



Tiger Tales

The Official Newsletter of HMM-262
The Flying Tigers



Summer 2008

<http://www.1maw.usmc.mil/index.asp?unit='HMM-262'>



A Message From the Commanding Officer:

Flying Tigers and Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to families who have been with us for a while as well as welcome to those who have recently joined us. As many of you may know, on July 15th we became a composite squadron in order to support the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and practically doubled in size. We brought in detachments from HMM-465 and HMLA-267 in southern California, detachments from MACS-4 and MWSS-171 from MCAS Iwakuni in mainland Japan, as well as additional detachments from MACS-4 and MASS-2 right here on Okinawa. Being forward stationed overseas, I also want to recognize the families of our core CH-46 squadron unaccompanied Marines

who remain back in the continental United States. Needless to say we have been very busy over the last couple months getting everyone settled in and conducting the training that will integrate us into a seamless unit.

Other recent changes in the squadron and across the Marine Corps include implementation of a new Family Readiness Program. One of the most significant pieces of this new program is the hiring of permanent civilian Family Readiness Officers. I would like to take the opportunity to introduce HMM-262's new Family Readiness Officer, Mr. Ron Appling. Ron will be the backbone of our squadron's Family Readiness Program and he is already off to a great start.

One key component to a good Family Readiness Program is effective communication at all levels. While the first and most important link rests with individual Marines keeping his or her family informed of events and issues, it falls back on the Family Readiness Program to provide Marines and their families with the tools to help stay informed. Due to the nature of our mission, face to face communications are often not a viable option; therefore, I intend to provide information on major squadron events distributed electronically and via our web site.

As we put the final touches on this edition of "Tiger Tales," the squadron is in its final stages of preparation for its upcoming shipboard deployment aboard

the USS Essex. While intense training will continue, the squadron will also participate in key Theater Security Cooperation exercises throughout the Western Pacific to include land-based stopovers in the Republic of the Philippines and Republic of Korea.

Once again welcome to all new Flying Tiger families. While I encourage individual Marines to be the primary communicators with their family members, please feel free to contact myself or other members of the Command Team should any larger issues arise.

Respectfully,
Lieutenant Colonel Doug Schueler
Commanding Officer
douglas.schueler@usmc.mil

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Soon the Tigers will be deployed, and I welcome new challenges and opportunities to work together as a team in support and defense of our great nation. I am looking forward to a great deployment and the opportunity to be part of a proud line of Marines who have had the fortune of being a World Famous Flying Tiger.

Semper Fi,

**-Major Keith Korenek
Executive Officer**



SERGEANT MAJOR:

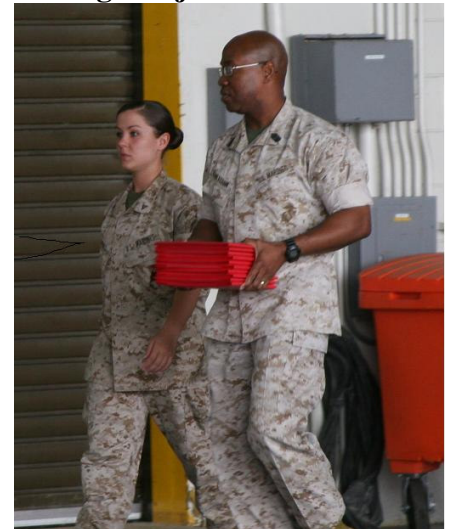
Marines & Sailors,
Time is moving along and I'm still having a great time. First, I would like to congratulate those over the past 3 months that were promoted or received an award for their hard work. Good Job!

As we prepare to embark aboard ship, I would like for everyone to ensure our loved ones are prepared and have all the valuable information at their finger tips just in case they need it. Congratulations to the parents of our new born "Little Flying Tigers." Welcome into the world.

To the new joins and detachment Marines: You are now part of the great "Flying Tiger Family." I am honored to serve as your sergeant major and look forward to working for you.

To the staff sergeants select, Davis, Morgan, Phipps, and Leifermann, welcome to the "Rocker Club." Wear that rocker proudly and continue to take care of your Marines. Thanks to the spouses and dependents of this Tiger family for lending this great organization your Marine. Your support has been "Priceless." Marines and Sailors, continue to stay focused and strive for excellence. I am honored to serve as your sergeant major and my door will always be open for each and every one of you. Stay Motivated!

-Sgt Major Jackie R. Robertson



Sgt Major and LCpl Barnes preparing for promotions and awards.

ADMINISTRATION S-1:

After returning from Thailand this June, S-1 has been working hard to adapt to all the new changes in the squadron. In July and August, S-1 administratively processed approximately 140 Marines from our

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Greetings Flying Tigers!

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as the new XO. My family and I received a hearty Tiger welcome at the end of June and I must say that it is an honor and privilege to be a member of the World Famous Flying Tigers. I truly look forward to life back in the operating forces after an extremely busy tour with HMX-1. I would like to send out a personal thanks and farewell to Major Daren Brown, the former XO for leaving the desk in an "up" status, making my job of fulfilling the XO duties much easier.

A few short weeks after my arrival, the Tigers grew from a Medium Helicopter Squadron to a Medium Helicopter Squadron Reinforced. This practically doubled our size over the course of several days, with Marines joining the Tigers from local units, Iwakuni, and California. The integration of these Marines into the Flying Tigers has been nothing short of remarkable. The hard work and dedication of each and every Marine has not gone unrecognized, and it's the individuals working as a team that makes being part of an organization like this so special.

Southern California detachments. Along with the core squadron, S-1 ensured those Marines had the proper paperwork, travel claims, travel cards, passports, and legal issues taken care of for departure to the Philippines this fall.

The S-1 shop took on new personnel from these detachments to boost our capabilities. Welcome aboard 1stLt Tomkins, 1stLt Miranda, LCpl Ramirez, and LCpl Diaz. A high point to the month of September was the reenlistment of SSgt Michael Hjorten, our Admin Chief and backbone of the shop. Semper Fi, SSgt!! The focus of effort for the S-1 has been the preparations for the Philippines Bi-lateral Exercise (Phiblex) this fall.

-Maj Matthew Gioia

INTELLIGENCE S-2:

The months of April through June were quite busy for SSgt Whited while he took the helm of the S-2/S-6 duties during our deployment to Cobra Gold '08 aboard the USS Juneau. Upon the squadron's return, S-2 OIC duties passed from Capt Malavenda to Capt Koreis.

As the squadron ramped up for the 31st MEU duties during the months of July and August we welcomed the addition 1stLt Shaun Braem, 1stLt Samuel Booth, Cpl Daniel Pap, and LCpl Bryan Cubero.

Congratulations go out to Cpl Long who was selected for the 1st MAW softball team, which won the 2008 Far East Regional Softball Tournament. We in the "Deuce"

wish all family members an early Happy Thanksgiving as we prepare for embarkation in the coming month.

-Capt Topher Koreis

OPERATIONS S-3: OPS NEVER STOPS!



Maj Tyson, Capt Graham, Capt Williamson, Sgt Hill, and LCpl Greenough

Amongst the numerous frags, taskers, training, and personnel turnovers that take place during the PCS season, the Flying Tiger Ops shop has continued to keep the squadron at a full gallop throughout the busy summer months. Most recently, with the squadron assuming the role of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Aviation Combat Element (ACE), the Operations department has grown substantially—22 motivated Marines dedicated to excellence have come together as one Operations team, driving towards mission accomplishment.

With the inclusion of detachment aircrew and aircraft into the squadron in July, welcome aboard briefs and island familiarization flights quickly followed. Our new joins in S-3 include Capt Jon Williamson, Capt Kelly "Big Red" Allen, Capt Pete Lilly, Capt Nate Moore, Capt Andy

Graham, Capt Joe Logan, 1stLt Joseph Fry, and 1stLt Jeff Barnes. Capt "Peetie-Moop" Johns, a recent graduate of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course in Yuma, AZ, also joined the Ops team while the squadron was deployed to Thailand in support of Cobra Gold '08. Capt Brian Olmstead and Capt Ryan Caulder joined the shop for the upcoming MEU float. Two more Operations analysts, LCpl Terrell Smith and LCpl Mike Greenough, have also added to the mix as permanent personnel. LCpl Ryan Johnson and Cpl Michael Bedoya complete the bunch as duty schedulers of enlisted Aircrew.



Capt Moore, Capt Logan, Capt Lilly, 1stLt Barnes and LCpl Johnson working hard on the schedule

With many new faces around the shop, some familiar ones have already, or will soon, depart on PCS orders. Our former Pilot Training Officer, Capt "Puddy" O'Connor, departed in early June for Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, VA. Cpl Michael Pulliam departed in September for VMA(T)-203. We will miss the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of these two fine Marines as they move on to a new home in the Corps.

-Capts Caulder and Spencer

LOGISTICS S-4:

The summer of 2008 brought numerous changes to the Logistics Department off HMM-262 (REIN). Building 537 became the home to the S-5 and S-6 departments, in addition the new Squadron Family Readiness Officer. The previous workspaces utilized by the S-4 department, buildings 515A and 515C, turned over to the maintenance and operations departments, respectively.

This summer brought changes for the shop. Major Gibbons assumed the duties of S-4 Officer in Charge, replacing Capt Sewell, who recently began a tour of duty with ANGLICO at Camp Hansen. Additionally, upon arrival of the detachment, S-4 gained two officers and two enlisted Marines from the west coast, ten Marines from MWSS-171 of Iwakuni, and one from MWSS-172 of Camp Foster.

As summer draws to an end, the Logistics department's preparations for deployment aboard the USS ESSEX are well under way.

-Major Pete Gibbons

HUMAN AFFAIRS S-5:

The summer is always busy for the S-5 shop. We recently relocated our offices to Building 537, allowing us to work closely with the Family Readiness Officer. Additionally, we benefit from more storage space for all of our Flying Tiger goods.

On August 22nd and 23rd we participated in the Futenma Flightline Fair. The event is a highly anticipated celebration for all of

Okinawa. We provided static display aircraft for the public to tour and setup a display booth to sell t-shirts and other "Tiger gear". Sales were strong and many of the local Okinawans were ecstatic to investigate and experience our helicopters up close. We also sold a large number of cruise books remaining from the OIF deployment. Please contact the shop if you would like to purchase this piece of Tiger history. Each book costs \$25 and discounts apply for multiple purchases. We also have a large assortment of T-shirts, Zippo lighters, Camelback® water bottles, coins, patches and much more. Feel free to contact S-5, at burr.ferguson@usmc.mil or by phone at 636-5385. Thank you very much and have a great Fall.

-1stLt Burr Ferguson

COMMUNICATIONS S-6:

Prior to the summer, the S-6 supported the squadron through a successful deployment for exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand. The S-6 set up a network infrastructure to provide internet to all Marines working in the 262 area of the flight line. The S-6 also provided computer desktop and hardware support in Thailand as well as during the ride back to Japan on the USS Juneau.

In the beginning of July, the S-6 was responsible for coordinating the hardware refresh of half the squadron's computers, this turned out to be a very successful project and the new hardware has proven useful. Also, S-6 received a new OIC, 1st Lt Bobber.

S-6 continues to work towards a successful transition onto the USS Essex in support of the MEU.

-1stLt Ryan Bobber

DoSS (SAFETY):

The summer has been a dynamic period for the Flying Tigers. The Safety Department has been focused on the integration of the reinforced squadron and the increased operational and maintenance tempos. Major Patrick "PUC" Gallogly, Capt Ryan "Donuts" Donahue, and 1stLt Jessica "Butcher" Conkling joined Capt Paul "Happy" Minihan, Capt Emily "Showtime" Barton, and Capt Josh Miller. The Enlisted NATOPS Marines are GySgt Daughtry, Sgt Ashley, and Cpl Bedoya.

The first order of business this period was the smooth addition of the detachments. The first weekend the H-1 and CH-53E detachment personnel had a bowling tournament and social. Next, the Squadron conducted the CSA / MCAS surveys that assisted the command in anticipating safety related issues and concerns. The AWC's Safety forum also helped Flying Tiger DoSS plan and coordinate for future safety related programs and policies, including the pending arrival on Okinawa of a motorcycle simulator.

Prior to the well-deserved Labor Day 72, and per the Commandant's guidance, the DoSS Department conducted a Safety Stand-down focused on motorcycle safety and proper liberty planning. Upcoming major DoSS events are the Shipboard

Safety Stand-down and boat classes for the pilots and aircrew as we transition to the Essex Expeditionary Strike Group. The DoSS acknowledges that shipboard life is both challenging and rewarding, but brings a unique set of safety concerns. Our credo remains: Be vigilant in all you do, always thinking of the safety of your fellow Flying Tigers.

Of particular note, Sgt Davis of the ordnance shop recently received a Certificate of Commendation for his quick thinking when the brakes in his HMMWV failed at the bottom of a hill in a busy intersection en route to Kadena Air Force Base. His actions avoided a potentially major collision as well as an international incident.

Congrats also goes out to Capt Miller on his 1 August promotion. Capt Barton was certified an Advanced Open Water SCUBA Diver, while Maj Gallogly and Capt Miller received Open Water certification.

-Major Patrick "PUC" Gallogly

MAINTENANCE:

This summer, the maintenance department welcomed personnel detachments who were immediately incorporated into the workspaces. The augments complete the squadron to now form the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Aviation Combat Element.

HMM-262(REIN) Maintenance department's diligence has proven fruitful with the recent additions to readiness in the CH-53 and AH-1W realms specifically. Attributable to a total team effort, the Tigers have kept

aircraft flying and allowed for the safe completion of many training flights and MEU exercises. Every level of Tiger Maintenance deserves praise for their contributions in overcoming the challenges left to the squadron this summer.

-SSgt Northcott

Avionics:

It has been a busy summer for the Flying Tigers Avionics work center. We have all been working hard, long hours to get all the aircraft full mission capable for our upcoming deployment. Our biggest task was testing the Cobras' Tube launched, Optically tracked, Wire command linked (TOW) missile system. This enables our Cobra pilots to provide air support for the Ground Combat Element (GCE). We proudly certified many Marines to repair wiring for the high tech radios. We also retained professional proficiency by refreshing our rifle and pistol qualifications as well as water survival. Overall, we are ready and looking forward to packing our bags, training aboard ship, and learning how to better support the GCE.

-GySgt Inserra

Quality Assurance:

The Quality Assurance department has worked hard under the watchful eyes and guiding wisdom of Gunnery Sergeants Daughtry, Jones, and Colon. Since "going composite", QA has led the testing effort to provide aircraft for the extensive MEU workup missions, enduring a semi-annual MALS inspection, and generally ensuring the quality of maintenance performed.

-Capt Kellogg

Flight Equipment:

Along with the additional workload of the 31st MEU, we welcomed the additions of Sgt Wilson, Cpl Martinez, and LCpl Rusk. July proved to be a busy month, with the shop quickly adjusting to life as part of the ACE. Several Marines headed to the rifle range and helo "dunker" for training. In August, Flight E said "farewell" to their SNCOIC, SSgt Vasquez, who was re-stationed back in CONUS. Meanwhile, we welcomed GySgt Weathers from recruiting duty in Sacramento.

-Capt Taute

Ordnance:



Ordnance Marines proudly stand with TOW missile casings after 10 effective launches.

Over the past two months, Tiger Ordnance Marines rose to numerous challenges, directly leading to 10 successful TOW shots, over 500 rockets, and thousands of rounds fired on local area ranges. These TOW shots represented the first on Okinawa in over a year. Tiger Cobras reported no TOW capable aircraft in June, and now have 4 following a month of noteworthy efforts. They have dedicated countless 18-hour days and several weekends in the pursuit of this achievement. Under the leadership of Capt Keene and GySgt Ivey, the "IYAOYAS" of

HMM-262(REIN) have markedly increased the combat power of the 31st MEU ACE.



Work hard...

The Ordnance Marines remain committed and ready for our upcoming challenges both on and off the boat this fall.



Play hard...

The “Ordies” took advantage of some much-deserved R&R at the Okuma Resort over Labor Day weekend. They had the opportunity to let loose and enjoy the tropical paradise by playing golf, snorkeling, and jet skiing.

- Capt Keene

MEDICAL:

The medical department welcomed two new members recently, HM3 Jim Nettles and HM3 Ruben. HM3 Nettles previously deployed with the

MEU out of Okinawa so he brings a wealth of experience to the department.

It is said that in Okinawa, “there’s something in the water” with respect to the frequency of military child births. Lester Naval Hospital remains one of the top-rated and busiest military medical facilities in the world, with over 1200 new births per year. HMM-262 proudly announces the birth of several new Tiger cubs! Congratulations to Capt and Mrs. Ryan Caulder, SSgt and Mrs. Kelando Blackwell, Capt and Mrs. Jon Spencer, and 1stLt and Mrs. Bobber on the births of their sons. Also, Capt and Mrs. Paul Minihan welcomed their first daughter.

Now that it is summer and we’re spending more time outdoors, I thought it would be appropriate to talk about malignant melanoma and what we can all do to protect ourselves. Malignant melanoma is caused by UV exposure and does run in families. It is associated with intense, intermittent sun exposure and sunburns. Consequently, melanoma frequently occurs in areas exposed to the sun only sporadically (eg, the back in men or the legs in women). Sun exposure during childhood seems particularly important.

The best way to protect your self from melanoma is to prevent sun burns. Make sure your sunscreen protects from UV-B, wear a hat, seek shade, and avoid sun exposure during the middle of the day. Also, please come to the clinic if you develop a new mole or you notice a change in a preexisting mole. Some features of worrisome moles include Asymmetry, Border irregularities, Color variation,

and Diameter greater than 5 mm (the ABCDs of malignant melanoma). Remember, when we remove the mole, we remove the cancer. Like most things in medicine, it’s easier to treat melanoma earlier rather than later.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, protect yourself from the sun, and if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to stop by medical!

-LT Van Noord

DETACHMENT 18:



Det 18 Marines set up navigation antennas

The Tiger's Air Control Group Detachment stayed busy since joining the squadron. Formed from Marines based in both Okinawa and Iwakuni, the MACG Det gelled quickly. In August the MACG Det rode to Ie Shima Island with HMM 262 (REIN) for an initial test of combat effectiveness, we participated as the ACE representative in the MEU communication exercises, and coordinated a joint exercise with USAF Special Ops aircraft and HMM 262 (REIN).



Det 18 Marines working hard to support operations



Korenek, Julia Taute, Kalen Schierling, Sandy Gibbons, Alicia Morgan, Delesline Caulder, and April Payne. Please take the time to thank these individuals for their willingness to dedicate time and effort to helping keep our families informed.

While the KVN takes care of our Japan-based families, I will pass information via e-mail to our stateside HMM-262 spouses and to the Family Readiness Officers of our California-based detachments. I will also continue to pass routine announcements about on-island classes and other events via e-mail.

Throughout the deployment, accurate information will be critical to alleviating potential concerns. If, during that time, you have questions about something you hear regarding the unit, please let me know.

-Ron Appling

FAMILY READINESS:

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Winifred Chrismer-Nagy as the newest member of the squadron's family readiness command team.

Winnie, the wife of our maintenance chief, MGySgt John Nagy, assumes the role of family readiness advisor for the squadron. In this role, she will act in concert with the XO, Sergeant Major, and FRO, and provide invaluable insight regarding the overall family readiness and well being of the unit. Winnie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position and will certainly be an asset to the unit.

During the squadron's upcoming deployment, another critical element of our family readiness efforts will be our Key Volunteer Network. Though the squadron will eventually transition to the Mass Communication Tool, for the next few months, we will rely on the KVN to ensure official communication passed from the commander is quickly relayed to our squadron Japan-based families. The KVN is led by Shannon Schueler, the Key Volunteer Advisor, and Shan Tyson, our Key Volunteer Coordinator. Along with Shan, other callers include Winnie, Susan Gray, Jessica



Upcoming Classes

1. Space-A Seminar: Sept. 24, 6:30-8 p.m., MCFTB Bldg 5677 at Camp Foster
2. LINKS for Spouses: Oct. 14, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Camp Kinser, Surfside
3. Japanese LINKS: Oct 20-21, 9 a.m.-12:30p.m. each day, MCFTB Bldg 5677 at Camp Foster.

Call 645-3689 to register for classes.

PROMOTIONS:

July 1:

Capt Stephen Taute
GySgt Darryl Jones
Cpl Timothy Leonard
Cpl Michael Pulliam
Cpl Robert Sparks
LCpl Keith Printz
LCpl Leonard Riutta
LCpl Alexander Sexton

August 1:

Capt Joshua Miller
Capt Brian Tomkins
Capt Jonathan Williamson
CWO2 Robert McCroskey
Sgt Janty Bashqoy
Sgt Joseph Russell
Sgt Keili Walton
Sgt Shannon Ziemann
Cpl Jeremy Cover
Cpl Russel Layman
Cpl Jose Ramirez
LCpl Andrew Cooke
LCpl Jonathan Johnson

Sept 1:

Capt Nolan Duchateau
Sgt Kelly Kofalt
Cpl Nathaniel Caudillo
Cpl Donald Hopkins
Cpl Rory McNinch
LCpl Serrell Kanuha
LCpl Andrew Schrader
LCpl Ryan Whited

Awards:

Navy and Marine Corps

Achievement Medal:

Capt Robert Boyce
SSgt Pedro Abreu

Good Conduct Medal:

Cpl Adan Benitez
Cpl Shane Cayetano
Cpl Aaron Christiano
Cpl Arturo Fernandez
Cpl John Gilligan
Cpl Bob Hong
Cpl Charles Reid
Cpl Christopher Theil
Cpl Andrew Weiner
LCpl Lori Hubbard
LCpl Jonathan Jordan

Certificate of Commendation:

Sgt Benjamin Davis
Cpl Lynette Baldodocumos
Cpl Brandon Bergholz
Cpl Ryan Healy
Cpl Cole Jacobson
LCpl David Suy
LCpl Christopher Goodwin
PFC Stephen Kim