

Joint
Communications
Unit

Delivering the Message

Volume 3, Issue 8

August 1, 2008

Inside this issue:

Troop News	2-4
FRG News	5
Welcome & Farewell	6
Highland Games	7
Meet the SOROC'ers	8
Promotions & Awards	9
Contact Numbers	10



Special points of interest:

- New Commander
- SOCA Scholarship winners announced
- Highland Games
- JCU Hooligans caught
- New SOROC Class starts

Message from the Commander

I can't tell you how honored Michelle and I are to be here in JCU. It will be tough to fill Jack and Haemi's shoes, but we'll give it our best. This is such an outstanding organization and we are psyched to be a part of it.

JCU has truly been at the tip of the spear since its inception. In the Global War On Terrorism we have never disengaged. Our Service Members, Civilians, and Families are the best the country has to offer. We met many of the families at the luncheon shortly after taking command and look forward to meeting far more at the picnic.

There is a reorganization coming that I need to explain to you. Recruiting and SOROC graduation are finally at the level where we have enough people to move to a cycle system. This means there will be four

"Line Troops" with identical functions. These troops will rotate through four cycles. These are the deployment, recovery/training, intensive training, alert, and then back to deployment. The benefits of this system are stability and predictability of time at home and away, designated training time for resourcing intensive training events, and ability to deploy as a Troop instead of individuals from multiple companies forming a pickup team. Our Troops will be able to train and deploy together. It will also give you the predictability to know when your Service Member will be in training, on an alert status, or deployed. The specialty Troops; D, E, and G will not be a part of this reorganization since their skill sets do not lend themselves to this type of system. The reorganization will start in October. You may see some small

changes internal to your troop before that, but we'll start re-organizing the four Troops in October in preparation of the first full Troop deployment cycle a few months after that.

Times of change like this can be difficult and confusing. I appreciate your patience and understanding during this period of reorganization. In the long run the predictability will be a great benefit to Service Members, Civilians, and Families alike. Again, Michelle and I are excited to be a part of the JCU family. We've learned so much already in the few weeks we've been here. We look forward to meeting you all.

~John and Michelle

JCU set for the 46th Annual JFK-50 Mile

This years event will take place on November 22, 2008 in Hagerstown, MD. This year we have 18 JCU members participating and another 15 friends of JCU. This marks the largest

registered participants total to date. There were several others that waited a little to long to get their applications in and did not make the list. Several family members will be there as well providing

course support. I look forward to this year and hope that it proves to be a very painful but good time.

~ Todd



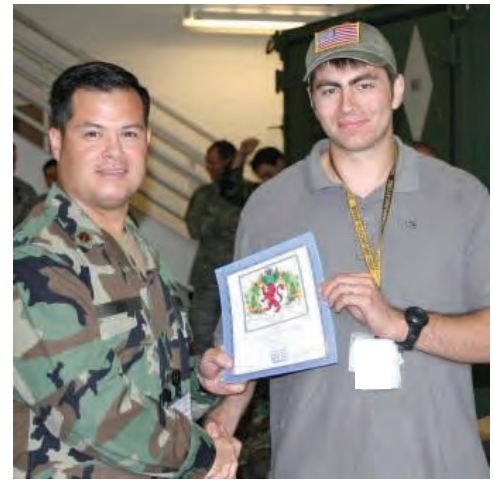
July has been another busy month in A-Troop. There has once again been an abundance of moving parts this month. Welcome home to Dave Allen, Roy Campbell, Joe Quigley, Joe Worley, Greg Bogyo, Noe Abad, Veronica Zamora, and Matt Heist. Thank you for all your hard work and accomplishments during your deployments. We wish good luck to Rick Cross, Lauront Pepin, Noel Santiago, Nate Hannah, Kelly Pond, James Drennan, and Leonard Heller as they head out to fill some pretty big shoes at our deployed locations.

Congratulations to Dan Lane and Matt Corby on their graduation from Airman Leadership School. Matt was awarded the Distinguished Graduate and the Academic Excellence Award. Dan was promoted to Staff Sergeant upon his completion of the course. Congrats to Jeremy Trejo on his graduation from the Leading Petty Officer Leadership Course. Good luck to Joe Quigley and Chris Leach as they are attending the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course and the First Sergeant Course respectively.

A-Troop would like to welcome Pat Ballard, Bruce Becherini, Matt Corby, Chris Cunningham, James Drennan, Ramondoe Goodrich, James Hall, Leonard Heller, Kevin Hudson, Lawrence Jones, Kelly Pond, Kyle Roscoe, Jeremy Trejo, Howard Wright and their families to A-Troop. The addition of these recent SOROC graduates will go a long way in lightening the load on each individual in the troop. They will be extremely busy as they prepare to assume the responsibilities of an A-Troop Communicator.

The next installment of the Det Bowl is right around the corner. Hopefully B-Troop won't bring their B-Team this time. More to follow!

~ Jay Baker



Above; Randy Amsler is presented a certificate from LCDR Nick Hill for placing 1st in the Caber Toss event during the Highland Games



It's been another busy month for B-Troop. We have been working projects, attending vendor training, preparing for exercises and conducting our first ever internal tactical training exercise. During the field exercise we jumped into Holland DZ, worked on patrolling, land navigation, and ambush techniques (we played paintball). It was a great way to introduce the new SOROC students to

the Troop. Speaking of new guys I would like welcome Jesus Castro and his wife Crystal to B-Troop. We would also like to congratulate the Drew family and welcome their new baby Anna to the B-Troop family. Also, Casey Mues was selected as the AF SRA of the quarter. I hope to see all of you at the Picnic.

~ Bryan

Right; Memebrs of B-Troop during a recent exercise



Above; C-Troop looking strong moving from the litter carry to the shuttle run



Well it has been a relatively quiet month in C-Troop. Jake Higginbotham's Silver Team made it home safely and are enjoying some off time with their families. MSG Peters' Black Team is doing great things down range while SFC Kudel's Gold Team are making great things happen CONUS. SSG Akins is currently away at BNCOC but will be back soon. We just had the 3rd annual JCU Highland Games where C-Troop led the

way for the second year in a row winning the coveted Highland Games streamer. This streamer will hang from C-Troops Guidon until won by another Troop in the next Highland Games. We plan on having this for quite a while. C-Troops winning team consisted of Jake Higginbotham, Chad Peters, James Slife and Lenin Castillo. An individual award was presented to Marlin "Fish" Waldron for his record time in the A-Bag Toss.

~ Marlin

Right; Fish attempting to beat his winning time on his second attempt



Delivering the Message



The month of July has flown by! First of all this month, I want to welcome the arrival of two of the graduates from SOROC Class 02-08, Steven Powell and Dana Roberson . We're glad you are here and are looking forward to you doing great things in the Troop. As you know already, there is a steep learning curve but know that what you are learning will contribute to the successful mission of this unit. We saw Adam Kelley off this month as he deployed for the first time in the unit to continue the great work that Jeff Huffman has done. We

look forward to Jeff's return soon. Lots of folks are or were on leave, taking time to enjoy the summer months. It's hard for me to believe that there is less than a month left until the new school year begins. I hope those who have already taken time off found a place to stay cool. Congratulations are in order for Steven Powell, Dana Roberson, Vincent Olshove and Mike Larson for representing D Troop during the Highland games on the 18th. D Troop took 2nd place overall. Way to go fellas!



July is not only the month that stores start their back to school promotions, but it is also turned out to be a month of "schools" for E Troop. This month a new computer operator course started and we have both Dan Orrvick and Scott Capan in this course. So far both of them seem to be adjusting well to the pace of the course and I am sure they will be just as excited to complete the course in October as we will be to have them graduate. Adrian also started a new class, but his will only be two weeks and instead of learning computer skills, he will be learning some shooting skills. Chad Lewis just recently returned from a rotation and he was replaced by Gama Rodriguez which is his first full rotation. I am

positive that Gama is being "schooled" by Bobby and Tyrone. Jason Proskovec is taking some leave and doing some hiking and camping in Pennsylvania. His plans were to sleep in a hammock, so he may be "schooled" by the wildlife. Bryan Fooshee has spent a lot of time in the wind tunnel as he is learning to become an instructor. Mike Martinez returned to work this week after three weeks of leave in New Mexico which was on the heels of a rotation. His return to work was almost like the first day of school as he tried to orient himself to the office again. I volunteered to assist with a youth camp full of 400 teenagers which was definitely a lot of fun; however I did quickly realize that teenagers will tell

Again, I am constantly impressed by what this troop is able to accomplish. We once again juggled a multitude of tasks and rose to the occasion on each of them. This would not be possible if it were not for your dedication and expertise. It would also not be possible without the contributions from you spouses and loved ones who support you. I am very grateful to be a part of this Troop and I want to thank you for all that you do. Enjoy the rest of your summer.
~ Stacey

you anything to get their way. I am not sure why this would have been such a shock to me, since a long time ago I was a teenager too, but it did surprise me. Rob Barnard was definitely "schooled" by the water cooler. Lesson learned...if you have a water cooler and the water jug has even a small hole in the top of the jug, then the water will not stay in the water cooler. Evidently water coolers not only work on gravity but also require a vacuum. Within ten minutes we had to use a vacuum, a wet vac to vacuum up all of the water of the computer room floor. Have a great August.

~ Tony



July has been a great month for G-Troop. To start with, we'd like to welcome Pete Nunnery onboard. Pete comes to us after an arduous 18 months as a deployed contractor where he worked at the Help Desk. This experience makes him a great addition to our SYSCON. We'd also like to welcome home Ray Hickman and Chris Richter. Congratulations are in order for Mike Fowler for

successfully completing the Navy Leading Petty Officer Leadership Course. G-Troop showed in force at the past Highland Games. Kelvin Pontoo won two of the ten events by winning the Rock Throw and the Kettle Bell Toss. Great Job Kelvin. Finally, the true highlight of this past month revealed itself as Jim Guillemette snuck off to a vacation in Las Vegas under the guise of a

relaxing sight-seeing trip. Funny how he chose the same week as the 3d Annual United States Rock Paper Scissors National Championships. Though he didn't win and won't confess to attending. G-Troop nonetheless is proud to have such a fierce hand-to-hand warrior amongst its ranks.

~ Jim Morris





Thank you to SFC Jason Tolle (Sky God in training) for another month of successful airborne operations. Another hot and humid month and SOROC class 02-08 kicked off their training by sweating, getting bit and utilizing some of the high-speed medical training they have received. The class stepped up on 8 July and they have been going, going and continue to GO! Gunny Garcia is leading class 02-08 with SFC LePage, SSgt Gunter, and SSG Halmos serving as squad leaders. The rest of the team will get an opportunity to show us what they have, but the fore mentioned bunch has assured SFC Alexander and I that they have the

making to be one of the best SOROC class to date. We have 21 students in the current class composed of 1 Marine, 7 Soldiers, 6 Sailors, 5 Airmen and SSgt Robert's being our only guest student. (At the moment). Class began with a brief Combat Life Saver course, followed by a week of learning Land Navigation and Small Unit Tactics. The class is currently attending Trigger time and learning skills in areas such as marksmanship, driving, and mastering their overall potential. Now don't get me wrong, these aren't the basic marksmanship skills they were taught in Basic Training, nor is this driver's education. The training they receive

at Trigger Time hones their skills and makes them better at their primary task, which is serving our nation. This is only the beginning and in the next few months, your loved ones will be mastering automation, communications, and signal flow. This later training will make them an integral part of what the Joint Communications Unit has been known as, The Department of Defense's finest Communicators. Welcome to all the family and friends of Class 02-08!

~ Jack



SOROC Class 01-08
taken on graduation day
July 2, 2008

This section features a current Unit member. It is a look back before all of those military regulations, haircuts and discipline. Stay tuned for the answer posted in next months edition.

RETRO JCU



F.Y.I. **JCU FRG NEWS**



LOOK WHO JUST DROPPED IN



Left; IT1 Jeff Drew and Frances are the proud parents of Anna Lynn Drew. Anna was born on July 22, 2008 at 10:09 AM in the Womack Army Medical Center. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 15 ozs. and was 20" long.



Right; SSgt Chuck Brandt and Lauren are the proud parents of Caiden Dylan Brandt. Caiden was born on July 25, 2008 at 12:15 PM in the Womack Army Medical Center. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 6 ozs. and was 19.6" long.



SOCA SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I can announce this year's SOCA Scholarship Essay Winners, Jordan Diaz and Stacie Spencer.

Jordan Diaz, son of A Troop Detachment Chief Dave & Elizabeth Allen, and Stacie Spencer, daughter of First Sergeant Todd & Marsha Spencer, both submitted excellent essays using the topic "Why do you think teen violence is on the rise and what should be done about it?" Both winners pictures will be posted in next months edition.

They will both receive a \$500 Scholarship paid to the school of their choice in their name. The SOCA Board did not receive an entry from a JCU Spouse so the SOCA Board Members elected to award both prizes to JCU Dependent Children. The winning essays are available for viewing on the www.JCUonline.org website.

The SOCA Board Members would like to thank all those who participated in the 1st Annual SOCA Scholarship Essay Contest and we're already looking forward to next year's contest.

This contest was established to achieve SOCA's goal to show their appreciation to those who contribute and sacrifice so much in support of our Country's National Objectives. SOCA thanks the members of JCU and your families for all that you do.

May God Bless DoD's Finest Communicators and keep them and their families safe!

John P. Sullivan, SGM (Retired)
President, Special Operations Communicators Association



I personally invite all our spouses to register for the JCU Online website. If you registered a long time ago and haven't visited the site in a while, a lot has changed. If you have forgotten your username and password, just re-register on the home page and you will be given access once again. Hope to see you there.

ANNIVERSARIES

Bryan & Shanna Hargrove	2 AUG
Les & Andrea Himebrook	5 AUG
Bruce & Jessica Becherini	6 AUG
Mike & Michelle Foy	7 AUG
Jeremy & Heywon Pinkelman	8 AUG
Jerry & Jean Baker	11 AUG
Darren & Sheri Thornton	13 AUG
Robert & Jennifer Giovannetti	13 AUG
Stacey & Shelly Lewis	14 AUG
Mike & Stephanie Kontio	17 AUG
Cathy & Jessie Montes	17 AUG
Noe & Janina Abad	19 AUG
Eric & Charlene Russell	23 AUG
Chris & Kim Leach	24 AUG
Lauront & Silvia Pepin	25 AUG

MESSAGE FROM THE FRC

Hope everyone is having a terrific summer and enjoying family vacations and fun in the sun!

Everyone that attended the Spouse's Lunch on August 14 had a very nice time. We enjoyed pasta, bread sticks, and salad from Sammio's. We also welcomed our new Commander, **LTC John McLaughlin**, and his wife **Michelle**, to the unit. A gift certificate from Natural Balance Medical Spa was awarded to **Keri Londers** during the lunch. Many thanks to **Shelly Lewis** for this donation. If you haven't made it to one of the spouse's lunches yet, we hope you will find time in the future to attend.

In other FRG news, **Gini Walker** will now be the Key Caller for the CMD/OPS section. Her phone number and e-mail address is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

~ **Marsha**
JCU Family Readiness Coordinator

WELCOME OUR NEW JCU MEMBERS

- LTC John McLaughlin & wife Michelle, Children: Shannon & Meagan (CMD)
- Mrs. Georgette Gill & husband Charles, Child: Bryson (CMD)
- SFC Richard LePage (SOROC Class 2-08)
- SSgt William Roberts (SOROC Class 2-08)
- MSgt Jared Sams (SOROC Class 2-08)

GOODBYE TO FRIENDS & FAMILY

Right; 1SG Spencer's tree TP'ed by JCU delinquents. The culprits are posted to the right

COL Jack Arnold & Haemi, children: Andrea, John & Christine JUN 06 - JUL 08 (CMD)



Chris "THE DON" Leach



**A-TROOP HOOLIGAN'S
BUSTED**



Jerry "SPOTTED HEAD" Baker

Answer to last months RETRO JCU ? (did you guess correctly?)



The picture from last month is none other than MSgt Raymond Hickman. "Do you know the saying, red headed step child?, that guy had everything, All I had was this rocking yellow disco shirt, and yes I'm looking at you. This picture was taken around 1974 while I was living in Greensboro NC, I blame the water up there, Wow look at me now". Thank you Ray for sharing this picture and a small part of your history with us.



JCU Highland Games

We conducted another iteration of the JCU Highland games on 18 JUL 08. The games went well and everyone had a great time. Special thanks to Travis Knutson for leading the coordination effort for an outstanding day. Below are some highlights from the games. We are looking forward to the next one in December.



Right; Travis Knutson prepares for the Kettle Bell Toss. Travis showed his spirit by wearing a kilt, luckily for us, that's all he showed.



Left; Everyone started the day off with a round of Push-ups



Left; Getting stretched out and below; SGM Watts could have been a contender had he not stopped to pose for the camera.



Above; The E-Troop team starts their quarter mile run with Scuba Steve on a litter

Right; Kevin Hudson completes his part of the 5-Gallon relay race



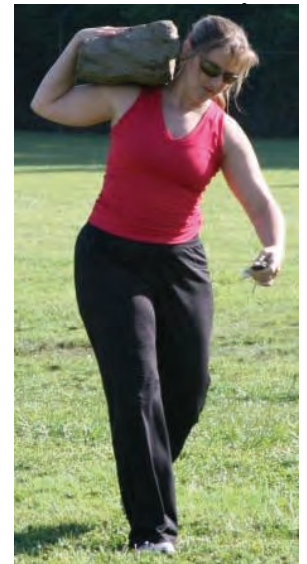
Below; Mike Larson is determined not to let the tire get the best of him during the Tire Flip competition



Below; C-Troop took 1st place overall, but had very close competition. 1SG Spencer presents SGM Adcox with the new Highland Games guidon streamer at the awards ceremony.



Below; Thanks to Lori Knutson for lending us her big rock from her garden



Meet the SOROC'ers of Class 02-08



Name: Seth G. Hogan
Service / Rank: USAF / SSgt
Enlisted: 22 Jul 2003
Birthday: 11 Jan 1982
Spouse name: Amanda
Child: Alexis
Hobbies: Rock Climbing, Running, Bar-B-Que'ing, Snowboarding, Camping, Fishing, and some good quality time with the wife and kid.
Previous Assignment: Misawa, Japan
Goals/Expectations: Live life and leave nothing behind. And finish a degree along the way.

- **Name:** David Jones
- **Service / Rank:** USA / SPC
- **Enlisted:** 23 FEB 2004
- **Birthday:** 9 SEP 1985
- **Hobbies:** Working out
- **Previous Assignment:** 112th SIG BN
- **Goals/Expectations:** Retire from Army



Name: Marlon Vega
Service / Rank: USN / IT1
Enlisted: 13 MAR 1994
Birthday: 12 OCT 1971
Spouse name: Rosa
Children: Kelly & Katherine
Hobbies: Computers and automobiles
Previous Assignment: Information Assurance, JAC Molesworth UK
Goals/Expectations: Complete College Degree

- **Name:** Angell, Kevin D.
- **Service / Rank:** USAF / TSgt
- **Enlisted:** 16 Jun 1994
- **Birthday:** 28 Jan 1976
- **Spouse name:** Hui Kyong
- **Children:** Allyson & Ashley
- **Hobbies:** Family
- **Previous Assignment:** Yokota AB, Japan
- **Goals/Expectations:** Finish SOROC, get to work, stay busy



SOROC Class 03-99 Warriors Still Standing

A look back at past SOROC classes to see who is still in the unit today.

From class 03-99, only 1SG Todd Spencer and MSgt Jeff Ingraham (Retired) (G-Troop) remain in JCU today.

August Promotions, Awards & Special Occasions

Army Promotions



SFC Max Fermin to MSG (C-Troop)
SSG Stan Sweeney to SFC (A-Troop)



Air Force Promotion

SrA Vince Olshove to SSgt (D-Troop)

Airman Leadership School Graduates

SrA Matthew Corby (A-Troop)
SrA Daniel Lane (A-Troop)



JCU Quarterly Award Winners

2nd QTR, CY 2008

USA NCO: SSG Nate Hannah (A-Troop)
USN NCO: SK1 Mike Larson (D-Troop)
USMC NCO: SGT Ryan Dayton (A-Troop)
USAF NCO: TSgt Charles To (C-Troop)
Civilian: Mr. Roger Darling (D-Troop)
USAF AMN: SrA Casey Mues (B-Troop)
USAF SNCO: MSgt Doug Rosario (C-Troop)

JSOC Air Force Top-3 Award Winners

2nd QTR, CY 2008

Airman: SrA Casey Mues (B-Troop)
NCO: TSgt Charles To (C-Troop)
SNCO: MSgt Doug Rosario (C-Troop)

BIRTHDAYS

Angelo Caraballo	2 AUG
Stanley Sweeney	3 AUG
William Tingen	8 AUG
Ira Hamilton	10 AUG
Stacey Lewis	12 AUG
Jesse Casari	13 AUG
Jason Proskovec	13 AUG
Edwin Schlade	17 AUG
Chad Peters	18 AUG
James Jordahl	19 AUG
Tammy Sprague	22 AUG
Ulysses Otero	22 AUG
Lawrence Jones	22 AUG
Wesley Crawford	23 AUG
Gary Rose	23 AUG
Sergio Hernandez	23 AUG
Jessie Trejo	23 AUG
Donald Holly	25 AUG
Timothy Mallett	25 AUG
John Iwaniec	26 AUG
Jesus Castro	26 AUG
James Givens	27 AUG
Larry Deardorff	27 AUG
Adam Kelley	28 AUG
Christopher Scott	30 AUG
Leonard Heller	31 AUG



Right; The CMD & OPS team won the “Best Cheaters Award” for the Highland Games. This is just one instance captured on film. MAJ Pishock gets a little help from his friends in order to throw the Caber without going over the foul line.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES

1 August	JCU Annual Summer Picnic	Fantasy Lake– Hope Mills 1000-1900
15 August	JSOC Pool Party (RSVP to Agnes Adamczyk)	Pope AFB Pool 1900-2200
24 October	12th Annual JSO 10K Run / 5K Walk	Pike Field 0700-0900
22 November	46th Annual JFK-50 Mile Ultra-Marathon	Hagerstown, MD.
5 December	JCU Highland Games	Pope Softball Field area 0700-1000
11 December	Children’s Christmas Party gift wrapping	JCU Classroom 1300-1700
12 December	Annual JCU Children’s Christmas Party	Location-TBD
13 December	28th Annual JCU Holiday Celebration Party	Doubletree Hotel (Cedar Creek Road) 1800-0100

LEADERSHIP THAT CARES



P.O. Box 70239
Fort Bragg, NC
28307-5000

Phone: (910) 243-0469
E-mail: spencert@jdi.socom.mil

Joint Communications
Unit

"DoD's Finest Communicators"

Visit us on the web

www.jcuonline.org

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>Home</u>
Commander	LTC McLaughlin (John)	243-0200	485-4529
CSM	CSM Givens (James)	243-0201	977-3441
XO	LCDR Hill (Nick)	243-8850	678-0209
Unit 1SG	1SG Spencer (Todd)	243-0469	423-5644
OPS Officer	MAJ Pishock (Joe)	243-0524	273-3879
Ops SGM	SGM Watts (Ronny)	243-2439	230-8073
A-Troop SGM	1SG Leach (Chris)	243-1321	480-1118
B-Troop SGM	SFC Hargrove (Bryan)	243-4079	483-0231
C-Troop SGM	SGM Adcox (Mike)	243-0115	499-2541
D-Troop OIC	MAJ Himebrook (Les)	243-2302	498-9108
D-Troop Chief	ETC Nichols (Carleen)	243-0439	424-1805
E-Troop OIC	Mr. Gillespie (Tony)	243-1217	875-1045
E-Troop SGM	SFC Proskovec (Jason)	243-1465	868-7761
G-Troop OIC	Mr. Tingen (Bill)	243-0989	437-5970
G-Troop NCOIC	CMSgt Morris (Jim)	243-0991	717-8334
SOROC NCOIC	1SG Nichols (Jack)	243-0577	424-1805
JCU FRC	Mrs. Marsha Spencer		423-5644
Social Worker	Mrs. Wanda Crawford	396-7489	
Chaplain	CH Glen Bloomstrom	243-1224	
JSOC FRG	Mrs. Agnes Adamczyk	243-2626	

JCU FRG Key Callers

JCU FRC	Marsha Spencer	423-5644	marshypooh@aol.com
A-Troop:	Kim Leach	480-1118	dawgs2win@embarqmail.com
B-Troop:	Renee Hays	436-2172	rlhays01@yahoo.com
C-Troop:	Michelle Higginbotham	426-2899	jmjhiggy@earthlink.net
D-Troop:	Lisa Dover	960-0037	jlsadover@hotmail.com
E-Troop:	Patricia Hernandez	764-1140	patricia@ncbeautifulhomes.com
G-Troop:	Elisa Gozdzialski	860-1335	elisagoz@yahoo.com
CMD/OPS:	Gini Walker	(919) 499-5710	ginimomof4@alltell.net
SOROC:	Marsha Spencer	423-5644	marshypooh@aol.com

1980

The JCU Print

Commemorating 25 years of JCU professionals

2005



Damon Haigh was commissioned to create an original JCU Print designed to celebrate the outstanding contributions that JCU members have made since its inception. Everyone who has seen the print agrees that Damon did an incredible job. This print makes a great gift for current and past unit members. In order to get your limited edition (500 signed/numbered) JCU Print, bring cash or check (payable to the JCU Activities Club) to the SGM while supplies last. The print costs \$50 and if you want a shipping tube please include an additional \$3. If you need the print to be mailed, include a shipping cost of \$10 (includes shipping tube).