

# The 2/4 Association



## Sea Horse

Fourth Quarter, 2003

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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,

Here we are at the onset of another holiday season. I cannot wait to see if Santa received my request for a new body, a better functioning mind, and that new M-14 still packed in Cosmoline.

Speaking of gifts, why not give yourself and your family a gift this year. Find the time to get to your doctor and get a physical and a blood test. Ask specifically for testing for three of the most important tests that can be done: colon cancer, type II diabetes and hepatitis C. These three are affecting our veterans at alarming rates and are all very treatable if detected early. The main word here for successful treatment is finding it early. Do it—give your family the gift of your smiling face for years to come.

I would like to insert a note here to all of the people who I know are entering the website and gleaning the pages for one reason or another. We are getting on average upwards of a thousand hits a month that come to the internet home of the Association at <<http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com>>.

To those of you who have not joined us as an Association Member, think about it. Our oldest member served with 2/4 in 1938 and our youngest is serving now. What about all you eligible people in between? In order to carry on the wonderful history of 2/4, we need to infuse new blood into it. Without newer members joining our ranks, we, the present members, just get older and older until we are no longer here. Then what happens to the history of 2/4? Joining is easy, quick and painless. Applications are on the Internet, in the newsletter, and available via e-mail. You younger guys may not think this now, but your time with The Magnificent Bastards will come to mean so much to you in your later years. Think about it, something having to do with 2/4 drew you to the website or newsletter to start with, didn't it? Membership is open to anyone who served or was attached to 2/4—also to anyone who has an interest or bond with the battalion.

Fran and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season.

Semper Fidelis...Jim Mazy

Second Battalion, 4th Marines—the Best in the Corps

“Unfortunately, America usually only remembers its veterans when they're needed.”

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#### In memoriam

\* *Walter “Doc” Gorsage, November 4, 2003.*

\* *General Raymond G. Davis, September 3, 2003.*

*General Davis was a former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and a friend of the 2/4 Association.*

+ + +

## 2004 reunion details

Submitted by Jim Mazy.

The dates are set and plans are in process for our reunion for 2004. It seems that the good folks in Benld, Illinois, didn't get enough of the 2/4 Association during the last time they hosted our reunion, or maybe it just took this long for them to recuperate from it.

The Benld, Illinois, area (Sawyerville) was the home of SgtMaj John Malnar, 2/4's Sergeant Major who was KIA on May 2, 1968, during one of the Vietnam War's bloodiest battles, Dai Do.

As it is now (and these dates are rock solid so as to coincide with the city's centennial celebration), the reunion is scheduled to commence on Thursday, September 2, 2004, and end the evening of Sunday, September 5, 2004. The following day is Labor Day. I know this is out of the ordinary for our reunion times, but this

is when their 100-year celebration is, and this is what the general membership voted on and approved.

So far, the itinerary is set up as follows, but this is subject to change as they find other things for us to do:

**Thursday, September 2:** Registration and general get-together (aka: "organized grab ass") in the designated hospitality and meeting room at the Baymont Inn.

**Friday, September 3:** The executive meeting will be held Friday morning and will be immediately followed by the annual membership meeting. This will be an election year to see who is going to lead the association for the next few years. After the meeting, there will be a free day to mingle and see the city. The association picnic is Friday evening and will be filled with fun, food, and games, including something called bocce ball.

**Saturday, September 4:** We will hold our memorial service Saturday morning. This will be held in the cemetery where Big John is buried. Another free day to do whatever you please (lots of fun things in the city park, as it is their centennial celebration also). The banquet is scheduled for Saturday night, to be followed by entertainment and dancing.

**Sunday, September 5:** The morning is free for you to attend church services or do as you wish. That afternoon around 5:00 PM, we will join together as a drill team and amaze the townsfolk with our clockwork symmetry and graceful rendition of the famed 8th & I Silent Drill Team in DC. Yeah sure, would you believe we stumble down the street while trying to keep in step with the likes of John Hembrough and Bob Bliss?

The reunion will officially close Sunday at the conclusion of the parade, but all are welcome to continue the Benld centennial celebration in the city park.

If anyone has suggestions for activities, please send me an e-mail.

So far, two hotels have committed to placing a block on rooms to accommodate the 2/4 Association: The Baymont Inn and the Super 8, both in the city of Litchfield which is nine miles from Benld. From what I have been able to find out, the Baymont is offering a rate of \$75.60 plus tax per night

### 2002 - 2004 2/4 Association Officers and Chairs

President	Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161. Phone: 941 474-9431. E-mail: <President@2ndbn4thmarine.com>.
Vice President	Yahya A.A. Kariem, 7717 Reed Street, Jacksonville, FL 32208. Phone: 904 764-2241. E-mail: <ykariem50@aol.com>.
Secretary	Jack Petrowsky, P.O. Box 7214, Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214. Phone: 505 382-0759. E-mail: <jackny@webtv.net>.
Treasurer	John "Pete" Townley, Jr., 1522 Bent Trail CT, Sugarland, TX 77479-6943. Phone: 281 937-9692. E-mail: <petetownley@msn.com>.
Executive Board	John "Randy" Kington, 327 Lochmere Drive, Morristown, TN 37814. Phone: 423 586-7099. E-mail: <johnkington@napleslakescc.com>.
Board of Directors	Tim Doble, 9395 Birch Lane, Lakeville, MN 55044. Phone: 952 461-2996. E-mail: <tjdoble@spacestar.com>. George "Fritz" Warren, 2513 23d Road North, Arlington, VA 22207-4901. E-mail: <warrenge@hq.nmcrcs.org>.
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>.
Sergeant at Arms	Michael B. McComas, 4328 Winfield Drive, Flowery Branch, GA 30542. Phone: 707 967-0973. E-mail: <SgtMac@webtv.net>.

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

and the Super 8 will be approximately \$59 plus tax. The Baymont will be the Command Post.

Baymont Inn & Suites  
1405 West Hudson Drive  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-324-4556

Super 8 Motel  
211 Ohren Lane  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-324-7788

The Baymont offers an indoor swimming pool, sauna, fitness room, and many other amenities too numerous to mention here.

As for the banquet on Saturday evening, I believe it is going to be a buffet style dinner with a menu of:

- Broasted chicken
- Italian rope sausage and polenta
- Roasted pork loin with apricot sauce
- Chef's medley of fresh vegetables
- Bow tie pasta primavera
- Mashed potatoes
- Cabbage rolls
- Mixed green salad with a variety of dressings
- Pineapple upside-down cake
- Kolotski cheese
- Apricots and nuts
- Coffee, tea, and a cash bar

Pricing for the banquet will be approximately \$25 per adult; we are checking on children's prices.

Benld is situated in the southwestern portion of Illinois just a short distance from Interstate 55 on Route 138. The closest commercial airport is St. Louis International which is about 50 miles southwest of Benld. Full services with rental cars are available at the airport.

## Lost members

Submitted by Jim Mazy, alias the Roster Manager.

As of the last mailing of the newsletter, the following members have moved without providing a forwarding address. If you know how to contact any of those listed below, please contact the Roster Manager or

## 2/4 Association PX Merchandise

General Items	Price
<b>"Gone but not forgotten."</b> 16" x 20" print of artwork by Chris Thibodeau; original created as a Christmas present to his father James Thibodeau (Hotel, '64/'65). Price includes shipping. (See 2/4 Association web < <a href="http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com/thibodeau_art.htm">http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com/thibodeau_art.htm</a> >for details.)	\$25.00
<b>Mugs and tumblers by Tervis.</b> Super insulated with an embroidered 2/4 patch encapsulated between two pieces of crystal clear acrylic plastic. Price includes shipping. (See 2/4 Association web < <a href="http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com/px_items_disc.htm">http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com/px_items_disc.htm</a> > for details.)	
12 oz Rocks Glass: Each - \$13.35; Set of 2 - \$23.75; Set of 4 - \$41.55	
16 oz Tumbler: Each - \$14.35; Set of 2 - \$25.75; Set of 4 - \$45.55	
17 oz Mug w/handle: Each - \$16.35; Set of 2 - \$29.75; Set of 4 - \$52.55	
<b>Polo shirt.</b> Red, maroon, white, or blue with "2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 4 <sup>th</sup> Marines" embroidered on the front.	\$25.00
<b>T-shirt.</b> Various colors with full-color 2/4 logo decal on the front. (Call or e-mail for available colors.)	\$15.00
<b>Caps.</b> White with black bill. Embroidered with "2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 4 <sup>th</sup> Marines, Magnificent Bastards." 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.	\$18.50
<b>Golf towel.</b> White with red 2/4 logo.	\$6.50
<b>Logo.</b> Stitched patch, 3 1/2" x 4", multicolored.	\$5.00
<b>Logo pin.</b> For lapel or cap. (Call or e-mail for price and availability.)	
<b>Mouse pad.</b> Red and white 2/4 logo.	\$6.50
<b>Apron.</b> With pocket, for home and shop use - red with white 2/4 logo.	\$8.00
<b>Thermal travel mug.</b> Champagne with black Marine Corps emblem and 2/4 logo.	\$5.50
<b>Coffee mug.</b> Black with white 2/4 logo and Marine Corps emblem.	\$5.50
Videos	Price
<b>Dai Do Documentary.</b> (Call or e-mail for price and availability.)	
<b>2001 Reunion.</b> Includes visits to The Wall, Iwo Jima Memorial, etc.	\$10.00
Books	Price
<b>Look for a new selection of books in the next Sea Horse.</b>	
<b>Ordering Instructions:</b>  Please add \$1.50 per item for shipping and allow 4-6 weeks. Make your check or money order 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 c/o Jack Petrowsky PO Box 7214 Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214</b>	

ask them to drop the Roster Manager a quick note with the new address information.

- Peter Acly, Milwaukee, WI 53211-3437
- Robert L. Barham, Broadway, VA 22815-5023

- Daniel J. McFarren, Cleves, OH 45002
- Wilkins M. Parks, Bensalem, PA 19020-2954
- John E. Payne, Hillsboro, OH 45133-9792
- Richard Payne, Crowley, CO 81034-0001
- Allen L. Savage, Bard, CA 92222-0055
- Edward M. Chapman, Mt Pleasant, SC 29466

Member Gary Rowland needs to contact the Roster Manager. When he joined the Association, he supplied no information at all as to where he lives, nor did he supply an e-mail address.

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## When e-mail goes bad

Submitted by Jim Mazy, alias the Roster Manager.

The members listed below have a bad e-mail address registered with the Association. If your name appears in this list, or if you have the new information needed for this member, please contact the Roster Manager.

- Gary L. Call
- William S. Connor III
- John C. Cooney
- Leonard R. Davis
- William L. Dozier, Cpl
- Robert W. Gaff, Sgt
- Leonard W. Hensley
- Rod L. Huddleston
- Tom Kilduff, Sgt
- Robert R. King
- Dominic F. Morello
- Paul Perez, Sgt
- Richard D. Pippin, Cpl
- Timothy R. Port, HM3
- Salvador Raigosa, Jr., LCpl
- Albert N. Rodgers
- Robert V. Santos, Pfc
- Samuel L. Shertzer
- James H. Stahl, Sgt
- Fred G. Stein
- Ernest R. Tiger, Sgt
- James A. Wainwright
- James L. Williams, Col

There have been cases where e-mail messages have been rejected by an e-mail server that decided to "protect you" from your Association. The affected e-mail addresses are listed below, together with the service that is causing the rejection. It is suggested that you contact your Internet Service Provider and complain that they are preventing valid, legal, and in some cases very important e-mail messages from reaching you, and that you would like them to stop censoring your personal e-mail.

- Dave Jones <jones410@toad.net>, blocked by pews.org
- Jack Cooney <jack7413@pa.net> blocked rbl.pa.net

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## They came in peace...

### Corps remembers victims, survivors of Beirut bombing

Submitted by: MCRD Parris Island. Story Identification Number: 20031020145639. Story by Staff Sgt. Benjamin N. Haynes.

MCRD/ERR PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.(Oct. 17, 2003)—"When we fight, we strongly believe in God, Corps and Country, but we fight for our buddies." Anonymous Beirut veteran.

At approximately 6:22 a.m., Oct. 23, 1983, a truck loaded with 2,000 pounds of explosives crashed through the gates of the U.S. Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The bomb exploded inside the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regimental Battalion Landing Team taking the lives of 241 Marines, sailors and soldiers and wounding more than 100 others.

The bombing is considered the most deadly act of terrorism prior to Sept. 11, 2001, when the world witnessed the destruction of the World Trade Center and the damage to the Pentagon.

Although the two terrorist attacks took place nearly 20 years apart, the reasons behind the bombing are the same. According to an anonymous letter from a Marine who served in Beirut, the purpose of these cowardly acts was to separate us.

However, the effect of these acts had the opposite affect on the American people and military.

"As Americans, these tactics only serve to draw us together," the letter read. "Some are calling Beirut the first battle of World War III. This is a conflict we did not want, but one in which we cannot afford to lose. It is a war between good and evil. We have the will to win, and we will prevail."

Prior to the bombing there were nearly 1,600 Marines serving as part of a multinational force trying to help restore order and stability in Lebanon. The Marines had been stationed in Lebanon to provide a presence. The year before, in June, the Israelis had invaded Lebanon in one final push to drive out PLO terrorists. This move upset balance in the Middle East and U.S. forces were attempting to referee the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. They had been deployed around the Beirut airport to stand between the Lebanese army and Syrian-backed Shiite units fighting in the Shouf Mountains.



In the months leading up to the attack, Marines operated in a high-threat environment and continued to actively patrol, train the Lebanese armed forces, and improve security.

Throughout their stand in Beirut, there was a noticeable conflict with some local groups. The embassy Marines faced verbal harassment, rocket and mortar attacks against the LAF, and stray rounds coming into their positions. The Marines recognized the increased threat posed by this firing, and continued to harden positions by emplacing sandbags and digging in deeper. After a Sept. 26 cease-fire began to break down, the threat of terrorism remained vague, while the active threat from artillery and small arms was increasing.

While the majority of the Marine forces lay asleep on the early morning of Oct. 23, 1983, a five-ton truck entered a public parking lot adjacent to the four-story, steel-reinforced concrete and sandbagged building which housed the headquarters elements of BLT 1/8. After making a complete circle around the parking lot for acceleration, and while traveling at a high speed, the truck crashed through the outer defense of a barbed-wire emplacement. It moved at high speed between two sandbagged sentry posts; passed through a gate into an iron fence; jumped over a sewer pipe which had been placed there as an obstacle to impede vehicles; plowed through a sandbag barrier; and precisely hit a four-foot wide passenger entry into the lobby where its cargo detonated.

According to then Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen P. X. Kelley, the entire event, which can best be described as the delivery by a suicidal driver of a 5,000-pound truck-bomb at very high speed, took approximately six seconds from start to finish.

Thursday will mark the 20-year anniversary of the tragedy our fellow Marines and armed forces faced in Beirut. Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., has special programs planned for those who sacrificed and served. The Beirut Veterans Association will host ceremonies, dedications and banquets to honor the heroes of Beirut Thursday. For more information on the events, visit [www.lejeune.usmc.mil/ncb/beirutmemorial.asp](http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/ncb/beirutmemorial.asp).

\* \* \*

The above article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/273BBFF7EECFB65A85256DC50068109C?opendocument>>, October 20, 2003.

## In the next issue

In the next issue of the Sea Horse, Tom Hopkins will take us back to 1965. Tom will tell us about the trip that 2/4 took from Kaneohe to Chu Lai. We will also have a couple of favorite photos from Bob Bliss and his summertime of fun in 1967 with Golf Company.

## A return to the 2/4 barracks after 34 years

Submitted by Tom Hopkins. (Editor's note: Tom was with 2/4 at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, from February 1963 until March 1965 when he shipped out to Okinawa. He landed with 2/4 at Chu Lai on May 7, 1965. Tom was a Platoon Leader in Golf Company, 2/4, in October 1965 when the entire company became the new India Company, 3/7. He stayed with India Company until February 1966 when he returned home. Thanks for sharing this story with the membership.)



Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Several years ago, after I retired from the Travelers Insurance Company, I knew it was time to find a nice place to spend a part of the winter. While we considered several places, I kept coming back to Hawaii. My wife, Kaethe, and I had spent a little over two years there with the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Brigade, until I left for Vietnam in March 1965. So, in March 1999, we decided to give Hawaii another try, only this time, we would have a little more money—it always helps, especially in Hawaii. You can't do much on Second Lieutenant's pay.

Before we left on this return visit, I wrote to the Director of Public Relations at the base for permission to visit during our trip to Hawaii. It was lucky that I did. Many former Marines just walk up to the gate, I was told, and ask to make a visit and are turned away. If you ever want to make a return visit to an old Marine base,

always write for permission first. It's the smart thing to do.

The Marine base at Kaneohe, Hawaii, was called MCAS-Kaneohe. It's now called Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Other than a new main gate, it's still as I remembered it.

Having received permission from the Director of Public Relations for the visit (with a specific time and date), Kaethe and I showed up at the gate and were met in the MP Shack by a Corporal who escorted us around the base in a Marine Corps van. It felt great having a personal guide to show us around. There was nothing like that 34 years ago.



Our first stop was at the old Hotel Company barracks. It wasn't as clean and neat looking as I remembered it. Maybe they have had a cutback in their maintenance budget. Nevertheless, it was really wonderful to visit the old barracks again after all these years.

The last memory I have of the place is as the pay officer for H&S Company and trying to find all the Marines in the company scattered all over the 2/4 area just before we left there to go aboard ship at Pearl Harbor and then on to Okinawa and Vietnam.

The first thing we did was walk through the old barracks where I had been a Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, Company "H." The bottom half of the two deck concrete barracks now house a radio company. I couldn't visit the lower deck because it was locked—I think the company was on a field exercise or something. However, the top deck, which had contained the "H" Company 3rd Platoon and Weapons Platoon, now housed, of all things, a machine-gun training facility with interactive videos. It was like being in a giant video game, except the machine-guns were real and were hooked up to pneumatic air hoses to give them a real kick when they were fired in the simulated training.

I was told that this training was as close as you can get to the real thing without actually firing the machine-gun on a firing range.

When I laid down at the firing position, an interactive video came on a giant screen. It showed a squad of aggressors attacking my position. The attackers were supported by light armored vehicles. When I pulled the trigger, the machine-gun bucked just like the real thing and if you aimed correctly at an attacker, who was advancing in fire team rushes, he was hit and went down. Wow, I thought I was back in Nam! This time, however, it was a lot cooler and there was no fear and *no incoming*.

After that "show," we continued our tour. While there, a Platoon Sergeant from the old Echo Company barracks asked me to talk to his Marines. Why he wanted me, an old man, to talk to his men, I'll never know, but it was an ego trip just the same to stand in front of a platoon of active duty Marines and tell them of some of my experiences both at Kaneohe and in Vietnam.

After the visit to the 2/4 barracks, we toured the base and even visited our old house in the base housing area. What a day! I'll never forget it.

The memories came flooding back during our visit and I realized how much I missed the place....maybe not the place so much as missing my fellow Marines and missing being young again. I'm still glad that I returned for a day of old and wonderful memories.



**Captain Tom Hopkins, USMC**

*"Semper Fi, Marines...you will always be in my memory."*

## Welcoming veterans home in Rochester, New York

Submitted by Ken Sympson, with significant plagiarizing from the web site of Operation Welcome Home. Visit it at <<http://www.operationwelcome-home.org>>.

Operation Welcome Home of Rochester, NY, is a volunteer organization formed during the first Gulf War to ensure that veterans from the Rochester area would receive a proper welcome when they return to the community. The experiences of veterans from the Vietnam era strongly influenced the founding of Operation Welcome Home. The organization is now a collaboration of the Veterans Outreach Center and Chapter 20 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. It serves veterans and their families in Rochester and the surrounding counties.



**Captain Jeff Corriveau, USMC, receives the Operation Welcome Home Commendation**

In September 2003 at an informal ceremony at his parents home in Rochester, New York, Pete Engle (right) presented the Operation Welcome Home Commendation to Captain Jeff Corriveau, USMC. Captain Corriveau was home on leave after serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (see Captain Corriveau's biography, in the box to the right). Pete is the Director of Operation Welcome Home.

Operation Welcome Home has developed an organization to provide enthusiastic greetings for returning veterans. Greetings are planned and scheduled based on a request from the service member's family and can be provided for all veterans, whether their service was overseas or stateside. In addition, to provide the entire community an opportunity to participate in welcoming and thanking the troops, the organization asks friends and neighbors to "sign-up" in support of the Operation Welcome Home service commendation. In 1991 over 58,000 people from the Rochester area signed the commendation. Also, based upon a request from the service member's family, a presentation-quality copy of the commendation is given to each returning service member, along with a lapel pin recognizing their service.

### Captain Jeffrey C. Corriveau, call sign "Frenchy"

- Webster High School Class of 1993
- United States Naval Academy Class of 1997 (B.S. Ocean Engineering)
- Designated Naval Flight Officer (Wings) August 1999 at NAS Pensacola, Florida.
- Graduated Fleet Replacement Squadron (formerly the known as the "RAG") VMFAT-101, January 2001 at MCAS Miramar, California.
- Joined VMFA(AW)-225 "Vikings" in February 2001 at MCAS Miramar, California.
- Deployed to Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait: March-June 2001 in support of Operation Southern Watch. I flew 9 combat missions during that deployment.
- Deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan: March-September 2002 as part of Unit Deployment Program. Supported Operation Noble Eagle from Anderson AFB, Guam in addition to exercises Southern Frontier (Darwin, Australia), Foal Eagle (Yechon, South Korea), Cobra Gold (Korat, Thailand) as well as trips to Iwo Jima, Kadena AB (Okinawa), and Saipan.
- Deployed to Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait: January-May 2003 in support of Operation Southern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Flew over 40 combat missions ranging from FAC(A) to CAS to Deep Air Strike. Dropped over 65,000 lbs. of ordnance (General Purpose Bombs from 500-2000 lbs, JDAM, Laser Guided Bombs, Rockeye, 20mm cannon, etc.) on a variety of targets ranging from Baath Party HQ buildings, to Terrorist Camps, to Armored vehicles and troops.
- Graduated from the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) in July 2003.
- Present billet is the Regimental Air Officer with the 11th Marine Regiment, stationed at Camp Las Pulgas, Camp Pendleton, California.
- Personal Decorations include: Air Medal (3 awards); Air Force Aerial Achievement Award (3 awards); Navy Commendation Medal w/ Combat V; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3 awards); and National Defense Medal (2 awards).





#### The Operation Welcome Home service commendation

The Operation Welcome Home service commendation was originally designed in 1991 for presentation to veterans returning from the first war in the Persian Gulf. It was changed slightly to generalize it to honor those who have served in Afghanistan, Iraq or other locations in the war on terrorism. Note that this image was taken from the Operation Welcome Home web. The last combat in which Captain Simpson served was 1965–1966 in Vietnam.

The Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) in Rochester is the nation's oldest community-based nonprofit center serving veterans and their dependents. It opened in 1973 to help Vietnam veterans cope with their wartime experiences and to facilitate their government benefits claims. The VOC now serves veterans of all eras, and will be here to serve our newest veterans—those involved in the war on terrorism. It offers a variety of programs and services. For example:

- Through the VOC Resource Center, veterans receive career counseling, skills assessment, job readiness training and workshops, occupational training referrals, job development and placement services, and have access to a job information library.
- Richards House, the VOC homeless housing facility, provides a homelike environment for veterans to live in while receiving vital mental health services and addiction treatment as the first steps toward making positive life-style changes.

The Rochester VOC also provides many other services, including counseling and case management. Vet-

erans, especially those who engage in combat, sometimes have trouble readjusting to civilian life. VOC staff members are there to help all area veterans and their dependents. From employment assistance to counseling, the VOC provides free, confidential services.

To find out more about Operation Welcome Home and the VOC, check the Operation Welcome Home web at <<http://www.operationwelcomehome.org>>. If you want additional details, contact me at <[ksympson@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ksympson@rochester.rr.com)>, and I will get you in touch with a representative.

#### Marines focus training on new mission to Iraq

By Darrin Mortenson -  
Staff Writer, North  
County Times, San Diego, CA.

CAMP PENDLETON—Marine commanders whose units could be on deck for deployment to Iraq in the spring say they are closely watching the Army's performance and tailoring their training for what promises to be an unconventional and dangerous mission.

More than 20,000 Marines, most of them from Camp Pendleton and Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, are scheduled to deploy to Iraq as early as February to take over for the 19,000 soldiers of the Army's 82d Airborne and other Army units, some of whom have been in Kuwait and Iraq since February.

Marines normally storm beaches and secure territory until the Army arrives. But for the return to Iraq, the Marines are preparing for a yearlong occupation of a region that is a hub of anti-American resistance where the Army has recently stepped up large-scale air, artillery and ground operations to regain the initiative.

Maj Michael Wylie, the executive officer of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, said that while his infantrymen wait for orders, they are focusing their training on skills that are relevant in Iraq such as coun-



tering ambushes, protecting convoys, honing marksmanship to "pinpoint accuracy," and patrolling city streets.

"A lot of what we're doing we'd be doing anyway," Wylie said. "Marines always have to be ready" for any mission.

### Plans under wraps

Officials have given few details on which Camp Pendleton units will deploy or what the force will look like.

The general slated to lead the Marines, LtGen James Conway, who also led Camp Pendleton's I Marine Expeditionary Force in the invasion of Iraq last spring, has said that the equipment, weapons and troops will be ready. But he said he would be short of details until he and other commanders plan the operation.

Perhaps the only recent hint of how the Marines will prepare came from Marine commandant Gen Michael Hagee, who said that many of the Camp Pendleton troops that will deploy will receive basic training in Arabic and exposure to Iraqi culture before they go. Base officials, however, say they have no information on how or when the training will take place.

In the meantime, Wylie said his battalion's platoon and squad leaders have discussed Arab culture with the Marines and have encouraged them to read about the region on their own and to pay close attention to the news.

During the invasion of Iraq in March, the battalion was deployed in Okinawa, Japan, and the Marines missed the action, Wylie said.

"Most of them have their eyes wide open," he said. "I'd say they're excited."

### Destined for hotbed

The Wyoming-sized Al Anbar province is where the Marines could spend at least seven months until they are relieved by a second force of 20,000 local Marines in September.



**Old Corps and new Corps at the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines' Marine Corps Birthday Ball.**

Frank Valdez (left) and Ray Del Rio (right) helped represent the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association at the 2003 Marine Corps Birthday Ball held by today's "Magnificent Bastards." SgtMaj James Booker, the current battalion Sergeant Major, and his wife Carla provided a warm welcome for the old-timers. Photo courtesy of Becky Valdez.

The region is in the heart of the so-called Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad, Iraq, where Army troops come under daily attacks by Iraqi and foreign insurgents.

It includes the turbulent cities of Ar Ramadi and Al Fallujah, hotbeds of resistance where at least 17 soldiers from the 82d Airborne and at least 16 soldiers from the 101st Airborne have been killed since President Bush declared major combat operations had concluded May 1. An Army spokesman said that at least 170 soldiers from the 82d Airborne Division have been wounded there since the conflict began.

American troops have increasingly been on the defensive in the area. This week, the commander of the 82d went on the offensive and took several steps that could affect the conditions that the Marines will inherit in the spring.

Promising to "use a sledgehammer to crush a walnut," Army MajGen Charles Swannack Jr. recently ordered his troops to smash the local resistance. At the same time, he engineered an agreement with local Iraqi leaders to pull his troops to the outskirts of Ar Ramadi by January and let Iraqi forces handle security.



**2d Battalion, 4th Marines' Marine Corps Birthday Ball held November 14, 2003, in Primm, Nevada.**

Photo courtesy of SgtMaj James Booker, USMC.

A car bomb exploded there Wednesday, apparently set off to kill a local sheik who was cooperating with Swan-nack, according to The Associated Press. On Thursday, one U.S. soldier was killed and two wounded in an attack, the Army said Friday. The Army also said Swan-nack's troops captured 78 insurgents in Ar Ramadi and Al Fallujah on Thursday and that another Army unit captured 37 more in a 24-hour crackdown.

### **Pilots learning from attacks**

While infantry troops that are preparing for deployment hone their skills to fight a guerrilla war, other units such as helicopter squadrons are planning to change tactics to avoid being shot down by rocket-propelled grenades that have recently felled several Army helicopters in the region.

On Nov. 2, insurgents downed an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter near Al Fallujah, killing 16 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division.

LtCol Jerome Driscoll, who commanded a squadron of CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters during the invasion and who now serves on the planning staff of the I Marine Expeditionary Unit, said helicopter units will probably alter flight patterns to "not get predictable."

"I don't know that we'll actually change the way we train," Driscoll said. "It's more likely we'll just emphasize different facets of the training we already do."

Echoing recent statements by U.S. defense officials, Driscoll said Marine pilots would frequently switch flight routes and fly low and quickly to keep the enemy off-guard.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

He said he would not speculate on how at least three Army helicopters were shot down over Iraq in recent weeks.

### “It’s our turn”

While publicly mum about the Army’s performance in Iraq, many Marines mumble privately that they would do a better job if they were there.

Driscoll said that sentiment is not exactly fair, since the Marines who were in Iraq in the beginning of the U.S. occupation worked primarily in the south where the mostly Shiite population was glad to see Saddam Hussein gone.

He said most people were ambivalent to the American presence.

“If we were good neighbors in the way we flew over them... we’d leave them alone and they’d leave us alone,” he said. “The resistance would just melt away.”

Not so in the Sunni Triangle, Driscoll said.

“I’d be more concerned about where they are going now,” he said, adding that the region has a history and population the Marines didn’t have to face before. “There’s a lot of unemployment, lack of infrastructure, and there are bad guys out there looking for ways to make use of that.”

He said that no matter what they face in round two in Iraq, the Marines will do what they can with what they’re given.

“The Army needs a break,” he said. “It’s our turn.”

\* \* \*

The above article is reprinted from the North County Times Online web <[http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2003/11/22/news/top\\_stories/11\\_22\\_030\\_03\\_02.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2003/11/22/news/top_stories/11_22_030_03_02.txt)>, November 22, 2003.

## Help the editor—thanks and keep it coming

Submitted by Ken Sympson.

In the last issue, I asked the membership to come forward with their stories and photographs. My sincere thanks are due to the contributors to this issue:

- SgtMaj James Booker
- Becky Valdez
- Tom Hopkins

All of you have stories that would be of interest to the membership. And you have photos of today and yesterday, from wartime and peacetime. Contact me so that we can get you published.

## Quote for this quarter

“In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than in mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe....

“In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.”

\* \* \*

John F. Kennedy: Inaugural Address, Friday, January 20, 1961.



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## Membership Application, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Married \_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_ Spouse or significant other's name: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

*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.*