

## USS OMEGA GLORY RESPONDS TO OPERATION SNOWFLAKE by Max Khaytsus, USS Omega Glory

The large room was dark with only minimal light seeping in from gaps in the brick and cinder block walls. It was far too large to be certain in the actual dimensions of the facility. There was an eerie stillness in the twilight, sporadically broken by the sound of dripping water, the scraping of something on a rough surface and an occasional moan. The air inside was stagnant and somewhat chilly on this February afternoon.

Beams of light cut through the darkness, flashlights wielded by an unseen group. They were not strong enough to reach the opposite wall. The lights swept along the debris cluttered floor and then, tentatively, some angled up, illuminating an insignificant section of a dilapidated ceiling some thirty feet above. The building was not safe. It groaned as if greeting the light it has not seen in some time.

"Search and Rescue! If you can walk, come to the sound of my voice!"

"Help me!" a woman's tortured voice responded from the darkness. In the distance something fell and bounced on the dusty cement floor. There was a scuffing sound as if someone was pulling themselves across the floor.

The beam of one of the lights fell on a young girl. She could not have been older than eight, small and scared, wearing a dirty coat. Her hands were bloody and there was a smear of blood on her face. "My daddy is hurt," she pleaded. "Please help him."

How do members of a science-fiction club find themselves in a situation such as this, a real life chamber of horrors?

It was less than an hour earlier that a call went out to Colorado's North Central Region's volunteer responders of the Community Emergency Response Team and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. It had been snowing for over a day now, a thick heavy snow, accumulating in excess of an inch an hour, forming drifts higher than six feet. The official snowfall totals broke two feet at noon and some areas experienced well more precipitation than the official numbers had suggested. Accident alerts had been replaced with travel restrictions, not that many vehicles could overcome the drifts in the roadways. Police, fire and ambulance units were no longer able to respond in their customary vehicles. The snow was so deep that they were covered up to their bumpers and hopelessly stuck. Paramedics were responding to calls for help on the backs of snow mobiles. And that was still good news. Now, coming up on mid-afternoon, emergency dispatchers were taking calls for sagging roofs. Some were still putting up a fight against the rapidly accumulating snow. Others were in the process of giving up.

Such was the case here. A 90,000 square foot facility, a two acre building, finally gave in to all the snow. Power failed. A portion of the roof caved in. Walls and supports buckled. The acoustic ceiling and hanging signage and lights all collapsed. It was the worst case scenario that everyone had feared. Dozens of people trapped in a shattered facility, many hurt. And rescue was not coming. Powerful as a fire engine is, it simply could not plow its way beyond the doors of the fire station. Too much snow. And too many calls for help.

An event such as this was foreseen by emergency planners years in advance and in the summer of 2002 Bill Owens, then governor of Colorado, signed an executive order creating the



Exercise organizer Jennifer Scott (center) giving a pre-exercise briefing to the responders. Jennifer has been the CO of the USS Omega Glory since 2001. Photo by Max Khaytsus



A team of responders works on electrocution victims in this simulated exercise. One of two imbedded news crews (right) followed the exercise. Photo by Max Khaytsus

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# The Communique on the Edge of Forever

By Emmett Plant, Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to Issue 141 of the STARFLEET Communique, at long last. Stewardship of this issue hadn't come to me until after the original print deadline, and a lot of people have been working very hard to get it out the door as soon as possible. A huge thanks to all of the contributors for this issue, as well as a huge thanks to those of you who understand the time constraints involved.

Also, apologies are in order to CQ submitters who had sent in articles on time but weren't included in this issue, for much the same reason. If there was any flow to the submittal and approval chain for the Communique, it has been dammed in the name of publication speed. This has been a Kobayashi Maru test, not just of reaction to a no-win situation, but a time trial, as well. Some of the information in these pieces may be somewhat stale. You have been warned!

As a staffer on #140, I've been in the firing line for all kinds of questions, comments and concerns about that issue. I've worked very hard to address those concerns here, even with in the time allotted. Whether or not I've succeeded is really up to you. Please feel free to drop me a line to tetrisblock@gmail.com to let me know what you think. I will also do everything I can to share these concerns with the next editors of the Communique, whomever they end up being.

At any rate, the show must go on. Here are some of my favorite quotes from *The Original Series*, presented here to remind us all why we're here — To celebrate Star Trek among friends.



**Bones:** Spock, I've found that evil usually triumphs... unless good is very, very careful.

**Spock:** That sound was the turbulence caused by the penetration of a boundary layer, captain.

**Kirk:** What boundary layer?

**Spock:** Unknown.

**Kirk:** A boundary layer between what and what?

**Spock:** Between where we were and where we are.

**Kirk:** Are you trying to be funny, Mr. Spock?

**Spock:** It would never occur to me, captain.

**Kirk:** Another technical journal, Scotty?

**Scotty:** Aye.

**Kirk:** Don't you ever relax?

**Scotty:** I am relaxing.

**McCoy:** In this galaxy, there's a mathematical probability of three million Earth-type planets. And in all of the universe, three million million galaxies like this. And in all of that... and perhaps more, only one of each of us.



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# Virtual Tour Panoramic Photography

Rick Speaect, USS Omega Glory

On a recent caving trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico I stopped in the park book store. There I saw a large monitor that was showing a 360 degree cave panorama. What is a 360 degree panorama? It's a virtual picture where you can rotate the view up, down, left and right and even zoom in or out. The picture places you in the middle of a virtual reality image where you can simulate turning around with computer controls and see before you what you would normally see had you been standing in that exact spot. The images were spectacular. The three members of the group who were there with me were spellbound. We spent so much time viewing the panoramas that we missed an opportunity to go caving that day. When I arrived back home, I was still so captivated that I began to do research on this type of photography.



Figure 1: Nodal Head

The reason for a special tripod head is to eliminate parallax. Parallax (figure 2) is the apparent movement of a foreground object in front of a background object when viewed from a different view point. Merging multiple photographs with this background shift is a problem. The software would have one foreground image and two or three background images, creating ghost images or distortions.

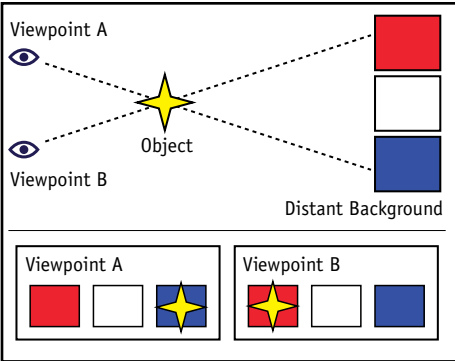


Figure 2: Parallax

If you rotate the camera around its nodal point, you eliminate this problem. The nodal point lies somewhere along the lens. The nodal point for a camera can change based on the lens, zoom level of the lens and the aperture setting. To locate the nodal point you need to set up a foreground and a background object. You then take a series of pictures rotating the camera between frames. If all of the photographs show the same perspective between the foreground and background objects, you have the camera mounted correctly. This is called calibrating the head.

Now that the camera has been calibrated on the nodal head, we need to determine how many photographs we need to take to get enough overlap in the images. The software requires 25% to 50% overlap. I simply eyeballed this by looking through the viewfinder and manually rotating the camera. I then noted the number of degrees of rotation. The degrees are labeled on the head itself. I determined that I needed twelve images to make one complete circle. The head has a choice of detent plates that can be used. Once you determine how many photos you need to go around once, you put the correct detent plate in. This plate works with a

spring and a pin so the head clicks as it rotates. Now all I needed to do was rotate the camera to the next click. This is much easier than trying to read the number of degrees on the head.

Prior to my first attempt at a panorama, I purchased a new camera, a Canon XTi 10 Mega pixel, with an 18-55mm lens. I used the 18mm setting. I experimented with this equipment in my living room. My first field attempt at a 360 degree panorama was in a cave named the Land of the Swirling Mists. I choose a great spot and began my first attempt at this type of photography. A complete panorama of 360 (horizontal) degrees by 180 (vertical) degrees requires three rows of pictures. Twelve with the camera level, twelve with the camera tilted 45 degrees upward, twelve with the camera tilted 45 degrees downward, two straight up and two straight down. A total of forty photographs are needed. If I could use my fisheye lens, I could do a full panorama with only seven photographs, but in a cave you can't light that much of the cave for each image all at once. This brings us to the next problem, lighting. Above ground, in bright daylight, you could simply "point and shoot", but in the darkness of a cave that approach would yield a worthless photograph.

The technique that was used in the commercial panoramas was to do a long exposure of 6 to 8 seconds and "paint" the walls with a spotlight. I used a rechargeable 2 million candle power spotlight (figure 3). It took about an hour and a half to complete the first set of pictures. My spotlight ran out of power and I was unable to complete the images for the floor. Additional factors associated with manually painting the background became known at this time as well. The 2 million candle power spotlight is sufficiently bright that it would leave streaks where the center of the beam passed, creating a striped texture to the photograph. Nearby objects would be over illuminated, making them either too bright or too fuzzy due to the overabundance of light. This was solved by adding a diffusion filter to the light, scattering it just enough that lighting was even across the entire area. It was also important to be able to paint the entirety of the frame, not just the center of it. Any section not explicitly painted would come out much darker in the photograph. (figure 4)



Figure 3: 2 million candlepower spotlight

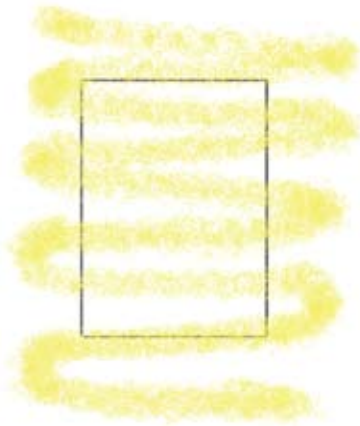


Figure 4a: Painting entire Frame



Figure 4b: Painting center of Frame



**Panorama of the Grand Opera Hall in Manitou Grand Caverns**  
**Photo by Rick Speaect and Assistants**



**Panorama of the east end of the Junction in the Land of the Swirling Mists**  
**Photo by Rick Speaect and Assistants**



**Rick Speaect (USS Omega Glory) and David Lambert (National Geographic) discussing 360 degree photography.**  
**Photo by Max Khaytsus (USS Omega Glory)**

Future trips resolved these problems, addressing them one by one through further research and experimentation. Each expedition resulted in better quality. The trips had to be carefully planned. A normal cave trip requires a lot of specialized equipment. A photography trip requires a completely different set of specialized equipment. The two together can easily overwhelm a person and it's preferred that the load be distributed among several "sherpas" to get all the gear to the chosen location. Hiking out to some caves is a challenge in itself, but add to it the rigors of

transporting sensitive and unwieldy equipment through tight crawls and up high climbs and what would on any other day have been an easy trip quickly becomes a logistical nightmare.

All photography had to be completed in a single session as the ability to precisely replace the tripod where the original set of pictures was taken was virtually impossible. A missed photograph or a shoddy image would result in a wasted day. The subjects in the photos had additional one million candle power spotlights to paint further alcoves and extend the depth of view of the cave. The camera was used on manual settings so that all variables in the process would remain constant as the pictures were taken. It took almost 100 photographs to get enough quality images to make a single panorama.



**Background: David Lambert (National Geographic) and Paul Ryan stand ready to paint the Frame.**  
**Center: Rick Speaect (USS Omega Glory) getting ready to take the picture.**  
**Foreground: Talon Speaect (USS Omega Glory) poses in the Frame for scale.**  
**Photo by Max Khaytsus (USS Omega Glory).**

Production of a panorama begins by loading your photographs into the software. You start by reviewing the pictures individually, identifying the ones that turned out well and color correcting the ones that will be a part of the final panorama. Then you are ready to assemble the final image. This process takes a lot of computer memory. The software attempts to match the details of adjacent images to align them. If there is not enough detail or overlap, you must manually line up the pictures. Then you have to equalize the images. Equalization of the images more closely matches the lightness of the photographs so that the color throughout the panorama is consistent. Now it's time to render the panorama. The software is flexible. It allows one to make cylindrical images, cubical images, spherical images, QuickTime movies, avi movies. There are also Java and Flash players to display the final products on a website. This process takes a lot of computer memory and depending on the options selected can take up to an hour to complete. If done correctly the results are very impressive.

The panorama can be saved as a Mercator projection for use by any other software capable of converting the image back to the desired form. This format will distort the top and the bottom of the image as they are stretched to fit in a rectangular photo. This photo can be used in Immervision's player or printed.

Modern innovations in technology allow us to accomplish projects that just a few years ago were impossible to achieve. An amateur hobbyist can now get results that just a few years ago could only have been done by large companies or movie studios. Last decade's multi-million dollar special effects are now available on your desktop. And this is just the beginning of what can be done. The next step is to do virtual tours where you can simply walk down a street or through a cave rather than simply turning around in place.

Panoramic photography is aesthetic and attention-grabbing. In the very least it can serve as a computerized version of a coffee table book, but its applications are far more significant than just looking at pretty pictures. Caves can be a hard environment to get to and a picture could easily be worth a thousand words. A complete panorama is practically a novel about that section of the cave, usable for formation inventory, impact monitoring and conservation reviews. An interesting side effect of one of the panoramas was the discovery of cave features previously unknown to exist in this particular cave. The features are contrary to what would be expected in cave formation and have earned the attention of curious geologists.



# Commander, STARFLEET: From the Center Seat

Fleet Admiral Les Rickard

*Greetings Fleet,*

I sit here in the shade of a concrete mortar bunker outside my tent in Iraq writing this issues article. To say that my location, duties and experiences thus far has affected my perceptions and views on things would be an understatement. You may see me be a bit more blunt than you are used to and its an outgrowth of my current situation. With that let me move on to this article so you can enjoy the rest of this issue of the STARFLEET Communique.

As you all know I was on a bit of a leave while I trained for this deployment in Texas. That was a long and tiring couple of months to say the least and I would like to thank the Executive Committee, Admiralty Board, the CS staff and you the members for working together to allow me the time to give full attention to training that would be no less than life saving considering where I am and what I am doing. During my time training I have not been out of touch totally. Both Vice Commander, STARFLEET Mark Anbinder and Chief of Staff Greg Trotter spoke with me as regularly as schedules allowed over both the internet and phone. They kept me abreast of issues and problems and during this time they acted in my stead on a couple of serious issues. They did so admirably and with my complete faith that they would get the job done. Thank you to Mark and Greg for the extra efforts they put forth in minding the store in my stead. I owe them a great deal and I think the Fleet should know how hard they worked for the membership.

Recently Mark Anbinder left for a much deserved vacation to France. On that date I resumed my duties as Commander, STARFLEET. I have been reviewing everything and have been sending things to both the EC and the AB for consideration. I will be reporting on those items to the membership once they are ready. But there are a couple of things I want to speak on this issue so the membership is informed.

## IC2006

As most people saw in the previous issue of the Communique, there was some reporting done regarding the IC06 financial situation. Mark Anbinder has been working diligently in his capacity as IC Liason to get all merchandise and refunds handled. If there is anyone out in the Fleet that have not received items or money refunds and are due then please contact Mark at [vcs@sfi.org](mailto:vcs@sfi.org).



Fleet Admiral Rickard's authority is recognized by citizens of Orion. Photo by Will Devine.

As for the discussions on what should be done the EC will be taking appropriate actions with regards to the IC Chair Mike Smith and then moving the issue to the AB for their review and determination as to what actions should follow. The EC is very limited in what it can do but understand that FADM Smith's failure to communicate and provide needed information and materials is more than I can allow to move forward unaddressed. Many people know that Mike and I are old friends, serving as his second CS term Ops Chief. He and I have had a long personal friendship. However, I must separate friendship from responsibility to STARFLEET and its members. I was not on the EC until June of 2006, which is when I realized there had been no financial reporting on the event. I immediately made it clear we needed something. What we received wasn't much but it gave us an idea where we were. From that point we moved into the event weekend and from there things got a bit confusing. With the event nearly a year removed from taking place its time to clear it up and move forward. We will be discussing it at the IC07 ECAB meeting no doubt and I hope to be able to report on the closure of it after IC with actions taken and approved by the EC and AB together.

You will learn more about this situation and some of the actions taken in reports from this office to available information outlets, [www.sfi.org](http://www.sfi.org) and eventually the next CQ. Please be patient as the EC completes its actions and moves it on to the AB for action where we can conclude it.

## THE STARFLEET "NAME CALLING POLICE"

For a very long time the EC along with the AB has been slowed to nearly a full stop in the actual administration of fleet duties because of discussions over issues where two people had an argument, stopped getting along, felt that they were being bullied or simply got their feelings hurt by someone. Many of these events take place in private residences not during any fleet activity or on venues such as Fleetchat or Fleetlist which are not owned by STARFLEET. Many, if not most of these, are between two people who should handle their disagreement by either discussing it or not associating with one another. No one makes one person talk or be around another person. If these events occur in the previous mentioned venues then they have the right to go to the owners of those services and seek administrative action to stop and/or prevent future occurrences. The someone in question has been everywhere from the newest/returning member to an EC or AB member. I will not categorize "all" of them are undeserving of review and some form of censure. But most of them are arguments between two adults that should be handled between those two adults and, if they can not be handled, then the two parties just need to not associate with one another. That is how most people handle things in mundane life — at least that has been my experience.

That said I must say that recently I was required to submit actions to the AB for their review because I was somewhat on the fence as to the actions taken by a member that generated a complaint by two other members. Therefore I pre-empted the forthcoming AB questioning and vote to have the IG investigate because I didn't submit it directly. I did this by submitting it to the AB directly myself to generate a discussion on this issue and let them make a decision I felt I was somewhat biased in making.

In the end there will be an investigation and actions may or may not take place. If they do then that is the will of the AB and that is what the constitution says is supposed to happen. I may not always agree with the wording of the constitution. But it's in place therefore I am bound by the governing documents of STARFLEET and I will do no less than follow those documents.



Fleet Admiral Rickard shows the Klingons who's 'da man.' Photo by Will Devine.

I would hope that all parties understand my conviction to do the right thing but my requirement to follow the rules, indeed the law of our organization to the best of my ability.

None of this precludes all of us from doing what I think we should all do...be nice to one another. But I have no control over that and, incidentally, neither does any other administrative body in this organization.

NEW STAFF

While I was on leave we made a change at the EC level. CFO Pat Spillers was asked to step down and a new CFO has been appointed. I would like to welcome Commodore Liz Woolf to the Executive Committee and thank her for stepping up to do this daunting and needed job. One of the first things I told Liz was that I wanted a complete review done of the Fleet Finances. I wanted her to tell us where we were as well as give us some projections on where we are going. I also made it clear that spending in all departments, including mine, should be looked so that we can see where we make better fiscal decisions. After that we need to move forward with a plan to have our books independently audited, to some degree, so that we have the independent review that was important to enact several years ago.

I have also asked Brad Pense, STARFLEET's Internal Auditor, to work with Liz and the AB to ensure we get a good review. I believe having the AB approved financial auditor be a part of this process so that they can remain as informed as possible.

Also we have brought on a new CQ Editor. John Adcock stepped up and is working to provide a fresh face to our publication. As with all changeovers there are bumps in the road to be ironed out, but I have faith that as we move forward with the remainder of the year we will continue to see improvement in our publications as well as our online media like www.sfi.org.



Fleet Admiral Rickard takes some time out to boogie with Dan. Photo by Will Devine.

R3 COMMAND RETIREMENT

While I have been privately aware of this for some time, I have received official word that, after twelve years as R3RC, Admiral Brad Pense will be retiring as Commander of the Third Fleet as of the next scheduled VOC/Election process in Region Three. While this will not take place for some time, let me take a moment to thank Brad for all he has done for STARFLEET and for Region Three. I am proud to have worked along side Brad on various projects as well as having him come on board as our IA several years ago. Brad has been an asset to his region and Fleet. He will be missed on the Admiralty Board, but will always remain a good friend. Thank you Brad for your service, enjoy your final days as RC R3 and then enjoy retirement my friend. You have deserved it.

FINAL WORD

As I complete this article I want to thank everyone who have emailed me and expressed their thoughtful concern over my deployment and distance from family and friends. Unless you have experienced something like this you can not fully appreciate the complete change it makes in your life. Add to that as a deployed sailor I am also an expectant father who may very well be in Iraq when his new child is born. After a recent sonogram we were blessed with knowing that our child is healthy and Heather's pregnancy is progressing right on schedule. Also at that time Heather and I were fortunate enough to learn the gender of our child. We are having a baby boy and have already decided on a name. Sometime in late September or early October Tucker Charles Rickard will be born.

That's it for now. See you next issue live from the Delta Quadrant.

FADM Les Rickard  
Commander, STARFLEET  
TDY to the Delta Quadrant

# Vice Commander, STARFLEET: Second Round

General Mark Anbinder

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## Defining Communiqué

As I write this column, I’m relaxing in a hotel in Paris, reflecting on the meaning of the French word “communiqué.” Simply, it’s a communication, but it has come to mean more than that. Perhaps a bulletin from the colonels at the battlefield to the generals sipping wine far from the action, carried by a scared boy too young to fight, but who’d insisted on following his brother to war. Or a telex from an embassy reporting back to the State Department on the casual, but meaningful, discussions with local dignitaries at a dinner party.

I’m reflecting because my e-mail this week has been full of discussion about our own Communiqué, a frequent topic of conversation in STARFLEET, not least when a new team takes over. As usual, everyone has an opinion.

Before continuing with some opinion, I’d like to take a moment to thank John Adcock, our new Communiqué editor, and the several unsung volunteers who helped him put together issue 140 of this esteemed publication. Love it or hate it, they deserve credit for putting in the effort to completely redesign and then publish STARFLEET’s bi-monthly newsletter.

## Love it or Hate it

What do you think? Have you got an opinion? If I’m to believe the mailing list discussions, everyone has an opinion, or at least several people each speak for large groups of unnamed others.

Of course the Communiqué should include a list of folks completing Academy courses; everyone wants to see their names and their friends’ names in print. Of course the Communiqué should leave out such a space-wasting list of names; no one wants to see this. See how much fun this is? The validity of each position is obvious to those who hold it and express it, but not necessarily so obvious to those who hold the opposite opinion.

It’s the “dark side” to my oft-stated maxim that STARFLEET is different things to different people. Sometimes, we forget that in order for us to enjoy what STARFLEET is to us, we must allow others to enjoy what it is to them.

Even the new design has diametrically opposed partisans; some love the clean, sparse, original Star Trek look. Others find it lacking flash, not surprisingly.

## What does Mark think?

Want my opinion now? Since my copy of CQ 140 hasn’t yet reached me as of the day before my deadline to submit this column for CQ 141, I don’t feel it’s entirely fair to comment on the overall package. The PDF I’ve seen has some typos and inconsistencies, but that’s nothing new for a fan-run publication. Keeping in mind it’s this team’s first go, I think they get a little bit of a “honeymoon.”

But you know what’s more important? It’s that John and company did what they felt was the right thing to do. It happens that in some cases, I disagree with the decision they made. For example, publishing a column and a “rebuttal” next to it isn’t journalism, it’s partisanship. But it’s what the editor of the publication felt was the thing to do. Never mind that the “rebuttal” in a debate is the first speaker’s brief opportunity to speak again after the second speaker has had a say, commonly contradicting the first. Had the editor allowed me the

opportunity to review the “counterpoint” piece, and rebut that, the term would have applied, and fairness as defined by the rules of debate would have been maintained.

Allowing some late submissions but leaving others for next time doesn’t seem to have been a popular choice, but I have to say I appreciated the invited opportunity to share some photos from the Region 1 Summit, even though that event occurred after the deadline. It made for some good filler, and once in a while it’s nice to have photos from events that have just occurred. No doubt a few things that arrived after the official deadline will make it into the next issue — this one you now have in your hand.

As for the torrent of feedback in general, I have to say my advice to John and crew would be to smile and nod next time. While I understand their defensiveness — I occasionally wish the momentary satisfaction of telling someone off in public were worth the long-term repercussions — I have to say they aren’t going to convince anyone they’re “right” by snapping back.

## In the End

When all is said and done, the firestorm that preceded CQ 140 into the world (ironic that all this has occurred before anyone has held the finished product in their hands) will fade into the past, one of many brief flame-wars (though they don’t always seem so brief at the time) that erupt periodically. And you know what’s funny about that? To some people, that is what STARFLEET is: the chance to argue. If that’s what you’re into, have fun.

## As for the Region 1 Summit...

Before I close, a few words on this spring’s event in Richmond! I really enjoyed seeing some old friends and meeting new ones, as I often do at Fleet events. Even though it had been a couple of years since I’d made it to a Region 1 Summit, I felt quickly reconnected to people I hadn’t seen in that time.

The Summit was also a good opportunity to visit with several folks I do get to see a couple of times a year, and catch up with people I mostly “see” online. If you haven’t been to a regional summit or conference, I urge you to give it a try. As with most things in STARFLEET, there’s a little something for everyone.

It’s summit and conference season, but by the time you read this, the International Conference will be just about upon us! I look forward to seeing many of you in Denver. Do take a moment to say hi, do some sightseeing, enjoy some good local food, and see what the IC itself has to offer.





# Financial Report

## Commodore Liz Woolf, STARFLEET CFO

I’ve just finished my first month as CFO, and boy has it been a busy one! I’ve learned a lot about how STARFLEET does business, and how we keep track of that business. I’d like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Adm. Pat Spillers, who has been an invaluable help in training me on the multiple procedures that I needed to learn. I don’t think I’ve spent so much time on long phone calls with someone in STARFLEET since I first got IRC back in 1997!

A lot has changed since I first joined STARFLEET in 1992. My first membership card was signed by Jeanette Maddox. The CQ was being produced by the USS Lagrange, out of Ohio. I remember my then-CO, Alex Rosenzweig and I spending hours on the phone while he tried to explain to me about the merits of Rob Lerman vs. Dan McGinnis for CS! Now members and chapters can communicate with each other in the blink of an eye, and while some of you may be reading this in the printed CQ that was mailed to you, I bet some of you are reading a PDF while sitting at your computer, maybe chatting with your ‘Fleet friends in IRC.

You know what hasn’t changed since I joined STARFLEET? How much I pay for my ‘Fleet membership. It was \$15 back in December 1992, and it was the exact same price on my last renewal. I don’t know how much it cost STARFLEET to do business back in 1992, but I can tell you how much it costs us to do business now, and it’s something I’ve been looking at very carefully as we prepare the Fiscal Year 2008 budget to present to the Admiralty Board and the membership.

As outlined by Adm. Spillers in CQ#139, STARFLEET brings in approximately \$39,000 in membership dues per year. Of that, roughly \$30,000 is from primary members, and the remaining \$9,000 from family memberships. From that \$39,000, we spend about \$16,000 on the Communiqué, and another \$16,000 on membership materials. That leaves us about \$5,000 to spend on everything else in STARFLEET.

What is in that everything else? Well, an expense that we didn’t have back in 1992 but we certainly have now is credit card processing fees, to the tune of about \$1,800 a year for the fees on membership processing charges annual and monthly fees. We also pay around \$400 for our website hosting, and \$500 for our insurance bond. \$500 a year goes as start-up money to the International Conference (although this money is supposed to be repaid once the IC is over, it has not been since the 2004 IC), and another \$200 covers our accounting software and the online program that gives various members access to inspect the STARFLEET books. We spent over \$350 on promotions certificates and postage on them on 2006, \$650 on awards, and a few hundred dollars on office supplies for various departments. As you can see, that “everything else” money gets used up pretty quickly, and should we have unexpected expenses -- like buying a new printer for Membership Processing, as we did last year, or the IC2006 matter which is still being resolved -- we find ourselves dipping into our reserves.

STARFLEET does bring in money over and above that \$39,000 in membership fees, of course. Most of those go directly to the departments that bring in the money, such as scholarship donations and interest being used to fund scholarships, Quartermaster income being used to purchase more merchandise, VRR fees being used to offset operational costs, and SFA fees being used to offset STARFLEET Academy costs. From a budgetary standpoint, the only money we’re guaranteed to get from our members are the membership fees, so it’s only prudent to use that for planning purposes.

FY’07, which ends on June 30, 2007, will be the second fiscal year in a row in which STARFLEET has brought in less money than it has spent. Clearly, it is not feasible to continue on a path of deficit spending, as eventually our surplus will be whittled away to nothing just by our day-to-day expenses. FY’07 will also include expenses that we haven’t paid for in the

past two years, such as the annual CPA review, the Commander, STARFLEET election, and the transfer of materials and equipment from the old leadership to the new. And of course there’s still the issue of IC2006...

In the next few months, we’ll be looking hard at what we can do to decrease our expenses, and what actions we might take to increase our revenue. The members have come to expect certain things from their STARFLEET membership, and it’s the goal of HQ to continue to add value to the membership. It may be that the time has come to increase membership dues, so that we can look into new and exciting ways to give you even more bang for your buck.

# STARFLEET Communications

## Commodore Dixie Halber

Hello STARFLEET!

I hope everyone has been well these past sixty days. Things have been very busy in Communications.

One of the biggest changes you’ve seen is the new look to the CQ. John Adcock and his team are doing a great job creating an all new CQ. I know the changes have been difficult for some people but I think in the end we’ll have a great product that everyone will be proud of. I ask that you hang with us while we continue to improve the CQ and make it a truly premier publication.

Speaking of newsletters it’s that time again. Time for the annual STARFLEET Newsletter awards, where we honor the best editors and their papers in ‘Fleet. If you’d like to participate in this years awards, send a hard copy or electronic copy of your best newsletter, published in 2006, to:

Dixie Halber  
8606 King George Rd  
Evansville, IN 47725  
e-mail: newsletters@halberium.com

Get those in to me by Jul 15th. And remember, make sure it’s from calendar year 2006.

A lot of people have been asking me about the Office of Fleet Historian which has been closed for all of this year. I apologize for having taken so long to take care of this. I’ve decided, that instead of reopening this office, I’m going to take it in a different direction. I’m looking for someone to fill the role of STARFLEET Archivist. While exact duties are not completely mapped out yet, part of their duties will be to maintain the STARFLEET CQ archives, Fleet news records, and help me work with other Fleet members to determine best archival procedures for the boxes of Fleet records all of us who work for headquarters have. If you are interested in a position like this and are looking to map a new position in Fleet, contact me at **comm@sfi.org**.

Additionally, John Adcock and his staff are going to begin to create a comprehensive history of STARFLEET. This will be a single document that will detail the history of Fleet since the beginning. John will be announcing more about what he’s going to do and the staff he’ll need to accomplish this.

And with that, I’m signing off for another sixty days!



# STARFLEET Operations: Fleet Status

Admiral Johnathan 'Gumby' Simmons

## Fleet Status

As of August 15th, 2007 we have 3759 members and 230 chapters of STARFLEET.

## New Commissionings at IC 2007

Please join me in welcoming the following new chapters:

- **USS ROBINS**, Region 2, Colonel Oliver Savander, Commanding
- **USS TIBERIUS**, Region 2, Captain R. Michael Sleet, Commanding
- **USS SOUTHERN CROSS**, Region 11, Colonel Bruce O'Brien, Commanding

## MSR Reporting Totals

- June – 86%
- July - 83%

## Correspondence Chapters

Admiral Michell Fanelli reports that we now have a total of 46 Correspondence Chapters in the Fleet with more on the way. Go Correy!

## Chapter Support Services

Chapter Support Services is fully up and running. We've successfully helped one understrength chapter pull back up and they are doing nicely now. Two more chapters have requested help and we are working with them to help. If your chapter needs support, please let us know at **ops@sfi.org**.

## MSR info

Recently there has been some confusion as to MSRs being logged as received by some RC's. So to clear up the confusion, here is the way we do things. When you file your MSR via snail mail or email, it is marked as received, then reporting officers or COs get a confirmation email from OPS. From there it will be entered into the DB by myself or Commodore Steve Bowers, who is the MSR Coordinator. At the end of the reporting period (10th of each month), Steve logs the totals and begins to enter the MSRs into the DB manually. This usually takes a couple days, so if an RC checks the MSR Review Tool in the DB \*before\* the MSRs are entered, all he or she will see are those chapters that actually use the DB for filing their MSR. This has recently led to an RC telling chapters that their MSR was not received by OPS and subsequently, we got doubles and triples of MSRs resent to us.

If you got a confirmation email from OPS, then your MSR has been logged as received. If you did not, please email me at ops@sfi.org so that I can find out what the issue is.

COs and reporting officers could help us out by using the DB to file your chapter's MSR. That saves us from having to input it manually. There is a Database MSR Tutorial in the START Manual for those who do not know how to submit an MSR that way and the OPS Staff can also help walk you through the process. It's much easier than you think.

For RC's we recommend waiting to check the MSR Review Tool until the reporting period is over. Regional Status Reports are not due until the 15th of each month and we usually have the MSRs entered well before that.

I hope that better explains the process.

Stay tuned for more exciting OPS news in the next issue!

# STARFLEET Academy

Commodore Wayne Killough, Jr.

Hello, Membership! Welcome back to another exciting edition of the CQ. As you can see, the CQ is undergoing some enhancements to it's look and design. We hope that you enjoy the latest issue, as well as the content, news, stories, and articles. So, without further delay, on to the Academy...

## Administration

The Academy Degree Program is in the final stages of approval/design. This project has taken quite a while to complete, and we want to make sure it is the best possible program for our Students.

I would like to welcome two new additions to the Administrative/Support Staff here at the Academy. Please help me welcome Alejandro L. Barreiro Agrelo, our new Director of Electronic Services/Webmaster. Also, please help me welcome Ayled Barreda Diaz to our Arts & Graphics Department. Both members are fine additions to the Academy! Alejandro can be contacted at abarreirouh@gmail.com, and Ayled can be reached at lelexbarreda@gmail.com.

Scholarship Applications have been reviewed, and recipients will be announced in the next issue. I would like to personally thank Sam Black for his hard work on getting the Scholarship enhancements taken care of this year!

The Academy is finalizing our Accessibility Program (not to be confused with our College of Accessibility). The Accessibility Program will allow members with disabilities the opportunity to partake in Academy exams without having to rely on the help of others. The first phase of this project is aimed at providing exams, in conjunction with the computer, in a format for our visually-impaired members. Several members of our Team have been working on this project, with Ron Novak spear-heading things. For more information on this program, please contact Ron at hazguy36@yahoo.com

The Academy is bringing back our Alumni Association, and we are looking for a Director. This program will handle the collection and processing of the Academy History, as well as producing a newsletter (either bi-monthly or quarterly). The Academy will include the Gradate List in this publication, along with highlights of the Academy, interviews of Academy Staff and Graduates, and various other topics of interest to students. This undertaking can be one member, or a team of members...but we need one Director to spearhead this project. Below are the requirements:

- Must have successfully completed OTS, OCC, and FOS (or successful completion within 90 days of appointment).
- Must be capable of producing a newsletter on a timely basis.
- Must submit a resume with both real-life and STARFLEET-related information.
- Examples/proofs of Newsletters is a plus.

For more information on this, please contact me at robynhunter@mchsi.com. Applications are due by July 31st.

## Institute of Alien Studies

We have a new addition to the Institute of Alien Studies. The Vulcan Orientation College is now live and ready for students. I would like to thank Carol for creating this College for the Academy. Carol can be contacted at betazoid@mosquitonet.com.



I would like to welcome Richard Hewitt to the Academy as the new Director of the Romulan Orientation College. Richard can be reached at caphewitt@cox.net.

I would like to welcome Jay Hurd as the new Director of the Cardassian Orientation College. Jay can be reached at jay.hurd@comcast.net.

**Institute of the Arts**

Running at Optimum Speed.

**Institute of Cadet Studies**

Running at Optimum Speed.

**Institute of Foreign Affairs**

The College of Down Under has been offline due to Internet Provider issues. Jayden is now working on getting things caught up. For information on the College, please contact Jayden at jayden\_tyronian@yahoo.co.uk.

**Institute of Intelligence & Espionage**

Running at Optimum Speed.

**Institute of Leadership Studies**

We at the Academy are discussing a new idea for a College: the College of Diplomatic Affairs. This College would include both real-life Diplomatic/Ambassadorial information (such as United Nations, Treaties, etc.) and Star Trek related topics (Ambassadors, Treaties, diplomatic situations, etc.). We are looking to find someone in the membership that would be interested in working with the design of this College, as the Director. Below are the requirements:

- Must have successfully completed OTS, OCC, and FOS (or successful completion within 90 days of appointment).
- Must be willing to process applications/graduates/exams/etc. within 72-hours or less. (Note: Real-life can change this when needed... but not on a regular basis).
- Must submit a resume with both real-life and STARFLEET-related information.
- Must submit a layout of the College, with names of Exams, Schools (if applicable), etc.
- Must submit at least two rough draft exams.

For more information on this, please contact me at robynhunter@mchsi.com. Applications are due by July 31st.

**Institute of Military Studies**

Running at Optimum Speed.

**Institute of Science & Technology**

The College of Engineering is looking for a new Director. This College will need to be redesigned from the ground-up. Below are the requirements for Director:

- Must have successfully completed OTS, OCC, and FOS (or successful completion within 90 days of appointment).
- Must be willing to process applications/graduates/exams/etc. within 72-hours or less. (Note: Real-life can change this when needed...but not on a regular basis).
- Must submit a resume with both real-life and STARFLEET-related information.
- Must submit a layout of the College, with names of Exams, Schools (if applicable), etc.
- Must submit at least two rough draft exams.

For more information on this, please contact me at robynhunter@mchsi.com. Applications are due by July 31st.

**Institute of Science Fiction Studies**

The Institute of Science Fiction Studies is always looking for new additions. One addition I have tossed around to other Staff members is a College of the Comic Book Universe. This College would be broken into Schools (School of the Marvel Universe, School of the DC Universe, etc.). If this sounds like a venture that you would be interested in, please contact both Dean Truman Temple at hstrymj@ yahoo.com and myself at robynhunter@mchsi.com.

**Course Development**

As always, the Academy is looking for new additions. This can be new Ideas, Courses, Schools, Colleges, Institutes, Staff, etc. If you have an idea for a new College, a new School within a current College, new exams within current Colleges/Schools, etc., please feel free to contact us. There is a new email set up for Course Development: sfa-cd@sfi.org. This email address will contact all members of the Course Development Team in one shot. We can't wait to hear from you on your new ideas!!!

Until next time!

Rear Admiral Wayne Lee Killough, Jr.

Commandant, STARFLEET Academy

**academy@sfi.org** email address will contact all members of the Course Development Team in one shot. We can't wait to hear from you on your new ideas!





# STARFLEET Academy Graduates

Commodore Wayne Killough, Jr. \_\_\_\_\_

## Officer’s Training School

Adam Kubizna  
Adam MacMillan  
Adan King  
Ajda Strnad  
Alejandro Barreiro Agrelo  
Alexander Antonakos  
Andrea Reid  
Andreas Wagner  
Antonio Reyes  
Arwen Wilson  
Ayled Barreda Diaz  
Bernadette Fishlock  
Bill Frazer  
Bill Johnston  
Brenda Miller  
Brian Ashley  
Brook Thomson  
Brooke Perry  
Bruce Mutter  
Carol Courtney  
Carol Stewart  
Catherine Barbree  
Chitiaka Henry  
Chris Jacobs  
Christine Jordan  
Dai Rhys-Jones  
Daniel Reed  
Dave Mason  
David Breece  
David Tiplady  
Derek Graham  
Dixie Hill  
Enrique Arroyo  
Eric Taylor  
Erik Stubblefield  
Franklin Kennedy  
George Flanik  
Glenn Goldman  
Grahame Smith  
Gregory Jacobs  
Harvey Raymaker  
Ian Parsons  
Indianna Shepherd  
Jacob Eells  
Jak Snell  
Jason Blackstone  
Jason Hart  
Jason Taylor  
Jeff May  
Jeff Neves  
Jeffrey Hughes

Jenna Morris  
Joanne Davies  
John Halliday  
John Upp  
Joseph Flowers  
Joseph Spencer  
Julie Amor  
Kara Haff  
Karen Roberts  
Kieran Bock  
Kimberley Dall  
Krisan Wallace  
Kurt Hoffer  
Lachlan Shepherd  
Lauren Christensen  
Lawrence Preijers  
Len Dorman  
Leslie Snider  
Loma Brown  
Mark Aron  
Mary Rouland  
Masibindi MotherCourage  
Melissa Ford  
Melissa Taylor  
Meri Bushey  
Michelle Clarke  
Michelle Lockie  
Mickey Bishop  
Nathan Gower  
Nicole Bacchiocchi  
Norman VanHouten  
Paul Woolard  
Paula McCurry  
Rebecca Allen  
Robert Rogers  
Robyn Price  
Ron Lawson  
Samuel Caddick  
Scott M Crawford  
Shaun Reino  
Stephanie Fox  
Steven Trent  
Tammy DeVore  
Thom Watson  
Thomas Sigmundsson  
Tom Bacon  
Travis Bingaman  
Trevor Rawlinson  
Tristan Kamenz  
Wilfredo Torres Amador  
Zed Drebin

## Officer’s Command College

Alejandro Barreiro Agrelo  
Brett Wuest  
Bruce OBrien  
Chris Jacobs  
Cindy Norris  
Dai Rhys-Jones  
Darlene Topp  
Dave Mason  
David Breece  
David Cerame  
Del Davis  
Donald Aucoin  
Erik Stubblefield  
Isa Gunther  
Jacqueline Bundy  
John Upp  
Joseph Spencer  
Lee Montgomery  
Marchelle Lee  
Marlene Wiedeman  
Matthew Moyer  
Oliver Savander  
Steven Tyburski  
Stuart Blair  
Tahnya Abbott  
Thomas Sigmundsson  
Wes Kincaid

## Flag Officer’s School

Angel Avery  
Kimberly Hoffman  
Lee Vitasek  
Robert Olivares  
Wayne Augustson

**Commodore Susan Ueffing**

In this issue I want to comment about two of our major facets in the department: Membership Processing and SFI.org.

With the changing of STARFLEET's CFO, Membership Processing has also made some changes to its operations. The biggest of these changes is switching the PO Box. After consulting with the CFO, it's been decided that it would be best to have MP process all of the membership applications from now on. Because of this, we have closed the PO Box in Texas and have placed a forwarding order so that all mail will go to the new address. The membership applications and other relevant documents have also been updated with the new address.

STARFLEET Membership Processing  
PO Box 712  
Kingsburg, CA 93631-0712

MP also wants to know if you haven't received your membership packet. Please allow up to eight weeks for delivery from the time you renewed. If by that time it has not arrived please contact [membership@sfi.org](mailto:membership@sfi.org) so we can address and resolve the situation.

**SFI.org**

The Quartermaster page will also be integrated as well and be enhanced by a fully functional shopping cart system. This will happen over the next few months so watch out for this great enhancement to a great STARFLEET service.

We had a lot of positive comments from members regarding the STARFLEET Update podcast, so coming soon it will turn into a regular two-week broadcast. Details are still being worked out so please be patient.

Looking into the future, long term goals for SFI.org include some modifications to the look and feel, as well as some minor feature additions that will be debuted later in the year, such as member-driven classified ads and reopening the “help wanted” section.

As always, if you have any comments or concerns you can contact me at [CompOps@sfi.org](mailto:CompOps@sfi.org)

Well, that's all for now. I look forward to seeing everyone at IC2007, so take care, renew early... and renew often.

## Rear Admiral Jerry Tien

Bigger regions tend to create more chapters, and Region 12 certainly fits that pattern. After a quiet period, I am happy to announce a new training chapter in R12, USS Crown Victoria. It is based in Oklahoma City, OK. For information on joining this chapter, please contact CMDR Robert Rogers at [ncc42859@yahoo.com](mailto:ncc42859@yahoo.com). By the way, I believe there were some speculations on the design of this chapter. It is an Excelsior-Class heavy cruiser. Questions on the design specifications of this class may be directed to ADM Alexander Rosenzweig of Department of Technical Services at [dts@sfi.org](mailto:dts@sfi.org).

Next, I'd like to address a common question: "where can we recruit more members to start/commission and beyond?" Try the diverse set of activities, such as those listed in <http://www.dactylmanor.org/fanboy/> (courtesy LTCMDR Blair Learn). Conventions are great opportunities to attract folks who would be interested in fan clubs like STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association. Most of these events have "fan tables" to allow local clubs to recruit members. And the use of these tables is usually free! Why not take advantage of these free opportunities to recruit more members? Here is a tip to improve your working relationship with these events: A lot of these events, particularly fan run conventions, can use every bit of additional man power. If you are willing to volunteer some time for the convention, they are usually even more willing to reciprocate by supporting your recruiting efforts.

Another promising venue is movie openings. Many chapters have told me that they managed to recruit new members during sci-fi & fantasy movie openings. Since many summer blockbusters tend to be sci-fi or fantasy themed, this is definitely something to keep in mind next time you see a major sci-fi or fantasy movie opening, e.g. Spiderman, Pirates of Caribbean or Transformers, ... etc. Many theaters welcome club members to hand out flyers to movie goers in line, especially if these members appear in costumes.

On a different note, there were some very strong sentiments toward the new look & feel of Communique issue #140. Working directly with members from all active regions of fleet, I know things can look differently from different regions, particularly those outside continental USA. I want to encourage everyone to contribute your articles & ideas. It does not matter how long you have been members of STARFLEET. Be sure to submit your CQ articles according to the deadlines, i.e. on the 25th of the odd numbered months. Even if you don't have any articles for submission, I would still encourage you to contact CQ staff to exchange ideas. After all, this is the reason we joined organized fandom – to exchange ideas and enrich our lives, not to become isolated islands.

Finally, I want to remind all readers that we are still looking for additional schematic artists in the Office of Schematic Artists. If you have some experience in this area, please contact me (shoc@sfi.org) or DTS (dts@sfi.org) at your earliest convenience.

# EC/AB Report

By Michael Klufas, Chief of Staff to the VCS

I hate to begin another issue with errata, but here goes: In CQ 140, in mentioning the acting Region 8 coordinator, I make a reference to him as “Owen Spiteri.” Somehow, I really moved forward a few centuries and melded the Region 8 and (then-)Region 20 coordinators into one person. It is Owen SWART serving as acting R8 coordinator. (We’ll discuss Ray Spiteri, the former R20 coordinator, below.)

Fleet Admiral Les Rickard is slowly resuming the role of Commander, STARFLEET since arriving in mid-May at the location where he will perform his active duty service for the US Navy for about a year. Vice-Commander, STARFLEET Mark Anbinder and Chief of Staff to the Commander, STARFLEET Greg Trotter will continue to assist Les as needed. (As an aside, note that Les is in the Middle East, where many places are eight or more hours ahead of Eastern Time. So if it’s 6 p.m. in Philadelphia, it’s at least 2 a.m. where Les is.)

Since the last report, there has been one change on the Executive Committee: Pat Spillers was removed as Chief Financial Officer of STARFLEET on April 16 and replaced by Liz Woolf. The reasons behind Pat’s removal were further discussed in various channels by ECAB members; also, a full report on this matter was printed in CQ140.

On the Admiralty Board, there is a new Region 20 coordinator. I mentioned last issue that former R20 RC Ray Spiteri was standing for an unscheduled vote of confidence, a VoC that he officially lost on April 21. Two of Region 20’s chapters expressed no confidence in him, and one abstained from voting. Vice Regional Coordinator Darren Anderson served as acting regional coordinator until mid-May, when Adrian “Adi” Jones was nominated to be Region 20 coordinator by two of the region’s three chapters (as this was more than 50 percent of the region’s chapters, no election was required).

From mid-March through the end of May, there were three AB Resolutions:

**AB07-02** (moved by R2’s Jack Eaton and seconded by R10’s Paul Reid) called for the matter of harassing behavior on the part of Scott Akers to be returned to the Commander, STARFLEET, with the request that it be referred to the Inspector General, STARFLEET for investigation. This resolution passed by a 14-1 vote (Region 3 voted no), with one abstention (Region 20).

**AB07-03** (moved by R13’s Dave Blaser and seconded by R10’s Paul Reid) called for approval of the 2007 edition of the STARFLEET Membership Handbook, as presented on the Admiralty Board’s mailing list (AB-L), for distribution as the current Membership Handbook of STARFLEET. This resolution passed by a 15-0 vote, with one abstention (Region 20).

**AB07-04** (moved by R15’s Douglas Mayo and seconded by R13’s Dave Blaser) called for the (re)appointment of Brad Pense as STARFLEET’s Internal Auditor. As of this writing, this vote is incomplete.

*Regarding AB07-04:* the ECAB was discussing the possibility of an audit of all of STARFLEET’s finances when it was realized that we did have an internal auditor, since Brad stepped down from that position in 2006. Recently, Brad has again agreed to serve as internal auditor; his confirmation (required by the AB) was underway as of this writing.

Among other matters discussed by the ECAB during this period:

*The continued issues surrounding financial records for IC2006*, as well as IC2006 merchandise ordered, but never delivered. Emmett Plant’s article in CQ140, “IC2006: The Real Truth,” was part of this discussion.

*Procedural questions regarding voting/votes of confidence for regional coordinators*, as well as the progress/plans on votes in several regions where an RC’s two-year has expired, or will be expiring.

*A financial update for the 2007 International Conference.*

As always, if you have any questions about these matters, please contact your regional coordinator.







Cunningham Fire Protection District Chief Jerry Rhodes being interviewed by Karlyn Tilley from Channel 4 (KCNC). Photo by Deanna Erstead

## Operation Snowflake Cont. From Page 1

infrastructure for establishing regional emergency response coordination and implementing mutual aid agreements between a multitude of agencies that had never even considered working together in the past. It was not long before these All-Hazards regions were taking advantage of a resource that had not been utilized before – their own citizens, who were willing to be trained to respond in the event of a disaster.

There are a lot of things involved in being a first responder. Volunteers are trained in triage, treatment, search and rescue, the psychology of a disaster. There is training in the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System, both now mandatory for all professional responders in the United States. And there's additional training in operating shelters, rescuing animals, responding to special needs facilities, evacuation, traffic control, even terrorism. The list goes on. Volunteer responders are not expected to be on call 24/7 or to risk their lives when it comes to saving others, but many who train are ready and willing to do anything needed at a moment's notice.

A team of responders entered a section of offices along the south wall of the building. They evaluated the ragged walls for stability and safety. There was moderate damage. Any more snow up above and this section of the building might go as well. The first collapse on the back side of the building was not kind to any part of the facility. Ceiling tiles littered the floor and electrical wires dangled down from up above. If they entered this area, their search would have to be quick.

Slowly and carefully the team moved in. The beams of their lights illuminated a dusty and littered hallway with office doors on either side. There was a single dim bulb dangling down from the ceiling. It cast negligible light, but what little light there was offered a welcome supplement to the flashlights.

In one of the corners the responders spotted a young woman sitting among the debris. There was a bloody cut on her forehead. The team leader knelt down in front of her.

"We're going to help you," he said. "What's your name? Tell me what happened."

What happened was really irrelevant. Everyone knew the series of events. The reason for the question was the head injury. These can be tricky. There's always a lot of blood with a head wound. Sometimes the victim is okay to get up and walk out. Other times they may have a concussion and be suffering from disorientation. And in a worst case scenario, they may be going into shock or have suffered neurological damage. Assessment is vital before moving the patient.



Civil Air Patrol's Parker Squadron (CO-173) staging for Operation Snowflake. Photo by Deanna Erstead

"My leg hurts really bad," the woman said.

That was good news. She was responsive. She had sensation. And she understood that these were first responders. The cut on her head, messy as it looked, was secondary. A second team member knelt down by the woman. As the leader worked to expose the leg, bandages were produced from the first aid kit.

"Right leg is broken," the leader said. "She won't be able to walk out. We'll need to take her."

The team worked quickly to bandage the woman's head and splint her leg. The break turned out to be a compound fracture, exposing the tips of bone through torn skin. It was grizzly to look at. There was a lot of blood. There was a tremendous danger of infection and rapid treatment was highly desired, but it could not happen here. She would have to be taken to the medical staging area and then be processed in order of injuries. Exposed bone is bad. But there were other life threatening injuries being brought back that would take priority. For now the team needed to prepare her.

In a disaster medical packaging tends to happen quickly. You really only have seconds to evaluate a patient and give them a priority. First aid in the field is minimal. You stabilize them to prevent further damage, try to keep them comfortable. And you do your best to get them back to where better medical help can be provided.

The bleeding was controlled, if not stopped, and the broken leg was splinted. It still needed to be cleaned and the exposed bone kept viable, but that would not be done here. And the break would not be set until the woman reached a hospital. Mass casualty events such as this call for compromises when it comes to treatment. The responders, already stretched to the limit, must provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people.

"We need to check the rest of the rooms," the team leader told the woman. "We'll be right back."

"No!" the woman yelled. "Don't leave me!"

It was too late. The team had moved on. This is a part of the procedure, too. Never split up. Never expose your team to unnecessary danger. A lone traveler in a large scale disaster is at the whims of the environment. Structural instability, chemical agents and potential for looters all expose the responders to dangers that are better met as a team.

"Please don't leave me!" the woman wailed. "I don't want to die!"

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**Treatment in progress. Photo by Max Khaytsus**

It can be hard to step away from a patient. The seconds you spend with them build an emotional bond. You see their pain, their distress. You try to remain an impartial observer, but when you touch them, talk to them, feel their pain, you take something back with you and continuing down a dark corridor, having left your patient behind, you inevitably acknowledge to yourself that you are afraid for them.

The entire disaster feels more real than anything else you’ve ever done. There’s blood and screaming and a ton of litter that makes you think a bomb may have gone off in here. You feel adrenaline pumping through your body. Every noise makes you jump. You are using real medical supplies from your go-kit and the sweat beading on your forehead is merely uncomfortable until you tilt your head and it runs along the rubber guard of your helmet and manages to drip into your eye.

If this isn’t real, it feels like it should be, but deep down inside you know that this is only a drill. It’s a miserable 20 degrees outside and the ground is covered with three inches of snow that fell the day before. There’s no immediate danger. No one is going to die today. But it all feels real and the only hint that you are in a simulated disaster are the two instructors watching your team and the television crew with their big camera that keeps getting in your way. Pressure to perform? You’d worry about looking good on TV, but that’s not the concern right now. You don’t even feel the pressure of having an instructor three feet behind you. You figure they will remind you of the five things you could have done better later on in the hotwash. It feels real and you’re on auto-pilot. You drilled this one scene a hundred times. You saw different faces and different settings. Sometimes there was too much light. Sometimes, too little. Some days it was cold. Others it was hot. Your patient was a young boy and an elderly woman. You did this in the wind and in the rain and it always boils down to one factor. You’re here to save lives. You have a patient. She is afraid. She is bleeding. You have to splint a broken leg so you can load this patient on a backboard without causing additional damage. You saw that broken leg with the protruding bone a hundred times. This is one hundred and one. You know how to fix it. Do it fast.

How do members of a science-fiction club find themselves in a situation such as this?

The short answer is that you volunteer for this sort of stuff. There are many reasons that people do this. Most feel that they have to give something back to society or that they need to be the guardians of their neighborhoods. There are no adrenaline junkies here. You get through an exercise and your only thought is that you’re wiped. It’s stressful, overwhelming. It’s made to feel real. No one does this because it’s fun. It’s done because it’s necessary, because someone has to do it. But not all rescues turn out well.

A beam of light hurried along the floor, coming to the tattered wall. It darted up and across, hitting the front of an old walk-in freezer. Someone stepped into the light, obstructing the view. Another beam joined the first, focusing on the fatigues of a rescuer. The helmeted figure tugged at the door. It took an effort to have it open. It was pitch black inside.

“Light!” came the order.

Three people slowly walked into the freezer. Another member of the team stood at the freezer door, holding it open. The risk of having it close with people inside was too great.

“What is it?” someone asked.

There was a long pause in sounds and action as hesitation and indecision swept over the team, then one of the responders stepped out and keyed his radio.

“Base, Team Gardiner.”

“Go ahead.”

“We just entered Zone Two. We have two fatalities in a walk-in freezer.”

In disasters people die. That’s an inevitable fact of life. Some will die long before rescue arrives. Others will linger only to die during the rescue. For some it’s a matter of the right aid at the right time. For others it’s destiny. Nothing the rescuers can do will save them. In our training we practice dealing with death as much as we practice saving lives. The responders must understand that they will not win all the time. Sometimes the damage is too great. Other times it’s a matter of how the situation comes together. Is the right answer searching to your right or to your left? Do you as a search and triage team pause to bandage a cut hand or do you tag the location and let the extraction team behind you deal with that. Do you clear the airway twice on an unconscious patient or do you go with your gut and do it three times before moving on? Speed is always important in a rescue, but speed can cause problems of its own. A sloppy neck brace will still result in a paralyzed patient. Sometimes you won’t get to the freezer in time for those inside to be saved. Sometimes you won’t even think that you need to look inside.

So how do members of a science-fiction club find themselves in a situation such as this?

A good half of the members of USS Omega Glory are active in one or more first responder organization. We have a lot of people in ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.



**A team of responders assist a victim in Operation Snowflake. Photo by Max Khaytsus**



We also have a fair number of members who take part in CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team. And there are a few who are also on CCRN, the Colorado Cave Rescue Network.

We train a lot. We focus a lot of our energies on first response. We know that we will never save the world, but we live in a metropolitan area pushing three million people and should disaster strike, we know that there won't be enough professional responders to handle all the problems. We know that a large scale disaster is far less likely than a million little ones, but in the large scale exercise we're exposed to a little of everything that can happen to us.



**Search and triage team evaluates a patient as the cameras roll. Photo by Max Khaytsus**

In 2006 our emergency managers requested that we start taking over from them the conducting of regularly scheduled exercises. Planning an exercise is a very labor intensive task. We didn't really understand what we were getting into at the time. It turned out that there's a lot to planning an exercise. You don't just sit down and write a script. You have to find the right facility and negotiate for it, you have to get your responders and your volunteer victims. You need to solicit your served agencies to provide you with instructors and safeties. And you need to budget resources for dignitaries and observers who will come see how the exercise works. Local media is both your salvation and your bane. You need the world's best public information officer to keep the media interested and on a short leash. The media is a fickle animal. They'll bite your hand just as soon as they'll shake it. We all have a fundamental fear of being interviewed. You can give the most brilliant five minute speech of your career and have it edited down to a thirty second sound bite that will make you sound like the world's greatest moron. And then there are all the incidentals. There are supplies for the exercise, meals and drinks for the mob, PR with local businesses and paperwork. In triplicate.

Pulling a large scale disaster simulation together takes four to five hundred man hours. This is the time invested by our group. The immediate contribution is that we save this much time for the professional responders. It's time that they can use to write grant proposals, file regulatory paperwork, catch bad guys and put out real fires. Their only commitment comes down to helping out at the exercise by making additional instructors and safeties available.

Our first disaster exercise was in July of 2006. It was Operation Tornado Alley, where a tornado ripped through a subdivision on a sleepy Saturday morning. Well over a hundred people participated in the exercise. It was the biggest civilian driven disaster exercise ever held in Colorado and it was an overwhelming success. The first attempt always has a make it or break it component. Everyone loved it and the emergency managers asked us to host another exercise.

On February 3, 2007 we hosted Operation Snowflake. It turned out to be an ironically topical exercise as Colorado was hammered by severe snowstorms in December and January. We may not have planned the weather, but the exercise was put on the books in the fall and the weather only served as good publicity for us.

The disaster was a crippling winter blizzard that paralyzed the metropolitan area and caused extensive damage that required rescue operations. Ten members of the USS Omega Glory participated in the exercise. Six were staff for the exercise and four were responders taking part in the event. We spent three months planning this exercise with the last six



**Injured recovered from the incident site are being tended to at the staging area. Photo by Max Khaytsus**

weeks being a frenzy of meetings, e-mails and phone calls to make sure all the "i"s were dotted and all the "t"s were crossed. We thought, after our first experience of running an exercise, that the second time around will be easier because we will have a better idea of where our attention needs to be focused and will have a fundamental exercise planning infrastructure in place. That was a mistake. Like every fingerprint (and every disaster), each exercise plan is different from the last. About the only thing that we recycled was the ICS-207 Organizational Chart form. And even there we moved jobs around to give everyone an opportunity to try different planning roles. Just like the responders we are now training, it is our goal to insure that any one of us can take on any role that needs to be filled.

There is always stress leading up to the exercise. We're counting confirmations from the participants, trying to make sure that we have all the proper gear reserved. Always worrying that we'll run out of something that we desperately need or that we will fall short in the projections on the number of responders and role players who will attend.

We had a snowstorm just before the exercise. There was fear that it would prevent people from coming. No one wants to go someplace on a miserably cold day with snow on the ground. We underestimated. We had a great turnout, once again breaking the 100 participant mark and beating our previous exercise in size. Now we were worried about having enough food!



**Evaluating an injury. Photo by Max Khaytsus**

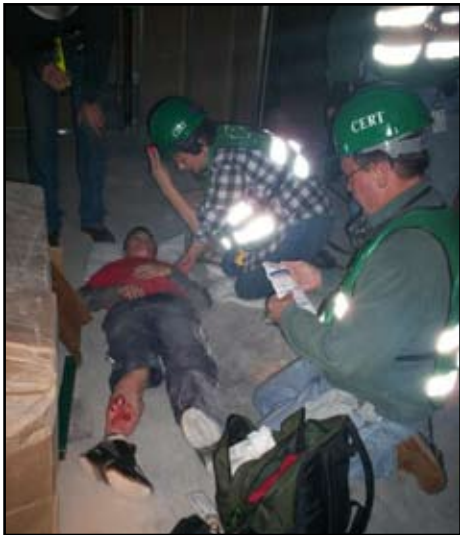
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Exercise organizer Jennifer Scott (USS Omega Glory) pauses for a photograph with exercise observer Molly Markert from the Aurora City Council. Photo by Max Khaytsus

Our exercise staff, having worked closely together for months, now split off in different directions, trying to get our respective areas ready for the event. A 90,000 square foot building is about as big as it sounds. It was a tenth of a mile long and half that in depth. We did a lot of walking. Personnel from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, South Metro Fire and Aurora's Office of Emergency Management took our script and mulaged the role players. After two of the instructors got a walking tour of the facility, they gave the tour to all other instructors and safeties as they arrived. Things came together well for the exercise. Denver's ABC and CBS affiliate stations had their crews come in just before the exercise got started. They requested that each crew be deployed with a team going inside to get a feel for what a real rescue is like.



CERT team working on an injured civilian. Photo by Max Khaytsus

*The exercise was on!*

Our objective for the exercise is not to have a flawless rescue. We know that it won't be flawless under any of circumstances and while perfection is a nice dream to hold on to, the real purpose of the exercise is to refresh skills and evaluate skill sets that need to be supplemented with additional training. We're always training, after all. Technology changes, medical knowledge evolves, better methods to do the same old thing are created. And the dynamics of teams change. We have no guarantees who we will respond to disasters with. We need to meet responders from local municipalities and agencies, practice our craft while wearing different hats and treat each disaster as a separate event rather than using a cookie cutter approach to resolving these incidents.



Exercise public information officer Tom Toblissen (USS Omega Glory), left, paused for a break with North Central Region analyst Deanna Erstad and Cunningham Fire Protection District Chief Jerry Rhodes. Photo by Max Khaytsus

The event was not perfect, but it accomplished our objectives. We were able to identify areas where additional training is needed and this will allow us to plan better for the future. Additional classroom refreshers will be scheduled for the existing responders and future volunteers may see an altered curriculum to help them grasp all the fine points of managing a disaster. And we are once again at work, this time on Operation High Waters, a flash flood exercise, scheduled for June 9.

Both KCNC and KMGH spent the twenty-four hour news cycle following our exercise running the footage they shot on every news program they had. We got a lot of coverage and a lot of good publicity. As one of the responders later commented, "they made us look like rock stars". The editing was flawless and the reporters showed and explained what it is that we do and how we do it. We could not have asked for better coverage.

Want to learn more?

- USS Omega Glory <http://www.ussomegaglory.com/>
- Disaster Exercises <http://www.arapahoecert.org/ota.html>
- Arapahoe County CERT <http://www.arapahoecert.org/>
- CitizenCorps CERT <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>
- ARES/RACES <http://www.ares.org/>



Of Gods and Men: Legend • See following page for images

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| A: Kitrick's Starfleet Uniform    | E: Fleet Security Liasion, Alternate Timeline Uniform |
| B: Kitrick's Alternate Uniform    | F: Medical Uniform                                    |
| C: Female Fleet Science Uniform   | G: Uhura's Uniform                                    |
| D: Male Alternate Command Uniform | H: Tuvok's Uniform                                    |

Uniforms were produced for the film Star Trek: Of Gods and Men. For more information on this production, visit [www.startrekofgodsandmen.com](http://www.startrekofgodsandmen.com)



Exercise public information officer Tom Toblissen and organizer Jennifer Scott, both from USS Omega Glory, discussing the state of the exercise. Photo by Max Khaytsus

# Abe Smith: Parallel Studies Interview

by Emmett Plant

There’s been a whole lot of great discussion recently about the Starfleet Academy. Personally, I’ve only taken OTS and OCC, but a lot of people take a whole lot more. I knew I wanted to write something about the academy for this issue. I decided to start at the very beginning, when a fellow fletcher comes up with an idea for a Starfleet Academy course. I dropped by the IRC channel of the ISS MacArthur last night, and I found Abe Smith, who is currently preparing new courses. For more information about Fleetchat and IRC, please see Allyson Dyar’s article in issue #140.

**Emmett:** Okay. You’re working on a course for the academy. Before we talk about what your course is about, what does preparing it for the academy entail?

**Abe:** A lot of preperation, first you have to submit an outline of what the course or college is. Once you get approval from the course development committee you start working with the Dean of the School you are developing the course in. Next you have to actually develop the course(s) according to Academy guidelines, you submit these to your Dean for help editing. The next step would be beta testing the courses and developing the artwork and certificates. The final step is submitting the course(s) to the course development committee for final approval.

**Emmett:** What is your hopefully-future SFA course about?

**Abe:** I’m developing a series of courses under the name College of Parallel Studies, the first set of courses deal heavily with parallel universes, the Mirror Universe for example. Future courses will also deal with alternate timelines. As of now there are 6 courses in development, along with another 4 possible future courses. Thanks to Dave Lowe, we are also attempting to develop these courses online, so students can take them live.

**Dave:** The ‘online’ version of the courses are also in development using moodle, an open source test-taking module.

**Emmett:** That sounds pretty interesting. What are the six courses in development?

**Abe:** Basics of Parallel Universes, The Mirror Universe - *ST:TOS*, The Mirror Universe - *ST:DS9*, The Mirror Universe - *ST:ENT*, Theories on Parallel Universes, and History of the Mirror Universe.

**Emmett:** Will there be any crossover with Back To The Future, like the “Hell Valley” alternate timeline in Back To The Future II?

**Abe:** Some of the future courses might draw on works of other science fiction, but it will primarily deal with *Star Trek*.

**Emmett:** It seems like the ‘parallel universe’ gets used a lot in science fiction, and Star Trek is a great example. What do you think draws people to that concept?

**Abe:** It gives them a taste of what could be. There are your familiar characters, but with a twist. It’s really a great theme that can be traced back pretty far in classic fiction and science fiction.

**Emmett:** How long until your current work goes into review?

**Abe:** The first 6 courses are being reviewed by the Dean, and will soon be passed on to the course development committee, so hopefully we’ll see the course go live very soon.

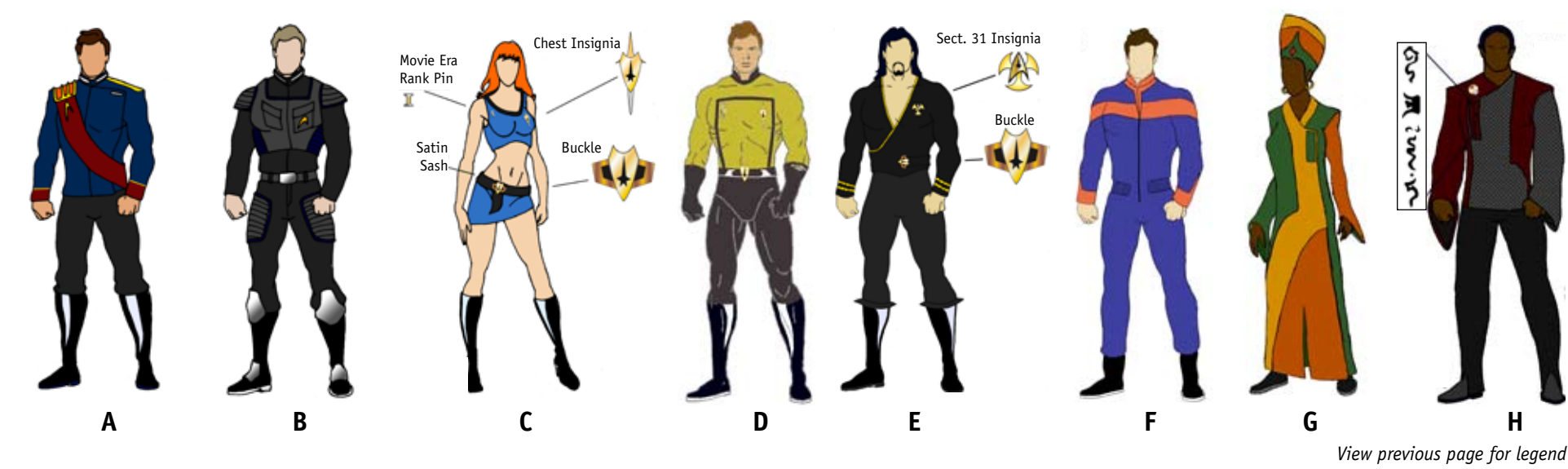
**Emmett:** Awesome! Thank you for your time tonight!

**Abe:** Always a pleasure, thank you, Emm.

So, that’s where everything starts. I think it’s important to note that over the course of this interview, members of the MacArthur bounced around a lot of topics, both related and unrelated to the topic. Harry Turtledove, *The Producers*, and a scholarly contrast-and-compare between *Airwolf* and *Knight Rider*. Always a fun time. Thanks to Abe and Dave for their time, and the crew of the ISS MacArthur for hosting.

# Star Trek: Of Gods and Men

Production Wardrobe Artwork by Peter Christian



[View previous page for legend](#)



# ATTENTION ON DECK!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STARFLEET MARINE CORPS

## The Perils of a Special Operations Heavy:

### *Marine Corps in STARFLEET*

by Michael J. McGowan

**Authors Note:** *This paper makes little or no attempt at suggesting a solution to the fictional problems to be encountered by the STARFLEET Marine Corps, but rather in the “real world” operational difficulties to be encountered by the Starfleet Marine Corps, should one exist. The Author is well aware that, as of the latest list published by FORCECOM indicates that 13.7% of all STARFLEET Marine Corps MSGs are designated as Special Operations\*. All reasonable people will probably agree that the allure of the Special Operations designation will attract larger percentages of units that are allowed to determine their own Branch designation than would otherwise be expected in actual circumstances.*

**Additional Note:** *Where possible, references to specifics have been updated to reflect the 2005-6 manuals.*

Having served as a starship’s Commanding Officer\*\*, I can say without reservation, that every starship commander would like to have, as the Marine Detachment assigned to his vessel, the versatility and raw capability of a Special Operations Marine Strike Group. Short of an all-out full scale war erupting on the surface of a planet, and in some circumstances, inclusive of such an event, there is no mission encountered by Starfleet that would require armed forces on the ground that could not be capably handled by a properly trained and equipped Special Operations Teams or combination of Teams.

There comes a time, however, when even the vaunted starship Captain must concede to the whims of practical reality. That usually takes place sometime immediately before his ship first departs on her maiden voyage. Even to attempt to provide a significant minority of starships, let alone all of them, with one or more SpecOps Teams as their MarDets, is not only in practice impossible, but belies one of the basic immutable tenets of a Starfleet Captain’s training; Accomplish your mission objectives with the resources at your disposal.

Having noted this, we must look at why such practices, if desirable, are as completely impractical as the standard means of deployment for the Starfleet Marine Corps.

#### **Limitations of Special Operations Marine Forces**

Understanding of the limitations of the SpecOps Branch must begin by looking at the type of marine that Special Operations Teams rely upon for their very survival. The SpecOps Marine is a special breed, were this not the case, everyone would be one.

Special Operations requires a marine that will not only accept and follow orders, but one who can adapt those orders to the situation at hand. Special Operations

missions have a habit of changing in the middle. Regardless of the depth of study and preparation that a Team makes prior to deployment, the one constant in the universe is that nothing, especially in a hostile situation, remains constant. Intelligence estimates provided by our esteemed colleagues in the Intelligence Services are usually, to varying degrees, wrong. Unfortunately, these intelligence estimates are the backbone of the orders received by SpecOps teams as they head into the field. Therefore, adaptability is a major key to a SpecOps Marine’s survival.

Special Operations also requires a Marine who is a specialist in a given area of responsibility. Given an average size of 8-16 Marines to a team†, this makes the ideal situation for a SpecOps team one in which success denotes a great victory on a small scale. Such operations, while important to the success of a large scale military venture will not, in themselves cause the success of the military venture as a whole.

Such specialization also requires that each marine in a given SpecOps team have available to him an extremely wide range of equipment and supplies in order to assure that he can perform the duties of his specialty in almost any situation. This causes the storage and billet requirements of a Special Operations Marine Strike Groups to rival those of the equipment heavy Mecha and Combat Engineer Branch Strike Groups. Maintenance requirements of a Special Operations Strike Group are probably only surpassed by those of an Aerospace Strike Group.

This is not an exhaustive list, by any means, but it points out the main limitations of a Special Operations Marine Strike Group.

#### **Requirements of a Marine Corps at War**

The Starfleet Marine Corps is charged with six specific responsibilities (MFM page 3). The scope of our examination is concerned only with responsibility three; “To be able to expand from peacetime components to meet the needs of war in accordance with mobilization plans of the United Federation of Planets and it’s members”. This would, ideally, be in support and cooperation with existing conventional planetary forces of Federation member worlds. Due to the very nature of the Federation and its unwillingness to legislate any standards of military uniformity upon its members, the “conventional planetary forces” might be large and well trained or, more likely, close to or completely nonexistent. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Starfleet Marine Corps to have forces available to conduct any and all planetary combat operations that the United Federation of Planets might require. This is, needless to say, one each Grade-A Marine Issue Herculean task.

This task brings into existence the requirement of SFMC forces trained and equipped with capabilities in Aerospace, Armor, Combat Engineer, Infantry, Maritime, Mecha, Medical, and Support to provide the manpower and muscle that Special Operations lacks. Each has training and equipment capabilities that are absolutely necessary to the successful conduct of a large scale military venture that SpecOps lacks. Listing the capabilities of each of these unit types is not in the purview of this article as it is addressed in far more detail in each Branch’s Operational Manual.

*Cont. on page 31*



# Commandant's Report

John Roberts, Commandant, SFMC

## Greetings Marines!

### Bank Account Information

We started the month of May with a balance of \$1,088.35. We had deposits of \$235.18 (which reflects Pay Pal fee deductions of \$9.67) for QM merchandise and withdrawals in the amount of \$289.40 for QM supply orders and postage. This left the SFMC account with a balance of \$1,034.13 at the end of May. We started the month of June with a balance of \$1,034.13. We had deposits of \$107.05 for QM merchandise and no withdrawals. This left the SFMC account with a balance of \$1,141.18 at the end of June.

### Commander, STARFLEET Election

As many of you know, the Election for Commander, STARFLEET has completed the nomination phase. We have four candidates who wish to become the next Commander, STARFLEET, they are (in alphabetical order): Sal Lizard, Wade Olson, Emmett Plant and Joost Ueffing. I urge everyone to learn all they can about the candidates, their proposed teams and their platforms. Ballots will be mailed out soon and everyone will have their say in who the next Commander, STARFLEET will be. I hope everyone participates and makes their voice heard, however you decide to cast your vote.

### New Courses at the SFMCA

I am pleased to announce 5 new courses are open to the Corps from the College of Officer Development. These courses are:

**Basic Staff Officer Development (OD-15):** This course delves into the role, responsibilities and issues relevant to an Officer assigned to a supporting role on a Battalion, Brigade or Division Staff. It is designed to familiarize the student with basic concepts and duties associated with the variety of staff officers assigned to these positions. Prerequisite for this course is OD-10.

**G-1 (S-1) Personnel Officer's Course (OD-21):** This course looks more closely into being a staff officer in the SFMC and more deeply challenges your knowledge of the role of the G-1 (S-1) Personnel Officer as well as the associated officers supervised by those holding this posting. Prerequisite for this course is OD-20.

**G-2 (S-2) Military Intelligence Officer's Course (OD-22):** This course looks more closely into being a staff officer in the SFMC and more deeply challenges your knowledge of the role of the G-2 (S-2) Military Intelligence Officer as well as the associated officers supervised by those holding this posting. Prerequisite for this course is OD-20.

**G-3 (S-3) Operations Officer's Course (OD-23):** This course looks more closely into being a staff officer in the SFMC and more deeply challenges your knowledge of the role of the G-3 (S-3) Operations Officer as well as the associated officers supervised by those holding this posting. Prerequisite for this course is OD-20.

**G-4 (S-4) Logistics Officer's Course (OD-24):** This course looks more closely into being a staff officer in the SFMC and more deeply challenges your knowledge of the role of the G-4 (S-4) Logistics Officer as well as the associated officers supervised by those holding this posting. Prerequisite for this course is OD-20.

### SFMC Historian

Do you have an interest in history? Do you like to write fiction? Then the SFMC wants you! We are looking for an SFMC Historian. This person would be charged with creating the SFMC History, based upon the information in the MFM and other SMFC publications and then "filling in the gaps." You would report to the Commandant of the SFMC and have almost unlimited creative control (it must still be approved and fit in the already established histories). You would also need to work closely with the STARFLEET Historian to make sure there were no contradictions in the histories.

*Minimum Qualifications for this post are:*

- Be a member in good standing of STARFLEET and be, at least, a member of the SFMC Reserve;
- Have passed OTS and PD-10 (OCC and PD-20 are preferred);
- Have regular and reliable email access;
- Have the ability to write clearly and creatively within accepted guidelines.

*Still interested? Then here is the application procedure:*

Write a fictional history for the SFMC Mess night Manual (will be uploaded to the SFMC website in the next few days) detailing the history of the SFMC Mess Night in the same basic manner as the modern day military histories contained in Appendix A of the current draft are written. The history you create must cover the period of time from 2100 to 2261 and should include anecdotes and stories such as those contained in the earlier histories of the modern day military.

### What do YOU want from the SFMC?

We have announced several changes and plans for the SFMC over the last several months. Generally, these have been well received. However, the members of the General Staff have received very little feedback about what you, the members, would like to see from the SFMC General Staff.

If you have ideas you think we should take a look at, please let us know. You can reach the members of the General Staff as follows:

- SFMC Commandant: dant@sfi-sfmc.org
- SFMC Deputy Commandant: depdant@sfi-sfmc.org
- Sergeant Major, SFMC: sgm-sfmc@sfi-sfmc.org
- Commanding Officer, Forces Command: forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org
- Commanding Officer Training and Doctrine Command: tracom@sfi-sfmc.org
- Commanding Officer, Information Command: infocom@sfi-sfmc.org

Remember, we are here to serve you and your needs. We can't do that without your input. Help us make the SFMC even better.

Until my next report, I remain in Service to the Corps,

John Roberts  
*Commandant, SFMC*

# INFOCOM Report

Wade Hoover, Information Command

*Begin transmission...*

One day, not too long ago, I received an email from the STARFLEET Marine Corps Commandant asking me to serve as Commanding Officer Information Command. Of course I had to accept and here I am. It has been a learning experience, but I bring to the position a wealth of knowledge that I have gained being an eleven year veteran of STARFLEET and of the Corps. As COINFOCOM I plan to update the Corps' on-line presence, but before I can do that I need to make sure that our current on-line presence is up to date and working properly.

My first action as COINFOCOM was to do some housekeeping. This included updating the SFMC web site so that sections of it were brought up to date. The Awards section now corresponds to the 2006 Marine Force Manual. Speaking of awards, there were several awards that were missing from the Awards nomination form, that has been corrected. The report forms were updated and it is now possible for a Maritime Operations unit to properly report its Branch type. Of course changing the report forms necessitated the creation of new email addresses for Brigade Officers-in-Charge and Deputy Officers-in-Charge. These email addresses will make it easier to administer the forms and make it easier to make any changes down the line. For a complete listing please see the Forces Command staff list on the SFMC web site.

Another change that I made was that I added a subdomain to the SFMC web site, **sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org**. By typing this address in you'll be taken directly to the STARFLEET Marine Corps Academy course catalog. Providing a direct link to the SFMCA was not the only change though. Each SFMCA Branch Director now has a dedicated email address assigned to him/her. For a complete listing please see the Training Command staff list on the SFMC web site. This is part of a larger plan to spin off the SFMCA portion of the SFMC web site into its' own site, much like what happened to the SFA site.

A final bit of housekeeping, although unexpected, was that the Quartermaster order form needed to be removed, only temporarily though. This was done due to a situation regarding sales tax. The form will be placed back on the site once the tax issue has been resolved.

With that bit of housekeeping done, I was able to move onto developing a new SFMC web site. I have been working on this for the past several weeks and I hope to have it up sometime in the coming months. Not only will the web site change, but the web host we use will also be changing. The Corps web presence will be moved over to Dreamhost, the same hosting company that the Fleet side uses. This is being done because the Corps is fast outgrowing the host we currently use and Dreamhost will allow us to grow. As I write this article there is no date set for the transfer, but I will not have that until the sites are developed, tested, and deemed ready to go live. Once that happens a date for the transfer will be set. That date will be coordinated with FORCECOM as not to interrupt the reporting cycle. Once the transfer begins there will be a blackout period of several days as the new server information is propagated throughout the Internet. During that time all SFMC services will be down, this includes email, email lists, web sites, and the SFMCA.

Aside from the web site the other item in the works is changing the SFMC report forms. Right now, as those that use the forms know, all the information has to

be typed in each time a report is submitted. This has been the biggest complaint against the forms since the beginning. In an effort to make reporting easier, I have contacted my counterpart, SFI Chief of CompOps, to see what can be done to make it so the reports are submitted through the SFI database. Reporting through the SFI database will allow the report forms to act much more like the MSRs, which ship Commanding Officers have to fill out each month. These forms will auto-populate certain information. However as with the MSR there would still be some typing involved, but not nearly as much as there is now. Right now this project is in the conceptual stages and no real work has been performed on it as of yet

Ladies and gentlemen of the Corps I'm here to serve you and to that extent I maintain an open door policy. If you need to contact me for anything please feel free to contact me at [infocom@sfi-sfmc.org](mailto:infocom@sfi-sfmc.org). I'm also willing to help any unit out there that needs help with their web site. Just drop me a line and I'll see what I can do.

*End Transmission...*

# FORCECOM Report

Linda Olson, Forces Command

I would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who has participated in the SFMC Reading Challenge this year. The deadline to submit figures for the 2007 Challenge was this past report as it is the last one before IC/IM. I am certain that our new DCO Forcecom, Mark West will be very busy totaling the numbers and working on Certs. If you did not participate this year, I urge you to do so for next year. It is great fun and everyone benefits when you read.

This is the busy time of year for the members of SFMC and STARFLEET in general. Almost every report received mentions the Regional Summits and Musters. It seems everyone is either, heading to, preparing for, or returning from a Summit. Sounds like a lot of folks are having a lot of fun at these events. If you have never attended one, think about it for next time. Come and find out what everyone else already knows. STARFLEET (and the Corps) really know how to have fun when we get together.

Aside from attending summits and musters many units are giving blood, collecting food, attending regular meetings, movie nights, role playing, poker nights, nature walks. The number and type of activities that units are participating in are as varied as the marines that make up the Corps.

Linda Olson  
CO Forces Command  
[forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org](mailto:forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org)

# Forces Command Statistical Report

For Period of May/June 2007

**Brigade Reporting:**

**Brigades Reporting:** 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 20th

**Brigades NOT Reporting:** 13th

This Brigade does not have an OIC. If you are a Marine in the 13th BDE and are interested in the position please contact COFORCECOM at forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org.

**MSG Reporting:**

**MSG's Activated:** 154th, 348th, 508th, 915th

**MSG's Deactivated:** 300th, 726th, 769th

**Units not reporting:** 14, 106, 108, 125, 127, 135, 155, 161, 162, 165, 179, 181, 201\*, 203\*, 216\*, 222, 241\*, 242\*, 263, 269, 276, 421, 750, 755, 781, 787, 791, 797\*, 801\*, 832\*

*\*Denotes units missing second report in a row.*

**Corps strength by Brigade**

*The following chart does not include numbers from Brigades not reporting:*

BRIGADE	ACTIVE	RESERVE	TOTAL
1	30	58	88
2	32	2	34
3	55	28	83
4	42	10	52
5	20	28	48
6	4	11	15
7	26	40	66
8	1	2	3
10	3	5	8
11	8	21	29
12	36	60	96
13	No Numbers Reported		
14	1	0	1
15	21	20	41
17	21	47	68
20	11	10	21
TOTAL	311	342	653

**Awards Issued**

**Cross of Valor**

Larry Morris, Kenneth Norris, Truman Temple, Andrew Tatlock

**Sword of Valor**

Larry Morris, Chanda Norman, John Nelson, Paul Fest

**Shield of Valor**

Ron, Morris, Jeff Schnoor, Cynthia Sherwood, Kathy Mullins

**Star of Valor**

Glenn Goldman, Sarah Takahashi, Terrance Seidel

**Legion of Valor**

14th, 342nd, 696th, 987th

**Brigade Service Award**

Jessica Hench, Joy Flynt, Christopher OBannion, Jan Agee

**Brigade Achievement**

Cody Wyatt, Raymond Ford, Clint Hill, Dixie Hill, Sarah Takahashi, Christina Short, Joy Flynt.

**Meritorious Unit Citation**

308th, 314th, 318th, 325th, 333rd, 342nd

**Leader's Commendations**

Jose E. Soto, Steven Kell, Harvey Mallern, Norma Ybarra, Angelita De Luna, Matt Brinkley, Kira Norman, Joy Flynt, Chanda Norman, Jan Agee, Bob McCann

**Marine Honor Guard**

Tony Walker, Alexis Williams, Ashley Heidly, Christina Short, Cody Wyatt, Jessica Hench, Sarah Takahashi, Brian Caton, Tom Carroll, Kathy Mullins

**Great Barrier Expedition**

Barry Jackson, Matt Hill, Tony Walker, Cody Wyatt, Matthew Wabindato, Clint Hill, Dixie Hill, Jessice Hench, Randi Spears, Sarah Takahashi, John Roberts, Katie Cerame, Spencer Cerame, Philip Dillard, David Cerame, Susan Cerame.

**Community Service Citation**

Larry Morris, Ron Morris, Glenn Goldman, Robert Olivares, John Johnson, Jeff Schnoor, Chanda Norman, Kira Norman, Jan Agee, Jack Norman, Tom Carroll, Doug Angeli, Elizabeth Carroll

**Good Conduct**

Joseph White, Dan Long, Kristy Long, Kristie Long, Jeff Schnoor, Pam Rhine, Terrence Seidel, Bruce Sommer, Rachel Butts, Joe Butts, Aaron Ehly, Walter Sherwood, Lee Williamson, JD Clancy

*Cont. on next page*



**Brigade Muster Award**  
Barry Jackson, Jeff Schnoor, Angelita De Luna, Jeff Webb, Cody Wyatt, Clint Hill, Dixie Hill, Jessice Hench, Randi Spears, Sarah Takahashi, Christina Short, Aaron Murphy, Rachelle Phifer, Kris Murphy, Douglas Peynes, Barbara Short, Joseph White, Kristi Hot, John Roberts, Katie Cerame, Spencer Cerame, Philip Dillard, David Cerame, Susan Cerame.

**Joint Service**  
Cathy Osborne, Conell Osborne, Christopher O’Bannion, Nikki Green

**Embassy Duty**  
Tony Walker, Cody Wyatt, Matt Hill, Cathy Osborne, John Roberts, Corey Grant, Ruth Fishman, Gary Halverson.

**Legion of Arms**  
Barry Jackson

**Academy Excellence Award**  
Bruce O’Brien

**Professional Development Award**  
Bruce O’Brien

**Marine Proficiency Award**  
Bruce O’Brien

**Initial Entry Training Award**  
Wayne Smith, Grahame Smith, Lexia Currie, Chris Jacobs, Brook Thomson, Ben Naylor, Bruce O’Brien

**Naval Achievement Award**  
Lloyd Bates, Reed Bates

**Naval Unit Citation**  
USS Ark Angel

# MISSION DATA

## For Corps as of July 1st 2007

Below is a listing of the various activities that the Brigades and units of the SMFC participated in as of July 1, 2007. Again as always charities are continuing to benefit from the generosity of those in the SFMC.

If your unit is not represented here and you would like to see your activities presented in the future, be certain to send your unit report to our BN or BDE OIC on time and include the requested information.

**1st BDE**  
Plans for a BDE camping trip in August possibly a wilderness challenge could be made out of it. **GSGT Kane** visited New Zealand and met with members of the **USS Southern Cross**. (11th BDE) The **Lopes Family** visited Walt Disney World and attended Star Wars Weekend festivities that included a star studded parade complete with costumed participants from the local chapter of the 501st Legion. **Cadet Nate Schultz** was in attendance in full Darth Vader regalia. The BDE also made donations of empty ink jet cartridges were made to support the PetSmart Charities to help save homeless pets.

**163rd MSG** members participated in Project Graduation activities in their local areas. The **Schultz Cadets** continue their studies in karate.

**SGT James Nicholson** was awarded the Terrific Kid Award for his school during the month of March.

**196th MSG** members got together for a Barbecue

**198th** members made donations of household goods and clothing to Goodwill and Cedar Lake, a Kentucky charity that provides residential support and services to persons with mental retardation. **Lt. Lopes** continues her work with Little Loomhouse Foundation.

**2nd BDE**  
**113th MSG** dad a Jail and Bail at Marcon, a local sci-fi convention. With the assistance of the Black Knights, we raised \$246 for toys for tots and \$246 for a literacy charity. **Gen Sal Lizard** participated in a bowling event, he raised \$15 for toys for tots, by winning a bowling challenge. Working on plans for toy drive for Christmas.

**321st MSG** gathered Campbell’s labels & Betty Crocker points for charity. Took water, non-perishable foods, clothing, and hygiene items to the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

**345th MSG** donated books to the local Veterans Administration Hospital.

**631st MSG LTC Zecca** helped served breakfast to the volunteers (JROTC/CAP/Young Marines & adult leaders) who placed lags on veterans’ graves for the Memorial Day, attended Memorial Day services at the local VA hospital and helped pick up flags from one of the cemeteries after the weekend. **LTC Zecca** assisted at the Santa Fe (FL) Community College-hosted Spring Arts Festival with clean up & tear down activities in the kid’s area. **LTC Savander, LTC Jackson & MAJ Mahurin** attended the Vulkan convention in Orlando. **LTC Zecca** continued donating platelets for LifeSouth, the local blood bank. In May, the blood bank honored her with a “Galloneer of Distinction” award for donating 15 gallons (mostly platelets) over the years. **LTC Savander** participated in the March of Dimes Walk America event in Tampa. Members of the **Night Stalkers** are participating in the Relay for Life.

**640th MSG** had an Away mission to the Georgia Aquarium.

**3rd BDE**  
The 3rd BDE has a wide variety of things going on. Some examples are range trips for basic rifle marksmanship Class, chess, Movie nights, Laser tag and paint ball and participating in the Reading Challenge. **Lieutenant Colonel Joseph White** and **Gunnery Sergeant Kristie White** toured the Dallas Museums of Natural History, Science, and Astronomy, and then attended a showing of the Plastination exhibit at the science museum. They also visited the Scarborough Faire.

**347th MSG Lt. Col Angelita De Luna, Cadet Private Isaiah Schnoor, Col. Jeff Schnoor** attended WWII reenactment at Camp Mabry with the **342nd MSG**.

**4th BDE**  
**1st MSG** is still working on guidon and streamers for unit and the **OIC** is beta testing both Support and Officer Development exams for TRACOM. They are also still collecting soda top tabs for Ronald McDonald House.

**21st MSG** members took a trip to SEAWORLD. They also have collected Pop tops for Ronald McDonald House and they are now approaching 500,000.

## 5th BDE

**503rd MSG** participated in Lazer Tag in Auburn on 3rd Saturdays. Anniversary Dinner, crewed the kitchen with Marines.

**565th MSG's Steve Eizenberg** attended NorWesCon 07-08 April in Seattle and assisted the **USS Thermopylae** with their recruiting table. **BGN McAndrew** is involved with the Tri-City unit of the Young Marines program. He participated in a Memorial Day observance on 28 May in Richland, WA. with **LTC Eizenberg, BDR Garrison, LTC Garrison, LCPL Garrison, PO3 Hughes, and SMAJ Rand**. They are also participating in Tri-City Gospel donations: 343 articles of clothing plus 100 lbs. of food. WA Humane Society- 20 lbs of newspaper for puppy bedding. Donation of \$16,298.74 in coupons to Air Force Base at Incirlik, Turkey. This brings year-to-date total to \$64,348.52. Crew manned the halfway mark and Checkpoint #5 for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica. They built a balloon arch to mark the halfway mark and cheered the walkers as they came through. They also set up tables & canopy for the Checkpoint and decorated it in the ship's colors: red, white & blue. At the checkpoint, the crew handed out cups of water, snack bags of banana chips, and **USS Antares** bookmarks to over 1,000 walkers. The 1000 banana chip snack baggies were assembled and donated by the crew. The bookmarks were designed, cut out, laminated & trimmed by the crew. Five crewmembers assisted the March of Dimes staff in stuffing the Finish Line gift bags for the walkers.

## 7th BDE

**86th MSG** attended a Star Trek Meetup Meeting at the Empire Diner in Parsippany, NJ. Special Meetup Meeting was attended by a reporter and photographer from the NY Times. Article and photo appeared in the Sunday NY Times, 0705.27. Started filming our 4th Star Trek Fan Film, "Street Fight." & 5th ST Fan Film, "Pria."

Elements of the **714th** and the **742nd MSG** attended the open house aboard USS Wasp LHD1 of the US Navy as part of Fleet Week activities. While aboard we were treated to a ride along in a newly made operational VM-22 OSPREY.

**740 MSG** March Toy Show we waited hand and foot on the Star Trek guest star Robert Picardo. Cookout for memorial day. Several members attended a Comic-con. Also participated in Race for the Cure is scheduled for Mother's Day. Members walked and then helped with site restoration. We had a fundraiser selling Vocelli Pizza cards. They raised \$45.

**786th MSG LTC Sanford** auditioned for *Millionaire*. BGR Rogers participated in the *Starship Farragut* shoot and is now part of the cast. 1LT Fischer has been creating a fan-fic script for the *Top Gun*.

## 10th BDE

Members of **424th MSG** (3) regular SAR training sessions, (1) ELT Search (Outcome: Positive, found and deactivated), Tim volunteered with Surrey RCMP and Surrey GSAR to inform residents of flood watch and distribute information.

**404th MSG** Continued to raise funds for two (2) local charities through the weekly meat raffles at Chase River Bar and Grill.

**11BDE**

Working toward the establishment of the first Annual Muster on 11th of August and on the production of the 11th BDE manual.

## 12th BDE

**210th MSG** Review of uniform policies, Published Spring 2007 edition of unit newsletter: *The Black List*

**211th MSG** Our recycling, and stamp collection activities continued. Members worked at and attended 1006 ShowMeCon Science-Fiction Convention in St. Louis, MO. We donated paper to the convention's designated charity... Camp Brim Shire. That is a summer camp for disadvantaged and/or handicapped children. They also sent out a neighborhood mailing for Heart Association and collected and forwarded checks.

**225th MSG** held decompression cookout following closing of Summit.

## 15th BDE

**95th MSG** members attended the Doctor Who club U.N.I.T.'s meeting and barbecue. **Ares** had its meeting at Castle Island in South Boston. We also had some NASA updates from Eric Willette and health Updates from Dave Chin.

**907th MSG** conducted a joint Away Mission of the ***Ian Fleming, USS O'Bannon*** and the ***USS Kasimar*** to Rich Demidio's house to pick up the Region's Bridgeset to set up for Summit.

**920th MSG** completed design of the first course for **USS KASIMAR ACADEMY**  
Parachute knowledge course

**987th MSG** members visited the Traveling Vietnam memorial wall in Old Orchard Beach, Me. Several members attended and participated in a Flag ceremony at Gracelawn Memorial Park in Auburn, Me. to honor deceased veterans. Members are working with local veterans group to get professional Honor guard training. Working on setting up a cadet ranking system and acquiring uniforms for all members of the unit.

**977th MSG** participated in the second annual Go Fly A Kite Day May 12th.

**980th MSG** donated 26 books and 23 magazines to the Veterans' Hospital.  
Donated blood. Clipping of coupons for the Overseas Coupon Program continues.

## 17th BDE

**882nd MSG** participated in several nature hikes: Dinosaur Ridge, The Mesa Trail, El Dorado Canyon. They also attended a convention, Starfest, where they performed Security at the Federation Ball. Participated in Volunteer Trail Clean-up, Baseball outing SF Giants at CO Rockies at Coors Field, Omega Glory Game Day, Memorial Day BBQ and Game Day. Also volunteered at Fury Scurry (annual charity dog walk for Denver Dumb Friends League) – provided communications for Colfax Marathon.

## 20th BDE

Recruitment Drive, working on BDE website, putting together itinerary for BDE Sports Day. Planning a Brigade Muster to co-inside with Sports Day to allow for maximum attendance. Continuing the BDE handbook.

**369th MSG** organizing and running a regular walking program to help train members for the long sponsored walks our host Chapter holds, and to keep fit. Working on our section of our host Chapters website. Also participated in for 10K charity walk in London for Crusade on 10th June. Final preparations for 5K charity run in Stevenage for Cancer Research are also taking place.

Perils cont. from page 24

The point appropriate to make here is that the question is one of scale. Infantry units, for example, are charged with taking or defending parcels of land that meet the strategic objectives of the campaign. A Special Operations Team in wartime is normally tasked with taking (or destroying, or reconnoitering, or whatever depending on the type of Team) a single tactical objective or strategic asset that will either aid the success of the friendly combat unit or hinder an enemy unit in its response to friendly action.

**Logistical Nightmares Involved in Alternative Deployment Schemes**  
The logical counter to the previous arguments could be made something like; “Why then, can we not subdivide SpecOps MSGs into individual teams, deploy those teams, in peacetime, to as many ships as we can, then in case of war redeploy the other types of units among the fleet?” This question, though at first blush reasonable sounding, would not, could not have been asked by anyone directly involved in the Marine Corps or Starfleet. Several insurmountable problems present themselves when considering such a scheme. We will examine those individually.

First, dividing SpecOps MSGs into individual teams puts those teams at a severe training disadvantage. Since the dawn of Special Operations forces, such forces are deployed very rarely. The need for such forces, though vital when it comes up, is rare in the extreme. The skills required for Special Operations work must be constantly honed to a fine edge or they rapidly deteriorate. The phenomenon was realized in the mid to late twentieth century when the term “pulling the pin” was coined. In order to combat this deterioration of skills during periods of inactivity, a constant training regimen must be maintained. A Special Operations team, in order to have their training schedule remain meaningful, must be able to train as a whole and with an adversary of similar training and capability. This would require that two teams be deployed together in order to maintain this training regimen. This cuts in half the number of ships that might have SpecOps teams assigned to them.

Second, such a deployment would strain the space and maintenance capabilities of smaller starships. As has been previously established, Special Operations teams represent an enormous investment of a starship’s resources in areas of equipment storage and maintenance, billet, training space, etc. As stated above, the need for such a team, while vital when it arises, is rare. Few are the starships that can make these resource investments for a system that is so rarely of use in the conduct of its mission.

Third, wars have the disturbing habit of taking someone, on one side of the conflict or the other, by surprise. While the Federation rarely declares hostilities by surprise deployment of forces, the ability to do so greatly increases the flexibility and effectiveness of the diplomats and politicians who determine where we go and who we fight. Any strategic surprise that a military venture might otherwise have had would be lost as ships of the fleet return to base to have their SpecOps teams replaced by units more suited to conduct of large scale combat operations. Moving those assets to the front on transports would similarly jeopardize operational security as the majority of heavy transports are of civil ownership. Attempting to move forces of such size utilizing military pre-positioning assets would not only overstrain their capabilities, but would also alert a potential enemy to the movements.

Should Starfleet be on the wrong end of a surprise outbreak of hostilities, the Admiralty would have the dubious task of choosing between cycling the starships that would be normally defending the Federation’s borders back to bases or leaving

them equipped with Marine Detachments that are ill equipped and ill trained to conduct large scale combat operations. Neither is a pleasant alternative to choose. Of course, this choice might be lessened by having the bulk of SFMC heavy units forward deployed on frontier worlds. Our neighbors, however, might interpret such a buildup of forces as an “Unfriendly Act” which is the deadliest of terms in DiploSpeak.

Once again, this list is not exhaustive, but rather the larger points that immediately come to mind when considering such problems.

**Conclusion**  
In conclusion, Special Operations units, though a valuable asset in both war and relative peace, are by their very nature, special. Units of SpecOps designation should be no more than 1% of the Marine Corps forces deployed. The remainder of the Corps must be comprised of more standardized maneuver units that can be deployed in large scale combat operations. Anything else is suicide of the men and women of the Corps, Starfleet, and the Federation itself.

Notes:

\* Since this paper was written in early 1999, these numbers have changed. According to the SFI Database (as of 09/20/06), the 46 Special Operations MSG comprise 34.6% of the SFMC.

\*\* USS Ursus, Springfield, Illinois, 1996-2003

† SpecOps Manual 2006, pg 17.specialized systems per concept is switched to System Inter-dependability due to multiple system concepts per run.

WANTED

Like-minded individuals who are interested in helping form a WW II Living History re-enactment group. This group takes part in various events that commemorate while paying respect to the soldiers that took part in the Second World War. No experience is needed, just a genuine interest in military history, portraying soldiers and collecting military memorabilia.

For more information please contact **Andrew Tatlock** at **207-285-0137**.





# IN-30 Thesis: The Fire Team

An Analysis by LGen Scott A. Akers, SFMC

***Why the Four Marine Fire Team is the core element of fire and maneuver combat.***

The Marine Corps Fire Team, four marines and their weapons unified in purpose and mission. From the World War II of Terran History, to the Klingon War it has been THE core element of SFMC fire and Maneuver combat, but why? Simply put the Mission of Marine Corps Rifle Squad: is to locate, close with, and destroy the enemy through fire and maneuver, and to repel the enemy assault through fire and close combat.

In this paper we will discuss why the fire team has a concept and tactic that is so important, and how it fits into larger units. We will discuss what a fire team is made of in terms of personnel and equipment, and how the fire team is used in combat.

**I. Maneuver Elements larger then the Fire Team**

To understand this base element of the Marine Corps, we need to understand the larger elements of the Corps. The Corps itself is the largest ground combat element that belongs to the Federation. It is never deployed as an entire single unit, both because of the vastness of the Federation and the multiple threats it may encounter, and because of the difficult to deploy that many Divisions and the ships to carry them.

When the Corps does deploy a large unit for planet-wide scale combat, they deploy a Marine Expeditionary Force. This force is made up of a Marine Division, a Marine Aerospace Wing, and all the support units and transport vessels required. This is a massive element with over 20,000 combat marines, and over 10,000 support personnel. The MEF is capable of independent operations for up to five years at a time.

The Division is both an operational unit and an administrative unit. The nine SFMC Divisions are self contained units with Aerospace Assets assigned from the Aerospace Wings, as well as organic1 units in Special Operations, Combat Engineering, Medical, and Support branches serving along the Infantry, Armor and Mecha combat units. The divisions are assigned two to each of the four sectors of the Federation with one division assigned to headquarters duty etc for five years tours. Each division for a five-year tour once every forty-five years will fill this duty. These divisions are themselves made up of three brigades again pre-positioned within specific sub-regions of space, with the same organic non-combat assets.

The three levels above are known as the strategic level of combat operations, since they are designed or trained to strike an enemy at the sources of its military, economic, or political power or to prevent it from doing do with the specific regions of the Federation. Strategic forces are also used as a tool of long term policy of great importance within an integrated whole or to a planned effect of the Federation.

The next level of combat hierarchy is the operational level: with Brigade, Regiment and Battalion sized units. Brigades normally commanded by Brigadiers

or Brigadier Generals are independent combined arm maneuvering units with an average of 6000 combat marines with organic armor and artillery battalions and batteries. They will also have attached Hospital Units, Combat Engineers and Special Operations units. The Brigade is normally made up of three line (infantry) regiments and one combined arms multi-purpose regiment. The latter is made up of one Armor Battalion, one Artillery Battalion and one Mecha Battalion. Also included is the Support Regiment; which includes the Headquarters Battalion, Medical Battalion, Engineers, and other various Support Units. The Infantry Regiment is normally organized with four Battalions, three infantry and one armor/artillery and the Headquarters Company. The support, Mecha, and special operations troops are attached from the Brigade as needed on a temporary basis. Regiments are commanded by Colonels and occasionally by senior Lt. Colonels. Finally the Marine Combat Battalion commanded by Lt. Colonels and Majors is made up of three Marine Infantry Companies, one Weapons Company and the Headquarters Detachment.

The next level of combat hierarchy is the field command level or tactical level, which includes Company, Platoon and Squad sized units. Company level infantry units are the chess pieces of the modern battlefield. Along with armor companies and artillery companies, the Generals and Colonels will instruct the Infantry companies to move here and block enemy forces, or there to support friendly forces. Infantry Companies are made up of three Rifle Platoons and one Weapons Platoon, with a Headquarters Squad attached to the Weapons Platoon, and are commanded by Captains and senior 1st Lieutenants. Rifle Platoons are the elements used by the Company to internally support its movement orders from higher commands. The Rifle Platoon has three Squads one of which carries Heavy Weapons and a Command Team. The platoon is the basic unit for officer level command and is led by 2nd and 1st Lieutenants with support, advice, and mentoring of a senior non-commissioned officer. Finally, there is the squad; which is made up of 3 fire teams and a squad leader, or thirteen marines. The squad is the maneuvering element for the platoon, and is led by a middle grade NCO.

**II. The Fire Team Proper**

So what is this core element of all the larger units in the Marine Corps Infantry Force? What are its elemental personnel, integral equipment, and how does it maneuver? The Fire Team has four marines, the Team Leader, Automatic Rifleman, Grenadier, and the Rifleman. The Fire Team like any other Marine Combat Unit, has to have one voice, one leader, that the Team Leader. This marine will be in communications with the Squad Leader, and on the Platoon net, and will move his or her team as per the Squad Leader’s instructions, or break off as per the Platoon Leader’s direction. The Team Leader is a veteran, with hundreds if not thousands of hours of field training, and familiarity with all of the equipment in the team, and the three marines he leads. The Automatic Rifleman, also a veteran is also an expert shot with all forms of energy and projectile weapons, and carries the heavy phaser rifle with extra power- packs. The Grenadier, again a veteran expert with projectile and ballistic weapons, doubles as the team’s communicator. The Grenadier will carry some form of grenade launcher, attached to the phaser rifle, or as a stand-alone weapon. Finally, the Rifleman, the junior-most member of the Fire Team. While most likely the newest member of the team, this marine is still

**Cont. on next page**

Fire Team cont. from page 33

an expert shot or better with the Phaser Rifle, and ready to step in to support his teammates instantly. Together these four marines make up the core of the Corps. Replicated thousands of time, the SFMC Fire Team is the integral unit.

But a marine is no better then his equipment, and the marines of the SFMC Fire Team have the most current and efficient combat arms in the Federation. The basic weapon of the Marine Corps is the M-33 Type III Phaser Rifle; its description from the Infantry Manual is as follows.

*The M-33 is the new standard Light Infantry weapon of the SFMC. Introduced in the fall of 2257 for all SFMC units, and in some additional situations aboard Starfleet Vessels, locked in their Armories due to their large destructive capability. Five times more powerful than the Type II hand phaser with a overload Blast Radius of 875 meters, and dematerialize range of 150 meters. It possesses the full standard four power levels of the Starfleet hand phaser, with the addition of a burst mode that concentrates the dematerialize level into an explosive burst with a range of 75 meters. It is reloaded three special interchangeable X14 power cylinders, which require special tools either in the armory or in the field to swap out. Like all phasers in the SFMC inventory, its beam can be adjusted from a wide-field cone dispersion pattern to a "needle" pinpoint beam application. (2)*

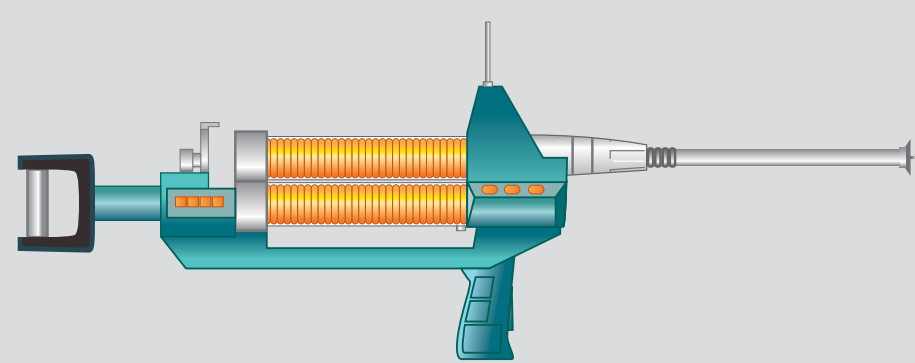


Figure 1: M-33 Type III Phaser Rifle

Both the Fire Team Leader, and the Rifleman carry the M-33. The Grenadier in addition to the M33-B carries the weapon mounted FG-05k Grenade Launcher, which is described as follows.

*The grenade launcher is attached to the underside of the emitter tube on the M33-B phasers. They utilize thirty millimeter sonic grenades ballistically launched with no homing capabilities and their range and destructive power are considerably less. The GL is loaded with single rounds. A drum-fed variant of this weapon was considered for issue but was rejected as being too bulky.*

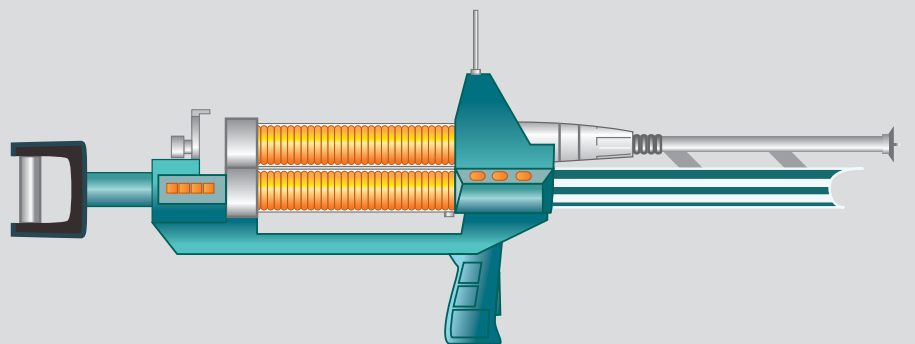


Figure 2: FG-05k Grenade Launcher attached to M33-B Phaser

The final member of the Fire Team, the Automatic Rifleman, carries the M-35 Autoburst Laser Rifle, enabling suppressing fire as well as a bigger punch against power armored and armored vehicle opponents. Again from the Infantry Branch guidebook, the description is as follows.

*The M-35 using older pre-phaser Laser Technology, is a powerful multi-emitter laser rifle capable of establishing a base of fire to support Infantry squad operations. Because of its configuration, it is also known as the "Gat" and its operators are known by Infantrymen as "gators". A gator is usually a Light Infantry fire team's light weapons specialist. In external appearance the M-35 looks like the pre-phaser hand lasers with multiple barrel/emitters, with six thin emitters in this configuration*

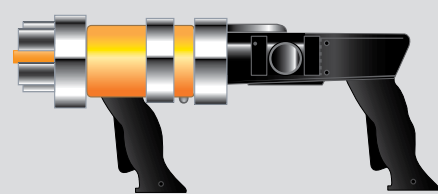


Figure 3: M-35 Multi-Emitter Laser Rifle

*surrounding a cooling cylinder, allowing it to fire six high powered beams in rapid revolving succession. The M-35 has four high powered settings all of which are deadly, no stun setting is available.*

The one piece of gear, all four members will share in common, is Power Armor, either Light or Heavy. For the standard Fire Team this will be PAS-6B Hoplite Powered Infantry Rifleman Suit. It will protect the marine, support his mission, and power his weapons and other equipment. It is described as follows.

*The Hoplite is the standard-issue PI suit in the SFMC. All PI troopers are trained first in this suit, even if their eventual MOS requires a different suit. Any PI can climb into a Hoplite and fight it with ruthless efficiency. Weapons loading is widely variable, as is sensor fitting. Fire team and squad leaders typically have an upgraded battlefield surveillance system and better comm (including a dedicated fire support channel). (5)*

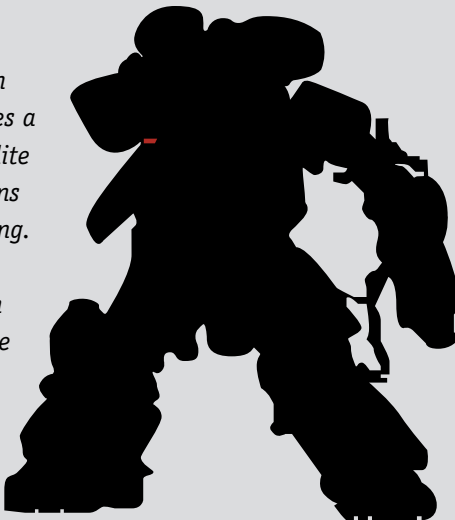


Figure 4: Hoplite PI Suit

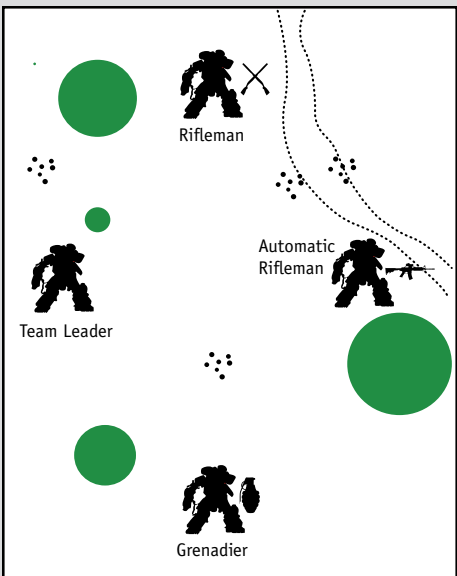


Figure 5: Fire Team Diamond Formation

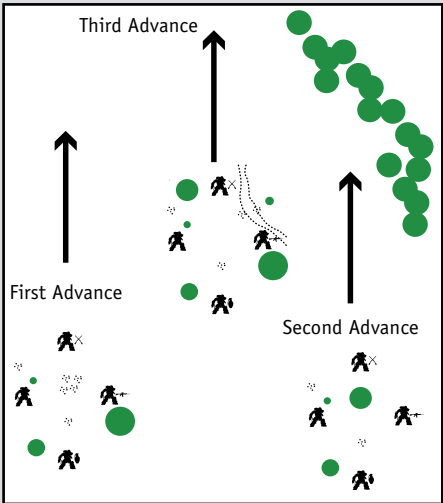
Now we have four highly skilled and heavily armed marines. What do they do? How do they use their weapons, and their armor, and training to accomplish their mission, support the squad, platoon and company, and win the battle? The answer is simple, the ability to utilize combat maneuvering. By maneuvering, we mean moving through combat environments in such a way to degrade, destroy and defeat the enemy forces, while best supporting defending and protecting friendly forces. The Fire Team moves in a loose and often misshapen Diamond Formation. With the Rifleman leading

point, the Team Leader to the left and behind about 15 meters, the Automatic Rifleman to the right and behind about 15 meters, and the Grenadier nearly directly behind about 20-25 meters. This allows the Team Leader to observe the whole team, and link to the team to the left, the Automatic Rifleman to bring fire down on an opposing team's left flank, and the grenadier to launch his rounds in a ballistic arch over the heads of his teammates. The team will advance in the diamond formation until it comes under fire, then it will proceed in a leapfrog manner. The point will place him under cover, and provide suppressing fire while the Team Leader and Automatic Rifleman will advance. They then will provide cover fire as the Grenadier advances to slightly ahead of the Rifleman, then the three will provide cover as the Rifleman retakes the point. This will continue as long as the team is under fire, or until they receive orders to flank, or retire. In addition the team, may board a mechanized/armored vehicle and be moved into or past combat quickly and in a large degree of protection.

III. Integration of the Fire Team in Combat Maneuver

The Fire Team is integrated in each of the larger combat elements in three different ways. Within the squad, there are three Fire Teams. Each of the teams will have special skills, missions and equipment. Some will carry the man-portable mortars, some will carry additional M-35s, and some will carry the M-41s, rapid-firing EM projectile weapons. Within the squad, the three teams will form as a chevron, with the Squad Leader normally attached to one of the Fire Team diamonds, or more often then not, the Squad Leader will also be one of the Fire Team Leaders. The Squad advances by leapfrog movement, with two teams covering the other as it moves forward. See Figure 6

Figure 6: Squad Leapfrog Movement



Within the Platoon, there are the three Squads and the HQ Team (consisting of the Platoon Leader – usually a junior officer, the Platoon NCO – usually a mid to senior grade NCO, the Platoon Guide – who acts as the HQ Body Guard, and the Platoon Communicator. Two of the three squads are standard rifle units, but the third will have the heavier weapons, assigned to its teams, usually the Mortar, Heavy Phaser, the SAW, and sometimes a shoulder mounted Missile Launcher. The maneuver formations are similar to the

squad level, but with two squads forming the chevron, and the third squad setup in over-watch, and the HQ element moving independently to monitor and control the situation. Once the chevron is formed, one of the lead units will become over-watch and the rear quad will leapfrog ahead to from the next chevron in the advance joining up with the other lead unit. See Figure 7.

Within the Company, there are the three Rifle Platoons, a Weapons Platoons and the HQ Squad (consisting of the Company Commander, Executive Officer, Company NCO – Security Detail, Communicators and Medics. The Rifle Platoons are standard maneuvering units with their assigned Weapons Squad and HW teams, while the Weapons Platoon, contains the massive firepower that provides support for the Company. The Weapons company is equipped with Heavy Automatic Projectile Weapons, Man pack Light Infantry Missile Launchers, and man portable Phaser cannons.

These weapons provide a massive punch to the company, and enable the platoons to maneuver confident they are protected by their heavy weapons brethren. The company will deploy in a horseshoe formation with a platoon in reserve for unexpected situations. The two rifle platoons will deploy forward on the flanks, the weapons platoon joining them in the rear, with the HQ squad normally deployed with the weapons platoon. The reserve platoon will deploy immediately behind the weapons platoon, providing security, while being ready to reinforce on the defense, or exploit on the offensives. The rifle platoons will rotate out as the reserve platoon to accord some rest and relaxation to the troops. Unlike the smaller units though, the Platoons will advance independently using their own subordinate routes of maneuver to position themselves in the next defensive position for the company, or to prepare themselves for jump off into the assault.

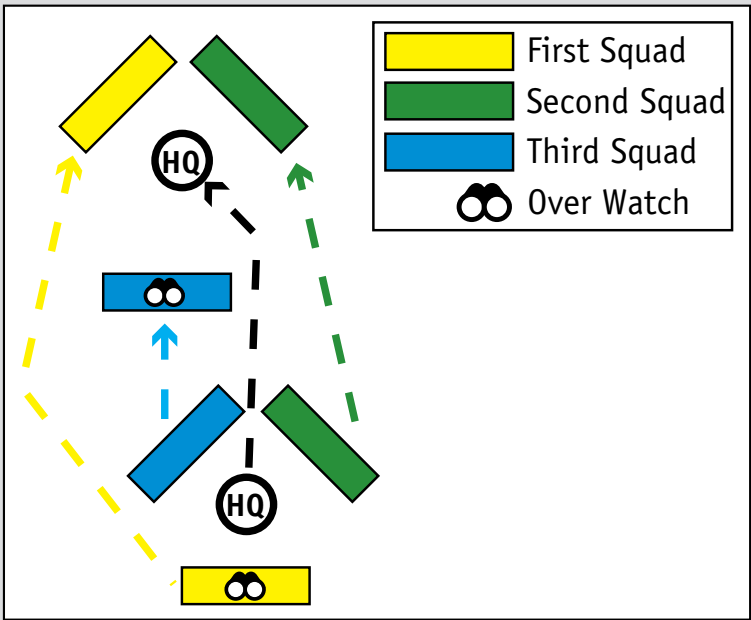


Figure 7: Platoon Maneuver Formations

Conclusion

We have shown the importance of the Fire Team, as the essential building block of the Corps maneuver warfare. Each brick in the wall is essential, aligned together correctly the wall stands even against a hurricane, but left in a pile without organization it is useless. And just like that brick whose clay is hardened and formed to perfection, the fire team, its marines, its equipment must be prepared, trained and kept ready to go into combat, otherwise they will be no better then a pile of clay. The Fire Team Leader, is the essential junior non-commissioned officer, it is his or her duty to lead the team into fire, to take out the enemy, and to capture the objective. The General is nothing without the skill, dedication, and lives of the Fire Team Leaders and their teams. Four Marines, they are the core of the Corps. All the Divisions, and Regiments depend on those four marines. Hard as a diamond, whose shape they emulate as they move, for five hundred years the Marines have refused to fight as a mob, but as a Team.

From Suribachi to Corridan, the Marine Corps – Forever.







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# Around the Fleet: IC 2007 Edition

Special Thanks to Mark H. Anbinder, Will Devine, and Allyson Dyar!



PJ shows off her awesome cow slippers prior to the IC 2007 banquet. Photo and caption by Will Devine



Bran proposes to Christina at the IC 2007 Closing Ceremonies (she said yes). Photo by Mark H. Anbinder



Keira snapping pictures before the banquet (background: Martin). Photo by Will Devine



Dave Blaser, Susan Ueffing, Dixie Halber, Greg Trotter, and the back of Lauren Lance's head, all enjoying lunch. Photo by Allyson Dyar



R4 Folks with Tim Russ. Photo by Allyson Dyar



One Final Mission:  
The Color Guard presents General Mark Anbinder with the American Flag, in a ceremony honoring members of STARFLEET who have passed on. Photos From Mark H. Anbinder



Sal, Peter, and Cathey chat prior to the banquet. Photo and caption by Will Devine



EC members Jerry & Liz. Photo by Will Devine



Joost examines the composition of a bamboo specimen. Photo by Will Devine