

## 1st MarDiv welcomes new CG

Story by  
Cpl. Eugenio Montanez

Major Gen. Michael R. Regner relinquished command of 1st Marine Division to Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey during a change-of-command ceremony at the Mainside parade deck, June 30.

Regner assumed command of 1st Marine Division shortly after 1st Marine Division (Forward) deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Before commanding the 1st Marine Division, Regner deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as the deputy chief of the Staff for Joint Operations at the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command.

"I think because I spent time in Afghanistan before I took this job, it really taught me a lot about the threat, the fight and the counter insurgency," Regner said. "I believe that I've imparted some of those concerns, training events, key leader engagement issues and the way you have to work with Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army soldiers. One of my biggest accomplishments is taking what I've learned when I was in Kabul and all over Afghanistan for a year and part that into the pre-deployment package for young Marines and sailors going into harm's way."

The large ceremony included a performance from the 1st Marine Division Band, the troops' manual of arms and pass and review and remarks by the outgoing and incoming command-

(CHANGE, page 2)



Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, former commanding general of 1st Marine Division, addresses Marines, sailors, and guests during a change of command ceremony at the Mainside parade deck, June 30. This marked his departure from the division and the arrival of Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey, the new commanding general. Regner took the opportunity to express his gratitude to the Marines and sailors he has served with while commanding the Division.



Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey, commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, receives the regimental colors from Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, the former commanding general, during a change of command ceremony at the Mainside parade deck, June 30. This act symbolizes the transfer of authority from the former commanding general to the new one.



**CHANGE***(cont. from page 1)*

ing generals.

Bailey's service began with his commission through the Officer Candidates School after graduating from Austin Peay State University in 1977. He then completed the Basic School, Infantry Officer Course and the Basic Communication Officers Course and was assigned as a rifle platoon commander for the

81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

Bailey has held various assignments in his career, including series commander, department chief, director and deputy commanding general.

In 2007, Bailey assumed command of the III Marine Expeditionary Brigade and began his duties as deputy commanding general of the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

He then moved on to command the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Western Recruiting Region, where he was promoted to his current rank.

Before assuming his current command, he was in charge of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

During the ceremony 11 of the 12 units that compose the 1st Marine Division were present to welcome their new commanding general. The only one not present, 1st Marine Regiment, is currently deployed to Afghanistan with Regimental Combat Team 1, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Marines and sailors of the 1st Marine Division, it's truly my honor – I respect you and the commitment that you have made to our nation to ensure that we continue to carry on the legacy of the Division and the mission of this nation," said Bailey while addressing the Marines in formation. "I look forward to giving you full measure and working with you throughout my time and tenure as the commanding general of the 1st Marine Division."

Bailey's personal decorations

include two Defense Superior Service Medals, the Legion of Merit with Combat V distinguishing device, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.



Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey addresses hundreds of Marines, sailors, and guests for the first time as the new commanding general of 1st Marine Division during a ceremony held at the Mainside parade deck, June 30. The ceremony marked the transfer of authority to Bailey from Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, the former commanding general.



Marines and sailors of 1st Marine Division stand in formation during a change of command ceremony at the Mainside parade deck, June 30. Hundreds of Marines and sailors stood at attention to witness the transfer of authority from Maj. Gen. Michael Regner to Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey, the new commanding general.



Marines march the colors off the Mainside parade deck during a change of command ceremony June 30. The ceremony marked the transfer of authority from Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, former commanding general, to Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey, the new commanding general. Marines and sailors of 1st Marine Division marched in mass formations and performed a pass in review as a part of the ceremony.



Petty Officer 1st Class Michael J. Donadio, a corpsman with 5th Marine Regiment and Senior Sailor of the Quarter, Seaman John E. Cantu, a corpsman with 1st Marine Regiment and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Sgt. Camilo R. Osuna, a member of the 1st Marine Division Band and Noncommissioned officer of the Quarter, and Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Cummins, a squad leader with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and Marine of the Quarter, stand in front of the Blue Diamond at the 1st Marine Division Headquarters building after their award ceremony, June 21.

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**1st MAR DIV Sergeant Major**  
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# San Clemente community leaders visit 2/4 Marines

*Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriz*

A group of community leaders from San Clemente, Calif. visited Marines and sailors from 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, as they trained at the Infantry Immersion Trainer June 15.

The visitors also helped the Marines and sailors train by simulating a congressional delegation visiting service members deployed in Afghanistan.

"The city of San Clemente

wanted some of the council members and citizens to come out and see some of the training the Marines do for their next deployment to Afghanistan," said Albert Ehlow, retired police chief of San Clemente. "It brings the city in with the Marines who spend time in their town."

San Clemente adopted 2/4 in 1996 and has had a close relationship with the unit ever since. The city holds homecomings and barbecues for the Marines and sailors, and helps their family members

while the unit is deployed.

"For the Marines, having the city of San Clemente come out and be involved in their training gives them a partnership with the city," said Dan Liesik, Family Readiness Officer for 2/4, "they feel welcome and they know the town that is right next to them wants them around and wants to be involved in their lives."

The visitors arrived to the IIT in a simulated congressional convoy. They toured the facility, including both the indoor and outdoor simulated Afghan towns.

"I think it blew them away," said Liesik, "they came in with a certain idea of what it was they were going to see today and it became something far more."

The visitors learned the value of the IIT as a simulated combat environment for the Marines to get realistic experience.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Ehlow, "I've been to combat towns myself before, but never anything like this. It's very realistic and meaningful. I think it may even help save some lives over there."

Each of the visitors was taught how to prepare a meal ready to eat



Lt. Col. William Vivian, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, speaks to visitors from San Clemente, Calif. during their trip to the Infantry Immersion Training compound, June 15. The city council and other community leaders toured the facility to better understand what the Marines of 2/4, the unit the city adopted in 1996, do when deployed overseas.



Lt. Col. William Vivian, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, speaks to visiting community leaders from San Clemente, Calif. before they tour the Infantry Immersion Training center, June 15. The group traveled to the facility in a convoy simulating a congressional delegation and toured the compound to gain a better appreciation of what the Marines of 2/4, their adopted unit, do when training and while deployed overseas.

and got to finish the day with a realistic meal in the field.

"Everybody that came today was extraordinarily excited about what they saw and did," said Liesik. "They left very motivated and with a passion to help Marines."

## Dark Horse Battalion welcomes new commanding officer

*Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Alfred Lopez*

Lt. Col. Christeon C. Griffin relieved Lt. Col. Jason L. Morris as the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, nicknamed the "Dark Horse Battalion", during a change-of-command ceremony at the Camp San Mateo landing pad, June 23.

Morris assumed command of 3/5 in 2009 and is moving on to study at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

"Lt. Col. Morris has done a great job leading the battalion," said Col. Roger Turner, the commanding officer of 5th Marines. "We have a great opportunity to continue that with Lt. Col. Griffin, who brings a wealth of experience of command and combat."

Griffin's service began with his commission through the Officer Candidates School after graduating from Georgia Southern University in 1994. After completing the Basic School and Infantry Officer Course, he was assigned as a rifle platoon commander in Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

Griffin has held various assignments in his career, including battalion operations officer, company inspector-instructor and rifle company commander. Before assuming his current command, he served with Company C, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines and 1st Battalion, 4th Marines.

He also commanded Marine Corps Recruiting Station Fort Lauderdale, Fla., which received the commandant's Superior Achiever Award for three consecutive years

from 2006 through 2008.

Griffin served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, where his company participated in the initial ground assault from the Kuwaiti border to Baghdad, and Operation Al Fajr, the November 2004 assault on Fallujah.

Griffin's personal decorations include the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device, Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two with combat distinguishing device, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and the Leftwich Trophy.

"I'm proud and honored to take over the battalion," said Griffin, from

Memphis, Fla. "It's humbling to know I'm entrusted with caring for almost a thousand Marines who have distinguished themselves in combat and paid tremendous sacrifices to their country, corps and fellow men."



Sgt. Maj. James W. Bushway, battalion sergeant major of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, presents the battalion colors to Lt. Col. Jason L. Morris, former commanding officer of 3/5, and Lt. Col. Christeon C. Griffin, new commanding officer of 3/5, during a change-of-command ceremony at the Camp San Mateo landing pad, June 23.



# Assault amphibian Marines make a splash for lawyers

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Tyler Reiriz

Marines with the Assault Amphibian School Battalion provided excitement and entertainment for a gathering of lawyers and their families at Del Mar beach, June 25.

The lawyers of the Jackson Lewis law firm spent a weekend with their co-workers and families, and presented the Armed Services YMCA with a donation of \$100,000.

The weekend began with an assembly at La Costa Resort in Carlsbad, Calif., where Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, expressed his gratitude to the attendees.

"When we see this type of generosity come from you, I will drop everything I am doing to come and thank you," Regner said.

Jackson Lewis is a law firm that specializes in workplace law. They are a nation-wide law firm with 46 offices and almost 700 lawyers. Ed Cherof, a partner at Jackson Lewis, was glad his company was giving back to the armed service and their families.

"We thought this was a terrific cause," Cherof said. "We really respect what those in the military are doing to defend this country and we really respect the families that support them."

Money from the donation will go toward buying bicycles for military families of Camp Pendleton and funding the ASYMCA and the many programs it operates in support of the Marines, sailors, and families of the 1st Marine Division.

The following day the families went to Del Mar beach on Camp Pendleton, where the Marines of AAS Bn. were there to give them a



Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, speaks to the assembled lawyers and families of Jackson Lewis law firm at an assembly held in La Costa Resort, June 24. He thanked the crowd for their contribution of \$100,000 to the Armed Services YMCA.

closer look at the equipment and vehicles that they use in the field. Participants were allowed to try on personal protective equipment like flak jackets and Kevlar helmets.

The families were even able to tour the insides of vehicles used by the Marines, including a Humvee, a seven-ton truck, and two amphibious assault vehicles.

"They have been climbing the vehicles, talking with the Marines, and they're just totally enthused about this, so it has been a great event," Cherof said. "We're really proud to be here and proud to be working with the 1st Marine Division."

The guests also got a special surprise when Marines simulated a beach landing with three more AAVs. The crowd cheered as the vehicles cruised through the waves and onto the shore.

"I think it's good for the American population to come out here and meet the Marines and heroes who are coming back and forth from deployments and see that they're real people," said Lt.

Col. Michael Kennedy, the commanding officer of the Assault Amphibian School Battalion. "They get to share their appreciation for the Marines and the Marines get a chance to talk and tell their story."

The employees and families of Jackson Lewis spent the rest of the afternoon laughing and enjoying themselves on the beach before wrapping up their company retreat and heading home.



Employees and family members of the Jackson Lewis law firm tour the inside of an amphibious assault vehicle during a gathering at Del Mar beach, June 25. The families were given a chance to get inside Marine vehicles and get a close-up look of the equipment they use. Jackson Lewis donated \$100,000 to the Armed Services YMCA, who will use the money to buy bicycles for families on Camp Pendleton and to help operate various other programs that support Marines, sailors, and families of 1st Marine Division.



Amphibious assault vehicles from the Assault Amphibian School Battalion make a surprise landing at Del Mar beach during an event held for the employees and families of the Jackson Lewis law firm, June 25. The Marines gave the families tours of the vehicles to help express their gratitude for the \$100,000 donation the company made to the Armed Services YMCA.

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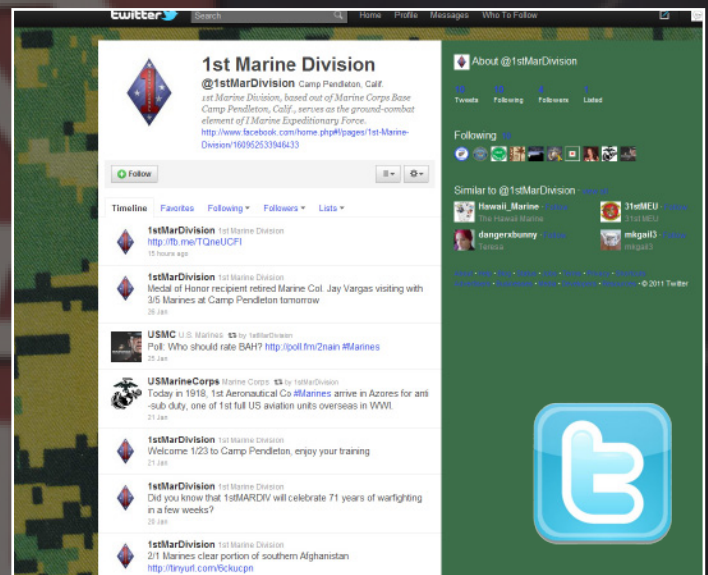
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