

377TH MEU, 4TH BN, 11TH BDE



# THE GUNG HO GAZETTE

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## FIRST ANNUAL MUSTER IN AUGUST

As reported in the last issue of the Gazette, the first Annual Muster for SFMC Region 11 Marines, will take place in Adelaide, South Australia, on Saturday 11th August. We are now being asked “what is it all about” and “what will happen at the Muster” - well here are some simple answers.

The Muster is basically described in the same terminology as would be used in sheep farming (heaven forbid!) whereby, each year a high country (or outback) station, would gather in their flocks from all over the wide expanse, and muster them together for the purposes of good animal husbandry. In our case, we are gathering our ‘flocks’ (Marines) from wherever they are in the Region, into the one place, so as to practice good Marine ‘management’.

This allows for as many of us as we can assemble, to gather together in unity and discuss, view and inter-act on any and all matters that pertain to our fandom interest in the STARFLEET Marine Corps. And naturally, it follows that in calling such a gathering that there should be some semblance of activity etc.

Here is what is likely to occur on the Saturday afternoon:

- Assembly at 1.30pm at the Writer’s Centre.
- There will be an introduction and greeting by the 11th BDE OIC
- There will be a ‘lecture’ (with a screen presentation) on the SFMC
- There will be discussions on the (currently) two Marine Units in the Brigade—377th and 379th with a brief overview by their respective OIC’s
- There will be a panel discussion on uniforms and insignia—based around a simple Q & A session
- There will be presentations of any awards or promotions as deemed required by BDE or Unit OIC’s
- Discussion on the future plans for the Brigade and discussion regarding future Musters.

All in all, this first Muster is likely to be very much a learning curve for all involved. But the uniqueness of our Downunder culture will ultimately decide the manner in which we will conduct future Musters, based upon what our expectations will be after this first one. For those of you who may be unsure as to the “why am I a Marine?” question, it is surely hoped that the answers to this will provide you with more incentive and enthusiasm to feel proud of your membership into the Corps.

See you on the 11th!

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!*





## WHO WE ARE (AN EXCERPT FROM THE MARINE CORPS MANUAL)

We have a lot of 'new' Marines and we felt it would be appropriate to list this which is taken from the SFMC manual, which will help provide some background....

### Who We Are

The STARFLEET Marine Corps is a component of STARFLEET, the International Star Trek Fan Association Inc. The SFMC is an office under the Commander, STARFLEET and as such reports to Commander, STARFLEET.

Fictionally, the SFMC is part of the Ground Forces that are rarely seen in the episodes but are assumed to be a part of the Naval Fleet of the United Federation of Planets.

We're members of STARFLEET. The Corps does not have different requirements for membership, except that a STARFLEET Marine must be a member in good standing in STARFLEET. Although it does have a different name for each rank within the promotional system, and a different organizational structure than the "Naval" portion of STARFLEET, STARFLEET Marines are regular, dues paying members.

Some STARFLEET members are "Marine Reserve". These are members who are active in the naval portion of the Fleet AND with the Ground Forces area as well. Occasionally you may find a STARFLEET Marine who is or was active military, but this is not a requirement to be in the Corps. ...

*A 377th Tactical Assault Squad member — suited, booted, locked stocked and ready to start cooking*

## THE 377TH TO BECOME A MARINE STRIKE GROUP

There is probably quite a bit of confusion in trying to understand all the various unit, battalion and brigade designations that exists within the SF Marine Corps. And some may be even further confused by the notations of "MEU" and "MSG".

So what is the difference?

Without trying to make matters too complicated—when a ship/chapter has a Marine component attached, that Unit is then classified as Marine Strike Group (MSG). For a Marine Unit that is NOT attached directly to a ship/chapter, then that Unit is referred to as an Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). When the Southern Cross was launched as a chapter-in-training, it could not have a Marine Unit (MSG) form as part of its complement, as any Marine Unit formed then, would have to form as part of the Region to which the chapter's support ship would be based (i.e. as the Southern Cross's support ship the Magellan is in R14, any Marine Unit on board the Cross would have to be part of the 14th BDE and become a 14th BDE Unit). And I bet that has your heads reeling!

But in a nutshell, the 377th is currently not part of the Southern Cross complement, even though it is listed in the website etc and we treat the MEU members as part of our crew.

However, once the Cross has commissioned as a ship-of-the-line in August, the 377th will change in structure from an MEU to an MSG, and then be drawn into the ship's complement of the Southern Cross. Phew ....

It is a little complicated and somewhat confusing—but as is typical in many military matters, the construction and conventions of structures such as this, are never quite that straightforward. And with the SFMC being based on absolute military 'lines', this is a perfect example of the military in action.

Thus, from the 11th August, the 377th MEU will drop the "MEU" and instead revert to a full MSG (as per the uniform patches available)



From this..



...To this.

## CHANGES AT THE ACADEMIES



Recently, there were changes announced by the STARFLEET Academy on the manner in which they would not only record, but process their future courses. This will affect the ‘ease’ by which Degrees and Doctorates and the like, are issued and instead, the SFA will revert to a more true ‘university-style’ of achievement acknowledgement.

This will not be the case at the SFMC Academy however and at time of writing, there are apparently no plans for any changes to the structures of their courses, exam assessment, or certification of qualifications.

There are plans however, for continual upgrades and new introductions of courses and those studying at this Academy, should keep their eyes peeled for these new introductions and slight changes that may occur.

## AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

Most of us are well aware that the SFMC rewards its members with awards—usually in the form of a bar ribbon to be worn on dress uniform.

And one of the perennial questions we are asked, is “how do I get these awards?”.

In most instances, these awards are visible recognition for an act of involvement or participation—either at the Marine Academy (by passing appropriate examinations) or by the acknowledgement of any achievements or recognitions of either individual Marines, or group of Marines (unit or brigade awards).

Quite a few of these awards are presented by the various authorities (TRACOM or the Commandant), but quite a few others are presented by either the Brigade OIC or, in some instances, the Unit OIC.

But these awards are not simply handed out because you have been around for a while and kept your nose clean (although there probably IS an award for that somewhere!) and to gain recognition to be considered for an award, a Marine has to achieved some form of notably act or action.

Nominations for any award however, can be made by ANY Marine, for ANY other individual Marine (you cannot nominate yourself for an award of course).

Process is simple and straightforward and individuals wishing to nominate another Marine for an award, can do so either at the SFMC database

<http://www.sfi-sfmc.org/tracom/awardrequest.php>

or by using the nomination forms from the 377th or 11th BDE websites (once these have been completed and are activated)

Nominations can also be made for significant , annual, SFMC awards (Cross of Honor etc—which are presented at the Annual International Muster each year) by any Marine

If you have any questions on awards or award nominations—either contact the OIC, or study the appropriate section in the SFMC Members Manual.

*(Please note—any awards or nominations mentioned in this article, relate only to those issued by the SMC and not to any that are issued by the USS Southern Cross or the Marine component thereof)*



Sword of Honour  
Award



Meritorious Service  
Award



Brigade Muster  
Award



Marine Proficiency  
Award

With many of our Marines looking at 'first-time' uniforms, it is probably timely that we start some sections detailing SFMC uniforms and their assembly.

The following article is reproduced from the July 2001 issue of the SFMC newsletter "ATTENTION ON DECK"



The way you wear your beret communicates volumes about your professionalism to those around you. Improper wear or neglect of your headgear is impossible to hide and immediately noticeable.

Whether you are a new beret wearer or a seasoned veteran, the black SFMC beret poses some unique challenges. With the proper tools and a little patience you will be well on your way to the perfect beret.

*Editor's note: This section was taken from a document by an unknown author. Certain things have been changed to make this section more relevant to the SFMC.*



### **Instructions for shaping your beret**

Before you begin, assemble the following supplies:

- 1 beret (with or without lining)
- Razor blade
- Scissors
- 1-6 disposable razors
- Water/shower

Optional supplies (Only use if your unit is using a flash on their berets)

- 1 flash
- Stainguard
- Seamstress

Shave dry beret using 1-6 disposable razor blades. Doing this removes the fuzz that is on the outside of a new beret.

Remove interior lining of the beret. A razor blade is the best tool. If you purchased a beret that does

**Step 1.** Shave dry beret using 1-6 disposable razor blades. Doing this removes the fuzz that is on the outside of a new beret.

**Step 2:** Remove interior lining of the beret. A razor blade is the best tool. If you purchased a beret that does not have a lining skip to the next step.

**Step 3A:** Cut cardboard as shown in figure 1-1. This allows for a proper fold/crease in the front of the beret.



Figure 1-1

**Step 3B (optional):** Treat beret flash with Stainguard to prevent it from looking dirty and brown. If you treat it you will only need to replace your beret flash every 4 months.

**Step 3C (optional):** Have your flash sewn on before proceeding. Bottom on flash should be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from bottom of headband. It should also be 1.5" from left edge of the cardboard as you look at the cardboard from *the inside of the beret*. (See figure 1-1)

**Caution:** Occasionally a flash gets sewn on crooked.

**Step 4A:** Soak beret in water and form to head. Some choose to wear it in the shower, others prefer using a sink to soak the beret.

**Step 5:** Allow beret to dry on head sized object. A common technique is to let it dry on lampshade. Periodically as the beret dries form it to your head, also tie the strings into a good knot so that the beret will remain fitted to your head, then trim the string so that the knot is left intact.

*(these steps involving the flash are not really necessary as we wear SFMC pin badge and not a flash)*

### **Common Mistakes (or how NOT to wear your beret)**

#### **The Tilted Beret:**

Band not level. Exposes large portion of the back left of your head.



**The Swiveled Beret:**

Flash not over left eye, swiveled to the left side of your head. The opposite is the **Target Beret**; swiveled to the right, a flash in the middle of your forehead gives sniper a great place to put cross hairs.

**The Pancake Beret:**

Not pulled down over right ear. This is the most common problem with new berets.

**The Creaseless Beret:**

No crease behind flash, gives rounded look to beret

**The Tough Guy:**

Heart in the right place, but the beret isn't. Covering an eye is a safety hazard.





## SPEAKING OF UNIFORMS.....

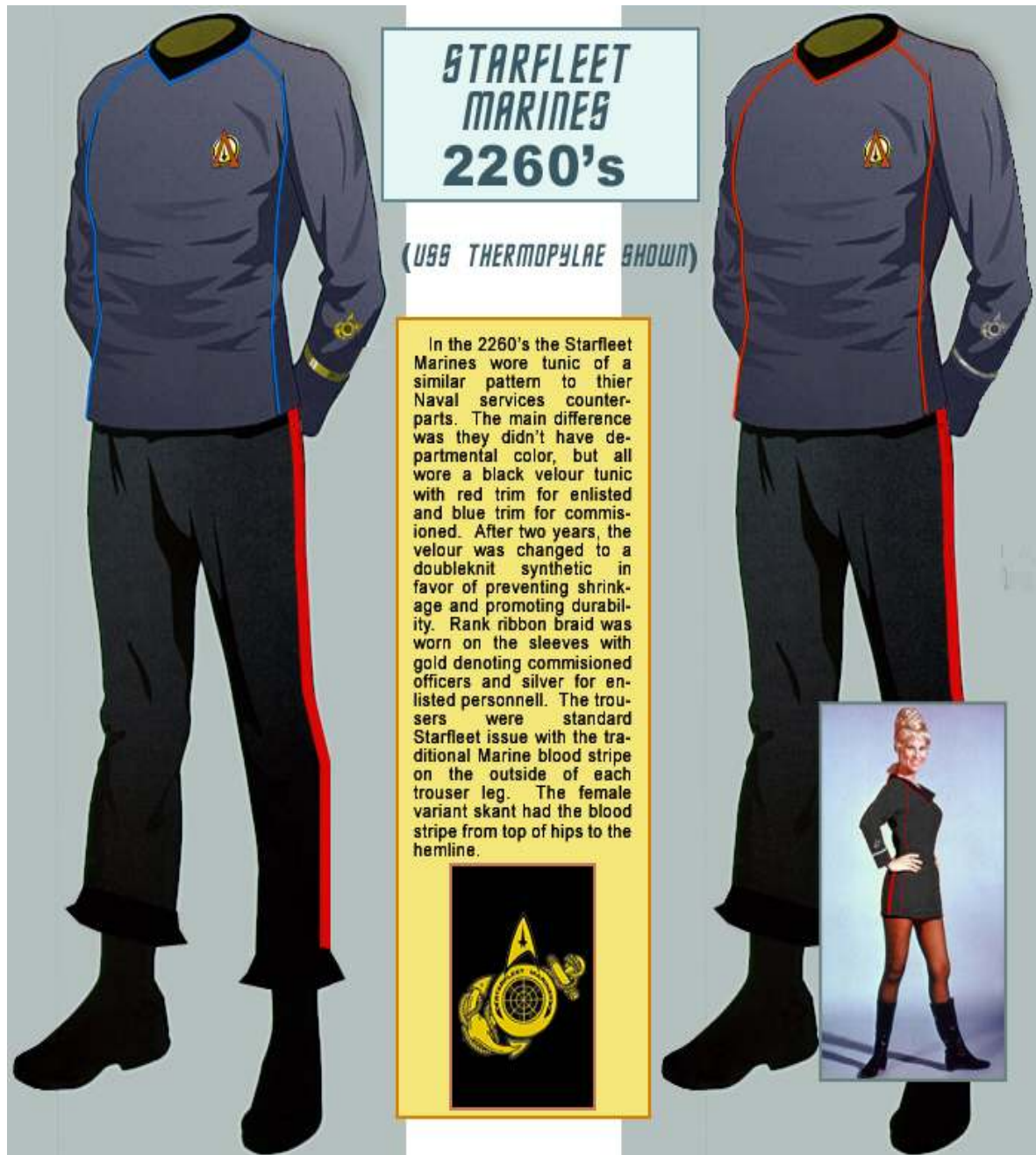
Within the Corps, there is probably a fair variety of uniforms and uniform design, that can be adapted to easily provide a varied uniform that is different to the 'standard' Star Trek outfit—yet still comply with SFMC regulations.

Have a look at these variations that have been designed by a keen costumer as his/her interpretation of how a Starfleet might have looked on screen..



An idea for the Original Series time period.

## SPEAKING OF UNIFORMS CONT'D .....



### STARFLEET MARINES 2260's

(USS THERMOPYLAE SHOWN)

In the 2260's the Starfleet Marines wore tunic of a similar pattern to their Naval services counterparts. The main difference was they didn't have departmental color, but all wore a black velour tunic with red trim for enlisted and blue trim for commissioned. After two years, the velour was changed to a doubleknit synthetic in favor of preventing shrinkage and promoting durability. Rank ribbon braid was worn on the sleeves with gold denoting commissioned officers and silver for enlisted personnel. The trousers were standard Starfleet issue with the traditional Marine blood stripe on the outside of each trouser leg. The female variant skant had the blood stripe from top of hips to the hemline.





## SPEAKING OF UNIFORMS CONT'D.....

ENLISTED



An enlisted Marine from mid/late 24th Century

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