



JAN - MAR 2009

Issue #21

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Adopt-A-Doc

Yep, you guessed it. I am back and begging for people to get on the list to be adopted... Look, I know you are out there, I mean where there are deployed military personnel there are Docs. So, why aren't you on the list to get care packages sent to you from people who want to show their support and caring?

Right now the list is empty except for 2 of our own members. I know there are more out there, email me: deedee@corpsman.com with your name, mailing address and expected return date.

C'mon docs, if you aren't deployed you gotta know someone who is. If you are nearing the end of your deployment then get me the names and addresses of the people that are replacing you. I have people asking for addresses and I don't have any to give out.

I don't want to see this project disappear but without your support it is going to happen and there is nothing I can do to stop it.

If you would like to send packages out please contact me and as soon as I have a name for you I will email you back the information you need to start sending them.

Thanks
DeeDee

Rant from Da-Chief

by HMC Darrell Crone

Ahhh Spring is here!!
Or is it.

This is the time of year up in the Midwest that the saying.. "If you don't like the weather, give it a few hours" rings true.

We have gone from 60 degree days to -1 Wind-chill the next. If there is one thing that is good so far, Mother Nature has not let the plants bloom and die due to a freeze. Yea!!

Why do I bring this up? Well change is good, but you have your bumps and hiccups along the way. We here at Corpsman.com are sorta going through this change as well, especially with the economy as it is.

When I started running Corpsman.com as my retirement job, I was told by my ADM that I had to reach a certain amount of revenue per month to make it work for us. For 3 years we sailed along pretty smoothly. The Yahoo Ads have helped us keep our operation free to all. Yes, we accepted donations from a few folks, but this was used for the most part for upgrades of equipment and software.

Corpsman.com fee's, Server costs, and everyday costs are paid directly from our Yahoo Ads. Some of this of course goes to myself as a paycheck as well, we all need to get paid after all.

This year 2009 though has been rough. We are off 75% of our earnings from Yahoo, We have about 40% more visitors, but no one seems to want to click to help support us. We have our regulars, and to you I say "THANK YOU" Especially to "R", if it weren't for you, we would have closed a long time ago.

So, I am asking, you the users, to please help support Corpsman.com when you visit. To do so, just click some of the ads when visiting from Yahoo. I don't like pleading, but please visit them. ;-)

If you would like to donate to Corpsman.com, You can do so by clicking the donate buttons on any of our pages. A small portion is paid as a fee to PayPal for each transaction, but they have to get paid as well.

So please think about helping us out.

One of the other changes, we are now doing the Newsletter **QUARTERLY**, vice monthly. While Dee was able to do a monthly newsletter, it was killing her trying to get info from our contributors as well as from me. All this, while running the Scuttlebutt Forums Chat on Tuesday Nights. We decided we wanted to keep her in the fold rather than have her committed. :-) So you will now receive your Newsletters Quarterly.

OK on to other news...

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Doc_D for the donation to Corpsman.com this month. Muchas Gracias Senior and Seniorita.

If you didn't catch our Netcast last week, We have some interesting changes. Please come by on Wednesday Night, @ 2115 to join the fun on the Corpsman.com Live page. <http://www.corpsman.com/corpsman-com-live.html>.

We hope to see and hear from you!
Da-Chief

Angels of the Battlefield Ceremony

11 March 2009

GEN David Petraeus, Commander of U.S. Central Command, delivers the keynote address at the Third Annual Angels of the Battlefield Award Ceremony in Washington, DC.

Remembrance Ceremony

11 March 2009

More than 100 friends, relatives and military members turned out March 11 to remember military medical personnel who gave the last measure of devotion in Iraq and Afghanistan.

http://dodvclips.mil/index.jsp?fr_story=FRdamp348719&rf=rss

Thank you to Doc_Pardue for sharing this link

National Chaplain, Medics & Corpsmen 2008-2010

<http://www.medics-corpsmen.org/>

<http://www.kerrypardue247.com/Index.html>

My wife and I were out driving the other day and it seemed like every third person we saw on the highway, in a fast food place or even in a store was talking on a cell phone. I started to think about it and remembered the Saturday Evening Post type picture that showed a couple on a date and both of them were talking on a cell phone rather than to each other. I have a good idea that we have all seen individuals that were involved in some type of physical activity and the instant the activity stops, out comes the cell phone. The more that I thought about it the more I became convinced that we are evolving into a nation that is afraid to be alone.

I know on several of my floats, being supercargo, that I did not have a regular job and so I had a lot of free time to stare off into the distance and just think. It seems now that we have lost that ability. It is like everyone today has to be connected to others all the time to be secure. "Oh my goodness I have to stand by myself for 10 minutes without talking to someone, I'll go crazy."

Last year Washington State enacted a law requiring hands free cell phones (i.e. no calls, no texting). A young lady they interviewed on the news thought it was a bad idea and when asked how she drives and texts at the same time she showed the interviewer by miming holding the steering wheel at the top and using both thumbs to text with.

Technology may be real good right now but at what point do we have to cut the umbilical cord and stand on our own. The Disney Movie WALL-E shows a space ship full of people that have lost the ability to do virtually anything for themselves. Is this work of fiction soon to become our reality?

Doc Higgins

PTSD training for new combat medics

For those who deal with medics and corpsman training for years have asked for some changes in the training. One was in Advanced Trauma Care and the other in dealing with death and dying. In an effort to apply meaning to the training that combat medics receive today still needs to change to keep up with today's current trends in combat medicine.

In the near future all medics and corpsmen from all branches of armed forces will undergo the same training as combat medics at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. For many of us served as combat medics during the Vietnam conflict in the 1960's. Our training consisted of 10 weeks as a life saver type of course. Stop the bleeding, prevent shock, restore the airway, and CPR.

After receiving that training many of us were shipped off to Vietnam to serve as medics in hospitals, aid stations, dispensary's, and field units. Most of us continued to receive on-the-job type of training at our new units to assist us in treating the men we served. The doctors and Senior NCOs gave us additional skills to assist us in our duties.

However, we were not prepared for the trauma we saw or attempted to treat. The types of wounds we treated ranged from very minor to lost limbs, sucking chest wounds, massive wounds from the weapons of war.

Very little was paid attention to as to how we dealt with the death and dying. For the most part we suffered silently and grieved silently. For many of us upon coming home we found that we were not okay. Some of us have dealt with nightmares, flashbacks, sadness, depression, and survival guilt. This is known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It is a natural reaction to what we see in war.

The Army has changed the training at Ft. Sam Houston, TX to give an additional six weeks training to deal with trauma care and wounds.. Many advanced training aids are used to better prepare the combat medics and corpsmen assist their wounded soldiers. There still needs to be additional training in the area of learning how to deal with grief, death, dying, and PTSD so that the combat medic will be able to better cope with what he will deal with while serving his unit. This will also help him or her in dealing with helping the men and women in his unit in making referrals for PTSD and the ability to help his soldiers cope with loss of fellow soldiers.

Ron Sharp and Kerry Pardue both former combat medics have been appointed by the National Association of Combat Medics and Corpsmen to head up this vital task at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. We are beginning to put together a training course and preparing to conduct the training with the medics and corpsmen who are receiving training.

What we are proposing is to get on the training schedule for the combat medic training course and make a presentation for the medics and corpsmen to understand what they will see and how to deal with the mental stresses on the battlefield. Former medics who have served in combat situations will provide the training and education to the troops in a 2-3 hour block of training.

Kerry "Doc" Pardue
National Chaplain
NAMC

January 20, 1968

Now I lay me down to sleep

On the evening of January 20, 1968, I closed up the 3/26 BAS (Battalion Aid Station), a sparse tent set-up on a far end of the Khe Sanh Combat Base, located in the upper corner of South Viet Nam, bordered by Loas and the DMZ with North Viet Nam. The area around the Base was beautiful, lush green with a French Coffee Plantation nearby.

The month I had been there was routine, as we treated minor cuts, jungle rot on arms from patrolling in the 6 foot tall sharp grasses that lined the High Hills (3,000 ft, thus Hill 881S was 881 meters high). I had no idea that by the next evening I would be whisked away to that Hill for the next 77 Days during the Siege of Khe Sanh, which was mentioned by President Obama in his inaugural address to the Nation.

The Corpsman's tent was right next to the BAS....cots all in a row on both sides of musty tent...sandbags looped around the outside of the tent a little over cot+head height for protection from incoming....where here in this quiet oasis???

Then we were given a frightening order before we turned in for the night.... **BURN ALL OF YOUR PERSONAL LETTERS IN CASE WE WERE OVERRUN**.....are you kidding me? An NVA officer who surrendered at the wire earlier in the day said the Base and then the Hills were to be attacked to begin the TET OFFENSIVE.

So we all laid our heads down to sleep with visions of being overrun dancing happily in our dreams...quiet, blessed sleep...**UNTIL 0530!**

WAM BAM THANK YOU NAM.....we all ran in different directions...nobody was calling for a corpsman....and nobody could hear if they called...the **AMMO** dump in the middle of the base took a direct hit and had us confused and asking if that was **INCOMING OR OUTGOING**....Oh, heck it is all of the above **PLUS A COOK** off of our ammo flying every which way over our heads.....

GOOD MORNING VIET NAM.....Little did I know that I would be leaving on a Huey for a **LONG** trip to a trenchline on Hill 881S that I called home until April 15..... hundreds of incoming per day and **CORPSMAN UP, CORPSMAN UP** until over the course of the siege I medivaced or bagged 92% of our Marines on the Hill. When I crawled out of my Bunny Hole in the trenchline and was still breathing....I knew that my work on the Hill was still not completed.....I did my best.

Sometimes, now that I have been **BACK** in the **WORLD**, the very **WORLD** that did not want us **BACK** after Viet Nam, I wish I had my **BUNNY HOLE** in the side of the trenchline that we dug and lived in during the entire siege, over North Viet Nam.....it seemed so much safer than the last 41 years in civilian life, at least mentally....you never **HEAR** the one that's going to **GET YOU!**

HM2 "DOC" Dave
8404/8483

Viet Nam 3/26 Oct. 67 - Nov. 68

BacSi68

January 21, 1968

A confirmed place in history

I was duly impressed when our new president mentioned Khe Sanh in his inaugural address;

On the eve of the start of that horrific 77-day siege on January 21, 1968 of the United States Marine Corps Combat Base located in what was then the country of South Vietnam. During those dreadful months, 6,000 Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen stood shoulder to shoulder in the muddy trench line to face what was estimated by some to be in excess of 20,000 hardened North Vietnamese Army regular soldiers, supported by tanks and large artillery.

The mention of Khe Sanh being noted on the short list with Concord, Gettysburg and Normandy in a President's inaugural address to our country and the world confirms for those of us who served at Khe Sanh a place in American history.

– Craig W. Tourte, Rocklin (Khe Sanh Vet)

Letters to the editor San Francisco Bee Newspaper
Published: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009 | Page 18A

January 20, 2009

President Obama mentions Khe Sanh in his Inaugural Address

"In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of short-cuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted — for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk takers, the doers, the makers of things — some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labor, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom.

For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life.

For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West; endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth.

For us, they fought and died, in places like Concord and Gettysburg; Normandy and **Khe Sanh.** "

"DOC" Dave 8404/8483

Life on the Ward, Operating Room State Side

After completing Hospital Corps School Great Lakes in 1966, I found myself stationed at St. Albans Naval Hospital, Long Island, NY. I entered in the Navy as an E-3 HN due to 2 years of College. My first assignment was to the Thoracic Surgery Ward. Chest Tube bottles at the side of every bed-side. I worked day and night shifts, learned how to tend and medicate mostly older patients.

The first bedbath I had to give was to an Airdale that was stationed on a wooden decked aircraft carrier during World War II. The thing I remember most was the grey stubble on his face and neck. I was the first time I ever shaved another person with a straight edge razor blade (no holder, just a blade....later as an OR Tech I would give full body preps, nipples to knees, etc.)

Now in my early 60's, I look in the mirror and see the grey stubble on my face and neck.....what a flashback to know that I am just as old as that old sailor. I enjoyed my time on that ward....those of us at night gave the patients Seconal for sleep....do you wake-up a sleeping patient to give them a prescribed sleeping pill? Did not get that question answered in Corps School. We charted out at the end of our night shift when only a Corpsman was on duty....a nurse could be called if a narcotic was needed from the locked cabinet. After awhile, we soon learned that we could note our final entries on our patients (0600 - Patient Slept Well with no Complaints) at 0400 so we could leave as soon as the day staff and Corpsmen reported in the morning and we could go back to our barracks and sleep.....the barracks consisted of 12 of us sleeping on both sides of the room with a partially open cubicle. In each cubicle, was a rack, a desk and chair and metal locked tall cabinet.

Well, one night, I had 2 patients go into Chain-Stokes, gasping for their last breath, and subsequently dying at about the same time. The Doctor on call checked their vitals and let us complete the process. The junior Corpsman helped me to tie the patients legs together, tag their toe, cross and secure their arms across their chest, place a chin strap under the jaw and secured to the deceased's head....last step was to use a BIG syringe and needle to draw all the urine out of the bladder before taking them to the non-staffed morgue. Did the same for the other patient and when I returned from the morgue the day staff had arrived. The Head Nurse called me over, having not had time to change the times, " I see that you charted out at 0600 (actually written at 0400) that both "Patients Slept Well with no Complaints". OPPS....busted. They laughed and I was told to chart out at the right time and not try to beat the system. Enough said!

I was able to transfer to On-The-Job Operating Tech 8483. I learned quickly and soon was scrubbing and circulating case after case. The night crew would prepare, sterilize basic and specialty packs and instruments by steam or gas and put the right ones in each room for the day's schedule operations. The walls were Mary Mopped and the furniture and floors were down in Betadine after each case....and short of an emergency case...the rooms were cleaned and awaited the sound of gurney's being wheeled into the OR hallway for the 0800 operations.

During the day, we moved the patients from the gurneys to the operating table with a heave and a grunt...the patient was put under and the Circulating Corpsman would prep the patient with that straight-edged razor according to what the cards on the piano, where each case or doctor's expected set-up and instruments were listed....some needed to be added from the Central Sterile Cabinet. One was assigned the Scrub Corpsman...so he did his thing at the scrub sink and the

(continued on next pg)

"DOC" Dave 8404/8483

Life on the Ward, Operating Room State Side

Cont.

circulating nurse, ultimately responsible for over-seeing that we did things by the book,. The Scrub Corpsman came in with his sterile arms outstretched so he could slide his arms into his sterile gown, held by sterile forceps...once he stuck his hands into the sleeves, the circulating Corpsman pulled the gown on from the back and tied it off on the back...then the Scrub Corpsman would stretch his one hand into the first glove on the Mayo Stand....then he did contortions to get the other glove on without contaminating himself. He as now ready to gown the doctors and put their sterile gloves on...then the sterile sheets were placed on the patient and secured into the skin around the operating site with sharp pointed towel clips.....OUCH...but then the patient was in dreamland.

The instruments were set-up along a towel and the sutures (including those catgut ones in the glass vials that needed to be broken with a provided small metal file. The case proceeded when the doc asked for the scalpel...the OR tech needed to know which type of blade and ALL instruments needed for the case as it progressed....there was NO asking by the doc for the right instrument...we were expected to know....I did keep a large Kocker Hemostat on my instrument stand to whack the hand of any Resident Doctor that wanted to take an instrument off my tray. Other items needed for the case were on a backtable...and instruments dropped were quickly autoclaved in a small autoclave in the area between OR Suites.

Sponges had a blue opaque thread, the large Lap Sponges had a big metal ring.....all so that we did not leave a sponge in the bloody cavity of the operating site...While the Circulating Corpsman would lay out the used sponges, the RN was responsible to account for all used during the case...she kept count and gave the word that the count was verified before the doctor closed. Sometimes the Circulating Corpsman, like me, would hide a sponge so she would get flustered and even begin to call for the portable X-Ray machine.....Oh, here it is.....chuckle, chuckle, chuckle! Don't ask when someone nicked the patient's bowl and the words CONTAMINATED echoed throughout the room... the room, with all the instruments, equipment and packs, including all the suture boxes on the Piano...could not leave the room....HELP...All gowns and packs were placed in laundry bag with contaminated taped all over it...now the room and everything in it were down in Betadone and suture boxes and instruments placed in a laundry bag, which would be placed in a large laundry bag that was stuffed in the large steam or gas claves. Once, the staff placed the sutures and plastic items in the steam clave by mistake and we had a bag with a melted expensive mess was thrown out.....What a Life!!!

.....But in a few months, as an HM3 I would enter a LIFE as an 8404 "greenside bush "DOC" across the pond on the Hills of Khe Sanh and in the deep triple canopy jungles and leech-infested rice patties of NAM, until I finally was sent to 3rd Med in Quang Tri, near the DMZ where once again scrubbing and circulating cases in a non-sterile Operating Room with a drain on the floor to wash the blood down and packs and packed instrument sets sitting on open wooden racks.....I will cover that adventure in a future article. My hats off to all the OR TECHS and the DOCTORS they worked with.....their were NO NURSES or WAVES above DaNang...so I never had the pleasure of their skills.

"DOC" Dave bacsi68@aol.com

Viet Nam 1968



CPL. STEVEN K. SCHULZ, USMC RETIRED

HOME: 281-648-0458

CELL: 832-671-4641

EMAIL: RXSTEVEN90@YAHOO.COM

U.S. Marine Corporal Steven Schulz grew up playing baseball, football, piano and was a Boy Scout.

After 9/11, Steven entered the Marine Corp because he wanted to make a difference. He did two tours of duty in Iraq and on April 19, 2005, he was hit by an IED, leaving him with a severe traumatic brain injury. His parents immediately rushed to his side...and his mother, Debbie, quit teaching to stay by his side night and day.

This was particularly difficult for the Schulz family who had two children still at home and it was a team effort to support Steven's recovery. Elaine (18) and Clay (15) both accepted that Mom and Dad would miss the majority of their high school activities...and did so without complaint.

The financial strain of caring for Steven full time, changing his bandages, reading to him, trying to stimulate his brain took its toll on the Schulz family. They were forced to rely on family and friends to help with finances.

This very brave young man now stood a fighting chance for recovery because of all the sacrifices his family made for him. Steven first came home in a wheelchair, barely able to communicate at all. After a year of rehab, he finally took his first step. The support his family gave encouragement to him to keep fighting for each step of progress.

Today, Steven is able to communicate, though clearly still having difficulty with basic care. "My dream is to work, find a wife, and have kids - like a normal person," said Steven.

I visited Steven today, 22 January 2009. He is a typical Marine, talking about his buddies in his unit.

What Steven does not have are buddies here in the Friendswood Texas area, from the internet, from around the world! His business card at the head of this letter has his phone and email, please drop him a line or call him.

Once a Marine, always a Marine!
Marines DO take care of their own!

Robert Gunny Hiles

281-992-6779

www.militarynetwork.net

gunny@gunnerysergeant.net



(L to R) Congressman Gene Green, Congressman Michael McCaul, George Strake, Debbie Schulz (mom), Corporal Steven Schulz, Steve Schulz (Dad), Senator John Cornyn, Congressman Kevin Brady and Congressman Ted Poe.

Band-Aids for the Docs Soul

From Doc_Pardue

Next week, marks several anniversaries for me. Some good some not so good. 42 years ago I wrote something about someone who became someone very special at that time in my life...I just found what I had written about her in an old college yearbook. First loves at special and neat. They are what we gage our future relationships upon and as we look back they also bring many smiles and remembrances.

Lost Love...

Where have you gone?
How do I find you again?
Where do I search?

My world was beginning
To evolve it self around you
You had become part of my heart

When you left sick I thought
That you would write but nothing
These long months not a word

Was it I? I wish I knew what I had done
Was it I who failed you or let you down?
Did I lose you to someone from back home?

Now I fall back into a world of being alone again...
My heart is aching and I feel so lost without you
Where did you go? I wish I knew where to search

My love, you were the one who could bring a smile
To my face...you teased me...and made me laugh
For no reason other than to just be ourselves with each other

I feel my heart tear apart as I wander aimlessly
I go to Lookout Mountain and to the places we used to go
Hoping by chance that one day you will show

Perhaps my feelings were one sided and I scared you away
Did you care for me with the depth that I cared for you?
I will never know for I am leaving soon

I can only hope that as you think back upon the times
We were together that thought will put a smile on your face
Who knows maybe we will find each other in the future

Until then be well, be happy, be loved
You were special to me I hope that I was special to you
May God bless you with goodness and love

Kerry Pardue
Chattanooga, TN. March 1967
(continues on the next page)

Band-Aids for the Docs Soul From Doc_Pardue-Cont.

I left college that year and went to work and because I dropped out of school I received a draft notice at the end of that summer. I went into the Army and extended a year to become a medic. After Basic, and Medic training on March 23, 1968, some 41 years ago, I went to Vietnam and that event changed who I was to become in so many ways.

40 years ago, March 23, 1969 I came home an old man in a young man's body with a wounded heart and mind. The end of March I finally went to go met Stephanie who had been my pen-pal the past 7 months. I asked her to marry me and she told me yes. We were married 6 months later and have been together ever since. There have been so many good times, but then again, there have been some bad times as well. She stuck with me through the thick and the thin, the good and the bad, the better and the worst because of the effects of PTSD on both of us. I am forever thankful that she had the courage to stay together.

I am beginning to see some changes to my writing. I have not written in a while but here are recent things...

Editors Note: The Next Few Pages are Doc Pardue's Writings, enjoy.

Missing The Ones We Loved

Over the years we have lost many that we love
The ones who served beside us
Who had our backs when the chips were down
They were not only our friends dressed in battle green,
They were our brothers and sisters
Now they have passed on to a better life
We remember the friendships, the laughter,
The tears, the good times, and the bad times
We may not have always agreed
But we remained united together by a bond of service
And a place in each others hearts
Now that they are gone, we will stop from
Time to time to remember them
This will bring a smile and sometimes a tear
But we know that they are better place
A place that God has called their home
They are singing and rejoicing
I wonder if they ever still go on patrol
Searching for us who have been left behind
Looking for us as the heavenly gates are opened
They will be there to welcome us to our heavenly homes

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Band-aid and Profile

Today I saw an old photo that
Reminded me of a time
When I was alone and afraid
This photo also brought back
Fond memories of when you were there
To greet me and others
You were that touch of a place called Home

You were strays but hung around
To be the “medic dogs”
Not sure who named you but you were
Our friends that wagged their tails
When we come back in from the field
You asked nothing but to be panted
And be hugged from time to time
You shared a time with us that was
Difficult and hard

You gave us comfort, love, and face licks
That reminded us of home from time-to-time
As I look at your photo it brings a smile
And feelings of warmth to this old soldiers heart
Thanks for being there and making my time go better
You both gave us a sense of sanity in an insane world

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I GOT ME A CASE OF THE C RATION BLUES....

Now that I am home and eating hamburgers and fries
I brought home a little brown box
Going to find that dear old recruiter of mine
I want to take and shove them where the sun don't shine
And to finally give him the case of the C Ration Blues

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YOUR LIFE MADE A DIFFERENCE... TO ME

It has been over 40 years since we served together
We were the hope for our generation
Our 19 – 20 year old bodies and minds
Thought we were indestructible

We went when told to go
Did what others did not want to do
Came home wounded, broken, disillusioned, and despised
And now, mostly forgotten

Jim, I remember your strength, your smile, your bravery
You helped us all in the midst of battle
You never complained or questioned
You were the "Soldier's Soldier"

Several years later I found you on the internet
We spoke like we did to each other back then
Happy to know we made it home
Then the topic changed in our conversations

Some of great joy of children births
Others of failed relationships
Three women tried and failed to stay
Couldn't handle the stress and the rage

The overwhelming nightmares and flashbacks
Failure to let anyone get close again
Fear of losing another one again
Pushing those you loved far away

We lose touch from time to time
Blaming it on busy lives
But something would call us back
To speak and hear a voice from the past who understood

The smell of death, the piles of bodies and parts;
The pools of blood and bandages,
Of knowing real fear and facing it together;
Surviving another night and battle.

I email and call but no answer
Knowing full well the time is not good for you
I offer a word of prayer
A return to my own private world alone.

Then the phone call
Telling me of the note and the pull of a trigger
That ended your life, I am saddened as I could have done more
Damn it Jim, you promised that you would not be a number

You have become a sad reminder of what PTSD
Untreated can do
I wonder are you any better now that you are gone
Seems like a waste, a life of regret, gone unfulfilled

Yours is a number that now is more than double
The names that are on the cold black stone
In Washington, DC
You took a permanent solution to a temporary situation

You life had value
Your life had real meaning
Your life made a difference
To Me...

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HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

I never thought that this day would ever come
I have been away far too long
It has been a year and a half since
Being sent to Iraq

I have dreamt about this day for many months
Of how I would surprise you standing outside the door
As I climb the steps I am anxious to see you mom and dad
I have missed you so very much

I hear voices and songs as I stand outside the door
The smell of turkey and dressing is overwhelming
You don't know how much I have missed the simple things
Like a tree, and decorations, and mincemeat pie

The manger scene on the table reminds me of grandma
Who is now gone to be with Jesus
Her gentleness and love have been the things I remember most
Then my brothers and sisters how I hear them laugh
Memories of them flood my mind and soul

Tears begin to fall as I turn the door knob and open the door
I hear the screams of surprise and joy as I walk in
Mom I see your smile and all are rushing to hug
I just stand and hold on and say a prayer of thanks

Thank you Lord for letting me make it Home For Christmas...

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Oftentimes, we wonder how God enters our lives. His timing is always perfect, as is His love for all of us. Sometimes, He is there in a big way, other times He comes in little ways, and sometimes we never recognize Him standing right next to us, But He is always there with us...and yes, He does answer prayers...this is just one example of how He is there.

A Boy Singing to his little sister.....

You are My Sunshine, My only Sunshine'

Like any good mother, when Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3-year-old son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They found out that the new baby was going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sang to his sister in mommy's tummy. He was building a bond of love with his little sister before he even met her. The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen, an active member of the Panther Creek United Methodist Church in Morristown, Tennessee.

In time, the labor pains came. Soon it was every five minutes, every three, every minute. But serious complications arose during delivery and Karen found herself in hours of labor. Would a C-section be required? Finally, after a long struggle, Michael's little sister was born. But she was in very serious condition.

With a siren howling in the night, the ambulance rushed the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee. The days inched by. The little girl got worse. The pediatrician had to tell the parents there is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst.

Karen and her husband contacted a local cemetery about a burial plot. They had fixed up a special room in their house for their new baby but now they found themselves having to plan for a funeral. Michael, however, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. I want to sing to her, he kept saying.

Week two in intensive care looked as if a funeral would come before the week was over. Michael kept nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in Intensive Care. Karen decided to take Michael whether they liked it or not. If he didn't see his sister right then, he may never see her alive. She dressed him in an oversized scrub suit and marched him into ICU. He looked like a walking laundry basket.

The head nurse recognized him as a child and bellowed, 'Get that kid out of here now. No children are allowed.' The mother rose up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glared steel-eyed right into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line. 'He is not leaving until he sings to his sister' she stated. Then Karen towed Michael to his sister's bedside. He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live.

After a moment, he began to sing. In the pure-hearted voice of a 3-year-old, Michael sang: 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray. 'Instantly the baby girl seemed to respond. The pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. 'Keep on singing, Michael,' encouraged Karen with tears in her eyes. 'You never know, dear, how much I love you, please don't take my sunshine away.' As Michael sang to his sister, the baby's ragged, strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten's purr. 'Keep on singing, sweetheart.' 'The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my arms' Michael's little sister began to relax as rest, healing rest, seemed to sweep over her. 'Keep on singing, Michael. 'Tears had now conquered the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glowed. 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don't take my sunshine away.'

The next day...the very next day, the little girl was well enough to go home. Woman's Day Magazine called it The Miracle of a Brother's Song. The medical staff just called it a miracle. Karen called it a miracle of God's love.

NEVER GIVE UP ON THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE. LOVE IS SO INCREDIBLY POWERFUL.

Life is good.

Have a Wonderful Day!

'The evidence of God's presence far outweighs the proof of His absence.'

Kerry

Chaplain, Medics & Corpsmen 2008-2010

<http://www.medics-corpsmen.org/>

<http://www.kerrypardue247.com/Index.html>

Words of Wisdom from Doc-Pardue

I have been watching the posts on here about comments on PTSD and just know that each of us has much to share about this disorder and how it has affected us and our relationships.

I will hope that our friend who has chosen to leave the group will come back. At times, we tend to have a weird sense of humor but that is a defense mechanism to hide behind when we are really scared and at the end of our hope at times but we hurt people with it as well.

Over the years, at this time of year I would always withdraw and go to my mental cave to hide from everyone. I know what the date March 23rd means to me and how it messes with my mind and my heart, and my ghosts and my closet of fear, doubt, and worry.

This year is different for me. I don't find myself wanting to go hide from the date...I want to embrace it and know that as bad as it was back then today, this coming Monday, I celebrate the fact that I came home 40 years ago and I went to meet for the first time the woman who I chose to marry. For the past 40 years my life has changed for the better because of that time, the mistakes, the regrets, the loss, and the grief have shaped who I became as a man. A man who loves life so much more as I was given a 2nd chance. I choose to celebrate the man who made it possible for me to still be here.

March 23rd is the day I landed in Vietnam 41 years ago as a 20 year old snot-nosed kid who was so scared. I got off the plane with no gun no nothing...and the week I land they have already lost over 450 men for the week. Three days later I am going on my first ambush patrol...it is a pitch black night with no moon...I am appearing fearless but my knees were knocking and I can hardly breathe, my mouth was so dry. Here we go a walking in the area around our base camp setting up to catch Charlie and blow him away...all of a sudden we are getting hit and fired upon...I forgot how to cuss for if I remembered I would have used every word I knew...the guy next to me sees me frozen in place and he pushes me down and takes a gunshot wound to his side. My bullet...he screams out I'm hit, I'm hit. I crawl over to him and I turn on his flashlight and my mine so I can see what I am doing. Big mistake, now everyone is shooting at the idiot with the two flashlights on but they stay on so I can see. I put myself between him and the bullets that are hitting all around me.

God must have been watching out for me for me not to get shot. I find an entry wound and put a bandage on him and turn him over looking for an exit wound and there is none. By this time, the shooting has stopped and I don't even know how to call in Dust-off (I am that new). They send out a duce and a half to come pick us up. I make up a makeshift stretcher out of two connected ponchos and we load him up. It is then I notice that I have pissed in my pants. I am almost hyperventilating at this point. I hold him up next to me so that my body will take most of the bumps and not hurt him so much. He asks me if he is going to die and I tell him no. I ask about his family and he tells me of his wife and mom and dad and brothers and sisters from Alabama.

Cont. on Page-17

Words of Wisdom from Doc-Pardue– Cont.

We finally get him to the dispensary and the Doctor looks at him and has him taken to the Evac Hospital which is on our compound. I go see him a couple of times in the hospital. However, on the 28th day I get word that he passed away from liver failure. I lost my first casualty and his death has always haunted me, did I do enough, why him and not me, why did he push me down. His name is Benny Dale Cash and his cause of death is listed as Misadventure...how can this be a misadventure...we were shot at by the South Vietnamese at an Outpost who thought we were the Viet Cong. Years later, I made contact with his family who were very kind to me and I explained to them what had happened to their son, brother, and uncle. They went all those years not really knowing what happened to him. His parents had passed away before I could talk to them but the other family members were happy to know he died protecting Freedom.

I know that it is good that I talk to you guys about what I am feeling inside. You were the medics and know the loss and grief I have losing my first patient, particularly because I didn't get down fast enough and he got shot instead of me. Over the years, I used to beat myself up over this and blame myself. But in the past couple of years, those feelings aren't there anymore. Benny died doing his job, it was his time to go. I know this now more than ever. He died and I was able to make my life a better one because of him...I learned how to be a better soldier and medic because of not knowing all that I was suppose to do. I was able to become someone's husband, a father and grandfather and live a life that has meant more to me that it would have without this challenge. I know that Benny is looking down and I know that he smiles and he tells me that it is okay because he is with Jesus and he is with his mom and dad. He is glad because he is remembered by a medic who tried to help him and I won't let his memory be for nothing...

Benny, thank you for that night, thank you for pushing me down, thank you for allowing me to have the joy of being a father, husband, and being a grandfather. Life has meant more to me because of you...I didn't take it for granted. Yours is the first name I touch when I go to the WALL...every time I talk to a group of Junior and High School kids in history classes I talk about you. Thanks Benny....I finally made it all of the way home...

Kerry "Doc" Pardue

National Chaplain, Medics & Corpsmen 2008-2010

<http://www.medics-corpsmen.org/>

I thought this had great insight - Doc_Pardue

Stress Management

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, 'How heavy is this glass of water?' Answers called out ranged from 8oz. To 20oz.

The lecturer replied, 'The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it.'

'If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.'

'In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.'

He continued, 'And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on.'

'As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden. '

'So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work/life down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow.' 'Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested.

Life is short. Enjoy!'

And then he shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

1. Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
4. Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
5. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
6. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
7. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
8. Never buy a car you can't push
9. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
10. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
11. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
12. The second mouse gets the cheese.
13. When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
14. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
15. You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
16. Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
17. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
18. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

author unknown

DeeDee –

Perhaps you can help get the word out. Our [National EMS Academy](http://www.acadian.com/military.html) , based in Lafayette, LA, has developed a paramedic bridge course specifically for military medics. Originally designed for the Corpsman since our first medical director was a Navy Nurse, we have since incorporated the Army Combat Medic and the Air Force IDMT. The course is 12 weeks long, and will end in paramedic testing. It starts 11 May at our Lafayette, LA campus, with testing the week of 27-30 July. Open to employees and unit sponsored medics at this time since space is limited. We anticipate three classes each year unless the requirement increases at the request of the services.

Thank you,
Terry

Terry J. Broussard
Military Veteran Recruiter

<http://www.acadian.com/military.html>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MFhjkSSzyA>

Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc.
P. O. Box 98000
Lafayette, LA 70509

Office 337.291.1571
Cell 337.501.5181
Toll Free 800.259.3333 Ext 1571
Fax 337.706.1908
Email terry.broussard@acadian.com



NOTE: I have a PDF brochure for this program in my possession - if you would like a copy please email me editor@corpsman.com & I will happily forward it to you
DeeDee

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES
5535 Hempstead Way • Springfield, VA 22151-4094
email: naus@naus.org • website: www.naus.org
Tel: 703-750-1342 Toll Free: 1-800-842-3451 • Fax 703-354-4380
"The Servicemember's Voice in Government"
Established 1968

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

**Association Elected to Lead New Alliance on
Military and Overseas Voting Rights**

SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA (2/5/09) – Rick Jones, Legislative Director of the National Association for Uniformed Services® (NAUS), was elected co-Chairman of the newly formed Alliance for Military and Overseas Voting Rights. The Alliance, composed of several military and veterans organizations like NAUS, formed to ensure that our military men and women, most of whom are stationed outside their home States including hundreds of thousands deployed overseas, are afforded their right to vote, and to ensure their votes are counted.

"Complaints and problems surrounding the absentee votes of our servicemembers during the 2008 elections raised new concerns about the rights of America's Warriors to exercise the freedoms they are pledged to protect," said Jones. "Military voters must have the information, time and assistance necessary to complete and return absentee ballots – and they must be counted," he added.

Among Alliance goals is State adoption of standardized procedures for registering military and overseas voters and for counting their cast ballots. The Alliance is also asking Congress and the States to expand programs to find secure and convenient technological solutions that will aid military and overseas absentee voters. In addition, the Alliance is seeking congressional hearings concerning reform of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. The Pew Research Center, an Alliance member, will be analyzing the State and Federal legislative environments for such reform this spring.

For more information about the Alliance for Military and Overseas Voting Rights, please contact NAUS Legislative Director Rick Jones at rjones@naus.org or 703-750-1342.

NAUS is a nonprofit, non-partisan association dedicated to protecting the interests of - and benefits earned by - members of the uniformed services for themselves, their families and survivors.

NAUS provides administrative support to the Society of Military Widows.

For more information please contact Steve Hein, Director of Marketing, at 703-750-1342, x1009, or at shein@naus.org, or visit the Association's web site at www.naus.org.

Bits and Pieces

In his first proposal for the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) budget for fiscal year 2010, President Obama is seeking to increase the department's budget approximately \$15 million from \$98 million to \$113 million in the effort to expand healthcare resources and make them available to an additional 500,000 Veterans over the course of the next 5 years. Mr. Obama's request comes on top of the already allocated \$1.4 billion provided for VA projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The new budget proposal seeks to increase the availability of specialty care in the areas of prosthetics, vision, spinal cord injury, aging and women's health which will be spearheaded by newly created Centers of Excellence. Furthermore, the proposal seeks to expand VA care into rural communities through the creation of new Vet Centers and the addition of more mobile health units.

This new budget not only addresses increases in health care for Veterans but also provides funding for the new GI Bill programs – known as the post 9/11 GI Bill, it provides new options for Veterans seeking educational benefits. It also takes a look at the issues of homelessness facing Veterans, and seeks to expand the current services offered by the VA to help Veterans get back on their feet through job training and other critical services.

If approved by Congress, this budget will be one the first steps in the efforts to reform the Department pledged by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki which include making 'people' the focus once again.

-indy

Searching for.....

I am a Marine looking for my Navy Corpsman from Vietnam 1968/69.
I am trying to locate Michal Chabot. He was with us at Cau Viet, Vietnam . I have managed to locate 9 members of 1st AMTRACS Bravo Co. 2 platoon, 3rd Marine Div. That was all that were left.

We going to a 40 year Reunion this year. And would like to find Doc Chabot.
Please can you help? I can be reached at phone # 501-860-5486 or my office number 501-860-0584. Any help would be very appreciated by me and 9 other JARHEADS.

Semper-Fi

VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.CORPSMAN.COM

Dear Military Families:

I run a non-profit org for deployed military members; I make photo albums for soldiers (it's called Albums For Soldiers: "Images From Home"). I go to a soldier's home and photograph all the s/he can not see, touch or hold for himself: spouses, children, pets, prized possessions, collections, parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, fav. hang-outs, whatever is important to that soldier. It's about a 2 hr photo shoot, which is a lot of fun, especially if there are kids! I come home, download, edit, print & compile 36 of the best shots (out of roughly 150) into a small 4x6 photo album. I then return it to the family for mailing, and encourage them to write letters and make it part of a Care Package. I am willing to travel throughout MA, NH, ME & RI.

It's my way of saying Thank You to these selfless men & women who are fighting for our country and can not be Home. I hope it will ease their loneliness, pain or homesickness by giving them something physical to hold onto. The spouse at home can say, "Wow, the baby's getting so big!" or "Jimmy's doing great in basketball", but nothing beats a photograph of tiny eyelashes resting on the rounded cheeks of a sleeping baby, or a picture of Jimmy sinking that jump shot.

I have fliers & business cards that I send out and am in contact with the local Family Readiness Groups for Army & National Guard, but it is very slow going. I am trying to get the fliers into the hands of the deployed soldiers themselves, but I need inside contacts to do that. I have heavy support from the AmVets, they love the concept and I had a GREAT conversation with the Exec. Dir. of the USO who LOVED my idea. My camera battery is charged, my memory card is formatted, I have an AMAZING camera ... I just need a family to play with !! Can you help me?

There is no cost for this; it is my way of saying thank you to our service men & women.

Our men & women who are stationed away are missing out on the lives they left behind; no birthday parties, no graduations, no gymnastics meets or soccer games. They don't get to attend weddings, funerals or the births of their own children.

I am not a professional photographer and I am not promoting a photography business. I am simply a mom with a great camera and the desire to get photographs into the hands of our soldiers.

I am having trouble getting this project off the ground; people LOVE the idea, but it's hard getting takers. I need to get my fliers into the hands of the soldiers themselves, and place them where military spouses can have access to them easily. I have been trying to get my story into The Hansconian (Hanscom base newspaper), but to no avail.

I live in Dracut and am willing to travel throughout MA & NH. Should a soldier's family live in southern ME or northern RI, I would be willing to go there too. Some feedback I have received is that "oh, I can do that", but it's quite time consuming. I will spend 2 hours with the family, photographing, then I'll return home to download, edit, print & compile into a 4x6 photo album. Most spouses left behind have ENOUGH to do; with running the household alone, raising children, school schedules, sports schedules, their own jobs, etc. I see everything with new eyes and may see things in a different perspective; I capture it on film and do all the work. The family will have the completed photo album back within 2-3 days, ready for mailing.

I just want people to know I am willing to do this. Can you help? If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 978.957.5744.

Warmest regards,

~ Jennifer

albumsforsoldiers@comcast.net

jen_willis0101@hotmail.com

HOSPITAL CORPS MONTHLY

November—December 2008

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2009 ARMED FORCES OPERATIONAL MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM (IDC CONFERENCE)

The Navy Independent Duty Corpsman and Air Force Independent Duty Medical Technician Associations would like to cordially invite all Navy and Coast Guard Independent Duty Corpsmen, Air Force Independent Duty Medical Technician, Preventive Medicine Technicians, Medical Service Officers of Military Sealift Command, Medical Service Corps Officers, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistant and any United States Army equivalent to the 3rd Annual Joint Armed Forces Operational Medicine Symposium (AFOMS). The symposium is the premier military operational medicine event that brings together officers, enlisted and civilian healthcare professional from various services and communities for an exchange of continuing medical education and experiences. The symposium will be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, New Orleans, LA from 14-19 June 2009. 1,519 rooms have been reserved at \$116 per night to accommodate attendees.

To make reservations on-line, go to <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/idc1>. If you choose to make reservation by phone (888-627-7033) you must identify yourself as attending the IDC/IDMT symposium when you make the reservation.

On-line registration to attend the symposium will be available. Early on-line registration fee will be \$100. Early on-line registration will stop on 15 May 2009. On-line registration after 15 May will be \$150. On-line registration will close on 07 June 2009. However, there will be an on-site registration.

Fee for on-site registration will be \$175.

To register on-line: Log onto, <http://www.hjf.org/events/2009-idcidmt.html>

This is the Henry Jackson Foundation website for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Uniform will be: Air Force = BDU/Flight Unit; Navy= Khakis/working white; Coast Guard = Service or Duty Uniform, MSO = Uniform equivalent to Navy/civilian attire and U.S. Army = any uniform equivalent to other branch services.

POC for questions or concerns is

HCM Tommie Thompson at (202)762-3472, e-mail: tommie.thompsonIII@med.navy.mil

and HCM Keith Boyce, at (202)762-3471, e-mail: keith.boyce@med.navy.mil.

Sailors from FMTB West in Cameroon

LIMBE CAMEROON: HMC Beth Nilson and HM2 Borjorquez from the Field Medical Training Battalion (FMTB) at Camp Pendleton CA, recently had the unique opportunity to travel across the globe to Cameroon and provide a Combat Lifesaver course. At first they believed they would be teaching US Marines since MARFORCOM had requested a Combat Lifesaver course which is typically tailored to junior Marines; however, as they prepared for the trip, they realized they would be instructing a group of Cameroonian Medical Marines. They immediately redesigned the CLS course based on that information. This presented a host of issues which had to be addressed. HMC Nilson stated "We could not teach them the typical CLS because they do not have the same type of equipment that we have i.e.. Quick clot, IV fluid, emergency cric kits, etc. We had to go back to the basics such as improvised bandages, splints, tourniquets, etc." Once in Cameroon, the sailors traveled to a small Marine base in the city of Limbe. They met up with 19 students, only 3 of which were actually Medics. Once again they adjusted to make it more simple, since most of these men had no medical background. After spending 3 days in Limbe, the Sailors traveled to the city of Doula where we gave a 1 day advanced training class to 9 actual Medics/Firefighters.

Awards Update for IMEF(FW)

The SECNAV has approved the award of the Navy Unit Commendation for the I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) from 28 February 2006 to 09 February 2007 in recognition of their service in transforming the Anbar Province of Iraq from an insurgent stronghold to an area capable of improved self governance and economic growth. Please contact HMC Michele I. Hardy, 1st MLG, Group Navy Personnel Office at (760)763-1251 or michele.hardy1@usmc.mil for questions regarding eligibility.

Fleet Surgical Team 8 on Deployment

Fleet Surgical Team 8 Supports Iwo Jima ESG

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Chad R. Erdmann, Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group Public Affairs

ABOARD USS IWO JIMA, At Sea – Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 8 deployed aboard the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) in August as part of the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG). FST 8 is based out of Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia Beach, Va., and is made up of 16 personnel, seven officers and nine enlisted Sailors. The primary mission for the team is to provide surgical capabilities and inpatient care services for Iwo Jima and the entire ESG. “Our mission is to embark, and set up the operating rooms and the intensive care units,” said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Sylvia Miller. “We also work side-by-side with ship’s company medical staff to ensure that we are ready to receive any casualties.” Amphibious assault ships, such as Iwo Jima, have operating rooms and space configured for a hospital ward, as well as an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). When deployed, these critical areas need to be manned with highly-trained personnel in the event of casualties or critical care needs. FST 8 brings that knowledge and experience in several specialty areas. “We bring with us a team of medical professionals,

starting with a surgeon and one operating room nurse, two surgical technicians, and one nurse anesthetist,” said Miller. “The ICU has one critical care nurse, one respiratory therapist and two general duty Hospital Corpsmen. We also have two advanced laboratory technicians, and one advanced radiology technician.” “Personnel trained with these capabilities are in short supply in the Navy,” said Cmdr. Linda Beltra, the officer-in-charge of FST 8. “The FST augments the medical department with people that have the skills to be able to utilize the operating rooms and inpatient capabilities.” The officer-in-charge serves as ESG surgeon and medical advisor to the ESG commander, and oversees all the other ESG medical departments and medical evacuations (MEDEVACs) for the ESG. The team also has its own senior enlisted advisor and a medical administrative officer. Since beginning its deployment on Aug. 26, FST 8 has cared for 16 inpatients in the ICU, managed 28 MEDEVACs, and conducted 25 surgeries, 229 X-Ray exams and 345 laboratory tests. They have the capability to perform simple procedures such as skin tags all the way to more complicated surgical procedures such as an exploratory laparotomy to amputations. “The FST augments the medical department with people that have the skills able to turn the ship’s medical department into a floating hospital for the entire ESG,” said Beltra. The Iwo Jima ESG is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to conduct Maritime Security Operations (MSO). MSO help develop security in the maritime environment. From security arises stability that results in global economic prosperity. MSO complements the counterterrorism and security efforts of regional nations and seek to disrupt violent extremists’ use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.



GULF OF OMAN (Oct. 10, 2008) - Hospital Corpsman 3rdClass Aaron Johnson, surgical technician for Fleet Surgical Team 8, prepares the operating room for surgery aboard the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7).

From the Desk of the Enlisted Community Manager (ECM)

This month's NEC in the spotlight is: Cytology Tech HM-8505, and Histopathology Tech HM-8503. These are two highly specialized NEC's that are expected to grow as part of the Mil-Civ restoral. The HM8505 does require as a prerequisite, Advanced Lab Tech, HM-8506. Both NECs are a logical progression in skill and technical expertise to the HM-8506. For more information, please contact your CCC or the Enlisted Technical advisor for these NECs. For HM-8503: HMC James Tinker, (619) 532-8118, jamie.tinker@med.navy.mil 8505: HMC (FMF) Clyde A. Halcomb, (210) 295-4315, clyde.halcomb@amedd.army.mil Interested Applicants should see their CCC to submit a C-school package and all packages should be sent to Mr. Jeff Ramsey, C-school detailer.

Updated CANTRACS (Catalog of Navy Training Courses for HM Schools) to be aware of: HM8482- Pharmacy Tech, HM8506- Medical Lab Tech

You can access the list of HM A/C-school CANTRACS at the NKO website.

ASVAB Changes:

Effective 23 Nov 08, the ASVAB cut scores for admittance to HM Basic and HMDA have been raised. This approval by CNP is based upon the recommendation from a study of ASVAB scores and non-grad rates at HM Basic A-school. The intent of this increase is to improve the graduation rates at the school without having to decrease the quality of training. If you are a non-HM considering conversion to HM, you must follow the new cuts-core guidelines. CCC's please visit the FLEETRIDE website to view the new score requirements.

Question of the Month

This month's Q&A: I understand that they are now looking more closely at High Year Tenure (HYT) and Fleet Reserve reversal requests as they were in the past. Why?

Answer: BUPERS and the ECM have always looked at each HYT request as well as request to reverse a Fleet Reserve retirement on a case by case basis. All factors such as NEC, inventory, needs of the Navy, and needs of the member have always been taken into account. But, I must admit that anyone submitting such requests are now more tightly scrutinized by the Head, ECM than in the past. If you are in a NEC that is 95% or over in manning, don't expect a HYT approval. If you have already submitted a Fleet Reserve request and it has been approved and the ECM has promoted to that vacancy, in other words, taken into account that you are leaving and have set an advancement quota with the expectation you will be gone, don't expect for that approval to be reversed. Even if your vacancy has not been promoted to the request most likely will be denied as the Navy has to downsize since Zone C (11-14 yrs) is overmanned by 3,000 and Zone E (21-30 yrs) is overmanned by 4000 personnel and this is one of the first attempts to downsize. Expect other initiatives in the future to downsize our Navy. Before you submit that Fleet Reserve request, think hard about your future plans. While you may submit it 2 years prior to your retirement date, you may limit your options by doing so.

<http://www.npc.navy.mil/Enlisted/CommunityManagers/MedicalDental>

Feel free to contact ECM for Career Management concerns.

CDR Pete Guzman DSN: 882-2079; pedro.guzman@navy.mil

HMCS (SW) Dawn Lovell DSN: 882-2077; dawn.lovell@navy.mil

HMCS (SW/AW) Wade Miley DSN 882-2981, wade.miley@navy.mil

Just checking to see if you are reading the entire newsletter or not.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue. Without you there is no Scuttlebutt.

If you have anything you would like to have included in the 2nd Quarter Issue of Scuttlebutt (June 2009) please email to editor@corpsman.com by 15 June 2009.

And I mean **ANYTHING** If you want to send out kudos to someone for doing a good job, congrats to a friend or family member, an article, poem, story, joke, photo. Send it in for inclusion in the next issue of Scuttlebutt.

Thank you for your continued support of Corpsman.com
If you are on the website... Click a few ads and help us keep the lights on.

DeeDee
Editor
Scuttlebutt

