

Information Unit of the Year Award 2022

3d Radio Battalion

Throughout Calendar Year 2022, 3d Radio Battalion's Alpha Company planned and conducted predeployment training and certification to deploy three detachments with Marine Detachment Philippines and Special Operations Task Force 511.2 in support of Operation Pacific Eagle Philippines (OPE-P).

For pre-deployment training, Alpha Company conducted fifteen field exercises utilizing a full signals training environment in order to certify the platoons to deploy in support of OPE-P. During Service Level Training Exercise (SLTE) 22-1, Alpha Company developed and tested a mobile Operations Control Element concept in order to better support the future Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR) mission to be light and agile operating in the Weapons Engagement Zone of the pacing threat. Furthering the integration of MLR and 3d Radio Battalion, a detachable unit was stood up within 3d Radio to allow a flexible and vigilant unit ready to support the MLR and higher tasking requirements. Alpha Company further highlighted integration within the Coast Guard supporting National and Tactical requirements. Due to their relationship building, the Coast Guard has asked for sustained support from 3d Radio Battalion moving forward. The Electronic Warfare Platoon (EWP) conducted three Electronic Warfare Support Team training cycles and integrated into ground combat element and joint service training exercises, greatly improving understanding and refinement of Electronic Warfare SOPs. Members of the platoon were instrumental in the setup of demonstrations on electronic warfare capabilities for the education and averseness of multiple key leaders. EWP also provided instructors to educate 3d Regiment communications teams on electronic warfare capabilities and limitations as well as electronic protection from near-peer adversaries.

During the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Exercise (MCCRE), Alpha Company integrated commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) software and gear to work with Program of Record (POR) gear organically sourced at 3d Radio Bn. One of the SI/EW teams used this gear in conjunction with knowledge from Advanced Radio Frequency Course (ARFC), allowing the team to accurately categorize the enemy vessel which was critical to providing real-time tracking, positive identification (PID), and battle damage assessment (BDA). The battalion Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) then executed a constructive kill with simulated non-standard maritime (NSM) and AGM-158 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) from live aircraft to destroy the target.

Throughout Calendar Year 2022, 3d Radio Battalion's Bravo Company planned and conducted predeployment training, including six different field exercises, utilizing a full signals training environment in order to certify two detachments to deploy to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). In addition to individual training, teamlevel training, and platoon-level exercises, these detachments executed an advanced training event utilizing a real-world collections posture, organic communications assets, and coordination with external agencies.

Bravo Company also managed the force generation using cross and joint training opportunities never before used by 3d Rad Bn. Bravo participated in Radio Reconnaissance Operators Course with honor graduate, amphibious training with Army's 2/14, 1st Special Forces Group, British electronic warfare training, and amphibious insert operations. The Radio Reconnaissance Platoon conducted four iterations of the Reconnaissance Training Preparation Course that prepared five Marines to successfully complete the Radio Reconnaissance Pipeline. This pipeline includes the Reconnaissance Training Assessment Program, Basic Reconnaissance Course, Basic Airborne Course, and Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape school. All five of these Marines acquired the critical MOS of 2623. In addition to force generation training, the Radio Reconnaissance Platoon had five Marines graduate the Urban Reconnaissance course, twelve Marines graduate from Advanced Reconnaissance Frequency Intelligence Operations course, three Marines from Mountain Communications Course, and three Marines graduate Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival Course. Bravo Company increased formalized training for SIGINT by 200% from previous years with six Marines graduating from NETA and two Marines graduating from Nation Cryptologic University (NCU) accredited Proforma courses.



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During CORVUS DAWN, Bravo Company performed one of the most complex pieces of the exercise, to include repositioning of beach operations and battlespace hand-over with the Army. During the exercise, the battalion also established a Combat Operations Center (COC) and FSCC with support from 1/12 and the 613 Air Operations Center. Bravo Co attached an Air Force Tactical Aviation Control Party detachment in order to prosecute fires in preparation for aerial support. In addition, until the Army landed on the beach, Bravo's Radio Reconnaissance Team maintained battlespace awareness and provided indications and warnings to the invasion force.

Throughout Calendar Year 2022, 3d Radio Battalion's Information Warfare (IW) Company Fleet Information Operations Command (FIOC) was instrumental in hosting, teaching, and coordinating over a dozen intelligence training courses for over 100 Marines. Despite innumerable challenges imposed by the higher operations tempo, this unit was able to provide a plethora of Signals Intelligence courses, Electronic Intelligence courses, Geospatial Intelligence training, All-Source Analysis courses, and Program of Record and COTS equipment training. These efforts trained not only 3d Radio Battalion personnel, but also a multitude of Marines aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay and other joint-service and national-level intelligence organizations in Hawaii.

IW Company spearheaded efforts to establish, train, and deploy Operation Liaison Team - Japan (OLTJ), a newly formed detachment, task-organized and forward-staged to integrate with higher and adjacent headquarters. This team will help to overcome the limitations of the geographic distance between the 3d Radio Battalion and higher headquarters, enhancing III MIG's and III MEF's ability to execute time-sensitive theater contingency responsibilities and exercises that was formerly known as Task Force CORVUS. The current deployed team supported over six exercises and real-world efforts.

The newly formed Delta Company in Calendar Year 2022 planned and conducted pre-deployment training, including ten different field exercises. Delta Company supported a wide array of exercises all over INDOPACOM to include Tactical Cyber Exploitation hunts, Tactical Employment of Offensive and Defensive Cyber Operations. From 4 April to 8 April 22, a Delta Company mission element traveled to Pacific Regional Network Operations Center (PRNOC) in Hawaii to operate on a Joint Information Operations Range (JIOR) node over the Persistent Cyber Training Environment (PCTE) virtualized battlespace. The event hosted teams from across the active duty and reserve Marine Corps as well as other DoD and intelligence community partners. From 12 June to 2 July 2022, Delta Company, 3d Radio Bn augmented 2 cyber Marines to 3DMARDIV in order to support force-on-force distributed EAB operations in mainland Japan. Cyber support increased ground forces lethality while simultaneously improving interoperability with regional partners and the joint force. In August 2022, Delta Company, 3d Radio Bn supported by Marine Corps Red Team, 318th Air Force Cyberspace Operations Group and 747th Air Force Cyberspace Squadron conducted tactical cyberspace operations in an Information Warfare Team construct. Defensive cyberspace operators defended a network that simulated 3d RADB operations center from the Marine Corps Red Team on a cyberspace range hosted by the 318th Air Force Cyberspace Operations Group. From 22 August to 1 September 2022, Delta Company, 3d Radio Battalion conducted a cyber-hunt on III MEF's enclave of the Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System Korea (CENTRIXS-K) network from the MAGTF Network Operations Center (MNOC), Camp Courtney, Okinawa in order to provide freedom of movement for the coalition maneuver and command elements during Combined Command Post Training 22.2 while in general support of CORVUS DAWN.



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During Calendar Year 2022 the various sections of Headquarters and Services (H&S) Company, 3d Radio Battalion provided uninterrupted support to all Battalion and Company training and operational deployments across the warfighting functions, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. H&S Company drove logistics operations through a time of severely strained and ever-evolving mobility requirements to ensure the battalion's three geographically forward deployed elements were manned and equipped to successfully accomplish the III Marine Expeditionary Force's (III MEF) Pacific campaign plan. In previous years, the unit relied heavily upon commercial travel to transport personnel for training and exercises deployments. With ever-changing COVID-19 requirements and often restrictive policies set in place by foreign partners, the commercial air option became intermittent, unreliable, and a hamper to mission success. Through diligent planning and consistent communication with mobility and air professionals, H&S managed to open up several alternative means of travel to ensure the unit's three detachments were poised for success. The Communications Section was focused on enabling collection, command, and control in an INDOPACOM future operating environment characterized by command and control denial and degradation. Long-haul high frequency (HF) communications training and experimentation culminated in a proof-of-concept that validated the capability to establish high-bandwidth satellite communications solely via HF communications between forward deployed elements and garrison reach-back support. This new SOP will greatly reduce forward deployed elements' reliance on commercial and garrison infrastructure to establish communications. Establishment and development of these capabilities posture the Battalion to effectively support assured Command and Control.

In August of 2022, after significant delays and adjustments resulting from the pandemic, the Battalion executed its Marine Corps Combat Readiness Exercise (MCCRE) known as CORVUS DAWN. In this case, 3d Radio Bn (reinforced) became Task Element (TE) Menehune, and supported a fictitious 2-star Joint Task Force built around the 3d Marine Division. CORVUS DAWN sought to achieve several objectives focused on improving, integrating, and innovating information-related capabilities across the Indo-Pacific Command. III MEF Information Group (MIG) functions as the vanguard of III MEF, operating in the Indo-Pacific region's information environment, and supports Joint and Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) operations with communications, intelligence, and supporting arms capabilities. 3d Radio Bn used this exercise to experiment with some new ways to command and control SIGINT forces. First, the battalion established a Fleet Information Operations Center (FIOC). This was largely built around an Operations Control and Analysis Center (OCAC) but also included a Cyber Intelligence Cell (CIC), Cyber Defense Operations Cell (CDOC) and a Cyber Tactical Exploitation Cell (CTEC) to coordinate our full spectrum cyberspace operations. The battalion also established a Combat Operations Center (COC) and Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC) with support from 1/12 and the 613 Air Operations Center. Radio Battalions traditionally use the OCAC to command and control SIGINT forces but 3d Radio Battalion had to C2 multiple attachments including an Army cavalry company, an Army military intelligence platoon, and an Air Force Tactical Aviation Control Party detachment. The exercise design, scripting, and exercise control for this event was conducted entirely internal to the command, and involved a scenario that drove the command to utilize its existing capabilities in the context of great power competition in order to identify gaps. These gaps were then carried forward into a tabletop exercise, led by Marines from all ranks and a wide variety of occupational fields within the command. The end result is a set of universal needs statements and other requirements documents to ignite future capability development. Highlighted during CORVUS DAWN, was to test 3d RadBn and III MEF's ability to sense, make sense, and close kill chains in a contested, communication-degraded environment in support to the MEF and Joint Force from sensor EABs across the Pacific. The event also resulted in an out-brief, conducted almost entirely by junior Marines and non-commissioned officers, intended to provide key leaders with insight on the SIGINT, cyber and EW capabilities required to be successful in great power competition. This brief has been delivered to staff and representatives of the Commanding Generals of Marine Corps Forces Pacific, III MEF, the Director of Intelligence, and a wide array of senior leaders across the Marine Corps Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Enterprise. The MCCRE has also set the foundation for future training events that will focus even more heavily on the priorities of the National Defense Strategy and the force design efforts initiated by the Commandant's Planning Guidance.

Overall, 3d Radio Battalion's accomplishments over the past year made a massive impact on the Marine Corps overall effort to refocus the service on great power competition and the operational and tactical level demands of the Indo-Pacific theater. The battalion's achievements are highly deserving of recognition with this prestigious award.

