

OCTOBER 2014

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

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**Outcall With the  
35th CMC**


**Plus: What Matters  
Most to the  
Corps' First Lady**




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**COVER:** Gen James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, with Mrs. Bonnie Amos at the Home of the Commandants, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., before the Evening Parade on Aug. 22, 2014. Photo by Sgt Gabriela Garcia. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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# Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an e-mail to: r.keene@mca-marines.org. Due to the heavy volume, we cannot answer every letter received. Do not send original photographs, as we cannot guarantee their return. All letters must be signed, and e-mails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

## Letter of the Month

*(Leatherneck will pay \$25 for a "Sound Off Letter of the Month" submitted by an MCA&F member or provide a one-year courtesy subscription to a non-member whose letter is selected.)*

I have been a Marine Corps wife for close to 18 years, and we've had 18 years' worth of *Leatherneck* magazines roll through our home. The August cover gave me goose bumps and moved me to tears at the mailbox. Corporal William K. Carpenter—what a fine example of an American hero! I am always proud to be an American and a Marine wife, but this made my heart swell with pride that spills over. All I can think of when I look at the cover is "he's one of our Marine Corps family."

I've never met a more dedicated and diverse group of people than I have being affiliated with Marines. Marines are the first to fight and also the first to save each other's hides and be humble about it. I wouldn't want to imagine what my life would be like if I weren't surrounded by Marines all these years. Knowing them has made me a better person and American.

Monica Starr-Arthur  
Jacksonville, Fla.

## No, You Can't Wear Medals and Shooting Badges on the Same Uniform

What are the regulations as to when and where shooting medals are worn?

In the July issue, there's a picture of Gunnery Sergeant Richard A. Jibson after he received the Navy Cross. He and the Marines behind him are all wearing ribbons, but no shooting medals. Even the cover of that issue shows a Marine in dress blues wearing his medals, but no shooting medals.

I separated in 1959, which was 55 years ago. I still wish I could put on my uniform and stand at attention to salute the colors and a passing officer and all the other million things that wearing the uniform allowed me to do.

I would like to share a memory fresh in my mind as if it happened yesterday. We were standing inspection for the battalion

commanding officer. When he got to me, he stopped, looked me up and down, then moved on.

He was about two Marines past me when he stopped, looked back at me, and said: "You are a good-looking Marine, Corporal."

In all the years since, nothing has ever meant as much to me as the words of that colonel.

Art Smalley  
Virginia Beach, Va.

• *We have to answer this question every once in a while. According to Chapter 5 of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board [Marine Corps Uniform Regulations], Paragraph 5501: "Marksmanship badges will not be worn with the evening dress, blue dress 'A,' blue-white dress 'A,' utility, and camouflage maternity work uniforms. Commanders may [or may not] prescribe marksmanship badges for wear on all other uniforms. Unless otherwise prescribed by the commander, wearing marksmanship badges is at the option of the individual."*

*And, Art, please note, they are called "marksmanship badges" and not "shooting medals." There is a difference between medals and badges. Thanks for your fine service to our Corps. We all wish we could relive some of those days back in the Corps.—Sound Off Ed.*

## National Defense Service Medal: The Little Medal That Inspires So Many Questions

Here's another of those confusing medals and decorations questions.

It is my understanding that the service era for the Vietnam War goes from Feb. 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975.

I was in the Navy Reserve from 1959 to 1965. In 1969, I joined the Marine Corps for two years and served a tour in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971. We received the National Defense Service Medal upon graduation from boot camp.

Does active-duty service in two different branches of the Armed Forces during the same era rate two awards of

the National Defense Service Medal, or is the award only for each service era no matter what?

Sgt Frank W. DeFina  
M/3/1, 1stMarDiv, RVN, 1970-71  
Shasta Lake, Calif.

• *No, that medal is awarded for federal service in the Armed Forces for specific periods of time. You rate the medal for having served in the period of 1961 to 1974. The fact that you served in two branches of the service is not a criteria, nor are the dates of the Vietnam War.—Sound Off Ed.*

## Next CMC's Dad Was a "Top Cop"

After reading that General Joseph "Fightin' Joe" Dunford Jr. will be our new Commandant of the Marine Corps, I realized that I was very fortunate.

As a Boston uniformed police officer assigned to Station 11, Dorchester, Mass., my night patrol supervisor was Sergeant Joseph Dunford Sr. Sgt Dunford was considered by the entire department as one of their "Top Cops"; there is no higher honor in law enforcement than to be called "Top Cop." He became one of my mentors during my career on the force as we both were Marine veterans and part of the Marine brotherhood.

During one of our conversations, the sergeant mentioned he had a son going into the Marine Corps. Little did I know, years later, Sgt Joe Dunford's son would become a general and the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps. I feel very proud to have worked under his father's supervision. The dad was elevated to deputy superintendent by the police commissioner and well respected by all. I wish both father and son continued success.

Cpl John Messia Jr.  
USMC, 1950-54  
Retired Detective  
Brockton, Mass.

• *Gen Dunford earned the nickname "Fightin' Joe" while deployed to Iraq, where he led Regimental Combat Team 5 during the initial invasion.*



Yes, Gen Dunford is part of a family tradition of public service. A June article, "5 Things You (Probably) Didn't Know About Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr." by Marine Corps News, states: "He has served 37 years in the Corps and comes from a family devoted to service. His father is a retired Boston police officer and Marine who fought at Frozen Chosin [Reservoir]. His grandfather served in World War I. His mother's four brothers served in World War II. 'You graduated from South Boston High, and you went into the Marine Corps,' Dunford's father said."—Sound Off Ed.

### The "Infamous" 1963 Exercise Dull Knife

David Marr's well-written article about the 1st Marine Brigade's 1963 Exercise Dull Knife in the August issue motivated me to dig out my Marine Corps scrapbook. In early July of that year, I reported to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe on the windward side of Oahu. I was fresh out of The Basic School and was assigned to Company B, 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion during Exercise Dull Knife. My platoon was attached to 2d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment during Exercise Dull Knife.

The brigade's junior officers from those years have held well-attended reunions four times since 1998 and will gather next spring for the 50th anniversary of our May 7, 1965, landing at Chu Lai during Operation Starlite.

Quite a number of us have remained close friends, and Exercise Dull Knife often has been a part of our reminiscing. As such, it is pretty universally referred to as an "infamous" exercise. I would venture to say that much of David Marr's detailed description of the exercise has long been forgotten by most of us. What remains vivid, however, are two things: Molokai's red soil and dust, which saturated our uniforms and got into everything, and the disastrous landing that appeared on the front page of a Honolulu newspaper.

While no one was hurt seriously, the sight of our "Papa" boats overturning and breaking up in the surf that morning has remained with us.

Lynn I. Terry  
Sedona, Ariz.


• The Honolulu Advertiser reported that seven Marines and sailors were injured Sept. 30, 1963, as the first assault waves of the exercise ran into pounding surf at Papohaku Beach. Fifteen of 21 small landing craft were demolished. Marine UH-34 helicopters provided quick response along with fellow Marines and sailors who waded into the surf to provide assistance.—Sound Off Ed.

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### At Iwo Jima With the Chaplain's Assistant

I am a 90-year-old Iwo Jima survivor and eyewitness to the flag raising. I was a D-day invader and one of the last to leave the island. I received no commendations or medals; luckily, I was not wounded, but I was there.

I joined the Marines in 1944 and after boot camp was assigned to a machine-gun platoon and sent to Camp Pendleton, Calif., for intensive training. During that time my girlfriend sent me an upsetting "Dear John" letter.

I asked to see the regimental chaplain who, it was rumored, would give someone in my saddened situation a chit that would solve all my problems. He was away, so I ended up at the office of the division chaplain. After a lengthy interview, this officer totally surprised me by saying he wanted me as his assistant to be by his side when we went into combat. So, I was

transferred to Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, Fifth Marine Division as assistant to Commander Warren F. Cuthriell, USN, Division Chaplain. Since "every Marine is a rifleman," I was assigned line duty with a replacement company.

On Iwo, I went ashore with the chaplain and, after the second day, was sent up on the line to the 28th Regiment as a combat replacement. For about eight days I carried ammunition and took the place of whoever was killed or wounded, including the .30-caliber machine-gunner. By that time the graves registration people had cleared off a plot for the 5thMarDiv cemetery, and I was called back to be with the chaplain. For the rest of the time, I assisted with the processing and burial of the dead and also worked with the corpsmen in helping the wounded.

That chaplain and the other chaplains



# Leatherneck

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Phone: toll-free (866) 622-1775

E-mail: mca@mca-marines.org

## LEATHERNECK AND MCA&F MEMBERSHIP PRICES

1 year \$35; 2 years \$64; 3 years \$89

Leatherneck also is available in digital format at [www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck).

All overseas and foreign addresses add \$16 postage for each year's membership except APO and FPO military addresses. Periodicals postage paid at Quantico, Va., USPS #308-080, and additional mailing offices.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please send your new address six weeks before the date of issue with which it is to take effect, if possible. Include old address with new, enclosing your address label if convenient. Mail to: *Leatherneck Magazine*, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:

*Leatherneck Magazine*, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.



*Leatherneck* (ISSN 0023-981X) is published monthly by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, Bldg. #715, MCB, Quantico, VA 22134. Copyright 2014 by MCA&F.

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COURTESY OF BILL QUINTON

## Platoon 244's "Outstanding Man" Bill Quinton and Drill Instructor N. R. French still friends 48 years later.

I observed were absolutely fearless in getting to the side of a wounded man who was often in an open line of fire. I accompanied them as they carried no weapons. They gave unbelievable service and were awesome.

For some 50 years after Iwo Jima, like many survivors, I did not talk about the war. I found, however, that the younger generation knew nothing about the sacrifice our generation paid to keep the liberties they enjoy. So I have spoken out as occasion has permitted. I tell them about a flag, a replica of which still flies over Mount Suribachi, and the thousands of young men who died to put it there. Sometimes I weep. Not many eyewitnesses are left. I hope we are not soon forgotten.

Kenneth J. Brown  
Rexburg, Idaho

of him. He graciously accepted this most personal of my memories from Parris Island, S.C.

MSgt N. R. French, USMC (Ret)  
Ocala, Fla.

• According to Bill Quinton, who lives in Greenville, S.C., MSgt French is a Korean War veteran and had two tours in Vietnam.—*Sound Off* Ed.

## "Drummed Out" and "Rocks and Shoals"

I enlisted in 1948. My first duty station was with the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. At the time, military justice was meted out under the old "Rocks and Shoals" Articles for the Government of the U.S. Navy.

I can recall two times where drumming out ceremonies were conducted, exactly as described in September's "Sound Off." The reading of the court-martial findings, the stripping of all rank and insignia, then calling the troops to attention and ordering "about face." The disgraced Marine was then marched to the back gate where he received the final indignity, a boot to his backside.

Once the Uniformed Code of Military Justice replaced the "Rocks and Shoals," the practice of drumming out dishonorable or bad conduct discharged Marines came to a halt. I remember being read the new UCMJ on a reverse slope of a hill while in Korea; most likely that was in 1951. I'm pretty sure of that year because in 1950, just before going to Korea with the division, I had office hours under the Rocks and Shoals, and my commanding officer could have awarded a Deck Court-

## The Drill Instructor and His "Outstanding Man"

After graduation on Sept. 15, 1965, meritoriously promoted Private First Class William G. "Bill" Quinton Jr., "Outstanding Man," Platoon 244, and Marines from his platoon presented me with the "Platoon 244 Beer Stein."

Drill instructors are strictly forbidden to accept gifts from recruits. However, because it was presented to me by the "Outstanding Man," I decided to break regulations and accept it. I have treasured this memento for the past 48 years. Bill and I have remained close friends and have visited each other many times.

Because of our long and treasured friendship, I asked Bill if he would like the "244 Stein" as a token of our friendship and as a way of showing how proud I am



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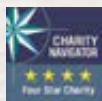
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Martial for my offense. Instead, at the sergeant major's suggestion, I received five days of bread and water and solitary confinement in the Pendleton brig.

In 1965, I would return to that building as a combat correspondent with the Joint Information Service Office. My old cell was being used for storage, and I passed by it each day and always remembered my brief stint as a "brig rat."

GySgt John R. Boring, USMC (Ret)  
Phoenix

*Editor's note: "Gunny" Boring also remembers a salty young PFC in his press section at Camp Pendleton named Renaldo Keene who went on to retire as a master gunnery sergeant and has served as Leatherneck's "Sound Off" editor for 17 years.*

Reading the "Sound Off" about being drummed out of the Corps reminded me of the time at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., where I witnessed one of these.

Third Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, circa 1955 or 1956, was formed up in a square. Major Gerald P. Averill, Executive Officer, read the dishonorable discharge aloud to the entire formation, then gave the command, "about face," and ordered the discharged man to be marched to the main gate and released. I don't remember exactly how far 6th Marines' area was from the main gate, but it was one long walk.

I was a sergeant back then in charge of a 60 mm mortar section in Company H. The event has stayed in my memory all these years and definitely made an impression upon me.

1stSgt James L. Langford, USMC (Ret)  
Carlsbad, Calif.

I was a new private first class back in 1964 and a member of Security Battalion, First Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

We had a Marine drummed out. No drum, but the rest of it was done in front of the battalion: chevrons and buttons were torn off his uniform. He was put in a jeep and taken to the gate and dropped off. That was the first and last one I ever witnessed.

Gary N. Hammett  
Vietnam veteran  
Manchester, Md.

## **Last Comments on Those Little Red Books of Knowledge**

I was issued the little red book (red plastic cover with "The Silent D.I." in gold on the outside) and still have it. It's copyrighted 1958.



I went through MCRD in Platoon 378, and in the book are my copious notes on all aspects of our training from the daily routine for recruits to Mechanical Training, M1 rifle (serial number 2558451), Pay and Allowances, Close Order Drill, and Defense Against Atomic Attack.

It also includes the chain of command at that time, from President Eisenhower and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Randolph McCall Pate, down to my three drill instructors, acting Staff Sergeant Hicks, acting Sergeant Powers and acting Sgt Walsh (who sadly was KIA in Vietnam). The small three-ring book has 18 chapters in the index.

Steve Singleton  
Walla Walla, Wash.

• On the other hand, Sgt Peter P. Joulis of South San Francisco said in 1955 the only books he had were his rifle dope book and "Guidebook for Marines." Believe it or not, things change and come and go in our Corps.—Sound Off Ed.

### Likewise, Last Comments on the Barstow Mounted Color Guard

I was noncommissioned officer in charge of the stables at Marine Corps Base Barstow, Calif., from 1964 to 1965. During that time we took part in several parades. We represented MCB Barstow, although we never were officially designated as a mounted color guard by Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

There were four of us at the stables. If you were single, you lived above the stable office. We were required to stand a uniform inspection every Monday. The inspection usually was conducted by someone from the commanding general's staff.

MGySgt Harold L. Gee, USMC (Ret)  
Mesa, Ariz.

### Honors for an Old Staff Sergeant From Secretary of the Navy And the Commandant

I was honored on April 3 to be included in the Old Glory Honor Flight from my home in Appleton, Wis., to Washington, D.C. It is an all-volunteer operation wherein veterans are flown free to visit the World War II Memorial and all the service memorials. It was the most elevating and humbling experience one could ever have.

While in D.C., I met my congressman, Rep. Reid J. Ribble. I told him I was a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. He invited me to return to D.C. and attend an Evening Parade at Marine Barracks with him. After returning home, I made arrangements for a visit on May 30, the opening night of the 2014 parade season. After checking with the congressman's office, we were D.C. bound.

Upon arriving we were given a private tour of the Capitol from the basement to the dome. Rep. Ribble's knowledge of the artists, sculptors and other historical facts was unbelievable.

Upon completion of the tour, we were treated to the absolute dream of every Marine. We were driven to 8th and I streets and parked directly in front of the home of the Commandant, General James F. Amos. A young captain identified himself as the assigned escort for my wife. We were escorted up the walk and up the steps where we were greeted and made welcome by Gen and Mrs. Amos as well as the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, and his wife, Lynne. Their welcome was warm and generous.

As we entered the Home of the Commandants, we were met and welcomed by other officers as well as several former Commandants. We were invited to tour the entire house from the first to the third floors. What a beautiful home it is!

I had the pleasure and privilege of visiting with more high-ranking officers than I had seen in my eight years in the Corps. Later, we all adjourned to the Evening Parade. Not only were we treated to the precision and professionalism of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, we were enthralled by the Silent Drill Platoon's display of precision and dexterity.

At age 82, I always have been most proud of having been a Marine. However, never have I felt the pride and joy and the honor as much as I did on May 30. I was deeply humbled by the honors given to an old staff sergeant by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, his wife and all the guests at his home. Even as I write this, I am brushing back a tear at the memories. Semper Fi to all Marines.

Former SSgt Art Snell  
Appleton, Wis.

### Editorial Irish Pennants

The photo on page 28 of the September 2014 issue misidentifies Landing Vehicle Tracked, or LVT-4s, as Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel, known as "Higgins Boats," or LCVPs.

Don Harris, the story's subject, did point out that the "Water Buffalo IV" landing craft or LVT-4 identified in the Saipan 1944 photo is actually a variant of that vehicle. The LVT's designer, Donald Roebling Jr., called his civilian design an "Alligator." Harris said he also misidentified a vehicle, calling the LCPR (Landing Craft Personnel Ramp) a DUKW, colloquially known as "Duck."

[continued on page 65]

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# In Every Clime and Place

Edited by  
R. R. Keene



## ■ MARAMBAIA ISLAND, BRAZIL Learning and Teaching With Brazilian Marines

The Logistics Combat Element (LCE) of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–South departed the new amphibious assault ship *USS America* (LHA-6) Aug. 4 for a theater security cooperation event at Marambaia Island, Brazil.

The event consisted of bilateral training on combat marksmanship, improvised explosive device (IED) detection, medical treatment and combat tracking.

U.S. and Brazilian Marines conducted combat marksmanship practice for two days. Although the U.S. and Brazilian Marines share many fundamental practices, it was clear that many of their tactics have been tailored to meet their specific missions.

“A lot of their [Brazilian Marines’] shooting techniques and styles have been adapted for the *favelas* [urban areas] and jungle, whereas we are more focused on Iraq- and Afghanistan-type engagements,” said First Lieutenant Lamontie James, the LCE executive officer.

The island provided a perfect setting for the two forces to conduct an IED detection exchange. Simulated IEDs were planted on a road, where each group demonstrated their own detection and disposal tactics.

“We showed them different ways of patrolling using a v-sweep,” said U.S. Marine Corporal Christopher Cordero



**A Brazilian sailor provides care for a simulated casualty during the practical application portion of a bilateral medical exchange at Marambaia Island, Brazil, Aug. 6. The exchange was held as part of a theater security cooperation event with the LCE of SPMAGTF-South.**

Vega, a combat engineer. “They were very enthusiastic about everything we showed them because they were techniques from Iraq and Afghanistan, things they haven’t seen before.”

Everyone participated in combat tracking since it is relevant to IED detection. In combat tracking, personnel are taught

to identify changes in their environment to assist in locating a potential hazard.

“You have three different types of tracking: micro, macro and tactical,” said Cpl Jake Steinbuch, optics chief, who said both groups of Marines demonstrated how to determine size, activity, location and movement of potential enemy in an area.



The combat tracking exchange provided both groups with the fundamentals needed to improve their situational awareness in operational environments.

Navy corpsmen from both nations also shared their best practices at the event. The exchange consisted of mass casualty events, hemorrhage control and advanced airway resuscitation.

“Medical practice is an international language that everybody speaks,” said U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman First Class Clarence Perry, SPMAGTF–South. “We learned from them that if they don’t have the materials, they ... improvise and use their environment to take care of a patient. Sometimes thinking outside the box is the simplest form to fix a patient and save a life.”

The training concluded with a practical application where both Marine forces demonstrated their newly acquired skills on simulated patients and scenarios.

The Brazilians hosted a barbeque for the Americans at the conclusion of the security cooperation event prior to the Marines departing for the remainder of their voyage around South America.

“We brought to the table the best that America has to offer, and Brazil did the same,” said Gunnery Sergeant Steven Superville, the LCE operations chief. “The whole experience is one that I will never forget.”

The Marines of SPMAGTF–South are embarked in USS *America* on her maiden transit, “*America* visits the Americas.”

Cpl Donald Holbert

Combat Correspondent, I MEF

## ■ KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF.

### Miramar Team Battles Wildfires

The Miramar Fire Department, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., sent a team to assist with fighting wildfires in the Klamath National Forest, July 30.

Multiple fires ignited from lightning strikes during a storm that occurred July 28-30. A reported 1,235 downed strikes were recorded during the storm, almost 70 of which caused fires. All but six of the fires initially were contained. The uncontained fires were within the July Complex Fires, Beaver Fire and Little Deer Fires, explained Kerry Greene, public affairs officer with the Klamath National Forest.

The Miramar crew worked with the Klamath Lightning Complex to help fight the Little Deer Fire on the border of California and Oregon.

“We are really appreciative of their support,” said Greene.

Miramar sent a four-man team: company officer, driver, firefighter and para-



COURTESY OF MIRAMAR FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Above:** Brush trucks with the Miramar and Cleveland National Forest fire departments are staged for action in the Klamath National Forest, Aug. 5. Miramar Fire Department joined with other fire departments to help extinguish wildfires.



COURTESY OF MIRAMAR FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Left:** A crew with the Miramar Fire Department douses wildfires. The fire department honors mutual aid agreements several times a year.

through have created a lot of fires due to lightning activity.”

The Miramar team provided support as part of mutual aid agreements with the National Forest and area municipalities.

“We honor those agreements more than a dozen times a year by lending a hand and by lending resources,” said Allen.

Mutual aid agreements provide agencies with a reciprocal support arrangement, allowing for a cost-effective agreement to provide aid to an organization in a time of need.

Cpl Michelle Piehl  
PAO, MCAS Miramar, Calif.

## ■ CHERRY POINT, N.C.

### East Coast Harrier Squadrons Refine Air-to-Air Capabilities

Pilots and crews from several Second Marine Aircraft Wing squadrons, including Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 223, conducted a live-fire air-to-air missile exercise off the coast of Virginia on Aug. 7. During the exercise, a naval aviator with the squadron fired an AIM-120A advanced medium-range air-to-air missile, engaging and destroying an ADM-141 tactical air-launched decoy.

The exercise was a first among East Coast Marine attack squadrons. VMA-223’s naval aviators fly the AV-8B Harrier, which is designed to support Marine ground operations with precision air-to-surface attack capabilities. The air-to-air missile exercise highlighted VMA-223’s multi-



SGT TIMOTHY T. PARISH

faceted role in support of the Marine air-ground task force.

"Attack pilots frequently train to and will always remain proficient in air-to-ground combat," said Captain Matthew C. Forman, a Harrier pilot and operations officer with the squadron. "However, by working air-to-air flights into our training plans, we increase our confidence in the jet, enhance our ability to make quick decisions and increase our overall capability as an attack squadron."

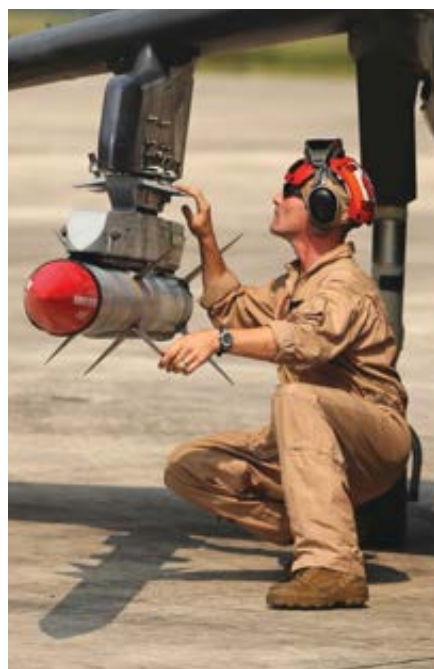
The exercise, which took a month of planning and coordination between VMA-223 and other 2d MAW and U.S. Navy squadrons, was designed to help the squadron prepare for possible future operations in support of II Marine Expeditionary Force or Special Purpose MAGTFs, according to Forman.

"VMA-223 is primarily an attack squadron tasked to prosecute targets on the ground," he said. "However, all Marine units seek self-reliance to the maximum extent practical. Refining our air-to-air capability allows us to better support Marines on the ground by ensuring air superiority."

Harrier squadrons from across the Corps have deployed routinely in support of MAGTF operations from Navy ships and in the skies above Iraq and Afghanistan since overseas contingency operations began in 2001. While AV-8B pilots and

**Above: Capt Andrew R. Christ, in the cockpit of an AV-8B Harrier, performs preflight safety checks with LCpl Ryan E. Stanley at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Aug. 7. VMA-223 conducted the first East Coast Harrier squadron AIM-120A advanced medium-range air-to-air missile firing exercise off the coast of Naval Air Station Oceana, Va.**

**Below: GySgt Robert J. McElmurry does his preflight safety check of an AIM-120A missile.**



SGT TIMOTHY T. PARISH

ground crews usually train to maximize their interoperability with MAGTF ground elements, squadrons must continue to hone their skills for possible air-to-air engagements as the Marine Corps continues to shift its focus from landlocked contingencies to sea-to-land force projection, according to Lieutenant Colonel Roger T. McDuffie, the squadron's commanding officer.

"VMA-223 performs four of the six Marine Corps air functions, more than any other platform in the wing," said McDuffie. "AV-8Bs perform anti-aircraft warfare, offensive air-support, electronic warfare and armed reconnaissance."

A primary mission of the AV-8B and Harrier squadrons is to provide sea-based air support for Marines around the globe. According to McDuffie, the AIM-120A is an example of just one weapon VMA-223 can bring to a fight.

"The ability for the Marine Corps to self-escort assault aircraft into hostile territories to support missions like non-combatant evacuation operations or embassy reinforcement from expeditionary vessels strengthens the MAGTF's overall capabilities," said McDuffie. "Live-fire training better simulates a combat environment and enables us to better train like we will fight."

Sgt Timothy T. Parish  
PAO, MCA Cherry Point, N.C.



## ■ CHERRY POINT, N.C.

### VMR-1 Teams With Coast Guard To Hone Rescue Skills Over Water

Airmen with Marine Transport Squadron (VMR) 1 supported a casualty evacuation drill outside of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard central security forces July 30.

VMR-1 assisted Coast Guard Station Hobucken, N.C., to simulate recovering an individual from the water. VMR-1 provided an HH-46E Sea Knight helicopter and a rescue swimmer, allowing both the squadron and the Coast Guard an opportunity to hone their search-and-rescue skills, said Captain Hung Nguyen, a search-and-rescue pilot with VMR-1. "It's good exposure for the VMR-1 Marines."

VMR-1's primary mission is to provide search-and-rescue support to Cherry Point-based aircraft. However, the squadron also provides support to organizations outside the air station, including the Coast Guard.

The training is necessary to ensure that the Marines of VMR-1 are ready to respond to a rescue at a moment's notice, according to Sergeant Zachary Wood, a rescue swimmer with VMR-1.

"We conduct rescues all the time, and we never know when or where we are going to do them," said Wood. "This type of training directly applies to us because if it's over a river, in a forest ..., we'll be there."

During such operations, it is imperative that every Marine is on the same page and provides input on the situation, said Wood.

"We brief everything we know to each other because communication is key," said



CPL JOSHUA MURRAY

**Leathernecks with 1/4, 1stMarDiv conduct notional field medical care during a Special Operations Training Group raid at Camp Pendleton, Aug. 5. Field medical care is an essential part of caring for injured Marines on the battlefield in a deployed environment.**

Wood. "Everyone knows everyone's job and mission during these exercises. If something happens, we are all ready to react."

Cpl Victor A. Arriaga  
PAO, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

## ■ CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.

### Mastering the Tactical Combat Raid: Training for Success

Marines with Special Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force organized a tactical combat raid Aug. 5 with members of 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment.

Special Operations Training Group

organizes raids and training events for Marine units on a regular basis to prepare them for deployments.

Master Sergeant Ryan Nuwall, SOTG operations chief, designed the training to hone raid skills and refresh procedures for calling for support-by-fire.

"This is some of the most important training that we can give to a unit before they deploy," said Nuwall. "The ability to successfully search for and eliminate enemy combatants during a raid, while sustaining minimal casualties, is the essence of what we do."

Leathernecks from 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1stMarDiv supported the



CPL VICTOR A. ARRIAGA

**Sgt Zachary Wood, rescue swimmer, is hoisted by a crew member with VMR-1 into an HH-46E Sea Knight helicopter after assisting central security forces out of Coast Guard Station Hobucken, N.C., during a casualty evacuation drill July 30.**



CPL VICTOR A. ARRIAGA

**Cpl Tyler McNair, crew chief, hoists a mannequin "victim" out of the water during a casualty evacuation drill, July 30, in the waters off of MCAS Cherry Point.**



exercise by transporting troops in amphibious assault vehicles to and from their primary positions.

The Marines then utilized squad tactics to assault an enemy hideout while receiving covering fire from automatic weapons.

Corporal Daniel Kitchens, a rifleman with 1/4, said the training ensured that the battalion is the best fighting force it can be. "Working with SOTG to conduct this raid has been a great opportunity for us. These guys are real veterans of the field and really have helped us with understanding the different raid methods and seeing how a raid is organized."

The exercise incorporated field-medical care by designating Marines to act as casualties, making it necessary for their comrades to notionally provide care and call in for evacuations.

"We try to throw as many curveballs at these guys as we can during the raid," said Nuvill. "That way we can give them the best training ... possible, and we know when they go into a real raid while deployed, they will be ready to respond quickly to any scenario that comes along."

While it's SOTG that organizes the raid training, the Marines going through the exercise determine its success.

"The Marines out here who lay down suppressing fire, run to the objective and complete the mission without any hesitation are the reason we are so successful on the battlefield," said MSgt Nuvill.

"These Marines know their jobs very well, and I couldn't be happier with how quickly and effectively they responded during the training."

LCpl Joshua Murray

Combat Correspondent, I MEF

## ■ ALBANY, GA.

### Amphibious Forces? Not if the Marines Can't Swim

Navigating the seas as an amphibious force has long been a critical role for the Marine Corps, so Marines must know how to swim. Annual swim qualification training is a requirement to ensure Marines acquire and maintain this critical skill.

Units within Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., sent 98 Marines into the base pool to complete their annual swim qualification requirements on July 28.

All of them qualified with 72 earning the Water Survival-Basic qualification and 26 receiving the Water Survival-Intermediate qualification. Leathernecks who qualified at the basic qualification must requalify in two years, while those who obtained an intermediate qualification will have to requalify in three years.

Sergeant Bryan Kampa, with Contracting Department, Marine Corps Logistics Command, was one of two Marines to complete the screening test for Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival. "A lot of Marines do not like to do swim qualification because of what they hear about the school. Arguably, depending on who

you talk to, it is one of the hardest schools in the Marine Corps because there are not many Marines who like swimming."

Kampa said he was advised by Marine Corps Instructor of Water Survival instructors to attend the MCIWS course in Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"We do not have [swim] instructors on base [in Albany], and I ... wanted something in my record [to be more competitive]," he said. "It [would] save the base from having to spend money to bring the instructors down here and do a swim qualification all week if you have guys on base who can come out and do this."

Gunnery Sergeants Michel Bissell and Timothy Hopkins, both swim instructors with Water Survival Section, Support Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., conducted the training.

"The purpose of the swim qualification is to ensure Marines are able to survive in the water," Bissell said. "We work to reduce fear of the water and enable their capabilities to where if they fell off a ship, they would be able to survive. We are not trying to make everyone Olympians, just give them the basics to survive."

Everyone needs to be able to swim because the cliché answer is that Marines are amphibious by nature, and it is true, according to Bissell.

He noted that Marines never know what type of environment they could be in at any given time. Marines may have to cross lakes or rivers or deploy with a Marine expeditionary unit, he said.

"In order to get to the big boat, you have to take a smaller boat, and sometimes the smaller boats may not make it," Bissell said.

Just as every Marine is a rifleman, every Marine needs to learn how to swim, Hopkins said. It's important to teach Marines how to survive in the water.

"Gunny" Bissell shared a story of a Marine in his company who almost drowned during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2009.

"A squad was tasked to cross the Helmand River in Afghanistan," Bissell said. "When they were crossing, the point man hit a deep spot and he was not able to come back up, but he was able to get his gear off, and the squad leader grabbed him and [pulled] him [to safety]."

"If he had not been able to take his gear off, that Marine would have died," Bissell said, adding that this is why it is imperative for Marines to know how to react in a timely manner when they are in the water.

Nathan L. Hanks Jr.  
PAO, MCLB Albany, Ga.



NATHAN L. HANKS JR.

**Marines use their packs as flotation devices during the annual swim qualification at the base pool, MCLB Albany, July 28-Aug. 1.**



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# Marines and Mentors: Planning for the Transition

By Charles N. Swope

**T**he hallmark of our Corps' elite status as "America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness" is the ability to execute our nation's most critical operations with rapid precision. Our competence is facilitated through two preliminary pillars: viable intelligence and reconnaissance. Through mentorship, transitioning Marines are discovering that these same principles are applicable to obtaining their desired civilian lifestyle and achieving career goals.

As we continue to see the effects of a diminishing defense budget, thousands of Marines will fight to transition successfully into a civilian role. Despite being well-equipped with valuable technical

management position within a multinational organization. I went from leading operations behind enemy lines to managing an intense department of operations associates at a fulfillment center. In part, my successful transition was made possible through my mentor's generous contribution in developing and preparing me for reintegration into the civilian population.

In June 2013, I entered into my seventh year of service and faced two possible options: reenlist for another four years or pursue a career in the civilian sector. After much prayer and deliberation with my wife, we began preparing our family to start a new life. While searching the Internet for potential careers and clues on how to become successful, I ran across a powerful quote from an ancient Chinese

for the first time. Therefore, it was natural for me to see that in order to successfully land on my feet, I needed viable intelligence from a reliable source in the civilian population.

The Marine Corps generously supported my transition by providing me with free career-search material, employment counselors and a transition readiness seminar. While attending the latter, an instructor emphasized the importance of reaching out to someone who currently had the position into which you want to transition. However, having spent my entire adult life in the Marine Corps, I was having a difficult time translating my skills and identifying a career field where I could be passionately engaged. Clearly, I was in need of someone with experience to guide me in the right direction.

## Successful Mentorship

Feeling uninformed, unprepared and overwhelmed, I sought help from the 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, American Corporate Partners. ACP is "dedicated to assisting [U.S.] veterans in their transition from the armed services to the civilian workforce." Members of the organization's advisory council include General David H. Petraeus, USA (Ret) and Gen John R. Allen, USMC (Ret). Boeing, Goldman Sachs, Disney, Harvard University and more than 50 other leading organizations are part of ACP's list of participating institutions, each of whom provide employees as mentors.

Within a week of enrolling in ACP's free mentoring program, I was paired with a top-tier executive at Boeing: Wm Thor Kissman. He offered the ability to design a structured framework tailored to my specific transition and future career goals. Using his experience as an executive at Boeing, a former CEO of a consulting firm and former U.S. Army staff sergeant, he provided significant insight into corporate America and how to achieve my objectives. Committing to a one-year mentorship, Kissman was absolutely determined to assist me in identifying the perfect civilian career and easing the transition.

We spoke on the phone regularly, at least twice a month. I filled our early conversations with a barrage of questions to which he typically would respond with a simple answer from direct experience.

Among other questions, I asked: "How



COURTESY OF CHARLES N. SWOPE

**Charles "Nate" Swope, area manager of zulily.com, leads a department of operations associates at zulily's fulfillment center in Reno, Nev. Swope transitioned from 1st Reconnaissance Battalion to the civilian business sector in May 2014 with the help of his mentor Wm Thor Kissman.**

and leadership abilities, many still will find their transitions to be stressful and intimidating. Through mentorships, however, Marines can develop transition plans supplemented with accurate information and execute them until settled in their next stage of life.

## Do I Need a Mentor?

Earlier this year, I successfully transitioned from my role as a recon Marine with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion to a

general. In "The Art of War," Sun Tzu writes, "Thus, what enables the wise sovereign and the general to strike and conquer, and achieve things beyond the reach of ordinary men, is foreknowledge."

Having conducted numerous combat missions, I knew that a critical success factor is the accuracy of information leading up to the operation's execution. Further, I always consulted Marines from other teams and units who already had been to a particular area before inserting there





COURTESY OF CHARLES N. SWOPE

**Recon Marines from “Charlie” Company, 1st Recon Bn, First Marine Division conduct operations in Sangin, Afghanistan, 2010. Sgt Charles N. Swope transitioned successfully from leading operations behind enemy lines to leading operations in a fulfillment center.**

will employers perceive my combat experience?” “What does Marine reconnaissance translate into?” And, most importantly, “What can I do in the interim to improve my chances at successfully landing the career of my dreams?” To the latter, he responded, “Figure out what the career of your dreams looks like!”

One of the first things Kissman recommended to me was to conduct research and find out what I truly enjoyed doing. I loved being a recon Marine and possessed a strong background in leadership, policy and military operations, and my favorite graduate-level course was statistics. However, that information alone wasn’t nearly enough on which to base a life decision. To enhance my “self discovery,” Kissman suggested that I take a variety of tests including the StrengthsFinder 2.0 assessment which revealed my top five natural traits in order: competition, futuristic, achiever, learner and ideation.

Other sources revealed that I was classified by “extraverted thinking with introverted intuition,” or ENTJ, and suggested high-intensity careers in management, entrepreneurship, team building and business administration. Finally, we narrowed my options down to management roles in five different areas: distribution, operations, production, logistics and supply chain. The next step in the process was to start connecting with other professionals.

I quickly learned that reaching out to individuals whom you have never met is very challenging and somewhat intimidat-

ing. However, Kissman insisted that networking was an essential task in gaining the information and help I needed to achieve my goals. He introduced me to two of his close friends who are Marine veterans, Jason Frei of Boeing and Doug Hamlin of the National Rifle Association. They helped me understand the importance of networking and reaching out to organizations and professionals. With five months still left until my separation date, I experienced my first phone interview.

During the next five months, I spoke with dozens of professionals and representatives from some of the largest organizations in the nation. As I flew across the country interviewing for prestigious programs and positions, my mentor coached me before and debriefed me after each one. A few weeks before taking terminal leave, I flew to Reno, Nev., to interview for a management position at a relatively new startup.

I would be expected to lead a large team of operations associates in a very intense department within one of the organization’s fulfillment centers—a combination of all the options I was seeking. The fact that the company was still entrepreneurial and growing more than 100 percent year after year was also exciting. Further, there was a solid commitment to hiring veterans, and they already had brought several on board.

Since I knew exactly what I wanted, I could decide quickly that this organization and position would be a seamless transi-

tion. With Kissman’s valuable insight and my meticulous planning and reconnaissance, I didn’t even have to spend a moment in contemplation when I received the offer letter three days later. Today, my family and I are living happily in Reno and are ready to face life’s new challenges as civilians. Even as I continue on in civilian life, my mentor has continued to give me insight into what those challenges may be and how to overcome them.

### **Civilian Transition Through Mentorship**

Ben Renda, director of operations and head of global scaled services at YouTube.com, stated, “Reaching out on your own and networking is absolutely crucial to developing your military-to-civilian transition plan.” While deployed to Naples, Italy, with Strike Force NATO in 2005 as a U.S. Navy officer, Renda began planning his departure from the military into the business sector. “I knew I would need an MBA [Master of Business Administration] to reach my career goals,” he said, “but I was also very interested in public policy. So, I sought the advice of a former Marine who managed to accomplish both after his transition.”

By the end of that year, Renda was dual enrolled in MBA and MPP (Master of Public Policy) programs at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth and the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. As Renda approached graduation, he once again reached out to other



COURTESY OF KEN BRENNAN



COURTESY OF JOE KUEPPER

**Above left:** Joe Kuepper, chief executive officer of GreyFall Training, transitioned from the Marine Corps in 2011 to launch his startup in Boulder, Colo. Kuepper, a student at Colorado State University and former recon Marine, says that “networking with other veterans, professionals and professors is critical to a Marine’s transition and the success of any business venture.”

**Above right:** Ken Brennan, direct sales closer for 1st Light Energy, dives with his mentor off the coast of La Jolla, Calif., Jan. 14, 2014. Brennan, a native of San Diego, transitioned from 1st Recon Bn earlier this year and currently is leading sales for his department in New Jersey.

veterans, eventually connecting with someone with whom he attended Navy flight school nearly 15 years prior. The former pilot helped Renda transition into Google where he currently leads a global team for YouTube. Given how successful mentorship has been for him, he finds himself “mentoring direct reports and people under them on a daily basis.”

Joe Kuepper, founder and chief executive officer of GreyFall Training, believes that “the individual who transitions on his own usually finds it to be a very difficult process.” Kuepper served with 1st Recon Bn and left the military to launch his own startup in 2011. The combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient sought advice from other veterans and professors at his university who successfully had started organizations similar to his. GreyFall Training has grown tremendously as a result of Kuepper’s ambition and supportive network of advisers.

SSgt Kyle White, EKMS manager at 1st Recon Bn, plans to transition into the civilian business sector with the help of his mentor, John Rall of Wells Fargo. “John has helped me tremendously in realizing my strengths, weaknesses and what I am truly passionate about. From his insight, I am currently identifying what I need to accomplish in order to achieve my long-term career goals.” Also paired through ACP, White and Rall meet at least once a month to discuss résumé techniques, interviewing skills, networking opportunities and his plans for reintegration.

Earlier this year, Marine veteran Ken Brennan transitioned from the Marine Corps with the help of a seasoned executive and chief financial officer of a marketing company. While stationed in Southern California, Brennan and his mentor regularly met for scuba diving off the coast

of La Jolla to discuss his military transition plan, career objectives and passions.

“Ultimately,” Brennan explained, “my mentor helped me see beyond what I did in the military and identify natural talents that I didn’t even know I had.” Brennan currently is leading sales for his organization in New Jersey and is thankful that his new lifestyle is “far more abundant and successful than I ever could have imagined.”

### Benefits of Having a Protégé

The relationship between mentors and protégés is mutually beneficial. Providing advice and mentorship to transitioning Marines advances the mentors’ professional growth as well as that of their organizations. In addition to refining their coaching and leadership skills by developing inexperienced individuals, senior veterans can identify areas for improvement within their own performances and lives.

In May, I graduated from Northeastern University with an MBA following a long pursuit before, during and after combat missions in Afghanistan. Since then, I have mentored a number of other service members as they achieved their educational goals in the same way I did. Aside from the personal satisfaction I receive from helping someone, I also find mentoring a great way to expand my network and motivate myself to achieve more.

In addition to a mentor’s own personal and professional development, an organization can reap the benefits of a successful mentorship as well. In the words of my mentor, Thor Kissman, “Military leadership, in the U.S. NCO [noncommissioned officer] corps, drives home the need to train and develop troops (warfighters) to become the next leaders.” Thus, providing mentorship to prospective mem-

bers of one’s own organization can impact retention and succession. By developing and retaining your own employees, you also eliminate the costs associated with relocating and training new hires.

Kissman recalled numerous times in his own career when he sought out and received guidance, perspective and assistance that helped him advance. “I feel a duty and obligation to return that knowledge to the next generation seeking to excel in their professional pursuits,” he said.

Most importantly, he emphasized the significance of contributing to the community through effective leadership that inspires others to realize their potential. “My values drive me to succeed not only in my professional life, but also with my family and my community,” he said. “The ACP-sponsored mentorship with Sergeant Swope allowed me to contribute outside of work and my family by helping a highly motivated person realize his dreams.”

ACP mentors and protégés work on a variety of different professional development topics, including career exploration, translation of military skills, résumé and interview preparation, considering education and training opportunities and job-search skills. For more information on ACP, mentorship and transitioning, visit [www.acp-usa.org](http://www.acp-usa.org).

*Author’s bio: Charles N. Swope is an area manager with zulily.com. He is a Marine veteran who served with 1st Recon Bn. He transitioned into the civilian sector in May 2014 and has an MBA from Northeastern University and a B.S. in management from the University of Phoenix. He also served as an infantry rifleman with 2d Bn, 8th Marines and deployed three times to Iraq and Afghanistan.*





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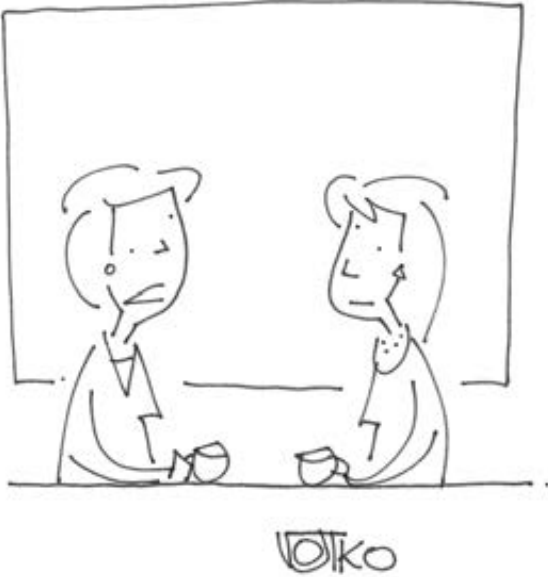
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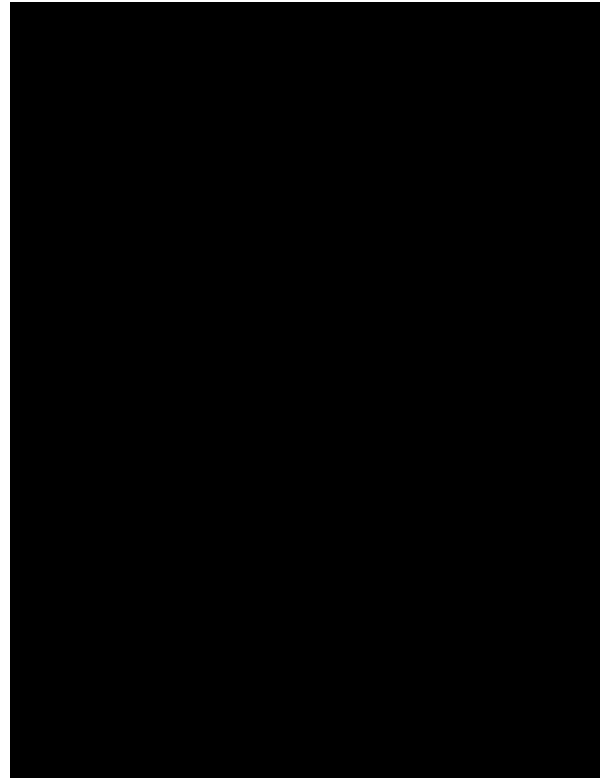
"All that yellin' bright and early this morning got my day off to a lousy start. I'm gonna suggest to the guy with the stripes that we get up to our own alarms."

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"Just how long have you been out here?"

# "Full-Throttle" Marine

BGen George Bartlett Still Having the Time of His Life Connecting With Veterans, Flying in Restored Warbird



BGen Bartlett is pictured here in front of Panchito, a restored B-25 Mitchell bomber. During WW II, Bartlett was a navigator-bombardier flying missions in the PBJ-1, which is the naval aviation version of the B-25.



**T**he twin engines grumbled and growled as the 20,000-pound war-bird climbed above the Neuse River over Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. More than 110,000 spectators watched in awe as the silver B-25 bomber banked and soared at the May 2014 air show.

But this particular flight was a milestone that cut to the core for one veteran on board: 89-year-old Brigadier General George L. Bartlett, USMC (Ret). The flight marked the anniversary of when he left MCAS Cherry Point in 1944 in a bomber to fight in World War II. Seventy years later, he made the symbolic return flight “home.”

“It’s always fun to be in the B-25 because it’s a plane that brings out the best in you,” BGen Bartlett said. “I was very proud to fly in it during World War II.”

The three-war combat veteran grew up in a small mining town in Idaho. He was a senior in high school when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. After that, “Everybody tried to get in the military to serve their country,” he said. Bartlett enlisted in the Marine Corps as soon as he could on Feb. 15, 1943.

“I thought of the Marines as the elite service; they were the best, and I just always wanted to be one.”

After boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Bartlett was sent to aviation mechanic school in Jacksonville, Fla., where he graduated first in his class and was promoted meritoriously to corporal. He was assigned as a navigator-bombardier in Marine Bomber Squadron (VMB) 443 and trained at MCAS Cherry



**BGen George Bartlett, USMC (Ret) and MajGen Robert F. “Fuzzy” Hedelund, Commanding General, Second Marine Aircraft Wing, trade sea stories at the MCAS Cherry Point air show in May 2014.**

Point. The Marine Corps had acquired the PBJ-1 patrol bomber, known in the U.S. Army Air Forces as the North American B-25 Mitchell. A twin-engine aircraft capable of carrying a 3,000-pound bomb load, it also had 13 machine guns, seven of which fired forward. A crew of six or seven manned the aircraft.

“It was the noisiest plane we had in WW II, and it was fun,” he said. “One day you’re in high school, and next thing you know, you’re having the time of your life flying and making a contribution to the war effort.”

In the summer of 1944, VMB-443 deployed to the small island of Emirau in the Solomon Islands.

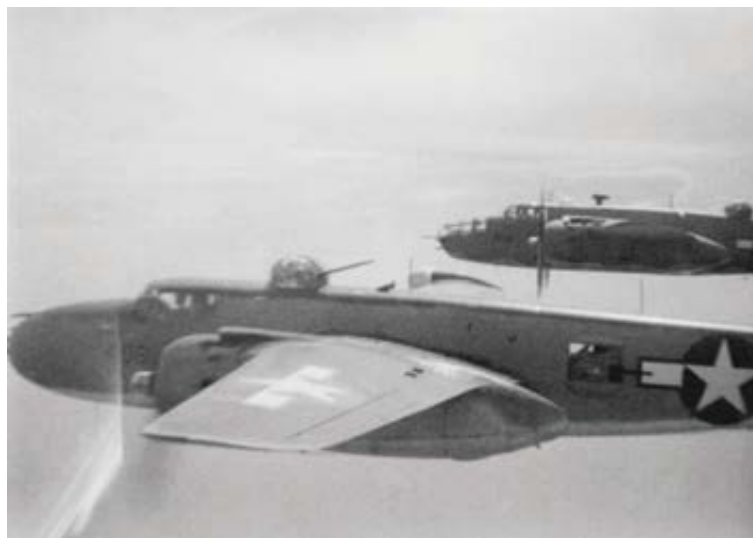
There was an aircraft group on Emirau, and five squadrons of PBJs were stationed there. Bartlett flew on a mission every three days. They would fly for two or three hours over water and bomb Japanese land-based facilities, usually at 12,000 feet or lower.

“We lost a lot of good crews,” he remembered.

Longtime friend Stu Allen, a technical sergeant who served with Bartlett during WW II, recalled, “He was a well-respected man throughout the squadron and was considered an ideal navigator-bombardier. He was sociable, energetic, friendly and a modest man. And he always found a good baseball field to play at.”



**Above left: SSgt George Bartlett uses the E-6B Dead Reckoning Computer, the main tool of navigators. The silver trinket on his cap was a memento from his three R & R trips to Sydney, Australia. “It was a dirty rotten job, but someone had to do it,” he recently said.**



**Above right: The PBJs flying in formation with both the J model (turret forward) and D model (turret aft). Of note, the APS-6 radar is on the right wing of the J model.**

The young Bartlett had a mischievous side too, said Jack Broome, another longtime friend. Broome was a master technical sergeant in VMB-443 with Bartlett, and whenever Broome needed someone for a job, Bartlett just happened to disappear.

“He was never in his tent. He would shinny up the tent pole above the parachute like an ape until I left, and then he would come down. I never even caught on to that,” Broome said. Bartlett divulged his tactic years later when the two were in college together.

Bartlett completed 75 missions before the war ended in September 1945. He then boarded a ship back to California and was home in time for Christmas.

He attained the grade of staff sergeant

before he was discharged from the Marine Corps in February 1946. Using the GI Bill, he attended the University of Oregon and earned his B.S. degree in architecture in 1951. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve in May 1951. He began The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., as a member of the 5th Special Basic Class, the first officers basic class to be based at Camp Onville, later named Camp Barrett, the following September. A unique class in many ways, every member of the 5th SBC had served as an enlisted Marine.

TBS was cut short because the new lieutenants were needed for the Korean War. Bartlett swiftly was sent to Air Controller School at MCAS Cherry Point and offered a regular commission. He de-

ployed to Korea in July 1952 with Marine Ground Control Intercept Squadron 1, First Marine Aircraft Wing. From there, he went on temporary additional duty to Detachment No. 2, 608th Aircraft and Warning Squadron, U.S. Air Force, on Cho Do, an island about five miles off the west coast of Korea and about 100 miles north of the 38th parallel. This secret mission off the coast of North Korea was a highlight of his career.

Returning to the United States in June 1953, First Lieutenant Bartlett served as an instructor at the Noncommissioned Officers School at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and was next transferred to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC), Washington, D.C., as a project officer. While in D.C., he attended night school and earned his M.A. in personnel management from George Washington University in 1956.

In 1957, he was assigned to the 4th Atomic Exercise Brigade where he went through several atomic bomb blasts at Desert Rock, Nev. After the blast, transport helicopters would fly in, and ground troops would maneuver through ground zero to learn how to identify radiation hot spots. He witnessed three atomic bomb blasts 4,000 meters from ground zero.

“You’re lying in a trench with a gas mask on and getting deeper into the trench when you hear the 10, 9, 8, 7,” BGen Bartlett said. “Then there is this magnificent flash and you feel like you can see your bones because there’s so much light like an X-ray. There’s a shock wave, a windstorm and the ground shakes, and it’s over in a matter of seconds. And then you see the fireball. It’s pretty awesome.”

Bartlett served two tours in Vietnam, once in 1965 and again in 1970. He was assigned to the Special Landing Force and conducted 15 landings in RVN during his first tour. On his second tour, he served as the G-1 for III Marine Amphibious Force when it was located in Vietnam and later when it was redeployed to Okinawa.

After Vietnam, he was stationed in Naples, Italy, for three years in the Logistics Division of AFSOUTH within NATO Headquarters. He participated in joint operations with the southern region countries who were training to defend the area in case of intrusion by the Soviet bloc.

Bartlett was promoted to brigadier general on July 3, 1975, while assigned to HQMC. He retired June 1, 1977.

But BGen Bartlett wasn’t done with the Marine Corps. He was selected to be the executive director of the Marine Corps Association from 1979 through 1989. The MCA was at a crossroads because active-duty Marines had recently been removed from the staff, said Colonel W.V.H. “Bill”

**SSgt Bartlett, far left, and fellow PBJ crewmembers in 1944: Sgt Charles Perry, second from left, served as tail gunner; and PFC Myron Bliss, second from right, was the radio waist gunner. The other Marines pictured were the turret gunner and second waist gunner.**



**As the squadron returned from each mission, the lead aircraft would break left and land on the right side of the coral airstrip with the following aircraft alternating sides of the runway. With a coral runway of only 300 feet by 7,500 feet and up to five squadrons requiring fuel at any given time, such a formation was a necessity.**



A former executive director of the Marine Corps Association, BGen Bartlett was a driving force behind the construction of the MCA's current headquarters. BGen Bartlett, right, and Col Frank W. Harris III, USMC (Ret), project engineer, attend the building's dedication on Nov. 10, 1986.

White, USMC (Ret), deputy to the executive director and later *Leatherneck* editor during BGen Bartlett's term.

"General Bartlett was a virtual dynamo in increasing the tempo of activity, developing new revenue streams, such as an enlarged printing function, increased membership, larger magazine circulation, and greater mail-order and walk-in sales at the bookstore, to name but a few," White said. "While doing all of this, he never lost sight of the absolute need for the association to do its best to enhance its support for the Corps, the membership, and all others of the Marine Corps family."

One of his major accomplishments was the construction of a permanent headquarters for the Marine Corps Association at MCB Quantico. When BGen Bartlett took over in 1979, the MCA headquarters was located in what is now Butler Hall (Building 1019), near Little Hall. But this headquarters couldn't house all of the MCA's activities. The new building,



dedicated on Nov. 10, 1986, by the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and the MCA president, Gen Thomas R. Morgan, is named Bartlett Hall in the former executive director's honor—the first building aboard a Marine Corps installation named for a living Marine.

"When he retired, General Bartlett left a strong and vibrant MCA ready in all respects to continue its service to the Marine Corps," White said.

"As director of the Marine Corps Association, I could affect the Marine Corps by helping the troops and having programs for them," said BGen Bartlett. "I could do things immediately that I wouldn't have been able to do on active duty."

After BGen Bartlett retired from the MCA, he started checking off his "bucket list" items. He visited the Galapagos Islands, Africa, China, Tibet and Scandinavian countries. He cycled 53 days across



BGen Bartlett and his Panchito crew gather after a day of flying at the MCAS Cherry Point air show in May 2014. The crew is part of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) aviation outreach program, which was developed to increase awareness of disabled veterans and to serve veterans nationwide.





**BGen Bartlett is interviewed in front of Panchito at an air show. When they aren't in the air, the twin-engine bomber's crew is on hand to talk to spectators about the aircraft's wartime mission.**

country from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco. He even returned to Australia to visit his old stomping grounds from his R & R trips during WW II. He says the only place on his list he has yet to visit is the South Pole.

"Travel is important for anybody because you learn a lot from it," he said.

On a return trip to Emirau Island, he saw that the airstrip and military buildings had given way to jungle and fields of wild coconut trees. From Emirau he took a flight touring the surrounding islands to see the land that he had bombed from the PBJ back in WW II.

Bartlett has been flying on the restored B-25, "Panchito," for 12 years and has participated in about 18 air shows including three at MCAS Cherry Point.

The silver bomber with red lettering is named after the feisty rooster from Disney's animated musical "The Three Caballeros." The bombs are covered with names of combat veterans who flew in WW II. The original Panchito was a bomber with the 396th Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, 7th Air Force, stationed in the Central Pacific.

When they're not flying at an air show, BGen Bartlett and the all-volunteer crew talk to the spectators about the history of the bomber in WW II.

Having a World War II combat veteran explaining the war and this unique aircraft is a rare and authentic gift, Panchito pilot Paul Nuwer said.

"Pure and simple, he was there. He lived it," said Nuwer. "People want to touch the past and hear his story. And he's an excellent storyteller."

Although the talks are educational, they also can be therapeutic for many of the veterans. Seeing an aircraft from a bygone era brings them back to their military days, Nuwer explained. It's often a time to reflect about memories they've stowed away for six decades.

"A veteran will come up very quietly, and Bartlett is the conduit to bring out their stories," Nuwer said. "Very often they don't even tell their families [about their combat experiences], and the families are dumbfounded. So that's what makes it worthwhile, because it's our heritage, and in a lot of cases these stories would be lost."

BGen Bartlett said he enjoys telling his war stories along with the little details that make it personal. For example, before every mission he would get a doughnut from Red Cross and bring a Coca-Cola bottle onto the plane. When they would get over enemy territory, the crew would drop their empty coke bottles down the flare chute to the ground—a little war contribution from a young Marine.

It was a time he remembers proudly in his lifelong dedication to the Marine Corps. And it's resurrected every time he flies in Panchito.

"How do you describe riding in the best airplane in the world? I'm proud and honored to be a member of the B-25 flight crew. I flew with fantastic people. I always felt it was something special," BGen Bartlett said.

*Author's bio: Roxanne Baker is a writer and media coordinator for MCA&F. A Marine wife, she is an experienced multimedia journalist with hundreds of published works.*





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**M1897 French 75 mm guns ("Soixante Quinze") represented artillery at the New Market reenactment. This weapon was the primary field gun of the American Expeditionary Forces during WW I.**





# Marines at the Battle of New Market—1923

By Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas  
USMC photos courtesy of the author

**I**n August 1923, a month prior to reenacting the Civil War Battle of New Market, Va., a 1,000-Marine brigade of the Marine Corps' East Coast Expeditionary Force, commanded by Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, rehearsed the reenactment at what was then known as Marine Barracks Quantico, Va., under the watchful eye of Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune and then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy, U.S. Army Reserve Colonel Theodore Roosevelt Jr., the former President's son and later hero of the 6 June 1944 Normandy landing in World War II.

The full brigade left Quantico on 28 Aug., and on the afternoon of 20 Sept., in concert with the Corps of Cadets from the Virginia Military Institute, located in Lexington, presented a reenactment of the third stage of the

**Cadets from the Virginia Military Institute participated in the reenactment, charging the "Union" lines alongside Marines. VMI cadets had played a critical role in the actual battle in 1864.**





**A DeHavilland DH-4 makes a mock attack on an observation balloon. As with other Civil War battle reenactments in the 1920s, Marine aviation was well-represented at New Market.**

battle to more than 150,000 spectators (including the governor of Virginia) on the original battle site.

The reenactment provided training for the brigade while also increasing publicity for the Marine Corps.

Of note, the Confederate commander

at the actual 1864 battle was MajGen John C. Breckinridge. His grandson, James C. Breckinridge, was commanding Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., at the time of the reenactment. Today Breckinridge Hall, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, is named for Marine officer James C. Breck-

inridge, who retired as a lieutenant general.

After the New Market reenactment, the Marine column marched south to Lexington and from there, back to Quantico. New Market was the third of four Civil War battle reenactments staged by the Marine Corps in the early 1920s. Following the 1924 reenactment of the Battle of Antietam, the program was shelved until it was revived in the 1930s.

*Author's bio: Ken Smith-Christmas served on the staff of the Marine Corps Museum for nearly 30 years and was the senior curator on the exhibits design-planning team for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. In 2010, he retired from the Project Office of the National Museum of the U.S. Army, where he had been the director of Exhibits and Collections.*



## The General's Last Thoughts

Major General Smedley Darlington Butler died of stomach cancer on 21 June 1940. After his burial, his family simply closed the general's bedroom door and left it exactly as it was. The room remained that way, through the lives of his widow and his son, Thomas Richard ("Tom Dick"), who continued to live in the house after MajGen Butler's death, until the next generation of the general's heirs inherited the property.

The estate's executrix, MajGen Butler's granddaughter, arranged to have the general's military collection and personal papers donated to the Marine Corps. The home itself—a fieldstone Pennsylvania Dutch farmhouse with the kitchen interior modernized in the Art Deco mode of the 1930s—was transferred to the local government.

During December 1998, the Marine Corps Museum's senior curator met with the family and inventoried the collection that

had been laid out in the living room and dining room of the house. Accompanied by another representative of the museum, he returned the following spring, and they began to pack the extensive collection and transport it to Quantico.

In conjunction with that effort, the local Marine Corps League Detachment sponsored a ceremony and get-together in the house over the weekend as a farewell to the collection. On the day before the farewell event, the two museum staff members opened the door to the upstairs bedroom and found the Spartan furnishings just as they had been left more than 50 years before.

A simple late 19th century iron-frame single bed (with a tattered regimental flag in the dust underneath), a dresser and a closet (with a uniform coat and a few civilian clothes hanging in it) accounted for most of the general's furniture and belongings in the room.

In the center of the room, however, was MajGen Butler's open field desk, with its top covered in the maps that he had used to plan the New Market reenactment. The reenactments of the 1920s must have held fond memories for the general, as they apparently were among his last thoughts before he was taken to the hospital where he died.

—Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

BGen Smedley D. Butler used this field desk during the reenactment. The desk later was found in his home near West Chester, Pa., covered in the maps he used to plan the march to and from New Market.



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# In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce

## Silver Star Posthumously Awarded To "Gunny" for Attack on Insurgents



Twenty-seven-year-old Gunnery Sergeant Daniel J. Price was no stranger to combat. The war on terrorism was what he knew. Having deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, he earned both a Bronze Star with combat "V" and a Purple Heart.

On July 29, he was awarded posthumously the Silver Star, as the final chapter in his 11-year career as a Marine.

GySgt Price enlisted in the Corps in 2003, and after graduating from the Corps' Basic Reconnaissance Course, he served as a member of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion prior to joining U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) in 2008.

Assigned to 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, MARSOC, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., GySgt Price was killed in action July 29, 2012, in Badghis province, Afghanistan. Another Marine, GySgt Jonathan W. Gifford, was killed on the same patrol.



GySgt Daniel J. Price

Gifford was awarded posthumously the Navy Cross on June 17, 2014 (see "In the Highest Tradition," September).

According to Price's citation: "After eliminating one insurgent firing from a window, [GySgt] Price scaled the compound wall and dropped a grenade down the

building's chimney to destroy the insurgents inside still firing on the commandos.

"He continued the attack against the determined insurgent force until he fell mortally wounded, but his actions proved decisive in breaking the insurgent defense."

Colonel Andrew Milburn, Commanding Officer, Marine Special Operations Regiment, presented the award to GySgt Price's family in his hometown of Holland, Mich.

"The Silver Star is given for conspicuous gallantry and valor. Gunnery Sergeant Price's actions were truly and extraordinarily heroic, and we are proud that his actions are honored and recognized. We will always be inspired by the actions of our fallen brothers and we will strive to operate at a level that honors them," said Captain Barry Morris, MARSOC public affairs officer. "Gunnery Sergeant Price's courage, dedication and sacrifice inspire us on a daily basis to help others, to cherish our freedom, and to try to make a positive difference in the world."

Compiled from Marine Corps and civilian media reports

## Personal Combat Awards

The awards records in the Marine Corps' Award Processing System (APS) and Improved Awards Processing System were used to populate this list, which reflects personal combat awards from the start of the global war on terrorism presented to Marines and sailors serving with U.S. Marine Corps forces only. This list may not reflect certain personal combat awards processed outside of either system and/or approved by another branch of service. Any questions on the content should be submitted in writing to the Personal Awards Section at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, MMMA-2, 2008 Elliott Rd., Quantico, VA 22134.

The following awards were announced in July:

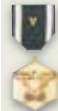


### Bronze Star With Combat "V"

**Capt Patrick E. Stewart**, 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion (MSOB), U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC)

**Sgt Daniel M. Vasselian**, 1st Bn, Ninth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division

**GySgt Ralph N. Waller**, 1st MSOB, MARSOC



### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

**GySgt Roy A. Cherry Jr.**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**1stLt Aaron A. Garbade**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt Calvin A. Hall**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt James T. Hamelin**, 1st Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv

**1stLt Matthew G. Hancock**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**HM1 Eric Morgan**, Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group (Forward), II MEF

**SSgt Galen J. Scott**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Cpl Stephen A. Tillman**, Special Operations Training Group, MHG, III MEF

**SSgt John F. Winnick II**, 2d MSOB, MARSOC



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## **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"**

**Cpl Ty S. Barrett**, 1st CEB,  
1stMarDiv

**Sgt Lawrence R. Borja**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**LCpl Dylan Brooks**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt Vincent N. Campochiaro**, 3/7,  
1stMarDiv

**Cpl Nathan J. Caskey**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt Brian W. Early**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Cpl Kevin A. Enochs**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Capt Daniel L. Evans**, MHG (Fwd),  
II MEF

**Sgt Joshua R. Garcia**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv

**Sgt James P. Germanio**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv

**1stLt Billy M. Grissom III**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Sgt Dereck L. Gunn**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Cpl Edward D. Gutierrez Jr.**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Sgt Tyler J. Hargett**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt Adam S. Harmon**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**1stLt Bradford A. Holden**, 1st CEB,  
1stMarDiv

**LCpl Alex T. Hunt**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**2dLt Steven J. Johnson**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt Bryan T. Jones**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**1stLt Michael S. Klem**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Cpl Charles A. Kristel**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt George T. Lear**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt Christopher J. Leonard**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Cpl Shawn P. Linton**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**1stLt Jeffrey P. Magnussen**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Sgt Austin J. Martin**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**LCpl Bryan D. Martincic**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**SSgt Jeffrey S. McCarty**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**1stLt Matthew R. Medina**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Cpl Justin T. Monk**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv  
**Capt James A. Nilan**, MHG (Fwd),  
II MEF

**1stLt Andrew M. Pappas**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Cpl Andrew M. Park**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Sgt Joshua D. Patterson**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**LCpl Richard A. Perry**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Cpl Adam M. Resseguie**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**LCpl Garrett S. Sickich**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**LCpl Cein R. Strange**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv

**Cpl Nicholas M. Sumpter**, 1/9,  
2dMarDiv

**Sgt Joshua S. Vanway**, 1/9, 2dMarDiv



# We—the Marines

Edited by Sara W. Bock

## MARSOC Officially Aligns With Marine Raiders

■ General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, released a proclamation Aug. 6 announcing that the Marines of U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) will adopt the name Marine Raiders.

During World War II, four Marine Raider battalions and two Raider regiments were formed and saw action in the Pacific theater between 1942 and 1944. Tasked with conducting amphibious raids and guerrilla operations behind enemy lines, the Raider battalions were the United States' first special operations units.

The Raiders went on to participate in campaigns across the Pacific and earned more than 700 decorations, including seven Medals of Honor, before being disbanded approximately two years later.

Although their existence was short-lived, they left a lasting impression. The Marine Raider battalions were the inspiration for what would become modern-day special operations. However, when MARSOC was established in 2003, the unit did not officially carry on the moniker.

While the command's official title will remain MARSOC, major subordinate

elements of the unit will reflag with the Raider name. For example, subordinate commands will reflag as Marine Raider Regiment, Marine Raider Support Group and Marine Raider Battalions. Use of the Marine Raider title has so far been informal, although MARSOC units have been linked to the Raiders since their establishment. Special operations Marines have used the Raider insignia in their unit emblems, and it has become a source of pride for the units.

"United States Marines take great pride in our special operations and irregular warfare heritage. ... From this point forward, the Marines of MARSOC will be officially aligned with the Marine Raiders of World War II and are charged with maintaining the high standards and traditions that accompany such distinction," said the proclamation from Gen Amos, which was read aloud during the unit's change-of-command ceremony at Stone Bay, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Major General Mark A. Clark, commanding general of MARSOC, welcomed the news as he turned over command of MARSOC to MajGen Joseph L. Osterman.

"We are proud and honored to adopt

the name Marine Raider, carrying on the rich heritage passed along to MARSOC by the Raiders of World War II," said MajGen Clark. "As with every Marine Corps unit, MARSOC desires a moniker that creates its own unique identity that is based on Marine Corps heritage, and enables Marines to trace the legacy of those Marines who served before them."

Although MARSOC draws upon the Raiders' heritage, the unit is a forward-looking organization focused on innovative and critical thinking—standing ready and prepared for modern-day and future conflicts, MajGen Clark added.

One reason for the new designation is that at recent Marine Raider reunions the remaining WW II Raiders have highlighted their strong desire for their legacy to be remembered and carried on by another Marine Corps unit.

"The Marine Raiders have chosen MARSOC to be the holder of their legacy," said MajGen Clark. "We feel we owe it to those Marine Raiders still living, and their families, to make every attempt to do so."

The Marine Raiders and MARSOC share the common experience of being a specialized unit—formed during a time of conflict and uniquely manned, trained and equipped to conduct special operations.

GySgt Josh Higgins

Combat Correspondent, MARSOC



CPL DONOVAN LEE

Marines conduct an exercise during the MARSOC Individual Training Course. Effective Aug. 6, the Marines of MARSOC officially adopted the name Marine Raiders, which draws from the heritage of the Marine Raiders of WW II.

## Yuma Combat Engineers Make Impact

■ Clouds of dirt sprinkled into the air and a thunderous explosion swept across the secluded training area of Yuma Proving Grounds, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., as multiple grenades detonated during a live-fire training exercise. Thirty combat engineers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 participated in the exercise, using M203 grenade launchers, M32 multiple grenade launchers and MK19 automatic grenade launchers.

"It was great Marine Corps training," said Staff Sergeant Brandon Wood, the operations chief with MWSS-371. "As Marines, we're always looking to improve. Especially as combat engineers, it's important that we know the tools and aspects of today's combat."

To ensure that the Marines were fully





CPL BRENDAN KING

**SSgt Brandon Wood, the operations chief for MWSS-371, 3d MAW, MCAS Yuma, Ariz., verifies targets as Cpl Benjamin Rodriguez fires an MK19 automatic grenade launcher at Yuma Proving Grounds, July 29. The combat engineers of MWSS-371 were able to practice firing multiple weapons systems during their live-fire training exercise.**

instructed in safety measures and proper handling methods, they began by firing dummy rounds that detonated into small bursts of smoke upon impact. Once the engineers were comfortable with their technique, they began firing High Explosive Dual Purpose rounds.

According to Wood, having multiple opportunities to work with the weapons systems paves the road for success in combat zones because decisions made in

combat originate from the fundamentals of the training.

“Every Marine should be trained with these weapons systems,” said Corporal Benjamin Rodriguez, a combat engineer with MWSS-371. “A lot of the Marines use these weapons at Marine Combat Training and then never see them again during their career.”

Cpl Brendan King  
PAO, MCAS Yuma, Ariz.

## Competitors Run to Honor Montford Point Marines

■ An M101A1 105 mm howitzer salute sent competitors racing on a muddy path and through underbrush during the second annual Montford Point Memorial Biathlon at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., July 25.

Marines with The Basic School partnered with Weapons Training Battalion, MCB Quantico, to host the event, designed to build camaraderie and teach Marines about the history of the Corps.

“It’s an event we do each year built on competition, teamwork and esprit de Corps, while highlighting the accomplishments of the Montford Point Marines,” said Colonel Todd Desgrosseilliers, Commanding Officer, The Basic School.

The event honored the legacy of the Montford Point Marines, who, during World War II, were the first African-Americans to serve in the Marine Corps. African-American Marines were trained separately at Montford Point, Jacksonville, N.C., known today as Camp Gilbert H. Johnson. President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which ended segregation in all of the uniformed services on July 26, 1948.

“The challenge I faced was being a black Marine,” said Gunnery Sergeant Richard H. Walker, USMC (Ret), who is one of the original Montford Point Marines. “Back then we couldn’t even go to Camp Lejeune unless we had a white Marine with us.”

During the biathlon, competitors ran approximately 3½ miles from the Mont-



ALAN BRIDSELL

**CIVIL WAR MARINE—Marine Corps League Melvin M. Smith Detachment #586, Spokane, Wash., dedicated a monument to Marine veteran George Murphy, an Irish immigrant who enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1862 and saw action at the Battle of Crystal River, Fla., during the Civil War. When the members of Det. #586 were alerted that Murphy was buried in Spokane—with no indication on his grave marker that he was a Marine or that he fought in the Civil War—they took it upon themselves to secure a proper tribute. Donated by Genesis Granite of Spokane, the monument was dedicated May 24. Pictured from left are John Witte; Barbara Brazington of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society; TJ Morgan, commandant of Detachment #586; and Ron Bohman of Genesis Granite.**



CPL TERRY BRADY

ford Point trailhead to the battalion's Range 4. Upon reaching the range, they each fired 10 rounds in both the prone and standing firing positions. For every miss, a minute was added to their time.

After firing, they ran back to the Montford Point trailhead, for a total of approximately seven miles.

"I look at the biathlon as a challenge," said Sergeant Geoffrey Artis, a cyber network operator with TBS. "It shows me, no matter what goes on, there is someone who went through worse, and they prevailed."

At the close of the event, awards were presented to the top three finishing teams, as well as to the Marines with the fastest time and best marksmanship score during the competition.

LCpl Eric Keenan  
Defense Media Activity

## Comm Marines Conquer Drill, Improve Readiness

■ Marines with 7th Communication Battalion ran an Alert Contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force (ACM) drill July 22-23 at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, to practice for future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in which Marines provide support and communication capabilities within four to 24 hours of notification.

ACM drills improve Marines' proficiency at packing and staging equipment to provide communication and support.

"This is a level-five recall drill," said Major Howard Wolfe III, a communications officer with 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Seventh Comm [Bn] can execute the



CPL TERRY BRADY

**Above:** GySgt Richard H. Walker, USMC (Ret), an original Montford Point Marine, right, speaks to Montford Point Memorial Biathlon competitors on behalf of the Montford Point Marine Association, as LtGen Ronald S. Coleman, USMC (Ret), front row, left, and Col Todd S. Desgrosseilliers, CO, TBS, look on at MCB Quantico, Va., July 25.

**Left:** Marines sprint through a portion of the 7-mile biathlon course.

logistics and administrations required to get the unit set up for a real-world operation."

For a level-five recall, Marines receive no notice of the drill and have a certain amount of time to pack their gear and arrive at a predetermined location. If Marines are on a light team, they have four hours to do the drill, while a medium team has 12 to 24 hours.

The smaller initial teams need an establishment with power to operate, according to Wolfe. The larger teams that arrive later bring generators to sustain operations.

Staff Sergeant Filemon Flores III, a

radio chief with 7th Comm Bn, III MEF Headquarters Group, and his team were the first to arrive.

"I got a call at 2:30 this morning," said Flores. "They said we were doing a level-five recall drill. I got to the shop, and right away Marines were there ensuring we were ready to go."

For humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, such as Operation Damayan in the Philippines, which took place in November 2013, Marines provide expeditious support and communication capabilities.

"We have to be prepared to recall at any time because we never know when the



LOPLABET PERIA

**Cpl Nick Robbins sets up a communication satellite for a secure Internet connection at Camp Courtney, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, July 22. Marines with 7th Comm Bn ran an ACM drill to prepare for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.**



commanding general is going to show up and need communications, or when a disaster is going to happen,” said Lance Corporal Taylor Asher, a tactical switching operator with 7th Comm Bn.

To meet the team’s needs, its equipment is light and small—therefore easy to transport.

“Our equipment includes the Expeditionary Command and Control suite,” said Flores. “Basically, it is set up to provide non-secure Internet protocol routing, virtual tactical communication, single channel radio and secure Internet protocol routing.”

Not only is it highly mobile, the equipment is also reliable and designed to be easy to set up, said Wolfe.

“In theory, we should be able to land and start working, but we run into problems,” said Asher. “Every time we have an opportunity to set up the gear, it’s a great learning experience.”

Altogether, 18 Marines participated in the drill. Each team had four Marines with additional radio operators, generator technicians and helpdesk Marines supporting the recall.

LCpl Abbey Perria  
PAO, MCIPAC

## Quick Shots Around the Corps

### “Devil Dog Dare” Opens At MCAS Cherry Point

■ Leathernecks with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28 tested the new Devil Dog Dare obstacle course at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Aug. 13.

The course is designed to challenge Marines as part of a program called Operation Adrenaline Rush, which was introduced Corps-wide in 2013. Its purpose is to introduce them to activities that can help alleviate deployment-related stress.

The program has proven effective at decreasing off-duty mishaps, empowering small-unit leaders, providing positive alternatives to high-risk behavior, and assisting Marines returning to life in garrison, said Mike Largent, the director of Marine Corps Community Services, MCAS Cherry Point.

The Devil Dog Dare features a 52-foot-high tower; rope challenge; zip line; mountain biking; and wall climb, intended to challenge Marines’ mental and physical strength in a safe, controlled environment.

Cpl Victor A. Arriaga  
PAO, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

### Secretary of Defense Visits Camp Pendleton

■ U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel visited Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 12, to thank service-members and their families for their contributions to the nation and to reinforce his commitment to the defense of the nation.

Hagel attended a Transition Readiness Seminar to gain insight on military-to-civilian transition programs.

He also attended a town hall meeting where he spoke about his trip around the world and about things that are occurring outside of I Marine Expeditionary Force. SecDef Hagel declared: “I want you to know that there is no higher priority for me and for our leader, President Obama, than to take care of our people and their families. We are committed to do that and will continue to do that.”

LCpl John Baker  
Combat Correspondent, I MEF



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



“Look, Dad, that turtle has a pink nose.”

Submitted by  
Harvey Rabbitt  
Toledo, Wash.

### This Month's Photo



CPL BRIAN ADAM JONES

(Caption) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dream up your own Crazy Caption. Leatherneck will pay \$25 or give a one-year MCA membership for the craziest one received. It's easy. Think up a caption for the photo at the right and either mail or e-mail it to us. Send your submission to Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail it, referencing the number at the bottom right, to leatherneck@mca-marines.org. The winning entry will be published in two months.

# Outcall With the CMC

## Gen Amos Led the Corps During Tough Times On and Off the Battlefield



Gen James F. Amos, the first Marine aviator to serve as Commandant of the Marine Corps, rides in Marine Helicopter Squadron One on July 31, 2014.

By Arthur P. Brill Jr.

*Leatherneck's* LtCol Arthur P. Brill Jr., USMC (Ret) recently sat down with General James F. Amos to discuss his tenure as 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps and the state of the Corps today. Gen Amos will conduct the passage of command with Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr. on Oct. 17, 2014.

**Leatherneck:** What kind of a Marine Corps are you leaving?

**Gen Amos:** Considering our combat role these past 13 years, we are in good shape. Our recruiting and retention is off the charts, and the quality of our young NCOs [noncommissioned officers] is better than ever. I'm pleased about the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, our relationship with the Navy and that we're getting more

amphibious ships. In five years, people will say, "Wow!" about the amphibious combat vehicle (ACV). Finally, the President and others say the Corps' force structure will be 182,000.

**Leatherneck:** In our last interview, you were hoping for 175,000 Marines. The Corps must be doing something right.

**Gen Amos:** Not long ago, people predicted 150,000. We're getting 10,000 more Marines than the Corps' strength on 9/11. We're the only Service that will be bigger than on 9/11.

**Leatherneck:** The world was hectic four years ago, but it seems worse now.

**Gen Amos:** Yes, the world is more dangerous, unpredictable and less stable. Marines could find themselves in many places.

**Leatherneck:** What are Marines doing in Iraq, and how do you feel about going back there?

**Gen Amos:** About 100 Marines are currently helping to protect the U.S. Embassy. I'm disappointed about Iraq's present condition. It just breaks my heart. When Marines left Iraq, Anbar province was in as good a shape as possible. I was there. You could walk down the streets of some of our most horrific battles without body armor. The streets were lit, roads paved, fresh water available, and schools were operating. Although there's a divide between cultures, people can get along and live together. That's done all around the world. I saw it starting in Iraq. I think the Maliki government has squandered that opportunity.

**Leatherneck:** You've been a wartime Commandant for your entire tour. Are the Marines in Afghanistan still your priority?

**Gen Amos:** Yes. We're down to about 4,000 Marines, and we'll keep our focus there until the last Marine is out. Now, we also have other priorities. The Marines in Iraq and those crisis-response Marines who just helped rescue Americans out of the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, are in harm's way too.

SGT GABRIELA GARCIA



**Leatherneck:** You and Mrs. [Bonnie] Amos used to visit wounded Marines at Walter Reed [National Military Medical Center] on weekends. Are you still doing that?

**Gen Amos:** We were up there all the time during the fighting. One Saturday, Bonnie and I and Sergeant Major Barrett [SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps] gave out 19 Purple Hearts. That was a record. We started at 0800 and finished at 2200. We chatted with every family; each Marine told a story, and I wanted to hear it. We still have veteran Marines rehabilitating in Building 62, but we don't have many fresh wounds. Thank goodness it has tapered off. So have my trips to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to honor our fallen Marines. We had four Marines fall last month in Afghanistan. Though hard and often heartbreaking, those family meetings are meaningful.

**Leatherneck:** Has the social media and the World Wide Web made your job harder?

**Gen Amos:** A Service Chief has to be tough-skinned these days. Starting with Jim Conway [Gen James T. Conway, 34th Commandant], no Commandant has dealt with it to the degree we have. Because [people think that if] something is in the social media or on the Web, surely it must be true. I'm disappointed with the negativism. People get careless with the facts and write things they would never tell you to your face. However, you learn to deal with it. I was advised early on to ignore the blogs and negative e-mails.

**Leatherneck:** A retired Marine friend was disappointed that we didn't discuss the command-influence allegations following "Urinegate" in our last Q and A. I passed on the question because the incident didn't deserve another spotlight, and you and the Corps weren't discussing the allegations. However, they still fester. What's going on?

**Gen Amos:** The CMC is uniquely responsible for addressing the institutional culture of the Corps. Training Marines is a Title 10 responsibility of the CMC. Training includes ethos and character as well as combat proficiency. These are things we measure as a Corps. A Service Chief must have the ability to address members of his Service to encourage or discourage individual actions, without being seen as intending to direct convening authorities. In fact, the Service Chief is answerable to the President and the Congress for doing just that. My intent at all times is to get Marines to engage in positive behaviors, not to influence convening authorities to



**Above:** During a visit to Camp Pendleton, Calif., the Commandant spoke to Marines from Fifth Marine Regiment and 1st Combat Engineer Battalion about issues facing the Corps, April 18, 2013.

**Below:** Gen Amos, second from left, and SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, present awards to Marines and sailors of 3d Bn, 7th Marines in Afghanistan on Feb. 5, 2012.



**"I'm disappointed about Iraq's present condition. It just breaks my heart. When Marines left Iraq, Anbar province was in as good a shape as possible."**

take any specific actions. To the contrary, I expect Marine commanders to exercise appropriate independence in the pursuit of justice.

Lastly, the Department of Defense Inspector General [DOD IG] received allegations alleging unlawful command influence; these were highly publicized over

the 18 months of the judicial proceedings dealing with the Marines. I couldn't comment during that time. Two allegations dealt with me. The other two involved others in HQMC. The DOD IG finished their final investigation a month ago and officially informed us that the three allegations that they investigated were 100 percent unsubstantiated. A fourth allegation, that the 60-plus videos taken by Marines were inappropriately classified by my staff, was also found to be unfounded. I'll let others guess at the motives behind the allegations. Tell your friend not to believe everything he reads.

**Leatherneck:** It's tough enough to be a Service Chief these days, but you are also



SGT MALORY S. VANDERSCHANS

**Gen Amos and SgtMaj Barrett reenlist SSgt Christopher Port at the Devil Dog Fountain in France following the Memorial Day celebration and commemoration of the 96th anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood, May 25, 2014.**

the Corps' first non-ground officer to be Commandant. Did you feel any pressure?

**Gen Amos:** I don't even think about it unless someone mentions it. Every now and then I'll notice the wings. I'm proud of those wings and worked hard for them. When I became Commandant, it was six years since my last aviation job. During that time, I focused on being a MAGTF [Marine air-ground task force] officer. I was the MEF [Marine expeditionary force] commander at Camp Lejeune [N.C.], head of Requirements and Training at Quantico [Va.], and then the Assistant Commandant. My aviation brethren thought I disowned them, which wasn't the case. I knew aviation.

When nominated for Commandant, I envisioned people rising from their graves at Arlington saying, "Never!" but I hoped my credibility as someone who knows and cares about the ground and logistics combat elements would carry the day. It did for the most part. Some folks who don't like a decision say, "Well, he's an aviator; what do you expect?" Yet, I can go weeks without even talking about aviation. I'm dealing with the rest of the Corps.

**Leatherneck:** Are there other well-rounded aviators and logisticians out there?

**Gen Amos:** There are. When Chuck Krulak [Gen Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant] named an aviator commander of I MEF in 1998, we all said, "Holy smokes!" Over a year ago, we put

**"We just don't have enough ships. They are tied up in the Persian Gulf and in the Pacific. We'd rather be at sea to avoid basing problems."**

John Wissler [Lieutenant General John E. Wissler], [a] logistician combat engineer, in charge of III MEF in the Western Pacific. If something happens in North Korea, he will lead the MEF and do well. My whole life now is being a MAGTF officer. Yes, others are out there, and we'll see more MEF commanders.

**Leatherneck:** Have you opened the door for more aviator or logistician Commandants?

**Gen Amos:** There is no particular rush,

but it will happen. It's only a matter of time. Marines deserve the best athlete out there to be their Commandant. Right now, John Wissler is the best athlete in III MEF. If we go to war, he'll knock their socks off.

**Leatherneck:** Looking back over the past four years, would you have done anything differently?

**Gen Amos:** It's the "sleeves down" decision. It made sense at the time, and the majority of our general officers and senior staff NCOs recommended it. I underestimated the neatness Marines felt in rolling their sleeves up. It's a big deal. I changed it back a few months ago. No one gave me any lip about it, but when I met with our NCOs, time and again they asked, "Sir, when are we going to go back?" What's important to them is important to me.

**Leatherneck:** Your Marine crisis-response force is busy in Africa, and the Corps is planning two more. Why will they all be land based?

**Gen Amos:** We just don't have enough ships. They are tied up in the Persian Gulf



and in the Pacific. We'd rather be at sea to avoid basing problems. We work with the Italian government at Sigonella, but we're restricted. Spain wants to train with us, but there are caveats. This is an accommodation, Art. Either we do nothing to avoid going ashore, or we build a land-based MAGTF for the nation.

This Marine crisis-response force is fallout from Benghazi. When the ambassador found himself in trouble, no real forces were available. The ships were in the Persian Gulf or in the Gulf of Aden. If we had a ship nearby, maybe we could have done something. Perhaps our current MAGTF could have made a difference. Dave Rodriguez [Army General David M. Rodriguez, U.S. Africa Command commander] is using the heck out of it now. He loves this force along with the national command authority. We'll stay land based until we get more ships. I know the shipbuilding plan. Unless America and Congress commits, they won't be available for a long time.

**Leatherneck:** What is the Navy doing about this problem?

**Gen Amos:** Jon Greenert [Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, 30th Chief of Naval Operations] is working hard to get us the ships. Our relationship is probably unprecedented. Unlike some of his predecessors, he's taken ownership of amphibious readiness and the numbers of ships. He's doing it on a sequestered budget. Today, we have 29 ships, and that's going down to 27. We'll start back up to 33 toward the end of the Future Years Defense Plan. We'll need 54 amphibious ships to prevent our crisis-response forces from being land based. However, we usually have three MEUs [Marine expeditionary units] afloat, so there's a blend.



SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHANS

**The Commandant visits recruiters from the Manhattan Officer Selection Office in New York City, June 13, 2014.**

**Leatherneck:** What's the toughest decision you made as Commandant?

**Gen Amos:** I agonized over terminating the careers of my two general officers following the attack at Bastion airfield in Afghanistan, September 2012. Some folks still don't understand why. I read all three investigations. It boils down to accountability. That was the hardest. Those Marines were two of my closest general-officer friends.

**Leatherneck:** In this crisis-response atmosphere, will future Marines have to be tougher and smarter to operate in well-dispersed conditions?

**Gen Amos:** Marines are pretty tough right now. The physical standards to do

our business now are high. A second lieutenant platoon commander and his Marines could operate by themselves, so they will have to be smarter and better educated. We're working hard on that. Historically, less than 20 percent of captains go through the resident Expeditionary Warfare School [EWS], and they get a terrific education. The other 80 percent do it by correspondence, but it's just not the same. Despite current EWS space limitations, we've almost tripled the resident students through various ways.

The pressure eases when a new building is completed at Marine Corps University at Quantico. We've doubled the majors at Command and Staff by increasing the capacity of Breckinridge Hall.

**Leatherneck:** What are you doing to better educate enlisted Marines?

**Gen Amos:** Until now it was never mandatory that NCOs attend a resident course, yet a resident corporal and sergeant's course changes a Marine's life. They can still take it online, but 100 percent must go through the resident course; otherwise, they won't be considered for promotion. We've also tripled the numbers attending the SNCO Academy.

**Leatherneck:** Did you get buy-in from the Corps' leadership on the recent wheeled-vehicle ACV decision?

**Gen Amos welcomes Queen Elizabeth II upon her arrival at the Royal Marine Beating Retreat musical spectacular celebrating the Royal Marines' 350th anniversary at the Horse Guard Parade grounds in London, June 4, 2014.**



SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHANS



SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHANS

**Gen Amos visits with guests during a ceremony at Emancipation Hall in Washington, D.C., on June 27, 2012, at which the Montford Point Marines received the Congressional Gold Medal.**

**Gen Amos:** Yes. Most of our general officers went to the testing site. Sure, you could find someone opposed. This is a phased approach. We have to replace our 45-year-old amphibious vehicle. We canceled the expeditionary fighting vehicle [EFV], its \$14 million replacement, 3½ years ago because it was too expensive. The flat-bottomed EFV was designed when IEDs [improvised explosive devices] weren't known. Congress won't allow us to build a vehicle today without IED protection. If things heat up, I wouldn't take the EFV to Iraq for that reason. The EFV was built to spend 90 percent of its mission in water versus 10 percent ashore and to carry 13 Marines, but not their gear.

The ACV was an easy decision. It's optimized for land, has IED protection, and the Navy is supporting our connector strategy to take the ACVs ashore. We already have enough connector vehicles to get us started. This program will be fine. Even if we had amphibious vehicles that went 28 knots, I'm not driving Marines three to four hours from distant sea bases. Remember, the last time we did a forcible entry from the sea was more than 60 years ago.

**Leatherneck:** What former Commandant has inspired you?

**Gen Amos:** I've always admired General Alexander A. Vandegrift, 18th Commandant and hero of Guadalcanal. His

"Bended Knee" speech before Congress in 1946 helped save our Corps. When he made the gutsy call to close down Montford Point, he said, "Black or white, they are all Marines." He also said, "If a Commandant is doing his job, he doesn't have many friends." I've thought of him often here.

**Leatherneck:** Is equal standards the goal when it comes to allowing women into the restricted ground combat units?

**Gen Amos:** I don't believe in equal standards. That's not the signal we want to send. We have Marine Corps standards. Both males and females will meet those standards.

**Leatherneck:** Will the Corps adjust the standards at the Infantry Officers Course [IOC] at Quantico to give women a fairer playing field?

**Gen Amos:** Marine Corps standards are the essence of IOC. Long before female officers considered applying, the Combat Endurance Test [CET] was adjusted upwards for a reason. In many cases, a Marine lieutenant in distributed operations is the sole leader who energizes his Marines when they are tired or could be overrun. The lieutenant is the leader and must be the hardest and toughest. The IOC standards are the result of combat, so we're not changing that.

**Leatherneck:** Will female officers ever get through IOC?

**Gen Amos:** Yes. We'll get some through. One female officer made it through CET in the very first class, but severe shin splints could have crippled her. She's at flight training now. We'll eventually get there.

**Leatherneck:** December 2015 is the Corps' deadline to recommend something on the restricted ground jobs. What happens until then?

**Gen Amos:** In the next 14 months, we'll establish and test Marine Corps standards in all those ground combat jobs: tanks, artillery and infantry. An artillery Marine lifts a 95-pound round again and again. The same thing with a tank, although it's a smaller round. We're forming a Ground Combat Element Experimental Task Force at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and we'll run our females through all those MOSs [military occupational specialties] alongside the males. Some male Marines will be new to their fields, others seasoned.



SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHANS

**Cpl Joseph W. Edwards beams proudly after his meritorious promotion by Gen Amos and SgtMaj Barrett at Caen-Carpique Airport, Carpiquet, France, June 7, 2014.**



We'll then determine if there are endurance and physical limitations.

**Leatherneck:** Although General Dunford [Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., future 36th Commandant] will make the final decision, where is this headed?

**Gen Amos:** Joe and I talked about it last week. I don't know how it will turn out, but we'll have standards and results. I think some of these closed MOSs will probably be opened. But the males must first reach the standards. Some males won't make it. Once the same tanker standards are set for males and females, if Marines can change a tank tread, load rounds and do the other stuff, why shouldn't they be given the opportunity?

**Leatherneck:** Will the Corps ever have a female Commandant?

**Gen Amos:** I'll never say it couldn't happen, but it will be a long time coming. It's not because women aren't qualified; their numbers are so small. Our 14,444 females comprise 7 percent of the Marine Corps. We only have 2,500 female officers, and most depart the Corps by their 12th year. We have to get more women to stay. Those female officers who remain choose not to compete for a command billet three times more than males. Promotion boards look at that command population just to get you one star.

**Leatherneck:** How is the transition with General Dunford going? Can the Corps expect huge changes?

**Gen Amos:** It is up to him. Every new Commandant knows what he wants to put his fingerprints on. In Joe's case, he's been running the war effort in Afghanistan for the last 18 months. He was my Assistant Commandant for two years, starting at the very beginning. There wasn't a single decision that we didn't talk about. So he knows the background on key issues. This transition is smooth because we are friends. A Service Chief's job is no picnic. My staff will give him everything he needs, and I'm trying to make this easy for him. Under Joe Dunford's leadership, I don't think there will be many 90-degree turns.

**Leatherneck:** Will you continue to keep flying after retirement?

**Gen Amos:** I think so. It's hard for me to visualize right now. It depends on what I do with the rest of my life. We're going to live in Charlotte, North Carolina, where we'll have a boat for the grandkids. The passage of command is October 17, and afterward Bonnie and I will escape to our mountain log cabin. I'll probably sleep for about 90 days to catch up.

## Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr.: The Next Commandant of the Marine Corps

A native of Boston, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr. graduated from St. Michael's College and was commissioned in 1977.

He served as the commander of the International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces–Afghanistan from February 2013 to September 2014 and as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from October 2010 to December 2012.

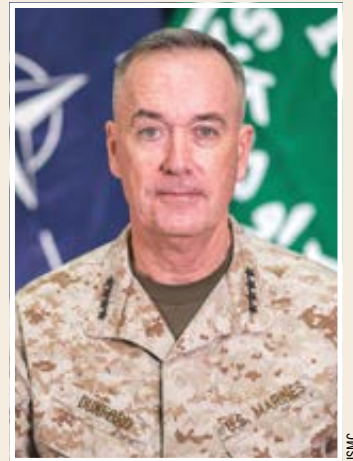
Gen Dunford has served as an infantry officer at all levels. He commanded 2d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, and during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he commanded 5th Marines.

Joint assignments include service as the Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Chief, Global and Multilateral Affairs Division (J5).

As a general officer, he has served as the Assistant Division Commander, First Marine Division; Marine Corps Director of Operations; Vice Director for Operations on the Joint Staff; and the Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations. He commanded I Marine Expeditionary Force and served as the Commander, Marine Forces U.S. Central Command.

Gen Dunford is a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School, the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School and the U.S. Army War College. He has a master's degree in government from Georgetown University and a master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

—International Security Assistance Force



Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr.

**Leatherneck:** What's the best part of being Commandant of the Marine Corps?

**Gen Amos:** I love 95 percent of the job. Some of it is the hard battles to get the right force structure, programs and equipment that can take years. It's the relationships in Congress and the Pentagon. It's leading Marines and changing the Corps by in-

**"We've run hard, but I feel good  
about today's Corps.  
There'll be no sadness at the  
passage of command."**

creasing education. I enjoy talking to Marines and their families and getting a thousand pictures taken. I dig the Birthday Balls and don't mind the tough decisions or the endless commitments. Not long ago, I ran the seawall alone at Iwakuni at 0500 to clear my head. Despite the darkness, several Marines in PT gear recognized me and shouted, "Oorah." I returned the greeting, and one Marine sprinted down the seawall to shake my hand. That's the 95 percent I love.

**Leatherneck:** You'll always be a historic Commandant. You've also tackled

some tough issues these past four years and weathered the storm. Will there be sadness for you on October 17?

**Gen Amos:** We've run hard, but I feel good about today's Corps. There'll be no sadness at the passage of command. I suspect it will come later that evening when I realize that I'll never step in front of Marines again in uniform.

**Leatherneck:** Do you have a final message to your Marines?

**Gen Amos:** I don't worry two seconds that Marines will dominate on the battlefield. You can bet your butt on that. Always treasure that special something that's inside every Marine that makes us different. Whatever you're asked to do, keep your honor clean.

*Author's bio: Retired Marine LtCol Arthur P. Brill Jr. has written more than 70 feature articles about Marines, including the last five Commandants, for Leatherneck and defense publications. He commanded a rifle company in Vietnam and later was the Corps' press spokesman. He was a media spokesman in key positions for the Carter and Reagan administrations.*



# *A Fond Farewell:*

## Mrs. Bonnie Amos Reflects on Life As First Lady of the Marine Corps



SARA W. BOCK

By Sara W. Bock

*M*rs. Bonnie Amos graciously welcomed *Leatherneck* into the Home of the Commandants for an exclusive interview during which she opened up about her experiences as the First Lady of the Marine Corps.

On Oct. 17, she will accompany her husband, General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, one final time down Center Walk at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. It is a walk they have taken countless times, but she said that on the day of the passage of command, she will experience a barrage of emotions. Her 40-plus years as a Marine spouse have given her “the most incredible life ever,” she said, and she reminisced about the past four years in particular with a twinkle of nostalgia in





LCPL KATHY NUNEZ

**Gen and Mrs. Amos visit with LCpl Gregory A. Juedes after he is presented with the Purple Heart at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., Feb. 10. Mrs. Amos has a passion for supporting wounded warriors and is a member of the Semper Fi Fund Board of Directors.**

her eye. “The things we have done and, oh, the places we have been ... it’s just amazing,” she said.

We sat in the drawing room of the 15,600-square-foot home, the oldest continuously occupied public building in Washington, D.C. She still can see herself in her kitchen the night that General Amos, then-Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, came home much later than expected and took down two glasses from a shelf. He poured them each a larger-than-usual drink. “This was a Tuesday night!” she said with a laugh. “A bit aberrant, even for a fighter pilot!” Neither said a word until Bonnie asked, “Did you get fired today?” It was then that he told her that he was going to be nominated to be the next Commandant.

It was unexpected news to Mrs. Amos as the wife of an aviator. While they joke about him being the first aviator to be named Commandant, and they say it with great pride, it isn’t anything they’ve really focused on because he’s the Commandant for all Marines. “The fact that he wears wings makes it a little neater, I think, since we’re such a ground-centric force,” she said, “but he’s never forgotten that that’s what we are—a ground-centric force.”

Asked what has surprised her most about life as the First Lady of the Marine Corps, she responded, “How unbelievably busy we are.” It has been important to her to make the Home of the Commandants available to tour groups, spouse groups, Marine reunion groups—anyone who really wants to see the home. Between opening her home to more than 4,000 visitors each year, spearheading Marine spouse and family programs and supporting wounded warriors, she and Gen Amos have agreed that they will just sleep in another life. “When Jim does retire, we plan to go to our cabin and just sleep for three weeks,” she joked.

With tears in her eyes, she spoke of her first visit to Helmand province, Afghanistan, in December 2012—an unprecedented opportunity she considers the most memorable experience of the past four years. It was something she deeply desired to do, and her husband told her that if she could convince Major General Charles M. Gurganus,

Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward); General John R. Allen, CG, International Security Assistance Force; and Gen James N. Mattis, CG, U.S. Central Command, that it was a good idea, then he would authorize the trip.

After getting enthusiastic responses from MajGen Gurganus and Gen Allen, she expected a “no” from Gen Mattis, but he responded with “Get over there, Ms. Bonnie, and I’ll join you!” She said, “There was no way Jim could say no!”

She believes that the trip to Afghanistan—a privilege and honor, she calls it—will be the hallmark of her years as a Marine spouse. She traveled outside the “wire,” rode in Ospreys and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and traveled to forward operating bases wearing a flak jacket and helmet. On Christmas Day, she had the opportunity to serve dinner to the Marines and sailors in the chow hall.



SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHANS

**Mrs. Amos greets a local Afghan boy upon her arrival at Forward Operating Base Puzeh, Helmand province, Afghanistan, in December 2012. Her trip to Afghanistan, she says, is the most memorable experience of the past four years.**



SGT GABRIELA GARCIA

**Along Center Walk at "8th & I," the President of the United States, Barack Obama, and his wife, Mrs. Michelle Obama, along with Gen and Mrs. Amos, wave to guests at the Evening Parade, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., June 27.**

"We've sat with the Queen of England and we've had some amazing things happen, but nothing will personally top Afghanistan," she said.

She has traveled the world, meeting distinguished leaders and dignitaries along the way, but for Mrs. Amos, the most poignant conversations by far are those she's had with parents and spouses of Marines. "It's those parents who have lost their sons or their daughters, or whose son or ... daughter came back so physically and mentally and spiritually changed—their lives will never be what they once were for a myriad of reasons, and yet those parents, that young spouse, they don't hit us in the chest. They say things like, 'My son only and always wanted to do this. He died doing what he wanted to do his whole life.' 'She was doing exactly what she wanted to do.'" Mrs. Amos heard and witnessed

that kind of loyalty to the Corps over and over again.

Long before she and Gen Amos moved into the Home of the Commandants, Mrs. Amos was known for her dedication to Marines and their families. When her husband was the CG of Third Marine Aircraft Wing, she made it a point to greet each aircraft as it returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom and hug as many returning Marines as she could. This country had never been to war such that we were experiencing in Iraq, she said, and she felt a huge obligation and need to help quell some of the fears that families had.

Although she has taken on a lot over the years, and somehow managed to also have a successful business career of her own along the way, she considers it a privilege to have had the opportunity to impact the lives of Marine spouses. Her level of



COURTESY OF MRS. BONNIE AMOS



COURTESY OF MRS. BONNIE AMOS

**Above left: Mrs. Amos and then-1stLt James F. Amos pose for a photo in Pensacola, Fla., in 1974, just before he left for a 13-month unaccompanied tour at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.**

**Above right: Then-LtCol and Mrs. Amos take their first ride in the "fighter truck," June 1991, the day he took command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 at MCAS Beaufort, S.C. The truck, painted like an F/A-18 Hornet, was passed down to each commanding officer of the squadron.**



involvement in Marine Corps family programs and initiatives speaks for itself. Working closely with fellow Marine spouses Holly Scherer and Phyllis Stewart, she developed the First Lady of the Marine Corps' Recommended Reading List to promote books written by Marine spouses. These books focus on spouses, military life, deployments and reintegration.

"Surely those were resources that spouses, families, moms, dads and children would like to have," Mrs. Amos said, adding that it was just a matter of making them accessible to Marine families.

In brainstorming with Gen Amos regarding how to get the books in the hands of families, she said he suggested, "Well, why couldn't you have a reading list?"

"He's such a wonderful visionary," she added with a smile.

The Commandant's Professional Reading List had been around for some time, and the books on that list were available through the Marine Corps Exchange system, Marine Corps University, and the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. From there, the idea took off.

"When I've been out with our authors and done book signings, it's ... people that line up because they want me to hear their story ... and that's what these warriors have done to us. They have brought us stories that have been sad and devastating but full of patriotism and heroic strength, determination—it's just been pretty remarkable. We've gotten a lot of very amazing emotions out of this," she said.

The newest Marine Corps family program for which she has led the way, the Front Porch series, has morphed out of the Recommended Reading List. Sponsored by the family readiness programs at Marine Corps bases and stations, the Front Porch series brings in authors, books, speakers and fun activities for children. Mrs. Amos was raised in the South—Pensacola, Fla., to be exact and lived there until a "young Marine aviator-hopeful" whisked her away some 40 years ago, she said with a grin.

In the South, she explained, everyone sits on their front porch and waves to their neighbors—they are involved and engaged in their communities. "Twelve, 13 years of war caused us [Marine families] to stop living on our front porch, because we were afraid of what we would see drive by. Whether it was a car or a sedan, Marines in uniform, we didn't want those people at our front door or our neighbor's front door. So we stopped coming out on the front porch. Fear paralyzes people," she said. Now that the war years are winding down, the Front Porch series is a springboard for getting people involved in their communities.

What will she miss most after the passage of command? "The people, it's always the people," she said. "I've loved representing this home and this institution. It has truly been an honor." On a lighthearted note, she added, "I'll miss my husband in his fabulous uniform. We've got some pretty darn good-looking uniforms!"

There are two pieces in the opulent Georgian-Federalist home she wishes she could take with her when she leaves. One is a painting, by Marine Corps combat artist Staff Sergeant Kristopher Battles, of the Home of the Commandants covered in snow during the winter of 2010. The painting is based on a photo taken by Gen Amos for their grandson, who called to ask if the flags were still flying over the barracks during the storm.

The other is a painting by retired Colonel Charles Waterhouse, USMCR, which depicts a very young Archibald Henderson court-



COURTESY OF MRS. BONNIE AMOS

**Gen and Mrs. Amos pose with their four grandchildren on the stairs inside the Home of the Commandants. They both look forward to spending lots of time with family after retirement.**

ing his bride, Anna Maria Cazenove. Waterhouse painted it for Mrs. Amos when he was 92, making it one of his very last paintings.

These paintings belong to the house, but she said with a wink, "If I walk out with some of this under my arm, I'm hoping nobody notices."

She and Gen Amos are delighted and excited for Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr. (he will become the 36th Commandant on Oct. 17) and his wife, Ellyn, adding, "They're going to make a fabulous team!"

As she prepares to say farewell to the Home of the Commandants, Mrs. Amos will leave behind an unparalleled legacy of service and dedication as a Marine spouse and ultimately as First Lady of the Marine Corps. After numerous deployments and 29 permanent change of station moves in 40 years, she says with sincerity that she would do it all over again.



## Leatherneck—On the Web

For more photos of the Corps' first lady, go to [www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/bonnieamos](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/bonnieamos)

# Leatherneck Line

Edited by Sara W. Bock

## Dance Competition Brings Leathernecks, Okinawa Community Together

Marines and sailors, along with residents of Okinawa, Japan, competed in the 26th annual Hagoromo Kachashi Dance Competition, Aug. 3, at the Ginowan City Marine Park, Ginowan City, Japan.

A team made up of Marines, sailors and their families participated in the competition under the name Team Futenma. This marked the second time a team of U.S. servicemembers and their families have participated in the annual competition.

Teams from all over Okinawa took the stage and danced as judges picked the top three performances. The dances ranged from traditional Okinawa folk dances, such as *kachashi*, to more modern styles. Although the teams were not required to perform a specific dance style for the competition, they were encouraged to incorporate the traditional dances of Okinawa.

The 20 dancers of Team Futenma enjoyed the experience, according to U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Matthew Weems, the chaplain for Marine Corps

Air Station Futenma, Okinawa.

"It was a great opportunity to really interact with our neighbors," said Weems. "We met new people, tried something completely out of our normal routine, and we got to experience a part of our host country's culture."

For the family members who participated, the event helped them better understand and experience traditions unique to Okinawa, said Tess Wobbe, a senior at Kadena High School.

"I want to see what's out here and experience it for myself," said Wobbe, a New London, Iowa, native. "Learning more about the Okinawa residents lets us show how much we appreciate their culture."

To prepare for the competition, the team began training July 16 and spent two days a week refining their routine.

The competition ended with a large-scale dance with all the competing teams and was followed by a fireworks show.

Although Team Futenma did not earn a top place in the competition, they had fun and enjoyed the opportunity to learn a little more about their neighbors, accord-

ing to Colonel Peter N. Lee, Commanding Officer, MCAS Futenma, who was a participant in the competition.

LCpl David Hersey  
PAO, MCIPAC

## "Sesame Street" and USO Partner for Military Children

The Sesame Street/United Service Organizations (USO) Experience for Military Families performed at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 8-9. The Sunset Cinema was filled with Marines, sailors, spouses and their children, who were there not just to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, but also to better understand the unique challenges they face as military families.

"Today [August 9] we had a free show for military families," said Nicole McClendon, tour manager for the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families. "This show lets military children know that the USO and Sesame Street are here for them and we understand that they make great sacrifices."



Members of Team Futenma, made up of Marines, sailors and family members stationed in Okinawa, Japan, dance onstage Aug. 3 at the Ginowan City Marine Park during the 26th annual Hagoromo Kachashi Dance Competition. The experience allowed them to interact with the community and learn more about Japanese culture.



Two teams of volunteers from the Bob Hope USO, Palm Springs, Calif., came to assist at all four showings at the combat center.

“This is beneficial to our military families in that they are always moving, and it’s the children [who] take the brunt of it sometimes,” said Teresa Cherry, the center manager for Bob Hope USO. “It can be very difficult because they are the new kid in school and it can be hard to make new friends.”

Sesame Street and the USO have collaborated on projects like this for many years and have progressively tailored their mission to meet the needs of their military fans. They began with a project called “Talk, Listen and Connect,” a DVD series for military families, which originated from Sesame Street’s Military Families Initiative. In 2008, they partnered with VEE Corporation, responsible for arena tours like Sesame Street Live, to create the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families.

Since its debut six years ago, the program has become the USO’s longest-running traveling tour and will wrap up its current season at the end of this month after performing more than 200 shows at 69 military bases this year alone.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.uso.org/sesame/](http://www.uso.org/sesame/).

Cpl Lauren Kurkimilis  
PAO, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.

## Cherry Point Marines, Sailors Build Home for Leatherneck Family

During the summer, more than 30 Marines and sailors volunteered their weekends with the Single Marine Program at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., and the American Heroes Home Build of Pamlico County, N.C., to build a home for the family of a fellow Marine, Sergeant Warren Cottrell Jr., USMC (Ret).

Cottrell served in the Marine Corps for 11 years. He completed two tours in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan, during which he was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, resulting in a traumatic brain injury.

American Heroes Home Build is a program established by Military Missions in Action, an organization dedicated to assisting veterans with disabilities, as well as members of the Armed Forces and their families.

“The Cottrell family was selected to receive the house, not only because [Sgt Cottrell] suffers from a traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, but because we felt the home would make the biggest impact on his family,” said Michael Dorman, executive director of Military Missions in Action.

“It warms my heart seeing the young



CPL MANUEL A. ESTRADA

**UNITED THROUGH READING**—Cpl Andrew Manning of Combat Logistics Battalion 22, 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit participates in the “United Through Reading” program while deployed aboard USS *Mesa Verde* (LPD-19). The program, sponsored through participating commands and hosted at select USO centers, allows the deployed parent or other family member to connect with their child at home. The recording and book are sent to the child to help ease the stress of separation caused by deployment. For more information, visit [www.unitedthroughreading.org/military-program](http://www.unitedthroughreading.org/military-program).

Marines and sailors volunteer out here because they want to give back to their brothers and sisters,” said Dorman. “There is nothing better or more satisfying than giving back to the veterans who have served and given so much to our country,” he added.

The Cottrell family said they were inexpressibly thankful for the work—including

ing framework, cosmetics and electrical and plumbing installation—the volunteers put into their new home.

“It’s been years since I’ve had Marine-to-Marine communication and bonding like this,” said Sgt Cottrell. “It means so much to my family, knowing that these Marines are taking their own time to come here and help build this home just for us. It is amazing; we are indescribably appreciative.”

Marines and sailors from various units at MCAS Cherry Point came together for a common cause, said Jennifer Krivohlavsky, the Single Marine Program coordinator for the air station. The number of volunteers who were willing to help out a family in need was overwhelming, she added.

Being involved in an event like a home-build is rewarding both for the family and the Marines and sailors volunteering, said Sgt Kaleb M. Ihde, a generator mechanic with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274.

The Marines and sailors who volunteered were present at the build site Aug. 2, when Cottrell; his wife, Maria; and their two daughters were informed, after a series of interviews and a detailed selection process, that they would be receiving the home.

For more information about American Heroes Home Build, or to learn how to donate or get involved with the organization’s cause, visit [www.mmiaamericanheroeshomebuild.org](http://www.mmiaamericanheroeshomebuild.org).

LCpl Grace L. Waladkewics  
PAO, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.



CPL GRACE L. WALADKEWICS

**LCpl Angel Flores, a volunteer for the American Heroes Home Build, installs plumbing pipes in a home being built for a retired Marine sergeant who suffers from a traumatic brain injury. Flores was one of more than 30 Marines and sailors from the Single Marine Program, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., who worked during weekends throughout the summer to help make the home a reality.**

# Congratulations

To the 2014 Winners of the  
Marine Corps Association & Foundation-sponsored  
**Leatherneck Magazine Awards**



**LCpl Donald T. Peterson**

**MSGT TOM BARTLETT AWARD**

**Best Leatherneck Cover Artwork**

June 2013 *Leatherneck*



**Sgt Kevin J. Maynard**

**LOU LOWERY AWARD**

**Best Photo Inside Leatherneck**

"Frozen Guard," April 2013 *Leatherneck*



**Cpl Daniel Wulz**

**RONALD D. LYONS AWARD**

**Best Story in Leatherneck**

"I Wasn't Going to Let the Bad Guys Win"

May 2013 *Leatherneck*



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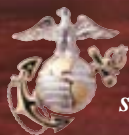
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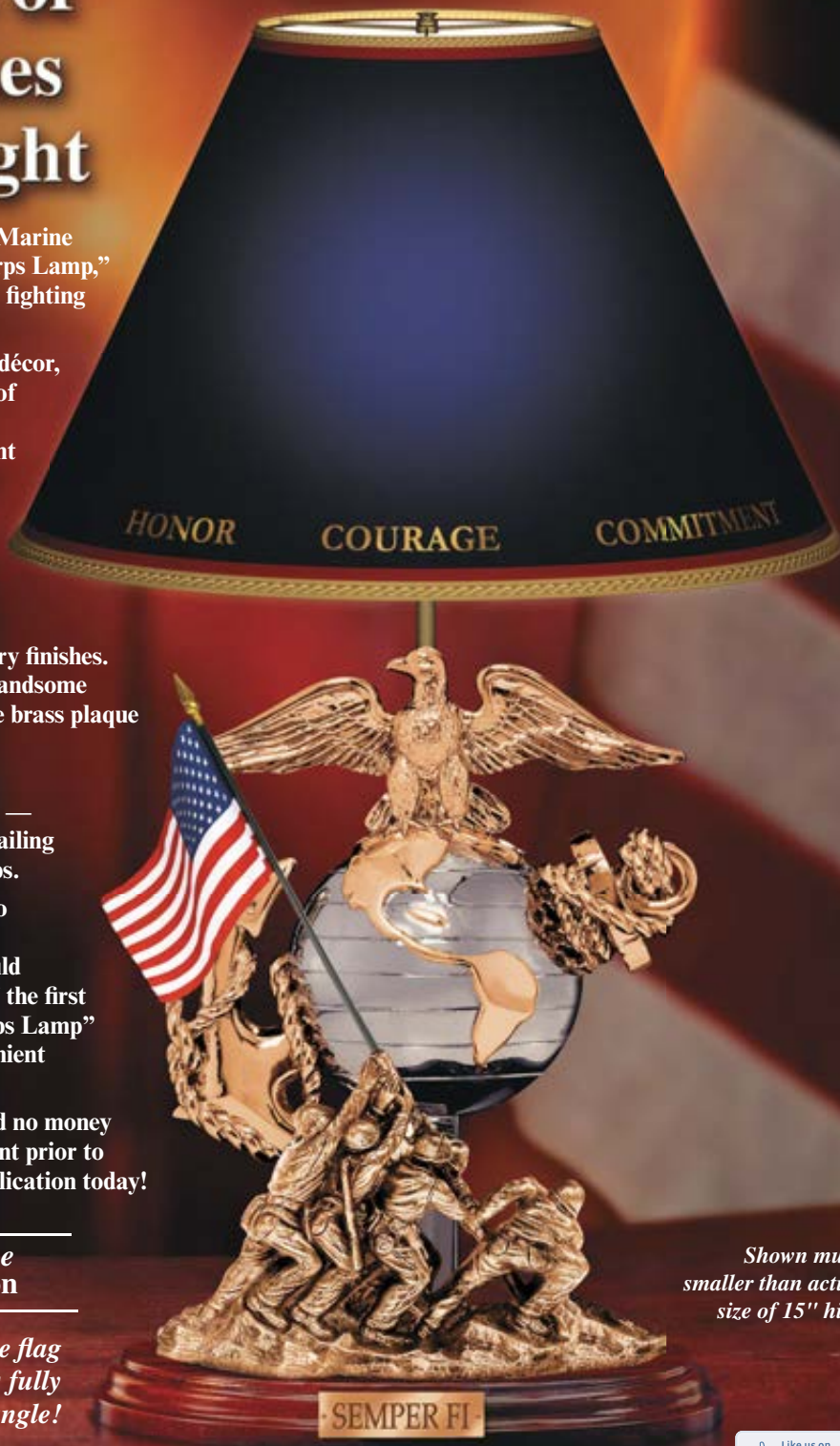
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Kyle Fischbach, a high school student from MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., and mentor for the Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp, shares a smile with campers as they prepare to zip-line from the top of the climbing tower. High-adventure activities at the Outdoor Odyssey are designed to create camaraderie and build trust.

# Outdoor Odyssey

## Creating Leaders, Changing Lives

Story and photos by Sara W. Bock

*"The energy I give is equal to the inspiration I provide, which results in the impact I make, which leads to the legacy I leave."*

—T. S. Jones

Inscribed on a wall at the  
Outdoor Odyssey Leadership Academy

**A**n old chow hall, cabins scattered throughout the woods, a climbing tower and indoor "challenge center"—on the surface, the Outdoor Odyssey Leadership Academy may look like your average summer camp. But factor in a retired Marine Corps general with a passion for transforming lives and an atmosphere of camaraderie built on shared adversity, and the 500-acre camp in the heart of the Laurel Highlands of western Pennsylvania is anything but ordinary. Whether the challenges faced are the loss of a limb in combat, the threat of failure

in school, or the stresses of having a parent suffer from a combat-related injury, the Outdoor Odyssey teaches that with the right kind of leadership and mentorship, anything is possible, and anyone can rise above the circumstances of his or her life.

Major General Thomas S. Jones, USMC (Ret), founder and executive director of the Outdoor Odyssey, credits his successes in life both to mentorship and to Marine Corps leadership training. He has found the ultimate way to give back—by sharing those ideals with others and leaving behind a legacy of service. In 1998, the Outdoor Odyssey came to life, while Jones was still an active-duty brigadier general.

The unique program MajGen Jones created is grounded in the leadership principles he learned during his career in the Marine Corps. What began as a camp designed solely to provide mentors to at-risk children from western Pennsylvania has turned into a multi-use leadership development facility. Today, a wide va-

riety of groups travel to the Outdoor Odyssey to learn leadership skills. Jones has used the same model to create the Semper Fi Odyssey, a transition assistance program for wounded warriors, and the Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp for children of wounded warriors. Both are sponsored by the Semper Fi Fund and designed to help alleviate stress within Marine families.

Reflecting on his past, MajGen Jones says he was an at-risk youth himself and had been on probation before his senior year of high school. But that year was a turning point for him, when an individual took a personal interest and began to mentor him. Jones made a promise to that mentor that he would go to college, and he followed through. After graduation, he was commissioned into the Marine Corps and served as an infantry officer during the Vietnam War. By the time he was a lieutenant colonel, he knew that after retirement he wanted to start a camp for troubled children.



**"To bring the kids to camp for a week is really of limited value unless you put the mentoring component in. That's the unique nature of Outdoor Odyssey."**

**—MajGen Thomas S. Jones, USMC (Ret)**



During his career in the Corps, Jones spent two years in an exchange program with the Royal Marines, an experience that helped him define his ideas about starting a camp. The Royal Marines are "really big on shared adversity, really big on pushing people out of their comfort zone," he said. "I saw their dynamic of shared adversity and bonding people, and I kind of used that ... with my battalion [1st Bn, 6th Marines], I used that in 2d Marines, and I sort of had the idea of what I wanted to do well before I was out of the Marine Corps."

Only a month after his promotion to brigadier general, Jones learned about an abandoned Boy Scout camp for sale in Boswell, Pa. Having just taken on a high-octane job at the Pentagon in the National Military Command Center, he turned down the opportunity to buy the camp; a few weeks later he found himself in the area and decided to go take a look. "It was an epiphany, you know, once I



**Above:** MajGen Thomas S. Jones, USMC (Ret) engages in a conversation with campers outside of the chow hall. He makes an effort to get to know all the mentors and campers during each session.

**Left:** Mentor and Marine dependent Maggie Donovan, far left, a high school senior from MCB Quantico, Va., works on a personal reflection exercise with her group during the Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp, July 2014.

saw it," he said, and from there his dream came to life.

That first year, whenever he wasn't at the Pentagon, he was in Pennsylvania laying the groundwork for the leadership academy. "Every waking moment I had off, I was up here, trying to build support in the community," he said. The camp is a Jones family affair—his son, Brandon, is in charge of the day-to-day operations at the Odyssey. MajGen Jones, who remained on active duty for more than five years after purchasing the camp, says he never would have been able to make it happen without him.

The mentorship model for the Outdoor Odyssey program is simple yet innovative.

**Written on the wall of the chow hall are the Outdoor Odyssey leadership traits, which are nearly identical to those of the Marine Corps. MajGen Jones credits the ethos of the Outdoor Odyssey to the leadership skills he learned in the Corps.**

"To bring the kids to camp for a week is really of limited value unless you put the mentoring component in. That's the unique nature of Outdoor Odyssey," said MajGen Jones.

All the mentors are high school juniors and seniors from western Pennsylvania, who have been recommended by educators at their schools. Upon arriving at the camp, they are trained in leadership and then paired with children between the ages of 8 and 12 who struggle in school—most of whom come from difficult family situations. While the Odyssey program can't do anything to impact the socioeconomic factors at play in the children's lives, Jones believes that through mentorship, he can





During the Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp, MajGen Jones poses with mentors and campers from the MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., group before they embark on the climbing tower.

impact their educational success, which will pay huge dividends in their future.

Through the "shared adversity" created during activities like navigating the high-ropes course, climbing rock walls and exploring caves, campers and mentors develop a close bond and establish a relationship of trust. Once that bond is established, the children are more likely to open up to their mentors about the issues they face.

Each high school student mentors two campers and follows up with them often throughout the following school year. The whole process gives that high school student a powerful leadership experience. As Jones says, "There's no better way to receive leadership than to give leadership." To train the mentors and help oversee the mentorship process, he employs counselors who are college students or recent college graduates.

Clay Blose, a student at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania, is a counselor at the Outdoor Odyssey, who says that one of the most important things he has learned from his experiences there is the idea of "eyeball-level" leadership. "You get down and do what you're asking them to do," he explained. "At Outdoor Odyssey, no one's going to ask you to do something that they aren't willing to do themselves." When the counselors and mentors employ that leadership model and establish genuine concern for the campers, the children are willing to talk about things they might not normally discuss, like problems at home

or at school, Blose said.

While the Odyssey has little in common with Marine recruit training, Jones believes that the Marine Corps leadership traits are applicable wherever you are, and the camp is no exception. "Without the Marine Corps spirit I've tried to inculcate here, there would be no Outdoor Odyssey," said MajGen Jones. "All of those very striking philosophies and ethos of the Corps have a lot of resonance here." MEPS, which stands for Mental, Emotional, Physical and Spiritual, is a core part of the philosophy of the Outdoor Odyssey and draws from the idea that personal fulfillment comes from paying homage to all four of these components.

After establishing a tried-and-true system of teambuilding and leadership development, MajGen Jones doubled the number of counselors on his staff and opened the camp to groups from schools, universities and organizations as his primary source of revenue. That revenue allows him to offer the Outdoor Odyssey program free of charge to at-risk children without relying on funding from grants. Additionally, he offers a lodge for groups to rent out, which also funds the mentoring program. MajGen Jones made a decision early on that he wouldn't receive any income from the Odyssey and says he has gotten far more from it personally than he ever could get in remuneration.

In 2008, the Outdoor Odyssey partnered with the Semper Fi Fund to create the Semper Fi Odyssey, a transition assistance

While the Odyssey has little in common with Marine recruit training, Jones believes that the Marine Corps leadership traits are applicable wherever you are, and the camp is no exception.



The Outdoor Odyssey is designed to help attendees learn to balance four important elements in life—mental, emotional, physical and spiritual (MEPS).

program for wounded warriors.

The program is based on the idea that warriors need "someone who will listen to them and try to understand them. They need people who will look them in the eye and invest in them," said MajGen Jones. In August, he held the 44th session of Semper Fi Odyssey, which is staffed by volunteers, many of whom are active-duty and retired Marines. The program brings in professionals to conduct mock interviews and is designed to help prepare wounded warriors for life after military service. The participants are divided into small groups, each with a team leader who helps mentor them individually.

During the Semper Fi Odyssey programs, MajGen Jones learned a lot about operational stress and the toll it takes on the families. That's what spawned the Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp, he said. He had the idea and took it to the Semper Fi Fund, and in 2011, the program was born.





**A Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp participant rides the zip line from the top of the 50-foot climbing tower (pictured right). The MEPS triangle is visible on the tower, a reminder of the importance of a balanced life.**



"The lessons learned from the kids' camp are unbelievable," said Jones, adding that it really was designed as a way to help ameliorate stress within the family—a byproduct of what they learned from the wounded warriors. The Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp follows the same basic mentorship model of the Outdoor Odyssey, but all of the mentors—high school juniors and seniors—are children of Marines. This summer, the mentors, on average, have seen their Marine parent deploy to a combat environment four to five times.

"We understand what they're going through—we can relate to them, even though we can't fathom what some of them are going through. But we know what it's like to go through deployments and we can help them see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Maggie Donovan, a high school senior from Quantico, Va., and a mentor for the Semper Fi Fund Kids' Camp. She added that it was a great feeling to watch the campers accomplish things they thought were impossible, and that participating in the camp was a "life changer" for her.

The bond between the children and their mentors is unmistakable. The campers look up to the mentors and counselors with admiration, and there is a sense of

team spirit among the group as a whole. Whether hiking, canoeing, swimming, zip-lining or participating in the leadership reaction course or the low ropes course, trust is built and the stresses brought on by having an injured parent are relieved. True to the Outdoor Odyssey model, these mentors follow up with the kids throughout the year as well and participate in activities and gatherings together both before and after the camp session.

Eric Maxwell, a high school senior from Manassas, Va., is a junior counselor at the Outdoor Odyssey. His father, Lieutenant Colonel Tim Maxwell, USMC (Ret), suffered a severe traumatic brain injury and later founded the first Wounded Warrior Barracks on the East Coast at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Eric said he and his sister "grew up pretty fast. We didn't have time to be little kids. One of my favorite things about the Semper Fi camp [is that] it gives these kids who probably have had to do the same thing—grow up really fast and have a lot of responsibility—it just gives them the chance to be kids again. It also gives

them a person who can be there for them and is paying attention to them and cares about them."

To MajGen Jones, there are many invaluable lessons that can be learned in a camp environment, particularly for those who face considerable challenges in life. "I don't really put any value in many of these high-adventure events ... unless you're doing climbing for a reason ... you can have fun a lot of places. Kids don't have trouble having fun, but you've got to have fun for a reason," he said. What MajGen Jones intended as a channel to change the lives of others has been life-changing for him as well, he says, noting that the personal rewards he receives from the Outdoor Odyssey rival what he got out of the Marine Corps—"And that says an awful lot!"

There are few who, after a life of service to their country, dedicate their time, energy and resources to the service of others, but if you ask MajGen Jones, he will tell you that he can't imagine his life any other way.



## **Leatherneck—On the Web**

For additional photos, go to [www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/outdoorodyssey](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/outdoorodyssey)

# LOCFEX: From Classroom to the Field

## Logistics Officers Practice What They Learn At Intense Field Exercise

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

*"Because of my wartime experience, I am insistent on the point that logistics know-how must be maintained, that logistics is second to nothing in importance in warfare, that logistic training must be widespread and thorough."*

—VADM Robert B. Carney, USN  
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), 1946-50

A casual observer of a military operation moving men, machines and supplies of war may not think too deeply about the intense training, planning and preparation needed to make it work; students in the Marine Corps Logistics Officers Course (LOC) don't have that option.

They are expected to know their trade inside and out. Those are lessons taught in a classroom, but are skills best absorbed by doing; thus, LOC field exercise, or LOCFEX, was developed.

This five-day evaluation is a unique training exercise and learning experience. It ultimately benefits the operating forces by providing logistics officers who are tested and ready when they get to their first commands.

It is an evaluated "full mission profile," meaning it tests students in every aspect of logistics they'll be expected to know. That includes setting up and operating a combat operations center and delivering combat service support; convoy planning and preparation; executing tactical convoys, counter improvised explosive device (IED) and close air support integration; establishing and maintaining a combat service support area; setting up and operating a cantonment area (base operations and support), including a field armory and ammunition supply point, a field motor pool and life-support operations with generators, field mess and medical facilities.

"It ties together and evaluates students on all the different jobs that a logistics officer is supposed to know in a way that they can expect to apply it in the fleet," explained Gunnery Sergeant Damian LeClair, the motor transport phase manager, who coordinates LOC motor transport support and is closely involved in the field exercise.

The LOC is part of Logistics Operations



CPL BRUCE J. BURTON

**Second Lt Christina Rapp, a student attending the Logistics Officers Course (LOC), Logistics Operations School (LOS), Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools (MCCSSS), Camp Johnson, N.C., pulls a tow cable to recover a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement during the Logistics Officers Course Field Exercise (LOCFEX) at Landing Zone (LZ) Parrott aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 5, 2014.**

School (LOS), Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools (MCCSSS) at Camp Johnson near Jacksonville, N.C., and not far from Camp Lejeune.

All officers assigned the logistics occupational specialty go through the three-month course, learning the myriad tasks a Marine logistics officer needs to know.

Occasionally, first lieutenants, captains or majors laterally moving into the field also go through the course. Logistics officers plan, coordinate, execute and supervise all logistics functions of combat service support, including supply, maintenance, transportation, general engineering and health services.



The field exercise component of the course has been an evolutionary development, beginning as a small command-post exercise years ago in the MCCSSS “backyard.” It took on a new life in 2009.

“The field exercise is a by-product of a direct-support agreement that was signed in November 2009 between the Training and Education Command and [II] Marine Expeditionary Force,” explained Lieutenant Colonel Michael Monroe, commanding officer of LOS for the past two years. The agreement enabled II MEF to provide direct support to training units at Camp Lejeune.

“This allowed us to reach out to II MEF for personnel and equipment to execute this training,” said Monroe, who acknowledged that he is a beneficiary of work done by his predecessors. “The field exercise took on the life it has now about 2010, when it really came off the ground.”

When Captain Tabatha Spriggs entered the logistics field and went through LOC seven years ago, things were vastly different. There was a field exercise, but nothing compared to what it has become.

“We had only our platoon of lieutenants, maybe 20 extra Marines and a couple of trucks,” recalled Spriggs, who was a LOC class advisor for a year before taking over as course manager in May, developing and maintaining the entire LOC course. “Now we have about 70 Marines in addition to the students, as well as about 400 pieces of gear.”

II MEF provides 40 enlisted Marines and four Navy corpsmen, 34 pieces of rolling stock, including trucks, tactical all-terrain vehicles and high-mobility, multi-purpose, wheeled vehicles (HMMWVs), a full field mess, generators and other equipment and materials needed to launch a full field exercise.

Simulators also are used during preparation for the FEX. For example, a fairly new combat convoy simulator is in two buildings at Camp Lejeune. Each building has two 7-ton trucks and four HMMWV simulators that can run a number of different convoy scenarios. The simulator vehicles are stationary, and lifelike simulation is provided by a 360-degree video projection screen linked to the simulators.

“Turn the wheel, and the computer links up and turns the screen outside the vehicle to make it appear just like you are moving in a real vehicle,” explained GySgt Dale Bragg, the assistant LOC phase manager. “You step on the gas, and you go faster; you hit the brake, and you stop. It’s very realistic, although it takes some getting used to. It’s a little disorienting at first.”

These simulators enable the school to run convoys, either two separate ones or paired together into a 12-vehicle convoy.

Along the simulated route, they run into everything a combat convoy could expect, including IEDs, ambushes and breakdowns.

Staff Sergeant Christopher Ballard is the course manager for the Motor Transport Noncommissioned Officer Operations Course. It is an intermediate-level course for motor transport operators, but the LOC students also share much of the same curriculum.

Ballard, the consummate motor transport Marine, can’t resist comparing the

lieutenants’ progression through LOC to a gear-shifting pattern.

“It’s like a crawl, walk, run building process,” he described, portraying the classroom as first gear, teaching all the book answers. “Convoy combat simulators are second gear to familiarize them with the procedures and equipment they’ll be using in the LOCFEX.”

Each student fills the various combat leadership roles in simulators to receive experience in planning and leading convoys, as well as reacting to unknowns along



**Capt Peter T. Borsay, LOC course manager, briefs students at LZ Eagle during a LOC field exercise. The exercise is a one-week event designed to train junior officers on convoy, command center, and helicopter support team operations. (Photo by Cpl Bryce J. Burton)**



**LOC Marines approach an abandoned HMMWV, or humvee, at LZ Eagle. A support agreement signed by both II MEF and Training and Education Command enables II MEF to provide direct support to MCCSSS in order to provide the most realistic training to students. (Photo by LCpl Holly A. Williams)**





**Marines from LOC unload a truck of supplies at LZ Eagle. II MEF provides more than 30 vehicles in support of each LOCFEX. (Photo by Cpl Bryce J. Burton)**

the way. “But it’s all done with simulators so you eliminate the risk of accidents and teach them to work together as a team,” said Bragg, who has been on the LOS staff for more than a year.

Third gear is when the staff supports students in real-life tactical convoys on the grounds of Camp Johnson. That allows the students to handle real equipment and vehicles and to lead Marines.

Fourth gear is the FEX itself where all students are tasked to perform duties of key convoy positions: convoy leader, assistant convoy leader, recovery team leader and security. The staff observes and evaluates their performances along the way while students rotate in and out of those positions.

“For example, every single lieutenant has to give a convoy brief during the LOC,” said Spriggs, noting that there are six convoys a day during FEX, with about 40 lieutenants per class. “We ensure they are briefing the proper information, and we have a way to see how well they’re doing and get them additional training if they need it.”

A new evaluation system during the

LOC, including FEX, is peer evaluations. There are 43 evaluation opportunities in the entire course, with 26 of them at FEX. As students rotate in and out of the key leadership roles at various phases of the course, they evaluate each other as peers.

“The peer evals tie into things we don’t evaluate with a grade on a convoy,” Spriggs explained. “For example, a Marine could

do great on a convoy brief, but then the convoy could be impacted by actions of students in the other positions. So they evaluate each other, honestly, as peers. It keeps them all motivated to ensure they don’t get tunnel vision just in their task.”

Students have the resources to practice and be evaluated in the full range of combat logistics functions, such as setting up



**First Lt Steve A. Smith points at his sectors of fire while under attack by simulated aggressors at LZ Condor, Camp Lejeune.**



a combat operations center, convoy planning and preparation, and establishing a combat service support area. Helicopters often come in to assist with close air support integration training.

“The officers can perform these tasks in a real, live field environment and develop the self-confidence and muscle memory in their ability to do it the right way, under supervision, before they do it for their parent battalion, squadron or regiment,” said LtCol Monroe, using a field armory as an example. “It’s one thing to see it on PowerPoint slides and read about it, but another to go into the field with the weapons and optics and concertina wire to see what it is supposed to look like.”

Support staffs from MCCSSS, LOS and II MEF provide role players and evaluators, but the students are responsible for planning and executing the training.

“LOC staff does preliminary coordination, such as locking on training areas and putting in requests for equipment, because those things have to happen months before the students get here,” said Capt Spriggs, noting that there are five to six classes per year, so that coordination is constant.

The FEX actually starts the week before the field portion when students must do all the planning and preparation to get them from Camp Johnson to the training area about 15 miles away.

“They have to sign for all the vehicles and equipment, get it staged, loaded and ready to go,” said Spriggs. “We give them the mission and suggestions, but then let them take it for action. We will jump in for safety issues, but this is their time to learn. We may watch them load a truck and take two hours to do it where we could do it in 20 minutes, but we let them make mistakes so they can experience it for themselves.”

The hypothetical operation used during FEX is dubbed “Operation Blue Devil Simulation.” While exact parameters may change somewhat due to current training priorities, the scenario remains consistent: A Marine expeditionary unit has been sent ashore in response to turmoil in an East Africa country, and the LOC students represent a combat logistics battalion that must support a battalion landing team ashore in the execution of combat and humanitarian operations. The circumstances and requirements are not unlike many that Marines have faced or can expect to face in the future.

LOCFOX has had its share of observers from commanding officers of field units within II MEF to the Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, Lieutenant General William M. Faulkner. “I think he was astonished at how far forward we’re leaning in to ensure we’re setting



**Above: MRAP vehicles are staged in the motor pool at LZ Condor as part of a hypothetical operation known as “Operation Blue Devil Simulation.” The exercise is designed to familiarize student logistics officers with real-world logistics operations. The five-day exercise consists of day and night convoys, an external Helicopter Support Team lift, and repelling assaults against small attack forces. (Photo by LCpl Matthew L. Hebert)**

**Below: A simulated IED detonates during LOCFOX. Throughout the exercise, convoys encounter IEDs, ambushes and breakdowns similar to those seen in combat situations. (Photo by Cpl Bryce J. Burton)**



these lieutenants up for success,” said Spriggs.

“There is no other way I know of for students to get practical experience other than going to the field with Marines and equipment we’ll use in combat and put it to use,” said Colonel Paul Bertholf, CO of MCCSSS. “Losing the exercise would mean we would not be providing to the operating forces the most ready and best-trained lieutenants we can provide. Nothing would be able to put together the full mission profile we can during the five days in the field with FEX.”

Perhaps the best endorsement the FEX

receives is from former students now in the operating forces. Some of them spoke on camera in an MCCSSS combat camera video production about the FEX.

“All these things that we learned as far as planning have directly contributed to success I had here in III MEF, whether in the Philippines, Korea or Thailand,” said First Lieutenant Charles Mohr, who graduated in 2011 and transferred to Okinawa, Japan.

First Lt Joel Wellendorf was transferred to Headquarters, Truck Company, Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune after graduation, where he was assigned to an





CPL BRYCE J. BURTON

**Above:** LtGen William M. Faulkner, center, Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, arrives to tour the LOC field exercise at LZ Eagle, Camp Lejeune, Oct. 31, 2013. The field exercise is conducted several times a year for each LOC.

**Below:** LtGen Faulkner addresses the students of Logistics Officers Course. As the Corps' senior logistician, the general toured the area to observe the training of the new logistics officers and to provide motivation and encouragement as the students prepared to enter the operating forces.



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embedded training team and had many billets he'd experienced in LOCFEX. "I was ops officer; I was watch officer; and I was a motor transport officer. A lot of things I didn't expect to do on deployment, but I was able to think back to my experiences in LOCFEX," he said.

After graduation, 1stLt Maura McGraw went to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36 in Okinawa. "LOCFEX was the most beneficial part of Logistics Operation School for me because it gave us practical experience with things like acquisition,

embarkation, tactical convoy movements and setting up and maintaining a camp, which turned out to be very beneficial for me when I was executing some of my first fleet operations."

Motor Transport Officer 1stLt Jason Floyd stayed at Camp Lejeune after school with 2d Tank Bn. "My learning curve as platoon commander would have been much steeper if not for LOCFEX," he said. "I would not have been as well-prepared to take over the platoon and implement that real-world realistic training Marines will

need if they go into a combat environment."

"We graduated a class in May, and I received letters from 25 out of 40 of them telling us how great LOCFEX was and how it helped them, especially during their first few weeks in the fleet," said Spriggs. "One of them was assigned to be the camp commandant for a maintenance battalion field exercise, the first time in a long time that the battalion had gone out with all of its people and all its gear. He said he wouldn't have known where to start if he hadn't done the FEX."

Post-graduation surveys also are sent to students six months to a year later to see what billets they're filling and what in school helped to prepare them, Spriggs noted. "We also read after-action reports from major exercises such as Bold Alligator, and if they're saying that students don't understand certain things, we can incorporate that into the course," she said.

Lieutenants aren't the only ones who derive benefits from the FEX; the junior enlisted Marines who come from LOS, MCCSSS and II MEF also gain field experience.

"We send some of our younger Marines, the entry-level students at LOS, to assist with the training, and about half are logistics students, to augment the Marines we get from II MEF," said "Gunny" Le-Clair. "This allows lieutenants to interact with those enlisted personnel to set up security and get tasks done around the area, and for many of them this is the first time they've interacted with junior enlisted in the field. It also gives the young Marines a chance to share their knowledge and experience with the lieutenants."

LtCol Monroe re-emphasized, "The bottom line is that the success and effectiveness of this training exercise is heavily dependent on the support that II MEF provides us, and they have been extremely supportive."

It clearly states on the LOC command brief presentation: "Bottom Line - No II MEF Support = No LOCFEX."

Capt Spriggs said she agrees. "We always try to explain to each participant from the MEF how important each one of them is and how they impact these officers," she affirmed. "Marines who are a part of this have the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience to educate and impact future leaders in Marine Corps logistics."

*Author's bio: CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret) was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now is a contributing editor for Leatherneck.*

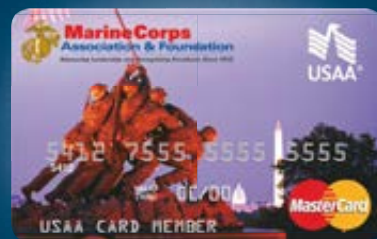






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# In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

"In Memoriam" is run on a space-available basis. Those wishing to submit items should include full name, age, location at time of death (city and state), last grade held, units served in, dates of service and, if possible, a local or national obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear.

## Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, July 1-31, 2014

There are no casualties to report for this month.

### Col M. J. "Mac" Dube

Colonel M. J. "Mac" Dube, decorated veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars and two-term mayor of Twentynine Palms, Calif., died April 29 in Twentynine Palms. He was 80.

He enlisted in 1951 and served in Korea as a platoon sergeant with Company C, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. He was commissioned in 1958 and later attended the Royal Marine Commando Course.

From 1961 to 1963 he was the executive officer and later commanding officer of the Marine Detachment in USS *Los Angeles* (CA-135). He was an instructor and head of the Amphibious Reconnaissance Branch of the Troop Training School, Coronado, Calif.

He was assigned to Vietnam with a mobile training team working with the River Assault Force and was Senior Advisor to the 3d Bn Vietnamese Marine Corps and was wounded in combat. He also served with the Combined Action Program, III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam and later commanded 2/9 and Battalion Landing Team 2/9 afloat.

He served as CO, Marine Barracks Hawaii prior to his retirement after 38 years of service.

In 1994 he was elected to the Twentynine Palms City Council and served two terms as mayor.

His personal decorations include the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, four Bronze Star medals with combat "V," the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V," the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, three Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry and two Vietnam Honor Medals 1st Class. He was a member of the MCA&F, MCL and the 1st and 3dMarDiv Assns.

**Paul "Boomer" Andrew**, 85, of Piedmont, Calif. He served in Korea and, later, served on the Board of Directors for the Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel in San Francisco.

He was heavily involved in rugby and was the founder of the Monterey National Rugby Tournament. He also was involved with University of California Berkeley rugby and was presented the Golden Bear Rugby

Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. He owned several San Francisco-based companies including Briggs, Andrew, Pope and Andrew Associates.

**Col James R. Blackwell**, 92, of Atlantic Beach, Fla. He served from 1941 to 1965 and held various command and staff assignments. During WW II he saw action in the Marshall Islands, Iwo Jima and Japan. He was also a veteran of the Korean War. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V." He retired while a member of the faculty of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

He was head of the Community College Section and professor emeritus of Purdue University in 1989. He was also president of Management Consulting Company, Blackwell and Associates, Michigan City, Ind., and a member of the MCA&F.

**Patrick F. Caputo**, 89, of Bayville, N.Y. He was a WW II veteran of Okinawa.

He was a former president and CEO of Reliance Utilities Petroleum Distributor, past president of Oil Heat Institute of Long Island, former trustee of St. Francis Hospital, and former director of Long Island Trust Company. He was also a Knight of Malta.

**Capt Leonard H. Dermott**, 70, in Hope, Maine. He served in Vietnam as an artillery officer and later as a combat artist. His personal decorations include the Bronze Star and the Navy Commendation Medal.

He also worked with NASA as its first artist from the Armed Forces. His various works have been displayed in both the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the Smithsonian Institution.

After leaving active duty, he moved to Bar Harbor, Maine, where he opened his own gallery. He later used his talents in the field of graphic artistry.

**Col Stephen S. Evans**, 60, in Stafford County, Va. He earned his Ph.D. in 1995 from Temple University where he also taught history. He was the author of "Heroic Poetry of Dark-Age Britain" and "Lords of Battle" and compiled the "Anthology and Selected Bibliography of U.S. Marines and Irregular

Warfare, 1898-2007" while working as field historian for the Marine Corps History Division.

He became acquisitions editor of the History Division of the Marine Corps University Press after his retirement from the Corps.

**George Washington J. Green**, USMC (Ret), 92, of Webster Groves, Mo. He served with the 3dMarDiv during WW II and was awarded two Purple Hearts.

He founded ISC Contracting in 1982 at the age of 60. He was a member of the 3dMarDiv Assn. and an author of World War II history.

**Harold F. Hards**, 92, of Friendswood, Texas. He served as a Marine Raider during WW II and saw combat on Guam and Okinawa where he was awarded the Purple Heart. He was part of the occupation of Japan. Returning home, he worked 35 years for Uniroyal and was a volunteer at the VA hospital in West Virginia and at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Rio Hondo, Texas.

**Peter M. Klicas**, 89, of Lynbrook, N.Y. He was a veteran of WW II whose awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

**Sgt John G. Kowalik** of Illinois. He enlisted in August 1940, was a Pearl Harbor survivor and a member of 2d Raider Bn (Carlson's Raiders) who made the famous "Long Patrol" on Guadalcanal. He also fought on Kwajalein and Saipan.

**Sgt Richard E. Lee** in Scottsdale, Ariz. He enlisted in 1962 and served as aircrewman on the Douglas C-117 Skytrain. He flew missions in 1966 over Vietnam where he was awarded the Air Medal.

He returned to Sunnyslope, Ariz., and worked for Sperry Avionics for 40 years.

**Ralph W. Liddell**, 76, of Moline, Ill. He served in the Marine Corps and worked as an electronics technician for project engineering at John Deere for 46 years.

**MSgt Walton W. "Walt" McNeel**, 89, in Dallas. He enlisted in 1941 with his older brother David. He served in the Pacific during World War II, rising to the grade of master sergeant.

After the war, he worked for 62 years in the sign business as a pattern maker and sales representative for Zimmerman Sign and City Sign.

**Cpl Robert Richards**, 28, in Jacksonville, N.C. He was a medically retired combat veteran who was wounded badly in Afghanistan and appeared in a controversial video urinating



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## VIETNAM BATTLEFIELDS



Gen Peter Pace went back with MHT in 2013!!

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- 5 - 17 Mar '15 - 50th Anniversary of the Marines Landing at Red Beach - 1965**
- 7 - 16 Mar '15 - 2/4 in I-Corps & Operations Frequent Wind**
- 11 - 25 Apr '15 - 50th Anniversary of Operations "Rolling Thunder"**
- 2 - 15 May '15 - "Saigon to the DMZ"**
- 6 - 19 Jun '15 - USMC Units in I Corps**



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70th Anniversary Liberation of Manila**

- 16 - 23 Mar '15 - 70th Anniversary of Iwo Jima**  
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- 18 - 24 Jun '15 - 70th Anniv of Battle of Okinawa**



MHT showing the flag in the PI last year



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Sherman at Bastogne Square



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## EUROPE BATTLEFIELDS

- 21 Apr - 1 May '15 - Turkey - 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign, Istanbul, Troy & ANZAC Day**

- 30 Apr - 9 May '15 - Ireland - "Irish U.S. Marines of WWII" & VE Day** Dublin - Derry - Belfast - Ceremony for U.S. Sailors & Marines

- 16 - 27 May '15 - 97th Anniversary of World War I Battlefields**

- 28 May - 2 Jun '15 - Battle of Bulge Tour and Paris**

- 30 May - 10 June '15 - 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Italy "Salerno to Switzerland"**

- 1 - 9 Jun '15 - D-Day: Normandy to Paris**

- 13 - 20 Jun '15 - 200th Anniversary Battle of Waterloo**

- 2 - 14 Jul '15 - Russia WWII Moscow, Stalingrad & Battle of Kursk**  
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on dead Taliban insurgents. He died Aug. 13 in his home of unknown causes.

He was a three-time deployed veteran of Afghanistan. In 2010 on patrol in Marjah, in Helmand province, an improvised explosive device inflicted shrapnel wounds to Richards' legs, arms, groin and throat, which required multiple surgeries to fix.

**Carlton A. Sherwood**, 67, in Philadelphia. He served from 1964 to 1968 and was wounded three times in combat in Vietnam. According to his wife, Susan, former Senator Jim Webb, a Marine infantry veteran of Vietnam and the author of "Fields of Fire" and other books, said: "Carlton Sherwood was a great friend, and was one of the toughest and most uncomplaining people I have ever known. He was a Marine through and through. ... He left high school to enlist in the Marine Corps and served with honor as an infantryman in the Dominican Republic and Vietnam. And as an investigative reporter, he had few peers."

Sherwood earned both the Pulitzer Prize and George Peabody Award during his four decades as a journalist, media consultant and author. He was an investigative reporter with Gannett News Service, CNN, CBS, *The Washington Times* and *The Philadelphia Bulletin*. He produced numerous other award-winning documentaries.

He was a military/defense advisor, an advocate for war veterans and served as broadcast communications director to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge.

(*Leatherneck* magazine was the recipient

of the Carlton Sherwood Blinded American Veterans Foundation Media Award in 2010.)

**SSgt Francisco R. "Frank" Urrutia**, 74, of Watsonville, Calif. He enlisted in the Army National Guard of Texas in 1957 and then enlisted in the Corps and saw combat in Vietnam. He served as a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego from 1966 to 1968. His military decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and the Combat Action Ribbon.

He became a correctional officer and retired as a correctional sergeant from the California Department of Corrections.

**MSgt Donald L. Versaw**, 93, of Lakewood, Calif. He was a member of the Fourth Marine Regiment "China Marine" Band in Shanghai. He and his unit left China for the Philippines during November 1941. He and his fellow bandmen became infantrymen with Co E, 2d Bn, 4th Marines and were captured May 6, 1942, by the Japanese at Corregidor and taken to the Cabanatuan POW camp and then to Japan as laborers for 3½ years.

He became a combat photographer after WW II and deployed to Korea with the 1stMarDiv. One of his later photographic assignments was to document sculptor Felix de Weldon's work on the Marine Corps War Memorial. A number of his photos appeared in *Leatherneck*.

He retired from the Corps in 1959 and worked in the aerospace industry for 13 years on the Saturn and Apollo programs. He completed 10 years of Civil Service divided equal-

ly between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1984 with a total of 31 years federal service. He was a life member of American Ex-POWs, the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, the Disabled American Veterans, the China Marine Association and the Marine Corps Musicians Association.

**Sgt Tommy C. Wilkerson**, 85, in Lynchburg, Va. He served in the Marine Reserve before and during the Korean War.

**Jane (Clark) Wilson**, 93, in Homewood, Ala. She was the wife of the late Gen Louis H. Wilson, 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps (1975-79), and Medal of Honor winner who died in 2005.

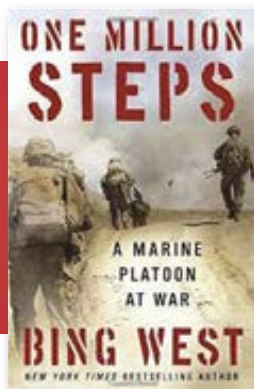
She grew up in Pearson, Miss., where she met her future husband while she was a senior in high school. They married in November 1944 after he returned from the Pacific. When Gen Wilson was Commandant, Mrs. Wilson was the hostess at countless functions at the Home of the Commandants, Washington, D.C., for visitors including Presidents and first ladies, as well as foreign military and political leaders, such as Britain's Prince Philip, all of whom fell under the spell of her Southern charm.

She traveled extensively to Marine Corps bases throughout the nation and world and was influential in the promotion of child daycare centers on those bases. Mrs. Wilson was chosen to serve as the sponsor of USS *Nassau* (LHA-4) when the ship was christened in 1979.



# Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from *The MARINE Shop*. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 6 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 6.75 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net).



**ONE MILLION STEPS: A Marine Platoon at War.** By Bing West. Published by Random House. 277 pages. Stock #1400068746. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

“One Million Steps,” by bestselling Marine author Bing West, is an eye-opening examination of the complicated war now raging in Afghanistan. “Kilo” Company is one of the three rifle companies in the hard-fighting 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. During its six-month deployment in 2010-11, Kilo’s 3d Platoon conducted 400 foot patrols, engaged in 171 firefights and fought the hardest sustained battle of the Afghanistan war. The 3d Plt “grunts” lived and fought in Sangin, an outlying district in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The author estimated that the 50-man platoon humped more than one million steps during their combat tour in country.

In early October 2010, Marines took over responsibility for defending Helmand province from the British. Unlike the Brits, however, the Marines instituted a regimen of aggressive daily patrolling along the Helmand River in the fertile farm area known as the Green Zone. Their “Big Stick Counterinsurgency” policy meant “be polite and have a plan for killing everyone you meet.”

What a mixed-up situation the Marines found. Insurgents planted countless improvised explosive devices and engaged in firefights with the Marines on a daily basis. Marine engineers, using low-tech metal detectors, led the way for the trailing

combat patrol. The Marines were followed and observed often by enemy scouts. The scouts rode fast-moving, off-road motorbikes. Although the Marines usually were aware of the threat, they could not actively engage these enemy scouts due to one of their strict rules of engagement: “Positive Identification.” The rules stated that Marines could not shoot at Afghans unless taking fire or the suspect villager was armed and/or communicating on a hand-held cell phone.

Helmand province provides 70 percent of the world’s opium supply, and the irony was not lost on the Marines that while they patrolled and fought in the purple poppy fields, Americans at home were engaged in fighting the drug. This and many other contradictions about the troop surge made little sense to the 3/5 Marines. All knew that this surge was temporary. The Marines had little trust in their Afghan counterparts, and they felt no support from the farmers they were tasked to empower and protect.

So, how do you get Marines ready and able to aggressively confront their skilled enemy? The task was daunting. From the outset, leathernecks of 3d Plt took heavy casualties, but as a modern fighting force, their tasks included some Peace Corps-like activities including serving as advisors, constables, project managers, dispute adjudicators and community organizers. West writes, “There was no military precedent for these ambitious tasks.” And the hard lessons learned during the Viet-

nam and Iraq wars did not apply easily. Because the local population understood that the U.S. presence would be brief, they offered limited support to the passing Marine patrols.

The grunts continued to aggressively patrol and used supporting air and artillery when confronted with a large concentration of the otherwise ghostlike enemy combatants. In a 10-week period, 3/5 called in 177 artillery and air strikes, including missiles and 44 500-pound bombs. The 3d Plt in particular found that the use of skilled snipers was an especially effective tool.

Bing West is a former assistant secretary of defense, but still refers to himself as “an old grunt.” Captain West led Marines during his two tours in Vietnam and recently noted, “My real rank is 03-0302. ‘Grunt’ has no higher rank.”

A gifted author, West provides us with much to brood over in “One Million Steps.” Some of his past works, “The Strongest Tribe: War, Politics, and the End Game in Iraq,” “The Wrong War: Grit, Strategy, and the Way Out of Afghanistan,” make for our best understanding of the complicated, and often mystifying, Middle Eastern wars. For “One Million Steps,” he embedded with the platoon during combat patrols. He also made extensive use of the platoon’s daily log, and he surveyed the Marines’ feelings about their high-risk deployment in country.

Of particular interest to Vietnam War vets are the comparisons that West makes between his Vietnam War experiences and the current situation faced in Afghanistan. For instance, unlike his 1967 experiences with Combat Action Platoons when Marines lived inside Vietnam villages, he points out that Afghan farmers showed little interest in being protected. (On a personal note: Capt West, your three-war comparison is truly intriguing; might this be a grand topic for one of your next books? A book, I might add, that would be important to Marines of any era, and one which only you could credibly write!)



When Bing West speaks, people listen. His writing gives us an authentic glimpse into our country's longest war, while providing a critical understanding of just what our heroic Marines are called upon to perform. As in the case of Kilo's 3d Plt, our grunts often must pay a painfully heavy price to win the fight.

Bing West's well-written manuscript, "One Million Steps," has much to teach us. A great book, yes, but it also allows us to take a hard look at the dynamics of a hard-fighting Marine platoon caught up in the contradictory realm of 21st-century warfighting.

Robert B. Loring

*Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine. A tireless worker for the Marine Corps and his local community, he volunteers for various charities, including helping to run a successful Toys for Tots program in Pasco County, Fla.*

**THE YANKS ARE COMING! A Military History of the United States in World War I. By H. W. Crocker III. Published by Regnery Publishing Inc. 404 pages. Stock #1621572625. \$27 MCA Members. \$29.99 Regular Price.**

H. W. Crocker has just written a book that should make many of the reading lists for both Army and Marine professional education courses. In this year, the 100th anniversary of the start of "The War to End All Wars," Harry Crocker has written a work that resonates from World War I to this day. He is especially complimentary to the United States Marine Corps.

His skill is evident in his organization of the chapters, which deviates from the expected, chronological linear history. First, he covers the events leading America into war. Then he presents a very comprehensive narrative of the battles after the "Yanks" arrived. But what makes this work really stand out is the author's keen eye and well-researched chapters on the human element: those who fought and made history by their efforts.

He starts that section with "The Generals," including a very informative chapter on Marine Major General John A. Lejeune. He also gives ample space to General Douglas MacArthur and the airpower vision of Brigadier General Billy Mitchell.

In his "Young Lions" segment, he describes those who built on their WW I experience to rise to the challenge in WW II and beyond. Prominent are President Harry S. Truman, GEN George S. Patton, GEN George C. Marshall, MG William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan (father of the

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Office of Strategic Services that became the Central Intelligence Agency) and several other heroic yet very modest men: Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Alvin C. York and the chaplain of the New York "Fighting 69th," Father Duffy, who received the Distinguished Service Cross.

The book's chapter on future President Truman is especially poignant. The only President to fight in WW I, Captain Truman of Battery D, 129th Field Artillery, had to "game" his eye exam. The author doesn't stop with just Truman's WW I combat experience; he follows his life forward from ending the war against Japan to creating the Truman Doctrine.

Crocker describes vignettes with an excellent prose style that makes the book an easy read. One noteworthy contribution is his strong understanding and appreciation for joint operations. Along the way, he treats USMC WW I combat action extremely well in the context of a joint environment.

In developing joint tactics and fighting with French units, one of the most famous statements in Marine history was spoken. When a French officer told Marine Capt Lloyd "Josh" Williams that the situation was hopeless and he must retreat, the captain made a statement that stands as long as there will be a Marine Corps:

"Retreat, hell! We just got here."

Politics and personalities are not avoided. After initially resisting putting Marines on the front line, GEN John J. Pershing assigned his Army Chief of Staff, BG James Harbord, to take the Marines forward with the words, "Young man, I'm giving you the best brigade in France. If anything goes wrong, I'll know whom to blame." Harbord noted later, "They never failed."

The WW I Marines of the 5th and 6th regiments were described as being the best-trained units in the American Expeditionary Forces, "aggressive with bayonet and famously proud marksmen." According to Crocker, "Sixty percent of the entire regiment—mark this—sixty percent were college men. Two-thirds of one entire company came straight from the University of Minnesota."

In facing the Marines at Belleau Wood, one German soldier wrote, "The Americans are savages. They kill everything that moves."

In WW I—just like for today's Marines—fighting like they trained was a key element. The author describes the brutality of war while making a very insightful point about training. For WW I trench warfare, the Marines prepared at Quantico, Va. "At the newly built base at

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Quantico, they had drilled in muddy trenches to get them ready for the Western Front. But even Quantico's famous mud could not match the miserable lice-ridden, dank dark, waterlogged trenches of France, infested with monstrous rats that feasted on the dead and that Marines bayoneted or shot, treating them like mini-Boche."

As the first Marine to command an Army division, MajGen Lejeune gets a chapter to himself. Crocker tells how U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman Lejeune entered the Marine Corps. After the required two years at sea, Midshipman Lejeune returned to take his final exams to become a commissioned officer. Standing sixth in his class, he was slated to be a naval engineer, but he wanted to be a Marine.

Crocker writes: "[A] naval officer told him, 'Frankly Mister Lejeune, you have altogether too many brains to be lost in the Marine Corps.'"

Proving his intelligence, he managed to have that comment repeated to the Commandant of the Marine Corps who then specifically requested Midshipman Lejeune be given a Marine commission.

The book describes how some of MajGen Lejeune's Army superiors were of mixed opinion of him; "too independent minded and too ready to question orders, and held suspect Lejeune's style of leading men

rather than driving them." This section reads about right to this day.

As a between-wars Commandant, July 1920–March 1929, Lejeune is given full credit as "a deft administrator doing much with the small budget Congress allotted him, including keeping Marine Corps aviation alive and laying the intellectual groundwork for the Marines of the future—as an amphibious assault force." His guiding light was leading by example, and his fundamental belief was that "leadership was a moral calling."

The book is a worthy read for all interested in combat and the challenges faced by individual Marines and soldiers to their highest leaders. It is a reading journey that is presented with respect and understanding.

Ed Timperlake

*Author's bio: Ed Timperlake is the editor of Second Line of Defense Forum and is a former commanding officer of VMFA-321. He is the co-author of three books: "Showdown: Why China Wants War With the United States," "Red Dragon Rising: Communist China's Military Threat to America" and "Year of the Rat: How Bill Clinton Compromised U.S. Security for Chinese Cash."*





## SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

Our thanks to *Leatherneck* contributing writer Eric Hammel for originally pointing this out, and 1stSgt Donald Barnhart who told us the LVT-4 also was called an Alligator. Marine veteran Andy Dial of Columbia, S.C., also called to set us straight.

### Reunions

- **3dMarDiv Assn. (Texas Chapter)**, Oct. 9-12, San Antonio. Contact Mike Sohn, (210) 654-3310, jumient2@hotmail.com.

- **6thMarDiv Assn.**, Oct. 7-12, Dumfries, Va. Contact Holiday Inn Quantico Center, 3901 Fetter Park Dr., Dumfries, VA 22025, (703) 441-9001, [www.sixthmarinedivision.com](http://www.sixthmarinedivision.com).

- **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 20-23, Pala, Calif. Contact Ken Frantz, 807 Carriage Hills Blvd., Conroe, TX 77384, (936) 273-4830, [execdir@marcorengasn.org](mailto:execdir@marcorengasn.org), [www.marcorengasn.org](http://www.marcorengasn.org).

- **USMC Tankers Assn.**, Oct. 2-4, San Diego. Contact Buster Diggs, (619) 873-7385, [bdiggs60@gmail.com](mailto:bdiggs60@gmail.com).

- **Marine Corps Air Transport Assn.**, Oct. 1-5, Branson, Mo. Contact retired Marine Humberto C. Reyes, 2103 W. Mulberry Ave., San Antonio, TX 78201, (210) 867-9226, (210) 734-5967, [hreyes5416@aol.com](mailto:hreyes5416@aol.com).

- **"Marines of Long Ago" (all eras)**, Oct. 21-24, St. Augustine, Fla. Contact Joe "Red" Cullen, (203) 877-0846, [aircooledmg7@aol.com](mailto:aircooledmg7@aol.com), [www.marinesoflongago.org](http://www.marinesoflongago.org).

- **MarDet/Barracks, NOB/NAS Bermuda**, Oct. 19-23, Branson, Mo. Contact Dennis McDonald, (763) 473-3458, [d.mcdonald82575@comcast.net](mailto:d.mcdonald82575@comcast.net).

- **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Oct. 7-9, San Diego. Contact SgtMaj James Abraham, USMC (Ret), (949) 951-3824, (949) 433-3998, [a-abraham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a-abraham@sbcglobal.net).

- **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Oct. 19-24, San Antonio. Contact Harold Wilson, (740) 385-6204, [handk.lucerne06@gmail.com](mailto:handk.lucerne06@gmail.com).

- **Veterans of Guam and Iwo Jima (70th Anniversary)**, March 16-23, 2015, Iwo Jima. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, [jwiedhahn@aol.com](mailto:jwiedhahn@aol.com), [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com).

- **1st Provisional Marine Brigade, ("The Fire Brigade," Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion in 2015. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours,

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- **2/1 (RVN)**, Nov. 6-11, Charleston, S.C. Contact Mario Sagastume, (530) 521-3298, [choncho0331@sbcglobal.net](mailto:choncho0331@sbcglobal.net), <http://libertyyes.homestead.com/homepage.html>.

- **“Stormy’s” BLT 3/3 (1961-62)**, Oct. 20-23, Las Vegas. Contact James Burrus, (949) 830-1732, [calpacgp@pacbell.net](mailto:calpacgp@pacbell.net).

- **BLT 3/9 (50-Year Reunion)**, Sept. 8-12, 2015, San Diego. Contact Charles Saltaformaggio, (504) 812-7369, [csaltaformaggio@yahoo.com](mailto:csaltaformaggio@yahoo.com).

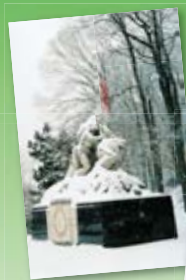
- **Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Marines Assn.**, Oct. 19-22, North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Leonard R. “Shifty” Shifflette, 25 Emery St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801, (540) 434-2066, (540) 745-2066, [captshifty@comcast.net](mailto:captshifty@comcast.net).

- **Co B, 7th Motor T Bn (RVN)**, Oct. 1-3, San Diego. Contact Tim Weddington, 2527 S. Glen Ln., Independence, MO 64052, (816) 808-2357, [timweddington@comcast.net](mailto:timweddington@comcast.net).

- **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, [bertojoto1@gmail.com](mailto:bertojoto1@gmail.com).

- **D/2/13 (Battle of Ngok Tavak and Kham Duc, 1968)**, Oct. 8-13, St. Louis.

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Contact Greg Rose, gregvn68@gmail.com, or Bill and Ann Schneider, wschnei591@aol.com.

- **2d Topographic Co**, Oct. 26-29, Beaufort, S.C. Contact James Martin, 7 Crocket Dr., Chelmsford, MA 01824, (781) 572-7924, topotrooper@aol.com.

- **"Alpha" Btry, 1/11 (RVN, 1965-66)**, Oct. 12-15, Las Vegas. Contact Gordon Hansen, (928) 757-4882, glhansen@citlink.net.

- **American Embassy Saigon, RVN (all military and civilian personnel stationed pre-April 30, 1975)**, May 17-21, 2015, Louisville, Ky. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

- **Yemassee Train Depot**, Oct. 17-18, Yemassee, S.C. Contact Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385.

- **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

- **Plts 17 and 19, Parris Island, 1955 (and others who went through PI during 1955 are welcome too)**, June 4-6, 2015, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Al Pasquale, (484) 802-2516, pasquale@bigplanet.com.

- **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is plan-

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ning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J. D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

- **Plt 255, Parris Island, 1957**, is planning a reunion. Contact Richard Proot, 457 Gaillardia Way, Acworth, GA 30102, (770) 592-5968, richardproot@aol.com; or Jack Marion, 6 Setters Rd., Sussex, NJ 07461, (908) 675-1675, jackmarion@embarqmail.com.

- **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, Nov. 7-10, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Sgt Maj Jim Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

- **Plt 390, Parris Island, 1964**, Oct. 3,

Parris Island, S.C. Contact Darrell Brammer, 4264 S. 300 E., Anderson, IN 46017, (765) 378-0993, bram942@msn.com.

- **Plt 1096, San Diego, 1968**, Oct. 10-13, Phoenix. Contact Dan Hefner, (312) 504-4658, drh818@msn.com.

- **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

- **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.

- **Plt 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion for 2015. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

- **Marine Air Groups (WW II-present)**, Oct. 1-4, Branson, Mo. Contact James Jordan, (417) 535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net, or Bob Miller, (636) 327-5854, mbobsue13@gmail.com.

- **HMM-774 Birthday Ball-50th Anniversary of the CH-46E (open to all)**, Nov. 14, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Capt Stacy Martinez, (757) 444-7818, ext. 2046, stacy.martinez@usmc.mil.

- **VMF/VMA-311 Assn.**, Oct. 1-5, San Antonio. Contact Jim Galchick, 1290 E. 12th St., Salem, OH 44460, (330) 337-

9383, jgalchick@neo.rr.com; George Phander, 3032 Potshop Rd., Norristown, PA 19403, (610) 584-5654, piboxer@comcast.net; or Cecil Cheeka, 2207 Lilac St. S.E., Lacey, WA 98503, (360) 352-7227, ccheeka@comcast.net, www.vmf-vma-311reunion.org.

## Ships and Others

- **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 8-12, Norfolk, Va. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com, www.usscanberra.com.

- **USS Houston (CL-81)**, Oct. 20-25, Norfolk, Va. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113, dlr7110@yahoo.com.

- **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, Oct. 12-16, Norfolk, Va. Contact David F. Fix, 131 Waypoint Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com.

- **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)**, Oct. 1-4, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Larry Schmuhl, (904) 997-2217, lschmuhl@gmail.com.

- **U.S. Naval School, Underwater Swimmers (Marine divers trained from recon and force recon)**, May 14-17, 2015, NSA Panama City, Fla. Contact Aaron Farrior, (850) 240-7417, bare4@cox.net.



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# Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Entries for "Reader Assistance," including "Mail Call," are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your e-mail to [leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org), or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

## Mail Call

• Marine veteran Dennis S. Chapman, (801) 361-6009, [dchapman1193@gmail.com](mailto:dchapman1193@gmail.com), to hear from or about **2dLt James M. MESSER** from Morgantown, W.Va., who served with **L/3/3, RVN, 1969**.

• Marine veteran Steve Toman, P.O. Box 543, Nashville, MI 49073-0543, to hear from members of **Plt 2031, San Diego, 1956**, who remember the **platoon song**.

• MGySgt Walter Lee Vaughan, USMC (Ret), 801 La Prada Dr., Apt. #160, Garland, TX 75043, [wvchub@aol.com](mailto:wvchub@aol.com), to hear from members of **Plt 16, San Diego, 1948 (below)**. Drill instructors were **MSgt S. R. SPAHR**, **SSgt T. G. INGLES** and **Sgt M. J. HUGHES**.

• USAF veteran Jerry Borchert, 1558 Stanford Ct., Denton, TX 76210, (940) 594-3170, [jerryborchert@gmail.com](mailto:jerryborchert@gmail.com), to hear from anyone who served with his cousin, Marine veteran **Robert J. "Bobby" BORCHERT** from West Allis, Wis., **RVN, 1970-71**.

• Marine veterans Bob Lukeman, (405) 842-3601, [jrlukeman@aol.com](mailto:jrlukeman@aol.com), and John Featherstone, (310) 833-2190, [johnf9375@aol.com](mailto:johnf9375@aol.com), to hear from **Marine Corps officers commissioned between 1950 and 1964** who are interested in joining the newly formed **Marine Officers Reunion Association**.

• Michael Thompson, 125 4th Ave. N.E., Apt. #7, St. Cloud, MN 56304, (218) 443-

6456, [mmichaelthompson5@gmail.com](mailto:mmichaelthompson5@gmail.com), to hear from members of **Plt 2122, San Diego, 1974** who were present on the pistol range on Dec. 13, 1974, and witnessed **Pvt RUSSELL's accidental shooting of himself**.

• Marine veteran David George, (219) 929-9265, to hear from the following Marines of **H/2/5, RVN, 1968-69**: **Milton KUCER**, **Ira TOLLEY**, **Carl ABERNATHY**, **William BANKER**, **Andrew ZACARDI**, **Humberto BRAVO**, **Sgt JOHNSON** and **"Top" V. YRUEGAS**.

• Marine veteran Jack Dorsey, P.O. Box 701, Mt. Zion, GA 30150, (770) 832-9340, to hear from members of **Plt 707, Parris**



MGySgt Walter Lee Vaughan, USMC (Ret) would like to hear from members of Plt 16, San Diego, 1948.

COURTESY OF MGYSGT WALTER LEE VAUGHAN, USMC (RET)



**Island, 1951-52.** He would also like to hear from Marines who served with him at **MCB Quantico, Va., 1952;** at **MCB Camp Lejeune and Camp Geiger, N.C.;** during cold weather maneuvers in **Labrador, Canada,** and maneuvers in **Vieques, Puerto Rico;** at **MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.,** and in **Korea.**

- Tiffany Prather, (971) 235-4602, tiffanyprather1986@yahoo.com, to hear from Marines who served with **Sgt Michael S. GARLAND,** from **1987 to 1993,** particularly **Jim JERNIGAN,** **Sgt John LOZANO** and **Brian THORNTON.**

- Former Cpl Harry Smith, 800 Bacon Hall Rd., Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152, (410) 472-3246, to hear from **Marine veterans** who are interested in joining the **1stMarDiv Association of Maryland.**

- Gary L. Hilbert Jr., 3338 Orefield Rd., Allentown, PA 18104, christianahilbert@yahoo.com, to hear from Marines who served with his father, **Sgt Gary L. HILBERT Sr., 1962-66,** at **HQMC and 2d Engineer Bn, 2dMarDiv, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.**

- Col S. M. McBride, tel. (from the United States): 011-81-98-969-4524, sean.m.mcbride1@nmci.usmc.mil, to hear from anyone who knows the identity of the **Marines (below) who coached the Kin Town Tigers baseball team, Okinawa, 1960.**

- Marine veteran George A. Schmitt, (850) 478-0880, big747@att.net, to hear from or about the drill instructors and members of **Plt 280, Parris Island, 1956.** Drill instructors were **SSgt F. R. GORDON JR., SSgt T. V. ALLEN** and **Sgt D. H. WILSON.**

- Marine veteran Larry C. Beane, 9009 Racine Rd., Pleasant Garden, NC 27313, (336) 685-9009, lcbeane@triad.rr.com, to hear from drill instructors and members of **Plt 245, Parris Island, 1967,** who are interested in a 50th anniversary reunion. Drill instructors were **SSgt SOMMERS, Sgt BILZ** and **Sgt BRADFORD.**

- Steve Waldner, President, 3dMarDiv Assn., Houston/Galveston, Texas, chapter, (281) 992-4419, wes.waldner@gmail.com, to hear from anyone interested in contributing to a monument for Medal of Honor recipient **LCpl Richard A. ANDERSON, Co E, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv, RVN, 1969.**

### Wanted

*Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered.*

- Capt Arthur Kidd, USMC (Ret), (603) 889-7618, vietlingie@gmail.com, wants a **"Guidebook for Marines," 1955.**

- T. Anaya, 3020 Los Anaya's Rd. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87104, taanaya@

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abcwua.org, wants to hear from Marines who were in her father **Fred GUTIERREZ's** boot camp platoon and can help him identify the platoon number, **San Diego, 1954.** He would like a **recruit graduation book.**

- Marine veteran Lonnie Miramontes, (805) 217-5305, lmiramo461@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book, Plt 3035, San Diego, 1971.**

### Sales, Trades and Giveaways

- Marine veteran Steve Toman, P.O. Box 543, Nashville, MI 49073, has **issues of Leatherneck, 1984-present,** and **Marine Corps-related books** for sale.



**Col S. M. McBride** would like to hear from or about the Marines who coached the **Kin Town Tigers baseball team, Okinawa, 1960.** They are pictured in uniform in the back row of this team photo. The players would like to locate the two coaches.

# Saved Round

Edited by Sara W. Bock



SSGT E. R. GIDDENS

**“SEMPER FI”**—On Nov. 15, 1983, at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Gen P. X. Kelley, 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps, presented a special gift to LCpl Jeffrey Lee Nashton, a victim of the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. This was not the first time Gen Kelley and Nashton met: On Oct. 25, just two days after the terrorist attack took place, the Commandant visited Nashton in an intensive care ward in Frankfurt, Germany. Nashton, who had sustained numerous injuries, was barely conscious. But when he was told that the Commandant was in the room, he grabbed Gen Kelley's coat, counted the four stars to verify his identity, squeezed his hand and then scribbled the words “Semper Fi” on a piece of paper.

President Ronald Reagan found this story so profound that he shared it in an address to the nation. The framed memento the Commandant presented to Nashton at Bethesda included his four stars, the Marine Corps emblem, the words “Semper Fi,” as well as a personal message.

Nashton (who separated from active duty as a sergeant in 1987) and Gen Kelley would meet once more, years later, at the memorial ceremony for the 25th anniversary of the bombing held at Virginia's Arlington National Cemetery. In 2009, Gov. David A. Paterson of New York awarded the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross medal and the Conspicuous Service Star medal to Nashton for his actions in Beirut.





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