

JUNE 2015

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

[www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck)

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:

**Gen Joseph F.  
Dunford Jr.**

**The 36th CMC  
And His Vision  
For the Corps**



A Publication of the  
Marine Corps Association & Foundation



# Welcome to *Leatherneck* Magazine's

## Digital Edition **June 2015**

---



We hope you are continuing to enjoy the digital edition of *Leatherneck* with its added content and custom links to related information. Our commitment to expanding our digital offerings continues to reflect progress.

Also, access to added content is available via our website at [www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck) and you will find reading your *Leatherneck* much easier on smartphones and tablets. Our focus of effort has been on improving our offerings on the Internet, so we want to hear from you. How are we doing? Let us know at: [leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org).

Thank you for your continuing support.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary H. Reinwald". The script is elegant and cursive.

Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)  
Editor

# WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED ...



Photo By: Cpl. Jose D. Lujano  
36787

## with MCA&F's Group Benefits Program

### Introducing **MarineCARE**

**your one-stop shop for insurance and medical benefits**

Go to: <http://www.mcainsurance.com>

to learn more information and enroll in valuable MCA&F-endorsed products  
or Call toll-free **1-866-340-4360**



**YES!** Send my FREE information about the MCA&F Endorsed Insurance Plan(s)  
and membership products I have checked below:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRICARE Supplement Insurance*   | <input type="checkbox"/> Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance* | <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Care Insurance†           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Income Insurance Plan* | <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Accident Insurance*           | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+)‡ |

**Log on to [www.mcainsurance.com](http://www.mcainsurance.com) for more information,  
or complete the following information and send to the address listed below.**

Rank:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Date of Birth:

Email Address:

Phone # Daytime: (     )

Evening: (     )

Coverages may vary and may not be available in all states. Plans administered by A.G.I.A., Inc.

\*Underwritten by Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company, Simsbury, CT 06089

†Underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company, Cedar Rapids, IA.

‡ EA+ is not insurance.

For more information (including costs, exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits,  
and terms of coverage) please visit our website at [www.mcainsurance.com](http://www.mcainsurance.com)

For advertising purposes only, MCA&F is the Marine Corps Association



P.O. Box 26610  
Phoenix, AZ 85068

37036 ©2015 AGIA, Inc. AT# 1089878

**Marine Corps Association & Foundation Group Benefits Program**



# Contents

LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

## FEATURES

### 14 1918: Voices From Belleau Wood

Compiled by Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret) and Nancy Lee White Hoffman

"There is nothing particularly glorious about sweaty fellows ... going along to fight. And yet—such a column represents a great deal more ... the old battles, long forgotten, that secured our nation ... traditions of things endured and things accomplished, such as regiments hand down forever."—Wrote Capt John W. Thomason of Marines in World War I. Read more from those who fought in France in 1918.

### 18 My Father, the "Devil Dog" By Marv Levy

The Hall of Fame football coach visited Belleau Wood and was inspired to pay tribute to his dad, Cpl Sam Levy, USMC, who was wounded and gassed while serving with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines during the fateful battle.

### 20 "The Devil Dogs": World War I Documentary in Production By Nancy Lee White Hoffman

A documentary film project about the Battle of Belleau Wood, the Marines who went to France to fight that epic battle, and Frenchman Gilles Lugin, a historian and battle guide, whose life's devotion has been tracing the footsteps of those Marines.

### 22 From Marine to "Maverick": Mets' Sandy Alderson Visits Marines, Shares How His Corps Experience Shaped Him By Sara W. Bock

Ask him, and he will tell you that both Marines and professional athletes are inclined toward greatness. Considered by many to be one of baseball's most brilliant thinkers, Sandy Alderson says a few years in the Corps helped him think out of the box and achieve success during his 34 years in baseball.

### 28 Marine Makes Recovery His New Mission

By Roxanne Baker

Stories of inspiration are almost commonplace within the Wounded Warrior Battalion, yet each is nothing short of amazing. Read about SSgt Jeremy Lake's can-do recovery from TBI and PTSD.

### 30 Vietnam 1965: Enigmas and Contradictions

By R.R. Keene

It was the first year of a 10-year war, "the least understood war in our history." How the Marines got there and how they and their fellow U.S. servicemen and women were pulled in deeper is still up for debate.

### 36 The 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps: General Joseph F. Dunford Jr. Outlines the Way Ahead for the Corps By Arthur P. Brill Jr.

Gen Dunford recently sat down for an exclusive interview with *Leatherneck* magazine and discussed his Marine Corps lineage and career and outlined his unique vision for the Corps.

### 43 Marine For Life—Veteran Marines "Reach Out" to Transitioning Marines

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

They can't remain on active duty forever, but Marines never stop being Marines. Preparing for the 1st CivDiv can be daunting, but Marines who have successfully made the transition are there to help and maintain that bond with the Corps.

### 50 World War II: Marine Corps Interpreters in the Pacific

By Nicholas E. Efstathiou

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the Corps needed not only bullets, bandages and beans, it also needed a few good men who could speak Japanese. After a crammed one-year course, the Marines were under fire reading and speaking Japanese on places such as Tarawa, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa where their efforts and intelligence gathering played key roles.

## DEPARTMENTS



2 Sound Off and Reunions

8 In Every Clime and Place

26 Leatherneck Laffs

46 We—the Marines

49 Crazy Caption

54 In the Highest Tradition

56 Passing the Word

58 In Memoriam

62 Books Reviewed

70 Reader Assistance

72 Saved Round

**COVER:** Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, has been nominated by President Barack Obama to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His rise has seemed meteoric, but "Fighting Joe" is an infantry officer who served in combat as the commanding officer of 5th Marines. Read his interview on page 36. Photo by Ron Lunn. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.



# 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.)*

An outstanding article regarding our Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Gaddo in the April issue. Perhaps some things were learned from the sad experiences of Marines wounded in the Vietnam War, of which I am included. During those years when our seriously hospitalized combat wounded returned, we were treated, put in rehab and either retired due to physical disability or discharged medically from service.

The opportunity to remain on active duty with a serious disability was unheard of. Little or no thought was given to the Marine's emotional state, his ability to cope, preparation for transition to civilian life and a full recovery from being "normal" to "physically/mentally" disabled.

Even today after all these years, I weep when remembering those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, for those young Marines who gave their all and became addicted to drugs, and for those who took their lives because they had no hope or no one or no organization who gave a damn.

Some of us survived our predicament because we were older when wounded. I was 31 when becoming a paraplegic due to a gunshot wound in my left side during an ambush. I survived the system of long stays in medical facilities without being prepared for civilian life and without our beloved Corps' concern, attention and thought. I am lucky. I had the support of family and close friends. I could have used the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment's support, most certainly.

God bless the foresight of our current leaders, their compassion, caring, attitude and planning for what is taking place to help those wounded warriors who need help, encouragement and guidance.

2ndLt John "Jack" Rine, USMC (Ret)  
Ocean View, Del.

## There Were and Still Are Some Good Times to Be Had on Okinawa

My most enjoyable experience in the Marine Corps was when I was a radio operator with the 12th Marine Regiment on Okinawa in 1959.

The camp was named for Corporal Louis J. Hauge, a Medal of Honor awardee killed in the battle for Shuri Castle. Our communications shack was at the back of the camp near the motor pool.

Sergeant Major "Ed" Ebert, a bigger-than-life Marine, transferred in when I had been there almost a year and started a tradition of waking us up for a run every workday. Ebert had a very short role in the movie "Battle Cry," where he is seen berating Marines for arriving on a Pacific island long after the battle had been fought. The movie played on Okinawa, and my entire unit went to see it.

My unit was selected to act as the formal honor guard for visiting dignitaries on Okinawa. We spent the three months practicing drills and shining boots and belt buckles. We participated in several honor guards for visiting dignitaries. Our uniform consisted of utilities and camouflage helmets, and we carried the marching pack, the idea being we were combat ready.

Our sergeant taught us a lot of tricks with the rifle to keep us from getting bored, such as throwing the rifle in the air and catching it, etc., and when we mastered the new trick, we marched to the Third Marine Division headquarters (also on Hauge) and showed off what we could do.

During my time there, we had R&R [rest and recuperation] on Wednesday afternoons at Ishikawa Beach. One Wednesday, we heard explosions across the bay and saw a large force of Marines attacking across the beach. They were filming "Hell to Eternity" with Jeffrey Hunter playing the leading role of Marine Guy Gabaldon who was awarded the Navy Cross on Saipan. They shot the scenes at Ishikawa Beach. They also shot a street scene in Koza with Hunter, Vic Damone and David Janssen. A taxi driver who picked them up was played by a U.S.

airman who was a favorite disc jockey on Armed Forces Radio, Okinawa.

My most pleasant experience on Okinawa was when the entire division was turned out to line the roads for a visit by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. We had our backs turned to the road to look out for trouble, but I could not resist sneaking a look at him over my shoulder.

I liked Okinawa and had a great time there. I visited the island twice with my wife in 2012 and 2014 and tried to find Camp Hauge. It was gone, the land having been turned over to the civilian community.

Koza, now called Okinawa City, looks really different, and I could not even recognize the places I used to visit. The island is one string of shopping malls all the way past Yomitan. But when you get to Moon Beach, the island opens up, and there are several semi-luxury hotels that are not terribly expensive. Further north are villages that have remained unchanged for the past 50 years. Okinawa is a great place to visit (beer and food are excellent and not expensive), and I intend to go back.

Old memories have gotten even better.

Ted Kozak  
USMC, 1958-62  
Fishersville, Ky.

## National Defense Service Medal: The Award Everyone Seems to Want

All these years this has bothered me, but I never asked why. Now I would like an answer. I served honorably in the Corps from 1958 through 1960. All the while I was being deployed here, there and wherever, I thought I was providing a small part to the defense of our country.

My question: Why does the time between the end of the Korean War (1954) and the period beginning the Vietnam era (1961) not count for anything? It makes me wonder just what the hell we were doing. There was always the possibility we would be called on to answer the call to combat. We spent weeks at a time on "stand-by" with seabags in storage (addressed to our next of kin) in case we did not return from wherever we were sent.



**Marine Corps  
Association & Foundation**  
*Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913*



USAA is proud to be the  
**Semper Fidelis Sponsor**  
of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation

USAA members  
saved an average of

**\$3,485**

off MSRP<sup>1</sup> through the  
USAA Car Buying Service.

---

**Start your search today.**

**USAA.COM/MCAFAUTO • 877-651-6272**

<sup>1</sup>Between 1/1/14 and 12/31/14, the average estimated savings off MSRP presented by TrueCar Certified Dealers to users of the USAA Car Buying Service, based on users who configured virtual vehicles and subsequently purchased a new vehicle of the same make and model listed on the certificate from Certified Dealers, was \$3,485, including applicable vehicle-specific manufacturer incentives. Your actual savings may vary based on multiple factors, including the vehicle you select, region, dealer, and applicable vehicle-specific manufacturer incentives which are subject to change. The Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) is determined by the manufacturer and may not reflect the price at which vehicles are generally sold in the dealer's trade area as not all vehicles are sold at MSRP. Each dealer sets its own pricing. Your actual purchase price is negotiated between you and the dealer. Neither TrueCar nor USAA sells or leases motor vehicles. USAA Car Buying Service provided by TrueCar, Inc. USAA Bank receives marketing fees in connection with the Car Buying Service. The Marine Corps Association and Foundation receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2015 USAA. 216935-0615



# Leatherneck

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

**President/CEO, Marine Corps Association & Foundation**  
MajGen Edward G. Usher III, USMC (Ret)

**Vice President/COO, Marine Corps Association & Foundation**  
Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret)

**Publisher**

Col John A. Keenan, USMC (Ret)

**Editor**

Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

**Deputy Editor**

Nancy Lee White Hoffman

**Associate Editor**

MGySgt Renaldo R. Keene, USMC (Ret)

**Copy Editor**

Nancy S. Lichtman

**Contributing Editor**

CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

**Staff Writer**

Sara W. Bock

**Editorial/Production Coordinator**

Patricia Everett

**Art Director**

Jason Monroe

**Advertising Director**

G. Scott Dinkel

(718) 715-1361

**EDITORIAL OFFICES**

Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134

**Phone:** (703) 640-6161, Ext. 115

**Toll-Free:** (800) 336-0291

**Fax:** (703) 640-0823

**E-mail:** leatherneck@mca-marines.org

**Web page:** www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

**TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS**

Editorial Offices: 115 • Business Office: 121

**Circulation/Member Services**

**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.



**Marine Corps**  
**Association & Foundation**  
Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913

*Leatherneck* (ISSN 0023-981X) is published monthly by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, Bldg. #715, MCB, Quantico, VA 22134. Copyright 2015 by MCA&F.

All rights reserved. Stories, features, pictures and other material from *Leatherneck* may be reproduced if they are not restricted by law or military regulations, provided proper credit is given and specific prior permission has been granted for each item to be reproduced.

Opinions of authors whose articles appear in *Leatherneck* do not necessarily express the attitude of the Navy Department or Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. "Marines" and the Eagle, Globe and Anchor are trademarks of the U.S. Marine Corps, used with permission. When mailed, manuscripts, art or photographs should be accompanied by self-addressed envelopes and return postage. Query first on all submissions, except poetry. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts, poetry, drawings or photographs.

Publication of advertisements does not constitute endorsement by MCA&F except for such products or services clearly offered under MCA&F's name. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising order at his absolute discretion.

And didn't 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, along with other units, hit the beaches of Lebanon in 1958? I bet when they were coming ashore they did not know what to expect.

Hey, I don't need the [National Defense Service] Medal. Having served is enough recognition for me. However, whenever I read something about this, it depresses me a little. Enough said ... I got it off my chest. At 76, I probably won't get another chance.

John Phillips

Tuckerton, N.J.

• *Nobody has said that the time between the Korean War and the Vietnam War does not count for anything. Those are your words. Your service is appreciated. You earned the uniform and our gratitude for your vigilance and watch as a Marine. I think if readers want to check it out, some may rate the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Lebanon. It is a blanket medal for "participation in operations not covered by a specific campaign medal."*

*The listing of qualifying campaigns can be found online (<http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/navawards/blafexpeditionary.htm>) and is reasonably extensive.*

*We can't get medals for everything including the infamous "New Mexico Gate" incident on Okinawa involving unruly yours truly, cohorts and several Camp Butler MPs.—Sound Off Ed.*

I took particular interest in the [April "Sound Off"] letter concerning the National Defense Service Medal. After serving in the Corps from 1967 to 1971 on active duty, I joined the Wyoming Army National Guard in 1973 and served until 2011. I retired after a seven-year active-duty tour.

The criteria cited by the editor were correct until the president issued an executive order which is provided below. You will see that in paragraph 2(a) those eligible have been expanded. I believe that this is due to the fact that the Guard and Reserve are no longer a strategic reserve as it was during World War II, Korea and Vietnam:

"a. Authorization. E.O. 10448, E.O. 12776, and E.O. 13293.

"b. National Defense Service Medal Eligibility Requirements

"(1) Honorable active service as a member of the Armed Forces for any of the following periods, all dates inclusive: 27 June 1950 to 28 July 1954; 1 January 1961 to 14 August 1974; 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995; and 12 September 2001 to a date to be determined.

"(2) Categories of personnel listed below are ineligible, except as noted:

"(a) Guard and Reserve force personnel on short tours of active duty to fulfill training obligations under an inactive duty training program, including drill periods and two-week training. However, effective 8 October 1991, the President of the United States expanded criteria to include all members of the National Guard and Reserve who were part of the Selected Reserve in good standing during the periods 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995, and from 12 September 2001 to a date to be determined. Consequently, all members of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve who were part of the Selected Reserve in good standing during said periods are eligible."

CWO-5 Randall E. Hirsch, USARNG (Ret)

Former sergeant, USMC  
Evans, Ga.

• *Corporal Joseph Williams, USMC, 1956-59, of Venice, Fla., wrote a similar letter.—Sound Off Ed.*

## Yes, the Corps' Football Program Should Have Had a Super-Marine Bowl

I, too, read the articles on Marine football [December 2014 and January 2015 issues] and especially the ones about the Quantico team being the champs. It made me wonder why that football team did not venture to play the real Marine football team champions during that era in Camp Smith, Hawaii. That trophy should be in the office of the commanding officer of the Hawaii Marines.

Besides, wouldn't it have been better to play in Honolulu rather than Virginia? And, yes, I am too old now to remember everything except the great teams we had.

Dick Howard

USMC, 1961-66

Houston

## Marine Corps Marathon Finishers: Medalists All

In the April *Leatherneck*, Sara W. Bock mentioned famous Marine Corps Marathon finishers including Oprah Winfrey, Drew Carey, Al Gore, Mike Huckabee, Clarence Thomas and Charlie Gibson.

I suspect that my time (2:57:04 and 780/6467) in the 1980 marathon beat them all. The Marine Corps Marathon was my third marathon in three consecutive weeks, all under three hours.

Bill Ober

Huntington, N.Y.

• *Congratulations to you and all Marine Corps Marathon finishers over the years.—Sound Off Ed.*

# The "Backbone of the Corps" Statue

Meticulously hand-cast  
and hand-painted for  
authentic detailing

**OVER  
A FOOT  
TALL!**

Commemorative  
metal banner  
features the words  
of the NCO Creed  
on front and back

Shown much smaller than  
actual size of about  
13 1/4 inches tall



Limited to  
just 5,000  
worldwide!

Authentically-  
rendered statue  
captures the uniform  
and sword of a  
Marine NCO



Sculpted base  
features a replica of  
the USMC medallion  
and blood stripe  
detailing



Features a real  
gleaming metal  
sword



Includes a Certificate  
of Authenticity  
attesting to its status  
as a true limited  
edition

© Officially Licensed Product of the  
United States Marine Corps.  
Proud supporter of the Marine Corps  
Recruit Depot Museum Historical Society

## The first-ever "Backbone of the Corps" Statue

Marine NCO's are legends... they are the bravest and best and have led by example for more than 200 years. Now, The Bradford Exchange is thrilled to present "Backbone of the Corps," a hand-cast and hand-painted sculpture of impressive size and stature that puts the spotlight on the special contributions of NCOs.

This statue is individually crafted to realistically capture the look of a modern Marine NCO saluting with his M1859 NCO sword on a ceremonial occasion. Officially licensed, "Backbone of the Corps" authentically recreates the dress uniform of these revered Marines including a real metal sword.

## Exceptional value; satisfaction guaranteed

"Backbone of the Corps" comes with a 365-day money-back guarantee and is issued in a limited edition of 5,000. Act now to obtain it in four installments of \$24.98, for a total of \$99.95\*. Send no money now. Just return the Reservation Application today!

[www.bradfordexchange.com/usmcstatue](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/usmcstatue)

©2014 BGE 01-17616-001-BIR

RESERVATION APPLICATION SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
-HOME DECOR-

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the "Backbone of the Corps" Statue for me as described in this announcement.  
Limit: one per order. Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

**01-17616-001-E50202**

\*Plus \$14.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 5,000 sculptures. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.



## THE RING THAT FEW EVER EARN



Officially Licensed by US Marine Corps

When I set out to design a ring worthy of a U.S. Marine, I knew it had to be beyond comparison. It had to be instantly recognizable, affordable to all ranks and of the highest quality. It is just that. Nuff said...Mike Carroll

- Made in the U.S.A.
- Heavy Weight & Detail
- 100% Guaranteed
- 100% Outstanding

Sterling Silver, 10K, 14K & 18K Gold

**www.EagleRings.com**

Carroll Collection of U.S. Eagle Rings

888-512-1333

CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE

### Not All Marines Go to Boot Camp

Regarding E. Michael Smith's April letter which stated that "All Marines go to boot camp." Check out Hector Cafferata. He is a Medal of Honor winner, and he did not go to boot camp.

Ed Masterson  
USMC, 1951-54  
Fort Belvoir, Va.

• *Private First Class Hector A. Cafferata Jr., USMCR earned the Medal of Honor at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War in 1950. He single-handedly held off a regimental-strength enemy, destroyed two Chinese communist platoons and saved wounded Marines by hurling away a live grenade that had landed in their midst. He was a member of Company F, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment at the time. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and was a member of the 21st Reserve Infantry Bn at Dover, N.J., when he was called to active duty on Sept. 6, 1950, without having attended recruit training.*

PFC Cafferata wasn't the only one. The call-up of members of the Marine Corps Reserve to fill the ranks of the First Marine Division was quick, and a number of men had not gone to boot camp. They were fortunate in having World War II

Marine combat veterans in their ranks who mentored them in ships headed overseas and again when they landed in Korea. Thanks for remembering, lest we forget.—Sound Off Ed.

### An Insult? Come Now

I thought all Marines stick together, never degrade each other in public. In your April issue, under the heading "Marines: Veteran Marines, Ex-Marines," I resent the wording in the letter from E. Michael Smith. He states that after boot camp and infantry training, the ones who can read and write go to the air wing. That to me is an insult to all Marines who work in other fields. I just wonder, Is this Mr. Smith a true Marine?

Russell Becker  
USMC, 1966-68  
Bergenfield, N.J.

• *He certainly is. Mr. Smith had tongue firmly planted in cheek. Perhaps we need to adjust fire, as the humor in that friendly round went completely over your head.—Sound Off Ed.*

### She Was Just About Every Marine's Dream

In the March issue, you had a picture of Marilyn Monroe and mentioned other pin-ups.

I know the current staff was born after World War II, but the greatest pin-up of all time was Betty Grable.

She was the darling of every GI. As a Marine in the Pacific, she was what we were fighting for. I am pushing 90, but her wonderful picture was everywhere. I was only 19 at the time but still remember her like it was yesterday.

Don't forget our dear Betty of WW II.

SSgt Mel Naseman  
Phoenix

• *Back during World War II, our predecessors at Leatherneck did not overlook Betty Grable. The famous photo of her looking over her shoulder was in the December 1943 issue. The article "What Makes a Pin-Up Girl?" stated that "she is probably the champion Pin-Up Girl of World War II. Winning the title was a tough fight, too, because she was up against such candidates as Hedy Lamarr, Dorothy Lamour, Janet Blair, Ann Sheridan, Rita Hayworth . . ."*

*And, she was gracious. In the April 1944 Leatherneck,*

Miss Grable wrote "Sound Off": "Sirs: Thank you for your grand article "What Makes a Pin-Up Girl?" ... There is only one answer to that question: all the swell fellows in the service.

"How I happened to be chosen No. 1 Pin-Up Girl still amazes me for, as you say, the competition was pretty tough. That is why I truly appreciate the position I have been fortunate enough to attain. I would like all the boys to know that if a genuine feeling of appreciation and sincere friendship for each boy in the service means anything towards keeping my enviable position, I may still be the No. 1 Pin-Up Girl at the end of 1944."

She was wise beyond her years having once said: "I am strictly an enlisted man's girl."

Miss Grable died in 1973 at age 56, but her films still can be seen on those classic movie channels.—Sound Off Ed.

### Lots of Combat, So Why Doesn't "Chesty" Have the CAR?

I viewed with great pleasure the display of Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller's ribbons in the April issue on page 36. The display includes, of course, his five awards of the Navy Cross, but I was surprised not to see the Combat Action Ribbon among them.

That great Marine certainly saw more combat action than most and served in combat during the period for which the Combat Action Ribbon is awarded. It is



"The No. 1 Pin-Up Girl of WW II"

my understanding that the ribbon issued was instituted in 1969 and retroactive to Dec. 7, 1941.

William P. Crozier  
North Weymouth, Mass.

• *The ribbons were assembled and mounted by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation's The MARINE Shop in Quantico, Va., and are the exact ribbons that LtGen Puller wore on his uniform. He died in 1971, and although he rated it, there is no indication he ever wore the Combat Action Ribbon.—Sound Off Ed.*

### When Did We Get Crossed Rifles?

In the March "Sound Off," it was stated by one of our readers that if you were a corporal prior to 1962, you didn't have crossed rifles under your chevrons.

I was promoted to corporal in 1960 while on Okinawa, and I did indeed have crossed rifles under my chevrons. If I remember correctly, crossed rifles under chevrons were being used in 1959.

Former Cpl Gary D. Lyle  
Tucson, Ariz.

• *You remember correctly. In 1959, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps instituted major changes to its grade structure following legislative changes to add the pay grades of E-8 and E-9. They also added E-3 lance corporal. There is always a debate on whether the rifles are M1 Garand or '03 Springfield. Nonetheless, crossed rifles were added to the chevrons of lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, staff sergeants, gunnery sergeants and master sergeants. It was a uniquely Marine solution to making the grades uniform and a distinctive reminder that all Marines are basically riflemen (read infantry).*

*The confusion you and the originator of the letter have is that the transition took four years to complete by 1963.—Sound Off Ed.*

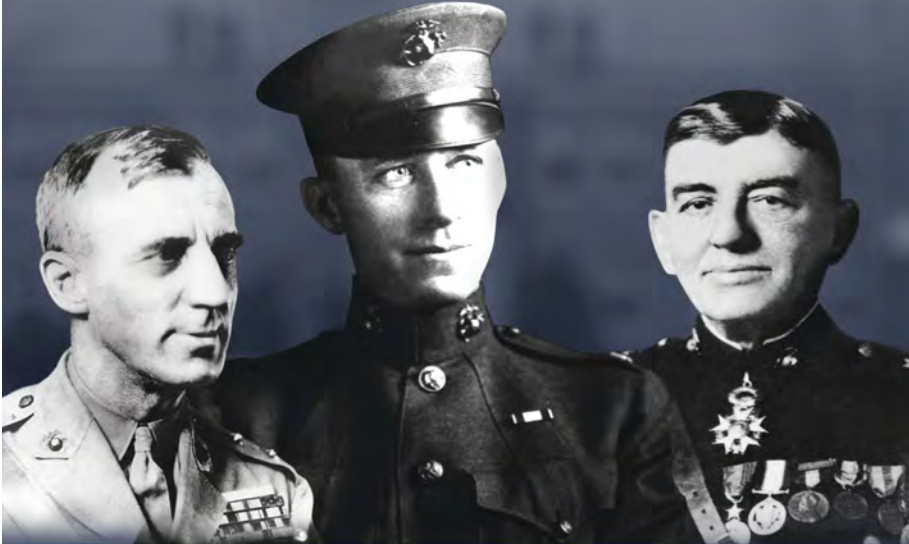
### The Outcome of the Vietnam War Could Have Been Different

It was with great interest that I read the excellent article "Beachhead: Da Nang" (March issue). Only days before the 50th anniversary of the March 8 landing of Marines in Vietnam, the subject of this great piece, I had the distinct privilege of being with one of "the few and the proud" who would want to remain nameless. He was one of the first to touch ground with "Kilo" Company and told me in detail what happened a half century before. Needless to say I was left spellbound.

What I found most pleasing in the article was the heroes' reception given to the Marines by the civilian population. I also took note of the "swarm of reporters"

**Officer Professional Military Education  
Distance Education Program**

**Command and Staff College  
&  
Expeditionary Warfare School**



**Enroll this summer for AY 2016  
Seminars start September 14, 2015**

**Contact your Regional Directors  
[www.mcu.usmc.mil/cdet](http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/cdet)  
1.888.4DL.USMC**

that "all but trampled the official greeters and 'giggling girls,' " just to catch the first Marine ashore. My suspicious side led me to wonder how many of those seeking pictures and a word from the leathernecks were only interested in getting fodder for the "baby killers" moniker later to be applied to courageous warriors who bled for our country. It is for this reason that I relished the succinct reply of one Marine when asked how he felt about being in Vietnam. "My job," the sergeant replied.

These Marines were so successful in that initial assault that by the end of the year President Johnson opened the "peace offensive," and "everyone ... talked of peace." They might have achieved that much desired objective if not for the fact that those same warriors were forced to fight with one hand tied behind their backs

because of the rules of engagement and the nonsensical Project 100,000—which only became more onerous later on.

What might have ended in a smashing victory for the anti-Communist forces, both Marines and their heroic Vietnamese counterparts, turned into a protracted "conflict" with much more loss of blood, but also plenty of heroes for younger generations to admire. Marines who first landed, however, can be proud of what they accomplished.

The Corps as a whole can take even more pride in finishing the job seven years later during the 1972 Easter Offensive when then-Lieutenant Colonel Gerald H. Turley was fortuitously placed in charge of the Third Army of the Republic of Vietnam Division. He showed enormous

[continued on page 65]



# In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## ■ FAILAKA ISLAND, KUWAIT 24th MEU, Gulf Nations Conduct Amphibious Exercise

Leathernecks with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and other U.S. forces joined with nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council and additional international partners to conduct an amphibious landing scenario during Exercise Eagle Resolve 2015 at Failaka Island, Kuwait, March 23-25.

The scenario was a combined assault of ground and air forces from the United States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar and enabled participants to address security challenges in a low-risk environment. In all, approximately 5,000 personnel from 29 countries participated in the exercise.

“Each country has the ability to make inputs and adjust this exercise to develop

it exactly how they want—depending on what they’re most concerned about—and this is the culmination of it,” said U.S. Air Force Major General Rick B. Mattson, U.S. Central Command’s director of exercises and training and the U.S. exercise director for Eagle Resolve.

Maj Gen Mattson said the training not only showed how far this coalition has come since planning began more than a year ago, but also how well the host nation’s government agencies came together.

“This is the first time we’ve done that. We’re much stronger as a group,” he said.

The amphibious landing scenario consisted of simulated attacks, complete with preparation fires from U.S. Navy aircraft and Kuwaiti attack helicopters. Marine amphibious assault vehicles from the 24th MEU ground combat element and landing craft from USS *Fort McHenry*

(LSD-43) off the coast joined hovercraft from Kuwait’s navy to launch a legion of dismounted troops from five nations.

“This is a complex mission,” said Captain Bryceson Tenold, the commanding officer of Company K, Battalion Landing Team 3d Bn, Sixth Marine Regiment, 24th MEU. “Integrating surface craft, air assets and ground forces requires considerable planning and coordination.”

The scenario demonstrated the best way to integrate each nation’s strengths into a single mission, according to Tenold.

Two days of rehearsals culminated March 25 when the forces landed on the beach in front of a crowd of military leaders and senior civilians, including the Kuwaiti defense minister.

“Practice makes perfect,” said Corporal Miguel Ordonez, a squad leader with “Kilo” Co. “Failaka Island is a unique



SGT DEVIN NICHOLS, USMC

Marines with Kilo Co, BLT 3/6, 24th MEU prepare to assault a simulated objective during Exercise Eagle Resolve 2015 at Failaka Island, Kuwait, March 23. The exercise allowed the Marines of 24th MEU to train alongside servicemembers from Kuwait, Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.



area and such a great place to train. On top of that, it's not every day we get to train with our partner nations. We're grateful to Kuwait for being such great hosts."

In addition to the amphibious landing, Eagle Resolve consisted of a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and a senior leader seminar. The CPX focused on air defense concepts, border security operations, counterterrorism operations and procedures, and consequence management.

The seminar was designed to provide key commanders from the U.S. and the Gulf Cooperation Council a forum to discuss military issues of regional significance.

Coordination proved to be the key to success during Eagle Resolve. The Marines now are better prepared to join their counterparts in the Arabian Gulf region for any future missions.

Following the completion of Eagle Resolve, the Marines and sailors of 24th MEU returned to the ships of the *Iwo Jima* Amphibious Ready Group and continued their mission of maintaining regional security in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

1stLt Joshua Larson, USMC

## ■ ADAZI, LATVIA NATO Forces Rehearse Eastern European Defense

Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF), along with servicemembers from Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Canada and Germany, demonstrated their ability to employ a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) response force in the Baltic region during Exercise Summer Shield in late March at Adazi Military Base, Latvia. The 10-day exercise, designed to promote Eastern European defense, came to a close on March 31.

"We were all able to work together, and we were all able to act together," said Colonel Martins Liberts, Latvian Land Forces commander. "Overall, it was very successful."

The exercise demonstrated that the participating NATO allies are ready to respond collectively if called upon to repel an attack by hostile forces. First among the required capabilities demonstrated during this exercise was the allies' ability to fire on targets with multiple weapon systems as forces maneuver closer to the target.

"The ability to partner with the Latvians and servicemembers from our NATO allies and bring them inside our command-and-control center truly made this a co-alition exercise," said Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Stevenson, the commanding officer of the BSRF. "It is the future of how we will fight."

The Marines began the exercise with a



1STLT SARAH E. BURNS, USMC

**U.S. Marines with BSRF join servicemembers from other NATO forces in a formation at the conclusion of Exercise Summer Shield at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, on March 31. The 10-day exercise allowed the Marines and NATO allies to rehearse Eastern European defense scenarios.**



SSGT JESSICA SMITH, USMC

**From the left, a Latvian soldier and a U.S. Marine compete against each other on a challenge course during Exercise Summer Shield at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, March 23. Despite the Latvians' "home-team" advantage, the Marines pulled ahead to win.**

five-day military-to-military engagement with the Latvians, during which they provided mentoring in fire-support planning and execution.

"The final exercise allowed us as a Marine unit, part of a greater coalition, to refine our skills and procedures in the [command operations center] and in

fires deconfliction," Stevenson said. "We were also able to improve our small-unit skills for ... the heavy weapons, rockets, missiles and 81 mm mortars."

This year BSRF brought the largest number of Marines to Summer Shield since the annual exercise began in 2004.

1stLt Sarah Burns, USMC



## **■ CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** **Recon Marines Build Camaraderie** **While Conducting Beach Operations**

Leathernecks with 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force conducted a beach training operation at Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 18-20.

The training started with basic boat manipulations, which allowed the Marines to learn how to operate the Zodiac F470 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft in various formations. They went over emergency procedures such as “man overboard” drills and also practiced basic navigation techniques, which played a large role in the overall training exercise.

The navigation process began at night, with the Marines driving the raiding craft from one known point to another while calculating their speed and monitoring their compass. For amphibious operations, the ability to perform tasks at night is essential to mission accomplishment, as the darkness provides concealment when entering unknown and potentially dangerous environments.

“It can be difficult because at night there is no illumination and you’re driving on a pitch-black boat in rough seas,” said Corporal Mitch Chisholm, a team leader with 2d Recon Bn. “All you have is your compass and your known speed to get you from point ‘A’ to point ‘B.’ ”

During the next training day, the Marines practiced surf passages in both day and night scenarios. The surf passage training is designed primarily to make

sure the boat is perpendicular to the waves, which ensures that the boat does not roll over when entering a surf zone.

“The weather affects amphibious operations greatly, especially when you consider the state of the sea, and has to be considered when planning in real-world operations,” said Cpl Dru Turner, a portman with 2d Recon Bn. “As you can imagine, currents and tides, as well as the wind, can significantly affect small-boat operations.”

After the battalion’s Marines gained confidence in the surf passage training, they moved on to surf scout operations, during which scout swimmers are dropped off about 500 meters away from the shore. They swim in, secure a landing zone and signal the boat teams to land on shore at the same time.

In a real-world scenario, a commander sends out a reconnaissance team to make sure that the beach landing is feasible before sending in a beach landing team.

“With Recon Battalion trying to present its capabilities, the amphibious side is unique, and it’s a skill set that we can provide that no other unit can,” said Turner.

Marines from Recon Bn scout out the ideal area and determine whether the area is hospitable to an amphibious landing. Once the area is deemed acceptable, they set up the landing zone.

The final day of the training tied all the key points together—the navigational portion, the surf passages and the scout-swimmer training.

“This training is important to me per-

sonally because these are perishable skills,” said Cpl Chisholm. “If you don’t use them, then they start to degrade, and it’s good for the new Marines who don’t have a lot of amphibious experience because we can go back and teach them again as well as teach them new things along the way.”

With their skills sharpened and their unit cohesion in check, Marines with 2d Recon Bn are prepared to work together to accomplish amphibious missions, according to Chisholm.

“It was really cold out there and everybody was suffering, but I think that’s what builds camaraderie the most,” said Chisholm.

Cpl Tyler A. Andersen, USMC

## **■ KEY WEST, FLA.** **Special Ops Marines Rehearse** **Search-and-Seizure Missions**

On a warm February day at a harbor in Key West, Fla., two men fixed their footing on the edge of a dock and surveyed the water below, awaiting the impending arrival of Marine scout swimmers.

“Do you hear anything yet?” asked a former Navy SEAL, who was there to assess the approaching Marine Special Operations Team (MSOT) members as they conducted a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercise.

“Nope,” said another observer. “I can’t hear them.”

A few moments after their exchange, three critical skills operators and two special ops capabilities specialists finned up to their target objective, a modest-sized yacht, emerged from the water and cleared the vessel.

The operators cleared the 30-foot craft in a matter of minutes, turning it inside out in search of contraband and personnel.

The MSOT with 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) spent the month of February in several locations throughout Florida conducting training exercises—all of which involved maritime operations.

Smaller vessels are not typically incorporated into MARSOC’s VBSS training, but this particular team sought to familiarize itself with the challenges of interdicting a small boat during the weeklong training, Feb. 15-22.

The team focused on maritime operations, including closed-circuit diving, scout swimming and VBSS, among various other skill sets.

The team’s assistant operations chief said that practicing VBSS iterations on smaller, privately owned vessels is important for his team because of the nature of its assigned area of operation.



CPL TYLER A. ANDERSEN, USMC

Marines with 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv reach their designated turning point during an amphibious beach exercise at Onslow Beach, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., on March 19. Over the course of three days, the Marines used the Zodiac F470 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft to conduct a variety of amphibious training operations and drills.

Critical skills operators with MSOT, 1st Marine Special Operations Bn, MARSOC, conduct VBSS training in Key West, Fla., Feb. 21. The team spent a week in Key West practicing various maritime operations and refining their tactics, techniques and procedures.



LCPL STEVEN FOX, USMC



LCPL STEVEN FOX, USMC

**A Marine from 1st MSOB surfaces and prepares to advance on a beach during a combat dive exercise in Key West, Fla., Feb. 18. The scout swimmers on the team had the opportunity to advance their insertion skills during their training in Key West.**

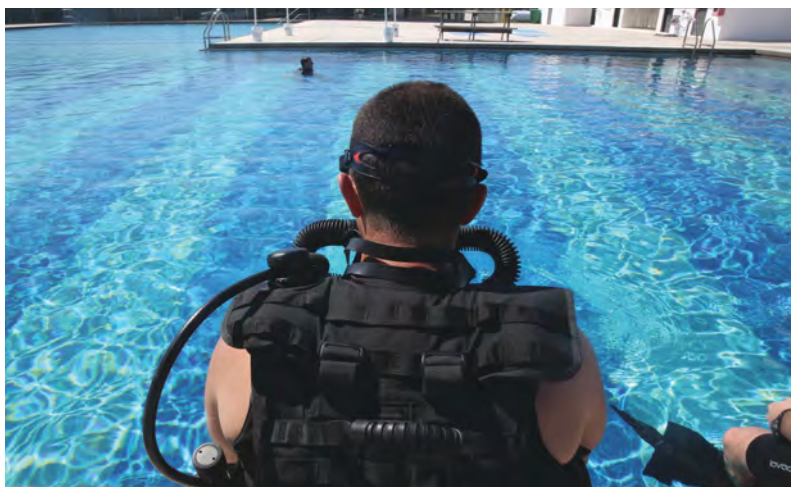
Whether the vessel in question is large or small, the practices and tactics employed during a VBSS mission are similar.

“The fundamentals are going to remain the same whether you’re clearing a 25-foot yacht or a several hundred-foot cruise liner, so I absolutely think this capability is going to be maintained,” said an MSOT operator. “Being able to take down either large vessels or small vessels, and doing that interchangeably between teams—that’s where we need to be.”

During this particular training exercise, scout swimmers were vital to the mission’s success.

“The scout swimming is a realistic insert method for our team,” explained MSOT’s assistant operations chief. “If we had some attached personnel on our team who are not divers, we can get those guys to the mission using scout swimming techniques.”

Scout swimming is an individual’s application of standard surface-swimming



LCPL STEVEN FOX, USMC

**A critical skills operator with MSOT waits to enter a pool at the Army Special Forces Underwater Operations Training School in Key West, Fla., Feb. 16. The Army allowed the team to use its facilities while they trained in Key West.**

techniques combined with mission-essential equipment and attire and does not involve the use of a supplemental breathing apparatus.

“Scout swimming is nothing super advanced, but it relies on brilliance in the basics and doing the small things right,” said an operator with the team. “Hydrographic surveys, beach reports, as well as assessing tides and currents, knowing all these things, and knowing how to incorporate all of that into mission planning





LCPL JOSSON B. GRAVES, USMC

**VIEW FROM THE GROUND**—Marine lieutenants attending Infantry Officer Course (IOC) at MCB Quantico, Va., conduct fast-rope training from a CH-53 Super Stallion as part of multi-installation Exercise Talon Reach V during Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI 2-15) at Auxiliary Airfield 2 near Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., March 26. WTI is a seven-week event hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One cadre. MAWTS-1 provides standardized tactical training, certifies unit instructor qualifications to support Marine aviation training and readiness, and assists in developing and employing aviation weapons and tactics. Talon Reach requires the IOC Marines to coordinate with MAWTS-1 instructors and is designed to give IOC lieutenants an opportunity to gain exposure to Marine air-ground task force mission planning and execution.

before you even get into the water, is really important.”

Although practical and effective when applied to appropriate missions, scout swimming is not necessarily a suitable skill set for every operation requiring an amphibious insertion. There are certain circumstances that demand the use of closed-circuit diving and scuba diving, which render visual detection unlikely and help preserve the integrity of a clandestine operation.

The Army’s Special Forces Underwater Operations School in Key West allowed the MSOT to use its training facilities, ensuring the team had support readily available. This partnership maximized the ease of training and minimized logistical complications.

“We went to Key West with the intent of refining our tactics, techniques and procedures and our standard operating procedures [SOPs] internal to the team,” said the operator.

Diving has the potential to be dangerous, and the skills employed are perishable. The MSOT assistant operations chief explained that the team possesses advanced dive capabilities and seeks to regularly practice and improve upon what they already know, as well as further their skill set.

“[Training in] Key West allowed us to get into some clearer water that provided visibility so we could see each other in the daytime and iron out our SOPs, so that when we roll into the night iteration, it goes a lot smoother,” said the assistant operations chief.

Since leaving Afghanistan, MARSOC has pushed to strengthen its amphibious capabilities, not just in 1st MSOB, but across all three battalions. Training in Key West allows the special operations battalions the opportunity to advance their maritime skill sets to a higher tier of capability.

LCpl Steven Fox, USMC

## ■ POHANG, REPUBLIC OF KOREA Annual Exercise Strengthens Alliance Between U.S., ROK Marines

U.S. Marines and Republic of Korea (ROK) Marines completed a large-scale bilateral exercise in Pohang, Republic of Korea, April 1.

Approximately 4,500 ROK Marines and sailors worked alongside 4,200 U.S. Marines and sailors during Korean Marine Exchange Program (KMEP) 15, which was designed to improve their combined amphibious capabilities.

“It is not always easy to integrate with the language barriers or different equipment sets, but we overcame all of that with exceptional teamwork,” said Colonel Romin Dasmalchi, Commanding Officer, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. “We do everything we can and take every opportunity we can to train with [the ROK servicemembers] to better ourselves as a bilateral team.”

The exercise included the first-ever

landing of a Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey on a Korean amphibious assault ship, *Dokdo* (LPH-6111). The Osprey was from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 (Reinforced), 31st MEU.

“Anytime we do something new, there is a lot of attention and focus,” said Col Dasmalchi. “A well-proven U.S. Marine aircraft made a routine landing on a ROK Navy ship. It was the first time for the ROK armed forces, but they are very proficient in aviation operations. They took a look at this new aircraft, they did their homework, and they were ready to catch it, receive passengers and launch it. The introduction of the Osprey was a very well-run evolution.”

The KMEP participants also capitalized on the ROK-U.S. partnership by completing a combined amphibious landing, which was viewed from a prominent vantage point above the beaches by hundreds of high-ranking ROK and U.S. military and civilian officials.

“What [KMEP] provides and validates at a strategic level is that our two Marine Corps can partner together,” said Lieutenant Colonel Mike Wilonsky, CO, Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, Fourth Marine Regiment, 31st MEU. “Additionally, KMEP at a tactical level enables our young Marines to share ideas with their fellow Korean Marines at a very grassroots level.”

Staff Sergeant Cho Woo Chan, ROK Marine Corps, appreciated the opportunity to work side by side with his U.S. Marine counterparts.

“This was my first time working with U.S. Marines,” said Chan, a mortarman and squad leader with 33d Battalion, First ROK Marine Division. “My favorite things we have done with the U.S. Marines [are] learning about their weapon systems, learning their shooting postures and taking photos with them. I learned a lot from the U.S. Marines, and I plan to go back and teach my unit the different things the Marines have taught me.”

During the five-day exercise, Marines trained in various ROK Marine Corps training areas around Pohang, including the Mountain Warfare Training Center and various live-fire ranges.

“By sharing tactics, techniques and procedures with our partners, we can make better Marines, and given the time we spend together, we’ll have a common understanding of one another,” Wilonsky said.

The ROK armed forces have maintained a working partnership with the U.S. since the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty was signed in 1953. The alliance between the two nations is one of the longest-standing in modern history, and its strength is



**Above:** Marines with Co G, BLT 2/4, 31st MEU, provide security during a beach landing exercise with ROK Marines near Pohang, Republic of Korea, March 30. The operation was part of KMEP 15 and was designed to enhance the partnership between ROK and U.S. forces. (Photo by Cpl Brian Bekkala, USMC)

**Below:** An ROK Marine, left, and a U.S. Marine address their Marines prior to a training exercise during KMEP 15, Pohang, Republic of Korea, March 29. Marines from both nations worked together to conduct various amphibious operations and improve their combined capabilities.



evident in the exercises—like KMEP 15—that occur annually.

“The [ROK forces] believe that what they are doing is not just for their country, but for their Marine to the left and to their right,” said Wilonsky. “They believe in the same ethos we do. You see a fighting spirit in them that you only see in Marines.”

The U.S. forces participating in KMEP 15 were from the USS *Bonhomme Richard* Amphibious Ready Group and the 31st MEU. The 31st MEU annually conducts two scheduled patrols in the Asia-Pacific region.

The overall objective of KMEP 15

was to enhance amphibious operations between ROK and U.S. forces, which contributes to security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

After retrograding personnel and equipment, the Marines of the 31st MEU were scheduled to conclude their spring patrol during the weeks following KMEP 15 before starting their preparations for their fall patrol.

SSgt Joseph Digirolamo, USMC







# 1918: Voices From Belleau Wood

Compiled by Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret) and Nancy Lee White Hoffman  
Photos courtesy of Marine Corps History Division

Throughout the blistering hot month of June 1918, leathernecks of the 4th Marine Brigade of the 2d Division United States Regular and fiercely resisting Germans battled each other for the possession of a bit of French woodland, the ownership of which would determine the outcome of the entire war. Today, almost 100 years later, their voices still echo down the long corridor of the years. And they put their mark on all of us.



*"Come on, you sons of bitches!  
Do you want to live forever?"*

—GySgt Daniel Joseph "Dan" Daly  
73d Machine Gun Company, 6th Marines

*"General, those are American Regulars. In a  
hundred and fifty years they have never been  
beaten. They will hold."*

—COL Preston Brown, USA  
Chief of Staff, 2d Div U.S. Regular  
To General Jean Degoutte, Commanding General, VI French Army

*"C'mon, goddamnit! He ain't the  
last man who's gonna be hit today!"*

—1stSgt Daniel A. "Pop" Hunter  
67th Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines  
KIA 6 June



*"We held the positions; the lines  
came up on our right and left, and  
we now have satisfied the Germans  
that they haven't a chance as long  
as they are up against Marines."*

—Capt George W. Hamilton  
Commanding Officer  
49th Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

*"Machine guns were  
everywhere. ... We had to rush  
each gun crew in turn. ... It  
was a furious dash from one  
to another."*

—Pvt Martin "Gus" Gulberg  
75th Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines

*"The Americans are savages. They kill  
everything that moves."*

—Unfinished letter found on the body of a German soldier

*"Hey, Bud! What will I do with these prisoners I've just captured?"*

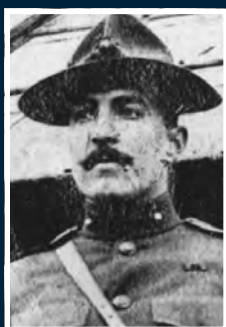
—Pvt Henry P. Lenert  
Battalion Scout/Runner, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines  
To a Division staff officer after returning with 75 German prisoners who had surrendered to him

*"This was the worst day of my life. ... God has mercifully spared me. ... The Americans fight like devils."*

—Oberleutnant (First Lieutenant) Lothar Tillmann  
40th Grenadier Regiment

*"Strut a bit? Sure! We were leathernecks!"*

—Pvt Elton E. Mackin  
Battalion Scout/Runner, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines



*"Retreat, hell! We just got here!"*

—Capt Lloyd Williams  
Commanding Officer  
51st Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines  
KIA 11 June



COURTESY OF THE RUTHERFORD B. JAMES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

*"We are having very heavy days, with death before us hourly. ... My company has been reduced from 120 to 30 men. ... We have Americans opposite us who are very reckless fellows. ... In the last eight days I have not slept 20 hours. ... The Americans come at us constantly."*

—Gefreiter (Private) Gunther Hebel  
461st Infantry Regiment



*"The attack we made was the first chance the Marines have had to show what they really had, and I'm mighty glad we got it."*

—1stLt James McBrayer Sellers  
78th Company, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines  
WIA 8 June

*"Next time I send damn fool I go myself."*

—Sgt Louis Cukela  
67th Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines



Leathernecks of the 2d Battalion, 6th Marines take a break after the Battle of Belleau Wood on their way to a rest camp.



U.S. Army MG Omar Bundy, left, commanding general of the Army's 2d Division, and Marine Col Albertus W. Catlin, CO of 6th Marines, circa April 1918.

*"This bitter struggle for a bit of ground smaller than Central Park marked the turning point of this whole war."*

—Col Albertus W. Catlin  
Commanding Officer, 6th Marines  
WIA 6 June

*"Belleau Woods now U.S. Marine Corps entirely."*

—Maj Maurice E. Shearer  
Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines

*"The Heinies were about a thousand or so yards away when we arrived on the scene. We got orders to dig in. We used the lids of our mess gear and our bayonets for tools. You'd be surprised to know just how much digging you can do under those circumstances."*

—Pvt John C. Geiger  
76th Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines  
WIA 8 June

*"I am pretty well worn out. ... I have had four hours sleep in the last four days. ... I lost 32 men out of my platoon of 56, only three dead, the others wounded. ... I am very proud of my Marines and they deserve a lot of credit."*

—1stLt Clifton B. Cates (Later 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps)  
96th Company, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines



*"As soon as a company of infantry took over their part of the front, what was left of one of my companies came out. Their eyes were red around the rims, bloodshot, burnt out. They were grimed with earth. Their cartridge belts were almost empty. They were damned near exhausted. Past physical limits. Traveling on their naked nerve. But every one of them was cocky ... full of fight."*

—LtCol Frederic M. "Fritz" Wise  
Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines



This photo of Maj Holland M. Smith, left, adjutant of 4th Marine Brigade; BGen Charles A. Doyen, center, Commander, 4th Marine Brigade; and LtCol Frederic M. "Fritz" Wise, Commander, 2d Bn, 5th Marines, was taken southeast of Verdun, France, prior to the Battle of Belleau Wood.



*"In view of the brilliant conduct of the 4th [Marine] Brigade of the 2d U.S. Division, which in a spirited fight took BOURESCHES and the important strongpoint of BOIS DE BELLEAU, stubbornly defended by a large enemy force, the General Commanding the VI Army orders that henceforth in all official papers the BOIS DE BELLEAU shall be named Bois de la Brigade de Marine."*

—General Jean Degoutte  
Commanding General, VI French Army



Leathernecks of the 6th Marines' 77th Co, 6th Machine Gun Bn and 96th Co, 2d Bn, along with three French soldiers, were photographed by a French army sergeant on June 2, 1918, at Triangle Farm, Chateau-Thierry Sector, just south of Belleau Wood.

*"The 2d American Division may be classified as a very good division, even an assault division. The attacks on Belleau Wood were carried out with dash and recklessness. The morale effect of our firearms did not materially check the advance. The nerves of the Americans are unshaken."*

—Report taken from a captured German officer

*"A Marine with a rifle, that's all in the hell we had, but we held our lines."*

—1stLt Lemuel C. Shepherd (Later 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps)  
55th Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines

*"No one who has not visited that wood can comprehend the heroism of the troops which finally cleared it of Germans."*

—MG Hunter Liggett, USA  
Commanding General  
I Corps, American Expeditionary Forces

Marines aren't very sentimental, and they delight in poking fun at just about anything or anyone. If the Marines who marched away from the bloodletting at Belleau Wood were singing anything at all, it may have been:

*"The General got the Croix de Guerre, parlez-vous,  
The General got the Croix de Guerre, parlez-vous,  
The General got the Croix de Guerre,  
But the son of a gun wasn't even there,  
Hinky dinky parlez-vous."*

Strut a bit? Sure! They were leathernecks!

*Author's bio: Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, a Leatherneck contributing editor, is a former enlisted Marine who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars as well as on an exchange tour with the French Foreign Legion in Algeria. Later in his career, he was an instructor at Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.*





# My Father, the "Devil Dog"

*Editor's note: Marv Levy, Hall of Fame football coach, wrote the following poem in honor of his father, Corporal Sam Levy, who served with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines at Belleau Wood. Cpl Levy was wounded and gassed during the epic battle and received the Purple Heart.*

## Belleau Wood

When World War I began, Sam was a lad in his teens  
Who answered the call by joining the Marines.  
To America his family had come nine years before,  
And for this land that he now loved, he was going to war.

His unit drilled intensely seeking to prepare  
For the challenges they would be facing "Over There."  
They trained at Paris Island and at Quantico,  
And then overseas it was that they had to go.

The Kaiser's armies had continued to advance,  
And when the United States Marines landed in France,  
The last remnants of the French army bravely stood  
Just twenty-five miles from Paris at Belleau Wood.

For many years in this war they had borne the brunt,  
But the Yanks were now heading swiftly toward the front.  
After landing at Cherbourg, they were rushed into the fray,  
Not knowing now whether they would see the next day.

The enemy was fiercely on the attack,  
But the United States Marines refused to fall back.  
The toll was heavy; many a comrade fell,  
But those leathernecks held on, despite going through hell.



COURTESY OF MARV LEVY

Cpl Sam Levy

**Right:** Cpl Sam Levy enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 18 and served from May 1917 until April 1919. The cover and the fourragere he received as a member of 6th Marines are treasured by his son.

**Center:** Following his father's example of service to country, Marv Levy enlisted in the Army Air Corps immediately after his high school graduation in 1943.

**Far right:** In addition to being wounded at Belleau Wood, Cpl Levy suffered lung damage due to the mustard gas he inhaled during the battle. He ultimately received the Purple Heart.



COURTESY OF MARV LEVY

The Fourth Marine Brigade formed this impregnable wall  
Against which the enemy advance began to stall.  
So the Germans rested and reinforced their battle groups  
With many additional weapons and troops.

The exhausted Marines longed to rest, too,  
But that wasn't what they were allowed to do.  
Across those wheat fields they were now ordered to race,  
Despite the deadly fire that they now had to face.

Amid machine-gun fire, the shells, and the grief,  
Onward they surged with courage beyond belief.  
Many of them went down, never again to rise.  
Many writhing wounded lay staring at the skies.

In the chaos and the furor a gas-filled cloud  
Wafted over the meadows while shells burst loud.  
Shrapnel hit young Sam in his back, neck and arm,  
And puffs of mustard gas did his lungs great harm.

As the battle went on, Sam lay gasping for air,  
Blood soaking his uniform, his body, and his hair.  
As his comrades surged on and continued the fight,  
He doubted whether he would live through the night.

Somehow he made it, barely staying alive—  
Being one of the fortunate who did survive.  
Marines still on their feet continued to advance.  
That they'd waver or falter there wasn't a chance.

The enemy was now thrown into full retreat.  
Their forces were now facing the sting of defeat.  
Many German soldiers later writing in their logs  
Referred to those Marines as the "Devil Dogs."

But the fighting raged on; it took many days more  
To gain this victory that changed the tide of the war.  
Five months later when the war came to an end,  
Sam and many others were still on the mend.

His wounds were severe, but recover he did,  
Finally returning back home, no longer a kid.  
Ninety years after that war had been won  
The fields at Belleau Wood were visited by his son.

It was there that he learned on that calm spring day,  
Where the graves of two thousand Marines still lay,  
That a grateful French nation had renamed those scenes;  
It was now, "The Woods of the United States Marines."

*Author's bio: The only coach in NFL history to lead a team to four straight Super Bowls, Marv Levy enlisted in the Army Air Corps the day after he graduated from high school in 1943. He later used the GI Bill to earn a master's degree from Harvard University. He is the author of three books including his latest, "It's Time for a Rhyme."*



COURTESY OF MARV LEVY



COURTESY OF MARV LEVY





COURTESY OF GILLES LAGIN

World War I battle expert Gilles Lagin points out a good area for filming in Bouresches, France, to the director of “The Devil Dogs” documentary, Laura Froidefond, and a cameraman.

Atlantic accompany the pilgrims weaving themselves into the quest as they retrace the paths of the ‘Devil Dogs.’

“Deep in the winter landscape of France’s Picardy region, Gilles combs Belleau Wood and other battlefields for traces of the Marines in 1918. Gilles matches his hours of field work reconstructing lost lives with archival research, curating his private museum and hours in front of a computer screen corresponding with American families. Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, an American family prepares for its summer trip, a voyage of discovery into family history that will follow their ancestor, an American Marine, who fought in the Great War.

“In the spring when Belleau Wood awakes from its winter slumber, French and American visitors fill its paths commemorating Memorial Day.

“When summer finally arrives, we meet the American family as it arrives in France and accompany them when Gilles leads them across the battlefields of the First World War; from Belleau Wood to the shores of the river Meuse. Step by step, with an almost mystic precision, Gilles assembles details and anecdotes that reconstruct the drama of their ancestor’s combat experience. Will they be able to understand it all? Will the war their soldier saw and felt resonate with them a century later?”

You’ll have to wait to find out.

Be sure to check out the film’s trailer at <https://vimeo.com/117373416>. You can follow the documentary’s progress on Facebook and Twitter. Donations to this worthy project are gladly accepted. E-mail: [contact@devildogs-themovie.com](mailto:contact@devildogs-themovie.com); or visit [www.devildogs-themovie.com](http://www.devildogs-themovie.com).



# “The Devil Dogs”

## World War I Documentary in Production

By Nancy Lee White Hoffman

It’s been his “passion” since he was 9 years old. World War I historian and battle guide Gilles Lagin, a Frenchman, has been retracing the footsteps of the Marines who fought in the Battle of Belleau Wood and surrounding battles for more than 40 years. Lagin, who has been called by other WWI historians the world’s foremost expert on the unit positions and terrain of the Marine battlefields in France, will appear in a documentary film, “The Devil Dogs,” planned for release in 2018, the 100-year anniversary of the battle.

The film, produced by Paps & Co. and co-directed by Laura Froidefond and Antoine Favre, will follow an American family’s pilgrimage as it retraces the steps of an ancestor who fought with the U.S. Marine Corps in the 2d Division United States Regular, American Expeditionary

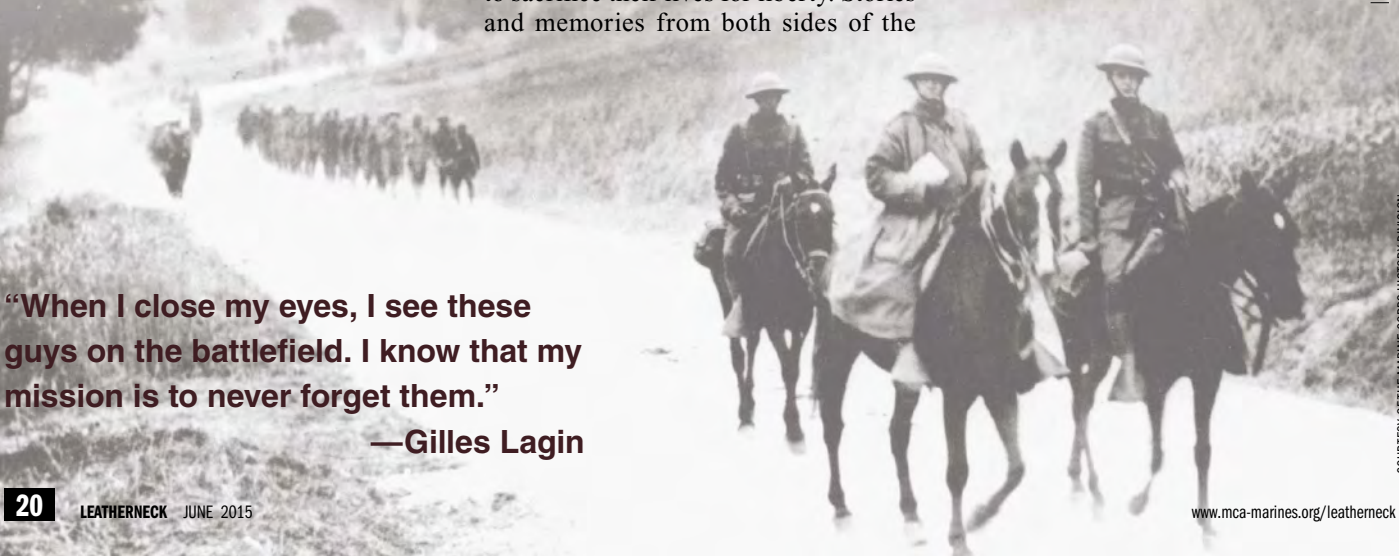
Forces during the three-week Battle of Belleau Wood, where Marines fought tenaciously against a German army and earned the nickname “Devil Dogs.”

According to the film’s website, [www.devildogs-themovie.com](http://www.devildogs-themovie.com), “the family’s guide on their pilgrimage,” Gilles Lagin, “has a consuming passion for this historic battle that originated during a childhood spent roaming the land where it took place. Gilles was made an Honorary Marine in 2008 [by General James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps], in recognition of the lifetime of memories and research he shares with American families whose search for their roots [takes them] to the World War I battlefields of France.

“We follow these families through the seasons and between France and the U.S. on a shared quest to keep the passage of time from effacing the memory of men who left their homes across the Atlantic to sacrifice their lives for liberty. Stories and memories from both sides of the

**“When I close my eyes, I see these guys on the battlefield. I know that my mission is to never forget them.”**

**—Gilles Lagin**

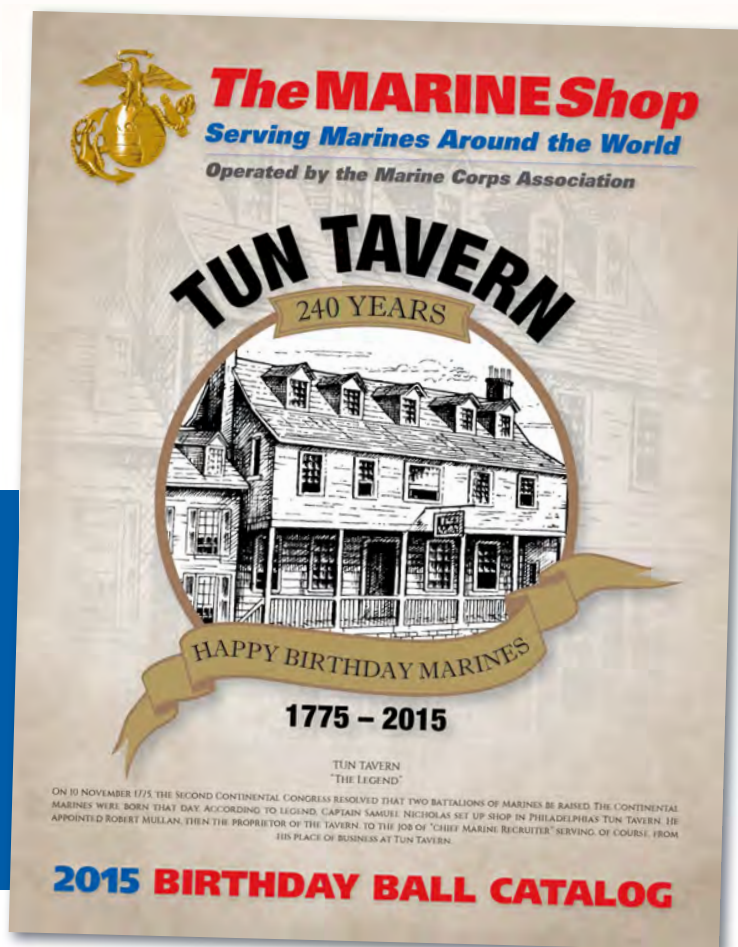


COURTESY OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

# **FEATURING** **The MARINE Shop** **2015 Birthday Ball Catalog**

**View the Digital  
Catalog ONLINE at  
[www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net)**

**Request a print  
copy of the catalog  
by sending us the  
attached card!**



All purchases help support Marines through MCA&F programs that provide funding to advance leadership and recognize excellence. Learn more about the MCA&F programs that inspire, support and connect Marines: [www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org)



**Marine Corps  
Association & Foundation**  
Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913

**JOIN TODAY!**

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) • 866-622-1775



The view from his office is the envy of many. Marine veteran Sandy Alderson relaxes above Citi Field's home plate in 2010 after the New York Mets announced him as their newest general manager.



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK METS

## From Marine to “Maverick”

### Mets' Sandy Alderson Visits Marines, Shares How His Corps Experience Shaped Him

By Sara W. Bock

Sandy Alderson has been a household name in the world of Major League Baseball for decades.

Baseball fans may recall Alderson's role in the “moneyball” approach—the trend of using statistical analysis of players to build teams—as the general manager of the Oakland A's during the 1980s. He served as an extremely influential mentor to his successor, the acclaimed Billy Beane, who is credited with developing the “moneyball” system and bringing it to fame.

Some may recognize Alderson as the former CEO of the San Diego Padres,

or currently as the New York Mets' general manager who took on the responsibility of leading the franchise during a tumultuous and challenging era. Alderson has revitalized the Mets through his transformative leadership and turned them into a team that is predicted to fare exceptionally well in 2015.

On the surface, the fact that Alderson is a Marine veteran may seem irrelevant to his success in baseball, or that the Corps was nothing more than a short stint after he completed his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

If you ask Alderson, however, he

will give you a much different account. Recently, a group of Marines at Marine Corps University, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., heard firsthand just how much his experiences in the Marine Corps prepared him for a career in baseball. As he told the Marines, the lessons he learned in the Corps molded him into the successful individual he is today.

On April 10, nearly 200 Marines attending the Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) programs at MCU filled the auditorium in Quantico's Breckinridge Hall.

Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret), Chief Operating Officer, Marine



RON LUNN



RON LUNN

**Above left: Sandy Alderson, left, author Steve Kettmann, center, and MCA&F COO, Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret), at the April 10 "Baseball Maverick" book signing at *The MARINE Shop*. Dozens of Marines and baseball fans showed up to meet Alderson and Kettmann and have their copies of "Baseball Maverick" signed.**

**Above right: Alderson grins as a Mets fan shows his level of dedication to the team during the book-signing event.**

Corps Association & Foundation, introduced Alderson, along with Steve Kettmann, author of the newly released "Baseball Maverick: How Sandy Alderson Revolutionized Baseball and Revived the Mets." Alderson and Kettmann were in Quantico for a book signing at *The MARINE Shop*, and it was obvious that the opportunity to meet with and speak to Marines meant a great deal to them.

"The Marine Corps instills in us certain qualities, tendencies ... that you aren't going to find anyplace else," Alderson told the Marine students. As he expanded upon this idea, it was evident that he continues to adhere to many of the leadership traits and principles that were inculcated in him at The Basic School in 1969. He had the opportunity to put those values into practice during his tour as a platoon commander in Vietnam and again at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., as the commander of the Special Ceremonial Platoon.

"Baseball Maverick" primarily details Alderson's career in baseball, but author Kettmann rightfully begins the story with Alderson's formative years: his life experiences before a career in baseball was on the horizon.

The son of John Alderson, an Air Force pilot who flew missions in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, young Sandy moved frequently throughout his childhood and

quickly learned how to adapt. While a student at Dartmouth in 1966 during the Vietnam War, he visited his family in the Philippines and decided he wanted to see

**Alderson has long been hailed as an out-of-the-box thinker and is considered by many to be one of baseball's most brilliant minds.**

Vietnam for himself. Posing as a freelance journalist, he visited the war-torn country twice during his undergraduate years. His father was flying B-57B Canberras

in Vietnam during Alderson's first visit and, unafraid to break the rules, took his son up for a flight.

A few years later after graduating and commissioning as an officer in the Marine Corps, Second Lieutenant Sandy Alderson found himself back in Vietnam, that time commanding a platoon of Marines.

Alderson told his Breckinridge audience that his four years of experience as a Marine are foundational to who he is today and instrumental to his success. Long hailed as an out-of-the-box thinker, Alderson is considered by many to be one of baseball's most brilliant minds.

"The Marine Corps has been a fundamental identity of mine," he said gen-



**Sandy Alderson shares his experiences and insights with Marines at MCU's Breckinridge Hall, MCB Quantico, Va., on April 10. The Marines, who were students in MCU's EPME programs, had the opportunity to ask both baseball-related and Marine-related questions of Alderson following his remarks. (Photo by Sara W. Bock)**



**Below left: As a lieutenant in Vietnam, Alderson, right, and TBS classmate, Fred Alexander, reunited at III MAF HQ near Da Nang, Vietnam, in early 1971. Alderson was a platoon commander in 2/1 during his tour in Vietnam.**

**Below right: Following his tour in Vietnam, Alderson served at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., and was featured in this Marine officer recruitment poster.**



COURTESY OF FRED ALEXANDER



COURTESY OF SANDY ALDERSON

uinely. When Alderson was a student at Dartmouth in the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NROTC), he jumped on the opportunity to be a Marine option midshipman.

"There was just something about being a Marine option," he said, and the pride he has in today's Corps shows that he hasn't regretted that choice. In "Baseball Maverick," Kettmann writes that after opting to be commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps, Alderson unearthed "a newfound motivation to study."

Alderson's words conveyed a powerful message for those Marines in the audience who plan to transition out of the Marine Corps into a new career path. With hindsight, he told them how important their days in the Corps will be to them throughout their lives, adding that "the experiences you have while in uniform never leave you," whether time in the service is four years or 40.

An affable speaker, Alderson easily engaged the Marines with anecdotes and insights. He credits his Marine Corps experience for getting him his first job in baseball, a sport he has loved and followed since childhood.

As Kettmann writes in "Baseball Maverick," after graduating from Harvard Law School in 1976, Alderson worked for a San Francisco firm, Farella Braun & Martel, where he became acquainted with

a fellow Marine veteran, Roy Eisenhardt. Eisenhardt became the president of the Oakland A's in 1980 after his father-in-law bought the team and brought Alderson along in 1981 as the A's general counsel.

### **His ability to adapt to leadership roles in new and changing environments is something he says he learned in the Corps.**

By 1983, Alderson was named the team's general manager.

"Having the Marine Corps in common not only deepened the bond between them [Alderson and Eisenhardt], it also gave

them a lens through which to see many of the challenges inherent in building the A's franchise," says Kettmann of the relationship between the two.

So what is it that he learned in the Marine Corps that Alderson attributes to his success? The first thing, he told the Marines, is an appreciation for institutional culture. Similar to baseball, the Marine Corps has its own culture that all Marines subscribe to and function within. Inside that framework, Marines are encouraged to be as individualistic as possible, he recalled. "I've tried to take that to baseball," Alderson said.

"Leadership is a function of professional ability and personal attributes," he stated during his speech, adding that his time in the Corps taught him not only leadership,



COURTESY OF SANDY ALDERSON

**Sandy Alderson, right, visited his father, an Air Force pilot, in Vietnam in 1967 while an undergraduate student at Dartmouth. Although it was a violation of the rules, John Alderson, left, took his son up for a memorable flight in a B-57.**





COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK METS

**Alderson answers the media's questions at the Mets' Citi Field in New York. He credits his Marine Corps experience with his ability to adapt to the wide variety of situations he's encountered in the baseball world.**

but also the importance of reputation and integrity. Those qualities, he told them, are important both in the Marine Corps and in baseball.

In the variety of roles he has taken on in professional baseball over the past 34 years, his ability to adapt to leadership roles in new and changing environments is something he says he learned in the Corps. Alderson also noted the importance of mentorship, adding that his Marine mentors have had a real impact on what he's been able to accomplish over the years.

While many Major League Baseball general managers take over a new franchise and immediately "clean house," Alderson told the Marines that he only has fired two managers in the organizations he's taken over. "That's not how I operate," he said, and he believes his Marine Corps training has a lot to do with that. In the Corps, he told them, you don't get to choose which Marines you are responsible for; rather, you must adapt your leadership approach based on the situation.

If anything came across most powerfully that morning, it was the degree of respect Alderson has for the Marines in today's Corps. Alderson made sure to emphasize to his audience of Marines that the reputation the Marine Corps has

today "has mostly to do with the people in this room."

"The only reason I have pride in my service 40-some years ago is because of



SARA W. BOCK

**Following his April 10 visit with Marines at Quantico, Alderson autographs a photo for an MCU student and Mets fan. His advice to the Marines was to enjoy the opportunities offered to them during their active-duty years.**

your service now ... it's easy to live in the reflective glory of what you do," Alderson said with conviction.

Asked what Marines and professional baseball players have in common, Alderson didn't falter in his response. "Marines and professional athletes both have a predisposition," he said, adding that they also must have a deep-seated sense of motivation. There may be many differences between Marines and professional athletes, but to Alderson, both types are inclined toward greatness.

Through his remarks to the Marines that day, Alderson made it clear that his Marine Corps experience had a huge impact on the rest of his life and urged the Marines to never take their days in the Corps for granted. He urged them to truly take advantage of the opportunities, relationships and experiences they are offered while in uniform.

Alderson, a prime example of a Marine who has taken his experiences while in uniform and used them as a catalyst for great success beyond the Corps, affirmed that he hasn't forgotten his Marine Corps roots or his first lessons in leadership.





# Leatherneck Laffs



"Fifteen miles up a hill and back?  
That's a long way to walk. Why don't we load up on one of  
those big ol' trucks I've seen around here and just ride?"



"Do you have that one with gunny stripes?"



"We're going to be a good team, Sergeant Major, but we need to work on our 'selfies.' "

# BOOT CAMP

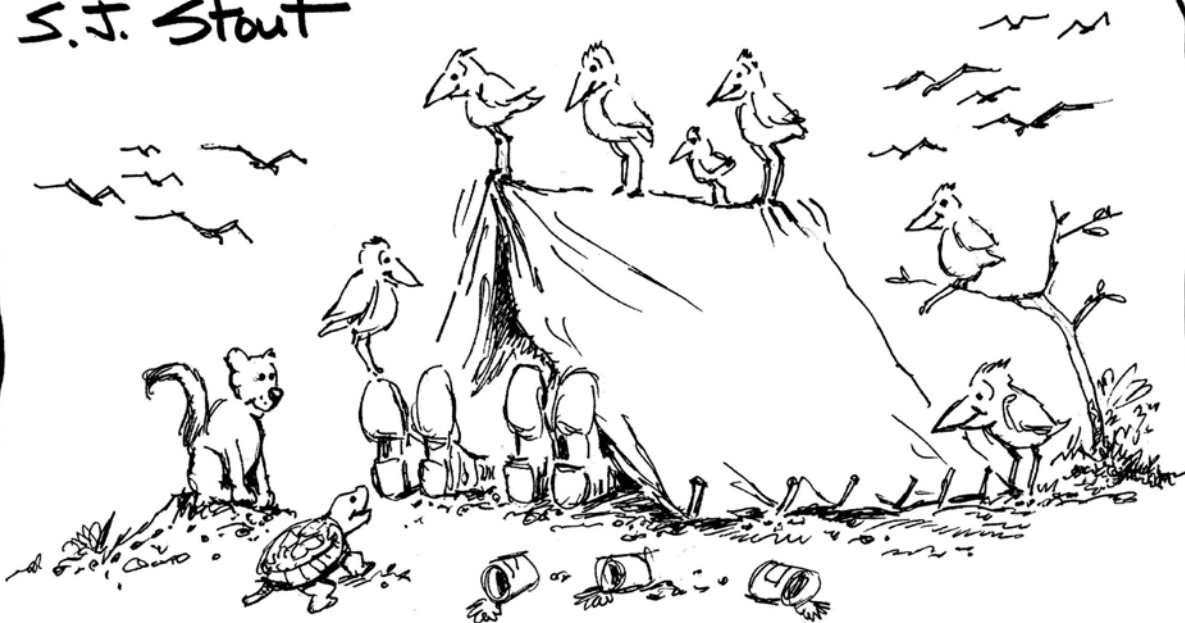
S.J. Stout



"Our leader didn't like your bed."

# BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout



"Well, I told you not to feed them.  
I hope you're satisfied!"



# Marine Makes Recovery His New Mission

By Roxanne Baker

Staff Sergeant Jeremy L. Lake faces a new kind of battle. It's uncharted territory for the infantry Marine with five deployments under his belt. But after Lake was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he needed to refocus his mission on recovery. So he brought his can-do attitude and positive outlook to Wounded Warrior Battalion-East.

"It's very easy to get wrapped around your injuries," said Maj Gregory A. Wilson, executive officer of Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. "But he embraced it, took charge of his own recovery plan and got to the other side with a smile on his face the whole way. It's nothing short of amazing."

SSgt Lake was named the 2014 Recovering Servicemember of the Year at the Fourth Annual Wounded Warrior Leadership Awards Dinner. The Marine Corps Association & Foundation funded the awards and hosted the dinner in Providence, R.I., on March 28, 2015.

Lake completed four combat deployments and one instructor deployment in the span of seven years. When he was in Iraq in 2005, he was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, knocked unconscious and sustained loss of his hearing. In 2011, while deployed to Afghanistan, Lake was in a vehicle that was hit by a 90-pound IED. He was knocked unconscious again and medevacked back to Camp Leatherneck.

Diagnosed with a TBI and PTSD, Lake reported to WWBN-E in 2013. Through numerous surgeries and countless hours of therapy, Lake kept a positive outlook and dove into the battalion's recovery programs.

"The Wounded Warrior Battalion is a remarkable place, but if you don't put yourself out there, you won't get better," Lake said.

Lake became involved in the athletic programs and participates in seated volleyball, cycling, archery and wheelchair basketball. He was a member of the championship team for the 2014 Pentagon Seated Volleyball Tournament. He also won a silver medal at the 2014 Invictus Games held in London and received the Warrior Spirit Athlete Award.

"Everyone comes together, so it's not just me going through a tough time," Lake said of the sports program. "You



U.S. team member, SSgt Jeremy L. Lake, center, scrimmages Team France in wheelchair basketball during the first day of practice for the 2014 Invictus Games in London, Sept. 8, 2014.

see people push through their injuries and building camaraderie. That connection is very helpful and overpowering."

That camaraderie inspired Lake to volunteer and support his fellow wounded warriors. He volunteered at the 2014 Onslow County (N.C.) Fall Special Olympics and became a representative for wounded, ill and injured Marines by speaking at various public engagements.

"Lake cares deeply about his fellow

**"I know where I was heading before the Wounded Warrior Battalion. It was a dark side of my career, and I don't think I would be here today without their help."**

**—SSgt Jeremy L. Lake**

Marines and is a passionate and compassionate leader that expands beyond the Marine Corps," said Sergeant Major Raquel R. Painter, the sergeant major of WWBN-E.

Lake furthered his outreach in January 2015 when he started volunteering at the Wounded Warrior Call Center. He checks on servicemembers who cannot physically report to the battalion or other units. He

helps them with medical information, counseling and transitioning out of the Marine Corps. His goal is to become a recovery care coordinator at the battalion.

"I know where I was heading before the Wounded Warrior Battalion," Lake said. "It was a dark side of my career, and I don't think I would be here today without their help. So I want to give back what I received and be a support system and advocate for the Marines to lean on."

That "warrior spirit" for his fellow Marines is what made him stand out as the Recovering Servicemember of the Year. Not only did he succeed in his personal recovery, SgtMaj Painter said, but he also continues to inspire and lift up everyone he meets.

"Lake is the epitome of a Marine," said SgtMaj Painter. "He overcame the challenges of his own recovery and continues to uphold the standards of our Corps. There is no Marine as deserving of this recognition than Staff Sergeant Lake. It is a pleasure to know him and serve with him."

*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.*

VICTORIA LONG





SSgt Jeremy Lake, third from right, receives the 2014 Recovering Servicemember of the Year Award in Providence, R.I., March 28, 2015. On hand to present the award were, from left, MajGen Edward Usher, the MCA&F president and CEO; MajGen Michael Regner; Mr. James Bartleme from Caterpillar Inc.; and Wounded Warrior Regiment's senior leaders, Col Scott Campbell and SgtMaj Michael Mack.

RON LUNN



SSgt Zachary Sicheloff, the 2014 Wounded Warrior Section Leader of the Year; Rep. Jim Langevin of Rhode Island; and SSgt Jeremy Lake at a reception prior to the Wounded Warrior Leadership Awards Dinner, March 28, 2015.

RON LUNN





## Vietnam 1965

# Enigmas and Contradictions

By R.R. Keene

**P**rior to 1965, most Americans knew nothing about the country of Vietnam. When President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized the first U.S. ground combat forces in Vietnam, that quickly changed.

Clad in starched sateen utilities, with World War II-era camouflaged helmets, belt suspender straps, leather boots, linseed-oiled-wooden-stock M14 rifles slung over their shoulders and 7.62 ball ammunition with 20-round magazines and bandoleers, 100,000 Americans stepped smartly into an Asian world with combat pay, “free” postage, tax-free pay and free helicopter rides into hard-to-pronounce places they had never heard of—Da Nang, Hue and Chu Lai.

For most Marines, the Vietnam War started in March 1965 and ended 10 years later on April 30, 1975, when the last Marine CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter

lifted from the American Embassy rooftop in Saigon.

Back home, unprecedented things happened in 1965: Black Nationalist leader Malcom X was shot to death in New York, and race riots in Los Angeles resulted in 34 deaths. The first campus protests

**The situation in  
South Vietnam was  
“deteriorating, and without  
new U.S. action, defeat  
appears inevitable.”  
—McGeorge Bundy**

against the war swelled, and 25,000 people marched on Washington, D.C.

It was also a time when the baby boomer generation started coming of age. The Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Minnesota Twins to win the World Series, and the Green Bay Packers came out on top of

the Cleveland Browns to win the National Football League’s championship. Marine veteran Lee Marvin grabbed an Academy Award for “Cat Ballou.” “Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.” was the second-most popular show on TV just behind “Bonanza.” There were 35 million women in the United States, and a good many of them donned miniskirts.

President Richard M. Nixon would later say, “Vietnam was the least understood war in our history.” He was right. “Many myths that were created by the antiwar movement and the media during the war persist to this day,” according to retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Otto J. Lehrack, in his book “Road of 10,000 Pains: The Destruction of the 2nd NVA Div. by the U.S. Marines, 1967.”

The Vietnam War always has been shrouded in deceptive enigmas and contradictions. Robert Coram in his book, “Brute: The Life of Victor [H.] Krulak, U.S. Marine,” recalls President John F.

**During March 1965, the Marines landed and moved inland toward Hill 327 to provide security for Da Nang Air Base. It would be a long 10 years before they marched out. (USN photo)**





Kennedy asking Lieutenant General Krulak and Joseph A. Mendenhall of the State Department to go to Vietnam in 1962 and assess the situation. Krulak reported the South Vietnamese could be relied on as staunch allies. Mendenhall said the South Vietnamese could not be relied on. President Kennedy asked the question that became a metaphor for the war: “Have you two gentlemen been to the same country?”

A kaleidoscope of existential and inscrutable pieces that could not be made to fit together, at least in Western minds, Vietnam had an exotic, primitive beauty that made one wish to visit under more amiable circumstances, but it was no place to fight a war. Sweltering heat; deluges of monsoon rain that chilled bone marrow; rugged, stubborn ridges of razor-sharp rock, triple jungle canopy; and muddy rice paddies fertilized with human excrement. It was inhabited by an array of poisonous, blood-sucking, carnivorous insects and animals. The most dangerous inhabitants, however, were those fellow human beings who belonged to the National Liberation Front or Viet Cong (VC) and the professional soldiers of the North Vietnamese Army.

Insurgency tactics against the South Vietnamese government had started changing at the end of 1964 and into 1965. At a village called Binh Gia, east of Saigon, two South Vietnamese battalions, one of which was the 4th Battalion of the South Vietnamese Marine Corps, fought two VC regiments. The communists didn’t hit, run and fade as they had before. They rose and struck as spitting cobras, decimating the battalions and inflicting heavy casualties.

Only 40 miles away in Saigon, U.S. Army General William C. Westmoreland, United States Military Assistance Command (USMACV), took heed: “It meant the beginning of an intensive military challenge which the Vietnamese government could not meet with its own resources.”

By the end of January, anti-government and anti-American riots erupted in Saigon, “The Paris of the East,” and the old capital at Hue. South Vietnamese Premier Tran Van Huong was ousted. McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to President Lyndon Johnson, reported the situation in South Vietnam was “deteriorating, and without new U.S. action, defeat appears inevitable—probably not in a matter of weeks or perhaps even months, but within the next year or so. There is still time to turn

**It wasn’t long before photos such as this one of 1st Plt, G/2/3 near the village of Li Mai were common of American fighting men on patrol looking for what proved to be an elusive enemy.**



**The landing at Da Nang was unopposed, and leathernecks of the 9th MEB—with the morning sun at their backs—waded through not only the surf, but also visiting dignitaries, media and curious onlookers. (USN photo)**

it around, but not much.”

GEN Westmoreland said: “We must face the stark fact that the war has escalated.”

Okinawa-based leathernecks of 1st Bn, Ninth Marine Regiment and ships of the U.S. 7th Fleet’s Navy Task Group 76.7 cautiously positioned off Da Nang. In

February, the VC attacked the U.S. compound at Pleiku in the Central Highlands and killed nine Americans and wounded 128 others. President Johnson ordered air strikes against North Vietnam, announced the withdrawal of U.S. dependents and declared: “I have ordered the deployment to South Vietnam of a [Marine] HAWK air



SGT R.R. REYNOLDS USMC





SGT J. FRALEY USMC

**Mortars, with their high trajectory, proved invaluable in the often quick and close skirmishes. An 81 mm mortar crew with D/1/4 launches a 9-pound round with a bursting radius of 30-by-20 yards.**

defense battalion. Other reinforcements, in units and individuals, may follow.”

They did. At 9:18 a.m., March 8, 1965, more Marines waded ashore across Red Beach on the western edge of Da Nang Harbor. It signaled the first significant use of ground troops in Vietnam. The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade was ordered in because of its self-sustaining capabilities and was to land in an “inconspicuous way.” The MEB was met by a large “Welcome, Gallant Marines” sign and Vietnamese VIPs, and pretty girls in the traditional *ao dai* dress presented leis to 3,500 leathernecks as representatives of the world’s media recorded and reported.

The Associated Press took a photo of an unsmiling 9th MEB CG, Brigadier General Frederick J. Karch, wearing a garland of flowers. He would later remark, “That picture has been the source of a lot of trouble for me. People say, ‘Why couldn’t you have been smiling?’ But you know, if I had to do it over, that picture would be the same. When you have a son in Vietnam and he gets killed, you don’t want a smiling general with flowers around his neck as the leader at that point.”

The missile batteries had been installed to protect against potential air attacks from the North Vietnamese Air Force or in the event the Chinese entered the fray. Gen Wallace M. Greene Jr., 23rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, and LtGen

Krulak wanted the Marines in a defensive perimeter.

According to historian Allan R. Millett in “Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps,” the base also would be used to escalate the war if needed or as a staging area to protect an American withdrawal should President Johnson order the mission ended. There was also a change typical of the times.

**At 9:18 a.m., March 8, 1965, more Marines waded ashore across Red Beach on the western edge of Da Nang Harbor. It signaled the first significant use of ground troops in Vietnam.**

According to Millett, American Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and GEN Westmoreland said the Marine expeditionary brigade would be designated as the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. “Expeditionary,” they insisted, “sounded too French.” Thus, the senior Marine command in country also became III Marine Amphibious Force vice III MEF.

For the Marines, Vietnam would come to mean I Corps (“Eye Corps”), the northernmost of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam’s (ARVN) tactical zones.

Thirty to 70 miles east to west, bordered by the Demilitarized Zone and North Vietnam on the north, and the mist-shrouded Annamite Mountains straddling Laos to the west, it stretched south along the South China Sea more than 200 miles to Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province.

The area was home to 2.5 million people, mostly farmers and fishermen including members of the local VC cadres. Millett writes: “Of the estimated 150,000 VC faced by the South Vietnamese government, perhaps a third were doing political work and staging raids in I Corps in early 1965.” They had become extremely effective in guerrilla warfare and terrorism and using the “yoke of communism” to squeeze peasants in the rural countryside for taxes, confiscating their rice harvests, and intimidating and often murdering clergy, educators and civilian officials.

The ARVNs countered with 60,000 men: two divisions, one regiment and regional forces defending the cities, towns and transportation systems. Low morale and a lack of leadership and equipment restricted almost all to a defense posture.

As more Marines went ashore, they fanned out into an 8-mile perimeter that included occupying Hill 327 overlooking the whole of Da Nang Air Base to the east.

It was tense but quiet when the chatter of machine-gun fire and tracers and flares lit up the night sky over Hill 327: VC sappers were making their first perimeter probes.

Nonetheless, Da Nang and the surrounding area became a swarm of Marine activity. The Force Logistics Command was created to deal with the rapid piling up of equipment on Red Beach. Elements of 2/4 arrived by KC-130s from Marine Transport Refueler Squadron 152 and took fire with little impact. Hawaii-based 3/4 soon followed. Major General William R. “Rip” Collins, commander of the Third Marine Division, also arrived from Okinawa. F-4B Phantoms of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 531 deployed their drag chutes as they touched down at Da Nang. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 163, already veterans of Operation Shufly, had their UH-34 Seahorses at the north end of the air base apron near HMM-162.

Between the runways and Vietnam’s Highway 1, the First Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters, commanded by MajGen Paul J. Fontana, took on a foreign legion setting quartered in old French barracks. Across the Han River, III MAF headquarters, soon to be commanded by MajGen Lewis W. “Lew” Walt, WW II veteran with two Navy Crosses, could be seen by looking beneath an old Vietnamese water tower.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff had made it very clear: “The U.S. Marine Force





**Above:** In April, leathernecks from 2/4 were flown north approximately 40 miles to the northern enclave of Phu Bai to await the word to move to the defensive positions vacated by members of 2/3. (Photo by GySgt R.F. Ayers, USMC)

**Below:** Back at Da Nang, members of K/3/9 carved out and fortified defensive positions on Hill 327 using sandbags and help from earth-moving equipment and Marine engineers. (Photo by GySgt R.F. Hallahan, USMC)





will not, repeat will not, engage in day-to-day actions against the Viet Cong.” GEN Westmoreland ordered the Marines to protect Da Nang from attack, but the “overall responsibility for the defense of Da Nang area remains a RVNAF (Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces) responsibility.”

The UH-34 helicopters from Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 16, however, were permitted to fly resupply and strike missions for the ARVNs. On March 31, an air task force with 17 UH-34 helicopters of HMM-163 airlifted a battalion of ARVN paratroopers 25 miles south toward the Quang Tin provincial capital of Tam Ky.

As the aircraft flared into the landing zone, they were punctured with incoming rounds. “U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Landing and the Buildup, 1965,” by Jack Shulimson and Major Charles M. Johnson, USMC, summarizes what happened: First Lieutenant Wendell T. Eliason, who was flying wingman for Lieutenant Colonel Norman G. Ewers, squadron commander, was killed as they touched down in the landing zone. Another UH-34 had absorbed numerous rounds also; the pilot,

1stLt Dale D. Eddy, “was wounded in the neck,” and his crew thought him dead. His copilot, 1stLt James E. Magel, was severely wounded. The bird crashed. Wounded crew chief Sergeant Cecil A. Garner released his M60 machine gun from its door mount and headed out with Magel for cover.

**In the first week of June,  
the VC flexed their muscle,  
and the Marines suffered  
29 killed and 208 wounded.  
Using Marines in an advisory  
role and securing Da Nang  
wasn't working.**

In came another UH-34 piloted by Maj Bennie H. Mann Jr. The helicopter took concentrated heavy fire as it landed. LtCol Ewers said Mann's crew chief, Staff Sergeant Stanley J. Novotny, jumped out and ran to rescue the downed crew. He “somehow found the strength single-handedly to lift the conscious, but para-

lyzed” 6-foot, 200-pound Eddy out of the downed aircraft. Lieutenant Magel would die of his wounds. Maj Mann was awarded the Navy Cross, and SSgt Novotny received the Silver Star.

Two more airlifts of 25 Marine and 10 Army helicopters came under heavy fire, but they delivered a battalion of ARVNs into the zone. The Marines had two KIA and 19 wounded.

On the ground, heat and humidity caused BGen Karch to restrict defensive patrols and heavy work to the cooler hours of early and late afternoons. The patrols encountered no VC. “The first American casualties were inflicted by another Marine when two men from a three-man listening post left their positions to investigate suspicious movement to their front. The two men apparently lost their way in the dark and came upon their remaining partner from the rear. He turned and opened fired, mortally wounding his two comrades.”

In the first week of June, the VC flexed their muscle, and the Marines suffered 29 killed and 208 wounded. Using Marines in an advisory role and securing Da Nang

**By May, Sikorsky UH-34 Seahorse helicopters of MAG-16 had been taking fire while flying resupply and strike missions for the ARVNs. The helicopters' permanent in-country base, Marine Corps Air Facility at Marble Mountain, would not be completed until later in the year. These helicopters are heading south returning to their hangars at the northern end of the Da Nang air base in May. (USMC photo)**





wasn't working. According to J. Robert Moskin in his book "The U.S. Marine Corps Story," when the Commandant, Gen Greene, visited Da Nang, he told the press that the Marines were in Vietnam to "kill Viet Cong."

By then, there were 16,500 Marines in Vietnam.

In late April 1965, ships of the U.S. Navy had dropped anchor in the mouth of the Truong River some 55 miles south of Da Nang, and on a stretch of beach began off-loading, according to one officer, "every plank of matting the Marine Corps had in the Far East," i.e., hundreds of 2-by-12 slabs of interlocking aluminum matting, each weighing 144 pounds. Seabees anchored a SATS, a short airfield for tactical support, the first to be built in a combat zone. The A-4 Skyhawk jets from MAG-12 would take off with extra lift from jet-assisted takeoff (JATO) bottles attached to the fuselage and land with the help of arresting gear.

For all intents and purposes, the Marines and Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 10 had constructed an aircraft carrier in a sea of sand. Soon, just north at a place called Ky Ha, a helicopter pad was laid for the UH-34s and UH-1s of MAG-36.

LtGen Krulak had given them 30 days to complete the SATS runway. The other military services and engineers scoffed, saying it couldn't be done. Twenty-five days later, 4,000 feet of the aluminum matting was in place. On June 1, a Marine Attack Squadron 225 A-4C Skyhawk piloted by LtCol Robert W. Baker took off as the flight lead on a mission six miles north of the "expeditionary" field. By then, LtGen Krulak had sent a message to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara: "Chu Lai operational this date." Marine close air support had taken another new meaning.

"Chu Lai" was how the Vietnamese pronounced the Mandarin Chinese characters for Krulak's name. Krulak's son, Gen Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, later told author Otto Lehrack that Chu Lai literally means "Little Man," an apt description given LtGen Krulak's short stature.

Back then, southern I Corps was home to stubborn and tenacious cadres of Viet Cong. It was the heart of the country's rice bowl. The farmers during good years could harvest three crops a year. The Viet Cong was not unwelcome in the areas south of Chu Lai below the Tra Bong River.

LtGen Krulak recognized this and insisted on a rapid buildup and integration of Marine air operations into what was III MAF's pacification attempt to clear the area in southern I Corps and northern II



**Above:** Marines on patrol became a common sight, but they still fascinated the local citizens such as the people crammed aboard this bus. (USMC photo)

**Below:** Marines under fire take cover in a cemetery near Hoi-Dong-Xa beach near Chu Lai, May 6-7 as Seabees and Marine engineers constructed the SATS airfield. One Marine is armed with the 40 mm M79 grenade launcher, which provided a boost in firepower to Marine rifle squads. Its explosive projectile filled the gap between hand grenades and the minimum effective range of the 81 mm mortar.



Corps of VC and win over the populace.

Only a short distance north, near the Batangan Peninsula, the village complex of An Cuong runs to the edge of the South China Sea. From there the 1st Viet Cong Regiment reinforced with North Vietnamese regulars quietly made their way north toward the Marine perimeter eight miles away at Chu Lai.

*Editor's note: Our Vietnam series in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the start of the war continues next month with an article about Operation Starlite by LtCol Otto Lehrack, USMC (Ret).*





# General Joseph F. Dunford Jr.

## Outlines the Way Ahead for the Corps



CPL SARA A. MEDINA, USMC

Gen Joseph Dunford Jr. assumed the duties as 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps on Oct. 17, 2014. As a former MEF commander, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Gen Dunford's experience serves him well as he focuses on improving the Corps' leadership development, overall readiness and warfighting capability.

By Arthur P. Brill Jr.

*Editor's note: LtCol Arthur P. Brill Jr., USMC (Ret) recently met with General Joseph F. Dunford, 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, to discuss the Commandant's views on the challenges facing the Corps today and his plans to ensure the Corps' continued success in the future.*

**Leatherneck:** You received your commission as a second lieutenant via the Platoon Leaders Class when you graduated from Saint Michaels College in 1977. Why did you choose the Marine Corps?

**Gen Dunford:** I wanted to be a Marine from my earliest days. My dad was a Marine sergeant during Korea. He was in 1/5 [1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment] at Inchon, Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir.

As a PFC, he was a Browning Automatic Rifleman in "Baker" Company. I also had three uncles who were World War II Marines. In my neighborhood, you either went into the Navy or the Marine Corps. The old Charlestown Navy Yard was close by, and the Marine influence was strong. Our area of about 50,000 in South Boston

**"On my first day as Commandant, I said that the Corps was in good shape. I'm six months into it, and I really feel that."**

lost 26 people in Vietnam, and 17 were Marines. Whenever we went to parades, there was something different about the Marine units, and I saw how my dad reacted. That was a big influence on me.

**Leatherneck:** Your father became a career policeman?

**Gen Dunford:** Yes. My father got out of the Marine Corps as a sergeant and became a Boston policeman. He did that for 40 years, and I'm proud of his service. He's still looking over my shoulder. I'm very fortunate; both my mom and dad can travel, and they were both at my passage of command last October 17.

**Leatherneck:** My wife and I enjoyed the ceremony, but that was a long receiving line.

**Gen Dunford:** I never saw some of my relatives. They made plane reservations in the morning and, with our 1000 start, flew back out of Reagan at 1500. I never saw them. I got e-mails a couple of days later, "Hey, I was there. Just want to let you know."

**Leatherneck:** How did you find out that you might be the next Commandant?

**Gen Dunford:** When I came back to Washington, D.C., for a congressional testimony from Afghanistan last March, I was informed that the Secretary of the Navy wanted to see me. During our conversation, he asked if I was interested in taking the job.

**Leatherneck:** How did your wife feel about you being the Commandant?

**Gen Dunford:** She knew what the job meant for the family and for her. Despite the added expectations facing her, she left the decision to me. She opted not to say anything, but once we crossed the line of departure, she was there. She's very supportive. She's out there with us on the road and loves engaging with the families.

**Leatherneck:** It looks like you're staying in good shape. How do you do it?

**Gen Dunford:** I'm trying. I run in the morning before work, and my wife likes to do that so we run around Washington, D.C. In bad weather, we have a treadmill in the garage. When I can't get out in the



CPY SARA A. MEDINA, USMC

Marines from throughout Okinawa met with Gen Dunford at the theater at Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, March 25, 2015. The CMC took questions from the audience on a variety of topics including possible changes to the Corps' tattoo policy.

morning, I run after work, and if my wife has worked out, she rides her bike. We're together, so staying fit is not adding to the workday.

**Leatherneck:** How did you two meet?

**Gen Dunford:** I met Ellyn in 1982 when I was assigned to this area as a captain. She was a physical therapist at a local hospital, and a mutual friend introduced us. We'll be married 31 years this December.

**Leatherneck:** What kind of a Corps did you inherit?

**Gen Dunford:** On my first day as Commandant, I said that the Corps was in good shape. I'm six months into it, and I really feel that. The first thing you look at is recruiting and retention. Our recruits today, from a qualitative perspective, are

**Joseph Dunford Sr. and his wife, Katherine, joined their son, LtGen Dunford, the I MEF commanding general, at the Harvard Club for a lunch hosted by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation during Marine Week in Boston in May 2011. After serving as a Marine sergeant during the Korean War, the elder Dunford became a Boston police officer and spent 40 more years in uniform.**

above the 10-year average. This is extraordinary. I also feel good about our retention as we draw down from 202,000 to 182,000 Marines. We're able to be more selective. More importantly, I had a front-row seat in Afghanistan for 19 months to watch Marines in Helmand province. I saw three successive MAGTFs [Marine air-ground task forces] in action. We face challenges today, but you can't argue about the performance of our Marines in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Leatherneck:** In your planning guidance you said that Marines should win today while adapting to win future battles. Is that one of the challenges?

**Gen Dunford:** While our foundation today is pretty solid, we can't keep doing what we're doing today and still be in good shape five or 10 years from now. We have to improve in three key areas: leadership development, overall readiness and our warfighting capability. These are my



RON LUNN





SGT GABRIELA GARCIA/USMC

The CMC has visited Marines throughout the Corps in recent months, including these leathernecks at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., to discuss his recently released Campaign Plan and other challenges facing the Marine Corps today.

priorities, and we're absolutely focused on them.

**Leatherneck:** Your leadership development is zeroing-in on the Corps' enlisted force.

**Gen Dunford:** With 85 percent of Marines being enlisted, it's the logical place to start to prepare for the future. This is really about our noncommissioned officers [NCOs]. The inventory of our NCOs and staff noncommissioned officers doesn't match our requirements. There are significant gaps in our NCO and staff NCO leadership when our units aren't deployed.

**Leatherneck:** Is this only an issue of not having enough NCOs and staff NCOs?

**Gen Dunford:** We want to get the right numbers. We're also remapping every enlisted MOS [military occupational specialty] to ensure we have the right career progression in the context of where we are today and will be tomorrow. Our Squad Leader Development Program will change squad leaders from a three- to four-year [time in service] corporal to a five- or six-year [time in service] sergeant. This matures the force and gives the NCOs more training, education and experience

for their upgraded responsibilities in distributed operations.

**Leatherneck:** Could you explain distributed operations and why this increases the role of NCOs?

**Gen Dunford:** When I was a captain, a rifle company defended in a 1,500-meter frontage. Today, companies, platoons and squads are more spread out. In Iraq and Afghanistan, we fought mostly in a non-linear battlefield against a greatly

**"In the operating forces, we must eliminate post-deployment readiness degradations."**

distributed enemy. Because the enemy was so spread out, we operated as companies, platoons and squads. This is more than a response to what the enemy is doing. It's the damage we can do to them. We cover more ground and create greater havoc by being distributed. Today, we can push intelligence, command and control, fires and logistics support down to the rifle company and even the squad level. The responsibilities on our sergeants and staff sergeants today are the same [ones] lieutenants and captains faced years ago.

**Leatherneck:** How will the Corps' warfighting ability improve?

**Gen Dunford:** It's preparing the Marine Corps for distributed operations both on shore and at sea. The planning guidance talks about naval integration, and we're running experiments on amphibious concepts like seabasing. We're focusing on distributed ops within the MAGTF. It's not just a counterinsurgency environment like Iraq and Afghanistan. Even in a major threat, we'll operate in a more dispersed manner than in the past.

**Leatherneck:** What's the status of Marine Corps readiness?

**Gen Dunford:** Today's deployed units and those next to deploy are absolutely ready. We've always been good at that. But in 1950, 1991 and 2003, our home-based Marines were as involved in the unexpected as those forward deployed. I want every Marine physically and culturally prepared to deploy tomorrow. In the operating forces, we must eliminate post-deployment readiness degradations. Given the volatility of today's world, that cycle is not adequate. We must close the gap between the readiness of our forward deployed and our home stations. We say



**Gen Dunford regularly visits wounded and ill Marines throughout the Marine Corps. He met PFC Nicholas Torrez at Naval Medical Center San Diego on Feb. 7, 2015.**

we're the nation's force-in-readiness and prepared for the unexpected. Well, that audio must match the video. The Marines at our home stations must be ready.

**Leatherneck:** Do you have the money to pull this off and to make the home-stationed Marines ready?

**Gen Dunford:** We can't address them all immediately. People are my priority. In the old days, a typical non-deployed 13-man squad would have a lance corporal squad leader and about 11 other lance corporals and PFCs. Today, I'd rather have a sergeant with five to six years in the Marine Corps and maybe six or seven Marines in that squad. Sure, our readiness category is still low, but that unit is better prepared. If we focus on leadership and build units around those leaders, we can train lance corporals in four to five months and add them at the last minute. The key is to have stability, continuity and leadership across the life cycle of the unit.

**Leatherneck:** Of your three priorities, what's the most important?

**Gen Dunford:** My readiness driver is leadership development. I can't address all the equipment shortfalls right away and guarantee that our training money will be equitable for every unit. However, I'm adamant that we will fix the people piece. All Marine units will have quantity and quality leadership all of the time. If we do that, I think the Corps will be more ready.



SGT GABRIELA GARCIA, USMC

**Leatherneck:** What makes you so sure?

**Gen Dunford:** History tells us that. Look at Korea—experienced World War II Marine officers and staff NCOs took in a bunch of young Marines without combat experience and taught them to do the job. We don't want to replicate the Korea deployment model in the future, but Marines pulled it off. Our risk back then was mitigated by leadership. Today, I think we can close the gap between our deployed and non-deployed units.

**Leatherneck:** How long will the Corps stay at 182,000?

**Gen Dunford:** Art, I asked for one additional year to give Manpower the time to adjust the force. When we get down to 182,000, we should stay there for the next few years. Today, 60 percent of our Ma-

rines are in their first enlistment, and 40 percent [of them] are lance corporals and below. We're not sure about the final number, but there will be fewer first-term Marines in the future relative to sergeants and staff sergeants.

**Leatherneck:** Will the improved U.S. economy eventually affect recruiting? Has it, along with the multiple deployments, contributed to the shortage of NCOs?

**Gen Dunford:** Not yet. We haven't seen that. When we drew down the Marine Corps, we did not have a commensurate reduction in the recruiting force. We kept the recruiters well-resourced, and their hard work is bringing in the right numbers of folks. Retention is very competitive, so we're keeping our share of high-quality Marines. That's something we don't take for granted.

**Leatherneck:** What about all those Marines who deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan?

**Gen Dunford:** I'm most worried about the mid-grade staff NCOs who bore the brunt of these deployments. With a force of 60 percent in their first enlistment, we don't suffer repeated deployments at that level. It's the staff NCOs who did that. There are select groups within the overall force that deploy more than anyone else: explosive ordnance demolition, intelligence, and some of our aviation and infantry battalions are less than 1-to-2

Throughout his recent West Coast visit, Gen Dunford met with Marines in a variety of venues. Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif., ate lunch with the CMC on Feb. 10, 2015.



SGT GABRIELA GARCIA, USMC





SGT AUCIA R. LEADERS, USMC

**Gen Dunford recently observed the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force's training aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 3, 2015. Capt Raymond P. Kaster, company commander of Alpha Co, and Capt Mark A. Lenzi, company commander of Weapons Co, update Gen Dunford on the GCEITF's training and data-collection efforts.**

[1:2] DDP [Deployment to Dwell Ratio] right now.

**Leatherneck:** What are you doing about that?

**Gen Dunford:** My priority is to slow the tempo down. The threshold requirement is twice the time home as deployed. We call that 1:2—seven months deployed and 14 months home. Many units are below 14 months home—somewhere between 10 to 12 months. I want to get the entire Corps to 1:2, but our long-term goal is to do even better. We're looking hard to see if there are other ways of meeting our requirements. Hopefully, we can provide some relief, particularly in the most stressed MOSs. The time Marines and sailors spend with their families is important. It also gives us more training time. It's not just getting ready for the next deployment, but preparing for anything that might happen. More time back home would be better.

**Leatherneck:** How is the quality of life for Marine families?

**Gen Dunford:** Our investment in family programs would be unrecognizable to you as a lieutenant. The first thing is family housing—our Marines have good places to live. The family services and family support centers are better than ever. But I temper that because we're asking a lot of them [Marines and their families]. Some are having a tough time, particularly those

who experienced multiple deployments. Moms are home alone with the kids for months. That is a challenge. However, being Marine families, they are hanging tough because we're not seeing them leave. We're paying attention to this issue.

**Leatherneck:** What's happening for the Corps in the Pacific?

**Gen Dunford:** That's a good-news story. Our portion of the rebalance in the Pacific was to have 22,500 Marines west of the international date line. III MEF [Marine Expeditionary Force] has 20,000

**“Hopefully, we can provide some relief, particularly in the most stressed MOSs. The time Marines and sailors spend with their families is important.”**

Marines, and Marine Installations, Pacific has 2,500. We have the right numbers in the Pacific right now.

We're moving 5,000 Marines to Guam. I was out there in March. Concrete is being poured, and the Guam move is doing well. The fourth rotation of 1,300 Marines is back in Australia, and that may grow to 2,500. We're making sure our Marines have the lift and training facilities to maintain readiness from a forward-deployed and crisis-response perspective. The Pacific commander would like another

MEU [Marine expeditionary unit] presence in the Pacific in addition to the 31st MEU. We're working towards an additional amphibious ready group [ARG], and the Navy is supportive.

**Leatherneck:** The ACV [amphibious combat vehicle] is part of a phased approach to carry future Marines from ship-to-shore.

**Gen Dunford:** It is. I looked at it in Nevada, and the competitors had their vehicles there. The three phases are (1) a vehicle that could swim at a slow rate of speed and cross a river, but not self-deploy from a ship; (2) a vehicle with AAV [Amphibious Assault Vehicle] or better capability; (3) a self-deploying high-water speed vehicle. The plan is to get 200 vehicles in that first phase and 400 in the second. Industry sees that as 600 vehicles. They're looking to deliver the initial vehicles with phase two requirements. Given the competitors' experience, I'm very confident they could deliver the AAV or better vehicle sooner.

The plan was 2025 for the high-water speed vehicle. I'd like to make that conditioned based. If industry can get an affordable vehicle that swims, self-deploys at high-water speed and still provides IED [improvised explosive device] protection ashore, we want to be able to move forward. If we collapse those first two phases, we'll be in a better posture down the road.

**Leatherneck:** Does it bother you that the three ships carrying MEUs are often disaggregated [working for two different combatant commanders] hundreds of miles apart?

**Gen Dunford:** It's not a question of wanting to do it; it's imperative to meet the combatant commanders' demands. Look at General Austin's world [Army General Lloyd J. Austin III] who runs Central Command. He's responsible from Egypt to Pakistan. If he keeps ships off the coast of Yemen, as he did on 11 February to conduct an evacuation op, he's still worried about the rest of the theater. We must respond to his requirements. Distributing combat power on the ships allows us to do that. The optimal mix most MEU commanders choose is the Big Deck [amphibious assault ship] in one location and the LPD [amphibious transport dock] and LSD [dock landing ship] in another. We have to design the MEUs to conduct operations in that manner. This is both a Marine Corps and a naval integration issue. It involves command and control and things like aviation maintenance.



SGT TAMMY K. HINELINE, USMC

**Afghan National Army MG Sayed Malook, left, the commanding general of the 215th Corps, and Gen Dunford, center, commander of ISAF, view a map during a visit to Camp Shorabak, Helmand province, Afghanistan, May 27, 2013.**

When we design the MEUs, the three ships will not usually operate together. Split operations will be the routine. [The ships will be apart, but working for the same combatant commander.] It will not be unusual to be disaggregated. I visited the 11th MEU recently. I'm convinced that we need to train, organize and equip the MEUs to do what they'll be doing on a day-to-day basis.

**Leatherneck:** You recently witnessed the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, composed of males and females. How is that going?

**Gen Dunford:** Those Marines are preparing us well to make a recommendation on female integration later this year. All those Marines are volunteers who have trained for months. They are training at Twentynine Palms for 40 days

straight. I watched them go through a squad attack lane that they're doing 23 times to gather data. They have two tasks: (1) to gather data to make a recommendation for any exception to policy; (2) to establish standards, which may be the biggest impact on the Corps. Before this, we've only set good collective standards. Now, we're setting individual standards, which will make it more difficult to get into certain MOSs for a male or a female. The collective skills and the individual standards will determine your MOS assignment. Those Marines are working hard, and I was impressed.

**Leatherneck:** When you graduated from The Basic School [TBS] at Quantico, did you go through the Infantry Officer Course [IOC] before reporting to the fleet?

**The 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Joseph Dunford, and the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Ronald L. Green, look at dog tags placed at the top of Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan, March 21, 2015. The Corps' two senior leaders participated in the Reunion of Honor ceremony commemorating the lives lost 70 years earlier in one of the most iconic battles of World War II.**



SGT GABRIELA GARCIA, USMC



## CMC to Become Next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



PAUL SOUTA

On May 5, President Barack Obama nominated the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Upon confirmation, Gen Dunford will be only the second Marine in history to serve as the chairman and will replace GEN Martin Dempsey, USA, who has served in the role since 2011.

Before he assumed the post of CMC on Oct. 17, 2014, Gen Dunford served as the Commander, International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces–Afghanistan. He also served as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from 2010 to 2012.

After being nominated by the president to the highest-ranking post in the U.S. military, Gen Dunford must be confirmed by the Senate.

—Sara W. Bock

**President Barack Obama announced the nominations of Gen Joseph F. Dunford, USMC, as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen Paul J. Selva, USAF, as the next Vice Chairman, May 5, 2015. National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and Vice President Joe Biden were present for the official announcement, which took place in the Rose Garden of the White House.**

**Gen Dunford:** I was in the second IOC class. I reported to TBS July of 1977, and IOC started in January 1978. I recall that IOC gave us technical proficiency in machine guns and mortars. TBS gave us familiarization. IOC had enlisted instructors back then, and they tested us in each position: section leader, gunner and ammo man. We also got familiar with the plotting board and those kinds of things. You can't quantify the confidence that gives a young lieutenant. When I arrived at 3/1 [3d Battalion, First Marine Regiment] at Camp Pendleton, I felt prepared.

**Leatherneck:** Are the officers who graduate from IOC today better qualified than we were?

**Gen Dunford:** They are more technically and tactically proficient just because of the time they spend there. I do think that the lieutenants today are better prepared than I was. And, I felt well-prepared. We've just taken it to the next level.

**Leatherneck:** You've asked the enlisted leadership to examine the current tattoo policy. How do you feel about tattoos?

**Gen Dunford:** I asked them if there is ambiguity in the current rules. Is there anything that's not clear? Are the rules being equally applied? I spoke to Marines in WESTPAC [the Western Pacific] about this recently. I promised that I would listen to them. I said, "At the end of the day, I get paid to make decisions. Some of you will like them and some won't." I want to

know what's on Marines' minds. That doesn't mean we'll change things because everybody wants to. The only thing I'm anchored to is our "enduring principles" inside of the planning guidance—the Corps' fundamentals of what we are. Everything else is on the table for discussion. I'm listening, but there are certainly no pending changes right now.

**Leatherneck:** What keeps you up at night concerning the Corps' future?

**Gen Dunford:** That I'm getting the right balance in investing in today's readiness and tomorrow's. When I say readiness, it's not just the operating forces. Are

**"I said, 'At the end of the day, I get paid to make decisions. Some of you will like them and some won't.' I want to know what's on Marines' minds."**

we spending enough in our infrastructure so we don't end up like a few years ago with everything falling apart because we hadn't maintained it for decades. It's the right balance between training money, infrastructure money, modernization [tomorrow's capabilities], family programs and those kinds of things. There's no perfect solution. Having the right balance gives us a Marine Corps that's ready today. It's also ready four to eight years from now. In 2018, I want the 37th Commandant to say, "The Marine Corps is in great

shape." Frankly, some of the decisions we're making now will determine if the 38th Commandant will say that in 2022.

**Leatherneck:** Since your nomination was announced, there have been press reports and speculation that you are being considered to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Have you been interviewed? What's happening?

**Gen Dunford:** In all truthfulness, I don't know anything about the process or where they are in the process. I have not been interviewed. I'm exactly where I want to be, inside the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Leatherneck:** How would you sum up today's Corps and your challenge ahead?

**Gen Dunford:** There's a lot to feel good about right now in terms of the Corps. We've got good people. We have a good mission, and there is a high demand for Marines. The rest is taking care of itself. We must keep at least one eye looking down the track so we don't fail to make decisions now that will allow the Marine Corps to succeed in the future. That's my challenge for the next four years.

*Author's bio: Retired Marine LtCol Arthur P. Brill Jr. has written more than 70 feature articles. 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.*



# Marine For Life

## Veterans Reach Out to Transitioning Marines

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

**“S**emper Fidelis,” “Once A Marine, Always A Marine,” “Marines Helping Marines”—these are common phrases to anyone completing honorable Marine Corps enlistments or commissions, but to the staff of the Marine For Life (M4L) program, the phrases encompass their mission.

“The program speaks to how we take care of Marines and their families, how we keep faith with them after their service,” said Colonel Lee Ackiss, deputy director of the Professional Development Branch in the Marine and Family Programs Division at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC). The M4L program falls under that branch.

Col Ackiss said the program is a way for veteran Marines to “reach back” and help transitioning Marines who are seeking assistance.

“Once A Marine, Always A Marine is not just a banner slogan. It’s not just a trademark or words on a T-shirt. It is who we are, it’s what we believe, so each and every Marine in every way should constantly reach out to other Marines, to be there when they are seeking assistance, to be that Marine who is always main-

taining a connection,” he said.

M4L has existed since 2002 when the 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones, directed that the program be established, saying, “For those who have served honorably, our debt of gratitude must extend well beyond their last day of service.”

The needs of the Corps in 2002, in the aftermath of 9/11, were significantly different than today. The Corps was growing to reach a high of more than 204,000

**M4L is changing to meet the needs of today’s Marines and provide the network they need to kick-start their transition.**

active-duty Marines in 2009. Today, the Corps is working on reducing its end strength to 182,000 by fiscal year 2017, according to current information from HQMC.

This means that between 35,000 to 40,000 Marines will be leaving the Corps annually in the next few years; that’s the normal transition (30,000 to 35,000) plus the mandated drawdown structure reductions started in 2012 of an additional

5,000 per year. Those Marines leaving the service are, or will be, looking for jobs, entrepreneurial advice, education opportunities, housing, family services and other transitional assistance.

M4L is changing to meet the needs of today’s Marines and provide the network they need to kick-start their transition.

“We are increasing connectivity,” Col Ackiss said, summarizing several efforts to communicate with transitioning Marines. “This is a pivotal time because we’re trying to revitalize our web presence,” he explained. “We’re updating our website to make it new to younger Marines. Enabling departing Marines to connect to opportunities in the communities they are going back to is one of our key messages.”

The program uses a variety of platforms to engage that connectivity, including the Internet, social media (primarily LinkedIn but also Facebook, Twitter etc.), texting and phones. To enhance awareness of the M4L network, Marines are told about the network upon entering the service and again about a year before their expiration of active service (EAS).

“We sponsor a Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS) for Marines when they reach their first duty station,” Ackiss explained. Financial responsibility is emphasized at this first seminar, but Marines also are reminded that they need to begin planning early for their post-Marine career.

Then, about 12 to 14 months prior to their EAS, Marines attend the Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS). “At this seminar, we focus on what we can do to enable Marines to be confident about the next step, to be more informed about all the different choices,” said Ackiss.

The TRS is a five-day event held at all bases and stations that features a wide range of classes and exercises to focus Marines on their upcoming transition.

The first couple of days include classes by groups such as the Department of Veterans Affairs who inform the Marines about items such as eBenefits, the online service network, explained Rickey Johnson, Transition Readiness program manager at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., Career Resource Management Center. “Each student begins to prepare their own, specific Individual Transition Plan (ITP), which they will continue to refine throughout the course,”



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

**Sgt John Gallegos, with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312, goes through a mock job interview during a TRS at MCAS Beaufort, April 11, 2015.**



**M4L facilitator Tracey Arrington assists Cpl Levi Risher, right, and Cpl Michael Smith with writing their résumés during a TRS at MCAS Beaufort, April 11, 2015.**

said Johnson, who retired from the Corps in 2002.

The ITP includes details on options that will be available for each transitioning servicemember according to their goals—including college, technical training, employment or entrepreneurial small-business ventures.

The Department of Labor, through a consultant company, conducts classes on résumé writing, job interviewing (including mock interview sessions), dressing for success and other aspects of career transition.

“At the end of the course we have surveys to get feedback on what we did so we can ensure we are giving them what they need,” Johnson said.

A few miles from the air station, Dennis Trimmer manages a similar program at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. “Programs all over the Marine Corps work within the same framework, but we all tweak the programs a little to best suit our individual commands,” he explained. “Being a small command, I can do things here they can’t do at a large base such as Camp Lejeune [N.C.] due to the large volume of transitioning Marines there.”

Parris Island transitions about 40 Marines per month, the air station about 60; larger bases may process hundreds per month.

It is during this transition that Marines are going to be connected to the M4L network. “We provide them with information about the program as well as the toll-free number and the website as part of their out processing,” said Trimmer.

The information about the network is provided during the Capstone portion of the transition process, which occurs within 90 days prior to the Marine’s departure from active duty. “During the Capstone we review the DD Form 2958, the ITP checklist, which must also be signed off by the transitioning servicemember’s commanding officer,” said Trimmer.

When feasible, a departing Marine meets one on one with the commanding officer; on larger bases this may be done in a classroom setting. Either way, every effort is made to ensure that achievement of each Marine’s Career Readiness Standards commensurate with the servicemember’s desired employment, education, technical training and/or entrepreneurial objectives.

One of the concepts that Col Ackiss said is being emphasized early in the M4L cycle is credentialing. “We want to enable Marines to realize that the skills



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

they gained as a successful Marine in whatever MOS [military occupational specialty] they have are transferrable for one or more credentials in a civilian position,” he said.

Rickey Johnson explained that he can provide Marines with their VMET (Verification of Military Experience and Training). “Many Marines don’t realize that this is a document which follows you in the Marine Corps, and every time you do something, it gets recorded,” he explained. “So you can go in and get a printout of all the experience and schools and how that translates into civilian careers. It helps indicate where you can get civilian licenses and certifications related to your MOS, which will make you more prepared if you leave the service.”

Simply put, the M4L network is a bridge for today’s Marines preparing to leave the service honorably by choice, by force shaping or by retiring. This assistance is especially important since only 25 percent of Marines continue to serve past

their initial obligation, according to information provided by the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Directorate at HQMC.

The M4L cycle is a collective term used to describe the enlistment-to-separation-and-beyond evolution that brings Marines back to civilian communities. Even with the Corps’ efforts at enhanced transition preparation, it still is a daunting task that Marines often face alone, but scattered across the country are Reserve Marines whose sole purpose is to fill the gap.

Master Sergeant Thorin Moser is one of the Marine Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs). Some of these M4L network representatives cover entire states or regions, while others focus on large metropolitan cities. Moser, for example, is responsible for supporting Houston, the most populous city in Texas and the fourth largest in the United States with 2.2 million people.

Moser was an active-duty chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist from 1993 to 1998 and



USMC

**A Marine studies some of the information provided during his transition seminar in preparation for developing his own ITP.**

went into the IRR (Individual Ready Reserve) to fulfill his remaining three years of obligated service. During an IRR muster someone told him about an IMA billet that helped Marines who were leaving the service. "So it was immediately appealing to me," he recalled.

"I was fortunate," he said. "The Houston community is tremendously supportive, including active participation from local veterans." He acknowledged that his predecessors in the billet had established an effective network of resources before his arrival.

"Our Marines have a greater chance of a smooth, successful transition here due to the mature network developed and sustained over more than a decade of constant presence of M4L representatives," Moser asserted. "They all took the mission to heart and grew a very strong network of local resources."

Moser recalled that early in his tour a transitioning Marine was referred to him. "To say the least, he was unhappy and discouraged with the transition process at that time. I convinced him to attend our monthly luncheons and network with mentors and employers. He discovered resources and found employment."

A couple years later, Moser saw that same Marine at a Reserve drill weekend. "He greeted me enthusiastically and thanked me. I didn't recognize him at first, but as he talked about his life and job, I realized that the motivated Marine in front of me was the same unhappy and discouraged Marine I had met a couple years before."

That sort of validation helped Moser realize the impact that the M4L network representative can have on transitioning Marines. "I see a variety of needs, and I don't know all the answers, but our best practices surround the concept that we aren't the ones who are doing the work," he remarked. "We aren't helping them write their résumés or helping them with their job source specifically. We are identifying the resources in our network who have the tools and skills so that when Marines come to us with a need, we are able to refer them. Here in Houston, they don't stand in line; they are referred directly to the resource that can help them."

Moser said he went through his own transition when he assumed his post in 2009. Having previously been a company gunny where he was accustomed to being an authoritative figure with Marines to get things done, Moser found himself dealing with community supporters, veterans and Marines who were out of the service.

"It took me a while to get my stride,"

he said. "I really had to develop my social skills, grasp the networking concept and take it to heart to go out and meet and greet. I had to recognize that I was the Marine Corps representative in the community and that the impression I made would be a lasting one."

The mode of community contact opportunities varies from site to site, but in Houston the consistent thread comes in the form of monthly luncheons. It began with one event at the program's start but has expanded to three luncheons in separate areas to accommodate busy employers' schedules and long drive times.

The luncheons, which started about 2003, have two goals: to connect transitioning Marines moving back to Houston with the local Marine network and to promote camaraderie and networking among Marine- and veteran-friendly businesses and community leaders in Houston.

**"As he talked about his life and job, I realized that the motivated Marine in front of me was the same unhappy and discouraged Marine I had met a couple years before."**

**—MSgt Thorin Moser**

The luncheons are free to transitioning Marines and sailors and supported through participating network resources and employers. The agenda includes a pre-lunch meet-and-greet, and after lunch, there are formal introductions, sponsor recognition and unlimited networking opportunities.

"These events were so well-developed, and my turnover was so good that it was almost on autopilot when I took over," Moser said. Still, it's a lot for one Marine to handle. Moser said there are actually two M4L network representative billets in Houston, but generally only one Marine is on hand, with some overlapping tours to provide contact relief.

As he nears the end of his second three-

year tour, his replacement is inbound, so he'll be able to hand off his experience. "I couldn't ask for a better billet," proclaimed Moser, who will be retiring. "This is my last duty and I am incredibly pleased with the ability to help Marines. The mission is doing exactly what our ethos is ... there's nothing better."

Transitioning veterans find Moser and other network representatives in a variety of ways. Some are direct referrals from the small staff at the M4L headquarters, which includes an employment resource manager and four full-time regional network coordinators who make local employer connections. Some referrals come from base and station PRS or TRS staff who know that a transitioning Marine or sailor will be moving to a specific location within a certain timeframe, so network representatives can begin early transition coordination. Other referrals come from online social media searches, community events or just Marines talking to other Marines about the M4L network.

Col Ackiss likens the use of online social and business networks to a large, open meeting space. "If you think of a big room and put a couple of people in there with different backgrounds, a very natural thing will occur. Marines will reach out to other Marines and offer to provide assistance or direction or whatever is needed," he surmised.

He noted that LinkedIn is one of the major platforms they use to open up this conversation and allow it to take its natural course from there. Facebook is another useful platform for this purpose. "This interaction happens more frequently than we can keep track of," he said. "The personal relationships that occur in this space can lead to amazing opportunities."

*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 operates his own writing-based business, RGCommunications.*



## Contact Information

**M4L website:** [www.marineforlife.org](http://www.marineforlife.org)

**M4L LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Marine-Life-Network-5145640>

**M4L Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MarineforLifeNetwork>

**M4L toll-free phone no.:** (866) 645-8762; **e-mail:** [M4Lsignup@gmail.com](mailto:M4Lsignup@gmail.com)



# We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## Students Conduct Breaching Missions, Complete Challenging Course

■ Nothing in his background of close-quarters combat prepared Corporal Tyler Zeller for the challenging test assignment given to him during his final week as a student at the Methods of Entry School (MOES), Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Armed with limited initial information, Zeller took his turn serving as the lead breacher for a Marine team tasked with breaching the door of a house in which armed, suspected Afghan “insurgents” were holding “captives” while planning attacks against American servicemembers. Zeller had just 90 minutes to assess the simulated mission, assign specific tasks to his eight-man team and rehearse the breach before executing the mission.

It was a tall order by any standard.

“It’s a little nerve-racking,” Zeller said after successfully navigating the mission at the Goettge Demolition Range, MCB Quantico, on March 17.

But critical thinking and effective mission analysis on the fly were just the skills

school instructors hoped to see as the 16 students inched toward graduating from the arduous three-week course, designed to educate students in successfully breaching doors, windows, walls and other fixtures of man-made structures.

The five methods of specialized breaching taught at MOES are manual, mechanical, thermal, ballistic and explosive techniques.

Safety is always paramount, but preparing for any contingency is critical, according to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Timothy H. Buckles, MOES officer in charge.

“The whole point of the exercise is to minimize the amount of explosives to obtain 100 percent penetration of the target while minimizing collateral damage in the target area,” Buckles said. “There’s no room for error. You can’t make a mistake.”

All the students took a turn at directing a mission as the lead breacher and obtained a passing grade only if they successfully carried out the mission within the required time over the course of two days of testing.

The final exam included a simultaneous assault on a simulated Afghan town by the two eight-man teams in the class, complete with live fire and other simulated combat conditions.

The students managed to accomplish the mission, despite consistently facing unexpected challenges along the way.

“They have to be able to react to any situation that may come about,” said Master Sergeant Jerry Slattum, a MOES instructor.

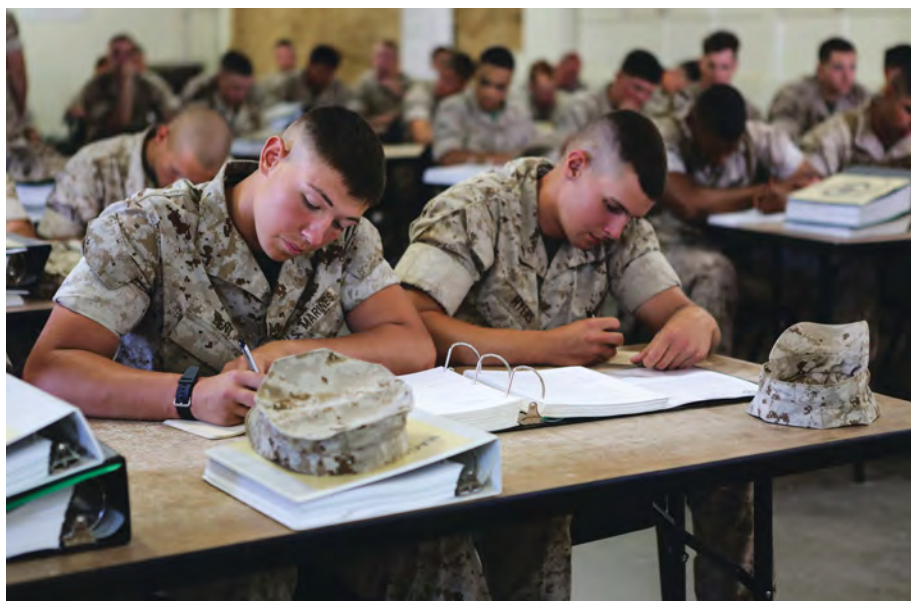
The two days of testing required students to run as many as five missions a day, and each was designed differently to avoid redundancy.

Founded in 1986, MOES runs eight classes per year for Marines assigned to reconnaissance and force reconnaissance units, security forces regiment recapture tactics teams, military police special reaction teams, explosive ordnance disposal units and Marine Special Operations Command units.

John Hollis, Defense Media Activity



Marine students at MOES brace as they breach a door with explosives during a March 17 exercise at the Goettge Demolition Range, MCB Quantico. The exercise was part of the final exam for the three-week course, which is designed to teach specialized breaching.



LCPL APRIL PRICE, USMC

**PFC Ryan Lent and PFC Bryan Myers, both with 2/1, take notes during the fire command and control class at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 30.**

### Machine-Gunner's Course Improves Combat Readiness

■ Leathernecks with 2d Battalion, First Marine Regiment sharpened their skills during a First Marine Division Schools machine-gunner's course on machine-gun nomenclature, optics and operations at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 30.

The fire command and control class is conducted during the first week of the three-week course and is vital to establishing a foundation on which to build machine-gun skills.

Sergeant Joseph Vickers, a machine-gun instructor from 2d Bn, 4th Marines, not only emphasized the importance of those fundamentals, but also explained to the Marines the importance of teamwork and looking out for your fellow Marines.

"As an instructor, it's my job to teach these Marines how to man a machine gun, disassemble and reassemble, and proper weapon maintenance," said Vickers. "But it's the more experienced Marines, team leaders to be exact, who aid the junior Marines in learning the importance of following orders and being a team player."

These drills are a great opportunity for the junior Marines to work with their counterparts, added Vickers.

Sgt Hector E. Villalobos, the machine-gun chief instructor for Division Schools, wants a course that provides team-building opportunities for new Marines.

"I want to make sure my instructors implement the element of team building within their lessons. It's important for the team leaders to be treated as such and for them to have the responsibility of making sure their Marines are good to go," said Villalobos. "But I must say I have seen a

vast improvement in the junior Marines from when they first began."

The squad leaders and section leaders take these courses with their new Marines, taking advantage of the chance to start building relationships with them.

As their culminating event, the machine-gun sections joined their mortar and antiarmor counterparts in a live-fire event. Completion of the course results in improved combat readiness of the machine-gunners with 2/1, and ensures they are equipped with the knowledge they need to successfully carry out the mission.

LCpl April Price, USMC

### CMC, SMMC Visit Okinawa, Answer Marines' Questions

■ The 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., and Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green, the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, spoke with Marines and sailors at installations across Okinawa, Japan, during a visit to the island in late March.

Over the course of their two-day visit, Gen Dunford and SgtMaj Green visited Camps Hansen, Foster, Courtney and Schwab, as well as Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, to share the Commandant's vision for the Marine Corps. The Corps' two leaders also sat down to have lunch with Marines during their time on Okinawa.

"We had some great conversation with the sergeants, corporals and lance corporals," said the sergeant major. "We were absolutely absorbing everything, listening to everything they said, and [a lot of it] was about the Commandant's Planning Guidance."

The planning guidance, released earlier

this year, provides guidance and direction on various topics that affect Marines in today's Corps, including improving the quality of leadership and enhancing war-fighting capabilities with a large emphasis on global crisis response.

During the discussions, Gen Dunford and SgtMaj Green praised the Marines and sailors for their dedication and hard work in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We, today, have the best record of discipline in Okinawa [since] 1972," Gen Dunford said. "Because of the standards of discipline that you have enforced, because of the level of professionalism, we have a relationship with the [Okinawan] people ... we can be proud of."

After making their remarks, the CMC and SMMC turned the microphone over to the Marines and sailors, allowing them to ask questions regarding topics they wanted to address.

"I've never been asked that question," Gen Dunford said joking, inciting laughter from the audience when a Marine asked the Commandant about the Corps' tattoo policy, which is a hot topic of conversation among Marines.

SgtMaj Green assured Marines that he and other senior enlisted leaders will review the tattoo policy as well as other topics and make their decisions based on what is best for the Marine Corps and its mission.

Having previously visited Marines on mainland Japan, Hawaii and Guam, Okinawa was the last stop on Gen Dunford and SgtMaj Green's tour of the Asia-Pacific region.

Cpl Lena Wakayama, USMC



SGT MATTHEW CALLAHAN, USMC

**Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr. speaks to Marines and sailors at a town hall meeting at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, March 26. He discussed his planning guidance, the future of the Corps and a variety of other topics.**



Members of the MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.-area Civilian Military Community Council and Joint Land Use Study committee exit a CH-53E Super Stallion at OLF Atlantic during an aerial tour of the air station's outlying training facilities on April 8. (Photo by SSgt T.T. Parish)

### Air Station Strengthens Ties With Community Leaders

■ It can be difficult for members of the local community to fully appreciate Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.'s role in preparing today's Marines for the defense of their nation. The most that people typically see are the jets that roar off into the distance from the air station's multiple runways.

On April 8, mayors, county commissioners, county managers and planning directors from cities and counties surrounding the air station joined Colonel Chris Pappas, Commanding Officer, MCAS Cherry Point, on a half-day aerial tour of the Piney Island bombing range (BT-11), Outlying Field (OLF) Atlantic and Auxiliary Landing Field (ALF) Bogue, taking in a view of North Carolina's "Crystal Coast" aboard a CH-53E Super Stallion.

The tour was a rare opportunity for members of the local Civilian Military



Community Council and Joint Land Use Study committee, many of whom had never flown aboard a military helicopter. It also was an opportunity to help the air station leadership introduce the guests to the day-to-day operations of the Marines and sailors who work at MCAS Cherry Point and surrounding training facilities,

according to Pappas.

"Our mission is to support the warfighter and mission sustainment," said Pappas. "The mission is somewhat different at each of the three sites visited. We do this through policy, advocacy, support and guidance."

During the tour, the civic leaders learned



EVE A. BAKER

**A FINAL REUNION**—Five World War II Marine veterans from 1st Raider Bn, "Edson's Raiders," enjoy a toast with fellow Marines and guest of honor, LtGen Kenneth Glueck Jr., at their final reunion, which took place April 16-18 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. The youngest veteran present from the highly decorated unit was 89 years old. Also present was Col David Edson, grandson of the battalion's first commanding officer, then-Col Merritt Edson.

about the strategic importance of Cherry Point and its outlying training facilities at BT-11, OLF Atlantic and ALF Bogue, to both the air station and the entire II Marine Expeditionary Force. Population growth and urban expansion near the air station and its facilities make it imperative for air station leaders to proactively engage the community through events like the tour.

“Military installations face various encroachment pressures that can impact the mission,” said Pappas. “It is vital for Cherry Point to reach out and engage the public in these situations. The other key element of outreach aims to improve public support for the military and to increase public awareness about the military’s training requirements and environmental stewardship.”

According to Carteret County Commissioner and Marine veteran Bill Smith, local communities rely on MCAS Cherry Point as an economic mainstay. The roughly 33,000 Marines, sailors and civilians who work at the air station contribute greatly to the local economy. As a result, a cohesive partnership between Cherry Point and surrounding communities benefits all.

SSgt T.T. Parish, USMC

## Quick Shots Around the Corps

### Marine Corps Bulletin 1500 Adjusted, Allows Increased Flexibility in Training

■ Marine Corps Bulletin 1500, in its third iteration, was updated Feb. 20 to enhance the overall quality of operational readiness and the commander’s flexibility in training.

The bulletin is a comprehensive list of all required annual training, and the changes made were designed to optimize available training time so unit commanders can be provided with more flexible training schedules to conduct mission-oriented tasks.

“The Marine Corps is moving more towards interactive small-unit training like guided discussions and case studies over large-group lecture and computer-based training methods used in the past,” according to Major Bret Morriss, the values-based training task analyst with Training and Education Command’s Standards Division.

An increase in flexible training schedules and a widened variety of mediums through which Marines can complete required training began after General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the

Marine Corps, pushed for an overall reduction in “rocks in the rucksack.”

Sgt Jose D. Lujano, USMC

### Reserve Affairs Conducts Career Transition Command Visits

■ In April, the Reserve Continuation and Transition Branch of Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps’ Reserve Affairs began conducting Reserve career transition visits at designated locations in order to inform transitioning Marines about their Marine Corps Reserve opportunities.

The visits, which will take place at different commands through the end of July, are geared toward non-career designated officers, officers considering resignation from active duty, and first-term and second-term enlisted Marines who will be leaving the active component. All interested Marines, however, are encouraged to attend.

For more information, see MARADMIN 160/15.

Cpl J. Gage Karwick, USMCR



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



LCPL KENNETH K. TROTTER JR., USMC

**“Honey, I shrunk the kids.”**  
Submitted by  
**John Poloian**  
Tewksbury, Mass.

### This Month's Photo



CPL MICHAEL DYE, USMC

(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.



# Marine Corps Interpreters in the Pacific

By Nicholas E. Efstathiou

**T**he bloody beaches of Tarawa, the hellish ravines of Peleliu, the black sands of Iwo Jima—all of these are familiar to Marines and students of World War II. There is, however, another group of Marines whose story is largely untold. A group of scholars took the oath, earned the title of Marine and saved lives in a unique way.

Those Marines were graduates of the U.S. Navy's Japanese Language School. The language skills that they learned would be used to try and shorten the war in addition to saving Marine lives, and, as the war moved closer to the Japanese

a collision course for war. A scramble began between the two services for access to Americans who could learn to speak Japanese. While the Army initially focused on Japanese-Americans already in the ranks, the Navy, under the guidance of Commander Albert E. Hindmarsh, created a database of university students and professors who either had an interest in Japanese or had a familiarity with China. What arose from that database was the Navy's Japanese Language School (JLS). While the Marine Corps later would select enlisted men to take a short course in Japanese to assist in intelligence duties, it was the JLS that formed the primary source of Marine Corps interpreters.

Since the JLS employed many first- and second-generation Japanese as instructors, the school was moved to the University of Colorado in Boulder in order to comply with the president's order. It was there that the majority of Marine officers in the program would learn Japanese. The Marines did classwork for an average of eight hours a day, followed by four to five hours of studying in the evening. Each Saturday, the students took a comprehensive test on what they had studied not only for that week, but for the previous weeks. Anyone who failed the weekly test washed out of the program.

Within a year, students had a basic knowledge of Japanese culture and language. Lieutenant Don Shively was one of the students. Like many of his classmates, he was the son of missionaries and had grown up in Japan. Another student, Robert Sheeks, was driven to help win the war because of experiences in his youth. Sheeks and several others in the JLS were Americans who had been born in Shanghai and, unfortunately, had been witness to the atrocities committed by the Japanese in the fighting between the Japanese and Chinese nationalist troops in the early 1930s.

Upon completion of the program, the men soon found themselves dispersed throughout the Marine Corps. Some remained in Hawaii with the D-2 Intelligence and Translating department, poring over captured Japanese documents and intercepted transmissions. Others were attached to headquarters units and prepared for deployment in the Pacific theater.

First Lieutenant Robert Sheeks was attached to the Second Marine Division and participated in the assault on Tarawa. There, he experienced firsthand what would plague the interpreters throughout the war: the Japanese serviceman's nearly universal refusal to surrender. The few prisoners who were taken on Tarawa were men so severely wounded that some couldn't communicate whatsoever. Others had little information to give, and some simply refused to cooperate. Most of the information was gathered through captured documents and personal diaries.

The challenge of getting prisoners to speak and cooperate was one that the Marine interpreters attacked with focus and determination. They used several effective tactics to elicit information from



**On Tarawa, interpreters 1stLt Robert Sheeks and Sgt Glenn Shaw share the D-2 foxhole where they sorted through captured Japanese documents and diaries.**

home islands, saving civilians caught in the inevitable chaos of war.

In the early 1900s, the Navy realized that America was woefully unprepared to face the seemingly inevitable conflict looming with Japan. While the two countries were at peace, the Navy used that time to rotate Navy and Marine officers through Japan in a determined effort to learn Japanese culture and language. It was hoped that this would help the Navy prepare for code breaking and weapons development as well as overall tactics and strategies.

By 1940, the Navy and Army realized that the United States and Japan were on

The school initially had two locations, Harvard University on the East Coast, and the University of California, Berkeley, on the West Coast. In early 1942, however, there was a falling out with the Harvard branch of the JLS regarding the methods of the teachers and the effects on the students, which caused the Navy to close that branch and move the students to Berkeley.

In February 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which required all people of Japanese ancestry who were living on the West Coast to be relocated into inland relocation centers.



**Above:** 1stLt Sheeks, left, assists the foreman of a local plantation who was called in to help talk Japanese soldiers out of the caves.

**Below:** Language instructor Grayce Nakasone corrects blackboard writing as she dictates Japanese passages in February 1943. Nakasone, a college student in Los Angeles, spent several weeks at a war relocation center after evacuation of the West Coast defense area.



prisoners. The first was to treat the prisoners as they were used to being treated within their own military. Whether a Japanese serviceman was a captured sailor, airman or soldier, the discipline in the military was the same: brutal and ruthless. Junior enlisted men and officers were accustomed to being spoken to sharply,

and they responded instantly to questions snapped at them in Japanese by the interpreters.

Another tactic employed by the interpreters was to allow the Japanese POWs to accept the fact that they were prisoners, that the war was over for them, and that they couldn't ever go home because it was

**The challenge of getting prisoners to speak and cooperate was one that the Marine interpreters attacked with focus and determination.**

considered dishonorable that they had been taken prisoners. With that in mind, many of the POWs simply answered questions and helped because they believed that it didn't matter.

The information they provided did matter to the Marines as they prepared to continue the island-hopping campaign, driving the Allies forward to the Japanese home islands. The information obtained was used to save Marine lives and shorten the war. As the war progressed into Japanese-held territory with larger and larger civilian populations, the Marine interpreters sought to save the civilians caught in the cross fire.

For example, during the Battle of Okinawa, Marine interpreters did their utmost to save the thousands of residents. The Okinawans had been bombarded by Japanese propaganda to convince them that the Marines were there to butcher and assault the innocents. The Japanese troops attempted to force Okinawans to commit suicide and often used them as human shields when attempting to infiltrate Marine lines during daylight hours.

Sheeks and his fellow Marine interpreters helped to create leaflets dispersed via airdrops over the countryside, promising both civilians and soldiers fair treatment. Sheeks also employed a portable loudspeaker as well as a jeep-mounted speaker to encourage Japanese troops and Okinawans to surrender.

1stLt Jack E. Bronston, who also served on Okinawa, attempted to speak with a large group of Okinawans, using an "honorific" form of Japanese that brought mimicking scorn from one woman and laughter from her gathered neighbors.

Although sick with amoebic dysentery for the first few weeks of the Okinawa campaign, 1stLt Richard H. Moss was returned to duty in time to assist with the taking of the northern portion of the island. He helped interrogate prisoners, including, he said, "an officer whose face had been partially burned by a flamethrower and was totally bandaged."

Other interpreters worked with the occasional prisoner and the large quantities of captured Japanese documents on Okinawa. By using such documents, and the prisoners' statements, the interpreters were able to identify what units the Ma-



Some of the men worked strictly with prisoners in Hawaii, while others focused solely upon the translation of captured documents, letters, journals and intercepted transmissions.



CPL ANGUS ROBERTSON, USMC

**Above:** Many Okinawans fled their archipelago to Saipan where they sought refuge in the island's many caves. 1stLt Sheeks was called on to convince an Okinawan woman, her four children and their dog to leave the cave.

**Below:** Instructors grade papers at the U.S. Navy's Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Of the 90 instructors on the staff, 80 were of Japanese ancestry.



TOM PARKER

rines were facing in various sections. That was particularly true in the fighting for Sugar Loaf Hill in May 1945.

By using prisoner and document information, the interpreters were able to inform the 6thMarDiv staff which Japanese units were defending Sugar Loaf Hill and why the Japanese forces were defending the area with such determination. With that information, the division also was able to determine the number of defenders, as well as the physical and mental condition of the Japanese, although not the number of reserves available. Through gathered intelligence the interpreters informed the staff that the Japanese morale was high and that they were fresh, in addition to being well-armed and well-supplied.

That logistical information helped the Marines understand the complexity of the Sugar Loaf defense system and the desperate need to hold whatever ground was taken from the Japanese by the rifle companies.

The Marine interpreters were an important aspect of the intelligence apparatus of various Marine divisions during WW II. Some of the men worked strictly with prisoners in Hawaii, while others focused solely upon the translation of captured documents, letters, journals and intercepted transmissions. Others were on the front lines, attempting to convince often fanatical Japanese troops to surrender. That effort left combat troops in surprised shock, especially when it worked.

The Marine interpreters each dedicated almost a year to the study of a foreign language and culture in order to save lives, both Marine and civilian. Then, armed with knowledge and the spirit of the Marines, some landed under fire on Tarawa, crawled through the mud and blood of Peleliu, scrambled through General Tadamichi Kuribayashi's hellish fire on Iwo Jima's black beaches and helped to break the backbone of Lieutenant General Mitsuru Ushijima's Shuri Line on Okinawa.

*Author's note: Many thanks to Bob Sheeks, Richard Moss and Jack Bronston. Thanks also must be given to David Hayes, the head archivist for the University of Colorado at Boulder, who put me in touch with these fine men and who seems to know everything there is to know about the subject of the Japanese Language School.*

*Author's bio: Nicholas E. Efsthathiou is a military historian living with his family in New Hampshire. He has a master's degree in military history from Norwich University and currently is studying the Marine Corps' efforts in World War II.*



Reserve yours now! [bit.ly/2016Calendar](http://bit.ly/2016Calendar)

# COMING SOON: The 2016 Marine Corps Association & Foundation Calendar!

The 2016 Marine Corps Association & Foundation Calendar is on its way to the presses, but you can reserve your copy now by giving a tax-deductible gift to the MCAF before 15 July.

## The 2016 MCA&F Calendar features:

- Exciting photos of Marines and their equipment in action!
- Inspiring facts from Marine Corps history!
- Proof of how your support of the MCA&F is *advancing leadership and recognizing excellence* for all Marines!

You'll be proud to display your 2016 calendar in your home or office. And you'll be even prouder knowing you were one of the first to reserve your calendar by supporting the one organization that unites all Marines and Friends of the Corps: your Marine Corps Association & Foundation!

To give a tax-deductible gift in support of your Marine Corps Association Foundation and reserve your 2016 MCA&F calendar, please visit [bit.ly/2016Calendar](http://bit.ly/2016Calendar) or fill in and mail the coupon below. Calendars will be mailed by November 2015.

PRE-ORDER  
DEADLINE:  
15 JULY!



**Marine Corps**  
Association &  
Foundation

You can reserve yours for a  
\$25 donation to the MCAF at  
[bit.ly/2016Calendar](http://bit.ly/2016Calendar)

## Reserve My Calendar! Here's My Gift to Help and Honor Marines.

**Yes!** I will stand with my fellow Marines and Friends of the Corps to *advance leadership and recognize excellence* among all Marines! Please reserve my 2016 MCA&F Calendar and send it to me as soon as it's ready. I have enclosed:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible. (\$25 minimum gift to reserve your calendar.)

☐ I'd like to give my gift by check, payable to  
**Marine Corps Association Foundation.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I'd like to give my gift by credit card: (check one)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this coupon and your check to: Marine Corps Association Foundation, PO Box 1775, Quantico, Virginia 22134. Thank you!



# In the Highest Tradition

Compiled by R.R. Keene

## Corpsman Refused to Leave Fight; Saved His Marines' Lives



Hospital Corpsman First Class Kevin D. Baskin, a special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman with 3d Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, was awarded the Silver Star during a ceremony at Stone Bay, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 20, for his actions in Afghanistan.

Baskin was deployed with 2d MSOB in 2013 when his team came under fire in Kushe Village. In total disregard for his own safety, Baskin ran through heavy enemy fire and provided aid to a wounded Marine.

He stabilized and loaded the casualty into the evacuation vehicle and was shot in the back by an enemy combatant.

Baskin's citation reads, "Although wounded, he continued treating casualties while refusing medical treatment for his own injuries. Under intense fire, while simultaneously directing the evacuation of the wounded Marines, partner forces and himself, he laid down suppressive fire until every team member had evacuated the kill zone. His actions ultimately saved the lives of four of his teammates."

Baskin was born in Sellersville, Pa., but grew up in nearby Hatfield, where he graduated from North Penn Senior High School in 2005. He reported one year later to Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill.

Following recruit training, Baskin attended medical training at Field Medical Training Battalion-West, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. Baskin was selected for and completed the Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsman training program.

Assigned to 2d MSOB, Baskin deployed to Afghanistan, but his tour was cut short when five months into the deployment,

fragmentation from a rocket-propelled grenade pierced his body. He was medically evacuated to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., where he worked for eight months while recuperating.

Eager to get back in the fight, Baskin attended the six-month Special Operations

would prep my gear until I was comfortable knowing I had all of my mission-essential equipment. Also, [I'd double-check] all of the details about the mission: what I would be doing, what the primary and alternate routes are, what [the structures in the area] looked like. [I would have] all of the contingencies hashed out."

Baskin said that upon reaching one of their checkpoints, his team started taking sporadic fire and identified two separate groups moving into fighting positions. As time went on, the rate of fire increased, and they were pinned down behind a cemetery wall.

"Another teammate ran to our position with the 60 millimeter mortar and started sending rounds down-range," said Baskin. "When he ran out of rounds for the 60, he left the cemetery to another wall about 50 meters in front of us. When he looked up to try and suppress the enemy, he was shot."

Baskin rushed to provide desperately needed aid. Even after he was shot in the back, Baskin continued treating other casualties and is credited with saving the lives of four of his Marines.

Major General Joseph L. Osterman, Commander, MARSOC, presented the Silver Star to Baskin. "If you look across battlefields throughout history,

there is always that one ringing slogan that you see and hear throughout, and that is, 'Corpsman up!' " MajGen Osterman said. "HM1 [Baskin] went forward without thought of himself, to the point of protecting his fellow Marines with his own body. From a personal perspective, I appreciate who he is as a man—from how he takes care of his family to the quiet professional that he epitomizes."

"I am proud to be receiving an award like this," said Baskin. "I felt like I was just doing my job: what anyone else on the team would have done if put into the situation. It's a very surreal feeling."

Sgt Donovan Lee, USMC



**HM1 Kevin D. Baskin, special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman, 3d MSOB, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in Afghanistan where he saved the lives of four Marines despite being wounded himself.**

Independent Duty Corpsman Course and then requested a temporary assignment back to 2d MSOB for another deployment to Afghanistan in 2013.

On April 25, 2013, Baskin's team set out on the mission to Kushe Village. He prepared himself for the mission like he always did. "In order to be mentally prepared for missions, you have to be physically ready first," said Baskin. "I

SGT SCOTT A. ACHMEIER, USMC

## 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 February and March:



### Bronze Star With Combat "V"

**Capt Clint W. Alanis**,  
2d Marine Special Operations  
Battalion (MSOB), U.S. Marine  
Special Forces Command

(MARSOC)

**SSgt John R. Chao**, 2d MSOB,  
MARSOC

**SSgt Reece C. Edmonds III**, 2d MSOB,  
MARSOC

**Sgt Maximillian V. Kutch**, 2d MSOB,  
MARSOC

**Maj Anthony M. Mercado**, 2d MSOB,  
MARSOC

**SSgt David C. Nass**, 2d MSOB,  
MARSOC



### Air Medal With Combat "V"

**Maj Jeffrey M. Robb**, Marine  
Light Attack Helicopter Squadron  
369, Marine Aircraft Group 39,  
Third Marine Aircraft Wing



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

**SSgt Dominique Hinojosa**,  
2d MSOB, MARSOC  
**SSgt Scott A. Koppenhafer**, 2d MSOB,  
MARSOC

**SSgt Andrew C. Seif**, 2d MSOB,  
MARSOC

**MGySgt James R. Stivers**, Marine  
Corps Augmentation and Transportation  
Support



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

**1stLt Patrick F. Ford**,  
1st Battalion, Second Marine  
Regiment, Second Marine Division  
**Cpl Corey W. Franklin**, 2d Combat  
Engineer Bn, 2dMarDiv



# Earned with Honor — Worn with Pride!

*Get Ahead of the Birthday Ball Rush — Get Squared Away NOW!*

## Featuring:

- Highest Quality Marine Uniforms
- Expert Tailoring & Precision Medal Mounting
- Marine Sword Repair Services
- Professional Reading, Specialty Gifts and Apparel for Marines
- Marine Corps Birthday Ball Party Supplies

**And More...**

**The MARINE Shop • 300 Potomac Ave.**  
**Quantico, VA 22134 • 888-237-7683**  
**[www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net)**



Your purchases at **The MARINE Shop** help fund the Marine Corps Association & Foundation Programs that support Marines! Learn more at [www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org).



**The MARINE Shop**

*Serving Marines Around the World*

*Operated by the Marine Corps Association*

**GET MEMBER VALUE PRICING AS AN MCA&F MEMBER!**

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) • 866-622-1775



# Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## Marines Race for SAPR Awareness

To raise awareness, a group of approximately 30 Marines participated in “The Amazing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Race” at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., April 3.

The participants were divided into teams of six and tasked with seeking out eight locations throughout the combat center.

At each location, Marines received a class on a variety of subjects pertaining to sexual assault prevention. Some of the locations included the Provost Marshal’s Office (PMO), the Officers’ Club, the Family Advocacy Program building and the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

“They [traveled to each station] talking to different subject matter experts,” said Deliesse Hitt, a SAPR representative. “It’s basically a race to see who can get all the information in the fastest time.”

During the classes, the Marines were instructed with various teaching methods, often utilizing displays and posters to help them retain the information. For example, upon arriving at PMO, they attended a class inside a holding cell to get a visual of where the offender of a sexual assault case would be held.

Lieutenant Colonel Dennis A. Sanchez, Commanding Officer, Headquarters Battalion, presented the three fastest teams with medals. The first-place team, Seventh Marine Regiment, received a trophy.

According to Hitt, the event was a team effort organized by Marine Corps Community Services, the Substance Abuse Control Office, the Legal Services Support Team, Victim Legal Counsel, Uniformed Victim Advocates, the Naval Hospital and PMO.

“A lot of teamwork went into [organizing] this event,” Hitt said. “It took a lot of effort with MCCS to keep everything running smoothly.”

Many of the participating Marines found the event to be a beneficial and effective way of learning sexual assault prevention and becoming proactive about it.

“The Marines who came out here had a good time,” said Ben Mills, a postal clerk with Headquarters Bn. “What they’re doing regarding SAPR is definitely a good thing.”



**LtCol Dennis A. Sanchez, right, commander, Headquarters Bn, presents a first-place medal to LCpl Joe Laramie, a company clerk with 7th Marines, following “The Amazing SAPR Race” at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., April 3. The competition was designed to help Marines learn more about the SAPR program.**

The race was the first event to kick off Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms. Throughout the month, SAPR representatives had information tables set up at the dining facilities and the Marine Corps Exchange. The month also featured the Colorful Consent 5K run at the physical fitness test track.

“The competition is to get [Marines] involved and raise awareness toward sexual assault prevention,” Hitt said. “It’s a way to help people by shining a light [on the subject]. We get the prevention awareness out there in a fun environment.”

PAO, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.

## Sittercity.com No Longer Free For Military Families, Discounted Rate Will Apply

The Department of Defense’s contract with the Sittercity.com Corporate Program to provide military families with free access to the site, which helps pair them with quality caregivers, will expire July 31, according to Pentagon officials. The online service, however, will remain available to military families at a discounted rate.

In 2010, when servicemembers were frequently deployed in support of Operation

Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, DOD contracted with Sittercity.com to help alleviate concerns about finding childcare and similar services. The database offers caregiver options ranging from occasional babysitting services to nannies, senior-care providers, pet-sitters and tutors.

“The Defense Department contracted with Sittercity when the operational tempo was very high,” said Rosemary Freitas Williams, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. “The program offered additional in-home care solutions and support to military families impacted by increased deployments and family separations. During the past 18 months, with the reduction in combat deployments, that need is not as great.”

Williams said that DOD’s commitment to servicemembers and their families remains strong.

“While the funding to support families through this particular contract has expired, many other resources remain available,” she noted.

Another way to receive assistance in finding caregivers is to contact a Military OneSource consultant by calling (800) 342-9647 for confidential help with any of

the challenges a military family may face.

Specialty consultants with Military OneSource work with military families one-on-one, online or by phone to help meet specific caregiving needs—care for children, including those with special needs; care for adults with disabilities; eldercare; wounded warrior care and tutoring.

Active-duty and Reserve military personnel and their families can continue to access their Sittercity.com accounts, but the discounted fees will be applied beginning Aug. 1, officials said.

Terri Moon Cronk, DOD News

### Program's Career Counselors Help Spouses Find Employment

The Marine Corps-wide Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP) offers military spouses and other family members the opportunity to receive career-related assistance at bases and stations across the globe.

The purpose of FMEAP is to help military spouses and other family members make informed decisions about their educational and career-related goals. FMEAP staff members provide career counseling, discuss education opportunities, offer guidance on job search strategies, review résumés and assist with the online application process.

“The program is beneficial to family members because we have an understanding of the military lifestyle, as well as what the employers are looking for in a résumé,” said Lindsay M. Gress, FMEAP manager with Marine and Family Programs, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. “It’s stressful to move to a new duty station and begin the job search process when you are not familiar with the area and employers. FMEAP is here to assist whether new to the area, jumping back into a job after having time off, or looking for a different career field.”

FMEAP staff members also offer assistance in practicing interview techniques and even set up mock interviews, said Gress. After assessing the job seeker’s skills and résumé, the staff presents him or her with available job opportunities.

For information about FMEAP at your base or station, contact your local Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) office.

PAO, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

### Corps' Leave Policy To Return To 60-Day Maximum

According to Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN) 151/15, Marines who have accumulated more than 60 days of leave have until Oct. 1 of this year to use the excess or lose it. Beginning in fiscal



**JANE WAYNE DAY**—Marines watch from above as spouses work together to complete a task from the Leadership Reactionary Course at Boondocker Training Area, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The “Jane Wayne Day” event was held March 26 for the spouses of the “Island Warriors” of 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment. Designed to build relationships among the unit’s families and allow the spouses to better understand their Marine’s job, the day’s activities also included a modified combat fitness test and an opportunity to fire M4 service rifles at Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility.

year 2016, 60 days will be the maximum amount of leave servicemembers can accumulate.

In recent years, Marines and other military personnel were authorized to accumulate a maximum of 75 days of annual leave at the end of each fiscal year without applying for special leave accrual. The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, which was temporarily extended to continue the 75-day policy, expires on Sept. 30 this year.

For the past decade, while the national defense strategy focused on fighting the global war on terrorism, the high operational deployment tempo for service-

members necessitated an increase in the number of leave days they could accumulate per fiscal year.

Since the operational commitment is decreasing, the maximum amount of leave accumulated will return to 60 days. The only way Marines will not lose those excess days is if they are subject to special leave accrual.

Marines who are unsure about their leave balance can log on to their MyPay account and check their leave and earnings statement.

Sgt Jose D. Lujano, USMC





# In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

"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.

**SSgt Peter B. Beninato Jr.**, 91, of New Orleans. He was a veteran of WW II and the Korean War. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained on Iwo Jima.

**Louis J. Benvent**, 88, of Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. He was a Marine who served in WW II.

**Robert H. Birely**, 91, in Ocala, Fla. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and served on Saipan and Tinian. He was a member of the antiaircraft crew that protected the airfields as well as the two B-29 Superfortress bombers, Enola Gay and Bockscar, which dropped atomic bombs on Japan.

**Calvin M. Boyer**, 91, of Yuma, Ariz. He was assigned to a Marine detachment aboard an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific during WW II.

**Egbert M. "Ed" Brady**, 91, of Vineyard, N.J. He was a Montford Point Marine who served in three wars. He saw action on Guadalcanal, Peleliu and Okinawa during WW II. He later fought in Korea and served three tours in Vietnam. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1971.

**Sgt Douglas P. Breland Jr.**, 69, in Lehigh Acres, Fla. He served from 1967 to 1970 and was with 2/9 in RVN from 1968 to 1969. After leaving the Corps, he worked for 33 years for Emery Worldwide Freight Services.

**Sgt Carl J. Brennion**, 96, of Brockton, Mass. He was with the Fifth Marine Division on Iwo Jima. After WW II, he worked for 35 years as a milkman and route salesman.

**Genevieve (Gardner) Bullard**, 91, of Roy, Utah. She joined the Marine Corps when WW II began. While she was stationed in Santa Barbara, she met and married fellow Marine, Les Bullard.

**Capt Randolph G. "Randy" Copeland**, 75, in Deland, Fla. He served 16 years in the Marine Corps, including three combat tours in Vietnam. He was awarded the Silver Star for action while serving as commanding officer of Co G, 2/1, 1stMarDiv.

According to the award citation, on

March 4, 1968, a 15-man patrol was in danger of being overrun by the enemy near Con Thien Combat Base, and he led a reaction force to make "an aggressive assault on the enemy emplacements." During the firefight, he "fearlessly exposed himself to the hostile fire to maneuver his unit ... and direct the fire of his men."

After leaving the Marine Corps, he attended San Diego State University and then California School of Law. In 1983, he went to work as a public defender in Volusia County, Fla. He was instrumental in the creation of a drug court program there.

**LtCol George F. Cribb**, 89, of New Bern, N.C. He served 29 years in the Marine Corps, enlisting in December 1942. He deployed to the Pacific theater. He was discharged after the war and later was commissioned a second lieutenant. He served in USS *Thuban* (AKA-19) in the Arctic. In 1965 he deployed to Vietnam. He was the provost marshal at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., on his final tour of duty before retirement. His awards include the Legion of Merit with combat "V."

After his retirement, he was active in community service endeavors and was a minister in the Methodist church for 14 years.

**Cpl William "Bill" Eugene Davis**, 89, in Whitmore Lake, Mich. He was a Marine Raider in WW II and served from 1943 to 1947. He saw the U.S. flag raised on Guam after the Americans reclaimed the island.

**Sgt George H. Decker**, 82, of Pollock Pines, Calif. He enlisted in 1948 and went to MCRD Parris Island, S.C. Following his graduation from boot camp, he trained to become an electronics technician and then a radio technician. During the Korean War, he served as the battalion radio technician in 1/1, 1stMarDiv. He was awarded the Purple Heart after he was wounded in action at Hoengsong, Korea.

**SSgt William L. "Bill" Dhaemers**, 76, of Moline, Ill. He was a Marine who

collected Marine Corps memorabilia, some of it rare. He often displayed his collection at military shows around the country and sometimes donated pieces to the Rock Island Arsenal Museum, Rock Island, Ill.

**Joseph Faria**, 90, of Taunton, Mass. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II. He also was a heavyweight boxer.

**Cpl Jose Fierro-Perez**, 24, in El Paso, Texas. He served in MWSS-371 and deployed to Afghanistan and Bahrain. He died in an auto accident that was caused by an alleged drunk driver.

**Robert W. "Bob" Fincher**, 93, of Palm Harbor, Fla. He was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds on Dec. 2, 1941. His baseball career was cut short when he joined the Marine Corps to fight in WW II. He served as a platoon sergeant and was awarded the Purple Heart after combat action on Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester. After the war, he had a successful career in business.

**Col John E. Greenwood**, 87, of Arlington, Va. After serving 30 years as an officer of Marines, he continued to serve the Corps as editor of *Marine Corps Gazette*.

He enlisted at the age of 17 and served in USS *Alabama's* (BB-60) Marine Detachment. In 1946 he received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. After his graduation and commissioning in 1950, he served with the Second Marine Division and with the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines during the Korean War.

During his tours in Vietnam, he was on the staffs of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the III Marine Amphibious Force and later commanded the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines and then the 4th Combined Action Group.

He later taught at the Naval Academy, served on the project to incorporate helicopters into amphibious doctrine and was aide to Lieutenant General Victor H. "Brute" Krulak when he was the commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

After his 1980 retirement from active

# 2015-2016 TOUR SCHEDULE



*Serving Veterans, Educators,  
Historians and Their Families  
Since 1987*

## VIETNAM BATTLEFIELDS



*Nothing Better Than  
Walking the Ground!*



*Capt. Bowen,  
Back at Hill 551*

- 7 - 19 Jun - Special USMC Units in I Corps
- 8 - 19 Aug - 50th Anniversary of Op Starlite
- 20 Sep - 3 Oct - "Delta to the DMZ"
- 3 - 13 Dec - 50th Anniv of Helicopter Ops - 1965
- 27 Feb - 11 Mar '16 - Tet Offensive & Battle of Hue City plus Khe Sanh
- 9 - 21 Apr '16 - 50th Anniversary of Search & Destroy Ops - 1966



*VN Vets on CBS with MHT!*



*Wives can try the  
wooden shoulder yoke!*

## PACIFIC BATTLEFIELDS



**18 - 28 JULY**  
**LIBERATION OF GUAM, TINIAN & SAIPAN**

*A Big Gun Cave on Tinian!*



- 31 Jul - 10 Aug - WWII - 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki
- 1 - 12 Aug - Guadalcanal "Turning the Tide"
- 12 - 25 Oct - 70th Anniversary of "China Marines - 1945"



*Checking out the aircraft wrecks!*

- 29 Jan - 8 Feb '16 - WWII - 75th Anniversary of Invasion of the Philippines
- 14 - 21 Mar '16 - Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor Guam & Charter to Iwo Jima

## EUROPE BATTLEFIELDS



*At huge Stalingrad Statue!*

- 2 - 14 Jul - WWII Russia "Eastern Front"
- 7 - 18 Sept - 70th Anniversary Italian Campaign



*On the Water in  
Venice with MHT!*



*Make new friends in  
Israel with  
MHT Ballcaps!*

- 1 - 9 Dec - Military & Cultural History of Israel  
Jerusalem - Masada - Haifa - Golan Heights - Jericho

- 19 - 27 Apr '16 - Turkey WWI Gallipoli & Istanbul
- 30 Apr - 12 May '16 - Ireland WWII "U.S. Irish Marines"

- 15 - 27 May '16 - WWI Battlefields - Verdun  
100th Anniversary of The Great War 1916

- 1 - 9 Jun '16 - D-Day: Normandy To Paris



*The MHT Group in Normandy!*

*Korean War Vet Returns in 2014*

**65th Anniversary Subsidized Korea Revisits  
& PCFY (College Grandchildren in July) 2015 HAS SOLD OUT!**



## MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS, INC.

13198 Centerpointe Way Ste 202 Woodbridge VA 22193  
Colonel Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret) President/CEO  
703-590-1295 • 800-722-9501 • Fax 703-590-1292

Email: [mhtours@miltours.com](mailto:mhtours@miltours.com) • Website: [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com)



duty, he was appointed the editor of *Marine Corps Gazette*, and for more than 20 years, he was responsible for advancing the magazine as a professional forum for debate within the Marine Corps and as a venue for the dissemination of new ideas.

**James A. Halverson**, 67, of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. From 1967 to 1970 he was assigned to the Marine Detachment in USS *Bennington* (CVS-20). He participated as an aircrewman in search-and-rescue missions for downed aviators off the coast of Vietnam. After his discharge from the Marine Corps, he became an apprentice farrier and blacksmith. He subsequently became one of the top corrective farriers in Southern California.

**Cpl Robert B. Hughes**, 92, of Lincoln, Neb. He saw combat action in the South Pacific as part of the Marine detachment aboard USS *Hancock* (CV-19) during WW II. After the war, he became a social studies teacher.

**Carroll P. Huntress**, 91, of Dallas. He was a Marine during WW II and fought on Tarawa, Kwajalein, Saipan and Okinawa. Following his discharge, he went to the University of New Hampshire. He was an All-American athlete, playing football and lacrosse. He became a coach at the high school and college levels and spent nine years as a coach with the New York Jets.

## Sign Up YOUR Buddy!

Share Camaraderie with Marines and help them stay connected



The continuing story of our Corps gets star treatment in *Leatherneck*.

*Marine Corps Gazette* provides critical examination of issues crucial to Marines EVERY month!

Every membership includes  
ONLINE access to  
BOTH magazines!

**Sign Someone Up Today:**

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) • 866-622-1775



**Marine Corps  
Association & Foundation**  
Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913



# REMEMBER to Renew Your Membership!

## Look for this envelope in the mail

— it contains your renewal notice. Your membership in the MCA&F supports Marines, gives you the opportunity to connect with fellow Marines, and provides you with many benefits including online access to both magazines.



You can also renew your membership by logging onto the website at [www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) or by calling our toll free member services number **866-622-1775**.



He later worked in the petroleum industry.

**Sgt Henry A. Jaworek**, 94, in Plano, Texas. He was a Marine Raider in the South Pacific during WW II and saw action at Midway, Makin Atoll, Guadalcanal and Bougainville. After the war, he was the owner and operator of the Ellicott Square Parking Lot in Buffalo, N.Y.

**Orvel E. Johnson**, 91, of Cambridge, Minn. He was a WW II Marine who fought in the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Tinian. He was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in the Marianas.

**James W. "Jim" Kocurek**, 84, of Tyler, Texas. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War. He later became an entrepreneur in the rice milling and exporting industry and was a member of "The Chosin Few."

**Ralph P. Koeppicus**, 90, of Massapequa Park, N.Y. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II.

**Edward "Eddie" LeBaron Jr.**, 85, in Stockton, Calif. He was a three-time All-American in football at the College of the Pacific, lettering all four years there as a quarterback, defensive safety and punter. He was drafted by the Washington Redskins in 1950—the same year he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He delayed his career with the Redskins and instead became the

quarterback for the legendary "Quantico Marines" football team. He led the team to 11 straight victories before deploying to Korea.

In Korea, he was wounded twice and was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" for action on May 29, 1951, when he ran through enemy fire to assume command of a platoon after the commander became a casualty. He reorganized the men, and they continued the assault, destroying the enemy position.

After his service ended, he resumed his football career as quarterback for the Washington Redskins. In 1952 he earned NFL Rookie of the Year honors, with 1,420 yards passing and 14 touchdowns.

During the off-season, he attended law school at George Washington University, graduating sixth in his class in 1959. After his retirement, he worked as an executive for the Atlanta Falcons and then later had a career as an attorney.

In 2008 he was named to the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame.

**Col Carl K. Mahakian**, 89, of Palm Desert, Calif. He served in WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he worked in the motion-picture industry as a film editor, sound editor and post-production coordinator on movies includ-

ing "Rebel Without a Cause" and "The Manchurian Candidate."

**George N. Mavrakakis**, 94, of San Jose, Calif. He was a Marine in the Pacific during WW II and also served in the Korean War. He was a member of the VFW and MCL San Jose Det. #1122.

**Ward K. "Mac" McCreath**, 88, of Raleigh, N.C. During WW II, he was a Marine who served in the Pacific and in China. He also served during the Korean War. After his service was completed, he made a career selling heavy equipment.

**Sgt Edward McDonnell**, 68, of Brighton, Mass. He served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He later served as the commander of his local VFW post.

**HM1 Edward J. McDonnell**, 66, of West Wyoming, Pa. He was an FMF corpsman in Vietnam. Among his personal decorations are three Purple Hearts and a Combat Action Ribbon. After retiring from the Navy, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service.

**SSgt Emily T. (Maleski) McKenna**, 95, of Lakeville, Mass. She was assigned to MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., during WW II.

**Allphin E. Michael**, 89, of Dayton, Ohio. He was with 25th Marines on Saipan and Iwo Jima during WW II. He later worked 33 years for Delco Products.

# FLAG SALE!

\*Sale ends June 30th

**10% off**  
**All Flags/Accessories**  
No code necessary



**The MARINE Shop** • 300 Potomac Ave. • Quantico, VA • 703-640-7195  
**The MARINE Shop at Camp Lejeune** • Building 84, Exchange Annex • Camp Lejeune, NC • 910-451-7500  
[www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net) **888-237-7683**

The MARINE Shop and [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net) purchases help fund MCA&F Programs that support Marines! Learn more at [www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org).



**The MARINE Shop**

**Serving Marines Around the World**

Operated by the Marine Corps Association

**GET MEMBER VALUE PRICING  
JOIN TODAY!**

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) • 866-622-1775

**Troy William “Bill” Moose**, 91, of Whitehouse, Texas. In 1942 he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in the South Pacific, including Tarawa and Saipan. He was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds on Tarawa.

**Tommie P. Morris**, 80, of Longview, Texas. After serving in the Marine Corps, he had a long career as an educator and administrator.

**Robert Mosard**, 94, of East Williston, N.Y. He was a Marine who served in the Pacific during WW II.

**Joe B. Mullins**, 87, of Dallas. He enlisted at age 17 and served during WW II. Following the war, he completed college and went into a career in the furniture industry.

**Arthur J. Murphy Jr.**, 79, of Essex, Conn. He left high school when he was 17 to enlist in the Marine Corps. He served in 7th Marines during the Korean War. Upon returning home, he worked as a firefighter for 28 years.

**SgtMaj John “Jack” Murphy**, 84, of Jacksonville, N.C. He landed in Korea in August 1950 with the First Provisional Marine Brigade and continued with the 1stMarDiv through Inchon and on to the Chosin Reservoir. He later served in Vietnam. After retirement, he earned a journalism degree from the University

of North Carolina and worked as a correspondent for the *Wilmington Star* and the Associated Press.

**Duane H. Parks**, 91, of Pawlet, Vt. He was immortalized as the “Homecoming Marine” in Norman Rockwell’s illustration that graced the cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* on Oct. 13, 1945. He was home on leave after completing boot camp when he was selected by artist Rockwell who spotted him at a local square dance.

Soon after he posed for Rockwell, he was sent to the South Pacific where he served on Samoa, Guadalcanal, Rendova, Eniwetok, Munda and Guam. In the August 2008 issue of *Leatherneck*, he recounted the story of how his mother and sister had to convince him to pose for the now-famous image.

**Sgt George D. Pulliam**, 79, of Flowery Branch, Ga. He was a Marine Corps aviation electronics technician from 1953 to 1957. He was stationed at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., and was assigned to MAG-32, 2d MAW. He later earned his degree in electrical engineering, and in the early 1960s, he was employed by NASA as a project engineer during Project Mercury. In 1981 he embarked upon a second career after earning a law degree. He practiced criminal and family law in Gainesville, Ga., until his retirement in 2007.

**Cpl Michael F. Strianese**, 91, of New York, N.Y. He served in the Pacific during WW II, participating in the Battle of Okinawa.

**Harvey A. Tofte**, 90, of Canby, Oregon. He was a college student when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, so he left school to serve in the Marine Corps. He became a Marine aviator and flew F4U Corsairs during WW II. After the war, he returned to Oregon and took up farming, but was called back to serve during the Korean War. He flew helicopters during the war and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. When the war ended, he resumed his farming career.

**James A. Wargo**, 76, of Cherry Hill, N.J. He was a Marine who served with MAG-14, 2d MAW. After his discharge from the Marine Corps, he earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He worked in the steel industry for many years. He was a member of the MCL.

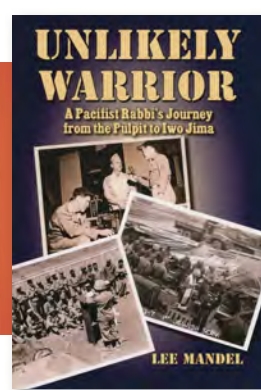
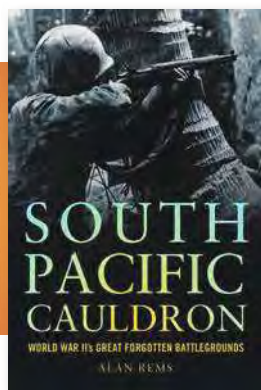
**Cpl Alex K. Yazzie**, 42, of Crownpoint, N.M. He was a Marine Corps veteran who later served with the Navajo Division of Public Affairs. He was fatally shot while pursuing a suspect who had shot another officer near the Arizona-New Mexico border.





# 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).



**THE FIRST SOUTH PACIFIC CAMPAIGN: Pacific Fleet Strategy, December 1941–June 1942.** By John B. Lundstrom. Published by Naval Institute Press. 264 pages. Softcover. Stock #1591144175. \$20.66 MCA Members. \$22.95 Regular Price.

**SOUTH PACIFIC CAULDRON: World War II's Great Forgotten Battlegrounds.** By Alan Rems. Published by Naval Institute Press. 312 pages. Stock #1612514715. \$35.06 MCA Members. \$38.95 Regular Price.

No single book has ever told the whole story of World War II in the Pacific.

Neither have a hundred, nor, for that matter, a thousand. Nonetheless, two Naval Institute Press titles have been published recently that, if considered as a two-volume set and read back to back, the reader can close in on defining that gargantuan struggle, as well as learn about naval and ground battles from scores of genuine heroes.

The gifts of specialized knowledge applied in careful scholarship, keen observation of factual detail and clear writing about events, personalities and atmospheres have not been bestowed equally upon all military writers. Fortunately for us, authors John B. Lundstrom, “The First South Pacific Campaign: Pacific Fleet Strategy, December 1941–June 1942,” and Alan Rems, “South Pacific Cauldron: World War II's Great Forgotten Battlegrounds,” possess these powers, as well as an attention to accuracy of battle reports for vividly detailed descriptions.

If “South Pacific Cauldron” is read after “The First South Pacific Campaign,” with all its easy-to-digest maps and previously unpublished photographs, a broad and balanced panorama emerges—beginning with the U.S. Navy's opening salvos on Dec. 12, 1941, through the following spring, as the Japanese war machine ground out conquest after conquest prior to the turning point in the Pacific, the Battle of Midway, to our final wave of victory with Japan's surrender on Aug. 14, 1945.

Lundstrom and Rems postulate the same foundational premise intrinsic to all their writings, especially in “The First South Pacific Campaign” and “South Pacific Cauldron.” Japan's masterminds in determining the defenses for the islands that were seized as bases during the first six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor did not anticipate what American tactical thinkers learned long before. It isn't the overwhelming size of the enemy's naval and island forces, or the number of his ships, planes and weapons that count. What made the difference was our strategic savvy, industrial know-how, network of training centers, steady nerves, courage and the ability to improvise when resources failed and face opposition without flinching as our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines battled forward.

From such an assumption regarding the worst Pacific convulsing battle engagements ever known, Lundstrom guides us through 21 chapters of strategic under-

standing leading up to and during the critical Battle of the Coral Sea and its aftermath. Being privy to the bold planning and brave fighting during those initial 180 days allows us then to follow in the footsteps of our troops, Marine and Army, as they advance through the lesser-known swamps, jungles and other killing grounds, and, thanks to Rems, meet the men responsible for weighing critical choices and dangerous situations, then deciding upon their proper actions.

Quite clearly, each of the two authors combines all the qualifications needed for literary production and publishing, including a passion for meticulous, thorough research; acute vision and discernment; as well as analytical clarity and precision for lively narrative skill. After all, as each demonstrates, it takes a labor of love to fill in complex, difficult, long-ignored gaps in the history of the war in the Pacific. Lundstrom, the recipient of the coveted Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature, and Rems, the U.S. Naval Institute's 2008 Author of the Year for exceptional writing, together present rather strong, even terrifying, reading for some.

But, as “The First South Pacific Campaign” and “South Pacific Cauldron” remind us in shining chapter after shining chapter, Lundstrom's and Rems' books are records of brave deeds and unbelievable endurance in ferocious engagements peopled by our own men fighting a fierce, savage and brutal enemy.

Read them both and benefit by their new definitions of resoluteness, valor and courage.

Don DeNevi

*Author's bio: Don DeNevi is a frequent book reviewer for Leatherneck magazine.*

**UNLIKELY WARRIOR: A Pacifist Rabbi's Journey From the Pulpit to Iwo Jima.** By CAPT Lee Mandel, USN (Ret). Published by Pelican. 368 pages. Stock #1455619876. \$26.06 MCA Members. \$28.95 Regular Price.

As the title suggests, "Unlikely Warrior" tells the remarkable tale of a U.S. Navy chaplain, Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn. He became the first Jewish chaplain ever assigned to the Marine Corps and served during the desperate battle for the island of Iwo Jima. His story is even more remarkable, as prior to World War II, Gittelsohn had been a noted, and often outspoken, pacifist.

The book's learned author, Captain Lee Mandel, USN (Ret), brings the rabbi's implausible story to our attention in his well-written and well-conceived book. CAPT Mandel served in the Navy for more than 20 years as a doctor and now is pursuing his passion of military history.

Born May 13, 1910, Roland Gittelsohn described himself as a thin, small-in-

stature, homely child. Opinionated, clumsy, but never afraid to speak his mind, he became a first-rate scholar. Attending school in Cleveland, he was elected to the National Honor Society and was the senior class president in high school. But it was as a high school and college debater that he established his aggressive self-identity. Gittelsohn believed that pacifism rep-

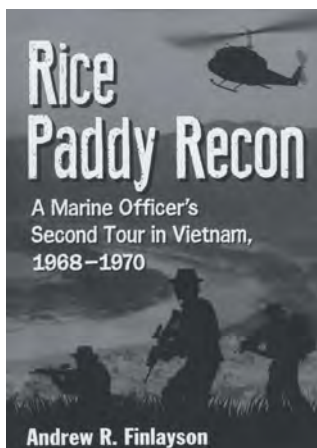
resented one of Judaism's highest ideals. And through debate he learned he could fight the good fight with his words.

In the book, Gittelsohn's early life parallels the growth of the great American pacifist movement. In fact, as Gittelsohn matured, he would often be accused of being a communist. The book clearly details the national debate that developed follow-

## Rice Paddy Recon

### **A Marine Officer's Second Tour in Vietnam, 1968-1970**

by Andrew R. Finlayson



Join a young U.S. Marine officer as he spends 19 months in combat fighting Vietnamese communist military and political units. He graphically describes what it was like to perform three distinct combat missions: 1) long-range ground reconnaissance in the Annamite Mountains of I Corps, 2) infantry operations in the rice paddies and mountains of Quang Nam Province and 3) special police operations for the CIA in Tay Ninh Province.

You will get an honest and accurate account of combat at the small unit level from a Marine who was there. Filled with 72 photos, 6 maps, glossary, notes, bibliography and index.

\$35 softcover.

Available at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com)

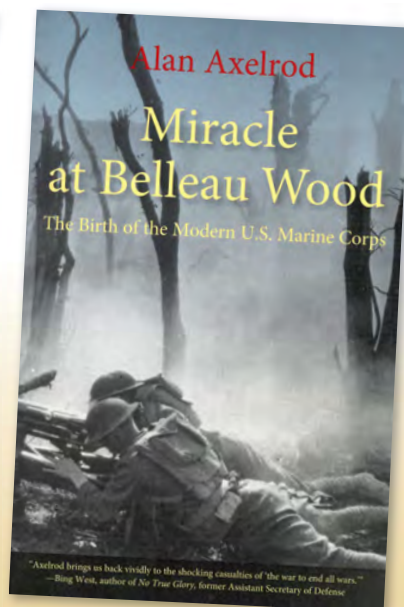
## **The Epic Battle of Belleau Wood in Gritty Detail!**

**Follow the evolution of the Marine Corps throughout this month-long, WW I battle to drive German forces out of Belleau Wood and secure the future of Marines as a professional fighting force.**

**MIRACLE AT BELLEAU WOOD (PB)**

076276130X

Member Value Price: \$17.06 Non-Member Price: \$18.95



[www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net) • 888-237-7683

**The MARINE Shop** • 300 Potomac Ave. • Quantico, VA • 703-640-7195

**The MARINE Shop at Camp Lejeune** • Building 84, Exchange Annex • Camp Lejeune, NC • 910-451-7500

Your purchases at **The MARINE Shop** help fund the MCA&F Programs that support Marines! Learn more at [www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org).



**The MARINE Shop**

**Serving Marines Around the World**

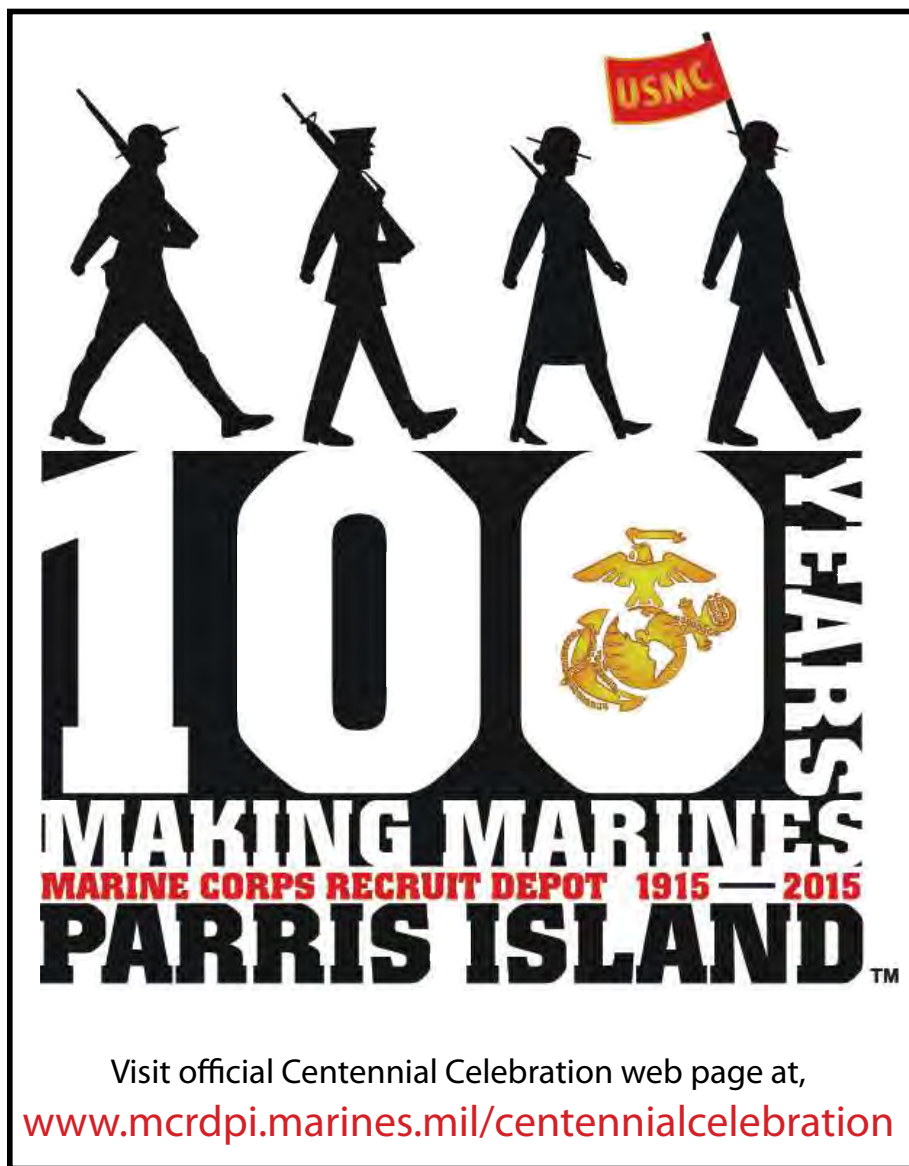
**Operated by the Marine Corps Association**

**GET MEMBER VALUE PRICING –  
JOIN TODAY!**

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) • 866-622-1775







ing WW I. Many Americans felt that the country's great sacrifice during the war was both a waste of blood and treasure.

As Germany rose and became militarized, Rabbi Gittelsohn became increasingly critical of British foreign affairs, particularly Neville Chamberlain's concessions at the signing of the Munich Agreement. In his writings, Gittelsohn accused Chamberlain of being a fascist. However, the evolution of Gittelsohn's personal crisis of conscience occurred as the British evacuated the troops from the channel town of Dunkirk. He then concluded the only thing that could stop Hitler would be the total destruction of Nazi Germany.

Like most Americans, everything changed for him on Dec. 7, 1941. By the autumn of 1942, Rabbi Gittelsohn concluded that he, too, must join the military. To him this became a "just war" that he could reconcile even with his strongly held views on pacifism. The overthrow of a holocaust-minded Germany was a

fight for the survival of the Jewish people.

Prior to Dec. 7, 1941, the United States Navy had only two Jewish chaplains. Chaplains of all faiths were trained at the Naval Training School for Chaplains at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., during an intensive eight-week course. The chaplains' curriculum included a study of naval customs and courtesies as well as field skills. Importantly, the chaplains received a crash course in all the rituals performed in different religions because military chaplains minister to all service personnel, regardless of religion or belief.

As the Marine Corps' first Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Gittelsohn was posted to Camp Elliott in San Diego. As an accomplished orator, Gittelsohn had a talent for talking with the men. In the Marine Corps, it must be noted, there were few people a young Marine might easily turn to for comfort or compassion.

In May 1944, the chaplain reported for duty to the Fifth Marine Division at Ma-

rine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. At that time, he became one of the 17 chaplains assigned to the division. Over the objections of many of his peers, Lieutenant Junior Grade Gittelsohn was designated the division's assistant chaplain. There, he established group discussions that also included black Marines. Not surprisingly, this became a source of controversy within the division.

The 5thMarDiv, along with the 4th and 3dMarDivs, was slated for the upcoming landings on the Japanese-held island of Iwo Jima. Iwo was a prize that the Japanese would skillfully and dearly defend. Enemy fighters arose daily to engage B-29 bombers flying missions to attack the Japanese home islands.

After four days of naval bombardment by the V Amphibious Corps, the landing force hit the beach on Feb. 19, 1945. Chaplain Gittelsohn landed on the island on D+3; he, along with other division chaplains, performed his duties with courage and distinction. The rabbi experienced many close calls and witnessed countless horrors alongside the Marines he served. On Iwo, chaplains circulated between the front lines but also worked to establish cemeteries.

After the battle, the rabbi gave his "The Purest Democracy" speech [see page 32 of the February issue of *Leatherneck* for the text of the speech] at a Jewish memorial service during the dedication of the cemetery. Surveying the numerous freshly dug graves, Gittelsohn proclaimed: "Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy."

The text of the rabbi's speech was picked up by the American press and soon was quoted in *Time* magazine; it even was recited on the floor of the House of Representatives. In one sad note, some of the other chaplains resented his new acclaim. Rabbi Gittelsohn, however, had become accustomed to accusatory criticism. Today, the Navy corpsmen and chaplains who served Marines can apply and become members of the Marine Corps League. Chaplain Gittelsohn, the most "unlikely warrior" of all, would I'm sure, be pleased at this interesting new development.

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 very successful Toys for Tots program in Pasco County, Fla.*



# Membership Comes with Benefits

## Access to BOTH of MCA&F's Magazines.

Stay connected to Marines, their continuing story and the critical issues that affect them:

- **Leatherneck** – Magazine of the Marines
- **Marine Corps Gazette** – Professional Journal of U.S. Marines



## Exclusive Member Savings

- Member Value Pricing at *The MARINE Shop* at Quantico, at Camp Lejeune and Online at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net)
- Member Discounts with Leading Affinity Partners that Help You SAVE!



**LEARN MORE AND JOIN:**

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org)

**866-622-1775**



**Marine Corps  
Association & Foundation**  
Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913

**JOIN TODAY!**



## SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

moral courage when he ordered Captain John W. Ripley to destroy the Dong Ha Bridge, thus halting 30,000 enemy troops and 200 tanks dead in their tracks. Col Turley's fearless decision-making and intestinal fortitude coupled with Ripley's raw courage turned the tide. This not only prevented a humiliating outcome for American forces but earned the Marines yet one more glorious chapter in an already storied history.

It is for this reason that I salute the Marines who went ashore on March 8, 1965, those who held the line in the following years, and those who stood firm in April of 1972.

Norman J. Fulkerson

Author, "An American Knight: The Life of  
Colonel John W. Ripley, USMC"  
York, Pa.

## Stress Cards? Get Outta Here!

As a Navy veteran who participated as a corpsman on Operation Starlite in August 1965, I almost choked on my dinner when my nephew told me about a "stress card" issued by my beloved USMC. He was Army airborne and claims that

**www.eMarinePX.com**

**ONLINE STORE FOR  
U.S.M.C.  
SPECIALTIES**

**FREE SHIPPING\***  
To APO/FPO Addresses & Orders Over \$25  
\*Standard Shipping only

**"NOT YOUR STANDARD ISSUE"**

Visit [www.eMarinePX.com](http://www.eMarinePX.com) or Call 877-915-6772 to place your order. | eMarinePX • P.O. Box 2329 • Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Hundreds of Products Made in the USA.**

Apparel • Collectibles • Flags • Patches  
Home Decor • Accessories & Much more!

IT'S A MARINE THING.

while participating with U.S. Marines on a joint deployment, the Marines were talking about "stress cards" issued in boot camp. Is this true?

Former HN John Sanchez, USN  
Rosemead, Calif.

• *I don't care if he is airborne. When he hits the ground, he's just another*

*"doggie," and you can't believe a thing they say about the Corps.—Sound Off Ed.*

## Editorial Irish Pennants

In the March issue feature "Beachhead: Da Nang," we misspelled the last name of the commanding general of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Brigadier General Frederick J. Karch.





formaggio, (504) 812-7369, csaltaformaggio@yahoo.com.

- **1/1 (RVN, 1965-71)**, Aug. 26-31, Washington, D.C. Contact Rick Bazaco, 14727 Mountain Rd., Purcellville, VA 20132, (843) 324-2734, info@1stbn1stmarines.com, www.1stbn1stmarines.com.

- **2/1 (RVN, 1965-71)**, Nov. 5-9, San Diego. Contact Mario Sagastume, (530) 343-9481, choncho0331@sbcglobal.net.

- **2/4 ("The Magnificent Bastards," all eras, honoring Gold Star families)**, July 23-26, Quantico, Va. Contact Jim Rogers, (703) 887-6238, jwr@verizon.net, or Dave Jones, (410) 310-4571, oystercove@gmail.com.

- **2/9 (RVN, 50th Anniversary, all eras welcome)**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 302-4126, ditson35@verizon.net.

- **Battery Adjust, 3/11**, Sept. 23-27, Charleston, S.C. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dmiller48@gmail.com.

- **A/1/7 (Korea, 1950-53)**, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Leonard R. "Shifty" Shifflette, 25 Emery St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801-2705, (540) 434-2066, (540) 746-2066, captsifty@comcast.net.

- **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim

## CUSTOM CUPS

USMC - USN - ARMY - USAF - USCG  
FEDERAL AGENCIES - LAW ENFORCEMENT

- All Officer & Enlisted Ranks
- All Services
- Your Unit
- Your Qualifications
- Personalized (i. e.: Name, Motto, etc.)
- Great As Gifts
- Promotions
- Retirements



Two sided option.

To Order:  
**TMH LLC**  
**4196 Merchant Plaza #227**  
**Woodbridge, VA 22192**  
**Toll Free: 800.381.7889**  
**www.tmh1775.com**



Three sided option.

- Sharp Hi-Res Graphics
- Professional Designs
- Your Mug - Your Way.

Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.

- **B/1/7 (1960-64)**, Nov. 7-11, Las Vegas. Contact Pete Morley, (732) 778-8126, pmorley39@icloud.com, or Frank Vanicore, (916) 933-8152.

- **"Bravo" Co, 4th CEB, 4thMarDiv (Desert Storm, 25th Anniversary)**, May 13-14, 2016, Roanoke, Va. Contact Steve

Garman, stevegarman7@gmail.com.

- **F/2/7 (1965-70)**, July 19-24, San Francisco. Contact Robert Fitch, (609) 635-3441, bffox66@gmail.com.

- **G/3/1 (Korea, 1951-55)**, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Kansas City, Mo. Contact J.R. Camarillo, 19 Stanislaus Ave., Ventura, CA 93004, (805) 377-7840, or Carleton "Bing" Bingham, 1453 Patricia Dr.,

# Like Us on Facebook!



Visit MCA&F on Facebook Often for Exclusive Deals on Apparel, Professional Reading, Specialty Gifts and MORE from *The MARINE Shop*!

<https://www.facebook.com/MarineCorpsAssociation>

*The MARINE Shop* • 300 Potomac Ave. • Quantico, VA • 703-640-7195

*The MARINE Shop at Camp Lejeune* • Building 84, Exchange Annex • Camp Lejeune, NC • 910-451-7500

**www.marineshop.net**

**888-237-7683**

Your purchases at *The MARINE Shop* help fund MCA&F Programs that support Marines! Learn more at [www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org)



**The MARINE Shop**

*Serving Marines Around the World*

*Operated by the Marine Corps Association*

**GET MEMBER VALUE PRICING AS AN MCA&F MEMBER!**

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) • 866-622-1775



# Remember when...

**Host your next reunion where the memories matter - at the Crossroads Inn on Quantico Marine Corps Base. It will feel just like going home.**

**FREE** breakfast daily • **FREE** Washington Post Monday ~ Saturday • Rooms with refrigerators, microwaves & coffee makers • Two-room suites with range, sink, & dishwasher • Iron & ironing board • **FREE** guest laundry facilities • **FREE** HBO • Hospitality room available for group activity



Reserve your reunion today!

**800•965•9511**

Mention this code when you book your reunion: LECK

**The Crossroads Inn**  
a TLF for you ✱ Quantico, Virginia

**Awarded Marine Corps Food & Hospitality Excellence Award**

Gardnerville, NV 89460, (775) 265-3596, (775) 781-2726.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, June 5-7, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Ralph Sirianni, (716) 903-9640, trippr19@aol.com.

• **I/3/1 (Korea, 1950-55)**, Aug. 19-23, Branson, Mo. Contact Suzi Woodward, (860) 262-1334, suzil1111@aol.com.

• **L/3/5 (RVN, 1966-71)**, June 9-14, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dan Nordmann, 11702 Avery Ln., Bridgeton, MO 63044, (314) 291-1725, dmnordmann@att.net.

• **1st Plt, I/3/1 (RVN, 1968-69)**, Sept. 10-13, Traverse City, Mich. Contact George Butterworth, (248) 627-9336, gbbutterworth@aol.com, or "Reb" Bienvenu, (636) 398-8779, dickbienvenu@yahoo.com.

• **3d Plt, H/2/3 (RVN, 1967-68)**, Oct. 8-11, Stafford, Va. Contact Chuck Gaede, (512) 750-9265, csgaede@gmail.com.

• **3d 155 mm Gun Btry (SP) and 3d 175 mm Gun Btry (SP)**, San Diego, Oct. 1-3. Contact Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, ed-kirby@comcast.net.

• **1st Provisional Marine Brigade ("The Fire Brigade," Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.

• **Marine Barracks, Great Lakes, Ill.**, is planning a potential reunion. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethemarine@gmail.com.

• **TBS 3-66 and 38th OCC**, Oct. 7-12, Norfolk, Va. Contact Pete Clay, (804) 221-9800, or Terry Cox, (310) 732-6908.

• **TBS, Co H, 8-68 and 48th OCC**, Oct. 22-25, San Diego. Contact Terrence Arndt,

20 Muirfield Ln., Town and Country, MO 63141, (314) 434-6908, tdarndt2@icloud.com, http://usmc.allencc.edu.

• **TBS, Co A, 1-70**, June 25-28, Quantico, Va. Contact Bob Del Grosso, (908) 334-3496, robdelgr@aol.com.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

• **Plt 245, San Diego, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8o06@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 342, Parris Island, 1965**, Sept. 4-6, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Charles Harmon, (702) 458-3132, (702) 335-1304, chickster48@live.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. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **HMM-265 (1962-present)**, Nov. 8-15, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Marine Corps Birthday Ball cruise, Holland America cruise line). Contact Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdb@numail.org.

• **HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras)**,

Sept. 30-Oct. 4, Pensacola, Fla. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, jruffini5@gmail.com.

• **HMM-364 (LTA 2 RVN, 50th Anniversary)**, Aug. 6-9, Long Beach, Calif. Contact Walt Wise, 1618 Hemlock Way, Broomfield, CO 80020, (720) 340-9534, wwwise364@comcast.net, www.hmm-364.org.

• **VMFA-212 (1975-81)**, March 18-20, 2016, San Diego. Contact J.D. Loucks, P.O. Box 1, East Jewett, NY 12424, vmfa212reunion@aol.com.

• **VMFA-232 "Red Devils" (1968-70, El Toro, Chu Lai, Iwakuni)**, Aug. 3-5, Fredericksburg, Texas. Contact Gus Fitch, (803) 649-6466, pncfzfn@gmail.com.

• **VMFA-333**, June 17-21, Charleston, S.C. Contact Connie Gause, (202) 306-0848, vmfa333reunion@yahoo.com.

## Ships and Others

• **USS Bremerton (CA-130/SSN-698)**, Sept. 13-18, Louisville, Ky. Contact Jerry Adams, 106 Ashley Dr., Winchester, KY 40391, (859) 771-5651, jeradams106@gmail.com.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 14-18, Mobile, Ala. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Cowpens (CVL-25/CG-63)**, June 18-20, Cowpens, S.C. Contact Max Barker, (602) 771-7812, maxbarker3028@gmail.com.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 9-13, Lexington, Ky. Contact Carl and Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673-9817, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Houston (CL-81)**, Aug. 18-23, Green Bay, Wis. Contact Barbara Hillebrand, (608) 424-6095, bjhillebrand@charter.net.

• **USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7)**, Sept. 13-16, Baton Rouge, La. Contact Robert G. McAnally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack46709@gmail.com.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 16-20, Atlanta. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

• **USS Lake Champlain (CV/CVA/CVS-39)**, "Champ Marines," June 21-25, Beaufort, S.C. Contact H. Wells "Red" French, (941) 697-1870, wellsholm@aol.com (subject line: "Champ Marines").

• **USS Mount McKinley (AGC-7/LCC-7)**, Sept. 16-20, Milwaukee. Contact Dave Long, (440) 292-7839, davidlong1944@msn.com.



Get your **FREE CATALOG** at **GRUNT.COM**

Get your motivating Marine Corps apparel, drinkware, and more from Sgt Grit on GRUNT.COM!

\$31.99



U.S. Marines Under Armour Performance T-shirt #TS1511



USMC Neck Knife #889016 \$12.99



Marines Stainless Steel Tumbler #MT1 \$15.99

**GET \$5 OFF A \$25 ORDER**  
Use Discount Code LTM15 when checking out.

Limit one discount per order. Discount code expires 12/31/2015.



**SGT GRIT®**  
Marine Specialties  
*If we don't have it, Chesty wouldn't want it.*  
Donald Whitton, USMC, 1968-1971

GRUNT.COM

## When in Quantico, visit The Globe & Laurel Restaurant

*... a touch of tradition*

Where Camaraderie  
and the Spirit of  
Semper Fidelis prevail.

To all Marines everywhere,  
thank you for your service and  
dedication to our  
Corps and country.

(703) 221-5763

Rick Spooner, USMC, 1942-72

## "Highpockets"

Biography of MajGen Raymond L. Murray

A hero at the Chosin Reservoir and a  
great Marine leader.

Mail orders with check for \$25 to:  
Z. G. Murray, Ste. 108A, Box 211,  
300 Carlsbad Village Dr.,  
Carlsbad, CA 92008-2999

USMC, 1935-68



## THE CORPS STORE

www.TheCorpsStore.com

U.S.M.C. & U.S.N. SPECIALTIES  
(843) 521-1775

Proudly serving Marines, Sailors  
and their families since 2002

Curt Furtado, U.S.M.C., 1982-2004

## The 2015 Leatherneck Marine-to-Marine Classified Information and Insertion Order

### Classified Advertising Policy

Marine-to-Marine classified ads are accepted on a space-available basis and available only to those and/or their spouses who served in the United States Marine Corps. The ad must list the years served in the Marine Corps.

All ads are black-and-white in this section. Ads are accepted camera-ready and electronically; pdf, tif or jpeg formats (300 resolution). Any classified ad may occupy one column width (2.25 inches) by a maximum of 10 inches of column height.

Marine-to-Marine classified ad rates are \$100 per column inch. There is a 10% discount for 6 months or more of insertions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please charge my MasterCard/Visa/American Express \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed

*Payment information must accompany order.*

**Send insertion order and materials to:** Leatherneck Magazine, M2M  
715 Broadway St., Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA 22134  
**Or email to:** [s.dinkel@mca-marines.org](mailto:s.dinkel@mca-marines.org) • **Office:** 718-715-1361



# 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

- Former Cpl Kevin P. Hendon, 8000 Brightwood Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043, [wskyrnr21@verizon.net](mailto:wskyrnr21@verizon.net), to hear from members of **Plt 298, Parris Island, 1969**.

- Jacob A. Steiner, 203 Overland Dr., Richmond, KY 40475, [jacobsteiner@live.com](mailto:jacobsteiner@live.com), to hear from Marines who served with his grandfather, **Floyd O. STOKES**, in **2d Engineer Bn, 3dMarDiv** during **WW II**, particularly at **Bougainville and Guam**.

- GySgt R.W. Talmadge, USMC (Ret), 1456 Compton Rd., Murfreesboro, TN 37130, (615) 890-6647, [rwtalmadge@comcast.net](mailto:rwtalmadge@comcast.net), to hear from anyone who can identify or provide information about a **wooden Marine Corps emblem** (pictured), painted gold, which he found in an antiques shop. It measures approximately **24 inches by 24 inches**, and a previous owner claims it was hung in a **Marine Corps mess hall circa 1942**.

- Former Navy Hospitalman John Sanchez, 8909 Nevada Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770, (559) 970-1018, to hear from **patients and corpsmen** who were at the **Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, Calif., between February 1962 and March 1963**. He also would like to hear from members of the **USS Galveston (CLG-3) Marine Detachment, March 1963-February 1966**, and from **graduates of Hospital Corps School, U.S. Naval Hospital Balboa (San Diego), November 1961-February 1962**.

- Marine veterans Richard L. Bednarz, (937) 426-9518, and John "Jack" Robinson, (561) 665-1820, to hear from or about any



COURTESY OF GYSGT R.W. TALMADGE, USMC (RET)

**GySgt R.W. Talmadge, USMC (Ret)** would like to hear from anyone who recognizes this eagle, globe and anchor wall hanging, which he purchased at an antiques shop. It may have hung in a **Marine Corps mess hall circa 1942**.

Marines who were stationed at **Marine Barracks Naples, Italy, "On the Hill,"** particularly from **1957 to 1967**.

- Marine veteran Robert Ellis, 47 Lorna St., Hollis, NH 03049, (603) 595-0787, to hear from anyone who can help him identify his **platoon number, Parris Island, 1941**. He would like a **platoon photo**.

- GySgt R.J. Souza, USMCR (Ret), 17 Warwick Rd., Franklin, MA 02039, [richardsouza1944@gmail.com](mailto:richardsouza1944@gmail.com), to hear from members of **Plt 229, Parris Island, 1962**.

## Wanted

*Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered.*

- Naomi Rather, (603) 674-0103, [naorather@gmail.com](mailto:naorather@gmail.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 172, Parris Island, 1966**.

- Marine veteran Bob Doran, 13 Eddleston Dr., Bella Vista, AR 72715, [rmdoran@cox.net](mailto:rmdoran@cox.net), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 237, San Diego, 1953**.

- John J. Sciascia, 100 Red Dirt Rd., Enterprise, AL 36330, (334) 389-0729, [jsciascia@centurytel.net](mailto:jsciascia@centurytel.net), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 387, San Diego, 1964**.

- Kevin Wilfong, (623) 329-2922, [wilfongkr@gmail.com](mailto:wilfongkr@gmail.com), wants a **platoon photo and recruit graduation book for Plt 1112, San Diego, 1975**.

- Marine veteran Ron Peters, W63 N750 Sheboygan Rd., Cedarburg, WI 53012, [ronpetersusmc@yahoo.com](mailto:ronpetersusmc@yahoo.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2007, San Diego, 1967**.

- Marine veteran Stuart Ammerman, 132 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717) 436-8565, wants a **herringbone twill utility jacket and cap** (preferably cap size 7½), and a **first-aid pouch**.



## How can I get a copy of my MCRD platoon photo?

According to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., website, <http://www.mcrdpi.marines.mil/>, photos back to 1939 can be obtained by calling: (843) 228-1555.

For MCRD San Diego photos, visit the website,

<https://www.mcrdmuseumhistoricalsociety.org/platoon-photos-and-grad-books>, or write or call

MCRD Museum Foundation, Building 26, P.O. Box 400085, San Diego, CA 92140-0085.

Office Phone: (619) 524-4426, Fax: (619) 524-0076

# Marines THRIVE on Challenges

Your Membership Helps MCA&F Advance  
Leadership, Recognize Excellence and More  
for the Marines Facing Today's Challenges!

PHOTO BY SGT EMMANUEL RAMOS, USMC

## CHOOSE YOUR MCA&F MEMBERSHIP TERM:

	Print Edition Both Magazines	Print Edition One Magazine	Digital Editions Only Both Magazines
<b>1 Year</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00
<b>2 Years - Save 9%</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$128.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$64.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$64.00
<b>3 Years - Save 15%</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$178.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$89.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$89.00

☐ **MARINE CORPS GAZETTE** ☐ **LEATHERNECK MAGAZINE** (Each option Includes access to Online Editions of Both Magazines)

☐ **ONLINE EDITIONS ONLY** – (Both Marine Corps Gazette and Leatherneck)

• Online Accessible, Environmentally Friendly, and More Convenient than Mail Delivery

NAML

Rank/Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: ☐ Active ☐ Retired ☐ Reserve ☐ Civilian ☐ Veteran ☐ Dependent Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment: ☐ Check or Money Order enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Payment cannot be processed without signature.)

P.O. Box 1775, 715 Broadway • Quantico, VA 22134-0775 • Toll-Free: 866-622-1775

Thank You For Joining MCA&F!

Offer expires 31 December 2015



Membership features the  
magazines that tell the  
ongoing story of our Corps  
and examine the issues  
affecting Marines.

ONLINE Access to Both  
Magazines Comes with  
EVERY Membership

[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org)  
[www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org)



**Marine Corps**  
**Association & Foundation**  
Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913

**JOIN TODAY!**

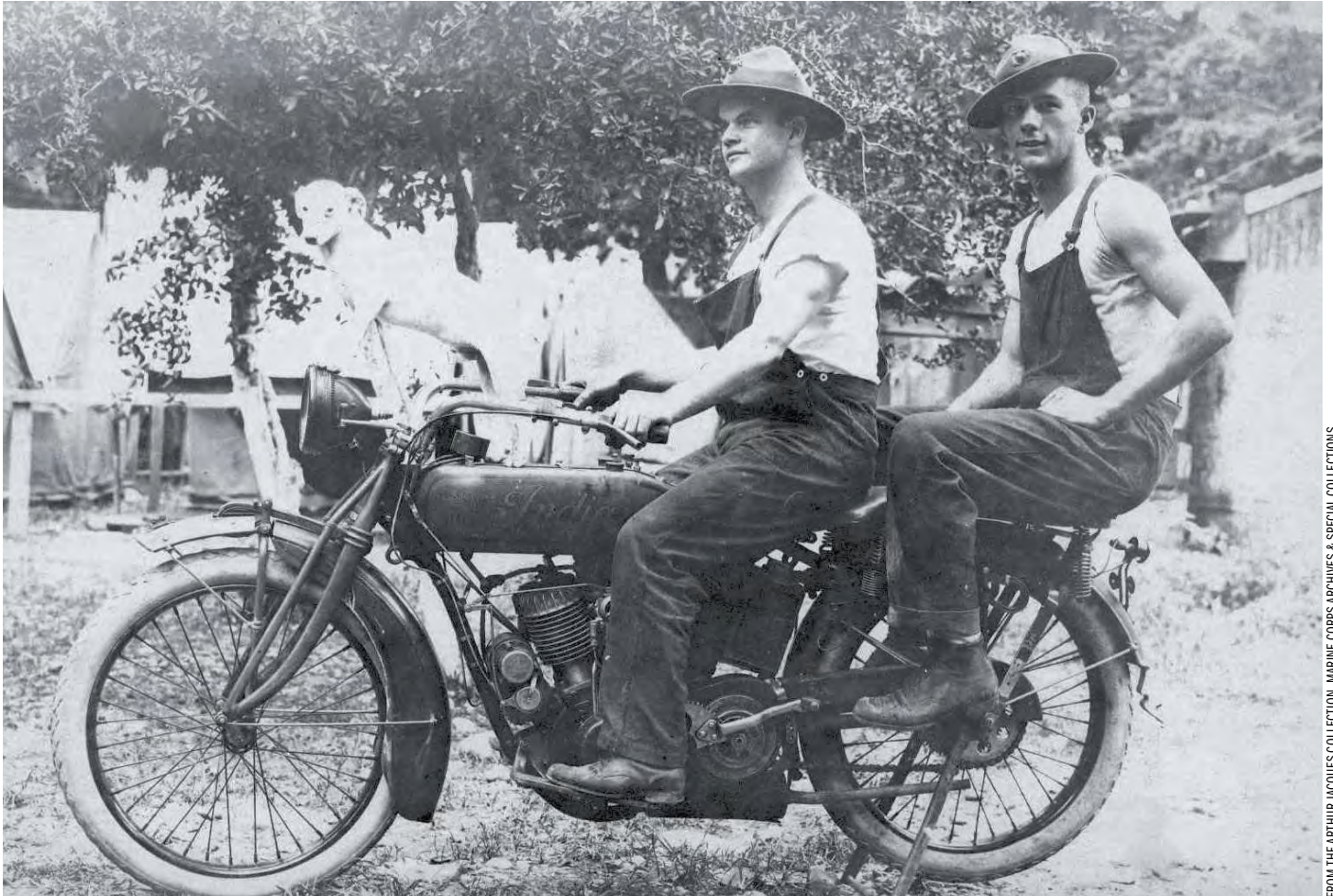
[www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org) • 866-622-1775





# Saved Round

Compiled by R.R. Keene



FROM THE ARTHUR JACQUES COLLECTION, MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**MARINES AND MOTORCYCLES**—U.S. Marines arrived in Haiti in 1915 to restore order during a bloody revolution instigated by Caco bandits. While there, they used Indian motorcycles. It was the start of a unique partnership. Indian Motorcycle heavily supported the Armed Forces during both World Wars, supplying 41,000 motorcycles during WW I alone. The company went bankrupt in 1953, and although numerous attempts were made over the years, it wasn't until 2011 that the company was re-established.







USAA is proud to be the  
**Semper Fidelis Sponsor**  
of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation

# USE THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS MCA&F.



USAA Bank is proud to offer members ways to support organizations like the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Plus, you can benefit from great rewards, competitive rates and USAA Bank's legendary customer service.



**APPLY TODAY.**

**[usaa.com/mca](http://usaa.com/mca) or 877-651-6272**

Available in both American Express® Card and MasterCard®

**USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.**

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. The Marine Corps Association & Foundation receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. American Express is a federally registered service mark of American Express and is used by USAA Savings Bank pursuant to a license.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2015 USAA. 213613-0215





**ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.**



**MARINE RESERVE**

1-800-MARINES [MARINES.COM/RESERVE](http://MARINES.COM/RESERVE)