

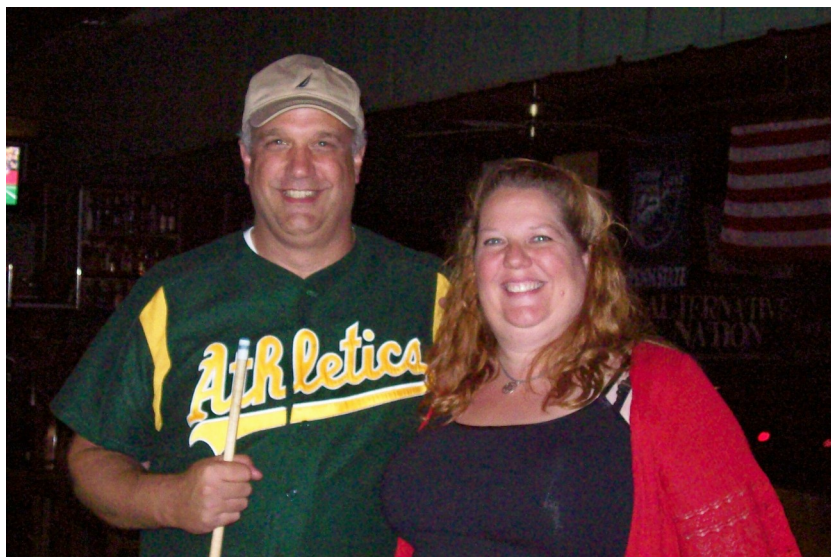


Scuttlebutt

JULY 2008

A Newsletter for Doc's of all Services!

Members meeting Members



FINALLY - after two years of talking on the website, instant messenger, web cam, email, and phone.

Da-Chief and DeeDee managed to get their schedules on the same page and get their families together under one roof for a weekend.

Inside this issue:

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Ever since I joined Corpsman.com back in the Summer of 2006, started spending WAY more hours on the site than one would expect, asking questions, helping parents, and just all around being the welcome wagon lady on the site, Da-Chief (Darrell) & I have been trying to get our families together...I mean every time we made the trip to Great Lakes while Dan was down there at Boot Camp and NHCS we would try to get together even if it was just for coffee. Alas, it was not to be.

After many scheduling conflicts, we were finally able to nail down a weekend in mid July for the Reno's to travel to Northern Illinois and meet the Crone's. But this trip was not to be without its glitches - Thursday is the day I deliver payroll for my company. Rob took the afternoon off so he could help get stuff ready to roll on Friday morning. He is sitting out in the parking lot in the truck waiting for me and comes in to the office and says "If you want to go to Chicago this weekend, we have to leave NOW!" I'm thinking "GREAT! What happened now?" Of course, Murphy's law was running full tilt that day and the water pump in the truck decided to die (of course, it could have been worse and done it on the road on Friday rather than in the parking lot on Thursday). So I call my favorite mechanic and frantically ask how long it will take them to replace the water pump. He got us right in and had it finished by closing time (ok 20 min after closing but that was because one of the gaskets ripped and we had to have another set delivered ASAP).

Truck loaded, off we head to the other side of Lake Michigan - were we a little nervous about meeting the infamous Crone family? You bet your boots we were. :) I mean, we've been talking to each other for a LONG time but actually meeting is going to be strange. Meeting people for the first time is always a little uncomfortable, no matter how well you know each other online, that first face-to-face is a bit nerve-wracking. I'm sure the Crone's



were feeling the same way because Karen had Darrell cleaning the house top to bottom in preparation for our arrival. It was nice to know I wasn't the only one having butterflies.

The drive from Michigan to Chicago was kind of quiet, which was nice. Traffic wasn't heavy until we hit the downtown area, but this is really normal for that area and it wasn't like this was the first time we'd been there. One of our scheduled stops going through Chicago was Super Dawg - Rob had heard about them from a show



on the Travel Channel and it was decided that on our way through Chicago that we HAD to stop there and try one of their famous hot dogs. We have decided that Super Dawg is going to be a regular stop for us anytime we are in Chicago.



We decided to avoid the I-94 parking lot to continue our drive up to the Crone house. And altered our route a bit but we are sure that even though it took a little longer to

get to our destination we were a lot less stressed going the route we went.

Unfortunately there are no pictures of the first moments when The Reno's and The Crone's met. But I can tell you I will never forget it. Funny, how you can meet someone for the first time and know in that instant that you are just adding people to your family. That was exactly how it felt meeting Darrell & Karen and their wonderful children.

We spent a little time at their house getting to know each other before Darrell led us to our hotel in Gurnee. We had a couple hours to relax and get settled there while Darrell and Karen got their kids settled with their baby sitter for the evening. For dinner the five of us went to Cubby Bear - a nice sports bar that serves some very nice food. We spent the evening getting to know each other and talking about the site and plans for a gathering next summer for members to come meet each other.



Our Hosts: Darrell & Karen Crone



Above: John & Rob Reno havin' fun

Left: Darrell lines up a shot as Rob watches (Right)



Saturday morning was spent having breakfast at the Crone house. Let me tell ya this breakfast casserole that they made was INCREDIBLE and we will be harassing Karen to share the recipe. We had planned to go to a Renaissance Faire in Wisconsin for the day but the weather demanded that we find something else to do to entertain ourselves. After much searching, Karen found a place in the suburbs of Chicago called Medieval Times that does a dinner and tournament type of thing. It was decided that we

would go there. WOW!! I highly recommend that if you are in the area check this place out. Dinner was served in a Medieval Arena with the knights of the realm performing feats of skill to entertain us. What a fun time.

We had a great time with Darrell, Karen and the kids. Definitely looking forward to the next trip. - DeeDee



What a Motley Crew!!!



Rant from Da-Chief

by HMC Darrell Crone

I hope everyone is having a nice summer vacation with their children and or loved ones. I realize that "Summer Vacation" is a term that only school age and college students are able to take advantage of during the whole period, but we as family members generally will plan our family excursions during this time of year if we have some time off.



This year folks have had to make alternate plans then what they probably had projected out last year. Gasoline this year is over a dollar more a gallon then last summer at this time. Last Summer 2007, Gas was at about \$2.89 a gallon up here in Great Lakes. Today if I go down to the 7/11 it is costing \$3.89 a gallon, it has dropped from a high of \$4.50 here a two weeks ago.

I know trips are expensive, even a weekend trip can add a couple hundred dollars to a trip that you had not planned on spending. Gasoline is not the only product that is rising in price either, Per Navytimes.com:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, an arm of the Labor Department, reported July 16 that the Consumer Price Index of goods and services for urban consumers was 5 percent higher in June than at the same time a year ago, with transportation and energy costs comprising the bulk of the increase. Energy costs rose 6.6 percent in one month and are almost 25 percent greater than they were in June 2007. Transportation costs rose 3.8 percent in June and were 12 percent higher than they were a year earlier.

A second version of the CPI, which measures increases for urban wage earners and clerical workers, reported an even higher inflation rate, estimating costs were 5.6 percent higher than in June 2007.

I saw this in action earlier this month when DeeDee came to visit. We had been planning this family get-together for quite a while. I felt bad that the Reno clan were coming from Lansing all the way to the Corpsman.com HQ, and gas prices had risen so high. They came anyways and we had a wonderful time, but it just shows how much can change in our world due to current events.

Dustmans (docinthebox) in one of his articles explains how those who are stationed in the Southern California area are driving sometimes 1 ½ hours to work and back each day. Folks wanted to get a piece of the "AMERICAN DREAM" and own a house or just live in a rental in a safe neighborhood. This is eating out of their budgets.

Congress is tracking to give the military a 3.9% Pay Raise this year. President Bush had a submitted a 3.4% raise, usually they meet in the middle, but this being a election year, "Who Knows?".

Our Pay raises are based upon the *Private Sector Salaries* which are supposed to keep us in sync with our civilian counterparts. Unfortunately it does not take inflation into account. Service organizations are trying to remedy this with congress, but it is a hard uphill battle for these kinds of changes. Also remember sometimes the goose is not good for the gander, inflation is high this year, but what happens in 2 years like has happened in the past when inflation was low? Would we then be arguing because we have such a low raise?

RANT CONTINUES

Per Navy Times article:

“Over the past decade, military pay increases have been greater than inflation — as measured by the CPI survey of the cost of goods and services — in eight out of 10 years, with the exceptions being 2005 and 2006. Over the decade, military pay rose about 16.1 percentage points more than the CPI, which not only closed the pay gap but boosted troops’ purchasing power.”

You can see that we have had it good 8 out of the last 10 years. Is this year an anomaly, a correction year, or is this the way of the world now that we are on a global economy?

I for one know that I am recycling more, and really thinking about if I have to fire up the Grand Caravan to go out now to the store which is only 3 blocks away. You will find me footing it a bit more now. I also create more lists now instead of just going to get 1 item, I will wait till I have a whole list of things prior to firing up the gas guzzler.

What are you doing to help save money now? Are you conserving, or do you have a oil well outside in your back yard?

Email me @ admin1@corpsman.com and we will include your responses in next month’s newsletter.

A Few notes of interest:

Welcome home to HM1 Sean Dustmans!! He just finished his 4th I say again “4th!” tour in Iraq. Sean runs the docinthebox blog and has written stories for us on corpsman.com in the past. We are happy for his safe return and I am sure he is overjoyed to be home with his “LOVED ONES”! Congrats Sean!!

Advancement is coming soon!! If you’re a Navy Reservist, your advancement tests are coming up in August, those of you who are Active Duty should be gearing up for your tests in September. Please if you have not done so as of yet, get your Bib’s and start studying!!

We have released the August Cutting Scores for the Army on our library section. I don’t know what they mean but I am sure they are important to our Army counterparts. If you would like to educate us on this process please email me at admin1@corpsman.co so I can speak like I know what I am saying, but hey I’m tryin’!!

Well that’s it for now, keep stroking shipmates (That is a “POSITIVE” Phrase BTW”) All who have served with me, Navy, Marines, Army, Coast Guard, and Air Force are my Shipmates. I will write about this subject next month.

Da-Chief

Complete list has been posted on the website as a downloadable file - [FY09 CPO RESULTS](#)

HMC-CHIEF HOSPITAL CORPSMAN

<u>HMC-CHIEF HOSPITAL CORPSMAN</u>			6574	CHESNEY MARK	121	0078	GONZALEZ DAVI	168
			7926	CHICK MICHAEL	170	0066	GONZALEZ JAME	178
3265	ABREGO MARY L	032	3123	CHUBB ANDREW	114	6086	GORMAN TIMOTH	153
0406	AFABLE JOSEER	017	8065	CLAY MARGARET	018	7235	GREEN DENNIS	173
6951	AGRE KALIN DE	091	8140	CLEMENTS RICH	028	9054	GRIFFITH LARR	025
2982	AGUIGUI FRANC	161	0095	CODIZAL EVA M	002	2464	GRIMM CHRISTO	071
7390	AGUSTIN JESUS	006	4368	COLE HAROLD A	191	2287	GUIMARY RAQUE	138
9848	AICHELMAN JEF	211	3650	COLLINS BRAND	182	3807	GUINTO MARY J	024
1580	ALLAN JAMES M	106	8815	CONCEPCION RU	009			
8976	ALLEN COLLETT	079	9547	COOK JEFFREY	176	9493	HADLEY TREVOR	167
3513	ALVARADO MARC	204	7092	CORNUE JAMES	095	1822	HALL TONYA MA	115
5781	ANDAYA FRANCI	120	6707	COSLETT JEFFR	185	7492	HAMBRICK MICH	040
7891	ANDERSON BRIA	203	2078	COTTON MICHAE	127	5099	HARRISON KEND	000
5125	ANGEVINE LOUR	047	6466	COULOMBE MARK	085	5847	HASSAN MUHAMM	082
6510	ARCILLA FRANC	030	9922	COVITZ DANIEL	107	7653	HEBERT BENJAM	061
5321	ARGALL CLAYTO	166	5749	CRAWFORD TERE	188	6776	HEINRICH ALBE	031
5616	ARMENDARIZ LE	139	9745	CUENCA EDGAR	224	5432	HELMS JOE BIL	066
3332	ARNOLD JOSHUA	189	6702	CURRAN STEVEN	044	1163	HENDRICK JOHN	159
3417	ARP JULIE LOR	129				1931	HERRERA FIDEL	096
4986	ARREDONDO ADR	036	0745	DACOSTA RUBEN	174	8159	HERRON MARK J	004
0249	ARREDONDO CHR	229	2356	DANIELS BELIN	088	2963	HIGHFILL GREG	123
5592	AUTHIER JON C	005	1217	DATU REYNALDO	019	0415	HILL CRYSTAL	137
2981	AWA THEODORE	149	6661	DAVENPORT ROB	202	4507	HOLM ERIK MAR	223
1395	AYENI TEMITOP	181	0076	DAVIS HERMAN	197	7558	HOLT DAVID MI	090
			6076	DAVIS ROSETTA	084	1883	HOLZHAUER CAR	207
7898	BAEZ RAFAEL Z	021	2887	DEAN SHAWN	141	2979	HORGAN PATRIC	177
0988	BAIRD STUART	059	0759	DELACRUZ RYAN	136	7393	HUGHES AMANDA	122
7441	BARKER MICHAЕ	192	6539	DELMOLINO PET	142	5397	HUSBAND KEVIN	060
9687	BARTOLOME GER	049	0876	DEMPSEY JOHN	102	8092	HUTTO PHILLIP	205
1172	BASIL ANTHONY	221	8964	DENNIS JOSEPH	069	1755	HYATT CHRISTO	054
5325	BAVAS CHELSEE	235	3268	DENOMME STEVE	013			
5254	BEAMS LEANDER	108	1407	DIPIETRO MICH	099	8873	ITO STEPHEN M	105
6124	BELL DUANE LA	218	8194	DOMINGUEZ FRA	184			
2366	BENNETT RONAL	046	1791	DONALDSON CYN	026	1809	JACKSON ERIC	089
3548	BERGUM ANGELA	200	7608	DORSEY LESLEY	213	9874	JACKSON JAMES	125
0097	BERNAL ARLAN	022	2694	DUMAS DONALD	226	6649	JACKSON ROONA	064
9953	BERNARDO JUNN	196				6055	JAMERSON DEWE	212
0728	BERNARDO NEST	027	5355	EARLY MATTHEW	232	7089	JANSSSEN LEE M	098
2184	BETHEA CHARLO	128	2548	EHRHARD PATRI	135	9663	JIMENEZ MICHA	087
8774	BIRCHALL MATT	206	1126	ELLISON BRAND	210	6110	JOHNSON FLORE	124
4465	BOJORQUIZ TRO	162	1164	ENDERLE JAMES	011	3225	JOHNSON HERBE	055
5514	BOUCHER RANDY	109	8784	ESTRADA ANTON	020	2766	JOHNSON JAMES	147
4315	BOWEN TRACY S	052	3218	ETEN KEITH FR	156	6392	JORDAN JASON	023
5120	BOWMAN BOBBIA	103				7640	JUAN JERRY MO	015
6657	BOYD ROBERT L	097	0076	FARIA MARIO M	187			
4120	BOYLE MARK RO	220	9033	FELICANO ALLA	039	9169	KANESHIRO STA	217
2770	BREBONERIA JU	010	4724	FIDDLER GLENN	073	9648	KAPTUR THOMAS	001
5083	BREW BRADLEY	199	1546	FIKES SONIA R	163	4821	KAUFMAN STEVE	057
4580	BRUCE BRANDON	144	7238	FLORENCE MONI	045	8118	KERRIGAN JEFF	234
2157	BURGESS JANNI	140	7715	FLORES STEPHE	165	6614	KIDD JOHN WIL	092
1898	BURKE KENNETH	072	6539	FLOWERS TIFFA	053	9901	KING ROHAN AN	214
8701	BYNUM AMANDA	169	3892	FLOYD AMBER N	155	2007	KIRKLAND MARK	198
			7646	FORSYTH DOUGL	100	8442	KREMER ANDREW	146
0357	CADAVOS SIMEO	116	5402	FRANKLIN ELIO	048			
4356	CALIMQUIM AAR	065	7023	FRENCH JOSHUA	050	9511	LACEY NEAL DO	157
5961	CAMPBELL BRIA	104	9861	FREYTAG PHILI	180	4517	LAMB JEFFREY	134
3273	CAMPBELL KEVI	231	7385	FULINARA REYN	145	0086	LANSTRA KRIST	193
1366	CAMPBELL NICO	150				1623	LEE DESTINY	175
5655	CARBONEL LEON	219	8058	GALEGOR WILLI	172	1046	LESSNER REUBE	083
4276	CARLOS RODEL	033	1903	GALLAGHER ERI	101	0388	LIGHTCAP RAND	034
5775	CARPENTER GWY	077	9630	GALLAHER PATR	215	3145	LINARESCORIAT	133
5882	CARY ADAM BRE	209	1738	GANDY MICHAEL	230	4700	LISTA ANDY M	043
3530	CASIMIER CLIF	094	5395	GARDNER CORRI	068	1881	LOVELLO DAMIA	014
7328	CASTILLO VICT	063	7966	GENTRY THOMAS	154	3139	LOVING CHRIST	186
9655	CEDENO RUBIN	081	8389	GIBBS RAYMA N	132	4493	LOWE RAYMOND	152
9928	CHADKEWICZ DA	076	6613	GILLESPIE SIM	160			
6154	CHANCE KEVIN	078	0579	GIVENS CHARLE	190			
0028	CHAND RAJNESH	201	8200	GOLDSBOROUGH	113			
			0280	GONSORCIK WAY	194			

1255	MACCARELLI FR	070	0105	POOLE JERALD	179	5788	STEWART CORTE	006
2144	MADSEN SEAN C	035	5889	POWELL CHRIST	183	6456	STRAHL BRIAN	050
6931	MAIER STEVEN	195	0116	PRESTON PAUL	093	0065	STROHL ERNEST	016
1515	MANDAKUNIS GE	111	1070	QUIBUYEN RODE	058	7758	SULLIVAN STAC	005
5352	MANGLICMOT NO	143	3752	QUIROS AMADOR	225	7579	TABURA MICHAEL	058
4046	MANNARINO MAR	051	4170	RABOR EMILIAN	038	3453	TANJUAQUIO OS	071
5203	MANNING CHRIS	131	2977	RAGER TYSON D	025	4437	TASHIRO SABRI	054
0021	MARSH NATHAN	042	0067	RALSTON ERIC	012	6067	TAYSON DEREK	064
0137	MARTINEZ CARL	038	8797	RAMIREZ ROBER	009	3090	TELLES EDWARD	068
9945	MATHENA CHRIS	216	7502	RAYMOND SHARO	056	1907	TESTA MICHAEL	044
8122	MAY BRIAN WIL	056	9233	REDDEN STEVE	063	4600	THACKER DAVID	053
8936	MCCUNE MICHAEL	041	8867	REYES EDMOND	060	8455	THOMASON ASHL	076
0570	MCFALL CHAD E	233	7163	REYES LUIS JO	042	2079	TRUHN ALLEN L	047
8545	MCGINNIS JAME	208	1075	RIVENBURGH RO	019	4344	TUFARES ANTHO	017
8876	MCKENZIE CHRI	067	2439	ROBERSON DARR	032	9014	TURNER DAWNNA	036
5916	MILLER KELLY	086	2133	ROBINSON DAWN	011	3259	TURNER FRED C	055
7918	MILLINGTON PE	158	3833	RODRIGUEZ ERI	008	3144	VAGNONI FRANK	007
2094	MOLITOR WILLI	003	4233	ROEDER JASON	070	5320	VERNIER VAUGH	059
7583	MONTFORT CATH	037	1621	ROGERS JEFFER	034	4106	WALMER HEATHE	069
5864	MORALES WILME	119	7117	ROUSE DERRICK	035	8914	WARGO EDWARD	027
5297	MORRIS MELISS	228	5690	RUBIC ELIZA S	051	2435	WATTS ROB JAM	014
6455	MOTZ ERIC JAM	130	6785	RUSSICK BENJA	048	9464	WEATHERFORD D	024
6499	MUNIZRIVERA E	117	3926	SADALGE SANKE	057	3846	WEINMANN RICH	065
0088	NADING RONALD	075	1275	SANDERS NONA	026	5789	WELKY ROBERT	061
5182	NAPIER JAMES	222	6140	SAQUETON VALE	022	7579	WHALEY MICHAEL	046
2635	NAVARRO ALLAN	008	3564	SCHERMER MICH	045	6013	WHATLEY CARMO	066
9977	NESS CRAIG CA	029	8179	SCHMOCK BRIAN	072	5817	WHISLER JOHN	010
1515	NOBLE JASON K	112	5862	SEALS TECKOLA	030	8231	WHITAKER TIMO	043
9184	NORRIS MICHAEL	118	4070	SEIBERT AARON	067	9332	WHITE JENNIFE	040
7885	NUTT MICHAEL	110	6335	SHAEFFER TIMO	004	9476	WILLIAMS PURV	021
6058	OGLESBY JAMES	151	3337	SIBILIAMARTIN	074	2131	WILSON DAVID	029
9845	OLSON JAY ALA	164	5146	SILVA CRISTOP	049	3597	WOOD BRIAN AL	013
7668	OREILLY SHAWN	080	9437	SINON GEMMA F	023	4309	WOOD STEVEN W	001
3682	ORTIZ JULIO C	148	0442	SMART HEATHER	062	0234	WOODS JOHN LA	020
9786	OVERLIE SEAN	171	8021	SMITH KELLY M	052	4319	WRIGHT ERIC C	031
3819	PEACE TERRY E	126	5504	SMITH KOBIE R	039	3949	WYATT JIMMY L	018
4602	PEASE CHRISTO	074	3536	SOMERSALL JOH	002	6069	YOUNG MICHAEL	028
6066	PEREZ JUNIOR	012	5712	STALEY ERIC W	041	4661	YOUNG VERONYK	075
4450	PETERSON CHRI	016	2658	STARKEY TERRY	033	5313	ZIEHR DAVID L	003
1502	PHILLIPS CHRI	227	3971	STEEL JAMES R	037			
0528	PINEDO ROY A	062	4524	STEVENS JEFFR	015			
			6013	STEVENSGREEN	073			

WANTED

Deployed Docs of all services interested in receiving care packages
&

People interested in sending packages to these Docs

Docs: Email your mailing information and deployment dates

Senders: Email your name and address
to

deedee@corpsman.com

Lets show our deployed docs that we continue to support all that they do

Bits & Pieces



Summer 2008
As the weather warmed up in Arizona it was time to say goodbye to our friends and head out for greener pastures. We couldn't leave without one more visit to Filly's for some dancing. We took a big step this past winter and purchased a small winter home in a development called Dolce Vita located in Apache Junction, Arizona.



While we were here in California we had the opportunity to see Air Force One when it brought the President to Northern California for a fundraiser in Napa.



We are spending the summer in Fairfield, CA so we can be close to Ginny's Mom and her family. We are so thankful that we have the ability to stay put when it is needed. We take a break periodically and head for the Wine Country where we celebrated our 32nd Anniversary aboard the Napa Wine Train.

Hugs, Ginny & John



olddoc1

Chief asked me to write an article for the newsletter this week, so I figured I would introduce myself. My name is Carlene and I am engaged to a Doc who is currently taking a vacation to the sandbox. He is almost done with his trip and I can hardly wait for him to get back home. Before I met my Doc, I thought deployments were the scratchy black and white news clips from Vietnam...I was very VERY wrong. I know that deployments are some of the best and worse times in a relationship. The best because the time made me appreciate all of the little things about him that I took for granted, like him singing to me or calling me after work just to make sure I made it home safe. The worst because the lonely nights drag on while the days are full of wondering what he is doing, if he ate today, and hoping he is doing alright because I haven't heard from him in two weeks. Then, he calls and I am smiling for a solid week, knowing he is okay. He has the internet now, so we are able to communicate more frequently which is such a blessing. I wonder how the folks back home handled deployments before the internet. Currently, the people at the post office in town know me by name, and that when I bring a package in, it is going to my man overseas. The best part of living in a small town, everyone knows he is there and is very supportive of the troops, not necessarily the war, but they always support the troops. I wanted to end by saying thank you to the Corpsman.com family. You all have been awesome to me during this deployment, answering questions, asking about Doc, and checking on me (Thanks Corpsman Mom DeeDee ☺).

Docv'sfuturewife
 Carlene

--- On **Thu, 7/31/08**, **Terry Garlock** wrote:

From: Terry Garlock

Subject: New book by Joe Galloway and Hal Moore - We Are Soldiers Still

Date: Thursday, July 31, 2008, 9:56 AM

Anyone who knows much about the Vietnam War knows the names Joe Galloway and Lt. Gen (Ret) Hal Moore. Galloway was the correspondent snapping photos and Moore was the Colonel leading American troops in the battle of the Ia Drang Valley at LZ X-Ray in 1965. Their story was told in the movie "We Were Soldiers" based on their book "We Were Soldiers Once, and Young."

Now Galloway and Moore have collaborated to complete the sequel, "We Are Soldiers Still," a book due on the market from Harper Collins on Aug 19. I ordered my copy in advance from Amazon after Joe sent me an e-mail this morning.

I know some guys who will show up at one of the book signings on the tour schedule below, to get a new book signed and to get their old book, the first one, signed, too.

The Harper Collins link below summarizes the new book, the book tour schedule tells you where and when though I imagine it might change, and you can order the book now in advance online.

I thought a bunch of you would like to know.

Terry L. Garlock

http://harpercollins.com/books/9780061147760/We_Are_Soldiers_Still/index.aspx

THANKS Doc_Pardue for forwarding this message.

Reunion Notice

The American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsman (AAoNHC)

Annual Reunion

September 17-21, 2008

Corpus Christi, Texas

Contact Gene Pasahow (P) 361 852-8416

Email: epasahow@stx.rr.com or visit AAoNHC.org

All Corpsman (past & present) are welcome. Would love to have you join us.

Best wishes,
Awtrey Peace
HMC USN (Ret)

Enlisted medical training to consolidate at Fort Sam Houston

by Elaine Wilson

Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

7/15/2008 - **FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas (AFPN)** -- A ceremonial groundbreaking for the Medical Education and Training Campus here July 10 marked another step toward what leaders are calling the largest consolidation of training in the history of the Department of Defense.

Upon completion in 2011, the joint campus, led by tri-service leadership, will centralize all Army, Navy and Air Force basic and specialty enlisted medical training at Fort Sam Houston.

"With this institution becoming the largest in the world solely dedicated to medical training and education, San Antonio will be transformed into a national center for education and training," said keynote speaker Air Force Maj. Gen. Melissa Rank, chair, METC Flag Officer Steering Committee. "Once complete, San Antonio will be the location where every enlisted military medic is trained."

A busy construction site provided a fitting backdrop for the ceremony with campus construction already under way. Fort Sam Houston is slated to gain five instructional facilities, six dormitories, an Air Force and Navy headquarters building, dining facility, gym and lighted troop walks. The six existing Army Medical Department Center and School buildings will become part of the training campus.

Several units will then join the AMEDDC&S here to include the 882nd Training Group, currently at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas; the Naval Schools of Health Sciences in San Diego and Portsmouth, Va.; the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Ill.; and the enlisted medical training mission at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Officials predict METC's average daily student load to be more than 9,000 with a support staff at nearly 4,000 people.

"Today we celebrate a significant milestone in a proud history of professional military medicine," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Manuel Sarmina, chairman, METC Tri-Service Senior Enlisted Advisory Committee. "In the coming years, America's best and brightest will begin arriving here to work and to train in an environment that will be known and recognized as a premier learning center for our joint enlisted medical force."

The vision is to create a "collaborative, non-competitive learning environment ... that reflects, respects and preserves our separate service cultures," Chief Sarmina said. "Our different service missions, skills and capabilities combined are strengths as we strive to shape a better force for the future."

The nearly \$1 billion project, directed by Base Realignment and Closure 2005 legislation, is "by far the largest economic development project that has occurred in San Antonio to date," General Rank said. "The community will benefit from tremendous economic opportunities and the military will benefit from the heightened emphasis on quality medical care for the American war fighters and their Families."

Military leaders from each service will continue striving for excellence as the consolidated center turns from vision to reality, the general said.

"In this project, we truly are beginning with the end in mind -- achieving our vision of METC as the nation's leader in military medical education and training and the mission of graduating the world's best military health-care personnel to support the nation," she said. "We are stepping out with each endeavor as if the future of the armed forces depends on our getting it right."



(From left) Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, commander, Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Department Center and School, and member, Medical Education and Training Campus Flag Officer Steering Committee; Air Force Maj. Gen. Melissa Rank, assistant Air Force surgeon general, and chair, METC Flag Officer Steering Committee; and Navy Rear Adm. Gregory Timberlake, member, METC Flag Officer Steering Committee, participate in the METC groundbreaking ceremony July 10 at the future site of the tri-service enlisted medical training campus at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. (U.S. Army Photo)

From: angie wacker
Sent: Tuesday, July 08, 2008 11:40 PM
Subject: My moving experience for today, you all should read this....

I want to share something exceptional that happened to my mom and I today with all of you. It goes to show that people still really do care about other people out there, even a stranger they meet in public.

My Mom and I took John and Bonnie out to get their pictures done at the mall here where I live. Pictures got done and we had about an hour to kill until they were ready. It was past lunchtime, but before dinner so the Ruby Tuesdays in the mall was pretty empty. Yep, it's a pretty expensive place, but they have killer ribs and chicken, and we really didn't want to venture far. The host sat us and Mom ran out to the truck to get John's car seat so he could snooze while we ate after I fed him. I sat with Bonnie and John while Mom ran out, and a lady and her daughter in the booth next to us smiled and said hello to me. I said hello to her and she said "Wow, got your hands full huh?" and I laughed and nodded my head. A little bit of small talk about the kids and their ages ensued, as it's pretty obvious John is brand new. She saw my wedding ring on my finger and asked me where my husband was, (and before any of you yell at me about op-secs, don't worry, I didn't say anything specific, like I know anything anyways.) and I just said "Iraq." She asked me when he was going to be home and I said I didn't have a clue, asked what branch he was and what he did, and I very politely answered. The lady was wiping tears from her eyes and choking up, which in turn kind of made me choke up a bit. She asked me how I was doing and I was honest with her, that I was very glad my Mom was here to help and I would figure out the rest when it came time for her to leave later this week. She told me to thank my husband for what he does and the sacrifices he makes for us all, and thanked me "because the spouses sacrifice just as much" and "Your children are beautiful and God Bless" I thanked her and wished her a great day, didn't really know what else to say. The lady sniffled and dabbed her eyes one last time before their meal came. I tend to think someone she knew is over there or lost their life over there as emotional she was.

Mom and I ate our meal and talked of course and the lady left long before we did. Our waitress came and took our empty plates and said "I wasn't supposed to tell you this until she left, but the lady sitting across from you paid for your dinners." I was instantly floored. The meal was easily \$30-\$40 for the three of us, if not more. My Mom was shocked, and I almost started to cry. My Mom looked at me and said "Remember this and repay the act to someone else down the road."

I cannot think of a better way to remember what one stranger, in a restaurant, did for another stranger. It goes to prove that there are still good people out there who still care.

SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVIN IS EASY

Greetings from Doc's Desk,

We're back in the "Good Ole Summertime" and the desire to get out and enjoy the good weather is so tempting. If you live in the great Northwest summer has finally arrived and it feels HOT!! Two incidents that have happened, causing me to write this article, bring out the dangers in our summer fun.

My ambulance went on a call this past week, responding to a motorcycle accident. The riders involved were enjoying a pleasant ride when a deer ran in front of them. Needless to say they both had bad injuries. These could have been lessened if they had had proper gear on. I have to shake my head in wonder every time I see someone riding a "bike" in T-shirt, shorts and sneakers. Of course even more amazing are those folks that have on full helmet, heavy jacket, gloves, shorts and sneakers. Road rash is a nasty thing.

All of us that have been in the Corps have seen our share of injuries, death and destruction. We don't need to go through all of that and get our selves wiped out trying to look cool so please dress right to ride. A new pair of pants costs a lot less than several layers of skin.

The second incident concerns the use of sun block. I saw a young man that had 2nd degree burns on his back from laying out in the sun. A good tan looks wonderful but it will probably be several days if not a week before he could probably wear a t-shirt and even longer before he stops peeling and itching. Having fallen asleep at a steel beach picnic, in the med, during summer, I can tell you from personal experience that a sunburn like that HURTS.

As a final note for this month, remember that lawn mowers eat fingers and toes. We all get blasé about wearing decent shoes, etc when doing lawn work. It only takes one quick slip and we go through life a little "short handed".

Be careful and enjoy the summer months. Have a great time.

Doc Higgins

Outward Bound, an international non-profit outdoor education program, is offering fully funded outdoor adventure excursions to all OEF/OIF veterans. It doesn't matter what your current military status is (active, inactive, discharged, retired) - you're eligible to attend as long as you deployed in support of OEF/OIF combat operations while in the military.

FREE: Outward Bound Veterans Wilderness Expeditions <http://www.outwardboundwilderness.org/veterans.html>

Through generous funding by the Military Family Outdoor Initiative Project, a joint partnership of The Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation, we are offering a tremendous opportunity for adventure and self-discovery to our veterans of combat operations in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom) and Southwest Asia (Operation Iraqi Freedom).

We have scheduled numerous wilderness adventures exclusively for our war veterans and we will fully fund these courses for all participants, to include their roundtrip travel costs between home and the excursion site. Our goals include helping participating veterans build a supportive community with other war veterans; facilitating discussions on readjustment and transition challenges; and re-energizing and reinvigorating our veterans' spirits with adventures and challenges in the beautiful outdoors. All expenses are paid on behalf of participants by the Military Family Outdoor Initiative Project, a joint project of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation.

Expedition Overview: Offered year-round, our Outward Bound Expeditions take war veterans to amazing wilderness areas in Maine, Minnesota, Colorado, Texas, and California. Depending on the expedition, activities could include backpacking, mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing, ropes courses, and dog sledding. Expeditions are 5 days in length and are staffed with experienced outdoor educators.

Who is Eligible: Under this program, all Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans, including current and former members of the Active and Reserve Components of the United States military. It doesn't matter what your current military status is (active, inactive, discharged, retired) as long as you deployed in support of OEF or OIF combat operations while in the military.

Cost: Free-of-charge. All costs, including round-trip travel between home and expedition location; lodging en route; and food, lodging, equipment, and instruction while on the course, are fully paid by the Military Family Outdoor Initiative Project.

Outward Bound Veterans Wilderness Expeditions brochure - <http://www.sierraclub.org/military/partners/OBVeteransTrifoldScreen.pdf>

Any U.S. military veteran, regardless of current military status, who has deployed in support of OIF/OEF, is eligible to attend this program. Veterans of HOA, Somalia, and the Gulf War may also be eligible.

Outward Bound also hopes to recruit veterans to work as instructors. 'The goal is to have a field staff where there is a vet on every course,' said Meg Ryan, director for Outward Bound's veterans programs. <http://www.outwardboundwilderness.org/jobs.html> For more information on Field Staff Positions, visit http://www.outwardboundwilderness.org/field_jobs.html

Occasionally, Outward Bound Wilderness seeks assistance from dedicated volunteers who step up and help with a variety of tasks. Without these wonderful and much appreciated volunteers, various events and office functions would be more difficult and timely to manage. For more information on Volunteer Opportunities, visit <http://www.outwardboundwilderness.org/volunteer.html>

All expenses for the Outward Bound Veterans Expedition are paid on behalf of participants by the Military Family Outdoor Initiative Project, a joint project of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation. Please consider making a gift donation today to support their efforts to send military families to camp. <http://www.sierraclub.org/military/donate.asp>

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http://www.jeffconews.com/Articles-i-2008-05-15-206616.114125_Outward_Bound_to_help_veterans.html

Outward Bound to help veterans

Wilderness program set to receive grant aimed at aiding returning vets

By Meredith Knight , May 15, 2008

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Other Sierra Club partners assisting military families:

National Military Family Association (NMFA) Operation Purple http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=op_default
<http://www.sierraclub.org/military/partners/op.asp>

Operation Purple camps offer a free week of summer fun for military kids with parents who have been, are currently, or will be deployed. In 2008, about 100 weeks of camps will be held at 62 locations in 37 states and territories. These free, week-long, overnight camps are open to all military children. The program aims to help military kids experience carefree fun while also learning coping skills to deal with war-related stress and fostering relationships with others who know what they are going through. (Unfortunately summer is almost over so the 2008 registration has closed in most locations for this year.)

Some of the camps may be able to accommodate and welcome volunteers. Please contact the camp of interest directly to inquire about volunteer opportunities. NMFA is a largely volunteer based organization and also offers opportunities to volunteer. Please visit the "Volunteer" section of NMFA's website at www.nmfa.org for more information about volunteer opportunities.

Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) - <http://www.asymca.org/a3.html>
<http://www.sierraclub.org/military/partners/ymca.asp>

ASYMCA runs more than 150 programs around the world to ease the burden of the families of junior-enlisted military personnel. Some are carried out at single ASYMCA branch locations. Others operate at multiple branch locations and are customized to meet the specific needs of that community. Various programs are designed specifically for military spouses, military children, and military families. The Sierra Club is working with the ASYMCA to provide unique outdoor camping experiences for military families and the children of service members. By the end of 2008, through their partnership with the ASYMCA, the Sierra Club's Military Family Outdoor (MFO) Initiative will have sent nearly 4,000 military kids and families to camps in 12 different states from California to Maine.

A Joint PGR and Corpsman.com Tribute

By: Dvldocjoe

Many on this site-- Corpsman.com-- know me as Dvldocjoe. I found Corpsman.com while looking up Corpsman on the internet. I joined the Navy in November of 1996 from the Washington D.C. area. Some of my duty stations included FMTB Camp Pendleton, NSHS Surgical Tech. in San Diego, and two ships among others. I have had the pleasure of working in both of the green and blue sides of the Navy.

I currently live in Hemet, California which is about 75 miles northeast of San Diego. In October of 2005, HN Charles "Otter" Sare from Hemet was killed while serving in Iraq. At that time, I knew of the death but didn't get involved. This past week through the site I learned that another service member from Hemet, HN Marc Retmier, had been killed while serving in Afghanistan. I contacted Da-Chief and Tony to find out how I could help the family and was referred to the local Patriot Guard Riders information link.

I was hesitant to get involved since I didn't know the family or had not known Marc personally so I looked at the tribute to Marc at the L.A. Times and the messages left on his page on MySpace. His was an example of an exemplary Corpsman doing his job in many ways. On his tributes, it seemed like he always had a positive attitude and was well respected by many of his peers and instructors on and off of the job. Marc demonstrated daily in his actions the honor, courage, and commitment the life lessons so many of us can take for granted daily. I felt that I had to do something to honor a fallen hero who had reminded me what the core values were all about.

I looked online at the mission statement of the Patriot Guard Riders to find out what their organization was about. The posted itinerary for the escort from March ARB to Corona del Mar was listed so I looked at the details and we decided to go meet at the briefing site to get further details. My spouse and I arrived in our car to find several members with their motorcycles from the PGR in a briefing.

They quickly asked us who we were and if we had been there before. We were graciously welcomed by several members. We were given a set of dog tags with his information to wear to honor our fallen comrade and the mission of the PGR was explained along with the how the escort ride would be conducted. Originally, we decided we would just do a salute at the main gates of the air base. After listening to several PGR members talk of the escort missions they had done, we decided to go along and a yellow PGR flag was attached to our car window.

The riders formed up in lines along the side of the main gate of the base with our car and an escort van behind them. A hand salute from the riders was rendered by the Honor Line as the "coach" passed by with the family following. The riders fell in with the coach which was being followed by family members and friends as we waited to join at the end of the line. A group of riders moved behind the line of vehicles and we were the first "cage" or car as the members say behind the line. The purpose of the car and escort van is to protect the riders from someone coming up from behind or cutting into the line while they were frequently slowing down or speeding up while the group went almost sixty miles from Moreno Valley over busy California freeways to Corona del Mar. The PGR riders were able to effectively keep traffic out of the line and keep the group together for the trip.

Once we arrived at the Memorial Park, the line of vehicles went to park while the PGR formed a Flag Line on both sides of the walkway and six of us who are Navy veterans waited near the coach. I was honored to be positioned on the left side as a pallbearer for our fallen brother. The flag draped casket was rendered honors by his friend HN Steven Holmes and the Flag Line as it was moved from the coach to the inside of the mortuary. The PGR members comforted the family and presented the family with two coins while inside of the mortuary.

I will never forget this experience and my ability to help when needed as a fellow corpsman. May God Bless his family and friends for their loss.

Corpsmen who served with 1st Marine Expeditionary Force units in the battle for Baghdad celebrate their return home inside The Strand Bar in Ocean-side, Calif., Oct. 23, 2003.

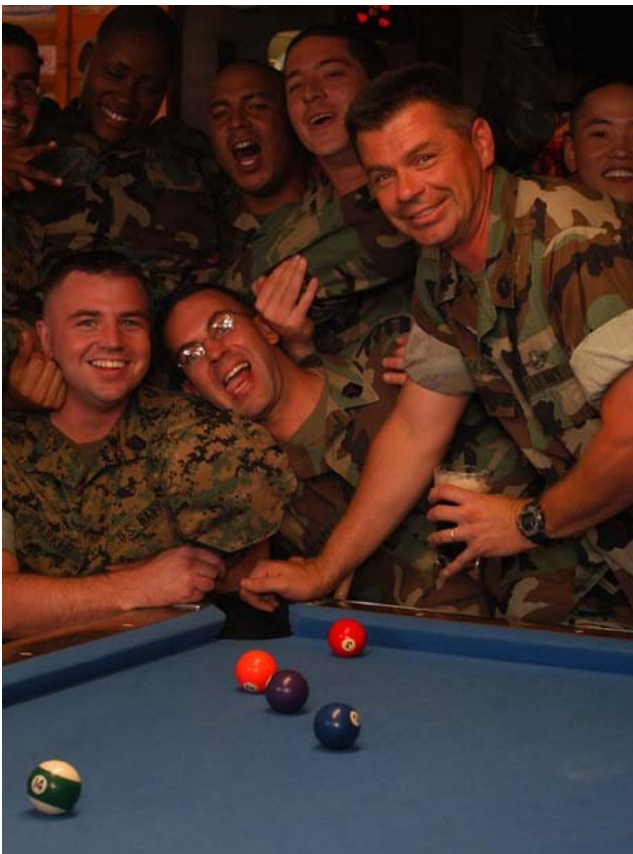
The Docs had just finished marching in a military appreciation parade sponsored by San Diego North County citizens, civic and business leaders. Leaders authorized the Marines and Sailors a rare pass to wear their cammies out in town for the evening. A good time was had by ... all?

*****Unfortunately, The Strand Bar closed its doors for good on June 28, 2008, due to the economic impact and loss of business from their military regulars who now spend little time at their home base at Camp Pendleton.**

Photos by former Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Hevezi, USMC, photojournalist

For a few more photos of the historic day please see the following link:

http://www.pbbase.com/hevezimj/oceanside_parade&view=slideshow



If you know who the men in these pictures are please contact Da-Chief - admin1@corpsman.com

I OWE MY MOTHER

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL . "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me LOGIC . " Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident ."
7. My mother taught me IRONY. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS . "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM . "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER . "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY. "If I told you once, I've told you a million times: Don't exaggerate!"
13. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE . "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION. "Stop acting like your father!"
15. My mother taught me about ENVY . "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION . "Just wait until we get home."
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING . "You are going to get it when you get home!"
18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE . "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."
19. My mother taught me ESP. "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"
20. My mother taught me HUMOR . "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
22. My mother taught me GENETICS. "You're just like your father."
23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS . "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"
24. My mother taught me WISDOM. "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
25. And my favorite: My mother taught me about JUSTICE . "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you

THANKS Doc_Pardue for the laughs

Birth Announcement

Welcome Aboard

John Warren Wacker
July 1, 2008
6 lbs 4 oz - 21 inches

Parents:
Benjamin & Angie Wacker

