



Marine Embassy Guard Association

P.O. Box 748

Astoria, OR 97103

We're on the web!

www.embassymarine.org

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
NOVEMBER 10, 1775**



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Marine Embassy Guard Association

"In Every Clime and Place"



Newsletter Official Publication of the Marine Embassy Guard Association Fall 2007

MISSION OF THE MARINE EMBASSY GUARD ASSOCIATION

- To inspire love of Corps and Country
- To encourage Marines to aspire to a career in the Marine Security Guard program
- To render aid to Marines and others when in need
- To promote camaraderie and esprit de corps
- To provide a forum in which to assemble for social interaction
- To serve as a catalyst for communications on matters of mutual interest
- To revere the memory of our departed shipmates
- To assist in preserving the historical records of Marine Security Guards and their achievements
- To perform any other lawful purpose or purposes

Committee Chairmen:

Web Administrator, Fred Samarelli:
Karachi & Manila (1977-1979)

MEGA Website Manager, Lance Parcell:
Paris (1992-93)

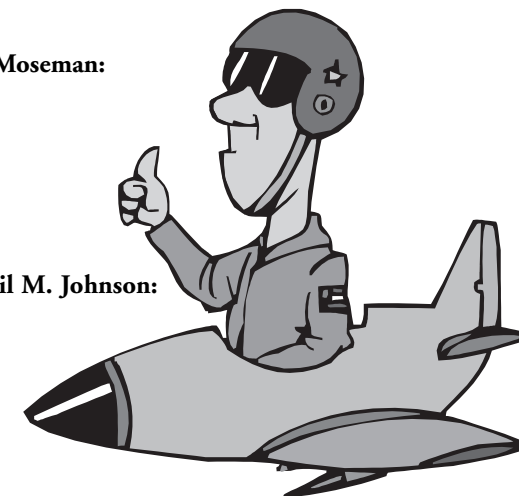
Archivist/Historian, Jack McGarry:
Brasilia BR 75-76, Panama PA 76-78

Newsletter Printer, Charles (Chuck) Moseman:
Singapore (1958-60)

Ship's Store, Joe Mitchell:
Ankara TR 62-65

Newsletter Editor, Ed Vasgerdsian:
Cairo 56-59

Elections Committee Chairman, Virgil M. Johnson:
Taipei 57-59



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Chairman's Corner

Just a couple of months ago the Marine Embassy Guard Association (MEGA) celebrated its 10th anniversary at the beautiful Marriott Hotel in Falls Church, VA. This was also our 9th Annual Reunion. We had almost 270 people at the annual dinner — a record number. If you didn't have a great time, you must have been medicated!

We are now in the planning stages for our 10th Annual Reunion to be held at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego, CA April 24-27, 2008. The site is impressive and the Marine House setting is a huge penthouse with a grand view. Local MEGA members have formed a reunion committee, and they will provide the membership with details and schedule of events through future newsletters or website announcements. Hotel reunion rates will apply for all members who wish to arrive three days in advance or stay three days after the reunion. So, mark your calendars!

On July 26, 2007 the MEGA Board of Directors met via teleconference. The minutes of all Board meetings are available to the membership and will be posted on our website as soon as possible. MEGA is in good shape and that includes our finances. Board members Gene Frantz and Tim Wood will work with our Website Manager, Lance Parcell toward perking up our website.

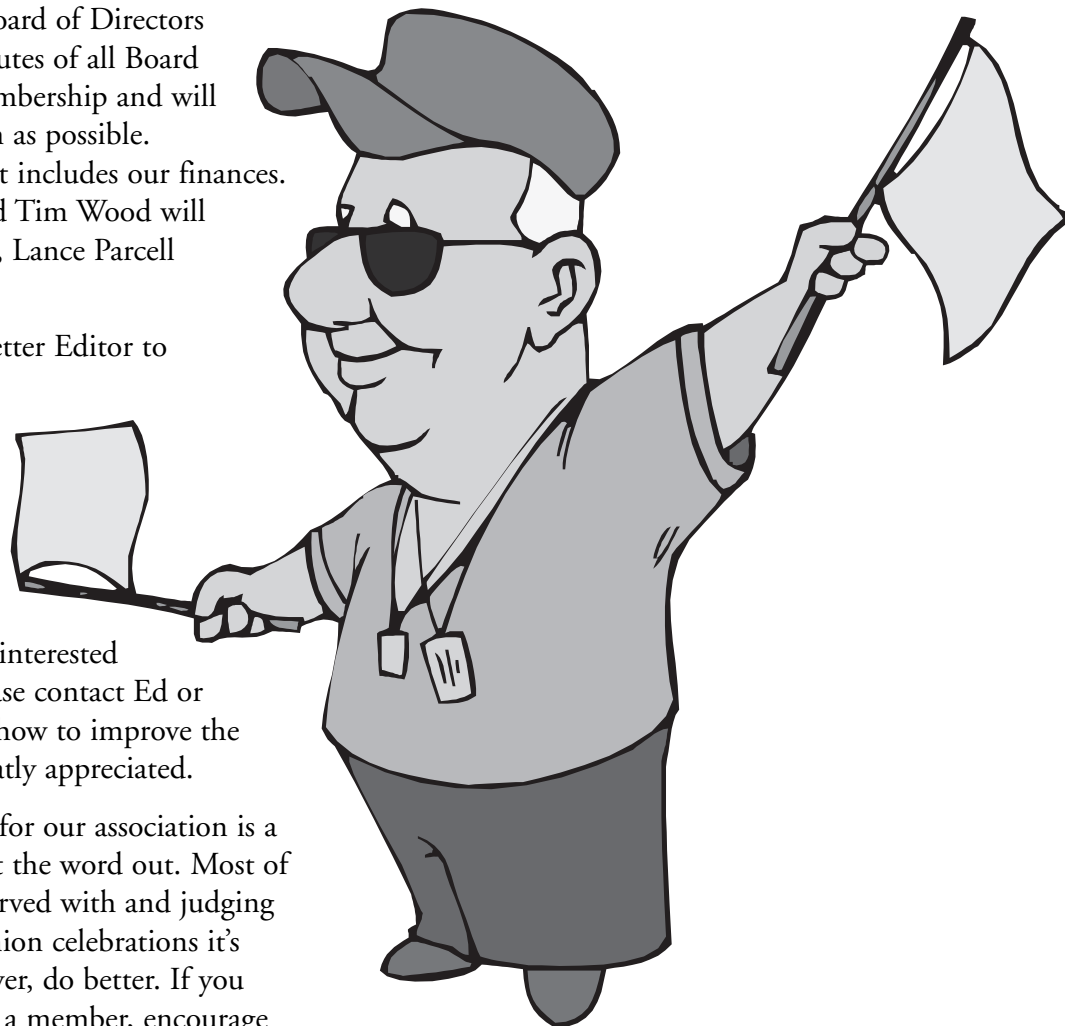
We are also looking for a Newsletter Editor to replace Ed Vasgerdsian. Ed has always believed that the Editor of the newsletter should not be a board member. He will continue in the job until we have a replacement and will also continue with his MEGA Marine House column. Anyone interested in doing this important job, please contact Ed or myself. Ideas or suggestions on how to improve the website or newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

Recruiting and Public Relations for our association is a big job. We need everyone to get the word out. Most of us joined in search of guys we served with and judging by the characteristics of our reunion celebrations it's been successful. We must, however, do better. If you know a former MSG who is not a member, encourage

him/her to get on board. You can also get the word out in your local media. Local newspapers will print information about veteran's organizations. If you work for a large company or corporation, or belong to a retirement community, the chances are there's a newsletter. Ask if they'll print an article about MEGA. I'll be glad to provide you with an article if you can get it printed.

It's been a hot summer all across the country. I went to Montana to cool off, and it was hot there too. The guys I play golf with constantly complain about the heat here in Tucson. I don't complain anymore, I think about those guys in Iraq carrying a full load including body armor in 118 degrees. That's hot! May God bless them and keep them safe. Enjoy the rest of your cool summer.

Semper Fidelis,
Chuck Norris



Welcome Aboard New MEGA Members

Amraen, Stephen C.
Saigon RVN 70-71
Phnom Penh KH 70-71
Reykjavik IS 71-72
Brussels BE 72

Dieckhoff, Scott
Managua NI 02-03
Ankara TR 04
MSG Bn 04-06
Baghdad IQ 06-07

Jabs, Walter L.
Paris FR 58-60

Jensen, Stewart J
Kabul AF 61-62
Jerusalem IL 62-63

Lee, Ron
Stuttgart DE 87-88
Budapest HU 88-90
Frankfurt DE 90

Lewis, Paul
Budapest HU 78-79
Tehran IR 79-81

Lo Bosco, Anthony F.
Benghazi LY 61
Nicosia CY 62

McClure, William R.
Calcutta IN 61-63

Wilson, Richard
Saigon RVN 72-73
Manila PH 73
Hong Kong BCC 73-74

Marine Corps History

November 10, 1775 Marine Corps Birthday

October 1, 1880 John Philip Sousa appointed leader of Marine Band.

September 15, 1950 Marines land in Inchon, Korea

November 10, 1954 President Dwight Eisenhower dedicates The Iwo Jima Memorial

December 6, 1987 Sea School deactivated.

November 10, 1982 Newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C.

1997 Marine Corps takes over Miramar from the Navy as a replacement for El Toro

November 1, 2001 Operation Enduring Freedom

November 10, 2006 President Bush attends dedication of the National Museum of the Marine Corps



For the Record: Embassy and Consulate Evacuations

According to John T. Haralson, crisis management training coordinator, "The State Department has carried out well over 100 evacuations during the past ten years [1988 -1998] averaging one authorized or ordered departure every five weeks. The evacuations have affected every region of the world. The African Affairs Bureau led with 43 evacuations, followed by Near Eastern Affairs, with 32, European and Canadian Affairs with 15, and South Asian Affairs Inter-American Affairs and East Asian and Pacific Affairs with 10 each.

Secretary's Desk

Total MEGA Membership as of August 1, 2007:

Life Members:	267
Regular Members	<u>220</u>
Total Voting Members:	488
Life Associate	10
Regular Associate	<u>20</u>
Total Associate Members	30
Honorary Member	<u>1</u>
Total Honorary Member	1
Current MEGA Members	519

Should you have a change in address, telephone or email, please notify the MEGA Secretary. This will continued membership privileges.

*Membership (Regular and Associate)
\$25.00 Renewal fees are due 1-31 January
of every year.*

The largest number of evacuations during the past 10 years occurred in 1991, during the Persian Gulf War. None of those evacuations were military assisted, in fact, only 20 of all evacuations conducted since 1988 required military assistance...

One post, Kinshasa [Congo] was evacuated four times in the past decade. Seven posts were evacuated three times each during the past decade: Dunshabe [Tajikistan], Brazzaville [Congo], Monrovia [Liberia], Khartoum [Sudan], Bujumbura [Burundi], Kigali [Rwanda], and Algiers [Algeria]. Two-thirds of all evacuated posts had been rated as low or medium threat just before the drawdown or evacuation."

Editors Note: Article taken from U.S. Department of State Magazine September 1998. *Evacuations — More Common than you realize.*

MSG Command News

Newly Appointed:

Commanding Officer—Colonel Vince E. Cruz
Executive Officer—
Lieutenant Colonel Frank D. Topley Jr.

Continuing from previous command:

Adjutant - Captain Debra R. Gomez
Sergeant Major Paul J. Nugent

* * *

2008 San Diego Reunion Committee

Co-Chair Dave Kennedy
Co-Chair Ray Whitlock
John Jenning
Richard Stevenson
John Anderson
Bill Disher
Fritz Werner
Lou Chatelle
Dan Ward

The committee can use your help, sign-up MEGA...
lend a hand!

MEGA Marine House

By Ed Vasgersian

MEGA Marine House is dedicated to bringing you bits of info about the past, present and future. After all, if there was anything happening, it happened at the Marine House.

FLASH! ...The Air Force will no longer include the Good Conduct medal in its panoply of ribbons and awards. As far as they're concerned, enlisted Air Force personnel should not be rewarded for "good conduct" since good conduct is an expectation. At first glance, I thought this amusing since USAF personnel are bejeweled with emblems, medals and ribbons, so what's one less ribbon! But, it's the Air Force dropping the award... I must give this more thought.

*

Our next reunion will be in historic San Diego and berthed on the waterfront is the aircraft carrier USS Midway...a must see. Three hundred and fifty thousand visitors were expected during their first year. One year later, they totaled over 700,000 visitors thereby adding substantial revenue to the county's schools, social programs, etc. On another note, the battleship USS Iowa is headed for Stockton, CA. and not, as hoped by many, to San Francisco's waterfront. Seems muddle headed political hacks opposed the berthing of the ship that earned nine battle stars for World War II service and two for Korean service because of the war in Iraq and the Pentagon's policy on homosexuals...small minds for a once great city.

*

"What Do You Have In Your Mouth, Marine"?

Remember the time when chewing gum was as unmilitary as carrying an umbrella? Seems the Marine Corps has now approved gum chewing while on duty. They say the gum contains caffeine...helps to keep the troops awake and alert...ingredients are Titanium Dioxide which is a pigment to provide whiteness to paints, coatings papers, inks, etc., some carnuba wax which means you can spit shine your car, and a Brazilian aphrodisiac called, Guarana...nuff said about that. "Corpsman"!

*

I dunno know about this one?...American service personnel caught or otherwise found with a prostitute...yes, I said prostitute, may be prosecuted and discharged from

the service...whether it be in Vienna, Katmandu, or Berkeley, Ca. Harrumph! Kinda unfair when you consider civilians get to do community service or pay a fine...I say, drat and double drat...find another way of dealing with the problem. Ah. Yes, join the service...love, travel and adventure...oops, strike love...paid for or not.

*

I don't know if you saw this N.Y. Times item... U.S. Diplomats are being located in some gosh awful isolated one-person embassies. A guy named, Paul S. Berg is stationed in Medan, Indonesia...how long do you think it'll be before they activate a lone MSG there with him?

*

What next?...Female Naval Corpsman assigned to the Marine Corps and who wear Marine Corps combat utility uniforms will no longer be able to wear earrings and painted fingernails...aw nuts!...and they must adhere to the policy of keeping a hair style without visible barrettes...I mean what's a girl to do...this is shocking.

*

Before debating the issue of male versus female physical fitness tests aka PFT, I ask, shouldn't the focus be on whether the standards are the same for each group? If not, shouldn't we be honest and say so? Law enforcement agencies and fire fighters on all levels don't like to talk about it either, but the truth is there are different norms for each group. Sssh, no one above the rank of a L/Cpl wants to admit to it. And I don't think there is much merit in doing PFT in shorts, tennis shoes, and t-shirts. When you're going after the bad guys you're not wearing Adidas athletic gear. It was suggested by a mindless run-of-the-mil NCO I met on the MSG firing range that it would be fairer to make smaller 9mm hand grips our Women Marines... heaven help us.

*

Good Read is "Conduct Under Fire" by John A. Glusman. The author chronicles his father and three other Naval Surgeon's stories of their internment by the Japanese from 1941- 1945. The first few chapters deal with the 4th Marine Regiment in China then to Bataan, Corregidor and finally the POW camps in Japan. Extremely well documented and researched. One last thought about this group of Americans, be they Army, Navy, Airmen, or Marines, they never got a parade when they got home. What they did get was a \$1.50 for each day of imprisonment...a shameful compensation.

Semper Fidelis,
edV

Mail Call

A Fond Farewell to our Founder, a Marine, a Friend, a Good Man. A light rain fell March 13 outside the Sunset Funeral Home in Danville, Illinois as friends and family gathered to bid farewell to the Founder of MEGA, Robert L. Kienietz.

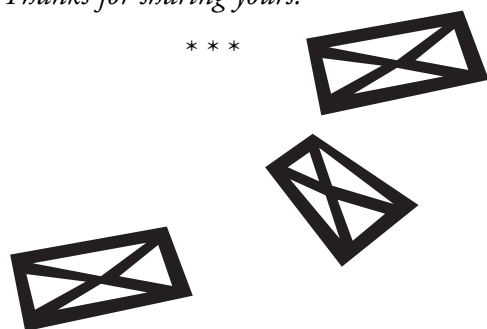
Robert was born in Harvey, Illinois February 12, 1936 and passed away February 2, 2007. He served as an Embassy Guard in Geneva, Switzerland from 1956-58. He lived the early part of his life in Danville, Illinois moved to Colorado in 1972, and worked on the railroad. In 1997 he founded MEGA and served on its first board.

The memorial service was most tasteful and included a eulogy by Robert's sister, June Young; the Marine Corps Hymn, a traditional three volley salute, and the flag presentation to his wife, Mary. The ceremony was performed by the Danville, VFW.

Though we lived just a few miles away for several years, I did not meet Big Bob" until 1997. We discovered our lives included several parallel situations. We became good friends and I feel lucky to have known him. He left the world a better place and we will miss him.

Robert C. Harrison
London 1955-57

Editor: Thanks Bob, many of us have expressed the same sentiments. Thanks for sharing yours.



From: Eula Woodhouse and Steven H. Woodhouse, (Lagos & Nairobi 1965-1968)

On the return trip from Peru, IN in our motor home with a tow vehicle on behind, we came into a short line for the toll booth on the OK Turnpike. I made a remark that you could trust me to get into the slowest lane. Finally I pulled up to the booth with a \$10.00 bill. The toll attendant said there would be no charge as the truck driver ahead had paid our fee as a good will gesture based on our "Marine Embassy Guard Association" license plate. The trucker told the attendant to say, thanks and keep up the good work. I supposed that the trucker would have been surprised to see the old Marine in the passenger seat, different times, different wars; but, wasn't that so very nice. With a big smile of thanks for those who served, or are serving we drove down the road not knowing which trucker it was.

Editor: The old axiom, it pays to advertise, comes to mind.

From: Jacqueline Riekema

Some of you may or may not know that my husband, Kevin Riekema (MEGA Charter Life Member), 47 yrs of age had a stroke.

They are running more tests today in addition to the many tests they ran yesterday. He is 100% better than he was yesterday and numbness on his right side is returning to his arms and legs which is a good sign. His speech or lack of words is to be expected, but this is coming back as well.

5/28/07 Kevin continues an intense rehab schedule in the Rehabilitation Unit at Community Medical Center. Yesterday, Kevin asked the Doctor if he could get a two hour pass to go to the Military Ceremony at Sunset Memorial Cemetery. If he is feeling up to it, he will attend and then go back to the Rehab Unit. It was important that we as a family all attend this ceremony together.

Editor: A speedy recovery, Jim. Get well wishes, cards may be sent to Kevin's home address: 11679 O'Brien Creek Road, Missoula. MT 59804

New Board Member Bios

TIM WOOD — Director

I was a Marine Corps Military Policeman in 1981. Later, I served on Embassy Duty in New Delhi (84-85) and Santiago, Chile (85-86). I remained on active duty until 1990 and thereafter made my transition to civilian life to begin work for the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Orlando, Florida. I continued my military career with the Marine Corps Reserve and served in several units and billets resulting in mobilizations for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. During those mobilizations, I served with G-3 I MEF, Camp Pendleton and HQ US Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL, respectively. In 2006 I retired as a Master Sergeant with over 25 years of service.

Although I have served in numerous positions in the Sheriff's Office (Orange County, FL) including Patrol, Training, Accreditation, Staff Inspections, and Crime Prevention, my current assignment is with the Office of Homeland Security and assigned as a supervisor of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit.

I look forward to serving on the MEGA board and meeting with MEGA members at our next reunion.

Mail Call, Continued:

Truly, I have been blessed with many friends who love and respect me! I received a gift of land from MEGA member, Denny Krause. This gift along with an email notice that a huge sum of money was left to me by a distant Nigerian relative renews my faith in mankind.

What's super keen about Denny's gift is I'm also a "Squire" of the Jack Daniel Distillery and "owner" of an unrecorded plot of land at the distillery. What a place to have a reunion...on a plot in Lynchburg TN! Wait a minute! The letter said plot not acre; doesn't plot have a cemetery connotation? Thanks Denny, keep the plot, I'll wait to hear from Nigeria.

edV

KEVIN HERMENING — MEGA Treasurer

I enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1977 and graduated from MSG school in August 1979. My Marine Corps assignments included: MCRD - San Diego, Camp Butler, NC, Futenma (Okinawa) Marine Corps Air Station, US Embassy, Tehran, Iran, and the Milwaukee (WI) Recruiting Station. In addition, my USMC Reserve duty was performed at Glenview (IL) Naval Air Station in the Public Affairs Office. In 1994 and after 13 years of service in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve, I received an Honorable Discharge. I was awarded the U.S. State Department's Award for Valor, the Prisoner of War Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Over the past 25 years, I have addressed more than 3,000 audiences nationwide, often speaking on my experiences as the youngest of the 52 Americans held hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Iran (1979-81).

My interest in national, state, and local politics (including local school boards) gave me an opportunity to become a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives and the Wisconsin State Legislature. Today, I operate my own financial planning firm, Hermening Financial Group LLC (HFG) with a focus on comprehensive financial planning, tax planning, and investment management. My wife, Wendy, and I have two daughters, Kacey 17, Kaitlyn 14 and reside in Mosinee. WI.

From: Staff Sergeant Iban Lopez, Detachment Commander St. Petersburg, Russia

Sir, my name is SSgt Iban Lopez and I am the DetCmdr in St Petersburg (formally know as Leningrad). I am writing because our detachment is about to be deactivated and we are trying to see if any former MSG's are members of your organization. We are trying to find the first DetCmdr or any other Marine that served here to invite them to our last MC Ball in November. If you can help we would really appreciate it. The detachment has the last of its kind detachment polo shirts (\$27+shipping) and come in royal blue and black.

You can contact SSgt Lopez: LopezIA@state.gov