

THE GUNG HO GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 377TH MEU



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER DATE
200704.16

FIRST ISSUE FOR 2007

Talk about feeling guilty!

It has been some three months since we last published our Unit newsletter—and while I can easily cry out “but I’ve been to busy” - there really is no excuse for there not to be a continual flow of information for Unit members.

Mind you, I will admit that as there has NEVER been any submissions from any of our Marines and this newsletter is then entirely down to me, my feelings of guilt will only last about 30 seconds...

So herewith an update of where we are at since our last publication, and some news for the future.

The 377th has “lost some crew/gained some crew” in the last few months.

The establishment of the

SS Genesis has seen the transfer of deployment of several crew, but we have also gained new members in the guise of Active Marine—2nd Lt Lexie Currie, and Reserve officers, Ensigns Erik Stubblefield and Chris Jacobs. Welcome to these new members.

We have also been joined by Gunnery Sergeant John “Kiwi” Kane who as an Associate Member of the USS Southern Cross, will lend his skills and telnets as our SpecOps Weapons Specialist Advisor.

The Unit has also been expanded by the inclusion of first Marine Cadets—and we welcome Cadet 4th Class, James Naylor and Thomas Hart to our ranks.

Welcome aboard!

We also now include Sgt Willis Dane who has had a long association with the Unit since its founding but has now formally joined our ranks. We also give recognition to our Unit mascot, Max, the Blue Ross (or Blue Max as he is sometimes called)

So the 377th is in a healthy position awaiting the commissioning of the USS Southern Cross on which we are deployed, when the Unit will then change designation to an MSG (Marine Strike Group)

Roll on the 14th of August.

Further in this publication you will find details on the upcoming Muster and information pertaining to MOS requirement.

So welcome to 2007—it’s going to be a great year for the 377th, that’s for sure.

Semper Fi!

LTC Bruce O’Brien—OIC

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

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

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

*See your Marine recruiting
Officer now!*



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THE FIRST ANNUAL MUSTER OF THE 11TH BDE

It has been announced that the very first Annual Muster of the Eleventh Brigade, Sixth Division SFMC, is to be held on Saturday, 11th August 2007, in Adelaide, South Australia.

This is not only an important event for the 377th, but it is also an historical event for the SFMC, as to the best of our knowledge, this is the very first ever Muster to be held of SFMC members, in our region.

It is intended that the Muster will become an annual event, enabling all 11th Bde Marine members within the SFI R11 to get the chance to meet-up, have some formal discussions, and perhaps down a few beers.

Annual Musters give great opportunity for Marines to get together and share ideas; gain information in SFMC policy and regulations; discuss topics covering MOS, Branch of Service education, recruitment, community work and a whole host of other

topics that will be of value to each and every attendee.

Members attending may also be eligible for certain awards, depending on the circumstances of things such as travel distance; personal involvement in the Muster; honour guard work/security etc—all depending on the nature and activities held at the Muster (queries on this topic should be addressed to the OIC)

At the Muster, it is also likely that the development of the 11th Brigade will be discussed, as there is evidence of the forming of one new MEU/MSG Unit, with the possibility of others to follow.

While we are not certain at this point in time exactly how many members are deployed within the 11th Brigade, it is possible that there are Marines 'out there' who are simply not aware of the formation of the Brigade and their subsequent rights and

opportunities as Marine Corps members.

We certainly hope that we will be able to gather in as many of these people as possible.

Final details on venues etc have not been advised at time of writing, but a notice will be sent to each known member of the Brigade once this has been settled.

We would certainly hope that as many of our Unit members as is possible, will be in Adelaide and available for this function.

We look forward to meeting up with you all!

LTC Bruce O'Brien

OIC—377th MEU

AOIC 11th Bde



Emblem of the 11th Bde,
6th Div, SFMC



ANZAC DAY 2007

Every year on ANZAC Day (25th April), Australians and New Zealanders gather to commemorate the sacrifice of our servicemen and women in war. Veterans muster and march behind the banners that carry the symbols and battle honours of their unit and increasingly larger numbers of civilians will gather at Dawn Parades, ANZAC Day parades and the RSL/RSA functions that follow.

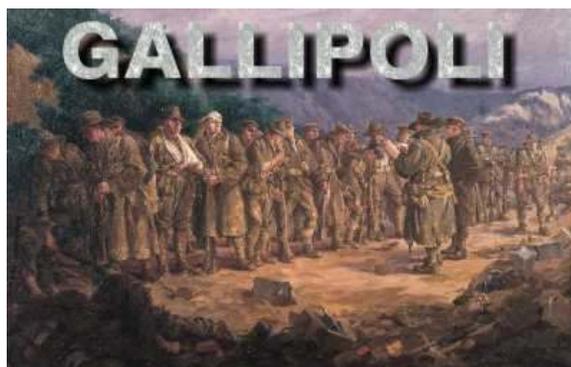
At Gallipoli, thousands (mostly younger people) assemble in the cold, pre-dawn to share in the moving ceremonies that have long been entrenched in our respective nations' psyche.

With the passing of time, it would be so easy to expect that we would begin to forget the sacrifices that were made by so many of our people for the cause of democracy and freedom—sacrifices that are still being made today in war-torn countries around the world by our sailors, soldiers and airmen and women.

But it certainly appears to be NOT the case and from my own annual experience of attendance at the Dawn Parade at the Auckland Cenotaph at the War Museum, it seems we will NEVER forget, nor will we ever cease to turn out to remember all that had gone before.

So when we see the old diggers marching, and we hear the laughter and chatter tumbling from the RSA/RSL in the afternoon, hold a thought in your heart for just a small moment in time and say to yourself "we WILL remember them".

IN REMEMBRANCE



YOUR ROLE IN THE 377TH AND YOUR MOS

The website for the Southern Cross is undergoing some editing and part of this is the section dealing with our Unit (our Unit pages will also be updated shortly). For many of you, a specific role as a member of the 377th has been posted (viewed via "Crew Roster" at www.uss-southerncross.com) and these have been listed as a guide until specific roles have been assigned.



Air Combat Command
Patch

However, to ensure that you are 'qualified' for any position you wish to hold within the Unit—just say for example an Infantry Datawarfare Specialist or perhaps an Attack Pilot, Air Combat—it is required that you will have obtained the necessary qualification within that particular MOS (Marine Occupational Specialty), by having passed the appropriate examinations at the SFMC Academy (TRACOM).



Space Combat
Command
Patch

(To achieve status as an Attack Pilot, Air Combat for instance, you will have needed to have completed the following exams— PD10, AE10,AE20,AE25,AE30 (optional) and IN10), which means you would then be fully qualified for your position.

SFMC Academy courses have a different outcome to those of the STARFLEET Academy, in that qualification by passing an exam gains you more than just a certificate—you get a 'real' qualification according to the requirements of any MOS.

The MOS manual will be of great assistance to those wishing to know more and to assist you in choosing the role (or roles) you may wish to have within the Unit.

Feel free to discuss any of this with the OIC or the DOIC.

Good luck Marines!

SOME MOS AWARDS AND INSIGNIA



Delta Wings (Pilot)

Awarded on completion of AE-25



Aeromedical Wings

Awarded on completion of MD 25



Combat Medic Insignia

Awarded after completion of MD 23



Parachutist Wings

Awarded after completion of SO 13

*depending upon your BOS and MOS
you could be eligible for a whole range
of different patches and awards
check it out with the OIC....*

377TH AND 11TH BRIGADE MERCHANDISE

Very soon, we will have available for purchase, embroidered patches with the logos for both the 377th and the 11th Brigade. While these are intended for uniform wear, some may wish to just purchase them to add to their collection. We have enquiries from SFI and SFMC collectors in the US for these items and we will offer them for sale to other SFI chapters.

These patches will be fully embroidered in military fashion and will certainly look great (if the samples are anything to go by)

And on this note, the DOIC has also been doing a little work in this area and has started creation of a Café Express page, where people can go and purchase branded clothing and other items, with 377th, 11th Bde and even some Southern Cross items.

This is very much a "work in progress" and it is hoped to develop this further in time.

If you are interested in seeing what is available, go to

<http://www.cafepress.com/NC63550>

You need to remember that the prices shown will be in US dollars and you will have to include freight/delivery charges.

Prices are not cheap, but for very small quantities, this is to be expected. The clothing used is generally by Hanes and their garments have a solid reputation)

Should any Marines have ideas or special request for merchandise, please get in touch with the DOIC or the Quartermaster



The Southern Cross Quartermaster reports that there are still a few SC mugs left, but they are running out fast. Be in quick!

Not sure what uniform you should wear to the Annual Muster or the Commissioning ceremony? Then get in touch with the OIC.

Remember—this is the best chance for you to wear your medals and ribbons that you have been awarded.