



Winds^ock

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ATC Marine leaves lasting impression

Renehan dies from wounds received while serving with MACS-2 in Iraq

LANCE CPL. CULLEN TIERNAN
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"He was the quintessential Marine; totally honest, totally dependable, and much more mature than his 21 years would have you believe. But his greatest personality trait was loyalty. Loyalty not just to his friends or family or work, but to everything he did. He always put himself second."

These heartfelt words were spoken by the Marines who knew and respected Cpl. Kyle J.

Renehan. Renehan died Dec. 9, in Kaiserslautern, Germany, from injuries suffered Nov. 29 during hostile action in Babil province, Iraq. He will be missed by everyone who has had the good fortune of knowing him.

Renehan didn't have to go Iraq, said Cpl. Brandon Strasler and Lance Cpl. Fred Foster, both air traffic controllers and who were good friends of Renehan. "He volunteered for it, and that is who he was, he volun-

teered for everything," said Strasler.

"He was always ready to help, always willing to take that extra step, always sacrificing his time and personal welfare for the good of others," said Foster.

Renehan was originally an H&HS Marine. He was temporarily assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron 2 when he volunteered for Iraq.

"He was a [junior Marine] with more maturity than some sergeants," said Gunnery Sgt.

Timothy Klinger, an Air Traffic Control chief who worked with Renehan. "Renehan was the kind of Marine you loved having work for you, he did no wrong. He was the most junior Marine to be tri-con, terminal radar approach control, rated at Cherry Point. Meaning, he was qualified on every position in the radar branch, one of only six first-term Marines to accomplish this feat in the past decade."

See RENEHAN Page A4



Cpl. Kyle Renehan worked on a .50 caliber gun aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge while assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

A4 - December 16, 2004

WINDSOCK

RENEHAN from page A1

Renehan was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal not only for being tri-con rated, but in credit of all the hard work he did.

He was meritoriously promoted lance corporal at his military occupationally specialty school.

"As an outstanding leader, mentor and trainer of Marine, Renehan was a superior air traffic controller," said Klinger.

"He distinguished himself time and time again by winning multiple ATC and Operation's Boards and a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Marine of the Quarter board."

Renehan picture still hangs at H&HS S1 shop, in honor of the kind of person he was.

"He's one of the stellar Marines," said Staff Sgt. Terry Flanary, an ATC chief who

worked closely with Renehan. "He was the best of the best of the Marines I've ever seen. I could count on him as a pillar of leadership on everything we accomplished. He excelled in everything he did. He was a good Christian and he was never afraid to show his courage."

The sense from all Marines who knew Renehan is that his death is a tremendous loss to the Marine Corps and to its future leadership.

Renehan was serving on the front lines of ATC. He was the tip of the spear, doing his job out in the field.

It still doesn't seem real, agreed Klinger, Foster and Strasler. "This is a shock to our entire community," said Klinger. "It shows the seriousness of our jobs as Marines."

Renehan is the first ATC Marine to die in combat since Vietnam. The sense of devastation of this great loss is being felt by everyone who knew him.

"He had one of those magnetic personalities," said Strasler. "We weren't roommates, but we might as well have been."

"He will be missed by everyone he was in contact with," said Foster. "He was the kind of person who volunteered all the time."

Renehan made weekly visits to a nursing home in Havelock, volunteered at the local elementary school, and worked as a member of the Station Burial Detail.

"They say sometimes people get awards without deserving them," said Strasler. "Renehan

was not one of these people. When he got awards you honestly felt 'that's all they're giving him?'"

Renehan leaves behind a legacy of excellence. He was a role model and a natural leader.

"You would see Renehan doing something good and it would be contagious," said Strasler. "He kept you motivated. There was something about him that you just can't forget."

A memorial service will be held Monday at 2 pm in the Station Chapel. Uniform is Service Alpha.