

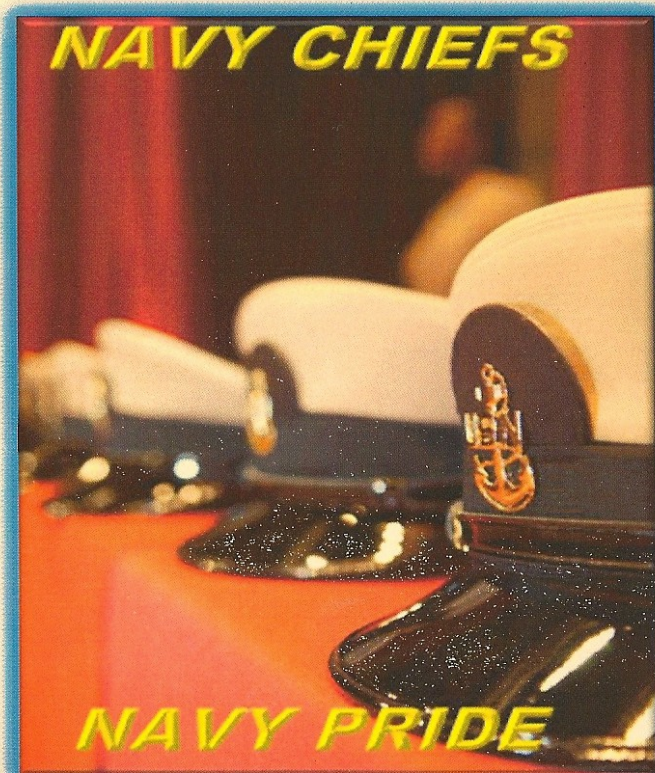


Scuttlebutt

Sept 2008

A Newsletter for Doc's of all Services!

Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony



"DECKPLATE LEADERSHIP"

September 16, 2008

2008 Chief Petty Officers

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If you have anything to submit for the newsletter please email to:
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Veteran to Veteran

I served from 1965 thru 1971. In 1967 I did a WesPac tour, serving off the coast of both North and South Viet Nam. Like everybody else that I served with, I gave no thought to getting out until that day came. I started getting little signs, signals and symptoms that something was wrong in 1970 while on inactive reserve.

By 1983 I had big problems and someone suggested to me that I should go see the [Veterans Administration](#) because they knew how to deal with service personnel. This was a big mistake on my part and it would take me another decade to find out why.

In 1992 I ran into another Viet Nam Vet who told me that I had made a big mistake trying to talk to the [VA](#) directly. He told me that the VA has no responsibility to tell me what my rights, benefits or responsibilities are. He was absolutely right.

He told me to call the [DAV](#) ([Disabled American Veterans](#)), pay for a life membership and file the same claim with one of their Service Officers. That's what he had done and it worked for him.

What nobody told me while I was in service was that if I joined while serving, the membership would have been free for one year and I could have taken a short [DAV](#) briefing to find out what the [DAV](#) does for the Veteran.

After the first year there is a life-time fee of \$250.00. If you need medical services it will be the best investment that you will ever make.

I joined, filed a claim and by 1995 I was awarded an 80 percent disability and by 1996 it changed to 100 percent.

The [VA](#) rules are complex and tedious which will frustrate the Veteran but not the [DAV](#). That's what they do and they do it well.

The lesson took me 30 years to learn and that lesson is that "If you don't ask the question, the answer is always no . . . If you get a representative (who knows what he/she is doing) to ask the question, the answer will be better than no."

Join while you are in and get your command to invite a [DAV](#) Rep to come out and explain what they do. It will be worth it, even if you never have to use their services.

Richard Diaz
USS Eaton DD-510
1967

Have a web site you would like to share?

Have something/someone you are looking for?

Have a special talent you would like to tell us about?

C'mon email me - editor@corpsman.com

I can make sure it gets into the next edition of Scuttlebutt

Rant from Da-Chief by HMC Darrell Crone

My Rant for Aug-Sept 2008

Where to start, lots going on right now here on Corpsman.com and in the world the last 2 months, sometimes it's hard to wrap your brain around all that goes on in everyday life.

Time was spent getting kids ready for school. Supplies had to be purchased, as well as clothes for them to wear.

I remember the days when I was young when a new pair of Converse Sneakers (Which by the way made me jump higher and run faster than before) and some clean new jeans was the order of the day. I was done with my School supplies. The Schools gave us all our supplies because, heck, my parents paid taxes and that as just how it worked back in the 70's.. We didn't have Nintendo's, X-box's, MP3 Players etc..

What I did have was great engine on my Bicycle.. A playing card strapped to my forks on my bike which would rub against my spokes as I rode.. Ohh the ingenuity.

Not today..

Today my kids are now downstairs fooling around with their Nintendo DS's.. (All of em now have one), while watching Dad's 48 Inch Plasma TV, which displays over a bazillion stations (Thanks Comcast).

This is not to say my kids aren't deserving. They are. Heck my oldest daughter is doing Pre-Algebra in 4th Grade.. "FOURTH GRADE!!!" Hell I didn't start "PRE-ALGEBRA" until I was going into 7th or 8th Grade!! I never really could grasp the whole "Why am I using letters for numbers when we have enough numbers to go around?"

But my daughter can do it.. Problem is.. When she needs help with her ALGEBRA next year or so.. What is Dad going to do?? Is there a "ALGEBRA HOTLINE"???
Ok I digress..

Costs were way up this month getting em ready to go as I am sure yours were as well if you have kids in school. We pay for the clothes, we pay school fees (I thought I paid taxes for this but I must be wrong) and if they are in sports.. Hell I pay another fee, Band... you guessed it.. another fee.. (Where are my taxes going anyways?)

Things are a lot more complex these days..

I just want to go back to riding my rocket bike..



(Not Me BTW, Snagged this on google, Nice Jammies though!)

Social Security Announces Earnings For Military Service

WASHINGTON - In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel.

If you earned military pay while on active duty since 1957 (including active duty time for training), Social Security taxes were paid on those earnings. And since 1988, inactive duty service in the reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security. Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training, but not for inactive (reserve) duty training.

If you served on active duty...

- * From 1957 through 1967, the Social Security Administration will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.

- * From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.

- * After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

How You Get Credit For Special Extra Earnings The information that follows applies only to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001. Here's how the special extra earnings are credited on your record:

Service from 1957 through 1977:

You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service from 1978 through 2001:

For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings.

Check with Social Security for details.

For more information visit the [Social Security Administration's](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) website.

VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.CORPSMAN.COM

PURPLE SUIT

In 1982-1985 I had the wonderful/onerous/disgusting/fun duty station of working at BUMED. I worked in the Manpower Division. We had numerous discussions about the “Purple Suiters” (personnel trained in a central training site but would work with all the services) For the entire three years that I was there we constantly argued with the Pentagon, Chief BUMED, the Air Force and our direct bosses against going to a joint training command, handling the enlisted medical training for all the services. I now read in the military news that this has in fact come to fruition. In our own shop we debated the pros and cons of a joint command like this and tried within the bureaucracy to figure out, if why, how or, if not, why not to do this.

There is no doubt that a joint command like this would eventually save money, maybe, but at the same time we could not understand how the three services, with different field medical requirements, could possibly have their separate requirements taken care of by a single curriculum. If they are doing a basic course (alright students, this is a band aid!) and then after graduation sending them to more advanced classes (alright students, this is an ace wrap) and finally on to service specific training (Navy: alright Doc, now after removing the appendix and closing the abd cavity. . . ., Army, now you medics make sure the tourniquet is tight on the arm and get them in the helo ASAP, Air Force: Now ladies and gentlemen, before getting out of your lounge chair, make sure the espresso machine is turned off, the video recorder is on and then call the ER to have a doctor come over. . . .). This type of training regime could take the course that Corpsmen take now over a period of several months and turn it into a year long evolution. I can only guess that the Army could be in a similar situation of needing personnel right now but not getting them until right then.

It makes you wonder where the next combined training command will come from. Will they do away with NAS Pensacola and TOPGUN and train all pilots in one area? Will it become Rate specific- SEABEES go to Fort Belvoir for engineering training, etc???? It makes me glad that I can consider myself a member of the “Old Corps”. I may be old fashion but sometimes change is not necessarily good.



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

Fact Sheet

April 2008

Disability Compensation — 2008 Rates

10 percent . . . \$117	60 percent . . . \$921
20 percent . . . 230	70 percent . . . 1,161
30 percent . . . 356	80 percent . . . 1,349
40 percent . . . 512	90 percent . . . 1,517
50 percent . . . 728	100 percent . . . 2,527

Effective 12/1/07

Additional Payments for Dependents

Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated at 30 percent or more are entitled to additional allowances for dependents. Depending upon the disability rating of the veteran, monthly allowances for a spouse range from \$42 to \$142 and for a dependent child, \$28 to \$96. Additional amounts are provided for each additional child and there is a higher scale for children in school after age 18.

Other Major Factors Affecting Payment Levels

Adjustments to rates are based on a number of factors in addition to dependents. Among factors that can have a significant effect on amounts are:

- Veterans with severe service-connected disabilities may receive compensation at a basic rate as high as \$7,232 per month. Various special monthly compensation rates apply when a veteran experiences loss or loss of use of one or more limbs; loses one or more of the senses of sight, hearing or speech; or experiences loss of a reproductive organ or its use, or loss of breast tissue by a female veteran.
- Allowances may be made for veterans requiring aides, such as bedridden individuals who need assistance with eating, bathing or certain other activities of daily living. This adjustment is referred to as “aid and attendance.”

- More -

Disability Compensation 2/2/2/2

- Veterans whose service-connected disability leaves them unable to maintain gainful employment may meet criteria for allowances at the 100 percent compensation rate under a benefit called “individual unemployability.” A veteran with a single service-connected disability may be eligible if the veteran's disability is rated at 60 percent or more. A veteran with multiple disabilities may be eligible if the veteran has a combined rating of 70 percent or more and at least one of the disabilities is individually rated 40 percent or higher.

Facts About VA Disability Compensation

Disability compensation for veterans is not subject to federal or state income tax. About 80 percent of veterans receive their VA benefits by direct deposit, which VA recommends for security reasons.

Veterans are rated at increments of 10 percent reflecting degree of disability. As federal regulations summarize the underlying principle, “The percentage ratings represent as far as can practicably be determined the average impairment in earning capacity resulting from such diseases and injuries and their residual conditions.”

The largest category of veterans on the compensation scale is at 10 percent disability (\$117 per month), with 784,000 veterans at this rate at the beginning of fiscal year 2008 among the total 2.8 million veterans receiving disability compensation.

The criteria for rating the severity of various disabilities are available online at http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/38cfr4_04.html. As medical knowledge, laws and procedures change, VA regularly publishes proposed changes to these criteria in the *Federal Register* for public comment before a final regulation is adopted.

Where a veteran has more than one disability, the percentages are not simply added together to produce a new rating. Instead, a formula described in federal regulations calculates the overall rating.

A veteran may be rated at zero percent, meaning there is evidence of the service-connected condition, but it does not impair the veteran. An example is a minor scar. This zero percent rating, though not compensable, can be beneficial, since it may raise the veteran's priority in other VA programs such as health care eligibility. In addition, it may be reviewed for a higher rating if the condition worsens.

A veteran may have a number of disabilities individually evaluated as zero percent which produce a 10 percent combined disability and entitle the veteran to disability compensation. At the beginning of fiscal year 2008, there were more than 13,190 veterans in the category of “compensable zero” ratings.

- More -

Disability Compensation 3/3/3/3

There were 838,141 new and reopened claims requiring a disability rating received from veterans in fiscal year 2007, an average of 69,845 claims filed per month.

Among veterans on the rolls, the largest category of service-connected disabilities is musculoskeletal problems, accounting for about 40 percent of all disabilities. This includes such problems as impairment of the knee and arthritis due to trauma. Data on the number and type of disabilities are published annually (<http://www.vba.va.gov/reports.htm>).

Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment

A cost-of-living increase is included in the President's budget proposal released early each calendar year. It is part of the spending forecast and appropriations request for the ensuing fiscal year, a starting point for legislative discussion. However, the actual percentage increase is set through a separate bill debated by Congress and usually signed into law the following fall.

Legislators are not bound by any specific annual Consumer Price Index formula, but historically have chosen to mirror the percentage given to Social Security recipients. The Social Security increase, in turn, is based on a Bureau of Labor Statistics calculation of the rise in the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W).

Cost of living adjustments become effective December 1 each year and are reflected in the payment received by veterans on or about the first day of the new year. Whenever a payment falls on a holiday or weekend, as is the case with the January 1 payment each year, that month's payment is issued the last prior business day.

#

In this season of giving, Sears is enabling America to thank you for all of the sacrifices that you make for our country by fulfilling the wishes of your family this holiday season.

Sears created the Heroes at Home Wish RegistrySM so that the American public can help make your family's wishes come true during this holiday season. The idea is simple. Sears will feature the wish lists of selected military families and will allow American to fulfill those wishes by purchasing and donating Sears gift cards.

It's easy for you to be included. Simply go to www.sears.com/wish and provide the basic information requested between August 27th and September 17, 2008. Sears will review your information and verify you meet eligibility requirements.

Donations made to the wish registry are not tax deductible. 100% of donations to the wish registry will be used to purchase Sears gift cards for Heroes at Home Wish Registry participants. Participation in the registry does not guarantee that you will receive a gift. In the event registries hit their maximum amount, the USO will receive any additional funds from the Heroes at Home Wish Registry. Other Terms and Conditions apply; please see www.sears.com/wish for full program details.

About the USO: For more than 66 years, the USO (United Service Organizations) has been providing morale, welfare and recreational services to U.S. military personnel and their families. The USO is a nonprofit, charitable organization, relying on the generosity of the American people to support its programs and services.

Go to www.sears.com/wish and learn how you can help fulfill the wishes of your loved ones this holiday season.

Thanks Doc_D for sharing this with us.

WHAT IS THE HEROES AT HOME PROGRAM?

The Heroes at Home Program enables America to thank its military heroes and their families for the sacrifices they make for our country. The program provides support to members, veterans and their families through joint efforts with various nonprofit organizations.

WHAT IS THE HEROES AT HOME WISH REGISTRY?

We know you're going to be away from your family members this holiday season, so we'd like to help you fulfill wishes for them back home. Sears created the Wish Registry program so that the American public can help make your family's wishes come true during the holiday season. Between November 2, 2008 and December 25, 2008, Sears will feature eligible military personnel, their families and the items on their wish lists on the Wish Registry, and will invite America to fulfill these wishes by purchasing and donating a Sears gift card. **Donations made to the Wish Registry are not tax deductible.** Please click [here](#) for additional program details.

HOW CAN YOU BE INCLUDED?

It's easy; start by completing the fields indicated below, review the Terms & Conditions and click "Submit." After you have submitted your application, Sears will review it to verify that you meet eligibility requirements, which include being on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or United States Coast Guard between August 25, 2008 through December 25, 2008 with a U.S. mailing address or related U.S. APO address. This legal mailing address is where your gift card will be mailed. Your pay grade must be E6 or below. Please review the full Terms & Conditions before deciding whether to participate. The Terms & Conditions can be found by clicking [here](#). Please note that participation in the Registry is no guarantee that you will receive a gift card.

Bits and Pieces

CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

Most Dangerous Chocolate Cake Recipe in the World

1 Coffee Mug
4 tablespoons flour (plain flour, not self-rising)
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons baking cocoa
1 egg
3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons oil
3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
Small splash of vanilla

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly.

Pour in the milk and oil and mix well.

Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla, and mix again.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!

Allow to cool a little, and turn onto a plate and enjoy

This can serve 2 people, if you want to share!

And why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world?
Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!

SEARCHING FOR. . . .

What I'd like is to maybe get in touch with any other Corpsmen, or Marines, who served with me during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, from the periods August 12, 1989, to January 1990. The unit was 1ST CEB, at the frontal post at Al Jubail, then Al Kafji. My DD-214 does not indicate my presence there at all, so now I'm left to prove that I was there. For anyone who might remember, I was the Doc who opened fire in a hot camp because some of my Marines were poking at the sand at a snake. Luckily, I was not busted because the C.O., said "Doc, you were trying to protect your Marines." Some names I remember are HN Benitez, and HM3 Cantu, that's all. Hope someone can help.

Thanks again,
HMO Cano (former) FMF, DOC
canosing1@aol.com

Members meeting Members

If you have had the opportunity to meet other members of Corpsman.com PLEASE email editor@corpsman.com and include pictures as well as any information about the member you met.

This Month . . .

Citrus finally meets DeeDee & family

After lots of conversations on the Corpsman.com website and during bootcamp & Corps School.

Citrus is currently attending FMTB at Camp Johnson, NC and DeeDee's son Dan is stationed at Camp Lejeune just down the road. While visiting Dan during Labor Day weekend, DeeDee sent Citrus a text message to see what his schedule was just in case they could manage to get together. Less than one hour before they were scheduled to head back north to Michigan, Citrus sent DeeDee a message - he was going to be able to get over to Camp Lejeune for a quick visit. It was nice to get the opportunity to meet this young Corpsman and a couple of his classmates.

It is always fun to put real people to the names on the website. Just wait til the next trip south, when we get to meet CrazyCajun and his family.



Adopt-A-Doc

In July I received this email - You can just imagine how it made me feel. I wanted to share with you what has been going on "behind the scenes" with the Adopt-A-Doc program from Corpsman.com
DeeDee

I was given your web site from Amber Hansen, the wife of a USN corpsman who is a resident at Camp Pendleton Wounded Warrior Battalion. I have been the "quilt lady" for the WWB since it opened in August 2006. They cover each bed with a homemade quilt and upon discharge, take their quilt with them so replacements are needed. I correspond with >200 quilters and quilting guilds across the country to coordinate getting those replacement quilts sent for inventory. During this time I also started sending packages to troops on the sand, both Iraq and Afghanistan. I'm not looking for someone to be a pen pal with me, just for me to be able to make five minutes difference in some creature comfort. I'm currently down to only one address and he is returning home from Iraq in about a month. My husband was a Seal Team member in Vietnam and a federal firefighter at San Clemente Island. He passed away four years ago after having saved our house from the Cedar fire. His EMT and paramedic training as a firefighter made him have high regard for the corpsmen and he would certainly approve of my actions here.

Is there a possibility of getting a connection for me to send packages. What I include in them (varies upon what I find in store)

- Clean socks
- Microwave popcorn
- Disposable razors
- Energy bars (no chocolate during hot months)
- Individually wrapped candy
- Jerky in lunch box size packages
- Chocolate milk (in brik-pak boxes that don't need refrigeration)
- Unscented hand lotion & sun block
- Handi-wipes for waterless cleaning
- Magazines (road & track, popular mechanics, popular science, American rifleman, my police magazines etc)
- Jelly belly beans in electrolyte replacement flavors
- Crystal light packets to flavor water bottles

After that it's whatever strikes my fancy. One fellow requested flea collars to put around his ankles for sand fleas in Afghanistan. I've recently heard that Skin So Soft is also very popular so I'm looking for a source.

If you want to check with the WWB at Camp Pendleton about me, it would be fine. Contact SSgt Sebastian Maselli at Sebastian.maselli@gmail.com or SSgt Stringer at timothy.stringer@usmc.mil

I've been delivering quilts there for two years now and last tax season I went there every Thursday to prepare taxes for the residents & staff at no charge. Sending packages seemed like a simple extension of what I do stateside. I've only heard back from one or two, but don't need to - they are too busy over there. I just want to make life a little better.

Thank you for your assistance with this request
Therese Thomas

So, an email conversation commenced between myself and Therese. I sent her the current list of adoptees and then things REALLY got rolling. We received a few new additions to the list which were promptly forwarded to Therese. She shared the names with some of her alumni friends and then with her quilters. Here is a message she received from them and forwarded to me:

The quilters are really following through!! I told her that I had shipped stuff to the first five, so they started w/ #6. Just sent her the new name you supplied. Wonder if the guys will get too much? Nah, not possible.

I just wanted to update the guild members about our service project yesterday.

We had enough items donated (or cash to go shopping) to fill 9 boxes. We also had enough donations to pay for all the postage. :)

I shipped the boxes today to 9 of the 14 names that were on the list. We will collect more items at our next meeting and ship to the other 5 then.

Just to give you an idea.....each box included a minimum of the following items and weighed approx. 10 lbs.

2 pairs of new socks
a novel, a magazine and a crossword puzzle book or Suduko book
9 granola bars, power/energy bars, fruit bars
3 package microwave popcorn
12 quarts of lemonade mix
4 Kool-Aid mixes
2 Gatorade mixes
1 carton Nestle chocolate milk (specially treated to not need refrigeration)
4 packages of potato chips - individual serving size
4 packages of gum - each a different flavor
6 packages of fruit snacks - individual serving size
1 package of Fig Newtons - individual size
1 bag of pretzels - individual size
bag of hard peppermint candies
bag of Tootsie Rolls
40 count package of Handi Wipes
1 Carmex chap stick
3 Hefty slider lock style bags (like Ziplocs) 2 1/2 gallon size
(the soldiers like these bags to store their boots, clothes, etc. in while they sleep to help avoid the scorpions, spiders, etc.)

the above items were also packages in quart and gallon sized Ziplocs which the soldiers will reuse to store toiletries, etc. to help protect from sand, fleas, ants, etc.

some of the boxes also had sunscreen, lotions, games, decks of cards, etc. depending on what was donated

Thank you again for all your generous donations of items and cash. We were able to mail to 9 of the 14 soldiers on the list. I will bring 5 boxes to the next meeting so we can ship to the others. Each of these soldiers is serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and has not received any care packages during their tour of duty. The names were provided by a chaplain who knows these men would be very grateful for our support.

Any questions?
Melissa Trunick

New message received on 18 Sept 2008:

[Can you believe this Girl Scout troop? I've sent them my list of included items and the latest, revised, list of names. As you feed me more names, I'll shoot them to her.](#)
[Therese](#)

Hi Therese,

We have committed to 45 care packages and I was wondering if you had the list of items to put in the boxes in a .doc format. I'd like to email the list out and some of the ladies have problems with attachments.

We would like to ship them all in November if possible. We will have some girls make neck snakes and some troops will fill the boxes. The local Post Office was really nice and gave me everything you recommended so we can ship over-seas.

Thank you so much. Everyone is so excited to do this.
Alyssa Navapanich

So, there you go. Just a little taste of what is going on in the Adopt-A-Doc program. If you are deployed, deploying or know someone who is and would like to be on the receiving end of care packages sent by people who just want to offer support. Email me - deedee@corpsman.com with your complete mailing address and PLEASE be sure to include your expected return date so we can make sure that packages aren't returned because you are back home. :)

Same goes for those of you who would like to send out care packages. Email me - deedee@corpsman.com and I will happily set you up with an address or two or three ;)

Thank you to EVERYONE who is sending out packages to our deployed personnel. We may not have many on our list but you can bet that the contents of the packages they receive are being shared with LOTS of people who appreciate the thoughts and hard work that goes into putting those packages into their hands.

V/R
DeeDee Reno
Corpsman Mom
Editor Scuttlebutt

In Remembrance



HM3 Eichmann A. Strickland
September 9, 2008
Afghanistan



HOSPITAL CORPS MONTHLY

July - August 2008 issue (exerpts)

Office of the FORCM

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington DC

if you would like a copy of the entire publication email editor@corpsman.com

Wounded Sailor Gets Promoted

by FORCM(FMF) Laura A. Martinez

James A Healy Veterans Administration Hospital, Tampa, FL - On Monday 4 August 2008, the MCPON and I, along with HMCM Terry Prince, Headquarters, Marine Corps, participated in the advancement ceremony of HM2 Anthony Thompson. HM2 Thompson is presently a patient at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, FL. Petty Officer Thompson was on his second deployment to Iraq with 2nd Battalion 7th Marines Fox Company 3rd Platoon near Fallujah, when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive under an overpass where Thompson and his Marines were standing on April 20, 2007. The blast injured Thompson and seven Marines. CAPT Watkins, Commanding Officer, Navy Safe Harbor representing the Chief of Naval Personnel (Admiral Ferguson) read the promotion citation and MCPON had the honors of pinning the new E5 rank insignia on HM2 Thompson. In attendance at his promotion ceremony was his wife Ivonne and 10 month old son AJ. Other family members and guests included: HM2 Thompson's mother, sister, brother-in-law, and mother-in-law, Sailors from NAVCENT, other patients, CDR Hartford (Tamp VA Safe Harbor Representative and Master of Ceremonies) and the VA staff members.

Also in attendance was HM2 Dye, the corpsman and shipmate deployed with HM2 Thompson and who responded to the accident that saved HM2 Thompson's life. Watching HM2 Thompson get promoted, once again reminded me of the unbelievable sacrifices so many of you have had to endure. I want to offer my sincerest thanks to each of you for what you do for Navy Medicine. I am in awe of what each of you do daily to ensure we meet the mission of Navy Medicine which is Force Health Protection. Our enlisted sailors are without a doubt the backbone of this enterprise we call Navy Medicine and I continue to be honored and humble to serve as YOUR Force Master Chief.



From the Desk of the Enlisted Community Manager (ECM)

Currently, the critically undermanned NECs are:

HM8403 (RECON IDC males only)

HM8406 (Aviation Medical Tech)

HM8463 (Optometry Tech)

HM8482 (Pharmacy Tech)

HM8486 (Urology Tech)

HM8494 (Dive Medical IDC)

HM8702 (Dental Expanded Functions Tech)

HM8753 (Dental Lab Advanced)

HM8427 (RECON Basic- males only)

HM8410 (BioMedical Equipmen Tech)

HM8467 (Occupational Therapy Tech)

HM8485 (Psych Tech)

HM8493 (Dive Medical Tech)

HM8505 (Cytotechnologist)

HM8708 (Dental Hygienist)

HM8765 (Dental Maxillofacial)

We have many other NEC's that are in need of hard-charging HM's seeking new challenges. Review the NECMAN located on our webpage for a current update of all HM NEC's. As always, I encourage everyone to visit our website for the most up to date information about the Hospital Corps.

<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

Duty with the FMF

By LTjG E.G. Dorsey (HC) USN, MFT

The following excerpt has been reprinted from the **Hospital Corpsman Quarterly**, July 1945.

Editors Note: I came across this excerpt and was amazed at the similarities between what the Corpsman of today face as compared to the men who served with our Marine Corps Brothers during WWII. Please enjoy this and take notice to the reference to "782" gear. 60+ years later and some things never change.

You will proceed to Camp Lejeune, New River, NC (or Camp Pendleton, Oceanside CA) for a course of instruction at the Medical Field Service School, and, upon completion, for further assignment to a combat unit of the Fleet Marine Force.

It is the initial step in a series of varied and interesting experiences. The habits and routines to which you have become accustomed are subject to some radical changes. The primary object of the training you are about to undergo is to make you an integral part of the Marine Corps combat teams. This is in addition to carrying on your expected assignment. "To keep as many men at as many guns as many days as possible."

The first step is the issuance of the proper clothing, both field and dress, to identify you as one of the great Corps to which you have been assigned. Utility clothes, field shoes, caps, blankets, greens (dress), and all your "782" gear is included in the issue. It would be well to remember this fact should you be assigned to the Fleet Marine Force. In order to avoid subsequent confusion and unnecessary shipping difficulties, it is wiser for you to carry with you a minimum amount of Navy clothing. Ultimately, you will have to send your Navy clothing home. Once the clothing situation is squared away, the class and field work begins. This consists of clerical procedures, property and accounting, map reading, compass reading, field and personal hygiene and sanitation, first-aid and minor surgery, the function of the medical department in the field, field equipment and its uses, obstacle courses, infiltration courses, firing the range, close order drill, conditioning hikes, overnight bivouacs, problems of evacuation of the wounded, training films, principles of camouflage, and numerous pointer pertaining to living and fighting in the field. The Medical Field Service schools attempt, primarily, to acquaint you with, and readjust you to your new type of duty. Upon graduation, you are assigned either to replacement outfits or medical companies. Now that you have completed your primary training, you are expected to be physically and mentally able to carry on the more strenuous and advance stages of training. Company aid men are assigned directly to the respective regiments, battalions, companies, and platoons. They live, operate, and are constantly associated with their respective outfits. This extends to all maneuvers in the field, ship to shore movements, and is a most important factor in training, especially for the preservation of life and limb. It has been very definitely proved that a man's chances of survival are enhanced considerably when trained with a regiment. It is well to learn your lessons thoroughly. Many a casualty is the direct result of men not following conscientiously the instructions promulgated during indoctrination. After you "hit your target", it is too late to learn. The habit reflex must be established during your training, not after you have been committed to action! Once assigned to your outfit, you are seldom reassigned. From then on, you are one of a combat team. Many hours will be spent in the field living under simulated battle conditions. If assigned to a medical company, you will live and train for several months in a field hospital setup in an area familiarly referred to as the "boondocks." This hospital is complete in every detail. Its offices, wards, operating room, laboratory, x-ray, storage, galley, and living quarters are set up. Remember, your area is not preordained. You must use a designated site allotted to you by the command and be prepared to overcome any obstacles. It is interesting to note at this point the ingenuity and adaptability displayed by the men in my particular outfit. Some had never seen a shovel, hammer, or saw, much less handled one! However, it was not long before chairs, tables, desks, latrines, grease pits, incinerators, and numerous other gadgets were constructed by them for their individual comfort and the efficient functioning of the field hospital. Frankly, many were surprised at their own potentialities. They are all worthy of commendation for their excellent display of



enthusiasm and adaptability. Time, patience, and constant supervision are absolutely necessary to maintain sanitation in the field. Garbage disposal, grease traps, latrines, urinals, and especially that shipmate who is a bit on the lazy side at night, must be constantly watched and immediate measures instituted to correct any carelessness or negligence. We set up our galley besides a stream, screened it completely, but we still were confronted with a fly problem. Fly traps were constructed and baited with fish heads and molasses. The results were perfect from my viewpoint, but one morning on inspection, I found the traps turned over and the bait gone. I inquired of the field mess sergeant on duty as to what happened. His reply was, "Well gee Mr. Dorsey, all them things do is draw flies!" First aid and minor surgery, the administration of plasma, and operative technique are also stressed. All hands, including the Marine Service Section of a medical company, are trained in the care and evacuation of wounded. This training of the Marine personnel has proven advantageous throughout the Pacific.

Yes, you can look forward to a very different and interesting experience upon receipt of those orders, reading, "***** proceed and report for duty with Fleet Marine Force."

