

February 1, 2012

# Delivering the Message

Joint Communications Unit

Volume 7, Issue 2

## Message from the Commander

Happy (belated) New Year JCU! Hopefully by now everyone has thrown out the Christmas trees (and probably all those pain in the butt lights that will NEVER work next year), packed up all the decorations, and prepared yourself for that “arctic” NC Winter. I’m not sure where this 60 degree weather is coming from (nor the 100 degree temperature in the JCU HQ BLDG at the moment) but I’m sure we’ll get our fair share of cold/misery, post closures and school cancellations from ½” of snow in the weeks ahead.

JCU stayed extremely busy during the holiday period and as luck would have it no one is telling us to stop and take a break just yet. I want to welcome back A Troop from an outstanding rotation over the last several months. I was fortunate enough to see many of them in action over the Holidays and it never ceases to amaze me the power of one JCU communicator in the right spot. I am glad to see that all of A Troop was able to get home and spend some quality time with Families. I also want to formally welcome Dave Allen to the helm of A Troop. There is

no one in JCU with more experience, expertise, or understanding of what it takes to be assigned to JCU than Dave Allen and I know A TRP members and their Families will be well served by his leadership. I was also able to see C TRP roll in to assume responsibilities from A TRP and they clearly have not missed a beat. For some in C TRP this is their first JCU “trip” and it became apparent early on that they aren’t in SOROC anymore. I know they are going to have a great rotation and before we know it they will be home again.

February is a big month in particular for a couple of people in JCU. CMsgt Katherine “Kat” Little, formerly the JCU Air Force Senior Enlisted Advisor is retiring after 27 years of service to our country. Kat has been a phenomenal NCO throughout her career and in particular has been instrumental in professionalizing the Service SEA position within JCU. MSG Tim Holton, former A TRP DET Chief, is retiring from the Army after nearly 23 years of service. It is difficult to replace such outstanding professionals as Kat and Tim—thanks for your service to our country and to JCU—and best wishes in your

future endeavors.

I would also like to formally welcome SOROC Class 1-12 into the JCU fold. For the 26 JCU candidates that started Class 1-12, you are getting ready to start down a career path that will change your life. You are part of the finest communications unit in the world, a place where all your technical and tactical expertise will be required and where you will be expected to be an independent thinker that gives their all to the mission. You will get back as much as you give, because there simply is no organization in the world like JCU. I look forward to watching you and your Families get integrated into the JCU Family.

As always, I am proud to serve with such professionals who sacrifice so much for the mission and our country. DOD’s Finest!

~Sam Anderson



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## Special points of interest:

- *Promotions*
- *WLE II*
- *Highland Games*
- *Upcoming Events*



Hello everyone, January has flown by and everyone here in B Troop has been very busy. Welcome aboard to Jesse, Joe, Tony, Chris, Larry, Luis, David, Ryan, and Brandon and all their families. We have been integrating all the new personnel with training and promise to stop keeping them here late at night once all of them are trained to the B Troop standard.

With the new personnel we are forced to say goodbye to friends and their families. Bryant Locke moved to the NOSC and Andre Tate moved to OPS. You will be missed and wish good fortune on your future endeavors. We were hoping that SMT would print a retraction in this newsletter, but that probably won't happen since B Troop was the unanimous winner of the JCU Highland Games. Make

sure that all the B Troop families make a spot on the calendar for the evening of the Feb 23rd so that we can have a family event. We hope that February goes as good as January did and Happy Valentine's day.

~Tim



Hello everyone. I hope this finds everyone doing well. As you all know, we are now busy at our new locations for the next little bit and actively pursuing the nation's

work. Thanks to A-Troop for a job well done and an excellent hand off! As a note for the calendar's, we will be conducting a Valentine's Day VTC on 12 February, you will all see some more information

flowing on this. Congratulations to SSG Jimmy Bermudez and his selection as one of the Units newest SSG's, Feb 1.

~Christian



Ok Folks, short and sweet this time around. I want to start off with giving a shout out to the entire troop. Thanks fellas (gender neutrality intended) for all that you do and continue to do. I can't tell ya how much we appreciate your take care of business attitude. Sure makes my job looks easy. So since you guys are carrying the load I figured I'd help you out on the home front with a few "Sure Thing" Valentine's Day Gift ideas.

If you're like me you "always" place an extreme amount of thought into that special Valentines gift for that special someone. Often starting to plan in late February the year prior, with visions of romantic strolls on a private tropical island or your own episode on Mobbed (with Howie Mandel); only to be overcome by events and end up rushing to the

BX or Wal-Mart at 1730 on your way home to pick up the last, already wilting, bouquet of whatever flowers they have left. Well I am here to save you the embarrassment and get you out of the dog house and into the Boudoir with my no fail Valentine's Day Gift suggestions. In no particular order.....

5. Any New Kitchen Appliance (Nothing says love like get back in the kitchen and cook me up a pot pie)
4. His and Hers Tongue Scrapers (Dental hygiene is important for that soon to be romantic evening)
3. Any well thought out item from the JCU-online store (Gift wrapped and personally delivered by Todd "Dookie" Spencer especially for your very lucky someone)
2. Breakfast in Bed (looking for more than a fast-food

McMuffin and a cold latte here fellas)

1. Something Shiny (rhymes with bold or diamonds... or maybe both)

Give any of those a try and I'm sure you're special someone will be overwhelmed with emotion. You might want to pick up a bottle of that new "Broken down Car" Excuse Cologne that is on the market now. Designed to make you smell like you've been working on your car and give you just the excuse you need to explain why you didn't pick up that special gift. Just looking out for you! Take care and catch ya'll later. I wonder if Ted Nugent is available for a personal romantic rendition of Cat Scratch Fever..... hhmhm?

~ Del



Tom and Mat were unsuccessful. I look forward to future Troop events and hopefully the next time we will have a little more participation. The best news of the month is that Randy Amsler health has improved and will transferred stateside soon, Hopefully he will be reading this news letter from the somewhere in the states. Keep fighting Randy and all of our prayers and thoughts are with you. I forgot to congratulate Jeremy Jenkins on his recent graduation from Jump Master School, Congrats Jeremy! Please take the time to welcome home Mr. Joe Thomas and David Hawkins

who recently returned from a challenging deployment, thanks guys. I would also like to thank our deployed members for their sacrifice and hard work. As usual, last but not least I would like to thank our families for their continued support. Without your support our jobs would be a lot tougher and you all have the thankless jobs of being military spouses, so if no one has told you lately....THANK YOU!

~Travis

Judging by the weather I am unsure as to what month it is outside. Seventy degrees in January has got to be something you northerners can write home about. As busy as the NOSC is we actually found the time to squeeze in a bowling party, which turned out to be a pretty awesome event, I would like to thank everyone who came out and witnessed Tom Rascon battle Bryce Hixson on the lanes and Mat Heist try to earn brownie points from troop SGM, both



ever. Glad to have you back guys. A-Troop probably agrees. We are all proud of their accomplishments. Jeff Drew and Gabe have taken the reigns forward and are already in place doing great things. Gabe has already started his "journal" describing the beautifully breathtaking mountain views that punctuate the landscape with words more suited to a Thomas Kinkade painting, or perhaps a scene vividly depicted by Norman Rockwell. Reggie was recently promoted to ET1. That should enable him to buy even bigger rims for his Jaguar, maybe 28 inchers. Congrats Reggie. Well deserved!

his weight forward. Good job Mike! Olympia has big shoes to fill!

In the Motor Pool, Mikey Beach and Co. doing a great job. Mike Beach is currently away saving the world from dirty engine oil and improperly inflated tires. Andy Miller just received his 5-year service award. Great job Andy! Great job putting up with Mike Beach!

If you're like me, Spring can't get here quick enough. Fish will soon be jumping, the Patriots will have lost yet another Super Bowl, and our champion Reggie will sweep all categories in the next Highland (Football)Games.

Thanks and take care.

~Mike

Hello everyone. Winter is coming to an end and Spring is just around the corner. We survived, nay, THRIVED at yet another Highland Game. Our new muscle, Reggie, proved that sometimes, size DOESN'T matter! He carried his weight and then some, maybe twice his weight, or whatever Drew weighs. We thought we'd be hamstrung without our heavyweight class being represented by Jeff's uncanny ability to throw Kettle Bells, Cabers, A-Bags, pretty much anything that is not nailed down, but Reggie came through in glorious fashion during the caber toss, easily besting our closest adversaries. Well Done!

In EMS, Russ and Blake have completed their tours and are salty as

In LRS, Mike Larson took care of business while deployed supporting our logistics needs and has arrived safe and sound back here in good ol' Carolina. We are glad to have him back. Olympia is now attempting to pull



continues to live up to the motto "If not us, who?" by spending most of their time forward fighting the good fight and spending any time home preparing for the next round. Josh's boys are working hard supporting the Doc's with Al in NM, Cotton and Jory fwd and Marcus out playing hero for the week! EC says farewell to Rick Lepage as the HQ's welcomes him on as a permanent member next month. Rick successfully passed down the heavy bags to Rob Londers. Ameer has finally a chance to unpack as Eddie and Doug continue to

support multiple trips around the world. Mark and his boys continue to stay poised for action as they are always improving the posture and equipment readiness. Sean is excited to have all his candidates, John Trevino, Mitchell Sheppard, and Vic Vinnedge in the course that started on 9 January. Also, of notable mention, Dave Miller earned his nickname "plus one" so be sure to ask for the story when you see him.

~Chad

Happy Valentine's Day to all the significant others of our service members, thank you for all you have done and continue to do in support of our team. Fellas, don't forget to send flowers and don't forget Mom either. Please congratulate our Highland Games "Bravo Team" for a close second in the Highland Games, then thank 1SG Prasse for scheduling the games when our fittest SMT members are deployed and on leave. CST



the unit. That would not have been possible without the support and expertise of DoD's finest Motor-pool.

excitement associated with the start of a new course.

January brings the beginning of SOROC class 1-12. The class is comprised of 26 JCU hires and 3 guest students. The training began fast and isn't going to slow down for at least six months. The students completed TCCC training, without losing a drop of blood. That could be because they have taken out the IV portion, but we will give them the benefit of the doubt. Keeping up with the OPTEMPO, they moved right into M4 and M9 familiarization, training, and qualification.

Thanks Justin and Andy, you guys are truly appreciated.

The Students then received advanced weapons and driving training by Tom Bullins and crew at the infamous Trigger Time. We didn't even roll a vehicle this time. They learned a lot and are finally getting comfortable with their weapons systems. Keep up the weapons training when you get to the Troops, it truly is a perishable skill. We are extremely excited for the next iteration, the FTX. I'm sure I will have some great input for next month's newsletter. Until then, I will continue the SOROC mission to develop better leaders and a more cohesive communications team!

Justin Thomas has joined the outstanding team of SOROC instructors we have. Welcome aboard to Justin, Jess, Tyler, and Parker Thomas. It's great to have JCU Alumni back at Fort Bragg and doing great things for JCU.

Jim McKnight has been busy working with the TAC to get the students through Module 0 (Tactical Phase). Making full use of their time prior to the start of Academics, several instructors have earned professional certifications. Congratulations Bryn, Ryan and Paul!

Ryan Miller has made the difficult decision to depart the unit to peruse other opportunities. Ryan has been a great asset to JCU and will be missed. He has taught SOROC for nearly two and a half years and has graduated 115 of DoD's Finest Communicators. We wish Ryan, Angie, Alana, and Elijah a smooth transition and all the best in your future endeavors.

~Big Jon

The SOROC Cadre has been busy getting ready for the start of SOROC 1-12 Academics. It doesn't matter which side of the podium you're on, there is always

~DJ

## The World's Largest Exercise in the World II (WLE II)



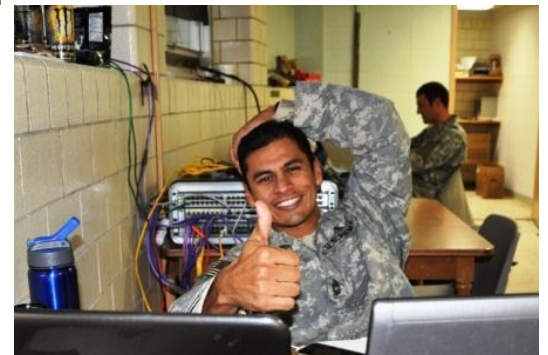
Above and Right: Looks like the inmates tried to take over the asylum. This is evident by the crazy one to the right. While the buildings look like something out of Ghost Hunters, the training was awesome and much was learned.



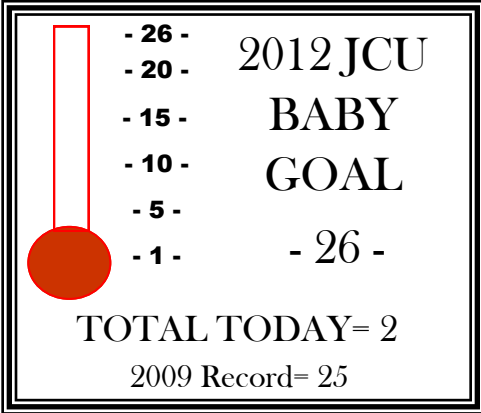
Above: An often uttered term used in many SOROC classes, "I sure hope you know what you are doing."

Below: Don't kid yourself. FM is trying to figure out how much comms they can actually put on one of these. The problem now is figuring out who is going to get caught riding it.

Below: Even Ken and his spit cup came out to play on this fine day.



Above: Sergio is obviously enjoying his time of injecting problems into the network to teach the new guys a few lessons.



**ANNIVERSARIES**

Swani & Chris Philipp	2 FEB
Andre & Citwyler Tate	3 FEB
James & Samantha Brown	11 FEB
Troy & Shani Zimmermann	12 FEB
Gabriel & Juliana Urdaneta	14 FEB
German & Ximena Salcedo	17 FEB
Travis & Lakecia Jenkins	19 FEB
Kathryn & Daniel Little	22 FEB
Sergio & Patricia Hernandez	22 FEB
Luis & Vanessa Gonzalez	25 FEB
Bernard & LaTraya Byers	26 FEB

**Please Join Us for  
Our March Spouses' Social**

**Wednesday, 7 March 2012  
6:30 p.m.**

**At the Annex  
Children are Welcome!**

**Please bring your favorite  
finger food to share.**

**Please RSVP by 6 March  
To Susan Miller  
snmiller05@gmail.com**

**OPERATION PROM DRESS**

**We are looking for donations of new or gently used Prom, Formal, and Bridesmaid Dresses, in all sizes. Our goal is to offer the dresses to Hoke County High School girls. We hope that we can make it easier and cheaper for girls to look glamorous at their prom and still have some money for hair, shoes and accessories.**

**We know that times are tough right now and really hope to help those that might not otherwise be able to wear a beautiful dress to prom.**

**Prom will be here before we know it, May 5, 2012. Please, pass the word on to family and friends. If you have any old prom dresses, fancy evening dresses, bridesmaid dresses or the like, taking up space in your closets, please consider making a donation of these dresses.**

**For more information contact**

**Commalitha Holton**  
**[CHolton@hcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:CHolton@hcs.k12.nc.us) or 910-584-3554**




## GOODBYE TO FRIENDS & FAMILY

CMSgt Kathryn (Kat) Little & husband Dan October 2009—February 2012 (HHT)

SSgt Alicia (Al) Perez & husband Jason, and daughter Alexandria November 2008—February 2012 (HHT)

MSG Tim Holton @ wife Commalitha, daughter Jasmyn, and son Timothy November 2007—February 2012 (A-Troop)

SSgt Lawrence Jones November 2007—February 2012 (D-Troop)



Above: M-Troop will do anything to gain an advantage.



Above: The NOSC truly is full of smart people. Here they chose to use Ben Holmes as their stretcher dummy. Considering that Ben weighs 100 pounds, the NOSC has a 50 pound advantage on the other troops.



## GREENCARE FOR TROOPS



Is your spouse not home, and your lawn suffering? Do the leaves need to be raked, hedges trimmed, and weeds pulled? Now there is an organization that will help in all of this work while your spouse is away. Greencare for Troops is a nationwide outreach program coordinated by Project EverGreen that connects local green industry professionals with men and women serving our country in the armed forces away from home.

For more information, visit [www.projectevergreen.com/gcft](http://www.projectevergreen.com/gcft)

Sign up at [www.projectevergreen.com/gcft/get\\_greenca.html](http://www.projectevergreen.com/gcft/get_greenca.html)



You give them coffee, and they will be happy.



Above: Are the other three running with Bryant Locke, or is he dragging them along?



Bruce is enjoying this far too much.



Above: And the winner of the 2012 Winter Highland Games is B-Troop.....again.



Above: D-Troop definitely had a show of force, but unfortunately it did not help them bring home the title and the streamer.



Left: No matter how hard you stare at the Caber, it isn't going to fly any further.

Right: Yes, they are looking on and wondering the same thing you are, "did you really just throw it 5 feet?"



# Meet the SOROC'ers of Class 01-12



**Name:** Bass, John

**Rank/Service:** TSgt/USAF

**Enlisted:** 19 November 2002

**Birthday:** 4 March 1984

**Spouse Name:** Amanda

**Children:** Madeline

**Hobbies:** Messing with computers, hiking, snowboarding, playing Xbox and scuba diving.

**Previous Assignment:** 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Communications Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL

**Goals/Expectations:** Complete SOROC, and graduate Jump School.

**Name:** Contador, Gonzalo

**Rank/Service:** SSG/Army

**Enlisted:** 20 Feb 2003

**Birthday:** 26 August 1978

**Spouse Name:** Margaret Contador

**Children:** Lillian, Isaac

**Hobbies:** Computer Software Development, Video Games, Running

**Previous Assignment:** CG Communications Team, Team Chief.

**Goals/Expectations:** Complete SOROC, Complete Airborne, Air Assault. Complete a Master's Degree in Computer Science.



**Name:** Cebulla, Daniel F.

**Rank/Service:** Sgt/USMC

**Enlisted:** 22 Feb 2004

**Birthday:** 25 April 1985

**Spouse Name:** Jessica

**Children:** Isobel

**Hobbies:** Formula 1 racing, horseback riding, woodworking

**Previous Assignment:** Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Company, Europe, Rota, Spain

**Goals/Expectations:** Complete SOROC, complete jump school, and complete my education.



**Name:** Dela Cruz, Christian

**Rank/Service:** SGT/Army

**Enlisted:** 02 Aug 2006

**Birthday:** 26 March 1988

**Spouse Name:** None

**Children:** None

**Hobbies:** Basketball, Football, Video Gaming, and Reading Books

**Previous Assignment:** 11TTSB 40<sup>th</sup> ESB Alpha Company. STT/CPN Team Chief/Operator

**Goals/Expectations:** Complete SOROC, Complete Airborne and Air Assault. Compete and Acquire Certifications for Network +, A+, Security +, and CCNA





# February Promotions, Awards & Special Occasions

## Army Promotion



SGT Jimmy Bermudez to SSG (C-Troop)  
 SGT Brian Cochran to SSG (D-Troop)  
 SGT Hector Santana to SSG (D-Troop)

## Marine Promotion



Sgt Daniel Cebulla to SSgt (SOROC)



## BIRTHDAYS

James Wagner	1 FEB
Christopher Lewallen	1 FEB
Jonathan Byrd	2 FEB
Andrew Bowman	2 FEB
Jason Coleman	4 FEB
Pedro Rodriguez	4 FEB
Michael Addaman	6 FEB
Jeffrey Ingraham	6 FEB
Heather Boisvert	6 FEB
Ryan Johnson	7 FEB
Bryan Watkins	9 FEB
David Ortiz	9 FEB
Michael Medgyessy	12 FEB
James Lewis	12 FEB
Michael Schaffer	13 FEB
German Salcedo	13 FEB
Samuels Prichard	15 FEB
Adam Thompson	17 FEB
Kenneth Smith	18 FEB
Mark Krob	19 FEB
Sean Collins	23 FEB
Jeffrey Huffman	23 FEB
Jeffrey Drew	24 FEB
Timothy Duncan	26 FEB



Above: Alton Seglund is promoted to Master Sergeant by his wife Chandra and daughter Emily.

Below: Mark Krob is promoted to Sergeant First Class by his wife Katie and his daughter Ariana.



Left: Luis Gonzalez is promoted to Staff Sergeant by his wife Vanessa.



Left: David Smith is promoted from Staff Sergeant to Technical Sergeant by his wife Amy Smith and fellow JCU member Jason Benavides.

## Mark your calendars for these important dates

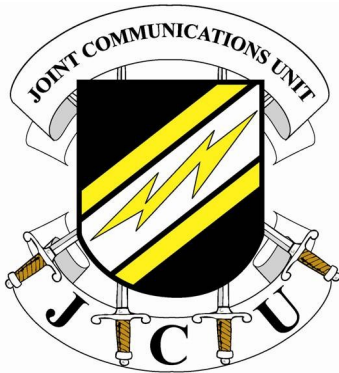
10 Feb	Retirement of MSG Tim Holton	1400-1700: Parachute Packing Facility
17-20 Feb	Presidents four day weekend	
6-9 Apr	Easter holiday weekend	
17 May	SOCA Golf Tournament Social	1800-UTC: The Mash House
18 May	Annual SOCA Golf Tournament	0800-UTC: Carolina Lakes Golf Course
24 May	Retirement of 1SG Frank Perez	1000-1400: Parachute Packing Facility
25-28 May	Memorial Day 4 day weekend	
22 Jun	First Annual JCU Flag Football Tournament	0700-UTC: Lake Rim Park

## Joint Communications Unit

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28307-5000

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Fax: 910-243-0310  
E-mail: [prassej@jdi.socom.mil](mailto:prassej@jdi.socom.mil)

"DoD's Finest Communicators"



## LEADERSHIP THAT CARES



<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Work</u>	<u>Home</u>
Commander	LTC Sam Anderson	243-0200	339-0108
CSM	CSM Steve Long	243-0201	568-6408
DCO	MAJ Andy Bender	243-8850	263-8161
Unit ISG	1SG Jim Prasse	243-0469	426-9305
OPS Officer	MAJ Ken Rutka	243-0524	706-587-8884
Ops SGM	SGM Rob Flaker	243-2439	919-499-5570
A-Troop SGM	ETCS Dave Allen	243-1321	639-1388
B-Troop SGM	ITCS Dave Kelly	243-4079	339-9547
C-Troop SGM	SMSgt Christian Martin	243-0115	919-498-1192
D-Troop SGM	SMSgt Del Walker	243-4147	919-499-5710
SMT Troop SGM	SGM Jack Nichols	243-1589	424-1805
NOSC SGM	1SG Chris Leach	243-0991	480-1118
NOSC Director	MAJ Tom Rascon	243-4075	973-2489
M-Troop SGM	ETCM Mike Addaman	243-0439	487-0293
S&T NCOIC	MSG Steve Trevino	243-0577	988-4721
XO	Maj Mark Landez	243-2301	478-320-8869
JCU FRC	Mrs. Gillian Long		624-7611
Social Worker	Mrs. Wanda Crawford	396-7489	
Chaplain Office	Mrs. Windia Mitchell	243-2515	
JSOC FRG	Mrs. Marie VanHeusen	396-7500	

### JCU FRG Key Callers

JCU FRC	Gillian Long	624-7611	<a href="mailto:gillian.long@erac.com">gillian.long@erac.com</a>
A-Troop	Eli Arroyo-Allen	635-6955	<a href="mailto:madrinaeg@aol.com">madrinaeg@aol.com</a>
B-Troop	Kris To	644-5587	<a href="mailto:krissylynn1330@yahoo.com">krissylynn1330@yahoo.com</a>
C-Troop	Natalie Martin	919-498-1192	<a href="mailto:mrsmartin4@hotmail.com">mrsmartin4@hotmail.com</a>
D-Troop	Gini Walker	919-499-5710	<a href="mailto:ginimomof4@windstream.net">ginimomof4@windstream.net</a>
SMT-Troop	Carleen Nichols	424-1805	<a href="mailto:nicholsc@jdi.socom.mil">nicholsc@jdi.socom.mil</a>
NOSC	Barb Rascon	973-2483	<a href="mailto:brascon71@yahoo.com">brascon71@yahoo.com</a>
M-Troop	Kelly Larson	530-524-4038	<a href="mailto:larson101@gmail.com">larson101@gmail.com</a>
CMD/OPS	Deborah Prasse	426-9305	<a href="mailto:dsp729@yahoo.com">dsp729@yahoo.com</a>