

Greetings Purple Foxes Family and Friends!

I hope this message finds you well, as we enter into the spring I wanted to take a moment to update you with the latest from your Purple Foxes and their accomplishments since their return from deployment.

Since returning home the Foxes have supported various training, exercises, and events to include Night System Instructor and Tail Gunnery Instructor qualifications, exercise Winter Fury, and more. Our Marines and Sailors have accomplished so much, so I wanted to take this opportunity to ensure they received the recognition they deserve.

Congratulations to our newest Night Systems Instructors Captains Strauss and Wood as well as Corporals Caparell and Weber! The Night System Instructor qualification objective is to become experts in employing the MV-22B in the night environment. This consists of familiarization with night vision equipment, infrared systems, and advanced instructional techniques. Additionally, Corporals Caparell and Weber earned their Tail Gunnery Instructor qualification. In order to earn this qualification, both crew chiefs had to demonstrate mastery of instructing and employing crew served weapon systems mounted on the ramp of the Osprey when it is needed to defend our personnel and aircraft from attack from the enemy.

Beyond flying to train our own pilots, crew chiefs, and aerial observers, in late January and early February the Purple Foxes played a significant role in supporting Winter Fury, a major exercise involving Marine Corps forces throughout southern California and designed to prepare for future conflicts and operations. During the three weeks of Winter Fury support, your Purple Foxes flew over 165.0 hours, moved 233 passengers, and moved over 47,000lbs of cargo. We also spearheaded tactics, techniques, and procedures for airdropping an expeditionary Forward Arming Refueling Point (FARP) for H-1's (Hueys and Cobras) to refuel, rearm, and execute their missions at locations hundreds of miles from Camp Pendleton. The Purple Foxes also achieved a milestone for the Osprey community when VMM-364 executed the first V-22-delivered sonobuoy drop. This exercise demonstrated the potential for V-22's to be utilized to search for undersea threats such as submarines.

Equally as important as training and exercises, the Purple Foxes conducted multiple morale and readiness events for our Marines, Sailors, and families. This included providing Thanksgiving meals for our single personnel, the Christmas gathering for all Purple Foxes and their families at Sea World, and multiple spouses' night get-togethers. Looking forward there are a couple of upcoming events that you and your families can participate in, to include the MAG-39 Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, 9 April, a Purple Foxes Family Day tentatively planned for April 15, as well as the MAG-39 USMC Kid's Ball on 7 May. Be on the lookout for coordinating emails from our Deployment Readiness Coordinator (DRC) Megan Stith and feel free to join the spouses and families Facebook group to find out about exciting upcoming events and opportunities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Deployment Readiness Coordinator, Megan Stith, megan.stith@usmc.mil, or our Uniformed Readiness Coordinator Capt Isaiah Leiva, Isaiah.leiva@me.usmc.mil

As always, I thank you for the support you provide to your Marine and to the Purple Foxes!