

MWCS-18

The Marines of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18 (MWCS-18) displayed exceptional innovation, ingenuity, and drive that led to the achievement of superior operational and exercise communications support during calendar year 2020. During a time that resulted in a number of exercises and operational requirements being curtailed or cancelled resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, MWCS-18 adapted through reframing squadron training and operations and committing squadron resources to reinforce the III Marine Expeditionary Force health services main effort - the Joint COVID-19 Response Center. MWCS-18's Marines continued to flawlessly support 32 different Theater Security Cooperation events and mission rehearsals throughout 2020 in seven different countries, often concurrently. This was achieved by Non-commissioned Officers leading Marine task-organized communications support teams, to include the major multi-national exercises of NORTHERN VIPER, COBRA GOLD, and MARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE – DARWIN. Additionally, MWCS-18 pursued new employment methodologies through the incorporation of non-organic capabilities to further Defensive Cyber Operations. In coordination with 7th Communications Battalion, MWCS-18 integrated Marine Information Group DCO support to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing operations across command and control systems – a first within III MEF. MWCS-18 also continued to build relationships with their Japanese counterparts in 15th Signals Brigade to pave the way for recurring bi-lateral training events, to include Long Haul High Frequency communications training and Radio-over-Internet-Protocol demonstrations. For their outstanding proficiency and unwavering dedication, MWCS-18 has earned the special recognition associated with the prestigious Lieutenant Colonel Kevin M. Shea Memorial Unit of the Year Award.