



NEWS FROM

LAGUNA HILLS 3/5 ADOPTION COMMITTEE

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Support Laguna Hills' Adopted Marine Battalion With Valentines, Cards, Letters & Packages

Laguna Hills, CA, Jan. 19, 2009 -- The Laguna Hills 3/5 Adoption Committee is making a special request to residents, schools, churches, organizations and businesses in Laguna Hills and surrounding communities to please send Valentines, packages, cards and letters to the Marines of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment based at Camp Pendleton, but currently deployed.

3/5 deployed to Okinawa January 11 and is expected to return around August 2009. While some Marines do receive packages from family and friends, others do not. It's important to show the Battalion how much the community supports their service not only on holidays, but year-round, so there is no need to worry about having packages arrive prior to February 14.

Packages can contain anything such as various packaged candy, toiletry items, games, books, magazines – even small toys for children so the Marines can help build better community relations world-wide. Please note that the Battalion has no females so only items for males or children are appropriate.

It doesn't take a lot of money to help support the Battalion. Letters and cards with news from the area are always welcome, as are photos, newspapers, jokes, etc. Other popular items are decorations for all holidays, so they can have a touch of home throughout the year.

For those who do send packages, the Committee suggests using the flat-rate shipping boxes available at the Post Office (or they can be ordered online). Specific guidelines for package contents, packing and shipping are available from the Committee (darkhorse92653@cox.net or 949-632-8395). There is also helpful information, including a list of restricted items, at the United States Postal Service website at: <http://www.usps.com/>.

Residents are encouraged to develop interactive relationships with the Marines through cards and letters. However, until a resident has received personal correspondence from a specific Marine with his own name and address, 3/5's Chaplain will receive and distribute the cards, letters and packages to all Marines of the 3/5, especially to those who don't regularly receive mail from family and friends.

Items should be addressed as follows with a brief note to Chaplain Blair to distribute the items to any 3/5 Marine:

LT JOSEPH BLAIR, CHAPLAIN
3/5 H&S CO
UNIT 40380
FPO AP 96609-0380

About the Adoption

The Laguna Hills 3/5 Adoption Committee was formed following a unanimous vote of the Laguna Hills city council to adopt the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division on August 28, 2007.

The purpose of the adoption is to generate community support for the Battalion's Marines, sailors and families on an on-going basis, both when 3/5 is at Camp Pendleton and/or when all of 3/5 or elements thereof are deployed. The adoption encourages mutually-beneficial interaction between the residents of Laguna Hills and the Battalion in

order to render such support and to create strong and lasting ties between 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and the residents of Laguna Hills in the years to come.

About 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment

An infantry battalion with the call sign "Darkhorse," 3/5 was originally activated on June 1, 1917 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and deployed that summer to France to participate in World War I offensive campaigns. More recently, 3/5 has served in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Battalion was deployed in 2003 for the push to Baghdad to oust Saddam Hussein. The Battalion was again deployed in 2004 to capture the city of Fallujah from insurgents' control. In November 2004, the Battalion, along with several other units, participated in Operation Phantom Fury and was part of one of the biggest battles in Iraq thus far. They deployed to Iraq again in October 2007 for a 7 month duration and recently deployed to Okinawa. 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, because of its pride and professionalism in combat, has accumulated seventy-seven decorations, which solidify its battle tested colors. The Battalion continually trains to maintain combat readiness in the event their nation requires their combat services. For more information about 3/5 visit their website at: www.i-mef.usmc.mil/div/5mar/3bn/default.asp.

More Information

Residents and businesses interested in more information about the Formal Adoption Ceremony may contact the City of Laguna Hills at (949)707-2680. Please contact Debra Allen at (949) 632-8395 or via the Committee's email at darkhorse92653@cox.net for more information about the Laguna Hills 3/5 Adoption Committee, donations and providing support for the Marines, Sailors and families of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.