

## MARINE PAOs KILLED IN IRAQ

USMCCCA, Wildwood, Fla. (Dec. 13) -- For the first time since Vietnam, the Marine Corps public affairs family has lost an officer -- two of them -- in a combat zone. Maj. Megan McClung was killed on Dec. 6 when the U.S. Army hummvee she was riding in struck an improvised explosive device in Ramadi, Iraq. Maj. Trane McCloud was killed on Dec. 3 in a helicopter crash in the country's Anbar Province.

Both Defense Information School graduates will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery: Maj. McCloud on Friday Dec. 15 and Maj. McClung on Tuesday Dec. 19.

"We miss (Major McClung) tremendously," Lt. Col. Bryan Salas, public affairs officer of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. "She was an advocate for the press in Iraq and had a reputation of being tough but fair with the journalists with whom she worked."

Salas noted that John "Doc" Church, a Reserve lieutenant colonel serving in theater as a civil affairs detachment commander, "officially saw Megan off on the 'Heroes Flight'" that brought her remains home to America.

Col. Dave Lapan, Deputy Director of Marine Corps Public Affairs, said that HQMC had received "numerous e-mails attesting to (Megan's) dedication, professionalism and winning personality" and that "many members of the media have stopped by or called to express their sympathies over her death."

Stateside, McClung had been Col. Jenny Holbert's deputy at Marine Forces Command in Norfolk. Nearing the end of her Iraq tour with I MEF, the Naval Academy alumnus and champion triathlete had volunteered for duty in Ramadi with the Army's 1st Brigade.

Maj. Trane McCloud was a mustanger who served on the USS Missouri during Desert Storm and in Somalia. He had "lat-moved" into public affairs in the mid-1990s and was again posted as an infantry officer at the time of his death.

Assigned to the Naval Media Center following his DINFOS training, fellow staff members in Anacostia remembered his "ready smile and winning attitude."

In Iraq, the former high school football star was serving as XO for the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. "He shaped and molded a lot of kids into Marine officers," friend R.J. "Mac" McDougall told the Washington Post, referring to McCloud's tour as an instructor at Officer Candidate School. "A lot of them are over there in Iraq, and they're doing well because of Trane."

In lieu of flowers, CCs wishing to honor Maj. McClung are asked to donate to the Wounded Marines Fund (address below). Please include "IHO Maj. Megan McClung" on the check's memo line.

The Wounded Marines Fund  
(attn: Marines Helping Marines)  
Marine Corps League Foundation  
P.O. Box 3070  
Merrifield, VA 22116-3070

The McCloud Family Fund has been established to assist Maj. Trane McCloud's children (Hayden, 7, Grace, 5, and Meghan, 2). Those who would like to participate should make their checks payable to Margaret McCloud and mail to:

The McCloud Family Fund  
Barnes and Sherry Financial  
703 Main Street  
Port Jefferson, NY 11777