



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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

7 May 03

Dear Families and Friends of MACG-38,

Now that we have transitioned to the rebuilding stage of Operation Iraqi Freedom, we can begin to set our sights on completing our mission here and returning home to friends, families, and loved ones. Our mission is still continuing, not all of us will be able to return at the same time. I must tell you up front, that we do not yet know when the majority of our Marines and Sailors will be able to return home – those details have simply not been finalized yet and anything we pass at the moment would be sheer speculation. We work with a range of dates, these windows become final two to three days prior to departure. Once this occurs...we will pass the dates home. Our Marines and Sailors didn't flow here in a single wave, nor will they return in that fashion.

I want to caution you not to listen to any gossip or rumors; you will only frustrate yourself and others in doing so. Rely, instead, on the command to give you accurate information. I will pass along to you updates through our command's representatives and the Group website. You have my personal assurance that we will do our best to update the site as quickly as possible when accurate information becomes available. If you have specific questions then I would ask you to please contact one of the following individuals:

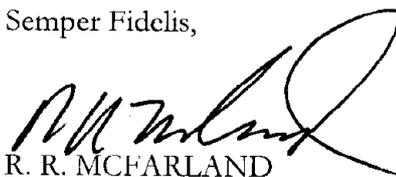
RB Det OIC	LtCol Danielson	danielsonbc@3maw.usmc.mil	858-577-9601
XO	LtCol Cruz	cruzee@3mawdm.usmc.mil	
SgtMaj	SgtMaj Gunn	gunncc@3maw.usmc.mil	858-577-9602

These Marines will have the most up-to-date and accurate information to help answer your questions.

To help make a smooth transition home, we will soon begin offering post-deployment briefs to personnel here in Kuwait. Similar briefs are available to you as well. Just contact your KV point of contact to learn more. This week the command will complete a detailed plan aimed at making your special homecoming as smooth as possible. We have to address such issues as going through customs, checking in weapons, and unloading baggage once the Marines and Sailors have returned to Miramar. I will also be authorizing leave periods to commence a few days after our arrival, but please understand that some work and medical issues will need to be tended to first.

We are all looking forward to a safe and happy homecoming. Let me thank you ahead of time for your cooperation and understanding as we make this transition from halfway around the world to back home. Finally, I would like to thank you for all the hard work you have done while we have been away. Your efforts have been instrumental to the success of our mission. You have served our Nation and the Corps well. Thank you.

Semper Fidelis,



R. R. MCFARLAND