



# Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery

*Nick Popaditch, Mike Steere*

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FINALIST FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHY / MEMOIRS, 2009, THE INDIE BOOK AWARDS

WINNER, 2009, MILITARY-WRITERS BOOK OF THE YEAR

May 6, 1986: Nick Popaditch arrives at the Receiving Barracks, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California.

April 9, 2003: An AP photographer captures a striking image seen around the world of the Gunny Sergeant smoking a victory cigar in his tank, the haunting statue of Saddam Hussein hovering in the background. Popaditch is immortalized forever as "The Cigar Marine."

April 6, 2004: The tanker fights heroically in the battle for Fallujah and suffers grievous head wounds that leave him legally blind and partially deaf. The USMC awards him with a Silver Star for his valor and combat innovation.

April 18, 2004: "Gunny Pop" comes home to face the toughest fight of his life—a battle to remain the man and Marine he was. This is the central drama of Nick's inspiring memoir, *Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery*.

Readers in and out of the military will stand up and cheer for this valiant Marine's Marine, a man who embodies everything noble and proud in the Corps' long tradition. Never has modern mechanized combat seemed so immediate and real, or the fight in Iraq seemed so human and worth believing in.

At first, Nick fights to get back to where he was in Iraq—in the cupola of an M1A1 main battle tank, leading Marines in combat at the point of the spear. As the seriousness and permanence of his disabilities become more evident, Nick fights to remain in the Corps in any capacity, to help the brothers in arms he so aches to rejoin. Facing the inevitable following a medical retirement, he battles for rightful recognition and compensation for his permanent disabilities. Throughout his harrowing ordeal, Nick fights to maintain his honor and loyalty, waging all these battles the same way—the Marine way—because anything less would be a betrayal of all he holds dear.

The real triumph in *Once a Marine* is its previously untold, behind-the-scenes tale of the day-to-day life of a career Marine noncommissioned staff officer. In most books and movies, a "Gunny" is little more than a cardboard character. Nick's portrayal is a man complete: a husband and father, as well as a warrior and a molder of young warriors. He reveals himself completely, something no memoirist in his position has ever done before. This includes our very personal introduction to his wife April, whose heroics in the story equal Nick's, together with dozens of others who, as Sgt. Popaditch writes, gave so much, so selflessly and freely, to him. Like the man himself, *Once a Marine* is full of gratitude and refreshingly free of false bravado and braggadocio.

All Americans, of all political persuasions, have a duty to meet this courageous and admirable fighting man, an exemplar of all our military men and women who give so much out of love for their nation. Meeting Gunny Sergeant Popaditch through the pages of his inspirational memoir offers up new reasons to be proud and shoulder our own responsibilities as Americans.

Now in paperback, *Once a Marine* will instantly take its place among outstanding combat classics. And once you read this remarkable and uplifting book, *The Marine's Hymn* will never sound the same.

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Reading a publication tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire all their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the books. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write for their book. One of them is this Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery.

#### **Stacia Cobb:**

Exactly why? Because this Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

#### **Sharon Scott:**

This Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery is completely new way for you who has attention to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having bit of digest in reading this Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery can be the light food in your case because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books produce itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there is not any in reading a book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for anyone. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book style for your better life in addition to knowledge.

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personal skill of reading skill is developing when you like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the opinion about book and looking at especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to available a book and study it. Beside that the guide Once a Marine: An Iraq War Tank Commander's Inspirational Memoir of Combat, Courage, and Recovery can to be your brand-new friend when you're feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of these time.

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