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From: Vaughn CIV Bryan T [mailto:bryan.vaughn@usmc.mil]

Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 4:49 PM

Subject: Update on our Marines

Families,

River City restrictions on e-mail/communications have been lifted aboard USS Boxer today (Monday). Certain the Marines will be lighting up the e-mail over next couple days as they are able to power through the system. Boxer and 13th MEU remains off Africa doing counter-piracy and other operations. OPSEC remains a concern, we must prevent from coercing our spouses to give operational information about what they are doing or, more importantly what they will be doing. The Marines and Sailors have been given pacific guidance about what they can and can't talk about while they are performing Counter-Piracy Operations. I'm sure you are excited to hear what they are doing; we will just have to hear their "Sea Stories" once they return. The MEU's approved statement is:

"The 13th MEU/BOXER ARG is currently on a scheduled deployment in support of Maritime Security Operations, conducting counter-piracy operations off the coast of Africa. As always, we are ready to respond to anything that arises."

The USS New Orleans is in Bahrain undergoing repairs, will rejoin the MEU soon. The USS Comstock is in the Gulf of Aden area doing Counter-Piracy Operations. The Marines and Sailors are spread out across the Area of Operations afloat and ashore doing what they do. The Commanding Officer will update our (1-800) this week. The deployment schedule hasn't changed to date, home early August 09. This still does not mean they will be pier side any time soon. It could change at any time, let's keep our finger crossed. I should be receiving "Tiger Cruse" guidance within the next few weeks from the Commanding Officer. I'll forward it along so extended families members and children can start arranging travel, look to be in Hawaii on or about 20 - 23 July 09 to get on ship. (Again this could Change!)

Some of our Marines that have received orders for transfer, school, or other reasons could be back early June. I'm sure your spouse will keep you posted. Some Marines/Sailor will return late June, early July for orders, quartering party for set-up back home, etc. I'm sure your spouse will let you know if he's scheduled for this return date. Finally, we will have an Advance Party arriving from Hawaii about 10 day's out from the MEU returning early August. I need to remind you that this is all contingent on the MEU getting released on time from CENTCOM area of operation and their current operational situation. Late June we should have a confirmed answer to their arrival home.

Everybody should of received the invitation for our Mothers Day Beach Bash here on Camp Pendleton, Saturday May 9th 11am - 6pm. I hope you can make time during your busy day to stop by and have some Beach BBQ and say hello to the families of the MEU/ Boxer ARG. If you have any questions or concerns fell free to call or e-mail.

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