



THE THUNDERING THIRD

NEWSLETTER



THIRD BATTALION FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION
23 Hampton Meadows, Hampton, NH 03842

Letter from the President

To All 3/4 Marines and Corpsmen,

How time does fly! Here we are heading into April 2008 already and it seems like we just last week finished off Christmas and New Year holidays. The Spring season of the year is quickly closing in on us and many have witnessed widespread flooding already, and before we know it Summer will be bearing down on us with its oppressive heat.

Pam and I, truly hope everyone is doing well and are enjoying the arrival of this new year. We have been busy preparing our home for sale and have just recently put it on the market. Now that I have (finally) retired we are anxious to move back to our home state of Indiana where we have the majority of our families.

Very preliminary planning has been discussed for the upcoming Reunion in 2009. As you know it will be held in San Diego, but we are as of yet unsure of the dates. Frank Pedersen will be the Reunion Coordinator and I am certain he will arrange for a great reunion. Immediate Past President, Jim Conklin, has graciously volunteered (you just never learn do you Jim!!??) to assist Frank in getting started and working with him to make the early arrangements required. We must have a contract for hotel accommodations secured not later than one year in advance of the reunion dates selected. We will work diligently to ensure we can have it during the season when hotel rates are at their lowest and in a location that will serve us well for eating establishments and tourism. Unfortunately, we all know airfares will be higher due to fuel prices and the beleaguered economy. There are many wonderful and interesting things to see, and do, in San Diego so I encourage all who can to attend. This will mark my first trip back to that city since I was in boot camp at Camp Pendleton in mid-1966. I am sure for many of you it will mark your first trip back also. I hope we have some nostalgic visits to Pendleton and see how our "newer" Marine Corps is doing things these days. Of course, we will all be saying things like "We sure had it a lot tougher when we were here"!

As you know, the Battalion has deployed to Iraq for their 5th trip back. In the not too distant future we will be arranging to send them some crates of Beef Jerky and Cigars as we have done in the past. I will be in contact with the SgtMajor to get a list of other items they would like to receive and we can, hopefully, include enough of them into the crates that are shipped over to go around to everyone. I would ask everyone to please keep our Marines and Corpsmen in their thoughts and prayers during this deployment and let's hope they all return home safely to their families and friends.

Semper Fi,
Roger Kimble
President

Savannah Update

There will be some fine tuning but this is fairly accurate. My best guess on the Savannah reunion is as follows:

Reunion expenses	\$29,612.00	Total additional expenses	\$4,789.00
Add'l. Expenses: Rooms pd by 3/4.....	\$2,154.00	=====	
Reunion income.....	\$24,505.00	Reunion loss	{\$5,107.00}
Wright's plaques etc	\$485.00	Less: Add'l reunion expenses.....	\$4,789.00
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Chaplin's expenses.....	\$548.00	Actual reunion loss	{\$318.00}
Memorial Service Exp.....	\$300.00		
Reunion loss	\$5,107.00		
Reunion supplies	\$1,104.00		
Reunion wine @ banquet	\$198.00		

The additional reunion expenses, reflected above, are expenses that no organizer can effectively plan for. These are unknown and will always be absorbed by the battalion. Based on these figures, I would say our reunion was a great success.

I know there have been many new members added to our roles. Hopefully, the information we received from Wallace will aid in not double billing those who paid at the reunion. If that is not going to work out for us, we can put an item in the newsletter explaining our dilemma with records and ask that they not go 'postal' on us if they get double dunned. Also, is there anything at all that I can do from Texas to aid you in getting the membership roles updated? I am willing to assist in any way that I can and have time to work on it.

As an afterthought, on the postcards going out for dues renewal is there any way to add a simple line to say "If you paid dues at the reunion, disregard this notice"? Maybe that will help.....just a thought.

Dues – A reminder is appropriate here about dues. If you received this Newsletter and have not paid your dues, someone else has picked up your tab. Dues are only \$20 a year. Please make your check payable to "Third Battalion, Fourth Marines Association" and send it to our treasurer; **Chuck Lear, 2497 Hertzog Lane, Lees Summit, MO 64086.**

Please Note: All monies should be sent to and ONLY to Chuck Lear at the above address.

Articles – Any member wanting to have an article, or interest item, included in the Newsletter please send your copy to me at the address on the top of this Newsletter. You may include photo's, old or new.

A U.S. Navy Corpsman serving with Marines, wrote a wonderful poem and it is re-copied here for you.
It is titled

“Bury me Next to a Marine”

Bury me next to a Marine, When my time has come to an end,
So I can spend eternity, Beside my brother and friend

I've served beside them for years, And they've inspired me every day.
They've never asked for anything, So a debt I can never repay.

None of them served for glory, None for money or fame.
But they've served in every climate and place, Heroes with but one name.

No one will ever outdo them, Their honor is never outdone.
They will all go down in history, As America's favorite sons.

Marines will never fail you, And their guard will never cease.
Please bury me next to a Marine, So I may rest in peace.

Third Battalion Fourth Marines Association Comparative Cash Flow Statement For the Periods 07/01/2003-06/30/2005 and 07/01/2005-04/20/2008

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From: Battalion Sergeant Major James D. Walsh

The Battalion is finally settled in to the battle spaces that we will be occupying for the deployment. With the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army taking on more and more responsibilities throughout Iraq, more Marine Units are being tasked with taking over larger areas and act in more of an overwatch role. That was the case with 3/4. We have taken over both 3/23's battle space as well as 1/7's battle space. We now cover what is called the "Middle Euphrates River Valley" running from the Haditha Dam down to area's south of Hit. We have Platoons where there used to be Companies and Sgt-lead Squads on there own running positions that used to be manned by a platoon. We are spread thin and everyone is pulling extra duty, but the Marines and Sailors of the Bn are doing a great job. The CO and I are out daily visiting the Marines and they are very motivated and morale is high. I ask them what it is I can get for them to make life better and they never come up with anything. They usually just say, "I don't need anything SgtMaj, I've got all I need."

The insurgents are few and far between these days and the locals are quick to point any out that do show up. The insurgency as a whole has definitely been defeated although there are of course still some small insurgent cells around trying to cause problems, but with the aggressiveness of the new Iraqi Police and Army, they won't be around long either. Regardless of what the news media puts out, there has been remarkable improvements here and we are very close to achieving the goals we've worked hard for.

As for what we can use, we do have some cigar lovers here but I would guess their numbers to be maybe 10-15. Beef Jerky is always welcome, plus it always survives the trip over here. The thing I would ask for though is as many baby wipes as you can send. The areas we've moved out to are basically new areas that were built in the middle of the desert areas. The sand isn't even really sand, it's more like a brown talcum powder. It gets everywhere and we go through baby wipes like crazy. "AA" and "D" batteries are always good to get since our supply section seems to always be out of them. Other than that, like the Marines tell me, I can't think of anything we might need or like. If anything does come to mind I will let you know.

Thanks again for all you and the Association do for us, we really appreciate it. Take care.

SgtMaj Walsh (Jim)

Sir,

As a former 3/4 Marine out of 29 Palms as well as a volunteer with a Young Marine unit out of Wichita Kansas, we are always looking for ways to "support our Troops" especially the Marines in anyway possible.

Please allow us to assist you in the project to collect baby wipes and batteries. We will kick off this project starting today. I will get the word out to the Young Marines, families, and adult staff of volunteers. I will keep you posted on the progress, and once we have enough items ready to ship, I will again make contact. We do have a local USMCR facility in Wichita at McConnell AFB, they may be able to help us ship these items to the necessary location.

Regards-

Mr. Anderson
Commanding Officer
T.A.Y.M.

Gents,

Received this email from my request, yesterday, so we are off an running on the Baby Wipes and Batteries to be sent to the Battalion in Iraq.

Semper Fi,
Roger

Use The VA To Find Those Old Marine Buddies

I, like many of you, have often wondered whatever happened to many of my friends I served with in Vietnam. I've spent many hours seeking websites that list Marines of the Vietnam era only to be disappointed in not finding a single one. Here is a very good method to reach out and find some of those friends through the assistance of the VA. Credit for this article goes to Paul Geis, who indeed has used this method, and has been put in touch with some of his friends. So, IT WORKS!!

"As a federal agency that is required by law to enforce the Privacy Act, we are obliged to protect the privacy of veterans personal information. Therefore, VA cannot release personal information about a veteran in our records system without that person's permission. We can, however, forward a message from you to the veteran, providing the veteran has filed a claim with VA, and we have an address on record. To forward a message, you must write your message and place it in an unsealed stamped envelope. Also include a note to Va explaining who it is you are trying to reach and add as much identifying information as you have. Place all of this in another envelope addressed to the nearest U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office (you can find the address in at <http://www.va.gov/station/index.htm#facility> or in the blue pages of your telephone book). If the veteran is in our records, your message will be sealed and the envelope addressed to the address we have on file for the veteran. Please note that the veteran may not have informed us of a change of address, so we cannot guarantee receipt of your message. If the veteran receives your note, it is then up to the veteran to contact you. If you have questions, you can reach the regional office at 1-800-827-1000. This process is designed to protect the privacy of our veterans as required by law".

Thanks Paul, for sharing this information with the membership. Maybe we can discover the whereabouts of some of our Marines/Corpsmen we have been trying to find for the past 40 years!!

Roger Kimble
President

Sword Presentation 2007

On December 10, Mike Siebentritt and I traveled to 29 Palms to present the annual NCO parade sword to this top NCO of 2007, Sgt Philip B. Olmstead. We were joined by fellow members of the 3/4 Association Frank Pederson, a friend from 2/4 and Brad Fagerstrom. Upon arrival, we were warmly greeted by the battalion staff including Sgt Major JD Walsh and Lt Col WA Visted. They are a great team and are quite supportive of our Association. Sgt/Maj Walsh gave us a tour of the battalion headquarters and Lt Col Visted gave us a briefing about the upcoming deployment to Iraq, scheduled for February. Both the CO and the Sgt/Major were interested in learning the history of our Association and wanted to develop a close working relationship in the future.

After the briefing, we all joined several of the troops for lunch in the chow-hall. Let me assure you all that the troops are in outstanding condition both physically and mentally and are looking forward to another successful deployment. Even the food was surprisingly good!

Following lunch, the troops assembled in the base theater for training. I presented Sgt Olmstead with the sword on stage in front of the entire battalion. He asked that I personally thank all members of the association for the gift. Afterwards, I briefed the troops about our Association and invited all to join while still on active duty. The Sgt/Major reiterated my invitation as only a Sgt/Major can do and I anticipate many new members in the near future.

We were assured that the battalion appreciated the care packages we sent in the past and we promised to continue to provide any support possible during future deployments.



Siebentritt, Conklin, Peterson and friend entering Battalion headquarters.



Pederson telling them how it was in the old corps! Note whose plate is empty.



Conklin, Siebentritt with Sgt Olmstead in between.



The Battalion



Conklin presenting sword to Sgt Olmstead with Lt Col Visted and Sgt/Maj Walsh.



3/4 Association Certificate.

THIRD BATTALION FOURTH MARINES ASSOCIATION
23 HAMPTON MEADOWS, HAMPTON, NH 03842

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHAGRIN FALLS, OH
44022
PERMIT#141



THE THUNDERING THIRD

Visit our website at:

<http://Thundering-Third.org>