

The 2/4 Association

Sea Horse



First Quarter, 2003

The Newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

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President's message

Dear Friends, Members, Marines and Corpsmen,

When I was in high school, I had a US/World History teacher named Francis Griffith. Mr. Griffith was a WWII veteran and saw action in the Pacific as an officer aboard several US Naval ships, two of which were hit by kamikaze pilots. One thing that has always stood out in my mind was something he said during one of his lectures; that the world has never known a single day of peace since man has walked on its surface. At one point, somewhere in the world, there was always some tribe, town, area, government body involved in a fashion of war. One other thing he stated during that lecture is that the United States has gone through some period of conflict at least every 18 years (at that point) since she was founded.

As we sit here today, listening to the news or reading the paper, we again find ourselves facing another possibility of war. Who knows, maybe with Iraq...maybe with North Korea...and still with an armed involvement in Afghanistan?

I'm not going to sit here and list the pros or cons on this issue; that's not what this *Sea Horse* is about. But I will say that whatever happens in the future, will have repercussions on our soil. Be safe, be careful, and love your freedoms and your liberty as you have never loved them before.

God Bless the United States of America and her allies.

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

Sgt. Chuck “Red on the Head” Harlow passed away very early in the morning on Saturday the 28th of December 2002. Chuck was an inpatient at the Wichita KS VA Hospital. Chuck served with Hotel Company 2/4 from 1964 in Hawaii through 1966 in Chu Lai. He was a good friend and will be missed by those of us who had the opportunity to know him personally. Survivors include: wife, Carolyn; sons, Bill of Rogersville, MO, and Jason of Springfield, MO; daughters, Wilma Harlow of the home, and Michelle Emmert of Alton, IL; brother, Mike of Wichita; sister, Carol Rogers of Wichita; five grandchildren.

✦ ✦ ✦

(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.)

2003 reunion reminders

Here are a couple of things to remember about the 2003 reunion. Also, a few cabins are being held for late comers. If you haven't booked a space yet, call or e-mail one of the travel agents listed.

For reservations or more information

Silver Wings Travel
2670 McCall Road
Englewood FL 34224
941-475-7979
800-881-8828 <<http://www.swingstrav.com/>>

Becky Valdez (2/4 Member)
Home 714-281-2846
Fax 714-281-2308
fxala@hotmail.com

Payments and deposits

- A refundable deposit is required when the reservation is made. Reservations are now on a limited, space available basis. The deposit is fully refund-

able if you should have to cancel your reservation up to 61 days prior to departure.

- Second deposit: \$175.00 per person, due by March 21, 2003.
- Final Payment: due by May 23, 2003.

Carnival offers a Cruise Cancellation Protection Plan for \$49.00 per person (\$29.00 for 16 years and under). This insurance must be purchased before the final payment. It's well worth it, should almost anything unexpected cause you to cancel your cruise.

Additional Information

Cancellation insurance

If you must cancel your reservation due to an unforeseen illness or emergency involving yourself or a family member, traffic accident, quarantine, jury duty or subpoena, Cancellation Insurance assures that you will receive a refund.

Cancellation Penalties (without Cancellation Insurance coverage)

- From 60 to 30 days prior to sailing: loss of deposit (\$200.00) (May 31-July 1).
- From 29 to 8 days prior to sailing: 50% of total fare (July 2- July 23).
- 7 days or less: 100% of total fare.

2002 - 2004 2/4 Association Officers

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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.

3d Marine Division Association 2003 annual reunion

Submitted by Bill Krueger

The 3d Marine Division Association will hold its 2003 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, from Wednesday, August 13, through Sunday, August 17, 2003. 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. The January-February 2003 issue of the association newsletter, *CALTRAP*, will feature registration and hotel reservation forms, and the schedule of events. For more information,

check the CALTRAP web site at <<http://www.caltrap.com>> or contact:

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

1st Battalion, 3d Marines annual reunion

Submitted by Bill Ervin

The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines will be holding its annual reunion in conjunction with the 3d Marine Division Association in Nashville, Tennessee. The 1/3 gathering will be held on Friday evening, August 15th, starting at 7:30 PM. For information, check the 1/3 web at <<http://www.onethreemarines.com/>> or contact:

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

Doc Pittman injured

Doc Pittman has stepped aside from his post as Association Treasurer a few months earlier than expected. Doc was involved in a serious auto accident and would probably appreciate a get well card:

Roger Pittman
6166 South Coventry Lane West
Littleton, CO 80123

From the PX Sales Manager

The 2/4 Association PX Sales Manager, Jack Petrowsky, is looking for some input from the association. "Last year was a rough year for me but I think that I am ready to get back on track. I will be putting in a new inventory and tracking system to control what is in the PX...." As for PX items, Jack says, "There are just so

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
T-shirt. Honoring the 20 th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (Available soon. Call or e-mail for price and availability.)	
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 or e-mail for price and availability.)	
Logo pin. For lapel or cap. (Call or e-mail for price and availability.)	\$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." (Call or e-mail for price and availability.)	\$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
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).	\$25.00
The Proud Bastards. Mike Helms.	\$12.00
One Last Mission. LtCol Oliver North, USMC (Ret)	\$5.00
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	

many t-shirts and caps that anyone can buy and I want to put in something new but I'm tapped out of ideas."

So here's your chance. Give a little thought to what you would want to see in the 2/4 Association PX—even

better, what you would **buy** from the PX! Then help out the PX Sales Manager by letting him know what you are interest in.

Meet the new Commandant

General Michael W. Hagee



(Editor note: Gen Hagee was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps; he took on his new assignment as of January 2003. The previous commandant, General James L. Jones, is now the NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, the first Marine Corps commandant to move on to a higher post instead of retiring.)

General Hagee grew up in Fredericksburg, Texas. He graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He also holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is a graduate of the Command and Staff College and the U.S. Naval War College.

General Hagee's command assignments include: Commanding Officer Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Marines (1970); Platoon Commander, Company A and Commanding Officer Headquarters and Service Company, First Battalion, First Marines (1970-1971); Commanding Officer, Waikale-West Loch Guard Company (1974-1976); Commanding Officer, Pearl Harbor Guard Company (1976-1977); Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (1988-1990); Commanding Officer, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) (1992-1993); Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (1998-1999); and Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (2000-2002).

General Hagee's staff assignments include: Communications-Electronics Officer, 1st Marine Air Command and Control Squadron (1971); Assistant Director, Telecommunications School (1972-1974); Training Officer, 3d Marine Division (1977-1978); Electrical Engineering Instructor, U.S. Naval Academy (1978-1981); Head, Officer Plans Section, Headquarters Marine Corps (1982-1986); Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, 2d Marine Division (1987-1988); Executive Officer, 8th Marines (1988); Director Humanities and Social Science Divi-

sion/Marine Corps Representative, U.S. Naval Academy (1990-1992); Liaison Officer to the U.S. Special Envoy to Somalia (1992-1993); Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (1993-1994); Director, Character Development Division, United States Naval Academy (1994-1995); Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C.; Executive Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence (1995-1996); Deputy Director of Operations, Headquarters, U.S. European Command (1996-1998); and Director Strategic Plans and Policy, U.S. Pacific Command (1999-2000).



His personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with palm, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars, Bronze Star with Combat "V", Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal with one Gold Star, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal.

* * *

This article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/genbios2.nsf/biographies/45134F6E66C9B60A85256CA800507EB6?opendocument>>, February 27, 2003.

Association writing competition

Submitted by Jim Mazy, President

This idea came about when the anonymous donor of the \$500 prize purse tried to figure out a way of recording some first hand history of 2/4 throughout the years. What better way to gather that history than by staging a competition?

The rules are very basic and simple:

1. The donor of the prize purse will remain anonymous; the identity will be known only to me.
2. 1,000 words or less (unless in the judges opinion more verbiage is needed to depict accurately the story). Your submission may be subject to editing.
3. Prefer typewritten, double-spaced but will accept any form as long as it is legible. Handwritten submissions must be printed—no cursive handwriting.
4. No vulgarity unless it is **very** pertinent to the story. Try changing the words to eliminate any cursing.
5. Must be factual—**no** fiction.
6. Author must be an Association member.
7. Writing may be serious or comedic in nature. It may cover wartime, peacetime or even liberty, as long as it involves an incident while serving with 2/4.
8. Submissions are being accepted from now through June 10, 2003. The judges' decisions are due by August 1, 2003.
9. **The first prize is \$300, second prize is \$150, and third prize is \$50. Judges' decisions are final.**

Each piece will be assigned an alphanumeric code; the identity of the writer will not be made known to the judges until after the selection process has been completed. Two of the judges were hand picked by the donor, and I am the only person (other than the judges) to know the identity of all three.

The stories will be published on the 2/4 website and also in the *Sea Horse* as space permits. All writings will be scanned to a CD-ROM and preserved by the Historian. Submissions will become the joint property of the Association and the writer, with the Association having sole discretion on future use.

All writings must be mailed to me:

Jim Mazy
6122 Shasta Street
Englewood FL 34224-8161

It is strongly suggested that you make and keep copies of your submission prior to mailing.

Electronic and website submissions will be accepted. E-mail me first at either:

<President@2ndbn4thmarine.com>
<Marine-2-4@2ndbn4thmarine.com>

If this bid to preserve the history of 2/4 is successful, it will be offered again the following year. If in the opinion of the judges there are insufficient winning entries for the year, the purse will be carried over to the following year.

Good luck!

Echo 2/4 patrols during TRUEX



Echo 2/4 patrols during TRUEX

A Marine with Battalion Landing Team, 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Echo Company, races to board a CH-53E 'Super Stallion' helicopter, Jan. 29 in Okinawa, Japan. Echo Marines landed ashore to conduct patrols as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) Training in an Urban Environment Exercise. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. S. K. D'Alessio). (RELEASED). (This photo and caption are reprinted from the 31st MEU web <<http://www.31meu.usmc.mil/>> Feb 17 2003.)

Advertising space now available in the Sea Horse and on the 2/4 Association web

Submitted by Jim Mazy, President

The costs involved in publishing, printing, sorting, labeling, and mailing a newsletter and the costs involved with the 2/4 website are escalating every month.

The *Sea Horse* editor and I have been toying with the idea of selling space on both of these. An insertion about the size of a business card (actual size would be 3.125" wide by 2.25" high) in the *Sea Horse* would be \$15 per issue or \$50 per year (4 issues) with a maximum of 1.5 pages set aside for this purpose. It does not have to be a business—it could be a remembrance of someone, or a date, or anything you would like to insert in the space. The insertion could include a photograph or other graphic (for example, a business logo) as well as text. Contact the *Sea Horse* Editor to work out the details.

The other half-page would be used for a *Sea Horse* “booster” listing where individuals could subscribe for \$10 per year. Essentially, a booster listing would be a one line message (up to 72 characters) of your choosing. An example would be, “In memory of my friend Ken Stankiewicz, KIA 18 Aug 1965...Jim Mazy.”

The website is the most expensive, yet the best, means of communications that we have. As webmaster, I am offering the opportunity to have anyone sponsor any page on our site. An example of the availability for message formats is like the one below as taken from our Message Board page:

This Message Board is being sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. James Mazy.

No matter how long I may live, I will forever love my fellow Marines, my fallen comrades and those of my former enemy that have not survived because of my actions...as a person is not truly dead until they are forgotten.

“America should always remember—Vietnam was a War...Not a Movie.”

You can advertise a business, a service or, again, anything you would like to place in your allotted space. Just **no** profanity or pornography. See the “Sponsor a page on the 2/4 website” link:

<<http://www.2ndbn4thmarines.com/sponsor.htm>>
on the 2/4 website for more information on this.

The Pearl of the Orient

A Vietnam veteran returns - Conclusion

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 the conclusion of his story; parts one through three were included in the second through fourth quarter 2002 issues of the *Sea Horse*.

One of the most poignant aspects of the tour was the change I saw in the Vietnamese women of today verses yesterday. My memories of the few Vietnamese women I saw when 2/4 was out in the field were with cold, black, vacant eyes and thin mouths, which never smiled. They had been faces etched with the misery and pain of war. Now, whether carrying heavy baskets on bamboo poles, or sitting on a motor scooter in white silk, the women are joyful and graceful. While in Hue, I wanted to have traditional silk outfits made for my wife and three daughters. I commissioned a seamstress who found several women who posed for me so I could pick three of these women who were approximately the size of my wife and three daughters, hopefully! They were only too glad to help out and laughed wholeheartedly as I tried to explain with hand signals the sizes of my women at home.

The cities and country villages were filled with voices of laughter, eyes of curiosity and sometimes looks of distrust, but never disinterest or apathy. The streets in Hanoi, Hue, Da Nang or HCMC were filled with industries people, yet never was there the sense of boredom, anger or stress, which fills the faces of so many people in American cities. People would always stop and talk to our group of Americans with genuine interest. I in particular drew a great deal of interest. My full beard and hairy arms and chest were so uncommon to the Vietnamese that I would often find children sideling up to me to take a quick pull. But they meant no harm or disrespect. I was impressed by their ability to work together and their ingenuity in getting a job done without the technology we're use to. No, their buildings would never meet OSHA standards; they actually pour concrete up to ten stories high with a bucket brigade on pulleys.

To most Americans it looks like the majority of Vietnamese live in poverty conditions. Actually, these are people who have learned to find joy, happiness, and contentment in the simplest things. In the North there were few TVs, but I noticed the life of the Vietnamese is very social. They gather for tea at outside cafes, sit together on benches in manicured parks and meet in groups around school or university buildings.

The Vietnamese pride themselves on the education of their children. By the 5th grade, children are already fairly fluent in French, English, Chinese and of course Vietnamese. Whether they live in a city or the country, the children have responsibilities of helping around the house and garden, the farm, or possibly working in one of the new entrepreneurial businesses. American news broadcasts have been filled with horror stories of sweatshops filled with underprivileged children. Actually most of these children are honored to be working and contributing to the household, usually making double



The bridge at An My, May 1, 1997

Top row, left to right: Fr Vic Bierberle, Lee Barta, Don Rossi, Mark Wise, Dick Boggia, Guy Bair, Dick Walbreg, Bob Hannon, Tom Williams, Fritz Warren. Kneeling left to right, Craig Noke, Bob Brelle, Roger Pittman, Ed Garr, Gen Weise, Terry Funderburke, Charley Awkerman, Tom Kilduff

what their fathers make. I was told, "You Americans always run around the world judging other cultures by your own, just look at what you have done to your own American Indians." I had no comment. Vietnam is indeed, a different culture, I have learned to respect and understand them better from this trip.

The Vietnamese are basically a truly peaceful, friendly and honest people. They tried very hard at taking care of all us distrustful Americans. In Hue, I experienced the honesty of these simple people when two of us hired two "taxi-cycles" for the day. It was a day of shopping and I wanted to find some of the intricate embroidery art I had seen. We explained to the men peddling what we were looking for. The men said, "no problem!" (A common phrase Vietnamese used with us everywhere we went.) They started to take us out of the city center. We thought we were in for it, but just as we were beginning to plan our attack strategy, they turned a corner, an lo' and behold, in front of us was a little store which had some of the most beautiful embroidery art I had ever seen - no problem!

Of course, not all life in Vietnam is idyllic. We Vietnam Veterans were reminded of this when told that Agent Orange had taken its toll on their populace! Many young people between the ages of 25 to 30, badly deformed, are shunned from society as though they are lepers. Unlike the lepers who are in a colony next to the

sea at the foot of Hai Van Pass, these young people are left to the unlikely mercy of their countrymen. Another group who have not fared well in North Vietnam's victory, are the South Vietnamese who worked for the Americans. They have spent 5 to 20 years in reeducation camps and many are just now returning to society. It is a society, which is vastly different from the one they left.

Throughout the trip, the group found themselves sleeping in hotels ranging from those which offered kitchenettes and a full range of TV viewing to Russian-built hotels where a hole in the

middle of the bathroom floor and a hand held nozzle passed for a shower. It was during the dinners, though, that we Americans were truly entertained. There were many nights in which we were entertained by native Vietnamese music sung and performed by men and women dressed in traditional clothing and playing traditional wooden instruments. While in Hue one evening, we took a dinner cruise along the beautiful Perfume River. Tables were set with the ever-present flowers, which the Vietnamese love, and the lights from the city reflected brightly off the water. Also in Hue, a couple on the trip with us, Tom and Kelly Williams, renewed their wedding vows in the "city of love." In Da Nang we dined at Christi's, an Australian restaurant where, for once, we did not have to wonder what we were eating. The most memorable night for everyone, though, was in Ho Chi Minh City the night before our departure. There was a humorous presentation of necessary traveling supplies, like toilet paper to our tour guide Ed Henry, from Military Historical Tours and the honorary plaques we had made up for 2/4's, 1968, Commanding Officer, Brigadier General "Wild Bill" Weise and Operations Officer, Lt. Col. "Fritz" Warren. When General Weise mentioned in his toast, "This time we came in together as a unit and tomorrow we're leaving together as unit!" There were more than a few tears among those older, wiser, crusty, yet still proud, Marines!

Yes, there were many stories told by these Marines throughout the 15-day journey. Each one was written on pages of tragedy, fear and survival. Doc Pittman told that while fighting at Lam Xuan, the wounded had to be floated across Jones Creek on mattresses, or “rubber ladies,” as he affectionately called them. Yet another man told about the helicopter which was flying into 2/4’s “safe” rear area at Jones Creek, to evacuate the casualties; both pilots were hit, but they managed to land their chopper, load the wounded and take off again. Much time was spent in the Catholic Cathedral at Hue, as Earl Songer told his account of entering the stadium shortly after the massacre. As a young man, he had not been prepared for the sight of bodies stacked like cordwood. At Hue, we met another 2/4 veteran, John Hanna of Fox Company, who on the first day (30 April ’68) of the Battle of Dia Do had his leg run over by a tank in the soft mud and was left by his comrades for dead! John had come back, by himself, to try to find the old man and little boy who pulled him into a small cave-like structure, patched his leg as best as they could, and hid him from the NVA until friendly help arrived. He finally located the family in a small village, only to learn that the man had been killed by battle fire shortly after he was rescued. He was able to visit with two of the grown daughters and with their help he was on his way to HCMC (Saigon), to locate the grown, little boy.

I listened to all of these stories, reliving memories of my own. For me it was not so much one episode that brought me back to Vietnam, but the entire experience. I had left a country decimated by war and returned to find a country that has been rebuilding itself and wants only peace and prosperity for Vietnam. I plan to return to this “Pearl of the Orient” for the 31st Anniversary of Dia Do in May 1999, with Generals Weise and Livingston and many more members of our 2/4 Association, but now my memories will be different.

This war is finally over! This was a frequent statement these Marines kept saying, quietly, again and again with relief, because on this “tour,” these much wiser Vietnam Veterans were tourists.

As I have said, I returned in the spring of ‘97 to find some answers to many memories and questions I had, and to write a conclusion to my own story.

“Semper Fi”

In Peace and Patriotism,
Tom Kilduff, Sgt, USMC
Vietnam 1967, 1968 and 1969
2/4 “The Magnificent Bastards”

* * *

This article is reprinted by permission from Tom Kilduff.
Thanks, Tom.

2/4 Marine and NCO of the Year

Cpl Joshua T. Edwards, Echo Company



Joshua T. Edwards was born in Reading, Pennsylvania. Upon graduation from recruit training Lance Corporal Edwards underwent infantry training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina. Upon his graduation, Corporal Edwards received orders to the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, “The Magnificent Bastards,” 1st Marine Division. While in the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Lance Corporal Edwards was assigned in second platoon as a point man and as a radio operator until appointed by his Company Commander as the armory custodian. While serving with 2/4, Corporal Edwards deployed to Okinawa, Japan, with the 31st MEU and received a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Corporal Edwards also has been selected as the Marine of the Quarter for 5th Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division.

* * *

This article is reprinted from the 31st MEU web <<http://www.31meu.usmc.mil/GCE/year.html>>, February 28, 2003.

Corpsmen experience challenges of assignment with Marines

Submitted by: 24th MEU. Story Identification Number: 2002122162539. Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Misfeldt

U.S. CENTAL COMMAND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (December 16, 2002) -- There are many different ratings in the Navy, but few work as closely with the Marines as the hospital corpsmen do. They are the life-savers and healers of the Marines sent into combat.

The Corpsmen assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) consider this duty a unique opportunity to hone their skills and integrate fully with the Marines.

"We train with the Marines," said Petty Officer 1st Class Zachary Hare, hospital corpsman, command element, 24th MEU (SOC). "That helps us to know what they are doing. In case one of them goes down, we know what to do and how to properly react."

The corpsmen who are assigned to the MEU or any Marine unit must go through additional training before reporting to their respective units.

"Every corpsman who is assigned to a Marine unit must go through an extra two months of school before ever coming here. They must attend Field Medicine Service School, where they receive additional training on medicine, sanitation, and an introduction to things they would encounter while on assignment with the Marines," said Petty Officer 2d Class Marrisa Mueller, a hospital corpsman assigned to the MEU Service Support Group.

In addition, independent-duty hospital corpsmen who are assigned to a particular unit and work by themselves go to school for an additional year to get training on a more advanced level, according to Hare.

"I had to go to trauma school to basically learn what a doctor or surgeon would know," said Hare. "Out here with the Marines, I have to be a lot more independent. Sometimes communication is not up and I have to administer a lot more emergency medicine because of the dangers of the jobs that Marines are assigned to do. I have to be really good at trauma and emergency medicine. The doctor may be farther away than I know, so I have to be able to treat that Marine then and there."

The corpsmen are treated just as if they were Marines. They get down in the mud with the Marines, shoot weapons, live and eat with the Marines.

"This is work, just like anywhere else. If they go to the field, we go to the field. If they go to the firing range, we go to the firing range," said Seaman Dominick Breedlove, a Hospital Corpsman assigned to Battalion Land-

ing Team 2/2. "This is important in providing medical coverage. I am assigned to the Battalion Aid Station, but if I was assigned to a line company, then I would also shoot and do the things that they do as well."

Working with the Marines is not required of every Navy Hospital Corpsman, but those who do are assigned to a Marine Corps unit are glad that they took the chance to come to the "Green Side."

"I enjoy this. It is quite different from what you do in a hospital," said Mueller. "A lot of people will never have this experience. It is very hard for a female with MEU Service Support Group to go on a deployment, so I am very grateful for this opportunity."

"It definitely has helped my career to come and work with the Marines," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Lamin Foray, a Hospital Corpsman assigned to the BLT. "I have had the opportunity to get my Fleet Marine Force warfare pin, and I have been able to go to so many more schools since I have been here - more so than when I was on shore duty."



Petty Officer 3rd Class Lamin Foray, one of the Navy hospital corpsman currently assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn., 2d Marines, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), deploys with the battalion wherever it goes. In addition to providing medical care for the Marines of the battalion, he also must be able meet the same standards as the Marines, including qualifying on all weapons. Photo by: Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Misfeldt.

There are also differences in what hospital corpsmen do in the field and what they would do on a ship.

"Mostly, on a ship, you are worried more with your sick call type medicine," Hare said. "The Marines, a lot of times, come out here to the field, and there is nothing

here. They have to build something from scratch. They are expeditionary, so they have to be able to tear it down just as fast as they put it up so they can move on to the next place. Plus, they are constantly out there on the "tip of the spear," where they can get shot at, cut, fall down, or any of the wildlife out here could attack them as well the enemy. As corpsmen, we have to be able to help these guys at a moment's notice."

According to Foray, not all hospital corpsmen have had the opportunity to work with the Marines, but the ones who have served with the "Green Team" say it was well worth it.

"You have to do a stint with the Marines," said Foray. "There is so much stuff out there that you would never know if you did not come out with the Marines. You do so much more when you are deployed with the MEU. You learn about so many different scenarios that you would never even think of if you were on a ship or in a hospital. I think that to be a well-rounded corpsman you need to work both in a hospital and with the Marines."

* * *

This article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/>>, December 23, 2002.

Just a Common Soldier

(A Soldier Died Today)

by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,

While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.

While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know

It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?

Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

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This poem is reprinted from Mr. Vaincourt's web <http://www.vaincourt.homestead.com/Common_Soldier.html>, September 20, 2002. It was first published in 1985 in Larry Vaincourt's newspaper column. It was then included in his 1991 collection, *Rhymes and Reflections*. Several versions of this poem, containing errors, are circulating on the web; this is the original text. **Thank you, Mr. Vaincourt.**

Membership Application

Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

Required Information

Name: _____ Home phone: (____) _____
 Address: _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

 E-mail address: _____
 Current rank if active duty or highest rank if discharged or retired: _____
 Personal awards and decorations: _____

 Period(s) of service (total): From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____
 Period(s) with 2/4: From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____
 Place(s) served with 2/4: _____
 Unit(s) assigned to while with 2/4: Company ____ Platoon ____; Company ____ Platoon ____; Company ____ Platoon ____
 Other military affiliations: _____

Optional Information

Married ____ Single ____ Widowed ____ Spouse or significant other's name: _____
 Hometown while in the service: _____ Nickname while in the service: _____
 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 be paid in up to three installments over a period not to exceed nine consecutive months. Dues guidelines are the same for Regular Membership and Associate Membership. Please indicate below the type of membership you desire.

Membership class:	Regular Membership: ____	Associate Membership: ____
Life Member:	____ 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 Member:	____	\$20

It is 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