"SITREP" 2022 – Issue 13

Tuesday, November 1

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Honor, Courage and Commitment are the core values of the **United States Marine Corps**. It is precisely these embodied values that have produced their familiar *Esprit de Corps*, or deep, shared sense of loyalty and comradeship. Join with us all this month as we pay **tribute** to our Marines and celebrate their **247th anniversary** on *November 10!* Last year, in the Marines birthday **SITREP**, we featured a Commemorative Flag presentation to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H. Berger. This year, highlighted at right, is the flag presentation to their highest enlisted officer, the Sergeant Major of The Marine Corps, Troy E. Black.

Another very real ethos Marines live by is "leave no man behind." At left, Marines exemplified this conduct during **Operation Beau Charger** on May 20, 1967 in Vietnam, when they quickly aided a wounded comrade. Discover more events and operations Marines were involved in during the war, from **President Johnson ordering their landing at Da Nang**, to **mission expansion in I Corps**, to the **arrival of the first woman Marine**, and **deactivation of the last tactical unit**. This wealth of information and more, can be found on our **Timeline**.

It is widely known, May 15, 1975 represents the right-bookend service date for Vietnam veterans we honor in this Commemoration. *What may be lesser known,* perhaps, are the actual events that transpired that day and the *U.S. Marines' involvement*. It marked the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the ship **SS *Mayaguez***. Three days earlier, *Mayaguez* had been seized by the Khmer Rouge, and its captain and 39 crew members were taken hostage. Immediately, a joint rescue operation was set in motion, and nearly 300 Marines were dispatched to support it. This operation, and the subsequent withdrawal of American forces, would be the last combat action of the Vietnam War. Tragically, 14 Marines lost their lives fighting alongside 27 other U.S. servicemen. These 41 members of our military are the *final engraved names* etched in the black granite of the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**. At right, the binnacle of SS *Mayaguez* is shown preserved, and can be viewed in one of the 10 display cases of our *Vietnam War Pentagon Corridor Exhibit*. Stay tuned, as November 10, a *special Veterans Day SITREP* is released, announcing access to the full *Virtual Tour* of this exhibit.

To all our Marines, both past and present, we **salute** you! *Thank you for your service, and Oo-rah!*

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~