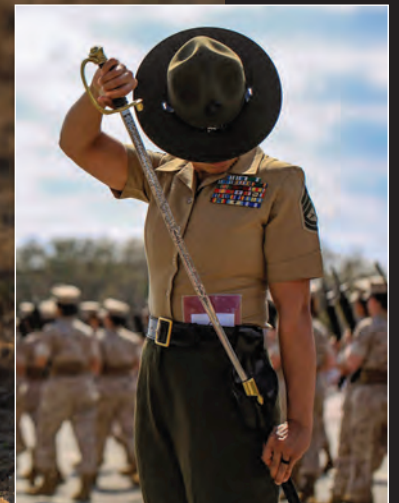


AUGUST 2018

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

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Contents

LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

AUGUST 2018
VOL. 101, No. 8

Features

14 Lieutenant General Lori Reynolds: The Corps' Senior Female Marine Continues to Blaze New Trails

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret) As the Corps celebrates the centennial of the first woman joining its ranks, LtGen Lori Reynolds is perhaps the best example of the distance female Marines have traveled in the last 100 years.

22 A Place at the Table: Conversations with Women in the Corps

By Mary D. Karcher *Leatherneck* highlights some of the Corps' best female Marines who are excelling in specialties that were closed to their predecessors.

32 MCAS Cherry Point: With Change on the Horizon, Air Station Looks to the Future

By Sara W. Bock Since WW II, MCAS Cherry Point has been home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. As the EA-6B Prowler and AV-8B Harrier are phased out of operation, the air station will undergo \$1 billion of construction and infrastructure changes over the next decade as it becomes the largest F-35B base in the Marine Corps.

40 By, With, and Through: A Tale of Advising, Coalition Warfare and Victory

By the Task Force Lion Staff Task Force Lion from I MEF arrived at Al Asad Air Base in November 2017 with the mission to advise and assist ISF leaders in leading a joint and coalition task force to defeat ISIS in Iraq.

52 **The Marines' Memorial Club** *By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)* The Marines' Memorial Club, located in the heart of San Francisco, serves as a living memorial to Marines and other service members and is a modern example of civility, courtesy and camaraderie.



Departments

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Sound Off | 58 Books Reviewed |
| 8 In Every Clime and Place | 62 Passing the Word |
| 30 Leatherneck Laffs | 64 In Memoriam |
| 46 We—the Marines | 70 Reader Assistance |
| 49 Crazy Caption | 72 Saved Round |
| 50 Sea Stories | |

COVER: Female Marines have made a difference in the Marine Corps for more than 100 years. The female Marines of yesteryear have paved the way for today's Marines with their accomplishments, ambition and integration into many areas of the Marine Corps. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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.*)

Memorial Day and Veterans Day

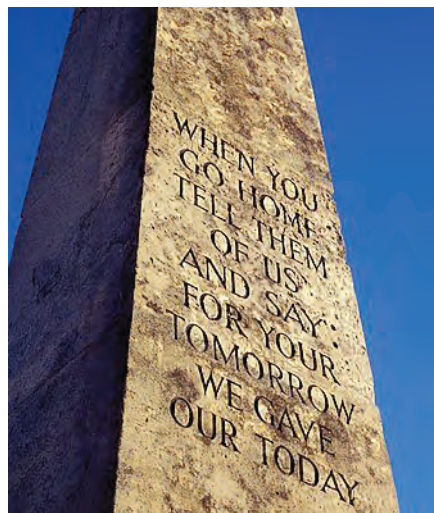
Many people confuse Memorial Day with Veterans Day. Memorial Day is about veterans but it's to remember our fallen veterans of this nation's wars, not the living. The day means more to the living veterans than it does to most people. The ones lying in graveyards all across this great land, in foreign cemeteries and at sea were their comrades, the ones that shared the same miseries, felt the same terror, witnessed the same cruelty and horror of war and paid the ultimate price.

Many of them carry the same scars, both visible and invisible, of those conflicts. To them, the memories come rushing back like a tidal wave as they pass row upon row of long absent friends. Some will stand and weep unabashed at the sight of a familiar name, silently wipe at a tear, remembering a face, a voice, a personality. Most of these men, and yes, a few women, that lie there were young and will be 18 or 19 forever to the ones that knew them. In some places there will be tiny American flags placed on their graves, perhaps flowers if a loved one has visited. Many are forgotten indeed, some are unmarked or simply unknown.

A town in New York claims to be the first to have observed this holiday. But it's also said that the Yankee general, W.T. Sherman, observed young widows placing flowers on the graves of the Confederate dead while touring the South during reconstruction and wrote a letter to his brother, a Northern congressman, wondering why he never witnessed this in the North. The congressman spread the idea and like always, the victors get to write the history.

When I was a kid, my father, a World War II veteran, would drag us out to the local cemetery and, in his words, make us pay our respects. At the time I didn't understand his lingering silences and melancholy looks. Not until I returned home from Vietnam did I get it. I'm sure my son didn't understand either until he returned from Desert Storm. One of the Marines he served with was among the first casualties in the episode and is buried in Whitehouse, Texas, just south of Tyler.

I pray to a merciful God that most of our society never fully knows what Memorial Day means to veterans. It's enough just to appreciate the fact that the freedoms they blithely take for granted were paid for by a few. As I read on the war memorial in England years ago, "For Your Tomorrow We Gave Our Today." And so it is and always will be. I also pray that their sacrifices will never be in vain, that the ideals they died for will not be given away, squandered to political correctness, or some other false god.



The inscription on this memorial in Westbury-on-Trym, England, is one that is remembered fondly by Cpl Jones.

As I sit here writing this missive, I see their faces, smiling, forever 18, and raise a glass in their memory and murmur unspoken thanks.

Cpl Jim Jones
USMC, 1966-1969
Gladewater, Texas

Once a Marine, Always a Marine

After serving four years in the Marine Corps from 1964 to 1968, including a tour in Vietnam, 1966-1967, I left active duty. Since then, I have maintained my closeness to the Corps through friendships with other Marines, the local Marine Corps League and, of course, my subscription to *Leatherneck* which I look forward to getting each month.

Like most Marines, I read it from cover to cover and especially enjoy the articles on Vietnam and reading about all the new things that are taking place in our Corps. I'm sure every Marine has heard the phrase, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." This brings me to the question

of why is it that every month in the "In Memoriam" section that the term "was a Marine" is used to describe many of those listed as having passed on? For Marines of distinction, particularly officers or famous Marines, or where they cite a rank it is obvious that they were all Marines. I believe a more appropriate description of any Marine listed should be "John Doe, a Marine" instead of "John Doe, who was a Marine."

Another common phrase states, "Marines don't die, they go to heaven and regroup," so why not use "A Marine" so we can continue our legacy with St. Peter? I don't think any Marine even those who have gone to the pearly gates would enjoy being described as, "Was a Marine." Just a thought.

Sgt Jack J. Maiz
USMC, 1964-1968
The Villages, Fla.

• *While we thank you for your suggestion, the use of the word "was" is no reflection on a person's status as a Marine. It acknowledges the fact that a person is no longer living.—Editor*

Thank You *Leatherneck*

Thank you for including my mother in the June issue of *Leatherneck's* "In Memoriam" section. Since my mother's death I have been sorting through things. I located a packet of letters my dad wrote to his parents from boot camp. He arrived on Parris Island on Sept. 23, 1935, for his first tour of duty. In one of his brief and not often written letters, he tells his parents he bought them a yearly subscription to *Leatherneck* for \$2.20. He adds, "Please save the issue for me to read." That is how long the Marines and *Leatherneck* are woven into the fabric of the Heim family.

Diane Heim
Silver Spring, Md.

• *Diane's parents were featured in the November 2015 article, "Bring Your Lads Here. We Will Show You and Your Men Every Hospitality" by Major Allan C. Bevilacqua about the 1st Marine Division in Australia in 1943. Mrs. Heim was a dear friend of Leatherneck and a lovely lady. She is sorely missed.—Editor*

Letters Home: Priceless Treasures

Major surprise today! A mysterious box appeared on my porch from the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. I opened

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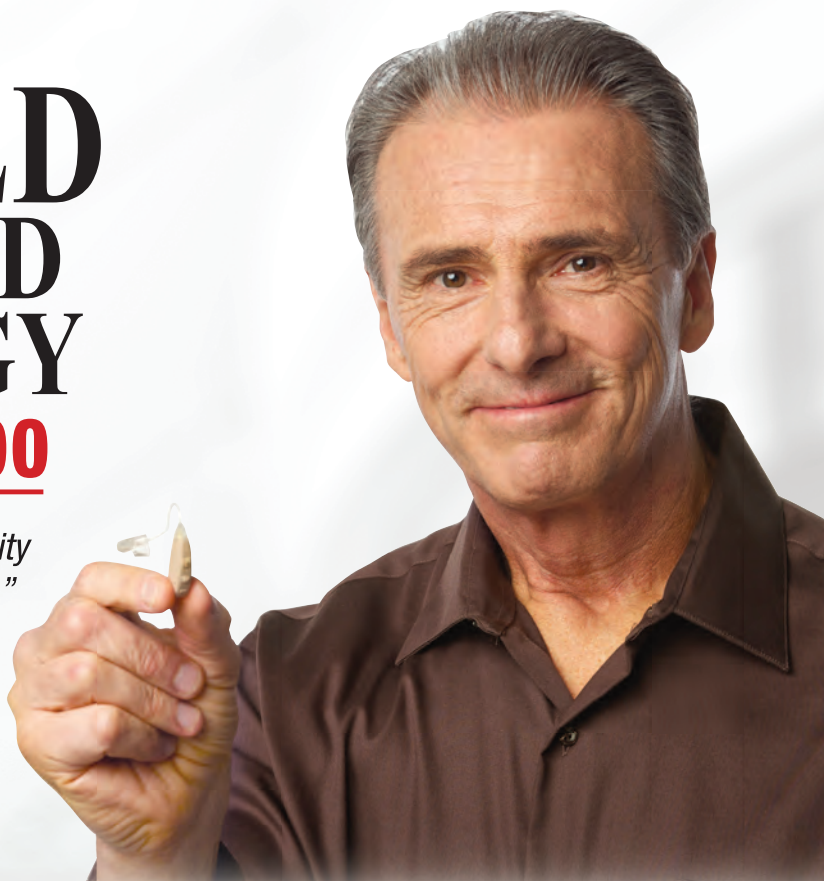
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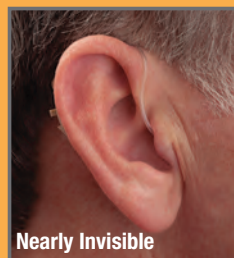
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COURTESY OF SGT DAVID DRURY, USMC

Sgt David Drury, the commandant of the James P. Farber MCL Detachment, posted this photo on his Facebook page after finding his letter published in the June issue of *Leatherneck*.

it and found I have had a letter published in a feature article in *Leatherneck* magazine. It was a letter I wrote to Bill Swango after two weeks of boot camp on Sept. 30, 1970.

Melissa Swango Lumppp returned it to me a few years ago when she found a bundle of letters that her Dad kept from me. The box came with five extra magazines and a big red *Leatherneck* coffee mug. Pretty neat!

I really enjoyed the other letters in the article. Mine was rather frivolous in comparison. I was impressed that *Leatherneck* printed the letter as it was written. I assure you that I was accurately reporting boot camp as I experienced it.

Sgt David Drury
Danville, Ind.

I just received my online issue of the June *Leatherneck* and am waiting for the paper magazine to arrive. I was deeply touched reading my husband's letter in "Letters Home: Priceless Treasures." Hank was the youngest of 16 children and one of five boys in World War II. I can imagine the joy his parents felt when they received his letter knowing he survived Iwo Jima.

Hank and I were married in 1948 and he passed away two years ago. My grief is still very deep and it really is emotionally difficult for me to read his letters. These are priceless treasures, and I thank you for including his letter in the magazine. I am happy to share his words with others.

Louise Gerow
Winter Park, Fla.

It was indeed a shock to find the June issue of *Leatherneck* magazine in my mailbox today displaying on the cover the bundle of letters I sent. Thank you very

much, and please pass on my gratitude to everyone involved with the "Letters Home" cover and article, especially Abigail Wilson for her beautiful photo.

Mom never got the book she thought I should write, but I believe she would be pleased with what became of all the old letters she saved.

MGySgt Richard L. Houghton Jr.
Jacksonville, N.C.

As a former hospice counselor, we always reinforced the importance of keeping memories alive, not just for the immediate family, but all family members that come thereafter. Mementos, pictures and letters tell the story of a family's heritage and may be the only connection to their loved one who has gone before the living. Thank you for preserving memories.

Nancy Morgan
New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

• Our "Letters Home" article was the idea of Patty Everett, *Leatherneck's* editorial/production coordinator, long time Marine Corps Association employee (37 years!), and the heart of *Leatherneck*. Patty did a wonderful job collecting the letters, planning the cover, and ensuring the layout evoked the sentiment inherent in each letter. The response to the feature has been outstanding and the *Leatherneck* staff is grateful to all who contributed to this feature.—Editor

Constraints—A Great Article

I am sitting here in my office bawling like a baby. I just happened to start reading "Constraints: That Which We Must Do," in the June edition. What a wonderful story. Before I finished the article I had to tell several co-workers that I had a real bad cold as I was continuously wiping my eyes. Thanks again for bringing back many good and not so good memories with *Leatherneck*—Magazine of the Marines.

Edward Layne
Dayton, Tenn.

Notes of 1958

In December 1957, I was promoted to sergeant (E-4) permanent. In 1958 pay grades changed from seven pay grades to nine pay grades and I went from permanent sergeant to acting sergeant. My DD-214 states my release as corporal (E-4). During that time we were committed to eight years of obligation. Mine was four active and four inactive. In 1963 my honorable discharge states I was discharged as sergeant (E-4).

Also, in 1958, obligatory service time went from eight years to six years and

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reservists could do six months active duty and 5½ years active reserve.

It appears that some veterans like to note they were Marines for eight years such as 1955 to 1963, but only four were active.

From 1955 to 1957, I served in 81 Mortars in a Weapons Company but I believe Weapons Co was dissolved and 81s became part of H&S Co. Later Weapons Co was brought back.

As part of Guard Co at Parris Island, S.C., I often folded the flag, always with 48 stars; I did not do a 50-star flag folding.

Cpl Ed Grenke
Gilford, N.H.

Two MOH for Same Action

I was doing some research and came upon the name Corporal John Pruitt. He was a World War I Marine who was awarded two Medals of Honor. Two very interesting facts emerged during the research. It appears that both medals were awarded for the same action and one medal was awarded by the U.S. Army and the other by the U.S. Navy. This is highly unusual. Is there any explanation as to why Cpl Pruitt received both? I find this piece of Marine Corps history very interesting.

Army Medal of Honor: Rank and



Cpl John Pruitt received two Medals of Honor for the same action at Blanc Mont Ridge, France, Oct. 3, 1918. He died the next day, his 22nd birthday.



COURTESY OF STEVE DUMOVICH

Organization: Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, 78th Company, 6th Regiment (Marines), 2d Division, American Expeditionary Forces. Place and Date: At Blanc Mont Ridge, France; Oct. 3, 1918. Entered Service at: Phoenix, Arizona. Born: October 4, 1896, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

General Orders: War Department, General Orders No. 62 (May 10, 1919).

Citation: "Pruitt single-handedly attacked two machine guns, capturing them and killing two of the enemy. He then captured 40 prisoners in a dugout nearby. This gallant Marine was killed

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soon afterward by shellfire while he was sniping at the enemy.”

Navy Medal of Honor: Pruitt, John Henry, Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, 78th Company, 6th Regiment.

Citation: “For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy at Blanc Mont Ridge, France, October 3, 1918. Corporal Pruitt single-handedly attacked two machine guns, capturing them and killing two of the enemy. He then captured 40 prisoners in a dugout nearby. This gallant soldier was killed soon afterward by shellfire while he was sniping the enemy.”

Steve Dumovich
USMC, 1964-1970
Collinsville, Texas

• *Cpl Pruitt was one of five enlisted Marines who initially received the Army's Medal of Honor and were subsequently approved for the Navy MOH by a special board of awards convened by Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels on March 6, 1919.—Editor*

Thosath Twins

The article “Chosin Twins: The Service and Sacrifice of the Thosath Family,” in the June edition of *Leatherneck* was the

most emotional article I have ever read in my 40-plus years as a subscriber to the magazine. It had me in tears.

Sgt Lloyd Stimson
USMC, 1953-1957
Fort Washington, Md.

In reference to the article “Chosin Twins,” in the June issue and the photo of Platoon 1208 with drill instructors Corporal E.C. Harkins and Private First Class C.R. Watson. They were also in charge of my platoon, Platoon 982, which graduated on Dec. 24, 1943.

It is possible that Platoon 1208 started training on Monday, Dec. 26.

Some time during boot camp the DI told us if we volunteered for the Marine Raiders we would stay together. There were eight of us from Massachusetts who had been in the V-12 program at Dartmouth so we did just that.

On Christmas day, along with quite a few others, we arrived at Raider camp on the northern end of Camp Pendleton. In early 1944, the Raiders were disbanded, and we became members of the 5th Marine Division. One man from our group went to the 28th Regiment, another to Headquarters Bn, and six of us went into 2nd Battalion, 27th Regiment.

[continued on page 66]

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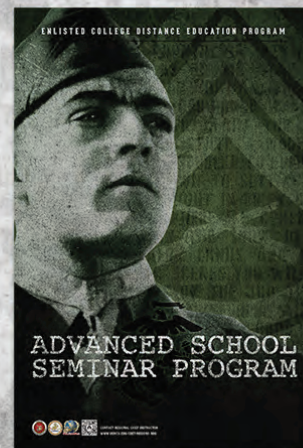
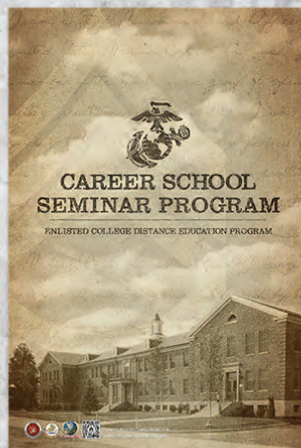
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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



SGT ADWIN ESTERS, USMC

Marine Sgt Jordan Becker offloads a generator from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in Haiti with the help of Brazilian servicemembers during relief operations following Hurricane Matthew's landfall in the Caribbean in October 2016. MARFORSOUTH is currently making progress toward the establishment of a multinational task force to help address future threats and disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

MIAMI, FLA.

A Collective Approach: Marines Work Toward Task Force With Partners in Latin America

Personnel, aircraft and equipment from key partner nations working shoulder to shoulder while serving together in a multinational amphibious task force within maritime areas of Latin America and the Caribbean—this is what the future looks like in the minds of Marines and Sailors from U.S. Marine Corps Forces South and several other regional military forces.

“Given the complex threats spanning the Western Hemisphere, it is impossible to establish true security and rule of law without a comprehensive, multinational maritime strategy,” said Major General David G. Bellon, Commanding General, MARFORSOUTH. “To be effective, this strategy must incorporate all of our countries working together to deter trans-regional crime and mitigate the human suffering caused by natural disasters.”

In a time of competing requirements around the world, the staff of MARFORSOUTH recognizes that no single military service or nation has the resources required to successfully address all the threats and disasters that can affect the Western Hemisphere. It will take the efforts of multiple countries in the region to counter the destructive impact of natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes, as well as man-made crises ranging from illegal commercial fishing to illicit trafficking in narcotics and dangerous materiel, according to MajGen Bellon.

“The United States and several other nations, including Brazil, Colombia and Chile, are already committing training teams to partners in Central America in order to grow regional security capabilities and foster the rule of law,” said MajGen Bellon. “However, this effort is at best coordination and de-confliction; it isn’t synchronization or integration. Collectively we must increase our col-

laborative efforts and information sharing to gain efficiencies and better address the requests and needs of our partners,” he added.

U.S. Marines took the first steps in taking the vision of a multinational task force from concept to reality this year when a Colombian Naval Infantry officer, Lieutenant Colonel Erick H. Del Rio, became a member of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Southern Command. This multifunctional organization builds security force capabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean through recurrent training events. It is also trained and equipped to provide timely response to natural disasters and other crisis situations.

“LtCol Del Rio is positively impacting how we think about regional security,” said Tony Abati, the MARFORSOUTH plans director. “His intellect and thought-provoking suggestions will energize our ongoing evolution to integrated, multi-

national action against pressuring security problems. Over the next few years, we desire to see Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Mexico follow suit, adding their talented personnel and versatile operational capabilities to the growing core of a true, multinational amphibious task force.”

Getting a partner nation officer on the staff of SPMAGTF-SC is only the beginning. Later this year, U.S. Marines and regional naval infantry leaders will gather in Brazil to conduct UNITAS Amphibious 2018—a tabletop exercise that focuses on planning humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities. Tabletop exercises don’t involve actual movements of troops, ships or aircraft. Instead, they focus on scenario-based discussions and contingency planning.

“Brazil will lead the way during the 2018 tabletop exercise, enabling multiple nations to work together on likely disaster scenarios,” said MajGen Bellon. “They are also looking at converting UNITAS Amphibious 2019 from a scripted exercise to a real-world capability event. Such an exercise would involve loading and deploying ships with humanitarian relief capabilities, command and control assets and a multinational force that can provide timely assistance in the event of another hurricane strike in the Caribbean, for example. This would be a major shift away from traditional exercise planning and execution—a positive shift that Brazil’s leadership is causing to occur.”

Adding multinational assets to SPMAGTF-SC and changing the way regional partners conduct exercises will transform the way the participating nations collectively address regional security.

“As we look to the future, we see partners like Brazil, Colombia and Chile leading the way to an eventual multinational amphibious task force that can provide security training, humanitarian assistance and disaster response to our friends and partners in the region,” said MajGen Bellon. “This task force and associated collaboration are key pieces to our shared security future.”

GySgt Zachary Dyer, USMC

HAWAII

As Volcano Erupts, Marines Are On Standby

Marines remained on standby to evacuate residents via CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters in areas heavily affected by the eruption of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, May 25.

“The only way to get these people out of specific affected areas is by air,” said Major David J. Bacht, the executive officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 463. “53s are an ideal



Sgt Jesse Godsey, an avionics technician with HMH-463, conducts maintenance checks on a CH-53E at Hilo International Airport, Hawaii, May 27. The squadron was on standby for possible evacuation of civilians affected by the Kilauea volcano eruption. (Photo by PFC Trevor Rowett, USMC)



Volcanic fissures spurt out lava and toxic gas in Pahoa, Hawaii, May 25. Leathernecks of III MEF were on hand to assist with relief efforts as needed. (Photo by PFC Trevor Rowett, USMC)

platform for that, with a capacity to move a large amount of people in a short amount of time.”

The Marines arrived at Hilo International Airport on May 22 to join Joint Task Force-50 in relief efforts. Each aircraft can hold up to 43 passengers.

“... They asked me if I wanted to go and I immediately said yes,” said Sergeant Jose Tarango, a flight equipment technician with HMH-463. “I was pretty excited to get out here and get things done.”

HMH-463 conducted preparatory procedures upon their arrival and remained ready to move at a moment’s notice. The Marines worked in 12-hour shifts, day and night, waiting for the call to evacuate residents in affected areas.

“I love it,” said Corporal John Monegro, an avionics technician with HMH-463. “Instead of just training we’re actually doing something that could save peoples’ lives.”

PFC Trevor Rowett, USMC

OKINAWA, JAPAN

MRZR Air Drop Improves Expeditionary Capability

Marines with 3rd Marine Logistics Group and 3rd Force Reconnaissance Team dropped a Polaris MRZR4-900, a gas-powered combat vehicle, from a KC-130J Super Hercules for the first time as part of regularly scheduled training on Ie Shima, Okinawa, Japan, May 22.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Mulvey, the commanding officer of 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, the training validated the effectiveness of the rigging platform for the Polaris MRZR and trained the unit on safe and proper ways to handle the equipment.

The Polaris MRZR features an agile off-road design that can be used for missions ranging from rapid personnel deployment to command and control and casualty evacuation to supply transport missions.

"This is just another option that is available to the [Marine Air-Ground Task Force] commander on how to deliver equipment and sustain the warfighter," Mulvey said. "It opens up the spectrum of capabilities that he is able to employ."

During the training, Marines with 3rd Transportation Support Bn, CLR-3, worked with Marines from 3rd Force Recon Team, 3rd Recon Bn, 3rd Marine Division.

"This drop shows the expeditionary capability of the reconnaissance community and its increasing ability to operate in a deeper battlespace. This drop

is being used as progression to validating the MRZR as more than just a logistics/resupply vehicle, but also an infiltration platform and a command and control platform in support of reconnaissance operations," said a company commander with 3rd Force Recon during the training. "The next step will be to integrate it into high altitude, high opening parachute operations, making its support to our operations even more versatile and expeditionary."

Landing Support Company, 3rd TSB is the only unit within III Marine Expeditionary Force that maintains a large-scale air drop capability. Its Marines have the ability to deliver heavy equipment, as well as vehicles and pallets weighing more than 4,000 pounds, in both garrison and combat environments.

The parachutes used to conduct the cargo drops were designed with holes to reduce time in the air and to land accurately in the drop zone. Regular parachutes delay the time it takes for an asset to reach the ground because they don't allow for smooth air flow during the landing process. The main purpose of the modified parachutes is to augment deployed units in areas that may have enemy forces nearby.

The drop zones used for the training were specifically chosen based on surveys that are conducted every five years. The surveys ensure that the zone is sufficient in size and free of hazards affecting the Marines or the surrounding community.

"Each piece of equipment has a detailed

weight manual that tells our air delivery specialists how to prepare the equipment for safe delivery," said Mulvey. "The planning began with the vision that 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion had when they decide they wanted to try to drop this vehicle for a follow-on deployment by their reconnaissance teams."

One of the missions of the training was to test the unit's ability to accurately drop the MRZR from a KC-130J and assess the vehicle after it landed. After dropping the MRZR, 3rd TSB Marines jumped from the aircraft on a static line at 700 feet and later conducted high altitude freefalls from 13,000 feet.

"It was a great learning opportunity for our [Marines]," said Sergeant Brenden Tuxbury, a jumpmaster and air delivery specialist with 3rd TSB.

Tuxbury said the Marines enjoyed every second they jumped through the sky and trained.

"I wouldn't change my job for anything in the world," said Corporal Logan Horn, an air delivery specialist with 3rd TSB. "The opportunity to work with reconnaissance and to help them with the jump was an amazing opportunity."

Mulvey said his Marines appreciated the Japanese government's willingness to allow the units to conduct the tests on the island of Ie Shima.

"It's one of the only areas that the unit can get to in a short amount of time and practice the procedures that allow us to fight tonight and win," said Mulvey.

PFC Mark Fike, USMC



CPL JOSHUA PINKNEY, USMC

A Polaris MRZR remains rigged to a pallet after being dropped from a KC-130J Super Hercules on Ie Shima, Okinawa, Japan, May 22. The gas-powered combat vehicle was one of multiple air drops that Marines with 3rd MLG and 3rd Recon Bn conducted during a regularly scheduled training evolution.

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PA.

Red Dagger: Unique Tasking Tests U.S., British Reservists

Marines with 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve and British commandos with 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, British Army Reserve, packed their bags and returned to their home units after the conclusion of the two-week Exercise Red Dagger at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., May 25.

This year's exercise was the fifth iteration of the bilateral training between 6th ESB and 131 Commando Squadron RE.

"The fact that we have integrated the Marines and commandos has really given us a chance to work closely with the USMC," said Second Lieutenant David A. Grant of the British Army. "It has been great for me to learn from an active-duty Marine and vice versa. The team dynamic that we have between the Marines and commandos has been influential to share experience and knowledge."

Overall, the goal was to conduct a series of ranges, defensive military operations



SN DARY M. PATTEN, USN

FAST ROPING—A Marine assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit fast-ropes from the back of an MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 (Reinforced) on the flight deck of the *Wasp*-class amphibious assault ship *USS Iwo Jima* (LHD-7), May 5. *Iwo Jima* is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of maritime security operations to preserve the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in the region.

on urban terrain (MOUT) scenarios and engineer projects to meet critical ESB mission-essential tasks while partnered with coalition forces.

“The first week started off with some infantry tactics,” said First Lieutenant Spencer P. Lamb, a platoon commander with Headquarters and Service Company, 6th ESB. “We did the pistol range and tables five and six of the rifle range. Then we moved into the MOUT town with urban warfare infantry tactics.”

During the first week of training, the Marines and commandos conducted multiple ranges—including a night range—and different scenarios within the MOUT structures. As Marines and commandos worked together as one force in the scenarios, members of Pennsylvania’s Air National Guard played the opposing force.

“We had to figure out what tactics we were operating from in order to be on the same song sheet,” said British Army Staff Sergeant Callum M. Crowe. “It’s been fantastic building a relationship with the Marines and I feel that we have integrated well throughout the training.”

Week two of Red Dagger was targeted toward the specialties of the combat

engineers. Three different construction sites consisted of constructing a bunker at a local range by digging trenches and moving cement blocks around wooden framed structures; installing flooring and repairing roofing in a warehouse; and putting up siding and completing the insulation on an old World War II-era barracks.

Before the Marines and commandos could start at their designated construction site, they had to attend a mandatory Sapper training class.

“My job was to set up and start the Sapper school,” said Crowe. “The Sapper school was one full day of training on how to properly use the power tools and equipment required for each task site. We wanted to make sure everyone was comfortable using the dangerous items such as the nail gun, jig saw and circular saw.”

Although the exercise had some difficulties, the Marines and commandos were able to come up with solutions and work past these problems with ease.

“There were some hiccups with timing and efficiency,” said Grant. “Much of this was out of our hands due to weather



During Exercise Red Dagger, reserve Marines with 6th ESB and British commandos with 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, British Army, clear a building in the MOUT structure at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., May 17. (Photo by Sgt Melanie Wolf, USMC)



LCpl Caleb J. Malone, left, and LCpl Matthew P. Winter, right, combat engineers with 6th ESB, cut plywood with a circular saw at a construction site during Exercise Red Dagger at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., May 23.

Lance Corporal Luis Da Luz, a hazardous material (HAZMAT) entry team technician with ARFF. "It is important that we know how to respond to incidents like this because we are very close to the San Diego population."

This exercise gave Marines and first responders a chance to rehearse and evaluate their incident command protocols, first responder immediate actions, communication protocols, and incident command interface with an emergency operations center and orchestrate cooperation among MCAS Miramar's first responders.

Military police officers with PMO contributed to the exercise by posting security around the contaminated area. The air station's fire department performed technical decontamination operations on the HAZMAT response team, further preventing the spread of the disease.

"These Marines are properly trained and ready for any incident or emergency that pops up," said Sergeant Travis Atkinson with ARFF, who acted as a station captain during the exercise. "They are well equipped and qualified for whatever HAZMAT situation that could possibly take place on this base."

Cpl Jake McClung, USMC



conditions. Overall, I think the exercise was a success, especially since the platoons took the initiative to fill any time gaps wisely and practice what they needed to work on."

With plans to keep this exercise going, it is important to hear feedback from the participants of the exercise and what they would like to see for future iterations.

"Next time around, I would personally like to see more combat engineer-specific missions to accomplish, such as constructing mobility and counter-mobility positions and techniques as opposed to various small construction tasks," said Lamb.

Relationships were built and interoperability was improved, making it a successful iteration of Red Dagger for all servicemembers involved.

"I think it has been a very beneficial relationship," said Lamb. "We have learned different terminologies and techniques from the commandos. We now have a different perspective on how we view mundane activities and we really started to see their perspective on accomplishing the task at hand. The Marines and commandos have really worked well together and learned to communicate and complete tasks on time."

Sgt Melanie Wolf, USMCR

MIRAMAR, CALIF. HAZMAT Exercise Preps Miramar For Bioterrorism Response

Marines and first responders with Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), the Provost Marshal's Office and MCAS Miramar Fire Department conducted a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) threat exercise at

MCAS Miramar, Calif., May 17.

The exercise simulated a bioterrorism attack on MCAS Miramar using Tularemia, a disease to which both animals and humans are susceptible.

According to Master Sergeant Marcos Martinez, the staff noncommissioned officer for ARFF, this exercise was important because it allowed cooperating units to improve response times, validate standard operating procedures and achieve annual training requirements.

"During the exercise, we took samples from all of the dry filter units and they came back positive for Tularemia," said



PFC Connor Mize, a HAZMAT entry team technician with ARFF, douses LCpl Luis Da Luz with a fire hose during the decontamination process of a CBRNE threat exercise at MCAS Miramar, Calif., May 17.



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Lieutenant General Lori Reynolds

The Corps' Senior Female Marine Continues To Blaze New Trails

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

As the Corps celebrates the centennial of the first woman joining its ranks, the stark differences between the opportunities for Opha May Johnson, who enlisted in 1918, and female Marines today are clearly evident. Lieutenant General Loretta E. “Lori” Reynolds is perhaps the best example of the distance female Marines have traveled in the last 100 years. The Corps’ senior communicator, Reynolds’ service has been marked with opportunities and accomplishments that Opha May could only dream of.

Reynolds’ recent promotion to the grade of lieutenant general for assignment as the Deputy Commandant for Information

can be attributed in part to the female Marines who have opened doors for their sisters in arms over the last several decades, but it is her record of service and significant accomplishments in a variety of challenging billets that have resulted in Lori Reynolds pinning on a third star.

The youngest of five daughters and a graduate of an all-girls Catholic high school, Midshipman 4/C Reynolds entered the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., in the fall of 1982. The male-dominated environment was especially different for Reynolds and she was one of only two women from her class to join the Marine Corps; in contrast, the recently graduated class of 2018 had 33

women receive their commissions as Marine second lieutenants.

LtGen Reynolds cites two influences on her decision to choose the Marine Corps more than 30 years ago when so few other women made a similar decision. “My granddad was a Vietnam Marine,” she said. “He was an EOD tech. He had stories about meeting John Wayne at the runway in Da Nang.” Her family would visit her grandfather in North Carolina where he lived after he retired from Camp Lejeune. “That’s how I came to understand what the Marine Corps was all about—through him.”

Her interest in the Marine Corps was only heightened while she was a mid-



CPL JULIEN RODARTE, USMC

Capt Amanda Anderson, the communication strategy and operations officer for Marine Forces Cyberspace Command, and SgtMaj Daniel Krause, Sergeant Major, Marine Forces Cyberspace Command, pin grade insignia on LtGen Lori Reynolds. She was promoted to the grade of lieutenant general during a change of command ceremony at Fort Meade, Md., on July 2, and assumed the duties of Deputy Commandant for Information on July 3.



BGen Lori E. Reynolds, CG, MCRD Parris Island, and Eastern Recruiting Region, addresses the families of the newest graduating Marines during a morning colors ceremony aboard Parris Island, Dec. 16, 2011.

LCPL ANESHEA YEE, USMC

shipman. “I think what really influenced me at the academy was the Marine officers that I met,” Reynolds said, “They just were different. I think every body else is drawn to a culture. People represent that culture.”

Choosing the Comm MOS

Reynolds’ future as the senior Marine communicator began with her choice of military occupational specialty (MOS) at The Basic School when she opted for communications. “I picked it because nobody else wanted it. I was drawn to comm because at that point you know your vision is only this far—I wanted to be a platoon commander. I wanted to be able to go do something, take my Marines to the field.” The future general wasn’t thinking long term. “Nobody ever taught me to think about command or anything like that. That’s why to me it’s just a total ‘God thing’ that I’m still serving.” Reynolds added, “I thought nobody else wanted it. So I thought, ‘Well, I’ll get my first choice.’ ” Looking back, she said, “I got so lucky. I mean if I was sitting in an aviation maintenance job or some job that didn’t lead to command ... I just got so lucky.”

Like many Marines, she had no firm



COURTESY OF MAJGEN LORI REYNOLDS, USMC

Above: In 1995, Capt Reynolds was a staff platoon commander at Officer Candidates School.

Below: LtCol Reynolds is with her personal security detail in Iraq in 2004 during her assignment as the commanding officer of 9th Comm Bn.



COURTESY OF MAJGEN LORI REYNOLDS, USMC

goal for her career in the Marine Corps. “You know you join the Corps and think are you good enough to stay in? I didn’t come in thinking that I was going to be a ‘five and out’ [Naval Academy graduates incur a five-year active-duty obligation at the time of commissioning]. My vision was, if I like it, I’m going to stay. That’s still my vision. And it’s been 32 years.”

Commanding Marines in Both Iraq and Afghanistan

It’s been a highly successful, and in many ways, groundbreaking 32 years. LtGen Reynolds was the first female Marine to command Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., a distinction that resonates with most Marines, but she sees her accomplishment as the first female Marine to “own battlespace” as the most significant. Reynolds served as the commanding officer of I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group (I MHG) from 2010-2012 and took the MHG to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is quick to point out that the Corps wasn’t looking for a woman to fill the billet. “It’s not that the Marine Corps was deliberate about it. It just happened. And finally we had gotten to the point where it just happened.”

Her outstanding record, including commanding 9th Communications Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq from February 2004 to March 2005, was the reason it “just happened.”

“And to me that’s a first for the Marine Corps, not for me. It wasn’t a result of anything else but the Marine Corps evolving,” said LtGen Reynolds.

Reynolds has had the privilege of commanding Marines at every grade; her MOS credibility is second to none. She served in both the ground combat element and the aviation combat element as a company grade officer; as a platoon commander in 1st Marine Division’s Communications Company and as a detachment commander in Marine Wing Communications Squadron 18. Reynolds later commanded a company in 9th Communications Battalion and served as a project officer at the Marine Corps Systems Command, working primarily on communications security systems. Her favorite tour saw her return to 9th Communications Bn in 2003, but this time as the commanding officer. The battalion spent more than a year in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during her tenure. “Ninth Comm Bn was kind of a dream. Being able to take that battalion to combat. We did a lot of things well as a team. I felt like when I turned that battalion over to 8th Comm Bn in Fallujah, there was nothing more I could have done for them.”



CPL LINDSAY SAVERS, USMC

LtCol Christopher L. Naler, CO, Brigade Headquarters Group transfers command authority to Col Lori E. Reynolds, CO, I MEF Headquarters Group at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 23, 2010.

Lessons Learned on Recruiting Duty

But it was her time on recruiting duty as the commanding officer of Recruiting Station Harrisburg, Pa., that taught her the most. “I learned more about myself on recruiting but it was grueling. I thought I was going to get fired,” Reynolds said, and she wasn’t kidding. “There were a lot of dark days on recruiting. Recruiting is one of those things where you learn more about leadership. I had 44 canvassing recruiters and every single one of them required something different from me and trying to figure out what that was and then having the emotional energy to give it to

them. But there hasn’t been a day since then that I haven’t used something that I learned on recruiting duty.”

Reynolds remembered the words of a senior Marine she served with on recruiting duty. “We had a sergeant major in 4th District who said recruiting duty unmask the imposters. And he’s exactly right. If you have a weakness, you will find it on recruiting duty. And it will challenge you ethically. It will challenge your stamina, it will challenge your faith. I believe that every person has that significant emotional event in their career where the lightbulb goes off and they go, ‘Now I get it.’ And that happened

Below: BGen Lori Reynolds, CG, MCRD Parris Island, left, and SgtMaj Gary Buck, Sergeant Major, MCRD Parris Island, right, stand at the position of attention as “The Marines’ Hymn” is played during a morning colors ceremony aboard Parris Island.

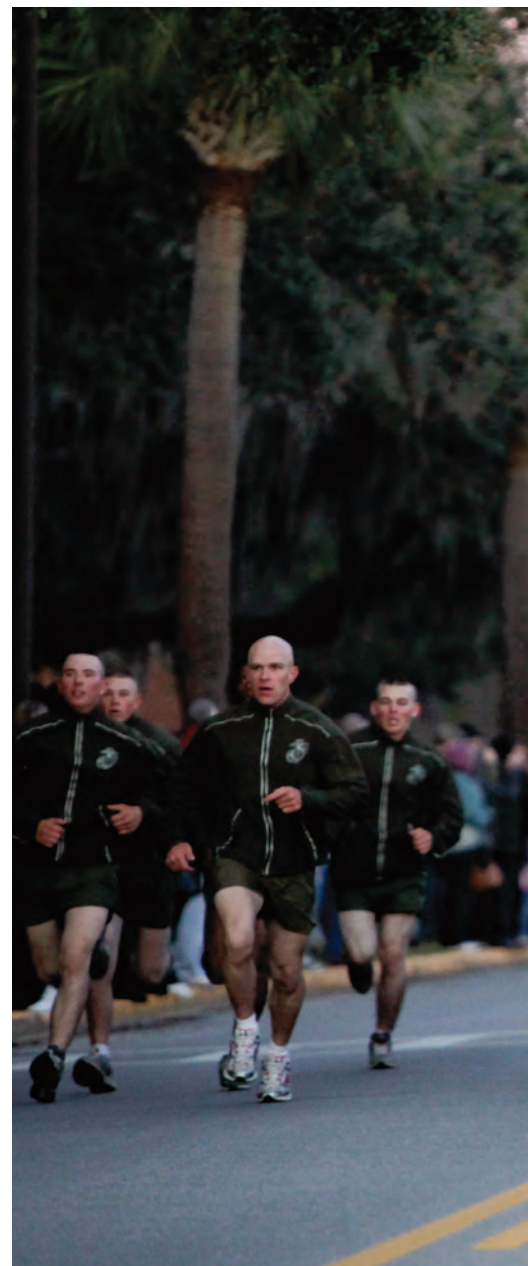


LCPL ANESHEA YEE, USMC



MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND

MajGen Lori E. Reynolds discusses how the sea services are devoting increased resources to cyber warfare at the 2018 Sea Air Space exposition in April at National Harbor, Md.



for me on recruiting duty. I wish it had happened earlier. I would have been a much better platoon commander if I had known where these kids came from and what they would do. We would have had different conversations with them about their career aspirations.”

MarForCyber

Her current assignment as Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command puts Reynolds on the cutting edge of the latest warfighting domain, and the challenges and responsibility are unceasing. “It’s funny we’re talking about recruiting. One of the things that I always regret about my time on recruiting duty is that I never felt like I could unburden my Marines from the mission. And I feel the same way at MarForCyber. You wish you could give them a day off every once in a while, but you can’t because there’s so

BGen Lori Reynolds leads the motivational run with recruits at MCRD Parris Island, Jan. 19, 2012.



LCPL CODY A. FODALE, USMC

much work to do. So much work to do to modernize, from the network perspective to the delivery of cyber effects—it's such a new domain, we're just still trying to figure out how to be efficient and how to get authorities when we need them. It's just a lot of work to be done. But it's moving so fast; it's fascinating because things are happening so quickly now."

Her concern for her Marines and MarForCyber's ability to accomplish this mission in the future is clearly evident. "What keeps me awake at night is how we're going to take care of these Marines so that we retain them and give them what they're worth—just amazing talent." Looking to the future, she continued, "I would like to get to the point where we're actually going to create a different tribe. We have the MOS now which is a huge win. It's a good step in the right direction. You have cyber, comm, intel, maybe 7200

[air command and control]. You bring in the command and control experts, bring those all together in a way that people are spending careers thinking about the kinds of things that we're trying to do now. And all of them are warfighters as well. I don't think we're there yet but we'll get there and it won't take us that long."

Serving as the MarForCyber commander has helped prepare the general for her next assignment as the Deputy Commandant for Information and Commander, Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command. The promotion to serve as one of the Corps' most senior Marines comes with a third star, an achievement only two female Marines have accomplished before her. Looking back over her more than three decades in the Corps, the general believes that the recent lifting of restrictions on female Marines is probably the biggest change she has seen, but she is pragmatic

by nature and knows that challenges remain. "Obviously it's progress," said Reynolds, "but what I worry about moving forward is that we continue to have this discussion, 'are they good enough to meet the male standard?' and we're missing the value of what women bring." She believes that the Corps of the 21st century should also focus on the unique attributes female Marines possess. "Why don't we start thinking about where women bring the value to the Marine Corps? We just don't talk about it. It's as if there isn't anything. And that's what I think we're missing." Her experience on both recruiting duty and at the recruit depot was evident as she discussed what the Corps can do to prepare young female Marines for success. "What we're trying to do when they come to us is get them ready to make a career with us. We're trying to give them the skills. We're not trying to make them



COURTESY OF MAJGEN LORI REYNOLDS, USMC

As the CO of 9th Comm Bn, LtCol Lori Reynolds deployed with the battalion to Camp Fallujah, Iraq in 2004.

men; we're trying to meet a standard so that they can use their best skills that they bring to the fight. So this is what we can teach them.

"A friend of mine teaches at NDU [National Defense University]. They were having a discussion and [part of the discussion on women in the military included], there's the 'can they now run an 18-minute boundary and do 20 pull-ups?' But one lieutenant colonel says, 'When I was deployed to Afghanistan, I had a woman on my team and she was able to do things that my men couldn't do. So I'll carry her extra 10 pounds if she can do that for me.' And he's a big meateater kind of guy. Isn't that what we want? Don't we want everything that might be needed by the commander?'"

She is impressed with the young men and women joining the Corps today and notes that their confidence is something she didn't see when she was a young company grade officer. "I admire their willingness to walk up and say 'How did you do this?' We never would have walked up to a colonel, if we could even find one, or a general and say 'Will you mentor me?' Their self-confidence is light years ahead of where we were." But she is quick to point out that while the self-assurance of so many young Marines is admirable, other qualities are just as important in a leader. "I think confidence is good. But

if there's been one thing that has worked for me it is humility. I think especially as a woman you have to be willing to be vulnerable as a leader. And that's really tough but the only way you're ever going to build the team around you when you're in command is to show a little bit of vulnerability, to be willing to learn and listen, and say, 'I don't have the answer to that.'"

Memorable Days in the Corps

Reflecting on her decades of service, Reynolds especially enjoyed her time as the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. When asked what her best day in the Corps was, she was quick to respond. "I've had a lot of best days. I would say every Friday at Parris Island where we graduate five, six, seven hundred new Marines who absolutely think that their life has a purpose, a virtuous purpose. You know those are all good days." Her love for Parris Island was evident as she continued: "It's a wonderful place. Everybody is focused on the same goal. And it just brings you right back to the heart of what we do. The foundation of the all-volunteer force is trust. And so what we are doing at PI is to make sure that we are earning people's trust. It's that simple." There were numerous other good days for Reynolds including every time

she successfully accomplished the mission and turned over command. "I think every day I gave up command and felt like there was nothing more I could do—that would be a good day.

Memorial Day 2004 is etched in LtGen Reynolds' memory as her worst day in the Corps. Corporal Dustin L. Sides, a truck driver in 9th Communications Bn, was killed in action. "We lost Cpl Sides out in Fallujah; that was a bad day. We had a convoy that was moving from outside to Fallujah and they got right into an ambush in Hit, Iraq. It was Memorial Day, so he's the face of Memorial Day for me. It's one thing to lose a Marine. It's another thing to lose a Marine because they are doing something you ordered them to do."

As the Corps' senior female Marine, Reynolds often has been called upon to provide a woman's perspective or give advice and counsel on the role female Marines play in the Corps. Her measured, sage and objective counsel is a breath of fresh air when discussions get heated or contentious. Never one to react quickly and without thinking, Reynolds looks at problems from all angles. She has a clear understanding, born of experience, of the challenges female Marines face from the beginning of their time in the Corps. "It's a constant balance of fitting in and standing out."

She notes that examples of female Marines excelling are often absent when the Corps' history is told. "The war stories that we grew up with, the stories about our Corps; there aren't any stories about women. Chosin Reservoir, Iwo, you hear about Lieutenant Bobo." She went on, "You know, every Marine comes in and thinks 'Will I ever be that good? Can I earn it?' You earn the title every day. But for a woman I think it's even harder because you say 'OK, I don't want to be an impostor. I don't want to run around and just wear the title that somebody else earned!' " But like every Marine, they get to the point where the light goes on. "You understand enough and you have confidence enough that you are bringing value to the team. Because it is a comparison. You're constantly comparing yourself to people, comparing yourself to history, you're comparing yourself to your peers—because you just want to be good enough."

As clearly demonstrated by her decades of exemplary service, LtGen Reynolds is far more than just "good enough." From combat to the recruit depot, whether leading communicators, cyber or infantry Marines, Lori Reynolds has excelled wherever the Marine Corps has sent her and is an outstanding choice as the next Deputy Commandant for Information. 🐯

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A Place at the Table: Conversations with Women In the Corps

By Mary D. Karcher

I imagine this scene: In the dining room of the Home of the Commandants, the portrait of Archibald Henderson gazes down on a table set for a dozen people. A historian studies the place cards, which reveal the names of female Marines who served from 1918 to 2018. Recalling the story of how Henderson's portrait fell off the wall in 1942 at the moment General Thomas Holcomb was asked what he thought about allowing women in the Corps, the historian smiles and says aloud, "Sir, you'll be quite proud of these Marines!"

Who are the Marines the historian has assembled from various decades to meet face to face? They are women who have made a difference in the Marine Corps over a 100-year span.

While we cannot create such a dinner party, our table is not quite so hypothetical. A voice at the table is arguably the position many women *have achieved* in the 21st century Marine Corps, which might surprise our dinner party guests. Undoubtedly, the women who paved the way for today's Marines would be interested in their accomplishments, ambition and integration into many areas that previously had been designated for male Marines only. And the Marines of more recent decades would appreciate the dedication of the early female Marines, who volunteered to serve their country at a time when such an idea was foreign to the traditional roles of women.

As *Leatherneck* salutes female Marines, from the first women recruited for state-side clerical duty during World War I in 1918, to the leathernecks serving in aviation and infantry billets a century later in 2018, we offer conversations with a few good Marines. With respect to women's roles, today's Marine Corps has evolved considerably in the past hundred years. Women have moved from a purely clerical role to serving in any role for which they meet the standards, including combat arms. These women not only have a place at the table, they have earned a voice at the table by exceeding standards.

Reinvent Yourself

Laura L. Brown discovered what a "recruiter" was when a friend signed up to go into the military. That day Brown walked to the recruiter's office after school and enlisted in the Marine Corps. She would serve 31 years in the Corps, retiring as a sergeant major in 2014.

For her first 14 years, Brown worked in financial management, what was then known as "disbursing." It was a good match for her skills and talents. "I've always been a very meticulous person. I want to know why things are the way they are," she said. To put her work in perspective, however, it's important to recognize the challenges of disbursing in 1984 before computers existed. "It was hard work! I was in the Marine Corps when they had yellow pay cards. You used a calculator, did things manually and with your brain. You used a pencil!"

Her aspiration, even as a young private first class, however, was to be a sergeant major. Initially it was not because she emulated a particular person; it was because of a compelling image in a magazine. "There was a sergeant major sitting at a desk and the desk was humongous! I remember looking at him and saying, 'What does he do? I'm going to be him someday.'" So she kept

**"You have to learn to reinvent
yourself and navigate relationships and
figure out where you fit in."
—SgtMaj Laura L. Brown, USMC (Ret)**



SgtMaj Laura L. Brown greets the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, at the 2013 Modern Day Marine Parade and Expo while serving as Base Sergeant Major, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. When Brown retired in 2014, she had served 31 years in the Corps.

SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHANS, USMC



CPL JOSEPH KARWICK, USMC

SgtMaj Laura L. Brown, serving as Marine Corps University Enlisted Professional Military Education Adviser in 2014, explains the principles of the Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar in the Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans auditorium. Brown was retained after retirement to develop and implement the seminar, which informed lance corporals of resources available to them and motivated them to succeed.

that image in her head as inspiration: “This is my path. I’m this leader and I’m this motivator and I’m going to be a sergeant major!”

When Brown attended Drill Instructor School as a young sergeant, she realized she had more to offer the Marine Corps. She had become comfortable in disbursing, but now was challenging herself to learn new skills. “You have to learn to reinvent yourself and navigate relationships and figure out where you fit in.” She learned the 14 leadership traits and how to network, how to motivate. “I learned in the Marine Corps, as long as you maintained your fitness level and can keep up with your male counterpart, that goes a long way. ... When people realize what you bring to the table, not because of your gender but because someone allowed you to be in the room and they realize [you’re] a smart individual, then they give you a seat at the table.” Brown became the 4th Recruit Training Battalion Drill Master and later, in 2006, she served as the battalion’s Sergeant Major.

Her career included deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II, as well as three humanitarian assistance/disaster relief deployments. She served as Sergeant Major of MAG-36 in Okinawa and Sergeant Major of Marine Corps Base Quantico. At the end of her career, SgtMaj Micheal Barrett, then-Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, asked her to retire/retain to become a project manager at the Marine Corps University to develop and implement the Lance Corporal Leadership Ethics Seminar.

Brown is currently in college pursuing a degree in public administration: “I just really want to help the underserved communities; I want to help them navigate a good life.” She belongs to the Alamo Detachment of the Marine Corps League and the Women Marines Association. As first vice president of WMA, Brown looks forward to attending the WMA Convention and Professional Development Conference in Washington, D.C., this Labor Day weekend.

The Epitome of a Motivator

Robin Fortner is the Sergeant Major, Marine Corps Systems Command, a position she earned through 28 years of duty in the Corps. She is at the stage in her career where experience and wisdom drive her to stay on active duty. That, and the importance of being visible to others as a leader. She says she still hears Marines say, “‘I never see a female sergeant major.’ I still get that to this day because there’s not very many of us; it’s important for them to see a woman at the table.” Besides, SgtMaj Fortner is happy where she is. The epitome of a motivator, Fortner clearly receives motivation herself by engaging with Marines.

Fortner attributes much of her accomplishments to others, primarily her mother and an NCO at her first unit. She was the daughter of a single mother, who taught her to always do her best. “I do believe a lot of strength and perseverance that I do have now comes from her,” said Fortner. Attending college placed a heavy financial burden on her mother, so after one year Fortner joined the Marine Corps, “without any real knowledge of what I was getting myself into.”

Fortunately, she is smart (she skipped eighth grade) and despite an overabundance of what she called “New York City mentality,” her NCOs inspired her to love being a Marine. One sergeant in particular taught her “strength, dignity, integrity; she instilled a work ethic ... she really did lay a lasting foundation.”

Meritoriously promoted several times, Fortner was selected to fill challenging roles. She served as a Primary Marksmanship Instructor in Weapons Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., training both male and female recruits in basic marksmanship, and subsequently earning the billet of chief instructor. As the only female instructor Fortner said, “That’s when it really hit me, where my gender mattered amongst a male-dominated section.” Following her mantra of



USMC

SgtMaj Robin C. Fortner served as the sergeant major of 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion in 2013-2014 soon after the battalion was reactivated and assigned to II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group. Fortner appreciated the challenge of forming the new battalion and leading Marines.

doing the best she could, Fortner said, “I stood my ground, physically and mentally. I’ve always been an academic student. I came out number one in the PMI class. Once you start doing those things, you’re breaking down barriers.”

Fortner is quick to add, “Those Marines from that PMI unit are some of my closest friends today. That has to be known.” She doesn’t dwell on others’ biases. Instead, she tries to “chisel

“Being around the Marine Corps has exposed me to so many different people. And that is a blessing. You realize we’re more alike than we are different.”

–SgtMaj Robin Fortner, USMC

away at bias” bit by bit until others can see the real person. She believes that the bond formed by overcoming differences can “form that union, that brotherhood; I think it’s stronger. You can accomplish more.” It’s not surprising that Fortner was hand-selected to be the sergeant major of a unit created to study gender integration into the combat arms.

In 2014 the Marine Corps stood up the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force to research and assess the integration of female Marines into combat arms units and Military Occupational Specialties (MOSS). After an intense training schedule in which the female Marines performed the same tactical tasks as their male counterparts, they participated in exercises to evaluate their physical performance in ground combat actions. Fortner said she witnessed the Marines “form a different type of bond, a brother/sisterhood type of bond” as they worked together.

In 2012 Fortner received the Megan McClung Leadership Award. Named for the dynamic public affairs officer who was killed in Iraq in 2006, the award commends “leadership skills and their contributions towards the tenets of civil and human rights, equal opportunity, human relations and public service.”

Fortner’s outlook is positive, and her enthusiasm for her Marines is strong. “Being around the Marine Corps has exposed me to so many different people. And that is a blessing. You realize we’re more alike than we are different. That’s the beauty of diversity.”



CPL PAUL S. MARTINEZ, USMC

SgtMaj Robin C. Fortner addresses Marines of the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force before a physical fitness session at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., in 2015. The GCEITF paved the way for the integration of women in combat roles by training and assessing Marines in a simulated operating environment performing ground combat arms tasks.



COURTESY OF COL JULIE L. NETHERCOT, USMC

LtCol Julie L. Nethercot, commanding officer of 9th Comm Bn, and SgtMaj Michael D. Brookman, the battalion's sergeant major, land in Forward Operating Base Delaram in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2010. The battalion deployed in support of Regional Command-Southwest/I Marine Expeditionary Force.

While Fortner chose the Corps some years ago, it wasn't until the Corps chose her that she felt transformed. "Even though you join, you learn the essence of being a Marine when it really gets stamped into your everyday living, your everyday thoughts. I think that's when they chose me ... once I got into the essence of what honor, courage and commitment really meant, then I believed I was chosen."

Perseverance, Grit, Resilience

As the Military Assistant to General Glenn M. Walters, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Colonel Julie Nethercot experiences a perspective of the Corps from the highest level, a view few people get to see. She describes her role as a chief-of-staff type whose "whole purpose in life is to make sure that not only is the ACMC successful, but that everybody who sees the ACMC has a successful engagement." She ensures that the ACMC is prepared for every meeting and facilitates the successful interaction between staff, speechwriters, aides, and those meeting with the ACMC. She attends every meeting and travels worldwide as the ACMC schedule demands.

The pace is swift, but controlled. "Every day is a learning experience," Nethercot said. "I'm eyes open, read everything I can because his portfolio is very, very large and spans every aspect of the Marine Corps ... It's a great opportunity to see how the larger Marine Corps works."

Nethercot calls upon experiences from her 25 years of service to successfully meet her current responsibilities. With a background

as a communications officer and a planner, she has commanded at the platoon, company, and battalion levels, as well as served as the CO of Recruiting Station Frederick, Md., and Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Va.

When Nethercot was the commanding officer of 9th Communications Battalion in 2010, the battalion had the opportunity to select and train Marines for Female Engagement Teams (FET) for full-time assignment to infantry units in Afghanistan. Since cultural restrictions prevented male Marines from interacting with Afghan women, these teams provided outreach to the communities, while receiving valuable information from the trust earned of the local women. Therefore, the FET's impact was strategic in nature, according to Nethercot. They went "beyond the vehicle searches and personnel searches ... learning the people, learning the population. What we would say is 'they had all the respect given to men, but the access given to women.'"

Nethercot's wide-ranging experience as a leader resulted in her selection as the executive officer for the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, which conducted gender-neutral training and assessment to prepare for female integration into combat units.

Especially notable in Nethercot's achievements in the Corps

**"Every day is a learning experience.
I'm eyes open, read everything I can"
—Col Julie Nethercot, USMC**

“Being a Marine seemed like the hardest, coolest thing I could do and no one expected that I could do it. ... Flying Cobras seemed like one of the coolest, perfect things I could do, so I decided to do that, too.”—LtCol Jeannette Haynie, USMCR

is her selection to be commander of the Officer Candidates School in 2015, becoming the first woman CO in the school’s 125-year history. With its purpose to screen, select and train leaders, OCS had “very little to change at its core mission, so I focused on the margins.” She focused on three areas: improving the outreach to potential candidates, enhancing the “unity of effort” among the staff to embody the school’s motto “Ductus Exemplo” (Leadership by Example), and familiarizing the candidates’ families with the Corps. Recalling her own experience at OCS, she said it was surreal to look out on the parade field from the CO’s office, but she never lost sight of the “blessing of being selected and the weight of being the caretaker of what is one of the foundational elements of our Corps.”

In addition to Marine Corps leadership principles, she attributes her success to attitude and teamwork. She believes one can accomplish so much more with a positive attitude: “Challenges become opportunities because of your ability to see options. If you infuse that into a unit of Marines, there is nothing they can’t accomplish. It all starts with the leaders, their attitude and character.”



COURTESY OF LT COL JEANNETTE A. HAYNIE, USMCR

1stLt Jeannette A. Haynie at a Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) during Exercise Cobra Gold 2002 in Thailand while serving with the aviation combat element of the 31st MEU.



Captains Jeannette A. Haynie and Derek Crousore, AH-1W Super Cobra pilots, stand on the deck of USS Essex (LHD-2) in 2004, deployed with HMLA-369 in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Haynie’s Ph.D. in international relations, which explored gender and state security, was an outgrowth of her experience as a female pilot in the Marine Corps. (Photo courtesy of LtCol Jeannette A. Haynie, USMCR)

“For me, it’s about people, and it always has been,” Nethercot said. “If you have good interpersonal skills, and you know how to build a good team, that translates regardless of whether you’re leading a fire team or you’re leading a battalion of Marines ... Yes, it’s the business of warfighting, but it’s also a people business. How you treat one another and how you mentor and coach and talk to one another really makes a big difference on whether you’re successful on the field of battle and whether your Marines respect you and trust you with their lives.”

The strength of Nethercot’s character comes from her Midwestern roots. Her blue-collar working parents instilled in her the value of hard work, preparation and doing her homework, she said. “That’s really it: the Midwest work ethic. I pick things up quickly, but really it’s just perseverance, grit and resilience,” she said, adding, “Really I’m just scrappy.” Humor appears to be her strong suit, as well.

Ask Questions. Dig Deep. Dream Big.

Lieutenant Colonel Jeannette Haynie, USMCR, likes to exceed expectations. After attending the United States Naval Academy, she was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. “Being a Marine seemed like the hardest, coolest thing I could do and no one expected that I could do it. ... Flying Cobras seemed like one of the coolest, perfect things I could do, so I decided to do that, too,” she explained, making it sound like a walk in the park.

Haynie served 10 years on active duty as a Marine Cobra pilot and is now at the 10-year mark of service in the Reserve. Concurrently, she earned a master’s degree in political science and recently graduated with a doctor of philosophy degree in international relations. This spring she taught a course on “Gender and Conflict” at The George Washington University.

Utilizing her aviation and academic background, Haynie serves as an analyst in the Strategic Initiatives Group for the Marine Corps. Often referred to as “The Commandant’s Think Tank,” the SIG is a small group of hand-selected field-grade officers

who research, analyze and write about issues that support the Commandant's strategic vision; in Haynie's words, "We do idea generation and long-range strategic thought and planning." Her expertise in the relationship between gender and warfare has supported some of the SIG projects involving gender and integration in the Marine Corps. Her current project involves critical thinking and developing a philosophy of how Marines learn as an institution.

The Commandant called upon SIG analysts to study and provide recommendations for a response following the incident known as Marines United, in which a private social media group shared inappropriate photographs of female Marines and encouraged derogatory comments. Haynie said, "I think some of the news and political pressure and drama of the past year has actually helped push the institution out into the open so leaders are now aware of things that they weren't before." She has seen the impact of the Commandant's task force, stating, "Now, a year and a half later, after Marines United has settled down, the institution has started to respond to the idea that there is a structural amount of bias and discrimination that is limiting us as a Marine Corps."

One response is the creation of the Personnel Studies and Oversight Office (PSO). By assessing cultural issues in the Corps, the PSO's purpose is to ensure "we continue to create an organization where all Marines are fully valued based on their individual excellence and commitment to warfighting, regardless of race, sex, religion or sexual orientation," according to the ACMC, General Glenn Walters.

Haynie, who will soon stand up the Marine Forces Reserve liaison branch of that office, sees promise in the mission of the PSO. "We've invested a lot of time and energy in our people and they are our biggest asset. We recognize that now as an institution." On a personal level, Haynie is gratified: "That I can actually be a part of making those changes happen and structuring them for success down the road, that's huge. That's a gift. That's a change. ... We are starting to recognize that all kinds of different perspectives are out there and we need to open the door to them. It will make us more successful once we do that."

Actionable Change

LtCol Janine Garner is a KC-130 pilot who, like LtCol Haynie, works in the SIG addressing issues through research and recommendations. She loves being a Marine pilot. She is inspired by the work she does in the SIG, and the Marines she gets to work alongside. Her disposition is positive, energized and even joyful. And yet there was a moment when she was ready to give it all up and go fly for Delta.

Her forthright revealing of this fact had less to do with her than her gratefulness to others. It was necessary to illustrate the mentorship and inspiration of fellow Marines. Pointing out that she had no women senior to her in her aviation community, she extolled the men who encouraged her to stay in the Corps. But, she explained, "It's not enough for someone to just mentor you, they have to actively advocate for you, suggest the billet that you need to be successful to have that career trajectory."

She appreciates one mentor's advocacy—he advocated for her to go back to the fleet and take out a deployment as a DET OIC (detachment officer in charge)—which helped her to earn a promotion to lieutenant colonel.

In addition to flying C-130s and making researched recommendations about issues critical to the Marine Corps, Garner has served at the Office of Legislative Affairs. Marines at the OLA interact with members of Congress to educate and inform them about Marine Corps issues. They also escort them to military bases and forward-deployed Marines to provide experiential background for Marine Corps requirements decided in Congress. Garner escorted several congressional delegations to Afghanistan during operations there.

Garner initially believed that a position in the SIG was not quite her calling. A former boss thought otherwise and encouraged



Capt Janine K. Garner stands in front of a KC-130J Super Hercules while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Al Asad, Iraq, 2007. At The Basic School, Garner was "nudged" by a mentor to compete for an aviation slot, something she had not realized a woman could do at the time. (Photo by LCpl Mackenzie Gibson, USMC)

her to do it. After a year in the SIG, she is glad she did: "I love the fact that I have an opportunity to really effect change in the Marine Corps on a holistic level, unfettered by admin and procedure. Just that I can sit, and I can think, and I can write and I can research, and I can study. ... It's all about trying to make the Marine Corps better, to improve the institution."

It's important to Garner that there is a healthy interaction of ideas coming from the diversity of Marines represented in the SIG. "We have two women in the SIG, we have some grunts, combat service support, four different pilots and we're all from different platforms. No two people are the same MOS. ... We all have our worldview and the time we've spent in the Marine Corps is very, very unique. ... So we're all able to bring different points of view."

Garner was personally affected by the Marines United social media incident, which she said "shed a light on a very ugly thing, a very ugly fact in the Marine Corps and society and now we are able to address that, and that needed to happen." In addition to the recommendations the SIG produced to the Commandant,

she and two colleagues created a social media group called “Actionable Change” so female Marines could interact. “It’s a place where we can discuss papers that we want to write, things that we want to address within the Marine Corps, issues. It also provides leadership and mentoring,” she explained.

The site has connected women Marines from different decades and given them a forum to share their experiences and ideas. Garner was surprised to learn about barriers that existed not too long ago, such as that women generally did not deploy or that in addition to their Marine Corps commitment, many women had the sole responsibility of childrearing and running a household. “That would never be the case for me and hopefully not for the younger generation,” she said. “There is a completely different view that men and women both participate in these things.”

In the context of women in the Corps, Garner has been the recipient of a change of attitude regarding women. “I had a squadron CO who once said that he would never have me be an aircraft commander flying his planes because he said no Marines would follow me. Fast forward to two years later and he was marking me as his number two captain in the squadron. He very much changed, and he has to this day continued to mentor and

advocate for me. ... If I had maintained anger toward him, I would [have missed] out on a phenomenal mentor.”

Times change and people change with them. Garner said, “It is important to note that people are allowed to form new opinions based on new information. I say that because we are quick to judge people based on things they said 10 to 20 years ago... instead of saying ‘you’ve learned and you’ve grown.’ ”

The Next Century

The Corps is forming new doctrine and adapting to create the most effective team. As LtCol Haynie notes, “I think by opening up more fields to more people in general, which includes women, we open the door to getting more competent, more interesting, more diverse, more intelligent, more capable people. That means when we’re going into conflict areas and combat zones where things are very confusing and complex, we want the people with the best minds and the broadest range of perspectives ... We are going to be operating in an environment where every little edge, every little advantage makes a difference.”

While neither scientific nor comprehensive, these conversations with a few Marines portray talented women with a voice at the table who have made a difference in the Marine Corps serving with honor, intelligence and dedication. Their contributions will influence the next century of women in the Corps.

Author’s bio: Mary Karcher is a former Leatherneck staff writer and editor of various segments of the magazine. She currently works as a freelance writer. 🍷

“Times change and people change with them. It is important to note that people are allowed to form new opinions based on new information.”—LtCol Janine Garner, USMC



Maj Janine K. Garner, a KC-130 aircraft commander assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 252, refuels F-35 Joint Strike Fighters over Beaufort, S.C., in 2015.

LCPL OLIVIA G. ORTIZ, USMC

UNLEASHING INNOVATION THAT PUTS MARINES FIRST

General Dynamics Land Systems knows the same thing you do: the most formidable weapon on the battlefield will always be the individual Marine. Our combat vehicle platforms center around developing cutting-edge solutions that enable the individual Marine to fight and win on the battlefield. Today and tomorrow.

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The future of warfare is changing. So is the Marine Corps – and so is Land Systems. We're creating solutions to empower Marines to adapt quickly in order to stay ahead of America's adversaries, no matter the challenge. Land Systems solutions will support the Marine Corps to win the fight for sea control that's envisioned in the Littoral Operations in a Contested Environment concept. The same holds true for Expeditionary Advanced Based Operations: our platforms will help Marines persist, partner, and operate even when they're within range of an adversary's long-range precision fires.

The Marine Corps has a vision of where it needs to go in this changing world. So we're aligning everything we do to help Marines stay true to this vision: where smaller-sized units deploy rapidly, fight and win in environments ranging from the austere to megacities, and facing a multitude of hybrid and conventional warfare threats. Land Systems is innovating solutions to help the Marine Corps meet and exceed those challenges. We're developing platform solutions to deliver the cutting-edge advantages of technologies like robotics, machine learning, and AI.

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Leatherneck Laffs



"The sergeant doesn't know it, but I laugh at his jokes."



"Hey, Mac! Your taillight's out."



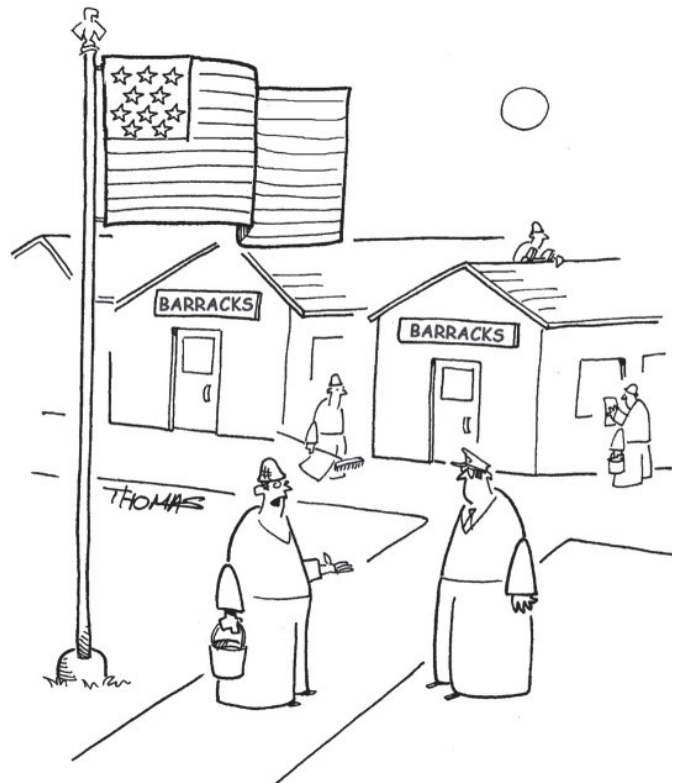
"Is 'Semper Fi' some kind of Marine WiFi?"



"Stay just where you are Recruit, and I'll move the rest of the platoon over here."



"It's a temporary assignment but from the looks of it, it could very well turn into a PCS."



"In the Corps, it's called duty. At home, it's called chores."

MCAS CHERRY POINT

With Change on the Horizon, Air Station Looks to the Future



By Sara W. Bock

A visit to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., in 2018 in some ways feels like taking a step back in time.

On the walls of hangars, diagrams instructing pilots how to properly park seaplanes are reminiscent of a bygone era. The railroad tracks which enabled the transportation of building materials to the remote site in Eastern North Carolina as the U.S. entered World War II still run alongside Roosevelt Boulevard, which stretches from the main gate in the small town of Havelock all the way to the banks of the Neuse River. Despite the constant din of jet noise and the lines of traffic entering and exiting the base at peak hours, there's a feeling of quaintness—a slower pace of life—that mirrors what you find if you explore the close-knit

communities that surround it. And while buildings have been repurposed or renovated along the way, for the most part the “bones” of the installation remain unchanged as Cherry Point celebrates its 77th anniversary this month.

But as the air station, the largest in the Corps and home to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing and Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East, braces itself for more than \$1 billion in construction and infrastructure improvements over the next decade, change, it seems, is inevitable.

“Cherry Point’s been waiting,” said Colonel Todd Ferry, the commanding officer of MCAS Cherry Point. “We have old buildings out there, and the Marines have been doing a phenomenal job, but when you come here in six to eight years, people won’t recognize the place.”

With the first F-35B Lightning II aircraft scheduled to arrive at Cherry Point

in 2022, the need for modernization to accommodate the advanced stealth jet is imminent. According to the 2018 Marine Aviation Plan, by the end of the transition, 94 F-35s will fill the air station’s flight line, making it the largest F-35 base in the Marine Corps.

“What you can’t do is take this amazing aircraft, this fifth-generation fighter, and plug it into a 1950s hangar,” said Ferry, adding that as the last of the Marine Corps air stations to receive funding for new hangars—with a budget of around \$130 million each—Cherry Point’s team of engineers will benefit from the lessons learned during recent hangar construction at other installations. “I anticipate having the best hangars of them all, just because of the timing,” Ferry said.

While MCAS Cherry Point may be the last to overhaul its flight line, timing is everything—and the time is right. In 2019,



Left: KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft sit on the flight line near the air traffic control tower at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., Jan. 5, 2015. As the arrival of the F-35B to the air station nears, new construction will change the look of the flight line, and the tower will be moved to an alternate location.

Below: The F-35B Lightning II will soon be a mainstay at MCAS Cherry Point, and with 94 of the advanced stealth jets slated to make their home at the headquarters of 2nd MAW, Cherry Point will become the largest F-35 base in the Marine Corps. (Photo by LCpl Joshua McAlpine, USMC)



Below: Marines assigned to VMU-2 conduct a pre-flight check on an RQ-21A Blackjack during a training flight at Marine Corps Outlying Field Atlantic in Pamlico County, N.C., July 15, 2015. With outlying fields and ranges that stretch into four different counties in Eastern North Carolina, Cherry Point's strong relationship with local communities is vital to its longevity.



the air station will house the smallest number of squadrons and aircraft it has had in decades. With three EA-6B Prowler squadrons already deactivated and the fourth and last one, Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VMAQ) 2, scheduled to deactivate next year, the flight line now has a considerable portion of unoccupied space on which construction of the air station's first state-of-the-art F-35 hangars will commence. At the end of 2017, Marine Transport Squadron (VMR) One transitioned to 4th Marine Aircraft Wing and moved from Cherry Point to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. With a smaller number of Marines to house for the near future, barracks renovations have begun and will continue in the coming years.

The air traffic control tower will be moved from its current location, which will open more room for the new aircraft to park and improve the security of the flight line. Other projects will include construction of an F-35B simulator building and an update to the utility infrastructure surrounding the flight line to meet the demands of modern hangars and squadron spaces.

Meanwhile, Cherry Point will remain fully operational as the only Marine Corps air station open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year; and will continue to serve as the primary strategic air

SGT J. PARISH, USMC

LCPL KOBAY SAUNDERS, USMC

Leatherneck staff photographer Ed Evans captured this aerial view of MCAS Cherry Point in 1972. Slocum Creek is pictured in the foreground, and the Neuse River lies on the other side of the airfield—a unique configuration of four runways into an X-shape.



mobility facility and point of embarkation and debarkation for II Marine Expeditionary Force, transporting people and cargo all over the world each day. With a unique airfield layout, where all four runways meet in the center mat to form an X-shaped pattern, Cherry Point easily accommodates the frequent comings and goings of the AV-8B Harriers—which will be phased out of operation as the F-35 is phased in—and the KC-130J Super Hercules that call the air station home. Since each portion of the “X” is essentially made up of two runways, the airfield is a prime spot for 737s contracted for troop transport, Air Force C-5s and other large aircraft, and even was designated as an emergency landing site for the space shuttle. The air station is also home to one

of the few ranges on the East Coast that allows for live-fire training from the water.

Formerly a remote, undeveloped swamp-land, thick with pine trees and home to deer, bears, alligators and a few families who lived along the Slocum and Hancock Creeks, tributaries of the Neuse River, Cherry Point today is preparing to undergo changes that those who oversaw the air station’s initial establishment would find hard to believe.

In August 1941, as war raged overseas and the U.S. prepared for potential involvement, Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb, 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps, called for the establishment of air facilities in Eastern North Carolina near the site that had been chosen for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Located

between naval installations at Norfolk, Va., and Charleston, S.C., the area bridged the gap between the two, said Bill Sidoran, the air station’s training and historical specialist.

The land was selected—8,000 acres along the Neuse River with an existing railroad running through it, which would allow for easy supply of building materials and other necessities. Its proximity to the port of Morehead City, N.C., was also a factor.

The air station’s first commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Cushman, arrived before the end of August with a small cohort of Marines to scout the area and act as a liaison with the naval engineers who had been assigned to clear it so construction could commence.



Col Todd Ferry, CO of MCAS Cherry Point, points out various locations on a map of the air station, May 30. Having spent time at many other Marine Corps installations during his career, Ferry believes that the support Cherry Point receives from the surrounding community is unparalleled. (Photo by Sara W. Bock)

rapidly,” recalled Kellum of Cherry Point’s earliest days.

Faced with the demands of wartime expansion, the Marine Corps was forced to provide abbreviated training for both the officer and enlisted ranks. In an effort to bridge the gap, a four-week curriculum designed to provide ground combat training for aviators was established at Cherry Point’s Camp Larkin which became known as “Boys Town.” A 1945 article in *The Windsock*, the air station’s newspaper, was headlined “Officers Try Roughing It,” and detailed the happenings at Boys Town—including training in close and open order drill; knowledge of weapons; hand-to-hand fighting; scouting and patrolling; and amphibious landings. The training not only enabled newly winged pilots to understand the maneuvers of the Marines on the ground, but also provided them with the combat tactics that would be vital if they ever found themselves grounded in enemy territory.

The establishment of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing made Cherry Point fully operational as its elements were outfitted, trained and deployed to the Pacific. In their absence, the 9th Marine Aircraft Wing was established, but the war came to an end before they were dispatched to join the fight and the wing was subsequently disbanded.

Briefly known as Cunningham Field, named for the first Marine Corps aviator, LtCol A.A. Cunningham, the facility was renamed Cherry Point, reportedly for the cherry trees that grew on the banks of the Neuse River—an uncommon sight in North Carolina—and a small jut of land where the Neuse forms a boundary on one side of the station.

Construction of the runways began only weeks prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941; afterwards, a new sense of urgency kicked the project into overdrive, with crews working 10 hours each day, seven days a week to make the installation operational in a matter of months. Early in 1942, LtCol Cushman landed the first aircraft on the runway, and in May 1942 the air station was

commissioned. By that time, 22 barracks, an administrative building, an exchange, two mess halls and two hangars had turned the once-remote swamp into its own little “city.”

Seemingly overnight, Cherry Point became a bustling center for Marine aviation as the Corps ramped up for action in the Pacific theater.

A May 1962 Leatherneck article quoted LtCol William Kellum, USMC (Ret), who had been one of the few Marines assigned to the air station prior to the commissioning. “It was fantastic. Marines poured through the gate like water out of a sluice. Whole platoons of graduated recruits checked in. Pilots right out of Pensacola came aboard in droves. And aviation materiel was pouring in just as

LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO



The control tower at MCAS Cherry Point is pictured here in June 1947. At the end of World War II, many temporary structures aboard the air station were torn down and new buildings were constructed.

LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO



An air traffic control Marine relays landing instructions from the control tower to an incoming jet pilot in 1957.

LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

“Construction never ended during WW II,” wrote *Leatherneck* staffer Gunnery Sergeant Mel Jones in an article commemorating Cherry Point’s 20th anniversary. “During the base’s first three years, more than 50 million board feet of lumber and 20 million bricks were hammered or cemented into place. An average of four buildings were finished daily.”

At the height of the war, more than 20,000 Marines were assigned to the air station. After its end, more than 1,000 Marines were separated each week until only 12,000 were left. As Cherry Point phased out of its wartime state, the base underwent some improvements—temporary buildings were demolished, new barracks were built and landscaping projects helped beautify the air station.

In 1946, the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing took the place of the disbanded 9th MAW and remains headquartered at Cherry Point today. In the years since WW II, the air station has remained a strong supporting establishment for the 2nd MAW through periods of wartime and peace and the accompanying changes that have ensued.

“We’re good at ramping up, deploying people out, coming back and then downsizing,” said Sidoran. “We do it all the time. You see it through the years, and again after 9/11.”

The 2nd MAW is what Col Ferry describes as the “heart” of the air station. As the headquarters for the command and control and logistics elements of the wing, which is divided among Marine Corps Air Stations Cherry Point, New River, N.C., and Beaufort, S.C., Cherry Point is integral to the success of Marine aviation on the East Coast. But there’s something else, he says, that makes Cherry Point unique and different from any other installation around the Corps: its relationship with the surrounding community.

“If 2nd MAW is the heart, the soul is the community,” said Ferry. “The community ties here are unlike any that I’ve seen, as far as just a community that surrounds this base and just really loves it and the history—and their lives are intertwined.”

Cherry Point and the community around it both benefit from a unique symbiotic relationship. The air station provides economic stability—about \$2 billion dollars annually in active-duty pay salaries and civilian contract salaries—to the surrounding areas, and in turn, the community’s support of Cherry Point is unrivaled. In a region where the primary industries are agriculture and tourism, the jobs and revenue the air station provides are unparalleled.

While the air station makes it home in Craven County, its outlying ranges



Above: As the only air station in the Corps open 24/7/365, Cherry Point's air traffic controllers, like the ones pictured in this 2011 photo, have a great deal of responsibility managing the local airspace. (Photo by LCpl Andrea Cleopatra Dickerson, USMC)

Below: Four EA-6B Prowlers, each one belonging to a Prowler squadron at MCAS Cherry Point, conduct a "Final Four" division flight, March 1, 2016. The momentous occasion was the last time the Prowler squadrons would ever fly together before the first VMAQ squadron deactivation in 2016.



CPL NEYSA HUERTAS QUINONES, USMC

and auxiliary fields extend its reach into three additional counties: Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field Bogue in Carteret County, Oak Grove Marine Corps Outer Landing Field in Jones County, and Marine Corps Outlying Field Atlantic in Pamlico County.

"They all have an interest, and they all feel like they're a piece of Cherry Point," said Ferry. "The community is so protective, because their lives are intertwined. There's memories, there's lives there, there are economics that are associated with it."

Ferry attributes this to the fact that the population in Eastern North Carolina is far less transient than the communities surrounding other Marine Corps installations. He's spoken with local individuals whose grandfathers cut down the pine trees to clear the way for the base; whose parents lived on the land prior to 1941 and were forcibly moved when construction began; or whose families have worked on the base for generations as civilians.

As such, many locals feel a sense of responsibility to protect the air station, which they see as synonymous with protecting their own community. In the 1990s, when Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) first became a threat to military installations across the globe, a group of civic and business leaders in the local community formed Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT), an advocacy

group that works with federal, state and local policy makers to help ensure the air station's viability.

One significant economic engine aboard Cherry Point is the tenant command of the Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) East, which provides jobs to roughly 3,600 civilians in the local community. As a

repair and overhaul facility for U.S. Navy aircraft, engines, components and support equipment, which falls under Naval Air Systems Command, FRC East is North Carolina's largest industrial employer east of Interstate 95 and the only one of eight FRCs worldwide located on a Marine Corps installation.



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

This 1957 photo depicts what is known today as Fleet Readiness Center East at MCAS Cherry Point—then a Navy Stateside Overhaul and Repair Department—equipped to repair any type of airplane flown by the Corps. Today, FRC East is North Carolina’s largest industrial employer east of I-95.

The FRC has been at Cherry Point since World War II and was formerly known as the Assembly & Repair department and later as the Naval Air Rework Facility, among several other names. During World War II, Corsair fighters, Mitchell B-25 and Marauder B-26 bombers were reworked there; later, it became one of the most advanced aviation rework facilities in the country.

The jobs the FRC provides in the area are so vital that high schools, community colleges and even NC State University in Raleigh have special programs designed to equip students with the specific skillsets the FRC’s engineers and other employees must possess.

“The community has risen up to support that,” said Ferry. “You used to just have to use metal and machinery and welding

... now they’re doing high composite material, they’re [3-D] printing aircraft parts over there. The education level continues to just grow leaps and bounds. They realize this is an important thing for our community, so they really energize the local schools.”

As much as Cherry Point benefits from the support of the local community outside the gate—and vice versa—it also thrives as its own community, which Ferry describes as a “33,000-person city.”

In addition to the squadrons and aircraft of Marine Aircraft Group 14, which include not only Prowlers, Harriers and Super Hercules but also unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and the headquarters of 2nd MAW and FRC East, Cherry Point also is home to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT), which

provides aviation maintenance specialized training.

For Marines and Sailors stationed there, recreation opportunities are plentiful both on and off the installation. The air station provides camping facilities, a marina on Hancock Creek, a “Devil Dog Dare” challenge course, outdoor equipment rentals and a golf course. The beaches of North Carolina’s Crystal Coast are just a short drive away.

Most importantly, the air station strives for excellence as a supporting establishment for the operating forces and as an extension of the Marine Corps within the local community.

“We continue to do good things every day. It’s everything from supporting the MAW, training and getting ready to deploy, deploying them out there, receiv-

Marines move from rope to rope during a Devil Dog Dare Challenge at MCAS Cherry Point in 2014. The challenge course is one of many recreational opportunities available to those stationed there today.



LCPL ANTHONY BROSILOW, USMC

Right: Spectators watch thrilling aerial maneuvers at the MCAS Cherry Point Air Show, May 5. This year's show featured performances ranging from high-speed jet demonstrations to smaller aerobatic daredevils and vintage warbirds.

ing them, taking care of their families,” said Ferry. “But also our Marines go outside the installation—our greatest resource here is sending our Marines and Sailors outside into the community.”

Cherry Point’s Single Marine Program consistently has been rated as the top of its kind across all Marine Corps installations. Not only does it provide trips and other recreational opportunities for those assigned to the air station, but it focuses on promoting volunteerism within the local community, sending its Marines to local schools to help or assisting local nonprofit organizations.

Every two years, Cherry Point welcomes the community inside the gates at the biennial Cherry Point Air Show, which in 2016 was recognized as the Blue Angels’ Air Show of the Year—an accolade rarely given to a military installation.


“There is an energy about Cherry Point, about the professionalism, the hospitality and the community that comes out,” said Ferry. “I get to see the joy and the



SGT COLIN BROADSTONE, USMC

appreciation of the community ... I get the benefit of hearing all the stories because of my unique position, and those are the things that make me proud.”

With a rich history, deep roots in Eastern North Carolina and a decade of change on the horizon, Cherry Point likely will remain an essential hub for Marine

aviation for many years to come. While the air station may look different a few years from now, the small town feel and community spirit will surely prevail, and life will continue to move a little more slowly. It’s safe to say that for any Marine who’s spent time there, it will still feel like “home.” 



CAPT ROBERT JANKOWSKI, USMC

Staff Major General Qassim and other senior Iraqi officers coordinate final details for the ISF clearance of Al Qa'im with TF Lion advisors aboard Tactical Assembly Area Al Qa'im.

By, With, and Through: A Tale of Advising, Coalition Warfare and Victory

By the Task Force Lion Staff

Prologue

The French artillery's deafening report nearly collapses the tactical command post situated at a demolished train station near the city of Al Qa'im. Inside the tent, an Iraqi liaison officer receives frantic radio transmissions from his forces assaulting the city in the distance. In front of him, U.S. Marines battle-track the day's events while monitoring live-stream video feeds of unmanned aerial systems navigating the airspace high above the battlefield. This is the third expeditionary base Task Force (TF) Lion has constructed in as many months, and, as has become custom, it does not want for activity.

During the three previous years, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) had controlled large swaths of Iraq's sovereign territory while imposing its rule of law

and terrorizing the country. Following the government of Iraq's 2014 request for international support, a coalition formed that eventually would include 71 nations providing critical materiel, fire support, intelligence and training to the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The United States helped lead this effort by establishing Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) on Oct. 10, 2014. U.S. Marine Corps support initially came in late 2014 in the form of two, 26-person advise and assist teams operating in a region the Corps was intimately familiar with: Al Anbar Province. This article focuses on one of those teams and how it evolved from advising ISF leaders to leading a joint and coalition task force playing a pivotal role in the ISF's liberation of western Anbar Province and the military defeat of ISIS in Iraq.

How Did We Get Here?

Formed under the moniker Task Force Al Asad, the original team from I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) arrived at Al Asad Air Base in November 2014 with the mission to advise and assist the ISF. This team fell under tactical control of the recently formed, Kuwait-based Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command (SPMAGTF-CR-CC), which also initially secured Al Asad so TFAA could conduct its mission. Originally focused on advising and training the 7th Iraqi Army Division (IAD) located on Al Asad, the TF Al Asad team soon began engaging the Jazirah Operations Command (JaOC). This Iraqi corps-level headquarters was ostensibly in charge of an area of operations in western Al Anbar Province almost completely controlled by advancing ISIS forces. From these early engagements, it

became clear the ISF would need more than advice and training; they required additional capability to strike the enemy.

Over the next two years, Al Asad Air Base would expand from that initial footprint to more than 2,000 personnel from joint enablers, coalition partners and civilian contractors. Included in this rapid expansion were additional SPMAGTF-CR-CC members sent to perform duties in the fledgling combat operations center to administer the base and support ISF operations.

This latter effort saw the task force increase its span of control by standing up a watch floor staff, incorporating intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance video feeds and liaising with both ground and air strike platforms to destroy ISIS targets. It also served as a location for the task force to partner with Iraqi officers and observe ISF units maneuvering to recapture territory from ISIS within Al Anbar Province. This construct became the norm, with the ISF successfully retaking towns and urban centers north and south of Al Asad, from Hit to Baghdadi to Haditha, and onward to the small town of Sagrah south of Lake Qadisiyah. The next operational step would be the clearance of the remainder of the Middle Euphrates River Valley, where the larger population centers were still under enemy control.

Built With a Purpose

During this period, the Marine Corps recognized that the continued reinforcement of its advise and assist teams in Iraq by SPMAGTF-CR-CC was untenable. The constant requests for Marines and Sailors and their rotations between Kuwait and Al Asad adversely affected unit cohesion and unnecessarily burdened the advise and assist elements trying to enable the ISF. In the fall of 2016, Marine Forces Central Command formed an operational planning team to reassess the manning documents for both advise and assist teams—which I MEF would now source—and arrange them as “purpose-built” task forces. This would allow the teams to form, train and deploy together without requiring significant staff and enable support from SPMAGTF-CR-CC once they arrived in theater.

As these new purpose-built teams came together in the spring of 2017, the incumbent TF Al Asad team saw their tactical control command relationship shift from SPMAGTF-CR-CC to CJTF-OIR’s Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command (CJFLCC). This shift signaled a significant milestone for the organization and required increased engagement with this U.S. Army-centric command. The



Above: TF Lion logistics Marines coordinate sustainment convoy operations between Al Asad Air Base, Tactical Assembly Area Fuhaymi and Tactical Assembly Area Al Qa'im. (Photo by SPC Torrance Saunders, USA)

Below: TF Lion conducts its rehearsal of concept drill aboard Al Asad Air Base prior to Operation Desert Lion's opening phase. (Photo by Maj Lindsay Mathwick, USMC)



adjusted command relationships prompted the newly formed Task Force Al Asad team to attend a mission rehearsal hosted by the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, in May 2017 prior to the Division's deployment as the core of the new CJFLCC-OIR headquarters. The exercise laid the groundwork for

relationships that were heavily relied upon as operational tempo increased in the fall of 2017.

By the summer of 2017 the new TF Al Asad team—now 85 members strong—was trained, certified and ready to execute both the advisor mission and the enabling functions of a fully manned COC and

staff sections. The transfer of authority occurred on Aug. 13, 2017, amid a coalition formation with more than 10 nations represented. Within one month of transfer of authority, CJFLCC-OIR redesignated TF Al Asad as Task Force Lion, which established an expeditionary fire base near Sagrah. The task force's redesignation (which in reality was not a true change given the English translation of "Al Asad" is "Lion") was necessary to distinguish it from the base operations responsibilities of the geographic location of its main command post at Al Asad Air Base. This became especially important as offensive operations pushed west to the international border, and TF Lion established successive tactical command posts. Expeditionary Fire Base Sagrah was the first forward position established by any of the task force rotations—its construction was the opening salvo of TF Lion's support to Operation Desert Lion.

Operation Desert Lion

As operations in northern Iraq, specifically the city of Mosul, diminished during the summer of 2017, there was interest across the coalition. The Iraqi Security Forces and the government of Iraq to capitalize on recent victories and

conduct simultaneous operations. Originally considered an economy-of-force mission, the Middle Euphrates River Valley clearance received new attention following a series of successful operations elsewhere in the combined joint operations area. This newfound focus resulted in the first mission for TF Lion: enable the ISF to secure the cities of Rayhanah and Anah along the Euphrates River. After a joint planning effort with CJFLCC-OIR planners, a warning order on Sept. 8 directed TF Lion to establish Expeditionary Fire Base Sagrah to support the upcoming ISF assault set for Sept. 19.

Originally designed as a sizable tactical assembly area with contracted basic life support amenities such as berthing, waste removal and showers, Expeditionary Fire Base Sagrah was built with one focus in mind—how best to support the Iraqi Security Forces quickly with what TF Lion had available organically. This meant a return to more expeditionary operations where austerity was the rule rather than the exception. The major obstacles TF Lion faced were the engineering and clearance efforts required to build the expeditionary fire base along the ISF forward line of troops. Beginning on Sept. 11, the TF Lion Explosive Ord-

nance Disposal team, assisted by combat engineers from SPMAGTF-CR-CC and TF Lion's Norwegian Task Unit, cleared more than 50 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) previously emplaced by ISIS throughout the chosen expeditionary fire base site. Simultaneously, U.S. Army engineers from TF Maverick, originally assigned to assist TF Lion with Al Asad base expansion, were repurposed to construct the expeditionary fire base.

Within one week, the site incorporated the TF Lion tactical command post, a platoon of tracked M109 Paladin artillery systems, a counter-battery radar team, and advise, assist, accompany and enable teams from TF Lion, Norwegian Task Unit and Special Operations Task Force-West (SOTF-W) to partner with Iraqi Security Forces elements from the JaOC and tribal militia forces. With no external support available to assist TF Lion in the clearing, construction, and sustainment of EFB Sagrah, the operation became a full-court press by all members of the task force, which quickly evolved into a battle staff capable of operating across all warfighting functions. To meet the unique demands of the mission, each Marine and Sailor assumed multiple roles and contributed tirelessly to the operation, filling spots as



CAPT ROBERT JANKOWSKI, USMC

TF Lion's forward command team at Tactical Assembly Area Fuhaymi discusses plans for its next round of support for the ISF's isolation of Al Qa'im.

vehicle commanders, gunners and drivers during the numerous convoys required to support EFB Sagrah before, during and after the ISF assault.

Under the command of Staff Major General Qassim Mohammed Salih al Muhammadi, the attacking JaOC forces primarily came from 7th IAD, a JaOC commando brigade and tribal militia forces units from across Al Anbar Province. Each of these commands paired, in part, with elements from TF Lion and SOTF-W; however, none acted without direction from Staff Major General Qassim, who directly partnered with the TF Lion commander. This unity of command enabled TF Lion to influence the battlespace positively by conducting direct liaison with Staff Major General Qassim for operational planning and prioritizing support. It also meant, however, any plan TF Lion developed to support the JaOC had to remain as flexible as possible since no other members of the JaOC staff had decision-making authority when developing an Iraqi Security Forces plan.

As TF Lion declared EFB Sagrah at full operating capability, the JaOC maneuvered its forces along the Euphrates River and Main Supply Route Bronze, the major highway paralleling the river. After arraying forces, the Iraqi Security Forces crossed the line of departure on Sept. 19 and seized the city of Rayhanah by that evening. The subsequent assault on Anah met heavier enemy resistance and coalition air strikes and indirect fire played a significant role in helping the Iraqi Security Forces secure the city by Sept. 25. Although TF Lion coordinated coalition fire support necessary for this mission, a fair amount of “discovery learning” occurred as the task force worked through the non-doctrinal fires approval process run by the Combined Joint Operations Center-Baghdad’s (CJOC-B) strike cell. Differing national caveats for the target engagement authorities at CJOC-B, indecision on weaponizing solutions for targets and the inability to clear airspace expeditiously were key issues TF Lion carried forward as after action-points for Operation Desert Lion’s subsequent phases.

Upon the Iraqi Security Forces consolidation north of Anah, TF Lion began retrograding all command and control, fires and advisor capabilities from EFB Sagrah to prepare for follow-on operations. By Oct. 3, after a substantial backhaul effort by the TF Lion logistics section, the task force had removed all coalition assets from EFB Sagrah and transferred the base to the ISF. TF Lion then sought

to transition its support to the ISF hold forces positioned in Anah and southward to Al Asad Air Base. Combined Joint Forces Land Component had initially planned for TF Patriot (the U.S. Army’s 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division) to partner with the ISF in its attack further west to the Al Qa’im District and the international border; however, the pace of operations necessitated a headquarters which was already in place and Combined Joint Forces Land Component once again directed TF Lion to fill this role. The difference this time was the tidal shift of

pany detached from SPMAGTF-CR-CC to serve as TF Lion’s rear area security coordinator forward of Al Asad. The Task Force also received two self-propelled artillery batteries—Camions Equipé d’un Système d’Artillerie, or CAESAR—from the French TF Wagram. Finally, Combined Joint Forces Land Component sent several other niche capabilities to provide enhanced medical services, sustainment enablers, engineering capacity and force protection support to the task force and the coalition writ large—swelling TF Lion’s numbers to more than 2,300 per-



U.S. Army soldiers from TF Thunder fire their M777 howitzer from Anah in support of the ISF’s attack on Rawah on Nov. 17, 2017. (Photo by SPC William Gibson, USA)

resources into western Al Anbar to support TF Lion.

Until that point in Operation Desert Lion, TF Lion had primarily supported ISF operations with a series of disparate units already under tactical control to the task force. Now, through various means, Combined Joint Forces Land Component began reapportioning forces from across Iraq and receiving others from throughout the CENTCOM theater as well. Specifically, Combined Joint Forces Land Component detached both the TF Thunder (5-25 Field Artillery) battalion command element with a platoon of M777 howitzers and TF Slugger (3-89 Cavalry squadron) from TF Patriot and deployed them to Al Asad to support TF Lion. Additionally, TF Lion received elements staged in Kuwait, to include a motorized infantry company from the U.S. Army’s 1-6 Infantry battalion, and TF Wardog—the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment command element and a reinforced infantry com-

sonnel. The efficient integration of such a dynamic and growing organization was a key learning point from Operation Desert Lion’s initial phases, and TF Lion strived to build shared understanding through rehearsal of concept drills and to increase unity of effort through mission-type orders to subordinate echelons.

By October’s end, TF Lion had established a second expeditionary outpost, Tactical Assembly Area Fuhaymi, to provide fire support for Al Qa’im’s isolation. This penultimate base served as an intermediate staging base and logistical hub for TF Lion’s operations further west towards the Al Qa’im District. It also served as a forward firing point for a number of indirect fire assets, including a light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) platoon that could range the majority of TF Lion’s area of operations from that position. From Tactical Assembly Area Fuhaymi, TF Lion would support the corps-level, three-axis



COL SETH FOLSOM, USMC

SPMAGTF-CR-CC Marines provide security for Tactical Assembly Area Al Qa'im while French CAESAR artillery pieces in the background support the ISF with indirect fire.

attack isolating the final ISIS stronghold within Iraq.

While the ISF arrayed itself in battle positions along Al Qa'im's outskirts, TF Lion established its final expeditionary base at a demolished rail switching station that had once housed the Marine Corps' Camp Al Qa'im more than a decade earlier. This new location—Task Assembly Area Al Qa'im—served as an artillery firing position for howitzers and French CAESARs and as a staging location for advisor teams from TF Lion, Norwegian Task Unit, and SOTF-W—including coalition special operations forces units. These forces all pre-staged at Tactical Assembly Area Al Qa'im in the beginning of November to prepare for the ISF assault into the Al Qa'im District.

Enemy strength estimates in the Al Qa'im District ranged from 1,500 to 2,500 ISIS fighters, so it was a surprise when three separate ISF divisions (7th IAD, 8th IAD, and 9th IAD) assaulted through the city's urban area with minimal resistance within the first day of clearance operations on Nov. 4. Several intelligence assessments pointed to fighters fleeing across the border to Syria out of the reach of conventional Iraqi Security Forces units. The detailed back-clearance of the dense urban sprawl took several more days, but clearance operations in the district were largely

complete by Nov. 13. The Iraqi Security Forces spent the following five days maneuvering east along the northern bank of the Euphrates River toward the previously bypassed city of Rawah to clear remaining ISIS fighters from the area. TF Lion supported this final effort by displacing a small command node and the howitzer platoon to the city of Anah, where they co-located with Iraqi Security Forces cannon and rocket artillery. Additionally, TF Wagram, supported by TF Wardog, conducted an artillery raid to place the CAESARs in range of Rawah for pre-assault fires. The assault on Rawah began on Nov. 17 and was completed that evening with no enemy resistance; however, a significant, multi-day clearance effort proved necessary following the discovery of several house-borne IEDs in the city.

On Nov. 21, 2017, exactly 101 days from Task Force Lion's transfer of authority, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared ISIS "defeated from a military perspective." The actions taken by TF Lion and its attached elements to support the Iraqi Security Forces were characterized by teamwork, diligence and flexibility. TF Lion became a team that truly reflected the coalition and cemented its legacy by helping the government of Iraq clear the scourge of ISIS from the last population

centers it occupied in the country. The task force conducted many of its actions under austere circumstances for which service-members will not receive any heraldry; however, it is a story that will not be soon forgotten by those who lived it.

Lessons Learned

Working in such a dynamic environment produced lessons not previously learned by members of TF Lion. A key takeaway is the necessity to interoperate with members of a larger coalition. For example, the coalition units at the tactical level often participated in key leader engagements at the JaOC to represent national mandates or they integrated into TF Lion tactical ground movements where common understanding of tactical SOPs proved challenging. Additionally, this environment required a flexible and adaptive planning process to account for multiple coalition entities, to include special operations forces. Promoting inclusivity meant resisting the temptation to rely solely on those wearing the same uniform and incorporating ideas and capabilities from a myriad of sources.

Operating in this fashion often led to novel solutions that challenged established joint doctrine. The government of Iraq's political sensitivities to coalition movements throughout the country and authori-

ty to strike targets meant the execution of coalition military operations had to adjust from previous standards within Iraq only a decade ago. Whereas it had been common in years past for convoys to move about with little to no notification to the ISF, the current operating environment required an ISF escort with each coalition movement. By the end of TF Lion's deployment, each movement required approval from CJOC-B and often led to shifts in planned departures or outright cancellations.

In the realm of kinetic fires, the TF Lion commander could only approve strikes that were deemed collateral damage estimation (CDE) 4-Low (no collateral damage concerns with mitigated munitions) or in self-defense of coalition members and/or partner forces. All other approvals for strikes above CDE 4-Low rested with the target engagement authorities located at CJOC-B. Additionally, all strikes had to be approved by the ISF at the Ministry of Defense level, collocated at CJOC-B. Unfortunately, this non-doctrinal process was fraught with unclear guidance, unwritten orders and the unique perspective of that day's assigned target engagement authorities. These issues caused delays, resulting in several missed opportunities to strike the enemy. Although TF Lion was successful in working through this bureaucracy, it still represents an inefficient method for de-conflicting and approving fires and should not be emulated in future campaigns.

An undercurrent of seeking to understand the Iraqi partners within Al Anbar Province and the higher command in Baghdad permeated all of TF Lion's lessons learned. By staying partner-focused, TF Lion was able to identify what the ISF needed to accomplish its mission, instead of forming a preconceived idea of what was required. The ISF "needs" fell into three primary categories: intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; aviation; and surface-delivered fire support and materiel. Providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to the ISF was not difficult; however, ensuring the employment of the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms stayed focused on the enemy vice the ISF forward line of troops was often a sticking point. Simultaneously, the aforementioned fire support provided excellent effects for ISF assaults, but the labored approval process prevented seamless integration with maneuver. Finally, the divestment of materiel to the ISF required administrative actions from the Iraqis with the functional transfer of ammunition, vehicles and various types of equipment closely tracked and coordinated by TF Lion personnel. As com-

bat operations slowed in the latter part of 2017, these requests for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, fire support and materiel began to decrease steadily and TF Lion began to reorient on mission requirements in the months to come.

Epilogue

By December 2017, the government of Iraq made the formal announcement that ISIS was at last defeated; however, CENTCOM offered stark warnings that a resurgence of the terrorist group could occur if the group was not dealt with in Syria. By operation's end, TF Lion had built three forward bases across 3,700 square miles of battlespace, conducted 82 tactical ground movements covering more than 11,000 miles and carrying more than 7,900 short tons, and delivered 435 strikes by aviation and surface combat platforms. In the following months, TF Lion would see much of the augmentation it received during Operation Desert Lion depart Iraq to support other missions. It did, however, retain Tactical Assembly Area Al Qa'im—now occupied entirely by TF Slugger—as a key location in which the coalition could continue to gauge atmospherics along the international border and throughout the Al Qa'im District. The coalition turned its focus to enhancing its partner's capacity and preventing a return to the conditions of 2014.

While Iraq began a transition to stability and preparation for national elections in May 2018, CJTF-OIR still sought the defeat of ISIS on the other side of the border in Syria. These operations—large-

ly comprised of special operations forces—continued with the backdrop of a CENTCOM-directed rebalancing and realignment effort to Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. With forces and capabilities reducing within Iraq, all units worked to find efficiencies within the organizations while retaining personnel with vital skills. From the Marine Corps perspective, several planning sessions formed to "right-size" the Marine contribution to the coalition—including a 38 percent reduction of the next iteration of TF Lion. These moves proved prescient, as the operating environment quickly evolved for coalition forces in Iraq.

The operation to defeat the remnants of ISIS in Iraq and the mission to professionalize the ISF continue and likely will for some time. One thing is certain—the mission to fight "by, with, and through" partnered foreign military forces is unlikely to subside anytime soon. The lessons Task Force Lion learned while supporting the Iraqi Security Forces will be critical as the Marine Corps mission continues to evolve in austere and politically charged operating environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Editor's note: Task Force Lion decomposited April 21, 2018, and the team's Marines and Sailors have returned to their parent commands. TF Lion Staff members currently serve on the staffs of I MEF, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 3rd Marine Air Wing, 3rd MEB, MCI-PAC and Headquarters Marine Corps. 🇺🇸



Iraqi rockets fire from Anah in support of the ISF's attack on Rawah on Nov. 17, 2017. (Photo by SPC Torrance Saunders, USA)

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Chosin Reservoir Veteran Honored at Parris Island

Approximately 50 Marines from Weapons Training Company, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., gathered at the recruit depot's Chosin Rifle Range to dedicate a control tower in honor of a Marine veteran of the Korean War, May 24.

The control tower was officially renamed Willis Tower, recognizing the actions of retired First Sergeant George Willis, who was wounded by a grenade blast during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. After enlisting in the Marine Corps in September 1946, Willis became a section leader for the .30-caliber Heavy Machine Gun section with Wpns Co, 3rd Bn, 1st Marine Regiment in 1950. During that tour, then-Corporal Willis helped with the recapture of Seoul, South Korea, and saw action at the "Frozen Chosin."

"I've always thought that being a Marine was special—I was glad to talk with the Marines today," said Willis. "It means a lot to come be with Marines again. Having the tower dedicated to me and everything today was amazing ... seeing all of the Marines in formation and then thanking me, and I thanked them too, because that's how Marines are."

Willis spoke with the Marines before the dedication about his time in the Marine Corps and what it took to make it through the iconic battle as a member of 1st Marine Division, outnumbered and surrounded by the Republic of China's Ninth Army Group.

"He inspired us all to be better Marines and do better," said Private First Class Kevin Velez, who serves as a marksmanship coach at the range. "He showed us that he did a lot for us to be here and he served the country. He is an inspiration for me and other young Marines especially with his dedication to the Marine Corps."

Later in his career Willis served as a drill instructor for the 2nd and 3rd Recruit Training Battalions, where he passed on his experiences and passion for the Corps to the next generation.

Captain Lukas Rebertus, officer in charge of the Chosin Rifle Range, said naming the tower helps connect the Marines currently serving on the range with the history of the Corps and specifically with the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

"Why not actually name our tower after a Marine who fought in the Chosin Reservoir?" said Rebertus. "We wanted to honor [Willis]—not many people would realize what that man did if they saw him

on the street so we wanted to make sure he was recognized for what he did so long ago. Watching him talk to the Marines I noticed he really holds deeply that 'Once a Marine, always a Marine.' No matter when you get out, or what you do when you get out, you're always a Marine."

LCpl Carlin Warren, USMC

Corps to Award Sole Source Orders For Cold Weather Boots and Socks

Marines will stay warm during ambient cold weather operations with new boots and socks, Marine Corps Systems Command announced June 1.

The Marine Corps intends to award sole source purchase orders for two types of Intense Cold Weather Boots and Intense Cold Weather Socks to improve Marines' performance in cold weather environments. A total of 2,000 boots and 50,000 pairs of socks will be delivered from four vendors by Sept. 28.

"Based on market research, industry days and events such as Modern Day Marine, we narrowed our decision for the orders down to two companies for cold weather boots and two for socks," said Todd Towles, program analyst for the Clothing and Equipment Team at MCSC. Currently, there are no Marine Corps issue boots designed for use in the -20 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit range. The Temperate Weather Marine Corps Combat Boot was designed for a temperature range between 20 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit, and the Extreme Cold Weather Vapor Barrier Boot was designed for a range between -65 and -20 degrees Fahrenheit.

This effort to acquire the cold weather boots and socks will help MCSC evaluate commercial off-the-shelf solutions and offer the potential to reduce or eliminate the current environmental protection gap, said Towles. The socks will have much higher wool content than the polypropylene wool socks Marines currently use. Additionally, the Clothing and Equipment Team is hopeful the new gear will offer increased water repellency, comfort and insulation in extreme cold weather environments.

MCSC's Program Manager Infantry Combat Equipment (ICE) will conduct a field user evaluation December 2018 through March 2019. The team will gather input from Marines as they wear the ICWB and ICWS prototypes at the Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.; Fort McCoy, Wis.; and Norway.



LCPL CARLIN WARREN, USMC

Capt Lukas Rebertus, the range commander of Chosin Rifle Range, hands 1stSgt George Willis, USMC (Ret) a plaque commemorating the dedication of the range's control tower in his name at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., May 24. The control tower was renamed Willis Tower in recognition of Willis' actions during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in Korea.



SCT JAMES TREVINO, USMC

Marines training in or deployed to environments in the -20 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit range, like those pictured here at MCMWTC Bridgeport, Calif., will be the beneficiaries of the new Intense Cold Weather Boots and Intense Cold Weather Socks; MCSC intends to award sole source purchase orders for two types of boots and socks with delivery expected by Sept. 28.

Feedback regarding fit, form and function will be collected along with how well both prototypes of the ICWB and ICWS perform in sub-zero temperatures.

“The Army is conducting evaluations with similar boots and socks, so there is potential to have some consistency with our results and products,” said Lieutenant Colonel Chris Madeline, program manager for ICE. “Marines will keep the prototype boots through the duration of testing. Once data is collected, it will inform future acquisition decisions and allow the Corps to purchase boots and socks that bridge the gap between the existing cold weather boots.”

Kaitlin Kelly

“War Dawg Weekend” Unites Working Dog Handlers

Marines and military working dogs with Marine Corps Air Station Miramar’s Provost Marshal’s Office hosted “War Dawg Weekend,” a competition for dogs and their handlers from various units across Southern California at MCAS Miramar, Calif., June 8-9.

“The intent [of the competition] is to bring dog handlers together for some friendly competition and camaraderie,



CPL VICTOR D. MINCY, USMC

Cpl Albert Tiburcio, a military working dog handler with 1st Law Enforcement Bn, runs with his dog Gaya as she finishes the basic obedience obstacle course during “War Dawg Weekend” at MCAS Miramar, Calif., June 9.



CPL VICTOR D. MINCY, USMC

Cpl Kaity Fishbough, a military working dog handler with H&HS, MCAS Miramar, performs a low crawl alongside her dog Wando during an endurance course as part of “War Dawg Weekend” at the air station, June 9. Fishbough and Wando won the competition and were presented with a plaque sponsored by “The Dawgs Project” organization.

build relationships between other stations and above all else, honor the memory of fallen handlers,” said Staff Sergeant Mark Daniels, who hosted the event.

The two-day competition consisted of a memorial service recognizing fallen handlers and a dog competition, which judged each dog-handler team’s performance on a point system. The points were based on time, penalties, handler control and the dog’s obedience. A total of 13 teams, each consisting of one dog and one handler, came from other bases including Marine Corps Base Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to compete and represent their units.

On day one, a memorial ceremony for fallen handlers and working dogs, led by members of “The Dawgs Project,” an organization that recognizes and supports the military working dog community, recognized fallen handlers by name and rang a bell to symbolize gratitude to each for their service. Afterward, a member from each branch read aloud a letter from the family members of fallen handlers,

expressing their feelings toward dog handlers and their military service.

Following the memorial ceremony, dog handlers went to Mill’s Park on the air station, where they enjoyed a barbecue courtesy of The Dawgs Project.

“This year’s ‘War Dawg Weekend’ is dedicated to Corporal Max Donahue, one of my Marines who passed a few years ago,” said Daniels. “We want to remember and celebrate his life and the lives of other handlers, not just mourn them.”

The second day of the event began at the MCAS Miramar kennels for the basic obedience course, designed to test the dog’s obedience to the handler while working through distractors and obstacles. The second phase of the competition was explosives and drug search, during which each dog team had 10 minutes to find three odors. The team with the fastest time won the event.

Tactical patrols were the next competition, requiring each team to conduct tactical movements to three barriers and finally send their dog to bite the decoy through a window obstacle at the third

barrier. Following the tactical patrols, the teams conducted an endurance run to test handlers’ endurance and control over their dogs.

“We tested the handler’s stamina and obedience with their dog while completing several high-intensity obstacles geared around combat scenarios,” said Daniels.

The final portion of the competition was the “hardest bite” contest, which judged the team on the dog’s ability to bite a decoy with the greatest amount of force and likelihood of a successful takedown.

Corporal Kaity Fishbough with MCAS Miramar’s K-9 unit and her dog, Wando, won the competition and received a plaque sponsored by “The Dawgs Project.”

“The point of events like this is to keep the memory of those servicemembers alive, letting the community know what we do and keep this organization going to celebrate past, present and future handlers,” said attendee Mike Dowling, a former dog handler and guest of “The Dawgs Project.”

Cpl Victor Mincy, USMC





SGT JOSELYN JIMENEZ, USMC

NEW WINGS OF GOLD— GySgt Leon B. Maitland, an unmanned aerial systems (UAS) operator with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron (VMU) 2, receives his UAS breast insignia during a detachment winging ceremony in Rena, Norway, May 21. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert B. Neller, recently approved the device for qualified Marines with military occupational specialties of 7314 and 7315. VMU-2 is based out of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL ABREY LIGGINS, USMC

"It may not be funny, but when the sergeant major tells a joke, everybody laughs."

Submitted by
Tom Mahoney
Round Rock, Texas

This Month's Photo



GYSGT CLINTON FIRSTBROOK, 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 email it to us. Send your submission to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email it, referencing the number at the bottom right, to leatherneck@mca-marines.org. The winning entry will be published in two months.

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

BAM

I am the daughter of a World War II Marine, and I was informed prior to leaving for Marine Corps boot camp that I would make a good “BAM.” For those of you who served after 1980, you might not be familiar with the term.

Women in the other services had acronyms such as WAF (Women’s Air Force) or WAC (Women’s Army Corps). During this time, female Marines were referred to as Women Marines or WMs for short.

**I was called
to the DI hut.
“Private, do you
know what BAM
means?” asked my
senior DI.**

The male Marines had given their female counterparts the nickname, BAM, meaning Broad A-- Marine.

Fast forward to boot camp and one of our junior DIs was giving us a quiz prior to a Marine Corps history test the next morning. One of the questions was, “What is the original name for women Marines?” My mind was drawing a blank when the DI stated, “Ladies, the answer is not BAM.” Being older and, I thought, wiser, I figured to write BAM as my answer (the answer was Marinettes) and if they questioned it, I would tell them I had it written down before she said that.

The quizzes were turned in for grading and soon after

I was called to the DI hut. “Private, do you know what BAM means?” asked my senior DI. “Yes, Ma’am,” I replied, “Beautiful American Marine!” The door hit my rear on the way out of the DI hut and I could hear them howling with laughter.

Sgt Vicky Hensley
Wingate, Texas

An Amphibious Tea Party

In September 1951 I was assigned to 1st Combat Service Group, 2nd Marine Division. We deployed aboard USS *Deuel* (APA-160) on a training mission to the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, in the Caribbean where we would practice amphibious landings. On the morning of the landing I had to pass the mess deck on the way to the landing nets in order to descend into the LCVP landing craft below. I had become friendly with one of the Navy mess cooks and on my way to the nets I encountered the cook holding a brown paper bag. He said the bag contained tea and I could have tea instead of nasty C-ration powdered coffee that night. He then opened my backpack and placed the bag of tea therein.

We descended the nets to the LCVPs and headed for the beach. We landed in late afternoon, and my partner and I buttoned up our shelter halves just before sundown. Night fell and the division status was tactical—no lights of any kind.

We were permitted to ignite Sterno cans to warm our C-rations and water for coffee. I told my partner about the bag of tea in my backpack. He was excited that we could have fresh tea to drink and exclaimed, “Where did you say the bag

of tea was?” I replied, “In my backpack.” He fumbled around and retrieved the tea. After a few seconds he suddenly exclaimed, “This bag contains tea leaves, not tea bags!” After some thought I replied, “We will still have a nice canteen of hot tea,” then reached into my backpack and retrieved a piece of material. With care I spread the material on a flat surface, sprinkled a substantial quantity of tea leaves on it, rolled the material into a ball and dipped it in each canteen to steep.

After that procedure I shook the used tea leaves from the material and tossed it on the bush directly adjacent to our tent. Both of us enjoyed an elegant brew of fresh hot tea. We commented on just how fortunate we were to be able to enjoy its goodness, and after chow we hit the sack.

Morning descended to the boisterous sound of swear words. I peeked out the tent to learn the noise was coming from my partner and his anger was directed toward me. I asked him what was wrong and he just stood there shaking his finger and pointing at the bush where I had tossed the material I used to make the tea. I immediately became aware

of the reason for my partner’s anger. There on the bush was the “tea bag”—a pair of used, dirty, skivvy shorts that I had worn for at least three days.

Col Donald V. Norton
USA (Ret)
USMC veteran
Carol Stream, Ill.

Pull-Up Repeat

I enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on Dec. 4, 1958, and went to recruit training on July 5, 1959, at MCRD San Diego. The unit

I was in was the 13th Rifle Co located in Santa Monica, Calif. I was in my first year of college and had been on the wrestling team in high school, so I was in good condition.

I never had any trouble with the physical requirements. Then, one day our senior drill instructor (DI), Gunnery Sergeant Bill Covey, ran us over to the pull-up bar. No problem.

When my turn came, I jumped up on the bar and ripped off 10 or 12 pull-ups. Little did I know that my DI was not watching me, but was instead watching a new jet take off from the runway next to the depot. I dropped to the ground only to hear, “Let’s see what you can do.” Needless to say I couldn’t do one. My enraged DI ordered me to pack my seabag and report to the company commander. An enraged captain standing about 5 foot 7 inches tall screaming in my face told me to get my sorry a-- out to the bar outside his hut and do some pull-ups. I did 12 and he sent me back to my platoon. I don’t think my DI ever forgave me for making him look bad in front of the captain.

Don Hecht
USMC, 1958-1966
Los Angeles

Ditch Digger

After three- and six-year tours in the 1950s, I decided to accept a discharge and pursue a college degree. With that length of service, the decision to leave or remain in the Corps was not an easy one. Nevertheless, I chose to leave the Corps—much to the displeasure of my first sergeant. On the day of my discharge, “Top” conveyed his irritation with a seabag full of indelicate verbiage.

After my freshman

year, I was hired as one of two chain gangers in a survey crew. Chain gangers set range poles, exposed geodetic marks, measured distances with hundred-foot steel tapes and plumb bobs, cut foliage with bush axes and dug holes to expose buried utility and service lines. (Dig hole. Set pole. Fill hole. Not unlike burying a sand flea at Parris Island.)

At the same time, Camp

Spit-shined brown leather shoes topped by sharply creased tan tropical worsted trousers appeared at eye level. I looked up and there was my old first sergeant.

Lejeune's steam lines, laid in 1941, were in need of major maintenance and required surveying and mapping. The haste of wartime construction frequently resulted in the shortest distance between points serviced and not necessarily the routes construction plans specified. Therefore, for about a month, our crew located and registered steam line intersections, depths, lengths, elevations, angles and azimuths.

One of our last tasks was locating and exposing a buried steam line in front of what was then known as the "Camp Cafeteria" in the industrial area. I had just relieved my chain gang partner in the hole when spit-shined brown leather shoes topped by sharply creased tan tropical worsted trousers appeared at eye level. I looked up and there was my old first sergeant. Hands on hips and with as much contempt as he could muster, he spat, "College boy, huh?" and stalked away. I've wondered how

often Top regaled troops deliberating shipping over with the tale of the Marine who was going to school and ended up digging ditches. He should have seen me the following summer as a laborer for a roofing company. Had I retained Top's mailing address, I would have sent him an announcement of my graduation ceremonies three years later.

Donald F. Perkins
Raleigh, N.C.

Who Needs Swim Lessons?

After a few days of snapping in before heading to the firing line at Parris Island, S.C., during the hot days of July 1956, our senior drill instructor wanted to know how many of our platoon members did not know how to swim. Out of 80 of us, 30 hands went up. He said, "You will now report to the pool for lessons. I will be going over there shortly and if I see any one of you swimming, I will jump in and drown you! Again, I ask how many of you cannot swim?" The show of hands this time was seven. He issued a command to those seven, "Pool on the double!"

I would give anything to be an 18-year-old Marine again.

Cpl Bob Fudjinski
USMC, 1956-1958
Vero Beach, Fla.

Going Paperless

In 1984, during my time with Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, our commanding officer, Captain L.J. Wolf, announced during morning formation that when our paychecks were disbursed that day, we were to line up outside to receive our pay. The reason for this new procedure was to find out why there were still hold-outs not enrolling in direct deposit which was pushed heavily at that time. I was one of the hold-outs.

As the single file line moved slowly toward the desk, I heard Capt Wolf asking Marines their reason for being a hold-out. Capt Wolf asked, "What's your reason, Pratt?" Without hesitation I said, "Sir, I was brought up in the church and I used to hear scripture being talked about how in the end times a sign of these times was the introduction of a cashless society. I would prefer a paper check."

He paused, slowly looked up and said, "Pratt, that's the best one all day." And without any further questions he handed me my check. I knew then and know now there's power in the scriptures.

LCpl Hugh Pratt
USMC, 1983-1987
Bath, Mich.

Hitchhiker's Surprise

After almost 14 months of field duty in Vietnam, I was tired, underweight and a little grumpy. But finally the time came for rotation and after leaving Da Nang, we landed at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in California on

It was another Navy vehicle—a blue sedan. "Where are you headed?" the driver asked. "L.A.," I replied. "Hop in," he said.

Dec. 20, 1966. Everything was well-organized and we were processed quickly right near the tarmac—back pay, uniforms, orders to our new duty station, etc.

Last on the list was transportation to another part of the base to arrange travel to our next destination. A Navy seaman showed up driving a beat-up

blue bus, but wouldn't you know it, the bus broke down about a mile down the road. That's when the grumpy part kicked in. I jumped up and yelled, "I didn't expect to be met by a brass band but at least you could have met me with a bus that worked!"

Off the bus I went, seabag in hand, crossing a large open field and over a wire perimeter fence to the edge of the freeway—thumb out. In short order, a car pulled over to the edge of the freeway. As luck would have it, it was another Navy vehicle—a blue sedan. "Where are you headed?" the driver asked. "L.A.," I replied. "Hop in," he said.

As we took off down the highway, I looked closely at the driver. Noticing his rank, I became a little discombobulated. Wow! This guy must have really screwed up to be assigned as a duty driver. But then again, there couldn't be many Marine sergeants like me returning from Vietnam who could claim to have been driven from the base in a Navy staff car driven by a three-star admiral.

David G. Robin
Perris, Calif.

Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it's a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches? We would love to hear your stories and see any accompanying photographs. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Patricia Everett, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to p.everett@mca-marines.org. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA&F membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." Spread the word! 🍷



The Marines' Memorial Club

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

To honor the legacy of military service through a living memorial and programs that commemorate, educate and serve veterans of all eras.

Mission of the Marines' Memorial Club

Located in the heart of beautiful downtown San Francisco, the iconic Marines' Memorial Club is an impressive combination of history and hospitality. Although San Francisco is no longer a hotbed of military activity, the MMC continues to serve as a living memorial to Marines and other service-members and is a modern example of civility, courtesy and camaraderie in a time when all are sorely lacking.

Background

In the August 1973 issue of *Leatherneck*, author Larry James wrote: "It all began after World War II when it was decided that a memorial should be provided for the Marines who had lost their lives in the Pacific. The original idea called for using some accumulated post exchange profits to erect a regular commemorative monument. A group of Marines, active and former, obtained the Commandant's approval of a plan to buy the large building

at 609 Sutter Street and form a club as a living memorial. And as a 'service to those who carry on,' the club would operate without benefit of dues, initiation fees or other assessments.

"The corner building was purchased in 1946 for \$800,000. But the club was not ready to open its doors to Marines. Originally built as a women's social club in 1927 for \$1.5 million (not counting the land and furnishings), the venture suffered during the depression years. A bank foreclosed in 1939. In 1942, the U.S. Navy leased the property for a WAVE barracks. As a result, in 1946 the Marines' Memorial Association was faced with a \$500,000 mortgage and the task of producing coeducational facilities before the club could open.



COURTESY OF THE MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB

“The first major problem in 1946 was getting 200 beds to equip the club for occupancy. Since the club needed income, and Marine veterans needed places to stay, the opening was held on Sept. 16, 1946—55 days before the official dedication.

“Under the directorship of retired Marine MajGen Evans O. Ames, the club immediately began to reduce the mortgage and put money into remodeling. During his regime as general manager for the nonprofit association, it was able to pay off the \$500,000 mortgage in 1961—five years ahead of schedule. By the time MajGen Ames retired on Feb. 1, 1966, more than \$650,000 had been invested in club improvements. The Sutter and Mason location, down slope from Nob Hill, leaves the Marines’ Memorial only two blocks from Union Square, a block from the historic Powell Street cable cars and only a five-block stroll from Chinatown.”

Left: The beautifully appointed lobby of the Marines’ Memorial Club looks more like the entrance to a museum than a place of lodging.

Below: One of the highlights of visiting the MMC is meeting Beau, Beulah and Bubba, General Manager Michael Allen’s pet bulldogs.



COL MARY H. REINWALD, USMC (RET)



COURTESY OF THE MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB

Throughout the MMC there are numerous displays and memorials including the Memorial Wall, dedicated to service-members lost since Sept. 11, 2001.

Today

The welcoming air of the MMC is evident as soon as you walk through the front doors and are warmly greeted by the senior bell hop, Troy James, who has been there for many years. The MMC has almost 200 employees, nine of whom have been there for more than three decades—a true barometer of the warm atmosphere within the club. Checking in takes a bit longer than at most hotels. It's not because of the slow registration process—the exceptionally helpful staff are professionals and make the actual process quick and easy—but rather because the lobby décor, composed of Marine Corps memorabilia that fascinates leathernecks of all eras, pulls guests in and delays them from getting to their rooms. And if general manager Michael Allen's bulldogs are in the lobby, the "delay" is even longer. Few can resist the charms of Bubba, Beau and Beulah, all of whom are quite comfortable being petted and fawned over by guests and members of the club.

Regardless of which floor guests are staying on, they quickly see why the MMC is known as a "living memorial." Historic exhibits are widespread throughout the club and now include a living memorial wall with the names of servicemembers killed since 9/11. The beautifully appointed library houses an outstanding collection of books and artifacts from members of all eras and serves as a quiet respite for members and guests to settle in with a daily newspaper or simply sit by the fire reading a good book.

The club, with its 138 guest rooms, spacious ballrooms and professional meeting rooms, is more than simply a hotel or museum. It has expanded its offerings while continuing to ensure it never strays from its original mission of "honoring the memory of and commemorating the valor" of Marines and "providing a forum for educational lectures and meetings." The MMC hosts many events throughout the year including a special Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller, attended in 2017 and this year's guest of honor will be Secretary of the Navy, Richard V. Spencer. Other events include a memorial service and luncheon, a special Salute to Vietnam Veterans and the George P. Shultz Lecture Series—ADM James G. Stavridis was one of the more recent speakers. The MMC's theater seats 564 patrons and is the site of plays, lectures, and conferences. While the programs are not always hosted by the MMC itself, club members are welcome to attend a variety of shows including "A Gershwin Portrait" (25 local singers pay tribute to George and Ira Gershwin)



Above: The MMC's library has provided a place of respite and relaxation for members and guests since the Club's earliest days in the 1940s.



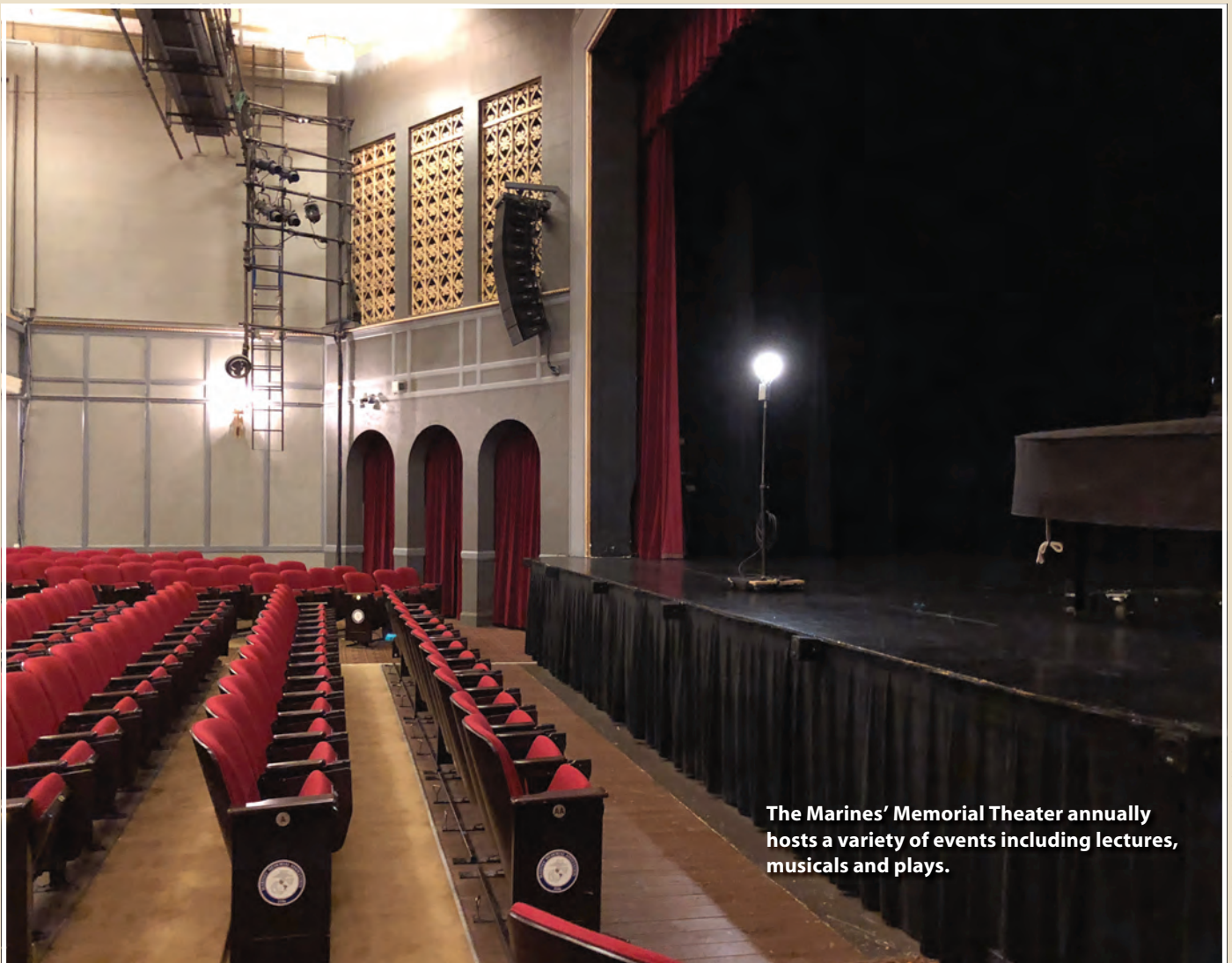
Over the last eight decades, Marines and other servicemembers have checked into the MMC on leave, on their way to duty stations in the Pacific and for special events such as the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



COL MARY H. REINWALD, USMC (RET)

COL MARY H. REINWALD, USMC (RET)

Above and left: Located on the club's second floor, the Flying Leatherneck Lounge contains a treasure trove of pictures, mementos and artifacts from Marine aviators over the years.



The Marines' Memorial Theater annually hosts a variety of events including lectures, musicals and plays.

COL MARY H. REINWALD, USMC (RET)



COURTESY OF THE MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB

The entrance to the MMC at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco is a welcome sight to members and guests, whether on their first visit or their 50th.



COURTESY OF THE MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB

Dinner at the Leatherneck Steakhouse on the 12th floor of the MMC is not only delicious but comes with a spectacular view of San Francisco.



COL MARY H. REINWALD, USMC (RET)

LtGen Jan C. Huly, USMC (Ret), seen here in the Flying Leatherneck Lounge, assumed the duties of president and chief executive officer in November 2017. The general has been a visitor to the club since his days growing up in the San Francisco area.

and “The Hero Round Table” (the only conference in the work dedicated entirely to discussing heroism).

The current president and chief executive officer of the MMC is retired Lieutenant General Jan C. Huly who assumed the job in November 2017. A native of northern California, LtGen Huly has wonderful memories of the club going back decades to his teen years, including seeing Dick Van Dyke who attended the premiere of the film “Mary Poppins” in the club’s theater in 1964. Other memories of the club include family celebrations—LtGen Huly’s sister’s wedding reception was held at the MMC in the late 1960s.

His appreciation and affection for the MMC made him the perfect choice to lead the enterprise; he believes the MMC is a treasure and is especially proud that all services are well represented on the club’s membership rolls. According to LtGen Huly, serving as the president and CEO comes with one special perk. “This job gives me the opportunity to, once again, cavort with the finest people on earth, U.S. Marines—active, reserve, former, retired, whatever—along with those who support Marines.”

One of the best ways to “cavort” is by attending happy hour at Chesty’s Bar on

the 12th floor. Held every day from 1600-1800, guests enjoy complimentary drinks while making new friends and seeing old brothers-in-arms. Members have their own happy hour in the 2nd floor’s Flying Leatherneck Lounge Tuesday-Friday where bartender Brian Casey has created a warm and welcoming environment where veterans of all services once again can experience the camaraderie they often miss. Guests and members can then dine at the Leatherneck Steakhouse. Located on the top floor of MMC with gorgeous views of downtown San Francisco, the food is exceptional and the atmosphere breathtaking.

Membership

The MMC is owned by the Marines’ Memorial Association, a 501 c 19 veterans nonprofit organization, and active-duty, veteran, and retired members of all services are eligible to join. Of note, annual membership for active-duty servicemembers is free when they sign up on site.

Joining the MMC has advantages even for those with no plans to visit the San Francisco area in the near future. Member dues help support the MMC’s services and programs for servicemembers and their families and are tax deductible. And of

course, becoming a MMC member has other significant benefits. Not only do members get exceptional rates on overnight accommodations, a home-away-from-home in downtown San Francisco and the opportunity to regularly meet and socialize with their fellow veterans and retirees, they also have access to more than 240 reciprocal clubs throughout the world where they enjoy the same high-quality accommodations at deeply discounted prices. Reciprocal clubs include the Army Navy and Georgetown Clubs in Washington, D.C., the New York Athletic Club in New York City and the Coronado Cays Yacht Club near San Diego. In addition, dues from the club’s 30,000 members’ dues and guests’ fees also help to support the MMC’s outreach efforts including scholarships, commemoration events and Living Memorial displays.

From serving as a point of departure for Marines headed to the Pacific, to providing a place for a weary leatherneck to rest, to providing a repository for the treasured mementos of a fallen Marine, the Marines’ Memorial Club has served the Corps in its own unique way and will continue to hold a special place in the hearts of Marines everywhere for years to come. 🦖

Books Reviewed

THE UNKNOWNNS: The Untold Story of America's Unknown Soldier and WW I's Most decorated Heroes Who Brought Him Home. By Patrick K. O'Donnell. Published by Atlantic Monthly Press. 288 pages. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

Millions of tourists who visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier each year witness the precise and dignified Changing of the Guard and observe the solemnity on that sacred ground, but may never fully understand the sacrifice made by the thousands of American soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who paid the ultimate price during World War I.

As a volunteer with the National Park Service, I had previously felt comfortable with my level of knowledge pertaining to Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but I was incredibly humbled by Patrick K. O'Donnell's account of how this national shrine came to be.

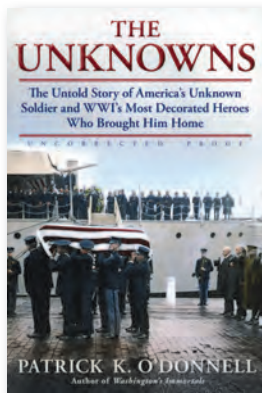
Those who attend military funerals at the cemetery have seen body bearers carrying caskets from either horse carriages and caissons or hearses to gravesites. In his book, O'Donnell describes in detail the selection of the eight body bearers who accompanied the unknown soldier from France to the United States and, ultimately, to his final resting place in 1921.

The author clearly outlines the paths of those eight veterans of the war who were selected as pallbearers for the casket, as well as a ninth, Sergeant Edward F. Younger, USA. According to the author, Younger had the honor of placing a bouquet of roses on the casket which he chose from four caskets that had been assembled at Chalons, France, on Oct. 24, 1921. After selecting the one casket, America's unknown soldier was designated.

"The Unknownns" is the story of Sergeant Samuel Woodfill, USA; First Sergeant Harry Taylor, USA; 1SG Louis Razga, USA; Corporal Thomas Saunders, USA; Color Sergeant James Dell, USA; Chief Gunner's Mate James Delaney, USN; Gunnery Sergeant Ernest Jansen, USMC; and Chief Water Tender Charles Leo O'Connor, USN.

When thinking of WW I, Marines

generally tend to focus on the battle actions during June 1918 at Belleau Wood. It is with the most profound reverence and respect that those names, along with Lucy-de-Bocage, Hill 142, and Bouresches are remembered. But the Marines continued to win honors during combat operations in the Saint-Mihiel Salient offensive later that same year, establishing the Corps as a premier fighting force. Here, in September 1918, the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), led by General John J. Pershing, with its one Marine brigade (the 4th Marine Brigade), would win its first large-scale, American-led victory of the war. O'Donnell places Marine GySgt Ernest Jansen right in the middle of the fighting at Belleau Wood on Hill 142. For his bravery and devotion to his fellow Marines, he received one of the AEF's first Medals of Honor.



The body bearers came from all of America's service branches and specialties. They included, according to O'Donnell, "a cowboy who relived the legendary Charge of the Light Brigade; an American Indian who courageously cut through numerous rows of German barbed wire; and a salty New Englander who fought it out with a German U-boat for hours." While one could never begin to include all the stories of heroism, duty, and self-sacrifice that transpired during the "war to end all wars," O'Donnell has managed to capture some of the most poignant and meaningful.

Along the way as he tells the story, he introduces us to several of the more illustrious Marines in our colorful history, who served in France during WW I and shaped the future of the Corps.

As he probes deeply into the horrors of war, O'Donnell displays a unique talent for weaving in many other names of persons who are well-known and will play significant roles in military affairs. William ("Billy") Mitchell, Eddie Rickenbacker, George Catlett Marshall, and George S. Patton all saw action in WW I, serving with, or near, the eight veterans who were to escort the Unknown Soldier to Washington. These men would have a profound impact on airpower, diplomacy, and military technology.

When painting the picture of the now-

famous Belleau Wood saga, during which Gunnery Sgt Jansen experienced hand-to-hand combat with German machine-gun crews, the author brings to the fore one facet of the battle that warrants recognition.

This book will resonate with military affairs and veteran organizations. It is a great read for anyone interested in the U.S. Marine Corps' involvement in the World War I. "The Unknownns" is a superb work on the topic that surrounds the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the First World War. No matter how many times you have been at the Tomb, after you have read O'Donnell's excellent journey through WW I, you'll never see it the same again.

Fred Lash

Author's bio: Maj Fred C. Lash, USMC (Ret) is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.

THE CROSS OF GALLANTRY: A Story About Marines in Vietnam Who Sacrificed, Fought and Died During Combat Operations Along the DMZ In 1967-68. By Patrick M. Blake. 336 pages. Available on Amazon.

"The Cross of Gallantry" is a work of fiction based on the experiences of the author, Patrick Blake. The heroes of the book are Frank and Mike, who are welcomed into the brotherhood of the Corps in April 1967. By this time, there were approximately 400,000 American service personnel fighting in the Republic of South Vietnam.

The new "boots" were greeted by drill instructors who had recently seen combat in the shooting war. They were stunned by the chaos of their first days of boot camp. Of his first encounter with their nonsense DIs, Frank mumbled to himself, "They're gonna kill me! This is a mad house, an asylum! My God! What have I done?"

Endless classes, followed by hours of drill and physical fitness drills, filled each torturous hour. As time passed, and the platoon hardened, the recruits learned to shoot and qualified on the rifle range. By their final weeks, the "almost Marines" began looking sharp and squared away. The author writes, "The sight of a Marine recruit platoon in their final days of boot camp marching across the grinder is an impressive sight." Graduation, followed by advanced infantry training (ITR) at Camp Geiger in North Carolina, rounded out

the new Marines' essential introduction to the Corps.

By the late 1960s a strategy of attrition was in place in Vietnam. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara advanced new plans to build an "impregnable" wall across the country's northern border. This, they believed, would limit U.S. casualties and reduce the chances of a larger conflict which might include Russia and/or China. This "face saving" strategy, they envisioned, might save American lives and force a stalemate. The aim, of course, was to force the North Vietnamese to the peace table.

By September 1967, Frank and Mike arrived at the overseas staging battalion at Camp Las Pulgas, in California. They had entered the pipeline that fed replacements into the ongoing conflict.

Arriving in country, the Marines passed through Da Nang, and joined Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division. Now with the III Marine Amphibious Force the two new leathernecks were aboard USS *Iwo Jima*. The ship had a helicopter capability and included two Marine infantry companies. Afloat off the coast of South Vietnam, the III Marine Amphibious Force served as a reactionary force in support of Marine and South Vietnamese forces ashore.

In 1967, 1/3 participated in Ballistic Arch, a combined amphibious and helicopter assault in I Corps' Quang Tri Province. Marine Phantom jet fighters, helicopters and Naval gunfire were available to support the infantrymen. Charlie and Delta Company Marines landed without incident. Enemy weapon caches were located and destroyed with only small losses to the Marines. Predictably, Marines had problems with the functioning of their faulty M16s. The Marines grumbled, "Mattel made a toy and Colt made the real thing, but the difference was the toy worked!" Clearly changes were warranted before this new weapon would "pass muster" with the grunts.

The battalion patrolled along the DMZ, near the combat base at Con Thien. The Marines regularly endured artillery bombardment from the north. The Pentagon's war of attrition was now fully underway and the company participated in efforts to interdict enemy infiltration from the north. At Cau Viet the Marines built and patrolled around the firebase. New defensive construction called for intricate

bunker systems equipped with electronic sensors to be installed. On one dispiriting patrol Marines took casualties when they entered a mine field laid out by friendly ARVN forces. The South Vietnamese Army had failed to pass along the critical map information to the Marines.

The 1968 Tet Offensive sent the NVA's 320 Division across the DMZ which collided with the Marines of the 3rd Division. Charlie Company experienced another friendly fire disaster—an airstrike spilled napalm over several members of the company's Marines.

On Jan. 19, 1968, Frank's fellow Marine, Mike, and other members of the 2nd Platoon were killed by the hard fighting NVA. They had walked into the perimeter of an estimated 200 NVA regulars. Three Silver Stars were awarded to Marines for gallantry in this dispirited action.

In the book's conclusion the author writes, "The Cross of Gallantry is written for all Vietnam Veterans, and specifically the III Marine Amphibious Force. It honors their sacrifices, suffering and wasted lives and broken bodies, minds and souls—this was the price Marines paid for fighting and winning battles in Vietnam." On the anniversary of the battle, Frank made a pilgrimage to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Here he sought to connect with his lost buddy Mike and to honor all of the fallen heroes of America's participation in the Vietnam War.

This finely crafted volume is a tribute to the young Marines who fought the good fight; they are not to be forgotten. For its gallant service, Marines and Sailors of the III Marine Amphibious Force received a unit commendation: The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Bob Loring



HOW CAN YOU MEND THIS PURPLE HEART. By T.L. Gould. Published by Ideas Into Books Westview. 254 pages. Available on Amazon.

Let's count the cost: Of the two and one-half million men and woman who served in the Vietnam War, more than 58,000 were killed and more than 303,000 were wounded. More than 5,000 lost at least one limb and approximately 1,100 soldiers lost multiple limbs.

"How Can You Mend This Purple Heart," is not a war story. It does, however, take a haunting look at how a group of our finest faced the aftermath of their service while recovering from debilitating battle injuries.

The novel is based on the author's own experience as a patient in Naval Hospital Philadelphia in 1969, and the book skillfully draws back the curtain on a naval hospital's orthopedic ward during the Vietnam War.

In 1968, Jeremy Shoff made a decision he would regret for the rest of his life. The young man broke his verbal commitment to join the Marine Corps, and instead joined the Navy. For Jeremy, his decision to become a Sailor would have consequences. By the late 1960s many young Marines were sent to fight in the Republic of Vietnam. For this reason, Jeremy's girlfriend and parents were all pleased that he chose to join the Navy. After naval boot camp, Jeremy completed radio school and had orders to join the crew on board a destroyer escort headed towards the Mediterranean Sea. A Med cruise was deemed to be the "dream cruise" for many enthusiastic new Sailors.

However, for Jeremy, the fickle finger of fate had a different plan. While on liberty celebrating his good fortune, Jeremy and his friends crashed their '63 Chevy into a bridge abutment. His head went through the windshield and his legs were twisted under the car's metal dashboard; he lived, but another member of his group did not. Unconscious, Jeremy and two



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other young Sailors were transported to a nearby hospital.

Jeremy had multiple fractures in both of his legs. His new life would now be spent in Ward 2B, along with a group of seriously wounded Marines. No one had to tell him; Jeremy knew that they were recuperating Vietnam veterans.

At this time, naval hospitals received a daily influx of Marines and Navy corpsmen fresh from the fields of battle. His new roommates suffered from a range of ailments—most were single, double, or in some extreme cases, multiple amputees.

The Marines made it clear to him that they considered him an outsider. In their eyes, he had two strikes against him. First, he was a non-combat mother f---er, and second, he was a Navy swabby.

There was another major factor: Jeremy would, someday, have the use of both his arms and his legs. Yes, it would take a long time, and numerous operations, but he would walk again. "A chicken-sh-t Navy coward, that's what he is," was how one multiple-amputee branded him. For the new guy, life on Ward 2B would be a

daily challenge. Guilt-ridden, Jeremy wished he too had earned an honorable Purple Heart.

As time and treatment progressed, Jeremy earned his place among these wounded warriors. He was witness to his ward-mates' life changes. Once, a triple amputee named Earl Ray was visited by his old girlfriend. One look at him and her knees buckled. She fainted, and banged her head against the hospital bed frame. Later, her mother called and told Earl Ray that it would be best if Jennifer rested at home for a while. And so it went for these Marines and corpsmen attempting to recover and relate to the fresh realities of their new world circumstances.

They observed each other's pain and anger as they attempted to relearn how to live and love. Over time, enduring dressing changes, morphine drips and agonizing physical therapy, they managed to bond and adjust to their new bodies. Supporting one another was the name of the game as they attempted to face their new lives, and uncertain futures.


The guys on the ward eventually be-

came ambulatory. Together they learned to support one another and were granted limited weekend liberty from the hospital. They were honored guests at dinner parties at the local American Legion and VFW halls. Here, the young veterans learned life-lessons of how to interact in the strange civilian world.

Finally, the doctors certified Jeremy as "fit for full duty." In his final days at the hospital, Jeremy achieved a most prized status when one Marine stated: "You're okay for a non-combat ... for an "Honorary Marine!"

Gould's new book is well-written and incredibly moving. He skillfully captures the struggles faced by these veterans tragically linked by their profound life changing conditions. The author dedicates his book to all the combat-wounded veterans of past and present conflicts. In a personal note he writes: "May you find the strength in yourself to continue your life's mission and know that the entire nation is grateful for your service."

Bob 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. 



Female Marines

In 1918, Opha May Johnson became the first woman to serve in the Marine Corps.



100 years later...

We celebrate the accomplishments and legacy of all female Marines.

To learn more about the history of women in the Marine Corps visit :

https://www.mca-marines.org/women_Marines_100

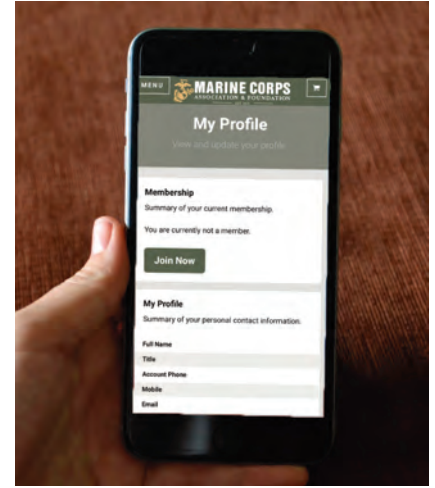


MARINE CORPS
ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION
EST. 1918



The Marine Corps Association & Foundation needs your help!

In order to continue to provide a better experience for our valued members, we have upgraded our member database. This upgrade will result in changes to your online profile and will streamline your online activities. All processes will be easier and more user friendly to include updating information and renewing your membership. Even members with little online knowledge will be able to make changes in a matter of seconds.



Here's How:

Go to the MCA&F homepage (www.mca-marines.org) and click the “LogIn” link in the top right corner.

You will need to reset your password. Click the “Forgot your Password?” link underneath the blue “Log In” button.

Type your email into the box labeled “Email” and click the blue “Reset Your Password” button.

You will receive an email with instructions to reset your password.

Click the “Reset My Password” link in the email.

Type your new password into the box labeled “Password*” and the box labeled “Retype New Password*” then click the blue “Submit” button.

You will now be logged in to your profile. You will need to remember your username and password in order to login in the future.

Thank you to our members who have created their online member profiles. Congratulations to our gift card winners!

Cpl Michael D. Dishaw
Sgt Ed C Klonower, III
Arthur C. Kerle
Maj Daniel Bartos

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



LCPL CAITLIN BEVEL, USMC

A Marine family is reunited at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., in 2014 after a six-month deployment. The Marine Corps is currently modifying its family readiness efforts to focus primarily on supporting families during deployments.

Corps to Refocus Family Readiness Efforts

The Marine Corps' most valuable assets are its Marines and their families, and commanders are responsible for fostering the link between personal and family readiness and operational unit readiness.

To help accomplish this, the Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program (UPFRP) was developed. After more than a decade of sustained combat, the Marine Corps is refocusing its UPFRP to the core of the program: support to Marines and their families during deployment.

The primary change in this reset will be the re-designation of civilian Family Readiness Officers (FROs) as Deployment Readiness Coordinators (DRCs). They will focus on deployment support and provide assistance to units, individual Marines and families through a general support model based at the colonel command level.

FROs were redesignated as DRCs in June, and although their locations may change, their responsibilities will not necessarily differ as the focus of effort within the four tenets of the program will remain the same: deployment readiness, communication, resource referral and volunteer management.

"The structure of the UPFRP is not changing so much as the staffing is," said Karen Gough, a FRO with I Marine

Expeditionary Force. "[Commanders] will designate a number of FROs at the O-6 command level and deploying units will be top priority."

A Marine Administrative Message outlining the reset was released in March and initiated the change process. Marine and Family Programs is in the process of coordinating with commands for policy updates and revised training, with full implementation expected this fall.

"We need to ensure that our resources

are weighted to the benefit of Marines in the operating forces and their families," said General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The UPFRP was developed to help Marines and their families adjust to the rigors of military life. Just as the Marine Corps adapts and changes over time, the UPFRP's goal is to change and adapt with it in order to continually meet the needs of Marines and their families.

LCpl Robert Bliss, USMC

New Film Depicts Bond Among Marine Raiders

"The Detail," a short film inspired by the true story of Marine Master Sergeant Thomas V. Saunders, is now available to view via Amazon Prime streaming service.

The film, which was helmed by director Kat Croft and a team of noteworthy female filmmakers, delves into the private lives and traditions of Marine Raiders.

"I had never seen what a true celebration of life looked like before my friend Tom's funeral," said Croft. "He was a Marine and these men were brothers to the end. I just felt this overwhelming need to capture that bond and share it with the world."

MSgt Saunders was a Marine Raider who died alongside six other team members and four national guardsmen during a training accident in 2015. The film seeks to honor his memory while supporting Raising Raiders, a foundation that provides financial assistance to Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command families as well as programs that promote



COURTESY OF "THE DETAIL"

This still image is taken from a new short film, "The Detail," now streaming on Amazon Prime, which tells the story of MSgt Thomas V. Saunders, a Marine Raider who was killed in a training accident in 2015.

their mental, physical and emotional well-being.

“I was honored that Tom’s friends entrusted me to tell this story and that I had the opportunity to cast veterans in the film,” said Croft. “Tom was only 33 when he passed, leaving behind a wife and son. I hope this film speaks to others of his sacrifice and the loyalty of those who serve.”

Kat Croft wrote, directed and produced the film with Emmy award-winning editor Julie Yuen, Emmy-nominated producer Victoria Estevez and award-winning cinematographer Ayana Baraka. The film was an official selection at the 23rd Cucalorus Festival in North Carolina and also aired at the Copa Shorts Fest in Arizona and the Richmond International Film Festival in Virginia.

Janie Thomas

DOD Offers Enhanced Support For Military Families With Special Needs

The Defense Department now offers access to a wide array of newly enhanced and specialized support for military

families with special needs.

Officials launched the Exceptional Family Member Program ROC—for resources, options and consultations—May 30.

Available through Military OneSource, it offers additional expertise, specialized support and more ways to connect families with resources, all of which augment the services already provided by the EFMP staff at military installations around the world, officials said.

“One call or chat puts you in touch with an amazing team to help you find services and navigate the wide and sometimes complex array of resources, benefits and care available to you,” said A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. “The EFMP ROC connects you with subject matter experts and can provide you with assistance in understanding and navigating the military health care system and TRICARE, as well [as] referrals to local resources to meet your needs.”

Military families can schedule an appointment with a MilitaryOne Source EFMP ROC special needs consultant by

visiting the Military OneSource website or by calling (800) 342-9647. Special needs consultations are available via phone or video session. The Military OneSource staff is also available to provide additional support to families through three-way calls with health care and other service providers.

Officials also encourage military families to enroll in the EFMP to ensure they have help working through their unique set of circumstances and that their family member’s documented medical and educational needs are considered during the assignment coordination process.

To enroll, the family should complete DD Form 2792, “Family Member Medical Summary” and/or DD Form 2792-1, “Special Education/Early Intervention Summary,” and submit the forms according to the guidance of their military service. For assistance with this process, families can contact their installation’s Military and Family Support Center, or they can contact Military OneSource.

DOD



SGT ROBERT KNAPP, USMC

SUNSET AT LINCOLN—Leathernecks with the U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard march across the parade deck during the Sunset Parade at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C., June 12. This year is the first that Marine Barracks Washington has hosted its Tuesday Sunset Parades at the memorial due to ongoing construction at the Marine Corps War Memorial.

DPAA Identifies Remains of Tarawa Marines

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) recently announced that the remains of several U.S. Marines, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified.

U.S. servicemembers who died in the Battle of Tarawa were buried in a number of battlefield cemeteries on Tarawa. Recovery operations were conducted in 1946 and 1947 and the remains that could not be identified were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. Recently DPAA began the process of disinterring those remains for identification.

The Marines whose remains were disinterred and identified are:

Sgt Elden W. Grimm, 26, of Menasha, Wis. He was assigned to Company A, First Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.

PFC Jack H. Krieger, 28, of Larned, Kan. He was assigned to Co A, 1st Bn, 18th Marines, 2ndMarDiv.

In June 2015, History Flight, Inc., a nongovernmental organization, notified DPAA that they had discovered a burial site in Betio Island. Remains were recovered and turned over to DPAA for identification.

The Marines whose remains recently were recovered and identified are:

Pvt Charles A. Drew, 29, of Coalinga, Calif. He was assigned to Co F, 2nd Bn, 8th Marines, 2ndMarDiv.

2ndLt Harvey L. Moore, 25 of Chatham, La. He was assigned to Co E, 2nd Bn, 8th Marines, 2ndMarDiv.

PhM2 Thomas J. Murphy, 22, of Greencastle, Ind. He was assigned to Headquarters Co, 3rd Bn, 8th Marines.

DPAA

Edward Atkinson, 86, of Millville, N.J. He was a Marine who fought in the Korean War and was a POW for two years. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW. His awards include the Purple Heart.

George J. Barrette, 87, of Peshtigo, Wis. During the Korean War he served in an antitank company and a recoilless rifle company.

Col John F. Bender, 73, of McLean, Va. He served with 3rd Bn, 7th Marines in Vietnam as a platoon commander and later as a company commander. His awards include the Bronze Star, Navy Commendation Medal and a Purple Heart. He had a career with the federal government, specializing in intelligence and security issues with assignments in the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

Cpl Victor R. Beverson, 87, of Baton Rouge, La. After a brief stint in the Navy, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was a member of the "Summer of '48" association.

Sgt Konstantine Bogdanos, 87, in Jersey City, N.J. He was a Marine who served from 1951-1953 and was a veteran of the Korean War. After the war, he opened a Greek restaurant in Manhattan. One of his sons is a retired Marine colonel.

John J. "Jack" Brochtrup, 74, of Menasha, Wis. He was commissioned in 1967 and served as an artillery officer in the Vietnam War. He was a veteran of the Battle of Khe Sahn.

Cpl Roger K. Colby, 95, of Concordia, Kan. He served in the South Pacific during WW II and saw action on Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Saipan. His awards include the Purple Heart.

LtCol David D. Duncan, 102, in Grasse, France. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and was a combat photographer assigned to the South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command in the Pacific. He was behind enemy lines on Bougainville and photographed the Battle of Okinawa from the sky in a Plexiglas nose pod that was attached under the wing of a U.S. Air Force P-38 Lightning. He was on board USS *Missouri* (BB-63) on Sept. 2, 1945, and documented on film the signing of Japanese surrender documents. He had a decades-long career as a freelance photographer covering the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He published several books, including "This is War!" a photo narrative of Marines in combat. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with two stars and the Purple Heart.

MGySgt Robert R. Gunia, 88, of East Lake, Mich. He was a Marine who served for 24 years and was a member of the "Summer of '48" association.

Capt Ronald E. Hoover Sr., 81, of Carlisle, Pa. He served in Vietnam as a platoon leader with 3rd Recon Bn and as a commander of "India" Co, 3/26. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during Operation Meade River in November 1968. According to his award citation, he "skillfully deployed his men as part of a cordon/maneuver to surround a large hostile force in Quang Nam Province. During the ensuing several days of heavy engagement with the enemy, he repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire as he fearlessly moved across the dangerous terrain to encourage his men and ensure that every possible avenue of enemy escape was effectively covered with firepower." His other awards include the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. He was featured in the article "For Their Gallantry and Intrepidity: The Marines of 3/26 in Operation Meade River" in the August 2017 issue of *Leatherneck*.

Earl J. Jacobson, 90, of Ironwood, Mich. He was a Marine who served during WW II.

Cpl Myron L. "Bud" Jahnke, 92, of Green Bay, Wis. During WW II he was assigned to the 3rdMarDiv in the South Pacific.

Robert A. Jeanquart, 81, of Bradenton, Fla. He was a Marine who fought in the Korean War.

Dennis C. Kucera, 76, of Portland, Ore. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960 and was an aircraft maintainer. After leaving the Marine Corps, he used his GI bill to earn a private pilot license. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, the American Legion, and La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, "The society of 40 men or 8 horses," a veteran's organization founded after WW I. He volunteered at the VA hospital in Portland.

SSgt Carl Lawendowski, 88, of Whitesboro, N.Y. He was assigned to the 1stMarDiv during the Korean War and saw action at the Chosin Reservoir. His awards include the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V."

Sgt John A. Mackinnon, 85, of Norfolk, Neb. He was a Marine who served from 1951-1954 and saw action in the Korean War.

Sgt Ken Schrager, 87, of Plantation,

Fla. He was a “Summer of ‘48” Marine who saw action in the Korean War.

Donald F. Stadler, 76, of Green Bay, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after he graduated from high school.

Cpl Donald H. Stout of Seattle, Wash. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

John P. Strength, 93, of Douglasville, Ga. He was a Corsair pilot in the Pacific theater in WW II and later served in the Korean War.

Cpl Loreta G. Kemper Suarez, 104, of Morgantown W.Va. She served in the motor pool MCB Quantico during WW II.

LtGen Bernard E. Trainor, 89, of Potomac Falls, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at the end of WW II and was selected for officer training in the ROTC program. Following his graduation from the College of the Holy Cross, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1951. He commanded a rifle platoon in the Korean War and later served two combat tours in the Vietnam War. LtGen Trainor was instrumental in the post-Vietnam War overhaul of Marine Corps recruiting and recruit training procedures. He was a key figure in the Marine Corps’ shift to an all-volunteer force.

His last assignment before retiring was as Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policies, and Operations at HQMC. After



COURTESY OF WES HAMMOND

2ndLt Bernard E. “Mick” Trainor, center, in Korea, March 1952. On the right is 2ndLt James W. “Wes” Hammond. Father Vinnie Lonegan, the senior chaplain for 1stMarDiv is on the left.

his 1985 retirement from the Marine Corps, he embarked on a second career as a military analyst and author. He was the military correspondent for *The New York Times* and later an analyst for NBC. LtGen Trainor coauthored several books including “The Generals’ War.”

GySgt Charles Vicari, 88, of Metairie, La. His 21 years in the Marine Corps included service in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was a graduate of the University of New Orleans. He was one of the “Summer of ‘48” Marines and was a member of the MCL and the Chosin Few.

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, dates of service, units served in, and, if possible a published obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear. Submissions may be sent to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va., 22134, or emailed to leatherneck@mca-marines.org or n.lichtman@mca-marines.org. 🇺🇸



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SOUND OFF
[continued from page 7]

One man was killed on Iwo Jima, and the other seven were wounded, four of whom were medically discharged. The other three of us went to Japan, landing in Kyushu on Sept. 22, 1945. We all had the same number of points and were discharged March 28, 1946 in Bainbridge, Md. We three stayed in contact with each other and sometimes attended the Division reunions. My two friends passed away three or four years ago. Our next reunion is in Illinois in October and I hope to be there.

More than likely most of Plt 1208 was assigned to the 5th Div, possibly one or two in my E Company, 2nd Bn, 27th Marines.

Walter P. O'Malley
Clinton, Mass.

National Defense Service Medal

I responded to Mr. Rinchich's first letter [August 2015], complaining about the requirements for the award of the National Defense Medal. That response was published in the following issue of *Leatherneck*. I thought the gunny's [R.R. Keene] comments on Mr. Rinchich's complaints were right on, and mine also by the way. So, to resolve this issue I

would suggest he complete the following two tasks.

Task One: Watch the movies listed below.

"Pride of the Marines," starring John Garfield. The story of Pvt Al Schmid who was awarded the Navy Cross for actions on Guadalcanal.

"Sands of Iwo Jima," starring John Wayne. This movie features numerous classic one liners. Two of the best, in my opinion, are, "Into each life a little rain must fall," and "It started getting tough when you put on that uniform." Quotes to live by.

"Full Metal Jacket," enough said.

"We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson.

"Forrest Gump," starring Tom Hanks. I'm talking about Lt Dan. Enough said.

Task Two: Read the books listed below.

"Wake Island: The Heroic Gallant Fight," by Duane Schultz.

"The Thin Red Line," by James Jones.

"Valhalla," by Jere Peacock.

"Matterhorn," by Karl Marlantes.

"Fields of Fire," by James Webb.

Upon completion of these two tasks, I would hope the issue of not being awarded the National Defense Medal would be resolved and left alone.

Medals or no medals, serving in peace

or fighting in war, the most important thing to remember is, we are proud to claim the title of United States Marines.

Jerry Ennis
Fresno, Calif.

Flag on the Ground

I was always told that when a flag hits the ground it was not to be flown again but retired. This is in reference to the "Sound Off" letter, "Iwo Flag Raising, March 2005," in the May 2018 edition. It states that the flag hit the ground and then was raised again after new rope was put in place.

Fred Axthelm
Las Vegas, Nev.

• *According to the Flag Code, there is no requirement to dispose of the American flag if it hits the ground.—Editor*

Ranks Entitled to Carry the Saber

In my time in the Corps (Korean War era), only staff noncommissioned officers (NCO), E-5 and above, were entitled to carry the sword during special ceremonies. I recently saw a picture of a regular sergeant carrying a sword.

I know that the enlisted rank structure was changed in the late 1950s and a regular sergeant is now E-5 but not a staff



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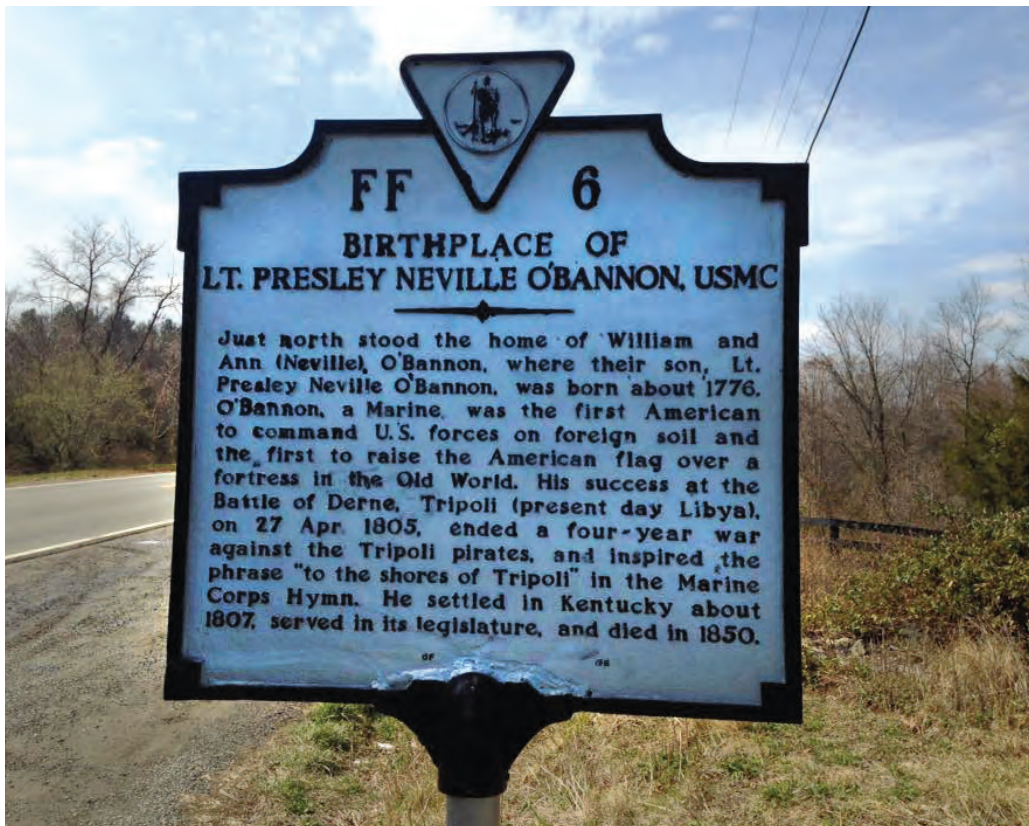
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While riding his Harley-Davidson, BGen James O'Meara, USMC (Ret), located the highway marker of Lt Presley O'Bannon's birthplace. The marker is located on Virginia Route F-185 (Grove Ln.) in Marshal, Va. Just north of the marker stood the home of William and Ann O'Bannon, Presley's parents, where Presley was born. Presley O'Bannon was the first American to command U.S. forces on foreign soil at the time of war. The marker was erected in 1996 by Department of Historic Resources.

COURTESY OF BGEN JAMES O'MEARA, USMC (RET)

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(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Justin Boling)
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WAYS TO SOUND OFF



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NCO. Is he, under the new rank structure, entitled to carry the sword?

Thanks for assisting this 82-year-old Marine.

Frederick A. McGuire
Waldorf, Md.

• *Per the Drill and Ceremonies Manual, "The Marine noncommissioned officer's sword is authorized for use by all enlisted*

Marines in the grade of corporal through sergeant major for parades, reviews, and other ceremonies. Marines in the grade of lance corporal through private may be trained in the use of the sword for motivational purposes. However, the use of the noncommissioned officer sword by Marines in the grade of lance corporal and below for parades, reviews or other ceremonies is expressly forbidden.—Editor

Remembrance to the Fallen

I want you to know how much it meant to myself and my family to open the May issue and on the first page [From the Editor's Desk] see my brother's picture and the moving remembrance of all the fallen Marines.

Paul Bayes
Merrick, N.Y.

• *Mr. Bayes' persistence in honoring the memory of his brother was the catalyst for the May 2018 "From the Editor's Desk." His devotion to his brother Thomas who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1968 serves as an example for all of us.*—Editor

An Ode to the Marines

It was a clear and sunny day.
The ships were on their way.
We were young and ready men.

We knew where we belonged.
It was all so long ago.
Your thoughts will never let it go.
Hell is burnt into your living soul.
You did what you were told.
A voice rang out, "Let's go!"
You never wavered or flinched.
You moved forward inch by inch.
It was a time to live and a time to die.
We never questioned why.
They shot us down round by round.
We knew where we belonged.
We stood tall and held our ground.
We lived, we died, and even cried.
It was all so long ago.

SSgt George E. Berger
USMC, 1943-1951
Ventura, Calif.

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an email to: leatherneck@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 emails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Editor

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Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Special Events

- **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn. Professional Development and Training Symposium**, Aug. 20-23, New Bern, N.C. Contact Kate Stark, 385 SW 254th St., Newberry, FL 32669, (352) 448-9167, hq@usmccca.org.
- **MCA&F Acquisition Awards Dinner**, Aug. 23, Springfield, Va. Sarah Cohen, (703) 640-0174, s.cohen@mca-marines.org.
- **MCA&F Intelligence Awards Dinner**, Sept. 20, Arlington, Va. Sarah Cohen, (703) 640-0174, s.cohen@mca-marines.org.

Reunions

- **5thMarDiv Assn.**, Oct. 16-21, Champaign, Ill. Contact Ray Elliott, 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802, (217) 840-2121, rayelliott23@att.net.
- **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Sept. 13-16, San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.
- **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Sept. 26-29, San Diego. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.
- **Marine Air Traffic Control Assn.**, Sept. 19-23, Oklahoma City. Contact Rock Lyons, (405) 471-5689, judgelyons@cox.net.
- **Marine Corps Counterintelligence Assn.**, Sept. 10-14, Charleston, S.C. Contact LtCol Rob Irvine, USMC (Ret), robusmc@aol.com, www.mccia.org.
- **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 20-23, New Orleans. Contact Norm Johnson, 6100 Cochrane Rd., Marlette, MI 48453, (989) 635-6653, nwgj@outlook.com.
- **Seagoing Marines Assn.**, Sept. 11-15, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Bob Sollom, (540) 840-9310, sol136@msn.com.
- **The Chosin Few**, Sept. 5-9, Norfolk, Va. Contact Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., (757) 625-6401, 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23517, www.afr-reg.com/chosin2018.
- **1/3 (all eras)**, Sept. 11-16, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.
- **2/3 (RVN)**, Sept. 26-29, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Art Ferguson, (623) 780-1819, clydesdadfergy@aol.com.
- **2/9 (all eras)**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 302-4126, ditson35@verizon.net,

www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

- **"Stormy's" 3/3 (1960-1962)**, Oct. 15-19, Las Vegas. Contact Burrell Landes, 2610 West Long Circle, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.
- **BLT 2/26 (50th anniversary of the Battle of LZ Margo)**, Sept. 14-16, Detroit. Contact Alan Green, dmzrats@gmail.com, www.dmzrats.com.
- **Battery Adjust, 3/11 (all eras)**, Sept. 19-23, Orlando, Fla. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dwmiller48@gmail.com.
- **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-1967)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.
- **E/2/3 (RVN)**, Sept. 9-12, San Antonio. Contact Bill Smith, (925) 997-8041, da190@aol.com.
- **E/2/5 (1965-1972)**, Oct. 18-21, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Doc Doughty, 1455 Roebling Tr., Pensacola, FL 32506, (850) 723-9453, dhdoughty@cox.net.
- **G/2/5 (all eras)**, Oct. 24-28, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact Larry Ortiz, (505) 629-6393, lso.vngrunt@yahoo.com.
- **3rd 155s, M/4/12, 3rdMarDiv**, Sept. 9-13, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Alex Jablonowski, (248) 505-2183, 3rd155s.m4.12@gmail.com.
- **Support Co, 3d Engineer Bn (RVN, 1967-1968)**, Sept. 11-13, Ocean City, Md. Contact A.J. Folk, 215 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073, (610) 589-1362, ajfpa@comcast.net.
- **2nd Topographic Co**, Nov. 4-8, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Jim Martin, (781) 572-7924, topotrooper@aol.com.
- **"Delta" Co, 2nd Tank Bn, 2ndMarDiv**, Sept. 21-22, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact Bryce West, (731) 424-7860, brycewest1811@gmail.com.
- **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.
- **Youngstown, Ohio Marine Reunion, MCL Det #494**, Aug. 18, Youngstown, Ohio. Contact Chester Kaschak, (330) 533-6084.
- **Subic Bay Marines Survivors**, Aug. 22-26, Nashville, Tenn. Contact A.J. Allen, (208) 941-3345, aj@mikebrowngroup.com.
- **U.S. Naval Disciplinary Command Portsmouth, N.H.**, Sept. 9-13, North Conway, N.H. Contact Don Ferry, (972) 334-0609, don.ferry@sbcglobal.net.

- **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 28-30, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, slickstuff@nwcable.net.
- **Marine Barracks NWS Yorktown**, Aug. 10-12, Yorktown, Va. Contact David Greene, marinebarracksyorktown@gmail.com.
- **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Nov. 6-9, Las Vegas. Contact Herman Cospy, lco_spy@sbcglobal.net, Bob McCarthy, coach430@aol.com, or Ruben Chavira, bngrm@aol.com.
- **USMC SATS/EAF/Morest (MOS 7011, 7002)**, Oct. 16-20, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Dick Althouse, (760) 741-7629, califyayhoo@sbcglobal.net.
- **105th OCC, 1st Plt, Co C, December 1977 (staff NCOs, officers and commissioning female Marines)**, Oct. 18-21, Quantico, Va. Contact Debbie Thurman, (434) 929-6320, debbie.thurman54@gmail.com.
- **TBS Class 3-67/41st OCC**, Nov. 15-18, New Orleans. Contact Fred Lash, (703) 644-5132, fredanddonnalash@verizon.net.
- **TBS, Co K, 9-68**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jim Stiger, (206) 999-1029, jimstiger@earthlink.net.
- **TBS, Co E, 5-69**, is planning a 50th anniversary reunion in May or June 2019. Contact Joe Howard, 21 Snow Meadow Ln., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-0259, jlheach1@cs.com.
- **TBS, Co H, 8-69 (50th anniversary)**, June 6-9, 2019, Arlington, Va. Contact Dennis Mroczkowski, m4ski@comcast.net, or Thomas Molon, ncmolons@suddenlink.net, www.facebook.com/basicsschoolhotelcompany69.
- **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.
- **Warrant Officer Screening Course, 1st Plt, Co D, January 1974**, is planning a reunion. Contact Capt Joseph C. Chiles, USMC (Ret), (619) 729-9562, joseph.chiles@gmail.com.
- **"Kilo" Co (Plts 277, 278, 279 and 280), Parris Island, 1961**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Martin D. Smith, USMC (Ret), 10 Lee Ct., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-3653, martann843@gmail.com.
- **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.
- **Plt 171, Parris Island, 1966**, is plan-

ning a reunion. Contact J.P. Kuchar, 33 Sheridan Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, (732) 549-6468, jpkuchar@mac.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 2085, San Diego, 1968**, Sept. 6-8, San Diego. Contact Richard J. "Pvt Ears" Miskanis, (916) 369-7573, usmcsarge@att.net.

• **Plt 329, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact Thomas Payne, 2220 Flat Branch Rd., Ellijay, GA, 30540, (706) 635-4540, corap@ellijay.com.

• **Plt 340, Parris Island, 1963**, is planning a reunion. Contact Garrett W. Silvia, (508) 992-7392, gwsil@comcast.net.

• **Plt 431, Parris Island, 1945**, is planning a reunion. Contact 1stSgt George P. Cavros, USMC (Ret), (262) 782-7813, gcavros88@gmail.com.

• **Plt 1018, San Diego, 1968 (50th Anniversary)**, is planning a reunion in Salem, Ore. Contact Dan Stombaugh, (541) 606-0398, dwstombaugh@msn.com.

• **Plt 1034, San Diego, 1968 (50th Anniversary)**, Sept. 8, Phoenix. Contact Oscar F. Borboa, (602) 809-0623, oscarbaz@cox.net.

• **Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968**, is planning a reunion. Contact Stephen Norpel, 206 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 1059, San Diego, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact Dave Jamieson, (805) 896-7404, daveyo_jamieson@msn.com.

• **Plt 1096, San Diego, 1968**, Oct. 4-8, San Diego. Contact Dan Hefner, (312) 504-4658, drh818@msn.com.

• **Plt 1098, Parris Island, 1970**, is planning a reunion. Contact Michael Shea, (786) 280-8202, mkek2709@comcast.net.

• **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 2077, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact SgtMaj Raymond Edwards, USMC (Ret), 100 Stephens St., Boyce, LA 71409, sgtmajedretired@gmail.com.

• **Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707) 527-8319, wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 3002, San Diego, 1956**, Aug. 23-25, Lafayette, Ind. Contact Jack Lahrman, (765) 427-8132, jdlahrman@mintel.net.

• **Plt 3041, San Diego, 1968**, July 2018.

Contact Dan Kirkman, (206) 383-9018, teager2@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 3042, San Diego, 1968**, is planning a reunion. Contact Gary Berry, (614) 679-1499, tagpresident@verizon.net.

• **Plt 3108, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Bob Rees, USMC (Ret), (619) 940-9218, bobrees86@gmail.com.

• **Plt 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **Marine A-4 Skyhawkers**, Nov. 1-4, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Mark Williams, 400 Howell Way #102, Edmonds, WA 98020, (425) 771-2030, rogerwilco14@gmail.com, <http://a4skyhawk.info/article/notices>.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons-49**, Sept. 8, Earlville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), (609) 291-9617, (609) 284-2935, mabsreunion@comcast.net.

• **HMM-162 (Beirut)**, Oct. 20-21, Jacksonville, N.C. Contact Jack Cress, (831) 229-6773, ace162beirut83@razzo link.com.

• **VMA(AW)-533 (all eras)**, Sept. 6-8, New Orleans. Contact Jerry Callaway, 6545 Union St., Arvada, CO 80004, (303) 946-7893, j2callaway@q.com.

• **VMFA-115**, Sept. 7-9, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact Patti Kaas, (717) 422-6796, kaasfamily4@gmail.com, <https://115marinereunion.com>.

Ships and Others

• **USS Antietam (CV-36)**, Sept. 19-22, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact L. Ray Young, (316) 680-0252, lyonelyoung@outlook.com.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 10-14, St. Louis. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/ CVS-12)**, Sept. 19-23, Mobile, Ala. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornet cva@aol.com, www.ushornetassn.com.

• **USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7)**, Oct. 10-13, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Robert G. McAnally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack46709@gmail.com.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 5-9, Bloomington, Minn. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

• **USS Pueblo (AGER-2)**, 50th anniversary of North Korean capture, Sept. 17-21, Pueblo, Colo. Contact Bob Chicca, bobchicca3@gmail.com.

Mail Call

• Kevin Maloney, (954) 288-0662, kevinonthebeach@yahoo.com, to hear from **Col Robert C. LEWIS, USMC (Ret)**, XO of **Co C, MSG Bn, Hong Kong, 1975**. He would also like to hear from anyone who could help document his injuries during **Operation Frequent Wind** in Saigon, which were treated on **USS Okinawa (LPH-3)**, on **April 30 or May 1, 1975**.

• Troy LaFaye, cafmnmotorpool@gmail.com, to hear from members of any **WW II-era reunion groups or organizations** for the following units: **VMB-611, MAG-32 and 1st MAW**.

Wanted

Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered:

• Rudy Joseph Wadle, 1788 Stage Coach Ln., Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103, (804) 708-0513, joewadle@comcast.net, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 235, Parris Island, 1962**. He would also like to hear from **members of the platoon**.

• GySgt Lew Souder, USMC (Ret), souderl@bellsouth.net, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 253, Parris Island, 1956**.

• Darrell Herold, navion4190k@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 3036, San Diego, 1956**.

• MSgt Luca Isandoro, (470) 216-5137, lucaisandoro@att.net, wants a **platoon photo** for **Plt 1071, Parris Island, 1969**. He would also like to hear from any members of **3rd Plt, L/3/7, 1stMarDiv (RVN, 1969-1970)**.

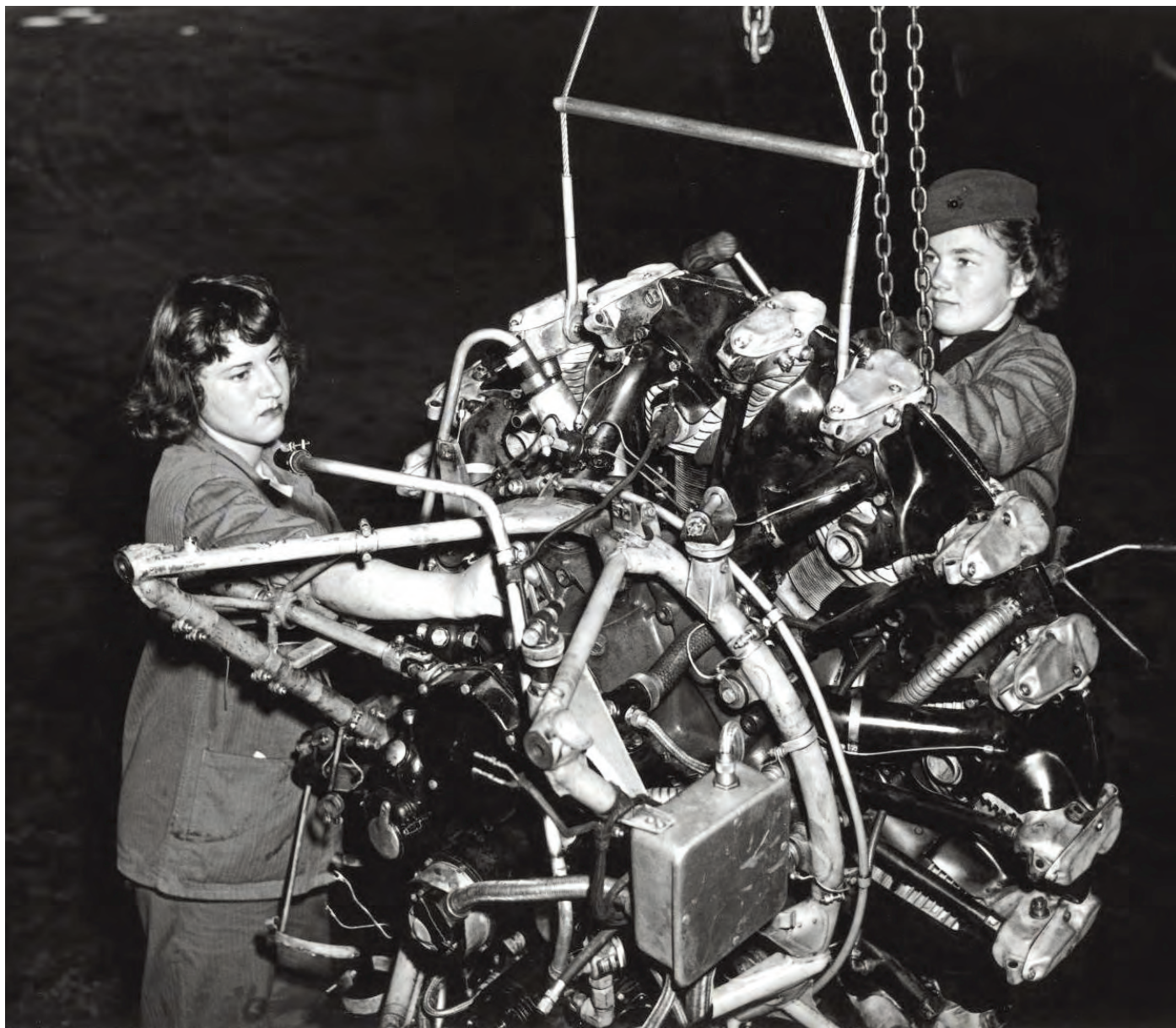
• Sgt Peter Joullos, (650) 755-3067, wants a set of **buck sergeant metal insignia** worn on utilities.

• Karen Cozzi Campbell, 4655 McLaren Dr., Oswego, IL 60543, (630) 244-8816, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 1110, San Diego, 1942**. She would also like any **photos of Matthew "AI" COZZI**, Co B, 53rd Para Training School, Camp Elliott, San Diego, 1943; Co L, 3rd Para Bn, IMAC, Bougainville Campaign, 1943-1944; and B/1/28, 5thMarDiv, 1944-1945.

Entries for "Reader Assistance," which include "Reunions," "Mail Call," "Wanted" and "Sales, Trades and Giveaways," 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 email to s.bock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134. 🐻

Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman




USMC

WOMEN MARINES IN WORLD WAR II—Private First Class Priscilla Goodrich, left, and Private Elaine Munsinger, right, break down an airplane engine in the Assembly and Repair Department at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., in 1943. According to “Free a Marine to Fight: Women Marines in World War II,” by Colonel Mary V. Stremelow, USMCR, “World War II changed for all time the notion of proper women’s work.” During the war, women assigned to aviation-related military occupational specialties were vital to the war effort and MCAS Cherry Point was the headquarters for all Women Marines designated with an

aviation MOS. By the war’s end 2,000 WMs had called the air station home.

To read about women serving in today’s Marine Corps, see the articles, “Lieutenant General Lori Reynolds: the Corps’ Senior Female Marine Continues to Blaze New Trails,” on page 14, and “A Place at the Table: Conversations With Women in the Corps,” on page 22.

To read more about the history of MCAS Cherry Point, see page 32 to read the article, “MCAS Cherry Point: With Change on the Horizon Air Station Looks to the Future.” 

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