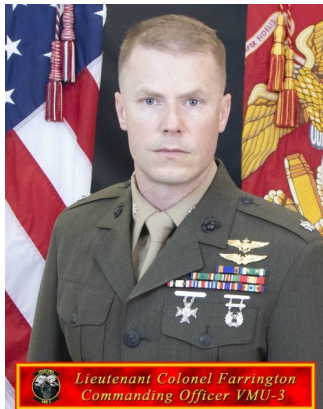


PHANTOM NEWS



Lieutenant Colonel Farrington
Commanding Officer VMU-3

A MESSAGE FROM THE VMU-3 CO

Aloha Phantom Ohana,

On 12 June, 2020, LtCol Ban relinquished command of VMU-3 and I took the helm. He commanded the VMU-3 Phantoms for two years and did a phenomenal job – he will be missed! I am honored to stand before you and serve the Phantom team as the Commanding Officer. My wife Marie and I, alongside SgtMaj Garcia and his wife Jeanette are looking forward to getting to know all of you. In the brief time since taking command of VMU-3, I've been blown away by the Phantom Marines' and Sailors' exceptional performance. Hopefully the veil of COVID-19 lifts soon and we can meet everyone in a relaxed social setting. Until then, we appreciate your patience and will continue to pass updates on the current COVID-19 status and restrictions.

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Though COVID-19 has held the rest of the world in a sense of limbo, VMU-3 has been hard at work achieving a number of "firsts". VMU-3 has recently been approved to fly in new airspace, outside the typical tower controlled airspace directly above K-Bay that we usually fly in. A great amount of work went into making this happen – thanks to all the Phantoms that had a part in this – it was no small effort! I am exceptionally proud and excited to see this squadron continuing to surpass milestone after milestone. The Marine Corps' focus is the Pacific, and VMU-3 is the focus of the Pacific – we will continue to prove our combat capability to the world.

We are excited to see two detachments of Marines head out and support operations in the INDOPACOM region. We will see our Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) detachment leave in early July to Australia and they will remain until fall. Second (and no less important), we will see a detachment of Phantoms embark onto the 31st MEU for several months – embarking in mid-summer and returning in mid-fall. The eyes of the Marine Corps and the world are upon VMU-3 as your Marines continue to lead and pave the way in unmanned aerial systems employment.

This is not all! In addition to the operational requirements above, we will be supporting the next Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course in Sep-Oct, the same as we did last year. We expect to be sending approximately 25 Marines to Yuma, AZ. This is the Marine Corps premier venue for high-end tactical aviation training at the graduate level.

You may have heard of the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Force Design initiative. There will be many necessary and exciting changes coming to the Marine Corps and specifically to the VMU community and VMU-3. VMU-3 will be leading the front on these many changes. I expect that these changes will come rapidly, and how it ends I do not yet know, but I expect that VMU-3 will be larger and more combat capable once these changes occur. There are still a lot of unknowns and uncertainties, so please remain flexible.

Lastly, to all the Phantom spouses and families – THANK YOU! You allow your Marines to come to work day in and day out, focused and ready to execute our mission. They couldn't do it without you and they're knocking it out of the park. Again – THANK YOU for all that you do!

I am honored to be here and look forward to meeting the entire Phantom Ohana soon.

Mahalo and Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Tom Farrington



VMU-3 Sergeant Major



I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during these trying times.

The Marines of VMU-3 continue to impress me every single day. VMU-3 flew in a new air space in the month of June and will be looking to be doing this again and again. The Marines have been working hard, and I had the opportunity, alongside the CO, to go out into the field and witness the Marines at work. Coming from the infantry background, I know a thing or two about what it means to be a grunt—VMU-3 could very easily adopt the nickname “Air Grunts”. Marines kicked some serious butt, and I’m excited to see more of it.

As a Command Team we are looking to “get the band back together” once the COVID restrictions are lifted and host various different family events. We are looking into “Bring your family to work day” sort of days to help the families of Marines understand what they do. On top of that, the Squadron birthday is right around the corner, and it’s important that we celebrate our birthday as any person does—

together with their brothers and sisters.

Some advice that I have given to the Marines, as it is something that I’ve used to great success in my career, is to build the three ships: Relationship, Partnership, and Friendship. Build a relationship with your fellow brothers and sisters of this world to have a more prosperous life. Professionally, develop a partnership and trade your skill for another’s skill to improve both your lives. Lastly, build enduring friendships so that you can always have someone that will be there for you through it all—to share laughter and amazing memories together.

VMU-3 Uniformed Readiness Coordinator



Aloha ladies and gentlemen! I hope that everyone has been safe and taking this time to be effective and come together (though not physically—social distance!). The times have been strange but VMU-3 has been strong at work and pushing forward to deploy and get opportunities to be Phantoms!

During these strange times, it is important for everyone to be vigilant for anything that can harm you and your family. A good rule of thumb is that the word you receive can be treated as official when the email or website ends in “.gov” or “.mil”. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or anyone on the Command Team for help. We are here for you.

Our Marines are looking forward to going on the 31st MEU, going to Australia, and back to WTI in Arizona. Please be in contact with your Marines, as they should be in contact with you, to share/talk about the most up-to-date information on where and when your Marines will be going. As a reminder, please do not post dates and locations on public forums such as Facebook or Instagram—doing so can jeopardize their missions and force date changes to occur.

Speaking of events, future events are always thought of and there are many currently on the drawing board. As we discuss future events we are always open to suggestions as to what could bring the Phantom Ohana together. Everyone should remember, the Marine Corps Ball is planned to be on November 13, 2020 so start saving up now! It’s always an amazing opportunity to be together as an Ohana. Additionally, we are looking for more Volunteers. Please let me know if this is something you’d be interested in!

Please let me know if you and your family need additional information or resources, I am excited to be working with you all! Mahalo! My point of contact is: 808-257-4275 or at johan.maree@usmc.mil



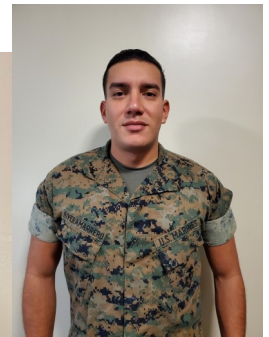
S-2 Intelligence

In the Intelligence Section, we have been working hard adapting to the difficult environment which the unit found itself in during this period. Deployments were postponed, exercises shifted, and training opportunities evaporated. However, our focus has still been on preparation for upcoming deployments and posturing towards future requirements. In continued support to MRF-D, our three DET Marines have been putting in long hours to ensure that all required gear and personnel are ready to go and prepared to hit the ground running. Additionally, we have detachment groups identified and preparing for further support requirements coming later this year. Between support to the MEU and in support of WTI, the S-2 will be fully engaged, providing first-rate imagery and intelligence analysis, no matter the mission. For WTI, we will again be providing one of our 0241 Marines to serve as an additional augment in support to MAWTS.

Despite the multitude of recent challenges, Marines of the S-2 have kept themselves thoroughly engaged, conducting internal training to ensure that skillsets are maintained and honed. Although our presence during flights has been curtailed due to the current situation, we continue to practice as we would perform. Training for the imagery Marines focuses on FMV centric classes and application. Our 0231 Marines continue to conduct classified and open-source intelligence gathering, compiling and providing internal Intelligence Briefings. As well, our Marines have been working towards greater Operations-Intelligence integration. To that end, our imagery Marines created a much desired reconnaissance (RECCE) imagery pack for the enlisted and officer aircrew. This imagery pack provides unclassified overhead and side-view imagery of vehicles and equipment for the aircrew that enables greater fidelity and easier identification. Our intelligence analysts developed an in-depth scenario for the aircrew, utilizing notional adversaries and situations and based within our AOR. This scenario is designed to be constantly evolving, with the ability to add or remove information and adjust the mission scope as necessary.

Marines of the S-2 took advantage of the abundant white-space to work on virtual training and PME. Virtual training was provided by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and allowed Marines of the S-2 to familiarize themselves with newly released programs that directly impact our ability to obtain imagery and disseminate information. As well during this period, SSgt Pena and SSgt Vossler successfully graduated their Career School Seminar program that began in mid-February. Cpl Munroe, our newest 0241 Marine, completed Corporal's Course Resident and LCpl Riveramarrero, our newest 0231 Marine, completed Lance Corporal's Seminar. With these PME completions, the S-2 is now at nearly 100% for in-grade completion.

Lastly, the Intelligence Section was happy to welcome into its ranks Cpl Wyatt Munroe and LCpl Raul Riveramarrero. Cpl Munroe just graduated the 0241 schoolhouse and comes to us as his first permanent duty station post lateral move. Cpl Munroe immediately began integrating himself into the training and becoming an integral part of the team. LCpl Riveramarrero just graduated the 0231 schoolhouse and comes to us as his first permanent duty station as a Marine. LCpl Riveramarrero spent several years in the Army; his maturity and work-ethic are outstanding, having shown his value quickly. We were also lucky enough to be able to pick-up a temporary addition to assist in the S-2 mission while she awaits PCS post 0241 lateral move. Sgt Wendy Coronilla joined us during this time from CLB-3 and we were delighted to have the chance to share our knowledge and FMV experience with her. Her drive and motivation show the positive impact she will have on the MOS moving forward.



S-3 Operations

In April, the Operations department, just like many others, felt the full effects of COVID-19 policies put into place. The S-3 worked diligently to maintain flight operations while still adhering to policies put in place regarding virus. Our MRF-D Detachment returned back to operational command at VMU-3 from VMM-268 (REIN) with the news that the original planned deployment had been cancelled. During the time at VMM-268 (REIN) many relationships were made that allowed for our squadrons to integrate training, and also give the opportunity for flight crews to ride in UH-1s and V-22s to simulate RQ-21A integration into realistic mission sets.

In May, flight operations continued, while the S-3 shop got busy with a lot of planning for upcoming operations that VMU-3 would be participating in. News was received that VMU-3 would once again be participating in MRF-D, and as the only aviation asset the Marine Corps would be sending. Planning for VMU-3's first spoke operations outside of Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) at Bellows was beginning as well.

June brought about many "firsts" for VMU-3. It was the first time VMU-3 had spoke operations outside of MCBH, and it was the first time that the RQ-21A was allowed to fly out of the Class Delta airspace, and fly to Marine Corps Training Area - Bellows (MCTAB). Two spokes were successfully convoyed and established at MCTAB in concurrent weeks, and the flight crews were able to take a handoff of the RQ-21A system in flight from a hub site crew flying it back from our usual site at Foxtrot Taxiway. These operations will bring greater training opportunities for the future of VMU-3.





S-4 Logistics/Supply

The S4/Logistics section has been striking the metal hot by focusing on preparing our Marines for MRF-D and the 31st MEU. There has been continual maintenance and supply support being pushed down the pipeline in support of these operations. The section has chopped over LCpl Johnson, LCpl Barca, Sgt Price and LCpl Saddler to the MRF-D to further extend our footprint in the Indo-Pacific AOR.

During this period the S4/Logistics section has supported VMU-3 flight operations aboard MCBH at the Foxtrot site and also in VMU-3's first off installation flight at the Bellows Airfield Spoke site. In doing so, the section assisted in the deployment and re-deployment of the RQ-21 Blackjack system by conducting convoy missions, security operations, and providing logistical support.

The section welcomed Private First Class Ivan, LopezGonzalez, a 3521 Motor Transport Mechanic and also Sgt Ana Colbridge, a 3531 Motor Transport Operator who will be serving as VMU-3's Assistant Motor Transportation Chief. In addition the Ground Support Department said farewell to its Department OIC Captain Delehanty and welcomed in its current GSD OIC Captain Montgomery.

Marines in the section have been continuously furthering their development with the graduation of four Marines LCpl Sohail, LCpl Barrett, LCpl Mcburney from their resident Lance Corporal Ethics Seminar. The section has seen two Marines selected to the next rank. Corporal Jacob Reimer our Engineer Equipment Chief was promoted to Sergeant in May and Private First Class Moyer Motor Transport Mechanic was promoted to Lance Corporal in June.



S-6 Communications

The communications department has been working hard on both Maintenance and occupational proficiency. We've prepared for two different deployments, both the 31st MEU and MRF-D. Though COVID put a small pause on when they went, the Marines of S-6 are ready to get out into the world and show them their skills.

S-6 has seen some meritorious actions with exemplary performances. We congratulate our newest Sergeant—Sgt Von Witte. He has been doing what Marines do best and leads the charge everyday! Additionally, Sgt Von Witte and Cpl Martinez were both awarded Certifications of Commendation for extraordinary physical performance during the COVID19 Pandemic.

We've had one of our Marines give birth to a healthy baby girl. Our S-6 family and Phantom Ohana is proud to say "Aloha!" to Lucy Marie King.

We have the pleasure of welcoming PFC Gene and PFC Bateman into our S-6 family. PFC Gene will serve as a Network Administrator and PFC Bateman will service as a Radio Operator. We are excited to be working with them for many years to come.

We are also saying goodbye to Cpl Deondre Sanders who will be returning to 1st Civ Div and making the greater American community better. Cpl Sanders was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for superior performance while serving as a Radio Operator at VMU-3.





Maintenance

The Maintenance Department of VMU-3 has not let off the gas since the first quarter of the year. In addition to supporting the day to day flight schedule, the Marines have been preparing for multiple operations here in the Pacific. At the beginning of the quarter, the Marines scheduled to attend training with Marine Rotational Force (MRF-D), Darwin, Australia were informed the deployment was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Once a plan to mitigate coronavirus infections was put in place, VMU-3 was informed they would be supporting a deployment to MRF-D. SSgt Garcia, Cpl Reyes, Cpl Maxey, Cpl Blackshear, LCpl Broens, LCpl Alfrey, LCpl Kiser, LCpl Martinez, and LCpl Rollan will be deploying from the Maintenance Department.

We have also seen Marines progressing in their qualifications in order to support MRF-D, flight operations at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and potentially a MEU and WTI in the fall. SSgt Garcia and LCpl Broens earned their Collateral Duty Quality Assurance Representative certifications. Sgt Alcalá, Cpl Wallace, and Cpl Reyes earned their CDI qualifications. LCpl Jacobson earned his Plane Captain qualification. Staff Sergeant Ochoa earned his Safe For Flight certification.

The Maintenance Department welcomed Capt David Pheiffer as the new Aviation Maintenance Officer and MSgt Heath Dierks as the new Maintenance Chief. Also new to the department are Lt Mendoza, filling the Avionics Officer position, and LCpl Crewe in Maintenance Administration. We also bid farewell to a number of Marines. Major Kraft left the maintenance department and took over as VMU-3's Executive Officer. MGySgt Litchfield left for a posting at a different squadron on MCBH. LCpl Teshai Allen is representing VMU-3 as a coach at the rifle range and Sgt Tucker reached the end of his active service and returned home at the end of June.

Last, but definitely not least, the Maintenance Department welcomed two babies into the Phantom community. Andrew Raymond Garcia, SSgt Garcia's son, was born on the 22nd of May at Castle Medical Center. Beau Clayton White, SSgt White's son, was born on the 20th of June at Tripler Army Medical Center.



VMU-3 Volunteers

DID YOU KNOW? The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes, celebrates and holds up as role models Americans making a positive impact as engaged and deeply committed volunteers. The Award enables community organizations—as Certifying and Leadership Organizations—to amplify their gratitude by joining with the President of the United States to thank their most dedicated volunteers. Find out more at www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/about. MCBH Hawaii is a certifying official for award hours; the Record of Service Key is BDS-8616. VMU-3 is looking for Command Team Advisors and Volunteers. If you have any interest, please contact the VMU-3 URC!

For more information, contact MCBH Volunteer Coordinator, Estella Euclide at (808) 257-0372 or ESTELLA.EUCLIDE@USMC-MCCS.ORG. The MCBH Facebook Page for base and local volunteer opportunities is www.facebook.com/mcbhvolunteers.

To record volunteer hours for supporting our squadron, use our Phantoms Volunteer Log at <https://forms.gle/D Ae7s EMYhq EJ7Yj M7>



VMU-3 Command Team Advisors
Lakisha Taylor
Stephanie Villanueva

VMU-3 Family Readiness Assistant
OPEN POSITION

Email: PhantomPhamily@gmail.com

Phantoms Ohana FB Page:
[@PhantomOhana](https://www.facebook.com/PhantomOhana)



Congradualtions to our Newly Promoted!



CUADRA, MICHAEL
CREWE II, VINCENT
MOYER, KEVIN



MEIGHAN, THOMAS
BRYANT, ARMON
SOLOMON, ELIJAH
AGUIRRENAVAS, JOSE
KING, PATRICK
POTTIN, JESSE



REIMER, JACOB
VON WITTE, DMITRI



WOODS, EVAN



SGT BELLAMY
NCO OF THE QUARTER

VMU-3 NCO OF THE QUARTER & MARINE OF THE QUARTER



LCPL SCHUMER
MARINE OF THE QUARTER

HOLIDAYS/LOCAL EVENTS

Independence Day 96
2-5 July

Labor Day 96
5-8 September

Columbus Day 96
10-13 October

Veteran's Day 72
10-12 November

Thanksgiving 96
26-29 November

Christmas 96
24-27 December

New Year's 96
31 December - 3 January 2021

CONTACTS

Area Code : 808

Uniformed Readiness
Coordinator:
1stLt Johan Maree
Office: 257-4275
Work: johan.maree@usmc.mil

Command Team Advisors:
Stephanie Villanueva
Lakisha Taylor
PhantomPhamily@gmail.com

Squadron Duty Officer :
Cell 375-7062

LtCol Farrington 257-3168
Maj Kraft 257-3183
SgtMaj Garcia 257-3166

Medical Clinic 257-3365
Animal Clinic 257-3643
Commissary/ID Desk 257-1452
DEERS 257-2077
Family Housing-257-2676
Ohana Housing 839-8700/8710
HR Office-257-0731
Base Legal-257-0074
Fire Station-471-8004

Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society
257-1972
Pass House-257-2047
PMO (Non Emergency) 257-1018
Post Office 257-2008
Red Cross 257-8848
Education Center 257-2158

For more information about the Phantoms, check us out at our:

Website: <http://www.1stmaw.marines.mil/SubordinateUnits/MarineAircraftGroup24/VMU3.aspx>

Official VMU-3 Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/VMUthree

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VMU3Phantoms>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/vmu3phantoms/>