

The 2/4 Association



Sea Horse

First Quarter, 2002

The Newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

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President's message

Dear Friends, Members, Marines and Corpsmen---

We are trying to get the reunion itinerary set for the upcoming 2002 gathering of the Magnificent Bastards in Savannah, Georgia. Elsewhere in this issue is a starting point that explains the dates, places and what has been already set into place.

As many of you already know, the much heralded 2/4 website, that was to have all the improvements boasted about, failed to open. This was set on a back burner and allowed to fizzle because of a disagreement between the man that was to put it together, myself and a few of the members that objected to the image portrayed in the way the site was being presented. I felt it was my duty as your elected President to be watchful of what was being presented to the public and to insist that certain things

be presented as best as they could be, and in a light so as not to give the Association a look of a unit that was just slapped together in the name of 2/4. I myself objected to certain wording and the creator's actions/insistence of wanting to open membership to everyone without any dues structure in place (like we're a wealthy national unit with millions of members). I'm truly sorry that things did not go as planned, but.... In the meantime, our forever faithful webmistress has offered to step up to the plate and co-produce an even better website than what was planned. Kj is really a Marine's Marine in that sense...always there to help. The new site will bear the url of 2ndBn4thMarine.com. Notice the lack of an "s" at the end of "Marine"; by leaving off the "s," anytime someone searches the internet for anything with 2ndBn or 4thMarines in its name, the true 2/4 site will pop up *first* in the list, prior to the offshoot of the promised domain that never materialized. For the present, we are still using the older website at <<http://www.mvcc.com/non/24assoc/>> as the only official website address.

On a different note, I hope everyone has paid attention to my previous note about colon cancer and has had a checkup. It's never too late and once is not enough (a checkup, that is). It seems that the next thing we should all be checking on is something called Late Onset, Type II Diabetes. This is something that is occurring at much higher rates in Vietnam Veterans than other control groups. A simple blood check will tell your doctor if you're in that group that needs to be monitored; heck, it will tell your doctor a lot of things, so go get one before you forget about it.

One final item, at this time it is my sad duty to inform the members of the passing of Mildred Otto, wife of past Association President and friend SgtMaj Charles Otto.

Semper Fi...Jim Mazy

Second Battalion, 4th Marines---the Best in the Corps
"America should always remember---Vietnam was a War...Not a Movie"

Welcome to our latest Association members!

From the Roster Manager:

We've added the following new members to the roles of the Association:

- Cron, Robert D.; H&S Co., 1/56 - 1/58
- Kington, John R.; Echo Co., 9/65 - 3/66
- Skeels, Robert F.; Echo Co., 10/68 - 10/69
- White, Thomas F.; H&S Co., 1/64 - 1/66

There are other new members who are not listed here. The notations denoting a new vs renewing member are not showing correctly in the roster database. If you are a **new** member and are not listed above, please send an e-mail to the Association Roster Manager at <Marine-2-4@home.com> or (because of an impending change with the Comcast system) you can also use <MarineTwoFour@peoplepc.com>.

Where are they?

From the Roster Manager:

As of the last mailing of the *Sea Horse*, the following members have been reported AWOL by the U.S. Post Office. If you know where the any of these members are, please contact the Association Roster Manager at <Marine-2-4@home.com>.

- Richard H. Gainor: last known state of residence - Texas
- John E. Payne: last known state of residence - Ohio
- Richard Payne: last known state of residence - Colorado
- Wilkins M. Parks: last known state of residence - Pennsylvania
- Allen L. Savage: last known state of residence - California
- James H. Stahl: last known state of residence - Arizona
- Marvin J. Seyfer: last known state of residence - Maryland

2000 - 2002 2/4 Association Officers

President	Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161. Phone: 941 474-9431. E-mail: <Marine-2-4@home.com>.
Vice President	Yahya A.A. Kariem, 7717 Reed Street, Jacksonville, FL 32208. Phone: 904 764-2241. E-mail: <ykariem50@aol.com>.
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Treasurer	Roger Pittman, 6166 South Coventry Lane West, Littleton, CO 80123. Phone: 303 281-8548. E-mail: <RogerPittman@Compuserve.com>.
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Chaplain	Frank Valdez, 8221 East Birch Tree Lane, Anaheim Hills, CA 92808. Phone: 714 821-2846. E-mail: <valcone@hotmail.com>.
Historian	Col J.W. Hammond, Jr., USMC (Ret), 330 East Riverview Circle, Reno, NV 89509-1118. Phone: 702 322-3237.
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Health & Welfare Officer	Steven O'Shields, 3151 Lake Forest Drive, Apt #86, Augusta, GA 30909. Phone: 706 729-0043. E-mail: <chesty84@usmc.net>. Web page: <http://www.geocities.com.chesty84>.

The 2/4 Association Sea Horse is published quarterly, and is the official newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association, Inc.

In memoriam

Please notify the Association President or Newsletter Editor should you learn of the death of a member or their spouse. Include the date of death and other details, such as immediate survivors.

It's your newsletter

The *Sea Horse* should be useful and informative. We welcome your input and would like to hear from you. Send us suggestions for changes that you think would be beneficial to the membership. Send us your personal "life-in-the-Corps" stories that you would like to share. We would like to pass on happy news about Association members and their families. Send details to the Newsletter Editor. Include events such as weddings, births, awards ... you know, the good things in life! We'll try to

include everything received, but it will have to be on a space available basis.

Reunion 2002

From the Association President:

The dates for the 2002 reunion of the Second Battalion, 4th Marines Association, Inc. have been set. We will be meeting in Savannah, GA, starting from July 31st through August 3d, 2002.

The Command Post will be at the Days Inn which is located at 201 W. Bay Street in downtown Savannah. The phone number for making a reservation with the hotel is 912-236-4444, and, to receive the special rate of \$89.00 (+ tax) per night, you must mention the 2/4 Association reunion when making the reservations.

So far the reunion host, Jimmy Hieronymus, has made arraignments with The Coastal Heritage Society that operates Old Fort Jackson (see <<http://www.chsgeorgia.org/FortJackson.cfm>> or <<http://www.ohwy.com/ga/o/oldftjac.htm>>) for a reenactment of a Civil War battle to be followed by what's called a "low country boil feast" (crab, shrimp, calms, corn and all kinds of other goodies - fried chicken, also). Old Fort Jackson is the oldest standing brick fort in Georgia. It was active during both the War of 1812 and the Civil War, it has been designated as a National Historical Landmark. The festivities here will take place on Thursday evening August 1st.

On Friday we will head to Parris Island, SC, for a Recruit Graduation ceremony. The host is currently making arraignments for PX privileges to be extended to all.

You will have to pay special attention to the 2/4 web-site for more information on other activities that are being planned but not yet set in concrete. The website address is currently <<http://www.mvcc.com/non/24assoc>>, but we are working on a totally new one that will be located at <<http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com>> in the very near future. Please notice that the spelling for our new website does not include the letter "s" at the end of the word "Marine." Another person garnered the domain of 2ndbn4thmarines.com and made a commitment to donate that domain to the Association. Unfortunately, he has since reneged on his offer. We will also have more information available in the next newsletter and we may have to do a separate mailing to those without e-mail available.

Host Jimmy Hieronymus may be reached through e-mail at <JimmyH106@yahoo.com> or <JimmyH106@aol.com>. Phone # 912-354-4877.

2/4 Association PX Merchandise	
General Items	Price
Polo shirt. Maroon with "2/4 Magnificent Bastards" embroidered on the front.	\$25.00
Polo shirt. Red, white or blue with "2 nd Bn, 4 th Marines" embroidered on the front.	\$25.00
T-shirt. Gray with 11" full-color 2/4 logo decal on the front.	\$12.50
Cap. White with black bill. Embroidered with "2 nd Bn, 4 th Marines, Magnificent Bastards."	\$12.00
Cap. Navy blue or Marine Corps red. "USMC" embroidered on the front; "2 nd Bn, 4 th Marines" embroidered on the back.	\$17.00
Golf towel. White with red 2/4 logo.	\$6.50
Logo. Stitched patch, 3 1/2" x 4", multicolored. (Currently out of stock - on order. Call for price and availability.)	
Logo pin. For lapel or cap.	\$5.00
Word pins. "Sniper," "Chu Lai," "Point Man," "Doc," "Life Member," "Marble Mountain," "Corpsman," "Da Nang," "Dong Ha," "I Corps," "Vietnam Veteran," "Quang Tri," "Rock Pile," "Chaplain," "Grunt," "Combat Vet," "Vietnam," and "Korea."	\$3.50 Each
Mouse pads. Red and white 2/4 logo.	\$6.50
Aprons. With pocket, for home and shop use - red and white 2/4 logo.	\$8.00
Thermal travel mug. Champagne with black "USMC" emblem and 2/4 logo.	\$5.50
Coffee mug. Black with white 2/4 logo and Marine Corps emblem.	\$5.00
Full rear window decal. For pickups and SUVs. "2 nd Bn, 4 th Marines - The Magnificent Bastards."	\$25.00
Videos	Price
Dai Do. Documentary.	\$25.00
2001 Reunion. Includes visits to The Wall, Iwo Jima Memorial, etc.	\$10.00
Books	Price
The Magnificent Bastards. Keith Nolan (hard cover, only).	\$6.00
The Proud Bastards. Mike Helms.	\$12.00
One Last Mission. LtCol Oliver North, USMC (Ret)	\$45.00
Ordering Instructions:	
Please add \$1.25 per item for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to "2/4 Association." Some items may be out of stock and, therefore, will not be shipped immediately. Call or e-mail Jack Petrowsky first for information. Send your order to:	
2/4 Association PX c/o Jack Petrowsky PO Box 7214 Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214	

For snail-mail:

James Hieronymus Jr.
108 Briarberry Bluff Dr.
Savannah, GA 31406

I'm quite sure he would welcome any help, advice or assistance that anyone may offer.

Message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps

As we commemorate the 226th anniversary of the founding of our Corps, Marines everywhere can take pride in their contributions to our great nation. We are a Corps born of an act of Congress, consecrated in sacrifice, steeped in tradition, and tested in battle. Our earned legacy is filled with the names of many great Marines: Lejeune, Vandegrift, Puller...Butler, Bestwick, Daly -- who fill the annals of our lineage with their inspired acts of vision and gallantry.

Heroic actions on the battlefield are a hallmark of our legacy. Equally compelling are the countless heroic deeds of many other Marines who exemplify the virtue of placing the needs of others above their own. Whether it be a Marine saving an Okinawan child from drowning, or pulling people from a burning wreck, or a family extending itself to provide a safe, nurturing home for disadvantaged children, our lives are indeed full of heroism. Today we celebrate these deeds, not as exploits, but as contributions to the greater good -- circumstances where Marines take care of not just their own, but reach out to care for others.

A lone Marine standing vigil on a dark night in Kosovo; a Marine Reservist serving as a firefighter or police officer who responds to an emergency in his community; a civilian Marine working alongside his counterparts in uniform who shares the perils and realities of a terrorist attack; and a committed spouse who finds the time to serve as an advocate for family programs in addition to making a home and supporting the family -- all are among the heroes of all generations. We are indebted to them for their example of strength and their presence of character. They embrace our core values and live them to the fullest. They inspire us to do the same. We admire and appreciate their example as we celebrate the birth of our Corps and our rich heritage. As our motto enjoins us, let us always be faithful, to our God, our country, our Corps and to our families. Let us also resolve to be always faithful to those Marines who have bestowed upon us our proud legacy of sacrifice, courage, and victory against any foe.

To all Marines, past and present, who uphold the finest traditions of our Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, Happy Birthday and...

Semper Fidelis,
J. L. JONES, General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

* * *

This article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/>>, Nov 4, 2001.

3d Marine Division Association annual reunion

Submitted by Eugene Ashe, Membership Chairman, 3d Marine Division Association

The 3d Marine Division Association will be holding its 48th annual reunion in San Diego, CA, from September 4-8, 2002. All Marines who served with or were attached to the 3d Marine Division are encouraged to attend. This is a family affair, so bring the entire family. For more information, check the CALTRAP web site at <<http://www.caltrap.com>> or contact either of the following.

Eugene Ashe
427 South Fayette Street
Beckley, WV 25801
(304) 253-4339
E-mail <sargent@inetone.net>

or

Bill Krueger
7622 Highland Street
Springfield, VA 22150-3931
(703) 451-3844

1st Battalion, 3d Marines annual reunion

Submitted by Eugene Ashe, Membership Chairman, 3d Marine Division Association

The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines will be holding its annual reunion in conjunction with the 3d Marine Division Association in San Diego, CA, September 5, 2002. This year, they will be hosting a gathering for the 3d Marines. If you served with the 3d Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, join them in San Diego. For information, contact:

Bill Ervin
2855 Iliff
Boulder, CO 80305
(303) 494-7752
E-mail: <Hatch101@aol.com>

Famous quotations

John Stuart Mill

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic

feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.”

China Marine

2/4, 1938 Era

Submitted by Frank Ramsey, former China Marine

In the spring of 1938, the Japanese forces had occupied the area around Shanghai and part of the city. The Chinese were being pushed back, and, at that time, the fighting was about 20 miles away to the northwest.

Marine orders were concerned primarily with guard duty of various nature. We had numerous posts at bridges and other points along Soochow Creek between us and the Japanese army sentries across the creek, 100 - 150 feet away. We shared Soochow Creek duties with a unit of the Italian “Savoy Grenadiers” just next door. We guarded a few factories, some owned by the Japanese, and had a few observation posts on tall buildings with a view of the area and Whangpoo River to check troop movement through the area. Two most important concerns were to break up crowds to avoid terrorist acts and to prevent any occurrence which would jeopardize American presence in China. (First Battalion, “Lucky Dogs,” drew the Shanghai power plant to guard - good duty.) Under these conditions, the Fourth Regiment were garrison Marines. Each man in H Company, Second Battalion, was equipped with a .30-06 rifle, a caliber .45 pistol, plus a Thompson submachine gun to each squad. Our machine guns were .30 caliber, water-cooled. One platoon trained with mortars and howitzers. Doesn’t sound like much these days, does it? It would have to do!

Each year, we shipped north to Camp Holcomb at Chinwangtao on the Bay of Chihi to fire the range and qualify on our weapons, as well as to touch on field problems with the machine gun. To experience long-range suppressing fire, we had to fire over the camp. One year, we fired a bit long and shot the mast off a fishing boat. It was fortunate that we didn’t hit anyone, because these men supplied us with fresh fish and prawns for our beach parties. The next year, the elevation barrier was left off, and the squad fired through the mess hall. Again, not a soul was hit, but this really hurt, because the food was not the same afterwards. (Not my squad!)

Guard duty was important in Chinwangtao as the railroad to Peking ran along the perimeter of the camp and

was under Japanese control. Chinese saboteurs were always trying to cross the camp to blow the railroad bridge. We were a small island in a large mess of Japanese military.

One year, we left camp to take a weekend excursion to Peking. We could stay at the Marine Barracks there with the Embassy Guard. On our way, the train we were on pulled onto a rail siding. We sat waiting and the word came down that a Japanese military train was passing on its way to the coast. As the train started to go by, we could see in, and each seat had a soldier holding a white covered box in his lap. Obviously, these were the cremated soldiers killed in combat with the Chinese military - either Nationalist or Communist. We reacted like tourists, of course, and started taking pictures. We were held there after the train passed, and the officers with us came by and told us we would have to give up our film before we could proceed to Peking. The Captain laid it out to us not to do anything stupid such as turn in unexposed film. As he pointed out, we were headed into more of them and still had to come back through the same places to get home. He made a good point. I think we all complied with his orders. Seeing Peking was worth it to us.

We had some busy days! Watching a war 20 miles away. Stepping around corpses wrapped in straw mats which could not be shipped back to the ancestral home for burial due to the presence of the Japanese troops. Watching out for falling cotton bales from factory rooftops during strikes. And watching where you stepped - the honey bucket carriers were busy but did miss some spots.

In between times, it was great. America was in a depression, but a Marine private at \$20.80 a month was paid as much as twenty times that in local currency. At first it was fun to spend it all; soon, it became real money, and we went back to being broke at the end of the month. A quart of Haig and Haig, Pinchbottle Scotch was \$1.24 G (U.S., or “gold”). We could have a Harris Tweed suit hand made for \$5.00 G, and we had our khakis made of special material. The Marine Club was a large facility downtown, and many men “owed their soul to the company store” if they stayed too long or too often.

China duty was exceptionally fine for any Marine willing to carve that much time from life. I was, and still am, impressed with my experiences and glad that I volunteered for the tour, even though I had to extend my enlistment one year to qualify. A little icing on the cake for me was the transfer during the summer of 1940 of Major Lewis “Chesty” Puller from Marine Detachment U.S.S. Augusta to 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Operations Officer and temporary command of the battalion for about a month that summer. To hear that man’s parade

ground voice was enough to send a chill up the back - at least it did to me.

Norfolk, Virginia, February 14, 1938, until December 19, 1940, is a long tour of duty. It is within a day or so of totalling thirty-four months. Thirty months were in China, so I had four months of Navy transport duty on the U.S.S. Chaumont (the "Love Boat"), an awful ship. Chaumont stood for "Christ Help All Us Marines On Navy Transport." The Navy also arranged shore liberty in 14 ports on the way over and five more on the way stateside. When we reached Mare Island, I left the ship and paid my rail fare back east. Marines do not give up but will go on their own if provoked!

Semper Fi, Pungyeo

F.O. Ramsey, Former China Marine

Editor's note: The following was excerpted from biographical information provided by Mr. Ramsey.

* * *

"I joined the Marine Corps in summer 1936, just eighteen. From a small New Hampshire town and I had seen one Marine in my life, and in his Blues! That did it! My real purpose in life was to learn to fly and I thought the best way to do it was in the service. (Free, I meant.) I survived Parris Island with a vow to eliminate one of my DIs if ever we met again. (Didn't happen. He showed up as my First Sergeant my last month or so in China.) Four months into my enlistment I was flying from the galley to the mess hall with a tureen of mashed potatoes in each hand.

"Service Battalion, Quantico, Virginia, replanting dogwood saplings was not what I thought the service should be, so I volunteered for Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye, Washington, D.C. I enjoyed my time there and became aware that flying was not going to happen so volunteered for China duty and have been glad of it ever since. I was discharged in August 1941; did not sign up in the reserves as I planned on getting married and was sure I would be called back within a few months.

"December 7, 1941 changed most of my plans. I was in Hartford, Connecticut waiting to be called for a job at Colt Arms and on Dec. 12th could stand it no longer and went down to the Marine Recruiting Office. The sergeant on duty was a former China Hand. We did not like each other over there and when I said I wanted to sign up for aviation duty he said 'You will go back to a machine gun company where you belong you +^*#~~~.' I cussed and finally left him boiling mad. I checked around and finally signed on with the Army who said 'you are now headed for an Army airfield.' "

America

By Bill Van Zanten, September 11, 2001

With knives and hate the planes they did take,
And aimed them straight for steel.
Took lives and limbs of all we know,
Both towers strong, fell far below.

The other target with sides marked five,
Took also blow from plane from sky.
The evil ones did want to kill,
Soldiers, sailors, our nation's will.

The crew of each and every plane,
Were targets suspected but for a few.
Each was made to die and never be,
On earth but now in heaven see.

This country stopped, our heart stood still,
When image came so clear to mind.
We lost our breath but never nerve,
Come gladly forth and quick to serve.

When fire shot out from towers tall,
Men of fire did heed the call.
Up the stairs they swift did go,
To die a hero, and soften blow.

Without delay most raised their hand,
To help lift brick and give of blood.
A spirit fresh did grow from pain,
With sweat and toil through heat and rain.

Each ear was placed quite close to ground,
To listen closely for sounds of life.
But seldom came an answer round,
Nor living spirit in body found.

With every eye fixed hard in stare,
On news from dust and fire.
The clock of nation did stand by still,
While heroes searched the silent hill.

If ever was there doubt of bad,
Or Satan's evil face.
Need only climb the dusty pile,
And walk the damaged mile.

So many heroes find a way,
To bring us treasures forth,
They somehow find the courage for,
And lift us up again for more.

So much of courage clearly seen,
From those around the scene.
In dirt and rubble, sweat and tears,
An image kept for many years.

Six thousand souls did pay the price,
For freedom so proudly lived.
Left earthly life in one quick blow,
Were heroes each, the world would know.

Who knows the pain the families have,
Or children never met.
They leave a hole so very wide,
That tears can never hide.

What sort of killers can these be,
That give such hurt to you and me?
What gives these hearts so full of hate,
That brings the world such pain this date?

When come again they venture out,
What weapons will they bring?
Or, can we somehow intercede,
Before we once again do bleed.

All evidence seems to clearly point,
At Osama bin Laden loudly, straight.
He hates us oft and wants us dead,
But gets our wrath and bombs instead.

When plane first struck the target thus,
An act of war was offered out.
We wonder strong if evil thing
Can judge response this hate does bring.

Terror often comes with hidden face,
To bring about its evil goal.
With bombs and fear it enters in,
With methods formed in hateful sin.

Tell the terror man we will respond,
And bring him pain for this we trust.
Change your mind while still the chance,
Or on our lance your soul will dance.

So many feelings touch my heart,
I know not how to even start.
I don't like hate, but feel such pain,
The rage grows on, is slow to wane.

I have found strife and blood on shirt,
And wonder how to make the plea.
The calls for war still echo so,
I wonder who will have to go.

Old men send boys to fight the fight,
So we can show the might.
I hope we have a steel resolve,
And fears do soon for all dissolve.

How do we clear a meaning find,
From all the evil done.
Perhaps it comes in putting God,
On top our center pod.

We took a time to stop and pray,
And think of different days.
To find true meaning is left to guess,
Our country once more God will Bless.

How can this hatred ever still,
And, put it final rest.
We think of bullets, bombs and such,
But more need prayers and God and touch.

There never was so clearly shaped,
They face of evil done.
But good must even better show,
To all the world a new love's glow.

Our world has plainly changed again,
As soon as plane did crash.
At times as this we must decide,
How the change will be our guide.

Are we to change again for good,
Or shall we slip on road.
We have potential to do of each,
For better or for worse to reach.

What type of choice would dead to make,
And lead us now the way.
I'm sure the least of all would tell,
Ask more of God to in thee dwell.

But out of dust and deep despair,
Doth come a strong resolve.
The red and white and color blue,
Unfurled from every pole for view.

We know the hold that hate can have,
Will leave us different now to live,
But fear is good if measured thus,
Ask loving God to shelter us.

The nation found a focus new,
A strength that has in slumber been.
A show of love so clear to see,
Will change some hearts to soft a key.

Our Chief of Nation did make the call,
And lines were soon to form.
We need to show this evil out,
And raise our fist and make a shout.

We all did question the reason why,
God let this evil come from sky.
He had no part in making sad,
Will watch for how we follow bad.

This God of ours does offer heal,
And anchor does He give.
We must a prayer and offer by,
Grasp hold of Him while full in cry.

What kind of future this life behold,
If terror grips our day?
The only way to thrust it so,
Let every day by God bestow.

Our God we know is standing by,
To bring us peace and love to cling.
We cannot take a step alone,
Nor sing a song without His tone.

When bugler blows the final taps,
And breath no more does flow.
When pain seems not to end,
And heart can not find mend.

Our God does bring the lasting peace,
That all have need and greatly seek.
He comes not now to join the fray,
He's there to help us kneel and pray.

This world will not too soon forget,
Nor leave the lessons learned.
We have been hurt and full of pain,
Our lasting strength will full remain.

God Bless America

* * *

This poem was written by and submitted to the *Sea Horse* by Bill Van Zanten. Bill was a member of 2/4 in 1965 and 1966. He was the XO of Echo, 2/4 during Operation Texas in March 1966.

The premier expeditionary “total force in readiness”

Scalable Marine forces: MEF to MEB to MEU(SOC)

Throughout our nation’s history, Marines have responded to national and international brush fires and crises and, when necessary, war. The Marine Corps operates as Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs), integrated, combined arms forces that include air, ground, and combat service support units under a single commander. MAGTFs are organized, trained, and equipped from the operating forces assigned to Marine Corps Forces, Pacific; Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic; and Marine Corps Forces, Reserve. The commanders of Marine Corps Forces Pacific and Atlantic provide geographical combatant commanders with scalable MAGTFs that possess the unique ability to project mobile, reinforceable, sustainable combat power across the spectrum of conflict. Marine Corps Forces Reserve provides ready and responsive Marines and Marine forces who are integrated into MAGTFs for mission accomplishment.

Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEFs) are task-organized to fight and win our nation’s battles in conflicts up to and including a major theater war.

Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEBs) are task organized to respond to a full range of crises, from forcible entry to humanitarian assistance. They are our premier response force for smaller-scale contingencies that are so prevalent in today’s security environment.

Marine Expeditionary Units (Special Operations Capable) (MEU(SOC)s) are task-organized to provide a forward deployed presence to promote peace and stability and are designed to be the Marine Corps’ first-on-the-scene force.

Special Purpose MAGTFs (SPMAGTFs) are task-organized to accomplish specific missions, including humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacetime engagement activities, or regionally focused exercises. MAGTFs, along with other Marine Corps unique forces, such as Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Teams (FASTs) and the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), represent a continuum of response capabilities tethered to national, CINC, and naval requirements. Whether coming from amphibious ships, marrying up with maritime prepositioning ships, arriving via strategic airlift, responding to terrorist attacks or handling calls for consequence management, they provide a scalable and potent response.

* * *

This article is reprinted from *Marines* <<http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf/marinesmagazine>>, Almanac 2001 issue.

The Virtual Wall

In a recent ad, Kinko's provided information on a non-profit campaign the goal of which is to associate a face with every name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The following piece was taken from the Kinko's web at <<http://www.kinkos.com/theVirtualWall/>>. You may want to visit that site for additional information.

* * *

Help put a face with a name

They served our country. They made the ultimate sacrifice. To honor those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War or who remain missing in action, Kinko's and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund have established "Put a Face with a Name."

This non-profit campaign enables anyone to use Kinko's resources free of charge to post a photo remembrance to The Virtual Wall (thevirtualwall.org), the online version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., that memorializes the war's 58,226 fallen or missing service members.

The Virtual Wall is a commemorative Web site that allows families, friends, and veterans to post photo or text remembrances and extends the legacy of The Wall.

Our goal

Our goal is to put a face with a name of everyone listed on The Wall. The families of the veterans featured below have allowed us to share with you photos and the remembrances of their loved ones that have been posted on The Virtual Wall. Please help us remember them and the more than 58,000 others on the Memorial.

What we're doing

Kinko's has volunteered the use of computers, scanners and specially developed software with a goal of putting a face with every name on The Wall.

From September 12 through November 30, 2001, Kinko's and the Memorial Fund invite friends and loved ones of those listed on The Wall to bring a photograph to any of the more than 1,000 Kinko's stores across the country. Once there, participants can scan and upload those photos – free of charge – to The Virtual Wall using Kinko's computer services and co-worker assistance.

About thevirtualwall.org

The Virtual Wall was developed in 1998 by the Memorial Fund and Winstar Communications, Inc. in an effort to extend the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Web site includes an online replica of

the 140 granite panels on The Wall, as well as a community of remembrances, veteran profiles and name rubbings. The site currently receives more than one million visitors per month. More than 30,000 personal stories have been shared to date.

Who makes it possible

Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is the non-profit organization authorized by Congress to fund and build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The ongoing mission of the organization is to preserve the legacy of the Memorial and to provide educational programs about the impact of the Vietnam War on society. To learn more, visit <<http://www.vvmf.org>>.

Kinko's is the world's leading provider of document solutions and business services. Our global network of more than 1,100 digitally connected locations offers 24-hour access to technology for color printing, finishing and presentation services, Internet access, videoconferencing and Web-based, on-demand printing and document management solutions.

* * *

The web site for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is located at <<http://www.vvmf.org>>. The site for The Virtual Wall can be found at <<http://www.thevirtualwall.org>>.

Navy medics face mud, pain to test skills at Okinawa competition

By Mark Oliva, Stars and Stripes Okinawa bureau

CAMP SCHWAB — It started with a simple written test.

But soon, sailors found themselves slogging through the mud and jungle thickets of the Marine Corps' Jungle Warfare Training Center.

Sixty-six sailors from medical clinics across Okinawa converged on this Marine base last week for the Navy Fleet Marine Force Battle Skills Competition.

"It's held as local bragging rights to see who's the best when it comes to battle skills," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Bob Hartzell of the U.S. Naval Hospital.

The eighth, annual event pits Okinawa's best field medics in a grueling weeklong test of skills.

"It's five days of rigorous competition," Hartzell said. "These kids, after the endurance course, are so beat up it takes pure motivation just to wake up at 4 a.m. the next morning to go out to the obstacle course."

Ten teams of six corpsmen, including an all-women team, took this year's challenge. The U.S. Naval Hospital fielded three teams against competitors throughout

the 3d Marine Division and 3d Force Service Support Group.

Besides the written exam and the endurance course, corpsmen competed at the pistol range, negotiated a land navigation course, raced through obstacle courses and paddled inflatable rafts. For the final event, they went on a hike.

"Mentally, physically and emotionally this is taxing," Seaman Cecil Hatchett from 9th Engineer Support Battalion said.

It was the first time his unit fielded a team. Hatchett works in a medical clinic of 12 sailors, and six are needed for the team.

"It's all in fun," Hatchett said. "We're all corpsmen, and we're all rooting for each other, but we're all in it to win. You go home every night, wrap up the wounds and get up at 4 a.m. and do it all over again. It's a big change from fixing records and giving shots."

Seaman Thomas Britt's 3d Marine Division team was left behind by its parent infantry battalion while the battalion trains in Korea. Being left behind, he said, means he's expected to win.



Bill Garner, Washington Times, 1 Jan, 2002 <<http://www.washtimes.com/op-ed/garner.htm>>

"It's pretty tough," Britt said. "There are some tough challenges out there. I think the expectations are the hardest for us. We're getting to do something the rest of our unit can't, so we're expected to make a showing for it."

More importantly, Hartzell said, the competition fosters camaraderie for corpsmen who don't normally have a chance to come together and compete head-to-head.

"The competition is stiff," Hartzell said. "Most of these guys don't have a chance to do these events on a

regular basis. ... They're all volunteers. They're all competitors, and most of these guys had to train for this on their own time."

Negotiating the five-day competition produces few heroes, but solid teams. That's the key to winning, according to Britt.

"It takes a lot of teamwork," he added. "Going up and down the mountains, waist-deep in mud, you learn fast that if you're not working together, you're never going to make it."

Britt's predictions came true. His team, hailing from 3d Marine Division, took top honors and won the 3d Marine Expeditionary Force Commanding General's Cup, snapping the U.S. Naval Hospital's two-year grip on the trophy.

* * *

This article is reprinted from *Stars and Stripes* <<http://www.strips.osd.mil/>>, Nov 6, 2001.

Note from the Editor

This is my first stab at preparing the *Sea Horse*, so I am certainly looking forward to hearing from the membership about the information you would like to see and the way you would like to see it presented. I think that one of the important functions that the newsletter can perform is to provide a forum to let us know each other a little better. For example, in this issue we are fortunate to have a story by Frank Ramsey about his experiences as a China Marine. Columns like this can help us appreciate our rich heritage. Don't be afraid to send me an account of experiences from your service with the Corps. I can't guarantee publication of everything received, but I'll do my best.

A word on "addresses." Sometimes, it is difficult to read the addresses used for e-mail or for accessing pages on the web. One common way of gaining some clarity is to surround the address with the symbols "<" and ">." For example, my e-mail address would be shown as:

<ksympson@rochester.rr.com>

The web address for *Stars and Stripes* would be shown as:

<<http://www.strips.osd.mil/>>

The characters between the "<" and the ">" constitute the full address; notice that there are **no** spaces. This convention will be used in the *Sea Horse*, unless I can find a better one.

Membership Application

Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

Required Information

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
 Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

Current rank if active duty or highest rank if discharged or retired: _____

Personal awards and decorations: _____

Period(s) of service (total): From _____ To _____
 Period(s) with 2/4: From _____ To _____
 From _____ To _____

Place(s) served with 2/4: _____
 Unit(s) assigned to while with 2/4: Company _____ Platoon _____
 Company _____ Platoon _____

Other military affiliations: _____

Optional Information

Married ____ Single ____ Widowed ____ Spouse or significant other's name: _____

Children's names: _____

Current occupation: _____

Hobbies and interests: _____

Personal achievements, public offices, organization offices, notable feats, works published, etc.: _____

How did you hear about the 2/4 Association? Friend/member (name) _____
Leatherneck ____ *Marine Corps Gazette* ____ DAV ____ VFW ____ VVA ____ American Legion ____ PVA ____
 TROA ____ MOPH ____ *Caltrap* ____ Internet web site (please specify) _____
 Other (please specify) _____

Dues Information

Life membership can now be paid in installments over a time period not to exceed three consecutive calendar months.

Life Membership	54 and under:	\$175	(lump sum or two payments of \$58.34 and one payment of \$58.32)
	55 to 64:	\$125	(lump sum or two payments of \$41.67 and one payment of \$41.66)
	65 and over:	\$75	(lump sum or three payments of \$25.00 each)
Annual Membership		\$20	

It will be the applicant's responsibility to schedule payments, since the Association will not send invoices. If the applicant fails to complete payment of life membership dues as set forth above, amounts paid and received towards life memberships will be converted and credited as annual membership dues.

Please mail checks (payable to "2/4 Association") and application to:

2/4 Association
 c/o Mr. Robert Bliss
 231 Meads Mountain Road
 Woodstock, NY 12498

Additional Information

If you have a picture of yourself, either as an individual or in a group setting from your Marine Corps/Navy years (boot camp, cruise book, etc.) and/or a recent photo, please enclose with this form. Also, please identify all persons in each photo. The photos will be returned after scanning. The scanned pictures, along with the identity information, will be assembled into a computer CD photo album for historical purposes of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines.

Change of Address Form

Please fill in the following information and slip it into an envelope addressed to:

2/4 Association Roster Manager
6122 Shasta Street
Englewood, FL 34224-8161

Name: _____

New Address: _____
 (Street) (Apt #)

 (City) (State) (9-digit zip)

Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

2/4 Association Roster Manager
6122 Shasta Street
Englewood, FL 34224-8161

New Address: _____

(City) (State) (9-digit zip)

E-mail Address: _____

Postage
here