

# 11th Engineer Battalion Association Newsletter January 2004

Serving those Builders,  
Sappers, Drivers, Watermen,  
Rock Crushers, Graders, Mine  
Sweepers, Diggers, Nail  
Drivers, Quartermasters, Docs,  
Steel Workers, Bridgers,  
Electricians, Plumbers,  
Drillers, Sand Baggers and  
Bunker Rats who built  
Leatherneck Square

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Battalion Website:  
[www.11thengineervietnamvetsusmc.org/](http://www.11thengineervietnamvetsusmc.org/)

## **A Hearty Thanks to Two**

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to gratefully thank two individuals who have worked tirelessly on behalf of our Association. Their unselfish labor over the past years has helped to promote and preserve the camaraderie and cohesiveness of the Battalion organization.

Those two individuals are Charles Luhan, Jr., Battalion Locator, and John Huhn, Battalion Webmaster.

Thank you both for your good work in bringing us together and keeping us informed of the news of interest to our small Band of Brothers.

## **Battalion Roster Tops 550**

At last count, we have over 550 former members of the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion on our roster.

## **2004 Reunion Planning**

### **Come Join Us at Quantico, Va.**

The 2004 Reunion planning is well on its way to finalization (if there is such a thing).

Commitments for resources more than eight months in advance are hard to come by, specifically in the Marine Corps and especially during a war.

But as it is said, "Build it and they will come". On this basis, Frank Howard and Bill Lyell have put together a target agenda and schedule for the 2004 Reunion.

It will take place on the East Coast and cover the Washington D.C. and Quantico areas of interest. The target dates will include the last full week of August (specifically the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>).

Hotel accommodations will be handled by the Quantico Marine Base Crossroads Inn. The current rate is \$49 per room. The total number of rooms available for our use will be committed by the end of February, 2004. (There are 189 rooms at the Inn and the week chosen avoids current Base training allotments for the schools). For information, phone 703-630-4444 or 800-965-9511.

### **Commercial Transportation**

If you are flying to Reagan National, or Dulles Airport, shuttle service is available if you do not wish to rent a car. Chop Chop Shuttle was highly recommended to me. The owner's name is "Doc", a former Navy corpsman who wants our business. Phone 888-363-2467. Airport Transportation Service is also available at 703-445-8200 and 540-288-2200. At Quantico, across the street from the Base Reception Center, is the railroad station, a flag stop on the main North-South line from Boston to Florida. Civilian taxi service is available, and a Greyhound bus terminal is located in nearby Triangle, VA Also, the Virginia Railway Express, a commuter train, uses Quantico as one of its many daily stops. The line operates between Fredericksburg, Va, and Washington, D.C. Commuter bus service is also available on base. Daily routes include Pentagon and community stops.

## **USMC at Quantico**

*Leading technological war-fighting development...*

The U.S. Marine Corps headquarters at Quantico, Virginia is considered the "front lines of innovation," where Marine concepts, doctrine, training, and equipment are first developed. Amphibious warfare techniques were created and perfected here, as well as close-air support and vertical envelopment tactics using helicopters.

For Marines, Quantico is the crossroads of education - where both enlisted and officers learn the art of war. The Marine Corps University is headquartered here and encompasses the Command and Staff College, Expeditionary Warfare School, War College, the School of Advanced War-fighting, the Amphibious War-fighting School, Historical Division, Research Center, Officer Candidates School and The Basic School.

## **Quantico Martial Arts Center for Excellence (MACE)**

Marine Corps Martial Arts is distinctively a weapons-based system, integrating combat equipment, physical challenges and tactics typically found in the combat arena.

This comprehensive program not only imparts traditional fighting skills and techniques, but is inextricably linked to and derives its strength from core values. Corps' high moral principles as it equips each Marine It will reinforce the fabric of the Total Force. A Marine will receive this training throughout his/her career, and may advance through a system of belt rankings from tan belt through sixth degree black belt.

Given the political and military strategic global challenges, Martial Arts Training will prove to be a force multiplier within the Corps, not just at the point of impact but also at the elemental level. Marines, steeped in the combined arms tradition and hardened with martial discipline, will stand for the highest attainment of core values, and will continue to bring the Corps success no matter the challenge, no matter the environment.



## **Arlington National Cemetery**

Arlington Mansion and 200 acres of ground immediately surrounding it were designated officially as a military cemetery June 15, 1864, by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. More than 260,000 people are buried at Arlington Cemetery.

Veterans from all the nation's wars are buried in the cemetery, from the American Revolution through the Persian Gulf War and Somalia. Pre-Civil War dead were re-interred after 1900.

Arlington House (Custis-Lee Mansion) and the grounds in its immediate vicinity are administered by the National Park Service.

The flags in Arlington National Cemetery are flown at half-staff from a half hour



before the first funeral until a half hour after the last funeral each day. Funerals are normally conducted five days a week, excluding weekends

## **Marine Corps War Memorial**

The Marine Corps War Memorial stands as a symbol of this grateful Nation's esteem for the honored dead of the U.S. Marine Corps. While the statue depicts one of the most famous incidents of World War II, the memorial is dedicated to all Marines who have given their lives in the defense of the United States since 1775.

News-photographer Joe Rosenthal caught the afternoon flag-raising in an inspiring Pulitzer Prize winning photograph. When the picture was later released, sculptor Felix W. de Weldon, then on duty with the U.S. Navy, was so moved by the scene that he constructed a scale model and then a life-size model of it. Gagnon, Hayes, and Bradley, the three survivors of the flag raising (the others having been killed in later phases of the Iwo Jima battle), posed for the sculptor who modeled their faces in clay. All available pictures and physical

statistics of the three who had given their lives were collected and then used in the modeling of their faces.

Once the statue was completed in



plaster, it was carefully disassembled and trucked to Brooklyn, N.Y., for casting in bronze. The casting process, which required the work of experienced artisans, took nearly 3 years. After the parts had been cast, cleaned, finished, and chased, they were reassembled into approximately a dozen pieces--the largest weighing more than 20 tons--and brought back to Washington, D.C., by a three truck convoy. Here they were bolted and welded together, and the statue was treated with preservatives.

## **The Wall**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial recognizes and honors the men and women who served in one of America's most divisive wars. The memorial grew out of a need to heal the nation's wounds as America struggled to reconcile different moral and political points of view. In fact, the memorial was conceived and designed to make no political statement whatsoever about the war.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a place where everyone, regardless of opinion, can come together and remember and honor those who served. By doing so, the memorial has paved the way towards reconciliation and healing, a process that continues today. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial accomplishes these goals through the three components that comprise the memorial: the Wall of names, the Three Servicemen Statue and Flagpole, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

## **Smithsonian Museums**

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum complex and research organization. Composed of 14 museums and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., and 2 museums in New York City, the Smithsonian's exhibitions offer visitors a glimpse into its vast collection numbering over 142 million objects.

In Washington:

- African Art Museum
- Air and Space Museum and the Udvar-Hazy Center
- American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery
- American History Museum
- Anacostia Museum (African American history and culture)
- Arts and Industries Building (changing exhibitions)
- Freer and Sackler Galleries (Asian art)
- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (modern and contemporary art)
- National Zoo
- Natural History Museum
- Portrait Gallery
- Postal Museum
- Smithsonian Institution Building, the Castle (visitor information)

## **Marine Barracks - 8th & I**

This is "8th & I," the Corps' oldest post, and home to the most dramatic military celebration in the world--the Evening Parade.

A one hour and fifteen minute performance of music and precision marching, the Evening Parade features "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The Evening Parade is held every Friday evening from May through August. The ceremony starts at 8:45 p.m., beginning with a concert by the United States Marine Band. The Evening Parade has become a universal symbol of the professionalism, discipline, and Esprit de Corps of the United States Marines. The story of the ceremony reflects the story of Marines throughout the world. Whether they be aboard ships, in foreign embassies, at recruit depots, in divisions, or in the many positions and places where Marines project their

image, the individual Marine continually tells the story of the Corps.

**History of the Evening Parade**

As the "Oldest Post of the Corps," Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., established in 1801, has performed military reviews and ceremonies since its founding. The present-day Evening Parade was first conducted on July 5, 1957.

Using the resplendent setting of the Barracks, wistful imagination and the Marines' flare for showmanship, the parades are a showcase for the ceremonial prowess of Marines and the musical eminence of the U.S. Marine Band, which had achieved international renown under the premier military band leader of all time, John Philip Sousa.

Since its inception, the Evening Parade has become a unique patriotic tradition of the "Oldest Post of the Corps". The parade's heritage is entwined with former military rituals such as tattoo, retreat, and lowering of the colors ceremonies. The Evening Parade is offered solely to express the dignity and pride that represents more than two centuries of heritage for all Americans.

**Battalion Website**

Keep an eye on the Battalion website for additional information. As it becomes available, we will post any updates.

www.11thEngineerVietnamVetsUSMC.org/

|<----- Cut here to mail form ----->|

**Interested in Embroidered Wear? Please let us know!**  
 (We will publish pricing once we gather information on what everyone wants)  
**This is not an order form, just a survey!**

**Polo/Golf Shirts**  
 S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_ XXXL \_\_\_  
 (indicate quantities of each)

**T-Shirts**  
 S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_ XXXL \_\_\_  
 (indicate quantities of each)

**Baseball Caps**  
 Quantity \_\_\_

**Color Suggestions:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association 2004 Reunion  
 Registration Form**

24-29 August 2004 – Crossroads Inn, Quantico Marine Base, Virginia

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Years served in Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_ Company(s) \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

**1.) Registration Costs:**

Participation fee of \$35.00 (per person) X \_\_\_\_\_ persons = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2.) Battalion Activities: (check if attending)**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cost per person	Persons	Total \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 August- Base Exploration (cost included in registration) Marine Corps University, Library, Archives & Research Center Marine Corps Association (Leatherneck/Gazette publications)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	26 August- Quantico Base Tour (cost included in registration) The Basic School, Martial Arts Center, HMX-1 (the President's Helicopter Squadron) Dinner, Guest Speaker - \$20.00 per person	Dinner \$20.00 X	
<input type="checkbox"/>	27 August- DC Tour (\$30.00 per person, lunch included) Arlington National Cemetery - Iwo Jima Memorial - The Wall - Smithsonian Museums - Marine Barracks (8 <sup>th</sup> & I) - Evening Parade (Barracks cafeteria dinner is available, as well as the SNCO Club, pay as you go).	Tour \$30.00 X _____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	28 August- Base Activities (cost included in registration) PX/Commissary Shopping - Battalion Business Meeting - Fund-Raising Auction - Hospitality Room Dinner, Guest Speaker - \$23.00 per person	Dinner \$23.00 X	

Activities Cost

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**3.) In Support of 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association**

To help defray the costs associated with organizing the Reunion and printing/mailling the newsletter, I would like to contribute an additional amount of .....

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**4.) Total Amount (add items #1, #2, #3) .....**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check to:

11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (USMC) Association  
 1701 Terrell Drive  
 Richmond, Virginia 23229

Questions? Contact (above) or  
 Bill Lyell - WLyell@msn.com or Frank Howard - UpTheDock@comcast.net

**Hotel Reservations**

- ✕ Hotel rates are \$49.00 per night (suites extra)
- ✕ Hotel reservations may be made at the Crossroads Inn, Quantico Marine Base, 3018 Russell Road, Quantico, Va. 23134  
 Phone 800-965-9511 or 703-630-4444
- ✕ **Rooms are limited, make your reservations early.**

**11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association  
Reunion Newsletter**

**2004 East Coast Reunion  
Washington D.C./Quantico  
24-29 August, 2004**

**Crossroads Inn, Quantico, Va.**

**Agenda in the Planning Stages:**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 24 August         | Check-in and Registration<br>Hospitality Room  |
| 25 August<br>1300 | Check-in/Registration/<br>Base Exploration<br>Marine Corps University<br>Library, Archives & Research Center<br>Marine Corps Association Publications<br>Leatherneck & Gazette Magazines<br>Book Store<br>Hospitality Room |
| 26 August<br>0800 | Tour – The Basic School & The Martial<br>Arts Center for Excellence (MACE)<br>HMX-1 (President's Helo Squadron)<br>Dinner, Guest Speaker   |
| 27 August<br>0800 | Tour – Arlington National/Iwo Jima Memorial<br>The Vietnam National Memorial<br>The Smithsonian Museums<br>Dinner, Marine Barracks, Eighth & I<br>Marine Band & Silent Drill Team  |
| 28 August<br>1000 | Battalion Business Meeting<br>PX/Commissary Shopping<br>Dinner, Guest Speaker<br>Fund Raising Auction<br>Hospitality Room  |
| 29 August         | Check-out and Farewells  |



**11th Engineer Battalion Association  
1701 Terrell Drive  
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