

# READY FOR ALL ... YIELDING TO NONE



Second Battalion Seventh Marines

July 2008



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!



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### Dates to Remember



#### July 2008

- July 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day
- July 11<sup>th</sup> – KVN Meeting
- July 26<sup>th</sup> – 2/7's "Under the Sea" Pool Party



## From the Editor . . . . .

Dear 2/7 spouses and families:

It's July already and we are in the midst of summer. Got plans? Going somewhere? Remember to notify your KV of your whereabouts in the event of an emergency. Remember, your newsletters will continue to be sent to your residence; however, you can view all newsletters on 2/7's web site. Keep your KV's information as well as the Family Readiness Officer's information with you.

Otherwise, have a safe and sane Fourth of July!  
"Where liberty dwells, there is my country."  
Benjamin Franklin

Semper Gumby (Always Flexible),  
Laure DeVincenzi-Nichols



## 2/7 has a new website:

<http://www.i-mef.usmc.mil/div/7mar/2bn/kvn.asp>  
Within that website, visit:

- Calendar events
- Important information
- Newsletters

2/7 has a hotline  
for accurate news and information:  
1-800-759-7602  
(press 2)

## Newly Married To Your Marine?

The vast majority of new spouses do not receive education in the skills and attitudes needed to help them cope with the unique stresses of a Marine Corps lifestyle. **Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge, Skills (L.I.N.K.S)** is an official Marine Corps family readiness program which provides spouses with a basic orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle. **Call 760-830-5131**



## THIS MONTH IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

**On July 3, 1864 – Marines participated in a skirmish near White Point, SC, during the Civil War.**

**On July 4, 1800 – The Marine Band played at Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, in their first public appearance.**

**On July 6, 1905 – Marines escorted the body of John Paul Jones from France to Annapolis.**

**On July 9, 1846 - Marines and Sailors occupied Sonoma, California, after proclaiming California part of the United States during the Mexican War.**

**On July 11, 1798 – The U.S. Marine Corps was re-established by an Act of Congress, succeeding the Continental Marines.**

**On July 25, 1777 – Congress authorized a \$4 weekly subsistence for Marine officers.**

**On July 26, 1861 – An Act of Congress increased the Marines Corps' authorized strength to 93 officers and 3, 074 enlisted men.**

**On July 27, 1898 – Marines from the USS Dixie were the first to raise the American flag over Puerto Rico.**

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## From the Desk of the Battalion Commander

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Family and friends of 2/7,

Task Force 2/7 is now completely deployed into all our Forward Operating Bases (or FOBS) covering an area of over 250 by 150 miles. We are now fully engaged conducting daily operations, working 15-18 hour days, seven days a week, in 105+ degree heat, in rugged and austere conditions, covering anything from running security patrols to training police recruits, to running logistics re-supply to standing posts. And given all that, the men are completely motivated, dedicated and professional . . . and those words are a complete understatement to the truth. You have to physically see it to comprehend the incredible energy and spirit that these guys have; truly amazing. Everyone is busy and our days are definitely full, which does make the time go by faster; hard to believe we have already been here since March/April—maybe you can believe it, as it may seem like eternity on your end taking care of the bazillion things you do. Interestingly, we have already sent back our first group of short-term deployers; retrograding personnel already and we only just got ourselves deployed! There is light at the end of the tunnel, but we still have a long way to go for the majority of us.

Our mission is tracking along very well so far. We spent a couple weeks down in Lashkar Gah providing initial training to over 300 new police recruits who are now in a place near Hirat where they are going through the rest of their six week training package. At the end of this period, they will return to their Districts, fully trained, properly equipped, adequately paid, and hopefully respected. They will then work side by side with our Marines, providing security and law enforcement to their community. The idea is to continue to train and mentor them to a point where they will become more competent, and feel more confident in their abilities to carry on the task of policing without our presence; then we can leave! So far, the recruits have surpassed our expectations and are motivated to take on this highly important role.

Security is still an issue that we work on every day. The Taliban seem to believe they have a purpose in life, we aim to prove them wrong; and so far, we have. They are ingenious little critters so we can never rest easy, but we have our way with them every single time.

We are working several civil projects which have endeared ourselves to the locals. They genuinely like having us around. We are working on digging and repairing new wells, providing Humanitarian Assistance, cleaning up their communities, and building new jails. Our biggest problem is that there aren't enough of us to be everywhere. Every place we go, we have had increasing success; our problems emanate from those outlying areas where we are not. Over time we hope to get out there, in the meantime those communities will continue to be threatened and influenced by the Taliban.

Please continue to send those packages and letters; everyone is motivated on mail day. And for those tough questions or lack of information, please consult one of our very capable and dedicated Key Volunteers.

This is a great battalion, made up of some extraordinary men, and backed by some of America's staunchest patriots—you.

Continue to take care of one another, and I want to thank you again for all that you do; for your service member, for our families, and for our country.

Stay strong, take care of one another, and God bless,  
LtCol Rick Hall



A Band of Brothers

Marines use phrases like *Semper Fi, I got your back*, and we are all a *band of brothers*. More than just using those words, Marines live them. Marines are a wonderful bunch of men who stick together, watch over one another, and once you become a Marine you are a part of their family, a brother. As a wife of a Marine, I want to live by those words, too.

*Semper Fi* means *always faithful*. I have a *Semper Fi* marriage and many *Semper Fi* friendships. When I say *Semper Fi*, I mean I am committed to my marriage; I place my love for my husband and family above all else. I am also committed to my friends. I have respect for them, loyalty for them, and will always try to be there for them. Friends are very important to me because as a Marine wife we move around so much (and are never stationed any where near family).

*I got your back* means when someone is in need *I am here for you*. When a friend is in need, I will do what I can to help. During this deployment, I turn to friends as well as to some of the many services provided by the Marine Corps that "have my back." Some of those services include Key Volunteers and Marine Corps Family Team Building or even Military One Source ... Don't ever be afraid to ask for help; some one is here for you.

A *band of brothers* I would like to think of us all as *part of the 2/7 family*. As things become difficult and stress levels rise, try to remember everyone has good intentions and no one is perfect. Don't let anger or hurt get in the way of what can be a band of sisters...in bad and good times, take comfort in the fact that some one has got your back and remember to live and to think like our Marines , *Semper Fi*.

Dear Friends and Family:

July is the month our country celebrates our independence. While the people of our nation are enjoying hot dogs, apple pie, beer, and fireworks, we, the 2/7 family, are thinking of the price of freedom and independence. Our forefathers fought in the very unpopular Revolutionary War for the uncertain future of the US. They fought, were injured, and some died for us and our liberty and our republic. Today, our beloved Marines are doing the same thing. They are fighting for our children's children; to ensure that they will enjoy the same lifestyle that we have, that they are able to choose what church to attend (or not attend), what show to watch on TV, what meal to eat for dinner, what level of education they would like to achieve. I am grateful to the revolutionaries and to all other warriors that have followed their example and have protected our independent lifestyle and have liberated other oppressed people of the world. I am proud that my husband is part of the tradition of fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> I will sit on Victory Field and enjoy the Marine Corps Band. I will probably cry, just a little, when they play the national anthem and all the Marines in the crowd stand at attention. The mix of emotional will be overwhelming, for a moment, until my daughter asks "why are you crying Mama?" and I will reply, "the pop-pops are just so beautiful."

America is beautiful,  
Sue Cruz



**Sgt. Brad A. Covert ~ 2/7's Family Readiness Officer**

Greetings family and friends of 2d Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines:

As you might know, we lost seven Marines recently from combat operations in Afghanistan. I am writing to explain how I visit the family members of a fallen comrade in the hopes of bringing love, sympathy, compassion, and maybe even a shred of hope.

I do not believe that it is possible to be able to teach someone how to handle a funeral for a fellow Marine killed in the line of duty. Everyday, in the news, you will see coffins of fallen members of our military with the American Flag draped over them. It gives us all a lump in our throats to see such a sight. It is much more moving and concerning to stand right beside that coffin.

Imagine what the family is feeling and thinking at this time. I may have known these fine young men for a few years - and it hurts me deeply. Imagine the families who have raised these men. They watched them take their first steps, heard their first words, and celebrated their birthdays. They have patched up their skinned knees after falling, trying to ride a bike for the first time. They have watched them get ready for their first dates, drive a car for the first time, or were there to comfort them when their hearts were broken for the first time. They shared so many 'firsts'.

No parent should ever have to bury their child. Unfortunately, some families are experiencing this horror. I have had the unfortunate duty of helping numerous families bury their children. I lose a piece of my soul every time the final taps are played and the fallen heroes are laid to their final rest. At every funeral I have attended, I attempt to think of what I will say to the families of these men to console them, but I always draw a blank. What could I possibly say that will make anyone who is experiencing such tragedy feel better or feel at peace? Sometimes just sitting with them, holding their hand, letting them know with a gentle squeeze that I am there carrying on the memory of their son, brings a slight assurance that everything will be okay. This is my job and I am proud to do it.

Please keep the families and friends of our fallen Marines in your thoughts and prayers. Call me if you need anything, I am here to support you in any way that I can.

**760-830-5580 (Work) ~ 760-861-0201 (Cell)**

## ~ Company News ~

### Echo Company

Dear Family and Friends of Company E's Marines and Sailors,

It is with a very heavy heart that I sit down to revise the first of Company E's family newsletters from Afghanistan. Today Company E lost one of its finest warriors and small unit leaders in 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon's Sergeant Matthew E. Mendoza, 24 years old. Sergeant Mendoza was leading from the front when he was killed in action this morning in Gereshk, Nahr e Saraj District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

As a squad leader, Sergeant Mendoza epitomized the best in the Marine Corps' small unit leaders. Dedicated to his Marines and the mission, Sergeant Mendoza was an aggressive and very competent tactician who was loved by his men and the men who served alongside him every day. As a man, he exemplified all the finest qualities. A dedicated husband and a good father, Sergeant Mendoza balanced family and the demands of being a Marine infantryman the way few could. Sergeant Mendoza's presence will be sorely missed but his memory and his spirit will always be with the people who have known him, especially the Marines and Sailors of Company E.

With the sadness created by the death of one of Company E's finest, we look for some happiness in the new arrivals to Company E. SSgt Amos Good, Platoon Sergeant for PSD, has a newborn, healthy baby boy, Levi Weaver Good, born on 23 May 2008. As well, Company Executive Officer 1stLt Brandon Schroder and his wife, Carolyn, welcomed a newborn baby girl, Cailyn Anne Schroder, into their family today, 20 June 2008. We hope that both babies, especially the XO's, look like their mothers but have the fighting spirit of their fathers.

June has been a demanding month for Company E. The Marines and Sailors have done an outstanding job mentoring and training Afghan National Police under demanding circumstances. Your sons, husbands, boyfriends, brothers, and friends have had an immediate impact on the people and police of the Nahr e Saraj and Sangin Districts of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. In the way that only United States Marines can, they have created an attitude among the Afghan people and the Afghan National Police that security and the livelihood of the Afghans will improve.

Your Marines and Sailors have shown their Afghan National Police counterparts, day in and day out, what right looks like. In both districts the Marines have earned such a reputation that other Afghan National Security Forces are asking the Marines to be seen patrolling with them.

The amazing part is that they have done this against a very determined enemy in a very arduous environment. In 110 plus degree heat, dust storms, and at the far end of a long supply chain, your Marines and

Sailors have taken the fight to the enemy with their brethren in the Afghan National Police, the Afghan National Army, and Ranger Company, Royal Irish Regiment.

In closing, the month of June has tested Company E but the Marines and Sailors have not been found wanting. The Company E motto for the longest time has been "There ain't nothing easy about Echo," and it has been true for the month of June. But the unspoken part of that message is that the Marines and Sailors of Company E always find a way. You have every reason to be proud of their performance and the positive effect that they are having on the Afghan National Police and the people of northern Helmand Province.

From me to all of you, thank you for the support that you give your sons, husbands, boyfriends, brothers, and friends each and every day. It means more than most of us can ever admit in words, but it is the very energy that allows us to go forth and prosecute this challenging mission.

Capt Matthew M. O'Donnell, USMC

### Fox Company

Fox Company spouses and family,

We have finally made it to our mission destination. We are located in Northern Helmand Province in the villages of Musa Qala and Now Zad. These are highly contested districts, basically a county in Afghanistan. The Taliban have an oppressive hold on these areas and the local people have greatly suffered. We are here to change that and your Marines have been incredible.

We are doing what the majority of us joined to do, and we are very busy to say the least. We've been utilizing all of the training from Mojave Viper and other exercises and it has immensely helped us. I know the extensive hours of training and lengthy time your Marine spent away from you were difficult, but it will help keep us safe from the enemy. Don't take too much to heart what the media relays as they are not always accurate. If you have questions, then please contact your Key Volunteer, it may take a bit longer, but you will always receive credible information.

One advantage to the pace of operations here is that time is really flying for us, as we are busy on constant basis. Our means for communicating are limited and not always reliable, but your Marine should be able to communicate with you at least once every two weeks, depending on where and how busy we are.

*(Continues on page 6)*

## ~ Company News ~

*(Continued from page 5)*

As you all know the Battalion has suffered great losses, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and our Brothers in Golf Company. While our job is very rewarding for us, it is very dangerous and we know it causes you to worry. There is little I can say to alleviate that worry, but please be assured we are doing everything we can to try be as safe as possible and accomplish our mission and come home to you.

Semper Fi,  
Capt Ross Schellhaas

### **Promotions for May**

1st Lieutenant: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Lukas, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Dixon  
(Sniper Plt attachment)

**Corporal:** Cpl Lilienthal, Cpl Sprauer

**Meritorious Corporal:** Cpl Kosisek

**Lance Corporal:** LCpl Luna, LCpl Morris (Benton)

**Hospitalman:** HM Carino, HM Hall

**Births:** (none, but we've got a bunch coming up)

### **Headquarters & Services Company**

Dear Family and Friends of Headquarters & Service Company,

H&S Company personnel are now deeply involved in the battalion's operations and Afghan National Police (ANP) mentoring mission as we start to approach the halfway point in our deployment.

The company currently finds itself divided in half between those personnel who provide support and operate out of Camp Barber and those who are located at the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) throughout the Helmand Province. The seemingly endless logistical and operational demands on the battalion are readily met with ardent determination and diligence by all. Everyone in H&S Company continues to do an outstanding job and demonstrates a strong focus on our continuing mission.

Once again, I ask for your patience and understanding in trying to communicate with your service member as they will be relatively limited in accessing email, mail, and phone services while in their support roles. Your care packages and letters are greatly appreciated and have helped all of our personnel in some way, shape, or form. Most importantly, I would like to take this time to extend our most heartfelt thoughts and prayers to those families and friends of the 2/7 Marines we recently lost during the battalion's operations here in Afghanistan.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please direct them to our H&S Company Key Volunteer Network (KVN) Representative, or to any 2/7 Key Volunteer for unit information and referral resources. If you are interested in becoming a KV and/or participating in LINKS training, then please contact any of our company representatives. As always, thank you for the endless and dedicated support of the H&S Company as we continue our efforts in Afghanistan.

Semper Fidelis,

Captain Carlos R. Cuevas  
Headquarters & Service Company

### **Weapons Company**

Greetings Friends, Family, and Fans of Weapons Company,

I must say the speed of the deployment has considerably picked up since our arrival to Camp Barber. The Marines and Sailors are all doing great things and they are all excited about their mission, here, in both Helmand and Farah Province.

Since our arrival to Camp Barber, we have successfully trained the first group of Afghan Police recruits from districts within Helmand province, emplaced and employed the mortar platoon throughout the area, and one platoon has occupied its own forward operating base. So if you have wondered why communications with your Marines and Sailors has been difficult, then it is because the company is headquartered, here, at Camp Barber while the bulk of the company is spread across the battalion's area of operation - roughly the size of San Bernardino County. With an area that large and with a lack of infrastructure, communication with family back home is extremely difficult. That being said, the best way to communicate with your Marine or Sailor is through letter mail or Moto mail. I can assure you that the care packages from home are arriving here and they are sent out to your loved ones no matter how far from the flag pole they may be. The Marines and Sailors are really appreciative of all the care packages, although with the weather being as warm as it is, they are huge fans of the drink mixes: Gator-aide, Crystal light, Propel, and Tang are some of the favorites.

Now that the company is emplaced and working toward the battalion's mission, the next few months will consist of us primarily training and mentoring more Afghan Police forces and helping the local populace with their overall stability and security.

*(Continues on page 7)*

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On a different note, I would like to congratulate the newest parents of the company -1stLt Jon Wilkins and his wife, Jessica, are the proud parents of Olivia Karrington Wilkins born on 27 May, 2008; LCpl Kenny Knapp and his wife, Nicole, are the proud parents of Kyle Knapp born on 9 June 2008; and LCpl Sergio Cuevas and his wife, Suzie, are the proud parents of Sergio Jessie Cuevas born on 12 June, 2008. Until next month keep us in your thoughts and prayers and we will do the same.

Semper Fi,  
Major Urbano Cruz  
2/7 Mobile Assault Company Commander

**Birthdays in the Month of June:** 4th HN3 Nicholson, 5th Cpl Seither, 7th LCpl Sand, 11th Pfc Martin, 18th Pfc Salinas, 18th Cpl Trujillo, 19th Pfc Puckett, 20th Cpl Curley, 20th LCpl Clement, 21st Sgt Batson, 22nd LCpl Tapuai, 23rd Pfc Hofstetter, 23rd LCpl Carpenter, 24th LCpl Delello, 24th LCpl Pickard, 24th Sgt Anderson, 25th LCpl Hopkins, 26th Cpl Trainer, 26th 1stSgt Pearson.

# Kids' PFT! Play and Fun Time!

Do you have a **parent deployed**?  
Would you like to **play games with Marines**?  
Come to **Kids' PFT** on the following dates:

- Sunday, July 13, 2008
- Sunday, August 10, 2008
- Sunday, September 7, 2008
- Sunday, October 5, 2008
- Sunday, November 2, 2008
- Sunday, December 7, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Community Center\*\*

Register by email: [KidsPFT29Palms@live.com](mailto:KidsPFT29Palms@live.com);  
by phone: Protestant Chapel at 830-6464.

\*\*To confirm location and to read about helpful hints for attending, read blog at <http://KidsPTF29Palms.blogspot.com>



### ATTENTION!

The 2/7 KVN wishes to sew blankets for wounded Marines & Sailors returning home.

Calling for assistance from wives, girlfriends, mothers, or friends -

Can you sew?  
Purchase material?  
Any and all assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Sue Cruz



### Care Package Day Program

You supply the goodies and postage and the exchange will provide:  
packing materials – tape – custom forms – flat rate boxes (large and small)  
your own non flat rate boxes are accepted too.

Care package shippers will receive a \$10 coupon towards their next purchase at the exchange.

Remaining 2008 Dates:

- July 17<sup>th</sup>
- August 21<sup>st</sup>
- September 18<sup>th</sup>
- October 16<sup>th</sup>
- November 20<sup>th</sup>
- December 18<sup>th</sup>

## FACT OR FICTION



It seems like everywhere I go I hear interesting rumors about our 2/7 Marines and Sailors in Afghanistan. Listed below are some of those rumors - and the truth.

- × RUMOR 1: The mail is being withheld from the Marines and Sailors.

THE TRUTH: Now that our Marines and Sailors have moved from Kandahar to Camp Barber, and on to different Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) it takes a longer amount of time for the mail to reach them. Every Marine and Sailor looks forward to receiving mail; it is a great morale booster and won't be withheld.

- × RUMOR 2: Someone accidentally sent all of their equipment to Iraq

THE TRUTH: Most of the equipment the Marines and Sailors use was already in Iraq. So when 2/7 deployed to Afghanistan, the equipment was sent from Iraq to Afghanistan.

- × RUMOR 3: "My Marine says they are going to come home early" or "my Marine says they have already been extended."

THE TRUTH: This is a seven month deployment. If there is any change, then **Command will send the information via the Key Volunteer Network (KVN) and Hotline**. No one will keep information from family members or Marines.

- × RUMOR 4: If anything happens to my husband, then my Key Volunteer (KV) will know about it and call me.

THE TRUTH: Your KV is not a part of the notification process. The only way your KV will know is if you decide to tell her.

- × RUMOR 5: My KV will call me when the media states information about 2/7.

THE TRUTH: The KV will not call you about what is stated in the media. If there is something you see on TV or read about and wish to talk about it, then please call your KV. Think twice before you choose to tell all of your friends of what you've seen on TV or read. Some people choose not to watch the news and therefore, don't want to hear it. Also not all of the news is accurate!

- × RUMOR 6: My KV is always in my business. She wanted to have a contact number for me while I was on vacation.

THE TRUTH: Your KV is doing what is asked of her. She is not keeping tabs on you; she is maintaining your current contact information, only to provide it to the Marine Corps in the event the Marine Corps need to contact you during your vacation.

- × RUMOR 7: There isn't enough food for our Marines and Sailors.

TRUTH: There is plenty of food, MRE's, and nourishment. It might not be steak and lobster or their favorite foods, but they are not going hungry.

# WHEN THE WIND BLOWS



Author Unknown

Years ago a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops. As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received nothing but refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer.

"Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him.

"Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man.

Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!" The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the old man's response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, and he returned to bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

The Morals of The Story Are As Follows: When you're prepared, you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We secure our own lives with our faith, family, and friends.

The story about the young farmhand also illustrates a principle that is often overlooked about being prepared for various events that occur in life. There was nothing dramatic or sensational in the young farmhand's preparations -- he just faithfully did what was needed each day. Consequently, peace was his, even in a storm. Sometimes it isn't what we've done - it is what we've left undone!



## Recipe for a Happy Military Life



1 Marine\* (may substitute for a Sailor, Airman, Solider, Coastie or Guardsman)  
1 Wife/Husband  
Children (optional)  
1 Bible  
3 cups of love firmly packed  
1 package of play, must be together  
1 portion understanding  
Generous portions of Prayer  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups of patience  
1 cups of courage  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of tolerance  
Dash of adventure  
2 pounds of elbow grease



- \* Let stand alone for seven months to a year at a time, when necessary.
- \* Marinate frequently with salty tears.
- \* Pour off excess fat.
- \* Sprinkle with laughter.
- \* Knead dough until payday.
- \* Add international spices.
- \* Bake in moderate oven of everyday life of 20 to 30 years.
- \* Turn out onto a platter of cheerfulness and humility.



Serve God, country, and community

# DEAR SALTY SALLY



Dear Salty Sally,

**My friend's husband was injured and he is not coming home. I thought all injured Marines received time off to come home to heal. Can you explain why all Marines don't come home?**

## Wondering in Weapons

Dear Wondering,

All injured Marines are immediately taken care of in country. Their injuries are assessed and each Marine is sent to where he is able to receive the best care for his injury, some may go to Germany and on to the US. However, many Marines have small, non serious injuries that require little treatment and only a small amount of healing time. These Marines are able to return to work soon after they are treated or healed.

I hope this answers your question,  
Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

**My mother-in-law is always telling me information that she finds from the Internet. I am not sure if the information is correct. When I question her about it we end up getting into arguments.**

## Fighting in Fox Co

Dear Fighting,

There is a lot of information - and rumors - passed in any deployment. If you have a question about something you hear, then call your KV and she will either verify if it is accurate information, bad information, or a rumor. Encourage your mother-in-law to contact the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) if she has any questions and please tell her not to pass any information she has not verified.

Sincerely,  
Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

**I am planning to move. Is there any way I can change my husband's RED?**

## Moving Soon

Dear Moving,

Even with a Power of Attorney you can not change your husband's Record of Emergency Data (RED). Do not worry as your husband can update and change the information in Afghanistan.

Best wishes on your move,  
Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

**My husband says he can't tell me where he is because of OPSEC. What is OPSEC? I really want to know where my husband is and where he is going.**

## Wanting Information in Echo

Dear Wondering,

OPSEC stands for "operational security" and it means keeping as many details about mission, movement, and location of the Marines from the hands of the enemy. Your husband should not discuss mission details with you or with anyone over the phone as it may compromise his own safety. All Marines and their families should be careful of what they place on My Space or on-line blogs. If you can find it on your computer, then so can the enemy!

Fondly,  
Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

**I have never been contacted by a Key Volunteer and I'm wondering why?**

## Hurt Feelings in 2/7

Dear Hurt,

I am sorry that you have not been contacted by a Key Volunteer. In most cases, it is because the information given is inaccurate. The best thing for you to do is to contact the Family Readiness Officer (FRO), Sgt. Covert, and give him your information. He will contact the KVN. The phone number for the FRO is (760) 830-5580 / 5866 /8400. Or you can email him: [brad.covert@usmc.mil](mailto:brad.covert@usmc.mil).

Sincerely,  
Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

**I am due to have a baby while my husband is deployed. I need a ride to the hospital when it is time for me to give birth as well as a ride home after my baby is born. Does the Naval Hospital provide those services?**

## Mom-to-be in H&S

Dear Mom-to-Be,

The Naval Hospital does not provide such services. I would advise you to find a few friends or neighbors who would be able to give you a ride to and from the hospital. Make sure you have a few on your list in the event someone is busy or out of town.

Best Wishes,  
Salty Sally

Got questions about the Marine Corps? Submit your question(s) to: XXXXX and your question(s) will be forwarded to Salty Sally for an answer.

# JULY 4

Congress met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and appointed a committee to write a formal document – a document that would inform Great Britain of the Americans decision to become independent, free to govern themselves. The committee asked Thomas Jefferson to write such document. Thomas Jefferson worked for days, in absolute secret, until he wrote a document that expressed what the committee had discussed. On June 28, 1776, the committee met to read Jefferson's document, and after making a few revisions to it, Congress declared their independence on July 2, 1776. Congress officially adopted the document - the Declaration of Independence - on July 4, 1776.

## Fourth of July Traditions



Many common Fourth of July traditions of today stemmed from celebrations of the early republic. On July 25, 1776, citizens of Williamsburg, Virginia celebrated the colonists' victory with military parades and cannons firing. One year to the day after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Philadelphians participated in a huge birthday bash complete with fireworks, parades, music, and the firing of cannons.

The first **official** Fourth of July celebration, as affirmed by a legislative act, occurred in Massachusetts in 1781. By the mid-1800s, it became a United States custom to commemorate Independence Day in states and territories. Today, we use parades, picnics, and fireworks to honor

our country's fight for freedom.

## Cultural Icon of the Early Republic: Uncle Sam – Who was Uncle Sam?



While no one is quite sure of his origins, Uncle Sam has been with us since the early 1800s. In all likelihood, he was the hybrid of two different beginnings.

The name "Uncle Sam" appears to have been given to a man named Samuel Wilson, who supplied large amounts of meat to the newly formed United States Army. His shipping crates carried the stamp "U.S." which someone, jokingly, suggested stood for "Uncle Sam". Wilson and this nickname came to symbolize the Federal Government.

While Sam Wilson may have been the source of the name "Uncle Sam," he was not the inspiration of the image. For one thing, Wilson was clean-shaven while the caricatures of Uncle Sam illustrated a man with a white beard. The creator of the image of Uncle Sam, as we know him, was Thomas Nast, a nineteenth century political cartoonist who began drawing the star-spangled red-white-and-blue-suited symbol of American identity.

Although first appearing in 1838 in the Nast illustrations, the most common image of Uncle Sam is the World War I poster drawn by James Montgomery Flagg for Army Recruitment with the caption "I WANT YOU!"

No matter what Uncle Sam's roots may be he has become a symbol, recognized throughout the world, of

American resolve, strength, and determination.



## Cultural Icon of the Early Republic: The Star-Spangled Banner

The Star-Spangled Banner, our National Anthem, has an origin nearly as colorful as the verbal description it contains. Francis Scott Key, a young lawyer and aspiring poet, wrote the now famous words during the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in September of 1814. What is often forgotten, is why, how, and what Key actually witnessed that lead to the creation of those lyrics.

During the war of 1812, the British were attempting to control American shipping and other trade activities. Major George Armistead, the commander of Fort McHenry, decided in the summer of 1813 that he wanted a flag so large "the British would have no trouble seeing it from a distance." Mary Young Pickersgill, a local "maker of colors," created this banner for him.

Measuring 30x42 feet in size, with stars two feet from point to point, the flag used over 400 yards of bunting and actually had to be completed on the floor of a local brewery. This flag would, ultimately, be memorialized as "the star-spangled banner."

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The following August, British forces entered Chesapeake Bay, invaded and captured Washington, burned the White House and set their sites on Baltimore. Those fabled words, "...and the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there..." actually are an accurate account of what Key and the others saw on September 13th and 14<sup>th</sup> of 1814.

The British fleet opened fire on the fort exhausting, during the next 25 hours, roughly 1500 rounds of heavy shells. Though set with time delay fuses which were supposed to explode after reaching the target, many detonated in mid-air. (Lucky us). The British fleet also used the new Congrove rocket, which left an erratic red path across the sky as it sped towards its target.

Moved by what he had experienced, the lawyer-poet wrote down his observations on the back of a letter that he was carrying. The work subsequently was printed and circulated around Baltimore under the title "Defense of Fort M'Henry." As the poem gained popularity, published in papers in other parts of the country, it was also performed in public.

During one of the public performances, an actor first called the song "The Star-Spangled Banner." Although immediately popular, it was just one of a number of patriotic songs until it was adopted as our national anthem on March 3, 1931.

## **Cultural Icon of the Revolution: The Liberty Bell**



Many myths surround the Liberty Bell. Stories are told as to when it first rang, what caused the crack, and the last time its tone was heard. Regardless of the myths, the significance of the Liberty Bell to the American Revolution and the early republic will forever mark it as one of the key symbols of independence.

In 1751, the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania ordered a bell from Whitechapel Foundry in England, to weigh roughly 2000 pounds. Ironically, the inscription chosen for the bell a full quarter century before the revolution read: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof...". Fate, it seemed, had cast the bell's destiny as a symbol of the Revolution as surely as the foundry had cast its form.

The legend of the bell cracking the first time it was rung is historically accurate, although it occurred in March of 1753; not on the Fourth of July. After the bell cracked, the colonists attempted to return the bell to England, but when the ship's master was unable to load it on board a ship, they had to settle for adding copper to the bell's metal alloy. Unfortunately, this deadened its tone.

A second recasting corrected that problem and the bell, then known as the State House Bell, was hung in Philadelphia's State House until 1777.

It was temporarily removed to Allentown, Pennsylvania during the threat of British invasion of Philadelphia, and subsequently returned in the summer of 1778.

The Liberty Bell has, in a very real sense, tolled the beginning of American Independence and even to this day stands as a universal symbol proclaiming freedom from tyranny.



***"Freedom is not free."***

~ Unknown

***"Where liberty dwells, there is my country."***

~ Benjamin Franklin

***"The American Revolution was a beginning, not a consummation."***

~ Woodrow Wilson

***"It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you."***

~ Dick Cheney

## Shout Outs & Advertisements



Congratulations  
To Jon & Jessica Wilkins  
On their 2<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary!

July 1<sup>st</sup>

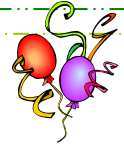
Hey, daddy Wilkins,  
this is your daughter,  
Olivia Karrington.  
I've arrived!!



May 27, 2008



To LCpl Ray Alvarado



"Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday"  
We miss you and are waiting for your safe return!  
Love,  
Your mom, brothers, and sisters

daddy Schroder -  
Guess who's here?  
Me - Cailyn Anne!



June 20, 2008



LCpl Sonneborn



Your family back in Illinois loves you and is so proud!  
Stay safe.  
We miss you and pray for you and the others every night.

Happy '22<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, hunny -  
Hurry home so we can celebrate it.  
Stay safe and come home soon.  
I love and miss you deeply.  
Love, ur hummin bird,  
Muressia

July 24<sup>th</sup>



~ Lt. Allen ~



From the Marines and Sailors of Second Battalion Seventh Marines  
a huge 'thank you' for supporting us through your much appreciated care packages.  
God bless you.

Semper Fi

Do you want to wish your Marine or Sailor a happy anniversary? Want to send a happy birthday wish to a child or a friend? Have exciting news to share (promotions, births, or a child's accomplishment)? Got stuff to sell? Please send all 'shout outs' and advertisements to XXXXX.