

EAGLE, GLOBE & ANCHOR



USMC NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Marine Week 2012 Will
Rock Cleveland, OH

Veterans Treatment
Courts Help Repair Lives

USMC Fields Non-Lethal
"Heat Ray" Weapon



Relentless

Marine with one lung leads
on third deployment

By Sgt. James Mercure

PHOTO BY SGT. L. A. WILSON/DVIDS

If someone saw how fierce Sgt. Phil Farmer is during a firefight, they would never guess he has only one fully functioning lung. Sgt. Farmer, a 30-year-old Matawan, NJ, native, is a squad leader with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1/8 Marines, and on his third combat deployment. On his second deployment, his observation post in Ramadi, Iraq, was struck by a suicide bomber driving a dump truck laden with explosives and chemicals that formed a noxious cloud after the explosion. A complex ambush ensued. "We didn't stop fighting for another three and a half hours. It was chaos," he says. **Continued on page 14**



Relentless

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Sgt. Phil Farmer, a squad leader, with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Co., 1/8 Marines, shakes hands with an Afghan child during a patrol 5 March. Farmer, a Matawan, NJ, native has only one fully functioning lung as the result of a 2006 chemical explosion from a suicide bomber in Ramadi, Iraq.

Two weeks later, Sgt. Farmer coughed up blood, but felt fine afterward and pushed on with his deployment. Back in the States, a doctor who examined him “said my lung had essentially sealed off like a burnt cigarette wrapper during the deployment,” he recalls. “My only real concern throughout the whole

“My only real concern throughout the whole process was being able to still serve as a Marine.” —Sgt, Phil Farmer

process was being able to still serve as a Marine.”

He now has symptoms of bronchial inflammation disease and must use an inhaler from time to time. But the Marines he serves with wouldn't have known about the issue if he had not told them.

“After he was injured in Iraq, you would think that would make

someone take it easy, but Sgt. Farmer hasn't stopped, he hasn't slowed down, and he refuses to quit his Marines or himself,” said SSgt. Adam York, Platoon Sergeant for 3rd Platoon.

“It's his ability to lead from the front that sets him apart. For example, if his squad finds a suspected improvised

explosive device, he verifies the find instead of sending one of his junior Marines,” SSgt. York said.

Sgt. Farmer credits his training as a Marine. “It's the Marine mindset that allows you to conquer anything. The stories I read about Marine amputees still deploying or winning marathons motivates me, and if they can do it, I have no excuse not to keep moving forward.”

Marine Week 2012

The fourth annual Marine Week will rock Cleveland, OH, the nation's Rock and Roll Capital, 11–17 June. Attendees will be able to climb aboard a variety of aircraft and ground equipment at static displays throughout downtown. They also can watch martial arts demonstrations and engage in clinics with USMC sports teams, while taking in the sights and sounds of the Silent Drill Platoon and Marine Corps Band. Marines will lend a hand to dozens of community service projects. Your Marine Corps League will again sponsor a night at the ballpark (see ticket form in this issue). The week ends with a simulated full-scale combat demonstration, as the Marines highlight the unique capabilities they use to fight our country's battles in the air, on land and at sea. For Marine Week information, visit www.Marines.mil/MarineWeek. Event schedule and locations TBA. Follow Marine Week on Twitter (@USMC #MarineWeek) or become a fan on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Marines](https://www.facebook.com/Marines).

Scam Alert

Beware solicitations from a group called Veterans Support Organization. VSO often solicits at malls, large stores, and even traffic islands. They claim to be raising money for veterans, but they do not provide any meaningful service. They have been the target of numerous media investigations.

VSO sometimes makes minimal donations to local groups in an effort to cloud the issue. DO NOT accept donations of from them. Before accepting donations from any unknown group, research them online or ask your state's attorney general's office or the appropriate regulating agency in your state.

These sham organizations make it more difficult for legitimate groups to raise funds for programs that truly benefit disabled veterans and their families.

If you run across VSO representatives, contact the store manager and ask that they be removed. Inform the local media and ask them to follow up.

—Arthur H. Wilson, National Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans