

## **II. THE FAMILY**

*To The Marine's Family...*

In prior wars, combat injured Marines were reunited with family, on average, 45 days after injury. Today, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Marines are reunited with family and loved ones within 8-10 days.

Rain or shine the mission of the Marines at Bethesda is to be at the airport when your family arrives, transport them to the hospital, orient them and provide all their logistics. A nervous wife awaiting her Marine in surgery needs anything at all... and the Marines of Bethesda are up on deck to discover the need and deliver. We execute in fine Marine Corp fashion to serve the emotional effects by providing whatever we have at our disposal from our lobby office and warehouse. Or to personally deliver, make introduction, or escort the family to the appropriate social workers, case workers, Red Cross volunteer, Navy Marine Corps Relief representative, or Veterans Affairs worker. As we work with you, we help bridge the transition to where you are going next: be it the Tampa VA, Walter Reed, or other department of defense facilities.

Future decisions are made and as you are bedside with your family. We try our best to present every asset which may make your best decisions possible. The families mix and meet other families—all work to include your new family to the network of donated gear, donated chow, and visitors. You begin to marvel and awe at the Mothers and families operating similarly to the lance corporals network. *From Out-Patient status to In-Patient status and their parent commands—the entire way thru our office provides the missing links in the chain.*