

Welcome to Leatherneck Magazine's



Digital Edition February 2015

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

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Thank you for your continuing support.

Semper Fidelis,

Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret) Editor

Mary H. Reinwald



ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.





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COVER: SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, in his Pentagon office overlooking Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., Dec. 10, 2014. See page 36 for an exclusive interview with the Corps' top enlisted Marine. Photo by Sara W. Bock. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND REUNIONS

Sound Off

Edited by M.H. Reinwald

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

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

My wife and I drove our RV from Maine to North Carolina in mid-November. We drove back to Maine the Sunday before Thanksgiving in order to spend the holidays with our family. After crossing the Delaware Memorial Bridge, we headed north on the New Jersey Turnpike. The speed limit is 65 mph, and I had my cruise control set at 72 mph. We noticed a New Jersey state trooper entering the turnpike from a treeline about a quarter of a mile ahead of us. I passed him at 72 mph. The next thing I knew, he was right at my "six." I should say at this point that I have several USMC bumper stickers on my tailgate, and my hitch cover is a replica claymore mine.

I commented to my wife, "I thought we had a deal with these guys ... they shouldn't be upset about 7 miles over the speed limit." I had no sooner said that when the trooper pulled alongside me and turned on his loud-hailer. "Hey, Marine!" I looked over, and he gave me a thumbs-up and a "Semper Fi." I gave him a thumbs-up, and we both continued on our way. I know a lot of state troopers are Marine veterans, but in all my born days, this was the first time anything like this had ever happened. We both got a big laugh and continued on our respective ways.

Semper Fi, trooper. Thanks for your service and stay safe!

Daniel Ahern USMC, 1964-66 Biddeford, Maine

A New Tradition?

Several months ago, my wife and I (she is also a Marine veteran) attended military tattoos in London and Nova Scotia. When patriotic pieces were played ("God Save the Queen" and "O Canada"), retired members of the forces whipped out their green berets and wore them for the duration of the melodies while standing

at attention, regardless of how they were attired.

It was profoundly moving, and I believe we Marines should initiate the tradition of doing the same. There is no Marine, active or retired, who does not either have or have access to a garrison cap. Perhaps such a tradition could take root here too. I think that if such a suggestion was made to the various Division Associations, the Marine Corps League, etc., it would soon catch on and give Marines, both active and former, a way to identify themselves.

Col M.L. Haiman, USMC (Ret) Carlsbad, Calif.

Pride in Today's Marines

My letter was sparked by the "Sound Off" editor's comments on page 7 of the November 2014 issue of Leatherneck (Editor's note—"Uniform Changes"). I served in the USMCR from 1957 to 1963. My claim to fame was doing Parris Island in June, July and August 1957 at age 16 (not recommended). The fame faded when my senior drill instructor informed me that he was a recruit at Parris Island, S.C., at age 15! And later when I learned that the United States senator from Illinois, Paul Douglas, endured the island at age 50, the luster disappeared from my feat. Parris Island at 50! Now THAT was a feat! (Douglas served in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1945.)

I sat in on some of the sessions of the McKeon trial the year before I enlisted. I did not have the pleasure of witnessing Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller's testimony.

My contact with the Corps faded after my discharge until a stroke pushed me from the university classroom into retirement—professor, emeritus, Auburn University in 2006 (yes, there IS a university behind that football team). I subscribed to that old favorite, *Leatherneck*.

I had not read *Leatherneck* since the 1950s, so there was culture shock when I discovered that the United States Marine Corps, of which I was a tiny part, is as much a part of history as Tun Tavern. Reading *Leatherneck*, watching the evening news, and talking with youngsters currently in the Corps made me aware that today's Marines are the best ever.

Isn't that what the Corps is all about? Getting better and better to meet everchanging demands? I am so proud of today's Corps that I blush when I tell others that I was (am? Once a Marine ...) a Marine. I hope that today's Marines will tolerate me, a man who wonders if he could have risen to the standards of today's men and women in dress blues.

David O. Whitten, Ph.D. Auburn, Ala.

• The McKeon trial Dr. Whitten refers to is the court-martial of Staff Sergeant Matthew McKeon. SSgt McKeon was court-martialed after marching his recruit platoon into Ribbon Creek aboard Parris Island while drunk on the night of April 8, 1956. Six recruits drowned in the incident. LtGen Lewis "Chesty" Puller was called as a witness for the defense and testified on Marine Corps training methods. SSgt McKeon was acquitted of manslaughter

Calling All Sea Stories, Anecdotes and Tall Tales

Do you have a great 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 possibly feature them in a new department in the magazine. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.bock@mca-marines.org. Once we begin publishing them, we will offer \$25 or an MCA&F membership for the "story of the month." Spread the word!—*Leatherneck* Ed.





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and found guilty of negligent homicide. His original sentence was commuted to reduction to private with three months in the brig—no discharge. This incident proved to be a milestone in Marine Corps training.—Leatherneck Ed.

"Ike" and BGen Devereux

On page 72 of the December 2014 issue of *Leatherneck* magazine is a photo of President Dwight D. Eisenhower presenting the official Seal of the USMC to General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Although he is not identified in the photo, I believe the man dressed in civilian clothes with a polka dot "field scarf" is Brigadier General James P.S. Devereux, USMC. BGen Devereux is an iconic Marine who commanded the USMC defense force against the Japanese invaders at Wake Island in December 1941. He was a major at that time. He was awarded the Navy Cross and was captured and spent the remainder of World War II in a Japanese prisoner of war camp near Shanghai. After the war, he was a fourterm congressman for Maryland.

Sgt Lloyd Stimson USMC, 1953-57 Fort Washington, Md.

Marine Football!

While Randy Gaddo's football piece (December 2014 *Leatherneck*) was outstanding, he gave short shrift to Marine Corps football teams of the early 1950s. Remember, Korea had reared its ugly head, and a nationwide draft was on. The Corps was offering a two-year enlistment which many latched on to, especially athletes who were willing to bet the farm on surviving for two years rather than serve longer if drafted.

As a sports writer for the Parris Island *Boot* in 1950, I had a ringside seat watching many future professionals show their wares. Our PI team had a four-win, fiveloss record in 1950 and was coached by Ted Stawicki. Visiting powerhouse Quantico was led by a little guy named Eddie LeBaron, who would do a stint in Korea combat before going on to fame with the Washington Redskins.

I would make my own "bones" as a Marine combat correspondent from mid-1951 to the early fall of 1952, then check in to Quantico, Va., as a sports information specialist with another great "seat" as even more athletes grabbed the two-year enlistment ring.

Quantico, with a so-so 5-6 record in 1951, went big time in the 1952 season aided by such college stalwarts as Jim Weatherall, All-American tackle (Oklahoma); Dick Flowers (Northwestern) as well as Johnny

Mazur and Jim Mutscheller (both Notre Dame). The latter joined Ray Wietecha (Northwestern) in anchoring the front line. This team also was one of the first featured in televised military contests broadcast by CBS. Mutscheller and Weatherall would be named to the 1951 All-Service Team.

To give you an idea of the parity among Marine Corps teams that year, Camp Lejeune would knock off Quantico in a nationally televised game in early November, then get clobbered by Parris Island in late November. In the latter contest, PI's Sam Vacanti (Purdue), Billy Mixon (Georgia) and Ken MacAfee (Alabama) easily ran roughshod over Lejeune.

These were only a few of the "names" that put Marine football on the map, but all later achieved fame, many in the professional ranks. For readers interested in a complete history of the glory years of Marine Corps football, I highly recommend "The Encyclopedia of Armed Forces Football" by John Daye and published by St. Johann Press.

Capt Jack Paxton, USMC (Ret) Executive Director, USMCCCA Wildwood, Fla.

Professional Football Games

Correct me if I am wrong, but as I was watching a professional football game on Nov. 2, 2014, during the singing of the national anthem, I noticed that individuals in uniform not in formation were not saluting. Has saluting during the national anthem now been banned by new government regulations or does it perhaps differ by each of the armed services?

I graduated from boot camp in 1951 and since then acquired a new copy of the "Guidebook for Marines," 17th revised edition dated March 1997. On page 49 under "Honors to Colors and Anthem," the first paragraph states, to "render the ... salute at the first note of the National Anthem [and] hold the salute until the last note of the National Anthem."

Respect and love of our country, our flag, the national anthem and the Corps is always exercised by Marines. That respect and love of country includes members of the other armed services and all veterans. For armed services personnel to not salute reflects disrespect. However, most of the players of ALL professional sports show their disrespect by not placing their hands over their hearts during the national anthem. Those who hold their hands over their crotches are worse.

Sgt Robert M. Wada USMC, 1951-52 Fullerton, Calif.

• Sgt Wada is correct. According to the Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies

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the ring is engraved with the proud motto *Semper Fidelis*, making this a stunning expression of Marine Corps pride and support for all those who serve.

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Manual with change 1 dated Oct. 4, 2006, and in accordance with U.S. Navy Regulations, when not in formation, individuals "when in uniform and covered will render the appropriate salute. ... Persons not in uniform will stand at attention, face the flag and place the right hand over the heart. Gentlemen, if covered, remove their headdress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, so that the right hand is over the heart. When in full uniform indoors and uncovered, individuals will stand at attention."

The same applies to all Services according to the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which states that individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note. Of note, that same law also authorizes veterans who are present but not in uniform to render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform.— Leatherneck Ed.

Marines at the Battle of New Market

Concerning the picture of the 75 mm gun as the primary gun of World War I in the recent article, "Marines at the Battle of New Market—1923" in the October 2014 issue of *Leatherneck*. At the start of WW II, the 75 mm was still the primary

field gun. The 1st Battalion, 10th Marines as part of a brigade was stationed outside of San Diego in Camp Elliott. In the days after Pearl Harbor, the battalion moved to several positions in the area that is now considered part of the university and hospital. The Marine Corps rifle range was in the same area. The artillery battalion, as part of the brigade, went to Samoa in mid-January 1942. The artillery weapon/gun was the same 75 mm.

In mid-1942, the battalion was relieved by a separate 75 mm Pack Howitzer battalion. These howitzers were intended to be packed on mules and had wood/iron wheels. The Marines towed the wagons in a "packed" mode. These moves were called "Toggle marches," usually five men towing/moving the weapon (never in a firing mode).

The 75 mm Pack Howitzer served well in several campaigns. I often wondered what happened to the French 75s left in Samoa.

Capt Harry Dickinson, USMC (Ret)
Oceanside, Calif.

Congressional Medal of Honor

Recently while watching Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North's "War Stories" television program, LtCol North, for whom I have the greatest respect, referred to the Medal of Honor as the Congressional Medal of Honor! Certainly the colonel knows that Congress has absolutely nothing to do with awarding this highest heroic honor! Maybe in North's defense, he was reading a cue card.

Lawrence A. Mould Port Charlotte, Fla.

• Although commonly known as simply the "Medal of Honor," according to 10 U.S. Code § 6241, "The President may award, and present in the name of Congress, a medal of honor of appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to a person who, while a member of the naval service, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." One of the foremost authorities on the Medal is the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. which was chartered by President Eisenhower in 1958. Membership is restricted to only those who have received the Medal of Honor.—Leatherneck Ed.

Young Supporter of Marines

As a veteran Marine (USMCR, 1948-52), I frequently have discussions about USMC activities with my granddaughter Kyli. Kyli is a supporter of USMC activity and likes to recognize any such activity whenever she can. She is 11 years old.

I thought you might enjoy reading her recent letter to me:

"Dear Grandpa,

"Thank you for your service. Everything you've done just to ensure we can all have fun.

"Thank you for your service. All your hard work throughout the nights when something evil lurks.

"Thank you for your service. Through those long hard months when your barracks were filled with groans and umphs.

"Thank you for your service. Your work and effort so we can all be free. I salute you in any way that can be.

"Thank you for all you have done. Because of your work you will always be number ONE!"

> Main S. Joe Los Angeles

• It is heartwarming to see one so young have such an outstanding appreciation for those who have served their country and especially the Corps. You are a very lucky grandfather!—Leatherneck Ed.

More Praise for the Docs

I was with the 2d Medical Battalion during the Korean War in the 3d area of Camp Lejeune, N.C. I served my tour of duty, but not in Korea. It is the corpsmen whom I give praise to; the training the corpsmen go through to take care of we Marines is outstanding. The most famous words from a wounded Marine are "Hey, corpsman!"

I was with the 21st Marines during the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 as a U.N. peacekeeper stationed in Haifa, Israel.

Former Sgt Daniel A. Villarial Bedford, Va.

How Many Uniforms Do Marines Need?

Having served from 1961 through most of 1985, I have worn khaki, green, blue, starched utilities, the first jungle utilities with jungle boots with 2d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam, Sam Browne belts and not, Cordovan and not, rough boots, smooth boots, green camo utilities, mess dress and evening dress. I retired before the desert versions, although a friend bought me a desert utility cover at The *MARINE* Shop.

I cherish all of that, but still remember a bunch of us company-grade officers sending in a "bene sug" (beneficial suggestion) to limit Marine Corps uniforms to dress blues and utilities with the addition of a long-sleeve and short-sleeve khaki shirt for work in the office when utilities would not be appropriate. Emblems worn on the blues and the barracks cover still shiny along with the buttons. Office and enlisted



rank insignia remain the same, and you would still need boots and probably Corfam shoes.

Marines would still be able to be distinguished among the rest of the mob.

LtCol Donald T. "Tom" Winter, USMC (Ret) Steele, Mo.

Red Cross Women on Pavuvu

I enjoyed reading the article about Pavuvu in your March 2014 issue. I arrived there in April 1944 with the First Marine Division. I helped clean up the coconuts and make roads. The stench from the coconuts was overwhelming.

Two things happened there that were not mentioned in the article. When we arrived back from Peleliu, there were Red Cross women at Pavuvu for the first time. This did not go over very well with most of the Marines, mostly because we could not go naked to the showers and could not swim naked. Also, we had to put covers around the heads and the showers. The Red Cross set up a building where you could go and get coffee and cookies, but most Marines did not go there.

The other thing was an attack on a Marine in the First Regiment. He had his throat cut. No one knew if this was done by one of the other Marines, or if a Japanese soldier had come down from the hills. This incident was called "Jack the Ripper."

We had to patrol the company streets at night during this time. One Marine in Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines upset the cot of another Marine one night and yelled, "Jack the Ripper!" He was chased and caught, but I don't know what happened to him.

> Former Cpl Carl Scott Elwood, Ind.

"Flying Nightmares" in Korea

Excellent article about night bombing in Korea [" 'Flying Nightmares' Over Korea: Squadron's Night Missions Were Anything but Routine" in the December 2014 issue]. My father Jack Ring, then a first lieutenant, was a navigator on a C-47 "Lamplighter," dropping flares for night-bombing operations. He told me of a drop they did one night where the Marine pilot made a flawless napalm drop. He had long forgotten what the target was, but remembered the flawless drop.

Sgt Thomas Ring USMC, 1975-80 Great Falls, Va.

I thoroughly enjoyed your article concerning Marine Night Fighter Squadron (VMF(N)) 513. In the fall of 1960,

VMF(AW)-513 was my first duty assignment after boot camp. The squadron was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif., and in training for deployment to the Far East in October 1961.

If memory serves me correctly, VMF(AW)-513 was the first squadron to fly all of its F4D Skyrays to Japan. It was a combination of in-flight refueling, island hopping and RONs [remain overnight] with all pilots and aircraft arriving safely at Atsugi.

In July of 1962, VMF(AW)-513 set a record with the Skyray by flying 1,500 hours in 30 days.

The "Flying Nightmares" was a great squadron commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Dewey F. Durnford, a World War II ace.

Sadly, we returned to the States in October 1962 less one pilot; First Lieutenant John Arthur Chesney from Ohio was killed in a night-training accident over northern Japan. His loss was felt severely by all squadron members.

A lot of good memories returned after reading your article about -513. She has been and always will be a great squadron.

> SSgt Steve Thomas USMC, 1960-70 Olathe, Kan.

[continued on page 66]

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In Every Clime and Place

Edited by Sara W. Bock

MONROVIA, LIBERIA Marines Assist in Efforts To Contain Ebola Outbreak

Between October and December 2014, a detachment of 100 Marines and sailors from Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response-Africa (SPMAGTF—CR-AF) provided support to Operation United Assistance (OUA). The Department of Defense operation provided command and control, logistics, training and engineering support to the U.S. Agency for International Development-led efforts to contain the Ebola virus outbreak in West African nations.

The rapid deployment of SPMAGTF-CR-AF Marines and sailors on four MV-22 Ospreys and two KC-130J Super Hercules provided a timely, missioncritical airlift capability to the Joint Force supporting the operation. The Marines enabled the Joint Force to reach remote locations that were virtually impossible to access by ground transportation during the rainy season due to washed-out roads. Additionally, SPMAGTF-CR-AF also sent a Forward Resuscitative Surgical System detachment, which provided an enhanced surgical capability to support U.S. servicemembers contributing to Operation United Assistance.

During those two months, the Marines conducted more than 170 missions, flew more than 240 hours and transported at least 1,200 passengers and more than 78,000 pounds of cargo. They also supported the movement of key personnel, including Liberia's president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; the U.S. ambassador to Liberia, Deborah Malac; the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Powers; and various U.S. government and relief agency workers, to visit treatment locations throughout Liberia.

"This mission demonstrates the inherent versatility, scalability and unique responsiveness of Special Purpose MAGTF-Crisis Response-Africa," said Colonel Robert C. Fulford, commanding officer of SPMAGTF-CR-AF. "In a little under 40 hours of travel time, we were able to get our Marines and sailors and aircraft on the ground in Liberia, ready to actively assist with the Ebola relief efforts. While supporting the OUA mission in



Marines with SPMAGTF-CR-AF load bags of concrete into an MV-22 Osprey during Operation United Assistance in Monrovia, Liberia, Nov. 21, 2014. The concrete was used by local and international health organizations to build Ebola treatment units.

Liberia, we simultaneously maintained an additional alert force based out of Morón, Spain, prepared to respond to crisis in Africa; we continued to provide a security force in U.S. Embassy, Bangui, Central African Republic; and we conducted military-to-military training throughout Europe and Africa, strengthening our interoperability and relationships with partner nations."

The SPMAGTF-CR-AF supported United Assistance until Dec. 1, 2014, when it was relieved by U.S. Army aviation assets from the 101st Airborne Division, which assumed the long-term responsibility of support to the OUA mission. Upon completion of their mission, the Marines and sailors shifted focus toward conducting maintenance, washing-down equipment in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guide-

lines, and preparing to move to U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder, Germany, where they began their 21-day controlled monitoring period.

"Looking at the situation from every vantage point, we want to make sure that the Marines and sailors are healthy, and the equipment is clean," said U.S. Navy Lieutenant Michael A. Schermer, SPMAGTF-CR-AF lead medical planner. "We are taking every precaution possible to ensure that we don't put others at risk when they return to their unit and eventually their families."

During the 21-day controlled monitoring period, the Marines and sailors were under the care of trained healthcare professionals, who conducted temperature checks twice daily and evaluated them for symptoms of Ebola.

SPMAGTF-CR-AF is postured to respond to a broad range of military operations in the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility, including U.S. embassy reinforcement; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations; tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel; training with partner nations; and other missions as directed.

1stLt Gerard Farao, USMC PAO, MARFOREUR and MARFORAF

■ BALTI, MOLDOVA

Advanced Weapons Workshop Strengthens Partnership Between Marines, Moldovan Army

One week after its country held its elections and pro-European parties maintained their majority in parliament, a Moldovan military unit hosted an antiarmor workshop with U.S. Marines in Balti, Moldova, Dec. 8-12, 2014.

"We had about 50 [Moldovan] soldiers from three or four ... units around the country. We brought 15 Marines here—some assaultmen and antitank missile men," said First Lieutenant Ben Skarzynski, the executive officer for Weapons Company, Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF) 14.

The Marines from the BSRF, located in Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania, arrived Dec. 8, 2014, and began classroom instruction on advanced weapons systems to build a mutual understanding of both firing procedures and characteristics.

"We're here to work on antiarmor tactics and procedures—an exchange of how they do things and how we do things," said Skarzynski.

Events like this show that the Moldovans are willing to build military capacity by working with the United States and other nations to increase their knowledge of tactics and procedures.

"With our current mission set, [this event] greatly enables our capability to respond to contingencies in the region, which promotes greater stability," said Skarzynski.

By the third day of the exercise, the 50 Moldovan soldiers, who mostly have an artillery background, were on the range firing shoulder-mounted weapons with deadly accuracy at distances up to 1,000 meters.

The Moldovan military ensured that the week was mutually beneficial by providing instruction on their rocket-propelled grenade system and 70 mm recoilless rifle and offering opportunities for the Marines to fire them. The Marines introduced the Moldovans to their FGM-148 Javelin antitank missile, AT-4 antitank weapon, and the shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon.

The workshop culminated with the entire group conducting a full-on combined attack while distinguished visitors



Above: A Marine and a Moldovan soldier watch as a Javelin antitank missile is fired downrange during an antiarmor workshop in Balti, Moldova, Dec. 8-12, 2014.

Below: CWO-2 Michael Reiser, infantry weapons officer, BSRF, gives a safety brief to the Marines and Moldovan soldiers who participated in the antiarmor workshop. The training event was designed to help the Marines and Moldovans build a mutual understanding of their firing procedures and advanced weapons systems.



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from both countries observed. The Moldovan minister of defense, BSRF leadership and military personnel from the United States European Command Bilateral Affairs Office and the U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché Office were all present.

The Republic of Moldova was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 and became an independent country in 1991. Moldova continues to work toward integration into the European Union.

MSgt Chad McMeen, USMC Combat Correspondent, MARFOREUR and MARFORAF

■ KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE, JAPAN Forest Light Brings Japanese Forces, U.S. Marines Together

Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and U.S. Marines closed out Exercise Forest Light 15-1 with a ceremony at Camp Kita Kumamoto in Kumamoto, Kumamoto prefecture, Japan, Dec. 12, 2014.

Forest Light is a semi-annual exercise designed to enhance the U.S.-Japan military partnership, solidify regional security agreements and improve individual and unit-level skills.

During the exercise, elements of 2d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, currently assigned to Fourth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program, completed bilateral training with the 42d Regiment, 8th Division, Western Army, JGSDF, in the Oyanohara Training Area of Yamato, Kumamoto prefecture.

"I think the last two weeks have gone very well for 2/9 and the 42d Regiment," said Major Roy M. Draa, USMC, the executive officer of 2/9, who said both units had come "a long way in the last week at understanding how the Japanese work and also the Japanese understanding our doctrine and our tactics, techniques and procedures."

According to Draa, the exercise included several training events and livefire ranges, enhancing interoperability between the Japanese and U.S. forces while focusing on helping the Western Army stand up an amphibious brigade.

"One of the most exciting things about what we've been doing here is we also spent two days at Western Army head-quarters with their amphibious working groups," said Draa. "In the Western Army, they're going to be standing up an amphibious brigade, so a lot of the headway that we made with 42d Regiment, my hope is that we can translate that directly to Third Marine Division and 8th Division [JGSDF] working together on a regular basis."

In addition to the training that occurred throughout the exercise, there was an emphasis placed on the sharing of culture, strengthening the bond between the two nations and creating a bright future for the Japan-U.S. alliance, according to Lieutenant General Tetsuro Yamanoue, Commanding General, 8th Division, JGSDF.

"We prepared a lot of culture exchange programs so that the Marines can learn our culture," said Lieutenant General Yamanoue. "I think it is very important to tell you about our culture so that you can understand us and how we live our lives."

For many of the Marines, this was their first opportunity to work with the JGSDF.

"This is my first time working with the Japanese," said Lance Corporal Salvador Waterstradt, a rifleman from 2/9. "It was great to see their tactics, techniques and procedures and practice ours with them. We had a great time with the Japanese and made a lot of friendships and alliances with them."

Cpl Drew Tech, USMC Combat Correspondent, MCIPAC

■ ST. ASTIER, FRANCE

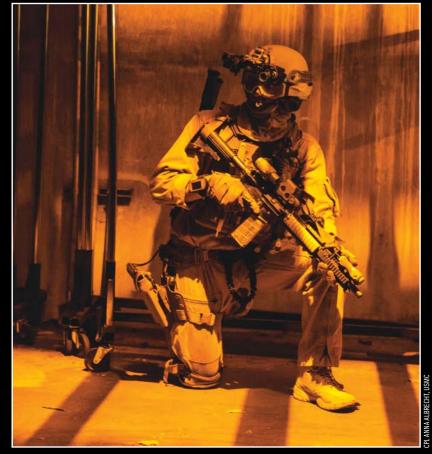
Marines, French Gendarmes Conduct Riot Control Training

Molotov cocktails exploded and tear gas filled the streets as U.S. Marines from Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response-Africa (SPMAGTF—CR-AF) and French gendarmes with Mobile Gendarmerie Armored Group tried to control a crowd of rioters in a city street.

That is how the scenario played out as the Marines and gendarmes trained together in crowd and riot control techniques at the National Gendarmerie Training Center, St. Astier, France, Dec. 1-5, 2014.

The gendarmes, like the Marines of SPMAGTF-CR-AF, are called to locations of instability to restore peace and protect

LOS ANGELES



MARINES RAID DODGER STADIUM—Sgt Eric Maehler provides security during realistic urban training at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Dec. 8, 2014. As part of their predeployment training package, leathernecks from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit were inserted via MV-22 Ospreys and other aircraft, and then conducted a simulated raid through the stadium to capture a high-value target.

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Marines with SPMAGTF-CR-AF and French gendarmes with Mobile Gendarmerie Armored Group practice crowd and riot control techniques in St. Astier, France, Dec. 2, 2014. The culminating event of the multiday training exercise was a scenario in which both forces responded to a crisis in a foreign country.



their country's national interests abroad. Both are called by their nations to reinforce embassies in the face of a threat or an event of crisis.

During the multiday event, the Marines and gendarmes shared historical lessons learned, trained in convoy escort and riot control procedures, conducted live-fire training, and built esprit through combined obstacle courses. The training culminated with a scenario that simulated the Marines and gendarmes conducting a partnered mission responding to a crisis in a foreign country—protecting the U.S. and French embassies and performing crowd and riot control.

"The facilities and training at Saint-Astier offered a unique experience that we are unable to replicate on Morón Air Base," said the officer in charge of the exercise, Captain Brian Green, attached to SPMAGTF-CR-AF. "The ability to utilize rubber projectiles, Molotov cocktails and CS gas during a mock riot brought a higher sense of realism to the training. The French gendarmes and U.S. Marines definitely built a lasting relationship that will continue to grow through further training ... and will be proven strong if called to work together in Africa," he added.

'Both our nations have been allied for a long time; we even consider ourselves the oldest allies," said Major Andrew



Marines with SPMAGTF-CR-AF march through flames from Molotov cocktails toward role-playing rioters in St. Astier, France, Dec. 2, 2014. The exercise allowed the Marines to gain greater knowledge of nonlethal tactics, techniques and procedures while enhancing interoperability with the French Gendarmerie.

Rakoto, an officer with the Paris Gendarmerie Command. "It makes sense that we may want to combine our forces to conduct joint operations in Africa. In a time of crisis, the French may have to help American nationals and the Marines may have to help French nationals, making this training very good for our future."

The exercise allowed the Marines to gain greater knowledge of non-lethal tactics, techniques and procedures while enhancing their relationship with the French Gendarmerie and strengthening the U.S. partnership with France.

1stLt Gerard Farao, USMC PAO, MARFOREUR and MARFORAF

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CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

Integrated Task Force Engineer Platoon Conducts Assault Breaching Exercise

Marines with Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force (GCEITF) conducted an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 3, 2014.

The platoon began its exercise by hiking more than 10 kilometers to the training area, carrying demolitions equipment such as M1A2 Bangalore torpedoes, the Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System and C-4 satchel charges.

The next day, the platoon constructed obstacles at various distances using concertina wire. After preparing the demolitions equipment, the Marines were ready to go to work. Their objective: to assault and reduce obstacles by means of controlled detonation.

"[This] training was based on assault breaching, an engineer task that is very similar to what we will be doing out in Twentynine Palms," said First Lieutenant Stephanie Damren, the platoon commander for Engineer Plt, H&S Co, GCEITF. She referenced the upcoming Task Force deployment to Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., where Marines will be assessed on their ability to perform tasks out of the individual military occupational specialty training and readiness manuals.

"We wanted to focus on the basics of what assault breaching is, which consists of building charges, setting up security, and proofing and marking the lane after we reduce the obstacle," Damren said. "The Marines were intense. They got out there and applied what they knew and did great at it."

The Marines worked in squads to determine what demolitions were appropriate and effective for their obstacles, utilizing Bangalore torpedoes first before bringing out the expedient line charges of C-4 and detonation cord. They maintained a security perimeter while teams of two set up the charges. After the position safety officers confirmed the charges, the Marines moved to a safe distance before detonating them.

GCEITF leaders, including Colonel Matthew G. St. Clair, Commanding Officer; and Sergeant Major Robin C. Fortner,

were present to observe the engineers' training. The Marines also employed the Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System, which is an explosive line charge that utilizes a rocket and fragmentation grenades to clear obstacles. The platoon concluded its exercise when all obstacles were neutralized.

"The Marines gained [proficiency] on how to successfully conduct an assault breach," said Sergeant Eric T. Johansen, squad leader, Engineer Plt, GCEITF. "They did extremely well from what I saw, and [they] understand [assault breaching] a lot better than they would in a classroom setting."

From October 2014 to July 2015, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force will conduct individual and collective skills training in designated combat arms occupational specialties, in order to facilitate the standards-based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment, performing specific ground combat arms tasks.

Cpl Paul S. Martinez, USMC Combat Correspondent, GCEITF



A range position safety officer confirms charges set by Marines with Engineer Plt, H&S Co, GCEITF during an assault breaching exercise at Engineer Training Area 2, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 3, 2014. The exercise was designed to prepare the platoon members for their upcoming Task Force deployment to MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif. (Photo by Cpl Paul S. Martinez, USMC)

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.

Leathernecks, Singaporean Military **Clear Simulated Combat Town**

Leathernecks with 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, alongside elements of the 7th Singaporean Infantry Brigade, cleared a simulated combat town while utilizing rocket assets as part of Exercise Valiant Mark 14.2 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 15, 2014.

Exercise Valiant Mark is a continuous bilateral training exercise between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Singaporean Armed Forces, which was scheduled to take place through Dec. 19, 2014.

The exercise enhances the combined combat readiness of the U.S. and Singaporean forces through live-fire and urban terrain training as well as amphibious operations familiarization. The first iteration of this exercise, Valiant Mark 14.1, was held in January 2014 in Singapore.

Marines and Singaporean soldiers conducted a simulated combat scenario in which the Singaporeans arrived in tanks and progressed into the combat town to clear it with supporting rocket assets provided by the Marines.

"Today we have integrated with the Singaporean Armed Forces and attached assaultmen to each section, and we've given them the asset of rockets to take the town," said Corporal Travis Reynders, an assaultman and section leader attached to Weapons Platoon, "Alpha" Company, 1/5. "Our mission is to clear the town with them."

Each Singaporean section conducted clearing maneuvers, and as a whole, they cleared every building in the town one by one, while gauging how to react and proceed while taking fire from the enemy.

"The Singaporeans pick things up very quickly, especially when we are dealing with MOUT [military operations on urban terrain] and urban environments. We teach them how we would do it, and then we discuss how they would do it," said Reynders.

The Marines and Singaporean soldiers communicated as they progressed through the exercise and informed each other of the decisions they would make to accomplish the mission. The Marines offered input into the scenario and shared their knowledge with the Singaporean soldiers to help them improve their tactics.

"It's different when you are used to working with your own company; it's different switching and learning new tactics. It's definitely a learning experience," said Reynders. "There is always good and bad from everything—you take everything away you can."

The Marine Corps and the Singaporean



Above: During Exercise Valiant Mark 14.2, Singaporean soldiers arrive in tanks during a simulated combat scenario with the Marines of 1/5, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 15, 2014.

Below: Marines and Singaporean soldiers prepare for MOUT operations during Valiant Mark 14.2. resulting in the Singaporeans clearing a combat town and the Marines providing supporting rocket assets.



Armed Forces continue to establish and build a relationship that strengthens both militaries and improves the overall mission readiness of the United States and her allies.

"The takeaway for the Marines is the experience. I always learn something new every time I work with a different military. It's honestly amazing the impression that we've left on them," said Cpl Estevan

Ramos, an assaultman and squad leader attached to Weapons Plt, Co A, 1/5.

Marines and allies of the United States continue to train and remain ready to support the mission at hand and respond to any crisis at a moment's notice.

> LCpl Jenna Loofe, USMC Combat Correspondent, I MEF



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Giving Democracy a Helping Hand

U.S. Marines in the Haitian Crisis (1991-96)

By Savanna J. Buckner

instability and extreme poverty, the small country of Haiti in the Caribbean was flung into tumult in September 1991, when Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first democratically elected president of the country, was overthrown in a military coup. The coup and resulting cruelty of the military junta caused widespread distress among Haitian citizens, as well as international fear that Haiti would suc-

cumb to anarchy. Marines soon were called upon to participate in the U.S. responses to the Haitian crisis, including Operations GTMO, Sea Signal and Uphold Democracy.

In the wake of the military coup, many Haitians set sail across the Straits of Florida in leaky vessels, hoping to reach the United States and a life free from political and economic oppression. In the ensuing months, thousands were picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard. Since the U.S. government was required legally to review the status of migrants before re-

patriating them, a secure holding area at nearby U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was developed for processing and providing for the temporary humanitarian needs of Haitians picked up at sea.

The small number of Marines and sailors already stationed at Guantanamo maintained order until Joint Task Force (JTF) GTMO was deployed in November 1991. During Operation GTMO, Marines in the task force constructed facilities and cared for refugees until their fates were decided. Unrest in the monotonous



Left: A large group of Haitians celebrate the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Oct. 15, 1994.

Below: This scene at the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in the summer of 1994 is reminiscent of similar scenes two years earlier. A new wave of Haitian migrants wait behind concertina wire for daily supplies to be passed out.





camp conditions of Guantanamo, where many Haitians did not understand the delay of processing, resulted in periodic camp demonstrations and protests, which sometimes were violent. Marines worked to improve camp conditions and maintain order, although they, too, were uncertain of the refugees' future and the duration of the operation.

Operation GTMO stretched on until summer 1993, when camps at Guantanamo finally were emptied via a combination of direct repatriation and camp closure. During the operation, the JTF processed more than 30,000 people, about a third of whom were allowed to enter the United States. The operation showcased the Marines in their traditional role as responders to humanitarian crises. While the operation took place in a climate characterized

by physically draining conditions like extreme heat and humidity, many Marines found Operation GTMO to be personally satisfying because it so directly involved helping people in need.

Meanwhile, despite international pressure, the illegal military regime in Haiti continued its misrule, causing social disruption. In April and May 1994, another large tide of Haitian migrants threatened a repeat of the situation that had prompted Operation GTMO.

During Operation Sea Signal, which began in mid-June 1994, Marines from the Second Force Service Support Group at Camp Lejeune, N.C., were assigned to JTF-160, where they participated in the response to the new wave of Haitian migrants. While Marines initially processed the migrants in ships off the Jamaican coast, increasing numbers of migrants required the use of Guantanamo Bay for processing and as a "safe haven" for refugees who did not want to return to Haiti. Haitian migrants were kept separate from, but treated equal to, the Cuban migrants the task force also processed.

Operation Sea Signal emphasized shipboard processing and transshipping the migrants. Most of the Haitians voluntarily were ferried back to Haiti, while some were allowed to enter the United States.

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A Marine fills a water container in the Joint Combat Camera compound in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in October 1994.

The last Haitians left Guantanamo in October 1995; the last members of JTF-160 finished work in Guantanamo in April 1996, nearly two years after the operation began.

As in Operation Sea Signal's predecessor, Operation GTMO, Marines took a great deal of personal satisfaction in their mission of safeguarding Haitian refugees and sending them on the next stage of their journey. In both operations, various armed services took their own skills and equipment to the missions, ensuring that one service's resources were not overly committed.

In September 1994, while migrant operations in Guantanamo were underway, other Marines from the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) participated in Operation Support Democracy and Operation Uphold Democracy.

The operations entailed more than 20,000 military personnel from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as the participation of more than 20 other nations. JTF-180, including the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), was formed to pressure the Haitian military dictatorship to restore Aristide to power and also to evacuate American citizens from Haiti if necessary. Operation Support Democracy represented the pre-occupation phase of the mission. JTF-180 actually planned for and implemented the occupation in Operation Uphold Democracy.

Waving an American flag, Haitians display pro-U.S. sentiments at the Port-au-Prince airport. (Photo by TSgt Val Gempis, USAF)

As diplomatic attempts to persuade the military junta to return Aristide's power proved fruitless, Marines prepared for a noncombatant evacuation operation, as well as the possibility of a forcible entry to Haiti. The incoming Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) Caribbean, consisting of 1,900 Marines and sailors formed around Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, Second Marine Regiment, relieved the 24th MEU(SOC) on Aug. 16, 1994, and proceeded to practice landing exercises at Guantanamo, Great Inagua and the Puerto Rican island of Viegues. Those rehearsals helped the actual landing run smoothly.

Reconnaissance conducted in the days preceding the invasion afforded an excellent picture of Haiti's enemy forces and terrain. The landing would take place in the northern area of the country at Cap-Haïtien, a crowded waterfront town that was populated by about 65,000 Haitians. Cobblestone streets and dilapidated buildings filled the town, which was bordered on the landward side by steep hills.

An amphibious landing that was set for Sept. 19 was halted by a political settlement at the last minute, when the junta agreed to yield power and restore Aristide's government. Although the results were peaceful, some Marines who were eagerly anticipating combat felt intensely let down. Marines received word they would enter Cap-Haïtien peacefully, after the Army component of JTF-180 had landed at Port-au-Prince in southern Haiti.

On Sept. 20, the SPMAGTF landed unopposed at Cap-Haïtien. Since the Haitian armed forces initially agreed to cooperate, the Marine mission was more ambiguous and further constrained by strict rules of engagement. Marines quickly secured Cap-Haïtien and the surrounding area, then conducted a civil-military operations evaluation of the town's infrastructure to determine how to restore normal functioning as soon as possible.

In the days following JTF-180's entry into Haiti, tension between Marines and the Haitian armed forces increased, despite the fact that Marines were acting within the framework of a negotiated treaty. Haitian police and army members harassed Haitian citizens who supported the ousted president, increasing Haitians' dislike of the military regime and their enthusiasm for the Americans. SPMAGTF



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Marines from BLT 2/2 maintain order at a food distribution point during Operation Uphold Democracy. The Marines stood with fixed bayonets behind billows of concertina wire. One Marine, forward of the line, and in an almost gentle gesture, tries to guide and restrain the crowd.

Caribbean's commander, Colonel Thomas S. Jones, met with senior officers of the Haitian armed forces, making it clear he would not tolerate acts of excessive violence from the Haitian military.

Marines established mobile patrols and increased their presence around military and police buildings in Cap-Haïtien. They also patrolled the hot city, accompanied by happy Haitians who showed their support by dancing and singing. When Marines inventoried Haitian police weapons, they met with varying degrees of hostility from Haitian policemen. Marines then posted troops at two police stations identified as potential trouble spots.

One of those hostile spots erupted on Sept. 24, when a heated argument between Haitian policemen resulted in their brandishing their weapons in a threatening manner. A Marine lieutenant and his rifle squad responded by engaging Haitian military personnel at the station with direct fire, which resulted in 10 Haitian soldiers dead and one other wounded. One U.S. sailor was wounded in the shooting.

Marines continued to rebuild the infrastructure of Cap-Haïtien by removing garbage and sewage from city streets and canals, clearing access to the port, and delivering supplies to the local hospital. On Sept. 29, Marine engineers succeeded in turning on the electrical power in Cap-Haïtien. One of the difficulties Marines frequently encountered was identifying a responsible and neutral distributor for relief supplies, leading them eventually to establish and man their own distribution points. Those sites opened on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 and quickly became popular, drawing huge crowds of Haitians. Sometimes the crowds became unruly, forcing the Marines to stage a show of force or close the site early.

On Oct. 1-2, Marines packed up and reembarked aboard their amphibious ships. Their part of the mission in Haiti complete, they handed over the area of operation to the Army. In all, the SPMAGTF had been in Haiti for 12 days. After sailing to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for a washdown of vehicles and equipment to avoid the spread of disease, Marines of SPMAGTF Caribbean returned to Haitian waters to serve as a floating reserve until Oct. 17, 1994, when they departed.

SPMAGTF Caribbean performed admirably in Operation Uphold Democracy. The success of Marine Corps operations in Haiti in 1994 was credited primarily to

the performances of small-unit leaders: the lieutenants, sergeants and corporals who applied common sense and critical thinking in making quick decisions in uncertain situations. Because Marines did not forcibly enter Haiti, civilian casualties were avoided and the Haitian people's trust was gained more easily. The Haitian citizens' appreciation for JTF-180 made the Marines' time in Haiti rewarding.

The military dictator in Haiti stepped down in mid-October 1994. JTF-180 was relieved by JTF-190 soon after. In March 1995, JTF-190 transferred control to a smaller multinational force, which was also American led. That force served in Haiti until March 1996.

Author's bio: Savanna J. Buckner, a former research intern for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, is a communication arts graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. A freelance writer with an interest in military history, she currently teaches English, speech and humanities at John Paul II Junior College in Benque Viejo, Belize.



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Below left: Recruiters must be adept at all types of communication, including the old-fashioned telephone call.

Below right: Training on a variety of subjects, including Systematic Recruiting, quality enlistment procedures and public speaking, is provided throughout the 7½-week Basic Recruiter Course.





Making Today's Marine Recruiter

By Sgt Nathaniel A. Carberry, USMC

hey are the face of the Marine Corps to the nation. Marine recruiters from coast to coast and elsewhere are often the sole connection many Americans have to their Marine Corps. But who are these young men and women? How are they chosen from among thousands of their fellow Marines to represent the Corps and renew its lifeblood by ushering in the next generation of Marines?

The Corps is a young, agile force with about 61 percent of all Marines under the age of 26. It is renewed constantly by highly qualified young men and women from all backgrounds and locations. Marine recruiters are tasked with the vital role of finding, attracting and mentoring qualified individuals to join the illustrious ranks of our Corps in order to replace the thousands of active-duty Marines who complete their service to Corps and country each year.

That is no easy task. Recruiters must be highly trained professionals capable of communicating the myriad opportunities available for success in the Corps and beyond. Becoming a recruiter is, in itself, a notable accomplishment.

The screening process for the challenging yet rewarding assignment as an 8411 basic recruiter begins at the command level when a Marine completes a financial

worksheet; a screening checklist; and any necessary re-enlistment, extension or lateral move (RELM) requests. All of that material is assessed at the command level, then forwarded to the Enlisted Assignment branch (MMEA) at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps for further review.

"It's a very robust screening process," said Gunnery Sergeant Robert E. Frank, an instructor at Recruiters School. "If they meet the requirements, they are able to

The recruiter must communicate the Corps' values to prospective Marines and live up to those values in order to lead the prospect to make the best decision for his or her future.

come to Recruiters School. Once they get here, we re-evaluate their screening process, as well as ask them some additional follow-on questions to ensure that when they do make it out on independent duty, there's nothing to take them away from their recruiting mission."

Screening of each potential recruiter at the unit level is vital to ensuring Marines are qualified and capable of meeting the unique challenges of the assignment. For that reason, potential recruiters are screened thoroughly for factors which might limit their ability to fulfill the demanding duty.

"We take family stability into account," Frank said. "We want to make sure that those Marines that come to us married go out on the duty, are successful, and they go back married. We screen physical capabilities just to ensure that if there is an underlying physical issue, they can still get the care that they need while they're out in the community as opposed to taking them away from the mission to go get treatment. Their main priority really is to recruit young men and women, so anything away from that is a hindrance."

Potential recruiters also are strictly screened for body ornamentations, such as tattoos, in order to ensure that they present a professional appearance, a key component to recruiting.

A strong emphasis is placed on moral qualifications and values. Marines who are selected for Recruiters School must have shown high moral character throughout their careers, because they will be entrusted with finding the next generation of men and women who live their daily lives in accordance with the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment.

According to GySgt Frank, the recruiter must communicate the Corps' values to

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Leathernecks from 1st Marine Corps District, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, and 2d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, listen to SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, June 22, 2011.

prospective Marines and live up to those values in order to lead the prospect to make the best decision for his or her future. Only Marines of the highest moral caliber can consistently accomplish that task effectively. As perhaps the sole representation of the Marine Corps in a community, a recruiter must be someone they can trust.

"Oftentimes, they have to police themselves," said Frank, referring to the dispersion of recruiting locations across the nation. "They don't necessarily have troops that they have to look after other than their poolees [prospective Marines in the Delayed Entry Program]. So we re-emphasize the importance of the Marine Corps core values when no one is really watching them, to make sure they're doing the right things, and they have honor, integrity, and they're loyal, not just to the recruiting staff, but to the entire institution."

Frank added that it is the character of the individual Marine on recruiting duty that influences the community through positive impressions and leads to strong working relationships. Those relationships

The instructors at Marine Corps Recruiters School are responsible for ensuring that students of each Basic Recruiter Course have the skills and knowledge to influence young men and women to select the Marine Corps as a career opportunity.

breed long-term success for the recruiter and benefit both the community and the Corps.

Because of the challenge to build strong relationships in the community, Marines who attend Recruiters School are provided a wealth of knowledge on the opportunities in the many military occupational specialties (MOSs) the Marine Corps offers. Communities benefit when disciplined and experienced Marines return home after successful tours of duty. Sometimes, simply discussing the Corps and its oppor-

tunities broadens the perspectives of young community members and assists them in seeing the opportunities available beyond their hometowns.

"It's very informative with regard to the job opportunities afforded to Marines coming in, as well as the programs available to them and their families," said Staff Sergeant Rene Lopez, a student at the Basic Recruiter Course. "Just being able to make a difference in somebody's life, whether or not they choose to join the Marine Corps, you know that you've



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Recruiters School provides advanced training to Marines selected to serve in the primary MOS of 8412, career recruiter. Programs analysis, quality control procedures and command group functions are some of the principal topics covered.

helped out the community or that individual person."

Marines also are provided ample time during the course to hone their communication skills in order to present information clearly and concisely as they interact with community influencers, families and prospective Marines. Recruiters make a deliberate effort to approach communities as a whole.

Lopez added that the Basic Recruiter Course offers prospective recruiters all the necessary tools to be successful on independent duty, to include training in presentation skills, Marine Corps career opportunities, ethics for recruiters, the systematic approach to recruiting, quality enlistment procedures and Marine Corps communication and consultation skills. With the ever-changing methods of communicating today, whether it is text messaging, social media or other innovations, today's recruiters must be flexible and willing to learn to apply properly the skills they learn.

By mastering each of those skills, students ensure their own success as recruiters and open up opportunities for With the ever-changing methods of communicating today, whether it is text messaging, social media or other innovations, today's recruiters must be flexible and willing to learn to apply properly the skills they learn.

success in their future careers in the Marine Corps or in civilian life, following their service to the Corps.

"Regardless of background or MOS, recruiting gives Marines the opportunity to understand a different approach to overcome challenges," said GySgt Ross Spear, course chief at Career Recruiter Course. "You have to be able to think on your feet and be three-dimensional. That makes a good, well-rounded Marine, and their leadership style adapts from the progression they get over the three-year recruiting assignment. It's something those individuals get to take with them and use in their future, whether it's in the Marine Corps or out."

Author's bio: Sgt Nathaniel A. Carberry is a combat correspondent who has been with the Marine Corps Recruiting Command since 2012. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2008 and has served overseas in Okinawa, Japan; and Afghanistan. He will begin a tour on recruiting duty in March 2015.



One of the many Recruiters School classes at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. The school offers numerous other courses including ones for career planners and prior service recruiters.

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By MSgt Michael B. Nash, USMC

ecruiting has always been the lifeblood of the Marine Corps. In the Continental Marine Act of 1775, the Second Continental Congress decreed: "That two Battalions of Marines be raised ... such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve ... for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies." As the first order of business, a recruiting drive was held at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, and Captain Robert Mullan, the first Marine recruiter, played a critical role in enlisting Marines to serve aboard Continental Navy warships. Since that time, Marines on recruiting duty have been the public face of the Corps to our nation.

Today's military is not an "all-volunteer" force, but rather, an all-recruited force. Recruiters and officer selection officers seek out high-quality young men and women of character with the desire to serve their country or to serve something larger than themselves but lack the knowledge, awareness or education of what is available to them. These young Americans come from diverse geographical and demographical areas; they are located and engaged by professional recruiters prepared to discuss everything from the history of the Marine Corps, to training and education opportunities, to retirement benefits.

People join the Marine Corps for a variety of tangible and intangible reasons: challenge, pride of belonging, travel and adventure, family legacy and reputation.

Recruiting a quality force remains one of the biggest challenges the Marine Corps faces. Our competitors are after the same—in short supply—population that we are: high-quality young men and women who

are mentally, morally and physically qualified to enlist. Marines on recruiting duty must locate applicants of both the right quality and quantity needed while also ensuring that "today's Marines were yesterday's poolees." Simply contracting a young person is not enough; the goal is to ensure they graduate recruit training and embark on a successful enlistment. Effective and efficient planning, execution and management of a proven enlisted recruiting process is the means by which success is ensured.

Recruiters Don't Just Make Marines

Success for a recruiter is more than just "making mission" and ensuring that poolees become Marines who complete their enlistments or retire honorably. As a testimonial of honest and faithful service, each year thousands of Marines return to their communities as first-class citizens.

Left: Sgt Tina Rivera and Sgt Richard Arrubla flank their Recruiter School instructor, GySgt Sam Plott. GySgt Plott ensures his students obtain the key skills necessary to find and mentor young men and women who possess the qualifications to become Marines.

Below: Sgt Zonell Westfield, a recruiter from Recruiting Substation Murfreesboro, Recruiting Station Nashville, Tenn., speaks to a college student at a career exploration event at the 40th annual National Society of Black Engineers convention on March 27, 2014.



Regardless of the length of service, having acquired the leadership skills, core values and proven abilities, these Marines continue to connect the Corps to the society on which recruiters depend for future recruits.

The core values that guide recruiters and the leadership skills that enable them not only make for outstanding Marinesthey make for upstanding citizens as well. Marines on recruiting duty are the first step in the overall process. The process starts with a healthy Delayed Entry Pro-

gram, continues with a robust commandrecruiting program, and endures through continued contact as an influencer in the community.

The Marine Corps develops quality citizens. Whether a Marine remains in the Corps for a few years or an entire career, he or she will retain the benefits earned by keeping this nation safe and free. Once a Marine exits the Corps, he or she has the tools and skills to make his or her community a better place.

Telling the Marine Corps Story

The Marine Corps masterfully uses the media to tell its unique story. Since the World War II era, the Marine Corps has maintained a relationship with J. Walter Thompson, one of the premier marketing communications organizations in the world. The marketing strategy is to emphasize tough challenges, focus on differentiation and elevate the Marine Corps brand in the eyes of our target market.

The Marine Corps gladly broadcasts the fact that the price of admission is higher, and the rite of passage more demanding than that of the other Armed Forces. Today, our marketing and advertising strategy spans a wide variety of channels and pro-

Sgt Marion Lampson, left, and Sgt Billy Carroll, middle, recruiters with RSS Las Vegas, watch students from Green Valley High School fill out waiver forms for the pull-up challenge in Henderson, Nev., Sept. 7, 2013.



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Sgt Eddie Quezada, a recruiter from RS San Diego, gathers answer sheets during Mission Bay High School's first Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery in San Diego, Oct. 23, 2014. The test covers a variety of skillsets and measures developed abilities to help predict future academic and occupational attainment in the military.

gram elements including an expanded online presence, an array of media options, a strong lead generation program, and an array of recruiter support materials. Now, more than ever, recruiting efforts are focused on delivering an integrated and consistent message to dynamically deliver one branded identity. This cumulative effort is intended to influence the prospective recruits to consider making a decision—that ultimately leads toward a commitment—to earn the title of United States Marine.

Recruiter School

Marines selected for assignments as recruiters undergo training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. It is there, at the eight-week Basic Recruiter Course, that Marines seeking to become recruiters receive in-depth training on a variety of subjects including presentation, Systematic Recruiting, communication and consultation and other skill sets that will be key to their success on recruiting duty.

The recruiters also learn the key skills necessary to find, attract and mentor young men and women from across the nation who possess the mental, moral and physical qualifications to become Marines. Furthermore, they learn about the specialties and occupational fields in the Corps to help them educate prospective recruits on the opportunities available to them.



Adapting to Today's Environment

Systematic Recruiting has not changed; the way in which Marine Corps recruiters conduct business has. Years ago, different terms that more aligned with corporate sales lingo were used. Terms like "opening," "probing," "supporting" and "closing."

Today's recruiters use language that aligns more with the Marine Corps. The terms of "engage," "explore," "enable" and "gain commitment" replaced the aforementioned terms. The new terminology is more suitable for the type of recruiting force and applicants we seek. Marine Corps Communication and Consulting (MC3) allows for a more personable recruiter to applicant/influencer relationship. Marines on recruiting duty must identify the needs and motivators of each applicant. An important piece of

the process is to see how the Marine Corps can effectively meet the needs of the applicant. There are always motivators that drive people. It is up to the recruiter to identify those motivators and find the need.

Being on this duty is definitely an art and not just a science.

As society embraces new technology, recruiting also must evolve. Market research results have proven that young people are distancing themselves from the use of the telephones and gravitating toward more progressive technologies. For example, the Marine Corps uses social media platforms, text, video chat and game consoles to enhance our brand, communicate, market and prospect.

When used correctly and effectively, technology enhances recruiters' produc-





Above: Poolees hike through the forest around historic Fort Snelling, Minn., as Marines from RSS Roseville take them on a 6-mile hike Jan. 19, 2014.

Left: Sgt Curtis Bennion, a recruiter from RSS Batavia, RS Buffalo, N.Y., discusses the benefits of Marine Corps service during an appointment with an applicant April 12, 2013.

tion by communicating with their pool simultaneously for events and functions, managing some of the many programs at their disposal, crediting accomplishments of community members, and establishing a network of potential applicants and centers of influence.

Although technology is evolving continuously and recruiters may rely on it to its full potential, it will not negate tried-and-true tools for communicating, like the telephone, as it has proven to be a useful tool for prospecting.

The Delayed Entry Pool

While each recruit depot transforms these quality young men and women through a rigorous recruit training with a commitment to our core values, training starts in the Delayed Entry Program. The DEP is made up of applicants who have been contracted and are awaiting shipping to recruit training.

Every recruiter is responsible for ensuring his or her poolees are mentally and physically prepared for the rigors of boot camp. Before poolees arrive at Parris Island or San Diego, recruiters have spent countless hours preparing them for the mental and physical challenges of recruit training. This includes initial instruction and training in general military subjects and ethical expectations. The goal is not to simply put poolees on the yellow footprints at recruit training, but to ensure they are prepared to have a high probability of graduating from recruit training.

What Makes a Marine Recruiter?

Marine recruiters are a different breed. Retired Marine General James N. Mattis, the former commander of United States Central Command, said: "The nature of recruiting breeds a certain type of character. You are the type of aggressive self-starters that if I ever got into a jam on a battlefield, I'd go find myself a half-dozen recruiters to get the job done."

Marines on recruiting duty endure great challenges and are better for it. Their communication skills greatly improve, as they enhance their capability to positively influence people and provide them with opportunities. Recruiters receive the gratification of changing the lives of America's youth in a positive and productive way.

On a more personal level, recruiting duty is recognized in many ways throughout the Corps as a means by which Marines show leadership, the ability to operate independently, and achieve mission accomplishment. There are personal awards, enhanced promotion opportunities and the development of lifelong friends in communities across America afforded by



Sgt Jerusa Argueta, the enhanced marketing vehicle noncommissioned officer in charge, 1st Marine Corps District, motivates Bianca Reo, a participant in the Penn Relays track meet, as she attempts the pull-up challenge in Philadelphia on April 24, 2014.

the opportunity of being a Marine on recruiting duty.

Recruiting is one of the most important jobs in America's Armed Forces, and it's also one of the toughest. It is highly competitive and loaded with political, social and economic challenges. To the average person, all branches of the military look the same. That's precisely why it takes a well-trained Marine on recruiting duty to point out the differences and match each qualified prospect's needs and motivators with the opportunities the Marine Corps can offer.

The dedication of Marine recruiters guarantees the Corps is poised to confront the challenges of the 21st century and ensure that America will continue to find her Marines always on the job.

Gen Carl E. Mundy Jr., the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, described

recruiting duty as "the toughest peacetime assignment for any Marine. The only regiment in the Corps that is in constant contact with its objective 30 days a month, without letup, is the recruiting service. It's the toughest job, at any grade, in the Marine Corps."

Author's bio: MSgt Michael B. Nash has served on recruiting duty since 2001. A career recruiter, he currently is assigned as a member of the Marine Corps Recruiting Command's National Training Team.

Leatherneck—On the Web

To see additional recruiting photos, go to www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/ marinerecruiting

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Leatherneck Laffs

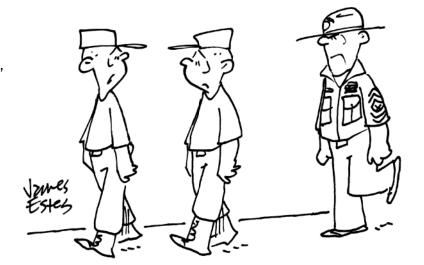




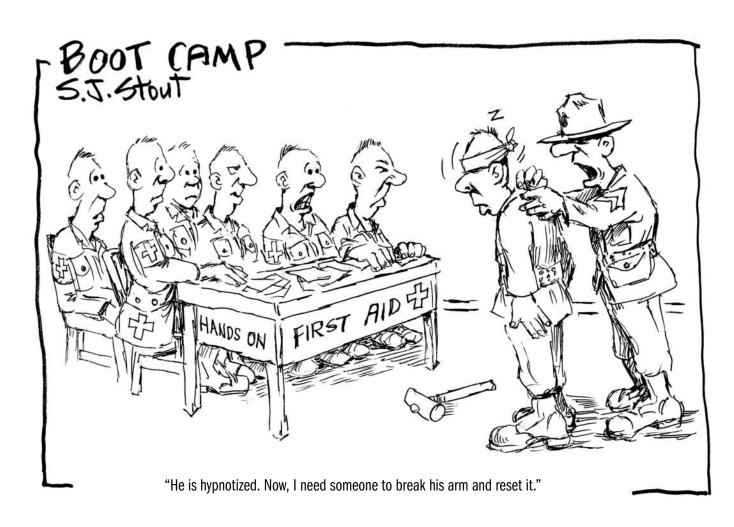
"Sorry to burst your bubble, son, but yes, we do have a dress code."

BRIG

" 'Give it your best shot, big guy!'
Did you forget who you were
talking to?"







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DAYS ON IWO JIMA

By Capt F.A. Stott, USMC

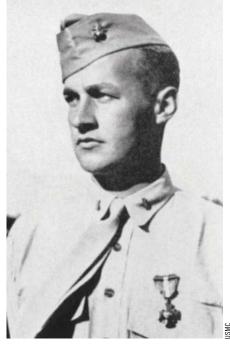
(Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the May 1945 issue of Leatherneck. In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of one of the Corps' most historic battles, we are publishing/reprinting this firsthand account, written within weeks of Capt Stott's landing on Iwo Jima's black-sand beaches.)

ave for Mount Suribachi at the southern tip, Iwo was an unimpressive-looking island. It had no height comparable to Mount Tapotchau. We could see no terrain that looked as rugged as Saipan's or which possessed such defensive possibilities. So it seemed almost impossible to prevent optimism in the pre-invasion speculation.

This was the fourth invasion in 13 months for the Fourth Marine Division, and the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines was in division reserve again—fortunately. At Roi-Namur on Kwajalein we'd feared a late arrival, but landed in time to catch our share of the fighting. At Saipan we drew reserve again, and by nightfall of that D-day, heavy artillery fire was dropping on our too shallow holes. Here on Iwo we waited out aboard ship as the assault waves successfully hit the beach and began working inland.

The signal bridge of our transport was jammed with Marine and naval officers. Someone had set up a map and was penciling in the moving lines. We listened to reports and turned our glasses on the beaches where the Fourth and Fifth Marine divisions' leading waves were landing on a stretch of sand extending from the volcanic Suribachi north, to a group of destroyed Japanese supply ships rusting on the shore just below the rising ground spreading out at the northern end. We picked out the black dots which were men and the larger spots which were tanks.

The radio told of good progress in the Fifth Division sector, with indications that shortly the island would be split in



Capt Frederic Anness Stott, nicknamed "Fireball," received the Navy Cross for heroic actions on Saipan. He also saw action on Iwo Jima and was wounded March 1. 1945.

Optimism vanished quickly when you saw a large cluster of black dots one moment, and in the next, the dots were blotted out by the smoke from exploding shells.

two, isolating Mount Suribachi. And it also told of flanking fire of increasing intensity driving in from both ends of the beachhead.

Casualty reports were slower in arrival, but we heard and could see that our own division lines were inching forward, if not halted, only a couple of hundred yards in from the beach. By noontime, the Japanese mortar and artillery crews were emerging from their hiding places into which they had been forced by the pre-"H" hour bombardment. And they were laying down fire on areas previously registered

upon. Optimism vanished quickly when you saw a large cluster of black dots one moment, and in the next, the dots were blotted out by the smoke from exploding shells

In the early afternoon, indications of casualties started trickling in, mainly from the 3d Bn, 25th Marines, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Justice M. "Jumping Joe" Chambers [later awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on Iwo]. One of his companies had lost all seven officers in a matter of five hours, all the battalion's artillery forward observers were hit, and the effectives of the battalion had been cut to a third of their landing strength. Such reports put us to tightening gear and stomachs, for we knew our call was coming and that it would be a hurry call.

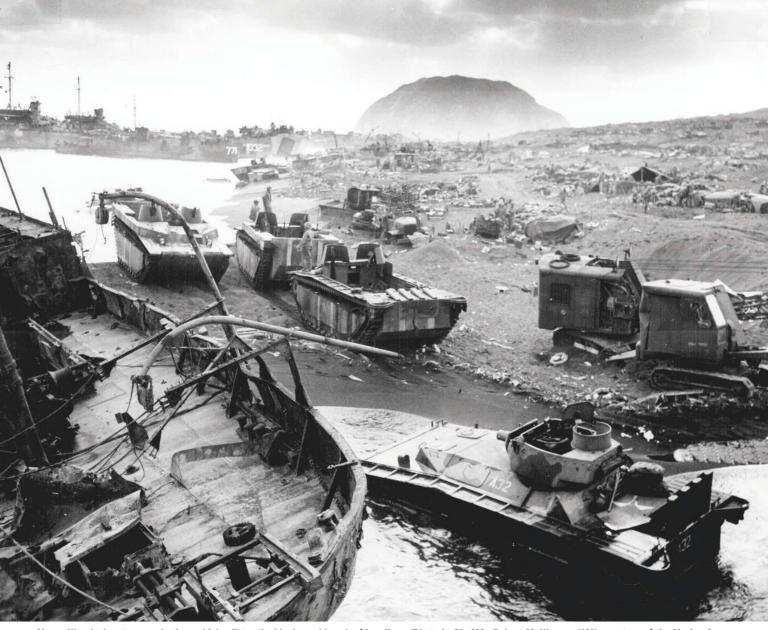
Clambering into the small boats, we spent less than two hours circling and headed straight in for the beach, barely pausing at the control craft to acquire sufficient interval. Two hours was the briefest time we had ever spent in the boats in the transition from ship to shore, and the brevity meant we were urgently needed.

Blue beach was as confused as all invasion beaches are and for the moment untroubled by enemy fire, which was falling farther south. Almost without casualties, the rifle companies pushed up across the beach terrace in behind Chambers' depleted lines. At dusk and even during the early hours of night, we were busy filling in gaps and strengthening the defense.

Japanese doctrine has been known to switch, but it was our expectation that a heavy counterattack would materialize that first night as at Tinian. And if it failed to crack the fragile toehold, then, as at Peleliu, the enemy could be expected to retire to their caves and pillboxes until rooted out. We dug deeper than ever before, and the digging was easy in the sandy soil already pocked with innumerable bomb and shell craters.

Evidently we guessed wrong as to current Japanese strategy, or the brilliant illumination and drumfire from the warships close offshore forced a change in strategy, for the uncertain lines were not challenged throughout the night. The

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Above: Wrecked amtracs and other vehicles litter the black-sand beach of Iwo Jima. (Photo by PhoM3c Robert M. Warren, USN, courtesy of the Marine Corps **History Division)**

Below: Black smoke hangs over the beach as the fifth assault wave goes ashore at "Hell's Acre."



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small-arms fire which we had expected to be unceasing in the early dawn was sporadic or non-existent, and there were no new gaps needing repair in the morning.

Within our battalion it proved necessary to move Company B and Co A after dark. The former had occupied the dominant terrain above the northern (Blue) beaches, taking over several gigantic concrete fortifications where the Japanese had housed 5-inch coast defense guns. The tenants had been killed or driven out by the 14- and 16-inch shells which ripped gaps through solid masonry walls 10 feet thick. This bare ridge above the quarry with its four destroyed pillboxes atop was a key to the protection of the troops and supplies pouring into the Blue beach area. And while the advance northward was minuscule in the coming days, the ridge's retention was important, and Co B remained solidly entrenched upon it.

With daylight on D + 1, we soon felt the artillery, mortar and rocket power still possessed by the Japanese despite more than 60 consecutive days of landbased bombing, followed by four days of the most intensive naval bombardment. Barrages began falling on areas throughout the entire beachhead. These barrages were carefully calculated, ranged and observed, in contrast to the hit-or-miss artillery tactics often practiced by the enemy. Our holdings on Iwo presented a concentrated target subjected to battery fire which scarcely could miss. On Saipan we received occasional salvos, but never the concentrations now dropping. Shortly after noon, I counted more than 250 missiles falling within a 600-square-yard area in one 15-minute period.

2dLt Will Jarvis spotted the sighted rifle of the hidden enemy, and before the latter could fire, Jarvis had whipped his .45 out of a shoulder holster and neatly drilled a slug through the middle of the man's skull.

Such fire was tearing up men and supplies. In more than two days, the beach dumps were destroyed almost as rapidly as the gear could be ferried ashore. Infantry battalions are accustomed to speak contemptuously of beach party personnel as rear echelon, but that contempt vanished immediately as we

saw the bursting hell through which these parties were striving to bring in our needed gear. As late as D+2, our division dump was fired with all its precious stores of mortar and artillery ammunition.

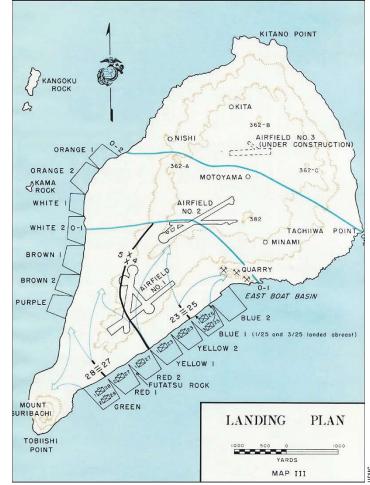
Meanwhile, as this pounding continued, the riflemen at the front were meeting infantry and mortar opposition which made all gains meager and limited. Protecting tanks were smacked with heavy antitank fire which knocked out many more than had fallen to such fire on Saipan. Unbelievable exploits transpired about these damaged tanks, as some that were overturned and caved in by explosions still yielded up two, three or four living crewmen.

On the Fifth Division front, a handplanted land mine blasted away the side of one tank after the "planter" had withdrawn 20 yards into the brush to snipe off any who might emerge alive. Up flew the turret and then the head and shoulders of the tank commander, massive Second Lieutenant Will Jarvis. It seems incredible, but Jarvis spotted the sighted rifle of the hidden enemy, and before the latter could fire, Jarvis had whipped his .45 out of a shoulder holster and neatly drilled a slug through the middle of the man's skull.

Gradually, from experience on the lines, at the beach, and with the tanks, the pat-



A carbine-equipped Marine on Iwo Jima with an M8 grenade launcher attached to the muzzle of his weapon.



tern of the Japanese defense was taking form. There would be no grand, wild initial effort which would spend most of the defensive strength in one great burst. The Japanese had done well with their period of grace which followed the Marianas campaign. They had emphasized giant mortars, artillery and their new rocket—all high-angle fire weapons which could be sited safely in the tangled, cavecovered high ground in the north. They had de-emphasized the infantry attack force which could be mowed down so easily by the waiting Marine machinegunners. Their defense appeared to be one of depth, soundly based on heavy weapons which would whittle away attacking troops at tremendous cost for small yardage, and which might eventually force a virtual statement due to the excessive casualties. The Japanese were out to buy time by raising the price.

Their diggings were as extensive as anything encountered at Peleliu; they were bombproof and shellproof, and all lined with plentiful foodstuffs and ammunition. Thus the Japanese had contrived to deny us the effective use of our supporting weapons of air, sea and land; the tools which previously had proved the big margin of victory. We could bomb, strafe and shell the enemy in their fortresses, and it would do little more than disrupt communications, prevent gatherings, and stun some of the less fortunate defenders.

It left the main burden up to the Marines on the line to squirm, inch and hack their way into the prepared defenses to where hand-carried weapons could be used at short range. This war has provided no clearer illustration of the military adage that physical occupancy by the infantry is the seal of victory.

The sector which fell to the 1st Bn, 24th Marines was on the Corps' right flank touching the sea along the eastern beaches. At the water's edge were giant rocks which, after a short space of level terrain, rose in a cliff-line to the table land on top. This lower shore area was sufficiently rugged with a plentiful supply of caves, small canyons and fixed fortifications. But atop the cliff the terrain almost defied passage. Trees and vines twisted in confused fashion over an area in which erosion and excavation had created cuts, dips, rises and pinnacles which made direct line progress impossible. Rock piles and dirt mounds jutted everywhere, and no man could be certain that the ground 10 feet to his front was devoid of Japanese. It was into this area that we drove throughout our first week on Iwo Jima.

Companies A and C took turns in moving along the shoreline 200 to 300 yards as supporting gunboats (with Marine spotters aboard) laid 40 mm fire on the cliff. Twice, heavy casualties forced retirement from exposed positions whose value was nil until the troops on top advanced. A third attempt was moderately successful, yet when relieved in the afternoon of D + 6, Co C was no more than 400 yards forward from where Co A had dug in on that first uneasy night.

Concurrently, atop the cliff the switching companies were alternating in trying to push ahead into the tangle. Daily were these pushes which netted scant yardage Undamaged, he popped up again shortly and got a squirt from a flame thrower which backed him down a second time. Still unhurt, he appeared a third time with a bayonet which he hurled with a banzai cry at the closest Marine. This time the bullets and flame thrower caught him squarely and he sizzled in death.

Sometimes the wounded were stretcher cases, and many hard-working bearers didn't escape the hidden guns as they sought to evacuate the helpless casualties. Others managed to walk or stagger back to the aid station, suffering from shock or minor wounds. I recall one small and youthful 18-year-old private from New Orleans who was stumbling back unaided.



A flame-throwing tank goes into action, along with Marine snipers, as the Battle of Iwo Jima rages on. (USMC photo)

and always casualties from knee mortars or invisible point-blank rifle and machinegun fire. On only one day were Co A and Co B able to reach the higher ground to the front, not more than 600 yards from the ridge Co B occupied D night. And once there, increasing fire, 50 casualties, and no supplies all combined to force a withdrawal.

Nor could passed-over caves be neglected. They lined the route up which we carried supplies by hand and on which we evacuated the wounded. Demolition charges blocked up many, but Japanese popped out of other unknown entrances. Late one afternoon a Japanese soldier flung a grenade out of one hole and received a flurry of rifle fire and grenades in return.

He was dazed from concussion, carrying small bits of shrapnel in his skin, and in his hand was his prize possession—a Japanese rifle! His own weapon had been discarded, and he would accept no help, nor allow anyone to lay a hand on his own prized souvenir. His action was typical and the kind which prompted a flushed Japanese soldier in a Roi Island shell hole to yell— "Come in and get me, you g----- souvenirhappy Marine!"

Another enemy soldier on Iwo with a flair for the humorous must once have worked the butts of some Honshu rifle range. Having caught a glimpse of his helmet behind some rocks, a couple of patient Marine marksmen waited and sniped at him whenever he reappeared.

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The Purest Democracy

This sermon was delivered by Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, a Navy chaplain for the Fifth Marine Division, at one of the religious services dedicating the 5thMarDiv cemetery on Iwo Jima, March 21, 1945.

This is perhaps the grimmest and surely the holiest task we have faced since D-day. Here before us lie the bodies of comrades and friends. Men who until yesterday or last week laughed with us, joked with us, trained with us. Men who were on the same ships with us and went over the sides with us, as we prepared to hit the beaches of this island. Men who fought with us and feared with us. Somewhere in this plot of ground there may lie the man who could have discovered the cure for cancer. Under one of these Christian crosses, or beneath a Jewish Star of David, there may rest now a man who was destined to be a great prophet—to find the way, perhaps, for all to live in plenty, with poverty and hardship for none. Now they lie here silently in this sacred soil, and we gather to consecrate this earth in their memory.

It is not easy to do so. Some of us have buried our closest friends here. We saw these men killed before our very eyes. Any one of us might have died in their places. Indeed, some of us are alive and breathing at this very moment only because men who lie here beneath us had the courage and strength to give their lives for ours. To speak in memory of such men as these is not easy. Of them, too, can it be said with utter truth: "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here. It can never forget what they did here."

No, our poor power of speech can add nothing to what these men and the other dead of our division who are not here have already done. All that we can even hope to do is follow their example. To show the same selfless courage in peace that they did in war. To swear that, by the grace of God and the stubborn strength and power of human will, their sons and ours shall never suffer these pains again. These men have done their job well. They have paid the ghastly price of freedom. If that freedom be once again lost, as it was after the last war, the unforgivable blame will be ours, not theirs. So it is the living who are here to be dedicated and consecrated.

We dedicate ourselves, first, to live together in peace the way they fought and are buried in war. Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors, generations ago, helped in her founding, and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, Negroes and whites, rich men and poor—together. Here are Protestants, Catholics, and Jews—together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudice. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy.

Any man among us the living who fails to understand that will thereby betray those who lie here dead. Whoever of us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of this ceremony and of the bloody sacrifice it commemorates, an empty, hollow mockery. To this, them, as our solemn, sacred duty, do we the living now dedicate ourselves: to the right of Protestants, Catholics and Jews, of white men and Negroes alike, to enjoy the democracy for which all of them have here paid the price.

To one thing more do we consecrate ourselves in memory of those who sleep beneath these crosses and stars. We shall not foolishly suppose, as did the last generation of America's fighting men, that victory on the battlefield will automatically guarantee the triumph of democracy at home. This war, with all its frightful heartache and suffering, is but the beginning of our generation's struggle for democracy. When the last battle has been won, there will be those at home, as there were last time, who will want us to turn our backs in selfish isolation on the rest of organized humanity, and thus to sabotage the very peace for which we fight. We promise you who lie here; we will not do that! We will join hands with Britain, China, Russia—in peace, even as we have in war, to build the kind of world for which you died.

When the last shot has been fired, there will still be those whose eyes are turned backward not forward, who will be satisfied with those wide extremes of poverty and wealth in which the seeds of another war can breed. We promise you, our departed comrades: this, too, we will not permit. This war has been fought by the common man; its fruits of peace must be enjoyed by the common man! We promise, by all that is sacred and holy, that your sons, the sons of miners and millers, the sons of farmers and workers, will inherit from your death the right to a living that is decent and secure.

When the final cross has been placed in the last cemetery, once again there will be those to whom profit is more important than peace, who will insist with the voice of sweet reasonableness

Three times after their firing he slowly waved a board to and fro over the top of his rock—his improvised variation of Maggie's drawers.

Through the day, we struggled against unseen death until night drew down a blanket which isolated the front from any supporting troops to the rear. There were the defensive advantages that the foe could not muster a sizeable counterattack in such land, and that any movement was bound to be detected by its noise. But at the same time, illumination was of small help, machine-gun protective lines were impossible, and a hand grenade could be looped easily into a foxhole without chance of locating the thrower. Further, we knew that some caves within our lines undoubt-

Having nothing but his hands,
the Marine used them to
grab the man's neck which
he started to throttle. The
Japanese soldier let out such a
weird unearthly screech, that
the startled Marine loosened
his grip and the man made off.

edly housed Japanese back in their recesses who waited on darkness to come out.

It was on one of the first nights that three Japanese were killed in the Co C CP [command post]. In a nearby foxhole, Private First Class Kye Harris received a scare which kept him awake for the balance of the night. Shortly before midnight he awoke with a start to see a large Japanese man silhouetted against the light of a flare and running toward him, bayonetted rifle extended. Lacking time to use his own weapon, and without pulling the pin, he flung a grenade which landed squarely on the man's chest two steps away. It must have bewildered him, for he stopped short, threw his rifle at Harris, wheeled and fled.

Another Co A Marine had an enemy even closer as he jumped suddenly into the middle of the foxhole. Having nothing but his hands, the Marine used them to grab



The 4thMarDiv cemetery on Iwo Jima, March 1945.

and appeasement that it is better to trade with the enemies of mankind than, by crushing them, to lose their profit. To you who sleep here silently, we give our promise: we will not listen! We will not forget that some of you were burnt with oil that came from American wells, that many of you were killed by shells fashioned from American steel. We promise that when once again men seek profit at your expense, we shall remember how you looked when we placed you reverently, lovingly, in the ground.

This do we memorialize those who, having ceased living with us, now live within us. Thus do we consecrate ourselves, the living, to carry on the struggle they began. Too much blood has gone into this soil for us to let it lie barren. Too much pain

and heartache have fertilized the earth on which we stand. We here solemnly swear: this shall not be in vain! Out of this, and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this, will come—we promise—the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere. Amen.

-LT Roland B. Gittelsohn, CHC, USN

Leatherneck—On the Web

To see video of Chaplain Gittelsohn conducting a religious service on D + 20, go to www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/iwocemetery

the man's neck which he started to throttle. The Japanese soldier let out such a weird unearthly screech, that the startled Marine loosened his grip and the man made off.

That was how the nights passed, with occasional encounters, few casualties, and no real enemy forays. But the tension from the unknown of such nights was wearing and a strain. It was with joy that we saw relieving troops coming into the line on the afternoon of D+6. Neither on the lower flank nor on the cliff top had we advanced anywhere more than a quarter of a mile. The strain had tired us, the casualties were steady, and moreover it was extremely disheartening to morale to strive so hard with so little apparent success.

For three unbelievable days and nights

we rested in reserve. It was unbelievable because all former reserve experience on Saipan and Tinian was temporary, and we would be fortunate to remain so situated for one full day. The recently vacated, pre-dug foxholes were pleasant. We were plentifully supplied with water for washing, drinking and even shaving, and with quantities of appetizing "10 in 1" rations. We lazed around, ate, slept, ducked an occasional sniper bullet, and by the end of the third day were in better shape than when we landed.

The real "chow hounds," whose appetites demanded more than was provided, raided the beach supplies which were assuming sizeable proportions. Balked on one attempt by MPs, Corporal Robbins

of Co C merely turned his back, pulled out pencil and notebook, and then turned about again presenting a slip which read: "Issue two cases of '10 in 1' rations to the bearer. Signed: Franklin C. Robbins." He got the rations without a question.

Such a state of relaxation couldn't be prolonged indefinitely, nor was it desired. We realized we would have to return to the line, and further delay would bring no new benefits. So in a way we welcomed the orders which came after dark on D+9 and which called for a pre-dawn relief of another battalion near the center of the Marine lines on the highest ground.

By this point in the campaign, the lines had consolidated from east to west across the island with the Fourth Division on the

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Above: Marines mopping up caves with grenades and Browning Automatic Rifles.

Below: A regimental command post in a sandbagged position near the front lines.



east, the Fifth on the west, and two regiments of the Third Division filling in the center. Both airfields were in Marine hands, and the southern one was supporting a few observation planes. Mount Suribachi, too, had been secured for several days, and all our strength was concentrated on the one remaining sector. Nonetheless, the progress while we were in reserve was

just as painfully slow as it had been when we were on the line.

The holes into which we filed just prior to dawn of D+10 were in terrain which had more level space, fewer woods and caves. Two hundred yards to the front was a wooded area that contained all the varieties of defensive emplacements with which we already were familiar. Here, as

At that point a knee mortar landed too close to me, and I dropped with a fractured leg bone and shortly was carried from the fighting scene.

in our former zone, troops had pushed forward more than once, only to be thrust back. The outgoing troops cautioned us about certain known enemy gun locations, telling us that daylight would be sure to bring enemy fire. Then they left.

Their prophesy was correct for we ducked from a mortar salvo shortly after sunrise, and incautious exposed Marines drew immediate small-arms fire. Using tanks as flanking forts, and supported by mortar and artillery preparations, Co C jumped off, and by the rapid movement of small groups, two platoons managed to cross the open ground to the nearest woods without casualty.

Once there, it was the same old story of knee mortars, rifles and machine guns, all unseen, and within half an hour, we had 10 men hit. It was then that Cpl Robbins voluntarily led a tank up into position to protect some wounded men from a machine gun. He put the tank in position, and then went back to the battalion aid station with the wounded men.

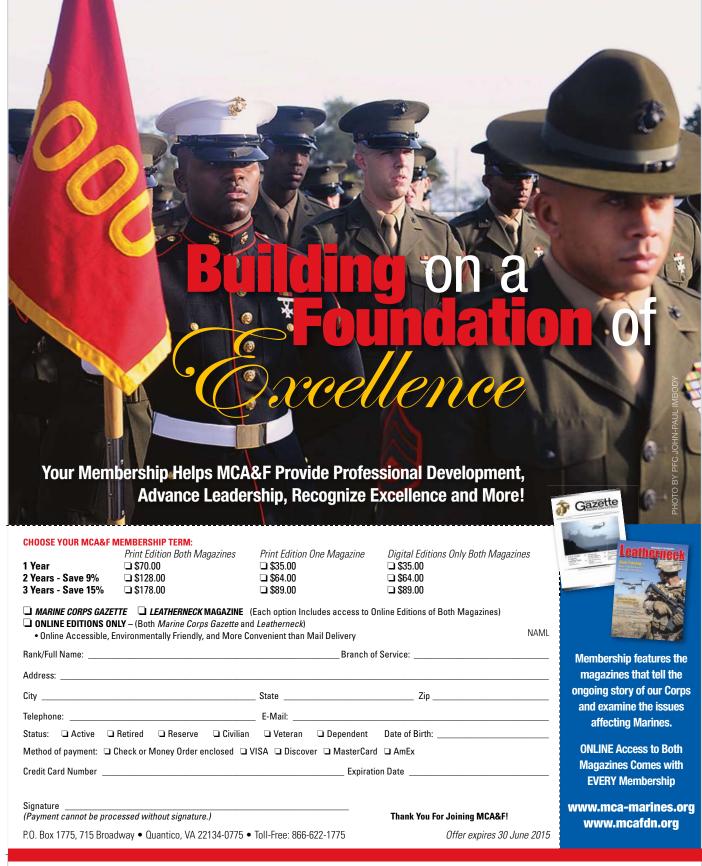
At that point a knee mortar landed too close to me, and I dropped with a fractured leg bone and shortly was carried from the fighting scene. I thought our advance had carried us to a spot from which a successful penetration of the enemy line could be effected. But back aboard the hospital ship the next day, later casualties told of being forced to drop back at nightfall with a total cost of close to 40 men in the one company alone.

That is the last I know directly of the Iwo Jima campaign, though as I write on D+20, all reports show that the pattern is still the same painful one.

Editor's note: Capt F.A. Stott enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 and later was commissioned prior to his service with 1st Bn, 24th Marines during the Pacific campaign. He participated in the landings at Roi-Namur and Tinian and received the Navy Cross for his courage under fire on Saipan where he also received his first Purple Heart. He again was wounded on Iwo Jima and received his second Purple Heart prior to his discharge as a captain. He also was the recipient of a Bronze Star.



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Outcall With the 17th Sergeant Major Of the Marine Corps

"Everything We Do at This Level Is for and Is About Marines"



SgtMaj Micheal Barrett presents a personalized challenge coin to a leatherneck with 1st Bn, 5th Marines at Forward Operating Base Geronimo, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Sept. 22, 2011. SgtMaj Barrett and the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, visited deployed Marines throughout Regional Command Southwest.

By Sara W. Bock

The 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, welcomed Leatherneck's Sara W. Bock into his office in the Pentagon for an exclusive outcall interview during which he candidly shared his thoughts about today's Marine Corps, its promising future and his multifaceted role as the Corps' senior enlisted Marine. When Leatherneck went to press Jan. 9, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps had begun the screening process for his successor but had not yet named the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

s SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett sits behind his desk, he needs only to look around him to gather the motivation and inspiration he needs to meet the challenges that accompany his influential position.

The New York native's walls tell a myriad of stories with a common theme: They are adorned with photographs of Marines whose courage and commitment remind him of why he has devoted his life to his country and Corps. There's a photo of Sergeant Ricardo Ramirez, who was wounded in action in Iraq while serving with 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment



in 2006 and became the first hand-amputee to re-enlist in the Marine Corps.

Another photo shows Sgt Jason Pacheco, a scout-sniper instructor, using his prosthetic leg as support for an M40 sniper rifle on a firing range just two years after an improvised explosive device detonated underneath him during a patrol in Afghanistan and his leg was amputated below the knee.

Behind the sergeant major's desk, two large windows overlook Virginia's Arlington National Cemetery. When SgtMaj Barrett has a lot on his mind, he takes in the sobering view—rolling hills speckled with rows of white headstones, marking the graves of more than 400,000 veterans



and their families—and remembers why this post means so much to him.

"There is no shortage of young patriots willing to stand up and wear the cloth of their nation," he said as he gazed out the window at the cemetery, adding that the panorama has never failed to give him a sense of purpose and motivation as he, alongside Commandants of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos and Gen Joseph F. Dunford, helped ensure some of the most significant transitions in Corps history.

From the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy to the Corps' integration of women in combat roles, there have been sweeping changes since

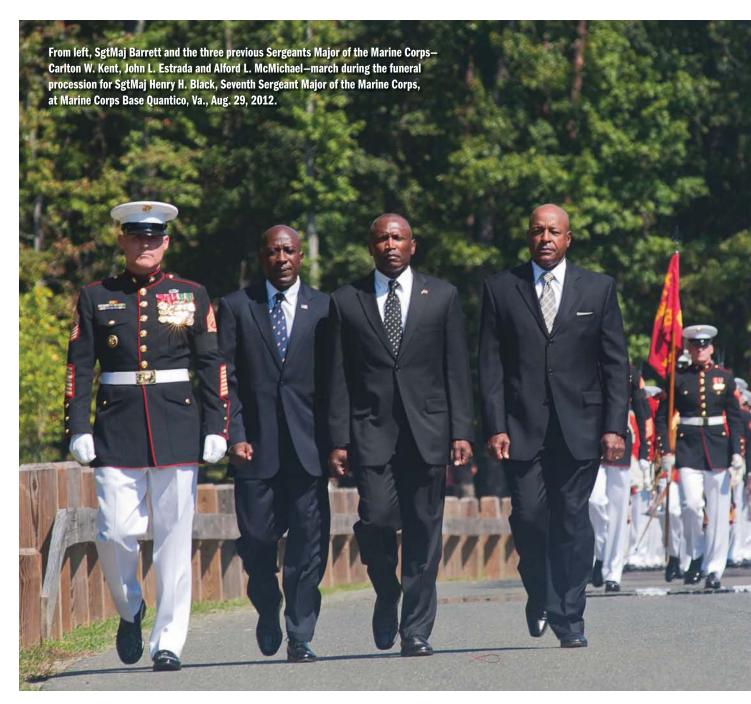
"There is no shortage of young patriots willing to stand up and wear the cloth of their nation," he said as he gazed out the window at the cemetery.

he assumed his post in 2011. Barrett doesn't doubt for a second, however, that the Marines faced these new challenges with the highest level of professionalism and adaptability.

"In every single instance where there

has been evolutionary changes, innovation and integration, our Marines have stepped out the hardest, they've stepped out the fastest, and we have set the example for all the other services to emulate—to follow—the way we do business," SgtMaj Barrett asserted. "Continuing actions are always required, and we as a service—and we as the leadership—are always taking and making assessments, never being satisfied with the standard. We always are trying to raise the standard to the next level."

Asked what the most difficult aspects of his billet are, he said that he was prepared for the long hours, the lack of personal time, the lack of sleep and the need for "thick skin." No amount of preparation,



however, would be sufficient for the moments he describes as heartbreaking and gut wrenching.

"Anytime we get a serious incident report, anytime we get a casualty report, anytime we get an 8-Day report ... signifying that we've lost a Marine," he said, these are the times he has viewed as the most frustrating. He also refers to the times when he believes that the Corps has failed to prevent a poor life choice, and he notes the importance of convincing Marines to seek help in the early stages of a dilemma to avoid devastating impacts to their families, units and themselves.

He spoke with a refreshing candor regarding his comments about military pay and benefits to the Senate Armed Services Committee panel in April 2014, for which

He made it clear that he doesn't apologize for anything he said to the committee, but added that his response wasn't received the way in which it was intended.

he received some negative backlash—particularly via the Internet and various social media outlets. He made it clear that he doesn't apologize for anything he said to the committee, but added that his response wasn't received the way in which it was intended.

"This is where I really experienced and understood the power of social media," he said of the situation. If one thing is certain, SgtMaj Barrett's positivity is contagious and his passion for Marines is palpable, and there is no question that he has the best interest of the Corps at heart. He has embraced social media and used its global reach to his advantage. He joined the social media site Twitter to connect and engage with Marines and, in December 2014, hosted "The Corps Report" on the USMC YouTube channel to talk about the new professional military education [PME] requirements for enlisted Marines.

He credits his team of Marines with bringing him "up to speed" on social media after he assumed the post, prior to which he never imagined he would be "tweeting," he said with a grin, in reference to his presence on Twitter.



Below: Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler, left; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael D. Stevens, center; and SgtMaj Barrett testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Personnel at the Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., April 9, 2014.





SgtMaj Barrett smiles as he stands on the pitcher's mound during the Washington Nationals' "Marine Corps Day" baseball game in Washington, D.C., Aug. 20, 2014. He presented the game ball to the Nationals' starting pitcher.

While he discussed his tenure as the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, nothing was more apparent than how highly he views the Marines of today's Corps. He spoke of their tenacity and commitment and their willingness to serve their nation, "knowing full well what they're getting themselves into," he clarified, referring to the last 13 years of sustained, continuous combat the Corps has endured.

Although the Marine Corps is downsizing, he said with confidence that both recruiting and retention have never been better.

"There has never been a better time to be a Marine than today," said Barrett, noting that 99.9 percent of recruits are physically fit, high school graduates with high mental aptitude testing scores. Reenlistment packages are coming in at an impressively high rate, and, he added, "We have a problem with retention—nobody wants to get out!" In 2014, promotion allocations were increased in every single board; even though the Corps is drawing down, promotions are better today than they have been in previous years, he said.

"The best of America is wanting to join our ranks," he asserted, recalling that he recently attended a field meet hosted by Recruiting Substation Roanoke, Va. With more than 100 young poolees in attendance, "the enthusiasm, the energy—they would have left [for boot camp] that

"The impact is so profound," SgtMaj Barrett said. "1.1 million hits—I mean, I never could have done that with an e-mail, a phone call or just a letter," he said of his appearance on "The Corps Report."

The realm of social media is something that earlier Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps did not have to deal with—at least not to the extent that Barrett has—but he is determined to view it as a conduit for communication that can be used to benefit the Corps. "Things are instant feedback and lightning speed," he said, and added that he has seen the cognitive growth of today's Marines increase exponentially during the past three decades, as technological advancements have changed the way information is shared and communication is conducted.

Below left: A young Micheal P. Barrett had his official recruit photo taken in 1981. He was attached to 2d Recruit Training Bn, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

Below right: SgtMaj Barrett converses with LCpl Amanda Cattin, a field radio operator with 1st Marine Logistics Group, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., during breakfast in the chow hall Jan. 9, 2013. As Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, he toured bases and stations throughout the Corps and enjoyed visiting Marines in every clime and place. (Photo by LCpl Matthew Howe, USMC)





day if they could," Barrett said. "There's an eight- or nine-month waiting period just to be able to go down to Parris Island or out to San Diego to stand on the yellow footprints."

He sees the future of the Corps as bright and promising and strongly believes that the leathernecks of today and tomorrow are ready to rise to the challenges they face and will continue to face.

"There is no shortage of work for Marines. Just look at the increasingly confrontational other regions of the globe," he said of the Corps' post-Afghanistan pivot back to the Pacific region. "We don't know when or where or who we're going to have to fight or help next, but we must be ready to leave tonight.

"Ebola, our own border issues, overpopulation, extremism, competition for resources, conflict, poverty," SgtMaj Barrett enumerated. "We're doing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; we're doing TRAP [tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel] missions; noncombatant evacuation operation missions; counterinsurgency operations; counternarcotic; counter-piracy; regional and theater security cooperation missions; advise, assist and enable teams," he added, again emphasizing that the Corps will not have any deficits when it comes to missions and taskings.

As the senior noncommissioned officer in the Corps and advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps on matters concerning enlisted Marines, SgtMaj Barrett rose to the demands of his job with vision and determination. He has been a driving force in implementing not only new PME requirements for enlisted Marines, but also the new Marine Combat Instructor Ribbon; he has met with new recruits and Marines in every clime and place around the globe; and he has helped Gen Amos and Gen Dunford through some of what he deems "the most tumultuous times in our Corps' history." These, he said, have been the highlights of his tenure.

The new PME requirements include

"We don't know when or where or who we're going to have to fight or help next, but we must be ready to leave tonight."

mandatory attendance at a commandsponsored Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar to be considered for promotion to corporal and increased requirements for attendance at resident PME programs for other enlisted grades. The sergeant major doesn't see this as a hindrance to promotions; rather, as a necessary advancement in continuing to develop strong, educated leaders.

"This world is not getting any nicer. It is unstable and increasingly more complex, and our Marines will be handling multiple tasks in chaotic environments," he said. He believes that not only is it important to prepare the Corps' future leaders for missions around the world, but also to be able to combat the "enemy inside the wire," in reference to sexual assault, domestic violence, operational stress and suicide—the abundance of issues that today's Marines face. In combination with the advanced primary military occupational specialty [MOS] schools, he believes the PME requirements will help create a balance and emphasize the importance of the "whole" Marine.

He encourages enlisted Marines to share their thoughts and ideas with the Corps. "How can we improve our warfighting capabilities? How can we improve our quality of life?" he said. One way for them to share their ideas on how to improve the institution, he said, is through the annual Marine Corps Association & Foundation-sponsored Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Writing Award, which is given to the author of the best article written by an enlisted Marine published in the *Marine Corps Gazette* and judged by the professional military journal's editorial advisory panel.

One cause SgtMaj Barrett has thoroughly involved himself in since he assumed the post in 2011 is the Corps-wide sexual assault prevention and awareness initiative.

"The data and the measurements of effectiveness clearly show progress, but progress is not enough. We are going to continue to fight even harder, and our end state is to stop this disgusting, violent crime, and no one is working harder at



SgtMaj Barrett and Gen Amos visit with Army Sgt Brendan Marrocco at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, May 8, 2013. SgtMaj Barrett said that he draws deep inspiration from those "young patriots" who have made great sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

stopping sexual assault than we are," said Barrett regarding the new measures against sexual assault. He added that incident reporting and bystander intervention has increased, and assaults are down from the previous years.

His No. 1 priority upon assuming the post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was simple: serving Marines.

"Everything we do at this level is for and is about Marines," he said. In his mind, he said, making the junior Marines anything other than his top priority would be letting the mothers and fathers of America down.

Featured prominently on the wall in the entryway to his Pentagon office suite is a large painting of Marines in combat at Belleau Wood. "Professional steadiness, personal valor," SgtMaj Barrett characterized the painting, adding that these traits are reflective of Marines throughout the Corps' history.

"The Marines that fought across the islands of World War II; in the frozen mountains of Korea; in the steamy jungles of Vietnam to the oil-soaked fields in Kuwait; to the rubble of a shell-shocked Beirut; to the mean streets of Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq and today in Afghanistan ... the Marines of today are just as worthy of the title as those of yesterday, and I am

confident that tomorrow's Marines will not let us down and that they, too, will make us proud," he said.

He is confident that his successor—the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps—will be the "consummate professional ... competent, committed, consistently dependable; of the highest moral and ethical character in everything they do."

What is his advice for the Marine who will relieve him of his post? "Surround yourself with smart people who will tell you like it is, and don't forget to look at things through the eyes of a private. Master gunnery sergeants and sergeants major will question your every move and your every decision, and this is a very good thing. It's an opportunity for all of us to learn and for all of us to grow together." He also will tell his successor to spend a night or two in the barracks, to pick a "kick-ass staff," and have a presence on social media.

Most importantly, he added, he will urge the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps to "never forget who's looking back at you. The people who wear the cloth of the nation today chose this life. They could have gone and done anything they wanted." It is clear that SgtMaj

Barrett hasn't forgotten who is looking back at him.

After 34 years of service to the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Barrett will retire this spring and has one simple, final message to all Marines: "Thank you."

"I never once came to work worried," he said genuinely. "Their selflessness, their courage and their endurance have been awe-inspiring."

He has a special message for spouses and families of Marines: "You remain strong and focused, and not a day goes by where your sacrifices are not known and cherished."

As a trusted advisor, a visionary leader and motivator, SgtMaj Barrett will leave behind a great foundation for his successors, who will surely face many new and unique challenges as the Corps evolves. Although he will say goodbye to the Marine Corps, his dedication to service will continue. He has a lot left to give, he said, and he will serve his community in whatever capacity he can.

Leatherneck—On the Web

For more photos and video of SgtMaj Barrett, see www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/17smmc

We-the Marines

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Leatherneck Amputee Graduates From Grueling Swim School

■ The Marine Combat Instructor of Water Survival (MCIWS) Course is a grueling training evolution that requires Marines to swim a total of 59 miles over three weeks. The course that graduated Nov. 25, 2014, at Ramer Hall, Camp Barrett, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., started with nine participants, but only six were able to complete the challenge. One of those six had the deck stacked against him from the beginning but overcame adversity and graduated with his classmates.

Staff Sergeant Adam Jacks, company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company at The Basic School, MCB Quantico, is a motivated, extremely fit infantry Marine who quickly volunteered to attend the course when approached by the chief instructor trainer, Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Marshall. The fact that Jacks' right leg was amputated at the mid-thigh in 2011 did not faze either Marine.



Jacks was serving in Afghanistan with 3d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment on April 3, 2011, when he stepped on a pressure plate and was hit by the blast from an improvised explosive device. Among other injuries, he suffered a traumatic brain injury and lost two-thirds of his right leg.

Although he easily could have been medically retired, Jacks said he "fought pretty hard" to remain on active duty, believing he had much more to contribute to the Marine Corps.

"Why I wanted to stay in is pretty simple: I wasn't ready to hang up the uniform and turn the page into a new chapter. I felt that I had a lot of fight left in me, and that I could help shape the Marine Corps into this new-age style of fighting, even with half a leg, and to show Marines of all ranks and ages that it still can be done," Jacks said.

He requested to be placed on an expanded permanent limited-duty status, which can only be granted by the Com-



Left: SSgt Adam Jacks was the first amputee to graduate from the three-week MCIWS Course, during which he and his classmates were required to swim 59 miles, complete timed drills and swims, and learn rescue techniques.

Above: Jacks and his fellow graduates created a plaque that holds the improvised prosthetic leg he wore during the course and presented it to the staff of Ramer Hall at Camp Barrett, MCB Quantico, Va.

mandant of the Marine Corps. Jacks said he met the Commandant at the time, General James F. Amos, who told him that he wouldn't push him out if he wanted to stay. After eight or nine months of evaluations and paperwork, Jacks was granted permission to continue to serve on active duty.

He said he has about 20 different prosthetic legs, and each has a unique purpose. He has one for everyday activities, one for patrolling and one for running—just to name a few.

"If I don't have one that works well for the situation, that will set me up for failure," he said. He also has one prosthetic decorated with a blood stripe and some Marine graphics, which he actually doesn't like to wear much because he doesn't want to damage it. Despite the variety of prosthetics he had before starting the MCIWS Course, he lacked a leg that would help him swim.

Because of the asymmetry in his body, Jacks at first would roll in the water. He recounted having to fight feelings of vertigo from the lack of balance. Gunny Marshall said he and Jacks worked together to improvise a buoyant prosthetic that would enable Jacks to stay at a level position in the water. Even with the buoyant leg, Jacks had to put in dozens of extra training hours to become more proficient—frequently staying at the pool up to two hours after the other students had left for the day.

"We were not going to lower the standard. We were going to work with him to help him reach it," said Marshall. The standards were high. According to Marshall, the Marines had to complete conditioning swims up to 1,900 meters in length, including three that were timed; swim 25 meters underwater; complete four American Red Cross rescues with the aid of lifesaving equipment and four without; and pass all the academic and classroom evaluations.

According to SSgt Jacks, there were naysayers who told him he wouldn't be able to complete the course missing a limb. He was determined to keep a positive outlook.

"You press on with it. You use the adversities as fuel to get you through," Jacks

LCpl Michael Fuentez, a military policeman, clears an aisle at the exchange at Camp Courtney, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, during an activeshooter reaction exercise Nov. 20, 2014. The drill was designed to give PMO a "real-life" scenario to help them maintain readiness.

said. He and his classmates are now certified as MCIWS instructors and American Red Cross lifeguards.

As a lasting gift to the staff of Ramer Hall, the recent graduates of MCIWS created a plaque that held the improvised prosthetic leg used by Jacks, who is the first single-limb amputee to complete the training.

Eve A. Baker PAO, MCB Quantico, Va.

PMO Trains for Active-Shooter Scenario

■ In the past 14 years, more than 160 active-shooter situations resulting in casualties have occurred in communities throughout the United States. Military installations also are susceptible to these types of emergencies. As first responders, military police must remain ready to keep their community safe and respond to all types of emergencies.



Military policemen with the Provost Marshal's Office (PMO), Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, had the opportunity to practice their tactical skills when they responded to an active-shooter-and-barricaded-suspect training scenario at the exchange and commissary Nov. 20, 2014.

The training began when PMO responded to the call of an "active" shooter,

supported by Camp Courtney's Auxiliary Security Force, also known as camp guard. The PMO Special Reaction Team (SRT) was called in as follow-on support when the "active" shooter became a barricaded suspect.

"Today the active-shooter response exercise was put in place to both ensure and evaluate our readiness for an operation," said First Lieutenant Paul R. Johnson, a



SPIRIT OF THE CORPS—From the left, Houston Mills; Ted Bassett; Cpl Matthew R. Bradford, USMC (Ret); Col John A. Bolt; and 1stSgt Antonio Acosta gather for a photo during the annual Kentucky Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast at the Thoroughbred Club of America, Lexington, Ky., Nov. 10, 2014. Cpl Bradford was presented with the inaugural "Spirit of the Corps" Award, which recognizes extraordinary honor, courage and commitment and is sponsored by the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Kentucky. Bradford was seriously wounded by an improvised explosive device while on combat patrol in Haditha, Iraq, Jan. 18, 2007, resulting in the loss of his sight and the amputation of both legs. On April 7, 2010, he made Marine Corps history by becoming the first blind double amputee to re-enlist.

watch commander with PMO, MCB Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "This is also to ensure the coordination amongst camp guard, SRT and PMO is sound," he added.

The exchange and commissary provided a unique, real-life training environment, allowing the military policemen to experience how they might operate in an active-shooter scenario, according to Staff Sergeant Gerardo D. Casillas, a patrol supervisor with PMO.

Camp Courtney's camp guard also participated in the drill by providing a security element to assist PMO.

"Camp guard assisted the military police throughout the situation by forming a security perimeter, so the military policemen can go inside and restrain the active shooter," said Casillas.

The Marines train in combat towns in similar evolutions, but the commissary and exchange provided a new environment to maintain their readiness.

"We went over the trends of activeshooter incidences in the past and analyzed any type of statistics that are relevant," said Lt Johnson. "We also go through the procedures of how to clear rooms, maintain proper communications and how to handle and interview witnesses."

Multiple volunteers, including military personnel, participated in the event to role-play as shoppers to bring another element of realism to the training.

Eugene Warfield, the antiterrorism officer for Camp Courtney, said that the exercise went well and the participants were able to learn from their mistakes to be better prepared for similar situations in the future.

LCpl Isaac Ibarra, USMC PAO, MCIPAC

Staff NCOs and Officers Give Back To Junior Marines

■ Marine officers and staff noncommissioned officers with Marine Air Control Group 28 set the example for their junior Marines by renovating and cleaning Barracks 4295 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 24-25, 2014.

The project was conducted in an effort to give back to the Marines who currently are living in the barracks and to teach them accountability and responsibility for their living quarters.

"We are cleaning in preparation for the holidays," said Gunnery Sergeant Austin Keelty, a logistics chief with Marine Air Control Squadron 2. "By assisting and cleaning the barracks, we are giving the junior Marines a chance to enjoy the place they live in."

The Marines worked on a variety of projects including painting, pressure



1stLt Edwin Roman paints steps inside the barracks at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 25, 2014. Staff NCOs and officers of MACG-28 cleaned and renovated the barracks in an effort to give back to their Marines during the holiday season.

washing, landscaping and fixing furniture in the common areas.

"There are more than 25 Marines supporting this effort," said Keelty. "This is important because staff NCOs and officers ... are coming to the barracks to lead by example and show the Marines how to effectively and efficiently clean the barracks."

In addition to restoring the barracks, the staff NCOs and officers partnered with the Facilities Maintenance Department to document and fix any discrepancies they found, which would improve the junior Marines' living conditions.

"It's important that we provide the Marines with the best we can offer, which allows us as a squadron to be mission-ready for any task that we are assigned to," said Gunny Keelty. "As Marines, we set ourselves apart not only by being the strongest and the toughest, but by going above and beyond what is expected."

Cpl Unique B. Roberts, USMC PAO, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

Leathernecks Rescue Woman From Overturned Vehicle

■ Marines are known for taking care of their own, but when the occasion arises, they take care of anyone in need. On Nov. 26, 2014, three Marines with "Bravo" Company, 1st Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment, Fourth Marine Division had that opportunity.

After conducting a funeral detail in Shelbyville, Texas, Staff Sergeant Micheal G. McGee and Lance Corporals Calvin J. Combs and Brandon L. Persilver started the drive back to their home unit in Bossier City, La. After traveling less than

a mile down the road, they saw an overturned vehicle with a woman inside.

"I just wanted to help her. Why wouldn't anybody stop to help a person in a situation like that?" said McGee, the Inspector-Instructor administrative chief for Co B, 1st Bn, 23d Marines.

Upon reaching the accident, McGee told LCpl Combs and LCpl Persilver to reach through the passenger window and get the woman out of her seatbelt.

While the Marines were on one side of the vehicle untangling the woman from her seatbelt, another passerby showed up to help. Working together, they cut the seatbelt and were able to get her out of the car. McGee, who was still in his dress blue uniform from the funeral, paid no attention to how dirty his uniform was getting as he focused on helping the trapped woman.

McGee said that he used the skills he learned from the Marine Corps Combat Lifesavers Course to check the woman for injuries and assess the situation before taking action. The other individual who stopped to help was a local volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician, and he took over the situation as police officers arrived. The Marines then left the scene to continue their drive to Bossier City.

"It was quiet for 15 minutes," said McGee. "Then I told the Marines, 'Hey gentlemen, you guys did really good back there. But I just want to make it clear that none of us are heroes. You just did what you were supposed to do,' and they all agreed. We just did what anybody would have done."

McGee later was able to contact the

woman's family and follow up with them, learning that the woman had suffered only minor injuries. The family expressed their gratitude to the Marines for stepping in to help.

> Cpl Brytani Musick, USMC Combat Correspondent, MARFORRES

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Corps to Professionalize Infantry Squad Leader

■ This calendar year, the Marine Corps will begin the Squad Leader Development Program, designed to improve and streamline how infantry squad leaders are trained, educated and assigned within active component infantry battalions.

Individuals who are qualified are given an opportunity to shape their career path, receive prioritized training and education, and have a guaranteed assignment as an infantry squad leader.

Initially, one squad leader per platoon within every deploying infantry battalion will be part of the program. The first year, the program will only accept 100 applicants, with rapid expansion in the following years. The desired end state is for all squad leaders to take part.

Marines selected can volunteer for one of two career tracks. The first will route them to the Sergeants Course, followed by the Infantry Small Unit Leaders Course, and then back to a battalion for assignment as a squad leader. The second track will be a shortened tour as a combat instructor, completion of the Sergeants Course and the Infantry Small Unit Leaders Course, and reassignment to a deploying battalion.

To apply for the program, Marines must be assigned to an active component infantry battalion and must complete specific professional military education requirements.

The program supports the Corps' Expeditionary Force 21 concept by providing small-unit leaders with the tools to operate effectively in complex environments.

> Sgt Jose D. Lujano, USMC Defense Media Activity

MC-FIT Keeps Women In Technical Fields Connected

■ Marine Corps Females in Technology (MC-FIT), a new organization sponsored by the Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) engineering competency, hosted its first professional development event at the Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Nov. 13, 2014.

The forum, called "Making Connections," included discussion of the contributions of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Guest speakers were Dr. Karen Mc-Grady, support branch manager for the MARCORSYSCOM Developmental Test and Evaluation Division; and Mary Lacey, assistant secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation.

The idea to establish MC-FIT was born from mentoring relationships that Jeanette Evans-Morgis, assistant program executive officer for engineering in Program Executive Officer Land Systems, had with female colleagues in the engineering field. As chairwoman of MC-FIT, she has a vested interest in ensuring that women in technical fields stay connected.

The group plans to hold formal professional development events like the "Making Connections" forum twice a year and less formal social events quarterly.

> Monique Randolph PAO. MARCORSYSCOM



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



"All I want for Christmas is you! Enlist today."

Submitted by Thomas J. Lynch Plains, Pa.

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CORPS ALBUM

Edited by Nancy Lee White Hoffman



Typical of many homecomings, family and friends gather with signs and cameras on Sept. 17, 2012, at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., as the first bus carrying leathernecks with Marine Wing Support Squadron 273 pulls up after a seven-month-long deployment to Afghanistan.



LCpl Darryl McLeod Jr. reunites with his father, Darryl McLeod Sr., at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 18, 2012. LCpl McLeod, attached to 2d Supply Battalion, Second Marine Logistics Group, had just returned from Operation Enduring Freedom.



GySgt Jose Tejeda, an administrative chief with Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, greets his wife and children on April 30, 2011, at MCB Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, after seven months in Afghanistan.

MARINE HOMECOMINGS

Reuniting with one's family and community: Everyone loves a homecoming, and Marines and their families and friends are no exception. What better time than February and Valentine's Day to share these photos illustrating the joy and anticipation of Marines returning to their loved ones.





Above: Cpl Joshua Williams, a radio operator for Regimental Combat Team 7, kisses his 14-month-old son, Elijah, during Williams' homecoming at Del Valle Field, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 4, 2010.

Left: Capt Joshua P. Romeo returned from a seven-month deployment to Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, in February 2013 and was greeted by his wife, Sarah, who was 9 months pregnant with their first child. Romeo was a KC-130J Super Hercules pilot with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 352, MCAS Miramar, Calif.



Emily Benjamin, 8, makes a welcome home sign for her father, CWO-3 Eddie Benjamin, a tactical communications planning and operations officer with I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), before his return to Camp Pendleton, Calif., from Afghanistan, Feb. 6, 2013.



Some homecomings even include "man's best friend." Bailey sits next to a sign made to welcome back Sgt Greg Haben to MCAS Miramar, Calif., Aug. 15, 2014, from a recent deployment with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466.

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In the Highest Tradition

Edited by M.H. Reinwald

A Corpsman's Courage: MARSOC "Doc" Awarded Navy Cross

There is a long history of Navy corpsmen running to the sound of the guns to take care of their Marines, and Chief Hospital Corpsman Justin A. Wilson is the latest "doc" to join that illustrious group. While deployed to Afghanistan in 2011, Wilson, with complete disregard for we safety and after being

his own safety and after being severely wounded by an explosion, ran through an improvised explosive device (IED)-laden area twice to try to save the lives of his three team members.

In a ceremony on Nov. 25, 2014, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., his courage and heroism were recognized when he was awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor. Wilson currently is assigned as a special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman with 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

He is the seventh MARSOC servicemember to receive the Navy Cross since the command was established in 2006 and the first MARSOC sailor to receive the award.

"It really epitomizes what we always call 'corpsman up,' and that is a Marine in trouble always looks for that corpsman," said Major General Joseph L. Osterman, commanding general of MARSOC. "Chief Wilson today epitomizes that heroism and true selflessness that we all depend on as Marines to save our lives."

On Sept. 28, 2011, HMC Wilson voluntarily set out on a bomb-clearing mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. According to the medal citation, Staff Sergeant Nicholas Sprovtsoff, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, was clearing an Afghan police checkpoint when an IED exploded. Despite knowing



HMC Justin A. Wilson

the likelihood of more IEDs in the area, Wilson ran to Sprovtsoff's aid. SSgt Christopher Diaz, a military workingdog handler, and Army medic Specialist James Butz also ran into the checkpoint.

"I only saw one thing in their eyes, courage," Wilson said. "The love of a brother and the desire to get him out, save his life and bring him home."

As they were evacuating Sprovtsoff, another IED detonated, severely wounding all of them. Wilson ignored his own injuries and the risk of more detonations and continued to move Sprovtsoff to safety. When the Marine succumbed to his wounds, Wilson again entered the IED-laden checkpoint to aid Diaz and Butz. It was only after he realized they had been mortally wounded that he returned to safety for treatment of his wounds.

"This is a man who literally ran through multiple IEDs with complete disregard for his own safety; he didn't hesitate for one second to run to the sound of the guns," MajGen Osterman said.

It's been three years since that mission and many rough days for Wilson. He continues to press on in honor of his fallen brothers.

"Words can't explain what those guys meant to me," Wilson said. "And there's times where I've wanted to shut out the world and act like this whole day never happened and block it all out. But I learned that if you do that, you forget, you don't remember. And without remembrance, there's no honor."

His fallen teammates were honored alongside him during the ceremony. Diaz and Sprovtsoff each were awarded posthumously a Bronze Star with combat "V." Butz already had been awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" in an earlier ceremony. The Marines' families accepted the awards, and each of Diaz's and Sprovtsoff's sons were presented with memorial American flags.

"Three young men—brave men—lost their lives. They went to God; they went to fulfill their duties up in heaven to watch over us," said Diaz's father, Salvador Diaz Jr., during the ceremony. The Diaz family recently adopted Dino, the Belgian Malinois dog that Diaz had been working with at the time of his death. The dog happened to be in the car at the time of the explosions.

During the ceremony, HMC Wilson emphasized the commitment and heroism of Diaz and Sprovtsoff, saying their efforts in Afghanistan saved thousands of lives. He urged those in attendance to always appreciate the freedom they fought for and to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

"My life has been forever changed," Wilson said. "Some people have been telling me I'm lucky to be alive and to walk out of that, but I tell you, I'm lucky to have served with them. They made me a better person, and I thank them for that."

Roxanne Baker

MCA&F writer and media coordinator



MajGen Joseph L. Osterman, center, **MARSOC** commanding general, presents the **Navy Cross to HMC** Justin A. Wilson on Nov. 25, 2014. The ceremony, held aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., recognized the heroism of HMC Wilson on Sept. 28, 2011, when he ran through an area covered with multiple IEDs to provide aid to his Marines in Afghanistan. At left is SgtMaj John Scott, MARSOC sergeant major.



1stSgt Alvoid Hamilton, 1st MSOB, salutes after presenting Jeremy Diaz with the American flag in memory of his father, SSgt Christopher Diaz, as other Diaz family members look on. SSgt Diaz posthumously was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V."



MajGen Osterman, center, and SgtMaj Scott present the Bronze Star with combat "V" to Tasha Sprovtsoff, the widow of SSgt Nicholas Sprovtsoff.

Bronze Star Awarded Posthumously To Squad Leader

"He was killed stepping out of a doorway so someone else didn't have to," said Sergeant Christopher Leonard, the former first fire team leader for 2d Squad,

1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment. "He would never let someone else put their life on the line when they didn't have to."

Sgt Daniel Vasselian is remembered by his Marines as a grunt's grunt, according to Leonard. He was professional and tough with his Marines while still being approachable and maintaining strong relationships with his men.

Vasselian's wife remembers him as the one who gave her strength. "Throughout our town, he was known as the guy who could make everyone laugh," said Erin Vasselian. "When we lost Danny, the world lost a great Marine, and I lost my rock."

Leathernecks of Co B, 1st Bn, 25th Marines, in Abington, Mass., presented Vasselian's family with the Bronze Star with combat "V," Oct. 13, 2014.

Vasselian was the 2d squad leader for 1st Plt, Co B, 1st Bn, 9th Marines when they deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Sept. 25, 2013. During the deployment, Vasselian and his squad conducted three heliborne operations and 10 combat patrols over the course of two months.

According to the award citation, on Dec. 23, 2013, Vasselian led his unit while under heavy machinegun fire to support an adjacent unit that was pinned down. Leonard fought alongside Vasselian and

observed him entering the line of enemy fire to signal their unit's position to advancing support elements. Vasselian was killed during his efforts.

Sgt Leonard said he was happy to see his fellow Marine receive the Bronze Star.

"He definitely deserved it, that's who he was, and he completely earned it," said Leonard. "He had character. He had a great personality, was a savvy infantryman, and he was everything a grunt should aspire to be."

For Sgt Aaron Alonso, a former squad leader in 2d Plt, Co B, 1st Bn, 9th Marines, the memory of Vasselian's legacy and the support he received from the Vasselian family helped him as he recovered from grievous injuries he received less than two months after Vasselian's death. Alonso lost his legs to an improvised explosive

device while on a combat patrol on Feb. 8, 2014. Alonso and Vasselian had been friends since meeting during training at the Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry in 2013.

"As long as I've known him, for eight years, he's always been the Marine who would pick you up when you were down," Alonso said. "He was the best guy at his shop. He always had a smile on his face."



Erin Vasselian, widow of Sgt Daniel Vasselian, displays her husband's Bronze Star with combat "V" at a ceremony in his honor on Oct. 13, 2014, in Abington, Mass.

The Marines of B/1/9 were thrilled when they learned Vasselian was earning a Bronze Star.

"All the Marines in 1st Battalion, 9th Marines believe he absolutely deserves that Bronze Star, and there was no greater honor than serving with that guy," Alonso said. "He was always there for me and for his Marines. He never shut anyone out."

For Erin Vasselian, the circumstances of her husband's death and subsequent award came as no surprise to her and his family.

"He was dedicated to his job, and he told me that his job was to protect his men," she said. "That's just how Danny

was. He just wanted to make sure his men made it out OK."

She added that while the loss of her husband still hurts, his Bronze Star and the support the Vasselian family has received from their community and the Marine Corps reminds her that his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

"We are so proud he was awarded this medal," she said. "There's nothing that

> can put a price on his life, but the fact that he has been commemorated through this award and in our community means so much to us as his family. We're so happy he will be remembered for his actions."

> According to Vasselian's father, the award serves as a source of pride and comfort for the Vasselian family, but their loss remains very close to their hearts.

"I couldn't be any more proud of my son, knowing about his achievements with the United States Marine Corps, and knowing what he's done for our country," Mark Vasselian said. "It's bittersweet. On the one hand, I'm very proud of him. On the other hand, living without him has been the hardest thing I've ever had to do in my life."

First Sergeant Shane Dillon, B/1/25, was the primary casualty assistance call officer (CACO) assigned to Vasselian's family and notified them of his death. Almost a year later, Dillon was able to present the Vasselian family with their fallen Marine's Bronze Star.

"Having been there to present that award, I'm glad that we were able to recognize that Marine's efforts," Dillon said. "The Vasselians are a great family with a great dynamic and support network. Especially after the experience of being the

CACO assigned to the case, presenting this award was one of the most rewarding things I have been able to do in this capacity."

As Operation Enduring Freedom winds down, Vasselian, along with the hundreds of Marines who have laid their lives down for their nation in Afghanistan, continues to be remembered for his sacrifice. Sgt Vasselian's valor in combat serves to inspire a new generation of Marines who continue to put their lives on the line to uphold the highest traditions of their Corps.

> Cpl Tiffany Edwards, USMC Combat Correspondent, MARFORRES



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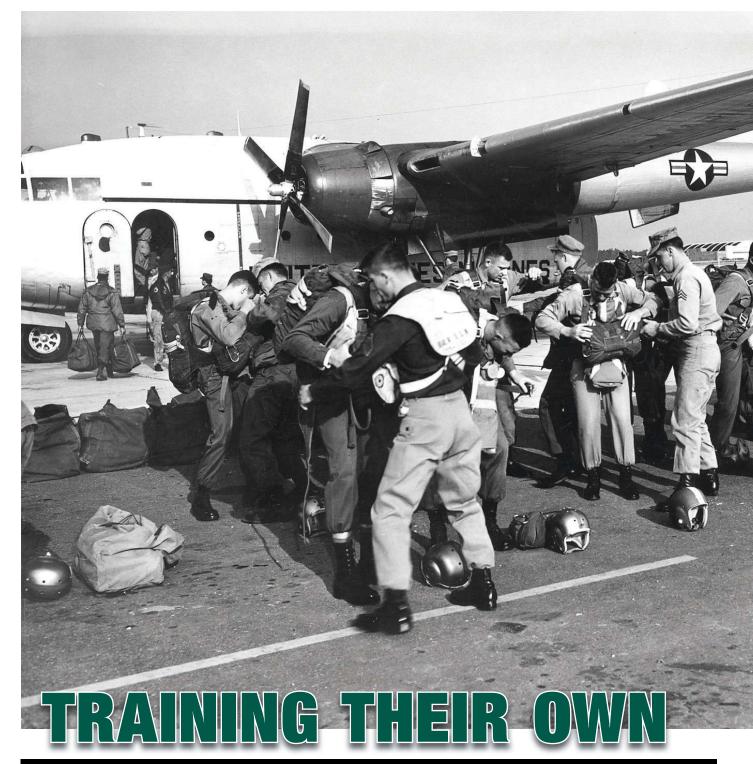
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The Marines of Air Delivery Jump School, 1954-57

By Sara W. Bock

or decades, air delivery Marines have proven themselves a vital asset to the Corps' endeavors in every clime and place. Their expertise in rigging parachutes to deliver personnel and supplies to remote, devastated or forward-operating areas that can be quickly and efficiently reached by air have made otherwise impossible combat operations and humani-

tarian missions successful all over the globe.

Traditionally, Marines in air delivery have attended the Army's jump school to qualify as parachutists—a prerequisite for attending parachute rigger school and receiving the military occupational specialty (MOS) of airborne and air delivery specialist.

It's a little-known fact that 60 years ago, from 1954 to 1957, the 2d Air Delivery

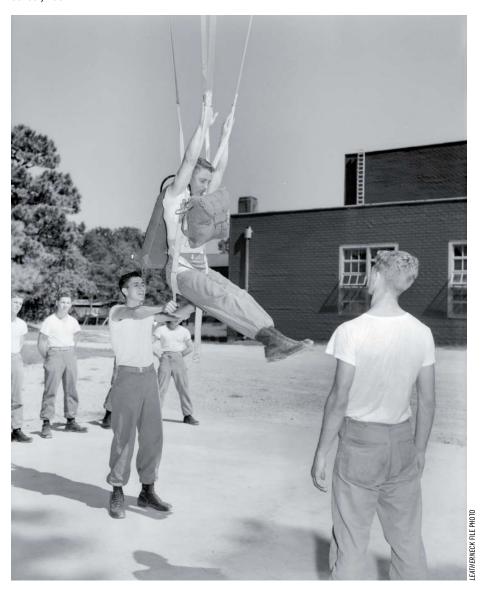
Platoon, attached to Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., operated its own jump school, qualifying its own paratroopers to become air delivery Marines. Not only did the unit make certified parachutists out of its students, but in true Marine Corps fashion, 2d Air Delivery Plt took its program to the next level, making it more rigorous and challenging than the Army's Airborne School and preparing

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Left: Instructors at the Air Delivery Jump School help students gear up to jump from a Fairchild R4Q-2 Flying Boxcar at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., in March 1956.

Below: Cpl Bob Glasure learns how to make an emergency landing in a harness at the Air Delivery Jump School, 1954.



its Marines more thoroughly for their follow-on training at the Parachute Rigger Course, housed at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Va.

In 1954, just back from tours in Korea, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Victor T. Garrison and CWO-4 A.G. "Buck" Ballenger Jr., along with First Lieutenant Robinson A. Hudman, petitioned for approval of the Marine Corps' jump school at Camp Geiger, MCB Camp Lejeune. Air delivery had been highly successful in Korea, particularly during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, when the First Marine Division received vital air deliveries of 1,200 tons of gear.

Gunner Ballenger was one of the original Para-Marines of World War II, a unit which was instrumental to success achieved across the Pacific theater, from Guadalcanal to Bougainville. His expertise may have won his case for him, and the plan for the jump school was approved. On July 6, 1954, the staff of the Air Delivery Jump School began training their first class.

Leathernecks who had returned from the Korean War within the last year were ready and willing to volunteer when asked, "Who wants to go to jump school and be an air deliveryman?"

Master Sergeant Arthur S. Umphrey, USMC (Ret) was a senior instructor at the jump school. Then a sergeant, Umphrey recalls that there was no shortage of volunteers, motivated by the accompanying pay increase and by the

idea of thrill and adventure. Acceptance to the school was highly selective, and attendees were handpicked by Gunner Ballenger himself.

"The guys who went through the [USMC] jump school were gung-ho Marines. Jump school was just the 'icing on the cake,' "recalled former Sgt George Bodden, who, as a corporal, qualified as a parachutist at the Air Delivery Jump School in 1955.

While the rewards—a diploma and a set of silver parachutist insignia—may have been the same at the Army's Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga., where Marines normally attended jump school, the process of attaining them was much more rigorous, said Umphrey, who had received his jump wings at the Army's course prior to becoming an instructor at the Marine Corps' school. They held

in great esteem the fact that the heading on each diploma read "United States Marine Corps" and that Marine officers were the ones to pin the silver wings on each graduate.

The Army required only five jumps to qualify, all static-line, meaning the jumper's cord is attached at one end to the aircraft, which yanks the chute open when the parachutist jumps, causing the canopy to inflate.

"We took it a step further," said Umphrey of the Air Delivery Jump School. They conducted their own freefall training, which typically requires attendance at a separate school. The Air Delivery Jump School required its students to make six parachute descents—four static-line jumps and two freefall jumps, during which the jumper pulls his own ripcord.

The eight-week school not only trained the Marines to make those required jumps, but also imparted in-depth knowledge about the parachutes they used (Navy dual-purpose chutes) and how to pack the chute themselves, a skill typically taught only at the follow-on Parachute Rigger Course. Most often their chutes were equipped with "Mae Wests," life preservers that could be inflated by the pull of a toggle in the event of a water landing.

Umphrey and the jump school staff built their own training aids, which included 3-foot and 6-foot platforms designed to teach students how to make safe landings, keeping their feet and knees together when they approached the ground; a 20-foot sawdust pit to cushion practice jumps; and a swing-landing trainer to practice emergency landings. He vividly remembers working as a carpenter and building the platforms by hand.

They were able to use mock-up aircraft at Camp Lejeune from WW II for their training evolutions. Not only did the students learn to jump, but they also underwent rigorous physical training and mental challenges as they learned the ins and outs of cargo chutes and their specifications—the foundations of air delivery. They learned and re-learned sewing skills and mastered the use of webbings, containers and shock pads, all vital to successful airdrop missions.

Operating out of the old paraloft at Camp Geiger, a remnant of the Para-Marines' presence there during WW II, the school qualified 300 parachutists over a period of three years. From altitudes more than 1,000 feet, parachutists leapt from the Fairchild R4Q-2 Flying Boxcars from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., and landed in the drop zone at Marine Corps Air Facility New River. Most of the Flying Boxcars were piloted

Right: Air delivery Marines parachute over the drop zone at MCAF New River, N.C., in 1954.

Inset: Unlike the Army's Airborne School at the time, Marines at the Air Delivery Jump School learned how to pack their own parachutes before making a fall.



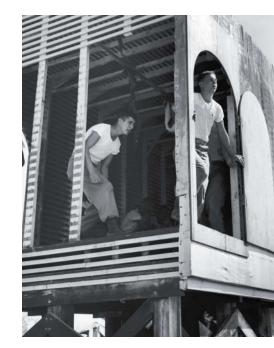
by enlisted naval aviators—master sergeants who had thousands of hours in the cockpit.

Completion of the jump school earned each Marine a qualification as a parachutist and the MOS 7100, basic air deliveryman. Next, they would attend the Army's parachute rigger school at Fort Lee, Va., and later upgrade to the 7141 air deliveryman MOS. Bodden recalls that he and his fellow Marines showed up to rigger school more prepared than their counterparts, with one additional jump and five more weeks of training; the Army's jump school was three weeks long while the Marine Corps' was eight.

After completion of the school, some new air deliverymen were assigned to the 2d Air Delivery Plt and remained at MCB Camp Lejeune; others were sent to the 1st Air Delivery Plt at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. Since the jump school was part of the 2d Air Delivery Plt, platoon members were jumping much more regularly than they typically would, Bodden recalled. Ordinarily, they would jump a few times a year to maintain flight pay and proficiency pay status, but their primary function was not to jump with their loads. Their predominant mission was to prepare, package and load equipment onto the aircraft to be delivered by parachute.

As a result of the increased jump opportunities the school provided, many of the 2d Air Delivery Plt Marines became jumpmasters and senior jumpmasters, enhancing the capabilities of their unit with their expertise. They made the five











Far left: The Marines of 2d Air Delivery Plt use a mock-up that once belonged to the Para-**Marines to practice** jumping out of a plane.

Left: Seated in the cargo hold of a Fairchild R4Q-2 Flying Boxcar, air delivery Marines prepare to make their first jump. The Boxcars were flown by master sergeants during the era of enlisted naval aviators.

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Practice landing falls into a sawdust pit from 3-foot and 6-foot platforms taught the trainees the five points of contact vital to a safe meeting with the ground.

Marine jump school instructors built the platforms and the pit. (Leatherneck file photo)

additional qualifying jumps required to earn gold wings and become designated naval parachutists.

"Winning those wings was one of the major accomplishments of my life, and often, when the issue has been in doubt, when I wasn't quite sure where to turn, I would recall having conquered myself and my fears and would go on regardless," Bodden wrote decades later in a letter to Umphrey, who was his senior jump instructor.

During that time period, the 2d Air Delivery Plt was called on to support hurricane relief operations in Tampico, Mexico, as well as to deploy by ship on standby in the waters surrounding Egypt during the Suez crisis in 1956. Many of the Marines who trained at the jump school, like Bodden, were well-prepared for these and other similar missions.

Despite its apparent success, budget cuts at the Pentagon and a re-evaluation of the air delivery platoon led to the closure of the jump school in 1957. It was considered an unnecessary duplicate school to the Army's and declared to be no longer feasible for operation.

Although the jump school was short-

lived, the air delivery platoon, known for its high level of morale and good sense of humor, continued on. Many of those who were either students or instructors at the jump school, including MSgt Umphrey, went on to serve in the 3d Air Delivery Plt in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Staffed by Marines from both the 1st and 2d Air Delivery Plts, members of the 3d Air Delivery Plt supported combat operations from Chu Lai to Khe Sanh, dropping supplies and equipment from smaller items like rations and ammunition to howitzers, tanks and 2½-ton trucks. They made most of their air deliveries in Vietnam out of KC-130 Hercules and sometimes from the Army's C-7A Caribou. Often, after the drops, an aerial recovery team would jump to retrieve the parachutes.

The first piece of equipment air-delivered during the Vietnam War was a 2,500-pound anchor that would keep a floating causeway from capsizing. The causeway allowed for the safe unloading of equipment from ships, which was vital to the mission in Vietnam. At one point, they even dropped toys for children at a Vietnamese orphanage outside the 2d Force Service Regiment headquarters. The 3d Air Delivery Marines in Vietnam worked closely with Special Forces from all the military services, rigging chutes for both cargo and jumpmasters. Umphrey and his comrades helped the Vietnamese airborne forces train for parachute rigging and were the first Americans to earn Vietnamese jump wings. They were a unique group, according to Umphrey, because many of them trained together at the jump school at Camp Lejeune.

While much has changed since the days of air delivery in Vietnam, the Corps is still in need of qualified and knowledgeable parachute riggers. Leathernecks of the 2d Air Delivery Plt still can be found at Camp Lejeune, attached to the Transportation Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, and they continue to train rigorously and provide support to their fellow Marines whenever and wherever they are needed.

Today's air delivery Marines face new and unique challenges, but they also have the opportunity to utilize cutting-edge technology to enhance their mission. The Vietnam-era MOSs of 7100 and 7141 are no longer in existence; rather, there is one MOS, 0451, airborne and air delivery

Right: MV-22 Ospreys drop cargo over MCB Camp Lejeune, July 23, 2014, during a modern-day air delivery training mission.

Below: MSgt Arthur S. Umphrey, right, is photographed with a member of the Vietnamese airborne forces. Umphrey, an instructor at the Air Delivery Jump School, was one of the many 2d Air Delivery Plt Marines who augmented the 3d Air Delivery Plt in Vietnam and helped train the Vietnamese forces in parachute rigging.



specialist. The MOS designation is earned after the completion of the Army's basic airborne training at Fort Benning and the completion of parachute rigger school at Fort Lee.

Although the Army runs and operates the schools, both have Marine detachments with Marine instructors. Following both schools, Marines are assigned to reconnaissance platoons, combat logistics regiments or special operations commands.

While there are no additional MOS distinctions under the realm of air delivery, there are additional schools the Marines can attend for specialized duties, such as the Airload Inspector Course and the Career-Level Airborne and Air Delivery Specialist Course. Air delivery officers earn an MOS of 0405 after completing the Aerial Delivery Materiel Officers Course at Fort Lee.

Just like the air delivery Marines during the era of the jump school at Camp Lejeune, most of today's air delivery Marines complete the additional five qualifying jumps and are eligible to wear the gold naval parachutist wings after serving in a parachuting billet for more than 90 days. Many of them also attend freefall courses following their basic airborne training at the Corps' own freefall school in Coolidge, Ariz. The Navy now has its own Low-Level Static Line Course in San Diego, similar to the Basic Airborne

Course at Fort Benning. Marines heading to 2d Air Delivery Plt, however, are funneled right into Fort Benning for airborne training following completion of Marine Combat Training.

According to MSgt Ryan Cooper, Paraloft Chief, 2d Air Delivery Plt, Transportation Support Bn, CLR-2, while there is only one MOS for air delivery Marines, some specialize more in cargo delivery, while others are more focused on personnel drops and clandestine insertion, depending on the type of unit to which they are attached.

Partnered with the vast capabilities of the KC-130J Super Hercules and the MV-22 Osprey, air delivery today is arguably more efficient than ever before.

"The Osprey doesn't have as much of a capacity [as the KC-130J] for the airdrops, but it's becoming big for us. They are keeping us quite employed and busy," said MSgt Cooper, adding that in Afghanistan, aerial delivery proved to be an asset, and commanders are issuing a large number of taskings these days.

"Now, each and every unit that goes out, they are requesting air delivery personnel and equipment," said Cooper.

Someday in the near future, the Corps will field the joint precision airdrop system (JPADS) to the operating forces. This technology will revolutionize air delivery through the use of GPS, a modular



autonomous guidance unit, a parachute, and electric motors to land cargo precisely on its target points by setting coordinates into the system. It has been in testing since the early 2000s and will allow loads to be dropped from higher altitudes, ensuring increased safety for both pilots and ground troops in combat environments.

"Once it hits the fleet, it's going to be our go-to," Cooper said of JPADS. "We've already had senior-level commanders asking when they can get it and utilize it."

As long as Marines are in combat, as long as they are committed to humanitarian operations, and as long as they are needed to be America's force in readiness, air delivery will play a crucial role in the successful execution of the mission at hand. From the old paralofts at Camp Geiger, where a few tenacious Marines created their own jump school, the legacy of hard work and determination lives on, and the Corps' air delivery Marines continue to strive toward the highest standard.



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In Memoriam

Edited by Nancy S. Lichtman

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

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, Nov. 1-30, 2014

There are no casualties to report for this month.

Cpl James L. Anderson, 92, of Atlanta. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. He was assigned to Co F, 2d Bn, 2dMarDiv and saw action on Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He was wounded on Tinian in July 1944 and awarded the Purple Heart. He participated in the occupation of Nagasaki. After the war, he operated his own plumbing supply business and septic tank service.

LtCol Joseph P. Beno, 87, in Clearwater, Fla. His military career began during World War II, when he served as a Navy corpsman aboard USS *Repose* (AH-16). He was discharged following the war, but was recalled to active duty in 1950. In 1951, he returned from Korea and entered flight training as a Naval Aviation Cadet. Upon earning his wings, he flew jets and then transitioned to helicopters. He served two tours in Vietnam with the HMM-163 "Ridge Runners" and was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, along with 22 Air Medals.

He had 6,500 hours of flight time in 36 types of aircraft, and for the filming of the movie "Tora! Tora! Tora!," he flew in some of the aerial sequences.

MSgt Mike T. "Mikey" Bianchino, 75, of Sierra Vista, Ariz. He served 29 years in the Marine Corps, including three tours in Vietnam. He was a scout sniper with 1st Bn, 9th Marines, the "Walking Dead," from 1965 to 1966. He had language training in Thai and Spanish at the Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, Calif. His awards include the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Achievement Medal with combat "V." Following his retirement, he worked for 10 years at R.W. Bliss Army Health Center, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion and the Thunder Mountain Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

Sgt Edwin K. Boggs Jr., 94, in Augusta, Maine. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 1941 and was at boot camp when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. His training was cut short, and he was assigned to 1stMarDiv and sent to the Pacific. He participated in action on Guadalcanal; Kwajalein and Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands; Saipan and Guam. After the war, he was discharged and attended college, earning a degree in business. He was a member of the Marine Corps League's Seacoast Detachment and Mid-Coast Detachment and was an active volunteer in his town of Warren, Maine.

Capt George P. Bond, 83, of Fredericksburg, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served during the Korean War. He later served two combat tours in Vietnam and received a battlefield commission to second lieutenant. Fluent in French and Vietnamese, he was a military advisor to the South Vietnamese.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he went back to college and earned a bachelor's degree and three master's degrees, including one in English literature. He worked as a librarian in Spotsylvania, Va., and started a children's story time.

Paul Boucher, 86, in Port Washington, N.Y. He joined the Marines at age 16 and fought in the Pacific. He served on board USS *Columbus* (CA-74) and USS *St. Paul* (CA-73) in China. He also served as an MP in Honolulu. In later years, he volunteered as a hospital aide.

Richard G. Briggs, 66, of Grand Prairie, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps from 1967 to 1968, earning a Good Conduct Medal and a National Defense Service Medal.

Philip R. Brown, 88, of Pittsfield, Maine. He was a corpsman who served with Marines in the South Pacific. He was

wounded on Guam, awarded the Purple Heart, and returned to duty on Iwo Jima. Following the war, he became a Maine state trooper. He was a volunteer with a local food bank and with the Boy Scouts of America.

PFC Rosemarie Clark, 68, of Riga, N.Y. She served from 1964 to 1965 as a typist at Women Marines Co, H&S Bn, FMFLant. She later worked for Eastman Kodak Company.

Cpl Bradley L. Coy, 22, in San Marcos, Texas. He enlisted and began boot camp just after his graduation from high school. He served a tour in Afghanistan as a machine-gunner and biometrics systems operator. He later served on Okinawa with 2d Bn, 7th Marines. His awards include the Combat Action Ribbon, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. He qualified as an Expert rifleman and had a Green Belt in martial arts.

Alvin Dark, 92, in Easley, S.C. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II before becoming a major league baseball player and manager. In 1948, he was the Rookie of the Year and was a three-time All-Star shortstop. He played for the New York Giants when they won the 1954 World Series. In later years, as a manager, his Oakland Athletics captured the World Series title in 1974.

1stLt Matthew Davis, 30, at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. He enlisted after graduating from Penn State and served as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense Marine. After completing an overseas deployment, he was commissioned and became an infantry officer. While on patrol at Camp Pendleton, he was struck and killed by an alleged drunk driver. The incident is still under investigation.

Alfred E. DiGiorgio, 84, of Malverne, N.Y. He was a veteran of the Korean War.

Cpl Russell S. Eberly, 81, of Ephrata, Pa. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He later worked as an elevator operator for Agway. He also was a farmer.

Faust R. Giannelli, 84, of Massapequa





Lodging better now an canvas & sandbags!

foraotten vou were

VIETNAM BATTLEFIELDS 5 - 17 Mar - 50th Anniversary of **USMC Red Beach Landings - 1965**

7 - 16 Mar - "From the Beginning '65 I-Corps to the End '75 Op Frequent Wind"

2 - 15 May - "Delta to the DMZ"

PACIFIC BATTLEFIELDS

16 - 23 Mar - 70th Anniversary of Iwo Jima

18 - 24 Jun - 70th Anniversary Battle of Okinawa

18 - 28 Jul - Liberation of Guam, Tinian & Saipan

7 - 19 Jun - Special USMC Units in I Corps

8 - 19 Aug - 50th Anniversary of Op Starlite

7 - 20 Nov - 50th Anniv of Helicopter Ops - 1965



Doc on the bridge!



See Khe Sanh's Red Clay

EUROPE BATTLEFIELDS

21 Apr - 1 May - Turkey 100th Anniversary of WWI Gallipoli Battlefields & Istanbul

> 29 APR - 11 MAY - IRELAND "THE WHOLE OF IRELAND" & WWII "U.S. IRISH MARINES"

Mayor of Derry at USMC Memorial



70 vears later!

22 - 31 May - Viking Seine River **D-Day Cruise**

16 - 27 May - WWI Battlefields

Belleau Wood

28 May - 2 Jun - Battle of the

Bulge & Paris



13 - 20 Jun - 200th Anniversary Waterloo



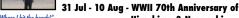
Belleau Wood Ceremony



7 - 18 Sept - 70th Anniversary Italian Campaign

Korean War Vets & PCFYers on Great Wall!

65th Anniversary Subsidized Korea Revisits & PCFY (College Grandchildren)



Hiroshima & Nagasaki 1 - 12 Aug - Guadalcanal "Turning the Tide"

12 - 25 Oct - 70th Anniv of "China Marines - 1945"

29 Jan - 8 Feb - WWII 75th Anniv Invasion of the Philippines



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Park, N.Y. He served as a Marine during the Korean War. He was a 26-year veteran of the New York City Police Department.

Maj Ryan E. Hansen, 41, in Stuttgart, Germany. He was a sustainment division head at Marine Corps Forces Europe in Stuttgart. He was a Marine for 23 years, serving much of his time overseas. He collapsed after a training run.

SSgt James M. Hathcock, 62, of Grand Prairie, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps and later worked for Triumph Aerostructures of Dallas.

Bob Jerome, 81, of Des Moines, Iowa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 17 and served in Korea and Japan. He later worked 31 years as a warehouseman for Sysco Food Service. He was a volunteer for Goodwill Industries.

Melvin R. "Mel" Kellis, 69, of Des Moines, Iowa. He served in the Marine Corps. He later was employed as a truck driver for Yellow Freight.

Kenneth J. Lillie, 51, of Bessemer, Mich. He served in the Marine Corps from 1982 to 1986. Later, he worked as a logger and was employed as a mechanic for the city of Bessemer.

Joseph J. Montana, 92, of Brooklyn, N.Y. He served as a Marine during WW II. He was in 1st Scout Reconnaissance Co, 1stMarDiv and served in New Guinea,

Pavuvu, Cape Gloucester and Peleliu. After the war, he was a restaurateur in Brooklyn.

James A. Olson, 75, of Wakefield, Mich. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served three years. He worked various jobs in the construction and logging industry. He was a member of Gogebic-Iron Detachment #1133 of the Marine Corps League.

Cpl Frank L. Pokrop, 89, of Milwaukee. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17 and served from 1942 to 1944. He was in 2d Bn, 24th Marines, 4th MarDiv and saw action in the Marshall Islands. He was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds he received in the jungles of Roi-Namur during the Battle of Kwajalein.

After the war, he earned his bachelor's degree and two master's degrees. He worked as a counselor, teacher, administrator and coach at numerous schools. He was president of the 4thMarDiv Association.

Donald J. Porter, 77, of East Northport, N.Y. He survived the Ribbon Creek incident when he was a recruit at Parris Island, S.C., in 1956. He is acknowledged for saving the lives of several other recruits that night. He later served with a New York City Police Department Emergency Services Unit.

Robert W. "Bob" Snow, 85, of Chandler, Texas. He was a Marine for 20 years, including service during the Korean War.

Sgt Dorothy A. (Klimt) Spencer, 94, of Roseburg, Ore. She joined the Marine Corps in 1944, serving as an aviation machinist's mate at NAS North Island, San Diego and at MCAS El Toro, Calif. After her discharge from the Corps in 1946, she married and moved to Anaheim, Calif., where she worked as a teacher. She was active with the Orange County Chapter of the Women Marines Association.

LtCol John T. Wall Jr., 87, of Dallas. He served in the Marine Corps from 1945 to 1946, and he was on Okinawa when WW II ended. In 1950, after graduating from North Texas University, he attended flight training and earned his wings of gold as a Marine Corps aviator.

During the Korean War, he was in squadrons that were deployed on board USS Coral Sea (CVA-43), USS Tarawa (CV/CVA-40) and USS Saipan (CVL-48). He left active duty for the Marine Corps Reserve in 1955.

He was a pilot for Continental Airlines for 28 years. He was on the planning board for Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. He also flew for two years with American Trans Air.

FEBRUARY 2015 LEATHERNECK www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

Passing the Word

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Combat Center Hosts CAX for Kids

Children from Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., could be heard running and playfully laughing across Felix Field during the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills' (L.I.N.K.S.) Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) for Kids, Nov. 25, 2014.

"The goal of the L.I.N.K.S. CAX for Kids is to show the children what their parents do on a day-to-day basis," said Amber Bilderain, L.I.N.K.S. program manager. "All of the children here understand their parents are Marines, but they might not understand the things they do as Marines."

This was the eighth L.I.N.K.S. CAX for Kids at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms—the event is held twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. More than 80 children attended the November event, which taught them about different aspects of the Marine Corps. Those included learning the enlisted and commissioned grades; participating in a close-order drill and a modified combat fitness test; navigating an inflatable bounce house obstacle course; trying samples from meals, ready to eat; and viewing a static display of military vehicles.

"I think this program is great; it's the second year that my son participated in it," said Staff Sergeant Adam Gamber, a section chief with 3d Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. "These kids get a hint of what I do and what their parents do."

During the event, Marines from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School acted as squad leaders and mentors for the children and answered their questions throughout the day.

LCpl Julio McGraw, USMC PAO, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Writing Project Seminar Helps Veterans Share Their Stories

A diverse group of military veterans gathered in Winchester, Va., Nov. 8-9, 2014, for a two-day seminar led by the nonprofit Veterans Writing Project and hosted by Shenandoah University's Center for Public Service and Scholarship.

The veterans differed in age, gender and background, but they all had one



Children of Marines at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., carry a seabag filled with gear across a football field during the L.I.N.K.S. CAX for Kids, Nov. 25, 2014. The event was designed to teach the participants about Marine Corps customs and courtesies. (Photo by LCpl Julio McGraw, USMC)

thing in common. Each had a story to tell and wanted to learn how to tell it. Some attendees simply wanted to write down their stories to pass on to their children and grandchildren but didn't know where to begin. Others had their sights set on having their memoirs or other writings published for a wider audience. Whatever their goals, the Veterans Writing Project seminar was designed to give them the tools to write about their experiences.

The workshop was led by Lieutenant Commander Jerri Bell, USN (Ret), a former intelligence officer and published author with a master's degree in writing from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She conducted the class with a contagious enthusiasm, encouraging participation from all attendees. The veterans expressed their need to get their stories on paper—to "get it off their chests," as one participant described it. They each seemed to have specific experiences that drove their desire to write—being profoundly impacted by war, either mentally or physi-

cally; the loss of a comrade in combat or to suicide; and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), among others.

"I just want to write down my feelings. ... Many of my memories are fragmented as well," said Marine veteran Todd Golding, a workshop attendee who suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) during his service in the Corps. "I am ever hopeful that by writing them down, they become more of a jigsaw puzzle that can be put into order."

Bell spoke to her students about the military-civilian divide, emphasizing that when writing about military service, it's important to "bridge the gap" in order to properly convey experiences to those who have never been in combat. She encouraged them, saying that telling their stories, particularly by putting them down on paper, can have a therapeutic effect. To cover topics like setting, point of view and narrative structure, Bell used numerous writing samples written by veterans to help attendees understand the literary

terms, as well as the unique challenges faced when writing about the military experience.

"Everyone here is a writer," she told the room full of veterans after they completed their first writing exercise, which she encouraged, but did not require them to read aloud to the rest of the class.

"I think what was really powerful was being with the students in the room and hearing their stories and their struggles with putting pen to paper," said Colonel John Lesinski, USMCR (Ret), a trustee on the board of The Center for Public Service and Scholarship at Shenandoah University, who attended the seminar. "The exercises were really great—you started forcing yourself to write things down. Hearing that from an instructor with a military background really put it into great context," he added.

The Veterans Writing Project is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization founded by Army veteran Ron Capps, whose book, "Seriously Not All Right: Five Wars in Ten Years, A Memoir," details his struggle with PTSD following his experiences in five different combat zones. He found writing about his experiences to be the best therapy for his PTSD and started the nonprofit organization to help other veterans who have similar struggles.

"I've seen a kind of unique pleasure and relief on the part of many of our seminar participants when they realize that someone does want to hear their stories, when fellow participants compliment them on something they wrote during an in-class exercise, or when they write something and realize—often with surprise—that they *enjoyed* writing," said Bell.

In addition to holding workshops at various universities and other venues, the Veterans Writing Project leads a creative writing program at National Intrepid Cen-



A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE—During a visit to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., 91-year-old Jeanne Black Burke, left, reviews early maps of the base with Col Blake M. Wilson, base inspector general; visit coordinator John DeBeery; and Patrice Pascual, Burke's daughter, at Lejeune Hall, Nov. 21, 2014. Burke was born at the base hospital on Nov. 4, 1923. Her father, Glenn Wright Black, was a veteran of both World Wars and served in the Corps for 42 years, working his way up to gunnery sergeant before being commissioned and retiring as a lieutenant colonel. During her visit, Burke shared her father's diary from WW I with staff from the archives branch at the USMC Research Library. Among many items of interest, the diary contained her father's firsthand account from the June 1918 Battle of Belleau Wood.

ter of Excellence, the Department of Defense's premier research and treatment facility for PTSD and TBI, which is located on the campus of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Since 2012, instructors from the program have taught weekly writing classes to wounded warriors at Walter Reed.

The core curriculum for the program is based on another of Capps' books, "Writing War: A Guide to Telling Your Own Story," which is distributed to each attendee at the beginning of the workshop. All instructors are military veterans and have M.A. or M.F.A. writing degrees. The organization also publishes a quarterly literary journal, "O-Dark-Thirty," which features writing by active-duty and veteran servicemembers. For more information about the Veterans Writing Project, visit http://veteranswriting.org.

Sara W. Bock





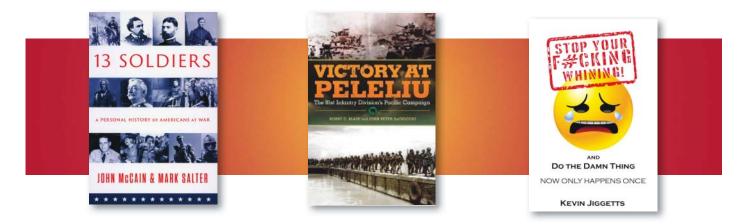


Left: Attendees at the Veterans Writing Project seminar at Shenandoah University, Winchester, Va., work on a writing exercise during the two-day event.

Above: Ron Capps' book "Writing War: A Guide to Telling Your Own Story" serves as the basis for the course, and a copy is distributed to each participant.

Books Reviewed

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



13 SOLDIERS: A Personal History of Americans at War. By John McCain and Mark Salter. Published by Simon and Schuster. 384 pages. Stock #1476759650. \$25.20 MCA Members. \$28 Regular Price.

Senator John McCain and his writing partner, Mark Salter, have successfully collaborated to write the stories of 13 unique American soldiers. These individual profiles span the history of our American wars, with each chapter focusing on one of 13 warriors. In the book are the experiences of nine Army soldiers (including two women), three Marines and one Navy SEAL. The book gives a straightforward account of ordinary people confronting their extraordinary wartime challenges.

The book's first profile tells the story of Joseph Plumb Martin. Martin was a lad of 15 years when he joined George Washington's Continental Army. He survived the war and kept an excellent diary of his experiences.

Two other chapters focus on freeborn black American Charles Black who fought in the War of 1812, and Sam Chamberlain, who served during the Mexican War.

The two female soldiers whose stories are told are Mary Rhoads, who served with the National Guard during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and Army medic Monica Lin Brown, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

One of the book's noteworthy subjects is Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., who was

born into an aristocratic Beacon Hill family in Massachusetts and served his country during the Civil War. A Harvard graduate, Holmes fought in many of the major battles in the eastern theater of the war. He served in the 20th Massachusetts, also known as the "Harvard Regiment," which included many Harvard-educated men. After the war, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. became one of our most admired U.S. Supreme Court justices.

The three Marines profiled are Littleton W.T. "Tony" Waller, Philippine Insurrection; Elton "Lucky" Mackin, World War I; and Guy Gabaldon, WW II.

Littleton Waller was a protégé of Marine legend Smedley Butler. "Old Gimlet Eye" once said of Waller, "[He] was the greatest soldier I have ever known." Waller also fought in the Spanish-American War and the China Boxer Rebellion. He was court-martialed for refusing to execute Filipino civilians during the guerrilla insurrection in the Philippines, but was exonerated by a military court. After 40 years in uniform, Littleton Waller retired as a major general in 1920.

Corporal Elton Mackin served in every major battle fought by Marines during WW I. He first experienced combat when he came up as a replacement during the epic struggle for Belleau Wood. The battle would take its place in leatherneck lore and be remembered as one of the touchstone battles in the history of our Marine Corps. Cpl Mackin became a company

runner and soon earned the nickname, "Lucky." Lucky survived many hair-raising combat incidents. He wrote a memoir of his experiences, and his later manuscript was published with the title: "Suddenly, We Didn't Want to Die: Memoirs of a World War I Marine."

The third Marine featured in the volume is Private First Class Guy Gabaldon, who served in the Fourth Marine Division during the invasion of the Japanese-held island of Saipan. Many will recall the war movie, "Hell to Eternity," the Hollywood treatment of his amazing story.

PFC Gabaldon, also known as the "Pied Piper of Saipan," was credited with saving hundreds of Japanese lives. Speaking Japanese, and at great personal risk, Gabaldon went from cave to cave calling out to soldiers, laborers and civilians to surrender.

For his determined effort, he first received the Silver Star, which later was upgraded to a Navy Cross.

The final chapter is focused on Navy SEAL Michael Monsoor, who was killed in Iraq when he gallantly threw himself on an enemy grenade, saving two badly wounded buddies. On April 8, 2008, in a ceremony at the White House, Petty Officer Michael Anthony Monsoor posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor from a grateful nation.

"13 Soldiers" is the fifth book coauthored by McCain and Salter, including "Faith of My Fathers" and "Worth the Fighting For: A Memoir." Besides the unique stories of these memorable American servicemen and women, each chapter provides the reader with a well-conceived overview of the conflict fought by each soldier. Here, under one cover, one can find a captivating personal link to the vast historical involvement of America's collective wars. This splendidly written book of war stories is expertly crafted and is a true delight to read, consider and contemplate.

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

VICTORY AT PELELIU: The 81st Infantry Division's Pacific Campaign. By Bobby C. Blair and John Peter DeCioccio. Published by University of Oklahoma Press. 328 pages. Softcover. Stock #080614680X. \$17.96 MCA Members. \$19.95 Regular Price.

Even before the First Marine Division hit the beaches of Peleliu at 0832 on Sept. 15, 1944, everyone believed that at least on this small coral island, one among hundreds in the Carolines of Micronesia, the Japanese would be easy to lick.

Why? Because of Major General William H. Rupertus, 1stMarDiv commanding general. Predicting a short but nasty fight lasting two or three days, based upon staff estimates of enemy defenders varying between a few hundred and less than 2,000, MajGen Rupertus reasoned that a few days of heavy bombardment by carrier aircraft, supplemented by pounding from all manner of support ships, easily would wipe out, or at least severely weaken, heavily barricaded beaches, lightly strung barbed wire, blockhouses, roofed bunkers, sniper and machine-gun "spider holes," mortar positions, etc. Then, continuous amphibious assaults spanning the island's four flat southwestern beaches easily would overrun and mop up any remaining resistance from camouflaged pillboxes.

Thus confident, the command of the 1stMarDiv paid no heed to "Tokyo Rose" who days before warned over the public address systems of convoy troopships, "We know you're coming to Angaur and Peleliu. Well, you keep on coming because we're waiting for you." And, were they ever.

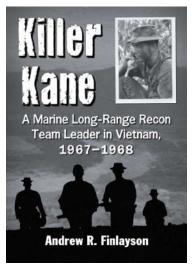
Instead of resulting in a few hundred casualties, the 1stMarDiv, after 60 searing days of savage and unsparing life-and-death struggles, suffered 6,265, including 1,252 killed, 117 missing and a few less than 5,000 wounded. The Japanese lost

Killer Kane

A Marine Long-Range Recon Team Leader In Vietnam, 1967-1968

by Andrew R. Finlayson

Get involved with the preparations for and the conduct of dozens of U.S. Marine long-range reconnaissance patrols by team "Killer Kane" during the Vietnam War. As the team leader, Colonel Finlayson recounts in vivid detail his team's many forays deep into enemy-held territory in search of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units. This book also provides several dramatic accounts of desperate firefights with enemy forces, as well as the life of recon Marines when they are not on patrol. Numerous maps and photos add clarity to the text.



Available at www.marineshop.net, www.amazon.com and www.mcfarlandpub.com

10,695 killed with 301 taken prisoners.

Recently published, "Victory at Peleliu: The 81st Infantry Division's Pacific Campaign," a superlatively researched, welldocumented military analysis, addresses two rarely asked questions in the annals of the Pacific War: (1) Did the well-trained, but green, "Wildcats" of the U.S. Army's 81st save the hides of the famed 1stMarDiv after exhaustion, and perhaps inertia, set in? And, (2) was Operation Stalemate II, the captures of Angaur, Peleliu and Yap, one of which was necessary as the westernmost anchorage and airfields for the movement north to Japan, truly worth the cost in lives and limbs? Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, commander of the 3d Fleet, was dead-set against the operation while ADM Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPOA) and Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC) was in favor, although eventually yielding on taking Yap.

Co-authors Bobby C. Blair and John Peter DeCioccio, both researchers as well as solid writers, scoured innumerable records, battle reports and assorted documents, mining new information pertinent to the strategic planning of Operation Stalemate II. In addition, the two interviewed veteran participants, allowing each interviewee to recall his story in his own way. Thus, to the credit of the coauthors, readers are immersed in excruciating detail, some new, in the seizures of both islands, particularly the Battle of Peleliu's airfield, the peninsula, southern Peleliu, the difficult ridges and especially the insufferable "Bloody Nose" ridge, etc.

Pages come alive since we, too, are in the inferno, thanks to a narrative skill that fuses eyewitness accounts with official fighting reports. In addition, we, too, endure the infernal 115-degree temperatures that caused as many heat-related casualties as those by enemy fire. And, finally, we are present when organized resistance ceases 15 days later, on Sept. 30, when both the 1st Marines and the Wildcats of the 81st celebrate a new chapter in courage and bravery, and of teamwork in initiating the uninitiated to fighting among deep island caves, hidden ravine shelters and cunningly placed trenches among the high bluffs.

As for the conundrums, the unanswerable or purely speculative questions posed by Blair and DeCioccio, the reader has more than 325 pages to find his own answers.

Don DeNevi

Author's bio: Don DeNevi, a script writer and an author of more than 30 books, is a frequent World War II book reviewer for Leatherneck. In addition, he proudly supervises the recreation programs at San Quentin State Prison in California.

STOP YOUR F#CKING WHINING! And Do the Damn Thing: Now Only Happens Once. By Kevin Jiggetts. Published by Eleventh Hour Enterprises. 152 pages. Stock #0615982808. \$11.88 MCA Members. \$13.20 Regular Price.

This book is filled with good advice, but I must issue a cautionary note; it is not for the faint of heart. Veteran Marine Kevin Jiggetts tells it like he sees it, in language Marines will understand. Use of the "F-bomb" and other expletives is liberal as the book's title suggests.

There is a reason for it, and Jiggetts issues his own unapologetic warning in the introduction. "Let me begin by saying that it is not my intent to offend anyone; it

is my intent to inspire and motivate," he writes.

He cautions that he will use language that some might consider offensive and blunt. "It's not that I don't have access to other words that might express a thought, it's just that I believe some people require an *in your face* approach," he explains.

However, he suggests that if you've read other self-help books that use a delicate, soft-sell approach urging you to take action, and haven't really benefited, then this book may be worth a read. He counters that approach by proposing that you "grow a pair and let's commit to building a better life."

Oh, and his view of what he calls the "God Factor" may not sync with traditional views either, although in the final analysis, there is more compatibility than meets the eye.

The general premise of the book is that if you don't take action to build the life you envision for yourself, nobody else will do it for you, so don't complain if you never achieve it. If you just continue to complain about all the reasons you can't, and all the people who don't help, you'll never get closer to your dream.

The book is really aimed at people who have an entrepreneurial spirit, who don't want to do the traditional 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

workday, stuck in a cubicle doing something they don't enjoy. If you are in that situation and enjoy it, this book may not touch you. If you are leaving the service and don't want to get into that situation, you may want to read this book. If you are in either of these situations or other similar ones and need a kick in the derriere to break the mold, this book might be for you.

Jiggetts approaches the book sort of like boot camp; it's harsh in the first part to get your attention and break you down, then a bit milder later in the book to build you back up.

Jiggetts was a field radio operator during his four years in the Corps from 1981 to 1985. The veteran sergeant, who was injured in the 1983 Beirut bombing, admits that he had no clue what he would do after the Corps. "I had thoughts, dreams and ideas, but wasn't sure how to attain them," said Jiggetts, who went into law enforcement as a corrections officer for several years after the Corps.

But he declared he "got sick and tired of the rat race" and reinvented himself. He describes his journey and lessons learned in his book. Along the way he became a motivational speaker, a well-credited actor in TV, film and on stage and purveyor of acting classes through his company, Eleventh Hour Enterprises,

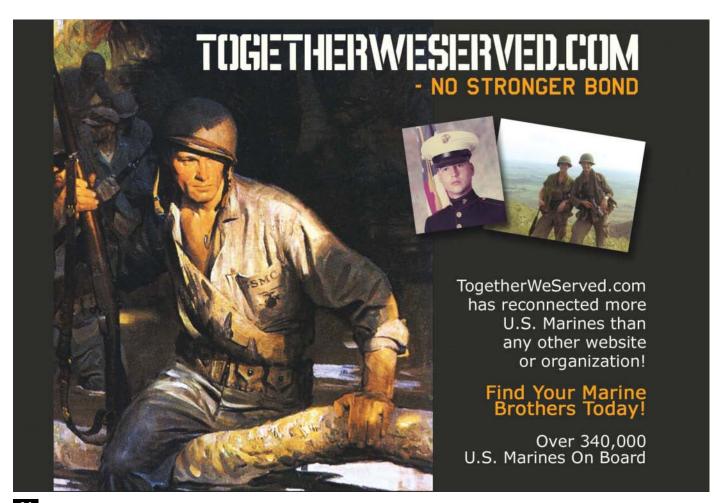
LLC. He describes himself as an on-going student of self-development.

The book tells the story of his road to self-enlightenment, a road he still travels and will for his whole life. He writes about things that have happened to him, such as his decision to go into acting. After two years of acting classes, "I took still another plunge in that I quit my secure government job (corrections officer) of seven and a half years, packed my s-t and moved to New York City. Talk about terrifying!"

He tells stories about people he's met along the way, those who have influenced him and those who have not. But the stories contain productive lessons that circle back to his theme—that nobody will make your life better except you. He portrays the adage that luck is when opportunity meets preparation. As he says, "Your calling is calling you. Answer the damn phone."

CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

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



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SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

Answer to Eagle's Head Question?

This reply concerns *Leatherneck* (January 2015), page 7, regarding the direction of the eagle's head. I never heard of it for the Marine emblem, but I had heard about it for the Seal of the President of the United States, and hence the Great Seal of the United States and the National Coat of Arms of the United States (those three designs are similar to each other).

The story was that if the nation was at peace, the eagle's head faced left above the olive branch, and when at war the eagle's head faced right above the arrows. This story now appears to have been incorrect, and for the details, you can look at Wikipedia.org under "Seal of the President of the United States," scrolling down to "Misconception," if you accept Wikipedia as correct, which in this case I do.

Leon Basile Woburn, Mass.

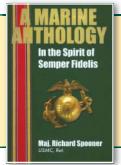
Reunions

• USMC Hawk Assn. (50th Anniversary), Aug. 19-23, Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage, Calif. Contact Stan Buliszyn,

(352) 509-2043, sb353@usmchawk association.com.

- USMC A-4 Skyhawk Assn., Oct. 8-11, San Diego. Contact Mark Williams, 400 Howell Way, #102, Edmonds, WA 98020, (425) 771-2030, roger.wilco@comcast.net.
- 531 Gray Ghost Squadron Assn., April 23-25, Pensacola, Fla. Contact GySgt Ralph Delisanti, USMC (Ret), (585) 426-4091, ralphdelisanti@yahoo.com.
- Veterans of Guam and Iwo Jima (70th Anniversary), March 16-23, Iwo Jima. 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.
- USMC Postal 0160/0161, Sept. 13-18, Savannah, Ga. Contact Harold Wilson, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne06@gmail.com.
- 3d and 4th Defense Battalions (members of other defense battalions welcome), May 20-26, Fredericksburg, Texas. Contact Charles Buckley, (510) 794-7280, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, (512) 738-2075, sharon_heideman@yahoo.com.
- BLT 3/9 (50-Year Reunion), Sept. 8-12, San Diego. Contact Charles Saltaformaggio, (504) 812-7369, csaltaformaggio@yahoo.com.
- B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67) are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.
- F/2/1 (RVN, 1967), April 20-22, Tampa, Fla. Contact Dieter Maass, (920) 846-2988, dietermaass@centurytel.net.
- 3d Plt, H/2/3 (RVN, 1967-68), Oct. 8-11, Stafford, Va. Contact Chuck Gaede, (512) 750-9265, csgaede@gmail.com.
- H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70), June 5-7, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Ralph Sirianni, (716) 903-9640, trippr19@aol.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.
- 3d Force Recon Co (50th Anniversary, 1965-70), May 6-10, Quantico, Va. Contact Maj B.H. "Doc" Norton, USMC (Ret), (843) 819-5149, recondoc123@gmail.com.
- American Embassy Saigon, RVN (all military and civilian personnel stationed pre-April 30, 1975), May 17-21, Louisville, Ky. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www





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.saigonmac.org.

- Marine Barracks, Great Lakes, Ill., is planning a potential reunion. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethe marine@gmail.com.
- Ontos Crewmen (all eras), May 5-9, San Diego. Contact Louis Najfus, (678) 546-1444, najfus@hotmail.com.
- 1st, 2d and 3d Amtracs (all eras), June 24-26, Biloxi, Miss. Contact Vic Ciullo, (941) 496-8119, castingalpha23@ verizon.net.
- TBS, Co A, 1-68 (June-November 1967), April 28-May 4, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact LtCol Dick Kurth, USMC (Ret), tbsldash68@gmail.com.
- TBS, Co A, 1-70, June 25-28, Quantico, Va. Contact Bob Del Grosso, (908) 334-3496, robdelgr@aol.com.
- TBS, Co F, 6-79, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.
- Plts 17 and 19, Parris Island, 1955 (and others who went through PI during 1955 are welcome too), June 4-6, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Al Pasquale, (484) 802-2516, pasquale@bigplanet.com.
- Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.



- Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.
- Plt 245, San Diego, 1965, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8o06@yahoo.com.
- Plt 255, Parris Island, 1957, is planning a reunion. Contact Richard Proot, 457 Gaillardia Way, Acworth, GA 30102, (770) 592-5968, richardproot@aol.com, or Jack Marion, 6 Setters Rd., Sussex, NJ 07461, (908) 675-1675, jackmarion@embarqmail.com.
 - Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983, is planning

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a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

- Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@ roadrunner.com.
- Plt 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island, 2000, is planning a reunion. Contact

Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

- East Coast All-Seabees, Feb. 27-March 1, Hampton, Va. Contact Tom Marone, 7305 Cannonade Ct., Midlothian, VA 23112, seabeemacd40@verizon.net, www.ecasr.com.
- HMM-265 (1962-present), Nov. 8-15, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Marine Corps

Birthday Ball cruise, Holland America cruise line). Contact Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdb@numail.org.

- HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras), Sept. 30-Oct. 4, Pensacola, Fla. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, jruffini5@ gmail.com.
- VMF/VMA-214, April 24-25, MCAS Yuma, Ariz. Contact 1stLt Shane Long, (928) 269-2730, shane.h.long@usmc.mil.

Ships and Others

- USS Bremerton (CA-130/SSN-698), Sept. 13-18, Louisville, Ky. Contact Jerry Adams, 106 Ashley Dr., Winchester, KY 40391, (859) 771-5651, jeradams106@ gmail.com.
- USS Tarawa (CV-40/LHA-1), April 16-19, Norwich, Conn. Contact Lester Ward, 101 Meadow Ln., Randolph, MA 02368, (781) 961-2583, or Walter Tothero, 106 N. Tranquil Trl., Crawfordsville, IN 47933, (765) 362-6937, walsue@accel plus.net.
- · U.S. Naval School, Underwater Swimmers (Marine divers trained from recon and force recon), May 14-17, Panama City, Fla. Contact Aaron Farrior, (850) 240-7417, bare4@cox.net.

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Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Entries for "Reader Assistance," including "Mail Call," are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your e-mail to leatherneck@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

Mail Call

- Marine veteran Roy Dean Driver, 134 N. Saxony Dr., Olathe, KS 66061, dean. driver@faa.gov, to hear from any Marines who can help him identify his platoon number, MCRD San Diego, May-July 1967.
- Former Cpl Don O. Jordan, 1630 Prison Rd., Cottonport, LA 71327, to hear from members of **Plt 3010, San Diego, 1981**, and those who served in **1/9, 1981-85**.
- Steve Waldner, President, 3dMarDiv Assn., Houston/Galveston, Texas, Chapter, (281) 992-4419, wes.waldner@gmail.com, to hear from anyone interested in contributing to a monument for Medal of Honor recipient LCpl Richard A. ANDERSON, Co E, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv, RVN, 1969.

Wanted

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

- Marine veteran Nathaniel M. Jones, 811 N. Harlem Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302, unjones5249@sbcglobal.net, to hear from Marines who can help him identify his platoon number, **San Diego**, **1968**. He wants a **recruit graduation book and platoon photo**.
- Marine veteran Clarence A. "Buzz" Barrows Jr., (573) 764-2634, cbarrows@fidnet.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 142, San Diego, 1953**.
- Melissa Koltes, (303) 973-9541, setlok73@hotmail.com, wants a recruit graduation book for Plt 160, San Diego, 1967.

- Larry Cartwright, 1291 Oak Terrace Dr., Traverse City, MI 49686, mgunr@yahoo.com, wants a recruit graduation book for Plt 346, San Diego, 1961.
- Vanessa Laizure, 1658 McKinley Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92404, (909) 991-4057, vanessalaizure@gmail.com, wants a recruit graduation book and platoon photo for Plt 1054, San Diego, 1980.
- Former Sgt George Klippel, (724) 757-1485, gklippel@comcast.net, wants a recruit graduation book for Plt 3065, San Diego, 1980.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Marine veteran John E. Collins, (720) 870-0515, colwin@comcast.net (preferred method of contact), has a re-bound copy of "A Marine Tells It to You" by F.M. Wise and M.O. Frost, copyright 1929, for sale.

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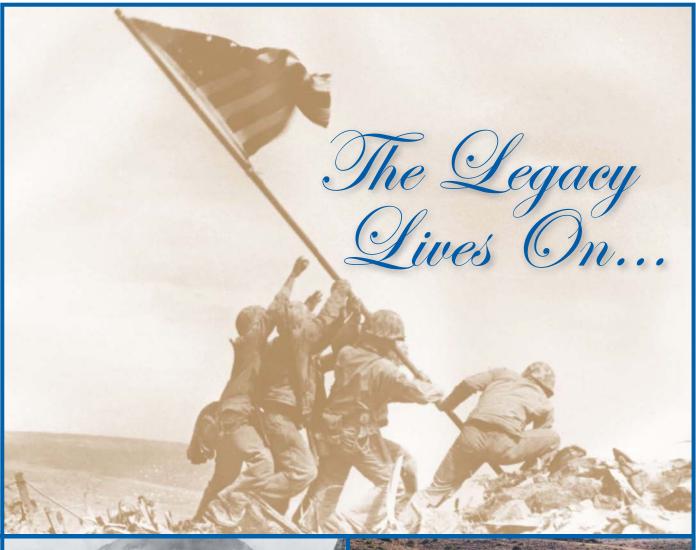






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Saved Round

Edited by Sara W. Bock



OORAH, SERGEANT MAJOR!-Nearly a decade before he assumed the post of Eighth Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps in 1977, then-1stSgt John R. Massaro (center, shirtless) helped build a septic tank alongside the officers and staff noncommissioned officers of Support Company, 3d Engineer Battalion, Third Marine Division. According to GySgt Anthony J. Valys, USMC (Ret), who submitted the photo to Leatherneck, the tank was part of a project to install a stateside-style shower and "head" at Quang Tri Combat Base, Republic of Vietnam, March 1968. SgtMaj Massaro initially was the company first sergeant in RVN and later became the battalion sergeant major.

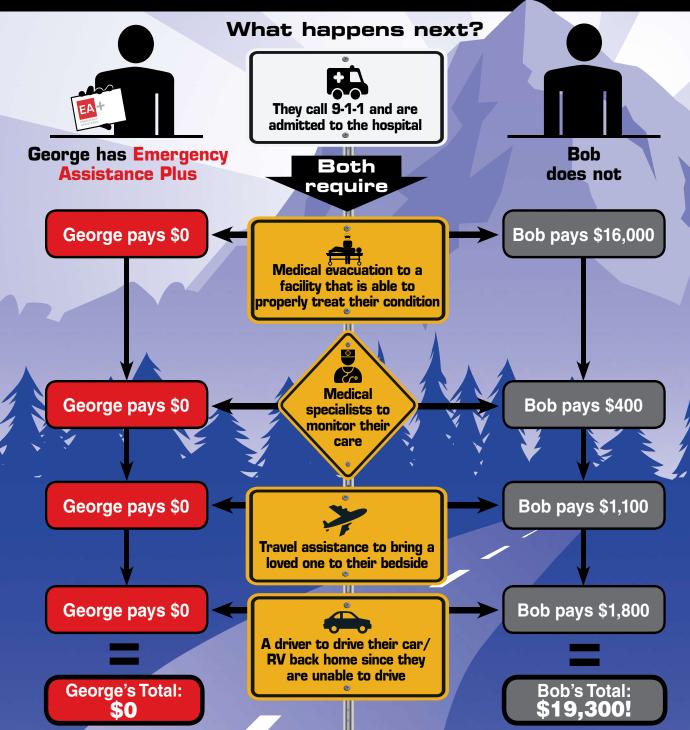
Massaro is known in Marine Corps lore for helping bring the term

"oorah" to popularity. In 1953, when leathernecks of 1st Amphibious Reconnaissance Co served aboard the submarine USS Perch (ASSP-313), a Klaxon horn, which made an "arrugha" sound, signaled that the boat was about to dive. While chanting during conditioning runs on land, someone imitated the horn sound "arrugha," and it became a mantra among recon Marines. It is said that SgtMaj Massaro took "arrugha" from recon and brought the term to Drill Instructor School, passing it along to the DI students who, in turn, passed it along to recruits. "Arrugha" eventually evolved into "oorah"—the motivational cry Marines are known for today.

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