

THE GUNG HO GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 377TH MEU



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STATE OF THE 377TH AT YEARS END 2006

We head very quickly to the end of the year—one for the 377th which has certainly proven to be ‘dramatic’, to say the least.

Initially formed as the Marine Strike Group detachment on board the Shuttle Mawson back in May, with the departure of the OIC and the majority of the Marines attached, the 377th was then designated an MEU and was basically scattered about Oz and NZ for a few weeks. However, with the establishment of the USS Southern Cross, and by the goodwill and guidance of Major General Linda Olsen, Commanding Officer of FORCECOM, we have found a comfortable billet by our close association with the ‘Cross.

In a sense, we are

‘home’ and since September, the 377th has set up shop in the lower decks of the Akira class Battle Cruiser that is the pride of Region 11.

We have learnt our lessons from the manner by which we were treated as individuals in our earlier days, and we have gained both strength and closer bond with each other because of it.

We have created and developed both our own Unit logo and provided the basis for the logo for the 11th brigade (The ANZACs) to whom we are attached. Our ranks have swelled from the original six members, to now number 15 Marines—both Active and Reserve. This gives us a unit that has depth and strength of character and something that we

will develop further in 2007. In fact, it would certainly appear that the SFMC overall, is undergoing an upswing in membership—and this is excellent.

And so, as we farewell our ‘Founding Year’, we, as marines, can hold our heads up high knowing that we have come through some minor setbacks and ‘issues’ to have now created one of the best marine Units in the Corps.

I take this time to wish you and your families all the very best for the Christmas Season and the New Year.

May we all prosper in 2007.

Semper fi!

Lt Col Bruce O’Brien
Officer in Command

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO
MAY BE INTERESTED IN
JOINING US?**

**THERE ARE UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITIES
GALORE FOR THE
INTERESTED
INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY
BE LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING A LITTLE
DIFFERENT THAN THE
STANDARD STARFLEET
FARE.**

**GET THEM TO JOIN
THE MARINES—
AND BECOME AN
ELITE MEMBER OF
AN ELITE FORCE!**

*See your Marine recruiting
Officer now!*



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THE SFMC ACADEMY- TRACOM



Professional Development Award

(White ribbon with Gold torch)



Academy Excellence Award

(Awarded to Marines who earn a Bachelor's of Military Science Degree with Hhours)

The STARFLEET Marine Corps operates its own Academy—both singularly and in conjunction with the STARFLEET Academy. There are parallels in some courses and many similar course do allow for 'cross-crediting'.

However, the single most obvious difference between these two Academies, is simply the type of course that is on offer.

You will not, for instance, find any courses that deal with either the chronology of Star Trek, nor will you find courses that delve into the world of Dr Who, Buffy the Vampire Slayer or Harry Potter. There are no courses

dealing with Online Chat or the study of your own Family Tree (Genealogy). But you WILL find courses on Leadership; Aerospace; Weapons; Strategy & Tactics; Military History—both real and fictional; the physiology, weapons, armour and tactics of our enemies (Jem H'dar, Borg, Cardassian etc); and the best of all, courses on your own personal development, Army-style, that can only do every person who takes the course some good.

There is no doubt that the courses can be more "involved" (more about relating what you have learnt rather than answering true or

false questions or multiple-choice answers) and there is certainly a lot more study required (most courses come with their own manuals, some (that are real-life military manuals) number in the hundreds of pages. But it is all well worth the effort. Qualifications provide certificates and diplomas of course, but the added attraction of 'Efficiency Ribbons' to wear on your uniform, provides you with a advertisement for all to see that you are a truly, educated and qualified Marine.

So check out the courses. Sign up and do some study. You WILL be the better Marine for it!



DID YOU KNOW ????



FADM Rickard, CS, wearing Class A (Monster Blacks) SFMC Uniform at IC2006

Did you know that the Commander STARFLEET, Fleet Admiral Les Rickard originally worked his way through SFI as an Active member of the SFMC?

And the point?

Who says the Marine Corps doesn't have IMPACT, INFLUENCE or ABILITY ? So there is hope for every budding PFC, Jarhead, leatherneck 2nd Lieutenant (and yes, even Lt Colonels), to maybe one day take over the top job.

Go hard Marines—make an impact!

SPARE A THOUGHT.....



Australian Joint Services Crest



NZ Special Air Service (SAS)

With the Festive Season well and truly upon us, we should all take a moment to think of the men and women of our armed forces, who today and tomorrow, are serving on active duty overseas.

Both Australia and NZ have troops operating on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan; serving in difficult conditions in support of the UN; or working in some remote corner of the globe for the good of their country.

And while it is easy to say "well they are volunteers" or "they get paid for doing it", everywhere they serve, every person they come in contact with, every time they are seen—they carry the representation of our countries with them. Maybe not quite the same as our typical sporting heroes, but nevertheless, Kiwi and Aussie soldiers, sailors and airmen are stationed right around the globe, serving their countries in the best way they know how.

So let's take a moment to think of these men and women and most of all their families—all part of Christmas but all no doubt quite proud of their commitment

For it is in the true spirit of the ANZAC tradition, that our two nations will willingly send their sons and daughters into harms way, in the simple belief that by doing so, we will be providing protection or freedom for others.



NOTICE ON FUTURE ISSUES

The publication of any newsletter is a difficult job. It requires time and effort. Most importantly, it requires INPUT. Because there are so many demands for content distribution to other newsletters as well (ScuttleButt), it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue this publication as a monthly distribution.



Therefore, it has been decided that the Gung Ho Gazette will from January, become a bi-monthly publication, which ties in well with the publication of ScuttleButt (the publication of the USS Southern Cross).

If any member of the 377th or the Southern Cross or even the SFMC, wishes to provide any form of contribution to this newsletter, please forward it to the OIC.

THE 377TH SPREADS SOME GOODWILL

December 24th this year will see several Kiwi members of the 377th doing their 'bit' for charity in Auckland, New Zealand.

At this time of year at the Children's Starship Hospital (yes, it is named that), volunteers gather to wander the wards of the children's hospital signing carols and dispensing presents etc.

The quality of singing may not be professional, nor the harmony exact—but the underlying intent to provide some pleasure and comfort for the children who will spend their Christmas in a hospital bed instead of their homes surrounded by their family, is certainly well

worth the effort.

Because, as in other years, the number of people wishing to be involved has grown so large, the 377th contingent will have to content itself with supporting role but even so, we will be there providing encouragement and manpower —albeit dressed in Santa hats... (hmm, not even camouflaged).

Also, on the evening of 8th December, the 377th was involved with a charity fund-raising event held at Mt Wellington, Auckland, where funds were raised to support the Manukau Harbour Volunteer Coast

Guard unit.

The function was a well attended barbecue and social gathering held on the auction floor at the NZ Flower Trade Centre and participants were invited to contribute by way of cash, and payment for the food and drink consumed. Attendees enjoyed a movie (The Guardian) and were well serviced by the OIC; 2nd Lt O'Brien & Cpl Thomson. The 377th direct contribution raised \$150 for the Coast Guard unit, with over \$900 in total being raised on the night.

Well done team!



Interior of Children's Starship Hospital, Auckland,



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE 377th

**The Command Officers of the Eleventh
Brigade, STARFLEET Marine Corps, and the
Officers and Enlisted Ranks of the 377th
Marine Expeditionary Unit, wishes all
members and crew of the USS SOUTHERN
CROSS, Region 11 SFI members and any
reader of this newsletter,
a very Merry Christmas
and a most Happy New year,
for 2006/2007**

