



— FROM THE NEW SURGEON GENERAL —



Dr. Vito Rao

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly appointed Surgeon General for Second Marine Division Association. I look forward to a rewarding experience in serving with other national staff members in the best interest of our membership.

Over the past 20-25 years I have gained considerable professional experience in assisting Marines from past and current wars to identify their rights, entitlements and benefits provided by the Veterans Administration (VA). Today, many Marines returning from deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from severe physical trauma, such as traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). Additionally, they have returned with severe physical (amputations) and functional impairment. I look forward to rendering my professional experience to those members who may require medical assistance, such as recommendations regarding eligibility for VA benefits in relation to service-connected compensation. In my mind the mission objective is to maximize their vocational and avocational functions. This will allow them to return to independent living and productive lifestyles.

I know there are many programs in existence to assist our veterans. They often are fraught with unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. As your Surgeon General, I welcome the opportunity to assist our members take advantage of the organizations designed to offer better health. I look forward to working with you.



Dr. Vito Rao