


SEPTEMBER 2018

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

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COVER: A Marine with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1stMarDiv, gives hand and arm signals during the Rifle Squad Competition on MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 27. Units competed against each other to determine which squad would participate in the 1stMarDiv Infantry Competition held in August. Photo by Cpl Miguel A. Rosales, USMC. 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.)

If you should ever be traveling along Route 15 in Rush, N.Y., you will likely drive by a large white farmhouse with a flagpole that has both the American and Marine Corps flags on it. More importantly, situated prominently in the front yard on a concrete slab is a larger-than-life wooden statue of a young, hard-charging Marine.

There is a story behind this statue and it is a story of loyalty, remembrance, commitment, determination and reverence for a fallen Marine who might have been forgotten were it not for the owner of the house, Captain Richard Updaw, USMCR, a Vietnam veteran who served from 1966-1970.

On Memorial Day 2004, Capt Updaw said to his wife, Yvonne, "Let's go out to the cemetery." While there he came across a simple headstone that read, "Robert Hodes, Cpl., USMC, KIA on Iwo Jima on February 21, 1945." When Updaw left the cemetery, he was determined to find out more about Cpl Hodes. He searched the Internet and was able to trace Hodes' outfit, Co F, 2nd Bn, 24th Marine Regiment, right up to when they got to Iwo Jima but the trail ended there.

Capt Updaw decided to travel to Iwo Jima to see if he could find out more. He first traveled to Los Angeles where he met several Iwo Jima vets who were also going back to Iwo. As luck would have it, one of the veterans, Colonel John Fordone, had been the commanding officer of Cpl Hodes' unit. Col Fordone put Capt Updaw in touch with a Marine who had been wounded by the same mortar shell that killed Cpl Hodes, and he was able to tell the captain how Cpl Hodes died.

A year later, Capt Updaw wanted to do something to memorialize Cpl Hodes. He considered himself the corporal's spokesman and he felt responsible for not letting his memory die. This is when he had the statue of Cpl Hodes carved and placed in his front yard. He also placed a bulletin board behind the statue which tells the story of how it came to be. There is a place on the board that holds cards that directs those wanting to know the whole story to the website www.agricolamedia.com.



COURTESY OF CARL R. WITHEY

Cpl Robert Hodes, KIA, Feb. 21, 1945 on Iwo Jima is memorialized by Capt Richard Updaw. The carved statue sits on the lawn in front of Updaw's home.

I have driven by the statue many times and I usually stop and render a hand salute to both Cpl Hodes and Capt Updaw. I've never been fortunate enough to meet Capt Updaw but hope to someday and shake his hand. What he did to preserve the memory of a young, brave, hard-charging Marine killed long ago in action tells me all I need to know about Capt Updaw. Well done, Sir.

Carl R. Withey
Elbridge, N.Y.

Admiration for Gen Gray

Thank you, Colonel Reinwald, for the article, "Legacy of the 29th Commandant: General Alfred M. Gray Continues to Serve," in the July issue. I was a member of A/1/4 when he assumed command of the 4th Marines on Okinawa. About six months later I became a member of the Marine Security Guard Detachment at the embassy in Saigon at the time of its evacuation. It says a lot about Gen Gray that the events of April 29, 1975, would still impact him, especially leaving behind the bodies of Lance Corporal Darwin Judge and Corporal Charles McMahon Jr., the two Marines he was referencing in his

comments. I've always had a great deal of admiration for Gen Gray and continue to do so to this very day.

Ken Crouse
Folsom, Calif.

Great articles on our 29th CMC. It was about 10 years ago when I went on a tour of Korea sponsored by Military Historical Tours. My good friend Colonel Warren Wiedhahn encouraged me to sign up for this particular tour as General Al Gray would be coming along. In addition to the so-called typical tourist activities, I had a number of opportunities to chat with the general. On one occasion I asked him about his coffee cup. He assured me that he did indeed have a canteen cup, painted in camouflage, from which he drank his coffee.

There were a number of formal events in which the general participated including laying wreaths and acknowledging the close relations of the Korean people and the United States. We were there in November, so we celebrated our birthday at Camp Casey. It was a memorable event. Everyone received tokens and Gen Gray, clad in a camouflage sport coat and strutting around the floor, gave a rousing speech before the traditional cake cutting.

I shall always cherish this trip and especially the opportunity to spend time with such a legend of our Corps.

Maj James L. Murphy, USMC (Ret)
Los Osos, Calif.

I appreciate the article about General Alfred M. Gray in the July issue. Gen Gray will always be a Marine hero of mine for two reasons. He made a personal visit to my battalion and kept his word. I was with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in 1990 in Twentynine Palms. We were on a routine deployment in Okinawa when Desert Shield started. We were supposed to be home by Thanksgiving and many had already put in for leave for the holidays. Instead of preparing to go home, we got word to prepare for war and redeploy from Okinawa to Saudi Arabia.

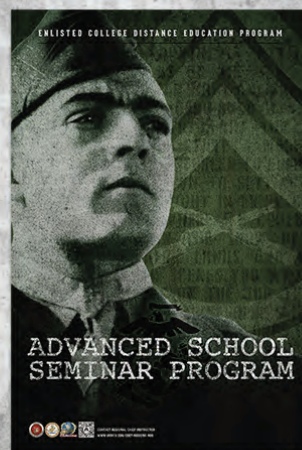
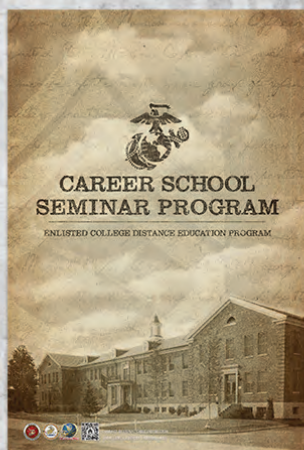
During this time we got an unexpected visitor at Camp Hansen—the Commandant, Gen Gray. We all loved "Uncle Al," as we called him, because we saw him as one of us. He was a Mustang, a Marine's Marine.

The battalion all gathered in the base theater in which he told us how he understood that we would not be home in time for the holidays and that he understood

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that we would go off to the first war since Vietnam without the opportunity to see loved ones. He explained that in the coming weeks we would train and learn of our mission. He made it clear that there was a special need for us. He said no one knows how long this conflict will be and that some of us may not come home. However, he made a promise that when combat operations were over we would be the first CONUS unit back to the United States.

We became part of Task Force Grizzly and crossed the border into Kuwait hours before the official launch of the Desert Storm ground war. We were the "Tip of the Spear." We did lose two good Marines before it was over. Once the cease fire was ordered, it was almost immediate that 3/7 was to return to the rear. Once in the rear Marine working parties were there to help us with gear and to prepare to leave. Things moved quickly. We flew from the air base (at the time) to Norton Air Force Base. With all that a Commandant had to deal with during a major conflict and deployment of so many Marines, Gen Gray kept his promise to one of his many battalions, demonstrating firsthand the meaning of "always faithful."

I've never had the opportunity to render a salute and personally thank my Commandant for keeping the promise

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a rifleman.
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—Gen Alfred M. Gray
29th Commandant
of the Marine Corps*

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MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

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he made that day at Camp Hansen in the fall of 1990, so I'll do it publicly. "Thank you, General, Semper Fi."

Cpl David Jackson
USMC, 1987-1991
Magnolia, Texas

• *Col Christopher Woodbridge, USMC (Ret), editor of Marine Corps Gazette, and I were privileged to spend several hours with Gen Gray. We both were lieutenants when the general served as the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps so we were especially thrilled. Gen Gray lived up to our memories and remains one of the Corps' most beloved icons.—Editor*

A Milestone Birthday for a Woman Marine

I have recently read quite a number of stories and articles concerning women Marines and would like to contribute the following in honor of my sister-in-law who was a woman Marine.

Helen Magdalena McNutt was born July 21, 1918, in Edenton, Penn. In April 1943 she joined the Marine Corps in Cleveland, Ohio. Helen was assigned to duty at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., where she attended Quartermaster School and was assigned to duty in the disbursing section.

In October 1944, Helen married my older brother, Master Sergeant Jack R. Olsen who was a supply man. Jack later became a navigator and retired after 20 years of service in the Marines.

In October 1945, Helen was honorably

discharged as a sergeant/quartermaster. She is currently on the Marine Corps rolls as an Annuitant. On July 21, Helen turned 100 years old. Happy Birthday, Helen!

MGySgt Gary L. Olsen, USMC (Ret)
New Bern, N.C.

Ejection Seat Recovery

In the June issue [Sound Off letter] Sgt Mike Loughney appealed for info about a military aircraft that had crashed in Biscayne Bay during the early 1950s. As a shrimper in the bay I can report that the aircraft had been gone before the 1970s when I began fishing there. However, numerous fragments of aluminum constantly would jam our iron pipe trawls in certain areas. In addition a radar magnetron magnet stuck to one captain's trawls.

As an F-4 RIO of the 1960s, I could identify the magnetron easily. I dragged up a Martin-Baker ejection seat which I brought back to the dock aboard my shrimp boat. I then called Homestead AFB, which has a runway approach over the bay, and spoke with the duty officer. He forwarded my call to a rather arrogant junior officer who said, "I understand you have found what you think is an ejection seat." Tired at the end of a night of fishing, I'm not sure what my exact words were but something like, "I've got more time sitting in a Martin-Baker than you've got in the chow line and you better get a team down here as some of the explosives on the seat haven't been used and may be dangerous!" Shortly, an AFB truck appeared with a



Marine veteran Helen Olsen celebrated her 100th birthday on July 21 by checking off an item on her bucket list—a ride in a shiny red convertible corvette hosted by the local Corvette Club. (Photos courtesy of the Olsen family)

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crew and retrieved the seat. In hindsight, I regret reporting the seat as it would have made a wonderful addition to my living room, barnacles and all.

I can't say this is the sergeant's aircraft, but certainly it is very possible.

As an aside, I read *Leatherneck* second-hand given to me by my 92-year-old neighbor, Corporal John Hinds. At 19, Cpl Hinds landed in an early wave on Red Beach at the foot of Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima. After reading it I give the magazine to my chiropractor who reads it and then puts it on his magazine rack. It doesn't stay there long.

I promise to start my own subscription.

LT Scott Roberts
USNR, 1963-1968
Loudonville, N.Y.

I Was There, at The Hook

I have read several of Major Allan Bevilacqua's stories in *Leatherneck* magazine but his last story, "Korea 1952: The Hook," [January 2018] hit a soft spot in me as I was in "Item" Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines which relieved Able Co, 1st Bn, 7th Marines.

I hope that you will follow up and write another article about The Hook involving Co I. I would be glad to give input as I was there where the trucks left us under

some trees. As we got off the trucks the 7th Marines boarded the same trucks.

When we got to The Hook, the Chinese had taken it over. From there on it was a day long battle into the night. We suffered a lot of casualties. My platoon leader, Lieutenant Rogers, and Platoon Sergeant Hornbeak and a buddy of mine, Lett, were killed in action. Lett was awarded the Navy Cross.

We were on Bunker Hill in August and we had a battle on our hands but The Hook was worse.

Gustavo C. Mendez
Scottsdale, Ariz.

• *Here at Leatherneck, we are big fans of Major Bevilacqua, and we always eagerly await his next story. I will pass along your offer to assist him with any future articles on The Hook.—Editor*

National Defense Service Medal

I read your reply in regard to the Sound Off letter from Corporal Joe Green found in the June edition of *Leatherneck*. You state that the NDSM was awarded for honorable "active service" and you further define the dates of eligibility. Just for clarification, I would like to add that by Executive Order of President George Bush certain members of the reserve forces, not

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on active duty, were awarded the NDSM for reserve service between Aug. 2, 1990, and Nov. 30, 1995 and between Sept. 11, 2001 and a closing date to be determined.

While I served on active duty with the Marine Corps in the 1950s, I also served and retired from the Air National Guard. I was awarded the NDSM for having served in the ANG during the 1990-1995 time period.

TSgt Joseph E. Williams, USAF (Ret)
Venice, Fla.

Timely Subjects Not Covered?

The longest war in American history gets zero respect in *Leatherneck* magazine. Why? I refuse to accept that Marines haven't done anything of note in the last decade or so. Instead the July issue included articles about Marines in 1898 Cuba, 1918 World War I, and 1969 Vietnam. The article, "The Matthew Freeman Project: Amidst Tragedy, Gold Star Mother Finds Healing in Honoring Son's Memory," isn't in the same genre. The article "Legacy of the 29th Commandant: General Alfred M. Gray Continues to Serve," was interesting to me, a 76-year-old 0802 (my Battery M/4/11 supported him in Vietnam, 1965-1966), but isn't current; it's old, old history.

Do younger Marines have to get old before they read about their battles? C'mon, get out in the field. *Leatherneck* has apparently chosen to not be relevant for younger Marines.

I recently read "Red Platoon," a book about a U.S. Army unit assigned to a stupid position and survived (this should be a movie). Marines don't have equivalent stories? Of course they do!

At a Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Orlando I stood next to an E-5, in dress blues, who appeared to have been wounded badly. A small dog with an official looking backpack refused to leave him. His pretty wife watched every move. He has a story, I'll bet.

A minimum one third of *Leatherneck* articles should be about operations, and stories about individual Marines which are less than 15 years old. If you can't do that, CSMO ... go home. Low subscriptions will follow.

Richard J. Stier
Sanford, Fla.

• *One thing I've learned during my tenure as Leatherneck editor is that we can't please everyone. For every letter complaining that we don't cover today's wars enough, we receive five requesting more articles on Vietnam or Korea or World War II. Our challenge each month is to provide the right mix of articles to keep our readers interested, whether*



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WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE
DETAILS -- YOU'LL WORRY ABOUT
THE MEMORIES.



they are the 16-year-old who wants to join the Corps or the 95-year-old veteran of Tarawa.

Your statement that Leatherneck has "zero respect" for those who served in the Corps' longest war is not only factually incorrect, but insulting to the Leatherneck staff, the majority of whom have worked on the Magazine of Marines for decades and have a deep love and respect for Marines of all eras.

Leatherneck has run numerous articles on OIF and OEF, and while they may not appear in every issue, we have worked hard to ensure that the Marines of the last 20 years, many of whom I personally served alongside, are given the respect and admiration they are due.

So, no, we won't CSMO, but rather continue to carry on Leatherneck's legacy of ensuring the stories of Marines—yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's—are told in the pages of our beloved magazine.—Editor

Priceless Treasures: Letters Home

I owe you and your staff a huge thank you. This past week has brought forth a myriad of feelings just seeing Chuck's letter in print in your June issue. When I sent it in I really never thought it would be published and in such a wonderful

way. It is truly a tribute that you printed "Priceless Treasures: Letters Home," 50 years after Vietnam.

I received more than 100 letters from Chuck in the three months he was there until he was shot March 28, 1968. Those letters were priceless to me.

A huge thank you for the beautiful mug you sent me. I shall treasure it always. It will bring forth warm, loving and wonderful memories just looking at it. I know Chuck is smiling (he had a warm, beautiful smile) in heaven.

Barbara Eddowes
Las Vegas, Nev.

I am an 83-year-old Marine veteran who did two tours in Korea. While I was there, my parents celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. I sent a letter to a local DJ in Bridgeport, Conn., asking him to play a record on their anniversary. Believe it or not, the DJ was Bob Crane. It was before he made a name for himself. He wrote back that it was the policy of the station not to play requests but because I was in Korea he made an exception. He played the requested recording saying that it was requested by me for my parent's anniversary and hoped they heard it.

He also sent me newspaper clippings

[continued on page 70]



Changes to the Marine Corps Rifle Squad Organization— One Marine's Opinion

By Kyle Stubbeman

Editor's note: At the Marine Corps Association & Foundation Ground Dinner in May, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller, announced the reorganization of the Marine rifle squad. Squads will be made up of three fire teams, each with three Marines, and a command element of a squad leader, assistant squad leader and a systems operator. Every Marine will carry the M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle. The following is one Marine's review of the reorganization.

The mission of the Marine Corps rifle squad is to “locate, close with, and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or to repel the enemy attack by fire and close combat.” This has been the mission since the inception of the United States Marine Corps at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia in 1775. Different tactics, techniques and procedures have been employed over the centuries to make the Marine Corps rifle squad the effective fighting force that it is; recently, however, some changes have been proposed to modernize the rifle squad and these changes favor new technology over flexibility. The Marine Corps must take a step back to re-evaluate the construction of the squad to maximize flexibility and effectiveness.

Currently, each individual rifle squad



CPL PATRICK OWENS, USMC

consists of 13 members—three four-man fire teams and a squad leader. Each member's job is determined by the member's billet description. A rifleman employs his rifle, acts as a scout and follows orders from the team leader. The automatic rifleman employs his automatic rifle and takes orders from the team leader. The assistant automatic rifleman employs his rifle and assists the automatic rifleman in the employment of his weapon. The team leader leads his team, employs his underbarrel grenade launcher and follows the orders of the squad leader. This concept follows the rule of three, which is a theme throughout the Marine Corps. The squad leader tasks out three Marines to serve as the team leaders and the fire team leaders run their three Marines, who become the team. This build of the Marine

Left: Officer candidates from OCC-221 maneuvering as a rifle squad assault objectives during a field exercise at MCB Quantico, Va., on March 7, 2016.

Below: A Marine from Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa fires an M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle at an automatic weapons range during Joint Stars, a bilateral training exercise between Italian and U.S. forces in Capo Teulada, Sardinia, May 8.



CPL HOLLY PERNEL, USMC



SGT EMMANUEL RAMOS, USMC

LCpl Parker Chase gets into position as point man for his fire team during combat marksmanship training at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 2, 2016.



SGT ISAAC LAMBERTH, USMC

Corps rifle squad worked well with the inclusion of a belt-fed machine gun at the fire-team level.

With the recent adoption of new weapons platforms, such as the M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle (IAR) for each Marine rifleman and the M320 grenade launcher, this doctrine has become obsolete. The automatic rifleman no longer needs an assistant and the grenade launcher will be moved from the fire team leader to allow for better control his team without the worry of utilizing a secondary weapons system. The new proposed concept is a 12-man squad—three three-man teams consisting of a team leader, an automatic rifleman and a designated grenadier. The headquarters element of the squad will consist of a squad leader, an assistant squad leader and a squad systems operator, the last of whom will deploy all the new gadgets to be introduced to the squad, such as tablets and small unmanned aerial systems for reconnaissance.

The rifle squad will be equipped with the Multi-Role Anti-Armor/Anti-Personnel weapons system (MAAWS) and a squad Designated Marksman Rifle (DMR). The Commandant believes that this new loadout, which provides every member with a fully automatic rifle, will give the rifle squad a 300 percent boost to overall combat power.

In my opinion, several issues plague

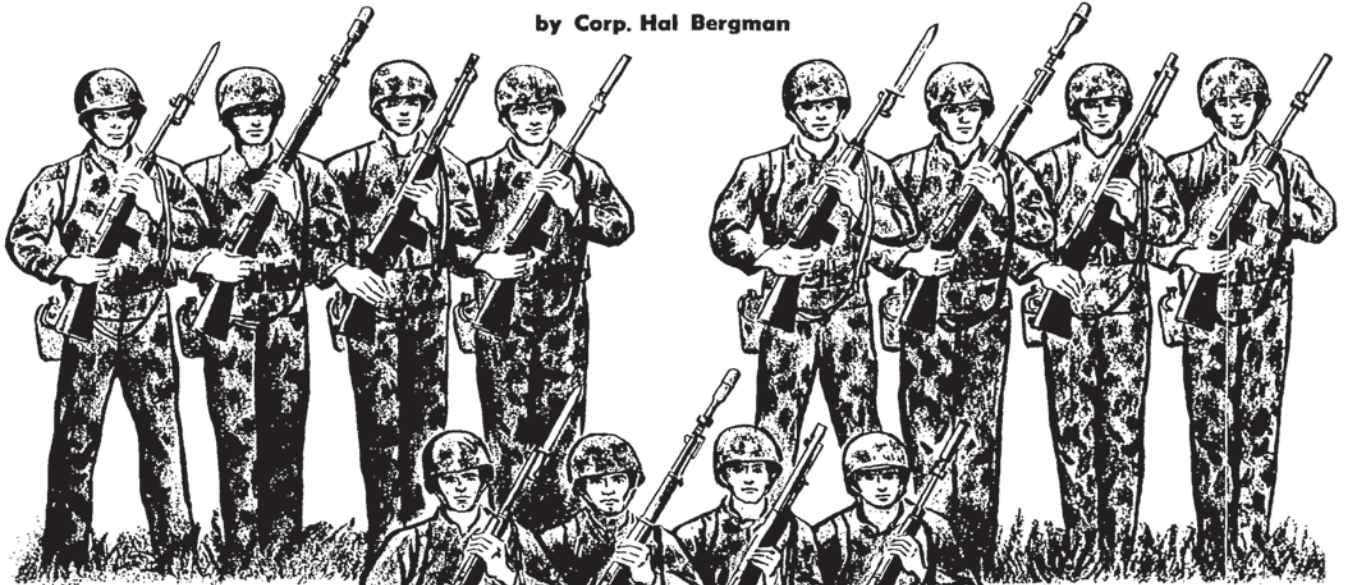
Above: The MAGTF Common Handheld program allows Marines to securely use modern handheld communications devices like tablets and smartphones in tactical environments.



CPL CHRISTIAN J. LOPEZ, USMC

Cpl Benjamin Sullivan and LCpl Joshua French with Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st MEU run toward their firing positions with the M3 Multi-Role Anti-Armor Anti-Personnel Weapon System during a live-fire event at Colonel Ernesto P. Ravina Air Base, Philippines, Oct. 5, 2017.

by Corp. Hal Bergman



NEW wars bring new ways of waging them. In the fires of battle, new weapons are forged and new tactics fashioned. On the beaches and in the jungles of numerous Pacific islands, United States Marines have learned, the hard way, how to fight a cruel, wily, resourceful foe.

The lessons of that experience are now passed on to Marines in training through new Tables of Organization, just issued by Headquarters, Marine Corps, in Washington. Changes which will effect the greatest number of enlisted personnel, especially men of the Fleet Marine Force, are authorized in T/O F-1. This table on the rifle company calls for major changes in the composition of the rifle squad, the basic fighting unit of the Marine Corps.

PRI-MARY innovation to result from T/O F-1 is the shift from a 12-man to a 13-man squad and the break-down of the squad into three fire teams of four men each. Each team, or group, is to be in charge of a corporal with the three teams collectively under the command of a sergeant squad leader. The new tables leave intact the trinity of three squads to a platoon and three platoons to a company.

The sergeant squad leader will be armed with the carbine. He will have a grenade launcher and bayonet to use when necessary. The three corporals also will carry carbines with grenade launcher and bayonet. Each group will have one rifleman - M-1 - and one BAR man with an assistant armed with the new model carbine.



Grenade Launchers



M-7



M-8

M-1 rifles will be equipped with Grenade Launcher M-7 while the launcher for the carbine will be the M-8. Anti-tank grenades fired from both are model M9A1.

The Carbine



While not a new weapon, carbine is new to the squad. Widely used heretofore by platoon leaders, it now becomes authorized weapon for squad leader and three team leaders. Short bayonet can be fixed to new model carbine.

Turn Page 23

Making changes to the Marine rifle squad is nothing new, as shown in the diagram from the pages of the May 1944 issue of *Leatherneck*. To learn more about the evolution of the Marine rifle squad, visit: https://www.mca-marines.org/rifle_squad.

this proposal. The main reason this organization will not work in practice is the inability to properly divide a team into the lowest fighting unit—the buddy pair. From day one, Marines are taught about buddy pairs, or two individual Marines together. This is the smallest unit that can effectively fire and move. Breaking a four-man fire team down to three will remove a buddy pair from the equation. This factor is especially reinforced during Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT).

MOUT is basically movement and fighting inside an urban setting. This is where most of the fighting will occur for modern infantrymen. In this environment, it is imperative that flexibility be upheld as leadership can become decentralized very quickly, even at the squad level. Fire teams working on initiative-based tactics work best in the four-man model. This is most clear when it comes to clearing buildings and rooms. Without getting too far into the details, four men can search and clear a

basic structure and maintain 360-degree security at all times. When losing a man in a team, the security of the team is compromised and may result in more casualties in an urban fight. In defensive operations involving entrenchments, the current breakdown of a squad can establish a linear defense about 100 meters long and effectively support each two-man fighting position internally. With the three-man teams, that level of protection would be much more difficult to obtain. Finally,



SPC JASON JOHNSTON, USA

Above: The new squad systems operator will be responsible for the squad's technological enhancements including drones similar to the one MSgt Chad E. McMeen operated in Rota, Spain in October 2015.



SGT ALICIA R. LEADERS, USMC

Sgt Hannah S. Jacobson, machine gunner with Weapons Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, and other members of her machine-gun team during a Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity assessment at Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 10, 2015.

considering offensive operations, the three-man team squad model has one fewer man in each team to provide effective fire for movement and maneuver on an objective.

Following this new proposal, every Marine rifleman will be issued a new M27 IAR. That means that every person in the squad will have a fully automatic rifle. On paper it sounds like a good idea to increase firepower. In reality, however, it will place a burden on logistics, training, individual load weight and marksmanship. There is a drastic doctrinal difference between machine-gun automatic fire and automatic rifle fire. The latter should only be used during assault fires when the enemy is within hand grenade range. I have seen a 225-pound Marine captain rock back on his heels while firing the eight-pound M27 in fully automatic mode. His fire was ineffective and it was a good teaching moment for him as a commander.

Suppressing fire is defined as, "fire on or about a weapon system to degrade its performance below what is needed to fulfill its mission objectives." Suppressing fire is only effective if the intended targets are hit or are hitting close enough to cause a legitimate impression that the fire could hit.

This effect prevents the target from doing its job. When fully automatic rifle fire does not hit the target or hit close to the target, the shots are ineffective and ammunition is wasted. Volume of fire is not equivalent to accuracy of fire. More automatic weapons do not automatically increase combat power.

Included with the new overhaul of the squad are the extra weapons and equipment such as the MAAWS and the DMR. In a three-man team with already defined billets, weapons distribution throughout the squad must be considered. With a four-man fire team, the rifleman billet should be equipped with any special type of equipment. A rifleman billet is ideal for including other organic weapons such as the DMR or the MAAWS. Providing a DMR to a rifleman enables him to better act as a scout and increases his capability to engage targets with precision. Giving a rifleman a MAAWS provides the squad an antiarmor or anti-structure role. Eliminating these billets from the fire teams adds additional weapons systems to employ in different facets to an already stretched and overburdened team.

The addition of these new weapons systems and equipment also adds weight. Infantry Marines already are overburdened with the typical load of 97 to 137 pounds of equipment to carry. Automatic riflemen using the M27 are expected to carry 21 fully loaded 30-round magazines. Each magazine weighs 1.4 pounds. Adding additional ammunition and weapons systems such as the MAAWS onto Marines who are already burdened with too much to carry will only decrease fighting effectiveness and increase injuries. Including a rifleman billet as a fourth member in each fire team spreads weight around and increases team effectiveness.

The three-man headquarters element consisting of a squad leader, an assistant squad leader and a squad systems operator also must be examined. Before 2015, squad leaders were chosen based on rank or ability. Usually a sergeant in the company would automatically be assigned as squad leader. This default decision could result in a team with inexperienced or incompetent leaders. Now, the Marine squad leader billet has its own military occupational specialty (MOS) designation. Squad leaders are sent to the advanced military schools that this billet demands. With this education completed, a squad leader does not need an assistant. An assistant could generate conflict in the decision-making process of the squad and the assistant billet should be eliminated completely.

The newest billet announcement—the squad systems operator—will provide



LCPL JOSHUA PINKNEY/USMC

Cpl Patrick Ryan, a squad leader in Co K, 3rd Bn, 8th Marines conducts a patrol at Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, May 1, 2017.

a squad with a host of new capabilities in enhanced situational awareness and reconnaissance. The devices that the squad systems operator will use consist of a ruggedized handheld tablet and a quad-copter unmanned aerial vehicle. This idea should be implemented as soon as possible.

A Marine rifle squad should consist of three four-man teams with a team leader, grenadier, automatic rifleman and a rifleman. The squad leader and squad systems operator should encompass the headquarters element. This makes a 14-man squad that retains mission flexibility and allows even spread loading of other organic weapons. Regardless of the weapon system utilized, Marines should be trained extensively on how to employ their weapons as their billets demand. This applies mostly to the automatic rifleman.

The adoption of the M27 and other weapons systems is a step in the right

direction for the Marine Corps infantry. The inclusion of a Designated Marksman Rifle, a MAAWS and a systems operator give wider capabilities to a small unit leader. The format of the rifle squad and the consideration of weight must be addressed in order to adapt to the changing battlefield and the inclusion of new and better equipment. Cutting manpower and sacrificing flexibility by putting a larger burden on an already overlaid fire team—removing one of the members and assigning additional roles to already stretched billets—is setting Marines up for failure at the doctrinal level.

Author's bio: Kyle Stubbeman was a Marine infantry rifleman for eight years and has filled every billet in a platoon from rifleman to platoon sergeant. He is now in school focusing on a criminal justice degree in order to work in federal law enforcement. 🦖

Gettysburg, Pa.



COURTESY OF GYSGT THOMAS E. WILLIAMS, USMC (RET)

Wayside Marker Dedicated to Fallen Marines from 1922 Crash

Members of the United States Marine Corps Historical Company (USMCHC) and active-duty Marines from Fort Meade, Md., were attired in M1912 Marine summer service uniforms and carried period 5th and 6th Regiment colors at a ceremony dedicating a new wayside marker in Gettysburg, Pa., June 26, in memory of

two fallen Marines. Exactly 96 years earlier, on June 26, 1922, Captain George W. Hamilton and Gunnery Sergeant George R. Martin were killed when a DeHavilland DH-4B, piloted by Hamilton, crashed on the property of Williams Johns in Gettysburg. The two Marines were part of a group of more than 5,000 who had gathered there to recreate pivotal moments of the American Civil War Battle of Gettysburg and conduct various training engagements.

"Despite the tragic loss of Capt Hamilton and GySgt Martin and the overall scope and ultimate success of the exercise, the story and sacrifice of these Marines has largely been forgotten," said GySgt Thomas E. Williams, USMC (Ret), director of operations for USMCHC. In 2016, a group of Gettysburg residents, historians and Marine veterans got together and developed a plan to honor Hamilton and Martin, and the June 26 dedication ceremony, supported by the USMCHC, was the culmination of their fundraising and planning efforts.

The USMCHC, which outfitted the color guard in period uniforms, is a not-for-profit educational corporation that provides outreach and traveling historical education programming focused on telling the story of the Marine Corps, and provides consultation, logistical and material support to other agencies in providing Marine Corps historical programming.

Submitted by GySgt Thomas E. Williams, USMC (Ret)

Washington, D.C.

TBS Class Unites for 50th Anniversary Reunion

Frequent *Leatherneck* contributor and Marine veteran Kyle Watts had the privilege of joining the Marines of "Hotel" Company, The Basic School Class 8-68 for their 50-year reunion in Washington, D.C., June 8. One of the Marines, Chris Tibbs, invited Watts to attend following their conversations and work together on Watts' article "Gallantry and Intrepidity: The Marines of 3/26 in Operation Meade River," which appeared in the August 2017 issue of *Leatherneck*.

Eleven Marines from Hotel 8-68 were killed in action in Vietnam, and a large portion of the reunion served to honor their memory. The group traveled to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and placed a placard displaying the name and photograph of each of their fallen brothers under each panel containing one of the 11 names. Besides their classmates, all the veterans present had their own list of names on the wall to seek out. They then proceeded to tour the U.S. Capitol and attended the Evening Parade at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. Pictured with a musician from "The Commandant's Own" the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, are (left to right) Watts, Terry Arndt, Robert Skeels and Tibbs.

"I found it amusing and refreshing that, despite the extended period of time since they have worn the uniform, these gentlemen embodied the sentiment of 'Once a Marine, always a Marine,'" said Watts. "Hearing their talk, their mannerisms and interactions,



COURTESY OF KYLE WATTS

even seeing the way they all lined up at the bar before taking their seats at dinner, all took me back to my own time on active duty and made me remember just how much I love being around Marines."

Submitted by Kyle Watts



COURTESY OF JEAN LAMB

Bastian, Va.

Golf Tournament Kick-Starts Local Toys for Tots Campaign

The Marine Corps League Mountaineer Detachment 957 from Princeton, W.Va., held its second Toys for Tots golf tournament at the Wolf Creek Golf and Country Club in Bastian, Va., June 16, partnering with businesses in the local community to raise more than \$5,000 for its 2018 Toys for Tots campaign. With 12 participating teams, perfect weather and a 2018 Chevrolet Spark as a grand prize, sponsored by Ramey Chevrolet, it was a great day for the detachment and Toys for Tots. The Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League's 13 detachments and more than 800 members in the state are active in advocating to the state legislature regarding veterans' rights and benefits, raising funds for the Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Fund, Toys for Tots and the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Foundation, and supporting each other's programs and events.

Submitted by Jean Lamb



JENNIE ARMENTO

Lexington, Ky.

SSgt Reckless Takes Place Among History's Greatest Horses

Visitors to the Kentucky Horse Park at the International Museum of the Horse in Lexington, Ky., will now be introduced to Staff Sergeant Reckless, the heroic equine icon who served with the 5th Marine Regiment during the Korean War, following a May 12 dedication ceremony of a third statue in her likeness. Previously recognized with bronze statues at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., SSgt Reckless has long been heralded for her service as a Marine and now is also recognized among some of history's greatest horses.

Veterans who served with SSgt Reckless in combat and owe their lives to her service were on hand to assist in the unveiling, along with active-duty Marines assigned to "Alpha" Company, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, who were honored to participate in a ceremony witnessed by approximately 500 people. The commissioning of the third statue was made possible through the generous donations of Marines and friends of the Corps with an interest in the thoroughbred racing industry. The statewide Marine Corps community in Kentucky was proud to welcome SSgt Reckless to its ranks.

Submitted by Ed Armento

"Corps Connections" highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks. We welcome submissions of photos from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to s.heck@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos. 🐾

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



CPL JERED STONE, USMC

AL ASAD, IRAQ

Osprey Maintainers Play Pivotal Role in Accomplishing the Mission

During June and July, Marine aircraft maintainers deployed to Iraq with an MV-22B Osprey detachment worked tirelessly to ensure the Ospreys were functional and ready to fly when called upon to conduct combat assault transport of cargo, ammunition or passengers in support of Combined Joint Task Force–Operation Inherent Resolve.

“We did a lot of removal of hydraulic hard-driven units,” said Sergeant Matthew B. Moody, an airframes mechanic with the unit, referring to parts that enable the Osprey’s unique tiltrotor capabilities. “We also repaired a lot of rotor blades due to sand and gravel wearing them down—we had to ensure those parts were up to standards.”

The mission of the airframes department is to conduct composite repairs, bodywork



Above: U.S. Marines perform routine maintenance on an MV-22B Osprey rotor blade at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, June 8.

Top: A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey is refueled during a resupply mission in support of CJTF–OIR at Qayyarah Airfield West, Iraq, June 15. For the detachment of Ospreys supporting the global coalition to defeat ISIS in designated parts of Iraq and Syria, aircraft maintenance is key to readiness. (Photo by Cpl Jered Stone, USMC)

and removal and replacement of any hydraulic component of the aircraft.

“As far as maintenance is concerned, most of what we saw were common maintenance events with the aircraft,” said Gunnery Sergeant Andrew L. Saucedo, the avionics staff noncommissioned officer in charge. “We were able to resolve most of the problems we faced relatively quickly thanks to the Marines’ hard work and dedication.”

Aircraft avionics technicians install, remove, inspect, test, maintain and repair systems, components and equipment of installed aircraft communications, navigation and electronics.

“The biggest maintenance evolutions we faced here in Iraq were changing five prop-rotor gearbox mast seals,” Saucedo said, referring to a type of seal that prevents oil from leaking in the gearbox during maintenance ground turns and flight operations. “Typically, those would take a couple days back in the rear. However, thanks to the drive and focus of the maintenance department as a whole, along with the help we received from our Army and Air Force counterparts, we were able to complete two changes in one day.”

Although the Marine Corps has been conducting operations in Iraq for more than a decade, the overall mission has changed over time.

“Back then, the mission set was different,” said Saucedo, referring to his previous deployment to Al Asad Air Base with a different unit. “We were supporting casualty evacuations, whereas now we are supporting the ground troops with whatever they might need.”

For most Marines in the detachment, this is their first deployment to Iraq.

“Coming to a new environment like Iraq was an eye-opener,” Moody said. “It was a lot of the Marines’ first time being forward deployed, so there were a lot of unknown factors that most of us haven’t necessarily worked with before. Working and putting our heads together with the other branches helped us complete the job and ensure the aircraft were ready for flight.”

Cpl Jered Stone, USMC

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, BULGARIA

Company-Wide DFT Improves Cohesion Among Platoons

U.S. Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force 18.1 completed several training ranges during a deployment for training (DFT) exercise at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 1-5.

The BSRF 18.1 Force, consisting of Marines from Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, spent



Marines with Weapons Co, 1/6 engage targets with M40A6 sniper rifles during a DFT at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, July 5. As part of BSRF 18.1, the company deployed from Romania for the five-day training exercise. (Photo by Cpl Abrey Liggins, USMC)

five days in the field working to improve combined arms proficiency and enhance operational capabilities.

“We don’t always get together as a company and do these combined training events, so as a whole, it improves our unit cohesion,” said Corporal Benjamin Lepla, a forward observer with BSRF.

The Marines deployed from their main base in Romania to an area in Bulgaria where they would be able to take advantage of the rough, verdurous terrain for multiple training events.

“During this training event we had snipers conducting everything from unknown distance ranges to live-fire stalks,” said First Lieutenant Daniel Kult, a combined anti-armor team (CAAT) platoon commander. “We had [CAAT] platoon conducting high-angle Mark 19 fire which is a new thing for us. We also had our 81 mm mortar platoon conducting dismounted and mounted live-fire operations both day and night.”

Each platoon in Weapons Co normally operates independently in support of the battalion, so any opportunity the Marines have to train with one another helps them improve.

“Now we know how long it takes for every section to set up their equipment and assault the objective from different positions,” said Lepla.

The DFT was designed to help the Marines understand their roles and prepare them for the final day of training.

“The most important event that we’re doing out here is the combined attack utilizing the entire company,” said Kult.

“It’s a unique opportunity because normally we’re all away from each other, either supporting other companies or in direct support of the battalion.”

Kult added that the Marines appreciated working diligently together and understood how the training tied into the BSRF deployment.

“Any chance we get to improve our skills and learn more about the other sections of the company makes [it] all the better,” said Lepla. “Working together going forward into further exercises with partner nations, we’re better prepared.”

Cpl Abrey Liggins, USMC

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Marines Advise as Aussies Take on Amphibious Warfare

The Australian Defence Force included a small group of U.S. Marines in their amphibious raid training during Exercise Sea Series 18 in Australia from May 18 to June 26.

The Marines, assigned to Marine Rotational Force–Darwin 18, arrived in Sydney to start with the command portion of the event aboard HMAS *Canberra*.

“Sea Series is a three-part exercise,” said Australian Captain MacDougal, amphibious planning officer with the Amphibious Task Group (ATG). “Sea Horizon, the first one, was just a small command element going over command procedures.”

The second part, Sea Explorer, consisted of the headquarters element testing wet and dry embarkations. The exercise culminated with Sea Raider during which



SSGT DANIEL WETZEL, USMC

MSgt Kwame Williams and SSgt Aaron Sauder of Marine Rotational Force-Darwin stand in formation for the Australian Defence Force's welcome aboard brief on HMAS Canberra, Brisbane, Australia, May 24. U.S. Marines worked with the Australian Amphibious Task Group during Exercise Sea Series, which consisted of command exercises, infantry sea routines and a culminating amphibious assault.

the ATG employed a battalion-size element, support element and recon teams in an amphibious certification process, MacDougal added.

According to MacDougal, the U.S. Marines who participated supported key functions in the joint operations room and provided subject matter expertise on lethal and non-lethal fires and effects. They

also developed the intelligence picture and assisted Australian landing forces during the exercise.

Three weeks into Sea Series, HMAS Canberra arrived in Brisbane to embark vehicles, infantry units and the rest of the supplies needed. This marked the onset of the second phase, Sea Explorer.

"Sea Explorer is where the Australians

start to build muscle memory for going to the beaches and moving around on the ship," said Master Sergeant Kwame Williams, USMC, embarkations and operations chief from Combat Logistics Detachment 1. "Much like the Marine Corps, the infantry units will train on the amphibious tactics so when it's time for the final exercise they can hopefully roll right through it."

The Australian Defence Force completed many "firsts" during the exercise.

"This was the first rotational battle group to conduct amphibious operations as part of an Amphibious Readiness Unit," MacDougal said. "It was also the first time we had to air-to-surface movements from the LHD and LSD to land objectives during any exercise."

In addition to air-to-surface movements, this was Australia's largest embarked amphibious element since the Vietnam War, with more than 1,700 sailors, soldiers and airmen involved. That's more than the total commitment currently deployed, MacDougal said.

"The main difficulty for the command was the experience of persons involved," MacDougal said. "We overcame that by the scale of the exercise, starting with command training then moving on to troop movements and finishing with the final operation."

For many members of Australia's 8/9 Royal Army Regiment, the exercise was the first time they embarked on a ship and took part in amphibious operations.

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.



CPL MATTHEW TEUTSCH, USMC

BREATHLESS—Cpl Randy Soliz, an administration clerk with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, dives into the water to shed his gear during an intermediate swim qualification at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 13. The water survival program is designed to ensure combat readiness by demonstrating the ability to survive in the event of a waterborne mishap.



CAPT MAIDA ZHENG, USMC

LCpl J.J. Kostelecky, an infantry Marine with 2/1, stands security during an integrated squad exercise with a member of Mexico's Amphibious Marine Infantry Brigade as they navigate the IIT during RIMPAC at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 9.

"Unlike the United States, Australia doesn't have a Marine Corps," Williams said. "This is basically Australia's amphibious raid, and it's completed by a joint effort with their three branches [Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force]."

The Marines attached to the ATG provided advice based on their amphibious experience—advice and expertise, McDougal said, that Australia's doctrine couldn't provide.

He added that while the ADF may have been thought of mostly as a humanitarian and disaster relief force, the fleet is now trained and capable of fighting against an adversary on an amphibious front.

SSgt Daniel Wetzel, USMC

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. In Infantry Immersion Trainer, Partner Nations Form Integrated Squads

"We're going condition one: move out!" said Corporal James Kretchman, a squad leader with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, as he maneuvered his squad through the Infantry Immersion Trainer (IIT) at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, July 10, during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

During the week of July 9, Marines and partner forces from Canada and Mexico relied on the skills and experience they had developed over the course of the exercise as they tackled the IIT.

To complete this highly realistic, scenario-driven training, the participating servicemembers needed to be at peak performance as the IIT creates a chaotic environment complete with foreign sights, smells, sounds and civilian role players to intensify the training.

"It's easy for a lot of guys who are new to this to be distracted and become overwhelmed by the chaos of this training," Kretchman said during the training. "Today's drills were very thorough, and my team learned a lot of important lessons from the realism presented by this type of scenario-based training. In these types of 360-degree environments, it's important that you stay cognizant of your surroundings and keep communication links strong."

By conducting training at the IIT, U.S. Marines and partner forces gained insight into the types of environments they may face in the future and were prepared for a range of operations including urban territories where civilians and hostiles are intermingled. By learning to professionally and diligently carry out their

duties in these types of situations, they build upon their core infantry training, experience combat stressors and learn from their mistakes without the threat of real danger.

Following each iteration in the trainer, the IIT staff presented video clips and a phase-by-phase breakdown of what they did well and what improvements they needed to make.

"A big difference between the training we received today and what we have done thus far is the role players," said Lance Corporal Taylor Mckersie, a rifleman with 2/1. "The main goal for this type of situation, the main reason we would be doing any of this is to give the civilians peace of mind that we're there to protect them."

RIMPAC fosters a capable and adaptive partnership for all the forces that participate. U.S. and Mexican forces ran through the trainer with an integrated squad, which brought a new level of difficulty as the servicemembers had to break through language barriers and adapt to different techniques. They quickly learned that sign language is an international language, and together, with a little practice and rudimentary ability to speak each other's language, they were able to successfully complete the training.



COLBEY L. LIVINGSTON

A U.S. Navy Sailor watches as a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter with SPMAGTF-SC lands on the flight deck of USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD-44) while conducting deck landing qualification training off the coast of Belize, July 7.

RIMPAC, which took place from June 27 to Aug. 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California, involved the participation of 25 nations, 46 ships, five submarines, 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel. The exercise demonstrates the value of amphibious forces and provides high-value training for task-organized, highly capable Marine Air-Ground Task Forces, enhancing the critical crisis response capability of U.S. forces and their global partners.

Cpl Jacob Pruitt, USMC

BELIZE, AT SEA Deck Landing Quals Require “Blue-Green” Partnership

The aviation detachment of Special Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Southern Command conducted deck landing qualifications with two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters aboard USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD-44), July 7.

The Marines of SPMAGTF-SC worked closely with *Gunston Hall* Sailors to qualify six pilots and five enlisted aircrew members, providing the task force with helicopter movement capabilities of personnel and cargo between the shore and ship.

“We gained valuable training today, exposing pilots and crew chiefs to landings

aboard a dock landing ship for the first time,” said Major David Hill, officer in charge of the aviation detachment. “The blue-green team worked closely to ensure safe execution and enhanced our ability to respond to a crisis anywhere within the [U.S. Southern Command] area of responsibility.”

Working toward becoming qualified to land on the deck of a ship tested the Marines’ and Sailors’ ability to work together as a team. The successful launch and recovery of aircraft involved the cooperation of many departments aboard *Gunston Hall*.

“It’s impressive to see the SPMAGTF-SC’s pilots and flight crews working seamlessly with the deck and communications teams of the *Gunston Hall*,” said Lieutenant Colonel Erick H. Del Rio, Colombian Naval Infantry, the deputy commander of SPMAGTF-SC. “Joint maneuvers like this let the Marines, Sailors and soldiers of this international formation see what they can accomplish when they work together.”

The partnership between SPMAGTF-SC and *Gunston Hall* is significant in that it expands their operational capability in Latin America and the Caribbean.

“SPMAGTF-SC’s [aviation detachment] allows us to support our partners

in humanitarian assistance and crisis response situations by moving supplies and personnel quickly and safely,” said Colonel Michael H. Oppenheim, commanding officer of SPMAGTF-SC. “When you combine that response capability with the U.S. Navy’s geographic reach and professionalism, the multinational SPMAGTF truly becomes a maritime task force capable of working with our partners throughout Central and South America.”

“*Gunston Hall*’s crew is honored to have the opportunity to play such a vital role in supporting military-to-military training exercises such as the flight operations today with SPMAGTF-SC,” said Commander Fiona C. Halbritter, USN, the captain of *Gunston Hall*. “We look forward to all our team can glean from working together over the next few months.”

The Marines of SPMAGTF-SC, along with their partners aboard *Gunston Hall*, were scheduled to put their new capabilities to the test later in July when conducting a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise off the coast of Belize and Guatemala. This will further prepare them to respond to natural disasters as their deployment stretches further into hurricane season.

Sgt Booker Thomas, USMC



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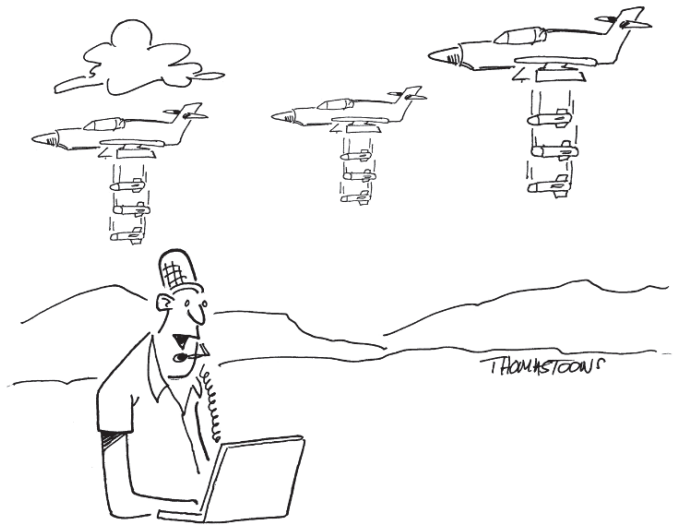
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Battle of St. Mihiel

American-Led Victory Boosts Morale

By J. Michael Miller

“I have this day assumed command of the Fourth Brigade, U.S. Marines,” wrote Brigadier General John A. Lejeune. “To command this brigade is the highest honor that could come to any man.” On July 25, 1918, Lejeune relinquished command of an Army brigade of the 35th Division and then reported to the Army’s 2nd Division Headquarters and then the Marine brigade headquarters. He immediately began an assessment of his new command. “Everywhere I went I found old friends among the officers and men. It was good to be home again, but it was a sad homecoming too, as many of those I knew had made the supreme sacrifice, and the living showed the marks of physical exhaustion and mental strain.”

Lejeune found the 4th Marine Brigade battle weary but unbroken. The Marines rested at Nanteuil-le Haudouin, fresh

from the bloody fields of Soissons and less than a month from the tangled Belleau Wood. The Marines needed rest and reorganization after losing 2,015 men in the two-day battle at Soissons in July, in addition to the previous loss of 4,598 men at Belleau Wood in June. The organizational strength of the 4th Marine Brigade totaled only 8,469 men, making the brigade casualties an alarming 83 percent. Three replacement battalions arrived from Quantico during this time to help offset the losses but the additional forces were hardly enough to make up for the absence of veteran leadership in every Marine unit.

On the morning of July 28, Major General James G. Harbord, USA, commanding the 2nd Division, ordered BGen Lejeune to his headquarters. MG Harbord promptly informed the Marine general that he now commanded the entire 2nd Division. Harbord had been reassigned to command the Service of Supply for the entire American Expeditionary Force, leaving Lejeune in command of



The 1927 illustration, “Open Attack at St. Mihiel,” by Lucien Jonas depicts Americans firing machine guns during the WW I battle.

the Division as the senior officer on duty. "To say that I was surprised is putting it far too mildly," Lejeune later wrote. "I was stunned." On July 1, Congress approved the creation of the grade of major general for the Marine Corps, with one permanent position created and another for the duration of the war. After his quick promotion, MajGen Lejeune assumed the duties of Division commander. "Somehow, I don't feel at all elated, but sobered by the task in front of me," he wrote in a letter home. Colonel Wendell Neville received a promotion to brigadier general the same day to command the 4th Marine Brigade.

Lejeune's first duty was to deploy the 2nd Division to the training area in the town of Nancy, where a great influx of badly needed replacements was to be joined with the Division. The proper planning and execution of the movement proved a good training ground for Lejeune to introduce himself and his leadership to the soldiers and Marines of the 2nd Division. Fifty-six standard military trains moved the Division's 28,059 men and 6,636 horses and mules, 74 cannons, 216 caissons, 1,078 wagons and various other tons of equipment. Lejeune used his considerable expertise gained as assistant to the Commandant in forming Marine battalions to carry off the movement "without confusion or interruption" on Aug. 3.

The 2nd Division once again fell under French command as part of the VIII Army, commanded by General Augustin Gerard. Although the 2nd Division was promised at least 30 days in reserve, Gerard ordered the Americans to go into a quiet sector of the front line at Marbache, relieving French troops for duty elsewhere. The 4th Marine Brigade began its march to the front on Aug. 5 after only two days of rest, reaching the intended positions four days later. The experience was different from the approach to Belleau Wood and Soissons, as there were no Vietnamese camions to take them into battle. The brigade entered the line divided by the Moselle River, with the 6th Marines on the west bank while the 5th Marines took the opposite side of the waterway.

The 10 days spent on the line proved to be relatively quiet. The Marines suffered only 15 casualties during their stay in the trenches, primarily from artillery fire. The only excitement occurred when a German raid hit the 5th Marines front in an effort to gather prisoners. The Marines were ready, repulsing the Germans easily and capturing a prisoner themselves. French General Fenelon F.G. Passaga, commanding the 32nd Corps, visited the 5th Marines to congratulate them on their victory and presented them his standard award of 1,500 francs for the first unit entering the line to capture a prisoner.

Other events indicated the war was reaching a new phase of stability. The House of Representatives Committee on Naval Affairs visited the 2nd Division, particularly to inspect the Marines and Sailors of the 4th Brigade. "The men gathered all around them," Lejeune recalled, "and patriotic speeches containing much praise were made, then each congressman announced his state and district and asked his constituents



A machine-gun battalion passes through St. Baussant in its advance upon St. Mihiel in 1918. Army and Marine units worked closely together during the summer of 1918 to include a proposal to have soldiers fill the ranks of depleted Marine units. Gen Lejeune took steps to ensure that Marines were found, from the United States and from other assignment in France, to fill the shortages. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)

to come up so he might speak to them." The members of the committee gathered messages of the Marines and soldiers to deliver back in the United States.

The most popular visitor of all was Elsie Janis, an Ohio-born vaudeville stage and movie star. A stage was built in a natural amphitheater in a reserve area, which was quickly filled by American servicemen and French townspeople. After a brief introduction by MajGen Lejeune, Janis sang, danced, acted and engaged in an easy banter with the audience all to the background music of artillery shells near the front. Janis ended her show as darkness approached, "turning handspring after handspring to the great delight of the men." Her mother never relinquished for a single moment her vigilant gaze, restricting further contact by any member of the audience.

After 10 days, the 2nd Division came off the line for the promised training necessary for further combat; however, the main priority for Lejeune was getting the Army and Marine infantry regiments back to full strength. The Second Casual Replacement Battalion joined the Marine brigade on Aug. 1, but the 5th and 6th Marines were still 2,500 men below full strength with no other replacement battalions leaving the United States until Aug. 13. Lejeune learned if no more Marines could be found, soldiers from the Army would fill the gaps in the ranks. "I knew that the mingling of the personnel in that way would be disastrous," Lejeune wrote in his memoir. "I at once wrote to General Harbord and urged him to transfer to the Second Division all Marines in France who were fit for duty." He also obtained the

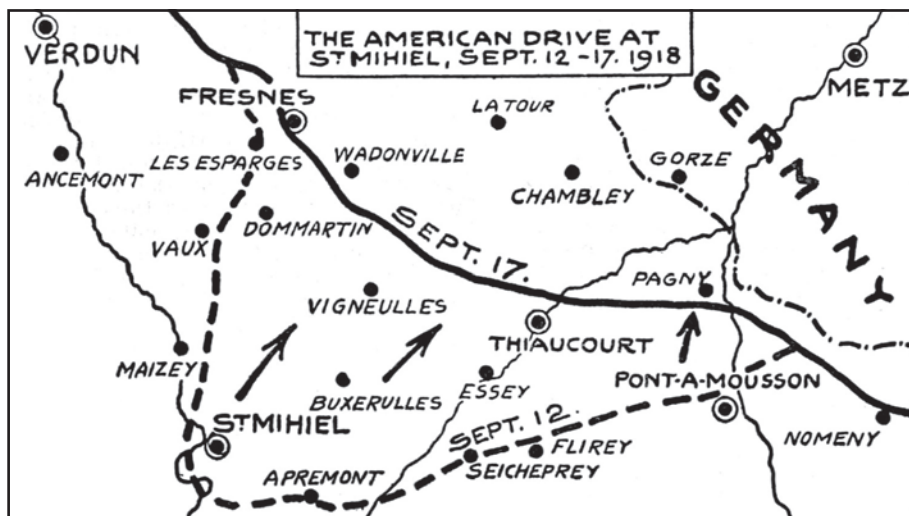
payroll lists to find the location of every Marine not on duty with the Marine brigade.

"Very soon thereafter, they began to arrive in small details or detachments. Guards from base ports and supply depots, the company from G.H.Q. at Chaumont, a detachment from England, men detained at hospitals for use as orderlies, chauffeurs, etc.," Lejeune recounted. "Men who had got lost—every variety of Marine came home!"



Elsie Janis

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At the same time, five more swiftly organized replacement battalions departed the United States from Quantico in August. There would never again be a shortage of Marines to step forward into the 4th Marine Brigade.

The somewhat quiet period for the 2nd Division was soon to end. Orders came to join in the most important battle of the war for General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force. Although the battles fought by the American divisions in the past four months were vital to the Allied cause in stopping the German spring offensives, they all were fought under French command scattered among the Allied armies. These efforts slowed what Pershing had been working toward since his arrival in France in 1918. The creation of an American army fighting entirely under their own commanders remained his ultimate goal. Despite many efforts by the French and British generals and statesmen, President Woodrow Wilson and Pershing remained firm in their goal of an American army fighting under American leadership.

The time had now come for GEN Pershing's plan to come

operation with the I Corps and IV Corps assigned to break open the salient from the south with the American V Corps attacking from the east side of the bulge. The link up with the three American corps within the salient ensured the German forces would be cut off and captured, assuring a great American victory. More than 550,000 Americans soldiers were ready to make the attack, along with 110,000 French poilu against nine divisions of 90,000 German soldiers.

"We knew that a victory would strike terror into the hearts of the enemy," Lejeune later wrote, "break down his morale, and bring home to Ludendorff ... he could not expect any result of the war other than decisive defeat of the German armies."

Morale was extremely high within the ranks of the 4th Marine Brigade. Replacements brought each unit near full strength and the preparations for the attack proved very different than the last two battles. The officers and men were fully aware of the plan of battle and trained for every detail of the assault. The hasty rush to combat at Belleau Wood and Soissons was over, never to return.



The pile of empty cannon shell casings shown above is indicative of the artillery barrage that helped clear the way for the 2nd Division's advance at St. Mihiel.

On the night of Sept. 9-10, the 2nd Division moved into the front line trenches. Major Robert E. Messersmith's 2nd Bn, 5th Marine Regiment held the entire outpost line for the 2nd Division, allowing the assault units to proceed undetected. The 3rd Army Brigade with Major Frederick A. Barker's 1st Bn, 6th Marines would lead the attack, followed by the other 6th Marine battalions in reserve. The artillery barrage would begin at 1 a.m. on Sept. 12, followed by the infantry attack four hours later. Lejeune held one last meeting of his senior commanders on the morning before the attack, who then dispersed to do the same with their subordinate units, down to company and platoon level. A last group of replacements arrived on Sept. 11 for the 6th Marines and were fed into the companies the day before the attack. The 6th Marines went into the town of Limey just after dark, and then into the front line trenches. Just as at Soissons, a cold rain poured down after dark, obscuring the soldiers and Marines as they moved through the muddy trenches to their jump off points. Everyone in the



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Artist James P. Aylward's "Troops Waiting to Advance at Hatton Chattel, St. Mihiel Drive" depicts American servicemen resting before they returned to the fight; more than 13,000 Americans were lost during the battle for St. Mihiel in 1918.

assaulting column was drenched by the rain and forced to stand in the muddy trenches, which resembled running streams of water. In places, the cold, muddy water almost reached the waists of the soaked Marines.

Promptly at 1 a.m., the artillery opened on the German lines, beginning four hours of furious shelling. The Marine 6th Machine Gun Bn, along with the Army 4th Machine Gun Bn, opened a machine-gun barrage into the enemy lines as the time grew near for the attack. At 5 a.m., the Army's 23rd Infantry jumped for the trenches and attacked the German front-line trenches. Barker's

1st Bn, 6th Marines went forward with the soldiers, holding the left flank position of the 3rd Army BDE and maintaining contact with the 89th Division on their left.

A rolling barrage preceded the 23rd Infantry, advancing 100 meters every four minutes. The soldiers found light resistance in crossing no-man's land, with the barbed wire entanglements not crushed by the artillery cut with wire cutters. Major Ernest C. Williams's 2nd Bn followed close behind the soldiers' right flank as Major Berton W. Sibley's 3rd Bn did the same on the left. "We started 'Over' at 4:45 a.m. It was some sensation for me,

I assure you,” wrote Private Lewis B. Clark Jr., one of the new replacements assigned to the 95th (D) Company, 6th Marines. “Having just arrived in France, so to speak, and then to have the honor of going ‘Over the Top’ in the biggest drive of the war,” he continued, “Incidentally, one never knows whether he would return or not. Some feeling. We had only been over a few minutes when I had the pleasure of seeing some of my comrades ‘bumped off’ and wounded. Imagine my feelings.”

The Marines advanced in five “bounds” or rushes, supporting the 9th and 23rd Infantry Regiments. The first bound reached the American front-line trenches while the second carried the Marines to the German front line. A third bound reached the enemy’s main line of resistance and the fourth hit the German second line of defense. The target first day’s phase line was the last bound, where the advance would halt. Incredibly, the attack went off like clockwork, each rush completed with few casualties and many German prisoners. By 9:30 a.m., the leading elements reached their first phase objective and by 1 p.m., the Americans captured the town of Jaulny beyond the first day’s expected phase line. In less than two hours, the American attack captured all of the enemy main line positions and reserve defenses and advanced deep into the rear areas of the German position. The 2nd Division completely overran a trench line that had existed for more than three years.

The resistance encountered by the 9th and 23rd Infantry regiments proved minimal. The entire attack seemed to be a walkover with nominal loss. Unknown to the Americans, the German commander learned of the assault before Sept. 12 and moved to evacuate the salient before his units were caught by the attack. The 1st Army struck the Germans in mid-retreat all along the lines, quickly advancing deep into the salient. Lejeune pushed his men forward to then take the Army objective of Cross Roads 262, the high ground between Jaulny and Xammes. The 2nd Division reached the base of the salient.

By 4 p.m., Sibley’s 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment

followed the 23rd Infantry beyond the town of Thiaucourt, one of the prime enemy points of supply. The Germans were concerned the Americans were advancing too quickly and mounted a counterattack, driving back the soldiers into the Marine positions. Sibley sent two companies to re-establish the line and Williams’s 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment advanced to hold the left flank in the 89th Division area. After 6:30 p.m., no further advance was made for the day. With the Army objective line already taken, Lejeune set up lines of defense to allow the neighboring units on the left and right to catch up to the 2nd Division advance.

With time now to examine the terrain around them, the Marines were amazed at the strength of the enemy defenses. A member of the 6th Marines recalled, “Spacious dugouts of concrete, reinforced with steel, a narrow gauge railway, rolling stock, cement mixers” were among the materials captured along with large warehouses of clothing and [ordnance] taken intact. An entire railroad train was captured in Thiaucourt, loaded with German artillery ready to be evacuated. The inhabitants of the local towns also emerged, liberated from German occupation since 1914 and overjoyed to greet the Marines.

Brigadier General and future Commandant Wendell Neville set up 4th Brigade headquarters in the town, which became mobbed with advancing soldiers and Marines, stalled vehicles and mobs of stragglers from neighboring divisions. Lieutenant Colonel John A. “Johnny the Hard” Hughes received orders to police the town, “and in a few hours, Thiaucourt was probably one of the most orderly cities in the world,” recalled Lejeune.

Neville took the time to have his overcoat cleaned of mud and hung out to dry in the sun. A teamster passing by admired the braided sleeves of the coat. The wily driver cut them off and promptly placed the sleeves over the ears of his mule team. Within a few hours, the man stood before Neville to take his punishment. The brigade commander shouted, “What did I tell all of you I would do to looters?” The man fearfully replied,

Muddy roads were the result of the cold hard rain which fell on the first night of the battle and caused problems, including this American ammunition wagon becoming stuck in the road, holding up the advance of the whole column at St. Baussant, east of St. Mihiel, France, Sept. 13, 1918. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)



"Shoot them, Sir." BGen Neville interceded on the teamster's behalf, and he escaped unharmed.

As dawn arrived on Sept. 13, the 2nd Division lines remained stable, with the 4th Marine Brigade still in reserve; however, Lejeune ordered the Marines to take over the front lines by midnight. Each battalion moved forward using the cover of woods and ravines to take places in the line as arranged by the local commanders. The 6th Marines took the left flank above Thiaucourt, while the 5th Marines occupied the right, north of Jaulny. A deep ravine separated the two regiments and both faced rugged wooded terrain to their front. Unlike the day before, the Germans intended to hold the heights ahead to allow their units to reach safety from the American assault. The terrain offered a perfect defense to hold the Marines in check.

The 5th Marines spent the day sending out the 16th (I) and 20th (K) Companies of the 1st Bn into the forest ahead of their line into the Bois de Hailbut and Bois de Rupt, as the 3rd Bn with the 47th (M) Company reached the northern end of the Bois de la Montague. The situation on the 6th Marines front was quite different. Sibley's 3rd Bn maintained the regimental front in the open fields between Xammes and Jaulny, while the 1st Bn held the wooded ravine to the north, on the road to Charey. After a day spent sparring with the German forces to the north, Lejeune ordered the 6th Marines to an advanced position to the north.

At 2:12 a.m. on Sept. 15, the 2nd Bn, 6th Marines moved into the woods ahead of the 1st Bn, taking a position along a forest road following a steep east west ravine. The battalion reached the area as the first rays of daylight hit the woodland covered by a ground fog reducing visibility to only 50 yards. The lead elements of the battalion found the Germans pulling back into the forest and quickened their advance. The 2nd Bn pursued the Germans but found themselves in a tough fight up the almost vertical bank of the ravine. The lead 96th (H) Company expected no combat, advancing in a column of two Marines abreast with 5-yard intervals. The Germans allowed the 200-yard long column to enter the ravine and cross a small bridge before opening fire.

"We scattered like a bunch of quail," recalled Sergeant Don V. Paradis, "I kept crawling on my hands and knees, from man to man urging them to keep on the alert as the Germans would probably try to rush us. A shell lit just in front of my machine gunner ... he and his buddy were almost covered in rubble but he was lying beside his machine gun pouring fire into the woods across the road. A few Germans came out of the woods towards us but did not gain 25 yards before our fire mowed them down." Machine gunner Private Florian L. Frillman received the Silver Star for his bravery that day. The 2nd Bn advance quickly divided across another ravine diverging north out of the main gully. Maj Williams took the left flank with two companies while Captain George W. Martin did the same on the right. What was intended to be a routine advance was now a firefight at close range raging within the forest.

The 1st Bn moved into the attack to support the 2nd Bn and became entangled in fierce combat as well. The battalion divided, with the 76th (C) Company followed by the 74th (A) Company moving into the woods on the 2nd Bn right and 75th (B) and 95th (D) Companies on the left. At 10:30 a.m., two platoons of the 83rd (I) Company from Sibley's battalion joined the fight. Adding to their misery, the Marines were continuously struck by German artillery, firing from long-range guns from as far away as the forts at Metz. Shells pounded the woods throughout the day, but the northern edge of the woods was taken after fierce fighting. The Marine left flank was vulnerable for a time as well due to the failure of the 89th Division to advance alongside the Marines.


By the end of the day, both battalions held positions on the northern end of the forest, but could not advance farther into the open fields toward Charey due to heavy machine-gun fire from trenches near the Montplaisir Farm. The open fields worked against the Germans, who failed with three fierce counterattacks to retake the wood. The 6th Marines suffered 421 casualties, including Captain William D. Black of the 95th (D) Company, who was killed along with three lieutenants of the 2nd Bn. As the fighting continued, Lejeune issued a warning order for the Division to be relieved on the following day by the 78th Division. The Marines pulled back from their positions, their place taken by the 309th and 310th Infantry regiments.

The battle of St. Mihiel came to a close for the 2nd Division which retired to a rest camp at Toul. American losses in the battle amounted to 13,700, with the 2nd Division suffering 1,552 men of that total. The Marine brigade lost 903 men despite being

in reserve in the opening assault. German losses were extensive, but most of the enemy units escaped the salient to fight again. The Americans alone captured 16,000 prisoners, 443 artillery pieces and untold amounts of supply and equipment. The Americans dealt the German Army a severe blow, both in morale and material.

"This striking victory completely demonstrated the wisdom of building up a distinct American army," Pershing wrote in his memoirs. "No form of propaganda could overcome the depressing effect on the enemy's morale ... the St. Mihiel victory probably did more than any single operation of the war to encourage the tired Allies."

The offensive was halted as Pershing shifted his forces to support the Allied general offensive to begin on Sept. 26 in the Argonne region—an offensive designed to end the war. The elite 4th Marine Brigade was destined to play a prominent role in the coming battle.

Author's bio: J. Michael Miller retired from the Marine Corps History Division in 2016 after more than 30 years of service and is now writing a multi-volume history of the Marine Corps in World War I. The first volume of the series will be published in the summer of 2018 and will cover the battles of Belleau Wood and Soissons. 



MajGen John A. Lejeune, USMC

Devil Dogs in Blue and Gold

Battalion Medical Support to the 4th Marine Brigade



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

During WW I, Navy medical personnel and the 4th Marine Brigade were supported by U.S. Army medical and dental personnel. The severely wounded were transported to field hospitals.

By Col William Anderson
USMCR (Ret)

Within the ranks of the U.S. Navy's medical establishment, there are those who serve with the Marine Corps and provide medical care to combat casualties. As a result, there is a formidable bond between Marines and the Sailors who care for them. This was especially true in June 1918 when the 4th Marine Brigade stormed Belleau Wood. While many books have been written on the events of that terrible month in France in 1918, most of them refer almost entirely to the actions of the Marines. Missing are the accounts of the considerable heroism and sacrifice of Navy medical personnel who went into harm's way to care for the Marines at the Bois de Belleau.

Medical officers have served with the U.S. Navy since the dawn of the Republic; however, it wasn't until 1842 that a Bureau of Medicine and Surgery was established to formalize selection and training. Following the national catastrophe of the Civil War and concerns about medical care on the battlefield, a Medical Corps was created as a separate entity within the Navy in 1871. With the expansion of naval commitments at the end of the 19th

century, Navy medicine entered a "brilliant chapter" of professionalism culminating with the creation of the Hospital Corps for enlisted personnel on June 17, 1898. Supporting the fleet surgeons, these medical Sailors have been referred to as "hospital corpsmen" or just "corpsmen" ever since.

In addition to expanding the Marine Corps, the Naval Act of 1916 resulted in a dramatic increase and reorganization of the Navy's medical organization, to include the Hospital Corps. Although hospital corpsmen had served with distinction with the Marine Corps before 1917, the transition of the Marine Corps from expeditionary operations to a prolonged land campaign in France in World War II required a change in focus for medical support. Gone were the simple days of routine sick call. Modern war demanded medical personnel embedded with tactical units responsible for battlefield casualties.

In addition to Navy medical personnel, the Marine brigade was also supported by U.S. Army medical and dental personnel. These soldiers served either with the Marine units or were responsible for the wounded once they left a regimental aid station for further treatment. If one of

the wounded needed significant medical care beyond what was available at a regimental aid station, members of one of the Second Division's 2nd Sanitary Train's four ambulance companies transported the casualties to the field hospitals. Four Army Medical Corps field hospitals took care of the 2nd Division (Field Hospitals 1, 15, 16 and 23): one was for triage (farthest forward), two were complete surgical units and the fourth for gassed and sick Marines. The non-triage hospitals usually were at least 12 kilometers behind the front.

According to the history of the Navy medical support to the Marines in WW I, each regiment initially had seven medical officers, three dental surgeons, and 48 hospital corpsmen. In accordance with Army procedures, as the 4th Marine Brigade joined the Army's 2nd Division, medical personnel were distributed generally as follows with each regiment:

Regimental Aid Station

Senior Medical Officer (regimental surgeon)

Assistant Medical Officer

Senior Dental Officer (dental surgeon)

Chief Pharmacist's Mate

Hospital Corpsmen (6 to 8)

Battalion Aid Stations (x3)

Surgeon

Assistant Surgeon

Dental Surgeon (if possible)

Chief Pharmacist's Mate

Hospital Corpsmen (5 to 7)

Each Company

Hospital Corpsmen (2 to 4) [Pharmacist's Mates and Hospital Apprentices]

After the brigade's first casualties, it was determined that having five corpsmen per company was better with one assigned to each platoon. In addition, when there were enough personnel, a second class or first class pharmacist's mate was assigned to each company to supervise and assist the corpsmen. At the company level, this distribution is reflected in the June 1918 roster for the 66th Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment which showed one chief pharmacist mate; first, second and third class pharmacist mates; and a corpsman.

Medical personnel with the 4th Marine

Brigade entered combat with their units and provided first aid on the battlefield. If required, they arranged for transport to the nearest battalion aid station. Battalion aid stations were located as close to the action as prudent, usually from about 2 kilometers. They acted as triage centers, treating minor wounds and directing more seriously wounded personnel be taken to the rear by ambulance for treatment at an appropriate field hospital administered by the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Initially, the 2nd Division's Army medical staff remained part of the Division's 2nd Sanitary Train, but many were attached to the individual battalions as required. Throughout the Marine brigade during the battle, Navy corpsmen mingled with soldiers from the ambulance companies.

Medical Officers of 3/6

One of the three medical officers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, Lieutenant Commander Michel, was really Dr. W. Howard Michael (1888-1961), who graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1909 and joined the Navy. He chronicled his experiences in WW I as a battalion surgeon in the 1934 article "Pleasure and Pain" in the U.S. Naval Institute magazine *Proceedings*. For his exemplary conduct at Belleau Wood, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism in action near the Bois-de-Belleau, France, June 6, 1918. Lieutenant Commander Michael



USA

On July 10, 1918, LCDR Michael received the Distinguished Service Cross from GEN John Pershing for extraordinary heroism near the Bois de Belleau, France, June 6, 1918.

displayed unusual courage on the morning of June 6 when he established a dressing station in the open, exposed to both shell and machine-gun fire, in order to be near the wounded. Under these conditions he worked for several hours."

On July 10, 1918, he received the award from General John Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. LCDR Michael also was awarded the

Navy Cross and a Silver Star for his actions at Belleau Wood. His Silver Star citation states that he "displayed unusual courage under heavy shell fire when he established a dressing station in the open exposed to both shell and machine-gun fire. Under these conditions he worked for several hours, evacuating a large number of wounded men from the 5th Regiment, then attacking in the vicinity.



COURTESY OF GEORGE STROTT

LCDR W. Howard Michael, the battalion surgeon for 3rd Bn, 6th Marines, poses with the junior medical officer, the dental officer and the corpsmen of the battalion.



Marine casualties are transported to the rear at Montreuil, June 8, 1918. Both Army and Navy personnel cared for wounded Marines in France. The Army Medical Corps operated four field hospitals including one designated for gassed servicemembers.

Major Edward B. Cole, Commanding the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, subsequently mortally wounded, reported these facts to the Regimental Surgeon and reported that he would report the conspicuous conduct of Surgeon Michael. Throughout the operations this officer rendered valuable service regardless of personal danger.”

His account in *Proceedings* provides perspective to studying the medical support provided to the Marine brigade. Most importantly, he mentions the aid station in the culvert due south of Lucy le Bocage, crossing Gobart Creek—also known as Gob’s Gulley. Also, he highlights the initial distribution of two corpsmen to each of the four companies and the assignment of eight Marines for each company to act as stretcher bearers. Neither plan worked well in the high intensity of mobile warfare in 1918. Later, the medical authorities assigned more men to do such work, to include additional support from the Army medical personnel in the 2nd Sanitary Train.

Due to the pressure and intensity of the medical duties, Michael requested transfer from the front line to a rear area hospital. The request was approved and he detached from the 6th Marines on Aug. 6, 1918. He remained in the Navy and served in World War II. In fact, he

was at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and established an emergency aid station at the Pearl Harbor Officers’ Club after the attack. He was advanced to rank of rear admiral upon his retirement and settled in Tidewater, Va.

Another medical officer supporting the Marines was a first lieutenant in the Ohio National Guard, Dr. John D. Southworth, who attended Kenyon Military Academy, Gambier, Ohio, a preparatory academy for Kenyon College from which he graduated



Lt John D. Southworth



Lt Louis M. Benepe



PhM3 Nathaniel Hall Lufkin

in 1911 as an excellent athlete. He enlisted in the Ohio National Guard in the spring of 1917 while he was a medical student at Johns Hopkins University. He went to France in 1917 after finishing his third year. Subsequently, he was awarded his medical degree and commissioned in the Medical Corps on May 28, 1918.

Southworth was a member of the 15th

Ambulance Company, 2nd Sanitary Train, but was attached to the 6th Regiment as events required. For gallantry in action later, Dr. Southworth was awarded a Silver Star at Blanc Mont in October 1918. After the war, he remained very active with the National Guard, retiring as a major in 1945, and later spent time in Japan as a medical missionary.

A direct descendant of Constant Southworth who landed at Plymouth Colony in 1628, Southworth died in Bangor, Maine, in 1972 and is buried in West Springfield, Mass.

Lieutenant Louis M. Benepe was a Navy dentist from St. Paul, Minn., and attended the University of Minnesota. He joined the Navy shortly after the U.S. Declaration of War on April 6, 1917. He reported to the Camp of Instruction, Quantico, Va., on June 25, 1917, and was detached on Sept. 28, 1917, with orders to report to the commanding officer of the 6th Marine Regiment.

Shortly thereafter, he was attached to the regiment’s 3rd Bn and sailed with that battalion to France on Oct. 30, 1917. Except for a period of detached duty for training he served with the regiment until he was transferred to Base Hospital No. 7 in mid-September. In October 1918, Dr. Benepe was detached officially from the 6th Regiment and was on temporary service

with the U.S. Naval Staff in Paris. Early in 1919, Benepe was directed to report to Paris Island, S.C. (*Author's note: Parris Island was spelled with one "r" until May 1919*), leaving the Navy in February 1920. He was a well-known and respected dental surgeon in Minnesota until his death in 1963.

One of the battalion's enlisted Sailors, Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Nathaniel Hall Lufkin (1898-1973), entered the Marine Corps on May 1, 1917, and reported to Marine Barracks, Quantico, on July 23, 1917. While attached to the 79th Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Regiment, he expressed an interest in becoming a Navy corpsman and was discharged from Marine Corps on Oct. 8, 1917, to do just that. After his initial training, he was a member of the 10th Regiment, Mobile Artillery from November 1917 to April 1918 as a Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class. Promoted to hospital apprentice 1st class, he was subsequently assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, on June 18, 1918, due to casualties at Belleau Wood.

Just prior to the Soissons battle, Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Lufkin was transferred to the 3rd Bn, 6th Marines, where he served for the remainder of the war. He received the Navy Cross for exemplary his heroism in taking care of Marines at Blanc Mont during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in October 1918: "For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service while attached to the 6th Regiment of Marines. Without regard for his own safety, Lufkin worked untiringly in rendering first aid to the wounded under extremely heavy shell fire, exposing himself to fire on the battlefield to carry wounded men on stretchers to a place of safety."

After the war, Lufkin attended Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1926. Later, he was an associate pro-



Navy and Army medical personnel who served with the 4th Marine Brigade during the war treated more than 13,000 casualties.

fessor at the university. He returned to the Navy and served in WW II, retiring in 1958 with the grade of rear admiral.

The close relationship between medical personnel and combat units in mobile warfare is now taken for granted, but such a concept was entirely new in the naval service in 1917. The almost 300 Navy and Army medical personnel who served with 4th Marine Brigade during the war treated more than 13,000 casualties. The officers and Sailors of the Navy Medical Corps suffered their share of casualties themselves with 18 killed in action and 165 gas casualties.

A heritage of valor and brotherhood was born in the bloody fields of France. Two of the Medals of Honor received for actions at Belleau Wood were presented to Navy medical personnel—Navy doctor Lieutenant Orlando Petty and dentist

Lieutenant Junior Grade Weedon Osborne, both with the 6th Marines. Osborne's award was presented posthumously after he died in the field outside Boursches on June 6, 1918. Other Navy medical personnel would receive a host of awards for heroism including the Navy Cross, the Army's Distinguished Service Cross, and Silver Stars. The 4th Marine Brigade was fortunate to have men of this caliber to tend to those injured and killed by the carnage of the war and unfortunately, many Marines would require such care in 1918.

The former commander of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, at Belleau Wood, and the 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Thomas Holcomb, concluded after the war: "The naval medical personnel who served in the Fourth Marine Brigade . . . acquitted themselves with exemplary honor. They won for their Corps and branch of service a record of war accomplishment ranking high in naval history."

This special relationship would endure throughout the war and continues to the present day.

Author's bio: Col Anderson spent the last portion of his military and international civilian career in Europe with HQ MARFOREUR and with NATO at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. A former defense contractor at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and Marine Corps historian, he was an adjunct faculty member at the USMC Command and Staff College Distance Education Program from 2009 to 2017.

Marine Corps University Holds World War I Symposium

As part of the Marine Corps World War I Centennial Commemoration, the Marine Corps History Division hosted a symposium at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., in July. The meeting was especially tailored for academics, independent scholars, and organizations planning to conduct World War I commemoration activities.

Families of WW I veterans who served with the 4th Marine Brigade were encouraged to attend so they could share family stories and cherished memorabilia and ask questions of the historians and other experts.

The program included presentations, static displays of period arms, equipment, and relevant publications. The presentations were on a variety of topics, including transportation of Marines to France, an assessment of the Marine Corps' emergence as a modern fighting force, combat artwork, and the development of Marine Corps aviation.

William Anderson

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

Elvis Had Me “All Shook Up”

Boot camp at Parris Island in August 1958 was hot, hot, hot. After a full day of training, PT, and marching with sweat-stained clothes, the best part of the day was in the barracks just before lights out after a cool shower and clean skivvies. Brushing your teeth was a welcome bonus. This was time for cleaning gear, reading the “Guidebook for Marines,” writing letters and quiet time—most of the time. Included during this period, everyone looked

**“That’s a picture
of Elvis. Do you like
Elvis?” “Sir, no, Sir.”
“I’ll bet you do like
Elvis.” “Sir, no, Sir.”**

forward to mail call. One of the first things we were told was to write home and tell everyone not to send anything other than a written letter. Anything else was sure trouble.

We were in the double-story H-frame barracks next to the parade field. The drill instructor would come out of his hut, walk midway into the barracks and shout “Mail call!” Everyone stood at attention in front of their racks and when your name was called, you ran to the center of the barracks to receive your mail. The DI would inspect the mail to see if there was anything suspicious. When my name was called, I ran to the center and stood at attention. The DI looked my envelope

over; it was obvious there was something inside other than a letter.

“Private, what’s in this envelope?” “Sir, I don’t know, Sir.” “Open it!” “Sir, yes, Sir!” I opened the envelope and with the letter was a newspaper clipping. My mother knew I had been an Elvis Presley fan and she (mistakenly) thought I would like to see a picture of Elvis in Germany standing by his tank.

Well, it started. “What is this?” “Sir, I don’t know, Sir.” On the back of the clipping was part of a story about local football. I tried to say that was what was sent but it went nowhere. “Bullsh-t. That’s a picture of Elvis. Do you like Elvis?” “Sir, no, Sir.” “I’ll bet you do like Elvis.” “Sir, no, Sir.” “Can you sing like Elvis?” “Sir, no, Sir.” “Let me hear you sing like Elvis. Can you sing ‘Hound Dog’?” “Sir, no, Sir.” “You better sing like Elvis.”

So I started singing, “You ain’t nothing but a hound dog, just a crying all the time.” The DI’s response: “I can’t hear you!”

I only knew the first verse and he had me repeat it over and over. Then he took the news clipping, wadded it up and stuck it in my mouth. “You chew on this until it’s gone but it better not be gone before reveille,” he said.

I thought I could handle that, but then he said I was to continue singing until lights out. Half the squad bay was mad at me and the other half was snickering. When I went to make a head call, the DI yelled, “I can’t hear my Elvis!” I continued to sing until lights out which was about 30 minutes but seemed like an hour. I chewed on the wadded clipping not knowing what

to expect the next morning.

Somehow, overnight I didn’t lose the wad. Nothing else was said and I finally put the wad in my pocket at noon chow. And of course another letter was sent home begging them not to send anything other than a letter!

Cpl James Putnam
USMC, 1958-1964
Madison, Ala.

Anything for the Orphanage

In the 1960s our squadron, based at Iwakuni, Japan, flew out of Misawa for electronic snooping to find out what the other guys had on their side of the fence.

Since we were on unaccompanied tours, Marines from each squadron used to support and visit local orphanages. Our orphanage was at Tokuyama and we discovered they had a small refrigerator to store perishable food for the children. Knowing the Air Force might have a discarded larger refrigerator in their salvage yard, we approached the salvage officer to do some “horse swapping.” It seems he was a shooter and was interested in some .45-caliber “wad cutter” ammunition, so arrangements were made for the swap. The ammunition was transferred and we got two used refrigerators for the orphanage, and everyone was happy.

GySgt Paul T. Kuras
USMC (Ret)
San Antonio, Texas

Early to Bed?

My good buddy and I enlisted in the Corps in July 1956 in Buffalo, N.Y., and arrived at Parris Island, S.C., early in the morning of July 31. We had chow and then the fun began.

We were introduced to our drill instructors (DIs)

and were very scared. After we were issued our gear and uniforms, we carried our seabags across the parade field and arrived at our barracks. The DI told us to go into the squadbay and stand by. My buddy and I saw a rack with mattresses rolled up and we decided to lie down; him on the top bunk, me on the bottom.

When the DI came in and saw us, he immediately started screaming at us, grabbed the rack and tipped it over. My buddy went flying and so did two or three other racks. We were told never to get into racks before 9 p.m. Needless to say, we never did that again.

PFC David “Reed” Dahn
USMC, 1956-1958
Lancaster, N.Y.

Ghosts in North Korea

I was standing guard duty on the perimeter of the 1st Combat Service Group compound in Hamhung, North Korea, in November 1950. It was a dark and windy night. It had snowed the previous day and while the roads had become packed down by vehicles of various sorts, the surrounding ground was covered by 2 inches of fresh, fluffy snow. I didn’t think anything in particular about this, and that was my mistake, as my more-than-fertile imagination set out to prove. I had been standing this post for about three hours and thinking about the activities I planned to accomplish after coming off sentry duty. It was now almost 0300 hours.

All of a sudden a crunching sound, like footsteps in fresh snow, penetrated my wandering mind. I jumped away from the 55-gallon drum filled with burning scrap wood that I had taken a warming

break beside and strained my now wide-awake eyes in the direction of the sound, but saw nothing. I relaxed somewhat, but the warning earlier in the day to be on the lookout for North Korean Army infiltrators was very much on my mind.

A short time later, again, I heard the crunch-crunch of someone walking on the newly fallen snow. Taking no chances, this time I yelled out, "Halt! Who goes there?" No answer. Only silence. I held my breath, only hearing my heart beating loudly. I shrugged off the apprehension I felt and told myself that I really had nothing to be concerned about. A short period later, I heard the familiar sound of footsteps on freshly fallen snow for a third time. I said to myself, "This is silly. Someone or something is making those noises. I'd better go see about it."

I advanced to the other side of the road in an attempt to get a better look at the area from which those strange sounds were

other side of the road no better, I returned to my original position close to the warming fire. No sooner had I done this when I heard, much louder this time, that mysterious crunching sound again. This was becoming preposterous. Then, with my finger on the trigger of my rifle, I finally spotted the source of the ominous crunching noises. Three pieces of newspaper blowing down the road's hard-packed surface was causing me all that worry and concern.

I'll swear up and down and sideways too, that those pieces of newspaper sounded like someone slowly advancing toward me over the fresh, unpacked snow. I am sure that few people have had the experience of challenging three pieces of newspaper and almost blowing them away with rifle fire.

Cpl Peter F. Lydens
USMCR, 1950-1952
Charleston, W.Va.

It's a Small World

From September 1953 to February 1954, our Marine Corps infantry unit was aboard the amphibious attack transport ship USS *Mellette* (APA-156) in the Mediterranean Sea. On numerous occasions, we climbed down the nets over the side of the ship into a landing craft and made practice amphibious landings ashore.

Sailors standing at the rail above lowered our mortars and machine guns down to us in our boat. One day, the line slipped through the hands of a young Sailor and a .30-caliber machine gun fell into the water between the ship and our boat, never to be recovered.

Fast forward 56 years to 2010. In speaking with a retired Navy chief petty officer who I met, I mentioned that I had been aboard *Mellette*. He responded that he had been a member of the ship's crew during that period.

He said that one day when he was lowering a machine gun down to the Marines in a boat, the line slipped through his hands and the gun fell into the water and was lost. He was the Sailor who lost our machine gun. Obviously he was forgiven for the accident since he retired as a chief petty officer.

SSgt Jack M. Sands
USMC, 1952-1962
Waldorf, Md.

What a Liberty

Platoon 64, 1st Recruit Bn, Parris Island, S.C., graduated September 1947 from boot camp. We were on a train heading for Savannah, Ga., for our 10-day leave, when at about 2030, the train broke down at a crossing near a small town in South Carolina. Sixty-two Marines disembarked and the town's residents were surprised to see so many Marines. The town had a movie theater, a lot of poge bait and many girls our age. A good time was had by all for the hour we were there.

When the train was repaired, we left for Savannah. We arrived about 0230; everything in town was shut down. Lucky for us, it was a warm evening. There was a big grassy park right next to the train station so we gathered our gear and found a spot on the ground to rest until morning. As time went on, the local police drove by and wondered why Marines were there on the ground. Our guide explained to the officers why we were there, and as they left, one officer yelled, "Reveille at 0800."

Sgt Daniel A. Villarial
USMC, 1947-1951, 1955-1962
Bedford, Va.

Esprit de Corps

Like many Vietnam-bound Marines in the summer of 1968, I was sent to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., for a 12-week course in

Vietnamese. Compared to boot camp at Camp Pendleton, this was an Ivy League campus.

Anyone who went there will recall the Enlisted Marine Club had a huge window behind the bar that looked out onto picturesque Monterey Bay. One evening,

**A Coast Guard cutter
was observed at
anchor in the bay.
Obviously, this
target was too much
to resist ...**

a Coast Guard cutter was observed at anchor in the bay. Obviously, this target was too much to resist and someone made their way out to the cutter and painted USMC in 3-foot high letters on the side of the vessel. While the Coast Guard suspected the school's Marine students, the case remains unsolved to this day.

Al Singleton
USMC, 1968-1970
Monterey, Tenn.

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! 🦋

**I heard the
crunch-crunch of
someone walking
on the newly fallen
snow. Taking no
chances, this time
I yelled out, "Halt!
Who goes there?"**

coming. The crunching sound came again. "Halt! Who goes there?" I shouted a second time while hitting the operating rod handle on my rifle inserting a live round of ammunition into the rifle's firing chamber and then clicking off the safety mechanism. Still no answer.

All my survival senses were at their highest levels. Finding my view from the



I SERVED FOR *family tradition*

Marine veteran David Cochran has been a USAA member since 1999. As owner of an automotive repair shop, he often works late hours, so he needs a company as hardworking and reliable as he is. That's exactly why he placed his trust in USAA to protect his home and family.

As a Marine, David is proud to have helped protect our country. He's just as proud to pass down his USAA membership to his eligible family members for generations to come.

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Nearly 17 years after he served as crew chief aboard President George W. Bush's first post-9/11 flight to Manhattan, GySgt Joe Fijalkowski, USMC (Ret), surveys a Marine One helicopter at HMX-1, Quantico, Va., June 1. Fijalkowski now works as a civilian for the presidential transport squadron, where he is the lead engine mechanic for Marine One. (Photo by Abigail Wilson)

The Flight to Ground Zero

Sept. 14, 2001, Presidential Transport Remains Etched in the Minds of HMX-1 Marines

By Sara W. Bock

For the elite group of Marines selected to transport the President of the United States aboard Marine One, the famed olive green, “white top” helicopter attached to Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), some flight paths become second nature, and many sights—like the New York City skyline—are routine to the point of becoming nearly unremarkable.

But in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when hijackers rammed two 767 jetliners into the World Trade Center’s twin towers, another into the Pentagon, and made a fourth failed attempt that ended with a crash in a remote location in Pennsylvania, a Sept. 14, 2001, flight to the southern tip of Manhattan for one crew of HMX-1 Marines was atypical, to say the least.

Their mission was identical to that of every other Marine One flight: to get the president where he needed to be safely and on time. On this day, though, things were markedly different. President George W. Bush’s destination was Ground Zero, and the nation’s wounds were fresh from the inconceivable tragedy that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people. America would be forever changed, and the country’s response to the day’s events had only just begun.

The mood onboard was solemn, and the view from above was sobering as the crew took in the sight below from an unbelievable vantage point. For the pilot, co-pilot, crew chief and security guards who ensured Marine One’s safe landing that day at the Downtown Manhattan Heliport, the pall of smoke over New York, visible from many miles away, is forever etched into their memories.

Until now, their story has largely gone untold; for them, this comes from a deep respect for those who tragically lost their lives that day, and a strongly held belief that they didn’t do anything remarkable—that in that moment, they were just Marines doing their job.

Like all Americans who were alive on 9/11 and were old enough to comprehend the events that transpired that Tuesday morning in 2001, the Marines involved recall without hesitation exactly where they were and what they were doing when they first heard that the nation was under attack.

Security guards Corporal Liberty Steiner and Cpl Alfredo Cerna, a married couple, had both just returned home from working the night shift. (Their unique role at HMX-1 was not to guard the commander-in-chief—that’s reserved for Secret Service—but to guard the perim-



GYSGT JOE FIJALKOWSKI, USMC (RET)

Fijalkowski captured this aerial view of the southern tip of Manhattan during the Sept. 13, 2001, rehearsal flight for President Bush’s arrival in New York the following day. He and other crew members recall being shocked to see how much smoke continued to pour out of the World Trade Center site days after the attacks.



COURTESY OF COL STEVE TAYLOR, USMC (RET)

Above: Marines with HMX-1 stand with New York first responders in front of Marine One at the Downtown Manhattan Heliport, Sept. 14, 2001.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

President George W. Bush embraces a firefighter at the site of the World Trade Center, Sept. 14, 2001.

eter of each landing site and make sure the aircraft was secure at all times.) Their attempts to fall asleep were thwarted by the incessant ringing of their telephone. They quickly packed bags and headed back to the HMX-1 hangars at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to stage their gear and wait for tasking.

Staff Sergeant Joe Fijalkowski, a crew chief assigned to Marine One, had the day off after working all weekend and was at home with his 9-month-old son when he

turned on the TV and began watching in disbelief.

Major Phil Fickes, who would co-pilot the flight on Sept. 14, was driving to Washington, D.C., for a meeting and heard the coverage of the World Trade Center attacks on the radio. He was still on the road when the third hijacked plane hit the Pentagon, and he could see the smoke from the 14th Street Bridge as he crossed the Potomac.

Sitting behind his desk at HMX-1 headquarters, signing paperwork, was the

squadron's commanding officer, Colonel Steve Taylor, who would pilot Marine One on the flight to Ground Zero. It was a clear, blue, sunny day on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., he recalls, when one of the squadron's Marines showed up in his office with the news that the first plane had hit the north tower.

Assuming it had been some sort of freak accident, Taylor continued working for a few minutes before heading down to the ready room, where a group of HMX Marines had gathered around the television. He entered the room just in time to watch the second plane hit the south tower. Taylor immediately called a meeting of the squadron's department heads and ordered that every helicopter be "pre-flighted" and crews assigned so that they would be prepared in the event of being called to assist in a mass-casualty scenario. The squadron, which not only is responsible for presidential transport but also serves as the primary operational test and evaluation unit for Marine assault support helicopters, mobilized immediately.

"You never know how you're going to react until you're put in that situation ... and you go on automatic. It's what you train for," said Steiner of the squadron's response, crediting the Marine Corps with preparing them for even the most unthinkable of situations.

And while that call never came, another call came in a few days later: one that would bring these five Marines together to take part in a pivotal moment in American history.

After being shuttled around the country as a safety measure, President Bush, who was in Florida at the time of the attacks, returned to the White House on the evening of Sept. 11, where he delivered a televised address from the Oval Office. The next day, he met with his national security team and toured the damage at the Pentagon. Then, on the 13th, the call came in to HMX: President Bush would travel to New York City the following day. Taylor quickly put together a detachment of Marines, of which he would personally take the lead, and the group left Quantico in the afternoon, bound for McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

"The flight to McGuire was unusual. Other than fighters, tankers and Airborne Warning and Control System, we were the only other aircraft in the air that day," said Taylor. "I never had imagined that we would be flying to New York, with all air traffic grounded, and the skies of our nation being patrolled by fighters," he added, saying that the environment felt similar to what one might expect in a combat situation and certainly not on domestic soil.

[illegible]

During a visit with *Leatherneck*, April 5, Fijalkowski shows his logbook page from September 2001, which documents the flight to New York on the 13th and the presidential flight the following day. (Photos by Nancy S. Lichtman)



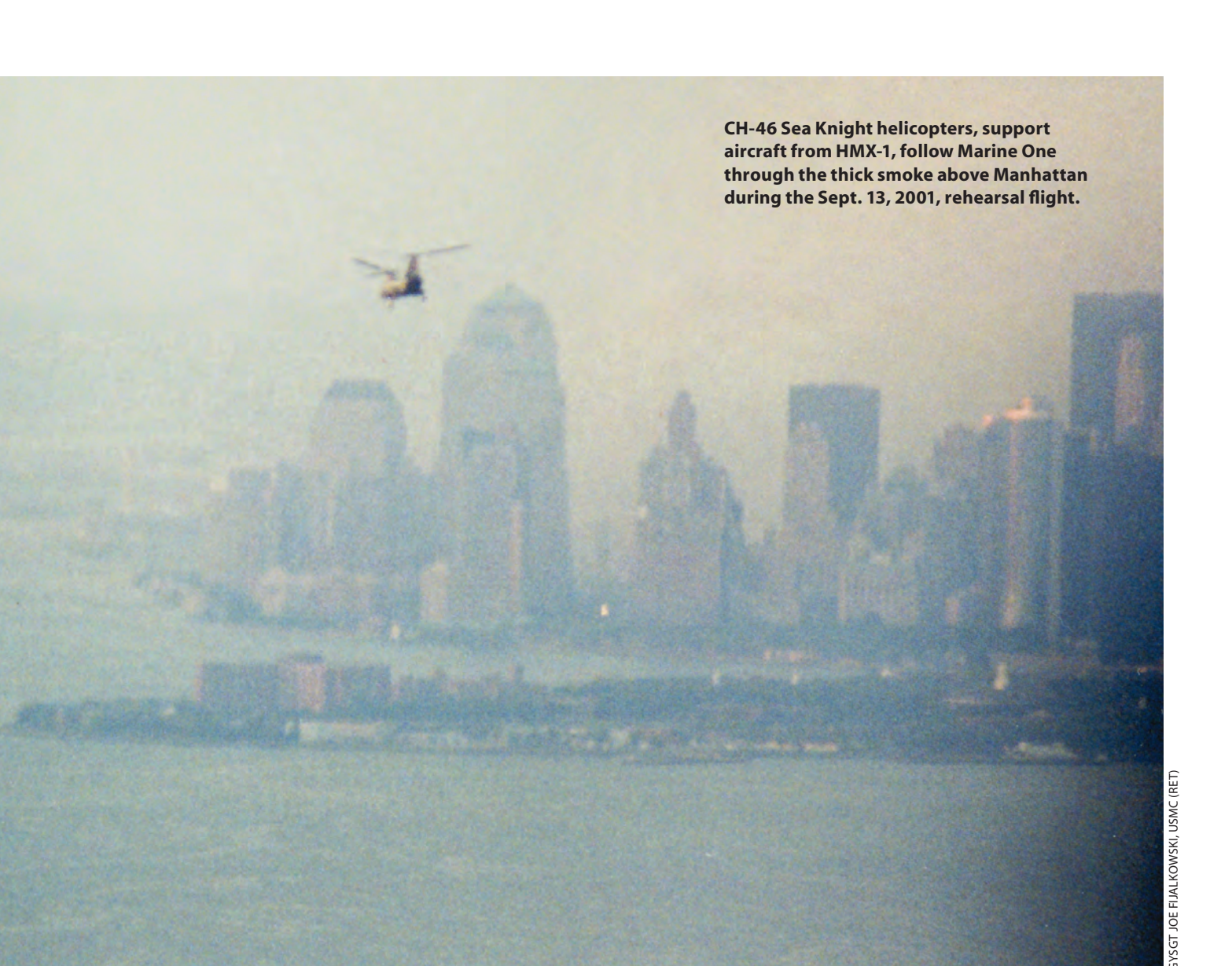
COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE

President George W. Bush salutes Fijalkowski, left, and Cpl Liberty Steiner, right, as he exits Marine One at the Downtown Manhattan Heliport in New York City, Sept. 14, 2001.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Aboard Marine One, President Bush converses with New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, left, and New York Governor George Pataki as they tour the World Trade Center disaster site from the air, Sept. 14, 2001.



CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters, support aircraft from HMX-1, follow Marine One through the thick smoke above Manhattan during the Sept. 13, 2001, rehearsal flight.

GYSGT JOE FIJALKOWSKI, USMC (RET)

for a presidential landing, but there were more people than usual, and the tone was completely different.

As HMX-1 security guards, Cpl Steiner and Cpl Cerna had been dropped off on the pad prior to the president's landing. For Cerna, a New York native, his observations that day hit close to home. Most striking to him was the number of first responders waiting at the pad.

"They looked like they were really traumatized. They'd gone through something really bad," said Cerna. "When they saw us there, and the helicopters got there and the president got there, they were really happy to see us there. From the time I got there, I couldn't believe what they'd gone through—it was like nothing I'd ever seen my entire time in the Marine Corps."

There was one particular observation Steiner made that still stands out in her mind today. Firefighters and police officers had written their social security numbers in permanent marker on their arms, so they could be easily identified

if, while searching for survivors among the debris, they didn't make it out alive.

"It's been so long, but it hasn't," said Steiner with emotion in her voice. "It's still raw and real."

Despite any feelings of shock and dismay, however, their training kicked in and took over, enabling the Marines to remain focused on getting the job done.

After Marine One and CH-46 Sea Knight support helicopters from HMX-1 made their landings on the pad, President Bush exited the aircraft and saluted Fijalkowski and Steiner. It made an impression on Steiner that, despite how preoccupied he must have been, the president didn't miss the salute. "You'd think that would have been the last thing on his mind," she said.

For Fijalkowski, whose job as crew chief aboard Marine One was multifaceted as he was responsible for maintaining the aircraft as well as being the "ceremonial," often-photographed Marine in dress blues who stands outside the aircraft as the president enters and exits, the police and

fire presence that day was unlike what he'd observed during every other New York landing.

"There's usually police and fire over there and it's usually a really jovial moment, but you could tell that the mood was totally different. Everybody was quiet and somber," said Fijalkowski, describing the exhaustion on the faces of the first responders, who were coated in a layer of ash. And the president, who according to Fijalkowski was normally very upbeat during Marine One flights, appeared emotional and subdued as he, Giuliani and Pataki greeted the first responders and boarded the motorcade to ground zero.

The Marines shut down the helicopters and began to wait for the president's return, speaking with the police officers and firefighters who had assembled at the heliport.

"As we began to talk to them, it was apparent that most of them had been working at the World Trade Center site since the attack," said Taylor. "They had been desperately digging for many hours,



Fijalkowski photographed this image as Marine One flew over Ground Zero on Sept. 13, 2001. He and the other members of the crew recall that this sight, witnessed firsthand, is permanently “seared” into each of their memories.

but by Friday there didn’t seem to be much expectation that they would find many more survivors.”

What was originally planned as a three-hour visit turned into six, as the president visited with families of victims of the World Trade Center attacks and spent time showing his support for those who had worked tirelessly for nearly four days, moving concrete and steel and risking their own lives in the harrowing search-and-rescue mission.

With a bullhorn in hand, President Bush

would deliver a speech to first responders that would arguably become one of the defining moments of his presidency.

“I can hear you! The rest of the world hears you, and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!” he shouted from atop a pile of rubble. Captured on camera, the moment is now an iconic part of American history and a harbinger of things to come.

It was dark when the motorcade arrived back at the Wall Street pad, and Marine One lifted off quickly once the President was on board.

“As we took off, we made another circle around the site,” recalled Taylor. “By now it was bathed in the bright lights that had been set up to allow the recovery efforts to proceed during the night. The lights starkly highlighted the scene and it was

once again a very harsh reminder of the tragedy that had taken place there.”

It was a quiet flight back to McGuire, with hardly any discussion on the radios or in the cockpit, recalled Taylor.

“On that day I think we all felt like we were a part of our nation’s history. We empathized with our fellow citizens; we supported the president on what was a difficult day for all Americans; we were angry at what had happened to our country,” said Taylor. “Most satisfying to me was that throughout the response to 9/11, the men and women of HMX-1 responded with the calm professionalism they have been known for throughout the history of the squadron.”

Established in 1947, HMX-1 began as an experimental unit tasked with testing and evaluating military helicopters for



GYSGT JOE FIJALKOWSKI, USMC (RET)



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

This iconic photo depicts President Bush's impromptu speech to firefighters and rescue workers as he stood atop the rubble of the collapsed World Trade Center at Ground Zero, Sept. 14, 2001.



COURTESY OF GYSGT JOE FIJALKOWSKI, USMC (RET)

Then-SSgt Joe Fijalkowski stands next to the presidential state car that transported President Bush from the Downtown Manhattan Heliport to Ground Zero as part of the official motorcade.

possible use by the Marine Corps. Ten years later, in 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, on vacation in Rhode Island, was urgently needed at the White House, and an HMX-1 helicopter transported him back to Air Force One in seven minutes, a ride that would have taken two hours by motorcade. Since then, rotary-wing transport of the president, vice president and other important personnel became an essential element of HMX-1's mission, and Marine One's frequent landings on the South Lawn of the White House a common sight.

He didn't think much of it at the time, but Fickes acknowledges that in retrospect, the flight to Ground Zero was a unique opportunity to experience history in what he considers an unfortunate way. In his life after the Corps, he teaches young

children—who were born after 9/11—and he's been amazed to find that many of them don't have an understanding of what happened that day in 2001.

"I sometimes find myself talking about it, not my own experience, but just that day and how it changed our country, only I think more so because of my experience that day with the president. I want them to understand how important that day was," said Fickes.

A post-9/11 America has placed great

demands on its Marine Corps, and from HMX-1 to the infantry and everywhere in between, Marines have answered the call of duty with a steadfast determination to do what they do best: get the job done. The Marines who flew to Ground Zero on Sept. 14 insist that they don't deserve any accolades for their involvement—that they were simply doing their job—but there's no denying that for all, it's one day in the Marine Corps they'll never forget. 🇺🇸

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

College-Bound Marines Attend Academic “Boot Camp”

For active-duty and veteran enlisted Marines who have their sights set on obtaining undergraduate degrees from top-tier colleges and universities, an immersive one- or two-week “academic boot camp” sponsored by the Warrior-Scholar Project (WSP) offers them the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to successfully transition from the battlefield to the classroom.

Each summer, some of the best colleges and universities in the United States host Warrior-Scholar Project workshops, provided free of charge to enlisted veterans. Attendees learn note-taking skills, study techniques, and academic writing skills taught by the host college or university’s faculty members.

This summer, the University of Pennsylvania hosted its first-ever WSP “boot camp,” held on its campus in Philadelphia from June 23 to July 1. Among the 13

servicemembers in attendance were two Marines, Javier Cuadras Castillo and Kyle Brekke, who this fall will leave active duty for the Ivy League. Both have been accepted to the University of Pennsylvania, and attending the WSP program on campus gave them a glimpse of what their future would hold.

For Castillo, attending college has always been part of his plan. He saw four years of service in the Marine Corps as a means of making college affordable—and even more so, as an opportunity to gain some life experience and take the time to consider what he would like to study. An avid learner, Castillo devoted much of his spare time to academics while serving as a driver for the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruiting Command, taking advantage of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Marine Corps’ Tuition Assistance program to complete college courses.

He credits the WSP for giving him the

tools he needs to succeed in the transition from the Marine Corps to the Ivy League.

“This is a whole new level of academics,” said Castillo. “The Warrior Scholar Project gave me that empowerment so I can be successful in school.”

It helped, said Castillo, to work as a group with the other servicemembers as they improved their academic skills. It was an experience that he says he’d do all over again.

While attending the WSP workshop at Penn, the veterans had the opportunity to live on campus and eat their meals in the university’s dining facilities, giving them an immersive college experience. The one-week humanities-focused program, led by faculty from Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences, allowed attendees to explore various works about democracy, which generated many interesting discussions and provided a platform for practicing academic writing skills.

“We are incredibly proud to serve our



SCOTT SPITZER, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Matt Johnson and Amy Brown from the University of Pennsylvania’s Critical Writing Program lead a workshop for active-duty and veteran servicemembers during the Warrior-Scholar Project’s Academic Boot Camp held on the university’s campus in Philadelphia this summer.

military and veterans,” said Nora Lewis, the vice dean of professional and liberal education in Penn’s School of Arts and Sciences. “They are tremendous contributors to the academic discourse in our classrooms and to the larger campus community.”

In 2016, Marine veteran Frankie Burgos attended a WSP “boot camp” at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he is now a rising junior studying biology on a pre-med track. He credits WSP with helping him realize that he could attend a top-tier school and be an asset there as well.

“My number one advice for Marines wanting to transition to college is to apply to go to WSP,” said Burgos, a first-generation college student who served as a mortarman during his time in the Marine Corps. “Don’t think that what you did in the military is the last piece of success that you’ll ever have. Never rest on your laurels and be humble.”

For the past two summers, Burgos has worked as a mentor for veterans attending WSP, both as a humanities fellow and most recently as a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fellow, which is the curriculum offered during the two-week program. His role, which he describes as a “drill instructor” for the academic boot camp, allows him to help other veterans gain confidence in their ability to thrive in higher education, which he says the program did for him.

To apply or learn more about the Warrior-Scholar Project, visit www.warrior-scholar.org.

Sara W. Bock

Amphibious Combat Vehicle To Begin Fielding in 2020

In June, Marine Corps Systems Command awarded a contract to produce Amphibious Combat Vehicles—a much-needed modernization to the Marine Corps’ ground combat element.

Following a successful Milestone C decision by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, the contract options worth \$198 million will allow BAE Systems to build 30 low-rate production vehicles which will start delivering in the fall of next year. These vehicles will begin the transition of a portion of the Assault Amphibious Vehicle fleet.

The Assault Amphibious Vehicle has been in service for more than 40 years, and many of its components and parts are obsolete and no longer manufactured. Because of this, the vehicles are becoming increasingly costly and difficult to maintain. In addition to the cost, the threat of improvised explosives devices has



After two years of testing, MCSC awarded a contract to BAE Systems in June to produce and deliver 30 ACVs to the operating forces, with fielding scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2020. (Photo by Kaitlin Kelly)

produced a need for a new, more survivable combat vehicle that can maneuver from ship to shore and beyond.

“In order to be a step ahead of our adversaries in the future, the Marine Corps needed to find a modern vehicle at an affordable price range that provided significant capability enhancement and performance over the AAV,” said Colonel Kirk Mullins, ACV 1.1 product manager in Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault.

The ACV is an eight-wheeled vehicle that will provide protection akin to the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle, with landward maneuverability and mobility that is superior to that of the AAV. It will be outfitted with a precision weapons station for enhanced lethality and a robust swim capability, allowing it to operate within the littorals and beyond.

“The ACV provides a mobile capability that mechanizes the force to maintain tempo with the remainder of the [Marine Air-Ground Task Force]; specifically the M1A1 tank,” said Mullins. “It isn’t maintenance intensive because of its increased reliability, and it also provides greater protection against threats we encounter on the battlefield.”

The vehicle underwent substantial testing over the past two years to determine how it will protect Marines, be easier to maintain and meet requirements for sur-

vivability and reliability. Testing took place at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center in Maryland; the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.; the Yuma Test Center in Arizona; the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Mississippi; and the White Sands Missile Range Army Base in New Mexico.

Additionally, the ACV was evaluated aboard USS *Somerset* (LPD-25) and USS *Anchorage* (LPD-23) to demonstrate its ability to launch from and recover to amphibious ships and test its overall shipboard compatibility.

“Our test program was exhaustive in an effort to ensure we gathered all the data needed to make the best decision,” said Mullins. “We tested the ACV for survivability, mobility, water operations and reliability, and completed gunnery testing.”

Marines who participated in the operational assessment evaluated the vehicle favorably, Mullins said. Those who had previous experience with the AAV were enthusiastic and optimistic about operating the ACV in the future.

I Marine Expeditionary Force will be the first to receive the new ACV when fielding starts in the fourth quarter of 2020. Full operational capability is scheduled for 2023.

Kaitlin Kelly

Native American Marine Veteran Designs National Memorial

Harvey Pratt, a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War and a chief for the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, created the winning design for the new National Native American Veterans Memorial, which will be constructed adjacent to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, D.C.

Pratt is a self-taught artist who works in oil, watercolor, metal, clay and wood, and his works include themes of Native American history and tradition and the Cheyenne people. His memorial design, entitled "Circle of Honor," incorporates many different traditions and beliefs of Native Americans and promotes inclusivity among all tribes.

"The sacred circle represents heaven, earth and the pathway followed by honor-bound native people," said Pratt. "Wind spirits can pass through the stainless-steel

sacred circle. Water, fire and the drum are the central design elements within the circle. Water represents purity, prayer, cleansing and reflection flowing over the drum; water softly pulses over circular ridges, suggesting vibrations of voice and drumbeat in a Kasota limestone basin. Fire symbolizes strength, courage, endurance and comfort. The drum is the heartbeat of the memorial and connects all the elements."

He added that the memorial will have benches for private meditation and footprints along the outer walkway to represent warriors of the past, present and future.

In 1994, Congress passed legislation to allow the museum to create a memorial to honor Native American veterans. The memorial had to be located inside the museum, no federal funds could be used and only the National Congress of American Indians was allowed to raise funds. In 2013, Congress amended the legislation to allow the memorial to be located on

the grounds of the NMAI and allow the museum to raise funds for the memorial.

The NMAI formed an advisory committee for the memorial, and the committee sought input and support for the memorial from tribal leaders and Native American veterans and community members. From these inputs, the committee created a design competition in November 2017.

Groundbreaking for the memorial is slated for Sept. 21, 2019, and the dedication ceremony is scheduled for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2020.

PO2 Anita C. Newman, USN

Female Marines Participate in Leadership Symposium

The 31st Annual Joint Women's Leadership Symposium kicked off June 21 at the San Diego Convention Center, where more than 1,200 servicemembers gathered to discuss current issues in the military. More than 200 Marines, enlisted and officer, attended this year, coinciding with the centennial of women in the Corps.

Hosted by the Sea Service Leadership Association, the event brought together women from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and 20 other countries. The theme of the symposium, "The Power Within You," included question and answer panels, service-specific sessions and discussions with the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Glenn M. Walters, and then-Commander of Marine Forces Cyber Command, Major General Lori M. Reynolds, the Corps' senior female Marine, who has since been promoted to lieutenant general.

LtGen Reynolds expressed that the ultimate goal of attending the symposium is for female Marines to be encouraged and reminded they are not alone.

"Being a woman in this organization is not always easy, so it helps to have somebody out there fighting for you and with you," said LtGen Reynolds. "This is an opportunity that you can make your voice matter."

Gen Walters thanked everyone, including the few men in the crowd, for attending, and spoke about the distinct value that women bring to the military.

"All women serving are unique," said Gen Walters. "Throughout our history you've always been volunteers."

He discussed benefits of the Marine Corps' recent policy change, which opened the door for women to join combat military occupational specialties.

"Integration is not only the right thing to do, integration is essential to winning our nation's battles to maintain our freedom, all in an environment where only 29 percent of our population is qualified to serve," said Gen Walters.

Native American Marine veteran Harvey Pratt, pictured in the inset photo in Da Nang, Vietnam, created the winning design for the National Native American Veterans Memorial, depicted below in the artist's rendering. The memorial, which is scheduled to be dedicated in 2020, will sit adjacent to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.





CPL HAILEY D. CLAY, USMC

LtCol Misty Posey, CO of 4th Recruit Training Bn, speaks to female servicemembers during the 2018 Joint Women's Leadership Symposium in San Diego, June 22.

In addition to the symposium, Gen Walters attended the Women of America's "Salute to the Marines" reception in San Diego, June 21, where he presented a painting of a female Marine in Al Asad, Iraq, created by Marine combat artist Staff Sergeant Kristopher J. Battles.

The artwork, inscribed with the words, "Honoring the thousands of women who have earned the title Marine," will be displayed at the Women's Museum of California in downtown San Diego.

Sgt Brytani Wheeler, USMC



SSGT KRISTOPHER J. BATTLES, USMC

Created by Marine combat artist SSGt Kristopher J. Battles, this painting of a female Marine with the Lioness Program in Al Asad, Iraq, was presented by Gen Walters for display at the Women's Museum of California during the Women of America's "Salute to the Marines" reception in San Diego, June 21.

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



SSGT VITALY RUSAVSKIY, USMC

"Hold on. I'm on the phone."

Submitted by
Rick Dean
Rusk, Texas

This Month's Photo



LCPL JACOB FARBO, 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.

Jenelle and Mark Byrd present their bronze bust of Medal of Honor recipient MSG Roy P. Benavidez, a gift from the Valor Remembered Foundation and the USMA Class of 1979 to the United States Military Academy in November 2007.



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD



Sculptor Mark Byrd: Standing Tall in Bronze

By Mary D. Karcher

Mark Austin Byrd has stared Chesty Puller in the face but never met him. He's familiar with Fox Hill at Toktong Pass and the Main Supply Road from Yudam-ni to Hamhung, yet he did not march with the "Chosin Few" at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. Artist and Marine veteran Mark Byrd has experienced notable people and places in military history through diligent research and long hours of meticulously sculpting clay to form warriors, recreate battlefields and design monuments to honor those who

have nobly served in the military.

There are Mark Byrd sculptures at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., and the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. His statues also stand at parks in Texas and Georgia, on the grounds of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., and in the homes of many Marines who have received Byrd sculptures through the Marine Corps Association and Foundation's Marine Excellence Awards Program. Mark and his wife Jenelle Armstrong Byrd have collaborated on military-themed

sculptures since 2000, when they were commissioned to create a memorial sculpture of the late Master Sergeant Raul Perez "Roy" Benavidez, USA.

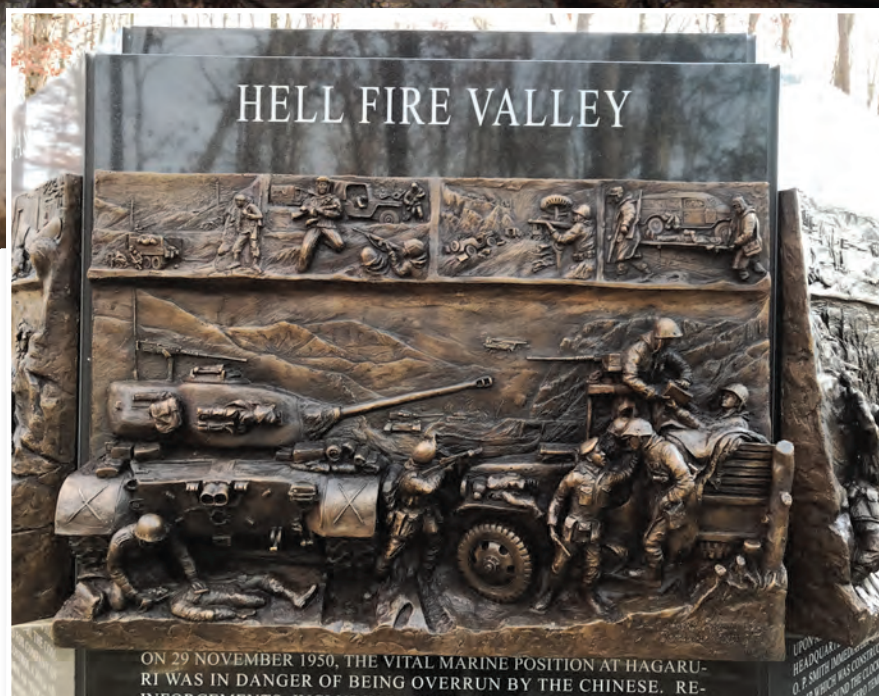
The Byrds were deeply touched by MSG Benavidez's story and thereafter endeavored to create works that "preserve the legacy of American valor," according to Mark. Benavidez served heroically in the Army, returning to Vietnam after defying his doctor's prognosis that he would never walk again after a land mine injury. During his second tour in 1968, Benavidez earned the Medal of Honor for rescuing at least eight soldiers despite



sustaining life-threatening wounds. Mark admired Benavidez and praised his post-retirement mission “to be a role model for the youth of America and to tell them the cost of their freedom, the price that some of us must from time to time pay for the freedom of our families and our nation.” Mark added, “I now share that calling.” This mission is apparent in the commissions the Byrds accept and the sculptures they create.

Art in the Battle Zone

Byrd hasn’t always been a sculptor, but he’s always played with clay. In the hands of 4-year-old Mark, modeling clay did not result in the little clay pot that most kids made at preschool. Instead, he made cars, trucks or items from his storybooks, like the eponymous “The Little Engine That



These scenes from the Chosin Few Battle Monument detail the fighting at Hell Fire Valley (above), with the Royal Marines of Task Force Drysdale, and Koto-Ri (top), where Marines ascend a ridge. Smaller scenes above the main panel highlight Royal Marines, soldiers and Marines fighting Chinese forces and a Navy corpsman tending the wounded.

MARY D. KARCHER

MARY D. KARCHER

Could.” “I could make anything that I could see,” he said. “I would just make my impression of things, maybe 3 to 4 inches long, and then I’d play with them.” When he was a very young boy, some of Mark’s most worn books were about combat art or World War II photography. He studied them—searching for tanks, airplanes and ships that he could model. He “played” with clay even through his college years, but it would be a while before he learned how to make his creations into permanent bronze sculptures.

In college Mark studied to be a doctor, intending to follow in his father’s footsteps, but his life ended up taking a different direction. A fraternity brother suggested he enroll in the Platoon Leaders Class and upon graduation from college in 1967, Byrd accepted a commission in the Marine Corps and attended The Basic School as a member of Class 1-68. Soon he was in Vietnam serving as a pilot in Marine

Light Helicopter Squadron (HML) 367. During a rescue mission, Mark experienced what he called a turning point in his art.

On Dec. 2, 1969, First Lieutenant Byrd was co-piloting one of two Marine UH-1E gunships leading a Prairie Fire mission to extract a trapped reconnaissance team, RT Mississippi. When the lead gunship, call sign “Eagle Claw One,” piloted by 1stLt John E. Rhodes, (who later retired as a lieutenant general) crashed in the triple-canopy jungle, Byrd’s pilot, 1stLt James H. Brown, assumed command of the flight of eight aircraft. “That was my most harrowing mission,” Mark recalled. “The team that we were there to rescue was being closely pursued by numerous North Vietnamese army (NVA) in mountainous triple canopy jungle a kilometer east of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.”

According to the Distinguished Flying Cross citation that Byrd received for his

actions that day, “he provided a continuous flow of vital information, coordinated his fire with that of the supporting Cobra gunships, and delivered such accurate and highly effective machine-gun fire that the North Vietnamese fire was suppressed sufficiently to permit transport helicopters to enter the precarious area on two separate occasions and extract the downed crew.” Nearly 50 years later, Byrd is still amazed that at that very moment, as he was orbiting in the gunship, he thought, “There should be a sculpture of this.”

One of the rescued men from the downed helicopter, 1stLt John D. Hartline, was a close friend from flight school and the sight of him and three others, dangling from long ropes, coming up through the trees alive, inspired Mark, who described, “It’s so dramatic the way these men are lifted off the ground, like a resurrection.” The rough clay sketch he eventually created of that scene would lead to his first commissioned military sculpture.

It took time to get there, though. After serving five years as a Marine, Mark entered a master’s degree program, first in microbiology and then in architecture. While in school, he began working part-time as a draftsman. While he never completed his architectural degree—perhaps because of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—his Marine Corps experience did lead to a good job. He was soon employed as a lead project designer and construction manager in architectural and engineering offices, a career that would last for 25 years.

His professional path would be altered, however, through meeting Lena Beth Frazier. A talented and very successful sculptor, she taught Mark how to turn clay into bronze, and more significantly, how to sell it. In 1994, he cast his first work in bronze—a small sculpture of a walrus. His small wildlife sculptures—ranging from tiny lizards to humpback whales—have been exhibited at art festivals across the country and are owned by collectors around the world.

Mark also made a sculpture of that rescue in Vietnam. “It was just a rough sketch [of the aerial extraction], real small; the figures were about 4 inches high of each man, and little wires and a lump of clay sitting on my desk.” That sculpture remained on his desk—a poignant memento of that dangerous mission—and one day it caught the eye of a visiting Vietnam veteran.

While Mark rarely discussed his time in Vietnam, especially that mission, he discovered that others were openly communicating about such missions on the internet. Through Army Special Forces soldiers, he discovered the existence of a



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD

This sculpture of a Cub Scout and a Girl Scout admiring their heroes honors two Medal of Honor recipients in their hometown of Newnan, Ga.: Maj Stephen W. Pless, USMC, (left) and LtCol Joe M. Jackson, USAF. Both pilots flew daring missions to rescue Americans trapped in enemy-controlled territory in separate incidents in Vietnam.



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD

Creating a study of Maj Stephen W. Pless, Mark applied a layer of rubber over his original clay sculpture to create a mold. When Mark was a young Marine pilot, Pless was his role model due to the courage and skill Pless displayed on his 780 combat missions in Vietnam.

tape-recorded radio dialogue from the rescue of RT Mississippi. When one of the men who was trying to identify the voices on the tape visited Mark's house, he noticed the small clay sculpture of the aerial extraction. That observation would lead to Mark's first military project—the bust of Medal of Honor recipient MSG Benavidez, and the start of many other commissions in the military community.

Storytelling: A Warrior Takes Shape

From their home and studio in Dallas, Texas, Mark and his wife Jenelle have collaborated on many sculptures, each lending their unique talent. Mark concentrates on the overall figure: the design, proportions, and pose. Jenelle creates faces, infusing life in the sculpture by forming the most recognizable aspect of the person. Although she enjoyed drawing when young, Jenelle never attended art school. She laughed and commented that she drew "movie stars like Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe, from movie magazines, not men. Now I'm sculpting only men ... but I love it."

Her hobby must have honed an eye for detail because Jenelle "has a gift from

Multiple photos and magnification help to identify small details of a subject. Here, Jenelle Byrd applies a skilled eye and delicate touch to create the indomitable Chesty Puller for the award that is given to each Marine Recruit Company honor graduate.

God to capture a face in clay. She never fails," said Mark. Her very first bronze sculpture was a bust of MSG Benavidez, which is now on display at the United States Military Academy. "That was a great accomplishment for any sculptor, new or old," Mark said, "but what I am most proud of is that my wife created the small busts of two great Marines: Chesty Puller and Sergeant Major Dan Daly for the Marine Corps' honor graduate awards." The Lieutenant General Lewis "Chesty" Puller Honor Graduate Award is given to the Marine Corps Recruit Depots' honor graduates and the Sergeant Major Dan Daly Honor Graduate Award



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD

1stLt Mark A. Byrd, call sign "Scarface 47," stands in front of one of the AH-1G Cobras he piloted as a member of HML-367 based at Marble Mountain, Republic of Vietnam, in 1970. Byrd's military service lends authenticity to his art.

is given to the honor graduate in each Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy class.

The Byrds' process of creating a sculpture begins with the subject's family. They also work closely with the subject's contemporaries, and throughout the entire process, Mark consults with the organization, unit or person who is commissioning the work. They read as much as they can to familiarize themselves with the person and his deeds. Photographs from family and friends are essential—the more candid the poses, the better. Accuracy in the uniforms of the time—as well as weapons and gear—is critical, so Mark



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD

This is a clay study for a Korean War memorial project Byrd is planning. It is based on an historic photograph of 1stLt Baldomero Lopez leading his men over a seawall in Inchon, Korea, just moments before sacrificing his life to save them, an action that earned him the Medal of Honor. The Basic School Honor Graduate award Byrd created is based on the same scene.

works with historians, museums and active-duty units to borrow actual items and historical photographs.

Getting it right is paramount to the Byrds in order to honor the person they are sculpting. Mark recalled a conversation he had with a Marine at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Marine told him that “The Three Soldiers” statue always bothered him because one of the parts on the machine gun was upside down, making the weapon useless. At the time, Mark was working on Air Force sculptures, pilots in pressure suits with helmets, parachutes and unique details. The Marine’s words stuck with Mark. He wanted to be careful that he got every detail right, especially since the Air Force was less familiar to him than his own Marine Corps. He imagined someone visiting one of his sculptures, perhaps with his grandson in tow, and upon noticing a detail out of place, saying,

“My God, that parachute is put together wrong! If that pilot jumped out, he would die.” Just as a faulty weapon would fail to save a soldier and a faulty parachute would bear a heavy cost, an inaccurate sculpture would dishonor the individual.

It’s not just getting the factual details right, however, it’s also getting the personal details right. “In the research I’ve done over the years on the various scul-

tures,” said Mark, “I always try to get at what their personal story is because I’m always telling a story through my art.” Mark likes to ask the family if there was anything the person carried or something distinctive that he did that captures his essence.

For the Lieutenant Colonel Michael D. Kuszewski Award for Outstanding Marine Corps Intelligence Officer, one of the 16

Mark Byrd sculpts LCpl John “Gordo” Phelps, the crew chief on Maj Pless’ MOH mission in Vietnam. Phelps, who earned the Navy Cross for the mission, is honored in the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame exhibit at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, Ga.



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD

Byrd-designed awards for MCA&F's Marine Excellence Awards Program, there was one important detail that was special to the Kuszewski family. Whenever Mick Kuszewski was on maneuvers, he took his wedding ring off his finger and wore it on the band of his wristwatch. Some time after Kuszewski died in a training accident, his wife answered her front door. Standing there, offering a ring that had been scorched by fire, was a Marine, who explained that Kuszewski's ring had been found in the wreckage of the helicopter. So when Kuszewski's wife asked Mark if he could include a ring on the wristband of the watch in the sculpture, Mark made sure that such a very tiny, yet meaningful detail made it safely through to the final mold.

The stories Mark really wants to hear come from those who served with the person in battle. Sometimes they were the last to be with the hero who Mark is sculpting. These unique battlefield stories help Mark to create a sculpture that reflects the character of the warrior. They also can contribute significantly to the accuracy of a battlefield pose.

In 2010 the Byrds created a sculpture for the Douglas A. Zembiec Award for Outstanding Leadership in Special Operations. During the research process, Mark thought a scene described in Major Zembiec's obituary would create a dynamic pose worthy of his moniker, "Lion of Fallujah," but he had questions about the pose. According to Mark's research, Zembiec unhesitatingly ran amidst machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades to remedy a communication issue. He leapt on a tank and directed the Marines inside where to fire to repel an ambush. How does one leap on a tank while being fired upon? How did Zembiec communicate the direction to fire? Byrd contacted Marines to hear the story firsthand so he could get the details right. He said, "You just have to ask the questions and keep looking; where we can, we do."

Their research leads to an initial pose, which must be approved by the client. To get an authentic pose, they often recreate the stance in human form, using real people who pose and move similar to the action depicted in the sculpture. For the Lieutenant Travis Manion Memorial Marine Corps Officer Logistician of the Year Award, the Byrds were fortunate to have many photographs to review. One photo was of Manion right after a truck bomb reduced a building to rubble. Jenelle admired the perfection of his pose. "With his foot up on the bricks, he looked just like a sculpture." Mark noted the combat significance. "He's talking on the radio



Mark and Jenelle Byrd donated sculptures of Army, Navy and Air Force versions of the Medal of Honor and an American eagle to form this tribute in Medal of Honor Park, part of the Medal of Honor Host City Program in Gainesville, Texas.

and he's taking charge." Mark combined this image with a second photo that showed Manion standing and pointing in a gun turret to tell the story of a Marine in command.

To prepare for the sculpture, Mark contacted Marines from 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, in Grand Prairie, Texas. They provided him with 782 gear and even a Marine to wear it—Sergeant Clayton Wilson—posing as Lieutenant Manion. Mark photographed him from every angle, zooming in to focus on the eyelet of a boot or a hand gripping a radio. Only after such extensive research and preparation are the artists prepared to sculpt the design in clay.

A Battle to Remember

One of the recent sculptures the Byrds have created—and the sculpture Mark identifies as their greatest accomplishment—is the Chosin Few Battle Monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Dedicated in May 2017, nearly 67 years after the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War, the monument has eight sides with base relief scenes on each side depicting geographical areas of the battle and the challenges Marines and soldiers confronted there. Former Corporal Bruce R. Woodward, representing the North Texas Chapter of The Chosin Few, commissioned the Byrds to create the monument. Lieutenant General Richard E. Carey, USMC (Ret) was in



GWENN ADAMS/NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

The Byrds’ eight-sided Chosin Few Battle Monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps documents the fierce fighting at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea. Each scene was carefully researched to portray the story of the battle, the many units who fought, and the extreme conditions that challenged them.

charge of seeing the project to fruition and worked closely with Mark. LtGen Carey said that Mark was “absolutely the ideal sculptor” for the project due to his Marine Corps background and his complete dedication and also because of Mark and Jenelle’s “spectacular” talent.

The task was not easy—it would require five years to design and create. Primarily, there was the exigency to fund, approve and dedicate the monument while the survivors, many in their mid-80s, could attend. Bringing a monument to fruition for

The Chosin Few had been attempted before without success. This effort succeeded because of the leadership of LtGen Carey, the experience of Mark Byrd, and especially their collaboration. They met by chance at the funeral of a fellow Vietnam veteran and through conversation discovered one needed a sculptor and one was a sculptor. “It was a very good relationship,” LtGen Carey said. “We became not only good from the standpoint of the Marine Corps, but also good friends in the end.”

LtGen Carey, who as a second lieu-

tenant served as an intelligence officer at 1st Marine Division’s headquarters in Hagaru, had knowledge of the various units’ locations and actions. He believed it was important for the memorial to pay tribute to the various units and nationalities—especially the South Koreans—that were in the battle. The design of the sculpture met this goal, with each of the eight sides portraying stories from a geographical area. They include East of Chosin, Yudam-Ni, Toktong Pass, Hagaru-Ri, Hell Fire Valley, Koto-Ri, Funchilin Pass, and the frontispiece: a sculptural interpretation of Colonel Charles Waterhouse’s painting “Eternal Band of Brothers,” which represents an overview of the Marine Corps in Korea. The monument is topped by a symbol of the Chosin Few, the star of Kotori, which offered hope to the warriors.

It might have been just the right timing for this particular sculptor and this particular general to meet. LtGen Carey regards the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir as one of the three most important battles of the Marine Corps, along with the battle of Iwo Jima and the battle of Belleau Wood. He wanted to recognize those who triumphed over almost certain defeat from tenacious enemy troops, sub-zero temperatures and rough terrain. The monument had to detail the many challenges—from man and nature—the equipment, and especially the Marines, their allies and the North Korean refugees who were fleeing to freedom. He wanted a monument that would preserve these stories so those who fought there would never be forgotten.

Mark is a Vietnam veteran who belongs to more than a dozen military associations, including Army, Navy and Air Force organizations, aviation associations, organizations affiliated with three different wars and a Medal of Honor program in Texas. He knows what a work of art portraying the selfless acts of warriors means to veterans. At this point in his sculpting career, he has researched and sculpted heroes from World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. He worked seamlessly with LtGen Carey to design a main scene for each side of the monument and initiated the idea of smaller vignettes alongside to include more of the participants and battle scenes.

The monument inspired General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMC—whose father fought with the “Baker Bandits” of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment at Yudam-ni—to predict that Marines who visit it “will identify with what it means to be a Marine in a physical sense. But more importantly, they’ll recognize and reflect on those intangible qualities that have

been passed down from your generation—you, the Chosin Few—to Marines who serve today. They'll reflect on your legacy of competence and courage."

Art for Mankind's Sake

In a message to Mark's fellow classmates at TBS in "Alpha" Company, he wrote about a painting that inspired him. The painting is "The Price" by Thomas C. Lea III, first roughly sketched in battle when Lea was an artist-correspondent for *Life* magazine attached to the Marines on Peleliu. It shows in graphic detail a Marine suffering from injuries that turned one side of his face, his shoulder and an arm into a bloody pulp. It is a gruesome, jarring portrait of war. To Mark, the portrait shows the reason he joined the Marine Corps. "It was not for glory, girls or the uniform. It was so that those I love would not have to experience this."

Mark has been recognizing the sacrifice of others through his art for nearly two decades. The message he offered to his fellow TBS Marines alludes to the value of art in remembering warriors and their stories. "We are the guardians of the memory of those we served with, as Tom Lea was for that Marine on Peleliu in 'The Price.' Every one of us knows some precious details about the death or serious wounding of comrades. We all have a



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD

duty, a moral responsibility, to carry that story to the survivors." This is a daily mission for Mark. His motivation, passion and conviction punctuate his words and have a profound effect on his art.

The bronze sculptures of Mark and Jenelle Byrd grace parks, schools, museums and mantelpieces, paying tribute to

This is the clay sculpture of one of four bronzes the Byrds have created for display at the U.S. Air Force Academy. It honors Marine LtCol Kevin M. Shea, an Air Force Academy graduate who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

American warriors. Soon, Mark hopes to cast a bit of his own history in bronze, too. "One day soon I shall complete and cast in bronze the rescue of John D. Hartline, John "Dusty" Rhodes and their two crewmen. I shall title it 'Resurrection,' by Mark Austin Byrd, Scarface 47." That art will memorialize those brave young men who risked their lives to rescue others in the Vietnam jungle, one of which became a sculptor.

Author's note: Thank you to LtGen Richard E. Carey, USMC (Ret) and MSgt George Schaudel, USMC (Ret) for information about the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir; my appreciation to LeeAnn Mitchell for facts about the awards provided through MCA&F; and special gratitude to the artists, Mark and Jenelle Byrd, for their heartfelt focus on the military.

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



COURTESY OF MARK A. BYRD

These are 12 of the 16 sculptures the Byrds have created for the Marine Corps Association & Foundation for its awards program. The awards portray notable Marines and events as follows: (back row, from left) Sgt Dan Daly, 1stLt Baldomero Lopez, the First Flag at Iwo Jima, Hell House in Fallujah, SgtMaj Leland D. Crawford; (front row, from left) Col Justice Marion Chambers; Maj Douglas A. Zembiec; Eagle, Globe & Anchor; LtGen Lewis "Chesty" Puller; MGySgt Samuel C. Plott; Lt Travis Manion; and LtCol Michael D. Kuszewski.

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Now Playing: Marine Corps Films Available on University of S.C. Site

The University of South Carolina Moving Image Research Collections (MIRC) is now home to the U.S. Marine Corps Film Repository. As of June, MIRC had received more than 10,000 films through a partnership with the Marine Corps History Division at Quantico, Va. This collection is being digitized and uploaded to their website where the films can be accessed for free.

Several hundred films already are available on the website thanks to the generosity of donors. Highlights include detailed coverage of boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in 1961; an account of the Battle of Tarawa filmed onsite 25 years later with General David M. Shoup, 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps; and “Corpsman,” a 1966 Vietnam-era film that follows the fate of a Marine from “Lima” Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment who was wounded in action on Hill 22.

The films in the repository cover well-documented events such as the landings on Iwo Jima, as well as events and places that are lesser known in the history of the Corps. They can be searched using keywords like dates, battles or bases. Visitors to the site can also browse the whole collection.

The website allows users to submit information back to MIRC to enhance descriptions.

“Whether Marines recognize themselves or friends in a film or a Marine watching tests on prototype equipment can explain what is happening, we want that feedback so the repository can better convey the history of the Corps,” said Dr. Greg Wilsbacher, the Marine Corps films curator.

MIRC continues its fundraising efforts to complete the digitization of the entire film collection and is looking for sustaining partners to help with the effort.

To view the films and learn more about the partnership between the Marine Corps and MIRC, visit library.sc.edu/MarineCorps. Any contribution of financial resources or information will help build a more robust and sustainable Marine Corps Film Repository for current and future generations.

Hope Derrick

Editor’s note: This is an update to the February 2017 Leatherneck article, “University of South Carolina Works to Preserve Marine Corps’ Film History,” which announced the transfer of the films to the university as well as MIRC’s plan to place the films online for public viewing.

New Policy Increases Flexibility For Active-Duty Parents

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, the Marine Corps released a new Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN) 331/18 on June 14, implementing changes in its parental leave policy.

One of the major changes is that parental leave is broken down into three different sectors: maternity convalescent leave, primary caregiver leave and secondary caregiver leave.

Maternity leave is 42 consecutive, non-chargeable leave days that apply only to the birth parent for their medical needs. This leave may not be denied by the commander and may be extended by the birth parent’s medical healthcare provider for additional care.

Primary caregiver leave is 42 consecutive days designated to the parent with the primary responsibility of caring for the child, in the case of a qualified birthing event or adoption. The lowest commander with promotion authority should approve primary caregiver leave if the parent meets the definition outlined in the MARADMIN. The leave must be taken within the first year of the child’s life.

Secondary caregiver leave is 14 consecutive days for the parent that is not primarily responsible for the child.

In some cases, such as a dual active-duty relationship, either parent may take the primary caregiver leave, although it is dependent on the circumstances and which parent meets the definition of the primary caregiver.

“The birth parent always rates [maternity convalescent leave] or some type of convalescent leave period,” said Captain William Dennis, a manpower policy analyst for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. “The caregiver designation is requested by the Marine and approved by appropriate authority in accordance with the definitions provided in the MARADMIN.”

An active-duty parent designated as the secondary caregiver, with a child born after Dec. 23, 2016, may be entitled to the leave days they did not previously receive; however, retroactive entitlements must begin within 18 months of a qualifying birth event and/or adoption.

The MARADMIN also implements a significant change for unmarried individuals.

“Previously only married Marines were



COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Dr. Greg Wilsbacher, curator of the U.S. Marine Corps Film Archive at the University of South Carolina’s MIRC, shows the new 2,000 square-foot LtCol James H. Davis Marine Corps Film Vault to Medal of Honor recipient Gen James Livingston, USMC (Ret), and Susan Marlowe at the May 2017 vault dedication.



ATC ILYANA A. ESCALONA, USAF

DIGNIFIED RETURN—A U.S. Marine lance corporal and other members of the United Nations Command Honor Guard member move dignified transfer cases from one C-17 Globemaster III to another during a dignified return ceremony at Osan Air Base, South Korea, Aug. 1. With support from U.S. Forces Korea, the United Nations Command repatriated 55 cases of remains of fallen U.S. servicemembers returned by North Korea. Following the ceremony, the remains were flown to Hawaii for further processing under the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. “This humanitarian act is a step in the right direction,” said James N. Mattis, U.S. Secretary of Defense, in reference to the North Korean gesture, adding that he looks forward to further negotiations to repatriate the remains of more fallen servicemembers.

authorized parental leave,” said Dennis. Under the new parental leave policy, non-married parents are able to utilize caregiver leave with official documentation as annotated in the MARADMIN.

Flexibility is one of the benefits of this new policy, which allows Marines and their commanders to communicate and decide on the most efficient time for the Marine to take their parental leave.

Cpl Nikki Morales, USMC

DOD, LinkedIn Partnership Offers Military Spouses Free Premium Membership

The Defense Department’s Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program recently launched a new partnership with LinkedIn, the virtual professional networking platform.

Military spouses soon will have access to a free LinkedIn Premium membership, valid for one year, every time they have a permanent change of station (PCS) move. The membership includes access

to more than 12,000 online professional courses through LinkedIn Learning, as well as access to LinkedIn’s military and veterans resource portal. The membership is also available for the spouse of a servicemember who is within six months of separation from the military.

“The partnership with LinkedIn will offer military spouses a great opportunity to advance their careers during their times of transition,” said Eddy Mentzer, associate director of family readiness and well-being in DOD’s Office of Military Community and Family Policy. “Spouses will be able to access a global network of professionals any time, from any place. They can plan their next career step before they move, as soon as they have orders [for a permanent change of station].”

A premium account includes enhanced insights comparing users to other applicants, on-demand learning and use of the InMail feature, where users can send direct messages to LinkedIn members they’re not connected to. As corporate

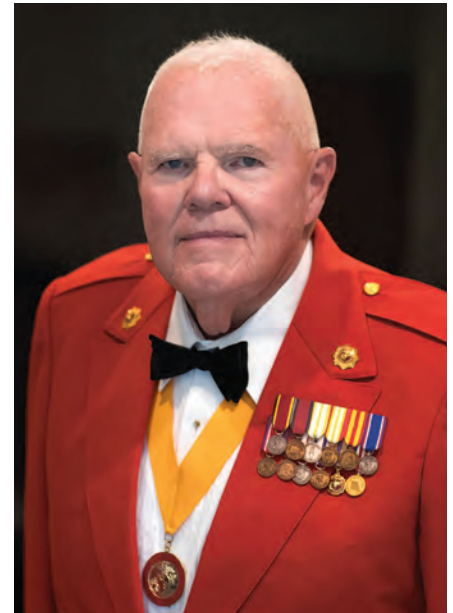
interest in hiring military spouses steps up, DOD and LinkedIn will be using the military spouse LinkedIn group to connect spouses to each other and to employers.

“Empowering our community of military spouses to reach their personal and professional goals is part of maintaining a healthy military community,” said A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. “We encourage military spouses to take advantage of the LinkedIn Premium membership opportunity as just one of many tools available to them through the SECO [Spouse Education & Career Opportunities] program.”

Military spouses interested in the LinkedIn Premium upgrade can visit <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/> for more information and to learn how best to maximize this new service.

DOD


The Marine Corps League's WENDELL WEBB Turned a Four-Year Tour Into a Lifetime of Service



Wendell Webb

By LtCol Alex Hetherington,
USMC (Ret)
Photos courtesy of Wendell Webb

Wendell Webb's four-year enlistment in the Marine Corps from 1964-1968 built the foundation for a lifetime of dedication to national security and commitment to his fellow Marines.

During his time in the Corps, Wendell served as a communications Marine in both 2nd Marine Division and III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. Through his military occupational specialty training, he realized his talent for electrical engineering, which led to his selection for a variety of innovative training courses, research studies and defense industry positions, culminating in his appointment as the chief scientist, technology, for aircraft avionics systems integration with the Boeing Corporation.

Over the course of his 42-plus year civilian career, Webb led design teams developing solutions that were implemented in a variety of aviation platforms used extensively by all four services. Concurrently, Webb embraced a lifelong commitment to volunteer service in support of his fellow Marine veterans as a member of the Marine Corps League, a 60,000-member organization, founded in 1923 by the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General John A. Lejeune. Just as in boot camp, Webb started as an entry-level member and worked his way through leadership positions at the local, regional and national levels. Eventually, he was selected to serve as the 62nd national commandant of the Marine Corps League in 2017.

Although he currently leads the only federally chartered Marine Corps veterans service organization, the strands of his lifelong commitment to Corps and country are most starkly brought together through the MCL's sponsorship of the Modern Day Marine Exposition. The 38th Modern Day Marine Expo takes place from Sept. 25-27, 2018, at Quantico, Va., and provides first-hand exposure to the latest in defense

science, technology and warfighting products and services for the professional benefit of the user community. As a prelude to this year's event, Webb reflects on his unique combination of 54 years of personal experience as a Marine noncommissioned officer, defense industry professional, and veterans service organization (VSO) leader and the lessons he has learned along the way.

Be Probabilistic, Not Deterministic

The AN/TRC-97 ("Track 97") was one of the most advanced long-range radio systems developed for the Marine Corps in the 1960s. Designed by RCA Corporation, it was among the first pieces of electronic equipment to incorporate a Built In Test (BIT), intended to verify the operational integrity of its assembled components. The first fielded AN/TRC-97 sets were sent directly to Vietnam shortly before Webb's yearlong tour in Da Nang as an intermediate level communications

maintenance technician. These systems immediately became low-density, high-demand assets due to their ability to support the long-range command and control nets required by the dispersed scheme of maneuver and challenging terrain prevailing in the I Corps area of operations. Shortly after taking up his deployed duties, Webb was faced with a growing number of these critical new radios being tagged as inoperable and sent to his work center, simply as a result of "power up" BIT failures. What he soon discovered, through a troubleshooting process of elimination, was an irony that the radios were working fine, but the supposedly diagnostic cir-



The AN/TRC-97 ("Track 97") long-range radio system, shown here at the Hill 444 Radio Relay Site west of Da Nang, Vietnam, in 1967, was often deadlined. Sgt Webb was instrumental in identifying the issue and ensuring the problem was rectified.

cuitry of the BIT was rendering consistent false malfunction messages.

Fifty years later, Webb still remembers this circumstance as an instructive example of the difference between deterministic and probabilistic behavior. A deterministic outlook is limited to perceptions conforming to conventional wisdom and actions restricted to the single anticipated outcome which follows from it, as illustrated by those Track 97s that were “dead-lined” solely on the basis of a BIT failure. Conversely, a probabilistic approach is characterized by a consistent effort to develop contextual understanding, and the instinctive belief that there is always a range of possible outcomes and one must be prepared to adapt actions to address such uncertainties.

Current parallels to this lesson can be seen in the computer-enabled rise of “big data,” which has fostered the impression that a diversified critical mass of information can be compiled and correlated to “determine” a single best course of action. Although placing faith in a single option while failing to examine alternatives is not a new problem, the immutable truth is that the best options for a constantly evolving world of extreme complexity will be primarily shaped by human agencies for perception and judgment. In other words, the best solutions are achieved through careful consideration of the range of “probable” outcomes, and the development of contingencies and tradeoffs that suit the most likely set of trajectories.

Artificial Intelligence has great utility for decision support around parameters that are fixed, which is of ever-improving benefit for contingency analysis; however, not all data is created equal in terms of its relevance or quality. Data can mislead as much as it can help if we are not prepared to deduce the limited number of parameters that are causative and maintain the discipline to implement collection methods of sufficient rigor. The critical takeaway is that although the pace of technological development is accelerating rapidly, we cannot let it distract us from continuing to nurture our most essential strength—the thoroughly trained and educated individual Marine. Just as General Robert B. Neller, the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, is fond of saying, “We don’t man the machine, we equip the Marine,” an apt corollary is that effective decisions are data-informed, not data-driven. This is because it is the power of context-oriented human intuition that gives data its power and purpose. Above all, probabilistically self-directed leaders are an indispensable commodity and developing them is the human capital imperative for any organization.



Sgt Wendell Webb stands outside the Freedom Hill Exchange in Da Nang, Vietnam, 1967. Webb served in the 2ndMarDiv and III MAF in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967 as an intermediate level communications maintenance technician.

Listening is the Lost Art of Leadership

In the course of Webb’s work for the McDonnell Douglas Corporation in the early 1980s, he was integral to the development of prototype avionics systems for the F-15E aircraft. The F-15E Strike Eagle was a groundbreaking platform due to its capability for long-range, high-speed interdiction without reliance on escort or electronic-warfare aircraft. What gave it this capacity, in spite of the expansive layered air defenses of the Cold War era, was the same technological phenomenon that made Webb a cutting edge engineer—the ability to exploit the transition from analog to digital design.

Building on his mastery of radio theory and standard frequency development techniques, Webb became skilled at adapting waveforms to digital circuitry. It was this emerging skill set and the exponential economy of digital electronics, facilitated by the first major incorporation of computer chips in small, tightly coupled aircraft components, which enabled advancements such as the F-15E’s fire control radar. A remaining safety and efficiency barrier to fine tuning complex digital systems was the ability to statically test their operation

under conditions simulating flight.

Achieving a potential solution to this impasse was the focus of Webb’s team at a time when it included a revolving set of temporary student computer software engineers, akin to paid interns, and collectively referred to as “Co-ops.” This was a period before the widespread use of student loans, and Co-ops generally worked for a stretch corresponding to their ability to save enough tuition for the next semester of graduate school. Although these were undeniably intelligent and highly skilled individuals, due to their transient status, generally, they were not considered full members of the team or fully invested in its mission.

This perception changed radically one day when two Co-ops approached the team with a theoretical solution that is now an industry standard. After they had listened intently to the fundamental requirements for creating a “flying test bench,” the Co-ops had identified the features for a computer hosted simulated Inertial Navigation System (INS) which supported the tolerances necessary to evaluate digital component performance under conditions identical to actual flight profiles.



Members of The Republic of Korea Air Force at the Boeing Flight Simulation Facility in St. Louis, Mo., watch an advanced technology demonstration for the F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft in August 2000 as Wendell Webb observes from the back row.

Webb's enduring takeaway from this experience was that only through active listening could a group leverage and integrate each individual's strength and character to build an effective and focused team. Leaders who practice the art of active listening signal their emphasis on the interests of the group, rather than trying to stand out as the group's most interesting and visible member.

The core skills of a listening leader are directing full attention, signaling encouragement to participate, asking questions to clarify and summarizing when necessary to allow all to digest meaning and implications. By placing emphasis on listening, leaders foster the opportunity for deeper learning, more respectful relationships, and a shared sense of accountability. The end state for

a listening environment is an initiative-driven collaborative space for building the context necessary for effective probabilistic decision-making.

Four years as an active-duty Marine provided a lifetime's worth of lessons for Wendell Webb which he has used while continuing to serve the nation in the defense industry and now as national commandant of the Marine Corps League.

It is this track record of service, dedication and lessons learned that mark his stewardship of the Marine Corps League and its sponsorship of the Modern Day Marine Expo.

Author's bio: LtCol Alex Hetherington is a retired Marine aviator, primarily serving with the squadrons of Marine Aircraft Group 39 flying the AH-1W helicopter. He is the current show director of the Marine Military Expos, sponsored by the Marine Corps League.



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Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Special Events

• **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.marcorengasun.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., Mablette, MI 48453, (989) 635-6653, nwgj@outlook.com.

• **Seagoing Marines Assn.**, Sept. 11-15, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Bob Sollom, (540) 840-9310, soll36@msn.com.

• **Marine Corps Air Transport Assn. (VMR/VMGR)**, Oct. 18-21, New Orleans. Contact Rich Driscoll, (817) 657-7768, president@mcata.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, dbumcl3usmc@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.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-1970)**, June 20-24, 2019, San Diego. Contact Dan Steiner, (618) 567-4077, dsteiner49@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.

• **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@nw.cable.net.

• **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Nov. 6-9, Las Vegas. Contact Herman Cospy, lco_spy@sbcglobal.net, Bob McCarthy, coach430@aol.com, or Ruben Chavira, bngm@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/basicschoolhotelcompany69.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Connors, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconnors3@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 planning 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 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.

• **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, mikek2709@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 2085, San Diego, 1968**, Sept. 6-8, San Diego. Contact Richard J. "Pvt Ears" Miskanis, (916) 369-7573, usmcsarge@att.net.

• **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@intel.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, acel62beirut83@razzo link.com.

• **VMA(AW)-533 (all eras)**, Sept. 6-8, New Orleans. Contact Jerry Callaway,

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• **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, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.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, jemail@ameritech.net.

• **USS Pueblo (AGER-2)**, 50th anni-

versary of North Korean capture, Sept. 17-21, Pueblo, Colo. Contact Bob Chicca, bobchicca3@gmail.com.

• **USS Saratoga (CV-3, CVA/CV-60)**, Oct. 10-13, San Antonio. Contact Chip Hayes, (845) 729-8775, uss__saratoga@yahoo.com.

Mail Call

• LtCol Dave Brown, USMC (Ret), 322 N. Plantation Ln., Swansboro, NC 28584, (919) 649-5279, dbb@nc.rr.com, to hear from anyone who served at the **U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon**, between **1972 and 1983**, for a book he is writing.

• John Rauscher, 273 North Stark Hwy, Weare, NH 03281, jvr@gsinet.net, to hear from anyone who served on the staff of **Aviation Officer Candidates School at NAS Pensacola, Fla., in 1985 and 1986**. He is looking for a staff roster from that time period for a project he is working on.

• Cpl John Scott Harvey, 68823 Hug Rd., Summerville, OR 97876, to hear from **Aaron DAHL, Johnny EVANS and Bill CORRELLA**, who were members of **1st Fire Team, 1st Squad, 1st Plt, Co M, 3rd Bn, 9th Marines, 3rdMarDiv, Okinawa, Japan, 1958-1960**. He would also like to hear from **Capt SHROEDER**, CO of

Co M, or **2ndLt LAWRENCE**, platoon leader, 1st Plt.

• Larry Sepulvida, sepulvida@sbcglobal.net, to hear from **Cpl Kenneth J. DE LUCIA** and **Sgt Jimmy C. MILTON**, who served with his uncle, **Gary R. Halbrook**, during **Operation Lien Ket 112, RVN, 1966**.

Wanted

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

• MSgt James W. Taylor, USMC (Ret), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 318, San Diego, 1958**.

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. 📧



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In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman
and Katharine L. Hanifen

MGySgt Frederick A. Avery, 91, of Swansboro, N.C. He served in the Marine Corps from 1945-1968. Throughout his career he was assigned to 1stMarDiv, 2ndMarDiv, 1st MAW and 2nd MAW. He served in Korea in 1951 and Vietnam in 1965.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he worked as a stockbroker.

Sgt Larry Wilson Bates, 68, of Machias, Maine. He served with Co D, 1st Bn, 9th Marines in Vietnam from 1968-1972. He saw action during Operation Dewey Canyon. He later became a lumber salesman and a member of the American Legion. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Robert Betz, 94, of San Antonio, Texas. He was a corpsman during WW II who saw action with the 1stMarDiv in the Battles of Peleliu and Okinawa. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on Okinawa in 1945. According to the award citation, "with no regard for his own safety, [he] ran from man to man exposing himself constantly to small arms fire to give first aid to wounded men in the area. During the action, Hospital Corpsman First Class Betz was seriously wounded but continued trying to aid the injured and refused to be evacuated until orders were given that he receive treatment."

After the war, he was an OSHA inspector. His other awards include two Purple Hearts.

Milton H. Blomquist, 95, of Taylor, Texas. He was a corpsman with the 3rdMarDiv in the Pacific during WW II. He saw action at Bougainville, Guam and Guadalcanal. He later worked as a letter carrier.

Sgt Robert L. Boutwell II, 37, of Honoraville, Ala. He served in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2008, including one tour in Iraq.

James F. Bucher, 67, of Belen, N.M. He was a Marine who served in the Vietnam War.

LtCol James H. "Pat" Carothers Jr., 91, of Juneau, Alaska. He enlisted when he was 18 and served for 36 years. When he retired in 1979, he was the most decorated Marine serving in the Marine Corps. His awards include a Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with combat "V," five Purple Hearts, Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V," three Air Medals and a Legion of Merit. He was a private pilot, according to a June 1979 article in *Leatherneck*, and was an aerial observer

with VMO-6 during the Korean War. On one mission, he flew the aircraft back to safety after the pilot was wounded and the aircraft was damaged by enemy small arms fire.

Kenneth L. Day, 90, of Fairborn, Ohio. He was a Marine who served during WW II. After the war, he had a career in law enforcement.

LtCol Bruce Willie Driscoll, 84, of Charlotte, N.C. He was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. After his retirement, he worked as a policy analyst for the Department of Defense.

LCpl Matthew C. Estelle, 20, of Zachary, La. He was serving his second year in the Marine Corps.

Cpl Domenico "Dominic" Fallacaro, 95, of Hudson Falls, N.Y. He served in the Pacific during WW II with the 5th Amphibious Corps where he fought on Iwo Jima.

Francis X. "Tim" Farrington Jr., 84, of Pensacola, Fla. He fought in Korea and Vietnam, serving as a fire support coordinator during the Siege of Khe Sanh in 1968. His awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Lynn G. Ford, 73, of Omaha, Neb. He served with the 2nd Bn, 9th Marines, 3rdMarDiv in Vietnam in 1964.

Cpl Max D. Garton, 81, of Amarillo, Texas. He served with 3rdMarDiv on Okinawa, Japan, and in the Philippines. He later worked for the Diamond Shamrock Oil and Gas Company.

Capt Dane Graves, 90, of Howard, Colo. He was assigned to the 1st MAW in Korea from 1952-1953. He was responsible for ground radar interception and flew combat missions in the Grumman F7F Tigercat as a radar operator.

Capt Arnold N. Hafner, 79, of Anne Arundel County, Md. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at 16. He later attended the U.S. Naval Academy and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He was an artillery officer in Vietnam. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

Harlan Hagberg, 93, of Brandon Fla. He was a veteran of WW II, assigned to the 3rd Amphibious Tractor Bn, Co A, and fought on Guam, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Capt William C. Harris Jr., 88, of Greensboro N.C. He served with the 1stMarDiv in Korea. He was a member of the Marine Corps League and was an active volunteer with "Meals on Wheels."

Cpl Duane C. Hefflin, 71, of Warren, Ohio. He served in Vietnam with the 2nd

Bn, 4th Marines. He was a member of the MCL and the VFW. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

Samuel T. Holiday, 94, of St. George, Utah. He was one of the last surviving Navajo Code Talkers. During WW II, he served with the 25th Marine Regiment, 4thMarDiv, joining operations on Saipan, Iwo Jima, Tinian and other parts of the Pacific. His awards include the Congressional Silver Medal and a Purple Heart.

Cpl Donald S. Holt, 79, of Seattle, Wash. He was a radio telegraph operator with 1stMarDiv during the Vietnam War.

Edgar W. "Big Ed" Jatho Jr., 69, of Metairie, La. After his 1972 graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He was a helicopter pilot who flew the CH-46.

Harvey Vernon Lee, 93, of Sartell, Minn. During WW II, he fought in the Pacific in the battles of Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima.

Harry Mattox, 80, of Albuquerque, N.M. He was a veteran of the Marine Corps.

Robert F. McConnel, 74, of Norristown, Pa. He was a corpsman assigned to the 2ndMarDiv. He was a member of the 2nd Marine Division Association.

Capt Brian McNally, 30, of Morristown N.J. He was an Eagle Scout and a qualified EMT while he was still in high school. After his graduation from The Citadel, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. His four years in the Marine Corps included a tour in Afghanistan. He later was a New Jersey state trooper.

LCpl Ignacio Medel of San Bernadino, Calif. He served with Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Marines; Co K, 3rd Bn, 9th Marines; and MABS-15.

Sgt Robert L. Mell III, 93, of Pittsburgh, Pa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at 16 and fought in the battle of Iwo Jima. He later saw combat during the Korean War.

SgtMaj George Meyer, 92, of Woodbridge, Va. He was a combat veteran of WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. After his retirement, he was the executive secretary of the 1stMarDiv Association. His awards include the Purple Heart and the Navy Commendation with combat "V."

LtCol Terrence L. Moore, 80, of Jacksonville, N.C. He served from 1955 to 1987. He developed a training program

for reconnaissance Marines. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Patrick D. Morgan, 73, of Yakima, Wash. He was a Navy corpsman who served with Marines in Vietnam.

Edward L. Nutting, 97, of Charlottesville, Va. He served with the 1stMarDiv in Cuba in 1941 and fought as a tank driver in the Pacific Theater, seeing action on New Guinea, Cape Gloucester and the during battle of Guadalcanal.

Col Thomas M. O'Leary, 66, of Woodbridge, Va. He served in the Marine Corps for 26 years.

CWO-4 William R. Pastore, 93, of Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a Marine Raider in the Pacific during WW II. He later fought with the 1stMarDiv at the Chosin Reservoir. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

James Garnett Pearce, 87, of Ukiah, Calif. He joined the Navy shortly after the start of the Korean War and served as a corpsman with the 1stMarDiv. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V." He later had a career in marketing.

Sgt James Pickard, 87, of Buffalo, N.Y. He fought with the 1stMarDiv in Korea. His awards include the Bronze Star.

Frank Pinciotti, 92, of Tampa, Fla. He fought in the Pacific in WW II in the invasion of the Philippines. Though it

often isn't attributed to him, he famously made a sign reading "By the Grace of God and the help of a few Marines, MacArthur has returned to the Philippines."

Charles M. "Bun" Rodenburg, 98, of Davenport Iowa. During WW II, he fought on Okinawa.

Sgt Alex Isai Sable, 37, of Marietta, Pa. He served two tours in Iraq. He later was a police officer.

SSgt Mary Emma Sartorio, 97, of Egg Harbor City, N.J. She served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1943-1945. She was a member of the American Legion.

PFC Warren H. Stehman Sr., 97, of Mount Joy, Pa. He served in WW II in the Okinawa campaign with Co I, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv.

Witmore I. "Pete" Turner Jr., 99, of Foxboro Mass. He enlisted shortly after Pearl Harbor and served for four years, fighting in the Bougainville campaign.

Msgt Edward J. Vanmoerkerque, 67, of Augusta, Ga. He fought in Operation Dewey Canyon with 3rd Bn, 9th Marines during the Vietnam War.

Thomas J. "Beaver" Wagner, 87, of West Seneca, N.Y. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the fighting at the Chosin Reservoir. On Nov. 29, 1950, his platoon was assigned to reinforce an infantry company in an assault on Hill 1449 near

Hagaru-ri. He was awarded a Silver Star for voluntarily exposing himself to heavy hostile small arms, machine-gun and mortar fire. According to the award citation: "After assisting in clearing the stoppage, he remained in the exposed position and placed accurate and effective fire on the outnumbering force throughout four coordinated attacks, inflicting heavy casualties" His other awards include the Purple Heart.

Sgt David E. Werthman, 70, of Detroit, Mich. He fought during the Vietnam War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Sgt Stanley D. Whelchel, 82, of Cedar Falls, Iowa. He served in the Marine Corps from 1954-1957. He was a member of Marine Corps Association & Foundation and the MCL.

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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Books Reviewed

MEN OF WAR: The American Soldier in Combat at Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, and Iwo Jima. By Alexander Rose. Published by Random House Trade Paperbacks. 496 pages. \$16.20 MCA Members. \$18 Regular Price.

“What’s it like being in a battle?” That’s the question author Alexander Rose posed on the opening page of his new book, “Men of War.” Generally, military history writers focus on generals, various commanders, and the grand strategy of the bigger picture. The catastrophic experiences of the men and women involved are scantily reported or even overlooked. Rose has taken up the challenge of telling their stories by deftly intertwining the combatant’s own words with the realities of war.

The author chose three American battles for his in-depth investigation: the iconic battles of Bunker Hill and Gettysburg and the historic Marine battle of Iwo Jima. Interestingly, none of these battles could be considered decisive in ending their respective wars: Bunker Hill was fought over the course of a day at the beginning of the Revolution; Gettysburg was fought over three continuous days around the midpoint of the American Civil War; and Iwo Jima was a month long battle which took place in the last year of World War II.

Of the experiences of our combat veterans between 1775 and today the author writes: “War is felt, heard, tasted, seen, perceived, interpreted, in a shifting, subjective myriad of ways depending on context and culture.” The combatant’s experience is personal and predictably chaotic. Often a soldier has scant idea of what is happening even 50 yards away. He often regarded his experience as a test of his manhood, and his conduct may well shape how he regards himself for the rest of his life. The question for each individual soldier is: Will I stand and fight, or will I flee? No one can know the answer until he has met the enemy in battle. Over time,

as Rose’s book demonstrates, the warrior gradually becomes hardened to the reality of war. If successful, he becomes immune to the sights, sounds and smells of combat. In some cases, during a prolonged period, his system may become overloaded, and the combatant might become incapacitated and perhaps cease to be an effective fighting tool.

Bunker Hill is perhaps the most easily recalled battle of our American Revolution. By modern standards the fight might be regarded as only a skirmish. Young, local militiamen, dressed in homespun shirts, joined older veterans of the French and Indian War to make their stand. The untried colonists took up a strong position in the center of Boston’s Charlestown Peninsula. General William Howe landed his British force on the southern point and attacked north.

Following a series of bloody attacks, Howe’s regulars broke through as the Americans fled north and escaped. The Americans’ choice of ground was inspired, and the British paid

a dear price for their victory. One American officer noted that he might have continued to hold his position, “with the handful of men under his command, if he had been supplied with ammunition.”

Even in 1863, during the battle of Gettysburg, the default tactic was the straightforward line abreast frontal attack. Much to the detriment of the soldiers on both sides, American generals succumbed to the romantic notions of the Napoleonic era. Both sides used skirmishers ahead of the main force to feel for the enemy.

One veteran Union soldier recorded: “I would do anything rather than skirmish with those fellows. I will never do it again.” A Pennsylvania volunteer infantryman writing about the terror of a massive artillery bombardment recalled that the “howling, shrieking story of shot and shell was more trying to the nerves than to be engaged in close action with the enemy.”

Some of the fascination with the Battle of Iwo Jima stems from its legendary savagery. Out of all the Marines who perished during the war, a significant number would die on this horrific sulfuric island. The depth of Rose’s inquiry into the battle is remarkable. Reports by combatants

cover the strategy, the landings, the fierce beach fighting, the weaponry, the pillboxes and blockhouse tactics, the Japanese defense system, and the treatment of prisoners.

Describing his experience during the landing, a Marine serving with the 27th Marines offered: “The ramp went down, and honest to God, the bullets came in. ... I was pulling bodies of my men aside as I tried to make my way out. Blood was everywhere. It was similar to the opening scene in ‘Saving Private Ryan,’ but I think the fire was more concentrated at Iwo.” The hellish description of the beach landings was truly sickening.

One Marine recalled, “Five layers of dead Marines laying crosswise over each other; it was hard to tell how many Marines there were. There were bodies that were badly torn up with legs and arms missing or half of a body left, and the smell was suffocating.”

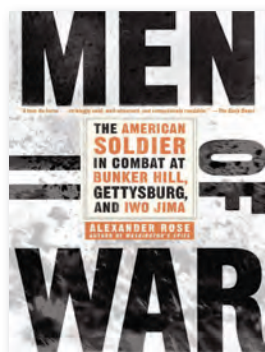
Marines, faced with well-prepared and interlocking defense systems, needed to adapt quickly to conditions before they moved forward. It was said that the Japanese were not on the island, they were in it. In one 2,500-yard fortified section of the island, Marines needed to overcome “no fewer than ten reinforced-concrete blockhouses, seven covered artillery positions, and eighty pillboxes that together contained fourteen 120 mm guns of various models, a 90 mm dual purpose gun, one 70 mm battalion howitzer, six 47 mm antitank/antiboat guns, three 37 mm antitank/antiboat guns, 19 25 mm twin-mount machine guns, and a 13 mm machine gun.” Add that each camouflaged position was inhabited by determined warriors with no inclination to surrender.

“Men of War” is truly a jarring reading experience. It will mesmerize any student of war with its hard-hitting firsthand portrayals of battle. The book is nearly impossible to put down.

Rose’s new work provides the reader a brutal look at the soldier’s “mind-shattering” experience of combat. The reader will gain a lasting respect for our veterans whose hearts and minds have been touched by fiery combat.

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.



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SHEP IN THE VICTORIO WAR. By Don DeNevi. Published by Texas Review Press. 168 pages. \$17.06 MCA Members. \$18.95 Regular Price.

Writing historical fiction is a true art. The time, the setting and perhaps some of the characters may be historically accurate, but other individuals and dialogue will necessarily be contrived.

First-rate writers in these categories successfully balance the historical story, while including various fictional characters. Don DeNevi's new book, "Shep in the Victorio War," might commendably be compared with the excellent historical fiction writings of Jeff Shaara.

In his first book of the series, "Faithful Shep," reviewed in *Leatherneck* in the July 2017 issue, the author introduced the reader to westerners Joe Andrews and William Wiswall. The men save a German shepherd from certain death. The dog, Shep, bonds with his new masters and in turn, saves the men and some Texas Rangers from being killed by a band of marauding Apaches, led by their notoriously Apache leader, Victorio.

"Shep in the Victorio War," Don DeNevi's second book in the Old West trilogy, takes place during the Apache Wars. Victorio, the leader of the Mimbrenos (Chihenne) Apache, leads a band of several hundred men, woman and children off the inhospitable San Carlos Indian reservation. The band flees south toward the Texas/Mexican border raiding area homesteads and hosannas of their cattle and livestock along the way. The U.S. Army, the Texas Rangers, and the Mexican territorial militias join forces to combat the latest Indian threat.

The author treats the Apaches commendably, presenting these embattled indigenous people with care and compassion. Considering the Apaches desperate situation, Victorio observes, "You said it yourself, Nana. We do not have time to trade—and nothing to trade anyway, except dust and bones."

Andrews, Wiswall and Shep unofficially join the famous Texas Rangers. The Rangers, capably led by Lieutenant George W. Baylor, and the Army Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry quickly moved to block the Apaches from operating in Texas. By guarding the area's natural water holes, they effectively keep the Apaches from operating in West Texas; the move blocked the Indians' attempt to move to the safety of the Guadalupe Mountains in southern New Mexico.

Don DeNevi's skillful descriptions of the arid country of west Texas and northern Mexico are as colorful as they are insightful. He knows his history as well as he knows the unique desert wilderness he masterfully describes: "Victorio stood on the rocky bluff as the east began to gray toward dawn. ... Heat wrinkled the air above the arid terrain, its dreary expanse relieved only by outcroppings of ocotillo, creosote, and broomstick-straight stalks of lechuguilla sprouting from their bases of spiny leaves."

The Apache Victorio and Shep have one final encounter. In the past, the Indian leader bonded with the animal, calling Shep, "Brother Coyote." Victorio, recognizing his end is near, seeks to rekindle their unique connection. The Indian introduces the dog to his young granddaughter, Liluye. He then speaks to Shep: "Brother Coyote, I ask a favor from you. I ask you to protect this child. Watch over her with your cunning. Guard her with your faithfulness. Will you do this for me, brother Coyote?"

This bond between Shep and Victorio's granddaughter will have an important meaning in the highly anticipated third book in the Shep trilogy.

Using an old Apache trick, the Indians cross the Rio Grande and flee into Mexico. In a most unusual scheme, Colonel Joaquin Terrazas y Quezada, the leader of the northern Mexican territorial militias, invites the U.S. Cavalry and the Rangers to cross the border and assist them. With the Americans' help, he hopes to trap the Apaches in a pincer movement. Victorio's band becomes hopelessly surrounded by the Americans and Col Terrazas' militia but once the trap is set, Col Terrazas unceremoniously orders the Americans to leave Mexico and return home.

This act ensures that Terrazas and his Mexicans forces would receive the maximum credit for Victorio's demise.

Don DeNevi's fine books, "Faithful Shep" and "Shep in the Victorio War," leave the reader brimming with expectation. The books tell the story of the rugged men and their dog as they struggle to affix their mark in the Manifest Destiny that defined the winning of the west.

Well done, Don; we eagerly await your third book in the captivating "Shep" series.

Bob Loring



MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES: A Guide to Recognizing and Handling Mental Health Crises. By Nick Benas and Michele Hart. Published by Hatherleigh Press. 192 pages, \$13.50 MCA Members. \$15 Regular Price.

"Mental Health Emergencies" throws open the hatch and shines a welcome, long overdue spotlight on mental health conditions and situations, offering thorough examination and definition, and pointing anyone, professional or not, to be of service to someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

This reference is primed to assist first responders, law enforcement personnel, teachers and everyday individuals on what to say and how to behave (with empathy) at the scene of a mental health crisis.

Benas is a former Marine sergeant, MCMAP martial arts instructor and Iraqi combat veteran who wants to promote mental health literacy within the military community. "Mental Health Emergencies" is informative in a straightforward voice and educational without the test, not intended to be a diagnostic manual, and does a thorough job of defining stigmas that hinder progress when it comes to contemporary mental health.

The book contains personal anecdotes and descriptions in a conversational tone, easily digested and engaging. Anyone working with the public can gain insight into human afflictions bound to impact us or someone we know. Benas and Hart bring definitive skill and learned practice to the table and give sensible insights to help the reader get comfortable with the myriad of society's mental and emotional afflictions, making gains in obliterating stigma associated with people from all walks of life

who experience mental and emotional crisis or illness.

The authors have created an Instagram page @MentalHealthEmergencies, focused on eradicating stigma and achieving a global gathering of enthusiastic selfie takers, rightfully normalizing health issues once considered character weaknesses, successful in bringing visual awareness to healthy and happy living.

All the bases are covered in this field manual, including the humble reminder that our own attitudes and beliefs we harbor are not the lens others may look through. This reminder alone makes "Mental Health Emergencies" important reading for all of us.

Carol Richmond



SOUND OFF
[continued from page 7]

of the high school sports activities and invited me to visit him in the studio when I returned home. By the time I got home he was making a name for himself in California.

I wrote a poem for my parent's anniversary and was surprised that after my mother's death, my sister found it in my mother's belongings. It was hard for me to believe that she kept it all those years.

Dec. 14, 1954—Korea

To Mom & Dad,

Nowhere in the world can you find such a wonderful pair.

Sharing their happy moments and their moments of despair.

Of their 25 years of marriage I could tell some stories and jokes

But here's what I like the most to tell;
I'm proud, 'cause they're my folks."

Love, Frank

Former SSgt Frank Perry
Tucson, Ariz.

Comments on Belleau Wood Article

In the June issue, J. Michael Miller discusses the Bulldog Fountain at Belleau. In 1980, the American director of the cemetery at Belleau and I met the then-

mayor of Belleau for a pleasant afternoon in the village.

Besides telling us that as a young boy, he and his mother took bottles of wine to fill the canteen cups of the Marines in the assembly area prior to their attack, he also mentioned that the woods had been a hunting preserve and remnants of the lodge remain above the cemetery. It was here that the count of Belleau kept his bull mastiffs. The mayor told us they were the model for the fountain, not a bull dog. The dogs panicked under the din of battle and were destroyed attacking the defending Germans.

The mayor contended that the Germans alluded to these crazed animals as "Teufel-hunden" and that the name transferred to the Marines as the Germans were pushed out of the woods. I'd be interested if any of his ramblings could be verified. We did drink some wine during the course of the day.

LtCol Scott W. McKenzie, USMC (Ret)
Henderson, Nev.

General Pershing, who was to command the American Expeditionary Force to France, was not in favor of taking Marines along. He told Marine Corps Commandant Major General George Barnett that there was no room on the transports. MajGen

Barnett wanted his Marines to go because many had joined due to an extensive "First to Fight" recruitment campaign. He turned to an old friend, CNO Admiral Benson, who made room for the Marines on the convoy escort ships. Once ashore, Pershing scattered the Marines among the Army units essentially as military police. Back in Washington, MajGen Barnett convinced Secretary of War Josephus Daniels and the president that another regiment of Marines should be sent to operate with the 5th as a brigade.

When the 6th Marines arrived, the Army joined it with the 5th Marines and termed it the 4th Infantry Brigade as part of the Second Division. The Marines called themselves the 4th Marine Brigade and it wasn't long before that term caught on.

The first news the American public got of the AEF in combat came when a war correspondent began his dispatch, "I am up front and entering Belleau Wood with the U.S. Marines." The media continued to feed the public acclaim. Pershing made no secret that he thought the Marines were "headlight hunters." No Marine officer with the AEF was ever awarded the Medal of Honor. More than 30 years later, the President of the United States, himself an Army veteran of World War I, apparently still chafing even after World War II at



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USMC VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1987

the outsized reputation of the Marine Corps, would write, “The Marines have a propaganda machine that is almost equal to Stalin’s.”

But the little-known Marine Corps at Belleau Wood introduced itself as one of the world’s great fighting units.

Capt Richard E. Dixon, USMCR (Ret)
Clifton, Va.

Black Leather Belts

In the July issue [Sound Off Letters] Cpl Bil Pederson inquired about the black leather belts worn in a 1945 photo. As a collector of Marine Corps uniforms for over 35 years, I have obtained several of these belts.

First, they are cordovan, not black, although period photos would suggest they are black. I have seen only one with an altered brass buckle, the edges sharpened perhaps as a fighting weapon. I’ve heard sea stories how the belt would be wrapped around the hand and used like a flail but never met any old Corps Marines who actually used it as such.

The belts were discontinued as an issue item about mid-1942 to save leather and replaced with the cloth belt still used with the Service (green) Alpha uniform today. Obviously, salty Marines would never give up their belts and it’s likely the Marines in the 1945 photo wore theirs until forced to retire them.

Marines continued using cordovan leather for dress shoes and barracks cover visors until about 1959-1960, when the change was made to black color. The old items were simply dyed black, not replaced. The leather belt tradition has carried on with the black duty belt now worn by senior drill instructors.

C.M. “Stoney” Brook
1961-1965
Santa Cruz, Calif.

I remember sitting in the “E” Club with hashmarked PFCs who would mesmerize us with stories of battling members of other nation’s military in a foreign port-of-call. As the brawl began, they would deftly spin their leather belt around their fists with the buckle swinging free. They were always victorious in spreading the word that they were the finest fighting force in the world. They’d whisper conspiratorially that before pulling liberty, they would hone the edges of the brass buckle just to add a little insurance.

Master Sergeant Mueller’s letter, “Loss of Stripe,” really captured the essence, in my opinion, of what happened and the many ramifications that ensued after we went through that rank restructuring. It had an impact that reached out for years as he so graphically stated. Such could



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have never been envisioned by those who implemented it.

Having enlisted in 1957 I do remember the Marine Corps Basic Badge though I certainly couldn’t recall the proper name. I did earn a couple of bars to hang from the award though my memory is foggy as to which ones. I would see old salts with a ladder of their many qualifications nearly reaching the belt of their greens. I seem to recall that not long afterwards the badge disappeared. I’m thinking that it was pulled in 1958 or 1959, perhaps in conjunction with the new rank structure though I can’t see a connection. 1969 seems a decade off.

Obviously, I enjoy reading *Leatherneck* as I have for the past 61 years. 61 years? Can’t be, I’m ready to re-up.

CWO-5 Robert W. Dart, USMC (Ret)
Niles, Ill.

Marine Sword

A fond memory was brought up concerning the star on the hilt of the Marine sword.

I was the detachment noncommissioned officer in charge of the U.S. Embassy, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 1980 to 1983.

One of the incoming Marines had his sword confiscated at the airport due to the belief that it was Israeli. (We did not get diplomatic passports until 1982.)

Our ambassador intervened and got the sword back. Needless to say, he endeared himself even more to the Marines.

1stSgt Greg Casler, USMC (Ret)
Kailua, Hawaii

Two Articles That Made an Impact

I’m a 72-year-old Marine Vietnam veteran. With my part-time job at the VA, three hours a day managing my lung transplant and a heavy history reading list, I just received the June issue of *Leatherneck*.

This issue carried, back to back, the two most moving stories I have ever read in *Leatherneck*. I was choked up when I finished reading “Chosin Twins: The

Service and Sacrifice of the Thosath Family,” and weeping by the time I finished Captain Brian Worley’s “Constraints: That Which We Must Do.” Well done!

SSgt Robert A. Hall
Madison, Wis.

• *We’ve heard from numerous readers that both the articles had a similar impact on them. They are yet more reminders of the sacrifices made by both our Marines and their loving families.—Editor*

We Should All be Spotters

Terry D. Garrett’s letter in the July issue about Dr. James Nicholson and his practice of acknowledging the spotters in his life really struck a chord with me. I’m both honored and privileged to do volunteer work with other combat vets suffering from PTSD, by facilitating retreats.

As soon as I read Mr. Garrett’s words about spotting, I realized that is what we should all be doing, especially for the younger vets returning from combat zones. We have had the experience of a return to civilian life, and I believe it is our calling, in the true meaning of Semper Fidelis, to be there for our brothers and sisters in transition, especially for those who are enduring the after effects of war’s traumas.

Sgt Joe Doyle
USMC, 1964-1970
Scottsburg, Va.

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

Saved Round

By Katharine L. Hanifen



WAGING WAR IN THE NEWSPAPER STANDS—In the years following World War II, the era of superhero comics was in decline, and other comic book genres such as horror, romance and, especially, war, exploded in popularity. Although these comics were made for all ages, many readers, writers and artists were veterans and used this medium to reflect on their experiences in combat. The Marine Corps often would partner with publishing companies to create comics aimed at pre-enlistment age boys for public relations and recruitment.

Typically, war comics were anthologies that included fictional comics, historical accounts of battles, profiles of war heroes and short stories. *Marines in Battle* #1, for example, includes a history of the Marine Corps, the battles of Iwo Jima and Belleau Wood,

a comic adventure featuring the Atlas Comics character “Iron Mike” McGraw, and a two-page story, “Marine Action.”

This comic published a respectable 25 issues from 1954 to 1958, surviving the implosion of the company that eventually would become Marvel Comics. Notably, the comic featured art by Bill Everett, the co-creator of Daredevil; John Romita Sr., the co-creator of The Punisher; and Doug Wildey, the creator of Hanna-Barbera’s Johnny Quest. However, it was not the longest-running Marine Corps comic. That honor goes to *Fightin’ Marines* from Charlton Comics, a company that later was purchased by DC Comics. *Fightin’ Marines* ran for 30 years, publishing an impressive 175 issues. 🦖



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