

# The 2/4 Association

## Sea Horse



Second Quarter, 2002

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### The Newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

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#### President's message

Dear Friends, Members, Marines and Corpsmen---

It has been brought to my attention that several (actually a lot more than several) did not receive the last copy of the newsletter that was mailed out a few months ago. In light of this, I am including several of the articles that were printed in that issue with this issue.

As some of you know, my oldest son was born on my birthday in 1968. In fact he was born only one minute from the exact time I was born in 1945. The only difference between us is that Wayne joined the Navy when he finished school. Fast forward from then to now.... Last Saturday my son and his family came over for an afternoon swim (I live in Florida) and while we were sitting around the pool he happened to mention our upcoming reunion and how he and several friends from his age group happened to be BS'ing about how old relationships fade away. Then he hit me with how it's different with Marines. How a Marine friendship lasts for a lifetime and how Marines seem to go out of their way to recognize a fellow Marine. I didn't think much about

this, heck...I've always thought it was a common trait to render a good ole' Marine grunt to a fellow Marine. That is until Sunday afternoon when Fran and I went out to dinner.

Because of the medications I need to have with me I carry a small "olive drab" ditty bag around with a golden EGA on it...it alone lets the world know that I am a Marine. It hangs from the left handle of my forearm crutch and I do not go anywhere without it.

We here in Florida are at the very end of "Snowbird Season" here on the Gulf Coast so we still have lines at some of the restaurants. Anyway, there we are, standing in line waiting for our chance to attack the chow line when this approximately 98 year old man rolls his wheelchair over to me, taps me on the hip and gives me a thumbs up followed by his version of a Marine UH-RAH. He tugs at his sleeve to raise it up a little and I see an "Old Corps" EGA tattoo on his arm. As he turns his chair to roll away he says "Semper Fi Marine." To my amazement as he joins his family, standing next to his wife is their grandson (a Marine Lt. Colonel), his great-grandson (a Master Gunny) and his great-great granddaughter, a brand new Private who just graduated from PI two weeks earlier.

When we were finally seated inside, another couple was seated at the next table. The man was wearing a faded Army tee-shirt with a Schofield Barracks Hawaii logo on it...he said he witnessed the camaraderie out in the vestibule and said, "If only Army veterans stuck together like you Marines do." I just smiled and nodded my head.

I hope the men and women who make up our Corps today never lose that Semper Fi spirit...I never will.

Semper Fi...Jim Mazy

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

## 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.

## Special message from Jim

For those of you who change your addresses, telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses, please send the new information to the Roster Manager so that he can update the rosters. I get at least 20 pieces of mail returned every quarter because of outdated information. On the last e-mail message I sent out, 46 were returned as inactive e-mail accounts. Please, keep this information current.

Thank You...Jim Mazy

## Reunion 2002

From the Association President:

The 2002 2/4 Association Reunion is set for Savannah, GA, from Wednesday, July 31 through Saturday, August 3.

A copy of the reunion reservation form is included with the newsletter. Please send in your reservation form and check, as indicated on the form, as soon as possible. **With or without the check, send the reservation form to Jim Mazy so that he has it no later than July 2, 2002.**

Here's the itinerary:

### Wednesday, July 31, 2002

Check-in at the Days Inn, 201 West Bay Street. The telephone number is toll-free: (877) 542-7666 ext. 146. Tell them you are with the 2/4 Association Reunion. Reunion registration and welcome will be in our Hospitality Room (Chatham Room).

### Thursday, August 1, 2002

There will be a Memorial Service at Savannah's Vietnam Memorial at 1000, followed by a walking tour of downtown Savannah for anyone who would like to attend. Savannah is a beautiful city with many interesting sites to see. The tour will be conducted by Chatham County Manager Russ Abolt (a former Marine).

Those who don't want the walking tour will be on their own until 1730. At that time, Old Town Trolley will pick us up at the Days Inn. We will be going to Old Fort Jackson, the oldest standing brick fort in Georgia. The fort is designated as a National Historic Landmark. We will have exclusive use of the facilities for the evening, with music from the era when the fort was manned, an Honor Guard, a live fire demonstration of the old cannons, history, tour, short (10 minute) film and access to the Old Fort Jackson museum. All this will be followed by an evening meal buffet of Southern Baked Chicken and a campfire where we can all trade war stories.

### 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@comcast.net>.  |
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*The 2/4 Association Sea Horse* is published quarterly, and is the official newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association, Inc.

Everything is included in the price of \$28.00 per person. This is included on the registration sheet. Anyone who wants to drive to the fort may do so. This is going to be our annual picnic, because Friday and Saturday are already full in our itinerary.

**Note:** At this time we can also opt for a 3-hour open bar (full service) at an additional \$14.95 per person. This is an option, and the notation on the Registration Form is **only** to see how many people would be interested in this addition. Do **not** include this with the registration fees you send in at this time.

### Friday, August 2, 2002

We will leave the hotel at approximately 1030 for an excursion to Parris Island. The bus will seat 47 people and will cost \$10 per person. We need to fill up at least one bus, because we are charged by the bus and not by the person. If you desire, you may drive your personal vehicle to Parris Island (about an hour drive each way from Savannah). We need to know in advance how many want to use the bus transportation so that we can make the reservation and to see if we have enough for two buses. The fee for the bus is included on the registration sheet.

The itinerary for Parris Island is going to include (but at this time is not limited to):

- A tour of the most famous military base in the USA,
- Open PX,
- Parris Island Museum,
- "Receiving Barracks,"
- A visit (for those who wish) to the Starlite Rifle Range. The range was named for Operation Starlite, the (real) first, full-size battle of the Vietnam War (in spite of what the movie "We Were Soldiers Once" says),
- A stop at an area named for Joe C. Paul, a friend of many of us who served with him, the first Marine from 2/4's history to receive the MOH, and
- A meal with the recruits in one of their mess halls. (The commuted rations rate is included on the registration form but is subject to change - it's a government thing.)

### Saturday, August 3, 2002

All day will be free time for tours and River Street. River Street is so named because it follows the flow of the Savannah River. It's loaded with arts, crafts, and food booths to explore at your leisure. In addition, as a bonus, the fastest of the fast on the water, the speed boats will be there this day, all competing for the world speed record. There's something to see for everyone.

| 2/4 Association PX Merchandise   |             |
|--|-------------|
| General Items  | Price       |
| <b>Polo shirt.</b> Maroon with "2/4 Magnificent Bastards" embroidered on the front.  | \$25.00     |
| <b>Polo shirt.</b> Red, white or blue with "2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 4 <sup>th</sup> Marines" embroidered on the front.   | \$25.00     |
| <b>T-shirt.</b> Gray with 11" full-color 2/4 logo decal on the front.  | \$12.50     |
| <b>Cap.</b> White with black bill. Embroidered with "2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 4 <sup>th</sup> Marines, Magnificent Bastards."   | \$12.00     |
| <b>Cap.</b> Navy blue or Marine Corps red. "USMC" embroidered on the front; "2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 4 <sup>th</sup> Marines" embroidered on the back.   | \$17.00     |
| <b>Golf towel.</b> White with red 2/4 logo.  | \$6.50      |
| <b>Logo.</b> Stitched patch, 3 1/2" x 4", multicolored. (Currently out of stock - on order. Call for price and availability.)  |             |
| <b>Logo pin.</b> For lapel or cap. (Call or e-mail for price and availability.)  | \$5.00      |
| <b>Word pins.</b> "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." (Call or e-mail for price and availability.) | \$3.50 Each |
| <b>Mouse pads.</b> Red and white 2/4 logo.   | \$6.50      |
| <b>Aprons.</b> With pocket, for home and shop use - red and white 2/4 logo.  | \$8.00      |
| <b>Thermal travel mug.</b> Champagne with black "USMC" emblem and 2/4 logo.  | \$5.50      |
| <b>Coffee mug.</b> Black with white 2/4 logo and Marine Corps emblem.  | \$5.00      |
| <b>Full rear window decal.</b> For pickups and SUVs. "2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 4 <sup>th</sup> Marines - The Magnificent Bastards."   | \$25.00     |
| Videos   | Price       |
| <b>Dai Do.</b> Documentary.  | \$25.00     |
| <b>2001 Reunion.</b> Includes visits to The Wall, Iwo Jima Memorial, etc.  | \$10.00     |
| Books  | Price       |
| <b>The Magnificent Bastards.</b> Keith Nolan (hard cover, only).   | \$25.00     |
| <b>The Proud Bastards.</b> Mike Helms.   | \$12.00     |
| <b>One Last Mission.</b> LtCol Oliver North, USMC (Ret)  | \$5.00      |
| <b>Ordering Instructions:</b>  |             |
| 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:                                       |             |
| <b>2/4 Association PX</b><br><b>c/o Jack Petrowsky</b><br><b>PO Box 7214</b><br><b>Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214</b>   |             |

At approximately 1900, we get on a water taxi for a boat ride across the Savannah River and the banquet at the Savannah International Trade Center. We will have an evening buffet meal with a full no-host bar, followed by our guest speaker and introductions of guests.

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## Greetings from the Membership Chairman

As your membership chairman I would like to ask all of you to pass the word to your old 2/4 buddies who are not 2/4 Association members about who we are and what we do. Recently, I sent letters to various service magazines so they can spread the word on our behalf. The more members we have the more input we have, which makes for a stronger organization.

Please tell your buddies to contact me about receiving an application to join the 2/4 Association.

Semper Fi,  
Bob Bliss USMC (Ret.)  
Membership Chairman

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## 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](mailto:sargent@inetone.net)>

or

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

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## 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](mailto:Hatch101@aol.com)>

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## Famous quotations

Samuel Adams, 1771

"The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors; they purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood. It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men."

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## The making of a Sergeant Major

Submitted by: Headquarters Marine Corps. Story Identification Number: 20024981838. Story by SSgt Kevin Dolloson

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON, DC (April 9, 2002) -- The year was 1952. In a small town 52 miles southwest of Little Rock, AK, the future sergeant major of the Marine Corps was born.

Sergeant Major Alford L. McMichael, the fourth of ten brothers and sisters, was born and raised in Hot Springs - a town with a population of a little more than 35,000.

Life in the McMichael household was fun.

"We enjoyed each other," said SgtMaj McMichael. "We took our own team to the park, we didn't have to choose a team. With that many boys in the family, we didn't have to go far to have fun."

"We were taught to love each other," he added.

Even though he was raised in a broken home, SgtMaj McMichael equates his upbringing to the Marine Corps. His mother, who passed away in December 1998, ruled the house just like a Marine Corps drill instructor.



"We were taught that sisters and brothers didn't fight, or mistreat each other," said McMichael. "Which is basically the same thing that we're taught in the Marine Corps - Marines take care of each other; we take care of our own."

"There are a lot of similarities in the way my mom raised her children and the expectations the Marine Corps has of its new recruits."

His mother taught him to focus on the positive in every situation. The stereotype of society says that children of broken homes grow up to be misfits, causing trouble and wrecking havoc wherever they go.



SgtMaj Alford L. McMichael, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, sits in his office with two of the things that mean the most to him directly behind him - the Marine Corps flag and his basketball. "I tell Marines every day, don't let this bald head and old body fool you, I still have a crossover." Photo by: SSgt Kevin Dolloson

"Growing up without a father in the home may have been difficult," explains the Sergeant Major. "But there weren't any bad days without one. Some people will say there was no father; I can say there was no dad, because I had a father every day. That was based on my spiritual upbringing. Every night we said the prayer of 'Our Father' as a family."

SgtMaj McMichael's mom was the driving force and the glue that held his family together. Everyone learned the chain of command, responsibility, accountability, manners, customs and courtesies. It seems almost unbelievable that he had no intentions of joining the Marine

Corps at all; even after his brother had joined and served in Vietnam.

"When Mom left for work everyday, we knew who the next-in-charge was." He explained. There was also an assignment of chores, and one in particular that reminds the Sergeant Major of "mess duty."

With nine brothers and sisters, doing chores wasn't too difficult, but everybody got to clean the kitchen for at least a week.

"It lasted for a week and that was a long week," said McMichael. "You didn't just wash the dishes. You dried them, put them away, and washed the kitchen floor too. A lot like the Marine Corps."

"So the Marine Corps was comfortable for me, because that's the way my mom ran her household," he added. "It was a challenge, but I was used to saying sir and ma'am. 'Yes ma'am' and 'no ma'am' was the only way to address Mom, and when Mom spoke, everybody in that family listened."

SgtMaj McMichael also said when the kitchen chore was done, you didn't have to worry about who was next; they knew to report for duty, or suffer the consequences.

Growing up in the Hot Springs community found SgtMaj McMichael spending school days with his extended family - schoolmates, teachers, counselors and coaches.

"Little did I know that I'd find comfort and joy in being around people, and school was an enjoyment for me." He said, "I can honestly say that I never cut school. It just wasn't in my thought process, and that had a lot to do with what the consequences would be once I got home."

The teachers at Langston High weren't just about numbers; they knew every child in the school by name, and they were the parents away from home. The parents and teachers didn't find conflict with one another.

"If my mom got called to school, somebody was in trouble, and it wasn't the teacher," added the Sergeant Major. "The teachers were role models and examples that I enjoyed."

Football and basketball kept SgtMaj McMichael busy with extracurricular activity during his school years and he still enjoys a game of basketball every now and then.

"Even now, it's still one of the best things I like to do, with bad knees and old age ... I tell Marines everyday, don't let this bald head and old body fool you. I still have a crossover," he said.

## The road to Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

One would never believe, looking at - and talking to - SgtMaj McMichael, that he never wanted to join the military.

He didn't join the Marine Corps because he was missing something, or running from something. He was very proud of where he was in life and he welcomed improvement. His older brother joined the Marine Corps two years before he actually did, but that didn't sell him on it either, because his brother didn't throw it in his face that he should join too.

The same recruiter that his brother went to told the young McMichael that the Marine Corps could provide him with a positive future, and that's what he wanted.

"I always knew I wanted to do something positive with my life," said McMichael. "The Marine Corps allowed me to add to the foundation that had already been set by the leadership that came from my mom in the household that I grew up in."

McMichael graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1970 and in August of that same year, he enlisted in the Marine Corps.

He said that prior to joining the Marine Corps he never knew all that the Marine Corps could provide, but it has met and exceeded his expectations.

Ever since he walked across the parade deck of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, it seems as though SgtMaj McMichael has been on a path to greatness. He has accepted every duty graciously and has given every position he has served one hundred and ten percent.

"I can't say that any one duty station that I've had, or any one billet I've served in has been better than any other," said McMichael. "My focus was always on the mission at hand."

Some of those missions include barracks duty at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; the drill field as a drill instructor, series gunnery sergeant and battalion drill master; landing support specialist, or "red patcher," in Okinawa; Marine Security Guard duty in Copenhagen, Denmark; MSG instructor in Quantico, VA; assistant Marine officer instructor at the University of Minnesota; first sergeant of Company C, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion in Okinawa; barracks first sergeant in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; the Sergeant Major of Officer Candidate School; and the Sergeant Major for Manpower and Reserve Affairs in Quantico, VA.

Every duty seemed to have been a stepping-stone for the next assignment, ultimately leading to his tour as the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Through all his teaching and learning, SgtMaj McMichael reflects on a few of the proud moments he has had in his career.

"The proudest rank I ever held was PFC," he said. "Because that is where it begins. Without PFC, I couldn't be where I am today; there would have been no corporal, no sergeant, or staff sergeant. I had an ability to appreciate that rank."

"I think if you don't appreciate what you have or who you are, I don't know how you can go forward to be more," he added.

During his time on the drill field, he remembers one person who stood out in his mind the most.

"GySgt Douglas Bar - He trained me to be a professional drill instructor, and through mentorship and teaching, I became more successful," said McMichael.

Once he transferred to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., he came across another leader who helped him further his leadership development.

"I remember 1stSgt Jackson - we called him "Black Jack Jackson" - he was an awesome leader," said McMichael. "He took the time to teach both officer and enlisted, and he took pride in everything he did."

Additionally, his assignment at the University of Minnesota was a rewarding experience.

"I wasn't just there as an instructor, but I was a living example to the students of what it was to be a Marine," he said. "That was an awesome experience, because I got to work with college students who wanted to become officers of the armed forces."

## The 14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

When SgtMaj McMichael was counting the months until he retired from the Marine Corps as the Sergeant Major of M & RA, he received a phone call from then LtGen James L. Jones.

"One morning after PT," explained McMichael.

"LtGen Jones called me and said 'SgtMaj McMichael I just wanted to congratulate you on being the fourteenth Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.'"

Then LtGen. Jones asked SgtMaj McMichael, "Would you want to do that?"

He replied, "Yes Sir!"

McMichael said that from that day on his life has changed dramatically.

"Because not only in this job do you focus on your Marines," he explains. "But you focus on the Marine families, retired Marines, veterans, and the many civilians that work alongside us. It's a complete package."

During his visit to Austin, Texas to speak to a group of high school and college-level students during a Navy League sponsored dinner, he explains his role to the Commandant and the Marine Corps.

"As the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps ... this speaking engagement has a very important purpose," said McMichael. "It keeps us connected to society and it allows us to bring the Marine Corps message to [society] so they can stop thinking of the Marine Corps of 1942 and accept the Marine Corps of 2002."

When SgtMaj McMichael speaks of the accomplishments that have come about since the Commandant and he began their tour, he says he has not accomplished anything alone.

"Some of the greatest accomplishments that the Corps has seen under General Jones are his tolerance to 'policy,' but more importantly, the Marine Corps has seen a sense of 'bottom-up,'" explains Sgt.Maj. McMichael. "The focus has changed to 'we' before 'me,' and there's more of a sense of honesty and trust."

The 'bottom-up' sense referred to is the empowerment policy that the Commandant issued, which empowers the lower ranks with the authority to make recommendations, which are heard by higher command.

According to SgtMaj McMichael, the NCO Symposium has made a tremendous difference in the Sergeant's Major Symposium held every year.

"I am very proud of the results of the NCO Symposium," he said. "The recommendations that are made there lighten the load for the Sergeant's Major Symposium, and that, in turn, gives the sergeants major the ability to follow up on the NCO recommendations, and to personally handle more issues, rather than pass them on to the Commandant."

Additionally, improvements have been recorded for the meritorious promotion system, and the Life-long Learning program.

"I'm proud that we have had the ability to move forward with meritorious promotions in the staff NCO ranks other than special duty assignments," said McMichael. "Up until two years ago, you couldn't get meritoriously promoted unless you were on special duty."

"It is my dream to consolidate our resources in the educational arena," he added. "And to take a Marine from a GED to a PHD."

In light of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Sergeant Major felt that the move of the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force to Maryland seemed to be perfect timing.

"There was some skepticism about moving CBIRF out of [Camp] Lejeune," he said. "But those were the Marines of CBIRF on the scene when the anthrax scare struck Washington, D.C."

"I'm also extremely happy about our new combat uniform and the motivation behind our martial arts program," added McMichael.

He also said that the change that has been made with the new cammies wasn't something that was done by the upper echelon of the Marine Corps alone.

"More than 25,000 Marines responded to the survey that was put on the Internet," he said. "The web played a major factor in helping make the uniform change come about."

Other accomplishments include the successful activation of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti - Terrorism), and several logistical improvements. Changes that are still being focused on are the Staff Non-commissioned Officer Year-out Program, the Marine-For-Life Program and the Single Marine Program.

One ongoing concern for the Sergeant Major is safety.

"I am probably most concerned at this point about where we take safety, and how we get safety in the hearts and souls of our Marines, and how we get our Marines to fear safety enough to comply with it," he said.

Since 1999, there seems to have been several changes in the Marine Corps. Changes that constantly require the involvement of every Marine, in every MOS, and Sgt-Maj McMichael says that it's not rocket science. He explains it in the simplest form.

"One thing I think that Marines need to remember is that we don't have to invent ourselves, we just have to continue to add to what we have," said SgtMaj McMichael. "Because of that, Marines only have to do one thing ... and that's stay the course."

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This article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/>>, Apr 9, 2002.

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## Son of famous Marine Corps sniper passes on knowledge

Submitted by: MCB Camp Butler. Story Identification Number: 200241702437. Story by Sgt. S. L. Standiford

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa, Japan (Mar. 15, 2002) -- Camouflaged from head to toe and peering down a rifle from a small hide in the bush, he squints his eyes and searches for an enemy target. This image is probably what comes to mind for most Marines when thinking of the famous sniper, Gunnery Sgt. Carlos N. Hathcock Jr. But his son, who followed in his marksmanship footsteps, always saw him in a different light.

"To me, my dad was just my dad," said Gunnery Sgt. Carlos N. Hathcock III. "I realize he has done great things for the Marine Corps, but he was just my dad. I don't know if I measure up (as a Marine), but I try."



The legendary Marine sniper always encouraged his son to be his own man and did not push or interfere with his son's decision toward a military career.



Gunnery Sgt. Carlos N. Hathcock, III, currently in Okinawa, Japan as the Commandant of the Marine Corps' representative for the Far East Regional Division Rifle Matches, loves being a Marine and getting the opportunity to do what he loves within the Marine Corps. Following a few stops on the Marine Corps Rifle Team, Hathcock is now nearing retirement. Something he is not sure he will handle well. Photo by: Cpl. James S. McGregor

"Joining the Marine Corps was a last minute change of interest," said the Stafford, Va. native. "I almost joined the Navy with a buddy of mine in the delayed entry program, but went in just to see what the Marine Corps recruiter had to say."

But the younger Hathcock had been around the Corps his entire life, and it was something that was familiar to him.

When he told his father his plans, the retired Marine offered a few words of advice for his son.

"He told me he wanted me to do something that would send me to school, to build toward a skill I can use after retirement," he said. "He also said if I wanted to shoot, I should, but that I should have something else to fall back on."

September 1, 1983, he started his career as a Marine, when he reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S. C.

Following boot camp, the newest Marine in the Hathcock family traveled to Millington, Tenn., to be trained as an aviation support equipment mechanic.

After completing school, he was sent to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N. C., joining his first unit, Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-14, now Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-14. It was there that he began his competitive shooting career with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing team.

Because of his father's notoriety, his shooting almost always drew a crowd.

"It was expected that I should be a great shooter because of who my father was," he said. "When I was first shooting, it was hard to concentrate under all the watchful eyes. If I had a bad shot it would hit me hard mentally and affect my shooting."

Completing his tour with MALS-14, he checked in at MCAS New River, N. C., where he earned a secondary military occupational specialty as a crew chief on CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter.

Due to the high deployment rate at that time, his shooting was at a minimal. Even though range time was limited, he was not worried about losing his skill as a shooter. "Shooting is a perishable skill," the avid fisherman said. "You can be proficient without having to shoot all the time. But to be at the top of your game, to be a champion, you have to practice."

Upon returning to the States, he returned to competitive shooting and was selected for the Marine Corps Rifle Team at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. Shooting with the team opened his eyes to many facets of the marksmanship community, he said.

Following his stint on the rifle team, he returned to MCAS Cherry Point, N. C., only to be called back to Quantico, Va., to assume a new position as the head coach for the Marine Corps Rifle Team.

While assigned there, his job requirements included training Marines on the rifle team to reach the top of their game and setting up matches to test those skills.

He said training a Marine for competition is not a difficult task, but the mental aspect takes time.

"You can train the body to be a champion in two weeks, but it takes a lot longer to train the mind," he said.

After establishing his keen ability to train Marines, and with a complex knowledge of competitive shooting, he earned an assignment here in the Far East.

As the Commandant of the Marine Corps' representative in the Far East Regional Division Rifle Matches earlier this month, he continued to take part in the family's tradition of teaching marksmanship. Pushing for-



ward, and following the guidance of his father, he puts his best into everything he does.

"My father's last words to me, besides I love you, were 'be a good Marine,'" he said. "No matter what I am doing, whether as a crew chief or on the rifle team, I try to be the best Marine in whatever the Marine Corps has me doing."

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This article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/>>, Apr 17, 2002.

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## The Pearl of the Orient

### A Vietnam veteran returns - Part 1

By Tom Kilduff

(Editor's note: Tom Kilduff served in Vietnam with Fox 2/4 in the late '60's. He first returned to Vietnam in 1977 and has returned each year with Military Historical Tours. In the "The Pearl of the Orient," Tom recounts that first trip for us. This is part one of his story; the remainder will be continued in future issues of the *Sea Horse*.)

There are many stories behind a Vietnam veteran's return to the Pearl of the Orient. Each story has to do with the war fought in Southeast Asia from 1960 until 1975. I am a native of Meeker, Colorado and I'm no different than many of the men and women who served in Vietnam. Along with 27 other Vietnam veterans, I returned in the spring of 1997, for 15 days to find some answers to many memories and questions I had, and also, hopefully, to write a conclusion to my own story. I am a Disabled American Veteran who served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969. I went "in-country" as a Private First Class and made Sergeant before my return to "the world." My unit was Battalion Landing Team (BLT), Second Battalion, Fourth Marines (2/4), which became the infantry driving fist of Special Landing Forces (SLF) Alpha, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB), 3rd Marine Division. Our Battalion Commander was Lieutenant Colonel "Wild Bill" Weise who retired as a Brigadier General. He also organized and hosted our trip, with the help of Military Historical Tours, Inc.

We were known as "The Magnificent Bastards" and lived up to this name with all the blood, guts and glory that is traditional for the United States Marine Corps. BLT 2/4 had been involved in some of the deadliest fighting of the war. As the 28 of us rejoined together for this return trip to Quang Tri Province, Vietnam, the site of the battle of Dia Do, we were older, wiser, and yet still very proud to have been in the Marine Corps. From 24 April to 8 May 1997, we experienced a journey of memories and laying old ghosts to rest. No longer were

the sounds of fighting and dying our constant companions. Instead, hard working people, new forests, jungles, and peace greeted us. Vietnam was a country healing its own wounds.

The trip started from Los Angeles and New York. After a 20 hour flight, we came together in Singapore and flew the rest of the way to Hanoi, together as part of a unit, like we had been in Vietnam. We descended over rice paddies and villages still pitted with the signs of the craters from B-52 bombs. As we landed in Hanoi, we were filled with mixed emotions; relief at having arrived, curiosity at what this country would hold and wondering if we would be met with hostility. As we taxied to the terminal and I saw Hanoi International Airport, I wondered what the hell I was doing! The last time I had seen that view of the terminal was on television on 12 February 1973, when the 591 POWs were released.

A party member Vietnamese guide who proved to be an invaluable liaison when dealing with the ever-changing rules, which are a part of life in Vietnam today, greeted our group. Our group of American men and women were given tips about traveling in Vietnam: never show your anger, and always treat elderly with the highest respect. We were advised to be careful where we took pictures; if asked to stop, we should. On 29 April, Unification Day, the Vietnamese version of our 4th of July, it was suggested that we be as inconspicuous as possible, which was rather difficult for a group of tall Americans. We were told to watch combinations of yellow, green and red because they had been the colors of the "southern puppets," the phrase used by the communist North to describe the former South Vietnamese government. We learned that rules change quickly in Vietnam. What may be okay with one person or guard may not be okay with the man who relieves him. We were to learn much about the culture of the people we had fought 29 years ago.

The first day in Hanoi, we went to the French-built Maison Centrale Prison. Americans have come to know this compound as "The Hanoi Hilton" which was a prison for American POWs. Vietnamese guards turned us away if we crowded to close to the large 8-inch thick wood and steel open gates. Now, the plaster front is chipped and peeling, and they are building a high-rise building inside the walls that once held so many prisoners of all the Indochina Wars. With a long camera lens you can see doors and cells down the dark shadowed corridors. This building complex evokes memories of the nightmarish hell and torture of some of America's youngest and finest. The cries and misery have become ghosts whose only reality exists in the walls still scarred with the carved names and service numbers of American POWs. Although 591 POWs were returned home in 1973, there are still 2500 listed as POW/MIAs. We

found it hard to leave this place where so much misery, pain and suffering was handed out to our fellow comrades.

I wear a POW/MIA bracelet for Capt Mark Danielson who was shot down on 18 June 1972. Mark has yet to be accounted for, although he was known to have been alive and went through the Hanoi Hilton prison system. Mark graduated from high school in Rangely, Colorado, a neighboring town close to mine, and is survived by his 84 year-old mother, Ruth, and his sisters, Lea and Judy. Over the years I have become very close to them, and with tears of sadness and happiness from both sides, I brought back and presented to them pieces of slate, mortar and rock from the roof and walls of the Hanoi Hilton. It proved to be a very special, emotional and honorable moment for me, when I was able to put those pieces from the Hilton into Ruth's frail, tender and loving hands.

\* \* \*

This article is reprinted by permission from Tom Kilduff. The second part of the story of his trip to Vietnam will appear in the third quarter, 2002, issue of the *Sea Horse*.

## Letterman's Top 10

Submitted by: Headquarters Marine Corps. Story Identification Number: 200222174715. Story by New York (February 21, 2002) -- "Top Ten Rea-

sons I Joined the Marines" Copyright 2002 by Worldwide Pants, Inc.

10. I always loved jumping off landing craft and hitting the beach under heavy fire (Staff Sergeant Barbrina Chandler)
9. Couldn't stand one more day of waking up later than 5am (Lance Corporal Mike Gregga)
8. My mama was a Marine (First Lieutenant Phillip Walter)
7. I'd always heard great things about Afghanistan (Lance Corporal Phillip Simmons)
6. It was either this or beauty school (Captain Stan Holland)
5. I happen to look great in camouflage (Corporal Alan Stowers)
4. Army movies star Pauly Shore, Marine movies star Jack Nicholson (Lance Corporal Jeremiah Maddox)
3. To serve my country and fulfill patriotic duty, and shoot some big-ass weapons (Sergeant Julie Matthews)
2. Every Spring we go to Daytona to establish a beachhead (Lance Corporal Michael Renuard)
1. Give me that eagle, globe and anchor (Corporal Sean Holcomb)

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This article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/>>, Feb 21, 2002.



Pat Oliphant, January 22, 2002 <<http://www2.ucklick.com/client/wpc/po/>>

## 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  
 43 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