

Merry Christmas! We hope you are enjoying this holiday season. As most of you have probably heard by now, we left the mountains of Colorado for the traffic of DC! This is because PC became one of “the few, the proud” and we joined the Marine Corps. After Christmas of last year, we agreed that we really weren’t very happy with where we were in life and where we were headed. We found that we had become complacent with what we were doing and knew we didn’t want our lives to be as ho-hum as they were headed. We loved Colorado but PC’s industry was unstable and unpredictable. As we thought about starting a family, we knew Lisa would eventually resign her position, which meant we needed to find something with more stability and an element of adventure!



Why the Marine Corps? Being a Marine is something PC has dreamed of doing since he was little. It certainly took a long time and a lot of discussion to come to the conclusion that this is where we were supposed to be, but it all came together in the spring when PC was accepted for the summer session of Officer Candidate School (OCS). He left at the beginning of June for Quantico, Va. and was commissioned in August as a Second Lieutenant. This meant a long summer for Lisa back in Colorado but, thankfully, her brother Stephen spent the summer with her.

So, now that we are here, what’s it like? Honestly, I don’t think we ever thought we would feel so much pride in being a part of this organization. It is humbling being surrounded by some of the bravest, most amazing people that we’ve ever met. This isn’t a lifestyle very many people would choose but we feel very fortunate to be here and a part of this. We love the sense of community that the Marine Corps creates and the way people care about each other; it’s unlike anything we’ve ever seen in the civilian world. PC works long, hard hours but absolutely loves what he does and is making lifelong friends. Lisa spends her time doing wives club activities, volunteering, going to the rec center, working on crafts, and spending time with her new friends.

For now, we’ll be in Quantico until at least March, probably until September. After that, we’ll move to San Diego, Hawaii, or Okinawa, Japan—any of which would be great! Yes, we welcome visitors wherever we are!

The other big event that happened to us was in November, when we found out we will be having our first baby in July. It still hasn’t sunk in yet, but we’re unbelievably excited about the news. It seems that everything we’ve worked for and everything we’ve wanted has started to come together in the last year. Now it’s just a matter of preparing ourselves to actually be parents! I guess that’s why God gave us 9 months, right?

I’m sure you’re wondering how “the great Sandino” (Sandy) has done this year, especially with all of the changes we’ve gone through. Despite the fact that she suffers from a little separation anxiety (laugh), she’s doing very well. She discovered this year that she loves camping (mostly because she gets pancakes for breakfast) and loves going to the Eastern shore and running on the beach. And we think she is starting to like the idea of being “Sandy the nanny.”



We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

PC, Lisa, and Sandy