

## Ugly Angels: 70,000 hours of doing it right

By Cpl. Zachary Dyer  
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

**AL ASAD, Iraq** -- History is a big part of the Marine Corps, every Marine is taught to honor the legacy of the first Leathernecks in 1775. Tradition has permeated so far into the Marines that it is not just the history of the Corps that Devil Dogs honor, but the feats of individual units as well.

Marines in one of the oldest heavy helicopter squadrons in the Marine Corps, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, are upholding a tradition of excellence that has extended almost 25 years with 70,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

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Capt. Nick Turner, a pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, skillfully pilots a CH-53D “Sea Stallion” through a turn during a mission, Sept. 15. The Marines of HMM-362, the “Ugly Angels,” have racked up over 70,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours. Photo by Cpl. Zachary Dyer.

## Navy’s riverine force plans first homecoming since Vietnam

By Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser  
2nd Marine Division

**HADITHA DAM, Iraq** -- Mention of the U. S. Navy usually conjures images of huge battleships cruising across the oceans, but the Navy is also responsible for much smaller boats and waterways. The Navy has fought on rivers and lakes at home and overseas since its establishment during 1775.

During the War for Independence, sailors fought on tiny boats against the huge warships of the Royal Navy on colonial waterways. The War of 1812 found sailors on the Mississippi River aiding Gen. Andrew Jackson during a major British assault on New Orleans. With the beginning of combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the 1960s, the Navy joined forces with the U.S. Army to form the first Riverine squadron, known at the time as the Mobile Riverine Force.

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Navy riverines with Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron 1, Riverine Group 1, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command man their machineguns during a patrol on the Euphrates River. The squadron was stood up, trained, and deployed in less than a year, and is the first Navy riverine unit to be deployed since the Vietnam War. Photo by Cpl. Ryan C. Heiser.

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Iraq’s citizens support volunteers, prisoners released in Al Anbar and a top military official in Iraq talks about Iraqi security forces.

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### Afghan security forces earn public’s trust

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## EXPOSING THE ENEMY

**VIOLENT INCIDENTS DOWN; AL QAEDA ‘ OFF BALANCE’ IN IRAQ SPOKESMAN SAYS**



**WASHINGTON** – Attacks and violent incidents in Iraq are down, but Iraqi and coalition forces still have a lot of work ahead, a top coalition spokesman in Iraq said today.

“In a whole sense there is no question about the fact that, in our minds, the trend is going in the right direction,” said Navy Rear Adm. Mark I. Fox, communications division chief for Multinational Force Iraq. “Our efforts to continue the reduction in violence will allow Iraqi society to begin to mend. There is a lot of hard work to do.”

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## WARFIGHTER STORIES

**AIRMAN’S FIGHT-BACK BRAVERY EARNS HIM BRONZE STAR**



**EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN)** -- Whenever Senior Airman Phillip King looks at his medal, he is reminded of Aug. 8, 2006.

That was the day Airman King, through his brave actions, earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

Col. Bryan Gallagher, 95th Air Base Wing commander, presented the medal to him during a ceremony here July 30.

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