



Greetings Purple Fox families,

It has been a whirlwind of activity over this first month and a half of deployment, but I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to you to provide you an update of what your Purple Foxes have been up to. Before I go into details, I just want to say that the Marines and Sailors of the Purple Foxes have been going above and beyond to accomplish the mission and I could not be prouder of what they have achieved in this short time.



Maj Gish, Aviation Maintenance Officer, promoted several NCOs on the flight line of Al Jaber Air Base on April 1.

The advanced party of Purple Foxes departed for Al Jaber, Kuwait and Djibouti approximately two weeks prior to main body to begin the process of turnover with the “Ugly Angels” of VMM-362. Main body arrived in Kuwait in early April and continued the turnover process that the advanced party had begun. Whether you were an administration Marine learning the mail system, a corpsman providing medical care, aircrew flying assault support missions, or a maintainer working to make aircraft safe and ready to fly, every Purple Fox was busy learning the ropes. Each department worked closely with their Ugly Angel counterparts to ensure a smooth handoff when it came time for VMM-364 to assume the Crisis Response mission for the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Crisis Response, Central Command, or SPMAGTF -CR-CC. In mid-April we conducted the official Transfer of Authority without a drop in readiness or capability and began operating as the sole tiltrotor squadron in the Central Command Area of Responsibility in support to the SPMAGTF mission. Upon assumption of the mission and over the next few days, the Purple Foxes conducted Aviation Logistics Support transporting troops and supplies throughout the Area of Operations.

Before we could truly enjoy the comforts of our new "home" in Kuwait, the Purple Foxes began a pre-planned move to Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB) located in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Over a week period, the squadron packed up seven years of accumulated equipment and furniture, said goodbye to the comforts of Al Jaber, and proceeded to move all personnel and aircraft over two days to the new location. A week after arriving, our Djibouti detachment with five aircraft departed Djibouti for PSAB, bringing all the Purple Foxes together for which we are grateful. Living and working conditions are more austere in PSAB, but in true fashion the Purple Foxes settled into the new spaces and quickly got to work unpacking everything from personal items to aircraft parts.



The CO, LtCol Kaiser, and SgtMaj Woodby promoted Marines on Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia on May 1

We even had a few “sandbag parties,” filling sandbags which were used to batten down the sides of the tents to increase cooling and to reduce the amount of dust that blows under the tent walls. The Marines worked in 100+ degree heat to make it happen all while making work space improvements and fixing aircraft. We enacted a split-shift 12-hour schedule to facilitate 24-hour maintenance as well as the ability to execute 24-hour crisis response, with Marines and Sailors working either midnight to noon, or noon to midnight. The heat has been a major hurdle every day, but rest assured your Purple Foxes have stayed hydrated and have not let their "Give A Shit" attitude fade.

I am truly humbled and very proud of each and every Purple Fox in their continued hard work in the face of uncertainty and with the additional adversity of moving and operating in a new location. This has not been easy and we have had a lot of “firsts” here, but the Foxes have risen to the occasion and shown their dedication towards attaining operational capability as quickly as possible to ensure continued mission success. As always, your support to your Marine or Sailor is what keeps them going whether it be in an old fashion letter, a care package, a text message, an email, or a phone call, they love to hear from you even if they don’t respond right away.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Deployment Readiness Coordinator, Sabrina Parker, sabrina.parker@usmc.mil, or our Uniformed Readiness Coordinator Capt Daly Montgomery, daly.montgomery@usmc.mil.

Best Wishes,

LtCol Dan Kaiser
VMM-364 Commanding Officer



Purple Fox maintainers work as a team to complete aircraft maintenance.



Purple Foxes after a successful “Sandbag Party” on Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia