com/navy for more information.

~**NKO** is a 24/7, free online library and resource center. NKO offers a Student Resource Center, which contains periodicals, academic journals, creative works and multimedia. NKO’s Virtual Reference Library contains a dictionary, encyclopedia and a thesaurus. You can also learn a foreign language through NKO! They offer classes in Arabic, French, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. Follow the link www.nko.navy.mil for more information.

~**Sittercity** is a new childcare program offered to military service members. Sittercity will help you find babysitters and military subsidized childcare providers in your neighborhood! You will be able to browse through caregiver/sitter profiles with over 40 criteria including background checks, references, parent reviews, pictures etc. Whether you need full time care, after-school care or just a night on the town- Sittercity can help! Follow the link www.sittercity.com/dod to activate your free membership.

I hope these resources help make the school year a happy and successful one for both you and your children. If you have any further questions about any of the resources listed, or are in need of any other services- please let me know and I will be happy to help you find exactly what you need! In between work, school, homework and the commissary do not forget to have some fun! Here are a few events that are happening now and coming soon to a community near you:

~**Blue Star Museums** consists of more than 600 museums across America that are offering free admission to all active duty military service members and their families until Labor Day 2010. Several of these museums are right here in San Diego! A complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov

~**MCAS Miramar Air Show**- October 1, 2 & 3rd. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels, U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute team and the "Starfire Night Skyshow" are just a few of the events planned. Admission, parking, and blanket seating are free for ALL shows! For more information visit www.miramarairstow.com

~ **Movies in the park!** Tidelands Park on beautiful Coronado Island is showing **Disney's G-FORCE** free of charge on September 17th! Pre-screening activities begin at 6:00 and the movie will conclude at 10:00. Bring your chairs, blankets and food... come out and enjoy this wonderful community event! For directions and more information visit www.portofsandiego.org





TALON DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Contributed By: CDR Vincent Martin

On Thursday, August 26, 2010, a beautiful day with sunny skies and a light breeze, the Talons of TACRON TWELVE enjoyed a command day at the ballpark to watch the National League Western Division leading San Diego Padres take on their division rivals, the



Arizona Diamondbacks. To mark the occasion of Throwback Thursday, the San Diego Padres turned back the clock by donning their uniforms from 1978, playing organ music and serving retro-inspired concessions including boxes of popcorn, fresh lemonade, and corndogs. The day was



made even more memorable with the flawless performance by the TACRON TWELVE Color Guard comprised of AA Massa, AN Montano, YNSA Steinke, and OSSN Perna. Displaying typical Talon professionalism and aplomb, the Color Guard struck a majestic pose during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner and received a loud round of applause at the conclusion of their performance.

As the Talons and their family members

settled into the ballgame, enjoying the tradition and attractions of our national pastime, the Talons watched the Diamondbacks race out to a big early lead. The Diamondbacks were trying to avoid a season sweep by the Padres at Petco Park and appeared to have the Padres' number that day as they stymied the Padres batters through most of the game. At the bottom

of the eighth inning, the Padres finally came to life. The Padres loaded the bases and that's when Padres 1st Baseman Adrian Gonzales crushed the sixth pitch he faced over the right field wall for a grand slam homerun to narrow the deficit to 11-5. Unfortunately, that was as close as the Padres would get that day and they went down in defeat by the same score.

Despite the Padres loss, the Talons of TACRON TWELVE and their family members enjoyed a wonderful day at the ballpark. It was a chance for the Talon family to briefly put aside the worries of deployments, training, work-ups, conferences, and other squadron demands to enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of the ballpark. It was also an opportunity for the Talons to experience and build upon the already strong Talon camaraderie. Sincere Talon appreciation goes out to the San Diego Padres organization for the wonderful hosting and the opportunity for the TACRON TWELVE Color Guard to perform. Finally, a hearty Talon BZ to LTJG Bill Elliot for coordinating the highly successful Talon Day at the Ballpark.



Talon Highlight



ACAN Ashley Andrews *"I joined the Navy's delayed entry program in July 2007 when I was 17 years old with the intent to travel to places all over the world, to gain unique experiences and to use the Navy College fund and G.I. Bill to further my education and earn a degree. A year later, in June 2008, I graduated from Temecula Valley High School in Temecula, CA and a month later left home for Boot Camp in Great Lakes, IL. After graduating from Boot Camp I left to Pensacola, FL for ACA-School where I worked*

and studied as hard as I could and graduated 5th in my class with a 92% GPA. My first command is TACRON TWELVE where I have been stationed for over a year now and have had the pleasure to participate in two deployments so far, hopefully with more to come. My experiences on deployment, both good and bad, have undoubtedly molded me into the sailor I am today. Underway on the USS ESSEX, I was able to work within my Rate and receive the qualifications of ASTABS and FADIZ, with some time on TAD/TATC as well as familiarize myself with the new system ESTAT. While aboard the USS ESSEX, I attended Basic DC classes and later earned those qualifications as they were a prerequisite for the Air Warfare pins aboard the ship. After our underway period with the USS ESSEX ended, we wasted no time getting to work on Kadena AFB in Okinawa, Japan. On MCAS Futenma I was able to enter the simulator and participate in paper Sims, I was able to spend time in the Tower as well and see real-time ops and scenarios. We were able to do a lot of Volunteer work which included visiting the Bob Hope Elementary School to help kids cross the road and stay safe, every Wednesday we would go to a Japanese after-school day care center and interact with the children. Along with these experiences I also worked every day towards earning my EAWS pin, whether it was studying or making trips to the P-3 squadron to get PQS signatures. I was the first on my deployment to get 100% of my Common Core and P-3 Aircraft Specific qualification booklets signed off. I attended my board and even surprised myself at how much information I had retained, nonetheless I passed the board and walkthrough and was awarded my primary

pin. I am more than satisfied and thankful for the accomplishments that TACRON TWELVE has given me the opportunity to work for."



ISSN Matthew Jeran *"I was born in Palm Springs CA, when I was four we moved to Klamath Falls, OR and resided there for 2 years. We then moved to the Northwest in Coeur D' Alene ID and Spokane WA. When I was 18 I attended BNSF (Burlington Northern Santé Fe) railroad college to become a train conductor and graduated on the presidents honor roll list, I was not hired because I was too young, I then applied to for the Sheriff's department to become a security systems*

operator and was again not hired because someone older than myself received the job, So I applied for a job at Mercedes Benz as a delivery driver while I decided what I wanted to do with my life, eventually I came to the conclusion that I wanted to make something of my life and do something that was worthwhile. I joined the US Navy and entered basic training slated to become an IS (intelligence specialist). I graduated "C" school as a 3924 OPINTEL analyst. Tacron Twelve is my first duty station. The command and all personnel have been very willing to answer any questions or help with problems that I have had regardless of what it pertains to, in conclusion I am very happy with my decision to join the US Navy. The most important lesson I have learned since joining the US Navy is that hard work and dedication will carry you far."

Congratulations to
ISSN Jeran for his selection as the July Sailor of the Month
-and-
ACAN Andrews for her selection as Blue Jacket of the Quarter, 2nd QTR, 2010

TALON ACHIEVEMENTS



CS2 Michel



AC2 Whitt
AC2 Harbuck
AC2 Salmon
IS2 Irizarry
AC3 Bean
AC3 Hardgrave
ACAN Andrews
YNSN Alcantar

RIMPAC VICTORIES OF TACRON 12 DET ONE

Talon Times Aug 2010

Submitted By: LCDR Shawn Dewey

The American / Australian rivalry, which raged throughout the RIMPAC exercise, began the first evening after we arrived in Pearl Harbor. LCDR Price (callsign - TOFU) and I joined our Aussie counterparts for dinner at the Dixie Grill, where Australian Maj Scanlan (Aussie Social Hand Grenade) ordered the “Trash-can buffet,” a sample platter for two people. He left 25% of his plate untouched, at which point, TOFU (American Social WMD), after having finished his considerable meal, began to consume the remaining portion of Scanlan’s trash can. Hence, the Ultimate Feasting Challenge (UFC)



was conceived: two eating machines, “Pie Face” Scanlan vs TOFU “that weird TACRON guy;” two “trash-can buffets,” and two medical teams standing by. Who would be champion.....

With the UFC propaganda and taunts raging in the background, DET ONE was diligently training and qualifying our newly-embarked Reservist counterparts in preparation of the final phases of the RIMPAC exercise.

In total, more than 33 qualifications were acquired by our folks. This figure does not reflect IS3 McQuaid and OSSN Canady who obtained their Basic Damage Control (DC) and 3M qualifications as well as AC3 Le, OS3 Daniels, AC3 Foster, and ACAN Dryburgh, who passed their Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist (EAWS) tests and are now ready to board. These latter achievements are accomplished outside of regular TACC duties and signify an outstanding level of professionalism and dedication.



During all phases of the exercise, DET ONE performed phenomenally. Our operational success was based on the substantial knowledge and experience garnered from the recent WESTPAC deployment and, even more important, a crew of highly-motivated and dedicated TACRON sailors. In addition, RIMPAC events early in the exercise provided a high degree of training variety which served to enlarge the “toolbox” of each TACRON sailor. DET ONE can boast that their efforts contributed to the 100% mission success rate of all Amphibious Air Operations during the entire Exercise – we truly accomplished great things.



Ah yes...the trash-can. Imagine, if you will, the scene from the Paul Newman film, “Cool Hand Luke,” where Paul Newman eats 50 hard-boiled eggs. Afterwards, he is lying on a table only partially conscious, but with a smile on his face nonetheless. TOFU sits back in his chair after crushing Pie Face and smiles absently as he drifts in and out of consciousness. After a few minutes of TACRON Victory celebration by me, the champ, “that weird TACRON guy,” frowns and says “I’m

not feeling so good.” Consequently, I roll TOFU back to the ship and with great effort push him into his top bunk with his last words being, “I will never enter another eating contest again..... at least not for a while.”



Detachment Three

OIC: LCDR Robert Loeb

Det 3 is off to a great start in volunteering their off-duty time and energy to help support local projects. OS3 Sutgrey has done an excellent job so far in heading up the program and so far their volunteer efforts have included:



Kadena Youth Center where local youngsters cheerfully greeted AC1 Ngiraingas, LS1 Pineza, YN1 Quihuiz and OS3 Sutgrey. They took part and interacted with the children by learning Origami and playing games.



Kadena Chapel where LS1 Pineza, YN1 Quihuiz, AC1 Ngiraingas, AC2 Gordon, OS2 Medina, OS3 Sutgrey and AC3 Gray assisted in numerous handy-work and beautification projects in and around Chapel 2. Keep up the Great work guys!



Senior Enlisted Leader's Letter

ACC(AW/SW) Dennis Guivara

Hello Talons,

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about our recent deployment aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6). This was a very interesting and exciting event not only because we got to visit the beautiful islands of Hawaii and be challenged by different tactical scenarios, but to see multiple countries joined together and working towards a common objective.

Rim of the Pacific 2010 is a huge collaboration of multiple air and sea assets from different participating countries. We were underway just shy of 60 days. This type of exercise affords our Sailors and Marines the opportunity to demonstrate vital tactics and be proficient in war time scenarios in case actual events arise, either foreign or domestic.

Seeing our young Sailors and Marines during this stage of readiness gives me confidence, great confidence in our country's Navy and Marine Corps. Not only do they work professionally, but also they display the great virtue of team work throughout their work centers, Ships, and towards other armed forces from the different nations.

To achieve true success in this environment is not only measured in the hard work and long hours these young men and women of our armed forces have provided, but more importantly by building a professional and military relationship with their counterparts wearing different uniforms from all around the globe. Shared experiences, knowledge and friendship is what they all left with each other at the end of the day making this experience unforgettable to us all. **Great Job Shipmates!**



Welcome Aboard!

AC1 Holloway

AC2 Laessig

OS3 Dyers

OS3 Roberts

IS3 Parsons

ACAN Spicer

OSSN Crump

ITSN Payer

CS2 Colvin

AC2 Gonzalez

OS3 Johnson

OS3 Warner

ACAN Chhay

OSSN Perna

ISSN Jerran

OSSA Crowe

*Fair Winds and
Following Seas...*

AC2 Beachy

AC2 Kelley

AC2 Harbuck

AC2 Gleeson

CS2 Michel

IT2 Williams

AC3 Bear

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

YNSA Alcantar - 8/1

ACC Guivara - 8/3

IS1 Wold - 8/5

AC2 Salmon - 8/8

CDR Fuller - 8/14

AC3 Shorts - 8/16

LCDR Lito - 8/17

LCDR Price - 8/17

CS2 Michel - 8/24

LS1 Pineza - 8/24

ISSN Jerran - 8/30

LCDR Hartman - 8/31

OS3 Sutgrey - 8/31

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

IS2 Ficken - 9/8

AC2 Gonzalez - 9/10

OS3 Johnson - 9/12

AC1 Faulkner - 9/19

AN Good - 9/20

CDR Shaffer - 9/21

LCDR Sandberg - 9/23

LCDR Thompson - 9/24

AC1 Holloway - 9/29

AC2 Jones - 9/29

LT Flodder - 9/30

ACAN Dryburgh - 9/30