



Welcome Aboard!

Congratulations on joining 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, an organization that enjoys a rich and renowned tradition. The battalion came into being at Shanghai, China, on 18 September 1932; we are part of the great "China Marine" legacy. Our famous nickname, the Magnificent Bastards, was officially established by Battalion Order 5600.1B on 24 September 1966 while the battalion was deployed to Vietnam. 2d Battalion, 4th Marines carries a legacy that few can claim including the Dominican Republic, China, Corregidor, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. For over two centuries, 2/4 Marines have epitomized soldierly virtue and brotherhood, building on a distinguished legacy that makes us proud to claim the title "United States Marine" and "the Magnificent Bastards." You and your family now belong to a United States Marine infantry battalion that is second to none.

Here at Camp Pendleton we are part of the 5th Marine Regiment, the "Fighting Fifth," and proudly wear the Regiment's French Fourragere on our uniforms. This device, earned in World War I, sets us apart and reminds all who meet us that we serve in the most decorated Regiment in the Corps.

We are strong today because of the many fine Marines and Sailors in 2d Battalion, 4th Marines. We are honored to have you and your family in our ranks. The extended 2/4 family includes wives, children, parents, our adopted town of San Clemente, and the many veterans across the nation with whom we remain connected. No matter where you travel in the United States, you are sure to find someone with a proud connection to the Magnificent Bastards.

This great history continues because of the outstanding people in the battalion. We have the best Officers, Staff Non-Commissioned Officers, and Non-Commissioned Officers in the Marine Corps. It takes all of us working together to build upon the hard-earned Magnificent Bastard reputation. This is equally true for family readiness. Our Family Readiness Officer possesses a wealth of experience and runs an excellent program, and whether you are married or single I encourage you to take full advantage of his services and support.

It is my privilege to lead such a fine organization, and I am humbled by our legacy and the abilities of today's Marines and Sailors. I look forward to the next chapter of Magnificent Bastard history.

See the Welcome Aboard Handbook for everything you need to know about 2d Battalion, 4th Marines!

We have instituted a "Magnificent Bastard Welcome Aboard" program.

The endstate is:

1. Reduce the stress of joining an infantry battalion or first operational duty station.
2. Introduce our Marines and Sailors to the tools, institutions, and programs available to them in the battalion, regiment, and camp.

3. Allow them to hear what is expected of them from their leadership.
4. Ensure they understand the proud traditions and history of 1st Marine Division, 5th Marines, 2/4, and what it means to be a Magnificent Bastard.
5. Expose them to the FRO and where their families can follow 2/4.

The program begins at graduation from the School of Infantry or other entry-level training. 2/4 makes every attempt to be involved in the transition from MOS school to the battalion. At 2/4 our Marines and Sailors will receive classroom instruction from the following:

1. Battalion Sergeant Major: Welcome aboard, introduction, and summary of the Magnificent Bastards Welcome Aboard Program.
2. Intelligence Officer: Intelligence (threats to Marines and Corpsmen and their career, such as common issues that lead to misconduct).
3. Substance Abuse Officer: How and where to get help if you or your battle buddy fail to adhere to the intelligence brief.
4. Operations Action Officer: History and Traditions of 2/4 and long range training plan.
5. Battalion Chaplain: Religious Services, Coping Skills, and Counseling.
6. Family Readiness Officer: Family Readiness.
7. Battalion Commander & Squad/Section Leaders Introduction.

Squad Leaders will show the new Marines and Sailors around the camp. One of the first stop is the Memorial Garden, where the Squad Leaders will explain to them the importance of their training and to not tarnish what 2/4 and 5th Marines has accomplished and sacrificed. The tour also includes the PX, Learning Center, armory, communications building, BAS, RAS, dental, obstacle course, gas chamber, LZ, mail building, regimental HQ, S-1, chow hall, supply, Single Marine Program, Subway, motor pool, all of the company barracks and offices, and the company bulletin boards. Finally, each Marine and Sailor will be ceremoniously presented his French Fourragere in a regimental ceremony.

This program will ensure all of our Marines and Sailors are greeted as brothers and professionals and are given the opportunity to succeed. It also demonstrates to our new Marines and Sailors the proper way to welcome and develop a fellow Magnificent Bastard. Cohesiveness will be built everyday through our brand name, training, PT, and accomplishing challenging goals together.



Mike F. Wilonsky
Commanding Officer
2d Battalion, 4th Marines