



# THE ADVISOR

MCTAG Family Readiness Newsletter

Oct - Dec 2010

## Message from the Commanding Officer



Greetings to the friends and families of the Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group (MCTAG). I am Colonel Chris McCarthy, the commanding officer of MCTAG, and I wish to extend my heartfelt Christmas greetings and an enjoyable holiday season to all. As you may know, MCTAG

trains security cooperation teams sourced from across the Marine Corps for deployment around the world. We conduct training of foreign units with some of our own personnel, and we support the planning process that identifies opportunities for security cooperation events. While the command is relatively new, our mission is important and recognized throughout the Marine Corps as a significant element of the Corps' strategy.

I have now been with the unit for six months and I can tell you that the Marines and Sailors of MCTAG have been busy over the last 26 weeks. We have grown from an assigned strength of approximately 40 Marines to over 95 personnel as we enter 2011. We have trained teams that are currently deployed to Bahrain, South America, and Africa. Our largest full time commitment of both personnel and resources remains the Georgian Deployment Program in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission to Afghanistan.

Our Georgian Training Team is led by Maj. Andrew Del Gaudio and consists of Capt. Arlon Smith, 1stSgt. Paul Kraus, Staff Sgt. Everett Brown, Staff Sgt. Christopher Chism, Sgt. Darrin Richardson, and Cpl. Anthony Krusen. These Marines are doing an outstanding job of coordinating and executing a

demanding six-month long training program that prepares Georgian infantry battalions for combat operations in Afghanistan. We expect them home by early April.

While many of our Marines are deployed, those who are home aboard Fort Story continue their own remarkable achievements. The first of December brought promotions for several Marines including Maj. John Brown, Sgt. Kyle Campbell, and Sgt. Kendrick Underwood. Congratulations are also in order for Lance Cpl. Dallas McNutt and Sgt. Jerry Metcalf for their selections as Marine and NCO of the quarter, respectively.

I cannot overstate how your support of our MCTAG Marines or Sailors remains an important part of the success of both our individuals and the unit as a whole. Thank you for taking care of them, so that they can take care of our mission. Again, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the future to thank you in person.

Semper Fidelis and Victoria per Societas! (Victory through Partnership)

Col. C. R. McCarthy

### Inside this issue:

<b>Message from the Commanding Officer</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Message from the Family Readiness Officer</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bravo/Zulu</b>	<b>4 - 5</b>
<b>Welcome Aboard</b>	<b>6 - 9</b>



The holiday season is a time when we remember holidays past, families gathered in the den enjoying each other's company, tables filled with delicious food, and presents to be opened. Many of us dream of those days, and wish we could turn back the clock. But the clock keeps ticking, and before we know it, it will be a new year. Many of us have taken the place of our parents and have carried on the holiday custom. Some of us no longer have families, at least, in the traditional sense, and are looking for creative ways to experience what we once enjoyed. It can be a challenge, especially when you are far away from what was once home.

In whatever way you make the season real for you, I encourage you to focus not so much on the occasion of the holiday, but for the opportunities it presents. It may become a golden opportunity to make a new friend, or to do something kind to someone you have been thinking about for quite some time. Perhaps you have someone you need to make a phone call to, but have been putting it off. There may be a fellowship, a house of worship you once attended, but quit going. Reconnect! Fill up your spiritual well if it is drained. Take stock of your life's direction and who is on your path with you. And as you do, consider including the Almighty.

An atheist was in the woods alone, when a 7-foot black bear came charging. He ran away from the bear, but the bear kept advancing. Finally, the bear grabbed him by one paw and was about to hit him with the other. It was then that the man cried out in desperation, "O God!" All of a sudden, everything froze. The birds stopped chirping, the bear stopped in mid-stride, even the river stood still. A bright light appeared from above and the man heard a voice that said, "You've denied my existence all these years, and now you cry out for help?" The man replied, "It would be hypocritical of me to be a God-fearing man at this point in my life. But could you at least make this bear a believer?" With that, the bright light disappeared, the river flowed again, and the birds continued their chirping. Still holding him with one paw, the bear dropped the man to the ground, put both paws

together and began to pray, "O God, for this food which I am about to eat, I am truly thankful."

If you are wondering if there is something missing in your life, and you want to have a richer experience of the season, and a closer walk with the Lord and your neighbor, I cannot think of a better time than now. We don't have to wait for a crisis to call out. "Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6

Chaplain Van Dickens  
Deputy Force Chaplain

## Mark Your Calendar

### Extended Liberty

Christmas Day Liberty	Dec. 23 - 26
New Year's Day Liberty	Dec. 30 - Jan. 2
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Liberty	Jan. 15 - 17
President's Day Liberty	Feb. 19 - 21

### Promotion Selection Boards

Gunnery Sergeant	April 19 - June 17
Reserve Lieutenant Colonel	Jan. 19 - Feb. 1
Captain	Jan. 20 - 31
Captain & Career Designation	Jan. 31 - Feb. 18
Reserve Major	Jan. 25 - Feb. 11
Reserve Staff NCO	Jan. 25 - March 25
Reserve Captain/ Chief Warrant Officer	Feb. 9 - 18

### Fitness Reports

Sergeant	March 31
Staff Sergeant	Dec. 31
Gunnery Sergeant	June 30
Master Sergeant/ First Sergeant	June 30
Master Gunnery Sergeant/ Sergeant Major	Sept. 30
Warrant Officer/ Chief Warrant Officer	April 30
Second Lieutenant	Jan. 31 & July 31
First Lieutenant	Oct. 31 & April 30
Captain	May 31
Major	May 31
Lieutenant Colonel	May 31

## Message from the Family Readiness Officer



Greetings MCTAG Marines, Sailors, & Families,  
The holiday season is a joyous time of year and may present difficulties. In order to prepare better for these circumstances, the Unit, Personal, and Family Readiness Program has several resources available.

Many of these resources and programs offered to the military are free and confidential. If you or someone you know has questions or needs assistance please contact me (757) 836-0506 or email [seth.johnson@usmc.mil](mailto:seth.johnson@usmc.mil).

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your support of the program and wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday and a Happy New Year!

Warm Regards,  
Seth Johnson



## Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group Phone Numbers & Resources

### MARFORCOM / MCTAG Family Readiness Officer

Mr. Seth Johnson------(757) 836-0506  
[seth.johnson@usmc.mil](mailto:seth.johnson@usmc.mil)

### MCTAG Family Readiness Assistant

Mrs. Julia Smith -----(812) 219-8723  
[juliarenee@gmail.com](mailto:juliarenee@gmail.com)

**Commanding Officer**------(757) 962-4430 Ext. 2221  
[christopher.r.mccart@usmc.mil](mailto:christopher.r.mccart@usmc.mil)

**Executive Officer**------(757) 962-4430 Ext. 2222  
[dan.thoele@usmc.mil](mailto:dan.thoele@usmc.mil)

**Sergeant Major**------(757) 962-4430 Ext. 2223  
[thomas.hall@usmc.mil](mailto:thomas.hall@usmc.mil)

**Deputy Force Chaplain**------(757) 836-2229  
[john.v.dickens@usmc.mil](mailto:john.v.dickens@usmc.mil)

**Duty Phone**------(757) 390-9300

**Admin**------(757) 962-4430 Ext. 2241

**BAS**------(757) 962-4430 Ext. 2301

**Military One Source**-----1-800-342-9647  
[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

## Hampton Roads Events

### Hampton events:

<http://www.hamptoncvb.com/go/events>

### Portsmouth events:

[http://www.portsmouthholidays.com/december\\_09.html](http://www.portsmouthholidays.com/december_09.html)

### Norfolk events:

<http://www.norfolk.gov/Holidays/default.asp>

### Chesapeake Events:

<http://www.chesapeake.va.us>

### Colonial Williamsburg:

<http://www.history.org/>

### Newport News:

<http://www.newport-news.org/>

**Bravo Zulu**

Sergeant Kyle Campbell, an infantryman and clerk with S-3, is pinned on to his current rank by Lt. Col. Dan Thoele, executive officer and Master Gunnery Sgt. Wendell Myles, operations chief, Dec. 1.



Sergeant Kendrick Underwood, a communication repairman with S-6, is pinned on to his current rank by Gunnery Sgt. Brian Johnson, communications and electrical maintenance chief and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Heard, a communications specialist with, Dec. 1.



Major John K. Brown, the officer-in-charge of a MCTAG Southern Command military advisor team is pinned on to his current rank by Lt. Col. Dan Thoele, executive officer and Lt. Col. William Truax, officer-in-charge of the MCTAG Southern Command Coordination, Liaison & Assessment Team, Dec. 1.



Master Sgt. Christopher Manuel, intelligence chief, S-2, is sworn in by Lt. Col. Dan Thoele, executive officer of MCTAG during a reenlistment ceremony, Dec. 5.



Lance Cpl. Dallas McNutt, fiscal clerk, is awarded a Certificate of Commendation from Col. Christopher McCarthy, commanding officer of MCTAG, for his outstanding performance over the last quarter, which resulted in his selection as the unit's Marine of the Quarter.



Proud parents Sgt. Brian J. Rudolph and Geni Rudolph welcomed their second child to the Marine Corps family, Dec. 9. Xavier Isaiah Rudolph was born at Portsmouth Naval Hospital and measured 19  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and weighed in at Seven pounds 11 ounces.

### *Season's Greetings from Republic Georgia*



Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group, Georgia Training Team on Thanksgiving Day. From left to right: Capt. Arlon Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Paul Kraus, Sgt. Darrin Richardson, Staff Sgt. Christopher Chism, Maj. Andrew Del Gaudio, Cpl. Anthony Krusen, Technical Sgt. Frost, and Staff Sgt. Everett Brown.

## Welcome Aboard



Name: Walter A. Maessen III  
Rank: Captain  
Billet: Plans Officer  
Home of Record: San Antonio, TX  
Family Members: Adriana (spouse)



Name: Issac R. Dove  
Rank: Gunnery Sergeant  
Billet: Radio Chief  
Home of Record: Austin, TX  
Family Members: Erika (Wife), Issac (Son) & Lealani (Daughter)



Name: Ernest L. Pryor  
Rank: Captain  
Billet: Fiscal Officer  
Home of Record: Monticello, FL



Name: Michael S. Everhart  
Rank: Chief  
Billet: Medical Chief  
Home of Record: Lewisville, NC  
Family Members: Paul Everhart (Son)



Name: William D. Brown  
Rank: Gunnery Sergeant  
Billet: Communications Chief  
Home of Record: Los Angeles  
Family Members: Kevon (Son) & Justin (Son)



Name: Renato Y. Abregana  
Rank: Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Billet: Corpsman  
Home of Record: Tracy, Calif.  
Family Members: Jennifer (spouse) & Noah (Son)



Name: Johneric J. Aquino  
Rank: Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Billet: Corpsman  
Home of Record: Milpitas, Calif.  
Family Members: Tiffany (Spouse) & Janelle (Daughter)



Name: Nathaniel Garens  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: JTAC  
Home of Record: Akron, OH  
Family Members: Danielle (Spouse) & Cadence (Daughter)



Name: Michael J. Anderson  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: Schools Chief  
Home of Record: Rochester, NH  
Family Members: Robin Anderson (Spouse)



Name: Christine A. Griego  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: Radio Chief  
Home of Record: Warrenville, IL



Name: Joseph C. Cusimano  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: Ammo Chief  
Home of Record: Sulphur, LA  
Family Members: Thai (Spouse), Tristan (Son), Joseph Jr. (Son) & Charlease (Daughter)



Name: Marcuss A. Hernandez  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: Infantry Skills Instructor  
Home of Record: Woodland, Calif.  
Family Members: Summer (Spouse)



Name: Jeremy Lambert  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: Combat Engineer Instructor  
Home of Record: Chesterville, Maine  
Family Members: Danielle (Spouse)



Name: Michael A. Tabb  
Rank: Sergeant  
Billet: Adjutant Chief  
Home of Record: Durham, NC



Name: Jamel D. Stoakley  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: Fiscal Chief  
Home of Record: Charleston, SC  
Family Members: Nicole (Spouse),  
 Lemaj (Son), Antonio (Son), Dante (Son), Kameron (Son)



Name: Kendric D. Underwood  
Rank: Sergeant  
Billet: Communications Repairman  
Home of Record: Ruston, LA  
Family Members: Sharetha Underwood (Spouse)



Name: Nicholas Weatherman  
Rank: Staff Sergeant  
Billet: Section SNCO, CLAT Pacific  
Home of Record: Columbus, Ohio  
Family Members: Kelly (Spouse)



Name: Abraham T. Wilson Jr.  
Rank: Sergeant  
Billet: Ammo A-Chief  
Home of Record: Danville, VA



Name: Timothy P. Necker  
Rank: Corporal  
Billet: MAGTF Planner  
Home of Record: Waller, TX



Name: Jennifer L. Torres  
Rank: Private First Class  
Billet: Supply Clerk  
Home of Record: Houston, TX

