

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

COMMAND ELEMENT
13th MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
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8 May 09

From: Commanding Officer

Subj: PHONE MESSAGE #6 (3 minutes)

Hello again family and friends of 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. My name is Colonel David Coffman and I am the Commanding Officer of the 13th MEU. Today is the 8th of May.

Our work continues over here in the United States Central Command Area of Operations. Your Marines and sailors have done a tremendous job in all areas. In partnership with the Blue side of our team- Amphibious Squadron Five and the ships Boxer, New Orleans, and Comstock, they have safely executed every task assigned and remain ready, relevant, and responsive should our chain of command and our nation call on us for more missions during our time deployed.

We will be over here in the Middle East for another six weeks before beginning our journey back to San Diego and expect to be home by the first of August. You should soon be hearing about a terrific opportunity for friends and family to join us on a Tiger Cruise from Hawaii to San Diego to share the shipboard experience with your Marine. If that doesn't work for you, I hope you still consider meeting us back in San Diego to celebrate a successful deployment and welcome your Marine home.

As we pass the halfway point of this deployment with all our aircraft and equipment and more importantly Marines and sailors still intact and in the fight, we remain thankful for the hedge of protection your prayers and support have built around 13th MEU. And, this weekend, our thoughts go out especially to EVERY Marine's biggest fan- his MOTHER! Over the years, I have heard from lots of Marine Moms so proud of their Marine and what they do for their country. I just want all the mothers out there to know that taking care of YOUR child and helping them grow into great Marines, great leaders, and great Americans is the highest honor and most awesome responsibility Commanders like me face. I have learned about a mother's love from MY two biggest fans, my wonderful wife Jean and my own mother, who has followed my Marine Corps career since I left home for ROTC and college almost 28 years ago and who celebrates her 83rd birthday today. So Happy Birthday MOM and Happy Mothers Day to all those Marine Moms and Marine wives out there. We miss you and love you and look forward to seeing you on our safe return.

Until then, keep the home fires burning, and keep the Fighting Thirteenth in your hearts and in your prayers!

Semper Fidelis!

