



## The Joint Communications Unit

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COME JOIN US FOR THE JCU HIGHLAND GAMES! THE EVENT WILL BE AT POPE ARMY AIR FIELD'S SPORTS COMPLEX ON 24 JANUARY STARTING AT 7 A.M.

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and were able to enjoy some time with friends and family. Welcome home to D Troop who was deployed over the holidays this year and good to see every one back. Let me start off by saying thank you to the FRG and all the volunteers that helped with the Christmas Party; it was a great event and I have received several positive comments on it.

It has been incredibly busy since the last newsletter with exercises in Korea to Europe and everywhere in between. JCU is doing great work and pushing the envelope on a wide variety of issues that are noticed at the most senior levels. There is no shortage of

opportunities for our service members to excel and they meet the challenge every time. The pace doesn't seem to be slowing down as we move into spring and start another training cycle.

Welcome to all the new SOROC students and their families, it will be a fast, stressful six months but it is worth it. SOROC Class 2-13 graduated 32 students and are now serving in the Troops.

Since it has been an unusual winter so far I want to remind everyone that just because you grew up in the North or came from an assignment driving in the snow it is not normal in North Carolina. Please use caution driving in winter conditions, be prepared with emergency gear

allow plenty of time to get to your destination.

I want to take one more opportunity to thank all our volunteers for the numerous events you make possible—JSO 10k, the Children's Christmas Party, Anniversary Party, Spouse's Orientation etc. These events would not be possible without your support so Thank You. The spouses and families of JCU are just as dedicated and resilient as the Unit members and that is what makes this a great organization.

2014 will provide plenty of its own challenges but I know JCU is ready and will continue to demonstrate why it has earned the title "DoD's Finest Communicators".

### Upcoming Events/Holidays/Days off

17-20 January	MLK Jr. Weekend
24 January	JCU Highland Games
24 January	JCU FRG Social (JSOC Staff Annex @ 6p.m.)
14 February	JSOC Family Day
15 February	JSOC Ball (Pinehurst, NC)
21 February	JCU FRG Social (Greg's Pottery @ 6p.m.)
16 February	President's Day

# A Troop

A Trooper's,

I hope that you had a terrific Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. For many in our Troop, it had been 2 years (or more) that we had been away from home for those holidays so it was some well-deserved down time with our families. It has been awhile since the last newsletter and many good things have occurred.

We had two marriages in the month of December; Scott Staniszewski marrying Brianna Jo and John Wilk tying the knot to Paola. Tony and Ebony Garcia brought a new child into the world; James Garcia was born on Nov 27th and weighed in at 6

pounds and 7 ounces. Three A Trooper's were promoted: James Stokes was meritoriously promoted to Petty Officer First Class (Navy E-6), he was selected for this honor above all other Navy E-5's in the unit. Brad Long was promoted to Staff Sergeant (Army E-6) on Oct 1st and Ryan Speck was selected for Chief Master Sergeant (Air Force E-9)!!!

Ryan Johnson, Andrew Reynolds, Jon Brown, Joe Quigley, John Bass, and Ryan Speck earned foreign jump wings from various nations and the entire Troop conducted a standard setting exercise in Korea that will have a monumental impact on future exercises and operations

in the Pacific area of operation. Ryan Speck, Joe Quigley, Kyle Kramer, Thomas Colthart, Gil Serna, and Scott Beadell were instrumental in the overwhelming success of this evolution.

A Troop welcomed six new members: Mark Cummins, Geoffrey Orwiler, Justin Melendez, Anthony Pellitiere, and Chris Ingles graduated the arduous six month Special Operations Radio Operators Course and were hand-selected for service in A Troop. We also gained Camy Rogers from the NOSC who will be groomed for future assignment as a Detachment Chief in A Troop. Welcome to all, we are all excited to have you in our family.

This is my last newsletter input. I have been relieved as the A Troop by Ryan Speck, who will serve as the interim Troop SGM until Jared Schaffer arrives in either April or May. I will be continuing service at SOCOM in Tampa, FL. It was an honor to serve as the Troop SGM these past two years and it was the highlight of my long tenure in JCU. While I am disappointed that my time in the seat is over (it was a very quick two years), my family and I are excited about our future in south Florida

Good luck to all of you in your future endeavors; if you ever need anything from Eli or I don't hesitate to contact us.

~ Dave

# B Troop

Belated Seasons greetings and salutations from B Troop are in order as we transition to yet another year as members of DOD's Finest. B Troop has once again rocked the last quarter and we are looking forward to making this next quarter another one to remember. The holiday party proved that not only can B Troop look good but we can have fun while we are doing it. Dave might not make it to Dance Dance Revolution, but he definitely gave John Travolta a run for his money. He brought the FUN to "fun size".



Another group of B Troopers have outgrown the nest and moved on to bigger and better things. It is with great pride and sadness we say "fair winds and following seas" to Joe Yacopino

(NOSC), Tony Carrillo (D-Troop), and Luis Gonzalez (SMT). All the blood, sweat, tears, late nights, and being away from home paid off. Gentlemen, enjoy your parole. We expect you to expand the B Troop influence as well as sand bag your teams during the next flag football tournament.

With the departures we still managed to swell our ranks as we pull in seven fresh new faces into the Troop from SOROC. We welcome Eric Graves, Nathan Sanchez, Charles Harvey, Cory Latner, Jose Brito, Amon Georgwill and Kyle Lammerding. You are now part of the best that JCU has to offer. Play time is over. You are all behind the curve.

We finished up last quarter with a bang, pushing our guys out do to amazing things. To all of the families, we appreciate the contribution and sacrifice you make daily to support our Troop. None of what we are able to do is possible without your constant vigilance and support. The away

games once again proved that B Troop is up to the task. To the guys that participated in this quarter's away games, you moved the bar to levels that other Troops are going to have a hard time matching.

Training for B Troop has been productive. We recently completed a TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care) Course and those that participated are now ready and willing to perform the basic lifesaving tasks; as long as the dummy has only a sprained ankle and doesn't weigh more than 50 pounds. It was a rigorous course involving more sweat and tears than blood. Good times were had by all as Shaun was more



than willing to volunteer for a complicated lifesaving procedure.

Congrats to our B Troopers promoted this cycle. Brandon Works and Dave Ortiz proved that planetary alignment is possible with their promotion to Petty Officer First Class. Gabe Urdaneta proved better than his test and was promoted to Technical Sergeant. Mike McGrath stepped up his game and made the Marine Staff Sergeant List. All are well deserved and too slow in coming.

The B Troop Leadership is looking forward to another good quarter serving JCU's finest Troop. As always we are trying to fit 10 pounds of stuff into a 5 pound bag. I cannot think of a better group to do it with. Thanks again for all you do.

~Darren

# C Troop

First I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and welcome everybody back from some well-deserved leave. The Troop has been extremely busy over



the last couple of months and it is only going to pick up from here. The guys were able to see the great city of St. Louis and, with the help of Dave Hollein, they always knew where to eat. It was also a very special time for Justin Day as he was able to go underway for the second time in his illustrious Naval

career. We would like to say good bye to some very dedicated C Troop members; Brent Borden, Chris Quayle, Craig Wilson and Tyler Nichols. They have all moved on or are getting ready to move onto bigger and better things with in the Unit. Now we just need to figure out a way to get grumpy Brent to stop back bye and pick up his plaque. I would like to welcome the new members to C Troop; Jake Vargas, Tom Freymiller, Zach Taylor, Lionel Phillips, Nicholas Pittman, Alfred Morales, Walter Bayne and Ryan Bobo. A special welcome to Jason Kubat who has

the hardest job of all trying to replace Brent. It has been a much happier place with Jason around.....even if he only has one arm for the next couple of months. Congratulations go out to Steve Mahon, Tyler Nicholas and Chas Karlesknit for receiving there EXW pin. Wish a speedy recovery to Dave Hollein. Also good luck to Barrett Overton in Jump Master school. Hope everyone has a great 2014.

~Stan

# D Troop

Hello D Troop Family,

Wow, the time surely does fly by when you having fun and doing what you love to do. There were a lot of things we missed out on over the last few months with the families, but the Troop was out taking care of business in good old fashion D Troop style making comms happen 24/7 the right way. One thing I can say is the guys did a standup job and definitely contributed and learned a lot over the last few months. I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season with loved ones near and far. We'd like to thank all the family members who pitched in and made care packages for us during our time away. They truly came in handy and put smiles on the guys faces. For all the other packages sent out by family members and friends, thank you.

I know one thing; there was no shortage in cakes, cookies, candy, assorted nuts and everything in between. Everything was truly appreciated. Congratulations to Don Dalros who will be getting promoted to TSgt in January, well deserved and earned. Also during this time we added new members to the Troop from the last SOROC class. D Troop welcomes the following service members and family. Jonathan Beckham, Clay Coppage, Travis Fahlgren, Benjamin Fleming, Kelly Main, and Lon Rice. We also have current unit members Tony Carrillo and Barrett Overton joining us in February. Welcome to the D Troop Family. We will be saying goodbye to the following Troop members and families also. Donald Brantley, Gregory Durr, Jason Haines, Robert Luna, Charles Scott, Dennis Smith, Nathaniel Williams. Sergio Her-

andez will be taking over as the Troop SGM in February. The Troop is in good hands with him at the helm and I know you will continue to carry on with the D Troop motto. If you don't know it, find a current or past Troop member and ask them. The last

18 months have truly been the highlight of my JCU career as the Troop SGM of the best group of guys I have worked with. You guys are truly amazing in everything you do; you always went above and beyond in everything you did. Keep up the good work.

~Dennis



# M Troop

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. The M-troop pot luck dinner was another huge success. Thanks to all those who made it possible. I would like to extend a special thanks to Carleen for her efforts. She always does a great job and everyone seems to have a great time. There are lots of new faces around with the recent SOROC graduation. We were fortunate enough to receive four new graduates from the last batch of new communicators. Please join me

in welcoming Josh McCormick, John Fondren, William Martin and Nicholas Jones and their families to M-troop. Josh is not new to the area as he comes to us from another directorate, but he's "new" to JCU so welcome aboard. Speaking of welcome aboard, Christopher and Julie Scott gave birth to Christopher Lee Scott Jr, extending our M-Troop family. It's great to have Bernadette and Jeremy back from their overseas trips. Both accomplished much during their tours and

came back with a job well done. It's great to have you both back. Jared, Andrew and Shandra are out there now and are bound to continue to do great things. Our very own Sara Derosa was recently promoted to MSG! Congrats on achieving this huge milestone in your career, it is well deserved. Speaking of "well deserved", Ms. Penny Richenberg was named JCU's CMOQ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and JCU Civilian Member of the Year 2013! We are all extremely proud of both of you for your accomplishments. We



certainly ended 2013 running strong and I know that great things are on the horizon for 2014. Looking forward to a prosperous and productive 2014! Thanks again for all you do.

~Tim Renfro

# Headquarters & Headquarters Troop (HHT)

Happy New Year! The last few months have flown by and 2014 is already well on it's way.

We've had couple folks depart HHT these last few months. MSgt Bruce Becherini (Ops) retired from the Marine Corps in November and will be moving back to his hometown of Spokane, Washington.



PO1 Jon Beard (Ops) departed JCU and is heading out do great things for the Navy. Jon will be signing into his next duty assignment in Italy very soon.

I would like to welcome SCPO Brent Borden and MSG Ryan Oswald as they have both recently joined the Ops Team. Brent and Ryan both come to Ops with a wealth of knowledge

and many, many years of JCU experience. It is without a doubt that they will continue to serve this organization with great distinction.

Welcome home to CPT Jamie Beere and SSgt Swani Philipp. I'm sure your families are more than glad to y'all back and hopefully you are getting some down time after a job well done.

We have had a change to the HHT Key Caller but first I would like to thank to Mrs. Lisa Dover for supporting our section over

the last year. Unfortunately, Jerry will retire from his successful Air Force career and they will be moving on. Our new Key Caller is none other than my wife, Katie Mitcham. Her contact info is on the last page of this newsletter.

On a final note, HHT had to say goodbye to Vanessa Moak. Vanessa was nothing short of top-notch as the JCU 1SG. She is heading off to school and will return to JCU this spring to take over as the NOSC SGM. On behalf of everyone in HHT I'd like to say thank you for everything that you've done and good luck!

~1SG Mitcham

# SOROC

Well here we go again; the holidays are over, I'm a little fatter from all the egg-nog and turkey I consumed, and class 1-14 is underway! Before I get into all that I just want to take a moment and wish Class 2-13 good luck it was an honor to be your TAC and I'm sure you will do great things. Also I want to thank the SOROC Cadre for doing what they do. Oh and Class 2-13, I definitely wasn't lost that day, it's called

terrain association guys....didn't we end up right on that corner of the DZ? Right we did, that's what I thought...ok enough about that! Like I said Class 1-14 has kicked off the New Year with a bang and by the time you read this they should be putting some rounds down range and getting some excellent instruction from Jim and the other instructors. Maybe even grouchy Ken will come out and do some teaching,

who knows! He is the head bus driver around here.

I also want to welcome in the new families to JCU as well, this is going to be a long 6 months for you and I really do appreciate all the support you give your husbands. There is no way we could do what we do without it, so please let me know if you have any problems or issues and I promise you I will either have the answer or find the answer.

I am sad to report that we will not be participating in this year's Highland Games; I know how upset the troops must be. Hey guys I don't like winning and embarrassing everyone anymore then you like to lose! All right All right I know what you're going to say, and yes this is my real hair and no I do not take steroids. Ok that's all for now from SOROC, Happy New Year and everyone stay safe!

~Paul

## Note from the FRG

F.Y.I.

**JCU FRG  
NEWS**


Hello Friends and Family of JCU,

Our names are Ann Johnston and Katie Mitcham, and we are the FRG leaders for JCU. Ann has a 7-year-old son and works full time at FTCC. She and Wade have lived in Fayetteville for the past three years on this tour (they've been here 3 times). Katie has three boys (12, 3, and 19 months) and works full time as an Army Civilian on Fort Bragg. Sean and Katie have lived in the Fayetteville area for five years.

Our primary goal is to make contact with every spouse in our organization and let you all know who your FRG representatives


are for the Command.

Our second goal is to pass along all the great information available! This is done in an effort to improve your quality of life while your family is a part of JCU. We will accomplish this through emails, Facebook, and/or the Command newsletter. Please keep an eye out for updates!

Our third goal is to encourage participation in the awesome social events JCU and JSOC has to offer. We will keep you posted as we receive information on all the upcoming events. We suggest that everyone join the JSOC and JCU FRG Facebook groups

once you sign into the Unit. These are great forums for information and both are secret pages that only members can see (they will all be vetted before being allowed to join). These pages are both wonderful ways to keep up with what is going on in JSOC/JCU as well as meet other spouses. These pages are also both great forums to ask questions about the area/facilities (always keeping OPSEC in mind).

Facebook Page Links:

 JCU FRG:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/jcufrg/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/jcufrg/)

JSOC FRG:[www.facebook.com/groups/332620903427452/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/332620903427452/)

In order to join either of these

pages you have to 'friend' an admin so they can add you. We are both admins for the JCU FRG pages (Porter Potamus & Katie Moore Mitcham are our profile names respectively). Zita Bain is one of the main admins for the JSOC FRG page.

Our contact information is as follows: Ann Johnston (C) [910-322-2850](tel:910-322-2850) (W) [910-678-9793](tel:910-678-9793); Katie Mitcham (C) [706-294-5492](tel:706-294-5492) (W) [910-432-3176](tel:910-432-3176).

Please call us with any questions or thoughts you may have!

~ Ann Johnston and Katie Mitcham

## New Additions to the JCU Family



**LOOK WHO JUST DROPPED IN**

- ◆ Geoffry and Jessica Orwiler are the proud parents of Mazie Orwiler, born 13 October
- ◆ Rob and Rocia Luna welcomed Layla Arianna Luna on 26 October
- ◆ Chris and Julie Scott are the proud parents of Christopher Lee Scott Jr., born 22 November
- ◆ Josh and Lindsay Espersen welcomed Caden Isaiah Espersen on 22 November
- ◆ Anthony and Ebonie Garcia are the proud parents of Isaiah James Garcia, born 27 November
- ◆ Roberto and Natasha Lopez welcomed Victor Fidencio Lopez on 1 December

## Farewell to the following families~

- ◆ MSgt(Retired) Bruce Becherini (Ops) and Family to Spokane, Washington
- ◆ PO1 Jonathan Beard (Ops) and Family to Italy
- ◆ CPO(Retired) Joe Kusy (D Troop) to J7
- ◆ WO1 Andre Tate (SMT) to Fort Gordon, Georgia
- ◆ SGM Jack Nichols (SMT) to Fort Gordon, Georgia
- ◆ CPO Josh Espersen (SMT) and Family to Florida
- ◆ MSG Chris Kudel (SMT) and Family to the National Command Region
- ◆ CW3 Cosner (NOSC) to Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- ◆ CPO Brandon Moorhead (SMT) and Family to the National Command Region
- ◆ LTC Thomas Rascon (NOSC) and Family to J6

**GOODBYE TO FRIENDS & FAMILY**

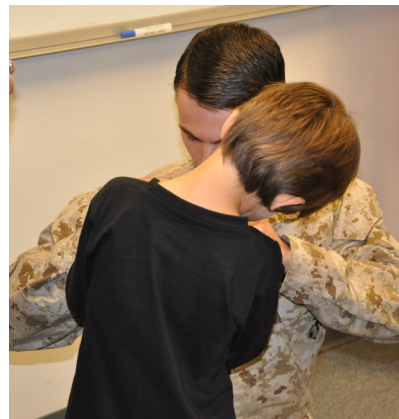
# Promotions



Sean Mitcham (HHT) to 1SG  
 Luke Blum (SMT) to MSG  
 Lenin Castillo (SMT) to MSG  
 Sara Derosa (M Trp) to MSG  
 Michael Phillips (NOSC) to SFC  
 Bradley Long (A Trp) to SSG  
 Devin Churbe (SOROC) to SGT



Robert Newbry (NOSC) to GySgt  
 Mike McGrath (B Trp) to SSgt



Dave Ortiz (B Trp) to PO1  
 Brandon Works (B Trp) to PO1



Gabe Urdaneta (B Trp) to SSgt



# Awards & Decorations



(Left to Right) Capt Carlson (Ops) and SSG Bermudez (NOSC) receive the Bronze Star Medal.



(Top Left Clockwise) CPO Varnadoe (NOSC), MSG Kudel (SMT), PO1 Duncan (SMT), CW3 Boisvert (NOSC), PO1 Beard (Ops) and CW3 Cosner (NOSC) receive their Defense Meritorious Service Medals.



(Top to Bottom) SGM Nichols (SMT) and SFC Carlson (Ops) receive the JCU Unit Colors for their service and dedication to the Joint Communications Unit.



(Top Left to Right) PO1 Day (C Troop), CPO Wisner (NOSC), PO1 Mahon (C Troop), PO1 Karleskint (C Troop) and PO1 Nichols (C Troop) receive the Expeditionary Warfare (EXW) Pin. (Bottom Left to Right) PO1 Ramirez (M Troop) receives the EXW and PO1 Geter (M Troop) receives the Information Dominance Warfare Pin.



# JCU Children's Christmas Party



The JCU FRG and SOCA made the 2013 Children's Party an event to remember. Thanks to everyone involved for all the hard work and support!! A Extra-Special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Clause for taking time out of their busy holiday schedule to visit us!





# JCU 33rd Anniversary Party Pics

Thank you to everyone who made this event an incredible success. Special Thanks! to the FRG Ladies for the extra work they put in for the decorations. Last, but not least, thanks to SOCA for making it all possible.



# JCU Leadership

Position	Name	Work #	Cell or Home #	Email
JCU Commander	COL Wade Johnston	243-0200	919-499-1492	johsntonw@jdi.socom.mil
CSM	CSM Rob Flaker	243-0201	910-584-1238	flakerr@jdi.socom.mil
DCO	LCDR Chris Halsan	243-8850	757-641-8750	halsanc@jdi.socom.mil
1SG	1SG Sean Mitcham	243-0469	706-231-9531	mitchams@jdi.socom.mil
Chaplain	CPT Brad Bruce	243-2515	919-909-1492	brucebv@jdi.socom.mil
XO	Capt Steve Maddox	243-2301	404-376-2307	maddoxs@jdi.socom.mil
OPS Officer	MAJ Steve Herman	243-0524	910-759-2478	hermans@jdi.socom.mil
OPS SGM	SGM Steve Trevino	243-2439	910-584-1239	trevinos@jdi.socom.mil
ECS CDR	MAJ Jorgenson	243-4556	703-282-0007	jorgensonb@jdi.socom.mil
ECS SGM	SGM Greg Williams	243-1447	910-987-1863	williamsgre@jdi.socom.mil
A Troop SGM	SMSgt Ryan Speck	243-1321	910-639-1388	speckw@jdi.socom.mil
B Troop SGM	SMSgt Scott Eveler	243-4079	910-322-0210	evelers@jdi.socom.mil
C Troop SGM	MSG Stan Sweeney	243-0115	910-574-7316	sweeneys@jdi.socom.mil
D Troop SGM	MSG Dennis Smith	243-4147	910-429-5443	smithde@jdi.socom.mil
SMT SGM	MSG Jeremy Pinkelman	243-0473	910-273-7110	pinklemenj@jdi.socom.mil
NOSC Director	MAJ Carl Lamonica	243-2720		lamoniac@jdi.socom.mil
NOSC SGM	SGM Chris Leach	243-0991	910-480-1118	leach@jdi.socom.mil
M Troop SGM	SMSgt Tim Renfro	243-0439	910-487-0293	renfrot@jdi.socom.mil

## FRG Contact Info and Misc #s

Position	Name	Work #	Cell or Home #	Email
FRG Coordinator	Ann Johnston		910-322-2850	redhawk@aol.com
HHT Key Caller	Katie Mitcham		706-294-5492	katie.mitcham@gmail.com
A Troop Key Caller	Misti Speck		910-759-9369	
B Troop Key Caller	Nancy Eveler		845-548-4959	nm2003@verizon.net
C Troop Key Caller	Marlena Sweeney		910-574-0955	
D Troop Key Caller	Batista Thomas		919-499-4921	blthomas@live.com
SMT Key Caller	Deanna Rosario		910-489-9775	D3c_rosario@yahoo.com
NOSC Key Caller	Amy Wedekind		910-729-1303	alwinnc@gmail.com
M Troop Key Caller	Kelly Larson		530-524-4038	larson101@gmail.com
Social Worker	Mrs. Wanda Crawford	396-7489		crawfordw@jdi.socom.mil
JSOC FRG Coordinator	Mrs. Marie VanHeusen	396-7500		vanheusenm.ctr@jdi.socom.mil

- If for any reason you need assistance, please contact your Key Caller, Troop SGM or Unit 1SG
- CYS has a free children's program for deployed service members. You need a memo, email mitchams@jdi.socom.mil to request it
- Please attend unit activities, if not just to get out and meet new people. We NEED your support to make the FRG a success
- Family members are able to use the gym and "yard" (cross fit gym) at work. You must be escorted by your service member