Volume 3, Issue 1

1 January 2008

Delivering the Message Message from the Command Sergeant Major

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS

As I sat here thinking of the New Year and all that it will bring I was reminded of the following story. Please consider the point of this story as you and your families step out into this New Year.

Big Rocks

One day, an expert in time management was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will never forget. As he stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, "Okay, time for a quiz" and he pulled out a one-gallon, mason jar and set it on the table in front of him. He also produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar f u 1 1 ? "Everyone in the class yelled, "Yes." The time management expert replied, R e a 1 1 y ? " He reached under the table and pulled

out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. He then asked the group once more, "Is the f u 1 1 ? ja r By this time the class was on to him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in the jar and it went into all of the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar f u 1 1 ? "No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good." Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration? An eager student raised his hand

and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard you can always fit some more things in it!" "No," the speaker replied, "That's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all.

What are the 'big rocks' in your life? Time with your loved ones, your faith, your education, your dreams, the mission, teaching or mentoring others? Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you'll never get them in at all." So, tonight, or in the morning, when you are reflecting on this short story, ask yourself this question: What are the 'big rocks' in my life? Then, put those in your jar first.

- CSM James Givens

JCU Members Celebrate the Season

JCU celebrated the holidays in a few ways. We started off with the 27th Annual Holiday Celebration at Holiday Inn Bordeaux. It was a very good time for all. We started off with social hour and getting pictures taken followed by dinner and then a "Year in Pictures" slide show. We all gathered in a circle on the dance floor to participate in the left-right gift exchange that was narrated by Jack Nichols. After the formal part of the evening, the dance floor opened and Five-Star Entertainment provided a top-notch DJ that kept the crowd moving all through the night. A complimentary gift wine was placed on the table for every couple. This year's bottle was laser etched by American Etchworks. The beautiful centerpieces on each table were hand-made by some of the unit wives and went home with some of the guests. Special thanks to Rory and Elaine Halpin for helping set up the

room for the Party. This year's party as with all others was a huge success and we promise to build upon this one to make the next Party even better. Thanks to all who were there and for those deployed this year we look forward to having you there next year. The next event was the Children's Christmas Party held at Fun-Fun-Fun. This year's party was the largest to date. Todd Petzel did an outstanding job with the organization of this event. As the children started arriving they received a cup of game tokens and went off on their merry way. Soon after, the pizza arrived from Domino's and just when the kids thought it couldn't possibly get any better; Santa Clause arrived. Children ran up for hugs, others ran for their lives. All got a gift and a picture with the big red jolly one. *****WARNING***** Do not let your kids read any further. This year's Santa came in the form of Mr.

Roger Darling. I had sent an e-mail asking for a volunteer and Roger replied within minutes saying he would be glad to do it. Without any prior experience in this realm, Roger pulled off the most realistic Santa that I had seen in a long time. He kept asking when we were getting him dressed "When can I start my HO HO HO and Merry Christmas routine"? He stayed in character even when two guys that could fill out the suit a little better (Sully and I) sat on his lap for a picture. Even in the sweltering heat of the room, he didn't want to take a break from the kids. And for the finale, Mrs. Clause (Carol Darling) came to get her picture with Santa. Special thanks to Santa's helpers Renee Hays and Jeremy Bloom for keeping the gifts organized and passing them to Santa.

- Todd Spencer

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Special points of interest:		
• Happy New Year		
G-Troop (JTEP)		

- G-Troop; (JTEP) Same section, new name
- AF Falcon Superstar
- A cornucopia of Airborne School graduates
- Re-enlistments
- Pictures galore
- See who is still standing from past SOROC classes?



It seems like I just finished writing the article for last month's news letter, but when you stop and think about it, the whole year seems to have followed this same pattern of just flying by. I'm sure that Jay Baker feels that his time away from home has just been one big blur.... Ok, maybe not, but we are all glad that he'll be home soon. Luckily for B-Troop though, "Magic Hands" will not return in time for the DET BOWL on January 9th. Yes, the day of A-Troop redemption draws near. December has brought A-Troop the addition of nine, count'em, NINE new SOROC graduates that have been welcomed into the ranks of "DOD's Finest." This group from class 02-07 includes Randy Amsler, Veronica Zamora, Carl Eby, Ryan Dayton, Jeremy Jenkins, Lauront Pepin, Joseph Quigley, Noel Santiago and Joseph Worley. We would like to take this time to recognize their SOROC achievements and say hello to their families. We would also like to welcome Pablo Guerra and Billy Sumner home from their deployments and Rick Cross and Adam Merlino home from the Radio Chief's Course and Airman Leadership School respectively. And in other noteworthy news, Larry Deardorff was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant, James Jordahl was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, and Billy Sumner is getting ready to extend his commitment to the Navy and a grateful nation for a few more years when he reenlists this week. It was great to see the high turn out for the 27th annual Holiday Celebration. Between the dancing, keg stands, and opening of Todd's forbidden wine, it appeared that everyone had a great time. And speaking of dancing, I have made arrangements for Lauront Pepin to teach break dancing lessons in response to the all the calls I have been getting from those interested in learning the fine art of "kicking it old school." Rates have not been determined as of yet, but we'll let you know...

And last but certainly not least, our newest former A-Troop member Chuck Brandt (now in C-Troop), married the former Lauren Nicole Schaffer on the 28th of December. May they share many years of happiness and prosperity as they begin their new life together. Talk to you next month,

-Jared



December was probably the busiest month of the year for the Troop. We had all kinds of projects and moving parts which we had to tackle with fewer people. However, the fellas did their magic and sailed through every obstacle with flying colors. Congratulations to Cliff Varnadoe for achieving his Navy Expeditionary Warfare Qualification while deployed and Mike Williams for graduating Basic Airborne School. Congratulations to Jr and Holly Hoffman on the birth of their baby Emma

Mackenzie who weighed in at 8lbs 11oz at WOMAC on the 3rd of December. Thank you for everything you do to support these guys. Jane and I wish you the best in the New Year. -Mike

> Nick Walker-Bates seen here trying to complete his 233rd push-up during the Highland Games. OK, maybe it was his 10th push-up





This month C Troop welcomed the arrival of six new graduating SOROCers. They are: Mike Clark, Danny Knouse, Marcus Lewis, Micah Modest, Jimmy Wagner and Derrick White. Also new to the troop but not the unit, is Chuck Brandt who moved over from A Troop. If you have not heard like most of us did not, Chuck (sorry ladies) is no longer on the market as he was married on December 28th to Lauren...best wishes. For our arrivals, we're happy to have you on board and look forward to putting you to work. On the outgoing side...we lost Frank Perez and Mike Fowler who will certainly increase the IQ within their new detachments. Congratulations Frank on your



sentence to Current Operations and to you Mikey in your selection to the Unit Support Team.

Jamie Slife wanted me to make sure and let everyone know that he graduated the Marine Corps Staff NCO Advanced Course and was the Motivation Award winner. If you see him, please extend your sincerest congratulations. Chad Peters returned from a lengthy deployment and was selected to fill the size 41 that Frank left behind upon his assignment to Ops. Mike and Kelly Runk are the proud parents of baby girl Erica Rose born on 10 December weighing in at 7lbs 7oz. Mom and baby are doing fine. It's rumored that Mike had to snag Kelly's oxygen during the childbirth as he became extremely light headed. We monitor him closely. And finally, C Troop would like to

give special thanks to Kim Adcox for feeding us some outstanding chow as a send off to the holiday season. - Jake



Jeremy Pinkelman and Tom Marino think the Highland Games were swell



Welcome back from the holidays. Another busy and exciting year has come to a close. Thank you to all the families for the tremendous sacrifices that you put up with. And thank you to all the members of D-Troop for the outstanding work that you accomplish both at home and around the world. I also need to thank all the members of the activities club and family members who put in such hard work putting together the Christmas Party and the Kid's Christmas Party! Both were



Congratulations to GySgt Chad Lewis for being selected for promotion to Master Sergeant and to SSgt Adrian Williams for reenlisting. I would also like to welcome Vince Sola as a new instructor to the IO course. It is amazing how fast a year goes by these days. I am not sure if it is just because we all have become so busy that time flies or just that we are getting Thanks Scott, I know I am getting older. older. While this year has flown by, we as a Troop have accomplished a lot. We have welcomed four new team members and had to say goodbye to two. I am sure those of us that knew Jeff and the 2000 Unit will be telling stories about each of them for years to come. In our professional careers we have had three personnel selected for promotion, two complete their Service equivalent advanced NCO training, 3 successfully complete the 13 week IO course completed a n d one the MFF



Ann and I enjoyed seeing friends (old and new) at the Unit Christmas Party. This year's event was another job well done by those who put the event together and did all the things throughout the year to make it possible. It has been a busy few weeks since the last news letter. JTEP has been redesignated G Troop, and some of your spouses have moved within the unit to

sincerely appreciated by all, even if my little one now considers seeing Santa as scarier than Halloween.

This month we welcome two new faces into D-Troop from SOROC, Adam Kelley and Vincent "Osh" Olshove. We also welcome Mike Clark, a new contractor in D-Troop (not to be confused with Mike Clark, who just graduated SOROC and is now in C-Troop). We're glad all three of you are here, and look forward to many long hours together. We also congratulate Jeff Huffman on graduating from Airman Leadership School, and are glad to have you back.

The holidays have been fairly quiet, and we spent time thinking of those members of our team who weren't able to be with their families. We thank each of you. Now we get to return to the normal frantic pace and look forward to another busy year. -

— Les

course. Additionally, MSgt Sam Stanley was selected as the USAF Senior NCO of the year for the Unit. As a Troop we have completed 10 rotations in support of our mission with exceptional results. Personally we experienced both personal accomplishments as well as We had three new family tragedy. additions added this year which was amazing in itself. Chad adopted a Great Dane, Sam adopted a Jack Russell Terrier and Jason adopted a kitten that he found on the compound. Thanks for all of the hard work and dedication that each of you always contributed. I was right Chad was able to complete his fence by Christmas. I have included a photo of the completed project. I wish each of you and your families a Happy New Year! — Tony



Chad Lewis completed his fence and says he is available to help anyone with their fence

G- Troop and are applying their talents to make sure this new section and all of its new responsibilities are a resounding success. Welcome to the team, and if you ever need anything don't hesitate to give me a call. I have some wonderfully talented people working for me, which makes my job much easier. I hope everyone got the things they were hoping for on Christmas. I myself received numerous home improvement type tools, I think I am being given a hint. Brian Schmidt has returned from his Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course had has completed his move to his new Unit and Section. Hope everyone has a Happy and Safe New Years. — Bill



While watching The Air Force get beat by California in the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl on New Year's Eve. It was brought to our attention that our very own CAPT Robert Giovannetti played a little college football. He was a member of the Air Force Academy football team from 1997-2000. Yes folks, #40 Robert "The Galloping Ghost" Giovannetti is in the house. His career stats were 9 carries for 99 yards and 3 touchdowns (2 rushing and 1 fumble recovery in the end zone against Notre Dame). His stats were that of a modern day Mike Alstott; "have someone else get you within the 10 yard line then let the big, bulky yet less agile guy run it in". His defining moment as an Air Force Academy Falcon was his fourth quarter score against the mighty Notre Dame Fighting Irish in South Bend. The following is an excerpt from the Colorado Springs Gazette October 30, 2000 "Hometown hero Scott Becker (Air Force Full-Back) realized a dream-he scored a

big touchdown in Notre Dame Stadium, where he used to work selling hot dogs and popcorn. Becker, from the South Bend suburb of Granger, finished with 35 yards on 9 carries. He scored on a 6-yard run to cap a 69-yard drive that brought the Falcons to within three at 28-25 with 6:09 left. But his glory was short-lived because of a questionable fumble in the end zone. Teammate Bert Giovanetti fell on the ball, so the score stood, but he was credited with the touchdown instead of Becker." In all seriousness though, his accomplishments on the football field have far exceeded most of us and is something to be proud of. Thanks to him and Google for this story.

> — Todd Spencer & Jay Baker

Photo by Casey Mues





Alumni LT John Gary was the guest speaker for the SOROC Class 2-07 graduation ceremony



New graduates of SOROC Class 2-07 stand ready to accept the welcome of the unit. This was the largest class graduation to date

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





.come our new JCU membel

CW2 Jeramy Cosner & children: Damien & Kaylynn (Operations) Mr. John Sullivan & wife Una-Lee, children: Kevin, Katie, Kaci, John & Mary-Lee (G-Troop) Welcome back SSgt's David & Amy Smith (SOROC Class 1-08 & COMSEC respectively) SSG Ryan Akins & wife Olimpia (SOROC Class 1-08) IT1 Gabrial Boyer & wife Christine (SOROC Class 1-08) SSgt Christopher Cunningham & wife Michaeel, child: Christopher (SOROC Class 1-08) SSG Calvin Delaware (SOROC Class 1-08) IT1 James Drennan (SOROC Class 1-08) SSgt Ramondoe Goodrich & wife Noriko, children: Imani, Nia, Tatsuto & Takara (SOROC Class 1-08) SGT James Hall & wife Un hui, child: Austin (SOROC Class 1-08) CPL Leonard Heller (SOROC Class 1-08) SGT Kevin Hudson & wife Karina, child: Victoria (SOROC Class 1-08) IT2 Kelly Pond (SOROC Class 1-08) SSgt Steven Powell & wife Jennifer, children: Steven & Jaiden (SOROC Class 1-08) ET1 Dana Roberson & wife Rebecca, child: Miranda (SOROC Class 1-08) ETC Christopher Setelin & wife Sandra (SOROC Class 1-08)

IT1 Jessie Trejo (SOROC Class 1-08)

SFC Travis Jenkins & wife Lakecia, children: Trevor, Tia & Nyasia (SOROC Class 1-08)



Travis Knutson looking all official. Travis was responsible for setting up the Highland Games.



Ms. Michelle Allen (JNCC)

Mr. Angel Velasquez & wife Cindy, children: Rachael & Brandon (D-Troop AUG 06 - DEC 07) CW2 Seth Smith & wife Mylissa, children: John, Jacob, Mary & Moriah (Operations DEC 04 - JAN 08)

Mr. Angel Velasquez August 2006—December 2007 (D-Troop)

Goodbye to Friends & Family

Due to this newsletter editor's gross negligence, I somehow missed putting Mr. Angel Velasquez as a departing member in last month's edition. Angel said his goodbyes at the Holiday Party and has now joined his family in Florida. He was a JCU member in an Army uniform and transitioned to one of our civilian members. Angel has been a member of the ERS section that makes up part of the D-Troop team. You will be sorely missed.

Troops rally for the Highland Games

We held our 2nd installment of The Highland Games on November 30th. This is the traditional Highland Games that originated in Scotland, but with a JCU flare. Some of the events included a log throw, pelican case shuttle run, tire relay and tug-o-war. We started the morning off with an old fashioned military formation, which was fun to watch unfold. Jason Tolle led the stretching exercises and calisthenics to ensure no one pulled a muscle later. Each troop participated in each event and at the end of the day it was C-Troop that prevailed and had scored more points for the overall total. There were individual winners as well in each event. In appreciation for the hard fought morning, 1SG Spencer and LCDR Hill prepared a feast for lunch. It was another great JCU day. A special thanks to Travis Knutson for coordinating everything in preparation for the days activities. We are all looking forward to the next one.





This is "Scuba Steve"



This is what happens when you leave Scuba Steve un-attended

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JCU FRG NEWS

Look who just dropped in!



ITC Justin Hoffman & Holly are the proud parents of Emma Mackenzie Hoffman. Emma was born on December 3, 2007 at 6:46 AM in Womack Army Medical Center. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 12 ozs. and was 21.75" long.



SFC Mike Runk and Kelly are the proud parents of Erica Rose Runk. Erica was born on December 10, 2007 at 8:27 AM in Womack Army Medical Center. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 7 ozs. and was 19.75" long.







CSM James Givens and Becky are the proud parents of Faith Rebecca Givens. Faith was born on January 3, 2008 at 8:00 AM in Cape Fear Regional Hospital. She weighed in at 9 lbs. 3 ozs. and was 19" long.

My name is MAJ Mike Kaloostian and I have served in the Army for 10 years. I am originally from the biggest little state in the union, the great state of Rhode Island. I am the Current Operations OIC and have served in the unit for almost two years. My wife, Leslie, and I have been married for six years and we have a three year old daughter named Kendall. Leslie spent the majority of her childhood in Louisville, Kentucky but she resided in Atlanta and Austin as well. She currently teaches 7th grade science at 71st Classical Middle School. What's great about JCU? The pure fact I get to work with the greatest professionals the United States military has ever assembled. My door is always open, and if you want to strike up a conversation or get on my good side, talk to me about how great the New England Patriots look this season.

JCU Families making a difference

On December 14th several of the wives got together for the Children's Party gift wrapping and Holiday Party centerpiece making. They divided tasks up and wrapped around 110 presents that were given out by Santa at the Children's Party. They also made 30 table centerpiece wreaths for the Holiday Party. There was paper, tape and scissors flying everywhere up front in the wrapping area. The ladies on the wreaths were snipping, twisting and bow making in the back as they trudged through the steps of wreath making. Everyone had a great time, lunch was provided for my JCU elfs from Chick-fil-a. A personal thanks to the ladies who made this possible. Marsha, Stacie and Stephanie Spencer, Haemi Arnold, Gillian Long, Elaine Halpin, Lisa Dover, Katherine Thorsnes, Renee Hays, Holly Eldred, Becky Givens, Michelle Higginbotham, Gini Walker and Becky Marks. A special thanks to Lisa Dover for organizing the shopping and purchase of the kids gifts.



Angel really appreciated the hard work that went into making the table centerpieces



Working on the centerpiece wreaths; Katherine, Renee and Holly put their craft making skills to the test.



Frustrated ladies beat 1SG Spencer at the end of the day. Guess he did his job the rolls are empty



This is what a well oiled machine looks like. An assembly line of gift wrapping

Delivering the Message

Celebrating a great holiday season





GIFT

CERTIFICATE

Betsy Glaze This certificate entitles the holder to one free tandem skydive Compliments of Court Mclain, Tandem Master

Location of jump is Raeford Drop Zone

Mr. Jim Jones' wife Betsy won the free tandem raffle at the Holiday Party

LCDR Hill and

1SG Spencer get into the spirit of

One of the Children's Christmas party cakes



Santa and Mrs. Clause (Roger and Carol Darling)



John & Molly Mills and Brooke Moore



•

the Holidays by decorating the office and wearing funny hats and driving the second deck nuts with Christmas music





•

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HELP!!!!!!



Katie Nichols and Santa with a big thumbs way-up



Cody Leach and his friends taking a drive



Left-Right gift exchange at the Holiday Party





The Commander and 1SG get a little Santa time



Cooper Ogden found a Zebra to ride

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Meet the SOROC'ers of Class 1-08



Name: Patrick S. Ballard
Rank / Service: TSgt / USAF
Enlisted: 9 May 1990
Birthday: 28 Apr 1970
Spouse: Stacey Anne Ballard
Child: Maya
Hobbies: Working on old cars
Previous Assignment: 3rd Combat Comms Sq., 353 Special Operations Sq., 355 Comms Sq., 612 Air Comms Sq., 609 Air Comms Sq., 1st
NATO Signal Bn., 43rd Aeromedical Evacuations Sq.
Goals/Expectations: Complete NCO Course 14 and SOROC. I want to learn more of the Information Technology to be marketable once I retire.

Name: Nathan A. Hogue Rank / Service: SFC / USA Enlisted: 18 June 1992 Birthday: 28 December 1973 Spouse: Jenny Hobbies: Mountain Biking, Shooting Sports, Motorcycles Previous Assignment: Fco 51st Infantry (LRS) Fort Bragg NC Goals/Expectations: Raise a family, gain knowledge, retire, go back to work, and get fat. Schools Attended: WLC, BNCOC, ANCOC, Basic Airborne School, Air Assault School, CLS





Name: Ceven J. Epps Rank / Service: SrA / USAF Enlisted: 7 MAY 2005 Birthday: 4 JAN 1985 Hobbies: Music, motorcycles Previous Assignment: 43d Communication Sq & Honor Guard Pope AFB, NC Goals/Expectations: To learn as much as possible while assigned to JCU, and to make myself a valuable asset to the unit.

Name: Matthew M. Corby Rank / Service: SrA / USAF Enlisted: 8 APR 2003 Birthday: 5 FEB 1984 Hobbies: Shooting, Running, Kayaking Previous Assignment: Pacaf Initial Communications Package, Misawa AB, Japan Goals/Expectations: To learn as much as possible while assigned to JCU, and to make myself as valuable to this unit as I can.





Class 1 - 00

Cecil Ogden Konzad Hammerschmidt. Mark Spahn Kenneth Karle Justin Thomas Wayne Overby Sarah Pender Daniel Hoben Luis Soto Christopher Nuneke

SOROC Class 1-00 Warriors Still Standing

A look back at past SOROC classes to see who is still in the unit today. Out of this class, only one remains today;

MSG Cecil Ogden (top left)

January Promotions, Awards & Special Occasions





The year was May 1982; the place Miamisburg, Ohio and the event was the Miami Central Conference track meet. This month's RETRO JCU is none other than 1SG Todd Spencer. Pictured on the left is a more stream-lined Todd taken over 25 years and 50 lbs. ago (ok, maybe 60 lbs.). 1SG Spencer had already enlisted in the Ohio National Guard when this picture was taken and went off to Basic Training shortly after winning the Conference Title for the 400 meter run with a time of 50.7.





Terrell & Vanessa Kemp	2 JAN
John & Lizette Hickey	3 JAN
Jake & Michelle Higginbotham	7 JAN
Noel & Maria Santiago	7 JAN
Todd & Jamie Brown	10 JAN
Sam & Michelle Stanley	10 JAN
David & Amy Smith	17 JAN
Randy & Melissa Amsler	18 JAN
Carl & Judy Worthington	20 J <i>A</i> N
Roger & Carol Darling	23 JAN

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES

1 January	Happy New Year	
9 January	DET BOWL V (A-TRP vs. B-TRP Flag Football game)	Pike Field 7:00am
11 January	Spouse Lunch (RSVP with your Key Callers)	Staff Annex 11:30am - 1:30pm
25 January	27th Annual JSOC Ball (RSVP with Rory Halpin)	Holiday Inn Bordeaux
26 February	SOROC Spouse Orientation (Flyer will be sent soon)	Staff Annex (flyer will be sent in mail)



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).