

Being a sailor I do not normally have many good things to say about Marines but, since they are part of My Navy I feel I should "give the devil his due" and say some good things about our Marines.

I was stationed on the USS North Hampton for about 30 months. On the "Norton" we had a detachment of Marines and I got to know several of them on kind of a personal basis. Generally speaking I found them to be pretty much "regular guys" once you got past all the "Ohhhhhh Rahhhhaa" stuff. They seemed to be of average intelligence in that most of them could feed themselves with a fork without losing an eye. They could actually "walk" without marching in cadence and several of them had a vocabulary of several hundred words not counting "Kill, Kill, Kill or Semper Fi " or "Yes Sargent" and of course "United States Marine Corps". Their primary duty on the Norton was guarding stuff and they did a dynamite job of "guarding". The following Navy people had their own personal "guard" that followed them around on the Norton and guarded their door while they slept. Our captain and executive officer, the admiral, chief of staff and probably a couple of more high ranking Navy people. Each had their "Marine" with his knight stick, and unloaded 45 pistol. To my knowledge this was the most honored duty you could have as a Marine on the Norton and they were very "diligent" about this duty..... Never once did I see them lose one of our officers.

Further down the "chain of important stuff" was "gang way guard". This is a Marine that guards the access ramp up to the Norton. When we were in port there was always an "armed guard" guarding the "gangway" to the Norton and Never did I even hear of some one even attempting to steal our gangway. Of course this "gangway" weighed in at about a ton and it was usually in two or three sections and it took a crane to put it in place but no one ever took it.

Next down the latter of importance was probably "brig guard". This was a real treat for Marines because they could be in charge of sailors that had gone and got in trouble and got themselves tossed in the brig. They got to yell at sailors and make them chip paint and polish brass for punishment but they didnt realize that this is what some sailors do anyhow.

Probably lowest on the "important stuff" for a Marine was "chow line guard". I never did exactly figure out what the Marine chow line guard was exactly suppose to do but they must have done a good job of it because I never seen a chow line get stolen or lost.

Marines got to do fun stuff like shoot their weapons. They would fall out on the fantail and shoot at the ocean. Most of them did real good and they could hit the ocean about every time they fired their weapons. They was real proud when no one shot anyone in the foot or dropped their rifle over the side of the Norton. I really wanted to fire one of the weapons but they would not let me. They said "you aint no Marine sailor boy, so you aint qualified to shoot at the ocean".... I guess they figured I might miss the ocean.....

The Marine Corps is part of My Navy. A Marine will tell you that it is the "mens department" of the Navy and shout that "The Marine Corps Builds MEN" and we

kinda giggle and whisper that "the Navy recruits Men"..... Since the inception of the Marine corps it should be understood that there has been a "running argument" between Sailors and Marines. Each, in turn will make reference to the other with disparaging references. Sailors are ... "Stinkin Squids, Swab Jockies, Anchor Clankers, Deck Apes and Marine Corps Rejects" where as Marines are referred to as "Jar Heads, Leather Necks, Seagoing Bell Hops and "want to be Sailors". This is all in carrying on the legacy of the Navy and the Marine Corps. It has always been done and it will always be done so long as there is a Navy and a Marine Corps but remember this. In a street fight I will take a Marine watching my back in a heart beat. When you hear or read about a Sailor and a Marine arguing or discussing boldly any subject and it looks like they are having a difference of opinion and about to come to blows you are wrong. This is part of the tradition of the Navy and the Marine Corps and they each truly mean no harm or insult to the other. But understand this..... If a person deliberately (on purpose) picks on our Marines and us Sailors hear about it we will become (be) very distraught (mad) and take repercussions (action) against such perpetrators (bad folks) as necessary (done) because we need our Marines to guard our stuff..... note..... the words in parentheses (little roundie things) are for any Marine that may read this entry.....
