

The 2/4 Association

Sea Horse



First Quarter, 2004

The Newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

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President's message

(Editors Note: Jim has asked that I insert a note indicating that several personal issues which his family is dealing with have prevented him from writing a president's message for this issue. Please join me in saying best wishes to Jim and his family.)

I know that one of the things that Jim was working on recently was to find out for us a little more about 2/4's whereabouts and activities. If any of you can help with that, please let Jim and me know. In the meantime, please say a few prayers for the Marines to be deployed to Iraq. See "I MEF names rotation units" on page 10.)

2004 reunion details

Submitted by Jim Mazy. (Editor's Note: Please register as soon as possible for the reunion. **A reunion registration form is provided on page 10 of this issue of the Sea Horse. Fill it out and send it in today!**)

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 (Sawyer'sville) 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 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.

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>.
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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.

1st Marine Division Association annual reunion

The 2004 reunion of the 1st Marine Division Association is scheduled for 11-15 August 2004, in Washington, DC. The reunion will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd., N.W. Washington D.C. 20008. For further information, you can go to the association web-

site at <<http://www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org/2004/index.htm>>, or contact the association secretary:

MSgt Stephen R. Risch, USMCR
(Ret.)
3106 E 47th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205-1608
317 255-2678

3d Marine Division Association annual reunion

The 2004 reunion of the 3d Marine Division Association is scheduled for 8-12 September 2004 in Scottsdale, AZ. The reunion for the 1st Bn, 3d Marines Association will be held in conjunction with the division reunion. For more information, check the 3d Marine Division Association web site at <<http://www.caltrap.com/>>, or contact:

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

Sands of Iwo Jima

Submitted by Jack Petrowsky

Check out the PX listings in this issue of the *Sea Horse*. Look for one of the best new items for the 2/4 PX that we have seen in awhile. We have gotten a line on some Italian silk ties cast with the pattern of "The Sands of Iwo Jima"—a molecular breakdown of the volcanic sand from Iwo. These ties were made in the U.S. to commemorate the February anniversary of the landing at Iwo. They are beautiful and would add to any tie collection. The cost is \$50, postage paid.

When you get all get dressed up for some special event, one of these ties would really stand out.

2/4 Association PX Merchandise	
General Items	Price
Sands of Iwo Jima tie. (Price includes shipping and handling.)	\$50.00
"Gone but not forgotten." 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 < http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com/thibodeau_art.htm > for details.)	\$25.00
Mugs and tumblers by Tervis. 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 < http://www.2ndbn4thmarine.com/px_items_disc.htm > 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	
Polo shirt. Red, maroon, white, or blue with "2 nd Bn, 4 th Marines" embroidered on the front.	\$25.00
T-shirt. Various colors with full-color 2/4 logo decal on the front. (Call or e-mail for available colors.)	\$15.00
Caps. White with black bill. Embroidered with "2 nd Bn, 4 th Marines, Magnificent Bastards." Navy blue or Marine Corps red. "USMC" embroidered on the front; "2 nd Bn, 4 th Marines" embroidered on the back.	\$18.50
Golf towel. White with red 2/4 logo.	\$6.50
Logo. Stitched patch, 3 1/2" x 4", multicolored.	\$5.00
Logo pin. For lapel or cap. (Call or e-mail for price and availability.)	
Mouse pad. Red and white 2/4 logo.	\$6.50
Apron. With pocket, for home and shop use - red with white 2/4 logo.	\$8.00
Thermal travel mug. Champagne with black Marine Corps emblem and 2/4 logo.	\$5.50
Coffee mug. Black with white 2/4 logo and Marine Corps emblem.	\$5.50
Videos	Price
Dai Do Documentary. (Call or e-mail for price and availability.)	
2001 Reunion. Includes visits to The Wall, Iwo Jima Memorial, etc.	\$10.00
Books	Price
Images from the Otherland, Ken Sympton (hard cover - add \$2.50 for shipping and handling).	\$24.95
What a Life, Randy Kington.	\$17.50
Ordering Instructions:	
Unless otherwise noted, above, 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:	
2/4 Association PX c/o Jack Petrowsky PO Box 7214 Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214	

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 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.

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 .



Camp Evans, Vietnam, 1967

From Bob Bliss: “[This photo] was taken at Camp Evans, up at Col Bench’s HQ. Your readers may recall it was 2/4 who set this camp up in the spring of 1967. We ran patrols and operations from Camp Evans until we were called to move the battalion up to the DMZ, and for many of us Marines, our date with destiny! That’s Mike Loveless (right) and Gene Smith standing next to the 2/4 sign.”

From Kaneohe to Chu Lai

The Journey of a Lifetime

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. This is the first of a two-part story. The conclusion will be contained in the second quarter 2004 issue of the *Sea Horse*.)

First of all, this is not a war story. It's the story of a Marine Lieutenant's journey to war. The journey begins with the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines leaving the Marine Base at Kaneohe, Hawaii for Camp Hansen, Okinawa and ends with an amphibious landing at Chu Lai, Vietnam on May 7, 1965.

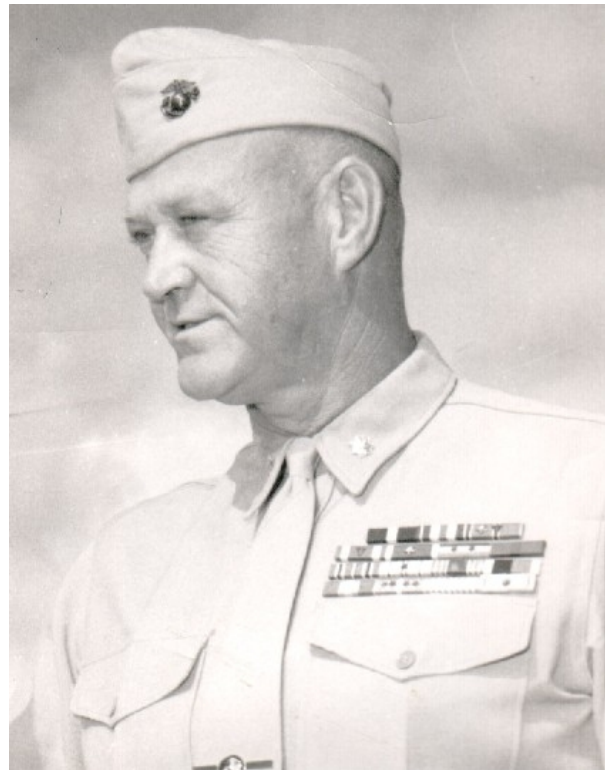


2/4's home in Hawaii

Marine Corp Base Hawaii at Kaneohe, Hawaii

In 1964, my wife, Kaethe, and I had saved our pennies so that we could go back home and show off our one and a half year old son at Christmas. We had a wonderful time that Christmas, having been separated from our families for about two years. Kaethe stayed for an extra month or so with her folks while I returned to the Marine Corps Air Station at Kaneohe, Hawaii. MCAS-Kaneohe was the home of the 1st Marine Brigade, and my unit, the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines (The Magnificent Bastards).

When I returned to duty as the Executive Officer of H&S Company, I had to pick up where I left off in preparing the company to take part in Operation Silver Lance, an exercise with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California. Our battalion was to take part in this exercise around the first part of April, 1965. We were to board ship at Pearl Harbor for the trip to California. It was about that time that we learned of the Gulf of Tonkin incident. Apparently a couple of U.S. destroyers were attacked by North Vietnamese gunboats and, all of a sudden, our world was turned upside down.



LtCol Joseph R. "Bull" Fisher, USMC

LtCol Fisher was the Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, when the battalion deployed to Chu Lai, South Vietnam.

The days dragged on and Operation Silver Lance was put on hold. Kaethe and Tommy returned to Hawaii during this time. I was sure happy to see them. Little did I realize that our reunion would be short lived.

After many stops and starts, we finally received the word that Operation Silver Lance had been cancelled and that we were to board ship. We weren't going to California.

On the day that we received orders to board ship, we were also informed that the troops had to be paid that day. The H&S Company Commander, Captain Jim

Champlin, designated me the pay officer. What a dreadful job that was! By this time most of H&S Company had been attached ("farmed out") to the rifle companies and, believe me, it was one hell of a job to find, let alone pay the troops.

Incidentally, one of the officers in that meeting with Capt Champlin was 1stLt Gary Brown, the Platoon Commander of the 81mm Mortar Platoon. You all know Gary as Brigadier General Gary Brown, USMC (Ret.). With all due respect to General Brown, I still wish that he had been the one selected to be the pay officer instead of me. However, since I was the Company Executive officer, I really was the natural choice. Nevertheless, it turned out to be a real pain in the b---.

To begin with, the H&S Company troops were scattered all over the battalion area and many of them were already aboard ship at Pearl Harbor. On top of that, I had to return to my house to pick up my seabag, which had been previously packed for Operation Silver Lance. This was my brief opportunity to say good-bye to Kaethe and Tommy. I only had a few minutes with them...I just didn't have any more time to spare. I had the battalion's payroll in cash in an ammo box and a Sergeant right by my side. The Sergeant stayed with me all the time with a .45 Cal. pistol on his hip. I'm not sure if he was protecting me or keeping an eye on the battalion's money. That was not the best of good-byes, especially since it was obvious that I was going to be gone for a long time. However, it was the best that we could do under the circumstances.



Near Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

1stLt Thomas Hopkins at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

I told Kaethe that I was leaving and going to board ship at Pearl Harbor and would be gone for quite some time. I learned later that what I told her didn't sink in at the time. She told me that a couple of hours after I left, she grabbed Tommy and drove to the barracks to say good-bye once more. She found the barracks empty. She says that she remembers hearing a hatch slam shut somewhere in the barracks and heard an echo. It was at that moment that she realized that I was really gone. Since Kaethe was seven months pregnant with our second child, Kristine, my departure was a bitter pill for her to swallow. She was only 23 years old, but a lot tougher than her age would indicate. I'm extremely proud of how she stood up to the whole situation.

Kaethe, with none of her family at her side, delivered Kristine on May 22, 1965. She didn't receive a permanent change of duty station until later. Even then, she wasn't able to move back to our home town, Omaha, Nebraska, until the doctors certified that Kristine and she were okay to go. She made that move later in July, 1965.



Kaethe Hopkins with son, Tommy

This picture of Kaethe and Tommy was taken in 1963 in Kailua, Hawaii, just outside the Marine Base at Kaneohe.

When I arrived at the pier at Pearl Harbor, I learned that a Message Center Corporal had fallen off the pier sometime during the previous night and drowned. No one knows for sure how it happened. The Communications Officer for 2/4 at the time was Captain Al Ray. Al retired from the Marine Corps as a Major and currently lives in Honolulu. During a lunch I had with Al in Honolulu in 2001, I mentioned the incident of the death of the Corporal. Al said that he had forgotten about it until I reminded him of it. He said that he had never

heard anything further about it after we left Pearl Harbor and still couldn't shed any more light on the circumstances of how the Corporal had died.

Well, we were finally aboard ship. I don't remember the name of the ship, but it was an APA troop transport. My bunk was in the landing force officers' area on the main deck. I even had a nice thick mattress on the bunk. The quarters were well ventilated and close to the officers' mess. Frankly, the quarters were excellent and not too crowded.

The troops, on the other hand, were jammed in very tight quarters down deep in the hold of the ship. They were so far down that one needed a guide to find them. I only went down there when I absolutely had to. It was somewhat depressing. The troops were stacked in canvas cots at least six high. They didn't have mattresses for their cots and their gear was close by, all jumbled together. The Marines that were below deck were far from comfortable, but no one joins the Marine Corps to be comfortable.

What a way to go to war. Their fathers and grandfathers before them went to war that way, so it was really nothing new; however, that didn't make it any easier for them. If you've never experienced what it was like deep in the hold of a troopship for an extended period of time, consider yourself lucky.

Life aboard a troop transport was really interesting, at least for me. We had a good deal of time on our hands and would play cards and go up on deck and watch the sailors do their work, trying not to get in the way. When on deck, I tried to see as many sunrises and sunsets as possible...I've never seen a sunrise or sunset more beautiful than one at sea. Some nights we would stay up late on deck and look at the stars...they were up there in the millions. It was especially beautiful when the moon was out at night and sparkling on the ocean. It's hard to fully describe the beauty of those memories, but it's something that will stay with me for a lifetime.

Riding in this big ship made me feel like I was involved in something important and maybe even making a little history. We were on our way...on our way to WestPac.

One day on deck I noticed a speck on the horizon behind us. As I watched, this speck grew larger and larger and turned out to be an LPH (Landing Platform Helicopter), which is really a small aircraft carrier. The LPH was moving much faster than we were. It looked so powerful and majestic...truly a magnificent sight. The LPH came barreling on toward us and past us on our port side. We watched it as it swept by and left us in its wake. It wasn't long before it disappeared over the horizon. We were all alone once again on that vast ocean. I'll never forget the beauty of that great ship sailing by us and heading toward the western Pacific.

Below is an example of an LPH, the USS *Guam*.



The USS *Guam*, LPH 9

Finally, we arrived at the port city of Naha, Okinawa. We were greeted by the 3d Marine Division band. What a super way to be welcomed to Okinawa after our long voyage.

* * *

The conclusion of the story will appear in the second quarter 2004 issue of the *Sea Horse*.

CBIRF responds to ricin scare, helps secure federal buildings

Submitted by: Marine Corps News. Story Identification Number: 2004211151659. Story by Cpl Clinton Firstbrook.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS WASHINGTON (Feb. 8, 2004)—For the first time since the 2001 anthrax attacks, a team of the Marine Corps' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force was called into action Feb. 3.

A 161-member team, headquartered at Indian Head, Md., responded to a call from the capitol police, after a postal worker at the Dirksen Senate Office Building found ricin in a mail sorter Feb. 2.

The ricin, a highly toxic chemical derived from the castor bean, was found in a mail room in the office of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

"The first time I heard about the incident was when I woke up Tuesday morning," said 1st Lt Paul Cabellon, CBIRF public affairs officer. "The first thing that popped into my head was that I knew we'd be called in."

The Marines received the word to deploy at their morning formation and within an hour were on the way.

Upon arriving at the site, the team joined capitol police and other authorities and combed through more than 120 55-gallon drums of unopened mail. Meanwhile, other authorities kept workers clear of the south side of the fourth floor of the Dirksen building.

Marines entered the buildings wearing Level B Tyvek protective suits, so if they did find other contaminated sites, they would be safe, said Cabellon.



Overlooking Camp Evans, Vietnam, 1967

From Bob Bliss: "Me on top, Mike Loveless and Gene Smith, 1st Plt., Golf Company, summer 1967. We were up on this mountain overlooking Camp Evans and the South China Sea. Our platoon was sent up there (Hill 681 I believe) as security for a radio relay unit. I felt like it was R&R in-country. Beautiful views of Laos, the ocean, and the DMZ. In fact we were able to see, with good spotting scopes, Dong Ha when the NVA artillery hit the bulk fuel bladders. Thick black smoke like you wouldn't believe.

"We called in air strikes on enemy patrols in the valley below our sky-top perch, but we were never bothered by any of the enemy while we were there. I suppose that was because we were situated something like the Marines who sat up on the Razorback on the DMZ, and any forces attempting to overrun our position would have paid dearly. In fact, when the big Chinooks came up to bring our C-rations and water they could only do so by perching the back two wheels on top of the mountain. Pretty hairy for the pilot.

"We had a 106mm recoilless rifle, two .50 caliber machine guns, 81mm & 60mm mortars, and the 105mm howitzers at Camp Evans had us zeroed in should we run into trouble.

"We could see rain coming to us 20 minutes before we got wet. It was hot during the day and cold at night. Yes, I can remember it like yesterday, yet, it's been over 30 years ago. I don't know about 'Devil Dogs,' I felt like a Dirt Dog living in those sand bagged holes in the ground. It's amazing what you can get used to when you don't have any choice."

"As with any incident it was very chaotic and hectic at first," said Maj Frank Johnston, CBIRF S-3 operations officer.

As the operation progressed, the team found out the strengths of each participating force and integrated them with their own to get things done as fast as possible, Johnston said.

"We were given less than 12 hours to clear out the capitol building," said Johnston. "Every single space—literally hundreds of rooms—had to be looked at. Somehow my Marines defied logic and got the job done. What they did was impossible, but it was their sheer will and tenacity that made it happen."

One of the hardest things to deal with on a mission of this type is the "unknown," said Sgt Troy Anstine, a nuclear, biological and chemical specialist assigned to CBIRF.

"The worst part was not knowing all the details when we were first told about the situation," Anstine said. "When you're called in to take care of a situation like this, you always think the worst. Luckily this wasn't the case."

No one became ill from the ricin, according to officials.

"Watching Marines work in MOPP gear seemed surreal," said Nick Smith, a Frist spokesman. "But it let you know they were taking care of business."

The CBIRF Marines are accustomed to "taking care of business," thanks to the hundreds of training hours performed each month for this type of event. In fact both CBIRF response teams conduct live mass casualty response exercises each month.

"We had lance corporals taking charge of entire sites and clearing them out days before the police thought we could," said Anstine, a veteran of the 2001 anthrax cleanups. "Everybody stepped up to the plate and helped out in accomplishing the mission."

And, although this was the first "real" deployment for more than 75 percent of the CBIRF Marines, the training and the leadership of their noncommissioned officers and junior Marines paid off, said Cabellon.

Aside from the capitol building, the CBIRF team also had to search through the Russell and Hart buildings, the Library of Congress, four House offices and the Botanical Gardens administration headquarters. No other contaminated areas were found.

The Russell and Hart buildings reopened Feb. 5, after being closed for three days. The Dirksen building reopened Feb. 9.

CBIRF is a national asset established in April 1996 at the direction of then Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Charles Krulak. The guidance stated the need for a strategic organization to respond to the growing chemical/biological terrorist threat.

True to its charter, the unit has operationally deployed to national events like the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the presidential inaugurations of 1996 and 2000, papal visits and Y2K celebrations. Additionally, CBIRF and its Mobile Training Teams have deployed overseas for exercises in Jordan, Bahrain, Iceland, Qatar, Kuwait, Italy, France, the Philippines, and Japan.

"We fight a different fight and respond to a different call," said Anstine. "This is what makes CBIRF unique and everyone in it a vital part of a life saving response team."

* * *

The above article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/1C6460263BFD53B485256E37006F6B38?opendocument>>, February 11, 2004.

Marines to emphasize Iraqi links

The arrival of 25,000 Marines in Iraq will mean more troops walking troubled territory and interacting with Iraqis.

By Drew Brown <dbrown@krwashington.com>

WASHINGTON—Marines deploying to Iraq in coming weeks will emphasize interacting with local people and gaining their trust in an effort to quell an increasingly violent and sophisticated anti-coalition insurgency in the western part of the country, the Marine Corps commandant said Wednesday.

The 25,000 Marines, who are from all three Marine Expeditionary Forces, will relieve paratroopers with the 82nd Airborne Division, based in Fort Bragg, N.C. The Marines are infantrymen, and their arrival will mean more troops walking troubled territory and interacting with Iraqis.

The Marines will have their work cut out for them in towns such as Fallujah, west of Baghdad, where a bold daylight raid by guerrillas last Saturday left at least 20 Iraqi police officers dead and freed dozens of prisoners.

WELL PREPARED

Gen Michael Hagee said the Marines would arrive in Iraq well prepared, drawing on lessons and training scenarios learned from the departing paratroopers and the Marine Corps' own extensive experience with fighting "small wars."

"We know how to fight, and we are prepared to do that," Hagee, the Marines' top commander, said during a breakfast with reporters. "But this is a security and stability operation, and we have to establish relationships with the people there. That's where the intelligence is going to come from."

Fallujah, a city of about 300,000, lies 35 miles west of Baghdad in the heart of the so-called Sunni Triangle, where resistance against the U.S.-led coalition has been strongest. In Fallujah, and in towns such as Khaldiyah and Ramadi, farther west, attacks on American convoys by guerrillas with rocket-propelled grenades and remote-controlled bombs occur almost daily, and often are fatal.

Hagee credited the 82d Airborne task force, composed of paratroopers and armored soldiers, with significant progress in developing local sources of intelligence, which he said was decreasing the number of attacks.

One lesson the Marines have learned from the 82d Airborne's paratroopers is that the best way of preventing attacks with remote-controlled bombs is to have a lot of infantry on the ground who can watch for them.

"One of the things we bring is boots on the ground," Hagee said. "Because of what we do—we are a light-infantry, expeditionary force—our battalions are fairly robust, and they are infantrymen."

Since the war began last March, 543 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq. Many of those deaths were due to attacks on convoys with remote-controlled bombs fashioned from artillery shells and other munitions.

TOP CONCERN

Hagee said the bombs remained a top concern of senior American military leaders and that task forces had been set up stateside and in Iraq to develop new tactics and technologies to detect and defeat the roadside killers.

"I don't think there's a higher-priority issue," he said.

The Marines are deploying as part of a plan to replace 120,000 soldiers in Iraq over the next few months with 105,000 new troops as the U.S.-led coalition prepares to hand over power to a transitional Iraqi government by July 1. Many of the soldiers in Iraq have been there nearly a year.

Once they arrive, senior Marines will accompany their Army counterparts on patrol for several days so that established relationships with Iraqis continue and the transition from one force to another goes as smoothly as possible.

In a departure from the Army's approach, Hagee suggested that some Marines will live among the Iraqi security forces they are training, a tactic that worked with a degree of success in Vietnam.

Because of the danger from remote-controlled bombs, American forces in Iraq are rushing to add extra armor to their Humvees, trucks and other "soft-skinned" vehicles. Hagee said the Marines planned to use about 3,600 vehicles in Iraq, all of which would have the extra armor when they deployed. The Army will leave some of those

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Hosted by the city of, and held in, Benld Illinois

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First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____
 Name of Guest: _____ Number Attending: _____
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 _____ Rank, Dates & Unit w/2/4: _____

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|----|--|---------|---|---|----|-------|
| 1. | Registration fee for all above the age of 13 | \$12.00 | X | = | \$ | _____ |
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| 3. | Friday evening picnic | \$ 7.50 | X | = | \$ | _____ |
| 4. | Saturday evening banquet (comfortable attire) Adult | \$26.00 | X | = | \$ | _____ |
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Special seating requests for the Saturday banquet (not a guarantee), but you can always move around.

vehicles behind; others will have the plates added in the United States or Kuwait.

Hagee said the Marine Corps' helicopter pilots would undergo a special two-week course to learn how to avoid surface-to-air missiles. He said the Marines also were installing special equipment on helicopters bound for Iraq to help pilots evade the threat. Since October, insurgents have shot down several helicopters in Iraq, mainly by using Soviet-era SA-7 surface-to-air missiles and their variants.

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The above article is reprinted from the Miami Herald (Herald.com) web site <<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/7987486.htm>>, February 19, 2004.

I MEF names rotation units

Submitted by: MCB Camp Pendleton. Story Identification Number: 2004226143353

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (February 26, 2004)—Marines and sailors from the Camp Pendleton-based I Marine Expeditionary Force have begun deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to relieve the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division in the Al Anbar Province in western Iraq, I MEF announced Friday.

Some Marines interviewed say this is why they joined the Marine Corps.

"This will be my second tour. It doesn't phase me, it is my job to be ready to go," said Sgt Beau B. Gyllenswan,

chief boat driver, amphibious section, with 1st Force Reconnaissance Company.

Gyllenswan, a single Marine, says his parents aren't so upbeat about it.

"My family does not want me in harm's way, but they know what I do," he said.

This rotation of forces includes approximately 25,000 Marines and sailors, mostly from Camp Pendleton, but including Marines stationed in Twentynine Palms and at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The force is built around a division-sized Marine Air Ground Task Force. The I MEF will include units from the 1st Marine Division, the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing and the 1st Force Service Support Group and will be augmented by units from the II Marine Expeditionary Force, headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Marine Forces Reserve, headquartered in New Orleans.

Although some Marines say their families are nervous about redeployment, Marines interviewed had positive attitudes.

"My family doesn't want me to go," said LCpl Patrick W. Payne, an administrative clerk with 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, who also is going to Iraq for the second time. "But we've got to do what we've got to do."

Marine forces will primarily deploy to Iraq in two, seven-month rotations. The first rotation is expected to extend from March to September. The second rotation is expected to be from September to February 2005. Marines have undergone months of training to get ready for this deployment. Now the training will be put to the test.

"I am very confident in my training—it is when we are coming home, not if we are coming home," said LCpl Matthew T. Kohout, a mortarman with Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, a reserve unit from Springfield, Mo. "I am absolutely ready, in every way—spiritually, psychologically and physically. This is the real deal; we are ready to knock it out.

Major Marine units to deploy under the command of I MEF for the first rotation:

I MEF Command Element

- Elements of the 9th Communication Battalion
- Elements of the 8th Communication Battalion
- Elements of the 1st Intelligence Battalion
- Elements of the 3d Radio Battalion
- 1st Force Reconnaissance Company
- 3d Force Reconnaissance Company
- 1st Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company

Ground Combat Element

- Regimental Combat Team 1
- Regimental Combat Team 7
- 2d Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment
- 2d Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment
- 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment

- 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment
- 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment
- 3d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment
- 3d Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment
- 3d Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment
- 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion
- Elements of the 1st Tank Battalion
- Elements of the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion

Air Combat Element

- Elements of the Marine Aircraft Group 16
- Elements of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16
- Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161
- Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261
- Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466
- Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775
- Elements of the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352
- Elements of the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234
- Marine Wing Support Group 37
- Elements of the Marine Air Control Group 38
- Elements of the Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38
- Elements of the 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion
- Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2

Combat Service Support Element

- The headquarters element of Combat Service Support Group 3
- Elements of the Combat Service Support Group 11
- Elements of the Combat Service Support Group 15
- Combat Service Support Company 111
- Combat Service Support Company 121
- Elements of the Combat Service Support Battalion 1
- Elements of the Combat Service Support Battalion 7
- Combat Service Support Company 117
- Combat Service Support Company 123
- Combat Service Support Company 123
- Elements of the 1st Medical Battalion
- Elements of the 7th Engineer Support Battalion
- Elements of the 8th Engineer Support Battalion
- Elements of the Brigade Service Support Group 1
- Elements of Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group

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The above article is reprinted from the Marine Corps web <<http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/43859FA4B777293585256E46006B7928?opendocument>>, February 16, 2004.

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

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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.