



# Scuttlebutt

MARCH 2008

A Squid newsletter for Doc's of all Services!

## Adopt-A-Doc

When my son Dan (Kahuna5150) joined the Navy as a Corpsman - I knew that a deployment or two was definitely in his future. Little did I know that his first deployment was going to happen just after his one year anniversary in the Navy. When we found out about his upcoming deployment the support of the members of Corpsman.com was ASTOUNDING. I received so many messages of love & support that I can't even begin to thank everyone who helped me keep it together. I was also getting emails from family, friends and members of Corpsman.com who wanted to send him care packages.

This is where the seed for the Adopt-A-Doc program sprouted. Just about every member either has been deployed, is being deployed or knows someone who is, was, or is going to be deployed. So why not start a network for the members of Corpsman.com to be able to support the Docs who are out there serving so far from their friends and families.

Off goes an announcement to the members - if you are deployed or getting deployed contact DeeDee with your name, rank and mailing address. And another announcement - if you would like to support a deployed Doc contact DeeDee with your name and mailing address. The responses kind of trickled in but by the time Dan left on his deployment we had a half dozen Docs who wanted to get packages sent to them and almost 20 people who wanted to send out packages. Needless to say at the beginning of this project those guys had their names given out multiple times. :)

I kept posting about the project in the forums and occasionally I would get a response from someone either wanting to get packages or wanting to send them out. I did the best I could to get them adopted out quickly so that they didn't wait long to get something in the mail. Sometimes I sent them a package from our family while I was looking for someone to give their name to. When the holiday season started that is when people really came out wanting to send packages to our Docs. We ended up with 14 corpsman and 29 senders. So you know that their names went out more than once. This included the corpsman that are stationed with Dan because it was easy for me to get their names and addresses. ;)

Recently, we decided to include family members of Corpsman.com members who deploy regardless of what job they hold because as members of Corpsman.com we support each other. So now I have a list of 24 deployed personnel - BUT more than half of them are nearing the end of their deployment which means I need more names and more people who want to send packages out.

**So, if you are deployed, getting deployed soon, or know someone in either of those groups PLEASE email me - [deedee@corpsman.com](mailto:deedee@corpsman.com) with Name, Rank, and mailing address. Same goes if you would like to adopt one of our deployed Docs** - email me or you can send me a PM through the website. I am also on Pownce (<http://www.pownce.com>) as DeeDee (yeah, I know it isn't very original but I am the only DeeDee on there)

DeeDee  
Scuttlebutt Editor

Thank you to my Corpsman.com family who helped me maintain my sanity while Dan has been deployed.

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# Rant from Da-Chief

by HMC Darrell Crone

Shipmates,

I hope you all had a nice Easter weekend. You have seen my posts so you know the weather we had here in Great Lakes. It doesn't help that this was the earliest Easter we have had since the 30's.. We won't have one this early again for over 200 years.

Anyways, I am in need of some assistance from you all, Team Corpsman.com. We are upgrading our site the one that has been silently going on for the last 30 days, and to be honest, we have about 30 more to go till we unveil the new look. Some of you will be asked to "Beta Test" it prior to going live so be on the lookout, we really want to flesh this one out.

What I am requesting from you all, I am trying to come up with a mission statement for Corpsman.com. Why am I asking you? Because we would not be 1300+ strong without each and every one of you. When we started we were a site for Active and Reserve Corpsmen. Now we serve, Active, Reserve, Dependents, Potential Recruits, Recruits, and Vets from all services.

I don't want to alienate anyone but keep the focus on our mission which is to help the "DOC's" from all services and their families and Vets. I need a statement short and to the point for our header. Something we can advertise with. So if you have any ideas, please Email them to: [admin1@Corpsman.com](mailto:admin1@Corpsman.com) and also [editor@corpsman.com](mailto:editor@corpsman.com). I want to make sure you get a response on your efforts.

As my time is increasingly pulled in multiple directions, I hope you realize it is not just "DA-CHIEF" who does all the work here. I could not do it without :

CrazyCajun, The best damn Network Admin anyone could have to help run this place.

DeeDee, what she does with our Newsletter and the Adopt a Doc program is second to none.

8404 (Tony) Who I swear is like a Concierge to our site.. I have yet to see him get tickets to a game for anyone yet..

He is the HMFIC...(If you don't know what this means, Email him)

HMC-FMF-PJ, While not on the staff officially, he is always on educating and helping Doc's. He is one of the top posters on our site and he backs "EVERYTHING" up with facts.

Kaymanism, who btw just graduated from Surgical Tech School last week and will be reporting to Oak Harbor, WA. He is our official Photographer and will be setting up a program for pics from Doc's to be displayed.

Doc Pardue(The incredible shrinking man), Vet of the Army in Vietnam and Expert on all info for PTSD

Last but not least and newest to our crew, HMC8404, A retired HMC like myself who is in charge of the always fun S.O.S Forum section. PM her if you want to know what the S.O.S is about.

Like I said, we are few but we are proud of what we do and can provide to you. Please help us out to make the site better, more relevant and easier to use.

Last but not least, I am working on increasing the corpsman.com Pownce group. Help me out. I would like to get over 200+ in the next month. Pownce is free and is a fun way to blast something really quick if we come across something. Go to : <http://www.pownce.com> And join, it's free. After Joining search for Da\_Chief And friend me, I will add you to the Corpsman.com List. I think once you get on you will want your family members to use it as well.

On a Personal Note.... Kick Ass Citrus.. Keep it up...

Thanks and everyone have a great April!!

Da-Chief  
Corpsman.com

# From the Desk of Doc Schmock

Thank you for the unconditional SUPPORT!

Before I get ready to leave Iraq, I wanted to take a moment to reflect and thank everybody receiving this email for the support over the last year that I've been away. It's strange to think that it has been over one year since I left and in only a few short weeks, I'll be returning home from a war. I'll have to admit that even though I may not have been a typical "war fighter", the experiences that I have encountered here will certainly stick with me throughout the rest of my life. Being confined to an austere northern Iraqi forward operating base that we have called "home" for the past 12 months, I have seen my share of death, injured, sick and sheer carnage of war that most people will never be able to comprehend unless they've been through it.

They say that fighting in a war alters a person for the rest of their life, some good, and some bad. For me, though, it is mostly good. We have been extremely lucky this past year and up to date, I've not had to render life saving aid to one of my own brother's-at-arms, which for me, tells me that we're doing something right, or that someone up above, has listened to our prayers!. I've been on numerous combat convoys, ranging from the shortest, 80 miles, to the longest, about 300 miles (totaling about 2500 miles) and in all that time, on the most deadly roads in the world, I've not once encountered an IED, but that's not to say that I've never been shot at. On a recent convoy, just prior to me coming home on leave, we did have an RPG rocket attempt to attack our convoy. Again, luckily, no one was injured and the RPG didn't damage any of our vehicles. Up to this point in my life, that had to be one of the scariest moments that I've ever had to encounter. It's amazing though. You hear many people say that training kicks in during a moment like that, and I can attest, it does! It wasn't until after we finished the convoy that we all sat around and talked about it, that you realize how scary it really was and how much different the outcome **could have been**.

It's hard to put in words some of the things that I have learned / encountered here, which is why I took so many pictures. Maybe someday I'll write about the pictures and share them. If you ever see me while I'm home and want to see them, let me know, but be forewarned, some are graphic and I'm sure that I could sit down for hours explaining them all ☺

I just learned today that we have a "DATE" for which we will be flying into Baltimore, which is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2008. About 33 days from now, but who's counting. There is a chance that we will be arriving earlier, but for now, at least they finally gave us a fly date. Don't make plans, yet, to come to the airport. I'll give you more firm date/time when we get closer. Tomorrow we are having an awards ceremony for those of us that are leaving. I'll get some pictures out to you once I get them.

Well, can't think of anything else to talk about right now. The main reason for this email was for me to say "THANK YOU" to everyone receiving this. Without you all, it would have made for a long year. I appreciate everything that you sent and I can say most of them went into my belly ☺ I did share with the other guys here and they appreciated it, too. I hope to see all of you within the next couple of months. I plan to be in Michigan, again, around the end of April, beginning of May, so I can pickup my new truck and visit. I will make a quick stop to Michigan to pick-up my car (opps, I mean my Mom's car).

Love you all and remember, just because I'm coming home, there are still plenty of Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers and Marines that are still over here that need our unconditional support more than ever.

Brian

\*\*\*\*\* UPDATE \*\*\*\*\*

Hey everyone,

Just wanted to let you know that I made it safely to Kuwait and finally out of harm's way! It appears that I will be getting back to the states soon. Hopefully I'll find something out today, as far as a specific date. I'm estimating around the 4th / 5th of April. Still awaiting some paperwork from the higher up's to be released from the area. Otherwise, all's good. Everyone's in good spirits and happy to come home. It still hasn't really sunken in that I'm headed back, yet. Maybe when I'm finally in the air it will.

I'll keep you all posted on my progress. You'll be seeing me before you know it!!

Love ya all,  
Brian

# FMTB NEWS

From HM1 Paul (FMF\_DOC)

## **Corpsmen experience combat casualty realism: New Simulation lab opens at Camp Johnson**



Following a simulated improvised explosive device attack, corpsmen cleared the Combat Trauma Simulation Laboratory of role-playing insurgents, conducted triage to determine the severity of the simulated injured service members and lastly carried out the re-enactors, who have been instructed to struggle against the corpsmen during the Field Medical Training Battalion's Casualty Assessment Class Oct. 9, 2007.

Reproducing the experience of combat and its resulting injuries is being taken to a new level by the military.

The Field Medical Training Battalion- East official opened its Combat Casualty Simulation Laboratory during a ribbon cutting ceremony aboard Camp Johnson the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, Friday.

The laboratory, commonly called the 'Simlab' by its operators, provides a realistic experience of what new corpsmen can expect during combat with a specific emphasis on Improvised Explosive Devices.

The emphasis on how IEDs affect training resounded with the bang of an artillery stimulator, which kicked off the first post ribbon cutting use of the Simlab. As the corpsmen eagerly stormed the building to assess the injured, they were confronted by role players moulaged, (the art of applying mock injuries for the purpose of training) and state-of-the-art mannequins, which on the command of an instructor can do anything from calling for help, spurt fake blood to even flat lining.

At \$56,000 for each mannequin, the cost is well worth it, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Joshua Bergman, a hospital corpsmen and instructor for the FMTB. "Compared to the old ones [plastic mannequins] this brings a sense of realism that we have not experienced yet," said Bergman.

These improvements to the realism of training result in an 87 percent survival rate of patients who are treated on the battlefield, said Capt. Efren Saenz, commanding offer of the FMTB. This is an increase from the 62 percent of the Vietnam era.

"Hands down this is a thousand times better than when I went through this same training a couple of years ago," said Bergman.

Although the building and the technology housed within it are at the cutting edge, they would sit idle without instructors -- those who bring their battlefield experience to the school, said Saenz.

HM2 Bergman stated, "The experience of the staff is really what makes the difference; these pieces of equipment are just tools that we use -- great tools, but still just tools."

Pictures Below:



FMTB



CREST Gear



BAS



Moulage Room  
Front: HM1 Book  
Rear: HM2 Bergman



Burn Victim



Completed Victim



Completed Victim



# Safety First

by  
Doc Higgins

Just like being out with the Corps when we are in CIVLANTFLEET you sometimes have to protect the person that you are trying to help. The following story illustrates that.

Recently my wife, who is also an EMT was eating at a local restaurant when she heard a crash behind her. Having been a waitress for a number of years she thought that maybe the waitress had dropped a tray of dishes. Then she heard someone behind her yell that "He is seizing!!" She turned around and this man was having a Grand Mal Seizure. He had bitten his tongue and his mouth was filling with blood. My wife lowered him to the floor, rolled him on his side, moved the furniture away from him and had a bystander call 911. She then monitored him to make sure that he could breath and was not inhaling the blood. Suddenly a woman came up and yelled "aren't you going to start CPR?" My wife looks at her and says "Why??" "Well he is seizing!" "So?"

We oft times run into good Samaritans that mean well but their efforts are more dangerous than the problem that the victim has.

In another instance I responded to a multi car accident in which the driver of one of the vehicles was trapped by the dash board. When I arrived on scene I found several bystanders using a 6 foot long pry bar to try and get the driver out of the car. Every time they jerked the pry bar the whole car moved. When I told them to stop they looked at me like I was crazy until I explained to them that they could possibly be causing more damage shaking the car like they were. So you see while not only protecting ourselves at incident scenes we oft times have to protect the victims.

There is a lot of talk these days on the Marine websites about what is and is not the "Old Corps". Well sonny back in my day . . . . One of the things the demolitions Gunny taught us is just how quick we can make some very dangerous chemicals in the average household. The same thing goes for just considering what you find in cars and homes that is HAZMAT. The average home has between 4 and 5 gallons of HAZMAT in it. If you are interested in learning more about that you can find courses on the web at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp> and take free online courses. I have taken these courses and they have been very helpful in my day to day life as well as riding the ambulance.

"The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis." - **Dante Alighieri**

# Coping Cliques

by Sean Dustman

March 23, 2008

We each find our way of coping with the distance. Being a Corpsman of Marines, it's turned me into a watcher of people and being tapped as the unit photographer, that gives me an unbiased license to see everything. Humans are social beings, the interaction between people give me hours of enjoyment just observing. Lately my focus has been on the unconscious cliques people form to deal with the stress of deployment.

If you're watching us from the outside, the first people to catch your eyes are the PT Studs in all of their muscled glory. In some past life before they became Marines, they were probably jocks or someone who had dreamed of being a jock. Now they're deployed and are unencumbered by the social niceties of family and network television and have free reign to shape their bodies into an Arnold-like state of physical perfection. Back home, its rare to be able to fit a daily 3 hour workout into your schedule, here? They get paid to add on the bulk up or increase their run time.

Another group is the Halo/Call of Duty/Unreal Tournament Super Virtual Soldiers, they're sort of an up-start group, only appearing in the last decade or so. These guys spend a good percentage of their deployed lives training their brains into becoming one with their warrior aviator till they find that cyber nirvana of being where they are able to last waste to that online countryside that the game produces and bask joyfully in the sound of curses and moans of the Marines whom they have fragged. In decades past, their ancestors were probably D&D players. The hardest task these guys have when returning to the states is remembering that there is a life outside of the game.

No matter where you go or how primitive the environment is, you'll find a group of people who live to play cards. They spend hours each night practicing telepathy on each other, not that it works but watching from the outside, you expect to hear a eureka moment that never happens. They lie in wait with an empty chair at the table waiting for fresh meat to have a seat and when they lose to the outsider, their moans can be heard for weeks. The banter of card players has become the familiar drone that has laid the backdrop for every conflict for centuries and don't think it's going to stop anytime soon.

Myself? I follow more of the nerdy studious crowd. I walk around with a paperback in my cargo pocket and when I'm not reading, I spend a fair amount of time online catching up with email and talking to people around the world.

There are as many categories as there are people, I just named a few that stick out. The folk who end up having the problems out here are the ones who haven't developed a good method of spending their free time. They spend hours dwelling about being in the middle of the war or feeling lonely, many of a clock ticking in their heads counting off the seconds to that date far off in the future when they get to go home.

These are the people I watch the closest and when I have to, intervene. I've learned over the years, the more time you hold in your head, the less space you have to use for other things. The old adage of taking things "one day at a time" actually works.

I'm lucky in most respects, to sort of quote one of my SSgt's, "There's too many Frikkin' happy people around here!" It's true. This trip I've deployed with a cheery bunch, every morning, I'm forced though a gauntlet of smiling Marines saying "Hi Doc!", "What's up Doc?", "Good morning Doc!" with high fives. You think I'm kidding? Nope. At least they like me and it makes it hard to be down for too long. Most days, It's difficult to imagine these guys as lean mean fighting machines but I've seen them slip on their battle skins and then it's hard to believe that they were ever soft.

## CPR THEN AND NOW

In 1979 when I took my first CPR instructor course we worked for three straight days in didactic and hands on training. The dummies that we worked on had monitors in them and our compressions and breaths had to be just so. If your compressions were greater than 2 inches or less than an inch and one half you failed. Breaths had to be just so long and no longer. It was a grueling class.

Since those stone age days CPR has gone through drastic changes. In a rare fit of cooperation the American Heart Association and the Red Cross joined together to publish new guidelines for Community level CPR. When I first took CPR we performed it at the rate of 5 to 1, compressions to breaths and there was a specific regiment that you went through before you ever touched the chest. You did the shake and shout, look listen and feel, check for a pulse, find exact hand placement on the chest and then start your compressions. It sometimes seemed like hours had gone by before you started pumping on the chest.

Recently though a large number of studies have shown that during all of that we were wasting time. CPR does not restart the heart. CPR just keeps blood flowing around the body. During a recent EMT class that I sat in on the instructor referred to this flow as “groceries and garbage”. Studies show that we have about a 6 minute reserve of Oxygen in the blood stream and without replenishment after 6 minutes the brain starts to die. So as CPR started to evolve we went from 5 to 1 to 15 to 1. We still did the complete shake and shout, look listen and feel, check for a pulse, get proper hand placement and then begin. We were still wasting time. The current directives for ARC and AHA state that you shake and shout, look listen and feel and then put your hands in the middle of the chest and start pumping. Not only that but the new rate is 30 to 2. Quite a change from the old 5-1. There are rumors that some studies are looking at 60 to 2 and it is reported that in some foreign countries they are not even giving breaths.

An article that I read this month indicated - “Instruction for EMS personnel in MICR, an approach that includes an initial series of 200 uninterrupted chest compressions, rhythm analysis with a single shock, 200 immediate postshock chest compressions before pulse check or rhythm reanalysis, early administration of epinephrine, and delayed endotracheal intubation” This note is taken directly from the JAMA article on MICR,

So as you can see it is imperative that we as medical providers (Lets face it – no matter how long or short a stay in the Navy as DOC we will always be medical professionals) keep our skill sharp. Living in the panhandle of Idaho we have a lot of people that depend on our CPR training. Statistics show us that the survival rate of individuals have a MI in a hospital is about 6% and the survival rate on the street is even less, the that 1 person you may save may be your own family member.

Keep the faith, and remember – No One Left Behind.

Doc Higgins is a retired HMC(SW/FMF)  
With experience in Beirut, Desert Shield/Storm  
Somalia and over 500 ambulance runs in the civilian  
Community.



# Subarachnoid Hemmorage

From David Fries (lima33doc)

Ok, so before everyone starts getting all yawns while going through this, let me give you a little history as to why I decided on submitting this as an article. I myself am a former Corpsman, so I knew a bit about my neuro stuff, but last week my wife and I get a call that her mother has been rushed to the hospital. All I heard was major head ache and fainting. The first thing that went through my mind was Stroke. After I learned that there was no lethargy, and no mental status changes or any other symptoms, my second thought was Aneurism and in that I was dead on. My wife's sister called after a few hours and told me the news...Subarachnoid Hemorrhage. I knew immediately how bad things could get, but my wife did not, and I would not let it show just how scared I got. As things progressed, I started digging into it, and found this article. Needless to say, it was at that point that I actually wished that I did not know what it said. However, she has already gone through surgery. She has no permanent damage, and there is talk about releasing her by the beginning of next week. The only issue at this point is that she still has an issue with her ICP. I want to say thank you to everyone that was on the chat that Tuesday when I was going a little nuts. I needed to be able to talk to people that knew what I was talking about, and they were there. Thank you again.

The link to the actual article. It actually has some nice Radiological Pics on there that I was not able to put in here.

<http://www.emedicine.com/neuro/topic357.htm>

The following is actually a short version. It is from <http://www.strokecenter.org/pat/sah.htm>

## **Subarachnoid Hemorrhage**

*What is it?* Subarachnoid hemorrhage occurs when a blood vessel just outside the brain ruptures. The area of the skull surrounding the brain (the subarachnoid space) rapidly fills with blood. A patient with subarachnoid hemorrhage may have a sudden, intense headache, neck pain, and nausea or vomiting. Sometimes this is described as the worst headache of one's life. The sudden buildup of pressure outside the brain may also cause rapid loss of consciousness or death.

*What causes it?* Subarachnoid hemorrhage is most often caused by abnormalities of the arteries at the base of the brain, called *cerebral aneurysms*. These are small areas of rounded or irregular swellings in the arteries. Where the swelling is most severe, the blood vessel wall become weak and prone to rupture. View an [interactive tutorial on cerebral aneurysms](#) from the [Toronto Brain Vascular Malformation Study Group](#). (Requires [Flash](#).)

*Who gets it?* The cause of cerebral aneurysms is not known. They may develop from birth or in childhood and grow very slowly. Some people have not one, but several aneurysms. Subarachnoid hemorrhage can occur at any age, including teenagers and young adults. Subarachnoid hemorrhage is slightly more common in women than men.

# TWO GLASSES OF WINE

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 glasses of wine...

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things; your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions; things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full."

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else; the small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "There is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. Do one more run down the ski slope.

There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first; the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the wine represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of glasses of wine with a friend."

Share this with a friend. I JUST DID

Thanks to 8404 for sharing this with all of us. - DeeDee (editor)

# Band-aids for the Medic-Corpsman Soul

By Kerry "Doc" Pardue

Kerry,

I am a former U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman, Chief, who had three tours with the Marines and served aboard three ship's.

Part of my ship board duties, was the responsibility of pest control, which many Hospital Corpsman performed and in the performance of these duties, I had heavy, heavy exposure to various pesticides, the types I can no longer recall.

I was diagnosed with diabetes, in 1995 ( by the VA) and took oral medication for same, until recently and now have been started on insulin. I was also diagnosed with Leukemia, in 1997, (by the VA), but the clinic doctors, I was seeing at that time, wasn't interested in looking into it, because of inconsistent WBC and didn't provide any treatment for Leukemia.

Now, the clinic doctor that I am seeing in Fort Worth, TX, has noticed a regular occurrence of a slightly elevated WBC and what's to look into this again, for possible Leukemia.

My question is; are there other Hospital Corpsman, within NAMC, who were exposed to pesticides, during there ship board duties, that have been diagnosed with diabetes or Leukemia and the possible connection to pesticides exposure, leading to the diagnoses of DM and/or Leukemia.

Would appreciate any input on this matter from NAMC.  
Richard B. (rbbear@earthlink.net)  
Former HMC.  
1968-1985

## PTSD victims no longer need to prove trauma

By Kelly Kennedy - Staff writer

Posted : Wednesday Feb 20, 2008 9:38:42 EST

The Veterans Affairs Department has dumped a policy requiring combat vets to verify in writing that they have witnessed or experienced a traumatic event before filing a claim for post-traumatic stress disorder, said the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"This change provides a fairer process for veterans with service-connected PTSD," Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, said in a written statement. It "leaves claim adjudicators more time to devote to reducing the staggering backlog of veterans' claims." In the past, a veteran has had to provide written verification — a statement from a commander or doctor, or testimony from co-workers — that he or she was involved in a traumatic situation in order to receive disability compensation for PTSD from VA. The Defense Department uses the same rules in evaluating PTSD for disability retirement pay.

In Iraq, troops joke about keeping a pen and paper on hand in case they witness a shooting or explosion or are injured themselves. That way, they can run around and have all their buddies sign a quick statement saying it really happened. The joke loses steam when a Marine has to prove he was involved in a traumatizing event when he had a hand blown off in that event, or when a soldier has to prove he watched his friends die to qualify for benefits.

The rule also slows the process as veterans wait for yet more documentation before their claims may be processed.

Akaka said he asked VA Secretary James Peake if the rule was necessary, and asked that it be removed. Peake agreed.

"I am pleased that the secretary took quick action to reverse this requirement after it was brought to his attention," Akaka said.

**In the future, veterans will be diagnosed with PTSD through a medical examination with no further proof necessary,** Akaka said, adding that he's been told that Peake has already informed VA regional offices of the decision. VA officials were not immediately available for comment Monday, a federal holiday.

[http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/02/military\\_ptsdproof\\_080218w/](http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/02/military_ptsdproof_080218w/)



Thanks Pardue for sharing use # 317 for Duct Tape

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## Creative Memories

Scrapbooking in an awesome way to tell the story of your family, favorite team, etc.

Visit <http://www.creativememories.com> to see the products available.

If you are interested in purchasing CM (Creative Memories) products from me I will give you a discount and have the items shipped directly to your home.

If you would like more information or have any questions please contact me at [sandylowerycmc@yahoo.com](mailto:sandylowerycmc@yahoo.com)

Looking forward to hearing from you,  
ladybird\_9\_2

Have something for  
sale, trade, barter?  
Email your information  
to  
[editor@corpsman.com](mailto:editor@corpsman.com)  
and it will be included  
in our next edition of  
Scuttlebutt

## **Navy Boot Camp & Deployment Kits** (a bag with encouragement)

This is my creative attempt to offset some of the expenses for our son's PIR on 4.11.08. I was frustrated that there weren't any patriotic or Navy cards in the stores. So, I made them and thought maybe others would enjoy them too!

### Includes

- 1 Navy Tote (other branches available)
- 15 handmade patriotic & Navy themed cards
- 5 postcards

\$35.00 plus \$5.00 priority Mailing

you can pm or e-mail me at [notesandtotes@yahoo.com](mailto:notesandtotes@yahoo.com)

Blessings

Sherri— Proud Navy Mom of Patrick (future **Corpsman!**)



## CANDLES

Homemade Candles are now available to the members of Corpsman.com - I have lots of scents, colors and styles to choose from as well as many glass containers that can be made into candles - prices vary accordingly - shipping is \$10 per order as I will use Priority Mail through USPS to get your candles to you.

Contact me and I will get you the list of scents, colors and sizes of molds I have and the prices.

I have gotten great reviews from people who have my candles in their homes so I am sure you will be pleased.

Email [deedee@corpsman.com](mailto:deedee@corpsman.com) for more information

**P.S. - 10% of all sales will be donated to corpsman.com - so order early and often**

# New Web Site Offers Vietnam War Records

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: March 26, 2008

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The National Archives is joining with a Web site to make historical records of tens of thousands of deceased Vietnam War veterans available electronically for the first time.

The interactive site -- [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) -- is a Web re-creation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. The site allows access to thousands of pages of casualty records and agency photos. People can search by name, hometown, birthdate, tour date, or dozens of other categories.

Such information now is typically found only at National Archives locations, including the headquarters in College Park, Md., and by poring through files organized by topic. That makes searches a hit-or-miss proposition with long odds of finding relevant information, the agency said.

Hundreds of veterans visit the central research room each year "to examine the documents that may enable them to establish their rights, and, just as with the wall, to honor, remember and appreciate," said Allen Weinstein, archivist of the United States. "And historians increasingly turn to these essential records to explain the significance of the Vietnam conflict in American history."

The site will help "provide ever-greater access to our critical holdings on this subject," he said.

The interactive wall allows people to post photographs they may have of a deceased veteran and to make comments. The service is currently free for Vietnam War information; the company is deciding whether to charge fees for some of the 50,000 National Archives photos now digitized.

The goal is to tell the stories behind the more than 58,000-plus names on the wall' polished black granite, with information such as specialty, rank, posthumous decorations, regiment, cause of death and whether the body was recovered, the company said.

"We know that there are many untold experiences represented on that wall and we hope that this interactive version of the memorial helps those affected by the war by sharing their stories," said Russell Wilding, chief executive officer of footnote.com.

Veterans advocacy groups praised the move as a good way to promote public awareness of the contributions of those who served in Vietnam. But some said they would like to see the effort expanded to provide electronic access of records for living Vietnam veterans. Many of them must go through a lengthy process of searching for records at the Archives and elsewhere to establish a disability claim with the government.

"It's a wonderful thing they're doing. We certainly have to do much to honor our dead," said Rick Weidman, executive director for policy and government affairs at the Vietnam Veterans of America. "But we continue to press for access for living veterans. The whole rest of the world is digitized, so why not military action reports?"

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Online-Vietnam-Wall.html>

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