



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP 38 FWD
3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
UIC 41044
FPO AP 96614-1044

IN REFERENCE TO

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15 Apr 03

Dear MACG-38 Family,

Much has happened since last month. We are well into Operation Iraqi Freedom and our units have been very busy executing their respective missions and making great contributions to winning this war. Many of our Marines and Sailors are conducting operations within Iraq. 2D and 3D LAAD Bn Marines are defending our forces against air attack throughout the region. MACS-1 and MACS-2 continue to ensure that our pilots are routed safely through the skies and that our forces are safeguarded against enemy missile attacks. VMU-1 and VMU-2 have leap-frogged their way to the outskirts of Baghdad, targeting enemy units for our ground combat forces as they go. MWCS-28 and MWCS-38 are busy with the challenging job of keeping data flowing and everyone talking. MASS-1 and MASS-3 are providing the Marines on the ground with air support when needed most. MTACS-28 and MTACS-38 have the job of coordinating it all. None of this would be possible without the assistance of our activated Marines from the reserve establishment and individual augments from throughout the Corps. Last but not least, the Group Headquarters is providing invaluable leadership and support to our forward deployed warriors.

Because we are on the move, mail service may be slow for some of our units. We are doing our very best to improve all the services to our Marines. They have plenty of food, water and other essential supplies. Please know that we maintain communication with each unit and detachment, so Red Cross messages can get through and not hearing anything about your loved-one over here means they are doing fine. If anything happens, we'll notify you promptly.

Thank you for your patience, prayers and support. Although we have had tremendous success in a short time, please remember that we are still engaged with enemy forces. We have no way of knowing yet just how long hostilities may last, or when our forces will return home. We ask that you continue to support each other and your Marine or Sailor as best you can for however long this may last. Now is the time to focus on taking each day as it comes, doing your best, and asking for help if you need it. Our Key Volunteer Network (KVN), Marine Corps Community

Services (MCCS), chaplains, churches, families, neighbors, and others are willing, even anxious, to assist you.

I'll close by saying "thank you" for your vital part through this difficult time. Your patience and strength enable us to do our jobs better. You are, quite literally, contributing to national security for our homes and families by fighting the war on the home front. In many ways, your job is even more difficult than ours. We recognize that and genuinely appreciate what you are doing for all of us and our nation. Continue to shine and we'll see you when the job is done-hopefully, that will be soon.

Sincerely,


E. E. CRUZ
Acting