

While speaking to my twin brother today I was reminded about a story that I would like to share with the CGC brethren.

During the year 2000 I attended a business seminar sponsored by a Federal Agency that I was employed by at the Newport Naval Base in Newport, RI. During a lull in the proceedings I took some time to wander over to the Marine Barracks across the parade ground just down from the Admirals House. I walked into the lobby of the barracks and was approached by a young Marine at the desk who inquired if he could help me. I said yes and that I was just visiting the area, and remarked that my old "rack" was up on the second deck. He became real interested and he quickly gathered a crowd of battle dressed young Marines to hear from an old salt, stories about when I was a member of the Marie Barracks Presidential Security team that stood watches around the Admirals house, This when we accompanied President Eisenhower, while he was at the war college. and for purposes associated with "golf" at nearby Quonset Point. After some time and after much winding of tails at the base in the past, I was asked what did the naval base look like back in the 50's. I replied that there were a few less buildings. A young Marine blurted out, was it like the photograph that was hanging on the lobby wall. I turned to see a photo of a Civil War era Marine standing at a guard box on the Naval Base in 1863. realizing that I was had, I said that it looked familiar which brought a roar of laughter from the assembled Marines. Just prior to leaving I said that it was a pleasure for me to be in their company and said "Semper Fidelis". With that the Gunnery Sergeant in the group called everyone to attention (as I left) while shouting there is a Marine on deck. They all replied with a loud "OORah"! It goes without saying that my goose bumps had bumps, and as I walked back to my meeting I believe I was off the deck a few inches. Just thought you guys would like to know.

Semper Fidelis

James Sottile CGC 1956-7