



## MARINE WING COMMUNICATION SQUADRON 18 COMMANDING OFFICER'S WELCOME ABOARD MESSAGE



On behalf of the Marines of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 (MWCS-18), welcome to the unit! My wife Maria and I, along with rest of our squadron's leadership, are excited to have you join the MWCS-18 family; you will be an integral part of the team. Our squadron is exceptional and unique, spanning two different geographic locations within the Asia-Pacific: Okinawa, Japan and Hawaii. Regardless of where your home station will be, the MWCS-18 leadership is committed to making this tour one of the most positive and memorable in your Marine Corps career.

For our inbound Marines and family members coming to MWCS-18 for the first time, you may have questions about our squadron's mission and operations throughout the region. Our unit's Marines provide a number of critical communications-specific warfighting capabilities across the US Indo-Pacific Command area of operations, which spans the vast Western Pacific. Equally as vital to our mission success are all of the enabling billets that allow us to achieve our complex yet critical tasks. These include administration, intelligence, logistics, supply, and electronics-maintenance-specific jobs. Ultimately the Marines of MWCS-18 directly support the communications requirements for the entirety of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and fall directly under Marine Air Control Group 18 as a subordinate squadron. Our capabilities are unique, relevant, and always in demand. Although I have no doubt that this assignment will be one of the most rewarding in your career, it will also be challenging and require you to be at your best always.

While our geographic locations provide for many exceptional operational experiences, it also makes available countless unique and once-in-a-lifetime cultural and travel opportunities. Being forward-deployed, we are often called to execute our mission in many different countries to include Japan, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines, and Australia. In addition to our operational travels, we also highly encourage all squadron Marines to explore and enjoy the many exciting attractions and activities available throughout the Asia-Pacific during your tour. For our single Marines, the squadron's Single Marine Program is a great introduction to both on and off-island travel and events. For our married Marines, on-base travel offices have a plethora of tour package options with the goal of maximizing your access to foreign countries. Upon check-in these details will be reviewed at a squadron-level Welcome Aboard Brief, with plenty of opportunities for questions and answers. I can promise you that living in this part of the world is an opportunity of a lifetime, so please plan on taking advantage of it!

I hope you are excited to be a future member of MWCS-18, and eager to hit the ground running upon check-in. Know that my family and I, along with the squadron's Sergeant Major, Executive Officer, Communications Chief, and Deployment Readiness Coordinator are eager to meet you, and are all here to assist you or your Marine's smooth transition to the unit. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to having you on the MWCS-18 team!

Semper Fidelis,

Kevin M. Soeder

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18