

November 2008



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# Rant from Da-Chief by HMC Darrell Crone (Ret.)

With things being the way they are this year, the economy, the war, the election etc, I wanted to keep this short and sweet as it is “THANKSGIVING”..

This is what I am thankful for in order

**My Family, My Navy, My Armed Forces Brothers and Sisters, Our Gov't, no matter how bad you think it is, it's the best in the world.**

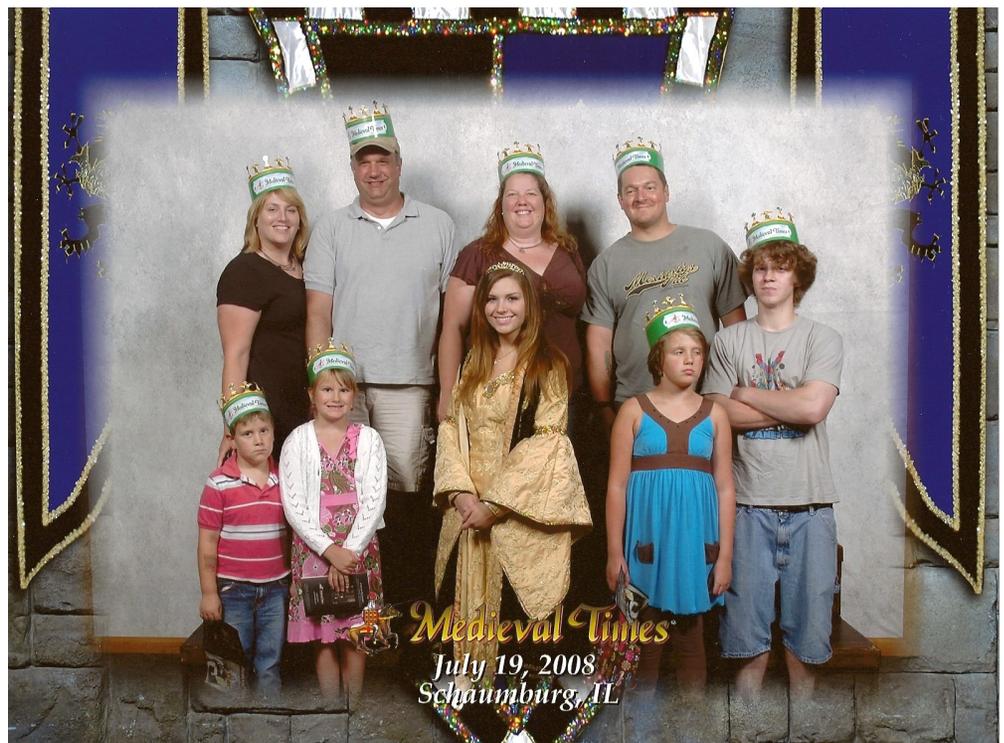
**CrazyCajun, DeeDee, 8404, Bobby\_Knoxville, PegasusHM, HMC\_FMF\_PJ, Poolzer, Puckmedic, 0311\_Doc, Old Navy Doc, Doc\_D, HMCS Lubbold, The Patriot Guard Riders, taking care of those who are left behind. I am especially thankful that Dan Reno and Dustmans both came back in one piece from IRAQ.**

**I am also thankful and mournful for those we lost this year, be it Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, anywhere in the world, in conflict or training etc.**

**But most of all..below those things listed above.. I am thankful for you the family at Corpsman.com.**

**Have a great weekend.**

**Darrell “Da-Chief” Crone  
Corpsman.com**



## From the mailbox of Doc Pardue:

Sharing this morning, an article from a Vet to me and on to you.  
Doc Rice

Not many people get a picture of this proud bird snuggled up next to them

### *Freedom and Jeff*

Freedom and I have been together 10 years this summer. She came in as a baby in 1998 with two broken wings. Her left wing doesn't open all the way even after surgery, it was broken in 4 places . She's my baby.

When Freedom came in she could not stand and both wings were broken. She was emaciated and covered in lice. We made the decision to give her a chance at life, so I took her to the vets office. From then on, I was always around her. We had her in a huge dog carrier with the top off, and it was loaded up with shredded newspaper for her to lay in. I used to sit and talk to her, urging her to live, to fight; and she would lay there looking at me with those big brown eyes. We also had to tube feed her for weeks.

This went on for 4-6 weeks, and by then she still couldn't stand. It got to the point where the decision was made to euthanize her if she couldn't stand in a week. You know you don't want to cross that line between torture and rehab, and it looked like death was winning. She was going to be put down that Friday, and I was supposed to come in on that Thursday afternoon. I didn't want to go to the center that Thursday, because I couldn't bear the thought of her being euthanized; but I went anyway, and when I walked in everyone was grinning from ear to ear. I went immediately back to her cage; and there she was, standing on her own, a big beautiful eagle. She was ready to live. I was just about in tears by then. That was a very good day.

We knew she could never fly, so the director asked me to glove train her. I got her used to the glove, and then to jesses, and we started doing education programs for schools in western Washington . We wound up in the newspapers, radio (believe it or not) and some TV . Miracle Pets even did a show about us.

In the spring of 2000, I was diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma. I had stage 3, which is not good (one major organ plus everywhere), so I wound up doing 8 months of chemo. Lost the hair - the whole bit. I missed a lot of work. When I felt good enough h, I would go to Sarvey and take Freedom out for walks. Freedom would also come to me in my dreams and help me fight the cancer. This happened time and time again.

Fast forward to November 2000, the day after Thanksgiving, I went in for my last checkup. I was told that if the cancer was not all gone after 8 rounds of chemo, then my last option was a stem cell transplant. Anyway, they did the tests; and I had to come back Monday for the results. I went in Monday, and I was told that all the cancer was gone.

So the first thing I did was get up to Sarvey and take the big girl out for a walk. It was misty and cold. I went to her flight and jessed her up, and we went out front to the top of the hill. I hadn't said a word to Freedom, but somehow she knew. She looked at me and wrapped both her wings around me to where I could feel them pressing in on my back (I was engulfed in eagle wings), and she touched my nose with her beak and stared into my eyes, and we just stood there like that for I don't know how long. That was a magic moment. We have been soul mates ever since she came in. This is a very special bird.

On a side note: I have had people who were sick come up to us when we are out, and Freedom has some kind o f hold on them. I once had a guy who was terminal come up to us and I let him hold her. His knees just about buckled and he swore he could feel her power coarse through his body. I have so many stories like that.

I never forget the honor I have of being so close to such a magnificent spirit as Freedom's.

Hope you enjoy this.

**Jeff**



Well where do I start? I have been a member of the Corpsman.com family for a little over 2 years now. I first joined when my husband left for boot camp. He told me about the site, but never occurred to me to check it out till he left and I had many questions. This site isn't just for members of the military it is for everyone. It would be great to get more spouses, girlfriend, boyfriends and family members involved. We have a close knit family here and we are here to support everyone. I don't think I could have made it this far with out my family at corpsman.com. They have seen my good days and my bad days. My husband is in the Reserves so we don't get to quite experience everything that an Active duty person does. I would like to share some experiences with you.

The day we decided to join the Navy was one of my proudest accomplishments that our family had made. I knew that it was something that could make my husband a better person. We knew that the transition would be a hard one with having 3 small children. The most important factor was to support each other each step of the way. It was a rocky start for I was used to having someone around to help me out. I quickly had to figure it all out and just do it. There were days when I just wanted to give up and not go on. I wrote letter faithfully while he was in boot camp to keep his spirits up and to support him. When he hit Corps school it was a little easier. We were then able to talk with one another each day & he was only a few short hours away. By that time I was a pro at running the household. I would work each day, take the kids to day care & run a household with cooking, cleaning and everything else under the sun. We had all changed when he returned after school. It was something to expect. You adapt to what is going on and deal with it. It was a little transition to work him back into our daily lives for we were so used to managing without him.

Another great experience was the Marine Corps Ball. It was great to get all dressed up and spend some time with one another. This was the very first one I attended so I wanted to make sure everything was perfect. At the ball we had a guest of Honor. The guest of Honor was General James Conway the 34<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the USMC. Never in my life did I think I would see someone of such I guess you could say power in the military. We watched a short video about what is going on in the world over in Iraq & Afghanistan. Then they started the ceremony with the horns and hymns of the USMC. The Marines came out in two to where they stood across from one another with their swords. The cake when then brought in for the cake cutting ceremony. They had the oldest and youngest Marine in the room to do this tradition. Let me tell you I felt old when they mentioned the youngest just turned 18. The whole ceremony was really something that everyone should experience. I would have to say there were only about 15 Navy military members in the room or about 2,000 people. After all the ceremony stuff and dinner there was a great night of dancing & fraternizing with everyone. My husband and I were introduced to a few special people. His command knew he was living soon and wanted us to meet a few people. It made me really appreciate everything he does in his navy career. I can't tell you home much I was thanked for him being a Corpsman and how I supported him. This event put my mind at ease about him deploying.

My last experience I would like to share is that my husband will be going to Iraq. I knew this day would come for he volunteered himself to go. It hit me like a ton of bricks when he called to tell me his ship date. It was so hard to hold back the tears. I knew I had to be strong for him so he wouldn't worry about us back at home. We prepared the kids as best as we could. They are young so they don't understand exactly what is going on. The next thing was to prepare our families. We spent time with them and explained to them what is going to happen. You can never prepare enough for anything. We had a little over two weeks to get everything in order at the base. That was crazy and insane. I will have to admit everyone was so helpful and willing to do just about anything for us I even got the CO cell phone if I ever need to talk to someone. That made me feel really good about my husband leaving.

I would like to continue to share what is going on with everyone. I think we should have a spouse prospective for when a husband or wife deploys. It was great when DeeDee shared everything that was going on when her son left on deployment. We both could probably sympathize that it would be one of the hardest things that you could experience in life. The best thing is to stay strong. Seek out help or support when you need it, and don't let the deployed member have to worry about what is going on at home. They need to be focused on what is going on so they can come home safe to you.

Wishing everyone everywhere a very Happy Thanksgiving!  
Marie  
Corpsman77Wife

**To me FAMILY is what makes this holiday. Everyone getting together celebrating the fact that we are able to spend another with each other. Family includes those ppl who are close to you and have made a significant impact and or difference in your life. I personally get all the single sailors and my marines together and we celebrate at my apartment. That way it ensures everyone has a place to feel welcomed. As a single sailor who has been in for almost 6years, i know how it is being away from home. So as a 8404 corpsman and in general a HUMAN BEING i feel it is only right to gather up those single members and ensure they are where they can be comfortable enjoy a great holiday meal.**

**HM3 (FMF) Weathersby**

Hello and Happy Thanksgiving -2008,

My ship date is December 8th. And because I won't be home for Christmas, my family and I are even more aware -*this* Thanksgiving, of what family represents. Time and space are of so little consequence to the love of my family. The meaningful and purposeful sacrifice(s) that my family inspires is a valuable gift. That gift is what this Thanksgiving means to me.

Daniel

Greetings from the great Northwest. I had the wonderful opportunity to attend an Advanced HAZMAT Life Support lecture just recently. Even with all of the training that I had while on active duty I was still surprised at the dangers that exist in our day to day lives. It was noted in our lecture material that Paracelsus in the 15<sup>th</sup> century said that "Everything is a poison. The only thing that differentiates a remedy from a poison is the dosage." The small town that I work near as well as the one I live near are on the main East – West rail line for our section of the country. The amount of hazardous material that goes through this area is unbelievable. If we have a train wreck and tanker cars rupture both these small towns could become ghost towns and the local EMS resources overloaded.

If I were a parent of young children I would be a nervous wreck. The number of hazardous materials that exist in the home is truly unbelievable. Antifreeze tastes sweet, Windex antibacterial multi-surface has lactic acid in it which if inhaled can cause severe respiratory problems, doing the guy thing of mixing bleach with a dry cleaning powder can cause the release of chlorine gas. If you have any strong bases around the house you need to make sure that they are stored in a safe manner. Acid only burns the skin while base burns go all the way to the bone and cause saponification (turns fat to soap).

In short if you get the chance read up on your Hazmat. Keep a safe and happy holiday season.

Doc Higgins

As a child, my family took me to church. I had always enjoyed church. At times, my faith was very strong. While in the military, I began to experience many new and exciting things. Then came Vietnam. My faith was brought into question and soon felt very confused and lost to find the answers to so many questions. I felt like I had been abandoned, I was disillusioned by the scenes of death and destruction. I left Vietnam with a broken spirit and searching.

Where was God in all of that?

I began to go through the many years of trying to deal with PTSD and living with uncertainty about my own faith. As the years went by I would go to church with my wife and children. Still I felt abandoned in my faith and could not find my way back to the beginning of knowing and believing in someone, something...God or Jesus. After many years of searching and questioning and a year of preparation I finally made a commitment to become confirmed in my faith. When I went in the military "faith" became something of lesser value to me. I don't think I am alone in this.

So for almost 40 years of wandering around the desert (I live in Arizona...after all). I began a new journey of reexamining my life and my belief in something greater than I. I would like to share a story that I found in the Chicken Soup For The Soul series.

Horror gripped the heart of the World War I soldier as he saw his lifelong friend fall in battle. Caught in a trench with continuous gunfire whizzing over his head, the soldier asked his Lieutenant if he might go out into the "No Mans Land" between the trenches to bring his fallen comrade back.

"You can go", said the Lieutenant, "but I don't think it will be worth it. Your friend is probably dead and you may throw your own life away." The Lieutenant's words didn't matter, and the soldier went anyway.

Miraculously he managed to reach his friend, hoist him onto his shoulder, and bring him back to their company's trench. As the two of them tumbled in together to the bottom of the trench, the officer checked the wounded soldier then looked kindly at his friend. "I told you it wouldn't be worth it," he said. "Your friend is dead, and you are mortally wounded."

"It was worth it, though, sir," the soldier said.

"How do you mean, worth it? responded the Lieutenant. "Your friend is dead!"

"Yes sir," the private answered. "But it was worth it because when I got to him, he was still alive, and I had the satisfaction of hearing him say, "Jim, I knew you'd come".

### **YOUR DARKEST HOUR IN NO MAN'S LAND**

How often someone has fallen into that dark valley of "No Man's Land!" You can recall those heavy sorrows, sometimes yours, again it is one you love and cannot release from your heart. There comes that foreboding sense of defeat. Shattered dreams. The death of a vision. Discouragement gripping at your captive soul. And you feel your courage sinking away through the ripping and viciousness of the sudden attack. - Weakness, wounds, heaviness, brokenness. Have you ever know such pain? As the shadows grow still, the darkness deepens around you and you feel so alone. What little remaining hope you had just keeps seeping away.

Here's the key for hope. God loves all of us very much. He doesn't abandon us, often times, it is us who abandon Him. Life dealt me that fierce, terrible blow of PTSD, I have come to experience **NOW** the presence of God! Inhale the freshness and power that flows from His Word. A supernatural Peace resumes control, not as you struggle but as you WAIT.

So listen, dear wounded one. Listen for your dearest Friend. Yes, He Will come for you. He is faithful!!! He will find you right where you have fallen and will come to meet you in your valley of pain. Feel His tender touch of compassion. See His hand taking hold of your life. Listen for His tender words. Relax in His arms as He lifts you to His breast. He has come to carry you to a place of safety. This friend of yours is ever loyal. And look at His suffering in your behalf. Just reach out and He will be there for you.

**Chaplain, Medics & Corpsmen 2008-2010**

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

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

## Combat Medic Training Evolves to Save Lives

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

SAN ANTONIO - One day before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Army senior leaders put into place a plan to overhaul the service's combat medic training.

Officials wanted to replace Cold War-era health care specialists who worked mainly in hospitals as nursing assistants with more qualified, combat-oriented medics for line units.

Little did they know that events the next day eventually would send the force to war in Afghanistan, or that now, seven years later, the new breed of combat medics, many fresh from their initial training, would be called upon on two fronts to save countless lives on the battlefields.

Though they still officially are called health care specialists, today's medics bear little resemblance to those who were trained by nurses. In their place are medics trained by combat veterans with a battle-focused curriculum that has evolved alongside the fight.

"Our medics shouldn't be working in hospitals. Our medics should be saving lives on the battlefield," said Army Lt. Col. Paul T. Mayer, director of combat medic training at Fort Sam Houston here.

The "68 Whiskey" military occupational specialty is the second-largest in the Army, with nearly 38,000 medics spread across the active and reserve components. Only the infantry specialty has more Soldiers in the force.

The Department of Combat Medic Training trains 8,000 new medics a year, with class sizes that stretch to nearly 500 students. A new iteration of training starts every two weeks, and at any one time, as many as 2,500 students are working their way through the program. Roughly 20 percent will not make it through the training, failing to meet either the academic or physical demands of the course, Mayer said.

"Our challenge is to turn a brand new soldier into a medic, and we've got 16 weeks to do that," Mayer said.

About 60 percent of those who graduate are deployed to the battlefield within six months of graduation, he said. So, during the past few years, officials at the school have revamped the program. The course still includes civilian emergency medical skills, but the focus now is on training for battlefield medicine, said Donald Parsons, the deputy director of the department.

"We have gone back and looked at how people die on the battlefield -- what types of wounds they get, what types of injuries that are killing Soldiers -- and that's where we focus our attention on training our medics," Parsons said.

Officials at the school have looked back as far as the Korean War to study causes of death and in an effort to isolate those in which death can be prevented.

For the most part, despite increased technology in weaponry, the types of injuries suffered in war pretty much have stayed the same, Mayer said. Soldiers die on the battlefield primarily from three causes: they bleed to death as the result of severe trauma, an object penetrates their chest and blocks their breathing, or they suffer a head injury that results in a blocked airway, he explained.

The vast majority of those who die in battle do so because their injuries are catastrophic and they would not survive regardless of how quickly medical care is applied, Parsons said. But there are a small percentage of injuries that could be survivable if the right care is provided quickly.

"What can we train our medics to do to keep these Soldiers alive long enough to make it to the combat support hospital?" Parsons asked, noting that care in those hospitals is comparable to that in the United States. "Our focus is to be able to treat those preventable causes of death at the point of injury and get that soldier alive back to that hospital."

The school trains medics to recognize those types of injuries and then treat them, Parsons said, through a dynamic curriculum that constantly is updated with input from the battlefield.

"We have the ability to internally ... change our training program to meet the needs of the combatant commander on the battlefield," Parsons said.

As a result, he said, combat medics are learning and employing much more advanced techniques, especially to restore breathing and stop bleeding.

Medics now learn how to perform surgical cricothyrotomies, which involve cutting an emergency airway in the patient's throat. They learn how to insert a needle into the chest to relieve air pressure on the heart caused by a wound that has penetrated the chest cavity and collapsed a lung. They also learn to use tourniquets -- once considered a last resort -- often. Now, the new combat action tourniquet often is the first item medics take out of their bag, Mayer said.

"Tourniquets used to be taboo, and the tourniquet that was in the Army inventory was a piece of junk," Mayer said. His department worked with industry officials and other military agencies to develop a tourniquet that can be trained on and used successfully on the battlefield. Now, all Soldiers are issued tourniquets when they deploy to combat, and medics carry several of them.

"Probably the single most successful thing we've done in this conflict is change the ... dynamic of tourniquet use," Mayer said. "We do it all the time on the battlefield now, and it's saving lives."

The school also has leveraged technology in its teaching tools. The school has one of the largest collections of human simulation systems, Mayer said. Mannequins with pulses and breathing systems are modified with simulated trauma wounds, and are integrated into the training to give the students a better idea of the wounds they eventually will treat for real.

The school also has two "blood labs" in which the students sharpen their skills as soldier medics. One lab simulates the scene of a suicide bombing in a market place, and the other simulates a bombing in an office building.

Strobe lights cut the darkness and fog machines fill the room and obscure the setting. Bloody mannequins -- some in uniforms and others dressed as civilians -- are scattered on the floors in a maze of rooms. Blaring music and screams of pain and panic fill the air, and the medics must work through the scenarios using both their soldiering skills and their medical training. In their attempts to render aid, they must first look for homemade bombs and enemies bearing weapons.

This is somewhat of a paradigm shift for the use of medics, who in past wars often put themselves in harm's way to render aid and rarely used weapons in battle, Mayer said. Now, they are told to shoot first, eliminate the enemy, and then go about their tasks as medics.

"Be Soldiers first. Don't become part of the problem. Become part of the solution," Mayer said.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Greg Deleon, a two-tour Iraq war combat veteran and an instructor/writer at the school, agreed, saying that the soldier medics must first gain fire superiority before rendering aid.

"In order to get someone treated efficiently, you first have to get rid of the fire," Deleon said.

The school also is expanding its field training facility at nearby Camp Bullis. Plans are to expand the training facility and modify it to resemble a forward operating base, Mayer said. Gates, checkpoints and guard towers are planned to give it more of a combat environment feel.

"It absolutely helps. It puts them in a situation where they have to have some type of critical thinking to get the job done," Deleon said.

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Watson, an assistant senior instructor at the school, said the more realistic training gives the medics more of an overall view of what they will encounter on the battlefield.

"You have to have the overall big picture to not just treat patients, but [also to] watch out for yourself, because if you become a patient, you are no longer that combat multiplier," he said.

Familiarization also helps the medics learn to keep calm so they can administer aid, he said.

Watson said the training now is much more advanced than when he went through the school in 1999. Before, it was more static and not as sophisticated, he said. Today's training would have been helpful in preparing for his two combat tours in Iraq, he said.

Deleon said the current training easily translates to saving lives on the battlefield.

"Absolutely -- without a doubt," he said. "I only wish I could have had it when I went through. It will help them to be prepared for what they are going to see."

Deleon and Watson said their own combat experiences are proving helpful in the classroom, because they can relate personal experiences to the training.

"It grabs the students' attention, and they are more apt to pay attention to the course," Watson said.

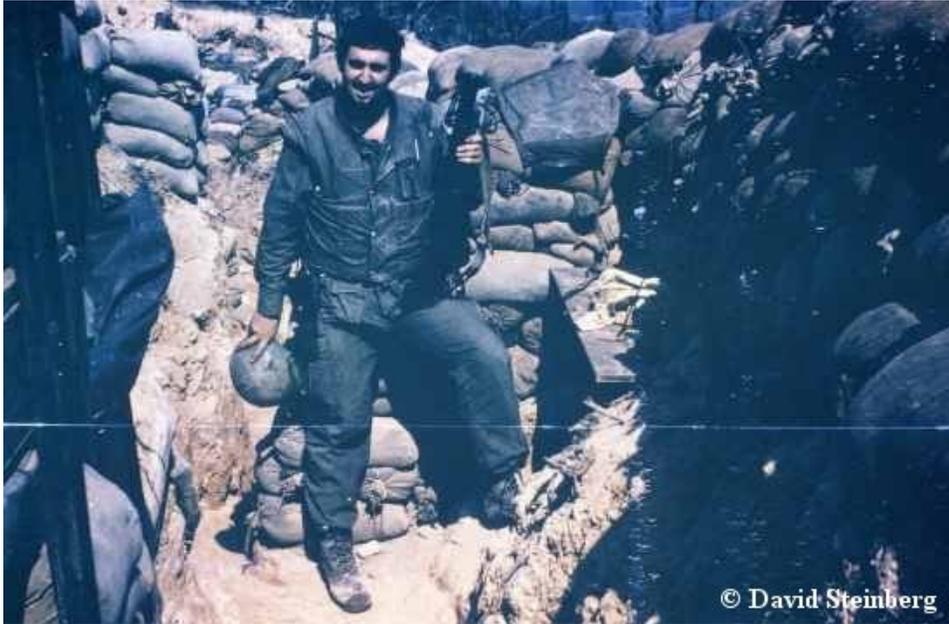
The medics typically are deployed at the platoon level, with each medic responsible for about 40 troops. But they do not initially earn the coveted title "doc," Watson said. First, they must prove they are part of the team.

"If the platoon is filling up sand bags, grab a shovel," Watson said.

Unfortunately, the fastest way to earn the title is to have something bad happen and for the medic to do everything right, he said.

Mayer said the school will continue to expand, evolve and incorporate lessons learned into its training. Meanwhile, soldier medics are proving themselves daily in combat, and more Soldiers are returning home alive because of their efforts, he said.

"They are the biggest combat multiplier on the battlefield," Mayer said. "Those [infantry] guys kick in doors and engage and kill the enemy because they know if they're hit, medics are right there to save them."



By:  
HM2 David M. "Doc"  
Steinberg

"DOC" Dave after 3  
months on Hill 881S  
Khe Sanh

Are we considered Marines?.....Yes, we are Fleet Marine "DOC"s.....same Marine Uniforms (except USMC Dress Uniform...That is why we have Cracker Jacks), same easy target in the Bush. Here is how my combat time started with FMF Training at Camp Pendleton in Sept. 67':

My first day in the chow hall line at Camp Pendleton, I finally understood what they meant by rank has it's privileges. I was culled out of line and invited to dine with the non-commissioned officers in their OWN mess area. In the Navy a E-4 Petty Officer is nothing and deserves nothing, except less duty nights and weekends. I liked this Marine stuff.

We played jungle combat, qualified with the M-14, the 45 Colt pistol and the practice hand grenade, dug trenches and shared a poncho tent half and pole with a comrade who provided the other poncho half and pole so we could sleep in a cozy pup tent....just like we would in Nam...are you kidding me! We manned fighting holes on top of a tall hill overlooking the Pacific Coast Highway and shivered all night due to the cool October Night...not the fear of Victor Charlie. that might be lurking in the hills of Camp Pendleton.

30 days leave home to Chicago and off I flew to San Bernadino Air Force base to catch a flight to Nam. Our Marine shared the perils of the 22-day trip to Nam by ship? I, HM3 Steinberg reported alone, corpsmen were sent individually to Viet Nam via Continental Airlines to Okinawa and then Flying Tiger Airlines to DaNang. *That 7-day life expectancy for a Corpsman* in the bush must have been more than a rumor if they were sending us over one-by-one EXPRESS!

I reported in at the Corpsman Holding Company in DaNang and found a few interesting facts, like it's MIND over MATTER, They Don't Mind that I Don't Matter. First, due to heavy casualties among "DOC"S in I Corp, my orders where changed from 1st Division to 3d Marine Division. Second, my hopes of spending the year as an OR TECH in an Air Conditioned OR Suite were SHATTERED when the officer at the holding company told me that, "he was very impressed with my HM3 rank and training in the Operating Room and confirmed that one day soon, after about 6 months with a Marine unit in the bush if I was still alive, I would have that opportunity".

I guess it did not matter to him and that is why I found myself on a 6-by truck heading North along highway 1 the next day to Camp Evans. There I was assigned to the BAS, Battalion Aid Station of

the 26th Marines, who were engaged at Con Thien, Gio Linh and along the Cua Viet. I had my own Willy's Jeep Ambulance and got my ¼ ton Military License to drive it everywhere and to fool around on the mule, a pallet on wheels that they used to drop loaded with supplies dangling from a parachute. For us it was a go-cart. I remained with the BAS through early December, when we were ordered to pack-up the BAS for shipment to a lovely, quiet, mountain view local called Khe Sanh.

It was now early January and I was one of the Senior Corpsmen at the 3/26 BAS and did my daily sick calls by day and typed up death notices on the KIA's by night (Died in Thau Thien Province from whatever). *Life was good but the clock was ticking, we just didn't know it.*

Something in the air was different earlier in the night before the ammo dump got hit early the next morning. We were told to burn all of our letter from home in case we were over-run....overrun.....that was a good bedtime thought as my eyes closed and those of us in the tent side-by-side on cots drifted off to sleep.

**0530 or whatever.....BOOM BANG BOOM.....**we all ran from the Corpsman Tent and jumped into any depression in the red dirt, Incoming, Outgoing, the ammo dump was lit-up like the 4th of July. It was dark and we scattered to safety. I curled up like a ball under a pallet near the end of the Khe Sanh runway and fell back asleep. The morning sun and the relative quiet woke me and I climbed out from under the depression I had clawed-out with my bare hands during the chaos. Yes, the pallet of 105 rounds protected me just fine.....was I nuts!

Later that day I was informed that there had been heavy Corpsmen losses on Hill 881S and that I should take a few things and as a Senior Corpsman, go up there and check things out. I flew in by Huey Helicopter and jumped off with my Unit 1 Medical Bag across my chest. It was a hot L-Z with incoming still pounding the Hill. Corpsman Up, was the first thing I heard and I crested the hill near a motor or gun pit where a Marine was on his back clutching his chest and gasping for air. After months at the BAS, here I was with my very first immediate casualty and he has a sucking chest wound. All my training came back to me and I quickie took the plastic bag from a field dressing bandage and was able to seal the air leak. I wrapped him tightly and a few Marines got him into the saddle for a medivac.

I finally reported to the CO Capt. Dabney (Chesty Puller's Son-in-Law) and told him I was to check on the Corpsman situation on the Hill for the BAS down on the Khe Sanh Combat Base. I asked him where the other "DOC'S" were on the Hill. He told me that one was standing in front of him... *He meant me!* I was immediately taken over, ordered and further assigned to Lt. Lawrence Boudria of the 3rd Plt. India 3/26 for all my days on the Hill and what was to turn out to be many interesting months through the summer with that platoon after leaving the Hill in April. There was one other "DOC" on our side of the Hill and Dabney ordered me NEVER To be on the same side of the Hill as him EVER! As it turned out, the 2 of us were it for a long time.

This "DOC", like the Marines on Hill 881S (3,000 meters high in the mountains overlooking the DMZ and North Viet Nam, did not shave, change the clothes that we arrived with on the Hill, share 1 C-ration between three, or leave the trench line on top of that hill for the next 77 days. Up to 1,300 incoming rockets and mortar rounds per day and 85% KIA and WIA during that period meant a lot of time in the Helo Saddle between the Hills medivacing and receiving replacements. Many times when I returned to the trenchline, the Marines thought I was wounded as I was covered with blood....none of my own....The Choppers were "mortar magnets" and wherever they were, so was

incoming! The pilots only stayed for seconds as we could here the mortar pops from the surrounding hills.

The time immediately after India 3/26 was relieved from our long duration on Hill 881S. We were choppered off the Hill and we thought we were going to relative safety.....unfortunately we found ourselves fending for ourselves for a few days in the trenches that ran along the demolished Khe Sanh Combat Base Airstrip. I don't remember if they even knew what to do with us as the base was still coming under rocket attacks and there were no structures above ground to house us until we eventually were choppered down to Quang Tri.

We sat in these 3 feet deep shallow depressions that they called a trenchline.....now on Hill 881S we "knew" what a trench line was and this was no trench line. Suddenly and unbelievably, we actually missed the security of our bunny holes on the Hill. Hell, when we first settled in on the Hill, Dabney made us dig, dig, dig to make the trenches deeper and deeper (and thank God he did! ). "Sleep by day, dig all night (when the clouds which settled below the Hill protected us from snipers and incoming) and I will report the first man seen without his flak jacket and helmet!" were Dabney's direct orders. They needed his leadership on the Khe Sanh base since there was little protection along the runway.

We watched as C-130s lumbered in for landing and headed for the turn-around indented in the Hill at the end of the strip. Those getting off at the Base jumped off as the plane slowed for the turn and those getting off the Base jumped on the ramp at the rear of the plane...because once the turn was made... it was up, up and away for that ship.....nothing landed on the base for more than minutes. The Bird was off and the rockets came in....."Incoming" and I began to hear those words again "Corpsman Up!" I was treating total strangers along the shallow trench line until they were hauled away to Charlie Med.

Finally, 3rd Plt lead by Lt. Larry "Budda" Boudria (who I owe my life to for yelling at me on the Hill and later along the Perfume River in Hue and the triple canopy jungles SW of Da Nang) got its chance to chopper out of the Khe Sanh Base. Our Freedom Bird was there and the ramp of the CH-46 was down.....we all raced to escape our months in Hell. SWOOSH, a round came in and a fellow Marine fell injured. The chopper waited bravely as I threw down my pack, propped the injured man on my back and ran across an open field, his weight making me fall to my knees a few times, until I dropped him at the door of Charlie Med. News Journalists were watching my actions across the field and they never came to my aid....so when one of them asked me "what do you have there?" (referring to the injured Marine I just dropped off) I turned around and said "here is what I have" and I punched the guy right on the jaw. Without missing a step I charged back to the waiting Chopper.

As I approached the chopper at full gallop, I saw my pack with all the worldly possessions that I kept with me on the Hill laying on the ground. My attention was immediately drawn to the Marines on the Chopper yelling, "Come on DOC!, the pilot is not waiting another second!". Possessions or Life, Possessions or Freedom? I boarded the Chopper and left my worldly goods for the last flight that day outta Dodge. Later, some how, months later my wallet caught up with me....no money....but then the PX closed on the Khe Sanh base on January 21 when the ammo dump blew and I ended-up on Hill 881S. The only item I really miss is the Graphlex 35mm camera, which I used to take the pictures now on the Hill 881S Warrior web site, and it was the only possession passed down to me from my Uncle, 1st Lt. David Steinberg USMCR who directed fire for 1/13 from his Observation Plane the first 2 days of the battle for Iwo Jima. He could not land on his ship the Saratoga since it was hit by a Kamikaze so he was directed to a smaller carrier, the Bismark Sea,

which later was also hit mid ship in the powder magazine and sunk with him aboard. I lost his camera, I still have his name.

Anyway, we landed in Quang Tri near dusk.....we were greeted with steaks, showers and clean clothes to replace the gear we wore during the entire siege. We went to sleep on the clean white sand (no more red clay) in tents set-up right across the Quang Tri airstrip. We were finally free from the Hill.....but in the middle of the night the Hell returned when a Chinese rocket landed in the next tent and killed a few more of those that survived! I, like others ran into the night, not knowing where to seek shelter or even what the Hell was going on! Those Bastards knew we made it through our time on Hill 881S and wanted one more shot at us and they got it! Where is the trenchline.....where is my bunny hole?

Still had 4 months more in the Bush on patrols around Hue and DaNang.....finally after 8 months with 3rd Platoon 3rd Battalion 26th Marines....I was flown to 3rd Med Battalion in Quang Tri WHERE I WAS AN OR TECH for the next 4 month....the Air Conditioning made up for non-stop surgery and triage responsibilities.

Returned to St Albans Naval Hospital as an HM2....but ALWAYS WORE MY MARINE GREENS WITH SUBDUED NAVAL RANK to all monthly staff inspections on the hospital grounds.....I never really returned to the NAVY in my mind and will always be an FMF Combat "DOC".

HM2 David M. "Doc" Steinberg



Holiday Wishes for Family & Friends?

What do the holidays mean to you?

Please email to [editor@corpsman.com](mailto:editor@corpsman.com) by 15 December for publication in December newsletter.

# Navy History

Thanks Doc Higgins for this little tidbit

**The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers!).**

**However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."**



**Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."**

**Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.**

**Then she headed for the Azores , arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.**

**On 18 November, she set sail for England . In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.**

**By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland . Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.**

**The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799, with no cannon shot,! no food , no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky, and 38,600 gallons of water.**

**GO NAVY!!!!**

## Bits and Pieces

Looking for information not posted in the website forums? Recruiting question? Corps School question? Got a question for Da-Chief, 8404, Doc\_D, PegasusHM, CrazyCajun or DeeDee?

Get your questions answered LIVE on Attack of The Chief weekly podcast.

Email your question to:  
[admin1@corpsman.com](mailto:admin1@corpsman.com)

Your question will be addressed as soon as possible.

Tuesday night chat.....  
come socialize with other members in the e-club chat room

2100 - 2300 EST

Get to know your fellow members in a way only live chat can handle.



# Happy Thanksgiving

## Adopt-A-Doc

Tis the season to start getting those holiday care packages on the way to our deployed service members

If you would like to adopt one or more of our deployed docs email [deedee@corpsman.com](mailto:deedee@corpsman.com) and we will get you the address of a member who would like to get packages sent to them.

If you are deployed and would like to receive packages during your deployment please email [deedee@corpsman.com](mailto:deedee@corpsman.com) with your name & rank, mailing address and expected return date. If you have any special requests please include them in your email.

## Searching for.....

From [YardDog](#)

If anyone was a member of Company 120 from 1988 Boot Camp, HM A-School Company 205-Alpha from 1988, (Both in Great Mistakes) or FMF school in Camp Pendleton, Ca that graduated in December 1988. Please let me know.

I am also looking for shipmates from MedLog (1990 until 1994) and Mayport (1994 thru 1998). Especially for those that are still on AD.

I would like to see how "LIFE" is going

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you looking for an old shipmate? That Airman that lived next to you in the barracks? That Marine who saved your butt after a night of drinking someplace you probably shouldn't have been? Email [editor@corpsman.com](mailto:editor@corpsman.com) We will put your announcement in the next issue of Scuttlebutt and see if one of our members can help you out.

VISIT US ON THE WEB: [WWW.CORPSMAN.COM](http://WWW.CORPSMAN.COM)

**Thank you to all the members who send in contributions for the newsletter each month - you are the reason there is a newsletter each month.**

**I just make it look good.**

**DeeDee - editor Scuttlebutt News**

# HOSPITAL CORPS MONTHLY

September - October 2008

## **Hard Charging Sailors are Needed at Recruit Training Command**

Hard charging Sailors are needed at Recruit Training Command to mold the **future of our Navy!** Second Class Petty Officers and above male or female are requested to think hard about the best Shore Duty tour for Sailorization and Mentoring the Navy has to offer. Contact your rating assignment Detailer to become a Recruit Division Commander (RDC). If you have any questions about becoming a RDC contact the Shore Special Program Detailer HMCS (FMF/SW) Ray Townsel (PERS-4010D) at DSN: 882-3855/COMM: 901-874-3855, E-mail: [raymond.k.townsel@navy.mil](mailto:raymond.k.townsel@navy.mil).

### **BENEFITS OF BEING A RDC**

22% greater chance for advancement to CPO than the fleet wide average, **\$375.00** a month PRO pay, **\$220.00** on top of your annual clothing

allowance, Free dry cleaning when actively pushing a division, Choice of coast, Train 9 divisions and receive the RDC Service Ribbon,

Opportunity to obtain your Master Training Specialist Qualification, and last but not least, the great feeling you get when you graduate a

division of 88 new Sailors and send them out into the our fleet to be our future leaders

### **RDC SCREENING REQUIREMENTS**

Screening form NAVPERS 1306/92, Page 13(s) from CO, CMC, DAPA, CMEO, and FAP stating you have been interviewed and fully

qualified to be a RDC, CO written recommendation, Last 36 months FITREP/EVALS, Proof of warfare qualification, Last 3 PRIMS reports to include run time, S/U, P/U & BCA (you must have performed the run portion of your last PFA, no bikes, swim, or other alternative method allowed), 3 / 4 view full length photo summer whites e-5/6 khakis (CPOS), Photo of tattoo in pt gear, VE score of 50, Petty Officers Second Class must have two years TIR and six years TIS.

## **From the Desk of the Enlisted Community Manager (ECM)**

The following NEC's are critical and have open school seats: HM 8402, 8406, 8410, 8427, 8482, 8485, 8486, 8493, 8494, 8503, 8505, 8506, 8702, 8752. Most of these NEC's have SRB incentives. NEC 8485 (Psych Tech) is expected to grow by 29 billets for OSCAR (Operational Stress Control and Readiness) in the near future. The NEC 8472 (Med Photo) has been disestablished and all personnel holding this NEC will be recoded to 0000. Please click on our website to access the NECMAN which will show the current manning for all HM NEC's:

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

### **Pharmacy Tech HM-8482**

This is a highly specialized, challenging and critical NEC that is expected to grow in the future. This 23-week course will teach one the fundamentals and principles in the compounding and dispensing of pharmaceutical preparations. It is more than just standing behind the prescription drug window at your MTF or counting pills; one must know how certain drugs mix and interact with one another, education of the patient on the use of medications, among other skills. Personnel with the Pharmacy NEC can transfer to a variety of duty stations including large MTF's, small clinics,

overseas, shipboard, FMF units and even with ECRC (Expeditionary Comback Readiness Center). Recently the SRB levels for Zones A and B have been increased, see SRB message. Current inventory is 89.6%. Current Sea/Shore Flow is 36/60.

To know more about the role and requirements to apply for Pharmacy Tech, please contact your CCC or the HM8482 Enlisted Technical Advisor, HMC Robert Wagenman, (301) 319-4224, email: [Robert.Wagenman@med.navy.mil](mailto:Robert.Wagenman@med.navy.mil). Interested Applicants should see their CCC to submit a C-school package and all packages should be sent to Mr. Jeff Ramsey, C-school detailer.

## Navy Formalizes Support Constructs for All IA Sailors, Families

Story Number: NNS081029-14 Release Date: 10/29/2008 , From U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- Individual Augmentee (IA) Continuum leaders announced a policy update Oct. 17 to identify individual augmentee (IA) Sailor parent commands and to establish Navywide support for all IA Sailors and their families, ensuring the same fervor and vigilance that traditionally deploying Sailors and families receive.

In addition to identifying parent commands, the new policy, in NAVADMIN 293/08 (IA Gram 08-03), identifies specific minimum-levels of support parent commands are required to provide all three types of IA Sailors and their families in preparation for, during and after an IA deployment. "With approximately 13,000 Sailors on IA orders, one of Navy leadership's top priorities is supporting the mission and communicating every facet of the IA process with families. Site visits where we talk to people who have been there or who are going, give us great feedback to make sure we have a good measure on this IA program," said Adm. Jonathan Greenert, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Individual Augmentee Manpower Management Assignment Sailors (IAMM) are Sailors who are traditional IAs completing their tour in a temporarily assigned duty status and who will return to their previous commands at the completion of their IA tours. Commands deploying IAMM Sailors will maintain traditional command responsibilities for IA Sailor and family support. Sailors serving on a Global War on Terrorism Support Assignment (GSA) will also receive traditional family support from their detaching command while on an IA tour; however, Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) will provide all administrative Sailor support. This administrative support will include but is not limited to: exam ordering and exam administration; deployment pay, housing, medical and legal support; personnel accounting of Sailors during a disaster; and continuous reach back support for emergent deployment issues. The Navy is currently filling approximately 60 percent of the GWOT assignments through this GSA process. Mobilized Reserve Sailors not mobilized as part of an established commissioned Reserve component unit, will receive command and family support from their assigned Navy Operational Support Centers. They will receive IA administrative support from ECRC. The IA Sailor and family support set forth in this new policy includes but is not limited to: pre-deployment Sailor screening; family support via ombudsmen or family readiness groups; periodic contact with IA Sailors while deployed; periodic contact with families while IA Sailors are deployed; and the inclusion of families in accounting and evacuation orders during disaster response efforts.

With more than 27,000 Sailors executing one of the types of IA orders in 2008, ensuring clear, consistent support throughout the deployment process is a top priority for Navy leaders. "Our mission is to ensure a streamlined, standardized oversight of IA support programs Navywide. This challenge includes supporting the organization, training and equipping these IAs, supporting their families, providing a predictable and consistent accession process and integrating the IA process into the respective career paths of all of our IAs," Greenert added. The success of this new policy is also heavily dependent on the efforts of the command IA coordinator (CIAC).

As mandated in IA Gram 08-02, every active command must designate a CIAC. These CIACs will work closely with command ombudsmen to ensure commands provide the adequate levels of support identified in IA Gram 08-03, as well as to ensure a smooth hand-off of support responsibilities when a family moves from one region to another. With IA Gram 08-03 identifying who holds parent-command responsibilities for IAs and their families, future IA Grams will clarify what those responsibilities include. Additional IA Sailor and family support will continue to come from Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers, regional commanders and ECRC. To view IA Gram 08-03 in its entirety, visit <http://www.cffc.navy.mil/augmentees/>.

For more news from U.S. Fleet Forces Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/clf/](http://www.navy.mil/local/clf/).

## **Important Information Regarding Fleet Reserve Requests**

Submit in accordance with MILPERMAN 1830-040

“Enlisted members who have completed 20 years of active service may, at their request, be transferred to the Fleet Reserve. Once submitted, a member’s date may be changed only upon member’s authorization or due to national security.”

### **Request Submission.**

The following are guidelines for submission of a member’s request for transfer to Fleet Reserve: a. Members in **paygrades E-6 and below** should submit request **6 to 18 months prior** to requested Fleet Reserve transfer date. **Paygrades E-7 – E-9** should submit the request **6 to 24 months prior** to the requested Fleet Reserve transfer date.\*\*

### **\*\*\*WORD OF CAUTION!!!\*\*\***

Personnel who have an approved Fleet Reserve Date and decide later on to cancel their date, need permission from the Community Managers.

Personnel whose vacancy was promoted to will not be allowed to cancel their Fleet Reserve. For an example: HMC submits Fleet Reserve in November 2007 for FEB 2009. This person decides they are not ready to retire and in November 2008 requests to cancel Fleet Reserve, unable to approve this request as we promoted 1 Chief, 2 HM1, 2 HM2’s and 2 HM3’s.