SECTION II: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

ADMINISTRATION, ADJUTANT, AND LEGAL

The Command Element S-1 section continued to support the personnel and administrative requirements of the MEU throughout January to June 2014. This period saw the end of a successful deployment and the transfer of S-1 leadership as both the Adjutant and S-1 Chief were replaced.

Throughout the January to April time period, the S-1 section ensured that accountability, pay and entitlements, and awards for the 13th MEU personnel were being entered in the necessary information systems as required. This included the accountability and movement of personnel located across the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, in Bahrain, in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, in Aqaba, Jordan, and in the country of Korea.

While deployed to US Central Command, all 13th MEU personnel met the requirements for the authorization to wear the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal which was announced in MARADMIN 217/14. The 13th MEU personnel also met the requirements to wear the Sea Service Deployment ribbon.

The months of May through June concluded the deployment and the decomposition of the Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs) back to their parent organizations. The below awards were approved and presented to the deserving personnel throughout the MEU (to include MSCs). The new Administrative Chief and Adjutant both checked into the command in early to mid-May. The post deployment leave block, Marine Week Seattle planning, and the preparation and execution of the 13th MEU’s Change of Command ceremony were the primary actions completed during the final weeks of June.

1. Awards Presented to Personnel

<table>
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<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal</td>
<td>42</td>
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2. Court Martial Convened and Legal Proceedings

   The Commanding Officer, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit is the Special Court-Martial Convening Authority for the Command Element. As such, the following legal proceedings were held at this level:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Separations</td>
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</table>
The month of January started with preparing for contingency operations in East Africa. The Radio Battalion Detachment (RadBn Det) in Djibouti remained postured to support crisis response operations with six Marines attached to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). Additionally, six GSP Marines, two airborne intelligence collectors (imbedded with a forward task force), one CHD Marine, and the S-2A continued to serve in Djibouti under CJTF-HOA. Aboard USS Boxer, intelligence Marines continued to support ongoing testing and concept development for incorporation of the Intrepid Tiger II pod into a variety of Marine Air Ground Task Force Operations (MAGTF). The all-source analysis section provided country briefs for Bahrain, Jordan, and Israel. The intelligence section produced several analytical products in support of possible contingency operations throughout U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). USS Boxer moved into the Arabian Gulf on or about 13 January 2014 to participate in a Bahrain port visit from 15 to 21 January. While in Bahrain, the Counterintelligence Human Intelligence Detachment (CHD) coordinated with United States Marine Forces Central Command Forward (MARCENT FWD) to fulfill a United States Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) requirement. Providing direct support to MARCENT FWD, GySgt Kensinger remained in Bahrain to assist with intelligence planning for real world contingency operations. Sgt Kracht, an all source intelligence analyst, debarked USS Boxer in Bahrain to replace Sgt Martin in the Combined Task Force 51 (CTF-51) intelligence section. 13th MEU embedded intelligence analysts with CTF-51 to serve as liaison officers and to assist with intelligence production. Sgt Feador (0241 imagery analyst) went ashore in Bahrain and travelled to Jordan to support 13th MEU engagement with the Jordanian Military Forces. The USS New Orleans was primarily positioned in the Central Arabian Gulf for the month of January in order to support visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) training. Aboard USS New Orleans were one officer and ten Marines from the intelligence section. On 20 January, the Assistant RadBn Det Officer in Charge (OIC) and four Marines from New Orleans began joint training with 2d Battalion, 4th Brigade SIGINT Company in Kuwait, sharing advanced training tactical collection operations with U.S. Army SIGINT operators. Two CHD Marines aboard USS Harpers Ferry provided Counter Intelligence support to the ship’s port visit in Bahrain and wash-down operations in Kuwait.

In the beginning of February the RadBn Det team in Kuwait returned to the USS New Orleans. While in Kuwait, the RadBn Det team participated in classes and practical applications, culminating in a two day field exercise with 2d Battalion, 4th Brigade SIGINT Company. USS Boxer exited the Arabian Gulf and transited toward the eastern coast of Africa. In the first week of February, SSgt Stewart (CHD Marine) returned to USS Boxer from her three month assignment with CJTF-HOA. From 8-12 February, USS Boxer conducted a port
visit in Aqaba, Jordan. Intelligence Marines aboard USS Boxer supported equipment wash downs and agricultural inspections in Aqaba. Sgt Feador returned to USS Boxer from Jordan, where he supported a 13th MEU engagement with Jordanian Military Forces. From February 12-16, USS Boxer made a port visit in Eilat, Israel. Two CHD Marines (GySgt Gentner and SSgt Stewart) supported the Eilat port visit by conducted liaison with local law enforcement and Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents. Transiting south on the Red Sea, the USS Boxer received a distress call from a merchant vessel on or about 18 February, reporting an injured crew member aboard. USS Boxer immediately performed a medical evacuation. Once aboard USS Boxer, the injured mariner was taken to medical ward where 1stLt Havice (RadBn Det OIC) organized linguist support for the medical team. Through broken English, Arabic, and Chinese, she determined the individual spoke Sinhala, a language used in Sri Lanka. Though no Sinhala linguists were available on ship, Rad Bn Det Arabic linguists helped to make contact with Saudi Arabian hospitals and help coordinate the transfer of the patient to Saudi medical providers. To facilitate the transfer of the patient, a Rad Bn Det Arabic linguist (Sgt Mowery) accompanied USS Boxer medical personal to Saudi Arabia aboard an MV-22. The USS New Orleans participated in Djibouti sustainment training from 12-18 February, focusing on VBSS exercises. The S-2 supported VBSS mission planning and execution with intelligence personnel assigned to the USS New Orleans. On 20 February, the Sensor Employment team (SET) completed their assignment with CJTF-HOA. All gear and equipment was successfully transferred back aboard USS Boxer. For their excellent support, CJTF-HOA presented all six members of the Sensor Employment Team with certificates of commendation. The RadBn Det concluded support to CJTF-HOA, with all Marines and equipment returning to USS Boxer. Also returning to the USS Boxer from Djibouti was Cpl Frost (airborne intelligence collector). Cpl Frost provided 180 days of intelligence support to a forward Task Force in Djibouti. By the end of February, two intelligence Marines remained in Djibouti (Sgt Milroy and Capt Ballard). From 20-24 February the USS New Orleans had a port visit in Duqm, Oman. During the visit SSgt Quintero (CHD Marine aboard USS New Orleans) supported the visit with counter intelligence awareness training for Marines and Sailors. The remainder of February was focused on completing deliberate planning for a reinforcement and/or evacuation of U.S. diplomatic facilities in the event of a crisis. March started with the USS Boxer poised for contingency operations near the Gulf of Aden. During the first week of March, RadBn Marines provided linguist support to air assault sustainment training in Djibouti. On 7 March, Sgt Milroy returned to USS Boxer concluding more than 180 days of intelligence support to a forward Task Force in Djibouti. Also on 7 March, the Intelligence Chief, MSgt Bartels, departed USS Boxer for Djibouti. From Djibouti he returned to Camp Pendleton, CA, to begin retirement transition. GySgt Kensinger concluded his support to MARCENT FWD and returned to USS New Orleans in the Arabian Gulf. 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit/ BOXER Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) transitioned out of 5th Fleet on 12 March. At this time, Capt Ballard directly returned to Camp Pendleton from Djibouti to assist with advanced party operations. On 12 March 2014, all 13th MEU intelligence personnel had withdrawn from the CENTCOM Theater of Operations. On 18 March, USS Boxer and USS Harpers Ferry pulled into Singapore to conduct a four day port visit. The intelligence section provided CHD support and liberty/threat during the port visit. The USS New Orleans conducted a port visit in Manila, Philippines from 22-24 March. Again, the intelligence section provided CHD support and liberty/threat briefs during the Manila port visit. From Manila, the Assistant RadBn Det OIC, Capt Kim, flew to Camp Pendleton and returned to 1st Radio Battalion. With the conclusion of the
port visits, 13th MEU shifted focus to Exercise SSANG YONG (SY 14) planning. SSANG YONG 14 was a combined, forcible-entry operations exercise designed for Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB)-level amphibious operations in order to train U.S. and ROK Navy and Marine forces. SY-14 rehearsed the Marine Corps and Navy’s ability to combine their forces for rapid response to crisis. The exercise took place from 28 March to 5 April. During the conduct of the exercise, 13th MEU assumed responsibility of the Marine Air Group (MAG 13) and chopped the Battalion Landing Team and Combat Logistics Battalion to 31st MEU and Combat Logistics Regiment 3. The 13th MEU intelligence section effectively transitioned to a MAG intelligence section, providing dozens of helicopter landing zone reports, pre mission briefs, post mission reports, and escape and evasion data.

On 5 April, Exercise SSANG YONG concluded and 13th MEU/BOXARG started its transit to home port. The intelligence Marines continued with preparations for return to home port, conducting agricultural, custom inspections, and limited technical inspections of all items. The primary focus for the intelligence section was global response preparedness and refinement of the intelligence post deployment after action review brief. On 16 April, 13th MEU/ BOXER ARG conducted a port visit at Pearl Harbor, HI. From Hawaii, the intelligence section sent five individuals home with the advanced party. On 24 April, 13th MEU returned to home port and conducted amphibious offload operations in Camp Del Mar. All weapons and sensitive equipment from the RadBn Det and Intelligence Bn Det were transferred back to their respective battalions on 24 April. On 29 April, all classified material for 13th MEU was transferred from USS Boxer to Camp Pendleton.

The month of May started with joint limited technical inspections (JLTI) for the RadBn Det and the Intelligence Bn Det. On 7 May, all JLTIs were complete for the Intelligence Battalion Det and all classified material was returned to their parent command. RadBn Det completed their JLTIs on 16 May and returned all classified material back to their parent command. All Palantir equipment was returned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force G-2. The S-2 continued to monitor current events to prepare for potential global response force operations. The MEU S-2, Major Goldberg, accompanied Commanding Officer, 13th MEU, the Executive Officer, Operations Officer, Logistics Officer, and the Communications Officer to Washington, DC on 11 May 2014. The small delegation met with several organizations from 12 to 16 May, to include: Plans, Policies & Operations (PP&O)-Headquarters Marine Corps, Department of State, Strategic Initiatives Group, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. On 13 May, Maj Goldberg provided the post deployment intelligence brief to a small delegation at Intelligence Department- Headquarters Marine Corps. On 28 May, 13th MEU relinquished GRF responsibilities and the 13th MEU de-composed. On 29 May, Maj Goldberg provided the post deployment intelligence brief to Mr. Kelly Grissom of Marine Corps Intelligence Activity when he visited Camp Pendleton.

In June, much of the intelligence section went on annual leave. The focus of effort for the intelligence section was annual training requirements, change of command preparation, and preparation for Seattle Fleet Week. On 25 June 2014, 13th MEU Commanding Officer, Colonel Christopher D. Taylor, relinquished command to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph B. Lagoski. On 29 June, the MEU S-2, Major Goldberg, accompanied Commanding Officer, 13th MEU, to Seattle for a site survey of the city in anticipation for Seattle Fleet Week in July.
The New Year found the MEU deployed with elements involved in training and operations throughout the CENTCOM AOR and parts of AFRICOM. In January the MEU was support operation OAKEN SONNET (the reinforcement and evacuation of South Sudan). The CH-53 detachment, Co C, and select enablers from throughout the MAGTF were attached to SPMAGTF-CR supporting OAKEN SONNET. The MEU was also conducting sustainment training in both Kuwait and Djibouti during this month. In Kuwait the MEU staged a rifle company and detachment of MV-22s for crisis response while the BOXER pulled into a port call in Bahrain allowing for a flexible and timely response if required. Finally, the MEU was working with Special Operations Forces conducting rehearsals and experimenting with new proofs of concepts to increase interoperability. The Maritime Raid Force (MRF) participated in a series of VBSS training evolutions to hone their ship boarding skills while elements of the BLT ran through TRAP profiles in Djibouti. The ACE provided support to the Bahrain International Airshow with detachments from the MV-22s, CH-53s, and H-1s.

In February the MEU reattached the forces that were assigned to SPMAGTF-CR and continued working with Special Operations Forces. The MEU also continued to training in Kuwait and Djibouti. Djibouti training for the month was highlighted by A Co conducting multiple live-fire ranges with the CH-53s in support. The MEU also conducted Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) training with the French Forces Djibouti. This combined bilateral training event increased the interoperability with our French partners and was relevant due to the unrest of several African countries. The MEU also conducted a Close Air Support Exercise (CASEX) with the French/German JTAC school that came from France to conduct the field portion of their school in Djibouti. The MEU’s ANGLICO detachment and FACs from the BLT were able to control French aircraft supporting the CASEX, as well as exchange best practices with their NATO partners. The BLT Recon Plt with support of the CPR-1 RHIB detachment and the USS SAN JACINTO conducted VBSS training in the Gulf of Aden on a contracted vessel out of Djibouti. The MEU also exchanged four MV-22s with those in Afghanistan. The ACE and MRT conducted a CASEVAC of a UK merchant marine from his ship in the Red Sea flying him to Saudi Arabia. Other key events in February were the wash down of the MEU’s equipment in Jordan and Kuwait as well as BOXER Key Leader Engagement in Aqaba, Jordan and Elat, Israel.

The forces and LNOs that were ashore in Djibouti, Bahrain, and Kuwait all returned to the ARG to prepare for the MEU’s CHOP from 5th fleet on 12 March. As the ARG sailed towards 7th fleet it conducted deck landing qualifications with United Kingdom (TF COUGAR) aircraft. The MEU CE focus in March was preparation for Exercise SSANG YONG. The BOXER conducted a port visit in Singapore from 18 - 22 March and picked up a team of aviation planners from 1st Marine Aviation Wing to assist with the planning and execution of SSANG YONG. The MEU also conducted multiple planning sessions with 3d MEB and its MSCs to finalize the SSANG YONG plan. In late March the BOXARG and MEU transited to the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO) and attached to 3d MEB for exercise SSANG YONG 14. The MEU served as the MEB ACE for this exercise and in doing so attached the ACE from the 31st MEU (VMM-265 (Rein). As the MEB ACE, the 13th MEU provided the MEB with the six functions of Marine Aviation.

Exercise SSANG YONG concluded on 5 April and the MEU/ARG started its transit to home port with a port call in in mid-April. During the port call in
Hawaii the MEU released an ADVON to return to CONUS and embarked family members as Tigers. The MEU conducted a fly-off and instream offload of equipment at personnel on 24 April, the BOXARG returned to home port a day later on 25 April. Upon return to home port the MEU served as the Global Response Force until the 26 May.

**LOGISTICS**

The Command Element S-4 section continued its efforts in supporting 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit Command Element activities throughout January 2014 to June 2014. This period saw the end of a successful deployment and the beginning of a significant turnover of S4 personnel and staff.

January. Priority of S-4 effort during the month of January was tied to section level training with the purpose of refreshing the staff in preparation for the second half of the deployment. Each functional staff section remediated with their Marines and Sailors concerning tactical and operational logistics operations in support of real world contingencies. Special emphasis was placed on the coordination between the Landing Force Operations Center (LFOC) and the Tactical-Logistics Operations Center (TACLOG). As January marked the second half of the deployment with regards to retrograde planning the Assistant Logistics Officer led the effort in creating a Plan of Action & Milestones to begin the planning effort for the creation of Letters of Instructions, Memorandum of Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, and Policy Letters. The month of January also brought with it the requirement for logistical support for the Bahrain Air Show. Coordination for the Air show rested with coordinating 15 hotel accommodations, six rental vehicles and various other support requirements for Aviation Combat Element participation. The month ended with the Embark/Mobility section planning for the upcoming wash down operations though locations were starting to solidify.

February. February was one of the busiest months for the Logistics shop. It is not that there were a lot of Theater Security Cooperation Exercises or Sustainment Training Exercises conducted, it was more that all of the decisions that were made prior to deployment, for example, the staging of gear and equipment, were now in the position to depart their land bases and return to the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group. As with all transitions from one combat unit to another the closing out of base camp operations and the logistical requirement to make it a success were clearly top priority. Forward land bases in Camp Buehring, Kuwait and in Camp Lemonier, Djibouti were two main Logistical and Communication hubs that required the retrograde and re-embarkation of 13th MEU personnel and equipment. The movement of personnel and gear from these two bases preceded another major milestone in the deployment as USS Boxer began its wash down of gear and equipment. With over 100 pieces of rolling stock and 150 containers, our Embark personnel paved the way for the start of 13th MEU wash down.

March. Wash down operations in Aqaba, Jordan and Kuwaiti Naval Base, Kuwait were coming to a close during early March leading the way for Logistics preparation and planning for Exercise SSANG YONG in Pohang, South Korea. To support SSANG YONG, the requirement to move personnel across the battlefield to support operations was one of the Logistics section’s main priorities. SSANG YONG proved to be a very worthwhile exercise for the logistics shop. Command Element S-4 Marines learned how to conduct logistics operations at the tactical and operational level as three LHD Ships participated in the exercise. As the month of March ended, our Bravo command team for the
Logistics shop departed Korean en route to Continental United States to prepare garrison for the main body’s arrival.

April. The month of April brought with it the end of Exercise SSANG YONG. 13th MEU S-4’s role as 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Aviation Combat Element (ACE) logistics shop. All logistics requirements for this exercise proved to be very minimal compared to other Theater Security Cooperation Exercises that 13th MEU logistics shop participated in throughout the deployment. The majority of logistical requirements requested during the exercise were ones that were supported with Blue Dollar, ultimately with our aviation Supply & USS Boxer Supply assistance. As SSANG YONG winded down, our emphasis was placed on retrograde operations in support of Return to Home Port (RTHP). Final changes were made to 13th MEU retrograde documents ensuring there was enough time for review by the Commanding Officer prior to release. Mid April came with a port visit to Hawaii, which brought the logistical requirement to send two waves of personnel home for Advance Echelon. To alleviate any failures from this operation, key personnel were placed at Pearl Harbor Naval Station and Hickam Airfield. Coordination was made with both locations to ensure personnel departing one location and arriving at the other was carried out according to plan and ensure our ADVON personnel were on their way home to prepare and assist for the main body’s return. The end of April brought the last days of the deployment and the start of a logistics intensive retrograde operation which all personnel, gear, and equipment had to be removed from ship and spaces turned over.

May. The S-4 section began initial planning for Seattle Fleet Week and San Francisco Fleet Week 2014. Through the month of May, S-4 personnel reviewed MEF policy letter 4-12 regarding the level of supported provided to the MEU by Marine Logistics Group (MLG) and I MEF Headquarters Group (MHG) as our MSEs decomposed. The S-4 section arranged for Joint Limited Technical Inspections (JLTI’s) to be conducted on all MEU equipment returning back to MSEs Parent unit and the movement of all gear and equipment from Boxer Amphibious Ready Group shipping. Towards the end of May 13th MEU S-4 began their turnover of internal staff personnel as well as the decomposition of our Major Subordinate Elements. Prior to the majority of Command Element personnel returning to their parent units, each section updated their Turnover Binders and Desktop Procedures. This ensured that the After-Actions that were conducted during the last week on ship were placed in their respective binders. The month ended with an all hands Family day to send off our personnel back to their units, the completion of the Post-Deployment Joint limited Technical Inspection, and the beginning of the Post-Deployment Block leave period.

June. During the month of June, the majority of the Marines in the logistics shop were on Block leave, leaving minimal personnel available to oversee the prescheduled offload of Marine Training Allowance Ammunition and 1st Marine Logistics Group requirement for removal of Landing Force Operational Reserve Material Ammunition and other classes of Supply. In addition to the movement of Ammunition and supplies, various planning events were scheduled during the month of June to include San Francisco Fleet Week Mid Term Planning Conference, Seattle Fleet Week Pre-Deployment Site Survey. The Marine’s from the S-4 shop who attended these events were the Assistant Logistics officer and the Embark/Mobility officer. Both Marines were part of the 13-02 deployment and have participated in numerous Fleet Weeks on both East and West Coasts. There were several changes to the 13th MEU Logistics shop personnel roster as a new Supply Officer; Captain Christopher Cole
checked in and replaced Major Rick Jennings, and our Logistics Chief, GySgt Wenzel, attendance in SNCO Advanced Course.

COMMUNICATIONS

From January 2014 to June 2014 the Command Element S6 supported communications for MEU elements aboard all three ships in the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group (BOXARG) and MEU forces spread throughout the Europe, Africa, and Central Command area of operations. This period also saw the end of a successful deployment and the return of the Joint Task Force Enabler (JTFE) Detachment to 9th Communications Battalion.

In January, 13TH MEU’s JTFE Detachment provided Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET), Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET), Secure and Non-Secure Voice Networks, as well as Video Teleconferencing capabilities from Camp Buehring Kuwait to 13th MEU forces spread throughout Kuwait and Djibouti Africa. In late January Captain Rohman (S6A) participated in the SSANG YONG Final Planning Conference in Korea and ensured all communications requirements were identified prior to the exercise. During “Back in the Saddle Training” Staff Sergeant Glenn (13th MEU Cyber Defense Chief) instructed all Marines on USS Boxer about cyber threats that exist to individuals and to the Marine Corps communications infrastructure.

In February, after four months of continuous operations the JTFE Detachment, led by First Lieutenant Boulat Chainourov and Gunnery Sergeant Derrick Poteat, retrograded from Camp Buehring Kuwait back to BOXARG shipping. Camp Buehring was selected as the location for the JTFE for a multitude of reasons; billeting, life support, power generation was all free of charge, and the air field was C-130 or MV-22 capable. Camp Buehring’s geographic location provided X-band and Ku-band satellite support for multiple Geographic Combatant Command areas. From the hub at Camp Buehring 13th MEU gained the ability to spoke communications services to parts of EUCOM, AFRICOM, PACOM, and all of CENTCOM. Lastly, forward deploying the JTF-E provided an excellent opportunity to test rapid response load plans, validate fly away capabilities, and ensured sustainment training for all the JTFE Marines. At the end of February the JTFE retrograded via surface connector from Kuwait to USS Harper’s Ferry and was then flown back to USS Boxer. The JTF-E capability represented a significant shift in Marine Corps communications capabilities, Head Quarters Marine Corps C4 has asked the 13th MEU to author a Universal Needs Statement for the creation of a fly away JTF-E capability, because future LHA’s (America class) will not have well deck capabilities.

In the month of March, Communications elements supported wash down operations with manpower and radio capabilities in Aqaba, Jordan and at the Kuwait Naval Base. After wash down operations the focus of effort for the communications section was preparation and planning for SSANG YONG Exercise in Pohang, South Korea. SSANG YONG provided the opportunity to create a Combined Enterprise Regional Exchange System - Korea (CENTRIXS-K) network for classified information as well as unclassified radio systems for coordination between 13th MEU forces and Korean Forces. Video Teleconferencing (VTC) services were also established by bridging SIPRNET VTCs to CENTRIXS-K via Makalapa Technical Control. As the month of March ended, the Communications Chief, Master Sergeant Lewis, led a communications team from USS BOXER to Camp Pendleton to prepare the garrison communications infrastructure for the main body’s arrival in late April. During March Captain Rohman (S6A) was recognized with the Gray Communications award for superior leadership from a
company grade communications officer. Master Sergeant Faulkner, Communications Chief from Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1/4 was also recognized for superior performance with the Littleton Award for operational communications excellence. The 13th MEU Command Element, BLT 1/4, VMM-166, and Combat Logistics Battalion 13 communicators were nominated by Marine Forces Pacific to represent I MEF and III MEF for the Kevin M. Shea Communication’s Award for making outstanding contributions to the Marine Corps C4 field.

In April, while conducting SSANG YONG, 13th MEU’s communications section acted as the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), Aviation Combat Element (ACE) communications element. All communications requirements were coordinated with ACE elements and validated through 3d MEB for execution. After SSANG YONG the MEU sailed east to Hawaii. From Hawaii the Communications section sent a second advanced party to Camp Pendleton and picked up multiple “Tiger Cruise” personnel. The end of April marked the end of the deployment and the beginning of an intensive retrograde of personnel, gear, and equipment from BOXARG ships to Camp Pendleton.

13th MEU remained the Global Response Force (GRF) through the month of May and performed Joint Limited Technical Inspections (JLTI’s) on communications equipment with all Major Subordinate Elements and 9th Communications Battalion. At the conclusion of the GRF mission on 24 May all JTFE personnel and equipment were returned to 9th Communication’s Battalion.

During the month of June the communications section focused on supporting Seattle Marine Week. To support activities aboard the USS Essex as well as in Seattle Washington, Internet Protocol (IP) space was requested from Marine Corps Network Operations and Security Center (MCNOSC) and spectrum support was requested through I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). Command Element communicators also supported the 13th MEU Change of Command from Colonel Christopher D. Taylor to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph B. Lagoski.

MESSAGE TEAM

In the month of January, from Jan. 14-22, Sergeant O’Quin travelled with Bravo Company, BLT 1/4 to Camp Buehring, Kuwait to document sustainment training. Sergeant O’Quin produced (3,240) images (23) minutes of video.

In the month of February, Message Team supports wash downs in Kuwait and Jordan with documentation.

Corporal David J. Gonzalez is awarded the Good Conduct Medal, March 1. March 12, 13th MEU Message Team crosses into US Pacific Command. Corporal Gonzalez graduates from Corporals’ Course March 25. March 29-April 4, 13th MEU Message Team supports Exercise SSANG YONG on the South Korean peninsula. (52) photos are released, (3) minutes of B-Roll published. (5) minutes of footage sent for HQMC multimedia package.

On April 2, it was announced via Marine Corps Administrative Message 175/14 that the Message Team had taken multiple placements in the 2014 Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communication Visual Information and Excellence in Communication Awards Program. The Message Team placed collectively in 1st for Best Marine Corps Blog/Website and 2nd for Creative Tactics. On the individual level, Sergeant Jennifer Pirante placed 1st in Portrait / Personality Photo and 2nd in Multimedia Story (Operational). Sergeant Christopher O’Quin earned Honorable Mention for Combat Documentation
(Operational).  13th MEU ports in Hawaii, April 15-17.  First Lieutenant Mitchell and Sergeant Pirante return to CONUS to assist with homecoming media support.

The Message Team returned to the states April 24, with the main body of Command Element.  Message Team advance party coordinated with local news crews to provide approximately 90 minutes of news footage.

May 7th, Sergeant Ammon Carter is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his work on deployment.  Corporal Gonzalez and Lance Corporal Thornton are awarded Certificates of Commendation for their work on deployment also.  Sergeant Jennifer Pirante checks out of the unit on May 8, and returned to I Marine Expeditionary Force Public Affairs Office.  On May 9, Sergeant Paris Capers checked into the unit to assume responsibilities as combat correspondent.

On May 24th, Second Lieutenant Francheska Soto checked into the unit to take over responsibilities as assistant public affairs officer from First Lieutenant Dana Mitchell.  On May 28, Sergeant Ammon Carter and Lance Corporal Lonzo-Grei Thornton, detach from the 13th MEU and return to 1st Marine Division Combat Camera.  Also on that day, First Lieutenant Mitchell is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for her work on deployment.  Staff Sergeant Orr is awarded a Navy Commendation Medal for performance of duties on deployment.  Captain Vickers is presented a Navy Commendation Medal as an end of tour award.

In the month of June, the 13th MEU began the first half of block leave.  First Lieutenant Mitchell checked out of the unit on June 25th to begin terminal leave.  Captain Agustin C. Solivan checked into the unit June 13, to take over responsibilities as Public Affairs Officer.  Corporal David J. Gonzalez reported to Marine Detachment, Ft. George G. Meade for the Digital Multimedia Course on June 23, 2014.  June 25, Colonel Christopher Taylor relinquishes command to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Lagoski in a change of command ceremony.  Message Team provides photo and narration support in addition to support from 1st Marine Division ComCam, (6) photos and (1) news story published.  Captain Esteban Vickers checked out of the unit on June 26th.  Corporal Katie Hunter checked into the unit, June 27.  Captain Vickers is presented an end of tour award.

The Message Team has published (5) stories, (933) photos, published (11) minutes of video. Documented over (78,670) photos, (111) minutes of video, printed over (6,150) impressions, and processed (932) administrative photos.