

JANUARY 2013

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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The 24th MEU—
Crisis Response Team
In the “Med”

VMFAT-501—
Rolling Out Pilots for
F-35B Lightnings

Agent Walter Walsh:
“Gang Buster”

A Publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation



Welcome to *Leatherneck Magazine's*

Digital Edition

January 2013

We hope you are enjoying our digital edition in its new format, and we encourage you to visit us for frequently updated Marine Corps content on our website (www.leatherneckmagazine.com) and in our social media postings.

This is a special time of year—a time to remember friends and to appreciate those who serve our country and Corps, as well as their families. The *Leatherneck* staff thanks you for your support and wishes you the best for 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Walt Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret)
Editor



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COVER: Deployed since March 2012, the 24th MEU had begun wash down and maintenance on its equipment Nov. 11 at Naval Station Rota, Spain, in preparation for return to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., when the MEU and the *Iwo Jima* Amphibious Ready Group were ordered to the eastern end of the Mediterranean. Photo by SSgt Robert L. Fisher III. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Leatherneck—On the Web Delivering more scoop on the Internet. Look for this indication that additional content found online in our digital edition is available to subscribers and MCA&F members.



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Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

(*Leatherneck* will pay \$25 for the Sound Off Letter of the Month.)

As I reflected on Veterans Day, a memory haunted my heart. It was a memory of someone who had as much to do with shaping and molding my character and the very fabric of my being as anyone I have ever known. It was a memory of pain, sacrifice, hate and love as well as one of regret for things left unsaid and debts left unpaid.

His name was Sergeant John Pinsonneault. I was an 18-year-old recruit 22 years ago, and Sgt Pinsonneault was one of my four drill instructors with Platoon 2083, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. He was the “heavy,” which meant he was the will-breaker; the ass-kicker; the walking, breathing nightmare that stalked you relentlessly in your dreams and until the sound of “Reveille.” He was a brutal, profane man. He was tall and strong and louder than a hellhound baying at the moon. He was indestructible, invulnerable and insane.

I loathed him and I feared him. I remain convinced to this day that the devil himself would have laid on the deck of our barracks in a fetal position calling for his momma had Pinsonneault unleashed his wrath on him. I had already seen at least two recruits do that very same thing. They were taken away and I never saw them again. They left, but Pinsonneault remained, like an angry, dark thundercloud ever threatening to unleash its fury on everyone.

I feared him until the day we graduated. And then I feared him for the next 20 years. He was the only drill instructor no one got to shake hands with after we were dismissed on the parade field; no longer recruits, but Marines. He had disappeared. From a distance, however, I thought I could see his profile standing in the hatchway to our barracks. He was alone and standing quietly with his head lowered. His shoulders were slightly slumped and I believe the man was silently crying.

As my life progressed, I found an appreciation and indeed a reverence for this man, this myth, this symbol of unbending

will. This was but one of the same traits that I realized I had carried away from that island. I came to understand that he had given me gifts along with pain. They were gifts of tenacity and an unwillingness to compromise your duty.

Sgt Pinsonneault made me into more than a Marine. He turned me, irreversibly, into a man. I can see his influence now in my daily life and in almost every decision I have ever made. I realized that I owed him a debt that I could never hope to repay. I thought perhaps I could at least honor him by passing it along and becoming the kind of man he intended for us all to be.

Last year, I felt compelled to find him, wherever he was, tell him thank you, and finally get that handshake. I wanted him to see that his work had paid off and that he could be proud of me. Thanks to the Internet, the search didn’t take long. I found him at last.

John Pinsonneault died Oct. 14, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq. He was one of several killed when a suicide bomber detonated himself in the Green Zone. He was 39 years old.

I would never be able to tell him thank you. He would never know the difference he made in my life. It was devastating. I wept.

But then I remembered my Christian faith: John Pinsonneault is not dead. In fact, he is more alive than he ever was. He knows my gratitude and he can see the results of his work. He doesn’t need a letter or a handshake. He can see and hear it all.

“For no greater love has a man than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.” I know now that Sgt Pinsonneault loved me. He loved us all.

Sgt Tim Killen
USMC, 1990-97
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Marine Veteran Wants to Recognize Navy SEALs Killed in Libya

I am writing this letter regarding the deaths of the two Navy SEALs killed in the attacks on our Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012.

Being a disabled Marine Vietnam veteran, I have numerous medals that reflect

my sacrifice for my country, which brings me to the reason for writing.

Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, the two former Navy SEALs who died defending our country in a civilian capacity as security personnel, should not go unrecognized for their heroism and valor. Therefore, through my representatives in South Carolina, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and Reps. Jeff Duncan, Addison G. “Joe” Wilson and Harold Watson “Trey” Gowdy III, I have requested that the aforementioned receive the civilian Presidential Medal of Freedom or like medal if there is one to honor these two men and the others who died trying to protect Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.

Gregory J. Topliff
Warrenville, S.C.

Grog With Royal Marines In the Canal Zone

In 1954, HMS *Sheffield*, escorting the Royal Yacht *Britannia* with Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip aboard, transited the Panama Canal. *Britannia* was en route from England to Auckland, New Zealand.

Out in the Pacific, escort duty was transferred to a Royal New Zealand cruiser, and *Sheffield* returned to the Canal Zone to later resume her escort duty. She docked at Rodman Naval Station next to the U.S. Marine Barracks. The Royal Marines invited us to share their morning grog ration. The mess was configured much like an English pub with oak paneling on the bulkheads and oak furniture. Along the outside bulkhead was a row of four polished oak casks bearing the Royal Marine emblem.

Each cask contained a different brew: lemon juice for the “boys,” 14- to 17-year-old apprentices; approximately 25 percent rum for privates; 50 percent rum for NCOs; 75 percent rum for staff NCOs. At the time, we had three guard companies and several detachments at various locations in the Canal Zone. Consequently, we scheduled our Marines to visit the mess so that each had an opportunity to share a portion of the grog.

The Royal Marines conducted a tattoo ceremony that began just before sunset.

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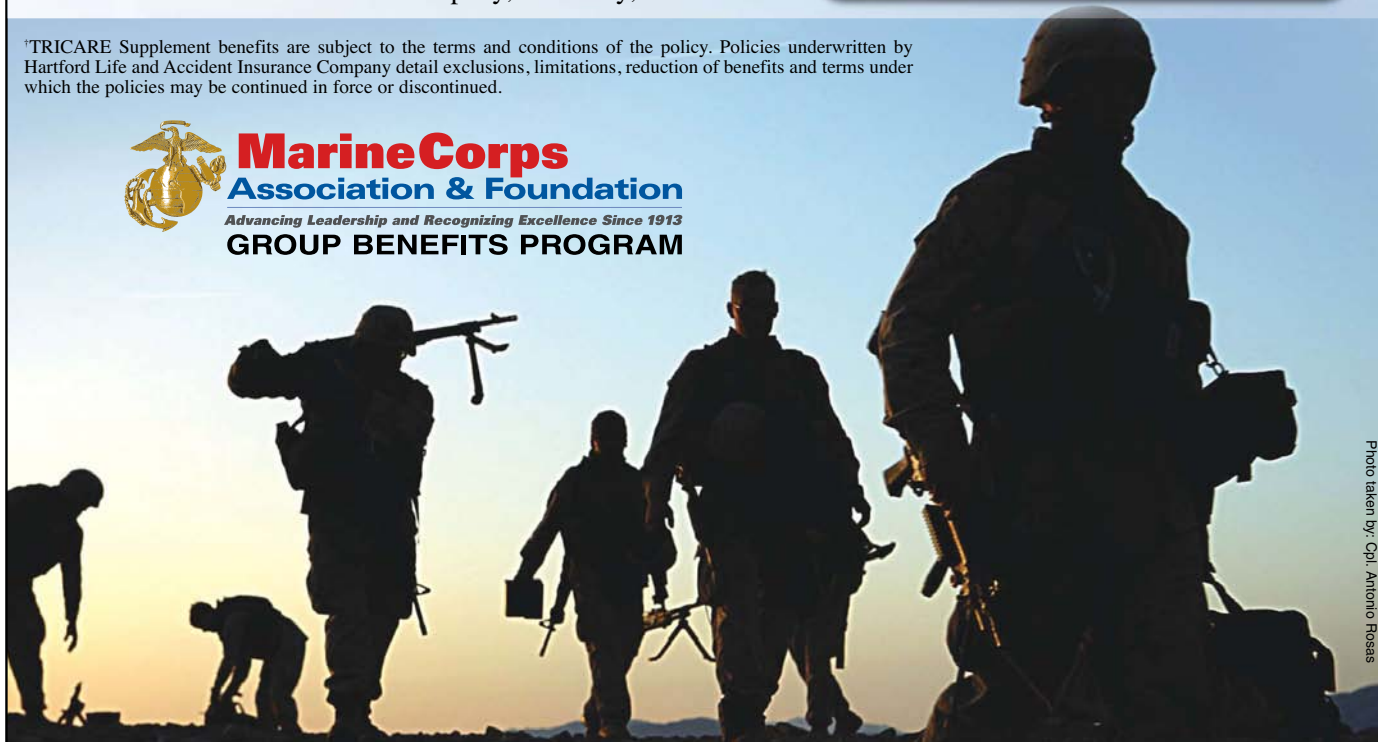


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Leatherneck

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LEATHERNECK AND MCA&F MEMBERSHIP PRICES

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

Leatherneck also is available in digital format at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck.

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Leatherneck Magazine, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.



Marine Corps
Association & Foundation
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Leatherneck (ISSN 0023-981X) is published monthly by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, Bldg. #715, MCB, Quantico, VA 22134. Copyright 2013 by MCA&F.

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When it became dark, light illuminated just the legs of the marching Marines to emphasize the precision of their movements. It was an impressive show.

John F. Forgette
Bellingham, Wash.

"Thanks" to a Good Man In Alamosa, Colo.

In Alamosa, Colo., a small group of veterans and spouses meet at a restaurant to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday each year. This year was no different than past years except for one thing. Right after the meal, but before the cake-cutting ceremony, the waitress came in and informed us that our bill had been paid by a gentleman in the main dining area.

We wanted to thank him and invite him to join us for some cake, but when we went to the main dining room, he had left. We never got his name, and the waitress told us that he said he wanted to honor us for our service.

We wish we could have thanked him, but instead of that, I wanted everyone to know about this act of honor.

The Rev. David L. Haage
7th Comm, RVN
La Jara, Colo.

President Kennedy on Yellow Footprints

• *In the ongoing search for the date when "yellow footprints," or for that matter any color footprints, appeared at the recruit depots, the following is provided for the readers' interest. Ellen M. Guillemette, Historian, Command Museum, Marine*

Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, sent this copy (below) of a 1963 photo of President John F. Kennedy on the yellow footprints at MCRD San Diego.—Sound Off Ed.

LtCol Frank Goettge Was a "Bobcat," Not a "Buckeye"

I don't want to be a pain in the *Leatherneck*, but you have a mistake in the November 2012 "Leatherneck Line" article on Lieutenant Colonel Frank B. Goettge. Goettge did not attend Ohio State University. He attended Ohio University in Athens. It's not a big deal, but as an Ohio guy, there is a big difference between the two.

Capt Mike Hemmert
USMC, 1966-69
Hingham, Mass.

Lessons in U.S. Government And Civics Are Necessary

I couldn't agree more with Sergeant Major Frank Pulley's letter in the November issue. Too few Americans have read the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence, much less know their contents.

Every member of the U.S. Armed Forces should be issued a copy, and it should be required reading for officers and enlisted alike. We may not have an aware citizenry, but we veterans can, and should, be informed.

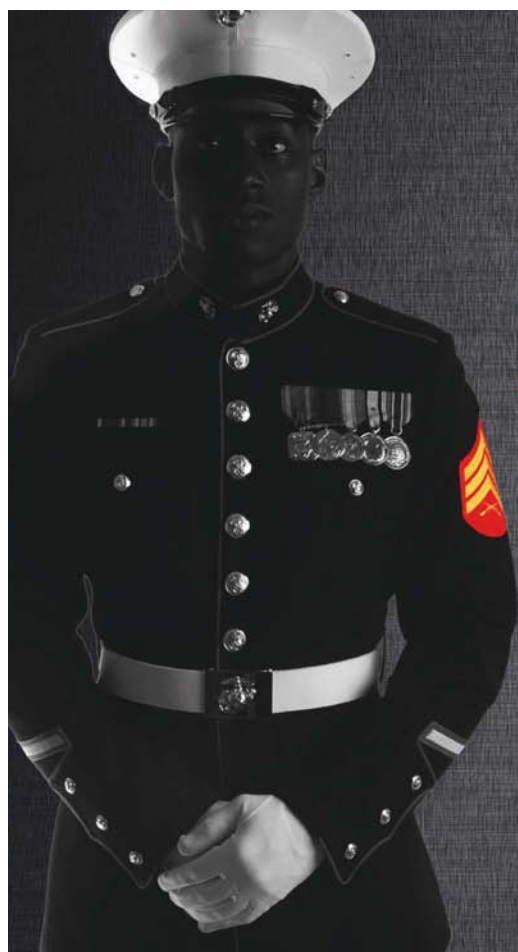
Sgt Joe Doyle
USMC, 1964-70
Clarksville, W.Va.



COURTESY OF ELLEN M. GUILLEMETTE

President Kennedy's most famous remark about the Corps came on July 12, 1962:

"I had always enjoyed the title of Commander-in-Chief until I was informed ... that the only forces that cannot be transferred from Washington without my express permission are the members of the Marine Corps [sic] Band. Those are the only forces I have. I want it announced that we propose to hold the White House against all odds at least for some time to come." A year later he visited MCRD and, accompanied by MajGen Sidney S. Wade, the Depot commander, saw the footprints and the training of Marines whom he really did command.



EPME5000AA

SERGEANTS COURSE

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Did Six Marines Really Get USS *Missouri* Back Afloat?

In reference to the November 2012 "Sound Off" letter from former Sergeant William Ditto, I was there! I was a corporal in the Marine Signal Detachment in USS *Mount Olympus* (AGC-8).

On Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1950, we followed USS *Missouri* (BB-63) down the channel, heading for three days of amphibious operations at Little Creek, Va. When the word got around the ship that *Missouri* was in trouble, another Marine and I dashed up to the bridge. Standing next to the signalman, we were there when he wigwagged the "Mighty Mo," "Do you need assistance?" The Mighty Mo signaled back, "No assistance required."

We continued on our way. Returning to port three days later, the Mighty Mo had not moved. As I recall, she was stuck for five weeks. I guess it took that long before someone suggested to her captain that he should ask his Marine Detachment for a hand. God bless those six Marines!

Col Roger H. Barnard, USMC (Ret)
Fairfax, Va.

• OK, I went to "American Naval Fighting Ships," which has the histories of all U.S. Navy vessels. Volume IV states: "Missouri was proceeding seaward on a

training mission from Hampton Roads early 17 January when she ran aground at a point 1.6 miles from Thimble Shoals Light, near Old Point Comfort. She traversed shoal water a distance of three ship lengths from the main channel. Lifted some 7 feet above waterline, she stuck hard and fast. With the aid of tugs, pontoons, and an incoming tide, she was refloated 1 February."

The authors said nothing about help coming from a few Marines. Readers, you tell me.—Sound Off Ed.

Thank you for putting my letter in the November *Leatherneck* magazine. Sorry, I made a mistake about the six Marines; it was only four.

Former Sgt Bill Ditto
Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

• Arrrrghaa!—Sound Off Ed.

Now, We're Talking Battleships

In the November 2012 "Sound Off," you said the battleships *Illinois* (BB-65) and *Kentucky* (BB-66) were sold for scrap in 1958. That is true, except *Kentucky* was sold without her bow. A 120-ton, 68-foot section of *Kentucky* is part of USS *Wisconsin* (BB-64). This section was welded to *Wisconsin* in May 1956 after

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she collided, May 6, with the destroyer USS *Eaton* (DD-510).

The sailors often called *Wisconsin* "WHISKY."

Bill Lewis
MarDet, USS *Wisconsin* (BB-64)
Putnam Valley, N.Y.

• *Frequent Leatherneck feature writer and retired Marine Major Allan C. Bevilacqua of Grayson, Ky., also wrote us.—Sound Off Ed.*

In reference to battleships, you missed one. USS *Alabama* (BB-60) is berthed at Mobile Bay and is open for tourists. *Alabama* is a *South Dakota* class battleship.

It's a great feeling when I pause in the Marine compartment in *Alabama*.

Sgt Earl Maddalena
USMC, 1953-57
Daphne, Ala.

The "Very" Last China Marine Band

I have enjoyed reading *Leatherneck* since 1948 and enjoyed the July 2012 "Leatherneck Line" story about the last surviving China Marine Band member by Lance Corporal Michelle Piehl.

However, I challenge the classification as "The Last China Band." I served in Tsingtao, China, from 1948 to 1949 in



COURTESY OF 1STSGT ROBERT L. GAINES, USMC (RET)

"Chesty" Puller who, at the time, commanded Marine Barracks Pearl Harbor, wanted a band and got one: the "Very" Last China Marine Band seen on parade in Honolulu shortly after arriving from Tsingtao.

the "Very" Last China Band with the First Marine Division. We left China in 1949 when the Communists took over.

Colonel Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller was the commanding officer of Marine Barracks Pearl Harbor and had been petitioning Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps for

a band. The "Very" Last China Band went to Pearl Harbor. But the instruments went to Camp Pendleton, Calif. The band stood guard duty until the instruments arrived.

The marching band pictured (above) comprises half China Band members. We were marching in a parade in Honolulu

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in honor of the opening of the John Wayne film "The Sands of Iwo Jima."

The drum major was Staff Sergeant Cobb. The bandmaster was Master Sergeant Combs. Several of these bandmen stayed in the Corps to retirement. The Marine in the front row, partially hidden by SSgt Cobb's baton, retired as a drum major. He is still alive and well in California. His name is Master Gunnery Sergeant Donald "Gus" Inman, USMC (Ret). As the band master used to say: "Once more with feeling!"

1stSgt Robert L. Gaines, USMC (Ret)
The "Very" Last China Band
Las Cruces, N.M.

While We Are on the Subject of China ...

I know the subject of medals and decorations comes up often. I have two questions. On the National Defense Service Medal, what do the added stars stand for? And, with all the foreign medals showing up, why was the China War Medal never authorized? I received one as did most China Marines.

John T. Stamelos
St. Peters, Mo.

• *The National Defense Service Medal was authorized by Executive Order on April 22, 1953. The medal was awarded for active service during the Korean War, June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954; Vietnam War, Jan. 1, 1961, to Aug. 14, 1974; Gulf War, Aug. 2, 1990, to Nov. 30, 1995; and the War on Terrorism, Sept. 11, 2001, to a future date to be announced. The bronze stars, each 3/16 of an inch, are used to denote each additional period of qualifying service. In other words, if you served during the Gulf War and the current War on Terrorism, you would rate one star on your National Defense Service Medal.*

The only China War Medal that I could find was issued by the British government to British and Imperial land and sea troops who fought in the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. I think you may be referring to the China Service Medal, which is an American-issued medal that was authorized on July 1, 1942, and rated by U.S. sailors and Marines who served ashore in China or on board designated Navy ships from July 1937 to September 1939. The authorization for this medal was extended to cover operations in China between September 1945 and April 1, 1957. It has not been reissued since.—Sound Off Ed.

When Is a Cover a Cover, or Is It?

I am a cover-to-cover reader of your magazine. I read my first copy in 1976 when I graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

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From the day I entered boot camp until I left active duty, we always referred to the items we wore on our heads as "covers." My son, who left active duty in July 2011, said they also referred to them as "covers."

Has this changed? I refer to the "Sound Off" editor comment in the November 2012 issue concerning the pictures of Marines holding their children. He refers to Staff Sergeant Kevin Nussbaum as holding his son in his "barracks hat." I would like to believe this is just a misprint. Other than that, I look forward to reading your magazine each and every month.

Former GySgt Jacob Strauss
Fremont, N.C.

• *Are you ready for this? Yes, you can read the magazine cover to cover. Tactically, cover and concealment means that cover is solid and protects and concealment hides. It also is important that one distinguish between a cover and the command "Cover down!" When under arms, one always remains covered. A hat may cover one's head, but it is not cover in the tactical sense.*

For decades, Marines have customarily referred to headgear as "covers." It is accepted as part of the Corps' patois. Like a lot of jargon, it is also not entirely correct. Uniform regulations state that



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drill instructors wear campaign hats. Men and women of the Corps wear the green soft garrison cap and the hard-framed service cap often called a barracks hat or cover.

It is somewhat improper, although common, to refer to headgear as a cover. Marines wear hats, caps, helmets, etc. But, out of tradition, we also call them "covers."—Sound Off Ed.

Why No Unit Patches for Marines?

The September 2012 issue ["Sound Off," page 8] shows a picture of the Marine Ships' Detachment afloat patch worn during World War II. My father wore the Marine Ships' Detachment patch, and my uncle wore the First Marine Division patch, as he served on Guadalcanal and all through the Pacific campaigns.

I respectfully submit that this issue reeks of hypocrisy! If the patches don't matter, then why are they in such demand and so many are ordered, mostly by Marines? I personally believe they unite, not divide the Corps.

Ronald P. Parrish
New Bloomfield, Pa.

• *You should have joined the Army, and then you'd have all the patches you'd ever want. We've been on this firing line before*

and that round has gone downrange. The Army, because of its size, probably needs them. The Marine Corps grew very large during both World Wars. The Corps played with unit patches, or "battle blazes," only during the Great Wars and abolished them in 1948.

In spite of what you personally believe, the Corps abolished patches, with the exception of those on flight suits and jackets, because the Corps is your unit. It is a unified body organized to fight as a whole.

From a purely aesthetic view, patches clutter a uniform renowned for its simplicity and military appearance. Next to the eagle, globe and anchor, such blazes are not needed. We older Marines who are no longer on active duty are primarily the ones who buy them. But I believe we would drop them willingly into a GI can to again wear the uniform on active duty.—Sound Off Ed.

Free Speech Is One Thing, But Cartoonist Steve Benson Is Something Else Entirely

In response to Terence S. O'Connell's complaint about the *Arizona Republic* newspaper political cartoonist Steve Benson, I got off a shot at the editorial page of that newspaper. It's curious to me that in a very conservative state like Arizona, and

in a relatively conservative newspaper, that this guy wouldn't be run out of town. I believe in free speech, even Benson's, but that doesn't mean he automatically gets the writing forum that he wants. He needs to earn that with high integrity and credibility. My feeling is that he has neither.

I'm sure he would never have the courage to show up at, say, a celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday in Washington, D.C., and defend his "creations." Enough said.

I always look forward to the November issue because of the section "Senior Leaders of Our Corps." It makes me proud of the diversity. We've been leading the way for quite a while.

I also very much enjoyed some of the longer letters such as Lieutenant Colonel Richard "Wild Bill" Cody's on the British and American uniforms at the time of the War of 1812. I love that information.

And, then there's former Lance Corporal William A. Bascom's very well-told tale concerning his pending execution by Private Duane "Mad Dog" Washington. Great! But reading that part about "At 5:30, Sgt Howland ... crashing through the hatch" to wake everyone up ... 5:30? Boy, comparing 1960 to when I entered

[continued on page 59]



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In Commemoration of the Birth of the Marine Corps

By John A. Lejeune
Major General Commandant

The following will be read to the command on the 10th of November, 1921, and hereafter on the 10th of November of every year. Should the order not be received by the 10th of November, 1921, it will be read upon receipt:

On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a Resolution of Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them, it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

The record of our Corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During ninety of the one hundred and forty-six years of its existence[,] the Marine Corps has been in action against the nation's foes. From the battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home, generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps, Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term Marine has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

This high name of distinction and soldierly repute, we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the Corps. With it we have also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish[,] Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as Soldiers of the Sea since the founding of the Corps.



Editor's note: To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps Association's founding by then-LtCol John A. Lejeune and a group of officers at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on 25 April 1913, we will be reprinting significant articles from the Leatherneck archives in each 2013 issue. Our archives are digitized and searchable online via our website: www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck.



The Marine Corps Association & Foundation: **Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence**



LCPL JUSTIN A. FISHER

PFC Sergio De La Cruz, center, holds the MCA&F-sponsored “Chesty” Puller Recruit Company Honor Graduate Award after being named honorman for Co G, 2d Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Nov. 2, 2012. De La Cruz stands with (from left) his senior drill instructor, Sgt Christopher A. Sanchez; MajGen Thomas M. Murray, Commanding General, Marine Corps Training and Education Command, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.; PFC De La Cruz’s recruiter, SSgt Edgar Estrada; and BGen Daniel D. Yoo, CG, MCRD San Diego/Western Recruiting Region.

By Roxanne Baker

In New Year’s tradition, January is a time of reflection and new opportunities. The Marine Corps Association & Foundation looks back on its service as the association celebrates its 100th anniversary in the year 2013. For the past century, the association has recognized excellence and promoted professional development for Marines.

Iconic Marine Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune, the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, as a lieutenant colonel, led a group of Marine officers with the 2d Provisional Marine Brigade who founded the association on April 25, 1913, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. It was his hope to es-

tablish a professional organization to communicate ideas to continuously strengthen the future of the Corps.

The association has since seen the addition of the *Marine Corps Gazette*, *Leatherneck*, The MARINE Shop, the nonprofit foundation and multiple programs designed to give back to active-duty and veteran Marines.

The MCA&F exists to serve Marines of all ranks and in every corner of the world. The Marine Corps Association has focused for the past 100 years on fulfilling LtGen Lejeune’s mission of developing professional advancement, awarding exemplary performance, honoring tradition and fostering Marine Corps spirit. The Marine Corps Association Foundation,

established in 2009 as a charitable foundation, provides opportunities for even more resources for supporting Marines. As a new year begins, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation proudly upholds its service to Marines and looks forward to the next 100 years.

To learn more about MCA&F’s mission to advance and recognize Marines, visit www.mca-marines.org.

Editor’s note: Roxanne Baker is the writer and media coordinator for MCA&F. A Marine wife, she is an experienced multimedia journalist with hundreds of published works.





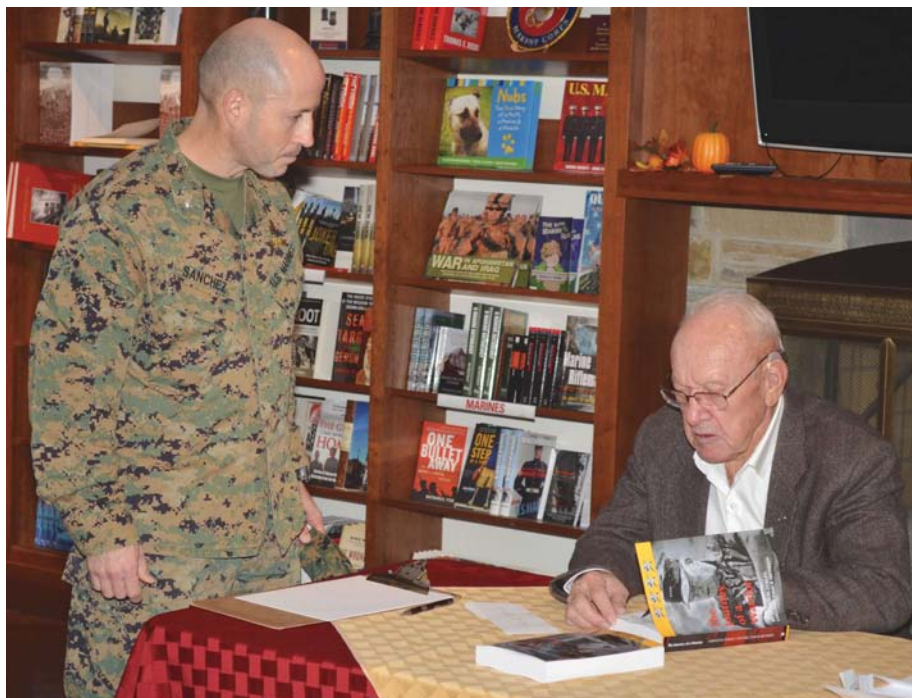
LICOLLANCE JACKOLA

Last fall, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation sponsored another professional military education trip for 60 Marines from The Basic School staff, MCB Quantico, Va., to study battle tactics at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. The trips, funded through the Commanders' Forum Program, teach historical, cultural and operational perspectives.



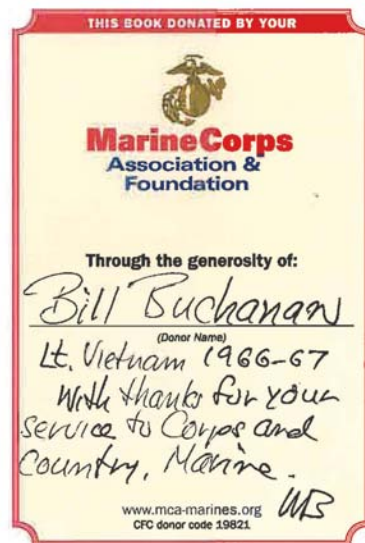
MARK DAUHLHAUSER

Marines may be more familiar with rifles than reins, but nevertheless, with a donation from the MCA&F helping out, Wounded Warriors stampeded into the ring Sept. 29, 2012, in Culpeper, Va., to learn the cowboy way at Team Semper Fi's 2012 Cowboy Challenge & Barn Dance. SgtMaj Joseph E. VanFonda, a Purple Heart Marine and sergeant major of the Wounded Warrior Regiment, rounds a barrel during the challenge.



RON LUNN

Col Gerald Turley, USMC (Ret) visited MCA&F's The MARINE Shop in Quantico, Nov. 15, 2012, to sign copies of his newly released book "The Journey of a Warrior." Reviewed in the September issue of *Leatherneck*, the book describes the life and leadership of the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Alfred M. Gray Jr., USMC (Ret).



RON LUNN

Unit Library Book Plates: The MCA&F's Commanders' Unit Library Program donates libraries to units spanning the globe so as to foster professional development of today's Marines. In an effort to connect donors to Marines, the donated books have stickers inside so a contributor can thank the unit Marines for their service or honor a loved one.



■ THE CORAL SEA Multilateral Field Training Exercise Concludes in the South Pacific

More than 1,300 military forces from eight nations conducted a multilateral field training exercise as the final phase of Exercise *Croix du Sud* at Kumac, New Caledonia, Oct. 21-25, 2012.

Croix du Sud is a multilateral exercise hosted by the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia involving two U.S. Marine Corps platoons and elements of the armed forces of Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Kingdom of Tonga.

The U.S. Marines who participated in the exercise are with Company G, 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, on the Unit Deployment Program in Okinawa, Japan.

"We conducted simulated humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HA/DR) operations, noncombatant evacuation operations and an assault during the five days," said the platoon sergeant, Sgt Guillermo L. Fargas. "We worked in conjunction with all the participating nations to respond to a simulated tsunami hitting New Caledonia."

According to French Brigadier General Jean-Francois Parlanti, the commander of French forces in New Caledonia, the

exercise was designed to strengthen interoperability between the different militaries through the exchange of procedures and the sharing of past experiences.

The exercise consisted of multiple training events focused on supporting a displaced populace following the simulated natural disaster.

After landing in the simulated disaster zone, French and U.S. Marines worked together to establish control bases in the area. "When we landed, we were tasked to patrol down to a nearby soccer field and set up security," said rifleman Lance Corporal Cory R. Pirtle.

The Marines secured the field for the French, who followed up and established a battalion headquarters. The following day, the Marines were tasked with sending a quick reaction force to calm a simulated civilian riot at the battalion headquarters.

"We sent the Marines out with the British soldiers to be a presence and make sure the riot did not get out of hand while the Vanuatu soldiers controlled the crowd," said Fargas.

When the riot was settled, the Marines prepared to conduct a resupply mission with the French Marines.

"Our mission was to secure a landing zone in a field and wait for the French to drop humanitarian aid supplies from their planes," said Fargas. "Once they were

dropped, we recovered and delivered the supplies back to base."

Militaries would use this resupply technique in an HA/DR situation because most of the roads would be damaged in a natural disaster, Fargas said.

The Marines' final mission was a helicopter assault operation on a simulated enemy compound.

"We took a squad and coordinated with the French to take out the enemy on a remote island north of our position," said First Lieutenant Forrest L. Martin, the platoon commander for 1st Plt. "We landed on the island, linked up with the French and maneuvered and took the enemy out together."

The training exercise was the closest simulation to a three-block war a military can get, according to Fargas. A three-block war is a scenario when, take a platoon for instance, one squad is conducting combat operations, another is conducting humanitarian aid operations, and another is conducting peacekeeping operations, all in the same area of operation. The training scenario was beneficial to each country's participants.

"We train in these situations to be able to intervene when circumstances are so damaged that only militaries can do something with their specific abilities, especially for HA/DR and NEO [noncombatant

evacuation operation] scenarios,” said Gen Parlanti. “This exercise allowed for the militaries to return to their countries with a better understanding of these missions, making them more effective and efficient.”

Cpl Erik S. Brooks Jr.
Combat Correspondent, III MEF

■ OKINAWA'S NORTHERN TRAINING AREA

It's a Jungle on NTA's Endurance Course

For the past decade, Marines have trained to fight in the desert terrain of the Middle East. However, with the new national defense strategy focusing on the Asia-Pacific region, Marines are renewing their jungle warfare skills, upholding the Marine Corps tradition of training to fight in every clime and place.

Leathernecks with 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, which currently is assigned to 4th Marines, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, took on the endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 30, 2012, to develop their ability to maneuver and fight through the jungle.

The Marines, who are on Okinawa as part of the Unit Deployment Program, relish the opportunity to use the Corps' only jungle warfare training center. For some reason, training in the jungle and mud appeals to them.

“We don't have the opportunity to conduct jungle warfare training anywhere else,” said Sergeant Benjamin E. Johns, an infantryman and acting platoon commander with Company G, 2/3. “I enjoyed the endurance course, and it allowed us to use a lot of the skills we learned from the instructors.”

The transition from desert warfare to



LCPL DANIEL E. VALLE

Leathernecks with 2/3, 3dMarDiv maneuver through the rugged subtropical jungle at the Northern Training Area, Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 30, 2012, developing and enhancing skills different from those used in the primarily desert environments in recent years.

jungle warfare is important because Marines must be able to fight in any terrain around the world.

During the course, Marines received classes on fast-rope, hasty rappelling, crossing valleys using rope bridges, and stretcher carries.

“We took the training we learned, put it all together and worked hard to complete the grueling course,” said Corporal Patrick P. Webber, an infantryman and a squad leader.

The course not only teaches Marines skills they can use in the jungle, but also

strengthens bonds within the unit, according to Cpl Abdiel Balderas, an antitank missileman and an instructor at the Jungle Warfare Training Center.

“The endurance course is the culminating event for the jungle warfare training,” said Balderas. “It makes the Marines work together to accomplish the course and, in the end, helps build camaraderie within the unit.”

The Marines did well on the course, maintaining good communication and not getting frustrated while navigating the obstacles, according to Sgt Johns. “We worked together really well. We came together, pushed through and didn't let anything slow us down.”

LCpl Daniel E. Valle
Combat Correspondent, III MEF

■ MOUNT FUJI, JAPAN

Marines Arrive at Camp Fuji, Conduct Artillery Relocation Training

Marines on Okinawa today are limited in live-fire exercises. Most training that sends rounds of any size downrange is done off island, in this case, at Mount Fuji in Central Honshu, Japan.

Leathernecks with Battery M and a

An M777A2 155mm howitzer, belonging to the 12th Marine Regiment based in Okinawa, is loaded onto a trailer Nov. 7, 2012, at Yokohama Port, Tokyo, for transport to the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji for live-fire training as part of the U.S./Japan ART Program 12-3.



LCPL BRANDON C. SUHR

ROK and U.S. Marines fire the MK19 40 mm grenade launcher Oct. 22, 2012, during a week of combined-arms training at Camp Mujuk, ROK, near the port city of Pohang.



LCPL NICHOLAS S. RANUM

headquarters element of 12th Marine Regiment deployed from Okinawa to the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Nov. 6, 2012, to conduct live-fire artillery training during Artillery Relocation Training (ART) Program 12-3.

During the ART Program, “Mike” Battery, currently assigned to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force in the Unit Deployment Program, conducted artillery live-fire, small-arms, crew-served weapons and other types of sustainment training throughout November.

The regularly scheduled training promotes regional stability and security by allowing units on Okinawa to improve their ability to support III MEF’s role in the defense of Japan under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.

The battalion is striving to sustain unit proficiency and maintain combat readiness, according to Staff Sergeant Erik R. Myers-Loredo, an ammunition technician in 3/12.

The Marines spent several days preparing equipment for the deployment to the North Fuji Maneuver Area, which is used by both the U.S. military and the Japan Self-Defense Forces.

“The Marines spent countless hours

packing and weighing all the gear to prepare for the deployment, as well as ensuring all gear was loaded properly to be shipped from Okinawa to mainland Japan,” said Master Sergeant Thomas D. Veenstra, the battalion field artillery chief.

“This training is to help increase accurate and timely reactions for real-life scenarios,” said SSgt Shawn J. Dudley, the Mike Btry gunnery sergeant.

The North Fuji Maneuver Area is one of five sites where Marine artillery live-fire training can be conducted outside of Okinawa and offers a unique training opportunity for artillery units assigned to 3/12 under the Unit Deployment Program.

“Mike Battery is [permanently] stationed in [Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms,] California,” said Dudley. “We are out here to increase our efficiency and skills in a different terrain than back in the States.”

Artillery live-fire training has been conducted on mainland Japan since 1997, when the training was relocated from Okinawa in accordance with the Special Action Committee on Okinawa’s report. All training sites have been approved by the Government of Japan.

LCpl Brandon C. Suhr
PAO, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan

■ THE KOREAN PENINSULA

ROK and U.S. Marines Share Expertise

The booming sound of rockets launching and spent casings hitting the ground marked the culmination of the last live-fire training during Korean Marine Exchange Program 13-1.

Republic of Korea Marines with 32d Battalion watched as U.S. Marines of Weapons Company, 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment demonstrated combined-arms maneuvers at Camp Mujuk, near the Sea of Japan port city of Pohang, Republic of Korea, Oct. 22-26, 2012.

Leathernecks of 2/3 participated in the exchange program from Oct. 15 to Nov. 14 to improve the two Marine Corps forces’ interoperability. The 2d Bn currently is assigned to 4th Marines, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“The end state of this training was to demonstrate our combined-arms capabilities to our South Korean allies,” said First Sergeant William J. Banks. “We incorporated the ROK Marines from the very beginning of the week.”

Throughout the week, the U.S. and ROK Marines shared their knowledge and taught each other about their weapons.

“The first day of the week we were at a small-arms range,” said Banks. “This

gave us an opportunity to learn about their K1 and K2 rifles and their course of fire. We also demonstrated to the ROK Marines our rifles, the weapons safety rules' conditions and our course of fire. During firing that day, we collectively fired approximately 10,000 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition."

The company also demonstrated other, more advanced weaponry.

"We gave the ROK Marines the opportunity to learn about the MK19 40 mm grenade launcher, the .50-caliber Browning heavy machine gun, the M240B medium machine gun and the [TOW—tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided] missile system," said Banks. "The ROK Marines had the opportunity to get into the turrets and fire the weapons, with the exception of the missile system. They also demonstrated the capabilities of their antitank missile system and compared it to our system."

The U.S. and ROK Marines stressed safety throughout the event by ensuring everyone received proper training and briefs before entering the turrets and firing.

"We discussed with the ROK Marines the functions of our weapons and how to shoot them safely," said Private First Class Marco J. Watson, an automatic rifleman. "They can use that knowledge to enhance their own training and operating procedures."

The event ended with a demonstration of the tactics employed to combat a heavy vehicle.

"On the final day, we familiarized them with how we operate taking down a large target," said Banks. "We had two humvees act as decoys while Marines fired a hum-

ARABIAN SEA



Sgt. Keonana C. Paulo

OSPREE STACK—Marine MV-22 Ospreys with Marine Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, Third Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) fly above the Arabian Sea, Sept. 6, 2012. The aircraft are being transferred to VMM-261, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit on board the amphibious ship *USS Iwo Jima* (LHD-7).

vee-mounted TOW missile to take advantage of the surprise and destroy the vehicle."

The ROK and U.S. Marines used the training not only to learn about weapons but also to understand one another at the unit level.

"Training with the ROK Marines is fun," said Watson. "They teach us and we teach them; we both become better at what we do, and we are all stronger because of exercises like this."

LCpl Nicholas S. Ranum

Combat Correspondent, III MEF

THE RYUKYU ISLANDS

Surf Qualification Brings Marines Back to Amphibious Roots

Marine amphibious assault vehicles headed 500 meters out from Oura Wan Beach near Camp Schwab in Okinawa, Japan. The AAVs came to a sudden halt, and about 10 Marines and sailors from each AAV leaped into the warm Western Pacific.

This sequence was repeated until more than 400 Marines and sailors completed their surf qualification Oct. 30, 2012.

Marines from Headquarters and Ser-



LCpl Jose D. Luano

Cpl Geo Kakkar, an amphibious assault vehicle crewman with AAV Co, watches Marines and their corpsmen leap into the drink during surf qualification off Oura Wan Beach, Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan, last fall. The swimmers abandoned their AAV and swam to shore approximately 500 meters away.

vice Company, Combat Engineer Co and Assault Amphibian Vehicle Co—all part of Combat Assault Battalion, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force—participated in the qualification. Leathernecks with 2d Bn, Third Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines on the Unit Deployment Program, also participated in the surf qualification.

The 500-meter swim is required to ensure that the Marines are competent swimmers in the event they have to abandon their AAV.

“This training evolution enables the Marines to get back to their core competency of being amphibious,” said Master Sergeant Sammy S. Supnet, the logistics chief, AAV Co. “The Marines had the opportunity to overcome any fear of disembarking an AAV into open waters while trusting their life preserver to aid in a 500-meter swim.”

During the qualification, the currents made their swim more difficult by pulling the leathernecks farther down the beach and away from their intended destination, according to Captain Todd P. Forsman, AAV Co commander.

“The waves’ current moved north to south,” said Forsman. “Even if the Marines swam straight, they had to recalibrate their path because the current would shift them off course, making them work harder.”

All had a partner during the swim and wore a white shirt indicating them to be basic or intermediate swim qualified, according to Supnet. “The partners were evenly paired—every weak swimmer was matched up with a strong swimmer.”

For some, the surf qualification was an entirely new experience.

First-time surf qualifier Lance Corporal Sean B. Drea said: “Even though I have a fear of water, becoming familiar with

water through training like this enhances my amphibious abilities as a Marine.”

Some found the qualification challenging due to the distance.

“When looking at the drop-off point from land, it looks much shorter than when you jump out of the AAV and swim back to the shore,” said Drea, a field radio operator with Combat Assault Bn. “The event is a mind teaser, but most of all it tests each individual’s amount of dedication to keep pushing forward to complete the mission.”

As the Marines and sailors completed their qualification, it was apparent they were more confident in their survival skills, according to Forsman. “Everyone demonstrated the ability to negotiate 500 meters of open ocean and get back to shore in case of an emergency on an AAV,” said their company commander. “The event allowed us to get back to our amphibious roots.”

LCpl Jose D. Lujano
Combat Correspondent, III MEF

■ NEAR THE GULF OF AQABA Marines Gain Unique Opportunity To Train and Learn in Jordan

During the past couple of months, approximately 150 leathernecks from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit had the unique opportunity to participate in training events at the platoon level with members of the Jordanian Marine Corps in southern Jordan.

The Marines conducted a variety of training events while ashore, including live-fire, land navigation, patrolling, and offensive and defensive operations in mountainous and desert terrain, all while furthering relationships with, and gaining a better understanding of, their Jordanian counterparts.

Starting in September 2012, the 24th MEU was able to send ashore two rotations of Marines along with a training cadre led by a major to a pre-established base in southern Jordan. The units that conducted the training were platoon-size with the senior Marine being a first lieutenant and approximately 55 Marines ranked from sergeant and below. They came from varying job fields, including infantry, reconnaissance, communications and logistics military occupational specialties.

The training, initiated by a 24th MEU element called the Marine Engagement Team, or MET, provided a unique opportunity for these Marines who most likely would have spent that time embarked at sea aboard one of the ships of the *Iwo Jima* Amphibious Ready Group, the Navy’s three-ship squadron that acts as a seagoing home for Marines with the MEU.

“This training proved to be one of the better small-unit training events during our time in the Central Command theater,” said Colonel Frank Donovan, Commanding Officer, 24th MEU. “Not only was the bilateral training with [the] Jordanians fantastic, but the physically demanding, foot-mobile training and enhanced marksmanship ranges we conducted left our Marines better prepared for crisis response.”

The 24th MEU spent the past six months serving as a crisis response force in the U.S. Central Command and Navy’s 5th Fleet areas of responsibility. The MEU completed this requirement Nov. 5 and then reported to the European Command and 6th Fleet area of responsibility on its eighth month of a deployment.

Capt Robert Shuford
PAO, 24th MEU



LCPL TUCKER S. WOLF

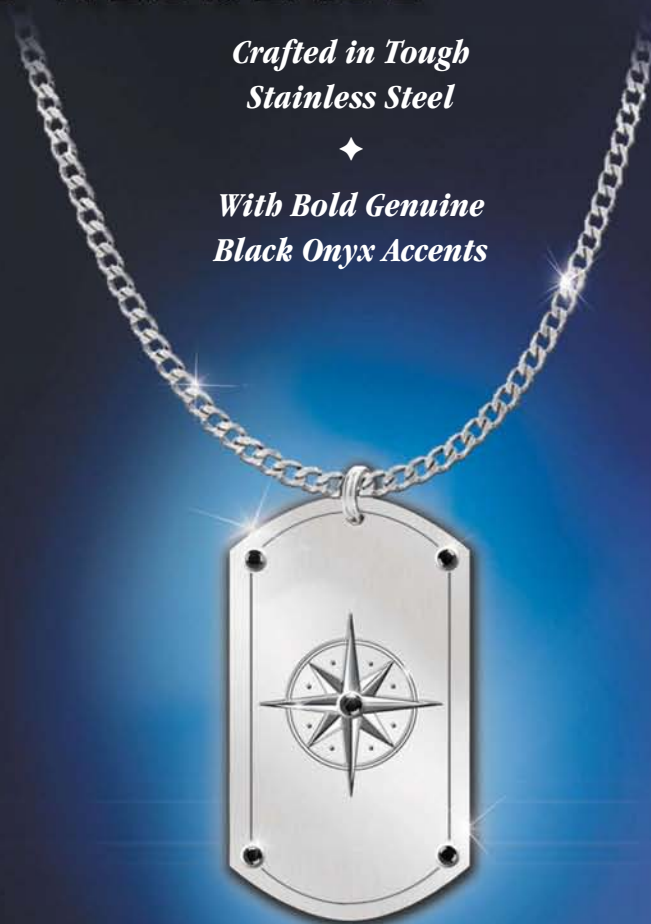
LCpl John Graham, assigned to the Marine Engagement Team from BLT 1/2, sends rounds into targets downrange in southern Jordan, Oct. 3, 2012. The Marines are conducting a live-fire training exercise during bilateral training with Jordanian Marines.

Forge Your Own Path My Son

DOG TAG NECKLACE

Let him know just how very proud you are to call him your son with a personal expression of your love—the “*Forge Your Own Path My Son*” Dog Tag Necklace, an exclusive design available only from The Bradford Exchange.

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“Denig’s Demons”



BGen Robert L. Denig Sr., first row, center, wearing a tie, the founder of what is now the Marine Corps' Division of Public Affairs, which originally was named the Marine Corps Public Relations Division, is seated with some of his WW II staff.

COURTESY OF JOHN POPHAM JR.

And Telling the Marine Corps Story

By Capt Jack Paxton, USMC (Ret)

History doesn't record it, but we can imagine Colonel Robert L. Denig Sr.'s surprise on 30 June 1941, when he was brought out of retirement, tombstone promoted to brigadier general and told to form the first Marine Corps public relations division.

Marines of the day had their own questions about public relations. "What the hell is that?" many asked. More importantly: "Why in the world do we need it? We're Marines!"

BGen Denig himself was a bit puzzled and queried his old World War I comrade,

now Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General Thomas Holcomb, about the job, saying he knew nothing about public relations. "Well," replied MajGen Holcomb, "you had better learn it because that's what you are going to be doing."

MajGen Holcomb must have known what he was doing. After all, Denig had finished a 36-year career distinguished by his personal awards, including the Navy Cross, the Army's Distinguished Service Cross and two awards of the Purple Heart.

Given a room little bigger than a closet with one light bulb for illumination, the general quickly met his staff. First Sergeant Walter Shipman introduced him to

his two clerks, Lorene Lomax and Helen Draper. Little did this tiny group realize that by 1945 the division at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps and overseas would have grown to 268 officers and men.

While no mission statement is known, a framed piece over the general's desk told everyone, "If the public becomes apathetic about the Marine Corps, the Marine Corps will cease to exist."

BGen Denig and the small staff immediately turned to. The most urgent job was to create a Marine Corps-wide public relations and publicity program to help recruiters fill the ranks of the expanding Corps. History soon would prove they

Below left: Sgt Dorothy J. Crane, shown with the tools of her trade in WW II—typewriter and dangling cigarette—became one of the first women to take advantage of the Marine combat correspondent program, enlisting in 1943.

Below right: Sgt Alvin M. Josephy, one of the broadcasters brought into the Corps by BGen Denig, interviews 2dLt Paul C. Smith near the front lines during the WW II Battle of Guam.



COURTESY OF CRANE DAVIS



COURTESY OF CAPT JACK PAXTON, USMC (RET)

didn't have much time to do it, either.

After the Pearl Harbor attack, it was apparent that public-relations Marines, while adequate for the recruiting effort, really weren't trained to tell the Marine Corps story from the Pacific. The magnificent defense of Wake Island and the lack of news stories about it sealed the deal. On-the-scene, media-trained correspondents with Marine units in the field were needed.

BGen Denig and his staff submitted a request to the Commandant, asking for permission to recruit civilian newsmen. The resultant staff study recommended 10 experienced newsmen be recruited and, if successful, 10 more could be recruited. The results are our history.

First Sgt Shipman donned blues, decorations and, according to him, probably a couple of "belts" and headed to District of Columbia newsrooms where he was warmly welcomed. His promise of immediate combat duty and sergeants' stripes if the reporters could finish "boot camp" promptly filled the first commitment of 10.

The second group was just as easy. His efforts in "raiding" the local newsrooms were so successful that Cissie Patterson, the Washington, D.C., *Times-Herald* owner, called President Franklin Roosevelt and complained about the loss of her reporters. BGen Denig promptly was told to spread the wealth and go outside the District of Columbia to other papers to meet the Corps' needs.

Boot camp stories involving those fledgling Marines dutifully were recorded in Combat Correspondent (CC) Gary Cameron's unofficial history "Last to Know, First to Go." We only can imagine how a grizzled two-hashmarked corporal drill

instructor would react, knowing that his recruit probably would make sergeant much quicker than he would.

Their titles after recruit training also caused questions. Initially, writers were promoted to the rank of public-relations sergeant. Photographers were a horse of a different breed. While they were brought in under the same program and with the same promotion promise, the Corps traditionally assigned them to unit Operations staff, for example, the D-3 at division level, and they were designated engineers.

In BGen Denig's original plan, the writers and photographers were to work as a team, but this just did not happen. Only after Guadalcanal and its scarcity of photos did the Corps ease the situation. Fortunately, the photographer-engineers would come through later with some very good combat photos of their own.

Many of those finishing recruit training complained of their designation as PR sergeants. Most asked, "If we're heading to combat, why not call us combat correspondents?" While no official recogni-



CPL CHRISTINA O'NEIL

The BGen Robert L. Denig Sr. Memorial, honoring all Marine combat correspondents, was unveiled at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., on 17 Nov. 2012 by (from left): Maria O'Leary, wife of deceased "Denig's Demon" Jerry O'Leary; BGen Paul J. Kennedy, director of Public Affairs; Bill Hauptfleisch, president of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association; and Bernice Stavisky, wife of deceased "Denig's Demon" Sam Stavisky.

Below left: Marine Capt James V. DiBernardo, right, foreground, the officer in charge of the American Forces TV station in Hue, Republic of South Vietnam, was captured by North Vietnamese soldiers in 1968 and held as a POW for five years.

Below right: BGen Denig, center, holding a cane, attends a reunion with some of his original Demons.



COURTESY OF CAPT JACK PAXTON, USMC (RET)



COURTESY OF CAPT JACK PAXTON, USMC (RET)

tion was made at the time, the name stuck.

BGen Denig's first instruction to all CCs issued early in 1942 remains the mantra of today's Marine combat correspondent reporting: "Give most of your time and attention to the enlisted man—what he says, thinks and does. Tell the human interest side of the Marine Corps. If Private Bill Jones of Cumberland Gap wins the boxing championship of his unit, tell the people of Cumberland Gap about it."

The American public quickly came to know of battles on obscure islands called Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Betio, Peleliu, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and others as Marine correspondents, photographers, artists, broadcasters and newsreel cameramen began telling the folks at home what was happening with their Marines.

The early CCs called themselves "Denig's Demons," and they made an immediate impact with their reporting. While there might have been a degree of devilry

in their methods, they worked like demons to justify the faith that the general had placed in their professionalism.

By war's end, that professionalism had paid off many times over. Also at war's end BGen Denig was permitted to retire, and on 1 Dec. 1945, he did it.

His legacy? A combat correspondents program that was and still is unique in American military history. The program proved itself in WW II, accomplishing a goal of professional achievement that many said might never again be reached. They would be wrong, however.

Marine CCs have distinguished themselves many times throughout the years, reporting from the bitter cold of a Korean reservoir; through the jungle hellholes of Vietnam; from Grenada; the disaster of Beirut, the precursor of today's terrorism attacks; the desert operations of 1990-91; Iraq; and today in Afghanistan.

Many gave their lives as they plied their trade. Videographer Sergeant Bill Perkins was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroism in Vietnam. Countless others have given their lives, including the first female Marine CC, Major Megan McClung, killed in Iraq.

Fittingly in November 2012, at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association—the offspring of the group BGen Denig founded in February 1942—unveiled a beautiful granite monument honoring this Marine general, his Demons and all who ever have earned or ever will earn the title of Marine Corps combat correspondent.

Editor's note: Jack Paxton is a retired Mustang captain and executive director of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association.



SSgt Louis R. Lowery, the *Leatherneck* staff photographer who took the famous photograph of the first flag raising atop Mount Suribachi, 23 Feb. 1945, during the Battle of Iwo Jima, was a member of Denig's Demons and recruited from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. (Photo by SSgt Myers Cornelius)

Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos of "Denig's Demons" and the dedication of the memorial to those who have told the Marine story and those who will tell that great story at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/denigsdemons

WALTER WALSH, G-MAN

By R. R. Keene

Walter R. Walsh is 105. His hearing is ... well, it isn't much, and sometimes his memory isn't what it used to be. But what can you expect from a guy going on a century plus six?

Yet his eyes, shooter's eyes, are clear and sharp. He's in good physical condition for any age and although he was never tall, once he was more than big enough. ...

It was a time of snap-brimmed fedoras, wide-lapel, double-breasted suits and Thompson submachine guns. It was the Great Depression and a long, full and adventurous life was awaiting Walter Walsh, 27, a recent graduate of Rutgers law school and a G-man with J. Edgar Hoover's Department of Justice's Division of Investigation, later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It was an era sometimes called "The Dillinger Days," when gangsters such as John H. Dillinger Jr.; Lester J. Gillis, aka George "Baby Face" Nelson; Kate "Ma" Barker, born as Arizona D. Clark; and her sons of the Barker/(Alvin) Karpis Gang with Russell "Rusty" Gibson, and the Alfred Brady Gang, whom the papers said would "make Dillinger look like a piker." They made headlines with often heralded and always dramatic accounts of their nefarious adventures as public enemies in the hardscrabble times of the 1930s.

Their nemesis was a group called the G-men, or government men, which in FBI lore was the moniker tagged on them by George C. Barnes, aka George R. "Machine Gun" Kelly, who in 1933, when finding himself unarmed and surrounded, supposedly shouted: "Don't shoot, G-men! Don't shoot, G-men!"

A year later, on Nov. 27, 1934, Public Enemy No. 1 "Baby Face" Nelson was punctured by a hail of .45-caliber Tommy gun bullets, 17 to be exact, triggered by G-men during a gun battle outside of Barrington, Ill. One agent was killed and another succumbed to wounds the next morning. Nelson's accomplices fled in the agents' bullet-riddled car, taking the fast-fading Nelson with them. He died that night. The gang, what was left of them, left their wounded and fled, and later dumped Nelson's body.

An anonymous phone tip came into a



COURTESY OF WALTER WALSH



John H. Dillinger Jr.

Agent Walter Walsh joined the FBI's pistol team in 1935. He shot his way to two marksmanship trophies presented him by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. He also was on the bureau's "Heavy Squad," responsible for arresting the more deadly criminals.

bureau office, saying that Nelson's corpse could be found in a ditch. Special Agent Walter Walsh, on special assignment in the area tracking Ma Barker's son Arthur "Doc" Barker, and another agent were sent to investigate. They found the late "Public Enemy No. 1" in a ditch in front of St. Peter Catholic Cemetery in Skokie.

Nelson's wife, Helen Gillis, stated that she had placed a blanket around Nelson's body as, she said, "He always hated being cold."

Agent Walsh was rising in the ranks of the FBI. According to writer Bill Vanderpool in a 2010 article for *American Rifleman*, "Walsh joined the FBI in the first agent class to be armed. ... Since many of the FBI agents then had little

It was a shoot-out that still is talked about today in Bangor, Maine. The Brady Gang traded bullets with the FBI and lost. Alfred Brady lies in the foreground after trying to escape from agents, and his accomplice, Clarence Shaffer, shot twice by Agent Walsh, also was dead.



firearm experience, Director Hoover tended to call on his more experienced shooters for 'heavy arrests.' ... The Bureau didn't have restrictions on personally owned guns, and Walsh acquired a pair of registered .357 Magnums (purchased through Frank Baughman, an FBI firearms instructor and designer of the famous Smith & Wesson front sight) and a 'tuned-up' Colt .45 ACP Government Model."

His favorite, however, remained the .357. He liked being with the bureau and once told a reporter: "I thought to myself, this might be a good outfit to tie up with. I am not trying to pin medals on myself, but the people in the FBI knew that I was very handy with firearms."

Born and raised in New Jersey, Walsh, almost as far back as he could remember, was interested in shooting: "I used a BB gun to shoot clothespins

off my Aunt Lena's clothesline until she grabbed me by the collar and told me to stop." His father then presented 12-year-old Walter with a .22-cal. Mossberg. "I used to shoot rats in the city dump."

Walsh said his first formal marksmanship training was with the Citizens Military Training Corps, and in 1928, he joined the New Jersey National Guard as a member of the rifle team that went to the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Although only a few inches north of 5 feet, he was a standout shooter and he was becoming a standout agent as well.

On Jan. 8, 1935, still tracking the Barker Gang, Walsh was among a group of special agents investigating a possible address for Doc Barker's girlfriend, Mildred Kuhlman.

"The place had been under surveillance," said Walsh in a 2009 interview.



George
"Baby Face"
Nelson



Alfred Brady

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES

"We may not have been thoroughly convinced it was the place to be, but when this gal came out ... in this red fox fur coat, we knew we were in the right place."

He and a fellow agent saw that Kuhlman was accompanied by a man. It was Doc. Walsh stepped off the running board of his 1935 Hudson and went up behind Doc, who started to run. It was January on Chicago's North Side, and mud and ice proved Doc's undoing. He slid and fell. Almost immediately he felt the very cold muzzle of Agent Walsh's semi-automatic .45 in his ear.

According to the *American Rifleman* article mentioned earlier, Walsh cautioned him: "Don't move, Doc, or I'll kill you." Doc remained very still. A pat down proved Barker to be unarmed. "Where's your heater, Doc?" Walsh asked. Barker bemoaned the fact that he "had left it upstairs" in his apartment, and as an afterthought told Walsh, "Ain't that a hell of a place for it?"



COURTESY OF WALTER WALSH

Agent Walsh pushed his pistol a little further into Doc's ear to ensure he had his attention and let Doc know that it was his lucky day. Had he had a pistol, Walsh would have killed him. As it was, Walsh obtained clues to the location of Ma Barker and her son Fred when searching Doc Barker's apartment. The clues eventually led to the death of Ma Barker and son Fred in a shootout with G-men in Florida.

In the late afternoon on the same day that Walsh arrested Barker, he went up against gangster Russell "Rusty" Gibson, aka Roy "Slim" Gray, and hoodlums of the "Central Park Gang," who were affiliated with the Barker/Karpis gang. A small army of agents raided a courtyard apartment building without coordinating with the local police. The result was pandemonium among the local residents. Clouds of tear gas poured forth from canisters, and staccato bursts of gunfire came from all directions. Chicago police rushed to the North Pine Grove location

Right: Walter Walsh was recognized as a top shooter for the FBI and the Marine Corps when this photo was taken in the 1940s. He capped it off by shooting in the 1948 Olympics as part of the U.S. team.

Below: Indiana State Trooper Paul Minneman was ambushed and killed May 25, 1937, by the Brady Gang, who just had robbed the Goodland Indiana Bank.



INDIANA STATE POLICE PHOTO

without knowing what to expect, and it took a special agent waving credentials to prevent what easily could have turned into a bloodbath.

Gibson wasn't about to give up. He donned a "bulletproof" vest, hefted a Browning Automatic Rifle and made for the backdoor fire escape. Agent Walsh was waiting with a .351 Winchester Self-Loading Rifle. Walsh later succinctly summed it up to writer Vanderpool: "He shot high. I didn't."

Walsh sent a slug of lead "through Gibson's chest that flattened against the inside back of his vest," according to the book "Public Enemies: America's Criminal Past, 1919-1940" by William J. Helmer with Rick Mattix. They further wrote that Rusty Gibson "died a short time later, a Bureau report stated, 'with a curse on his lips for all law enforcement officers.'"

Hoover's agents for "heavy arrests" were now called the "Heavy Squad," and Walsh, as a prime member of the Heavy Squad, was sent on many assignments. In October 1937, the Brady Gang, who had moved up to No. 1 on the "most wanted list," turned up in Bangor, Maine. Walsh soon followed.

"They went into a sporting goods store and wanted to buy a Thompson," recalled Walsh. "The owners grew suspicious and told Al Brady they didn't have any in stock, but to come back on Thursday. Brady was dumb enough to fall for it."

The Brady Gang members may not have



COURTESY OF WALTER WALSH

been the brightest apples on the tree, but they were among the most rotten. Wanted for 150 robberies and for breaking out of jail, the gang was responsible for the murders of at least four people, including that of Indiana State Trooper Paul Minneman.



"Ma" Barker

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES



Fred Barker

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES

Walsh was the operation leader, with 13 other agents and more than 30 state and local policemen. He posed for several days as a clerk, and on Oct. 12, 1937, at 8:30 a.m., in walked Brady Gang member and former moonshiner Rhuel James Dalhover.

Walsh, packing his .45 and one of his .357 Magnums, immediately arrested Dalhover. Other agents hustled Dalhover to the back of the store, and after a quick interrogation he answered the key question.

"My pals are right outside," he said. Walsh quickly moved toward the plate-glass front door. He had prearranged with agents and police outside that he would pull a cord on the window when the gang arrived. That wasn't going to happen now. As Agent Walsh's left hand grasped the door handle, he realized he



Clarence Shaffer

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES

was looking through the glass at gang member Clarence Lee Shaffer Jr., who at 21 was a braggart and already a career criminal. Ear-deafening shots rang out almost simultaneously as both men fired and the glass door exploded, according to Vanderpool.

It took only a fraction of a second, but Shaffer put bullets from his .32-cal. automatic into Walsh. One round



R. R. KEENE



COURTESY OF WALTER WALSH

Above: In later years, Walter Walsh coached the U.S. Olympic team. Today, the top pistol trophy in the Marine Corps Competition in Arms Program is the Walsh Trophy.

Left: Walsh says his proudest achievement was his 44-year marriage to his wife, Kathleen.

went into his right shoulder and lung, and the other hit his right hand holding the .45. That bullet hit his thumb and hit the pistol's grip and magazine. Walsh fired his .357 twice with his left hand. Both shots were fatal for Shaffer, who didn't realize he was dead and ran into the street and collapsed.

Meanwhile, two agents got the drop on gang leader Al Brady, who was observing the gunfight from a parked car. Brady put his hands up and pleaded: "Don't shoot. Don't shoot. I'll get out!"

Brady lunged out, drew a gun and started firing. Having thus drawn attention to himself, the police returned fire accordingly. One of the agents who fired was Walter Walsh, and Brady dropped dead in the street, his hand still gripping a .38-cal. revolver: the same revolver he had taken from the body of murdered Indiana State Trooper Paul Minneman. That evidence was enough to send the sole survivor of the gang, Rhuel James Dalhover, to the electric chair at Indiana State Penitentiary, Michigan City, Ind., on Nov. 18, 1938.

Agent Walsh, although shot-up, survived, but he needed time to heal. He mended while he honed his shooting skills. He had joined the FBI pistol team in 1935. Within three years, Walsh had shot his way to two marksmanship trophies presented by the director, J. Edgar Hoover. In 1939, he set the world record in pistol shooting with 198 points out of a possible 200 and won the individual Eastern Re-

gional Pistol championships in 1939 and 1940 and placed second in 1941.

In 1938, he took a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. It was a good deal for Walsh, who was able to continue his competitive shooting for the FBI and the Marine Corps. The record reflects that in 1940, he won the DuPont Trophy as the best all-round shot in High Power, Long Range and Service Rifle, Center-Fire Pistol and Small Bore Rifle. His record is yet to be broken, 72 years later.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, it also brought the era of machine-gun-toting, bank-robbin' gangsters to a close. America went to war, and by 1942, Walter Walsh went on active duty. Walsh said it was a "soul-searching" decision, as the FBI needed agents, but the Marine in Walsh saw his duty was to the Corps.

Agent Walsh's jump to the Marine Corps outraged J. Edgar Hoover. Walsh shrugged it off. "J. Edgar had a reputation for being tough. He was a good guy to work for. He was not easy, but he was honest and treated his employees fairly." Yet, Hoover never again allowed FBI agents to be members of any armed forces Reserve organizations.

On the other hand, the Corps had long recognized Walsh's shooting experience and placed him where he was of most value. He trained Marine scout snipers at New River, N.C. Walsh found it to be a challenge, as there were little-to-no written records of the Marine sniper pro-

gram from World War I. He did have a copy of Herbert W. McBride's 1935 edition of "A Rifleman Went to War" as a reference, plus, his own by now extensive shooting experience, which included putting bullet holes in somewhere between 11 and 17 gangsters.

By 1944, the challenge of training Marine shooters had worn thin and Walsh wanted to see combat. The Marines were fighting their way closer to the Japanese homeland, and he feared the war would end before he saw any of it. He got his wish in the form of orders to the First Marine Division as it readied for the invasion of Okinawa.

Okinawa was a meat grinder. Still, Walsh, now a lieutenant colonel staff officer, couldn't stay off the front lines, often indistinguishable and smeared with the blood and bodies of Americans and Japanese. On one occasion, he shot a Japanese sniper between the eyes with one shot from his .45 automatic through a bunker aperture at 90 yards.

On another occasion, he was out with a Marine patrol when a firefight developed with the Marines firing M1 rifles and the Japanese firing Type 99 Arisaka rifles. Suddenly, through the din of the battle, came another recognizable and distinctive sound familiar to Marines—the steady cadence of well-aimed and perfectly timed fire from a .45-cal. pistol. Walsh squeezed off his rounds and dropped those Japanese unfortunate to have drifted into his sight blade.

With the surrender of Japan, the Corps, ever mindful of Walsh's experience as an FBI agent, sent him to North China as provost marshal over Marines protecting the railroads and supplies from Chinese bandits and the Chinese soldiers.



Arthur "Doc" Barker



"Machine Gun" Kelly

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES

Right: Walsh enjoys living alone in Arlington, Va., although he does have family and friends who look in on him. He believes that those who follow the path of the straight and narrow receive mercy from God in the form of longevity.

Below: Walsh was a lieutenant colonel in April 1945 on Okinawa. Although in a staff billet, he couldn't resist seeing the war close up. He was personally responsible for killing several Japanese soldiers with long-range pistol shots.



COURTESY OF WALTER WALSH

By 1946, he was back in civilian clothes and back with the FBI. But he was not welcomed with open arms. The FBI basically drove him back to the Corps, never to return.

Shortly afterward, the Corps made him commanding officer of 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and he took up where he left off in shooting—shooting with distinction.

Walsh won competition after competition, including the Marine Corps Pistol Championship in 1946 and the Eastern Division Rifle Championship in 1947. He went on to shoot on the U.S. Olympic Team in 1948. In 1962, in recognition of his shooting prowess, the Marine Corps posted him as commander of Weapons Training Battalion, MCB Quantico, Va., the home of the Marine Corps' competitive shooting program.

Walsh was right at home and remained in command, leading the Corps' shooting program until 1969, his retirement from active duty. While in command, in 1964, Walsh was awarded the International Distinguished Medal, becoming the first Marine to earn Triple Distinguished honors. Today, the top pistol



Rhuel James Dalhover

FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES

trophy in the Marine Corps Competition in Arms Program is the Walsh Trophy, named for Col Walter Walsh.

Walsh continued to shoot and develop competitive shooters. In 1994, he served as the team captain for the U.S. International Muzzle Loading Team at the world championship in Switzerland. Walsh also served as a director for the National Rifle Association, and in 1997, he was recognized with the Outstanding American Hand Gunner Award. He continued to coach the U.S. Olympic Team until 2000.

Over time even the FBI again proudly claimed Walter Walsh as one of their best. What could they do? He's the oldest living former agent, older than the agency itself.

"So, Colonel," he was asked, "looking back, what do you think was your greatest achievement?"

"My life has been very routine. Anything special was my beloved wife, Kathleen. She was warned to stay away from me. They told her, 'He isn't very damned good.' We were married in 1936, and she remained with me until 1980. She lived long enough to give us five kids: Kathleen, Linda, Rosemary, Walter Jr. and Jerry.

Although he has relatives and friends who visit, Walsh prefers to live alone in Arlington, Va. "I don't do much, but I'm doing it very well."



R. R. KEENE

He is often chauffeured by his longtime friend, Jim "Horse Collar" Smith, a Central Intelligence Agency veteran and World War II Marine Raider, who at 92, is a youngster according to Walsh. They drive to the Globe & Laurel Restaurant, a watering hole for Marines, FBI agents and policemen south of Quantico. The proprietor, 86-year-old retired Marine Major Richard T. Spooner, ensures Walsh has his seat in the "Privates' Mess," where a plaque summarizing Walsh's accomplishments hangs.

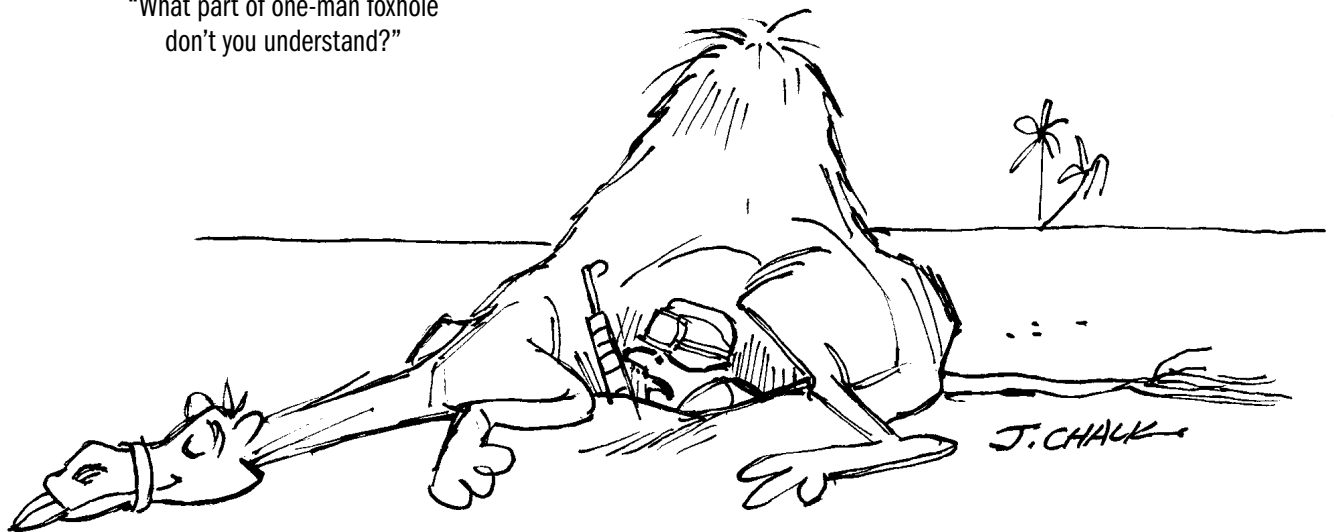
Asked to what he credits his longevity, Walter Walsh ponders for a moment and answers: "To start with, you have to be lucky. Then, if you listen to your parents and follow the path of the straight and narrow, then I think God has mercy on you—permits you to live. That's about it. It has worked very well for me for a long time ... and I've forgotten the SOBs. That makes my life easier."

Does anything about his past bother him? He shook his head and lapsed back in his memory and forgot to come back with an answer. He is 105 you know. He once told his old friend Spooner, "Those stories about shooting that Japanese soldier at 90 yards and perfect timed fire during the firefight aren't true. It wasn't timed fire and the Japanese sniper was only 70 yards away."



Leatherneck Laffs

"What part of one-man foxhole don't you understand?"



"Don't tell me that's camouflage!
I know fishing lures when I see them."



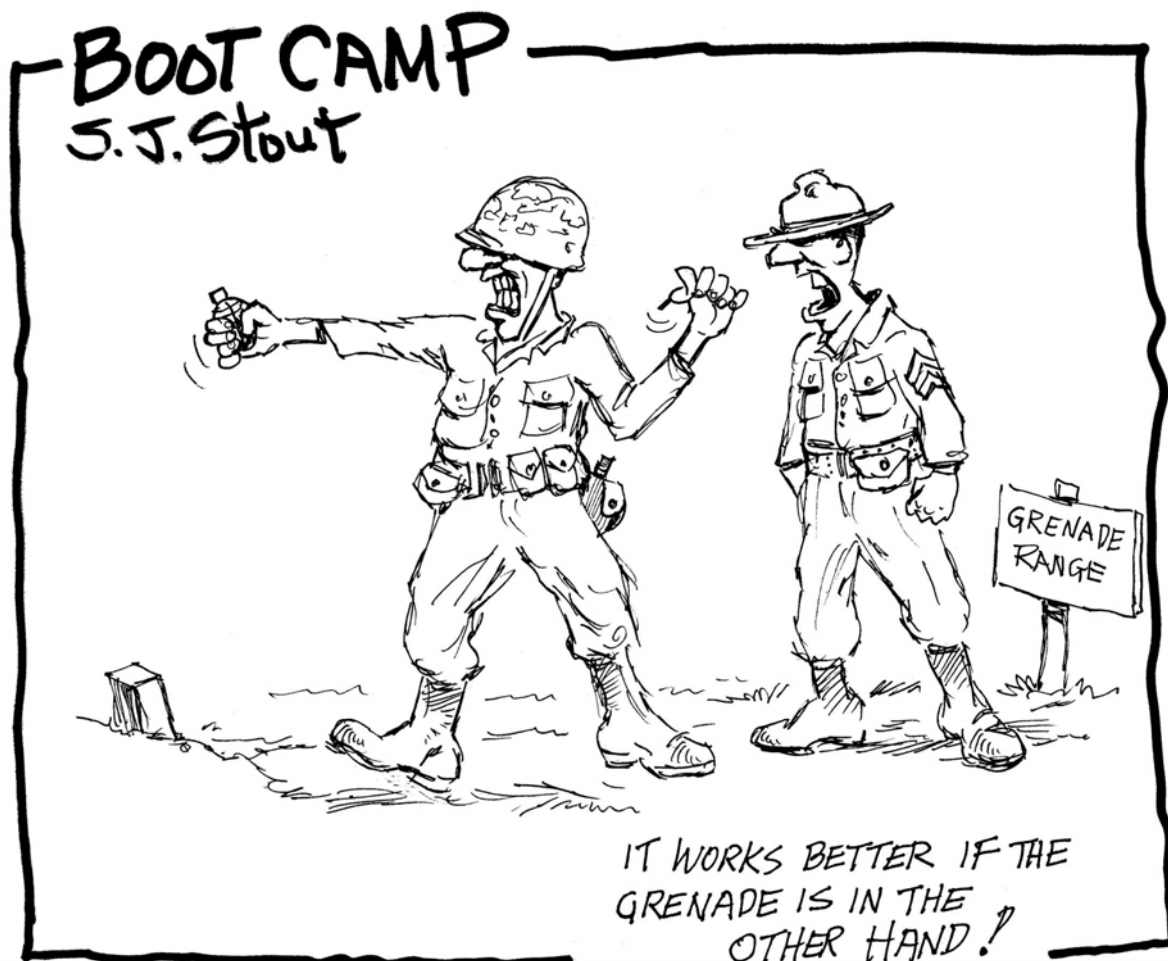
"He's a World War II Marine fighter pilot.
He has ice water in his veins."



"And now, by way of advanced instruction
in the art of self-defense ..."



"OK, Marines, I'll show you this new algorithm one last time."





“The Three Servicemen” statue, Frederick E. Hart’s masterpiece, is a dramatic and evocative counterpart to “The Wall” at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. For more info, visit www.vvmf.org/ThreeServicemen. (© Frederick Hart / VVMF 1984)

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL: “THREE MARINES”?

By Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas

The “Three Servicemen” statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., is one of the most emotionally evocative military sculptures that can be found around the world. On Memorial Day in 2008, the Lakeshore Museum in Muskegon, Mich., opened an exhibit that detailed the processes through which this sculpture moved during its development, and for the first time, it was revealed that one of the models was a wounded U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

The story of the Vietnam Veterans Me-

morial is fairly well known. In 1979, a group of Vietnam War veterans launched a project to fund a memorial on the Mall, near the Tidal Basin. The driving force behind the memorial was Jan Scruggs, a Vietnam veteran, who after seeing the film “The Deer Hunter” was concerned that the American public viewed Vietnam veterans with a certain amount of disdain and did not appreciate the ultimate sacrifice given by more than 58,000 Americans during the war.

As a result of a national competition, the design submitted by a young architecture student, Maya Lin, was selected. Almost immediately, the project was mired in controversy, as many veterans felt that Lin’s

modern approach to the memorial was too abstract. After much debate, an agreement was reached in early 1982 that included a more traditional representational statue.

In May 1982, sculptor Frederick Elliott Hart was selected to execute a concept that he had submitted in the original competition. Hart was an up-and-coming young artist and was one of the few proponents of representational art, at a time when the rest of the world was fixated on modern abstract art. Not yet 40 years old, Hart certainly could not have been considered as having been born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

An indifferent student in high school, he was nonetheless brilliant and had won

a scholarship to college. While in college, he took up art and later studied with the stone carvers at the National Cathedral in the nation's capital during the 1970s. He also briefly studied under the famous sculptor Felix de Weldon, most noted for his monumental statue depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima by five Marines and a Navy corpsman in 1945. Hart was tasked with completing a slightly larger than life-size representational statue for the Vietnam War memorial.

Frederick "Rick" Hart and his assistant, Jay Hall Carpenter, visited the former Marine Corps Museum at the Marine Corps Historical Center in August 1982 and discussed his project with the then-Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums, Colonel F. Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret), and Nihart's staff.

Hart explained that he was in dire need of historically correct period uniforms, accoutrements and weapons to use as studio props while sculpting the statue. He said that although he had tried to acquire those items on loan from the U.S. Army Center of Military History, he was not confident that the loan would be forthcoming.

In all fairness, the Army did not have a major museum or artifact collection in Washington at that time. The Army "reserve" collection of historical artifacts was located at an Army storage depot in Pueblo, Colo., and it was being administered by a staff of warehouse workers. Moreover, the curator's office in the Army Center of Military History was in the process of transitioning from a small two-person oversight operation into what would shortly become a dynamic policy and advisory staff of well-respected curators, all recognized in their own area of expertise.

Conversely, the Marine Corps did have extensive artifact collections at nearby Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., as well as in the national museum that was part of the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard. Most importantly, the museum staff had a proven track record of working with artists and providing artifacts for studio models.

Starting in the 1970s, the staff had provided original artifacts, replica items and guidance for then-Major Charles H. Waterhouse and then-Captain Donna J. Neary for their various depictions of Marines throughout the Corps' history. Moreover, the staff did not want to repeat the mistake made during the creation of the famous Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., when the Marine Corps unwittingly provided a post-World War II version of the M1 carbine (with its distinctive bayonet lug) to sculptor Felix de Weldon.

However, a search of the Marine Corps collections proved to be disappointing.

Although there were plenty of captured AK47 rifles, SKS carbines, RPD light machine guns and a smattering of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army uniform items and equipment at Quantico, there were very few Marine uniform items from the Vietnam War in the collection available for loan to Hart. No one had thought to collect USMC-issued items from veterans.

The staff suggested to Hart that he contact Denis Reen, a local Marine veteran who was thought to have the uniform and gear that he had worn on the day that he was seriously wounded while serving with "Lima" Company, 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment in September 1969.

Reen had been involved in military history for a long time.

He was a founding member of a local Civil War-era fife and drum corps in the early 1960s and also was a driving force behind the establishment of the First Maryland Regiment, a well-respected Revolutionary War living-history unit.

Along with his older brother, Jeremy (also a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War), Reen collected Civil War arms, uniforms and equipment, under the tutelage

intervening years. He had gathered the ensemble so he could portray a Vietnam-era Marine in a popular living history program, "History of the American Soldier," which was an adjunct program to the First Maryland Regiment's activities.

Denis Reen posed during three sessions in the fall of 1982. From those sessions



COURTESY OF DENIS REEN

Denis Reen

Rick Hart produced the small plaster maquette model that was presented to an internal review committee of the Vietnam Veterans organization. Meanwhile, the Marine Corps Museum staff was, among other projects, tasked with working with de Weldon on another Vietnam War-era sculpture project—the Leftwich memorial for The Basic School at MCB Quantico.

Lieutenant Colonel William G. Leftwich's roommate at the U.S. Naval Academy, Ross Perot, had commissioned de Weldon to do a monumental statue of his distinguished late friend. Leftwich was killed in combat during the Vietnam War, and de Weldon completed a series of small trophy statues, one of which would be awarded annually to the most outstanding Marine captain in the ground combat arms serving on active duty as a



COURTESY OF DARRELL ACRE

Frederick Elliott "Rick" Hart, left, and his assistant, Jay Hall Carpenter, stand in front of the completed clay version of "The Three Servicemen" statue. Hart died in 1999 at the age of 56, but Carpenter continues a successful career as a sculptor.

of his father, Col Jeremiah J. Reen, USA (Ret), the former head of the Army Intelligence Corps' Foreign Weapons Branch and a collector of military artifacts.

Unfortunately, Reen did not have the items that he was wearing when he was wounded and evacuated, but had found and purchased the missing items over the

company or battery commander in the operating forces.

While Reen was posing for Hart, the Army asked for artifacts from Pueblo and delivered what was received to Hart's studio, but they did not arrive until after the small initial maquette had been completed. Regretfully, some of the items were

Below left: When he was wounded in Vietnam, Denis Reen handed his camera to the attending corpsman and requested that he take a photograph. Later, Reen assembled examples of his uniform and equipment for the “History of the American Soldier” program and wore them when he modeled for Rick Hart.

Below right: Walter H. Bradford, seen here while serving in Vietnam as an Army lieutenant with Co B, 1/77th Armor, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), was a principal adviser on art and historical direction for Rick Hart during the project.



COURTESY OF DENIS REEN



COURTESY OF WALTER H. BRADFORD

incorrect, while others simply were not available. A request for assistance went out to local Army museums, and the then-director of the Army’s Fort Meade museum, David Cole, quickly responded with the right gear.

Cole, an officer in the Maryland Army National Guard, supplied Hart with the equipment and uniforms that he had used while serving on active duty as an enlisted man in the early 1970s, as well as an ammo can and a belt of dummy machine-gun ammunition. Concurrently, in the early winter of 1982, Walter Bradford entered the scene when he viewed the small plaster maquette in Hart’s Washington studio and instead of seeing “Three Servicemen,” he saw “Three Marines.”

Bradford, himself a twice-wounded Vietnam veteran, recently had moved from the National Park Service’s facility in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., (where he had been designing and building exhibits for historical sites all over the country) to the newly energized Museum Branch of the Army Center of Military History, where, as the new chief planner, he was tasked with creating the National Museum of the U.S. Army. Bradford had seen service in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, while serving as a lieutenant with Co B, 1/77th Armor, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

In addition to being a skilled artist, Bradford also was an expert in the field of historical Army artifacts. Coincidentally, he was a drummer in the First Maryland Regiment, in which the two Reen brothers were field musicians and the author had been a drummer in the group’s “early years” during the 1960s.

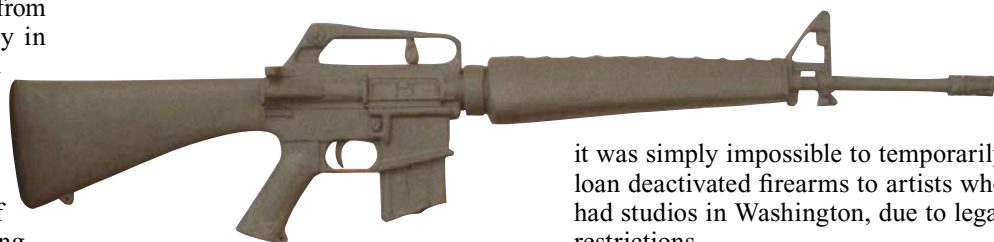
Walter Bradford immediately saw what was needed to make the statue into “Three Servicemen” instead of “Three Marines.”

All of the uniforms and equipment worn by the figures on the small plaster maquette were U.S. Marine since the correct Army artifacts were too late in arriving. Bradford started advising Hart on historical details and demonstrated the loaned Army artifacts from the Pueblo “clearinghouse” and the items that Dave Cole had loaned to Hart, while adding details like the bottle of “bug juice” in the hat band and the towel draped over one figure’s neck.

During that period, Bradford had several long philosophical discussions with Hart, as Bradford had trained and worked as an artist and sculptor, modeling miniature and life-size figures at the National Park Service, in addition to his undergraduate degree in history. They discussed subjects such as anatomy and the role of

Hart. According to a 1987 article in *Smithsonian Studies in American Art*, Secretary Webb’s father insisted on a full representation of American diversity among the three servicemen in the statue. In fact, Hart used Marine veteran Webb’s combat boots, with the dog tags tied in the laces, as the model for one of the figures.

By the late spring of 1983, Rick Hart had returned the items that he had borrowed from the Marine Corps Museum and from Denis Reen. Meanwhile, Hart’s assistant, Jay Hall Carpenter, had set up a small studio in the basement of the Marine Corps Historical Center and had made a small clay model of the M60 machine gun and the M16 rifle on exhibit in the museum. Experience with the Leftwich sculpture project had taught the staff that



Jay Hall Carpenter, Rick Hart’s assistant, made miniature clay models of an M16 rifle and an M60 machine gun in a temporary studio that was created in the basement of the former Marine Corps Museum at the Washington Navy Yard. He later created larger-than-life clay versions, as seen here, in that same studio. (Photo courtesy of Jay Hall Carpenter)

representational art in today’s culture, as well as symbolism in art and the appropriate degree of detail in the statue.

At the time, both Army General William Westmoreland and the Secretary of the Navy, James Webb, also were advising

it was simply impossible to temporarily loan deactivated firearms to artists who had studios in Washington, due to legal restrictions.

Since de Weldon’s vision of his depiction of Leftwich did not require exact attention to details, the staff was able to borrow a replica M16 rifle from the Collector’s Armory, a local militaria shop in nearby Alexandria, Va., and subloan it to the sculptor at his studio. Upon receiving approvals from the review committee, Carpenter returned to the Marine Corps Museum and started work on producing larger-than-life clay versions of the M60 machine gun and the M16 rifle, a process that took several weeks.

Six months later, in November 1983, Hart was finishing a full-sized clay version of the statue, using Marine Corporal

James Connell III as a model for the central figure and Marine veteran Cpl Terrence Greene as the figure holding the M16 rifle. At that time, Hart substituted Guillermo Jose Smith-Perez de Leon's head for Reen's on the figure holding the M60 machine gun. A Maryland civilian and a friend of Hart's family, de Leon was selected for his age and ethnicity.

The sculpture then moved forward on its own momentum, and the museum advisers faded into the background, as they were focused on the many other projects going on at that time in both the Marine Corps and Army museums. The casting process, finishing and placement took place throughout the following months, and the finished statue was unveiled on Veterans Day, 1984.

In the end, as is unfortunately all too often the case, there was no "Final Review" by all of the advisers. The project was not formally being overseen as a Department of Defense, Army or Marine Corps project, and as such, there was no one in overall charge of the historical consultation. Had there been such a review during the process, someone would have commented on the manner in which the machine-gun ammunition belts (with the bullets pointed inboard) were draped on the machine-gunner! As it was, the bronze statue already was being cast in May 1984 when several staff members of the Marine Corps Museum went to the grand opening of Hart's studio in downtown Washington and saw the full-size plaster maquette for the first time.

However, the statue has been acclaimed for its authenticity, in spite of the ammo belts. Luckily, it was a serendipitous confluence of factors that all came together at the right time—having advisers who could give credible advice, not only on historical accuracy, but also on artistic matters, as well as loaning appropriate artifacts or finding those who could.

Often, the layers of governmental bureaucracy in an "official" project prevent the synergy needed to bring all of these elements together, although admittedly this project would have benefited from having a knowledgeable "point man" in charge. Interestingly, it was not until many years later that the principal advisers and participants became fully aware of the extent of each other's involvement in the project, although many of them had worked on projects, on and off, with each other over the next 24 years.

The benefits of that cooperative effort became apparent in several ways. First and foremost, the nation received a magnificent statue in the memory of those who gave their lives in the Vietnam War. This statue joins a long line of distinguished artistic,



COURTESY OF JAY HALL CARPENTER

Frederick Hart received many awards during his lifetime, and his work continues to gain fame and recognition after his death. His attention to small details endeared him to his military advisers.

as well as historically accurate, sculpture devoted to the nation's military history.

A few examples include the Civil War monuments in front of the Capitol building in Washington and scattered throughout the city, the Shaw Memorial in Boston (a sculpture that Walter Bradford studied for a National Park Service project) and the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington (a project that several of the same service museum advisers later worked with the sculptor, Frank Gaylord).

Secondly, the staffs of the Armed Forces museums gained valuable experience in working with artists and achieved a closer degree of cooperation with each other. For example, the author and Bradford soon were collaborating on historical programs for the American Forces Radio and Television Network, professional museums presentations and international exhibitions, as well as advising on other works of art and sculpture.

Finally, as a result of coming up nearly

empty-handed when called upon for artifacts, both the Marine Corps and the Army energized and redefined the collection of "friendly" material (uniforms, equipment and weapons) in combat zones. The concept proved successful when put to the test in the 1991 Gulf War (during which Dave Cole led the Army's effort) and in later actions around the world. This program still is being actively pursued in today's global war on terrorism.

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



Living Their History

VMFAT-501 Marines Document F-35B Flying and Maintenance Experiences



By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

American author Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “Each age, it is found, must write its own books; or rather, each generation for the next succeeding.”

A select group of Marines at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida are living those words as they write the book for the Corps’ next-generation fighter-attack aircraft, the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. They are scribing the first pages of a new

chapter in the long and venerable history of Marine Corps aviation as it enters its second century this year.

Yet, the leathernecks of Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 501 hesitate to say they are making history. If asked, they’ll more likely say they are applying their acquired experience and skills to a new, advanced aircraft weapons platform.

“Bottom line is that things are different here—they’re not special, they’re not better, but they are different,” said squadron

commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel David R. Berke. “We’re interested in establishing good maintenance and flying practices and learning along the way, but capturing and documenting all those lessons.”

The CO explained that the initial cadre of Marine pilots was board-selected several years ago and that the enlisted Marines were handpicked for this duty. There are no “junior” Marines there; they are all seasoned pros.

“They come with tremendous reputa-



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

Above: Sgt Stephen Fink, right, an F-35B engine mechanic in training to be a plane captain, greets Maj Adam Levine, the VMFAT-501 operations officer, during flight training at Eglin AFB, Fla.

Left: A Marine KC-130 Super Hercules with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 252 refuels a VMFAT-501 F-35B Lightning II aircraft over Florida, Oct. 2, 2012. The mission was the first aerial refueling training flight to be performed on F-35B aircraft.

The Marine Corps “B” variant will replace and perform the roles of three venerable but aging “legacy” aircraft: the F/A-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier II and EA-6B Prowler.

wrenches and keep them flying, day and night, every day here, including weekends.”

The Marine Corps “B” variant will replace and perform the roles of three venerable but aging “legacy” aircraft: the F/A-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier II and EA-6B Prowler. The F-35B is the only Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter variant that features short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) capabilities.

The “A” model is going to the Air Force, and the “C” model is destined for carrier duty with the Navy, although Marine Corps “B” models will serve on various Navy ships as well. U.S. allies also are purchasing the Lockheed-Martin aircraft.

In spite of the groundbreaking capabilities embodied in F-35 technology, VMFAT-501’s mission is parallel with similar squadrons at other points in Marine Corps history when new aviation capabilities were being introduced.

“We are a fleet replacement squadron,” explained Major Adam Levine, the squad-

tions,” he affirmed. “Their previous commands and Headquarters Marine Corps know that these are the type of Marines who are going to be able to operate in the nontraditional environment here at Eglin.”

VMFAT-501 was formed in April 2010, assuming the lineage of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 451, originally known as the Blue Devils in World War II and then the Warlords in the mid-’50s and on to Operation Desert Storm. VMFA-451 was deactivated in January 1997.

The 115-member (and growing) squad-

ron’s mission is nontraditional in that it is collocated with similar Air Force and Navy squadrons who are conducting parallel operations with other F-35 variants.

“We’re in a really unique spot—on an Air Force base with a unique command structure in a joint environment with the Navy and Air Force,” said LtCol Berke. “We’ve got Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy leadership embedded here serving multiple end states for this program. But on a daily basis, fleet Marine pilots man the F-35B, and fleet maintainers turn

SGT GABRIELA GARCIA

ron's operations officer. "Our mission is to conduct effective training and operations in the F-35B in coordination with joint and coalition partners in order to successfully attain the annual pilot training requirement," said the Greenwood Lake, N.Y., native.

The F/A-18 pilot transferred to the squadron from VMFAT-101, the F/A-18 training squadron in Miramar, Calif., so for him, "the idea of teaching transition and conversion fighter-attack aviation concept is familiar."

Leathernecks in -501 have collaborated with the Air Force, the Navy and prime contractor Lockheed-Martin to design a common training syllabus for pilots and aircraft maintenance staff. They have sent their instructor pilots and maintainers through the syllabus to validate it and made recommendations up the chain of command for approval.

Starting about July 2012, they began training the instructor pilots and maintainers, and by September they started training operational staff. Those aviators and maintainers helped form the first operational squadron, VMFA-121, at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

VMFAT-501's officers and enlisted Marines make a relatively small footprint on the mammoth 724-square-mile Air Force base that employs more than 15,000 combined military and civilians in Florida's panhandle, but the magnitude of their mission more than makes up for it.

As Maj Levine digs deeper into the squadron's mission at Eglin, the com-

plexity of the task emerges.

"It's been 30 years since the Marine Corps has introduced a new fighter or attack platform," he said. "The diverse experience of our instructor pilots has enabled us to effectively collaborate towards the desired end state of providing safe and effective training on the F-35B."

The F-35 is a fifth-generation aircraft,

**"The diverse experience of
our instructor pilots
has enabled us to effectively
collaborate towards the
desired end state of
providing safe and effective
training on the F-35B."**

—Maj Adam Levine

and the "B" model uses a new idea of a STOVL lift system that is vastly different from the AV-8 system.

The F-35, in all its variants, means cutting-edge stealth capability, high-performance airframes, advanced avionics features and highly integrated computer systems. As a package, these advancements enable pilots to network with other elements in the operational training or combat theater to achieve a dominating advantage in situational awareness.

As noted, the Marines' "B" variant is the only F-35 model capable of vertical

takeoff and landing. What sets it apart from the previous Harrier-generation STOVL technology is that the F-35B also can fly at supersonic speeds, horizontally.

So, it can take off vertically, accelerate to supersonic speed in level flight, slow down to a hover and then land vertically.

For Marines or other military personnel in combat on the ground, that means the "B" model will get there fast from a nearby austere land base or ship to provide close air support on time and on target.

In a business where seconds can mean the difference between life and death, that is huge.

The capability comes from a patented Rolls Royce system, built on the experience the company has from their initial groundbreaking VSTOL systems in the AV-8 Harrier. Officially, the new system is called the "Rolls-Royce LiftSystem® comprising the Rolls-Royce LiftFan®, Driveshaft, 3 Bearing Swivel Module (3BSM) and Roll Posts."

In layman's terms, the system uses 21st-century technology to make the aircraft easier and more stable to fly in STOVL mode, but quickly transition to supersonic flight. This pilot-friendly system also impacts how pilots are trained.

"The training system, which encompasses academic lectures, interactive courseware and high-fidelity mission system trainers, enables the pilot to quickly and safely adapt to the F-35B," Maj Levine explained.

"The unique nature of teaching and learning a new airplane without a two-

Marine Col Art Tomassetti, second from the right, checks out an F-35B prior to an early morning training flight at Eglin Air Force Base.



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

seat variant represents a departure from the AV-8B and F/A-18 pilot training. The overwhelmingly positive response from our initial transition pilots has been the affirmation of the training system. The situational awareness that this aircraft will give the pilots and the Marine air-ground task force is going to be tremendous.”

Marine Colonel Art Tomassetti punctuates that sentiment. He is the vice commander of the Air Force’s 33d Fighter Wing, the command that encompasses all the F-35 training units under the Joint Strike Fighter Integrate Training Center. He is one of the most highly qualified pilots in the U.S. Armed Forces with decades of experience in VSTOL flying.

Col Tomassetti is a command pilot with more than 3,200 hours in 35 different aircraft, including Harriers early in his career. He was the lead test pilot for the X-35 test team; the X-35 was the experimental aircraft that paved the way to the F-35. He flew the first-ever short takeoff, level supersonic dash and vertical landing accomplished on a single flight. Nearly half of his 26-year Marine Corps career has been spent with the program. When he talks about the F-35, others stop talking and listen.

“I’ve been around this program since 1998 when the X-35 was just a schematic on paper, then it began to look like an aircraft on the factory floor, then it became something we could fly,” he related, trying to summarize decades of work into a sound bite. “The F-35 is very easy to fly, and building an airplane that’s easy to fly is not an easy task.”

The colonel explained that the F-35’s advanced pilot-aircraft interface systems allow the pilot to focus more on the mission and less on flying the airplane.

“It has advances in technology that pilots have wanted for a long time,” he said. “The cockpit is very clean, and what I’m impressed by is what’s not there—all those buttons, knobs, switches and dials that are in the older airplanes. What I have in front of me is a large touch screen, like my smartphone, so it’s technology I’ve become comfortable with. A pilot can have 14 windows of information up or two windows or whatever is needed. It has voice recognition, like some people’s cars have today, so if I want to change my radio frequency, I can talk to the airplane and change the radio frequency.

“Growing up in some of the airplanes I started out in 26 years ago, that was science fiction. Today, it’s reality, and it’s what young pilots expect when they climb into a 21st-century aircraft.”

The same technology that enables easier piloting of the F-35 also allows for more streamlined maintenance, but there still



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

Sgt Stephen Fink (above, left) assists Maj Adam Levine, VMFAT-501, as Levine gets ready for a training flight (below) piloting the Corps' newest aircraft, the F-35B Lightning II. The Corps' first operational F-35B squadron was stood up at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., in November 2012.



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

is a unique learning curve for squadron aircraft-maintenance Marines who come from several different aircraft backgrounds, including helicopters.

“Standing up a program like this is one of the most challenging things I’ve ever done,” said Gunnery Sergeant Bart Stollenberg, an F-35B engine mechanic who previously worked on CH-46 helicopters. The Ririe, Idaho, native, along with two sergeants and a staff sergeant who work with him, talked about the task.

“It is unique that we are writing our own SOPs [standard operating procedures],” he said. “If these guys have a suggestion, they let me know, and I’ll bounce it to people for input, then get it up the chain of

command. Everyone here has experience; that’s why you won’t see any junior Marines here.”

Sergeant Richard R. Wharton, a Springtown, Texas, native, added, “I think it’s beneficial because everybody is learning at the same time, and if there’s a problem, everybody’s going to work it out, so you know as much as the expert.”

“It does give us the opportunity where if we don’t like the way something is, we actually have a way to change that through our chain of command, instead of saying, ‘Well, that’s the way it’s been for the past 20 years,’ ” said Staff Sergeant Travis L. Webb.

The Waynesfield, Ohio, native was an



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

One more check by Sgt Fink, squatting, and a civilian technician clears Maj Levine for a training flight at VMFAT-501, Eglin AFB, Fla.

F-18 mechanic before being selected for this mission.

"The chain of command here is good about taking our suggestions, and if we think we have a suggestion about how something can be easier or smarter or safer, they're all for it," he said. "If it's a bad idea, they'll tell you it's a bad idea; if it's a good idea, it'll be put on paper. We have direct contact with the instructors at the Academic Training Center, too, and they'll come here and ask for our input."

As Webb spoke, his fellow mechanics were nodding their heads in agreement, and Sgt Sean M. Fagan from Huntington, N.Y., affirmed, "We definitely have good support up our chain of command."

The Academic Training Center, right across the street from the squadron hangar, is where all pilots and mechanics receive their first classroom training before touching the aircraft. It is as 21st century as the F-35, using "avatars" on individual large-screen workstations providing simulated training scenarios.

Sgt Rodgers LeBlanc, a 6½-year Marine veteran, is an F-35B avionics mechanic,

who went to the program from the Harrier community. He was assigned after stringent screening as part of a reenlistment option.

"It was pretty competitive because there were only 14 slots," said the native of

**"The chain of command
acts upon our inputs, they
take our suggestions for a
solution, or figure out an
alternate solution, but they
consider what we pass along."**

—Sgt Rodgers LeBlanc

Channelview, Texas, just east of Houston. He talked about the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity the assignment presents.

"I am one of the people actually on the flight line going through the maintenance procedures, helping with flight testing and

working with Lockheed-Martin contractors to establish precedents," he said. "I put my inputs in, and they go up the chain of command. I have actually helped write a good portion of the training program for this aircraft. The chain of command acts upon our inputs, they take our suggestions for a solution, or figure out an alternate solution, but they consider what we pass along."

LeBlanc is especially impressed with the aircraft's advanced maintenance systems.

"The aircraft troubleshoots itself, it diagnoses failures on its own using the pilot memory device that we can download to a computer, and it will show us what the problem was and make suggestions on how to fix it. It is very advanced compared to existing platforms," said LeBlanc, who was a certified electrician and welder while still in high school.

Col Tomassetti underscored the broad nature of the mission assigned to VMFAT-501. "We've asked these Marines to move into a new, empty building, populate that building with everything needed to be a working facility, start with a blank sheet of paper and write the book on how to operate the F-35B from the pilot's perspective, from the maintenance perspective, from the admin perspective. We didn't give them a template or model. ... We said, 'You are hand-picked; go figure it out.'"

Speaking more broadly about the joint-services mission, he asserted, "Here at Eglin, we are building that foundation for the F-35 weapons system that will be used for the next 40 years. ... We are shaping the future."

VMFAT-501 Marines will be at Eglin for at least another year or so as the F-35 program evolves. Eventually, the squadron is slated to move to MCAS Beaufort, S.C., to continue training duties.

Until then, the 21st-century aviation warriors will continue to document their flying and maintenance experiences as they prepare the way for future generations of Marines and their flying machines.

"We believe that with the F-35 we delivered the airplane we hoped to deliver ... to first and foremost take care of the people who are flying it, to allow services to accomplish the missions they are tasked to do, to dominate the air battlespace for the foreseeable future," Col Tomassetti confirmed.

Editor's note: The author, 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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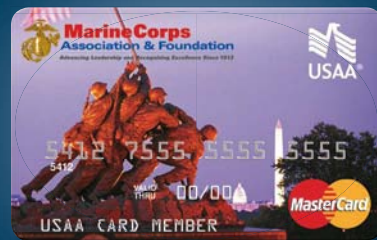
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We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero



SGT RANDALL A. CLINTON

Sgt Allan D. Donaire, maintenance management chief of 6th Comm Bn, along with two other Marines and a hospital corpsman, went to the rescue of 14 New Yorkers trapped by Hurricane Sandy's rising waters and a raging fire that broke out in the Rockaway Beach, Breezy Point area, on Oct. 29, 2012.

Marines Help Rescue 14 New Yorkers Trapped by Hurricane Sandy

■ During the night of Oct. 29, 2012, as Hurricane Sandy's nearly 80 mph winds whipped 14-foot floodwaters through the streets of New York, a detective from the New York Police Department approached the duty noncommissioned officer of 6th Communications Battalion, Marine Forces Reserve in Brooklyn, N.Y., and requested assistance for a rescue operation.

A transformer in the Queens neighborhood of Rockaway Beach had burst, triggering a house fire that soon spread to adjacent buildings. Because of the fire and the rising floodwaters, many residents were trapped.

First responders attempted to help stranded residents, but they also became trapped, bringing the number of those marooned to 14. The water was too deep for additional emergency services units to pass through, so the NYPD called on Marines with the 6th Comm Bn for support.

"We were just checking [our training center] for damage because the storm was getting pretty bad," said Sergeant Jorge Negron, a ground radio repairman with 6th Comm Bn. "The police showed up at the gate and, after getting approval, there

was no hesitation. It was just, 'Yeah, of course we'll help.' "

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Bordonaro, Inspector-Instructor for the 6th Comm Bn, authorized the use of two 7-ton trucks, as well as the service of three Marines and one Navy corpsman, to provide rescue assistance under the authority of the Defense Support of Civil Authorities directive.

At approximately 10:15 p.m., Sgt Allan Donaire, Sgt Michael Roy, Sgt Negron and Hospital Corpsman Second Class Matthew Pulitano responded to the police department's request.

"As soon as we got over the bridge, the water [between us and the neighborhood] was so high, SUVs were completely underwater and the flood waters were almost over the hood of our 7-ton [truck]," said Roy, a ground radio repairman.

When the Marines arrived, there were two fires raging at the Breezy Point area. One of the fires eventually destroyed 111 houses, and the other blaze was at a power plant.

"When we turned the corner [and saw the homes ablaze], it was the most disturbing thing I've ever seen," said Negron. "The entire block was on fire; it looked like the road to Armageddon."

The first responders' vehicles were either water-logged or not large enough to enter the floodwaters, so over the next five hours, the Marines transported members of local police and fire departments to different areas of the neighborhood.

"The bravery and dedication I saw was so great," said Negron. "Everyone was riding in our truck and then the police would hop into their raft and go to a family in need, and the fire department would get in their [rafts] and go straight to a fire."

Bordonaro reinforced how harrowing the situation was for everyone. The storm was not letting up, the winds were high, and the cell phone reception was sketchy at best, but the Marines made it out of the situation because of good teamwork, he said.

"It was so great to see everyone come together, the police, firemen and the Marines," said Roy. "It didn't matter who you worked for at that point, we were just all trying to get those people out of there."

Negron said he felt thankful that he had

a chance to serve the community and that it was gratifying to see so many people make it safely out of a bad situation.

"I talked to the Marines before they went out, and they were ready," said Bordonaro. "The conditions were dangerous; some first responders had already been trapped. But the Marines went out and performed. They knew they were saving people's lives."

The 6th Comm Bn is a Reserve unit that specializes in communications and is trained to provide radio, cyber, wire/switching and satellite services to support Marine expeditionary forces. The battalion serves the community by operating the Toys for Tots program in the area, as well as participating in parades and memorial services.

Cpl Michael Ito
PAO, Marine Forces Reserve

Embassy Guard Association Marines Pay Homage to Fallen Comrades

■ On the afternoon of Sept. 26, 1971, Khmer Rouge terrorists ran onto the field during a softball game that was being played within the compound of the U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and tossed homemade grenades at the Marine softball team. The subsequent explosions killed Sergeant Charles "Wayne" Turberville and wounded four of his fellow Marines.

Sgt Turberville was a member of the Marine Security Guard Battalion, now named the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group (MCESG), and headquartered at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. "The primary mission of the Marine security guard [MSG] is to provide internal security at designated U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities in order to prevent the compromise of classified material vital to national security of the United States."

In 2011, a request from the MCESG Region 3 executive officer, Captain Timothy Heck, was made to the Marine Embassy Guard Association (MEGA) regarding a plaque honoring Sgt Turberville's sacrifice.

What some might call unofficial historical guardians, MEGA has had a presence with the Marine security guard program since the association's inception in 1998. As with other veterans organizations,



PFC MASEY PEACOCK

COMMANDING THE COMPETITION—LtCol Darin J. Clarke, Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, holds up the championship trophy at the 2nd Annual Super Squadron Competition at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan, Oct. 26, 2012. Clarke's unit claimed first place by earning the most points throughout 10 rigorous events including a humvee pull, a bench press competition and an obstacle course.

MEGA is dedicated to providing support to active-duty Marines, in this case, MSGs. Whenever possible, MEGA works to pay homage to those MSGs who have died while in service to their country.

On May 31, 2007, McAnulty Firing Range 12 at MCESG was named and a memorial stone and plaque were funded by MEGA and dedicated in honor of former MSG Master Sergeant Brian P. McAnulty, who died in Iraq. In June 2011, MEGA plaques honoring MSGs Corporal Darwin D. Judge, Cpl Charles McMahon Jr. and Cpl James Marshall, all killed while defending the Embassy in Saigon during the Vietnam War, were presented to the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The answer to Capt Heck's request for support in honoring Sgt Turberville was an unequivocal affirmative. Information from Alabama's Monroe County High School revealed that Turberville, Class of 1968, was a star athlete, played tackle on the football team and, because of his field goal kicking, was known as "the boy with the golden toe." Coincidentally, his classmate was Kay Marshall, sister of Cpl James Marshall, who was killed on Jan. 31, 1968, defending the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

In July 2012, contact was made with Sgt Turberville's sister, Jeanette McKenzie. On Saturday, Oct. 7, MEGA member Kevin Earley of Columbus, Ga., traveled to Franklin, Ala., to present a MCESG commemorative plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McKenzie and their daughter Jeannie Reedy. The plaque was accom-



JEANNIE REEDY

Marine Embassy Guard Association member Kevin Earley presents a plaque honoring the sacrifice of Sgt Charles "Wayne" Turberville to the sergeant's sister, Jeanette McKenzie, in Franklin, Ala., on Oct. 7, 2012.

panied with a letter from the MCESG commanding officer, Colonel Michael D. Robinson.

In part, the letter read, "Sergeant Turberville's lasting legacy echoes through the hallowed halls here at Marine Embassy Guard Group; for it is the sacrifices made by him and his fellow Marine Security Guards that form the solid foundation which has guided the Marine Security Guard Program into the 21st century and through one of the most turbulent times in our recent history."

Franklin, Ala., is as small of a town as one can imagine with 145 residents, 59 households and 44 families. Despite the passage of time, the Turberville family and Franklin community still grieve over the loss of this Marine.

Jack McGarry
Marine Embassy Guard Association

Corps Unveils "MOH" Show Bird

■ General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, unveiled a restored F/A-18 Hornet that was dedicated to recent Medal of Honor awardees during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Nov. 2, 2012.

It took nearly two months of planning

for Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 101 to research and then restore the F/A-18 that was painted white and memorialized with the names of Medal of Honor winners, Marine Corporal Jason L. Dunham, Marine Sergeant Dakota Meyer and Navy SEALs Master-at-Arms Second Class Michael A. Monsoor and Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, USN.

"I've repainted many planes in the past, but they're all gray," said Staff Sergeant Brian Cudnohufsky, the staff noncommissioned officer for corrosion control with VMFAT-101. "To have a show bird is something you don't get to do very often. It's fun to be a part of."

During the dedication ceremony, each Medal of Honor winner's citation was read and a "missing man" formation was flown overhead.

Gen Amos and Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Brodie, the commanding officer of Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101, flew the Hornet during the formation.

After the flight, the Commandant talked about each of those honored and met with Monsoor's family.

"It's great that there's recognition for these guys—in three cases ... they paid the ultimate price," said Royal Air Force

Flight Lieutenant Daniel Shaw, an instructor pilot with VMFAT-101. "It's great the squadron has been able to do this for them."

Although the ceremony is over, life for the newly restored aircraft is not finished.

"I have a feeling it's going to go to a few air shows, and I think it's going to be shown off as much as possible," said Cudnohufsky.

LCpl Rebecca Eller
PAO, MCAS Miramar, Calif.

New Proactive Policing Model Captures Corps' Attention

■ Military police have recently begun a new approach to enforcing the law, and the Marine Corps has taken note.

Marine and civilian law-enforcement agents began training on Oct. 15, 2012, to apply a model that takes the standard ways of policing and combines them into a unique, more effective way of conducting operations, said First Lieutenant Cesar Guerra, assistant operations officer for the Provost Marshal's Office (PMO) at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Combining the standard models of intelligence-led, problem-oriented and community-oriented policing models creates a methodical shift in law-enforce-

ment operations that allows police to rapidly respond to criminal activity and incidents, said Guerra, who is the developer of the new multidimensional model.

With the new approach, police are able to triangulate problem areas and focus strength and resources rather than blanket the base with forces, said Leroy Cortes-Real, PMO operations officer.

"As MPs, for the last 20 years, we've been reactive to what we respond to on base. You call and we're there," said Guerra. So what we're trying to do here is three-dimensional policing ... which we feel is a more proactive approach."

Guerra said the Marine Corps has adopted the model and that leaders are making efforts to see the methods taught to military police at the academy level.

Another dimension to the new model is the incorporation of elements of Combat Hunter, once a Corps-unique skill set used in counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan.

Guerra said that Combat Hunter skills such as observing and tracking or scouting methods that involve following evidence trails are applicable in law enforcement on a base as well as in combat operations, and that Marines with Combat Hunter skills



Gen James F. Amos addresses a crowd during a ceremony dedicating a restored F/A-18 Hornet at MCAS Miramar, Calif., Nov. 2, 2012. The "show bird," dedicated to recent Marine and Navy Medal of Honor winners whose names were painted on the aircraft, was flown in by Gen Amos.



CPT CHRISTOPHER DUNCAN

Second Lt Timothy Beebe, a military police officer, dusts fingerprints in a mock crime scene during a class designed to hone military law-enforcement skills through a new three-dimensional policing model being employed at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 15-19, 2012.

greatly enhance on-scene police work.

"Understanding the atmospherics of an area is important for effective policing," said Colonel Gino P. Amoroso, the commanding officer of Security Battalion, MCB Camp Pendleton. "With this training, an officer is better able to identify community safety and security concerns and know how to partner with the community to solve problems.

"What we wanted to do is take the skills that Marines are taught in Combat Hunter, which are based in human behavior, profiling and tracking, and adapt those skills

to a law-enforcement setting. This is to assure that Marine and civilian officers have the ability to use their environment as an advantage when responding to incidents."

Cpl Christopher Duncan
PAO, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Cherry Point Resurfaces Runways

■ Lance Corporal Cory D. Polom, Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., reports that facilities maintenance personnel are working on a

\$10.4 million project to renovate two of the air station's runways that will make landing safer for pilots.

Construction began April 4, 2012, with a projected finish date tentatively scheduled for June 8, 2013.

Systems Command Reports Changes

■ Bill Johnson-Miles with Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., reports the Marine Corps acquisition team has evolved. Brigadier General Frank Kelley, MCSC's commander, said that MCSC realigned under core competencies to strengthen the Command's five primary functions: program management, engineering, contracts, resource management and logistics.

The term "Product Groups (PGs)" and PG numbers will no longer be used. PG directors are now Program Managers (PMs), and many former PMs within those PGs are now Product Managers (PdMs). A listing of the new command structures is posted on MCSC's website at www.marcorsyscom.marines.mil/UnitHome/Organization.aspx.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL M. C. NERL

**"How long is the movie that the sergeant major is watching?
My arms are killing me!"**

**Submitted by
Wayne Mailhiot
Prescott, Ariz.**

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

This Month's Photo



CPL SARAH DIETZ

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____



Not far north of Da Nang, the sun sets over the Hai Van Pass, on Route 1, an area well known to Vietnam War-era leathernecks.

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS:

“Return to Vietnam: Tet Offensive and Battle of Hue City”

“From the gates of the Citadel to the corner of the world”

Story and photos by Colin M. Colbourn

On the top floor of a high-rise hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam, 15 people, strangers only weeks before, filled the banquet room with warm embraces, toasts and jovial laughter. Back in the same hotel where the trip began, it was a bittersweet moment as we all—Marines and civilians alike—contemplated our last night in that mysterious and beautiful country.

We went to Vietnam for many different reasons. Some returned to the place where more than 40 years earlier they fought a war. Others went to make an attempt at understanding the places where family members and friends fought and sometimes died. Vietnam proved to be an intriguing and striking canvas, and Military Historical Tours provided the guides and itinerary for a memorable and poignant trip.

Our trip began in a Los Angeles hotel, and my first interaction with the group occurred at exactly 1:02 p.m. when I walked



Retired Marine Capt Ed Garr, Military Historical Tours guide for its Vietnam tours, waits in a rickshaw as the tour group prepares to enter the Citadel, Hue City.

into the room and Captain Ed Garr, USMC (Ret), the enigmatic group leader and Marine veteran of both Korea and Vietnam, caught me off guard with an abrupt “You’re late!” It was true, as our meeting had started promptly at 1 p.m. I knew, however, that I was in the right place, and that Garr

would keep this extensive trip on schedule.

Our MHT tour leaders were Garr and retired Marine Colonels Chuck Meadows and Dave Wall. Although I knew little about these Marine veterans going into the trip, by the end I was honored to have met them. We would get to know Meadows very well in Hue. Wall, a career Marine from New Hampshire, was a knowledgeable and attentive travel guide. He was an excellent travel companion, who knew a little Vietnamese and a lot of New England-ese.

While formal introductions were made between the hotel in Los Angeles and the flights to Hanoi, the real bonding began as we entered Vietnam. We made our first (or, for most of the group, second) impressions of Vietnam as we drove from the airport to our hotel downtown. All eyes and cameras were glued to the windows on either side of the bus as the countryside morphed from urban to rural to industrial and back to urban again.

The unforgettable sound track of Vietnam first reached our untrained ears on that bus ride. A complex symphony of car, bus and scooter horns blasted away, not out of anger, but instead similar to the function of a submarine’s “ping.” The unfamiliar sights of factories set beside the backdrop of farms and rice paddies, as well as busy highways full of scooters



Above: Col Chuck Meadows, USMC (Ret) describes the 1968 Battle of Hue City and points to the old Hue University building with the Perfume River in the background.

Left: Hue City veterans, retired Col Meadows, foreground, and former Sgt Jim Palmer, walk up the infamous Route 1 in Hue City.

and mopeds, became the first truly Vietnamese landscapes we witnessed. Within the Hanoi city limits, the architecture also caught our eyes. Tall, thin buildings and massive entanglements of power lines dominated our view as we traveled toward the business and financial hub of northern Vietnam.

Since we had arrived in the morning, we had to stay awake all day or face some miserable jet lag. While a few members of the group took their baggage upstairs and washed the airplanes and travel away, some of us decided to explore the streets of Hanoi. This seemingly mundane activity in the United States became an interesting and dangerous event in Vietnam. With the exception of some major intersections (how this is decided was not entirely clear), most intersections and crossroads had no road signs or lights of any nature.

For that reason we learned early on how to cross the road. Stand up straight. Look forward. Walk. Don't stop. Just walk. The scooters and cars adjust to your speed and direction. As long as we did not hesitate, we were safe, although I was nearly side-swiped by a pizza delivery scooter!

Our walk within a few blocks of the hotel provided a nice microcosm of Hanoi and Vietnam. Sidewalks were lined with scooters. Tiny mom-and-pop restaurants with their signature small chairs out front were contrasted with local produce and farmers' markets down tight alleys, bustling with people buying and selling.

In Hanoi at the beginning of the trip, we were introduced into a Vietnamese culture that was far different from what we experienced in central Vietnam. While there were some indications that Vietnam was a developing country, Hanoi seemed to be an organized and busy city with a good amount of tourists. During our short time in Hanoi we toured the Hoa Lo Prison (Hanoi Hilton), the Hanoi Military Museum and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and complex. At the former leader's mausoleum, we saw where President Ho lived, and, under heavy guard and in silence, where his body was laid in state.

While we were in Hanoi, MHT arranged a briefing at the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). Located in the embassy district of Hanoi (oddly enough between both the Iranian and North Korean embassies), JPAC is well located for the important work it does, including the intense negotiations that take place between the American and Vietnamese delegations as they both attempt to uncover their missing war dead.

After a few days in Hanoi, we traveled by air to central Vietnam, landing in Phu Bai, the location of a Marine Corps supply base during Vietnam. Two of the Marine veterans on our trip, former Sergeants Art Anderson and Gary Olsen, served in different capacities with Force Logistics Support Group Alpha at Phu Bai. As soon as we got off the plane and onto the bus, Anderson and Olsen recounted some of

their experiences at Phu Bai, particularly during the chaos of the 1968 Tet Offensive as the Marines at Phu Bai fought to supply the Marines desperately fighting to regain Hue City.

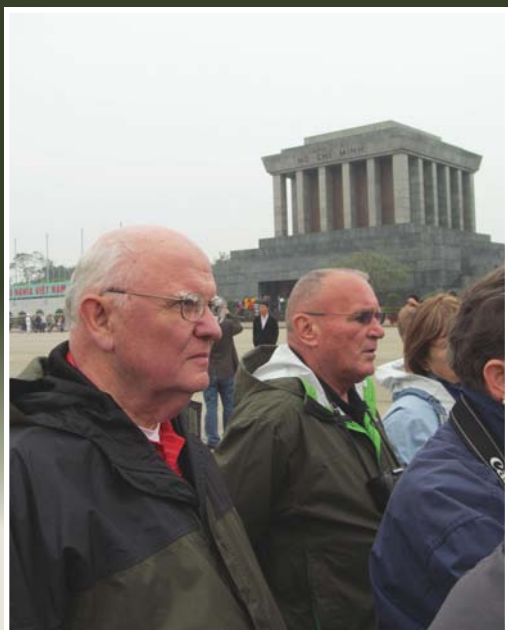
Assuming our bus would take the group directly to our hotel in Hue, I was surprised that we stopped just as we entered the city on a road most familiar to one of our group leaders, Chuck Meadows, a former Marine infantry company commander in the Battle of Hue City. I was oblivious to the significance of Route 1, which heads directly into the old imperial capital city, Hue. It was, however, a perfect time to stop on the road, as it was Meadows' first experience of Hue during the Tet offensive, as he led Company G, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment toward an enemy of unknown strength as part of the quick reaction force. While the bus drove up Route 1 toward the Perfume River, Meadows described his harrowing experiences as he entered the city in 1968.

For our 2012 tour, Hue was the focal point of the Tet experience now 44 years later. We spent nearly a week in Hue, covering every inch of ground fought for by Marines, from the small Vietnamese gas station where in 1968, then-Capt Meadows retrieved the only map of Hue since the Marines had none, to the Perfume River and the infamous Citadel.

The relationships built over many years between the MHT guides and the Vietnamese were particularly amazing. Restau-

Below left: Col Chuck Meadows, left, and retired LtCol Michael Getsey, a former Marine advisor to the South Vietnamese Marines, listen to their Vietnamese guide as they stand in front of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Below right: At the street corner across the Perfume River Bridge, where G/2/5 encountered intense North Vietnamese Army resistance, Chuck Meadows describes his role and experiences in the Battle for Hue City.



rants and shops were made readily available for us by their gracious and humble owners, which made it easy to see that this was not just a military history tour, but also a cultural tour and a form of building ongoing relationships between Americans and the Vietnamese.

Day trips from Hue and adventures in the city at night were a great time for those on the trip, Marines and civilians alike, to experience Vietnam and get to know each other. While some on the trip fought

inch by inch for the streets on which we walked, others had different connections to Vietnam and the war.

John Thompson, a retired Marine major, went to Vietnam to visit the places where his brother fought. Tall, skinny and with a great white beard, Thompson was nicknamed “Moses” by fellow travelers. From his signature spot in the very back of the bus, he stimulated both comic relief and insightful discussion, adding a unique and delightful personality to the wonderful

group of people on the trip. Ron and Evy Lang were civilians on a military history tour of Vietnam. Friends and business partners with our guide, Dave Wall, the Langs went to Vietnam to have a better idea of Wall’s service there.

Traveling from cities like Hue and Dong Ha, the tour continued throughout the hill-topped central Vietnam from Khe Sanh to the Demilitarized Zone. With the experienced guides, both American and Vietnamese, the bus stopped at the places most important to those on the trip. For retired Lieutenant Colonel Ernie Price, an artillery officer, stopping at sites throughout “Leatherneck Square,” including Con Thien, Camp Carroll and the “Rockpile,” were important. For Price, his service along the DMZ was much like fighting from “right at the corner of the world,” as he had to travel from one of those artillery strongholds to the next between 1967 and 1968.

On the last leg of the trip, it seemed as if we traveled from one world to another, as we drove south and crossed the Hai Van Pass, considered one of the most beautiful coastal roads in the world. A harrowing adventure of winding roads up through the mountains, the Hai Van Pass was a dangerous and often deadly route for all allied military personnel traveling by road to and from Da Nang during the war. For our tour, however, it provided some of the most beautiful and dramatic views of the entire trip.

Based out of Hoi An, a Vietnamese cultural center and fashion capital, we con-



A South Vietnamese Army building within the walls of the Citadel in Hue City, Vietnam, destroyed in the 1968 battle, was never rebuilt.



The MHT tour group poses for a photo in front of the Citadel in Hue City. The author is standing in the back, fourth from the right.

tinued our tour of Da Nang and the surrounding areas. For two Marines, Hill 55, not far from Da Nang, was an important part of their time in Vietnam from 1969 into 1970. Former Sgt Jim Palmer and former Corporal Chuck Engel, friends since the war, were part of the 1st Marines' Security Platoon on Hill 55. Both Palmer and Engel experienced a number of incidents during their tours, including being targeted by snipers and having a helicopter crash on top of them.

Much like many of the sites we visited in Vietnam, little was left of Hill 55 the way they remembered it from more than 40 years ago. Overgrown with trees and the site of a small village, Hill 55 clearly was no longer a place for military use. Palmer and Engel poured over maps and searched for bunkers they knew from their wartime experiences. Luckily, a familiar bridge still was intact. Engel had stood post at the site 42 years earlier as a Marine attack helicopter rained .50-caliber rounds

on a target across the river. It left a lasting memory for Engel and a landmark to connect the past to the present.

As our tour came to an end, we waded through the chaos at the airport in Hanoi and departed for home. With the long flights across the Pacific, we had time to unwind and reflect on our whirlwind tour through Vietnam. There was no doubt from any of us that Vietnam had changed dramatically. The wounds of war inflicted on the land often were erased either by the people or by nature, yet much remained the same. The rice paddies. The villages. The hills and mountains. The people.

For those who returned to Vietnam, there was at least a small semblance of the battlefields on which they fought, overlaid with the incredible economic and population growth that defines the country today. For those of us who traveled to Southeast Asia for the first time, we encountered an amazing side of the world, filled with astonishing landscapes and friendly people.

Undoubtedly, the people on the tour left a lasting impact on my life and my studies as a military historian. The guides from MHT and our Vietnamese guide, Thanh, helped to mix military history and cultural interaction in order to restore the image of a Vietnam often marred by the wounds of war.

Editor's note: Colin Colbourn, a graduate of Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi, has worked as an intern at the Marine Corps History Division, Marine Corps University, Quantico, Va.



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos on the return to Hue City at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/returntohue

Sgt Patrick Kanaley with Battalion Landing Team 3/2, 26th MEU breaks apart the deck of a home on Nov. 9 that was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in Breezy Point, a small community of New York City.



Mission Assignment: Cleaning Up Breezy Point, Queens, N.Y.

By Andrew Lubin

The Marine-Navy team of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, joined by the 8th Combat Engineer Support Battalion, Second Marine Logistics Group, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., demonstrated its humanitarian and civic assistance skills for some of our own, Nov. 1-11, 2012. The citizens of Staten Island, N.Y., and Breezy Point in Queens were in dire straits after a record storm surge from Hurricane Sandy devastated lower Manhattan and the coastal areas of New York.

Breezy Point is the little town America saw burning on Monday night, Nov. 5. With the roads blocked by strong winds and the storm surge, some 111 homes were burned to the ground and 20 more heavily damaged in the midst of Hurricane Sandy. Not a single building was left undamaged. First, the storm surge rolled in and battered the community, and then the wind-whipped fire ravaged blocks and blocks of homes. Help was needed.

The emphasis was on reaching disaster-stricken New York City quickly, so the Marines were transported by helicopter

and Osprey from predeployment field training at MCB Camp Lejeune to Amphibious Squadron Six ships that had gone to sea from Norfolk, Va., on Oct. 22, ahead of the storm. Arriving from the sea, by air and landing craft, the Marines went into action.

The mission of the Marines and sailors was to clear debris from the streets and between the homes so the power crews and other agencies could go in and begin restoring utilities and provide greater assistance.

Lacking much of the rolling stock of humvees, 7-ton trucks and the usual quan-



SGT MEGAN ANGEL

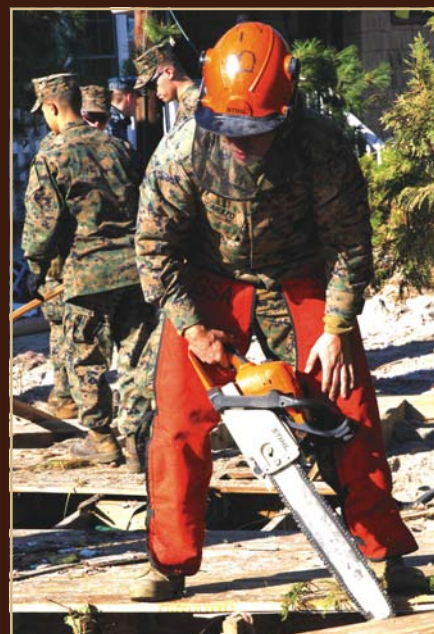


CPL BRYAN INGARD

Above: Leathernecks landed from U.S. Navy amphibious shipping by air and sea, moving quickly to provide humanitarian aid to the coastal areas of New York City.

Right: LCpl Nicholas Carazo, BLT 3/2, uses a chainsaw to break larger debris into manageable pieces for removal from the lawns and streets of Breezy Point, Nov. 9.

Below: BLT 3/2 leathernecks help Breezy Point residents clear household debris Nov. 9 after the Hurricane Sandy storm surge sent waves of water through the area.



SGT MEGAN ANGEL

ties of engineering kits, generators, tents and construction tools, the Marines and sailors did most of their work by hand, using available resources to accomplish their mission.

Turning over the efforts to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the New York National Guard's Task Force New York on Nov. 11, the Marines returned to Camp Lejeune to resume predeployment training.



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos and video of Marines in action, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to families in New York City and surrounding areas after Hurricane Sandy at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/sandy



SGT MEGAN ANGEL

In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce

Personal Combat Awards

The awards records in the Marine Corps' Award Processing System (APS) and Improved Awards Processing System were used to populate this list, which reflects personal combat awards from the start of the global war on terrorism presented to Marines and sailors serving with U.S. Marine Corps forces only. This list may not reflect certain personal combat awards

processed outside of either system and/or approved by another branch of service. Any questions on the content should be submitted in writing to the Personal Awards Section at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, MMMA-2, 2008 Elliott Rd., Quantico, VA 22134.

The following awards were announced in October 2012:



Bronze Star With Combat "V"
Capt Charles E. Anklam III,
 2d Battalion, Ninth Marine
 Regiment, Second Marine
 Division

Capt Daniel L. Brooks, 1st Marine
 Special Operations Bn (MSOB), U.S.
 Marine Corps Forces Special Operations
 Command (MARSOC)

GySgt James I. Davies, 2d MSOB,
 MARSOC

SSgt Jeffery M. Duncan, 2d MSOB,
 MARSOC

Sgt Justin M. Hansen, 2d MSOB,
 MARSOC

Sgt Sean M. Rodgers, 2/8, 2dMarDiv

Sgt Carlos F. Sanchez, 2/6, 2dMarDiv

LtCol William H. Vivian, 6th Marines,
 2dMarDiv

SSgt Gregory S. Wenzel, 3/5,
 1stMarDiv

1stSgt David A. Wilson, 1/5, 1stMarDiv



Air Medal With Combat "V"

GySgt Dwayne Adams Jr.,
 Marine Heavy Helicopter Squad-
 ron 466, Marine Aircraft Group
 16, Third Marine Aircraft Wing

Capt William A. Ardeson II, HMH-
 466, MAG-16, 3d MAW

Maj Troy D. Callahan, HMH-466,
 MAG-16, 3d MAW

GySgt Timothy E. Carter, HMH-466,
 MAG-16, 3d MAW

Capt James K. Everett, HMH-466,
 MAG-16, 3d MAW

LCpl Brandon S. Lamora, HMH-466,
 MAG-16, 3d MAW

LCpl Douglas R. Resendiz, HMH-466,
 MAG-16, 3d MAW

Sgt Scott L. Steele, HMH-466,
 MAG-16, 3d MAW

Capt Tyler C. Wright, HMH-466,
 MAG-16, 3d MAW



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

SSgt Juan F. Alvarez, 6th
 Marines, 2dMarDiv

1stLt John D. Black, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

HM3 Benjamin J. Burke, 2/5,
 1stMarDiv

LCpl Niall W. Cotisears, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

Capt Joshua S. Edwards, 1st Combat
 Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv

SSgt Justin R. Gindlesperger, 6th
 Marines, 2dMarDiv

SSgt Stephen J. Green, 1st CEB,
 1stMarDiv

Cpl Gabriel R. Hernandez, 1/7,
 1stMarDiv

HM1 Raymond E. Hoelscher, 2d
 MSOB, MARSOC

Capt Christopher Y. Kim, 1st CEB,
 1stMarDiv

1stSgt Alexander J. Leibfried, 1/7,
 1stMarDiv

Sgt Ryan M. Loya, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

HN Raol V. Luna, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

Cpl Travis M. Magliolo, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

LCpl Nicholas M. Matarese,
 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Adam P. Maxey, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

Sgt Justin L. McLeod, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

GySgt Gabriel Reyes, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

1stLt Michael J. Rhoads, 2/5,
 1stMarDiv

Sgt Jesse Rodriguez, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

1stLt John R. Sama, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

SSgt Andrew South, 1st Intelligence
 Bn, I Marine Expeditionary Force

1stLt Brian T. Vandenberg, 2/5,
 1stMarDiv

CWO-2 Cerraio K. Villarouel,
 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv

HM3 Jerrad M. Waldorf, 2/5,
 1stMarDiv

SSgt Mark J. Young, 2d MSOB,
 MARSOC

SSgt Robert F. Younkens, 1st MSOB,
 MARSOC



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

LCpl John W. Adams, 1/7,
 1stMarDiv

SSgt Charles G. Aguilar, 2/5,
 1stMarDiv

LCpl Jason D. Aguilar, 1st CEB,
 1stMarDiv

GySgt Carlos R. Aguilera, 1st Light
 Armored Reconnaissance Bn, 1stMarDiv

Sgt Daved L. Allen, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

SSgt Moses K. Arciga, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

HM3 Cameron D. Arms, 1/7,
 1stMarDiv

Cpl Bryson B. Arroyos, 1st Recon Bn,
 1stMarDiv

Sgt Alejandro H. Barba Jr., 2/5,
 1stMarDiv

Cpl Taylor J. Baune, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

1stLt Calum J. Belden, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

HM3 Matthew Bennett, 1/7,
 1stMarDiv

1stLt Edward O. Beyne, 2/5,
 1stMarDiv

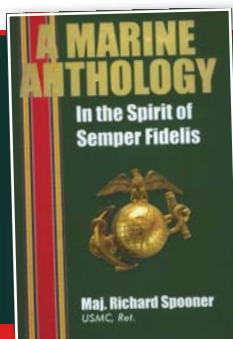
HM2 Francis A. Boecker, 1/7,
 1stMarDiv

LCpl Christopher R. Bogner, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Joseph D. Brandt, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Joshua C. Brightman, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Christopher R. Brown, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Capt Jonathan A. Brown, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Seth W. Brown, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Zachary W. Bumgardener, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Colton J. Carlson, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt William H. Carroll III, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Christopher L. Cavey, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Kolten D. Clubine, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Steven D. Curry, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Jason C. Daniell, 1stMarDiv (Forward)
Cpl Jeffery P. Dickerson, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Carl F. Dietz, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Kevin M. Diggs, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Kyle A. Dion, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl John S. Drake, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Curtis J. Duarte, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Cody F. Dyrdaahl, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Manuel R. Espinoza, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Daniel J. Evans, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Erich J. Ewing, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
2dLt James G. Fadden, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Rene Flores, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Kyle W. Fox, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Marc B. Garrison, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Garvin G. Gause, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl John D. Gentry, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Samuel F. Gibbs, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
1stLt James P. Godin, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Sean M. Gore, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Stephen J. Greenberg, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Brandon W. Grodzki, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Jonathan R. Haggard, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Ryan R. Harnish, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Jacob T. Holka, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Brett C. Howard, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Brandon M. Hurd, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Junior R. Infante, Combat Logistics Bn 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, Third Marine Logistics Group
Cpl David L. Johnson, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Garrett L. Jolly, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Spencer A. Jones, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Timothy W. Jones Jr., 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Travis M. Kerr, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

LCpl Justin A. King, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Joshua B. Kite, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Jeffrey R. Kurek, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Kevin E. Kusler, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Benjamin S. Landis, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Ricky L. Lara Jr., 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Carlos J. Laylle, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Arturo A. Ley, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Eric W. Linn, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
1stLt Robert K. Livengood, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
1stLt William D. Long, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Daniel F. Loyco, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Justin A. Magerer, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt John R. Magurn, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Matthew D. Mangrella, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
1stLt Vince S. Margiotta, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Johnathan R. Martin, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Javier R. Martinez, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Kevin M. Mayer, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Michael J. Mayton, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
1stLt William H. McCabe Jr., 1/7, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Joseph W. McCarty, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Gilbert M. McCune III, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Jeremy R. McElroy, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Robert A. Melson Jr., 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Jacob T. Mikesell, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Joshua J. Miller, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Matthew J. Mitchell, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Adam M. Montelo, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Juan J. Morales, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Geoffrey E. Morrison, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Juan P. Munoz, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Austin J. Oubre, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Raphael K. Palisoc, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Jordan A. Patrick, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Juan H. Perez Jr., 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Leonard P. Rausch, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Ryan C. Reeder, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Alex J. Reyes, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Joseph W. Reynolds, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Nicholas A. Rodriguez, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Capt Eric S. Rogers, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Marshall T. Ross, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
1stLt Benjamin P. Royal, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Chase R. Safrist, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Edison G. Sanchez, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Taylor M. Sanchez, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Stephen C. Scates Jr., 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Michael W. Schinkel, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Thomas G. Scovel, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Craig H. Shaver IV, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Brandon W. Shaw, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Nathanael B. Skousen, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Aaron M. Sosa, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Terry J. Southworth, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Steven A. Soza, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Matthew L. Stanley, 1stMarDiv (Fwd)
Sgt Richard B. Stanley, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl David E. Stewart, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Ryan J. Tenjum, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Robert P. Third, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Myron J. Thomas, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Nicholas M. Thomas, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Ulysess Urueta, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Timothy S. Walls, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Joe K. Warner, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Thomas C. Welch V, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
HN Norberto J. Zamora, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Milton D. Zavala, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Benjamin D. Zumstein, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

Compiled by the Personal Awards Section, HQMC



A Marine Anthology: In the Spirit of Semper Fidelis

By Maj Richard Spooner, USMC (Ret)

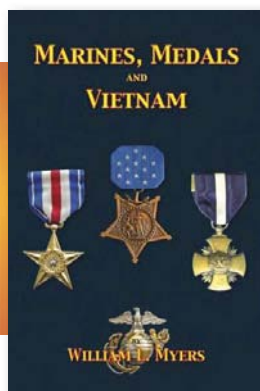
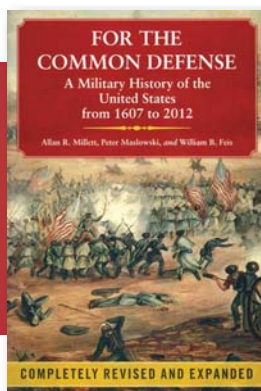
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Books Reviewed

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FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE: A Military History of the United States from 1607 to 2012 (3rd edition). By Allan R. Millett, Peter Maslowski and William B. Feis. Published by Free Press. 714 pages. Softcover. Stock #1451623534. \$25.20 MCA Members. \$28 Regular Price.

"For the Common Defense," an enduring classic by heralded historian Allan R. Millett and his associates, has been updated and is available in this third edition. The book covers the military history of the United States from the Colonial period up to 2012. This comprehensive, stand-alone volume traces the intriguing roots of our uniquely American military tradition.

The authors have added a chapter to the Vietnam War section, two new chapters related to the end of the Cold War, and included a fresh look at our most recent military interventions in the Balkans and the ongoing violent conflicts in the Muslim world, including the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The book addresses six major themes related to the broader context of American history: first, a rational consideration of U.S. military policies and programs; second, the American defense policies; third, our country's traditional tendency to be unprepared for any new conflicts; fourth, America's commitment to civilian control of military policy; fifth, a discussion of how our armed forces have progressively become more professional and become nationalized; and, finally, how industrialization has helped to shape the way our nation thinks about, and fights, wars.

This captivating book is organized in a flowing timeline. The reader easily follows the trends in developing our American military structure, starting from the pre-Colonial period.

Our earliest forbearers organized in small tight-knit protective groups to face the menacing new world they found. Most were farmers and semiskilled laborers; however, each group contained professional military leaders who assisted and trained the colonists in the military art and science of warfare. This, of course, was in anticipation of attack by their warlike indigenous native neighbors. These early pioneers from the Old World tended to have an innate mistrust of Old-World kings, their standing armies and the constant wars in the Old World. Thus was born the American concept of civilian control over the military.

Today, this readily can be seen by our continued reliance upon the National Guard and our reservist organizational structures. Even today our military is directed by our civilian President, acting in his role as our Commander in Chief.

As expected, this volume gives adequate space to the treatment of America's major wars, but perhaps its real value may lie in the authors' lively discussion of the periods between major wars. Following the conclusion of major conflicts, America has shown a debilitating tendency to drop its guard and rush to demobilize our military, both its manpower and its equipment.

With purchase of this outstanding edi-

tion, you can hold in your hands a most excellent survey of our military history and heritage. This well-written book is a joy to read. The volume includes a stellar discussion of our country's geopolitical posture and process. Constant examination of our country's hard-won history will confirm our need for a robust self-preservation policy. Our country's history of conflict plainly reveals that by maintaining and sustaining a robust world-class military, we may continue to safely endure.

A copy of "For the Common Defense" will contribute a significantly forceful addition to any serious military history collection. For any civilization that miscalculates and fails to remember its trial-by-fire times of yore, pray do beware.

Robert B. Loring

Editor's note: A prolific reader and Leatherneck contributor, "Red Bob" Loring is dedicated to supporting social programs that improve the lives of citizens in East Pasco County, Fla. He and his team of elves aided U.S. Marine Corps Reserve leathernecks in making this Christmas one of the very best for the Toys for Tots program in his community.

MARINES, MEDALS AND VIETNAM. By William L. Myers. Published by Redoubt Press. 392 pages. Softcover. Stock #0976436516. \$22.50 MCA Members. \$25 Regular Price.

When Bill Myers sent me a 2-inch-thick stack of typed paper, I wondered if it was the rough draft of his new book "Marines, Medals and Vietnam." I'm delighted that it was indeed the case.

This book may be even more interesting, and certainly more sustaining, than other books of this genre because Myers has selected several specific combat operations in Vietnam and provided a detailed overview of each. Many readers instantly will recognize Operations Starlite, Orange, Dodge City and Buffalo, and certainly Khe Sanh and several other significant battles that were spontaneous and therefore didn't have official names, but were

Leatherneck Book Browser

“The War of 1812: A Complete Chronology With Biographies of 63 General Officers” is another exceptional historical reference work by Marine veteran Bud Hannings. A self-described “overachieving PFC,” Hannings owns and operates Seniram Publishing Inc., where he focuses on publishing books on U.S. military history. (Seniram is Marines spelled backwards.)

From where we are, it looks like McFarland & Company has discovered a workhorse who loves history and the publishing company is riding him hard. *Leatherneck* regulars will recognize Hannings’ name from earlier books we have cited for you in our “*Leatherneck* Book Browser” section. This tome marks his seventh reference book for McFarland and, like the others, it is nothing short of magnificent!

While this book is centered around the War of 1812, Hannings understands the need for scene-setting and includes a concise but very beneficial look back to the end of the American Revolution, highlighting how it ended and how that laid the foundation for the War of 1812. Great Britain did not go quietly into the night after the Treaty of Paris in 1783, but rather dragged its feet on removing military bases in America and in all things diplomatic.

Prior to launching into the meat of the War of 1812 chronology, Hannings also paints a good picture of the world since the American Revolution. He notes Great Britain’s war with France, which consumed a great deal of its military resources, limiting its military might, which certainly made it easier for America to prevail.

Hannings begins his chronology with very limited events in 1803-04 and offers the reader more details beginning in 1805 with the U.S. military leading the way against the Barbary pirates in the campaign against Tripoli. From there, Hannings quickly builds a chronological background of significant events leading up to the U.S. declaration of war against Great Britain on June 18, 1812, and on through the war.

He lays out the chronology of the War of 1812 in 399 pages and incorporates 148 carefully selected photos and 29 maps. The general officer listing in Appendix A is complemented by a section of short biographies of significant general officers.

The book is a great reference source for all students of history. It is being sold at the reference (hardcover) book price, \$145, and is available from the publisher, McFarland & Company Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640, (800) 253-2187, www.mcfarlandpub.com. (ISBN: 978-0-7864-6385-5)

indeed full-conflict situations.

In every battle covered in the book, the details are so focused with names, ranks and unit designations that a reader will find himself feeling as if he was back in the battle. The Marine ground/air teamwork is addressed in great detail, and our aviation warriors are featured as well as the ground forces.

However, this is not just a book relating the details of each combat mission in a history-book type of overview. This book gets personal! In every battle, Myers includes names and ranks of Marines and corpsmen and includes their individual backgrounds, the nature of the missions and the moment-to-moment events of the Marines’ operational experience.

The reader will find himself wanting to thumb back to an index to examine the details of the mission, the Marine, his unit and the chain of command. Fortunately, the author has anticipated that. Every chapter contains a detailed listing: name, rank, serial number, unit, age and hometown of each warrior named.

In addition to the name listings, there is a “Medals” chapter, which contains the names of each Marine/corpsman who was awarded one of the top three medals—the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross and the Silver Star. Again, the name, hometown, serial number, unit, date of award, age and hometown of every warrior is cited in the “Award Index.” You will be surprised at how often you refer back to a name, an award or an event or battle.

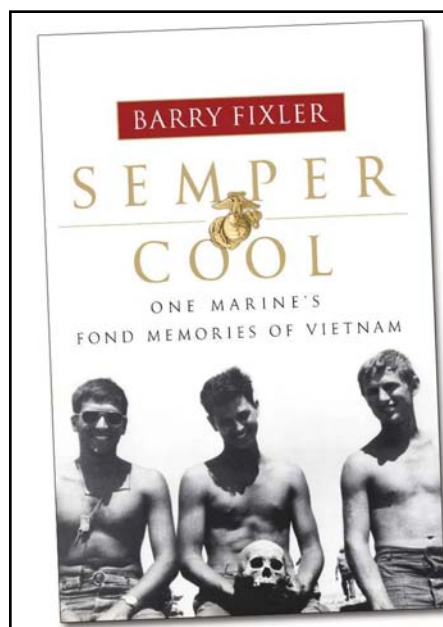
As some may know, I’ve reviewed many

books for the *Marine Corps Gazette* and *Leatherneck* magazines and I’ve enjoyed every one of them. This book, though, is different, in a positive way. It’s unique. The thorough research of the intricate details involved in close combat, whether ground or air, captures the reader, regenerating the personal memories of events, people, situations and emotions.

I am convinced that if you are a Vietnam veteran, you will recognize many of those heroes you know or knew, stimulating those memories that are special.

Col Kenneth D. Jordan, USMC (Ret)

Editor’s note: Col Ken Jordan, a combat-decorated and wounded infantry officer, was commissioned in 1961. He commanded a Force Reconnaissance detachment in Vietnam and served in various staff and command positions in a 28-year career. On retirement, he was a director of human resources for a major bank for 10 years and a career transition counselor for six years. He has served on the board of directors of the United States Olympic Committee and on multiple veteran-related boards, including the Marine Corps Association.



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**‘the Siege of Khe Sanh
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“Fixler seems to have loved every minute of his time in the U.S. Marine Corps, including sustained vicious combat in Vietnam... His blunt recreating of his war-time experiences is well done and evocative.”

—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*

Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Grants Expand Opportunities For Military-Connected Schools

Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) Director Marilee Fitzgerald urged recipients of the 2012 educational grant program to remain dedicated to developing programs that will benefit military schoolchildren during the 2012 DODEA grant kickoff meeting in Bethesda, Md., Oct. 3, 2012.

Fitzgerald encouraged teachers and school officials who represented schools across the country that were selected to receive the 2012 grants to recognize the challenges children face as they move between schools when their military parents change duty stations.

As these children make physical and emotional adjustments to as many as eight schools between kindergarten and high school graduation, Fitzgerald said they shouldn't have to lose out on educational opportunities in the process.

"That is what this grant program is about ... extending those opportunities to help our children continue their academic careers so they are not disrupted."

Since 2009, DODEA has awarded 186 grants totaling \$214 million. About 80 percent of the grants have gone to support the subjects of science, technology, education and mathematics projects. Other grants have funded foreign language and advanced-placement programs and student-support services.

This year, the Department of Defense (DOD) added extra funding to the program, enabling DODEA to award more than \$50 million in grants to 44 military-connected schools.

Fitzgerald called that measure, particularly in light of Pentagon budget constraints, a testament to DOD leaders' commitment to military families and children.

"They said, 'Do you know what? These budget cuts are not going to come on the backs of our children,' " she told the 2012 grant recipients.

The DODEA educational grant program helps to ensure that military children enter a level playing field in the educational system, Fitzgerald said. "This grant is about saying everybody gets a shot," she added.

As they return to their districts and ad-

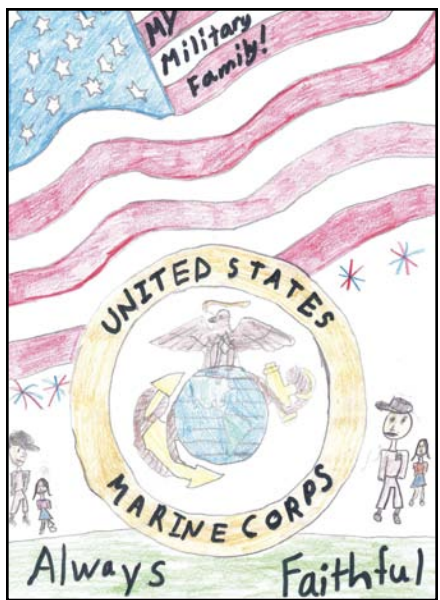
vance their programs, Fitzgerald urged the educators to explore new concepts so they can discover those that prove to be the most effective and promising.

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

ASYMCA Announces Student Art And Essay Contest

The annual 2013 Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) Art and Essay Contest, which launched in November 2012, is open to all eligible children of U.S. active-duty or retired military personnel. Winners will be chosen this spring.



ASYMCA's 2012 winning art piece for the Marine Corps was submitted by Daphnee Vigil, a third-grader from San Angelo, Texas. Daphnee is the daughter of Marine Sgt David Vigil and Maj Colleen Vigil, USMC (Ret).

Winners of the art and essay contest will have their winning entries displayed at 33 ASYMCA branches and affiliate locations, as well as military bases worldwide in November 2013 during Military Family Month.

The ASYMCA awards U.S. Savings Bonds totaling \$7,600 to first- and second-place winners of each contest, as well as honorable mention recipients of the essay portion of the contest.

"Our annual art and essay contest allows children to express their love, appre-

ciation and admiration for their military heroes," said Captain Mike Landers, USN (Ret), the CEO of ASYMCA. "Their essays and artwork also serve to remind us of the sacrifices our men and women in uniform, and their families, make each day for our country."

Entries for the art contest depict the theme, "My Military Family." Co-sponsored by GEICO, the art contest promotes art among children in kindergarten through 6th grade of active-duty, Reserve or retired members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard.

Lockheed Martin co-sponsors the essay contest that promotes reading and writing among children and teens of active-duty or Reserve military or retirees from all six branches. Students from first through 12th grade are asked to write about "My Military Hero."

For art and essay contest guidelines and deadlines for 2013, visit the ASYMCA website's military youth programs page, www.asymca.org/index.php/category/militarychildrensprogram/.

PAO, ASYMCA

Operation Parenthood Program Supports New Military Parents

Military families typically have a more taxing lifestyle than their civilian counterparts. Long deployments, training in the field and sporadic work hours can take a toll on parenting.

Operation Parenthood is a program designed to help promote the health, well-being and safety of military families who are expecting a baby or have young children.

Military personnel from 1st Supply Battalion and Combat Logistics Bn 5, stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., participated in an early childhood parenting class with other civilians and families at the Family Readiness Center on base Oct. 31, 2012.

The training focused on educating parents on topics like mood and anxiety disorders, said Kim A. Flowers, program manager of the New Parent Support Program, two of which were prenatal anxiety and postpartum depression.

Attendees viewed a workshop presentation called "Healthy Parents, Happy Babies." During this workshop, parents



LCPL TREVON S. PERACCA

learned about postpartum depression, anxiety, where to seek help and other preventive measures.

Sergeant Kiley D. Spurlock, assistant operations chief at Marine Aircraft Group 39, shared her personal experience with postpartum depression.

Spurlock said her son Maddix was born just three days after her husband deployed.

Spurlock said she felt sad and overwhelmed. Living in California, she had minimal help because her family resides in North Carolina and her husband's family lives in New Mexico.

"After returning [to work] from six weeks of convalescent leave, I was constantly crying, I was tired, wasn't eating ... I wasn't taking care of myself at all," Spurlock said.

On the day of her return, one of her peers pulled her aside because she wasn't being herself and encouraged her to seek help. That was when she learned she might have postpartum depression.

After Spurlock shared her story, parents had the opportunity to explore information booths, a photography exhibit and a growth and development center. The cen-

Sgt Kiley D. Spurlock, the assistant operations chief for MAG-39, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., shares her experience with postpartum depression during an Oct. 31, 2012, Operation Parenthood class. Operation Parenthood is an early childhood training program that focuses on the health, well-being and safety of military families who are expecting a baby or have young children.

ter included a digital, baby-brain map where parents can learn about the functionality and growth of a baby's brain based on the age. The interface gives parents the option to select an age and see what is likely happening in their child's development and provides information to help support healthy growth.

"We are looking to ensure that little ones are safe," said Flowers, who has more than eight years of service with the New Parent Support Program. "We're also going to be educating parents on household cleanliness, safety, pets and access to things that could be dangerous. We will also be talking about what parents can do to promote healthy, loving relationships with their children."

For more information about Operation Parenthood, visit www.mccscp.com/newparent.

LCpl Trevon S. Peracca
PAO, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.



LCPL SCOTT W. WHITING

REACHING FOR HEROES—Children point to the name of a fallen Marine during the Beirut Memorial Service Ceremony in Jacksonville, N.C., Oct. 23, 2012. Every year, friends and families of those killed gather at the Beirut Memorial to honor the military personnel who died during the 1983 attack on the Marine Barracks in Beirut.

In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, Oct. 1-31, 2012

The following were listed as having died while supporting combat operations:

Corporal Alex F. Domion, 21, of Richfield Springs, N.Y., with 2d Combat Engineer Battalion, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 31, 2012, as a result of a noncombat-related incident in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Camella M. Steedley, 31, of San Diego, with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, First Marine Logistics Group, I MEF, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 3, 2012, in Helmand province.

Carmen Basilio

Corporal Carmine "The People's Champion" Basilio was a Hall of Fame boxer who was one of 10 children born to Italian immigrants. When he was little more than a toddler, he helped his parents work the onion fields near Canastota, N.Y., which he claimed gave him powerful thighs and stomach muscles. He grew up to spend 32 months as a Marine and changed his name from Carmine to Carmen before becoming a boxer because to him it sounded more masculine. Basilio became a champion welterweight and middleweight fighter. He died in Rochester, N.Y., on Nov. 7, 2012. He was 85.

He told *Leatherneck* associate editor K. V. Stark in the December 1992 feature story "The Champ Was a Marine" that the day he turned 17 he enlisted.

He remembered someone giving him this advice before enlisting: "I know you like to fight, but when you get in the Marine Corps you're gonna run into old-timers that are pros and they're gonna beat the hell out of you. So, keep your mouth shut."

According to the *Leatherneck* story, "Basilio did what he was told," was sent to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., joined the Second Marine Division, sailed to Guam just as the war ended and "spent 16 months doing what he called, 'Nothin' much—guarding USO women and Japanese prisoners.'"

He got into boxing on Guam by sparring with a corporal named Jerry Plunkett, who gave Basilio the basics and booked his fights. It got him to the square ring at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Boxing was in his blood, but so was the Corps. He told Stark he missed the Marine Corps. "'I kept thinking, 'I'm going back.' I didn't get it out of my system until I started boxing pro.'"

At 5 feet 6 inches, his crouching style of fighting allowed him to slug and jab his opponents and vault into boxing fame during his 13-year career. His fights made headlines and were watched on black-and-white TVs across the country.

He was well-spoken, and his devotion to family and church earned him a "people's champion" moniker.

But it was his 1955 welterweight title fight against Tony DeMarco that people remember.

"Fight nights" of the 1950s were the rage on TV. But it also was being used by the mobs who wanted to control the fights. Basilio said he refused to cooperate with them and couldn't get a televised fight. There was a public and political outcry, and he was on the program to take on newly enthroned DeMarco in 1955. DeMarco unleashed a left hook that almost lifted Basilio off his feet. He buckled, but stayed on his feet to knock out DeMarco in the 12th round. Basilio reportedly "knelt in his corner, repeating, 'I did it! I did it! I did it!'"

He fought 79 professional fights, won 56 (27 by knockouts), fought seven draws and lost 16.

After his boxing career, Basilio taught physical education at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., for 21 years and worked for Rochester's Genesee Brewing Co.

Stark wrote, "He said that his stint in the Marine Corps was probably a contributing factor to his success as a professional boxer. 'A lot of fighters didn't like to go to bed early, or get up in the morning and do roadwork. I think the discipline I got in the Marine Corps made me discipline myself when I was training for fights. A lot of guys want to do things, but they don't want to pay the price for it. I was able to, and the Marine Corps had a lot to do with it.'"

LtCol Thomas R. Abernathy, 81, of Kilgore, Texas. He served 23 years, including fighting in the Korean War and two tours in Vietnam. He went on to work for Computer Sciences Corporation and Hughes Aircraft Corporation, from which he retired in 1996.

Col Roy J. Batterton Jr., 94, of Berryville, Va. He was a veteran of WW II and the Korean War. He won a Silver Star in both wars. His other citations include two Bronze Star medals and two Purple Hearts.

He began his military career assigned to the American Embassy in London. He was one of the first Marines to complete the

British commando school in Scotland and was a member of the 4th Raider Battalion in the Pacific. His writings include "You Fight by the Book" and "Random Notes From Korea."

He became Chief of Staff, U.S. Naval Forces, Haiti, from 1962 to 1963, and retired from the Corps in 1966.

He served as principal of Clarke County High School from 1970 to 1981 and later ran a horse trailer sales business.

Dr. Floyd F. "Bill" Beranek, 83, in Jacksonville, Texas. He enlisted after graduating from high school and then attended Lamar University and Baylor University College of Dentistry. He served as the president of the Permian Basin Dental Society and the West Texas Dental Society. He organized the Odessa Dental Study Group.

MSGt Walter A. Bowsher Jr., 96, in Mountain Home, Ark. He served in the U.S. Army from 1932 to 1935 and enlisted in the Corps in 1937. He served with the MarDet in USS *Lexington* (CV-2) and later was assigned to the 1st Defense Bn on Wake Island in August 1941. He survived the Japanese attacks during December and was a POW for 44 months in China and Japan.

Bowsher served with the 1stMarDiv during the Korean War at the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon landing and Chosin Reservoir. His personal decorations include two Purple Hearts.

He became a California State Police officer from 1954 to 1975 and then became a private investigator.

He was a member of the 1stMarDiv Association, MCL, Seagoing Marine Association and the Chosin Few.

MGySgt Larry K. Carter, 73, of Leesport, Pa. He served 26 years, including during the Vietnam War. After retirement, he continued to work for the Corps in inventory control.

PFC George G. Crispin, 94, of San Leandro, Calif. He was a WW II veteran who served from 1939 to 1943. He was stationed in Reykjavik, Iceland. Later he earned the parachutist insignia and was injured during a parachute drop at Tontouta, New Caledonia.

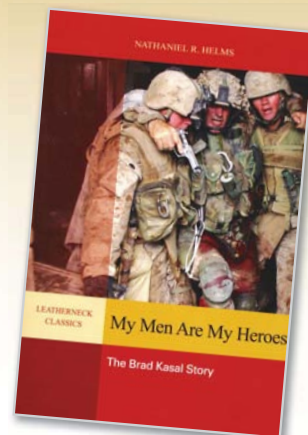
He went on to retire from the Santa Fe Railroad in 1983 as a Western Regional Operations manager.

Bert Devers, 97, in Dallas. He served during WW II. He went on to work at North American, an aircraft manufacturer in Grand Prairie, Texas.

1stSgt William "Pappy" Diefenbach, 83, in Elizabethtown, Ky. He served in both Korea and Vietnam as a rifleman and sniper, earning three Bronze Star medals and five Purple Hearts. He also put some time in Naval Intelligence. He

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was a member of the Chosin Few and a member of the "Summer of '48," a reunion group of Marines who graduated from MCRD Parris Island, S.C., in 1948.

He became a deputy for the Erie County Sheriff's Department in Buffalo, N.Y., and a member of the Fraternal Order of Police.

He was a loyal reader and longtime friend of *Leatherneck*. We looked forward to his Christmas cards and his phone calls during which he never asked for anything, except how we were doing. He will be missed.

SSgt Bradley M. "Brad" Fox, 34, of Gilbertsville, Pa. A five-year veteran Plymouth Township police officer, he was killed on the eve of his 35th birthday during a confrontation with a hit-and-run suspect. The suspect also died. Fox's police dog, Nick, a Belgian Malinois, also was shot but survived.

Fox served the Corps for 10 years, with two tours in Iraq—2003, and again from 2005 to 2006 in Fallujah. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Joshua L. Franks, 28, in Argyle, Texas. He enlisted in 2002 and served three tours in Iraq, surviving three different roadside bombings. He was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor in 2007.

Thomas F. Gannon, 91, of Long Beach, N.Y. He served with the 4thMarDiv on Iwo Jima.

SgtMaj Lowry L. "Lee" Gibson, 85, of Tyler, Texas. He enlisted in 1942 and served for 27 years. He was a veteran of WW II in the Pacific, the Korean War and China service.

He later worked for 20 years as a mechanical engineer for Disneyland and volunteered for the Salvation Army for more than 20 years.

LCpl Bob Griffin, 65, of Bethel, Vt. He served in Vietnam during the 1968 Tet Offensive and saw heavy action as a lead tank driver. He was awarded the Purple Heart and was a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

He owned Ver Montane Chimney Sweep in Vermont and raised livestock on his Bethel farm.

Sgt David J. Gurbal, 67, of Aurora, Ill. He enlisted in 1965 and served with I/3/5 in Vietnam. He was wounded twice during Operation Hastings in July 1966 and awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon. He was a Sergeant of the Guard at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Calif., in 1967.

Later, he retired from the U.S. Postal Service where he worked for 38 years as a postal clerk.

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Edwin L. Jeffries, 73, of Plano, Texas. He served in the Corps and went on to earn a master's degree in geology from the University of Oklahoma. He became a petroleum geologist, which allowed him to explore the world. He supported and coached many of his children's extracurricular activities, particularly the Plano YMCA swim team.

LCDR William C. "Bill" League, CHC, USN, 81, of Fairfax, Va. He was a graduate of Furman University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) and Pepperdine University (Master of Arts). He served 22 years as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy, of which 10 years were with U.S. Marine Corps units—including one combat tour serving alongside Marines in Vietnam.

Upon retiring from the Navy, he worked in real estate in North Carolina and taught real estate for 18 years in Northern Virginia. He is survived by his wife, LtCol Mary Sue (Stevens) League, USMC (Ret).

Cpl Raymond "Raylo" Lozano Jr. of Dallas. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with Hq Btry, 11th Marines from 1951 to 1952.

MGySgt Mitchell P. Paradis, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He was instrumental in the founding of the Marine

Corps Intelligence Association (MCIA) and served for many years as the editor of *Intsum*, the professional newsletter of the MCIA.

He was one of the original founders of the Marine Corps Interrogation Translation Teams Association and was the editor of *Spot Report* for several years.

PhM Felix P. Peter, USN, 90, of Merrimack, N.H. He was a corpsman with 4th Engineer Bn, 4thMarDiv and saw action at Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. A photo of Peter assisting two Marines on Saipan as they blasted the Japanese with satchel charges in steep cliffs was featured in *Life* magazine. His awards include two Bronze Star medals and two Purple Hearts.

LtCol George N. Phillips, 91, of Dallas. He worked at a gasoline station, earning enough money to learn to fly airplanes. During WW II, he joined the Army, but transferred to the Marine Corps and flew transports over the Pacific. After the war, he flew commercial planes in South America.

Recalled for the Korean War, he flew transports while based out of Japan. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1963 and began a long career as a pilot for Braniff Airways.

Capt Thomas C. Rawe, 68, of Plano, Texas. He was Texas-born and bred, with ancestors who fought at the Battle of San Jacinto and who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. He was commissioned after his 1965 graduation from Texas A&M.

He was a founding partner of Rawe-Mills & Associates Inc., a manufacturers' representative business for which he worked for 39 years.

MSgt Irving "Irv" Schlossenberg, 92, of Overland Park, Kan. He was a U.S. Marine Corps combat correspondent during WW II, from 1942 to 1945. He was in five Pacific campaigns, including four first-wave landings. He enlisted when correspondents were being recruited with the offer of being promoted to sergeant after successful completion of Marine Corps recruit training.

As a photographer for *The Washington Post* prior to enlisting, he had his camera broken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during a ceremonial first pitch on April 16, 1940, major league baseball's opening day. The picture still hangs in Schlossenberg's bedroom. After the war, he sold Encyclopedia Britannica door to door. He worked his way up to district manager, division manager, national sales director and executive assistant to the company president.

Maj Earl L. Sheldon, 91, in Union Grove, Ill. He was a WW II veteran who

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served from 1943 to 1946 as a Corsair pilot over the Pacific.

He was a lifeguard and later established a business, Sheldon Hardware, with his brother, Robert, in Chicago. He retired as an architectural engineer, who engineered the redesign and hardware for the main doors of the Vatican in northwestern Rome.

Vernon D. "Mike" Steberg, 86, in Garrison, Minn. He served from 1943 to 1945 and was a radio operator at the base of Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

He went on to retire as a member of the International Operator Engineer Local 49.

Maj Ralph J. Sturkey Jr., 95, in Salisbury, N.C. He was commissioned in 1942 and served with 5thMarDiv at Iwo Jima during WW II. He was later with III Amphibious Corps during the occupation of Tsingtao and Tientsin, China.

He later joined A. B. Dick, an office equipment company in Chicago, as employee relations manager. He rose to be vice president of human resources. He retired in 1972. Following in his footsteps to become Marines were his younger brother, a first cousin (Marine Corps writer Marion F. Sturkey) and a nephew.

Cpl Gordon A. L. Trott Sr., 87, of Houston. He served during WW II with

the 5thMarDiv at Iwo Jima and during the occupation in Japan.

William "Bill" Weiss, 86, of Dallas. He joined the Marine Corps after graduating from high school. He spent 17 years in the banking profession before starting his own investment company, dealing primarily in commercial real estate. He was a director of Hope Cottage-Children's Bureau, The Girl's Adventure Trails Inc., the Wynnewood State Bank and the Continental Fidelity Life Insurance Co.

He also was a 37-year director of Camp Grady Spruce YMCA and a 41-year director and life trustee of the Dallas Museum of Natural History/Museum of Nature and Science. He was the South Central Region High Adventure Chairman of the Explorer Scouts of America. He was the recipient of hunter/conservationist awards and was inducted into the Handgun Hunters Hall of Fame.

PFC Charles Wysocki Jr., 81, of Green Valley, Ariz. He served during WW II and later worked as a U.S. Postal Service employee.

Capt Joseph A. Zeitvogel, 79, in Rochester, N.Y. He falsified his age to enlist in the Army at 16 and, during the Korean War, served with one of the first 8th Army units to reach the Yalu River on the border of North Korea and Manchuria in the

winter of 1950. As a member of a small group cut off by the massive Chinese Communist intervention, he eventually made his way through the encircling Chinese to reach friendly lines.

Upon the expiration of his Army enlistment, he promptly enlisted in the Marine Corps, spending the next 20 years as a combat engineer noncommissioned officer, staff noncommissioned officer and commissioned officer. During his Marine Corps career, he served twice in Vietnam and contributed to a number of doctrinal publications in combat engineer operations.

In the first of two tours of duty as a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego, 1957 to 1959, one of his recruits was a young Californian named Donald Imus, better known today as the radio talk show host of "Imus in the Morning."

As a section leader with Co A, 3d Engineer Bn, 3dMarDiv in Japan, Zeitvogel once responded to an IG inspecting officer's comment that there was dirt in the drive sprocket of a bulldozer with, "Yes, sir. That's a common characteristic of earth-moving equipment." Even the inspecting officer laughed. He never stopped being a totally dedicated Marine.



SOUND OFF

[continued from page 8]

boot camp at Marine Corps Depot San Diego, those guys positively got to sleep compared to our 4:50 a.m. "Reveille." I wonder if recruits at another time regularly got up earlier.

Thank you for doing your part to keep *Leatherneck* the great read that it always is.

Former Sgt Richard B. Ellenberger
Normandy Park, Wash.

A Stadium Filled With 107,000 Fans, And These Two Artillerymen Link Up

A few years ago at a reunion I reunited with several of my old Battery M, 4th Battalion, Tenth Marine Regiment buddies. We had a great time. Curiously, one of the wives was talking to some of the other Marines and discovered that one had served in the same Marine squadron as her father, who had been killed in action. She was awarded your "Letter of the Month."

As a birthday present, I took my son-in-law to the Tennessee-Alabama football game on Oct. 20, 2012.

As it was getting close to kickoff, a couple of gentlemen sat down behind us and joined in the chatting. I turned to speak to the man behind me and he noticed the USMC on my shirt and asked, "Were you in the Corps?" I replied, "Yes." He asked my MOS [military occupational specialty] and when I replied 0811 [field artillery cannoner], we recognized each other. We served together in M/4/10, and the last time we saw each other was in 1965 at "Gitmo" in Cuba.

My son-in-law was astounded, as were both of us. The lady sitting next to me said she was speechless, that she was never speechless and her husband would confirm that!

Needless to say, we both were dumbfounded at the odds of that happening in a 107,000-seat stadium. We did a lot of catching up and will both be attending the next "Marines of Long Ago" reunion with the rest of the M/4/10 gang.

1stSgt Jim Bellamy, USMC (Ret)
St. Augustine, Fla.

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Reader Assistance

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Mail Call:

• Marine veteran Tom Nerney, P.O. Box 4021, Forest Hills, NY 11375, (917) 846-7355, sunburst3102@yahoo.com, to hear from anyone who knew or served with **Cpl Robert D. CORRIVEAU** in **3d Bn, 4th Marines, RVN, 1967-68**, or from any person who may have had contact with Corriveau while he was at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital from October through December 1968.

• Capt William "Bill" Meyer Jr., USMC (Ret), 34 Road 3665, Aztec, NM 87410, doubleb@sisna.com, to hear from members of **Plt 32, Parris Island, 1952**. Drill instructors were **MSgt A. A. HICKMAN, Sgt R. W. MORROW** and **Cpl R. E. BREWER**.

• MGySgt George E. Hajar, USMC (Ret), (843) 705-7888, mogehi42@gmail.com, to hear from **SSgt Sonny CRUZ** and **SSgt Marti MARTINEZ** and members of **Language Orientation Unit (LOU) Platoon, Special Training Branch, Parris Island, 1969**.

Wanted:

• Former Sgt Stuart Ammerman, 132 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059, (717)

436-8565, wants a **USMC WW II and Korean War-era camouflage helmet cover**.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways:

• Marine veteran Walt Augustyniak, (609) 698-3934, august53@earthlink.net, has a **recruit graduation book and photos for Plt 216, Parris Island, 1974**. If you were in the platoon, it's yours for the price of shipping.

• Marine veteran Steve Toman, P.O. Box 543, Nashville, MI 49073, (517) 852-0334, has a **14th, 15th and 17th edition "Guidebook for Marines"** for sale.

Reunions:

• **2dMarDiv Assn.**, 72nd Division Birthday, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. Contact LtCol David Brown, USMC (Ret), (910) 451-3167, david.brown3@usmc.mil.

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 13-18, Washington, D.C. Contact GySgt Don H. Gee, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **11th Marines OIF Reunion**, April 5-7, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact "Bigfoot" Brown, cannoncookers@yahoo.com, or visit www.facebook.com/#!/11thMarineRegiment.

• **11th Engineer Bn (RVN, 1966-69)**

and **Vietnam Veterans of America**, Aug. 13-17, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethemarine@gmail.com.

• **H/2/7 (RVN)**, June 20-23, San Antonio. Contact Rudy Ramon, (210) 861-9950, h272013@att.net.

• **1/3/7**, April 24-27, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **U.S. Navy Site One Holy Loch, Scotland Assn.**, Aug. 27-Sept. 4, Dunoon, Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland. Contact Roland Kitridge, (508) 877-2960, rk01701@yahoo.com, www.holyloch.org.

• **MSG Paris** is planning a reunion. Contact Roland C. Beisenstein, 53 Castle Rock Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941, (415) 388-4941.

• **4th USMC/METOC/Weather Service**, June 2-6, Las Vegas. Contact Lee Halverson, (925) 837-7493, lhazmateer@aol.com, or Don Innis, (321) 724-6600, dinnis@cfl.rr.com.

• **Scout Sniper Plt, 3d Marines (RVN)**, Feb. 8-10, Las Vegas. Contact Jim O'Neill, (928) 684-2309, taraniall@gmail.com.

• **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion for 2014. Contact SgtMaj James Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

• **Plts 316-319, Parris Island, 1964**, April 17, 2014, Parris Island, S.C. Contact

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• **Plt 1089, Parris Island, 1986**, is planning a reunion. Contact Mark Smith, P.O. Box 828, Columbus, MS 39703, (662) 549-7712, msmith@cpi-group.com.

• **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA

92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 2085, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Simmons, jst1putt@aol.com, mkboyle@myfairpoint.net.

• **VMAT-102 A-4M Skyhawks (and related squadrons from MCAS Yuma, Ariz.)**, March 9, Las Vegas. Contact GiGi Ahlstrom, (513) 544-1016, LTK165@hotmail.com.

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• **USS Houston (CA-30/CL-81) Assn.**, Aug. 20-24, Chicago. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113, dlr7110@yahoo.com.

• **USS Portsmouth (CL-102)**, April 25-29, Herndon, Va. Contact Walt Hohner, 448 Hillside Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854, (732) 463-1745, wphohner@aol.com.

• **USS Renville (APA-227)**, April 3-7, Portland, Ore. Contact Lynda Rumble, 187 Lakeshore Dr., Mooresville, NC 28117, (704) 906-7622, lyndahd01@aol.com, ussrenvilleapa227.com.

• **USS Tarawa (CV-40/LHA-1)**, April 25-28, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Ken Underdown, 31 Islet Rd., Levittown, PA 19057, (215) 547-0245, or Walter Tothoro, 106 N. Tranquil Trl., Crawfordsville, IN 47933, (765) 362-6937, walsue@accelplus.net.

• **East Coast Seabees**, Feb. 22-24, Hampton, Va. Contact Bruce MacDougall, (804) 921-4753, seabeamacd40@verizon.net.



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John Poole, USMC, 1965-93

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Classified Advertising Policy

Marine-to-Marine classified ads are accepted on a space-available basis and available only to those and/or their spouses who served in the United States Marine Corps and are members of the MCA&F. The ad must list the years served in the Marine Corps.

All ads are black-and-white in this section. Ads are accepted camera-ready and electronically; pdf, tif or jpeg formats (300 resolution). Any classified ad may occupy one column width (2.25 inches) by a maximum of 10 inches of column height.

1. Advertiser

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Day Phone _____
Email _____

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Please select the issues in which you wish to run, or write: "Run until further notice."

Issue	Ad Due
___ Jan	Nov 30
___ Feb	Dec 30
___ Mar	Jan 30
___ Apr	Feb 28
___ May	Mar 30
___ Jun	Apr 30
___ Jul	May 30
___ Aug	Jun 30
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___ Oct	Aug 30
___ Nov	Sep 30
___ Dec	Oct 30

3. Payment

___ Please charge my MasterCard/Visa/
American Express
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Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

___ Check enclosed

Payment information must accompany order.

Send insertion order and materials to:
Leatherneck Magazine, M2M
715 Broadway St., Marine Corps Base
Quantico, VA 22134
Or email to: s.dinkel@mca-marines.org
Fax: 718-238-8901
Office: 718-715-1361

Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Please submit copies of original poems with first publishing rights and author's permission to print granted to *Leatherneck*. Poems may be edited or shortened, as necessary. Due to volume received, submissions will not be acknowledged or returned.

Marine

By the time I reached him,
All I could do was roll him over;
Cerebrospinal fluid drained from his ears.
I said to him, "It's going to be OK.
You're going to be OK, Marine."

His chest rose, then he breathed out,
He sweated and I wiped his brow.
The field manual teaches:
Keep the dying alive by talking,
By lifting his legs higher than the plane of his heart.
But he went so quickly,
And I watched his gaze turn black like evening,
Even as the corpsman undertook with ruthless effort
The task of igniting any lingering kindling.

But tomorrow will be the time for reflection;
Today we must carry on,
Reaching for the next war,
In which we will be asked to give all,
And many will,
And many more will ...
Semper Fidelis.

Former Sgt Maurice Emerson Decaul

Photos on the Wall

Walking by the photos on the wall,
I can still recall it all.

It was in '66, in the spring,
I remember everything.

The world was upside down,
With adventure all around.

3d Battalion, "Disneyland" on P.I.;
Those now gone catch my eye.

There is Potter, next to me;
Photography was his hobby.

The photojournalist was never found
When his chopper hit the ground.

In tropical uniform standing tall,
Plt 396 ... still, I recall it all.
Marine veteran Michael Spataro

The Marines' Alphabet

A is for the Ammo;
B is for Barracks and Blues.
C is for C-ration coffee;
D tells us we've paid our Dues.

E is for the shape of our Emblem;
F for the Flag we salute.
G is for Guadalcanal and for more ...
H for the History we root.

I is for grave Iwo Jima;
J is for Junk-on-the-bunk.
K is for Ka-Bars and such,
L for our Legend of spunk.

M is for all of our Marching;
N is for Non-Coms so brave.
O is for old Okinawa,
P for the People we save.

Q is for Quick (Yes, we're ready!),
R for the Rifle we live;
S is for Semper Fidelis,
T for the Training we give.

U, we're United like brothers;
V is our Valor so grand,
W for the Wars that we've fought;
X marks the spot where we stand.
Y is for "Yes, it's our duty!" A duty we readily serve ...
Z is for that Zone of combat
That forges our strength and our nerve.

Marine veteran Chuck Parnell

The Marines

Born of the sea, forged in the fires of hell,
First to fight, first to die,
We live by the words Semper Fi.
We are like a beast in the night;
The reason you sleep, doors locked tight.
We storm beaches, jump from planes—
War is the blood in our veins.
For this country we will fall; we are America's 9-1-1 call.
"Retreat, hell!" History will tell the tale,
United States Marines never fail!

Former Cpl Charles I. Thompson





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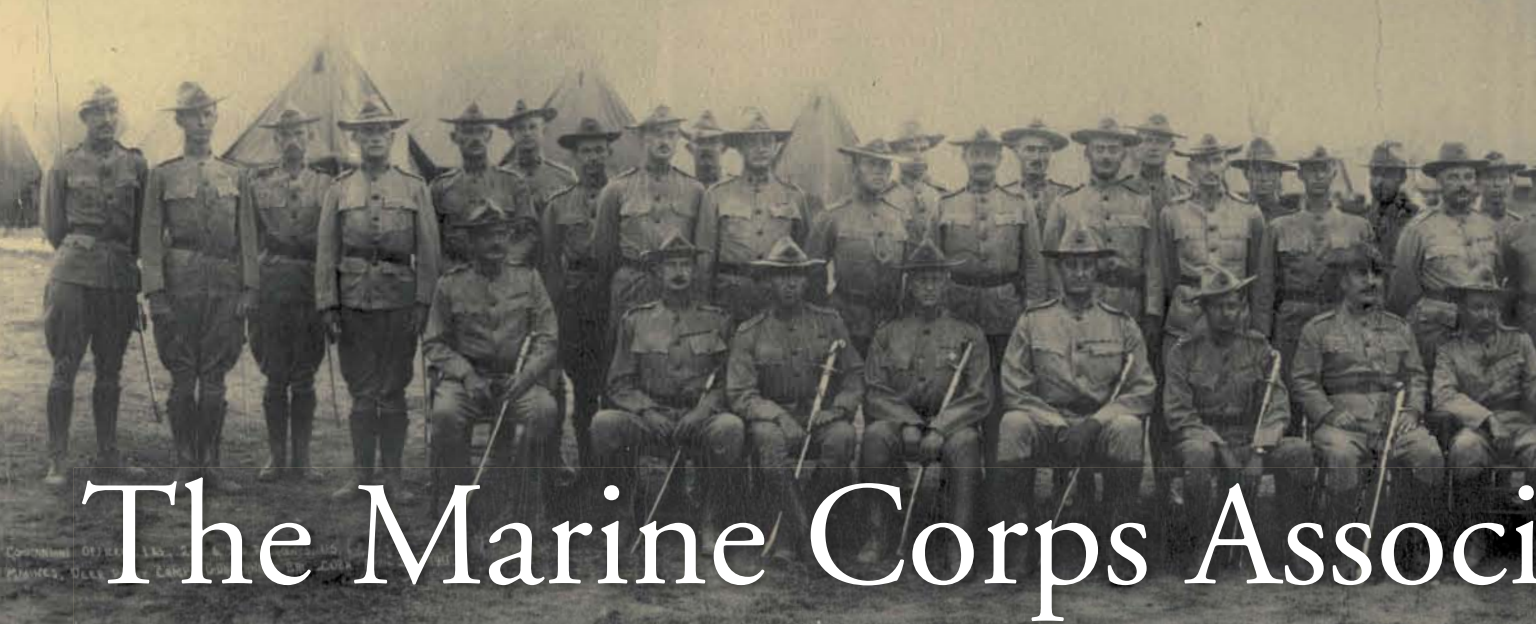


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MARINE RESERVE



The Marine Corps Association

Sixty officers of the 2d Provisional Marine Brigade, serving at Guantanamo Bay, formally organized the Marine Corps Association with LtCol John A. Lejeune appointed as the senior member of the three-man Executive Committee.

25 April 1913

The *Marine Corps Gazette* was established by MCA as a means of fostering professional dialogue in the Corps.

15 October 1915

First edition of MCA's *Marine Corps Gazette* was published.

March 1916



Association dues were \$5.00 annually for active members and \$2.00 for associate members. Almost half of the officers in the Corps became active members and *Gazette* was published quarterly.

March 1926



MCA attained a home at Quantico after residence in New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Early 1946

1920

1930

1940

17 November 1917

The first edition of the *Quantico Leatherneck* was published.

1 January 1920

Leatherneck became an official Marine Corps Publication. Affiliation with the Marine Corps Association would come in succeeding years.

17 January 1916

MCA Board of Control holds first formally recorded meeting in the Office of the Commandant.

25 April 1911

Officers of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, contributed all they could afford to organize a professional association for Marines. Two months later, the Brigade disbanded without formally establishing the Association.



1943

Supported by appropriated funds and a staff of active-duty Marines, *Gazette* expanded from a quarterly to a monthly publication.



ation — A Century of Service

The United States Internal Revenue Service granted tax-exempt status to the MCA and in their formal acknowledgement letter stated:

"Your primary activities are the publishing of the Marine Corps Gazette and operation of a book service at Quantico, Virginia, to obtain primarily professional books for Marines around the world. You also publish professional books of particular interest to Marines. You make awards for honor graduates of certain military courses and sponsor the annual Marine Corps Competition in Arms."



16 May 1962

The Marine Corps Association dedicated its new home, Bartlett Hall, at Quantico, Virginia. The building was constructed at a cost of almost \$3 million raised by the Association and located on leased Marine Corps Base property and was named after MCA Director BGen George Bartlett, who supervised the design and construction.



10 November 1986

In compliance with orders from the Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Marine Corps advised MCA that active-duty personnel could no longer be assigned to the Association and that its activities would have to become self-supporting.

February 1972

1950

1960

1970

1980

2 May 1947

General A.A. Vandegrift, president of MCA, approved a "Revised Constitution of the Marine Corps Association," authorized membership for any member or former member of the Armed Services of the United States and established the Commandant of the Marine Corps and other senior active-duty officers as members of the Board of Governors.



27 February 1976



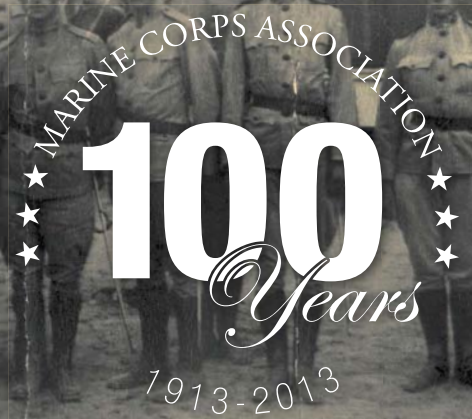
The Marine Corps Association merged with the Leatherneck Association.

January 1989



LtGen Anthony Lukeman assumed duties as MCA's Executive Director. Under his leadership, he expanded the MCA Awards program, published several original works of substantial value to Marines and promoted major advances in automation.

vice



MCA built an annex to Bartlett Hall providing space for a number of important tenants including the Marine Corps Aviation Association, Toys for Tots Foundation, the Marine Corps University Foundation, the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, and others.



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

2001

MCA began supporting the *Commanders' Unit Library Program* to foster Marine professional development through the establishment or enhancement of unit professional libraries.

The Marine Corps Association revised its brand to incorporate the existence of the Foundation, and became the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.

April 2009

September 2011

The Camp Lejeune MCA Bookstore was established to provide professional reading and services to Marines on the East Coast.

1999

1990

2000

2012

Marine Corps Gazette initiated another venue for professional discussion by opening a Blog.

June 2010

January 2007

MCA purchased *The MARINE Shop* in Quantico, VA, expanding services to Marines and enhancing the value of MCA membership. Under MCA ownership, *The MARINE Shop* expanded its services by merging with MCA's Quantico Bookstore.

MCA began supporting the *Commanders' Forum Program* to encourage professional development by assisting unit commanders' individual training and educational objectives.

1 January 2009

The Marine Corps Association Foundation was established as a 501 C(3) charitable organization to provide better support for MCA missions.



1996

The launch of MCA's official website provided MCA members and friends of the Corps with information on MCA events and programs for Marines.



MCA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

1913	LtCol John A. Lejeune	Senior member of three-man Executive Committee
1915	MajGen George Barnett, CMC Col John A. Lejeune Col George Richards	President Board of Control Member Board of Control Member

From 1915–1976, Commandants of the Marine Corps Served as MCA Presidents:

1920	MajGen John A. Lejeune, CMC	
1929	MajGen Wendell C. Neville, CMC	
1930	MajGen Ben H. Fuller, CMC	
1934	MajGen John H. Russell, Jr., CMC	
1936	LtGen Thomas Holcomb, CMC	
1944	Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, CMC	
1948	Gen Clifton B. Cates, CMC	
1952	Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., CMC	
1956	Gen Randolph M. Pate, CMC	
1960	Gen David M. Shoup, CMC	
1964	Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., CMC	
1968	Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., CMC	
1972	Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., CMC Col Bevan G. Cass	Executive Director (1972-1978)
1975	Gen Louis H. Wilson, Jr., CMC	

Starting in 1976, Commandants of the Marine Corps Served as Honorary MCA Presidents and the Assistant Commandants were elected President. The latter practice ended in 1998.

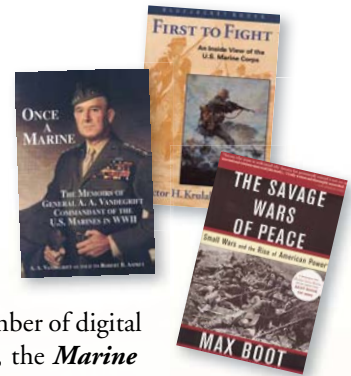
1976	Gen Louis H. Wilson, Jr., CMC Gen Samuel Jaskilka, ACMC	Honorary President MCA President
1978	Gen Robert H. Barrow, ACMC BGen George L. Bartlett	MCA President Executive Director (1978-1989)
1979	Gen Robert H. Barrow, CMC Gen Kenneth McLennan, ACMC	Honorary President MCA President
1981	Gen Paul X. Kelley, ACMC	MCA President
1983	Gen Paul X. Kelley, CMC Gen John K. Davis, ACMC	Honorary President MCA President
1986	Gen Thomas R. Morgan, ACMC	MCA President
1987	Gen Alfred M. Gray, Jr., CMC Gen Thomas Morgan, ACMC	Honorary President MCA President
1989	Gen Joseph J. Went, ACMC	MCA President
1999	LtGen Anthony Lukeman	Executive Director (1989-1998)
1990	Gen John R. Dailey, ACMC	MCA President
1991	Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., CMC Gen John R. Dailey, ACMC	Honorary President MCA President
1992	Gen Walter E. Boomer, ACMC	MCA President
1993	Gen Richard D. Hearney, ACMC	MCA President
1995	Gen Charles C. Krulak, CMC Gen Richard D. Hearney, ACMC	Honorary President MCA President
1996	Gen Richard I. Neal, ACMC	MCA President
1998	Gen Terrance R. Dake, ACMC MajGen Leslie M. Palm,	MCA President President & CEO (1998-2010)
1989	Gen James L. Jones, CMC Gen Terrance R. Dake, ACMC	Honorary President MCA President
2000	Gen Michael J. Williams, ACMC	Chairman of the Board
2002	Gen William L. Nyland, ACMC	Chairman of the Board
2003	Gen Michael W. Hagee, CMC	Honorary President
2004	Gen Michael J. Williams	Chairman of the Board
2006	Gen James T. Conway, CMC	Honorary President
2007	MajGen Harry Jenkins	Chairman of the Board
2010	Gen James F. Amos, CMC MajGen Edward G. Usher III	Honorary President President & CEO (2010-present)

MISSION EXECUTION

Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence

Since 25 April 1913, the primary mission of the Marine Corps Association has been to foster the development of strong thinking leaders well versed in military arts and science through mentored study and discussion. The establishment of the *Marine Corps Gazette* in 1916 as the professional journal of the Marine Corps gave our Corps the forum for open discussion on emerging military thought. Today the *Marine Corps Gazette* remains the professional journal of the Marine Corps, but we have added *Leatherneck* magazine that tells the story of the Marine Corps, as well as programs that provide resources for leaders to mentor their Marines and to recognize their professional excellence. Our programs not only offer help to build strong Marine leaders, they prepare our Marines to be strong leader citizens.

Through the **Commanders' Unit Library Program**, we have established or enhanced more than 1,000 unit libraries worldwide. The libraries have been provided to units ranging from 1,200-man battalions to five-man embassy detachments, and provide ready access for Marines down to the small unit level. This important resource connects growing leaders with the concepts and knowledge that build the confidence required for problem solving and decisive thinking on the battlefield. While many of the books that build a library are found on the Commandant's Reading List, commanders have the ultimate authority in selecting the materials that they will use to mentor and foster professional development among their Marines. In 2012, MCA&F created a growing number of digital libraries through the use of Kindles to improve transportability and access. In addition, the *Marine Corps Gazette* provides a forum for exploration of issues and the education of today's Marines by offering real-time solutions and discussion points of today's challenges.



The **Marine Excellence Awards** program recognizes the best in the Corps. The awards are sanctioned by the Marine Corps leadership and are supported through the MCA&F. The awards acknowledge professional excellence, from the young enlisted Recruit Honor Graduates of Boot Camp and lieutenants at The Basic School, up through Marine Corps level. The awards highlight scholastic, technical, and leadership excellence as well as writing prowess. More than 10,000 awards are provided annually, and many awards reflect the Corps' traditions and history. Several awards carry the names of recognizable heroes from yesterday: Gen John A. Lejeune, LtGen Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, Gen Charles C. Krulak, and 1stLt Baldomero Lopez, while other awards pay homage to today's heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country; their Corps: GySgt Edwin W. Johnson, 1stLt Travis Manion, and LtCol Kevin M. Shea. The MCA&F is proud to present more awards to Marines than any other organization, with more than 90 percent of the awards recognizing the commitment of enlisted Marines.



Commanders' Forums provide additional insight into the strategies and tactics of Marine, military and political leaders. The leader developed and led learning experiences provide trips to historic sites where decisions were made that had lasting effects on our country. Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Belleau Wood and Okinawa are just a few places that have hosted Marines and increased their professional development. MCA&F hosts 10 to 12 Professional dinners annually that feature high-profile speakers sharing their insights on the affairs of the world, and the challenges that are unique to the Corps. These programs provide members and non-members access to decision makers unavailable in other forums.

