Summary of Action

Sergeant Jennifer R Duke is highly recommended to receive the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) for her outstanding dedication and hard work with the Marine Corps and the community from December 2009 to July 2016. Her efforts have helped improve on-base facilities, her unit, and the lives of those in her local community. Her commitment in serving both the military and civilian community has become a great inspiration to all Marines who have come in contact with her.

Sergeant Duke has spent over 500 volunteer hours in direct support to various military and community sponsored volunteer activities. Her sustained voluntary service to the local community, both overseas and in the continental United States, reflect highly on her military service and made significant contribution to the betterment of the community and relationship with the military. While stationed in San Diego, California, Sergeant Duke volunteered in many Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) programs and events from December 2009 to May 2010, to include painting local Miramar area schools and serving as flag detail at local community events. In addition, Sergeant Duke distinguished herself as a familiar face in the children’s library aboard Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. Sergeant Duke selflessly gave endless hours of her time reading, performing, and putting together creative events for the military children. After hours, she spent her time cleaning and restocking the shelves. Sergeant Duke also volunteered with the San Diego chapter of Girls on the Run, providing positive instruction on developing confidence and leading a healthy and active life to young girls in the San Diego community from February 2012 to December 2012.

Sergeant Duke volunteered with different organizations while deployed in 2011, and again in 2013. Some activities in which Sergeant Duke participated were delivering groceries to homebound residents in Hong Kong and building a home for boys in Thailand. Sergeant Duke enthusiastically stepped up to volunteer whenever the opportunity presented itself while deployed. She represented the Marine Corps and the United States in an outstanding and professional manner, distinguishing herself and her selfless dedication to those communities in which she served. While deployed in 2013, several units aboard the USS Nimitz, to include her own, suffered several fatalities. Sergeant Duke quickly and willingly stepped up to put together a rifle detail, honoring our fallen angels during several ceremonies. Sergeant Duke’s commitment to the Marine Corps, the United States Navy, and her country were demonstrated in the flawless execution of her rifle detail.

Sergeant Duke, furthermore, took the initiative to develop, coordinate, and lead a single Marine program (SMP), commonly known as the Run-a-Muc Marines, for her unit, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA)-323 aboard MCAS Miramar. She selflessly gave her time every weekend from March 2012 to February 2013, providing activities such as hiking, volunteering, and off-duty education for her unit’s Marines in a safe environment. Her personal interest and dedication to this program was a direct result in the lowering number of DUI’s, higher unit morale and production, and the personal development of young Marines unit wide.

Returning to the Continental United States (CONUS) in 2014, Sergeant Duke continued serving the local communities. While attending Sergeant’s Course in January 2014 in Twenty Nine Palms, California, Sergeant Duke coordinated with the Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio for her entire class to volunteer at the warehouse, better preparing the girl scouts for their upcoming season. Sergeant Duke brought her outstanding professionalism, dedication, and commitment with her to Parris Island. Upon her arrival to Beaufort, South Carolina, Sergeant Duke quickly distinguished herself with the Low Country’s Habitat for Humanity organization. Starting in July 2015, she has sacrificed over 300 hours of her limited time
off as a drill instructor. Sergeant Duke has also, during this same time period, volunteered over 45 hours with The Parish Church of St. Helena’s Anglican Community of Beaufort, providing meals to low income neighborhoods. Her involvement has directly impacted the success of the Low Country’s Habitat for Humanity, as well as help to bring the community together during her volunteer efforts with St. Helena.

Sergeant Duke’s sincere commitment and outstanding service are evident in many letters, certificates of appreciation, and the countless accolades she has received. Her generosity and concern for others is unparalleled, and reflect her high regard for our core values. Sergeant Duke has devoted herself to progress not only professionally, but also personally through her willing selfless participation in volunteer opportunities and community service events for the past six years. Sergeant Duke’s positive attitude, unwavering initiative, and personal motivation have set the example for Marines to follow. She has performed her duties in an exemplary and professional manner, demonstrating her devotion to the Corps and the community. Her selfless sacrifice of her off duty time and dedication to the greater community is why Sergeant Duke is enthusiastically recommended for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.