



## The 2/4 Association

# Sea Horse

First Quarter, 2005

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

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#### President's message

Well, here we are well into a new year. I hope that everyone got through the holidays in good health and is making plans to be with us at the reunion in San Diego. Today is Super Bowl Sunday, and since the Giants are not playing, who cares. Actually, I haven't been much of a sports fan since 1962 when I moved from the Bronx and couldn't walk to Yankee Stadium any longer.

Your association officers are trying to follow up on the promises we made when we were elected, and so the 20 or so of you who asked for a hard copy of this newsletter should have already received it or will very shortly. I have discussed with the board of directors a possible subscription rate for printing and mailing.

We are still looking for a new membership director, but you *will* have the information regarding the number of members in the next newsletter. I actually have that info available, but not being a computer geek, I can't get it from the disk. By next time it will be free from cyber-prison.

(Late breaking news—Bob Bliss tells me that the total number of members is 530, with 253 of those being Life Members.)

Phil Ciofalo has really been a great help in getting the word out about the reunion and I will work with the powers that be and try to get the names of everyone registered on our website.

We (the board members) want to have an open administration and everyone knowledgeable about the workings of our organization. So if there is anything that anyone thinks we could do to advance our group, please feel free to contact any one of us by phone, e-mail or USPS.

Until July...Semper Fi,

Jack

#### Help wanted at the association

Submitted by Jack Petrowsky

We have some very important 2/4 Association positions that are now, or will soon become, vacant. If you have the qualifications, we can use your help. Here's what we need:

- Membership director: Someone with computer skills to receive and list old member renewals, new members, forward dues payments to the treasure as received.
- Roster manager: Mostly same duties as above but no handling or recording of dues.
- Sergeant at arms: Mostly a reunion function, checks to determine if those present are qualified (paid up members or new applicants) to attend.

## The association annual dues are due!

As you know, we are getting close to the start of our annual dues drive. Our annual dues run from July 1 through June 30. Please help us to keep our association vital and strong by remembering to pay your dues on time each year.

Without your help, we cannot do what we do, nor remain who we are. I'm sure you "Magnificent Bastards," young and old, want to stay together as we always have. Do your bit and re-up for another tour of duty.

If you have been thinking about becoming a Life Member, maybe this is the time. Check the 2/4 Association website for details about Life Membership, or you may wish to continue paying \$20.00 for a one year membership.

If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or have any other new information relevant to our association, please include it with your dues by using the Membership Application on the back of this newsletter. We need to stay current so we can stay connected.

Semper Fi,

Bob Bliss

### 2004–2006 2/4 Association Officers and Chairs

President	Jack Petrowsky, P.O. Box 7214, Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214. Phone: 505 382-0759. E-mail: <jackny@webtv.net>.
Vice President	Yahya A.A. Kariem, 7717 Reed Street, Jacksonville, FL 32208. Phone: 904 764-2241. E-mail: <ykariem50@aol.com>.
Secretary	Philip Skaggs, 9005 West 133d Avenue, Cedar Lake, IN 46303. E-mail: <skaggs99@msn.com>.
Treasurer	Dale Robinson, 3814 Jocelyn Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Phone: 703 590-7441. E-mail: <mrdalerobinson@comcast.net>.
Board of Directors	Ron Isaac, 2652 East Mullen Avenue, Post Falls, ID 83854. E-mail: <risaac6324@aol.com>. Ed Brummett, 10627 E 113th Street North, Owasso, OK 74055. Phone: 918 371-0744. E-mail: <edsfords@aol.com>.
Chaplain	Frank Valdez, 8221 East Birch Tree Lane, Anaheim Hills, CA 92808. Phone: 714 281-2846. E-mail: <valcone@hotmail.com>.
Historian	Bill Weiss, 6125 Beech Tree Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310. E-mail: <wwiese2@aol.com>.
Membership	TBD.
Newsletter Editor	Ken Sympson, 303 Willowen Drive, Rochester, NY 14609-3235. Phone: 585 482-0717. E-Mail: <Editor@2ndbn4thmarine.com>. Web page: <http://home.rochester.rr.com/kensympson/>.
PX Sales Manager	Jack Petrowsky, P.O. Box 7214, Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214. Phone: 505 382-0759. E-mail: <jackny@webtv.net>.
Roster Manager	Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161. Phone: 941 474-9431. E-mail: <Marine-2-4@comcast.net>.
Webmaster	Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161. Phone: 941 474-9431. E-mail: <Webmaster@2ndbn4thmarine.com>.
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	TBD.

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

## Want to share a room at the reunion?

Submitted by Becky Valdez

We have single men and women who would like to find someone with whom to share a room at the reunion. Anyone wishing to share and split the cost of a room with another (same gender) person please contact Becky Valdez, and she will help you with your reservation. Contact Becky at 714 281-2846 or email at <fxala@hotmail.com>.

## Reunion 2005

Submitted by Becky Valdez

We have some updates on the reunion. The registration form is included on page 11 of this issue—send yours in today while it's on your mind. Remember the dates are July 13–16, 2005.

At MCRD we will have a reserved section to view the graduation ceremony. There will be time for shopping as well as visiting the museum at MCRD. I'm working on shopping passes for everyone.

The San Diego Harbor Cruise is a full-bay, 2-hour, narrated, 25-mile cruise to include Harbor Island, Shelter Island, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Station, the Submarine Base, as well as the Coronado Bridge and much more. For more information, you can visit their site on the web at:

<<http://www.sdhe.com/>>

Also, you can find the website for the San Diego Padres at:

<[http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/index.jsp?c\\_id=sd](http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/index.jsp?c_id=sd)>

You can click on the schedule to see that they are playing the Arizona Diamondbacks. We have a reserved section and will be recognized on the scoreboard.

The banquet dinner at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center has firmed up. The entrée is Chicken Floresco, which is a choice chicken breast finished with a light sauce of shallots, wine, cream, garlic and basil. It's then garnished with julienne vegetables and fresh herbs. The dinner includes a choice of salad served with freshly baked rolls, appropriate accompaniments, dessert and freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee and tea.

Since 2/4 will be deployed, we will be hosted at Camp Pendleton by the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch (AVTB). AVTB is located at Camp Del Mar on Camp Pendleton. They are a Department of Defense testing facility and have been testing amphibious systems since the early 1940s. AVTB

is currently testing the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV). More information on the vehicle can be found at <http://www.efv.usmc.mil>.

There's no firm schedule yet for the Del Mar visit, but it currently looks like a picnic type BBQ on Del Mar Beach. We hope to see a static display of vehicles under test by AVTB, and, depending on testing that day, they may be able to shuttle folks out on the ocean to see a 75,000 pound vehicle go 25 knots in the water. We'll let you know as the plans firm up.

We will have additional details in the next issue of the *Sea Horse*. Let us know if you have any questions.

Frank & Becky Valdez  
8221 East Birch Tree Lane  
Anaheim Hills, CA 92808  
Telephone: 714 281-2846  
E-mail Frank at [valcone@hotmail.com](mailto:valcone@hotmail.com)  
E-mail Becky at [fxala@hotmail.com](mailto:fxala@hotmail.com)

### 1st Marine Division Association reunion

The annual reunion of the 1st Marine Division Association will be held from August 3 through August 7, 2005, in Kansas City, Missouri. I hope to have more information in the next *Sea Horse*. In the meantime, you may want to check the association web site at:

<http://www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org/index2.htm>

### 2d Marine Division Association reunion

The annual reunion of the 2d Marine Division Association will be held from August 28 through September 3, 2005, in Houston, Texas. I hope to have more information in the next *Sea Horse*. In the meantime, you may want to check the association web site at:

<http://www.2marine.com/main.html>

### 3d Marine Division Association reunion

The 2005 family reunion of the 3d Marine Division Association is scheduled for August 15–21, 2005 at the Sheraton National, Arlington, Virginia. Room rates are \$89 with free parking. For more information, check the 3d Marine Division Association web site at

<http://www.caltrap.com/>, or contact:

2/4 Association PX Merchandise	
General Items	Price
<b>Logo patch. 2".</b>	\$3.50
<b>Logo patch. 4".</b>	\$5.00
<b>Logo pin.</b>	\$5.00
<b>Sweatshirt.</b> Red with EGA on back and Sea Horse silhouette on front.	\$35.00
<b>Polo shirts.</b> Red, white, blue or maroon.	\$25.00
<b>T-shirt.</b> Black, green or gray, with full color logo on front.	\$15.00
<b>T-shirt.</b> 2004 reunion.	\$10.00
<b>Coffee mug.</b> Black with white logo	\$5.00
<b>Thermal mug.</b>	\$5.00
<b>2/4 molded plastic tumblers.</b> Various sizes (rocks, hot/cold). Logo patch between molded plastic. Sets and singles. Check with Jack for sizes and prices.	
Books	Price
<i>What a Life</i> , Randy Kington.	\$22.50
<i>Images from the Otherland</i> , Ken Sympon.	\$22.50
<i>The First Battle—Operation Starlite</i> , Otto Lohrack.	\$25.00
Videos	Price
<b>Dai Do Memories.</b>	\$25.00
<b>2001 Reunion, Quantico, VA.</b> Includes visits to The Wall, Iwo Jima Memorial, etc.	\$10.00
<b>Ordering Instructions:</b>  Please e-mail Jack for sizes and item availability. We are looking for suggestions for additional PX items. I am looking at windbreakers, but am being put off by the price. Keep in mind that the PX is stocked by funds from the Association, so we must stock items that will go quickly, both at reunions and during the following year. Shipping and handling equal to USPS charges will be added to each order.	
<b>2/4 Association PX</b> <b>c/o Jack Petrowsky</b> <b>PO Box 7214</b> <b>Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214</b>	

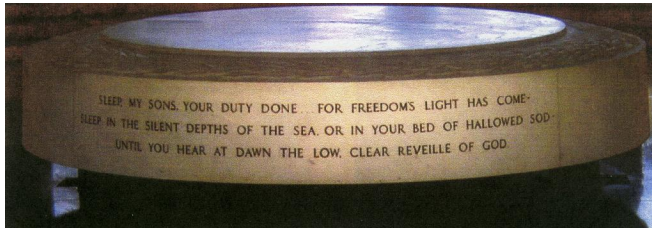
SgtMaj Bill Krueger  
7622 Highland Street  
Springfield, VA 22150-3931  
703 451-3844



## "Sleep My Sons, Your Duty Done"

Submitted by Capt Edwin W. Besch, USMC (Ret)

(Editor's note: Ed Besch is a Life Member of the association. He was severely wounded on August 23, 1966 and retired based on his combat disability in 1967 after nine months of hospitalization. This article originally appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of the *Military Collector and Historian*. Thanks, Ed, for your submission.)



### The Memorial

Courtesy of the Military Officers Association of America.

Atop the highest point on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines, the Pacific War Memorial reposes in splendid beauty. It is approached over long and wide dark gray marble steps and small white marble-bordered gardens. At the end, visible beyond an entrance in a high wall, and underneath a tall white dome, is the marble centerpiece.

Once each year, during the week of 6 May, the date Corregidor fell to Japanese forces, sunlight shines through an opening in the dome and illuminates the memorial's centerpiece, which is inscribed:

SLEEP MY SONS, YOUR DUTY DONE  
FOR FREEDOM'S LIGHT HAS COME\*  
SLEEP IN THE SILENT DEPTHS OF THE SEA  
OR IN YOUR BED OF HALLOWED SOD\*  
UNTIL YOU HEAR AT DAWN  
THE LOW CLEAR REVEILLE OF GOD.<sup>1</sup>

Those brief, simple, yet profound and haunting words caused a lump in my throat and brought tears to my eyes the first time I read them on the memorial in January 1973, and they still do. The inscription commemorates Americans, Filipinos, and other Allies who died in the Pacific to bring "Freedom's Light" during World War II. But I believe the words also are a suitable tribute to all those Americans and Allies who died for the cause of freedom in America, Europe, Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and especially those Marines of Echo Company, Second Battalion, 4th Marines who died while serving under my command in August 1966.

<sup>1</sup> A brief description and color photos of the impressive approach and the centerpiece of the Pacific War Memorial appear in Shelley Bishop and Maj Dale Robinson, USMC (Ret), "Will you Return? The Philippines opens its doors to former service members touring the country," *Military Officer* (October 2003): 72-74. The illustration was provided by Col Warren S. Lacy, USA (Ret.). Editor of *Military Officer*.

## Phil needs some feedback on his PR effort

Submitted by Phil Ciofalo

I have been working to get the word out to Marine Corps and other military publications about our reunion. I am collecting these publications from various sources—as many as I can get. Many of these publications I do not receive. So, this is where our members can help. What I would like for you to do is to notify me upon seeing our reunion notices. I would like to know where the notices appear and how they read. You can be our front line troops assisting us in this manner. Contact me at:

Phil Ciofalo  
356 North Reading Avenue  
New Berlinville, PA 19545-0181

Or send e-mail to <USMCE8SGT@aol.com>.

## A hero's sacrifice

Submitted by 1st Force Service Support Group. Story by LCpl T. J. Kaemmerer. Story Identification #: 2004123102943.

Fallujah, Iraq (Dec. 2, 2004)—"You're still here, don't forget that. Tell your kids, your grandkids, what Sgt Peralta did for you and the other Marines today."

As a combat correspondent, I was attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment for Operation Al Fajr, to make sure the stories of heroic actions and the daily realities of battle were told.

On this day, I found myself without my camera. With the batteries dead, I decided to leave the camera behind and live up to the ethos "every Marine a rifleman," by volunteering to help clear the fateful buildings that lined streets.

After seven days of intense fighting in Fallujah, the Marines of 1/3 embraced a new day with a faceless enemy.

We awoke November 15, 2004, around daybreak in the abandoned, battle-worn house we had made our home for the night. We shaved, ate breakfast from a Meal, Ready-to-Eat pouch and waited for the word to move.

The word came, and we started what we had done since the operation began—clear the city of insurgents, building by building.

As an attachment to the unit, I had been placed as the third man in a six-man group, or what Marines call a "stack."

Two stacks of Marines were used to clear a house. Moving quickly from the third house to the fourth, our order in the stack changed. I found Sgt Rafael Peralta in my spot, so I fell in behind him as we moved toward the house.

A Mexican-American who lived in San Diego, Peralta earned his citizenship after he joined the Marine Corps. He was a platoon scout, which meant he could have stayed back in safety while the squads of 1st Platoon went into the danger filled streets, but he was constantly asking to help out by giving them an extra Marine. I learned by speaking with him and other Marines the night before that he frequently put his

safety, reputation and career on the line for the needs and morale of the junior Marines around him.

When we reached the fourth house, we breached the gate and swiftly approached the building. The first Marine in the stack kicked in the front door, revealing a locked door to their front and another at the right.

Kicking in the doors simultaneously, one stack filed swiftly into the room to the front as the other group of Marines darted off to the right.

"Clear!" screamed the Marines in one of the rooms followed only seconds later by another shout of "clear!" from the second room. One word told us all we wanted to know about the rooms: there was no one in there to shoot at us.

We found that the two rooms were adjoined and we had another closed door in front of us. We spread ourselves throughout the rooms to avoid a cluster going through the next door.

Two Marines stacked to the left of the door as Peralta, rifle in hand, tested the handle. I watched from the middle, slightly off to the right of the room as the handle turned with ease.

Ready to rush into the rear part of the house, Peralta threw open the door.

'POP! POP! POP!' Multiple bursts of cap-gun-like sounding AK-47 fire rang throughout the house.

Three insurgents with AK-47s were waiting for us behind the door.

Peralta was hit several times in his upper torso and face at point-blank range by the fully-automatic 7.62mm weapons employed by three terrorists.

Mortally wounded, he jumped into the already cleared, adjoining room, giving the rest of us a clear line of fire through the doorway to the rear of the house.

We opened fire, adding the bangs of M-16A2 service rifles, and the deafening, rolling cracks of a Squad Automatic Weapon, or "SAW," to the already nerve-racking sound of the AKs. One Marine was shot through the forearm and continued to fire at the enemy.

I fired until Marines closer to the door began to maneuver into better firing positions, blocking my line of fire. Not being an infantryman, I watched to see what those with more extensive training were doing.

I saw four Marines firing from the adjoining room when a yellow, foreign-made, oval-shaped grenade bounced into the room, rolling to a stop close to Peralta's nearly lifeless body.

In an act living up to the heroes of the Marine Corps' past, such as Medal of Honor recipients Pfc James LaBelle and LCpl Richard Anderson, Peralta—in his last fleeting moments of consciousness—reached out and pulled the grenade into his body. LaBelle fought on Iwo Jima and Anderson in Vietnam, both died saving their fellow Marines by smothering the blast of enemy grenades.



**Sgt Rafael Peralta**

Sgt Rafael Peralta, 25, was a platoon scout, which meant he could have stayed back in safety while the squads of 1st Platoon went into the danger filled streets, but he was constantly asking to help out by giving them an extra Marine. I learned by speaking with him and other Marines the night before that he frequently put his safety, reputation and career on the line for the needs and morale of the junior Marines around him. A Mexican-American who lived in San Diego, Peralta earned his citizenship after he joined the Marine Corps.

Peralta did the same for all of us in those rooms.

I watched in fear and horror as the other four Marines scrambled to the corners of the room and the majority of the blast was absorbed by Peralta's now lifeless body. His selflessness left four other Marines with only minor injuries from smaller fragments of the grenade.

During the fight, a fire was sparked in the rear of the house. The flames were becoming visible through the door.

The decision was made by the Marine in charge of the squad to evacuate the injured Marines from the house, regroup and return to finish the fight and retrieve Peralta's body.

We quickly ran for shelter, three or four houses up the street, in a house that had already been cleared and was occupied by the squad's platoon.

As SSgt Jacob M. Murdock took a count of the Marines coming back, he found it to be one man short, and demanded to know the whereabouts of the missing Marine.

"Sergeant Peralta! He's dead! He's f----- dead," screamed LCpl Adam Morrison, a machine gunner with the squad, as he came around a corner. "He's still in there. We have to go back."

The ingrained code Marines have of never leaving a man behind drove the next few moments. Within seconds, we headed back to the house unknown what we may encounter yet ready for another round.

I don't remember walking back down the street or through the gate in front of the house, but walking through the door the second time, I prayed that we wouldn't lose another brother.

We entered the house and met no resistance. We couldn't clear the rest of the house because the fire had grown immensely and the danger of the enemy's weapons cache exploding in the house was increasing by the second.

Most of us provided security while Peralta's body was removed from the house.

We carried him back to our rally point and upon returning were told that the other Marines who went to support us encountered and killed the three insurgents from inside the house.

Later that night, while I was thinking about the day's somber events, Cpl Richard A. Mason, an infantryman with Headquarters Platoon, who, in the short time I was with the company became a good friend, told me, "You're still here, don't forget that. Tell your kids, your grandkids, what Sgt Peralta did for you and the other Marines today."

As a combat correspondent, this is not only my job, but an honor.

Throughout Operation Al Fajr, we were constantly being told that we were making history, but if the books never mention this battle in the future, I'm sure that the day and the sacrifice that was made, will never be forgotten by the Marines who were there.

\* \* \*

The above article is from the Operation Homecoming USA web site at  
<<http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/0/8CF80A208634A30185256F5F00551E68?opendocument>>, February 20, 2005.

## A Sea Horse series on former commanding officers of 2/4

Submitted by Ken Symphon

With a great deal of help from Becky Valdez, the plan is to provide a series of articles over this and subsequent issues of the Sea Horse which will provide biographical information on former commanding officers of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines. I have some material now, but I could use some help from the membership later on.

The first installment is included, below, on Col Wes Hammond. In future issues, I will include similar stories on

BrigGen Weise and Col Bench. A few others are in the works. Since they will be from largely unedited submissions, they will no doubt be quite different from each other in content and depth of information. Regardless, they should all be informative and help us know a little better some of the men who have led the battalion.

---

## Col James Wesley Hammond, Jr., USMC (Ret)

(Editor's note: Then LtCol Hammond became the CO of 2/4 in July 1967. He was wounded and evacuated from the unit in October 1967. Col Hammond is retired; he and his wife live in Reno, Nevada. Semper Fi, Colonel.)

Wes Hammond enlisted in November 1946 and was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in July 1947. Upon graduation and commissioning as a second lieutenant USMC in June 1951, he reported to Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, for duty under instruction in the 9th Special Basic Class. From there he was assigned as a replacement in the Far East as a platoon leader in the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was wounded in action in Korea; returning to Quantico as a tactics instructor in The Basic School.

Promoted to first lieutenant in December 1952 and to captain in March 1954, he was transferred to the 1st Battalion, Sixth Marines, 2d Marine Division in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. As a company commander, he served with that battalion afloat in the Mediterranean embarked in USS *Marquette*. Subsequently, he was battalion S-4 (Logistics Officer) during amphibious exercises in the Caribbean. He briefly served at Headquarters Marine Corps in Company F, the State Department Security Company before being transferred to the West Coast.

In Camp Pendleton, California, Captain Hammond was S-3 (Operations Officer) of the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division until December 1957. He became aide-de-camp to Major General David M. Shoup, (Subsequently the 22d Commandant of the Marine Corps) Commanding General, 1st Marine Division. In January 1958, Captain Hammond accompanied Major General Shoup to Okinawa where the latter assumed command of the 3rd Marine Division and the former remained as aide until the General's detachment in May 1959.

Captain Hammond returned to The Basic School as a tactics instructor and then commanded a student company. In March 1961, he attended Communications Officers' Course. Completing it he was assigned to the 2d Marine Division in Camp Lejeune. Initially, he was a battery commander in the 1st Battalion, Tenth Marines. Selected for major in October 1961, he became Communications Officer of the Tenth Marines. He deployed in that billet for the Cuban missile crisis in the fall of 1962 and upon return became the Executive Officer of the 4th Battalion, Tenth Marines and then Commanding Officer.



In August 1964, Major Hammond returned to Quantico as the Managing Editor of the *Marine Corps Gazette*. Promoted to lieutenant colonel, he “fleeted up” to Editor and Publisher in the summer of 1966. He went overseas in 1967.

Reporting to the 3d Marine Division on 18 July 1967, he took command of the 2d Battalion, Fourth Marines (“The Magnificent Bastards”) on 19 July and was in a fire-fight that night. Initially, the battalion operated from Camp Evans near Phong Dien. In early September, the battalion was under operational control of the Ninth Marines in northern Quang Tri Province. During seven weeks of daily firefights and shelling from artillery along the DMZ the battalion was considerably reduced in strength and withdrawn to reserve at Dong Ha. In late October 2/4 was again operating in the DMZ area around Con Thien. On 28 October, Lieutenant Colonel Hammond was wounded and evacuated. Upon return to duty, he was Division Plans Officer. He was wounded in action again on 25 March 1968 and when recovered became Plans Officer of the Provisional Corps, U.S. Army in the northern provinces. He left Vietnam in July 1968 and reported to Quantico.

From 1968 until June 1971, Lieutenant Colonel Hammond was Head, Command Department, Marine Corps Command & Staff College. He taught research and writing plus command and staff action to 120 senior officers each year. In July 1971, he reported to Fleet Marine Force, Pacific in Hawaii where he was Public Affairs Officer. Selected for colonel in the summer of 1971, he became Protocol Officer and Aide to Admiral John S. McCain, Jr. USN, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific. When Admiral McCain retired in the fall of 1972, Colonel Hammond became Plans Officer, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Leaving Hawaii in the summer of 1974, he reported to Marine Corp Base, Camp Pendleton, California, as Assistant Chief of Staff. He retired to Reno, Nevada, on 1 September 1975. After obtaining an M.A. in Journalism he taught Journalism at the University of Nevada-Reno. In 1983, he answered a “call” to become Director of Publications for the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and editor of its monthly magazine *Shipmate*, in Annapolis. He retired from the Alumni Association on 1 April 1994 and returned to Reno.

Wes Hammond is the author of more than 50 professional articles in such diverse publications as *Marine Corps Gazette*, *Naval Institute Proceedings*, *The New York Times*, *American Way*, *The Compass*, *Army*, *Command*, *Writer's*



**A gathering of some distinguished COs of the “Magnificent Bastards”**

This photo comes to us from Col Wes Hammond. From left to right, Gen P.X. Kelly (28th Commandant of the Marine Corps), Col Gene Bench (deceased), Col Wes Hammond, BrigGen Bill Weise, and Col Lou Rann. The photo was taken about 15 years ago at a 2/4 reunion in Quantico.

*Digest*, *California Living*, *The Hook*, *Leatherneck* and others. He was the subject of a profile in *Military History*. His *Poison Gas—The Myths versus Reality* (Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn. 1999) is a plea for a common sense approach to the threat of gas warfare lest we be held hostage to the fear of the unknown generated by more than 80 years of misinformation and half-truths about gas. Gas in the hands of rogue nations or terrorists should be the basis for defensive measures not panic. His *The Treaty Navy—The Story of the U.S. Naval Service Between the World Wars* (Wesley Press, Reno, Nevada 2001) narrates how the U.S. overcame pacifist opposition, a stingy Congress and isolationist attitudes to the balanced fleet with its multitude of innovative thinkers at the helm to win the greatest naval war in history in the Pacific. It wasn't a debate over weaponry, i.e., “battle-ship admirals” vs. “carrier admirals” but one of where will be the arena? The volume is filled with anecdotes of naval personalities as well as with the narrative of events of the years between the wars. He also wrote Chapter 11, “The United States Marine Corps” of *Naval Ceremonies, Customs, and Traditions, Sixth Edition* (Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD. 2004.)

Including foreign decorations, Wes Hammond has a dozen combat awards, six battle stars on campaign ribbons and the usual “travelogue” of service ribbons and accompanying

medals which accrue over more than a quarter of a century of active service.

In addition to a B.S. from the U.S. Naval Academy, Wes Hammond has a M.A. (International Law, 1969) from the Catholic University of America and a M.A. (Journalism, 1981) from the University of Nevada.

Then-Captain Hammond married Donna Marie Selby of Brighton, Colorado, on Okinawa in March 1959. They have three children: LtCol James W., III USMC Naval Academy '82 (combat veteran of DESERT STORM and the initial landing in Somalia) now Director, Commandant's Staff Group at HQMC in the Pentagon; Mrs. Bruce A. (Victoria A.) Campbell of Annapolis; former Army Commissioned Warrant Officer John W., an aviator, now with the Nevada National Guard and living in Reno; and seven grandchildren, James W. IV (Jake), Charlotte S., Jonathan W. and Justin W. Hammond; Mary Kathleen (Mae Kate) Martha Elaine and Margaret Beverly Campbell. Colonel and Mrs. Hammond make their home in Reno but spend football season in Annapolis.

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## USMC in the Vietnam War

(Editor's note: The following was sent out January 7, 2005, by Ben Cascio to an e-mail distribution list. Thanks, Ben.)

~~~~~  
"Gentlemen:

"I thought you might like to know that the Virtual Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University now provides free unlimited access to the more than 12,000 documents (two million pages) of official USMC in the Vietnam War reports, histories, and other materials from 1954-1975. These materials are available free to anyone with Internet access. There is no registration and no fees involved.

"Just visit:

<[www.vietnam.ttu.edu](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu)>

"Click on the link to the Virtual Vietnam Archive and on the next page, click on the link to Search the Virtual Vietnam Archive. The subsequent page is like any other web based search page.

"The USMC Records can be found most easily by entering 'Marine Corps' in the Collection Title field. Specific unit materials and reports can be located using additional keywords. Searches can also be limited by date.

"These USMC Vietnam War Records compliment the million pages of materials we already had online in the Virtual Archive meaning the Virtual Archive now contains two million pages of material related to America's involvement in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Virtual Archive materials cover all aspects of the history of the war, all branches of service, many civilian agencies and organizations, and are comprised of official government and military materials, personal veteran collections, scholar and author collections, and family collections as well. Researchers can

locate documents, letters, diaries, audio recordings, video recordings, a near complete set of 1:50,000 scale maps of Southeast Asia, oral history interviews, and much more. Again, all of these materials, to include the newly added US Marine Corps Records, are free to the public.

"Please feel free to share this information with anyone you think will be interested. We believe that Vietnam Veterans and researchers around the country benefit greatly from free unlimited access to our historical materials and collections.

"Thank you and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

"Respectfully yours,"

Stephen Maxner  
Archivist, Associate Director  
The Vietnam Archive  
Special Collections Library Room 108  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041  
Phone: 806-742-9010  
Fax: 806-742-0496  
Email: <[steve.maxner@ttu.edu](mailto:steve.maxner@ttu.edu)>  
Website: <[www.vietnam.ttu.edu](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu)>

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## Links to support our troops

(Editor's note: The following was sent out December 20, 2004, by Ben Cascio to an e-mail distribution list. The association, of course, makes no endorsement of, and assumes no responsibility for any goods or services offered by these organizations. Remember that the web address consists of **all** the characters between the "<" symbol and the ">" symbol. If you have any trouble accessing any of the web sites, please contact me for help. Thanks and Semper Fi to Ben, for sending this on to us.)

~~~~~  
"You might want to share this e-mail..."

SEMPER FI!  
Adam C. Deveney

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### AAFES Gift Certificates

<<http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm>>

The Army and Air Force Exchange Services is where most servicemen and women do their shopping. You can purchase gift certificates for those in Iraq and those hospitalized.

### Adopt a Platoon

<<http://www.adoptaplatoon.org/>>

Adopt a Platoon has several ongoing projects to ensure that every soldier overseas does not walk away from mail call empty-handed.

### AnySoldier

<<http://www.ansoldier.us/index.cfm>>

Any Soldier is a non-profit organization that helps people send care packages to members of the armed services in Iraq.



**AOLbyPhone**

<aol://4344:3449.abpSPLSH.16722104.784567724/>

AOL users can record up to a 3-minute voice mail and send it to military personnel who are in their Address Book. The recipient will receive the message as an e-mail attachment and can listen from their computer. This is free through January 15.

**Appreciate Our Troops**

<<http://www.appreciateourtroops.org>>

Purchase a Support Our Troops mug and a free personalized mug will be given to a current or former service member.

**Blue Star Mothers**

<<http://www.bluestarmothers.org>>

The Blue Star Mothers was founded by service members' moms during World War II. Any mother with a son or daughter in the military can join.

**Books for Soldiers**

<<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com>>

Help the troops escape boredom by donating some books. You can also donate DVDs and CDs requested by soldiers.

**Camp Doha**

<<http://www.campdoha.org>>

Camp Doha provides valuable information for those about to deploy, their friends and families and anyone who wants to support the troops.

**Cell Phones for Soldiers**

<<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/pages/1/index.htm>

>

Donated cell phones are recycled and turned into cash. The cash is used to purchase calling cards for soldiers in Iraq.

**Defend America**

<<http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>>

Thank any service member stationed throughout the U.S. and the world with an e-mail.

**Fisher House**

<<http://www.fisherhouse.org>>

The Fisher House Foundation donates comfort homes, built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

**Freedom Calls**

<<http://www.freedomcalls.org>>

The Freedom Calls Foundation is helping families video-conference with their loved ones in Iraq. You can donate money to help keep this project going.

**Groceries for Families**

<<http://www.commissaries.com/certificheck/>>

The men and women who lay down their lives for us are terribly underpaid. Help a family by purchasing gift certificates to the commissary.

**Homes for Our Troops**

<<http://www.homesforourtroops.org>>

Homes for Our Troops assists injured veterans and their immediate families by building new or adapting existing homes with handicapped accessibility.

**Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund**

<[http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/foundation\\_heroesfund.html](http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/foundation_heroesfund.html)>

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund provides grants to the families of servicemen and women who died in Iraq. You can donate online, through mail or by calling a toll-free number.

**Military Moms**

<<http://www.militarymoms.net/index.html>>

This site provides support to all of the moms out there who has a son or daughter in the military.

**Operation: A Bit of Home**

<<http://www.operationabitofhome.com>>

Operation: A Bit of Home supports over 150 different soldiers per day by providing necessary and hard-to-get toiletries.

**Operation Air Conditioner**

<<http://www.operationac.com>>

Operation Air Conditioner provides not only air conditioners but space heaters (the desert is cold in the winter) for soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Operation Call Home**

<<http://www.platoonphone.com>>

Operation Call Home's mission is to provide each platoon with their own satellite phone.

**Operation Dear Abby**

<<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>>

The U.S. Navy and Dear Abby have teamed up. Their site allows you to send e-mail messages of support to service members.

**Operation Give**

<<http://www.operationgive.org>>

Operation Give provides toys, clothing and school supplies primarily to the children of Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Operation Hero Miles**

<<http://www.heromiles.org/>>

You can donate your unused frequent flier miles to help soldiers travel on emergency leave. They are also used to help families fly to hospitalized soldiers.

**Operation Interdependence**

<<http://www.oidelivers.org/>>

Operation Interdependence supplies care packages to deployed soldiers. You can help out by providing goods, coordinating efforts or donating funds.

**Operation Iraqi Children**

<<http://www.operationiraqichildren.org/>>

Many soldiers are rebuilding schools in Iraq and scrounging around for school supplies. Help by donating a school supplies kit.

**Operation Military Pride**

<<http://operationmilitarypride.org/>>

Operation Military Pride is a volunteer organization that sends cards letters and care packages to troops.

**Operation Uplink**

<<http://www.operationuplink.org/>>

Donate money to Operation Uplink. The money is used to purchase phone cards so servicemen and women can call home.

**Soldiers' Angels**

<<http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/index.php>>

Become some soldier's angel by adopting a service member.

**Treats for Troops**

<<http://www.treatsfortroops.com/>>

Treats for Troops helps get you provide packages to your loved ones overseas. If you don't know anyone, the Foster-A-Soldier Program matches you with a registered soldier by branch of service, home state, gender, or birthday—or you can choose to sponsor a group of soldiers.

**USO Cares**

<<http://www.usocares.org/>>

You can sponsor care packages provided by the USO with a \$25 donation.

**Voice from Home**

<<http://voicesfromhome.org/home.html>>

Voices From Home allows military members and their families and friends to send and receive immediate voice e-mail messages in remote locations around the world.

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## Operation Homecoming USA

(Editor's note: This article is excerpted from information on the web about an important event, the effort for which is being led by Ross Perot. Some of you have no doubt already heard about it, but I encourage you to look it up on the web to get the full details on registration, schedule of events, and the latest updates. The address on the web is <[info@operationhomecomingusa.com](mailto:info@operationhomecomingusa.com)>.)

Thirty years have passed since the end of the Vietnam War. During those three decades, the brave men and women who served in that conflict have never been given the recognition they deserve for their heroic sacrifices in service to our country. Now, the time for that recognition has come.

**Welcome Home...America's Tribute to Vietnam Veterans** will be the homecoming celebration they never received.

This first-ever national event will take place June 13-June 19, 2005 in Branson, Missouri. Including veterans, their families and friends, 100,000 participants from across the country are expected to attend.

For Vietnam Veterans and their loved ones, and our nation, this celebration is profoundly important. By honoring those who answered their country's call during a difficult time in our nation's history, the legacy of duty, honor and country will be passed on to America's sons and daughters who will be called to serve in the future. It's an idea whose time has come.

Operation Homecoming USA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation established to organize and execute this grand scale weeklong event. We approached a broad spectrum of national and regional experts to provide oversight of this sensitive project. Noted patriots from every walk of American life are now actively involved.

**Contact Information**

Operation Homecoming USA

1756 Bee Creek Road, Suite F  
Branson, MO 65616  
(417)-336-5719  
Fax (417)-336-5707  
1-888-265-8387

\* \* \*

The above article is excerpted from the Operation Homecoming USA web site at

<<http://operationhomecomingusa.com/eventdetails.asp>>, February 20, 2005.

**Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association 2005 Reunion**  
**San Diego, California, July 13–16, 2005**  
**Reunion Registration Form**

Please complete and return (with or without check) to Ray Del Rio by June 1, 2005.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank, unit, dates assigned or attached to the 2d Bn, 4th Marines: \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Registration fee until June 1, 2005                 | \$10.00 x ____ = \$ _____ |
| 2. Registration fee <b>after</b> June 1, 2005          | \$15.00 x ____ = \$ _____ |
| Registration fees are per person, 13 years old and up. |                           |
| Registration is free for children under the age of 13. |                           |
| 3. Bus fare to MCRD                                    | \$5.00 x ____ = \$ _____  |
| 4. MCRD tour and lunch                                 | \$5.00 x ____ = \$ _____  |
| 5. Harbor cruise (4:15 PM to 6:30 PM)                  | \$18.00 x ____ = \$ _____ |
| 6. Harbor cruise for children 4–12 years old           | \$10.00 x ____ = \$ _____ |
| 7. Bus transportation to Camp Del Mar                  | \$5.00 x ____ = \$ _____  |
| 8. Baseball tickets                                    | \$17.50 x ____ = \$ _____ |
| 9. Banquet   | \$30.00 x ____ = \$ _____ |
| Total \$ _____   |                           |

Make check payable to 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association. Send registration form and check to:

Ray Del Rio  
5976 Oak Meadow Drive  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Hotel Contact:

Town and Country Hotel  
500 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA 92108

619 291-8770, or **(toll-free)** 800 772-8527

*Don't forget to mention that you are with the 2/4 Association. Room rates are \$99.00 per night. Please let us know if you would like to share a room with another person.*



## 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 membership 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 photos, along with the identification information, will be assembled into a computer CD photo album for historical purposes of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association.*

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

Postage  
here

**Address Correction Requested**