

JANUARY 2014

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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Typhoon Hits Philippines Marines Answer Call for Help



**Letter to NCOs:
Live Up to the Title!**

**Kwajalein Atoll:
4thMarDiv Takes
Next Step to Tokyo**

A Publication of the
Marine Corps Association & Foundation

Welcome to *Leatherneck* Magazine's

Digital Edition **January 2014**



Happy New Year! We hope you are enjoying our digital edition with its added content, 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.

Toward the end of January, we will launch our new website delivering content customized for delivery via smartphone or tablet. With these newly redesigned sites, we have harnessed the potential of responsive design to give our readers a better content experience via the Internet, regardless of the platform used to access the content. Whether you use an iPhone, Droid, iPad, Kindle, Nook or other tablet, you will find much easier, and user-friendly, access.

And, yes, we will continue to provide a “digital replica” of the print edition for those who enjoy that format. But, we also want to hear from you about the new websites and delivery of content via portable devices: leatherneck@mca-marines.org.


We thank you for your continuing support.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret)
Editor



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COVER: Capt Joseph White, left, the deputy logistics officer, 31st MEU, and Philippine Army PFC Vic D. Victoriano carry U.S. Agency for International Development relief supplies from a Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, Nov. 18, 2013, in support of the government of the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. Photo by Capt Caleb Eames. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to: *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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

Here's a very sobering story that happened to me one night recently when I went out to exercise:

I saw a young, triple (both legs and right arm) amputee in a wheelchair (not motorized). I assumed he was military, but he looked like a kid. He was looking around, so I asked him if I could help. He said he was looking for the Navy Memorial building—that he'd been there previously, but he couldn't remember exactly where it was.

I told him to do a 180—it was only about 100 feet away.

As we proceeded, I asked, "Marine?" "Yep."

"Are you at Bethesda?"

"Yep, been there 2½ years."

We were now at the entrance to the Memorial and I went to get the door, and the Marine said he had to check to see if a buddy whom he was going to meet was on the way.

"Thanks for your help," he said.

"Semper Fi, Marine," was all I could say.

"Thanks again," and he put his phone in his lap and extended his left hand to me. Grasping and shaking it, I then realized that there were no thumb and index finger.

The young guy—could have been a teenager when he got hit. Now, he's using a manual wheelchair. He's just playing the hand he's been dealt and seems to be doing a fine job of it.

Two words, "Semper Fi," obviously meant a lot to that young Marine. My pleasure and privilege, indeed.

I gotta tell you, when I left that Marine, I was in a fog, humbled to say the least. I will never forget him.

Alan Penberg
USMC, 1962-68
Washington, D.C.

Flying With Marine Helos Over Vietnam

I have just finished reading my copy of the November 2013 *Leatherneck*. It was with great enjoyment that I read the article "Scarface" Cobra Gunships Over Vietnam" by Warren E. Thompson. Having had the extreme pleasure of calling Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 367 home for 13 months (1969-70), I feel compelled to clarify a few points regarding our "snakes" and -367 in general.

I served under Colonel Warren G. Cretney and Col Harry Sexton. My jobs were avionics/embarcation chief and UH-1E Huey aerial gunner.

While still deeply entrenched at Hue/Phu Bai, Scarface received seven Cobras transferred from the Army a couple of months before relocating to Marble Mountain. The squadron's call sign was changed from "Oakgate" to "Scarface" when it was redesignated HML from Marine Observation Squadron 3 in 1968. The squadron call sign remained "Scarface" throughout with different call signs utilized during specific missions, e.g., "Hostage," "Kingfisher," etc.

Scarface established numerous records for a combat zone that probably will never be equaled again given the environment and operating scenario—i.e., 209-plus days of being operationally ready. The Kingfisher tactic of low and slow over a landing zone was with us from the start, hence the term "Hover Cover" on our original squadron patch. Initially our snakes were painted with the shark teeth, similar to the way the "Flying Tigers" Curtiss P-40 Warhawks were painted.

GySgt Howard L. Hartwick, USMC (Ret)
Rockport, Texas

MSgt Carl E. Harris, USMC (Ret)
Plant City, Fla.

Your story about HML-367, "Scarface," brought back some memories of that great squadron. I was assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, 1970-71, at Marble Mountain, where I flew as a Huey door gunner and can attest to the superb airmanship and just plain guts by these "Snake Drivers" as they provided covering fire for us.

One such mission, code-named Operation Tailwind, Sept. 11-14, 1970, is an outstanding example of the bravery by these pilots. This was a top secret mission that for more than 28 years had been kept classified until CNN reported it in 1998 under the title of "Valley of Death." As my CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter, YH-20, piloted by First Lieutenant M. McKenzie and 1stLt R. Bustamate, came into a hover to rescue the crew of a downed chopper, the Cobras provided deadly accurate rocket and 40 mm fire, protecting us until we were able to extract the downed crew and leave the zone.

Without them, I'm sure that our aircraft would not have made it out, as we were being hit with a very high volume of machine-gun fire. Also of interest in this article was our squadron's (HMH-463's) mission of dropping 55-gallon drums of mogas [motor gasoline] and napalm on the North Vietnamese Army.

SgtMaj Larry Groah, USMC (Ret)
Kailua, Hawaii

Swindler Goes After Older Marines

I want to put anyone who was in Platoon 219, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, 1964, on alert from being swindled like me. I received a call from a person who said his dad was in my platoon and that he had passed away.

He said he wanted me to have his father's recruit graduation book and sword along with pictures. All I had to do was send him \$81 for shipping since he had no money and was going to college. He knew everything about me and said a Marine officer gave him my contact information. Since I had long ago placed an ad in *Leatherneck*, I thought he worked for you. I am on Social Security and a pension, and \$81 is a lot of money to me.

But the thing that bothers me the most is that he is using the Corps for a con. That is disgraceful.

I also thought he may be calling everyone in the platoon, and if so, that could add up to some large money. I hope nobody else falls for this story.

Tim Ball
Fayetteville, Ga.

**Mine was earned
over Iraq in a CH-53.
By my dad.**

Adelaide C.,
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• *First, this is a crime and should be reported to police, investigated, and the crook prosecuted. Otherwise, this bum is taking advantage of your sensitivities about being duped.*

Our publisher/executive editor passed me the following note: "Total scam. We hate to stop publishing requests for our veteran Marines, but we may have to . . . We have published alerts in recent issues and have a standard statement in the magazine atop the section where we publish requests for old Marine memorabilia, including cruise books . . . don't send money until you get the book."

Unfortunately, we did not publish such warnings often in years past to remind our readers that there are low-life individuals eager to hoodwink the unsuspecting. While we would not want to make such a change affecting the majority of our readers because of a few con artists, we may do so to protect our readers. We'll let you know.

Robert Yandura of Romulus, Mich., and John L. Perkins of Belen, N.M., wrote us about similar scam attempts.—Sound Off Ed.

He Remembers Celebrating Lt Gillespie's Foray Into Monterey, 100 Years Later

Colonel Dick Camp's beautifully written history, "Archibald H. Gillespie, USMC: Presidential Secret Agent" [November 2013 *Leatherneck*], just blew me away! While I was not aboard the July 7, 1846, landing party of Marines and sailors securing the town of Monterey, Calif., for the United States, I accompanied a battalion of Marines 100 years later to celebrate the centennial of that event.

I enlisted in 1946, and upon graduation from boot camp, my platoon, along with others graduating in May, was assigned to the permanent barracks at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. We were given the official designation of 1st Provisional Battalion, and our orders were to conduct close-order drill until further notice.

We were issued pith helmets and brand-new M1 rifles, and our parade battalion was relocated to the then-empty Sea School barracks. Our dress shoes were double-soled with steel plates attached to the soles and toes. These additions meant absolutely no audibly counted cadence. The natural rhythm of our feet striking the ground kept us in step. We learned the marching manual of arms with a spin and practiced until perfection any number of close-order drills.

In early July 1946, we boarded buses for transport to Fort Ord where we were billeted during the Monterey centennial. The Army treated us like kings, serving meals family-style, even including bottles

of ale at noon and evening chow. That was good duty!

While at Fort Ord, we participated in two daily parades through the center of town, and Monterey had painted the streets gold for the celebration. The First Marine Division Band from Camp Pendleton preceded us in parades, and they, along with our Company A, were in dress blues. Remaining companies were in class "A," service "greens." We all enjoyed this experience, and the people of Monterey were excellent hosts.

The highlight for me was standing honor guard for General Alexander A. Vandegrift, 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps. We greeted the Commandant upon his arrival and stood for his inspection prior to his departure to preside at the Monterey ceremonies. One can only hope the Commandant was pleased with us.

Col Camp's story rekindled memories of a special event in my life.

Former PFC Sid Colquitt
Escondido, Calif.

The True Meaning of the NCO Stripe

A word about the "blood stripe," or noncommissioned officer stripe: We lance corporals also said it was there so the NCOs could find their shoes.

Former LCpl William R. Trent
Morganton, N.C.



• *Bwahaha! You get our Wise-A-- Challenge Coin.—Sound Off Ed.*

Right Raider, Wrong Battalion

As I started to read the article by Arthur G. Sharp ["A 'Bull' With a Lion's Heart," October 2013], I couldn't understand how a guy in the 2d Raider Battalion, William S. "Bull" Evans, could show up in Tulagi with the 1st Raider Bn. The 1st Bn, commanded by Colonel Merritt A. Edson, landed on Tulagi, 7 Aug. 1942, while the 2d Raider Bn was in Hawaii prepping for the raid on Butaritari Island in the Makin Atoll.

I looked at my rosters of the 1st Raider Bn and could find no listing for William Seymour Evans on the muster rolls.

I know memories can become clouded over 70-plus years, so a check with Raider Hall, home of the Raider Museum and present Martial Arts Center of Excellence for the Marine Corps on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., confirmed that Bull Evans was not in 1st Raider Bn. He was, however, in "Delta," "Fox" and "Golf" companies, 2d Raider Bn.

A bit later, the article states that "the Raiders returned to Hawaii."

The 1st Bn returned to New Caledonia in October of 1942, its former base before

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joining the First Marine Division for the assaults on Tulagi, Gavutu/Tanambogo and Guadalcanal.

My dear friends at *Leatherneck* deserve 30 days P&P for not checking this questionable history. Next time you get a Raider story, I recommend checking with the folks at Raider Hall, where they have a complete muster roll of all the battalions.

Jim "Horse" Smith
Hq Co, 1st Raider Bn, 1942
Fairfax, Va.

• *Ouch! We can't even use the excuse that we are getting old. Horse Smith is not only senior in service, but we are waaay boot to him in life.—Sound Off Ed.*

What Kind of Horse Was Reckless? We Only Know She Was a Damn Good One

A friend recently gave me the October 2013 article on Reckless by Nancy Lee White Hoffman, and I cannot put into words what a wonderful feeling that left me with! As a lifelong horse nut, I was of course drawn to the material. Beyond that, I'm sure, absolutely, positively, beyond doubt that Reckless was an Arabian. She looks just like my ex-husband's Tevis mare, Fille de Cailana, and exhibits the size, the stamina and the shear guts that are a hallmark of the Arabian breed.

I have a feeling *Arabian Horse World* would be interested in running at least a part of that article, if not the whole thing. Today's Arabians would perform up to the Marines' expectations, just as Staff Sergeant Reckless did. Thank you so very, very much for a lovely, inspiring piece of journalism.

As an aside, I never knew the Korean War was considered "forgotten." My dad was in the Air Force and fought there. I certainly haven't forgotten.

Cathy Rohm
Auburn, Calif.

• *Aside from being a sorrel and found at a racetrack in Seoul, Korea, not much is known about SSgt Reckless' breed and lineage. Some have surmised she was a Mongolian mare. Perhaps our readers can venture some knowledgeable theories, as we don't seem to have a lot of horse sense here.—Sound Off Ed.*

I was delighted to see the excellent story by Nancy Lee White Hoffman about the marvelous little mare SSgt Reckless.

There has been a great deal about Reckless on the e-mail circuit, and it has troubled (I might say, offended) me that Eric Pederson's name never appears. One would think the little mare trotted into

the Fifth Marine Regiment's CP and volunteered for duty with the 75 mm Recoilless Rifle Platoon.

Mrs. Hoffman has set the record straight in an extremely well-written article, which is not just the story of a gallant horse, but of the interrelated human stories involved. I am grateful for its publication.

Eric Pederson, a Mustang officer [former enlisted] and veteran of World War II, was later Commanding Officer, Fire Support Company, Marine Corps Test Unit 1, and one of the finest Marines whom I have had the privilege to know.

LtCol Tom C. McKenney, USMC (Ret)
Marion, Ky.

Marine Col Charles Waterhouse: A Talented Artist and Loyal Friend

By this time, the world must know that Colonel Charles Waterhouse has passed away.

The morning of his death, Nov. 16, 2013, his daughter, Amy, sent me an e-mail informing me of his passing.

The Colonel and I have been close friends since we started first grade at Grade School Number 8 in Perth Amboy, N.J. We lived most of our lives within a few city blocks of each other. After he married his wonderful Barbara and lived across the street from us, my Barbara and I visited and kept in touch.

We were both fortunate in being accepted as Marines and, strangely enough, neither was aware that the other had enlisted. It wasn't until after the war, and our families got together again, that we discovered we had been on Iwo Jima at the same time. The Colonel and I visited regularly by e-mail and he signed off as "The Kernel."

I am missing my old friend. Forgive me for laying this on you good folks at *Leatherneck*, but I had to tell someone who could understand, and who better than another Marine.

Former SSgt Arthur R. Samsøe
Edison, N.J.

Facts About the Navy Medal of Honor That Readers May Like to Know

Could someone explain the meaning of the images, 34 stars and flora, on the five corners of the stars on the Medal of Honor? I do not know what is on the back side of the medal. I have never seen one up close.

Terry Ruth
USMC, 1964-67
Hooks, Texas

• *Not stated was which Medal of Honor, but only the Army Medal of Honor does not include both stars and flora, so we went to the Congressional Medal of*

ENROLL TODAY

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Honor Society website for the scoop on the symbolism of the stars and flora and looked back to the development of the original Navy Medal of Honor.

The Navy Medal of Honor, first approved in 1861, was developed by the Philadelphia Mint at the request of then-Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles. "The Mint submitted several designs for consideration, and the one prepared by the Philadelphia firm of William Wilson & Sons was the design selected. The selected design ... consisted of an inverted, 5-pointed star. On each of the five points was a cluster of laurel leaves to represent victory, mixed with a cluster of oak to represent strength. Surrounding the encircled insignia were 34 stars, equal to the number of stars in the U.S. Flag at the time in 1862 ... one star for each state of the Union including the 11 Confederate states.

"The stars are also symbolic of the 'heavens and the divine goal which man has aspired to since time immemorial,' according to Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress back in 1777."

You didn't ask, but "Inside the circle of 34 stars were engraved two images. To the right is the image of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom and war. On her helmet is perched an owl, representing wisdom. In keeping with the Roman tradition, her

left hand holds a bundle of rods and an ax blade, symbolic of authority. The shield in her right hand is the shield of the Union of our states (similar to the shield on our seal and other important emblems).

"Recoiling from Minerva is a man clutching snakes in his hands. He represented discord, and the insignia came to be known as 'Minerva Repulsing Discord.' Taken in the context of the Civil War soldiers and sailors struggling to overcome the discord of the states and preserve the Union, the design was as fitting as it was symbolic."

On the reverse side of the older Navy Medal of Honor are the words "Personal Valor" and a space for the awardee's name and the date of the action. On the reverse of the more recently presented Navy Medal of Honor, the reverse side is inscribed with the name, the date of the action and a very brief description of why the award was presented, e.g., "For action above and beyond the call of duty."—Sound Off Ed.

The Crucible Has Been Putting Recruits to the Test for 17 Years

On what date was the Crucible introduced in each of the training depots?

Joseph L. Rosati
USMCR, 1962-67
Reading, Pa.

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• *The short answer is that General Charles C. Krulak, the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, announced the addition of the Crucible to recruit training in September 1996, and you can find articles on its inception in our searchable, digitized archives at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck. But, here is a bit more: The Crucible, according to the Marine Parents website, “is a test every recruit must go through to become a Marine. It tests every recruit physically, mentally and morally and is the defining experience of recruit training.*

“The Crucible takes place over 54 hours and includes food and sleep deprivation and [more than] 45 miles of marching. The Crucible event pits teams of recruits against a barrage of day and night events requiring every recruit to work together to solve problems, overcome obstacles, and help each other along the way.

“The obstacles they face include long marches, combat assault courses, the leadership reaction course, and the team-building warrior stations.

“Each Warrior Station is named for a Marine hero whose actions epitomize the values the USMC wants recruits to adopt.

“... The Crucible is a rite of passage that, through shared sacrifice, recruits will never forget. With that memory and their core values learned in recruit training, they can draw upon the experience to face any challenge in their path.”—Sound Off Ed.

Looking Good! Looking Very Good!

Here’s a license plate that my fellow Marines might enjoy. It’s on my 50-year anniversary edition Corvette.

I served from 1968 to 1972. One year of



Definitely a class car with a class owner.

my enlistment was with “Hotel” Company, 2/7 in Vietnam as a “grunt.”

Ralph Sirianni
Buffalo, N.Y.

• *Congratulations on the 'vette, and thanks for your service.—Sound Off Ed.*



Now we know that this is Cpl Waldner.

Finally, He Is Identified

The corporal doing his professional reading on page 11, in the December issue of *Leatherneck*, is Cpl Steven Waldner, an 0311 squad leader in “Charlie” Co, BLT 1/4, 13th MEU. I apologize for not responding sooner with his ID, but being deployed, I was not able to receive e-mail from “the rear” until now.

1stSgt Joseph Caputo
Co C, BLT 1/4, 13th MEU
USS Boxer (LHD-4)

Civilian Leaders of Our Corps?

Every year I receive the November issue of the *Leatherneck*, the one that includes

the “Senior Leaders of Our Corps.” What confuses me is the “civilians” who appear to hold executive positions. For example: Executive Director, U.S. Marine Forces Command. And there are others spread throughout the Corps. Who are these people and how do they get to be “leaders” of our Marine Corps?

John Phillips
USMC, 1958
Little Egg Harbor, N.J.

• *Regarding the civilians in leadership roles in the Marine Corps: As this Commandant and previous ones over the years have pointed out, the Corps could not survive without the very talented civilians working for the Marine Corps. They are invaluable assets to the Total Force team, and Marines of all grades have come to realize this more than ever before. The civilians provide critical support and continuity in both the supporting establishment (bases and stations) and in the operating forces (what we used to call the Fleet Marine Force), and some do deploy alongside leathernecks in the Corps’ operating forces.*

Currently, the Corps has approximately 25,000 civilians in billets around the world, and there are rank/grade (leadership) levels in the civilian ranks, just like uniformed Marines. As a civilian makes distinguished contributions, demonstrating proven and necessary skills, a promotion to an approved senior position is forthcoming. All the civilian billets are justified and approved based on a demonstrated need.

Those senior civilians shown in our annual insert are members of the Department of Defense Senior Executive Service, “general officer equivalent” in grade levels, who are filling approved billets for the Marine Corps. They fill billets that would traditionally be occupied by senior military personnel. As the active-duty force structure decreases, and Marines rotate to different duty stations, it is these civilian leaders who keep the Corps on track, particularly in budgeting and acquisition efforts, in pursuit of strategic goals.—Col Walter G. Ford, USMC (Ret), Publisher/Executive Ed.

Dang!

In the October issue “Letter of the Month,” my husband’s name is spelled wrong. You had Master Sergeant Bruce Allen. He is MSgt Burr W. Allen.

Ruth Allen
North East, Pa.

• *An extra 10 days P&P for Sound Off Ed.—Sound Off Ed.*

[continued on page 68]

If You Don't Have Armor Everywhere You Go ...

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Photo by: Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

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*National Safety Council's *Injury Facts*, 2011 Edition.

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16 OCTOBER 2013

The Reawakening

To our Corporals and Sergeants:

We are proud of you! We are privileged to serve alongside you, and we are humbled every day by you! Instead of an easy life, you and your families chose a more difficult path—a life of service, challenge and sacrifice. With few exceptions, every one of you enlisted while we were fighting two major wars. In the last 12 years, you have defeated every enemy on the battlefield, and now Sergeant Major and I need your help to reawaken the soul of our Corps against an enemy emerging from within our ranks. By soul, we mean those timeless attributes and habits that have defined our Corps for 238 years: persistent discipline, faithful obedience to orders and instructions, concerned and engaged leadership (24/7), and strict adherence to standards from fire team leader to General Officer. These habits, these attributes, our undeniable belief in “who we are and what we do,” form the soul of our Corps.

We know that 98% of our Marines are doing the right thing, but we also know there are some who aren't living up to our sacred title. We are returning to CONUS to rearm and refit in order to fight again when our nation least expects it. Those who aren't living up to the title Marine within our midst are disrupting the return to immediate readiness, soiling our honor, and causing the American people to lose trust in us! Disregarding orders and standards, substance abuse, sexual assault, hazing, self-destructive behavior, and failure to maintain personal fitness and appearance standards, weakens our Corps and dishonors all who have endured wars' hardships. This insurgency of wrongdoing is invading our homes and destroying our credibility.

Sergeant Major Barrett and I are now calling upon the backbone, the main effort of the Marine Corps—our NCOs—to once again advance to the decisive points in battle. Of the 174,046 enlisted Marines on active duty today, 144,570 are Sergeants and below. Fully 83.06% of our enlisted force is led by NCOs. As Noncommissioned Officers, you have irrefutably proven over the past decade of war that you are the backbone of our Corps. Through your presence, leadership, and conduct we will turn the tide of this battle against the insurgency of wrongdoing, restore our integrity with the American people, and keep our honor clean.

We have always known hardship and challenge; we have never known what it is to lose a battle, because we have always prided ourselves on our devotion to self-discipline and combat excellence. This is who we are as Marines, and we must never allow it to slide. **Discipline today leads to victory tomorrow.** You truly are strategic Corporals and Sergeants!

Sergeant Major Barrett and I need every one of you in this fight. No greater a compliment can be bestowed to a fellow Marine than to say, *I can count on you always!* Never forget **who we are** and **what we do** for our country. Move to the decisive point in this battle and through your presence, professionalism, and tenacity ... turn the tide of this fight for the sake of Corps and country.

Semper Fidelis!

SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Gen James F. Amos
Commandant of the Marine Corps



General James F. Amos

Thirty-fifth Commandant of the Marine Corps



Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett

Seventeenth Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps



SGT KEONIAHNA C. PAULO

The CMC, Gen James F. Amos, left, and the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, spoke to groups of NCOs at various bases and stations to deliver their “reawakening” message, reinforcing the need for noncommissioned officer leadership. This particular discussion was with the NCOs of Third Marine Aircraft Wing aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., in October 2013.

*“Through your presence, leadership,
and conduct we will turn the
tide of this battle against the
insurgency of wrongdoing, restore our
integrity with the American people,
and keep our honor clean.”*





■ HELMAND PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN Operation Pegasus II Nabs Bomb-Making Materials

Marines with 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, Regional Command Southwest conducted Operation Pegasus II near Patrol Base Boldak in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 10, 2013, in an effort to limit the movement of lethal aid in Helmand province.

Lethal aid continues to be problematic for coalition forces near Boldak, a small, isolated village only a few miles from Camps Leatherneck and Bastion. The 1/9 leathernecks have organized several clearing operations in the region since arriving in Afghanistan in September, and much like the other operations, this one focused on searching compounds suspected of having ties to insurgency.

The Marines of Company C, 1/9 did a helicopter insertion into the area to patrol on foot from compound to compound in search of weapons caches or materials used to make improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Marines with “Alpha” Co established roadblocks to prevent insurgents from leaving the area or being reinforced.

The battalion detained a suspected insurgent, seized materials used to make IEDs and removed a roadside bomb.

Marines with C/1/9 patrol near Boldak, Afghanistan, Nov. 10, 2013, during Operation Pegasus II.

“By operating in the area and detaining insurgents and confiscating harmful materials, we’re basically letting the enemy know that we’re not going to allow them to hide,” said Sergeant Jeffrey McCarty, the Personal Security Detachment’s platoon commander with Alpha Co.

“It’s a good feeling knowing that we’re not only keeping Marines and coalition forces safe, but also the civilians in the area, by removing insurgents and their re-

sources. At the end of the day, we’re trying to make it home safe, but we’re trying to make it safe for them in their environment as well.”

Following the operation, Marines discovered the insurgent they had apprehended was involved in several attacks on Marines near Boldak, including an attack in October which resulted in the death of Lance Corporal Christopher Grant, a rifleman with 1/9.



CPL. JUSTIN LONG



LCPL MATTHEW S. MYERS

An MV-22B Osprey with VMM-265 (Rein), 31st MEU lands on the JMSDF ship *Ise*, Nov. 12, 2013, after taking off from MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, an hour prior. This marked the first time that an MV-22B Osprey landed aboard a JMSDF ship in the Asia-Pacific region.

“[Grant] was in my old platoon,” said LCpl Frederick Martin, a rifleman with the Personal Security Detachment. “It hurt when he was killed. But to know that we were able to apprehend someone that helped in the attack was a gratifying feeling for me.”

Cpl Austin Long
Combat Correspondent, Regional Command Southwest

■ JMSDF SHIP *ISE* AT SEA Osprey Lands on JMSDF Ship For First Time in Asia-Pacific

An MV-22B Osprey landed on a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ship Nov. 12, 2013, marking a first time in the Asia-Pacific region for the aircraft.

Leathernecks with III Marine Expeditionary Force conducted the MV-22 Osprey landing with the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) aboard *Ise* (DDH-182), a *Hyuga*-class JMSDF destroyer, in order to improve interoperability, enhance bilateral training and illustrate the capability of the Osprey to speedily transport cargo and passengers to and from ships from both nations. The *Hyuga*-class helicopter destroyers are designed as a light helicopter carrier used primarily for minesweeping.

The commanding general of III MEF, Lieutenant General John Wissler; the chief of joint staff of the Japan Self-Defense Forces, General Shigeru Iwasaki; and the CG of Western Army, Japan Ground Self-

Defense Force, LtGen Koichiro Bansho, were among those who visited *Ise* to witness the event.

“This is the first time for an Osprey to land on a JMSDF ship in this region,” said Robert D. Eldridge, the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7, government and external affairs for Marine Corps Installations Pacific. “The fact that the joint chief of staff and commanding generals personally came down here to see this, that they visited [Marine Corps Air Station] Futenma [on Okinawa] and that they flew in an Osprey are significant for our Japan-U.S. relationship and for security in this region.”

The group toured the ship’s planning area where the JMSDF is capable of handling humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and coordinating with civil defense first responders and non-governmental organizations, actions where the Osprey can be very useful.

“This is another opportunity for us to reinforce the Japan-U.S. relationship,” said LtGen Wissler. “With the development of capabilities by the JMSDF, we have another amphibious partner in the Western Pacific who can help us ... and better assist in any humanitarian aid and relief operations.”

Only the second time an Osprey has landed on a JMSDF ship, with the first being at Exercise Dawn Blitz off the U.S.

West Coast earlier in 2013, the landing is a continuation of the Japan-U.S. military cooperation.

“This landing expands the breadth of capability that exists between the JSDF and the United States military,” said LtGen Wissler. “This strengthens the alliance and adds ... interoperability to the Japan-U.S. alliance.”

The aircraft involved in the landing are with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), currently assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III MEF.

LCpl Matthew S. Myers
Combat Correspondent, III MEF

■ WAIOURU MILITARY CAMP, NEW ZEALAND

Personal Protection Team Puts Rounds Downrange

Marines assigned to the personal protection team for the coalition commander of Exercise Southern Katipo 2013, Colonel John Howard, received weapons training during a familiarization shoot with the New Zealand service rifle, the Steyr assault rifle, and the Sig Sauer P226 9 mm pistol Nov. 7, 2013, during the initial stages of SK13 at Waiouru Military Camp, North Island, New Zealand.

Fourteen U.S. Marines with 1st Law Enforcement Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force are training with their multinational counterparts during the

Below left: New Zealand Defence Force Sgt Geoff Brown, right, personal protection officer, Military Police, examines Marines' ammunition magazines prior to their firing the Steyr service rifle for familiarization.

Below right: Sgt Jesse Keffer, an MP with 1st LEB, fires the New Zealand service rifle, the Steyr, for familiarization.



CPL SCOTT REEL



CPL SCOTT REEL

exercise. Of them, four were chosen for the commander's security team based on their special reaction team training and experience. The commander's protection is a combined service team made up of Marines and members of the New Zealand Defence Force.

"I've worked with Marines overseas and found them good to work with. So far everything's been good," said Warrant Officer Percy McLaughlin, Headquarters Deployable Joint Inter-Agency Task Force, NZDF.

Throughout the morning, McLaughlin led the joint-combined team in close-quarter drills, which simulated situations they might encounter in future operations.

Corporal Thomas Cornwall, a military policeman with 1st LEB, said he is happy to work with his New Zealand counterparts and their different types of weapons and way of life.

"The Steyr is awesome," Cornwall said. "It's a new weapon to shoot and did great today."

The team of seven had 900 rounds to shoot in order to become familiar with the Steyr and Sig Sauer P226 9 mm pistol.

"I'm using this opportunity to assess their skills and see how far we can take the practice based on that," McLaughlin said.

He started the training with static, close-range drills that increased to rapid pivot and communication drills which required the team to shout for covering fire when reloading or fixing a weapons malfunction.

Although the team had never worked together and battled a learning curve, the training moved seamlessly, Cornwall said. "The military police seem like they have very similar tactics and procedures. They know what they are doing."

The team flew down to the South Island for the beginning of the exercise with confidence in their gear and, more importantly, each other.

Cpl Scott Reel

Combat Correspondent, MARFORPAC

■ DJIBOUTI 13th MEU Scout Snipers Take to Hills

Sunday mornings aboard USS *Boxer* (LHD-4), an amphibious assault ship, are unlike a typical day during deployment. It is a day traditionally reserved for Marines to attend church and tend to personal matters; however, on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013, scout snipers from Scout Sniper Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Bn, Fourth Marine

Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit took time to hone their skills and fire some rounds downrange.

The sniper range was located in a rugged Djibouti valley with mountains that cause the winds to vary and challenge the shooters' skills.

The first order of business upon arriving at the range was to lay out 10 battery-powered iron targets. The targets, much smaller than a human silhouette, were set up at distances ranging from 150 to more than 700 yards and could be knocked down only when hit by a precisely placed round. The targets were capable of providing feedback to the shooters, letting them know that their aim was dead-on. After registering the hits, the targets returned



SSGT MATTHEW ORR

In Djibouti, LCpl Walter Pereira, a scout sniper with BLT 1/4, 13th MEU, goes through firing drills with a tripod-mounted M40A5 sniper rifle, Nov. 1, 2013, prior to live-fire training.



SSGT MATTHEW ORR

In Djibouti, scout snipers with Scout Sniper Plt, BLT 1/4, 13th MEU review various firing positions, Nov. 1, 2013, in preparation for live-fire training later in the week.

to their upright positions to wait for the next well-aimed round.

After briefs and safety reminders, the rifles were unsheathed from their protective covers, ball-ammunition loaded and rounds fired downrange.

The snipers tested their skills by firing three different types of weapons organic to the Sniper Platoon: the M40A5 sniper rifle; the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System; and the .50-caliber Barrett M107 Special Application Scoped Rifle.

Throughout the day, Sergeant Emmanuel Velayo, the platoon's chief scout sniper, offered words of advice and instruction to snipers who were having difficulty adjusting to the challenging wind conditions.

"Keep your face on the gun and let your spotter worry about the data," he said when a sniper missed a target.

"The range here is tricky," said Corporal Steven Laughter, a scout sniper. "It really makes for some interesting wind calls, and it isn't like [Camp] Pendleton [California] where the wind blows continuously from left to right."

The snipers fired a known-distance

range in the prone position, a known-distance range with tripods and, with the sun slowly setting behind the mountains, finished the day off with what the platoon calls "one shot, one kill."

That was where Sgt Velayo had the snipers face away from the range while he hid a target somewhere on the range. He then gave the snipers a brief intelligence update as to where the target might be located on the range. Following the intelligence update, the snipers, one by one, came to the firing position and tried to locate and engage the target.

The Marines were assessed on the time it took them to engage the target, which ranged from mere seconds to a few minutes.

"Today was really beneficial," said Lance Corporal Walter Pereira, as he was packing up. "Any rounds we can get [to fire], whether it is one or 20, is great, as shooting is such a perishable skill."

The training day that had started nearly 15 hours earlier ended under the cover of darkness in Africa.

SSgt Matthew Orr
Combat Correspondent, 13th MEU

■ MCB CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. Saddle Up and Head Out at 12:30 a.m.

Gathering at the armory at 12:30 a.m., Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, First Marine Logistics Group acquired their weapons and donned their packs for a three-hour combat-conditioning exercise at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 31, 2013.

"With this being our first night operation, I felt it was extremely beneficial," said Second Lieutenant Nickolas Gillespie, the engineering deck officer in charge with CLB-15. "It's not something you can plan for until you really experience it."

CLB-15 put out a battalion-wide recall six hours before the training exercise was slated to occur, giving unknowing Marines an element of surprise along with other challenges, such as performing the exercise with a lack of sleep and using only glow sticks and headlamps for guidance in the middle of the night.

"You never know what will change, especially when you deploy," said Sergeant Luis Gallegos, a data chief. "All you can do is be mentally prepared for it. At the



LCP, CODY HAAS

Leathernecks with CLB-15, CLR-17, 1st MLG hike into the early morning hours during a combat-conditioning exercise at MCB Camp Pendleton. Marines undergo conditioning exercises, such as hiking, to build physical endurance and camaraderie within the battalion.

end of the day, your body will do what your mind tells it to.”

Each Marine was required to wear a Kevlar helmet, a flak jacket and a pack weighing approximately 60 pounds, a typical fighting load simulating gear a Marine would wear while deployed.

“You’re not always going to have a sure way of transportation,” said Lance Corporal Stephen Smith, an electrician. “I believe hiking prepares us for any challenge that gets in our way.”

The evolution was divided into three exercises throughout the night. The first was a hike where Marines wore the M50 gas mask and carried a combat load. The second incorporated moving a log uphill. The third and final exercise consisted of a climb to the summit of a steep hill to meet the rising sun.

“Hiking is a great team-strengthening opportunity,” said Corporal Gerardo Dehorta, a small-arms repair technician. “It creates an environment that tests the physical and mental toughness of Marines working as a team towards a common goal.”

The conditioning exercise also gave senior Marines an opportunity to see how junior Marines were improving not only individually but also as a team.

“The exercise was an overall success,” said 2dLt Kyle Britt, a maintenance management officer. “The Marines had a tough test this morning, but they all came through.”

CLB-15 continues to conduct conditioning exercises each month in preparation for upcoming regimental hikes and operations.

LCP, Cody Haas
Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG

■ CAMP DES GARRIGUES, FRANCE Training With the Légion Etrangère

Leathernecks with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response, the Marine Corps’ newest unit, spent Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, 2013, near Camp des Garrigues, France, training with legionnaires from France’s 2d Foreign Infantry Regiment.

The week-long bilateral event was the first between SPMAGTF Crisis Response and the French military and served to establish professional working relationships between the allied nations. It culminated Oct. 31 as Marines and legionnaires took to the skies in an MV-22B Osprey, landing just outside a compound that served as the day’s objective.

The infantrymen assaulted through the

compound, communicating and working together as they maneuvered around and through dozens of metal warehouses, concrete urban structures and danger areas, such as road intersections and open fields. All this, while fighting a simulated opposing force of fellow Marines and legionnaires hidden throughout the compound and engaging with blank ammunition to re-create the sounds and smells of the battlefield. The training scenario ended after the force worked its way through a final building, using room-clearing tactics and techniques to eliminate the enemy forces inside.

Although the Marines and legionnaires had not trained together before the week began, the assault was a success, mainly due to the similarities between the two military organizations.

Marine Captain Jackson Smith, Executive Officer, Company A, 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, SPMAGTF Crisis Response, was asked whether he would be comfortable in a future combat situation with a foreign force.

His answer came quickly: “If it was with these guys—I’d go anywhere with these guys.”

Smith’s statement captured the sentiment of most of the infantry Marines involved in the exercise. But SPMAGTF Crisis Response didn’t only bring its infantry to France. It also brought an MV-22B Osprey—the first to operate tactically in an exercise on French soil.

“It was a great week—the U.S. has a long and valued history with France, and we hope we can get together with them for follow-on training,” said Capt Kyle Stuart, an MV-22B Osprey pilot with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 (Reinforced), SPMAGTF Crisis Response.

Stuart said it was a neat experience to be



CPL MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

Members of SPMAGTF Crisis Response and legionnaires from the 2d Foreign Infantry Regt of France’s 6th Light Armored Brigade work side by side during a simulated raid Oct. 31, 2013, near Camp des Garrigues, France.

Legionnaires set up landing zone security for a U.S. Marine MV-22B Osprey at Camp des Garrigues as part of a weeklong bilateral training exercise between U.S. Marines with SPMAGTF Crisis Response and French legionnaires.



CPL MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

Right: Legionnaires receive a lift inside an MV-22B Osprey during a weeklong bilateral training exercise. The Osprey was the first of its kind to land on French soil as part of a military exercise.

the first pilot to fly an Osprey to France as part of an exercise, but the honor belongs to his squadron, VMM-162 (Rein), and the Marines and sailors of SPMAGTF Crisis Response.

The MV-22B Osprey adds a significant capability to the operations of SPMAGTF Crisis Response not enjoyed by other military organizations throughout the world. The Ospreys are organic to the unit, which means they directly support all Crisis Response forces—an essential characteristic for a unit whose mission is to provide a quick-deploying force to support potential crises as directed over large areas in U.S. Africa Command.

Because of that mission, the Marines in France were only a contingent from SPMAGTF Crisis Response, as most of the unit remains on constant alert at Morón Air Base, Spain, where the unit is temporarily based.

“Our unit’s alert status can make it a challenge to get away and do these types of events,” said Capt T. D. McAbee, the officer in charge of the exercise for the Marines. “But bilateral exercises are



CPL MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

integral for maintaining our ability to focus on our mission and sharpen our skills while fostering improved military relations with our sister nation’s militaries.”

The legionnaires hosted a 7K obstacle course as the final event of the week, but instead of competing against each other—as would seem natural for two militaries with histories as storied as these—the two units joined forces and finished together.

The participating Marines and legionnaires said they gained many things, each remarking how their standards of discipline and camaraderie, along with their warfighting traditions, provide a strong link between the two.

1stLt Joshua Larson
Combat Correspondent, MarForEur and Africa



Fanfare of a Noted Career

Marine Band Historian Retires After 39 Years



MGySgt D. Michael Ressler, the most senior enlisted Marine bandsman by time in service, stands at attention while the colors are presented at his retirement ceremony Aug. 23, 2013, at the John Philip Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks Annex, Washington, D.C.

Story by Clare A. Guerrero
Photos courtesy of Marine Band Public Affairs

In the Marine Corps, the word “mission” may be most often associated with warfighting, but for Master Gunnery Sergeant D. Michael “Mike” Ressler, mission is the moment-by-moment endeavor to serve his unit, and others, to the best of his capacity.

Ressler, who retired as the most senior

enlisted Marine bandsman, by time in service, on Aug. 23, 2013, spent 39 years in the Corps—serving under 11 Commandants—as a band librarian, euphonium player, chief librarian, support staff section leader and chief historian for “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band.

MGySgt Ressler’s leaders and colleagues praised his long-standing dedication and called his leadership “inspiring.” As a

testimony to his character, nearly 200 people attended his retirement ceremony at the Sousa Band Hall, Marine Barracks Annex, Washington, D.C., last August.

The event drew family, friends, and many who recognized his contribution to the Corps, including Colonel Christian G. Cabaniss, Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks Washington; Sergeant Major Angela Maness, the barracks sergeant major; John Philip Sousa IV; Captain Kenneth R. Force, musical director at the Merchant Marine Academy; and representatives from the Library of Congress, the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the White House Historical Association.

When Ressler accepted a position as the Marine Band’s first-ever chief historian in 2008, he had developed a reputation as the band’s history expert and made contributions so extensive that his career became integral to Marine Band history. Ressler joined the Marine Band on July 30, 1974, wanting to play the trombone or euphonium, but after losing out on the trombone position and placing second in a euphonium audition, he was selected and enlisted to work in the Marine Band library.

MGySgt Ressler began his musical instruction on the trombone at age 10 and started on the euphonium at age 13. He studied under Russell Sumpman of Columbia, Pa., Tyrone Breuninger of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and Harold Brasch, euphonium soloist with the United States Navy Band. Ressler graduated from Garden Spot High School in New Holland, Pa., and attended West Chester State University in Pennsylvania.

After a seat opened up in the euphonium section several months after enlisting in the Marine Band as librarian, Ressler auditioned again, and this time he was successful. He performed with the band for four years.

Although Ressler loved music-making, he felt he could make more of a contribution to the Marine Band by taking on a role as the librarian. According to Col Michael J. Colburn, the Marine Band’s director, the library was a very different environment in 1978 when Ressler rejoined the staff. The library existed to support the needs of the players and conductors, providing information for musical projects and to provide an archive for the Marine Band’s assets.

Even though Ressler valued maintaining traditions, when he accepted the position as chief librarian in 1988, he had recognized the requirement for the library to evolve to meet the band's changing needs in a changing culture.

In addition to his regular duties, Ressler took on an active role in leadership, providing sage advice to both subordinates and leaders. For two decades, he oversaw the improvement and expansion of the library, identifying needs such as hiring librarians with strong backgrounds in library science and research methodology.

In spite of the fact that he spent more than 20 years working in the library, Ressler's role in the community was far from cloistered. According to Colburn, Ressler was the person many turned to for assistance both within the Marine Band and outside its walls. He diligently helped others find information they needed for articles, research papers and dissertations, including requests from the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the White House Historical Association, and from radio broadcasts and TV shows such as "History Detectives."

For a booklet that he wrote, titled "A Historical Perspective on 'The President's Own' U.S. Marine Band," he received the Brigadier General Edwin Simmons-Henry I. Shaw Award from the Marine



Ressler, right, at a concert with "The President's Own" at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa., Sept. 12, 1976.

Corps Heritage Foundation on April 20, 2013.

Noting the great credit that Ressler had brought to the Corps, especially the Marine Corps History Division, Col Cabaniss awarded Ressler the Legion of Merit on July 19.

"I felt uncomfortable taking credit for things that had been accomplished," Ressler said during his retirement ceremony. "I've had so much help, that

there really should have been a host of people joining me while receiving the recognition. I've been surrounded by talented, dedicated professionals who love the band as much as I do ... it has been a pleasure working with them."

"A rather unique and rather seemingly contradictory combination of characteristics that Mike offers ... is [both] pride and humility," said Col Colburn, highlighting some of Ressler's exemplary traits. "Mike has these characteristics in equal parts," he said, explaining that Ressler takes great pride in his family, his work and being part of the Marine Band, and Marine Corps, yet exercises humility in every action, with an air of sensitivity and awareness.

"I'm not sure [from] where this humility comes, but I know Mike is a devoutly religious person, and I suspect that, that a healthy dose of that sense of humility comes from his religious beliefs," said Colburn.

"There is great pride in being an effective servant, in doing that well and embracing that role ... [and] you have brought that approach to your work for as long as I've known you," Col Colburn said to Ressler during his remarks at Ressler's retirement ceremony. "I think it's instructive on [an] organizational level because after all, we are servants. We serve the White House, we serve the Marine

"There is great pride in being an effective servant, in doing that well and embracing that role ... [and] you have brought that approach to your work for as long as I've known you."

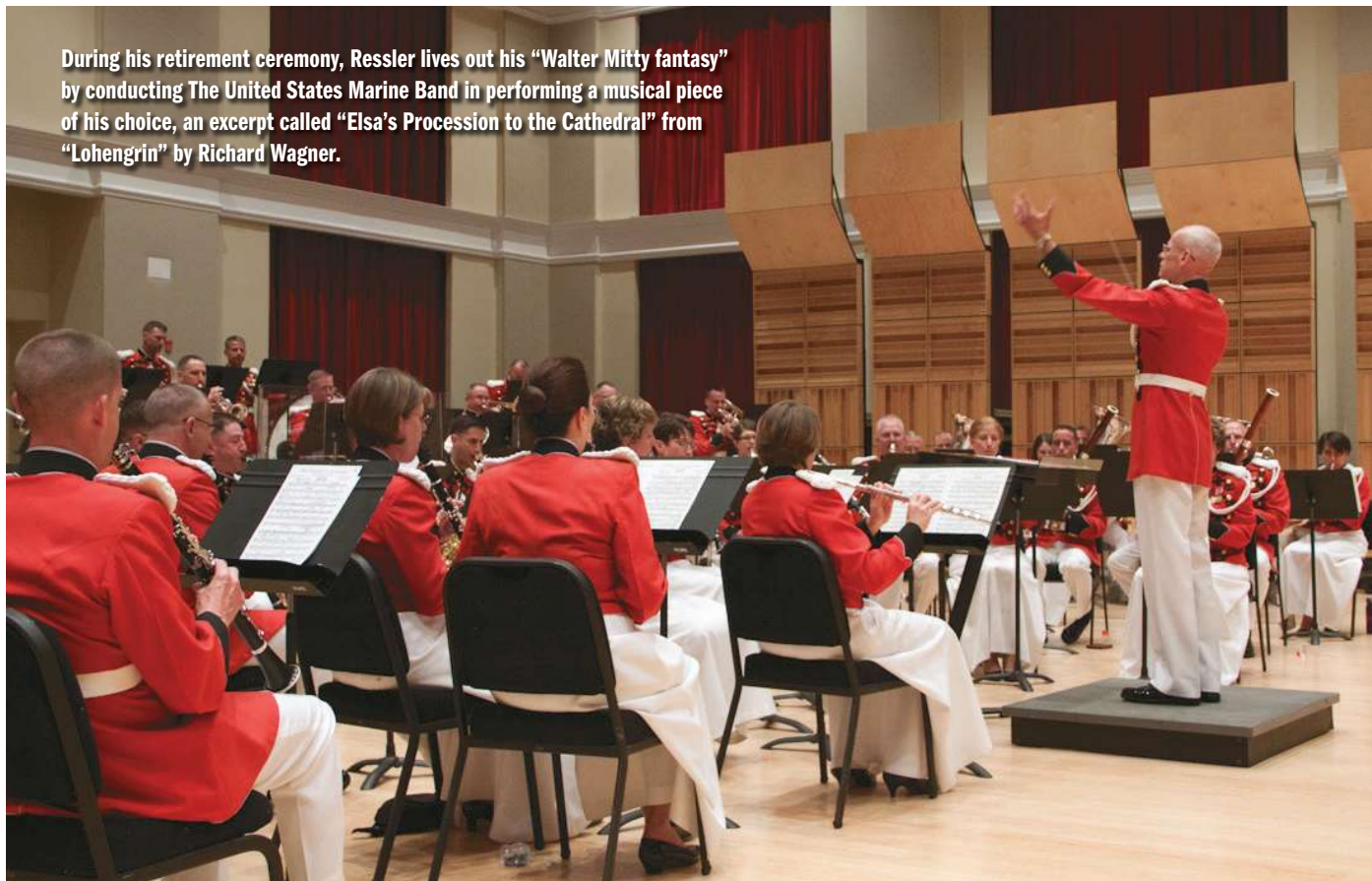
—Col Michael J. Colburn, during MGySgt Ressler's retirement ceremony



Above: Ressler being interviewed by WMZQ radio, Washington, D.C., March 12, 2006.

Left: Ressler in front of the U.S. Capitol during his last year as a euphonium section player in 1978.

During his retirement ceremony, Ressler lives out his “Walter Mitty fantasy” by conducting The United States Marine Band in performing a musical piece of his choice, an excerpt called “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral” from “Lohengrin” by Richard Wagner.



“I will miss ... the wonderful people who make up this organization. ... I loved the [Marine Band] long before I got here ... and I am truly blessed I got to live my dream.”

—MGySgt D. Michael “Mike” Ressler



Capt John R. Zimmerman, USMC (Ret), left, a former Marine Band euphonium soloist and longtime friend of MGySgt D. Michael Ressler, presents a noncommissioned officers sword to Ressler at his retirement.

Corps, and we serve the Commandant ... and what an honor it is to serve all those entities.”

Among the things Ressler said he would not miss about the band are writing fitness reports; “Marine Band paranoia,” or a band member’s pre-performance feeling that he might be forgetting an important item; and Washington, D.C., traffic.

“I will miss being around the music and musicians ... and listening to rehearsals,” Ressler continued. “Having the opportunity to sit and talk with members of my section ... finding out how they are doing and helping them grow and be successful, and number one, I will miss ... the wonderful people who make up this organization. ... I loved the [Marine Band] long before I got here ... and I am truly blessed I got to live my dream.”

As for Ressler’s future plans, he will return with his wife to his hometown, New Holland, Pa., and enjoy spending time with his family, especially its newest member, his grandson Max, whom he humorously called his “new project.”

In keeping with Marine Band tradition, Ressler made a symphonic ending to his 39-year career by conducting “The President’s Own” in performing a musical piece of his choice, an excerpt called “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral” from “Lohengrin” by Richard Wagner.



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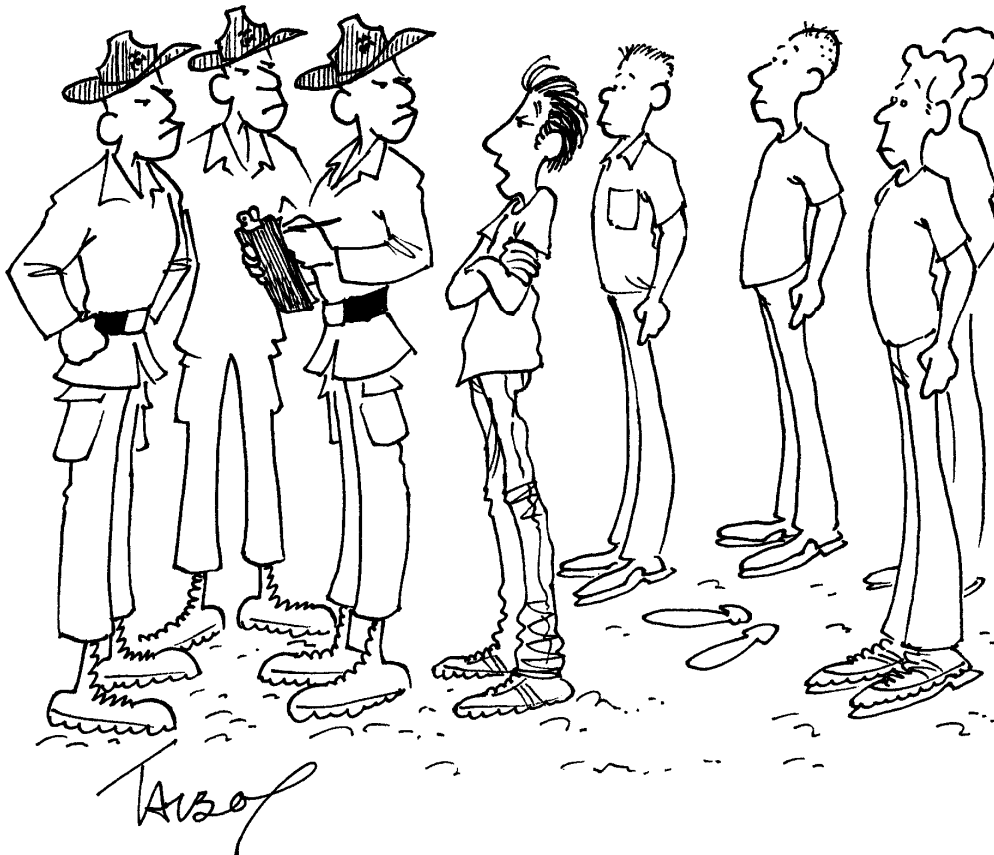
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"You've captured our DI right down to his bull neck and barrel chest."



"Well, it seemed like a perfect marching song:
'Over hill, over dale, We will hit the dusty trail ...'
Why do you have to get all out of sorts?"



"Ahem! I'd like to speak to whoever is in charge."

BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout



"There he goes again. Bang! Bang! Happy New Year!"



"Beer? Why, no, sir, it's not a beer, it's something 'Smitty' calls a 'microbrew.' "

The Marines holding the infamous “Rockpile,” not far below the Demilitarized Zone in South Vietnam, are resupplied by a CH-46 helicopter from HMM-262.



An Incredible Tale of Bravery Under Fire

The First Helicopter Pilot To Be Named Marine Aviator of the Year

By Beth Crumley

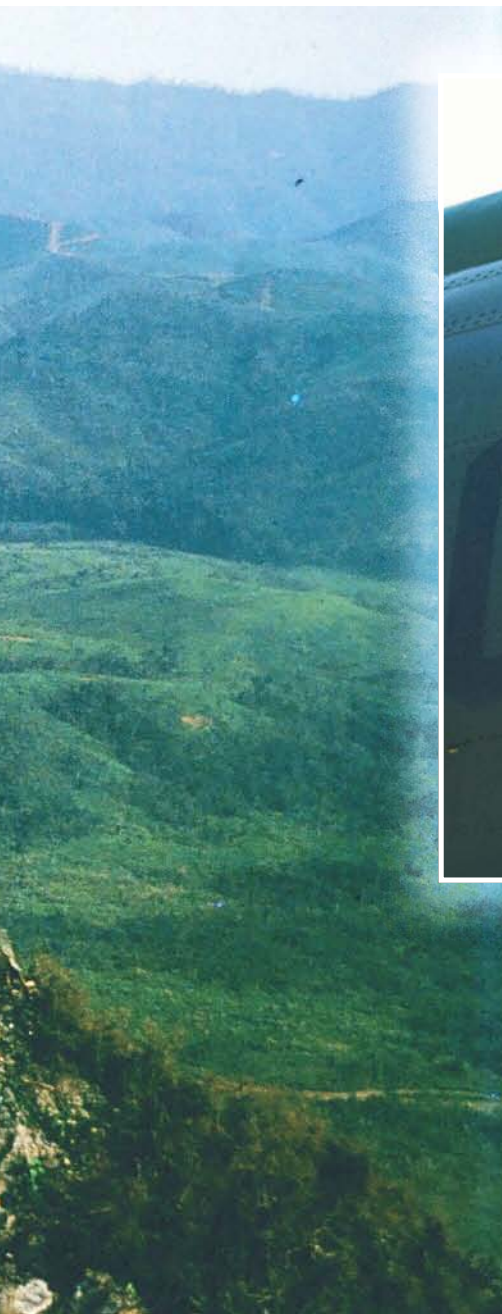
On 26 Oct. 1968, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps announced that Major David L. Althoff was the winner of the Alfred A. Cunningham Award, signifying his selection as “Marine Aviator of the Year”—a first for a helicopter pilot, but a well-earned recognition. While serving as operations officer and executive officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 262, during his second tour of duty in the Republic

of Vietnam, Althoff’s heroism had been recognized with three Silver Stars, three Distinguished Flying Crosses (His service records indicate he was awarded four Distinguished Flying Crosses; however, citations could be located only for three of those.), and more than 50 Air Medals.

Born in Effingham, Ill., Althoff enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve as an aviation cadet in November 1952. Designated a naval aviator and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve on 1 Dec. 1954, he reported to Marine

Attack Squadron (VMA) 212. In the summer of 1956, after flying A-4 Skyhawks with VMA-251, Althoff received orders to report to Pensacola, Fla., for helicopter training. He later stated: “I didn’t feel good about it ... not at all. I wanted to go to an A-4 squadron. I was really p---- off, but after the first two hops, I thought, ‘This is all right!’ ”

Althoff deployed to Vietnam for the first time in July 1963, where he served as adjutant for Task Group 39.3.3.6., operating as part of Shufly. There he flew missions with



COURTESY OF LT COL DAVID L. ALTHOFF, USMC (RET)

both HMM-261 and HMM-361. In June 1967, Maj Althoff reported for duty with HMM-262 and again headed to Vietnam.

“This was my second tour in Vietnam,” Althoff said. “I knew what was going on in country, and I knew what I was getting into. I also knew I was going to a first-class squadron. I was extremely happy to be able to join them, and I was eager to get going.”

Almost immediately, Althoff developed the reputation of a hardened warrior, tough but fair, a dynamic leader and a gifted pilot who pushed the envelope to support Marines on the ground. Sergeant Joseph “Crazy Jake” Jacobs, one of the -262 crew chiefs, gave him the sobriquet “Balls to the Wall” Althoff.

First Lieutenant Michael Mullen, a young pilot assigned to HMM-262, not-

ed: “He was the squadron’s idol. We all thought the world of him as a man, an officer and a pilot. . . . He would never ask one of his junior pilots to fly a mission he had never flown. When we went on a ‘hairy’ mission, we went with the knowledge that it could be completed, because the major had already done it several times before.”

During July 1967, the squadron began receiving missions titled “Khe Sanh Augmentation” and “Dong Ha Augmentation” as the war in Northern I Corps heated up.

It wasn’t long before Maj Althoff was thrust into the fight, and, as a result of his individual heroism, he earned his first Distinguished Flying Cross. It was on 8 Aug. 1967, while inserting and extracting Marine reconnaissance teams.

Upon arrival at the second insertion site, zone preparation was in progress. Helicopter gunships and fixed-wing support were on station as Althoff commenced his approach. Located on a steep slope, the landing zone (LZ) was surrounded on three sides by hills and partially obstructed by dead trees. Despite a difficult approach and landing, the recon Marines disembarked without incident.

However, as Althoff’s wingman approached the site, he came under intense enemy ground fire and was forced to wave off. Informed that enemy forces were only 30 meters from the now-besieged Marines, Althoff disregarded the heavy fire from both small arms and .50-caliber machine

In 1968, Maj David L. Althoff (above in Vietnam) was the first helicopter pilot to be honored with the Alfred A. Cunningham Award (below) as the Marine Corps Aviator of the Year. (Photos courtesy of LtCol David L. Althoff, USMC (Ret))



guns and landed in the fire-swept zone. He calmly remained there for more than five minutes as the team extracted itself from the firefight to board the helicopter.

“The pilots and crew of this helicopter displayed great bravery and loyal devotion



COURTESY OF LT COL DAVID L. ALTHOFF, USMC (RET)

Maj David L. Althoff (above) stands in front of the Quang Tri operations "hootch," which sports a sign advertising "Daily Flights to Khe Sanh." The photograph below reflects the approach view of Hill 881, just above Khe Sanh, where Althoff and HMM-262 aircrews took in supplies and brought out casualties under heavy fire.



COURTESY OF LT COL DAVID L. ALTHOFF, USMC (RET)

to duty in the face of great personal risk by rescuing us from this Viet Cong infested zone," the patrol leader of the recon team, 1stLt Robert Drake, said.

Problems with the CH-46 Sea Knight, however, markedly changed the squadron's mission in the summer of 1967. After a series of fatal crashes, largely blamed on catastrophic failure of the main transmission, a conference was held to discuss the

problems. Representatives from Boeing Vertol, the manufacturers of the CH-46, suggested that the massive buildup in Vietnam led to a reduction in the quality of the maintenance crews, something the Marines vehemently denied. Others in attendance blamed the rotor blades, driveshaft bearings and excessive vibration of the aft pylon.

On 31 Aug., a CH-46A from HMM-262,

deployed as part of the Special Landing Force (SLF), yawed at 3,000 feet and lost the tail pylon. All on board were killed.

The Sea Knights in Vietnam immediately were restricted to emergency combat requirements which could not be met by other aircraft. A modification program was put quickly into place. Marines of HMM-262 were selected to move from the SLF to Okinawa to prepare all aircraft in the West Pacific (WestPac) for modification. A group of volunteers from HMM-262, known as the "Poor Devils," formed a detachment that remained aboard the SLF to fly unmodified aircraft in cases of emergencies.

Althoff assumed the duties of executive officer of HMM-262 and, as such, took on a pivotal role in the helicopter modification program. He was directly responsible to the program coordinator for the smooth and uninterrupted flow of aircraft from throughout WestPac to Okinawa, through each of the four phases of modification, and back to the operating units in the shortest amount of time possible.

An award recommendation stated, "Every problem was his. ... His influence was everywhere, boosting morale, coordinating departments, meeting and solving a hundred problems a day." In less than four months, between 1 Oct. and 20 Dec. 1967, 80 CH-46s were modified and returned, operationally ready, to the forces in Vietnam.

In late December, Althoff was appointed officer in charge of the "Poor Devils," now equipped with modified CH-46s. Shortly thereafter, on 27 Dec., Althoff launched as leader of a flight of two CH-46s, assigned an emergency medical evacuation mission in support of Company L, 3d Battalion, First Marine Regiment. The Marines, on Operation Badger Tooth, were given the mission of sweeping through the coastal villages of Thon Tham Khe and Tho Thrung An. As the leading platoon approached the edge of Thon Tham Khe, a well-concealed enemy force opened up with small-arms, automatic-weapons and mortar fire.

As Althoff arrived over the designated area, he learned that 14 Marines were wounded seriously and required immediate evacuation. Coming under intense enemy fire as he descended into the area, he continued and landed between the embattled Marines and the enemy force where his aircraft was struck repeatedly by enemy fire.

Corporal Robert Harrison, the crew chief, described the action: "We were pulling medevacs in the back of the plane, walking wounded, some on stretchers and some on ponchos. I was at the front hatch moving the stretcher bearers off the plane.



COURTESY OF LT COL DAVID L. ALTHOFF, USMC (RET)

The light green paint patches on this HMM-262 Sea Knight reflect the hits taken providing support to the Marines on the ground. This heavy battle damage was not uncommon in Vietnam.

I had put down my visor and leaned out to look back along the plane to see how many more were coming on. As I started to lean back in, two rounds came past my face, hitting the ‘bird’ behind Major Althoff’s head and, unfortunately, taking out both our A and B hydraulic lines which were about two inches apart.

“Hydraulic oil immediately began misting throughout the plane as I hollered over the ICS [intercom system] that we were hit and NOT to isolate the hydraulics. I pulled a rag out of my pocket and wrapped it around both lines just to kill the mist. The major pulled in power, and we lifted before the last stretcher bearers could get off the plane. We lifted out, heading southeast toward the enemy, but soon we made a hard turn to the north and slid in on the beach, leaving two long skid marks from our rear gears.”

Once stopped on the beach, Althoff transferred the casualties to his wingman’s aircraft and quickly established a defensive perimeter around the damaged bird. After the arrival of a security force, emergency repairs were completed and the Sea Knight took off. Maj Althoff subsequently was awarded a second Distinguished Flying Cross.

In early January, the elements of HMM-262 finally were reunited at Quang Tri. Maj Althoff, once again, became the XO. As operations around the Khe Sanh Combat Base, in the northwest of South Vietnam near the Laotian border, continued to escalate, the squadron was given the mission of resupplying the base, as well as the outposts on the surrounding hill.

On 20 Jan. 1968, “India” Co, 3d Bn, 26th Marines conducted a reconnaissance-in-force up Hill 881 N. Early the following day, Khe Sanh Combat Base was hit with mortar fire, rockets and artillery, and Hill 881 was assaulted by several hundred North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops, beginning a 77-day siege.

Ground resupply was impossible and the Marines could not hold the hill outposts without resupply by helicopter. Staging at Khe Sanh became a huge problem as the base came under increasing fire. Moreover, the situation on the hills deteriorated, and it became extremely dangerous for the Marines manning the outposts to get to helicopters which braved the enemy fire to get into the landing zone.

On 13 Feb. 1968, Althoff took off from Quang Tri, leading a flight of CH-46s resupplying Hill 881 S. His wingman, carrying

an external load, came under heavy .50-cal. and small-arms fire. The drop was completed in spite of that fire, but as the helicopter lifted, a 122 mm rocket exploded in the zone just behind the aircraft, seriously wounding three Marines from the ground force.

As the pilot headed his aircraft toward Khe Sanh, a call for an emergency medevac came from the hill. Althoff, having monitored the actions on the radio, immediately volunteered to pick up the critically wounded men.

Approaching the zone under the cover of fixed-wing jets, UH-1E gunships and his own .50-cal. machine guns, Althoff came under intense fire. Despite his helicopter taking several hits, he continued into the zone. Still under fire, he waited until all the medevacs were loaded before taking off. More damage was received while departing the hill, but Althoff managed to fly the crippled aircraft to get the wounded Marines to medical aid in Khe Sanh. He subsequently was awarded a third Distinguished Flying Cross.

By the end of February, Althoff was nominated for two additional Distinguished Flying Crosses for resupply missions to Hill 881 S.

In addition to their resupply of Khe Sanh Combat Base and the hill outposts, HMM-262 supported reconnaissance units in the Northern I Corps area. On the night of 2 Feb. 1968, Althoff launched as a section leader of two CH-46s assigned an emergency extraction of an eight-man reconnaissance team.

Located five miles west of Dong Ha, recon team "Constitution" was surrounded by about 100 NVA soldiers and pinned down by automatic-weapons fire. Flying largely on instruments, the helicopters approached the zone. Althoff circled the zone at 800 feet and then began to descend and, as anticipated, automatic-weapons fire erupted from the enemy forces.

With suppressive fire from the helicopter's .50-cal. guns, Althoff landed near the embattled Marines. Once the recon Marines were aboard, he lifted out of the zone, only to receive an increasingly heavy volume of fire from the NVA positions, seriously damaging several internal systems.

"We took fire causing the loss of utility hydraulic pressure, and Major Althoff advised isolation of the system. We then

began losing our Number 1 flight-boost system, and the major made a precautionary landing very expeditiously at Dong Ha. On a quick inspection of the aircraft, we found that three rounds had entered the control closet directly behind the pilot's seat. The rounds there had knocked out our control boost. In the aft section, another round had severed one of our hydraulic lines. There were a total of six entry holes which were, unfortunately, very well placed," copilot 1stLt Charles Crookall said.

Althoff subsequently was awarded the Silver Star. Maj R. L. Neff, piloting one of the gunships, later wrote: "Situations as this are passed over lightly [because] they are missions that must be performed to assist our brethren on the ground. I feel this mission, in view of the marginal weather and enemy situation, most definitely comes into the category of a 'pilot's prerogative' type of mission. In this case, the extract was performed in a most efficient manner which was indicative of the outstanding airmanship employed."

Several weeks later, Althoff earned a

second Silver Star when on 13 May 1968, he launched as lead in a flight of two CH-46s assigned the mission of extracting reconnaissance team "Real Estate."

The four-man team, part of Echo Co, 3d Reconnaissance Bn, was on a volunteer mission to locate the remains of 2dLt Donald Matocha, who had been killed in a previous engagement. As the team closed on an enemy hilltop position, three of the four Marines were wounded by small-arms fire. Private First Class Clark E. Christie requested the insertion of a 12-man reaction force and gunship support. Despite heavy mortar- and automatic-weapons fire, Maj Althoff maneuvered his helicopter, carrying the reaction force, to within 100 meters of the beleaguered team. As the reaction force exited the aircraft, two were wounded.

Enemy fire intensified and in a hail of mortar- and automatic-weapons fire and exploding hand grenades, the reaction force separated into three groups, each heading for potential landing zones for extraction. Retired Gunnery Sergeant Roberto Navarrette said: "The enemy sustained rate of fire had increased, and an



In 1967, an HMM-262 detachment, called the "Poor Devils," embarked USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10) to provide emergency medium-lift capabilities to the Marine Special Landing Force. In late November, Maj Althoff took command of the detachment. (Photo courtesy of LtCol David L. Althoff, USMC (Ret))

envelopment flank of NVA were spotted to our northeast attempting to overrun us. At this time, I knew there was no way that a helicopter could attempt an extraction and waited for the inevitable.”

Without hesitation, Althoff landed in the first zone. PFC Christie later wrote: “I heard the extraction helicopter setting down behind me. ... The North Vietnamese fired an RPG-7 rocket in an attempt to hit the helicopter. The rocket fell short, exploding off to my right side.” Shrapnel from mortars pierced the cockpit before Althoff lifted off and proceeded to the next zone, once again landing under heavy fire.

The third zone was no landing zone at all, but a bomb crater on the side of a steep slope. Entry through the helicopter’s rear ramp was impossible, so Althoff maneuvered to a position sideways over the crater and hovered while the crew pulled the embattled Marines aboard through the side door.

The Silver Star citation states, “undaunted by the hostile rounds which repeatedly struck his aircraft, Major Althoff hovered with the rotor blades barely two feet from the side of the hill until the last Marine was embarked.” George G. Neville, president of the 3d Reconnaissance Battalion Association, stated some years later that if Althoff had “not unhesitatingly thrown himself into harm’s way, every one of the surviving team members certainly would have been killed.”

Only five days later, Althoff and his crew were diverted from a resupply mission at Khe Sanh to an emergency extraction of an eight-man reconnaissance team. The team, located on a steep ridge line eight miles northeast of Khe Sanh Combat Base, had engaged a large NVA force. As the helicopter approached the area, Althoff was informed by the Tactical Air Controller (Airborne) that the Marines were under heavy mortar-, automatic-weapons and small-arms fire. Seven members of the eight-man team had been wounded and were unable to move to a suitable landing zone. Because of the gravity of the situation, Althoff elected to attempt an extraction and commenced his approach.

Mortar rounds fell within feet of the wounded Marines. Despite the incoming rounds, Althoff maneuvered the CH-46 to within 10 meters of the Marines, placing the rear landing gear on the ridge line with the nose hanging over a steep precipice to jagged rocks below. He remained in the landing zone, under fire, for more than eight minutes as the door gunners helped load the grievously wounded aboard.

Retired Colonel Ray Canada, who served as Althoff’s copilot that day, later stated: “Without a doubt, the reconnaissance team

and reaction force Marines were saved from either mortal wounds or enemy capture as a direct result of Major Althoff’s courage under fire. ... Major Althoff displayed undaunted courage, above and beyond the call of duty.” Althoff subsequently was awarded a third Silver Star.

Cpl Vernon Crews later stated: “I used to like to fly with the major because he was so damned cool when the going got rough. I guess it used to rub off on the rest of his crew, too. ... We got into real

so many near-death experiences over such long a period of time and never waver in the performance of what they saw to be their duty. And what they saw to be their duty was above and beyond, time and time again. Althoff and men like him are heroes in the true mythic sense of the word.”

Years later, Althoff spoke of his time with HMM-262 and those with whom he served: “I had the privilege of serving with you on the SLF aboard the *Tripoli* and the *Valley Forge*. We were the “Poor



Maj David L. Althoff, left, hand on hip, and LtCol Melvin J. Steinberg, HMM-262’s commanding officer, await their next mission in Quang Tri, 1968. (Photo by UPI photographer David Powell)

scrapes with him, and at times he would return back to base with a chopper full of holes. But in 13 months he never lost a man on a mission. I doubt if you can find a better helicopter pilot in the Marine Corps.”

Maj David Althoff returned to the United States in July 1968. On 26 Oct., the Marine Corps announced his selection as the winner of the Alfred A. Cunningham Award. He was the first helicopter pilot to be named Marine Aviator of the Year. “Any Marine in the squadron would have followed that man to Hanoi and back if he had asked,” Staff Sergeant Denver Zeigler said.

Shortly thereafter, Althoff was approached by Boeing representatives and invited to spend several days discussing the CH-46 with company engineers. Articles in such diverse publications as *Stag* magazine and *Boeing News* followed. In 1972, LtCol David Althoff retired from the Marine Corps and returned to Arizona.

UPI photojournalist David Powell, who had met Althoff in Vietnam, said: “I will never comprehend completely how men like Lieutenant Colonel Althoff could have

Devils.” We went ashore at Quang Tri in December of ’67 and supported the troops all along the DMZ [Demilitarized Zone]. ... I saw so many of you risk everything and willingly go far above and beyond the call of duty to rescue your fellow Marines from the most desperate situations, never hesitating to go back and do it again, day after day, night after night. ... I’m proud to be numbered among the finest group of fighting Marines in the history of the Corps, HMM-262.”

Editor’s note: LtCol Althoff has now retired from multiple careers but continues to fight as a volunteer raising funds and awareness for wounded warriors.

Beth Crumley is a reference historian with the Marine Corps History Division, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. She is the author of “The Marine Corps, Three Centuries of Glory” as well as several articles on Marine Corps history, editor of “A Legacy Walk Through Marine Corps History” and a blogger for the Marine Corps Association.



Multiple Marines

Georgia Family Has All 4 Children On Active Duty



A family commitment: The four active-duty Marines in the Dorman-Andrews family are together where it all begins for many Marines, MCRD Parris Island, S.C. From the front: Courtney, Abby, Jake and Zach.

Story and photos by
CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

Kevin and Deana Dorman are no strangers to Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island, S.C.; in the past three years they have taken the five-hour drive to the Marines' East Coast training base to watch all four of their children graduate from boot camp.

This Peachtree City, Ga., blended family has gone above and beyond with one veteran Marine dad, four of four siblings on active duty and a scarlet-and-gold Marine Corps mom.

"I don't know what drove them to join the Corps; it didn't come from me," asserted Kevin, who served from 1985 to 1991 as an aircraft mechanic and crew chief. "I never pushed them one way or the other. It was all their choice."

Lance Corporal Jake Dorman, 21, was the first of the children to join in October 2010 and is in the cryogenics field. Corporal Courtney Andrews, 21, entered in January 2011 and is now a legal chief. LCpl Zach Andrews, 22, went to boot camp in March 2011 and serves in communications as a technical controller. The youngest, Private First Class Abigail "Abby" Andrews, 18, graduated from boot camp in October 2013 and went into training as an aircraft mechanic.

The motivations for the four siblings to take on the rigors of Marine Corps life were not unlike those of many other young men and women; they weren't ready for college; and they wanted action and needed a challenge.

"Our three oldest had graduated from high school and were out experiencing the realities of the working world," said Deana Dorman. "They are all very smart, but they didn't apply themselves well in school."

Kevin and Deana, who operate private businesses, read them the rules of life. "We told them they weren't going to sit on the couch and play video games all day," asserted Deana. "They had six months to make up their minds about what they were going to do."

The older siblings started looking into all the military services, and two of them were on their way to joining the Army, but decided on the Corps partly because they were able to get an MOS (military occupational specialty) they wanted.

"We encouraged them to strive for an MOS that would enable them to have a skill they can use to find a job when they leave the service," said Deana.

Since January 2011, Kevin and Deana have visited Parris Island to watch each child graduate while another was in a training platoon except for their youngest, Abby, who went to boot camp after the others were already on active duty.

Abby spent 10 months in the delayed-entry program and said she was well-prepared by recruiters for boot camp, but the advice from her older siblings helped too. "The best advice was to keep my mouth shut, which is hard for me," admitted Abby, who is known as headstrong and opinionated by her family.

"When we came to watch Courtney graduate, Zach had been there about a month," said Kevin. "When she graduated, her recruiter was there, and he brought her over to Zach's squad bay and got him pulled out to meet with Courtney."

"He had to stand there and call me 'ma'am,'" Courtney said, as she appeared to revel in the memory of the scene where her younger and, at 6 feet 4 inches, quite a bit taller brother complied with boot-camp protocol. Nevertheless, she did try to encourage him. "I told him he would realize soon that this was his home: 'That's your bed; these [recruits] are your brothers; and they [drill instructors] are your mom and dad,' and he said, 'Yes, ma'am.'"

"That was the most heart-wrenching thing I've ever had to watch," declared Deana, who had to watch from afar because families normally are not allowed in the squad-bay areas. "Kevin had been there, done that, so he was more prepared than I was for the emotional part of sending your children to Marine Corps boot camp," Deana admitted.

Her husband did try to prepare her for the experience. "She worried that they would be cold or hot or hungry, and I tried to tell her they would be well-taken care of," Kevin recalled. "When Courtney was in boot camp, there was a hurricane coming up the East Coast, and Deana was worried. But we talked with Courtney, and she was getting ready to get on a truck to go help civilians. I told Deana, 'She is going to help other people now; she's not your little girl anymore.'"

Kevin found a TV documentary that followed recruits through the three phases of boot camp. "He tried to get me to watch it," Deana said. "I just couldn't do it. I worried about them all when they were in boot camp."

It didn't help when Deana learned about a woman recruit who died from

meningitis in boot camp while Courtney was there.

Bacterial meningitis can be contagious and can be spread through exchange of respiratory and throat secretions (such as coughing, sneezing, sharing drinking cups, etc.), according to the Center for Disease Control website.

The site also noted that people in larger groups gathered together in close quarters are more susceptible to it; college students in dorms and military personnel are at increased risk. About 4,100 cases, including 500 deaths, occurred each year between 2003 and 2007, the CDC noted, but that was a 31 percent decrease from 1998. It is very rare, but it happens.

"My brother called me and asked if I'd heard about the girl from Atlanta who had died, but he didn't have a name," Deana remembered, the tension of that memory still showing in her face. "I immediately texted our recruiter to find out what was going on, and he told me it wasn't Courtney."

Courtney knew the girl, who had gone into boot camp at the same time as Jake. "She was in the delayed-entry pool program with me," said Courtney, who found out about the death in recruit training the day before she was scheduled to go to the rifle range. "She was the per-

son I was always with in pool functions; we trained together," she said, adding that she lamented her friend's death and had a rough time after learning about it, but continued training.

When Abby graduated in October, the other three siblings took leave to attend the graduation. To commemorate the occasion, all four siblings wore their dress blues and after graduation posed for a photo, a bit reluctantly, but by direction of their parents.

"How many times will we get all four of you together at Parris Island for a picture in blues?" Kevin responded to a bit of griping about wearing dress blues in warm October Low Country weather. "Oh, we will get this photo!" Deana asserted with the authority of her rank of Marine mom, earned after four trips to Parris Island.

"How many times will we get all four of you together at Parris Island for a picture in blues?"

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 as well as the Marine Corps Association & Foundation area representative for the MCAS Beaufort, S.C., and MCRD Parris Island region.



On MCRD Parris Island Family Day, the day before PFC Abigail "Abby" Andrews' boot camp graduation ceremony, the family gathered outside the MCRD Parris Island Museum. From left: LCpl Jake Dorman, LCpl Zach Andrews, George Andrews, PFC Abby Andrews, Cpl Courtney Andrews, Deana Dorman, Marine veteran Kevin Dorman and Jim and Becky White (Deana's parents).

We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

CMC Approves Uniform Board Proposal To Adopt Universal Cap for All Marines

■ The Commandant of the Marine Corps has approved the Marine Corps Uniform Board's recommendation to adopt the male dress and service cap as the universal dress and service cap for all Marines.

"The decision to adopt the male dress and service cap as the universal dress and service cap for all Marines was primarily driven by the inability of the current manufacturer of the approved female dress and service cap to continue to produce it for our women," said Colonel Todd S. Desgrosseilliers, president of the Marine Corps Uniform Board.

Survey information from all Marines provided critical feedback for this decision, said Desgrosseilliers. "During the uniform board study, 91 percent of all Marines, both male and female, were in favor of selecting the current male version

as a 'universal cover' over the 'Dan Daly' version mentioned in the press."

Further fielding information, to include phase-in and phase-out plans for the current female service and dress cap, will be provided via a standard Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN).

Additionally, the Marine Corps will be conducting further research and development efforts to improve the comfort and fit of the universal dress and service cap.

Two other board proposals, having to do with improved quality of life, also were approved by the Commandant. A change to the existing supplemental clothing allowance for Marine Corps drill instructors at Marine Corps Detachment Newport, R.I., was approved, and changes authorizing multiple braids for females were approved. The newly established hairstyle criteria will "create an accepted standard

for braids, and it will be a welcome quality-of-life improvement for our female Marines who wear braids," Desgrosseilliers said.

DivPA, HQMC

The Last "November"—Huey Landing Marks End of an Aviation Icon

■ A UH-1 "November" Huey landing at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., is not unusual, but the one that landed on Nov. 5, 2013, marked the end of an era for the iconic aircraft. Senior leadership of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit ended the 2013 deployment from the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility by flying into MCB Camp Lejeune on the last Marine Corps UH-1N to deploy as the Marine Corps completes the transition to the new UH-1Y.

Assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 266 (Reinforced), sup-



Senior leaders with the 26th MEU arrive at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., via a UH-1N Huey assigned to VMM-266 (Rein), 26th MEU, Nov. 5, 2013. The MEU returned from the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibility, and this was the final flight during a deployment for the UH-1N model as the Marine Corps transitions to the UH-1Y.

porting the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the older model aircraft has been deployed during the last eight months supporting crisis response and theater security cooperation missions in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The Huey is a multi-role utility helicopter, comfortably meeting requirements to accomplish all six functions of Marine Corps aviation, including assault and close air support as well as casualty evacuations and reconnaissance. Its flexibility makes it a perfect fit for the Marine Corps—a multi-mission airframe capable of operating across the spectrum of modern military operations.

Justifiably, the last flight for the UH-1N also was conducted by one of the oldest aircraft of that model.

“Aircraft 30 was built in August 1970,” said Captain Andrew Kingsbury, a UH-1N Huey pilot assigned to VMM-266, referring to his helicopter. “There were one or two that were older, but they were stricken from the record about 15 years ago. This aircraft has seen every major conflict the Marine Corps has been involved in since the 1970s.”

There are even images of the aircraft during the initial push into Iraq.

Manufactured by Bell Helicopter, the UH-1 Huey was first introduced to the Marine Corps in the 1960s. A quick, versatile aircraft, it rapidly became a symbol for the Vietnam War, an iconic image of that conflict.

“The Yankee provides an upgraded engine, an upgraded transmission and an upgraded avionics suite, so it really brings us into the 21st century of flying and fighting aircraft,” said Kingsbury. “Where we could before only lift four to five guys, we can now be equipped to conduct any mission and still lift 12 Marines.”

In order to prevent wasted assets, the Marine Corps will give the retired aircraft to different sources that can make use of the older-style helicopter.

“More than likely, when we get back to [Marine Corps Air Station] Cherry Point, the helicopters will be towed to Tucson, Arizona, where they will be stripped of anything Marine Corps or anything the federal government isn’t selling to the next customer,” said Kingsbury. “The United States Air Force still uses the [UH-1] November, so we will send them their way, and they will get repainted and will be accepted by the Air Force as their aircraft.”

He said the aircraft still have a little fight left in them and will continue to be flown around Cherry Point for approximately a month as the pilots all look toward the future and the UH-1 Yankee.

Cpl Kyle N. Runnels
Combat Correspondent, 26th MEU



CPL BRIANNA CHRISTENSEN

SSgt Alejandro Lopez, center, instructs JGSDF soldiers, MSG Yasushi Yamakawa, right, and SFC Yoji Yamaguchi, on the assembly of a .50-caliber machine gun in the Amphibious Assault Crewman Course, Nov. 5, at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Amphibious Assault Crewman Course Trains International Students

■ The Amphibious Assault Crewman Course currently is training members of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The members of the JGSDF are training as part of the Foreign Military Sales Program.

“We have two different programs that bring international militaries here to

train with Marines,” said Courtney A. Johnson, coordinator of the international military students with the School of Infantry-West. “One of them is the Foreign Military Sales, which is what most of our students fall under. The other is [the] International Military Education and Training Program, where the U.S. will give grants to countries who cannot afford it and they use the money to go to courses here.”

According to Johnson, the programs



PATRICK J. HUGHES

BEIRUT FOUNDER’S AWARD—Maj Robert T. Jordan, USMC (Ret), left, the Beirut Veterans of America founding president, presents *Leatherneck* contributing editor CW0-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), a Beirut bombing veteran and BVA board member, the Major Robert Jordan Founder’s Award on Oct. 23, 2013, at the 30th Beirut Remembrance ceremony held at Goettge Field House, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. This is the highest award given by the BVA, and only the second time the award has been presented. It is to recognize a BVA member who has made dedicated and sustained contributions to the BVA and its members. Gaddo was the founding vice president when the BVA was established in 1992.

allow foreign militaries to attend courses such as the School of Infantry and the Staff Academy.

“We get students from Brazil, Korea and various other countries that have the same vehicles as us,” said Ricardo Figueroa, the lead instructional systems specialist with Assault Amphibian School Battalion.

Some countries will request instructors who will come to their country to teach a larger group of students, according to Figueroa.

Johnson said it is important for Marines to train military personnel from other countries since they go into combat together. “Giving them the training gives us a sense of togetherness; they have an understanding of what we do which makes it easier to work together.”

Japan is preparing to receive amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs), according to Johnson, which makes the JGSDF presence in the course significant.

“Everything we have learned about the AAV is important,” said Master Sergeant Yasushi Yamakawa, a member of the JGSDF, who is a student in the Amphibious Assault Crewman Course. Yamakawa said they have learned radio communications, driving on land, driving on water and preventive maintenance. “It is all very impor-

tant because we are the first [JGSDF] soldiers to train on AAVs.”

The members of the JGSDF have two missions during the course, according to Yamakawa. The first is to learn about AAVs, and the second is to report everything they have learned to the JGSDF to prepare for receiving their vehicles.

“It is rare for us to take a course like this,” said Sergeant First Class Yoji Yamaguchi, a member of the JGSDF, who also is a student in the Amphibious Assault Crewman Course. “This is a great opportunity and experience for us, not only to learn but to maintain a good relationship between the Japanese and U.S. forces.”

Cpl Brianna Christensen
PAO, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Corpsman Carries on Family Tradition

■ Family traditions and heritage are like DNA—passed down from one generation to the next.

For Hospital Corpsman Second Class Jamie C. Harris, a hospital corpsman with 2d Tank Battalion, Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C., service in the medical field is his heritage.

“My whole family works, or has worked, in the medical field, so it’s always been something that interests me. It’s kind of

a family tradition,” said the Knoxville, Tenn., native. “My cousin was a corpsman with 2d and 4th Reconnaissance Battalion. I have an uncle who was an Army medic, and most women in my family are nurses.”

While attending emergency medical technician school, Harris felt torn regarding his next step in life. The decision to either become a United States Marine or continue his education by attending nursing school troubled him.

“So I spoke to my cousin about my dilemma, and he explained how he spent his whole career with the Marines while working in a medical field and how being a corpsman is the perfect solution to the fork in the road I was facing,” Harris said.

So Harris took his cousin’s advice and enlisted in the Navy in December of 2008.

Since then, he has deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, once with 3d Bn, 2d Marines, and the other with Company B, 2d Tank Bn. Because of his contributions while deployed with 2d Tank Bn, Harris was awarded the Chief Hospital Corpsman George William “Doc” Piercy Award at an enlisted awards ceremony Sept. 25, 2013, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

During the deployment, he took charge as the senior corpsman, which made him responsible for a crew of three other corps-



CWO-2 PAUL S. MANCUSO

MEASURING MARINES—Leathernecks with Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East, navigate their way through the obstacle course at Camp Geiger, N.C., Oct. 4, 2013. This is the first company at ITB with female students as part of a measured, deliberate and responsible collection of data on the performance of female Marines when executing existing infantry tasks and training events.



CPL SONIA N. RODRIGUEZ

During an awards ceremony on Sept. 25, 2013, at MCB Quantico, Va., the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, congratulates HM2 Jamie C. Harris, a hospital corpsman with 2d Tank Bn, 2dMarDiv, on winning the Chief Hospital Corpsman George William "Doc" Piercy Award for increasing combat readiness in a medical support element within the Fleet Marine Force.

men. He then supervised medical care for approximately 500 Marines and sailors.

"He is easily the most passionate person here, and he really cares about his job," said Petty Officer First Class Robert Simons, from Palmyra, Ohio, who is the leading petty officer for the 2d Tank Bn Aid Station. "He will jump through any hoop to get the job done."

Harris really enjoys being a corpsman and loves to work with Marines.

"I am very proud to be in the Hospital

Corps, especially serving on [the] green side. Being a corpsman was what I came in the Navy to do, and I would not choose anything else over it," added Harris.

His fellow corpsmen follow the example and enthusiasm Harris displays and his love of taking care of Marines.

"He embodies what being a corpsman really means," Simons said.

LCpl Jose A. Mendez Jr.
Combat Correspondent, 2dMarDiv

Quicks Shot Around the Corps

Commissaries to Scan ID Cards

■ Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Public Affairs Division, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., reports that commissaries will soon begin scanning customers' Department of Defense identification cards at checkouts.

The commissary at Fort Lee, Va., became the first store to scan ID cards Oct. 22, 2013, as the first part of an agency-wide rollout to all stores that will be completed by mid-January.

By scanning the ID at checkout, DeCA will no longer need to maintain customers' personal information in its computer systems, such as the system used for customers who write checks.

This eventually will help the agency identify shopping needs and preferences—information that is essential in today's retail business environment. It also will allow more accurate reporting to the military services on commissary usage.

For more information, visit the website, www.commissaries.com/documents/contact_deca/faqs/id_card_scanning.cfm.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



"Tell me again, what happened to my dog's SOS?"

Submitted by
Marine veteran Ed Ritcherson
Gainesville, Texas

This Month's Photo



LCPL RAY LEWIS

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

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



The invasion of Kwajalein Atoll in the Japanese-held Marshall Islands in late January 1944 was a coordinated Navy, Marine, U.S. Army and Army Air Forces attack, with the Army taking the lead on Kwajalein Island and the Corps' newly formed 4thMarDiv assaulting Roi and Namur.

January 1944: Marines at Kwajalein Atoll

Story by Eric Hammel
Photos courtesy of the author

Planning and Preparations

After the November 1943 assault on Tarawa and Makin in the Gilbert Islands, the next logical step toward the goal of running a string of mutually supporting airfields across the central Pacific was the Marshall Islands, where ready-made airfields awaited. In addition to a superb fleet anchorage off Kwajalein Island, Kwajalein Atoll—620 miles northwest of Tarawa—had special significance for Marines who recalled that the Japanese land-based bombers that had smashed

Wake Island at the start of the Pacific War had operated from Roi Airdrome, also in Kwajalein Atoll.

Following months of staff work, the invasion was set for the end of January 1944. The new, untested Fourth Marine Division was to assault Roi and Roi's sandspit-connected twin, Namur; the U.S. Army's 7th Infantry Division was to assault Kwajalein Island; and an Army regimental combat team from the 27th Infantry Div was to seize the largely undefended fleet anchorage in Majuro Atoll.

Two main improvements on the Tarawa plan—a head-on invasion of a densely de-

fended island—that were to be employed at Kwajalein were longer, harder-hitting naval and air bombardments, and the emplacement of artillery and other supporting weapons on outlying islands ahead of the main show against Kwajalein, Roi and Namur. Several technical innovations included the conversion of a flotilla of LCI, infantry landing craft, to fire sheaves of 4.5-inch rockets (LCI(R)s) and the inaugural use of amtracs rigged out as armored amphibian tanks—LVT(A)1s—each carrying a 37 mm gun and bristling with five machine guns.

Another important advance in island-warfare doctrine was a new heavy reliance

on tanks in reducing prepared positions whose destruction at Tarawa had led to extremely heavy infantry casualties. The Marine tanks themselves were the focus of many important upgrades and innovations, pretty much all of them in response to combat experience gained from action on New Georgia, New Britain and Tarawa. A small number of M3A1 light tanks were converted to flame tanks via the replacement of the bow .30-caliber machine gun with an infantry flame thrower fueled with napalm.

Also, a viable response to plentiful Japanese magnetic antitank mines was the application of 2-by-12 oak planks on channel bars over the sponsons of the 4th Tank Battalion's M4A2 medium tanks. The boards, of course, were nonmagnetic, and the channel bars held the boards a few inches off the steel sponsons to create dead space that would dissipate the effects of a blast from any source. This was on top of appliqué armor kits to strengthen factory armor over vital areas, especially crew areas.

In a special nod to the loss of many tanks that had attempted to wade ashore at Tarawa, all the 4th Tank Bn tanks were equipped with fording stacks that carried air to the tank engines even if the engines were themselves underwater. For all that, there is no evidence that any 4th Tank Bn tanks were equipped with field telephones for direct communication between Marines inside a tank with Marines outside the tank. Of course, the debut of armored amphibians was an important advance, especially in that they would accompany the lead waves ashore and would thus be perfectly situated to help reduce water's-edge defensive emplacements.

The 4th Tank Bn was the first Marine armor unit to go into battle entirely composed of troops and officers who either had prior combat experience or were school trained in tanks. On the downside, however, the school-trained tank crewmen of the period had been taught nothing about relatively advanced doctrine built around strict tank-infantry mutual cooperation and teamwork dating to summer 1943 on New Georgia and December 1943 action on New Britain—and neither had the rest of the 4thMarDiv.

In December 1943, Army Air Forces heavy bombers based on newly operational fields in the Gilbert Islands, U.S. Navy carrier aircraft and U.S. Navy surface bombardment forces began the systematic interdiction of bases in the Marshalls—both the projected targets of amphibious assaults and bases from which the targets might be supported (including Wake Island among the latter).

Roi and Namur were thought to be de-

Long, sweeping clouds of smoke belch from U.S. Navy warships as they bombard Kwajalein on the second day of the invasion, 1 Feb. 1944.



Tanks played an important role in the Kwajalein Atoll assaults. The M4 medium tank, left, is compared to a Japanese “tankette.”

fended by an even greater force than the one that had so bloodily defended Betio, but they were not. Only 1,800 to 2,600 combat troops were deployed on the islands, and they manned fewer and less-well-emplaced defense positions.

Preliminaries

Beginning at dawn on 31 Jan. 1944, the 25th Marine Regiment (25th Marines), carried by V Amphibious Corps' 10th Amphibian Tractor Bn and bolstered by Company A, 1st Armored Amphibian Tractor Bn, as well as divisional combat support units, assaulted five small islands

from which 75 mm pack howitzers and 105 mm field howitzers of the 14th Marines would outflank the defenses on Roi and Namur. High winds and heavy seas delayed the assault, but the lead waves carried on with LCI gunboats—LCI(G)s—and LVT(A)1s out ahead to deliver final suppressive fires. Carrier fighters also suppressed the defenses until the last possible moment.

At 0952, Co B, 1st Bn, 25th Marines (1/25) was the first American unit to land on prewar Japanese territory, Ennuebing Island. Thereafter, other elements of 1/25 swept over Mellu Island. Thirty Japanese

From the bow doors of the very versatile U.S. Navy LSTs, men and equipment poured onto the shores of islands in the Kwajalein Atoll in March 1944.



corpses were unearthed eventually, and five prisoners were taken. Shortly, 3/14 landed its 75 mm pack howitzers on Ennuebing from LVTs, and 4/14's 105 mm howitzers landed from landing craft on Mellu. Two more artillery outposts were secured by 2/25 during the afternoon, and 1/14 and 2/14 quickly landed their 75 mm pack howitzers.

A fifth outlying island was secured late in the day by 3/25 despite terrible weather-related problems, and an ad hoc gunfire force of five 75 mm halftracks (self-propelled mounts, or SPMs), 17 37 mm guns, four 81 mm mortars, nine 60 mm mortars and 61 machine guns was set up on the side of the island facing Namur, which was only 400 yards away. The seizure of all five D-day objectives came at the cost of just one Marine wounded by a friendly strafing.

Invasion

As amtracs completed the work of carrying the 25th and 14th Marines ashore, they were to climb aboard LSTs for a night refueling and maintenance. The idea was to use the LSTs to transfer invasion troops

from the transports and carry them close to the shore in the morning, then launch them in orderly groups of amtracs. But the D-day operations took longer to complete than was foreseen, so most 10th Amphibian Tractor Bn amtracs did not get to the LST area until dusk or later.

On the one hand, the amtrac crews couldn't find their assigned LSTs, and on the other hand, many picky LST commanders refused to take aboard or refuel amtracs that hadn't been assigned specifically to their ships. The result was chaos and a lot of fuel-starved amtracs that were supposed to lift the 24th Marines to Namur. On top of that, it was extremely difficult and time-consuming to transfer amtracs from an LST's weather deck to the tank deck—which is what most of the 4th Amphibian Tractor Bn needed to do to get the 23d Marines ashore on Roi.

The schedule suffered. The bombardment of both islands began on time, but the landing operation lost ground. Altogether, 24 10th Amtrac Bn LVTs couldn't even be located. The 23d Marines conquered its woes by 1100, but the 24th didn't. Then some of the missing tractors were found,

but there were not enough in total for both assault battalions of the 24th Marines—which finally lined up, each at two-thirds of its planned assault strength. And so forth; stuff just kept happening.

The 23d Marines was ready to go at 1100, but the order to land was withheld until 1112 to give the 24th Marines time to catch up. Despite a rain squall that threatened to break up last-minute air attacks, carrier bombers hovering beyond the maximum ordinate of artillery, ships' fire and rockets were able to deliver pinpoint attacks down to almost the last minute before the first wave of amtracs ground up onto both islands.

Roi

Roi was almost harder to reach than it was to secure. Four companies of 1/23 and 2/23 landed abreast, with 25 LVT(A)1s in the vanguard. The LVT(A)1 platoon on the far left hit the beach at 1133, and two companies of 1/23 were ashore by 1158. The armored amphibians on the left veered farther to the left upon landing and attacked the island's southwest corner—Wendy Point—unassisted. This left the



The American flag is raised on Roi, 2 Feb. 1944, by leathernecks of the 4thMarDiv.

Those are quibbles. The troops acted bravely and did what Marines are supposed to do if they see the opportunity—which is *seize* the opportunity.

At 1530, the lead battalions opened simultaneous, coordinated advances north along either shoreline. Aided by SPMs, 2/23 overcame organized resistance in its zone by 1600. On the left, 1/23 was a little slower getting started, but organized resistance in its zone collapsed by 1645. By 1800, the assault battalions were in complete control of Roi's entire shoreline, and 3/23 was at work prying a few defiant defenders from the interior as well as establishing a line to seal Roi from Namur by way of the sandspit that connected the islands.

Namur

The 24th Marines had problems in spades with its quota of troop-carrying amtracs, but four assault companies were launched toward the beach in decent order. The plan was for LVT(A)1s to land ahead of the troops and clear routes off the beaches. But the LVT(A)1s ran afoul of antitank ditches, trenches and debris; they could not advance as planned. Initially, they only could support the infantry with fire.

The leading infantry waves became misaligned as they neared the beach because landmarks that were supposed to guide the landing either had been pulverized by the bombardment or were invisible beneath a pall of smoke and dust. The two lead companies of 2/24, on the right beach, Green 2, became intermingled, but the superbly trained troops formed into ad hoc assault teams where necessary and racked up some quick advances. The rest of 2/24 landed as amtracs became available, and those troops were fed into a gap that quickly developed in the battalion front line. The deepest penetration in the 2/24 zone was 175 yards, but resistance stiffened appreciably at that point, and the troops were pinned down in thick brush.

On the regimental left, on Beach Green 1, 3/24's two lead companies came ashore in better order than the adjacent 2/24 units, and they advanced quickly to the phase line halfway across Namur. The fighting on Namur was trickier than on Roi because Roi was mostly hard-topped runway and taxiways, while Namur was covered with thick growth in which the Japanese could easily hide and dig in. Hard-to-find emplacements were bypassed by the lead units, left to be reduced by the regimental reserve, 1/24.

Only three of five Co B M5A1 light

infantry on the regimental left without support, but resistance was negligible in the 1/23 zone, and the first phase line was taken in good order.

M4A2 medium tanks (Co C), M5A1 light tanks (Co A), and M3A1 light flame tanks (also Co A) arrived ashore as 1/23 advanced on the airfield. The beach was extremely crowded, which delayed the tanks from reaching the advancing front lines.

The action in the 2/23 zone was a little different. The LVT(A)1s assigned to 2/23 paused offshore to fire their 37 mm guns at supposed defenses, then the troop-carrying amtracs ran past them to the beach. The infantry landed in some disarray due to alignment problems, but the Japanese were dazed by the heavy bombardment and nearly passive.

Roi, which was mostly a flat, open air-

field not given to fortification, was not defended in nearly the strength the planners had been led to believe. There were few formal defensive emplacements, even along the shoreline or in built-up areas. Marine infantrymen were typically cautious, but M4A2s, M5A1s, flame tanks, SPM halftracks and armored amtracs advanced inland as soon as they had some running room; some would say recklessly.

The advancing armor drew the infantry—understandably cautious but dutiful in a pinch—northward in a running effort to provide support for the tanks. The headlong attack was a success even as it drove higher-level officers to distraction because they lost control of their organizations and their plans were rendered obsolete. It took until 1445 to get the tanks back under regimental control, and the infantry followed suit.

Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photographs of the Battle of Kwajalein at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/kwajalein

tanks assigned to support 3/24 landed at 1300. Two bogged down in soft sand, and the third ran into a shell crater. All three were towed free after the two remaining light tanks landed.

The advance off the Green beaches was slow getting started as Marines struggled to gain fire superiority over beachside defenders and reduce beachside positions. On Green 1, 3/24 managed to reach its official first phase line, and one company even advanced 150 yards beyond, but it withdrew when the battalion stopped to reorganize. On Green 2, 2/24 had a harder time bullying its way ahead.

At 1305, a demolitions team in the 2/24 zone attacked a large concrete bunker with satchel charges and thus set off a huge uncharted torpedo dump. The immense blast leveled the bunker, set off two nearby ammunition dumps and took down a good deal of the growth and other buildings around it. The multiple blasts killed 20 2/24 Marines and injured more than 100.

Shocked, dazed and further disorganized by the 1305 torpedo-dump blast, 2/24 was unable to step off with 3/24 at 1630 for what the commanders hoped would be a final drive to secure the island. But a herculean effort by the 2/24 officers and troops sent the battalion and an array of light and medium tanks back into the advance at 1730.

By late afternoon, elements of 2/24 had driven to within 35 yards of the northern shore. The battalion main body could not

close on it, so that force was pulled back.

The division commander landed on Namur at 1700 and immediately asked the 24th Marines commander what he needed—which all came down to more troops. A platoon of Co C M4A2s and 3/23 were transferred to the 24th Marines' control and ordered to cross from Roi via the sandspit.

The 3/24 battalion commander ordered the medium tanks to spearhead a new drive as soon as they reached his command post at 1830. That brought Marines to Namur's northwestern point, Nora Point, but low ammunition supplies obliged the medium tanks to pull back to the 3/24 main body. At 1930, the regimental commander ordered all the troops on Namur to halt, consolidate, dig in and prepare to make a final sweep at dawn. Fully two-thirds of Namur was solidly in Marine hands when the sun went down.

The Japanese, pushed back into the last corner of Namur under their control, mounted a few desultory attacks during the night, and a lot of Marines fired at spooky targets that were most likely imaginary. Ammunition was distributed to the troops, but the medium tanks could not access ammunition and fuel stored on Roi, so they pooled what they had, stripping one M4A2 in the process.

Also during the night, Japanese troops located a gap between Co I, 3/24 and Co B, 1/24. They infiltrated in force and launched a counterattack at first light, not to escape

but to sow confusion and inflict casualties. Marines responded with overwhelming force. The four medium tanks and infantrymen on both sides of the gap held the attackers at bay, Marine reinforcements counterattacked, and the action ended in 25 minutes. Marine tanks and infantry used the opportunity to advance an extra 50 yards.

The attack in the 3/24 zone jumped off on schedule at 0900, and the battalion was in complete control of its objectives by 1215. The attack in the larger right zone was to be undertaken by 2/24 and most of 1/24. Tanks were late getting into position, so the attack jumped off late at 1006. Light and medium tanks and SPMs employing armor-piercing ammunition followed by high-explosive rounds took on a number of blockhouses, bunkers and pillboxes, and the infantry attacked steadily in good order. Namur was completely in Marine hands by 1215, and the island was declared secure at 1418, 2 Feb. 1944. It took the 7th Infantry until 4 Feb. to secure Kwajalein, its larger and better-defended objective.

Editor's note: Eric Hammel is the author of more than 40 military history books, most about U.S. Marines in combat. His latest book is "Til the Last Bugle Call—A Novel of U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal." Visit his website at www.erichammelbooks.com.



"Taps" sounds, and prayers are lifted for those who gave their lives on Kwajalein Atoll. The unexpected light casualties allowed the Joint Chiefs of Staff to speed up the timetable for the Pacific campaigns.



Below: During Typhoon Haiyan relief operations, code-named Operation Damayan, LCpl Xavier L. Cannon and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines assist a woman and child as they disembark a U.S. Marine KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft on Nov. 13, 2013, at Villamor Air Base, Metro Manila.



LCPLANNE K. HENRY

Marines to the Rescue

Fast Response and Relief In the Wake of Typhoon Haiyan

Compiled by R. R. Keene
from reports by Cpl Brandon Suhr
and other combat correspondents of
III MEF/MCI Pacific

After nearly three weeks of intensive relief efforts across 36 provinces and six islands, including the large islands of Leyte, Samar and Bohol in the central Philippines, U.S. Marines started withdrawing from Typhoon Haiyan relief operations in the Republic of the Philippines at the end of November 2013.

The U.S. military forces and Joint Task Force 505 in Tacloban City, Republic of the Philippines, began drawing down Nov. 24, due to the decreasing demand for U.S. military capabilities in further recovery efforts. The Nov. 10 arrival of Marines from Okinawa, Japan, coincided with the 238th Marine Corps Birthday and was the result of Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's directions to help the beleaguered nation after the government of the Philippines requested humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

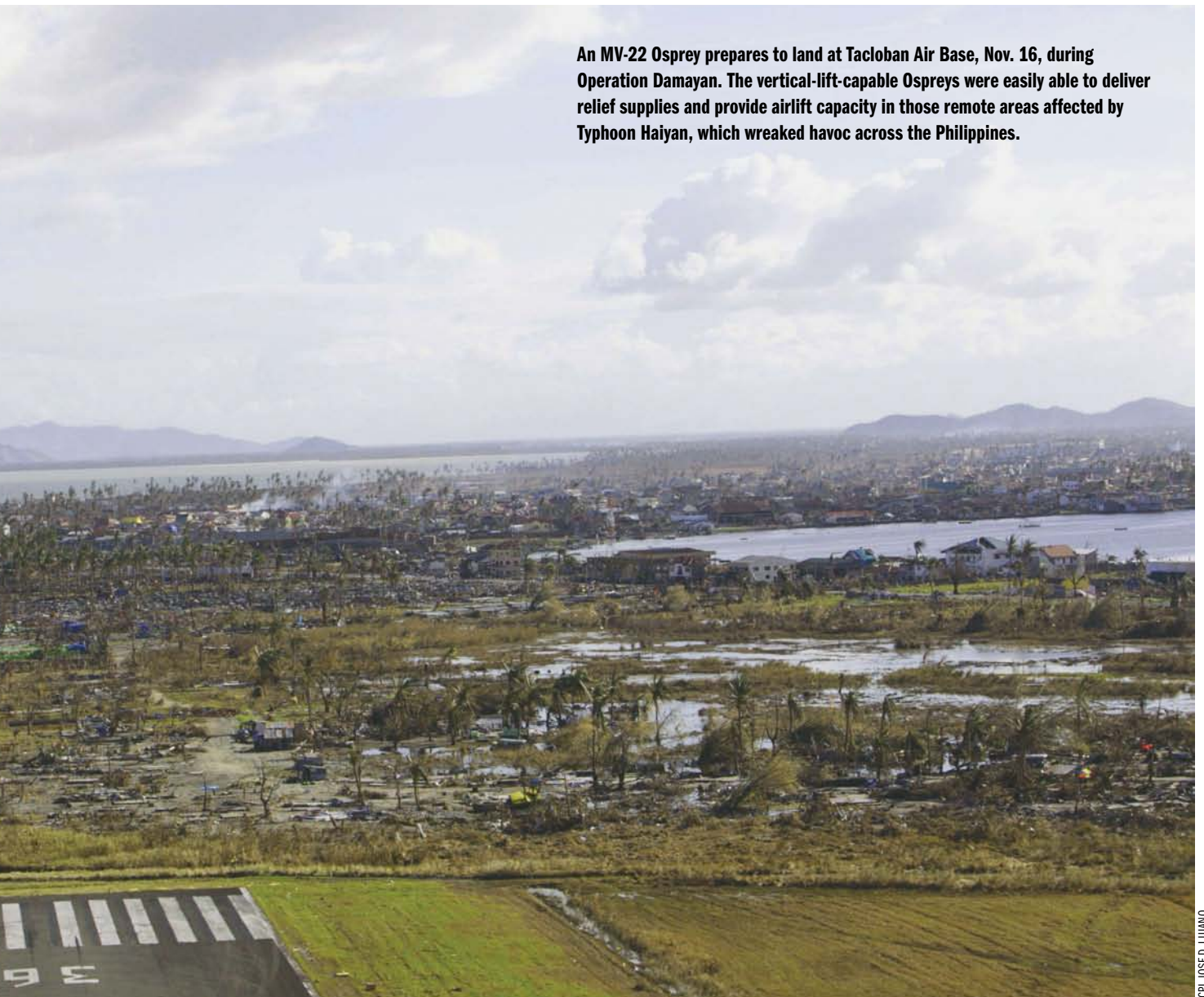
The Southeast Asian nation was hammered Nov. 7 by Typhoon Haiyan, packing winds between 170 and 230 miles per hour with 15- to 19-foot waves impacting more than 4.2 million people. The final death toll may never be known, but according to the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's website, there are 5,670 dead, 1,761 reported missing and 26,233 injured at press time.

The Navy and Marine team, spearheaded by JTF 505 (commanded by Marine Lieutenant General John E. Wissler), joining the efforts of the government of the Philippines and U.S. Agency for International Development, swung into action on what was dubbed Operation Damayan.

The carrier strike group USS *George Washington* (CVN-73) of the U.S. 7th Fleet remained near the Philippines until the storm had passed, then was replaced by 7th Fleet amphibious ships. Leathernecks of the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), eventually bringing the total U.S. troop commitment (including U.S. Army



An MV-22 Osprey prepares to land at Tacloban Air Base, Nov. 16, during Operation Damayan. The vertical-lift-capable Ospreys were easily able to deliver relief supplies and provide airlift capacity in those remote areas affected by Typhoon Haiyan, which wreaked havoc across the Philippines.



CPL JOSEF LUJANO



LCPL CALEB HOOVER



CAPT JOSHUA DIDDAMS

Above: In a matter of hours after receiving a call for support, this KC-130J and others from VMGR-152 carrying leathernecks from Okinawa, Japan, landed at Villamor Air Base to provide aid.

Left: Reinforcing an ongoing Armed Forces of the Philippines rescue effort, U.S. Marines ferried the injured via Marine KC-130J for treatment at Villamor Air Base, Metro Manila.

Right: Cpl Stephen Jarrell, a crew chief with VMM-265, takes in the devastation from the ramp of his MV-22B Osprey aircraft, as a bilateral assessment team lands to deliver relief and determine needs on Nov. 18.

Below: LCpl Mitch Hoover, a crew chief with VMM-262, secures a woman and her daughter as they, and other Filipinos, are airlifted from Tacloban Air Base via MV-22B Osprey, Nov. 16.



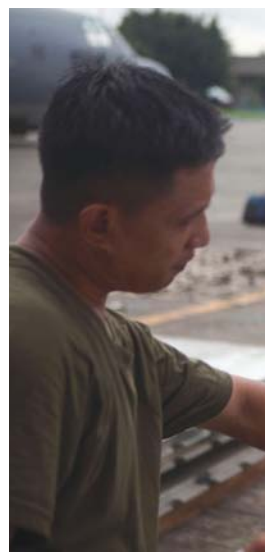
LCPL MITCH HOOPER



MC3 RICARDO R. GUZMAN, USN

Above: U.S. Marine MV-22 Ospreys load supplies and prepare to assist refugees from Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated the Philippines last November.

Right: LCpl David V. Whitehead, right, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 3, coordinates the airlift of palletized water with an airman from the Philippine Air Force at Villamor Air Base, Nov. 12.





CAPT CALEB EAMES



CPL CODEY UNDERWOOD

and Air Force) to 2,150 ashore, arrived via KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa-based Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152. The squadron eventually committed 12 KC-130J turboprops to haul supplies and ferry the evacuees and injured.

The Marines also sent eight MV-22 Osprey aircraft with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 262 and four from VMM-265 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The Ospreys used their unique ability to land and take off vertically to fly into remote areas without airfields. The Marines effectively employed the Ospreys to deliver aid, ferry passengers and survey damage in areas unreachable by any other means.

U.S. military forces evacuated more than 17,000 people from the affected areas and delivered more than 2,000 tons of relief supplies. At the peak of operations, U.S. forces helped the Philippine military coordinate and move 430,000 liters of water and 211 tons of food and other supplies.

Brigadier General Paul Kennedy, the commanding general of 3d MEB, said: “It makes me feel good as an ally of this government that we could respond. We were under the direction of the Philippine armed forces the entire time. It was tailored, and it was immediate and responsive. We feel pretty good about having participated in this operation.”



Combat Shooting

Corps' Newest Marksmanship Training Focuses on Moving Targets

Story and photos by Otto Kreisher

Since their days with muskets in the fighting tops of sailing ships, Marines have taken great pride in their marksmanship. So when reports from Afghanistan indicated that riflemen were having trouble hitting moving enemy combatants, the Marine Corps acted to address that problem.

The concern, expressed by the 34th Marine Corps Commandant, General James T. Conway, led to a carefully structured limited objective experiment (LOE) conducted by the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory that culminated with three days of extensive shooting last September at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Using robotic moving targets on a range simulating narrow streets in a Third World location, highly trained Marine weapons instructors and a computerized information collection system, the LOE was designed to provide detailed factual data, not "sea stories" or personal bias, experiment organizers said.

The Warfighting Lab described the experiment's objective: "Determine the most effective technique and method to engage moving targets with the M4 carbine and the M27 infantry automatic rifle."

The findings from the LOE will be reported to higher Marine Corps organizations, such as the Training and Education Command (TECOM), and could result in better ways to train Marines to shoot, lab officials said.

The detailed lab report, produced with help from the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA), will "let the data speak for itself" on how to get hits on a moving human target, said Chris Carolan, head of the lab's Modeling and Simulation Branch and one of the LOE's managers.

"We have the capability of actually coming up with real objective data. We'll put out a report. When they look at the data, they'll be able to see it in perspective,"

Carolan, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel, said, referring to TECOM. "We're doing the science."

A secondary benefit of the LOE will be a comprehensive evaluation of the robotic targets, produced by Marathon Targets of Sydney, Australia, said Captain Benjamin Brewster, a coordinator of the experiment. The lab's research will feed into phase-three testing by Marine Corps Systems Command to determine whether to buy more of the targets, Brewster said.

The Warfighting Lab began working on the LOE in 2008, Carolan said. "The idea started with directions from General Conway, who said Marines were having trouble hitting moving targets. The reports

Marine leaders identified a deficiency in Marines' shooting skills when trying to engage moving personnel, so the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab conducted an experiment at MCB Quantico, Va., Sept. 16-27, 2013, using T-40 robotic targets (below) and a computerized data collection system to identify the most effective technique to engage those targets.



Sgt Phillip Sanz, with WTB at Quantico, leans into the rifle as he demonstrates one technique in engaging a moving target.



he was getting indicated we need to get better.”

Brewster noted that current Marine marksmanship training requires shooting 100 rounds at various distances and positions. Only eight rounds are at a moving target.

“Everyone knows it’s not realistic,” Brewster said.

The robotic targets present a person’s body in profile, replicating an enemy running across in front of you, the captain said.

In 2009, the Warfighting Lab conducted a brief experiment testing various training methods that might improve moving target shooting. No single method showed any marked increase in hits, he said.

Carolan said the lab also considered using simulation with moving avatars. “But before you can go with simulation, you have to have the basics,” he said. “If you build a simulation, you have to know what skills work in the real world.”

To help devise the LOE, in August the lab sent a group of weapons training instructors to do a lot of shooting at a facility in Moyock, N.C., to “gather some basic assumptions,” Brewster said. “That data is not going to be used for the overall findings out of this experiment. But it trained up the instructors” and helped determine how to run the LOE.

The LOE started with range setup, a day of marksmanship training for the shooters, then two days of shooting for familiarization and to test the data collection process.

The next week had three days for full data collection with five to six hours of solid shooting daily.

The fourth day was a “VIP Day” featuring a demonstration of the shooting regimen for an invited group of senior Marine officers. Because that day would be an opportunity to show the value of the experiment to officials who would decide

if the collected data warranted changes in marksmanship training, Colonel Andrew “Andy” MacMannis, the lab’s deputy commanding general, said: “I would think the VIP Day is almost as important as the experiment.”

The experiment, supervised by the lab’s Field Testing Branch, was supported by the Army’s Asymmetric Warfare Group from Fort A. P. Hill, Va., which supplied the robot targets and controllers, and The Basic School (TBS) and the Weapons Training Battalion (WTB), both from Quantico, which provided a total of 12 shooters, the weapons and ammunition.

Army Sergeant Major Dan Boyer, from the Asymmetric Warfare Group, said, “This is a really informative trial for us.” The group was “eager to see it through” and share the results with its superiors at the Maneuver Center of Excellence and the Training and Doctrine Command, he said.



Sgt Jeremy Wellenreiter, left, and Sgt Phillip Sanz, both WTB marksmanship instructors, assisted in the experiment to develop the most effective technique and method to engage moving targets with the M4 carbine and M27 infantry automatic rifle.

“We’re really interested in the night shooting part, in night shooting trials,” which the Marines were not doing, Boyer said. “This is the first step.”

Carolan noted that the Asymmetric Warfare Group was using the moving targets “before we were. We saw what they were doing and decided to try it.”

Carolan said the LOE was “very limited, narrowly focused” because that was “the only way we can go as deep as we want. We think by understanding the techniques, we can go further to train infantrymen—soldiers, Marines—to better hit moving targets.”

The small-arms range was set up with four lanes, set off at the target end by 8-foot-high walls to replicate 30-foot-wide streets, which the robotic targets would cross.

The robots would move at walking speed, about 4 mph, or running speed, about 8 mph, Brewster said. That would mean target exposure times of about five seconds or about 2½ seconds, he explained. The shooting was done at 75 and 140 meters.

Capt Jerald Feehery from the Field Testing Branch was serving as range chief at one lane, standing at the shooter’s left. Feehery said he received a signal from the target operator and told the shooter “ready.”

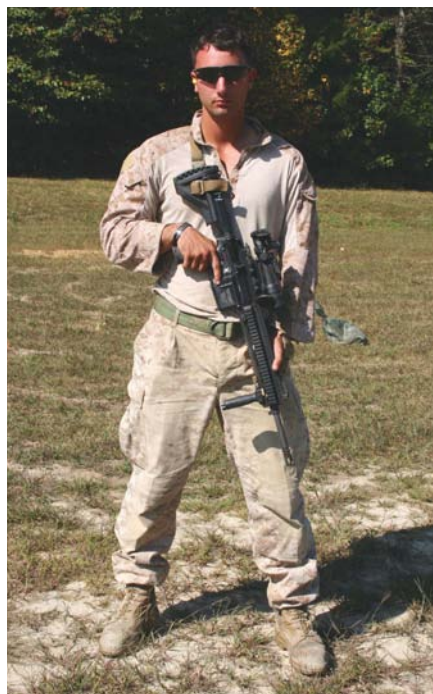
The shooter did not know when the target would emerge from behind the plywood walls or from which direction. The target operator varied the time from the chief’s alert, from immediate to 10 seconds, Feehery said. The shooter also did not know how fast the target would move.

Brewster said the “unknowns,” appear

ance time, direction and speed, “goes back to the real purpose—finding the most effective way to engage moving targets.” Those variables replicated a Marine on patrol who suddenly encounters a moving enemy, he said.

The shooter alternated through three positions—prone, kneeling and standing—and between three prescribed “techniques” and three “methods” of shooting to determine what combination produces the most hits.

The techniques were “tracking,” in



Cpl Eric Harris, assigned to WTB, holds an M27 infantry automatic rifle that he fired in the Marine Corps’ experiment to develop more effective techniques to hit moving targets.

which the shooter followed the moving target across the opening before shooting; “ambush,” where the shooter aimed the rifle ahead of the target and shot when it reached his aim point; and “swing through,” in which the shooter swept the rifle from behind the target and shot as his aim moved ahead of it, much like shooting birds or clay pigeons with a shotgun.

The methods of engagement were semi-automatic, basically a single shot; a three-round burst; or fully automatic, which was limited to the M27.

None of the M27 gunners really sprayed fully automatic fire, but shot short bursts of three to four rounds.

Each shooter went an entire cycle wearing just his battle dress uniform and then repeated the cycle with full protective gear—tactical vest and helmet—as if on a combat patrol.

The plastic body on the target flops back if hit, and the robot sends a Wi-Fi signal to the scorer, showing if the shot was a kill, meaning a hit in the head or the spine and heart area, or a possible wound elsewhere in the body.

Marines interviewed during the first week’s preliminary shooting were beginning to form opinions on the techniques and methods.

Sergeant Phillip Sanz of WTB said, “A combination of ambush and tracking seems to work best.” Sanz did not care for the swing-through technique because “it’s not very accurate.”

That view was echoed by virtually every shooter questioned.

Sgt Jeremy Wellenreiter, also of WTB, agreed with Sanz on the techniques and said he “like[s] the way the study is being run, to find best way to go. It’s not the Marine Corps saying this is the best way.”

Sanz agreed that the experiment was “a good study,” but added that the Corps “would need to study the enemy’s TTPs” (tactics, techniques and procedures) and then determine “what is the best way to counter.”

As for shooting method, Sanz did not have a preference. “Semiautomatic takes better skills,” he said, but added that at longer range “three-round [burst] may be better.”

Wellenreiter said he “would prefer for a rifle shooter to keep on semiautomatic, controlled fire. Saves ammo. Save the automatic fire for the automatic rifleman.”

Sgt Jamie Wiecezorek, an instructor at TBS, concluded that ambush and single round was “far better.” The three-round burst “just wastes ammo.” However, he added, “The data is going to prove which is best. No bias involved.”

Corporal Christopher Savage, also from TBS, liked the track and ambush



The Marines fired thousands of rounds during the experiment, using the tracking, swing through and ambush techniques in semi-automatic, burst and automatic fire. The data was collected and will be studied and used in developing new methods for training leathernecks to hit moving targets.

brought in to help design the experiment and to analyze the data after the LOE was completed.

Ma said the data collected will document three things: the number of hits, the number of rounds expended and the time to hit. With that information they will determine which technique, method and position have the highest number of hits, he said.

He estimated it would take six to seven weeks to produce the conclusions.

What happens to the data and conclusions was a key concern to Col MacMannis.

At a confirmation briefing at the Warfighting Lab the week before the LOE started, MacMannis questioned the staff on what they would be able to tell the officials who came to the VIP Day.

“We need to have something prepared, such as up to this point, this is what we think,” while emphasizing that more would come based on full analysis of the data, the colonel said.

MacMannis asked whether Training and Education would use the data to initiate new training procedures.

Carolan said, “They probably will want to do more testing, experimentation. We take the information, give it to TECOM, see what they say. ... That’s all we can do right now.”

“That’s our job,” MacMannis said, referring to the lab. “We look at things. Tell them what we found, give them our best analysis.”

Lieutenant Colonel John Barry, the lab’s operations officer, said he also was concerned with what happens to the data. “I trust Vince and his people to put on a good experiment,” he said, referring to Vince Goulding, a retired Marine colonel now running the lab’s experimental division.

But the lab needs to ensure, Barry said, “we’re delivering the right information to the right people.”

Editor’s note: A former Marine artillery fire-direction controlman, Otto Kreisher became a U.S. Navy officer through the flight program. As a correspondent for Copley News Service, he was with the First Marine Division in Operation Desert Storm and in Somalia, with the 2dMarDiv in Haiti and now is a freelance defense writer.

techniques and preferred the semiauto method. He said when shooting the three-round burst, the spotter would announce if there were two hits. “I only heard that twice. I would say single fire is more effective.”

Cpl Carson Cook of WTB said, “Depending on position, ambush is best.” He noted that in the prone position it was “hard to move your arm to track or swing.” And, he added, “Swing through probably wastes a lot of ammo.”

Cpl Eric Harris, from WTB, said that the better technique can depend on the distance, but “I find tracking probably the best. You can take another shot if you miss. I also like ambush.

“I definitely agree with the whole concept,” Harris said. “The Marine Corps doesn’t have a set way to hit a moving target.”

Although the LOE was not intended to test the M27, the Marines conducting the experiment universally rejected the complaints that some Marines had when the Corps decided the new infantry automatic rifle would replace the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon in the infantry fire team.

They all called the M27 “very accurate,”

and several preferred its optical sight over that on the M16 and M4.

After the second day of preliminary shooting, Capt John Edwards of the lab’s Field Testing Branch said, “The results so far are all anecdotal,” but those indicated that “swing through is not an effective method.”

However, he added, “We have to get the data” to make a determination.

Although the thorough analysis of the data will take six to seven weeks, a quick appraisal after all the shooting showed “similar hit ratios” for tracking and ambush, “with swing through far behind,” Capt Brewster reported. It also showed “fairly similar” hits per trigger pull for semiautomatic and automatic fire, “but automatic fire used more ammo to achieve hits.”

More significantly, Brewster said, it showed “shooting proficiency improved dramatically,” dropping from 4.7 rounds per hit at the start to 2.3 rounds per hit after four days of shooting.

“We showed the ability to dramatically improve shooter’s proficiency with minimal training and a few hundred rounds,” he said.

Chris Ma, from CNA, said he was



Civil War History Leads to Present-Day Lessons for Marines

By Jessica Koers

Four vans with leathernecks from 2d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment (2/9) pulled into a small parking lot that serves as the third stop on the self-guided battlefield tour for the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia. When the Marines emerged from the vehicles, they saw a field with overgrown grass surrounded by woods to the left and a road to the right. After reading the educational plaques, they made their way down to the foundational ruins of the Chancellor family home; Union Army Major General Joseph Hooker made that house his headquarters on 30 April 1863.

First Lieutenant Alexander N. Abate, the Company E, 2/9 commander, was in charge of the battlefield's discussion. He was leading the group of 35 Marines, consisting of the battalion command element and company-level participants, in

a professional military development effort that included a lecture and walking the grounds to review and learn from the strategy involved in the battle and the reasoning behind the actions of Union and Confederate leadership.

"What we are trying to build upon is the lessons the generals, colonels, division commanders and corps commanders learned during the battle," Abate said. "We are trying to see, and look, into what they saw on the battlefield and the decisions they made ... so we can take those lessons learned and apply them to the future."

The Battle of Chancellorsville is considered to be the last and greatest collaboration between General Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. On the first night of the battle, 1 May 1863, the two met and finalized a plan that would eventually lead to a Confederate victory.

"Chancellorsville is that battle in the Civil War that best encapsulates a smaller fighting force fighting a larger one," said Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Davis, the battalion commander. "The Confederates split their forces several times, and it culminates with General Jackson outflanking a stronger Union position."

On 2 May, LTG Jackson took 30,000 men on a march to cross the front of the Union Army in order to swing stealthily behind them. In the meantime, GEN Lee had about 15,000 men facing 70,000 Union soldiers. In order for the plan to work, Jackson had to make his long march undetected; MG Hooker had to remain timid in his defensive strategy; and MG Jubal A. Early, a Confederate commander, would have to keep the Union troops in Fredericksburg, Va., occupied despite the 4-to-1 advantage of the other side.

The plan worked, however, and MG Hooker was unprepared for the overwhelm-



Lessons for today's warfighters can be drawn easily from past battles, and that's what drove LtCol Nicholas Davis, the battalion commander of 2d Bn, 9th Marines, center background, addressing the group, to take his officers and staff to a study of the Battle of Chancellorsville during a weekend in September 2013.

ing attack LTG Jackson's men would unleash on his right flank and rear. The Confederates pushed the Union Army back about two miles.

Davis said Jackson's maneuver easily could have been applied in Iraq or Afghanistan because the Marine Corps is tasking platoons and squad patrols to fight against larger entities. He said it is also an important lesson for Marines to keep in mind as they look to the future.

"As we reach and pivot to the Pacific, we are going to be looking at forces that are much larger than us," Davis said. "I want to make sure our Marines are thinking they are still able to compete on that level."

The battlefield studies, which the Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., conducted on a weekend in September 2013 around Fredericksburg, were meant to build camaraderie among the Marines and to provide lessons in leadership, communication and decisive action.

"At Chancellorsville, we look at the Confederates' maneuvers and Jackson's big flanking attack and economy of force," Abate said. "The Battle of the Wilderness [May 1864] deals with frontal attacks and force on force, and Spotsylvania is really where the Confederates moved into the defensive."

The 2/9 leathernecks are conducting a series of professional military education (PME) battlefield tours because they are a new team preparing for a deployment to Okinawa, Japan. Deployment comes with the challenge of having new people with different levels of military knowledge combining into one unit.

"We are in the building phase of the battalion's life cycle," Davis said. "We are getting people, right now, who are going to schools and doing basic-level skills. As we go into the fall, we will start getting into more complex and larger operations culminating in the spring with company- and battalion-sized operations. Then we will be on a glide slope for deploying to Okinawa."

Professional military education comes in a variety of formats for Marines, such as holding forums that highlight key speakers who provide insight into current military issues or the courses Marines take to become more knowledgeable about their career fields. However, all PME seminars and classes seek to improve leadership and are dedicated to keeping Marines educated on relevant topics from historical, cultural and operational perspectives.

"PMEs are going to show you lessons based off history and teach you mistakes or good things from the past," Staff Sergeant Justin Cameron, the intelligence chief with the battalion, said. "It shows you how to build upon those things to



Above: "Battle of Chancellorsville—May 2, 3 & 4, 1863" by Kurz & Allison. (Library of Congress)

Below: Pointing to the Chancellorsville battlefield map, 1stLt Alexander N. Abate, the commander of Co E, 2/9, planned and organized the professional military education battle study.



better yourself, your unit and your unit cohesion."

Earlier in 2013, the 2/9 Marines visited Fort Fisher, N.C., a Confederate Civil War fort that was a vital trading route for Wilmington, N.C., and the South because it was the entry point for supplies as well as an important port for exchanging cotton and tobacco for foreign goods. Time permitting, prior to deploying to Okinawa, the battalion staff will visit Revolutionary War sites to drive home the principle of economy of force.

"Again, it deals with small-unit leader-

ship and quick decisions against a larger enemy," Davis said.

He said the worst thing a smaller force can do when up against a larger entity is sit and wait for more guidance or information because it runs the risk of being outwitted or maneuvered by the larger force.

"I want the Marines to learn to seize initiative and make decisions with limited commander's intent," Davis said. "They need to be able to assess the situation. ... I want our leaders to think—when in doubt, make a decision and move."

Captain Paul Vandenbos, the intelli-

gence officer with the battalion, said the PME made him realize the importance of the “70 percent” solution, which is a common guideline Marine leaders use to make decisions. The principle is that getting a “C” now is better than getting an “A” three days later because the situation will change, and you most likely won’t end up with an “A.”

“A lot of these guys [Civil War leadership] were waiting for the perfect plan before they did anything, so the PME really hammered home to me that it doesn’t have to be a hundred percent perfect before you pass the information out,” Vandebos said. “Then people can start moving on what they kind of know to be true. ... A lot of times it seemed like the picture didn’t change between when they kind of knew what the enemy was doing and when they knew 100 percent.”

Looking into the reasoning behind the Civil War generals’ actions also helped the Marines decide which style of leadership they thought had a better outcome. First Lt Peter Karonis, an infantry officer with the battalion, said the PME added to how he thinks commanders affect the sense of initiative in their subordinates.

“The South empowered their subordinates instead of crushing them like the North,” Karonis said. “It’s what the Marine Corps uses overall, but to see it used clearly and effectively with giving mission-type orders and having subordinate

unit commanders execute off intent instead of specific instructions ... just seeing the power of that definitely makes you want to educate your Marines on commander’s intent and also ensure when you give commander’s intent you are putting thought into it.”

The PME gave Capt Dan Neubauer, who is a pilot assigned to the battalion for air support coordination, an insight into the minds of the Civil War soldiers in the trenches and how decisions will affect the future.

“It was new for me to think about leadership from the ground side,” Neubauer said. “It gave me a better perspective ... so when I am flying up above, I’ll know what the guys on the ground are thinking.”

Before the Marines made their first stop at Chancellorsville, they also visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va., in order to see the Khe Sanh exhibit. “Khe Sanh” is the battalion’s call sign and a famous Vietnam War battle where past 2/9 Marines brought honor and glory to the battalion, and knowing the heritage of the unit is significant to team building. For Neubauer, the exhibit had greater personal meaning because his father was a Navy pilot during the Vietnam War.

“We take it for granted today when we fly over Afghanistan that they can’t shoot back at us, but in Vietnam they could and they did,” Neubauer said. “I think a lot

about my dad who was flying two combat missions a day.”

The PME tied together the past and the present for the Marines of 2d Bn. It provided them with insight into their more recent history and with lessons from a war in which they were not involved.

“We take things that have happened in the past and build upon them in the future so we aren’t learning the lessons in combat,” Abate said. “We are trying to learn them before we go in.”

Editor’s note: The 2/9 PME trip to Chancellorsville was made possible by a grant from the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. The MCA&F Commanders’ Forum Program provides funding to assist commanders in developing and providing forum opportunities specifically tailored to enhance their Marines’ and sailors’ knowledge of the operational matters from a historical, cultural or operational perspective. To find out more about the Commanders’ Forum Program, go to www.mcafdn.org/awards-pro-forums.

Jessica Koers is an experienced multimedia journalist and freelance writer for Leatherneck who has had numerous works published across various mediums. She deployed to Afghanistan while serving as an Army public-affairs sergeant.



The 2/9 officers and staff took advantage of a rare opportunity specifically tailored to enhance their knowledge of the operational art and strategic importance of the Battle of Chancellorsville.



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In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce

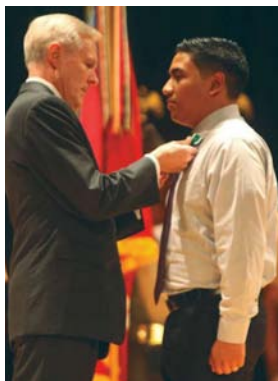


Above: Sgt Joshua L. Moore is presented the Navy Cross by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Nov. 1, 2013, at Camp Lejeune. Sgt Moore earned the award for his extraordinary heroism while serving as a scout with Scout Sniper Platoon, 2/8, in March 2011 during Operation Enduring Freedom.



CPL MEL JOHNSON

Sgt Justin Tygart is presented the Bronze Star medal with combat "V," Nov. 1, 2013. Sgt Tygart was cited for heroic and selfless actions while deployed to Afghanistan.



CPL MEL JOHNSON

Sgt Ritchie Elias is presented a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V."



CPL MEL JOHNSON

Cpl Gaven Eier is presented a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V."

Scout Sniper Awarded Navy Cross, Other Marines Presented Combat Medals



Sergeant Joshua L. Moore was awarded the Navy Cross by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus during an awards ceremony Nov. 1, 2013, at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Moore, 25, from Franklinville, N.C., was recognized with the prestigious medal for his extraordinary heroism while serving as a lance corporal scout with Scout Sniper Platoon, 2d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, March 14, 2011.

"It's an honor to receive an award like the Navy Cross," said Moore. "But to be honest, I was just doing my job."

Four other Marines were awarded medals, to include a Bronze Star medal and Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals with combat "V," at the same ceremony.



Sgt Justin L. Tygart of Orlando, Fla., was presented the Bronze Star with combat "V," and Sgt Ritchie Elias of Anaheim, Calif., and Corporal Gaven Eier of Charleston, S.C., each were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V." Sgt Matthew D. Adams of Hampstead, N.C., also was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V," but was unable to attend the ceremony.

While in a hide site northeast of Marjah, Afghanistan, all of the shooter-observer teams with Moore's section were compromised and had to return to a nearby compound they had previously occupied. The section came under attack again after only a few hours in the compound.

"Two grenades were thrown over the north wall, and both of them hit me in the back and rolled away," said Moore. "Fortunately, they landed next to each other, and I picked the first one up and threw it out."

Moore picked up the second grenade



43 YEARS LATER—During a Vietnam Veterans of 2d Battalion, 1st Marines reunion banquet on Nov. 10, 2013, in Arlington, Va., former Cpl Don Youmans, second from left, was presented with a Bronze Star with combat “V,” which he earned in 1970 in Vietnam. Among those Vietnam-era leathernecks on hand were “Echo” Company members, from left: former HM3 Mike “Doc” Shuck, former Cpl Ron Robison and former 1stLt Dan Kellum.

KANDACE DESLAITE

that was corroded and knew it wouldn’t explode, so he dropped it, and, according to his citation, charged out of the compound to aid the wounded and provide security.

“I looked up, and they [Marines] were carrying Sergeant Tygart,” explained Moore.

“At this point we were taking fire, so I had to crawl out of the building and loop [around] to the north to provide security while they were treating the guys inside the compound.”

With the arrival of the quick reaction force and another sniper section, the Marines successfully suppressed the enemy

forces, evacuated the wounded and returned to the patrol base.

“Honestly, I was scared out of my mind, but I knew we had to do everything possible to get everybody home,” Moore explained.

Cpl Mel Johnson
Combat Correspondent, 2dMarDiv

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:

Bronze Star With Combat “V”



MSgt John S. Bailly,
1st Marine Special Operations
Battalion (MSOB), U.S. Marine
Corps Forces Special Operations
Command (MARSOC)

Capt Daniel L. Brooks, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

SSgt Ronald J. Brown, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC

Capt Bryan J. Buckley, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

Capt Joseph F. Calore, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC

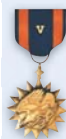
SSgt Michael A. Hawkins, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

SSgt Michael C. McClurg, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

Capt Leon M. Mitchell, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC

GySgt Michael S. Winn, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

SSgt Eric D. Yarger, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC



Air Medal With Combat “V”

Capt Drew T. Bossart,
Marine Medium Tiltrotor
Squadron 264,
Marine Aircraft Group 26,

Second Marine Aircraft Wing

Capt Eric A. Duchene, VMM-264,
MAG-26, 2d MAW

Capt Alex D. Hedman, VMM-264,
MAG-26, 2d MAW

Maj Matthew T. McSorley, VMM-264,
MAG-26, 2d MAW

LtCol Douglas C. Sanders,
2d MAW (Forward), II Marine
Expeditionary Force

Capt Kevin B. Semler, VMM-264,
MAG-26, 2d MAW



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat “V”

SSgt Kyle E. Kirkpatrick, 2d
MSOB, MARSOC

Sgt Tyler O. McKay, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat “V”

HM2 Noel Alba, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC



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, 2013

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

Lance Corporal Jeremiah M. Collins Jr., 19, of Milwaukee, with Combat Logistics Regiment 2, Second Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 5, 2013, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

LCpl Christopher O. Grant, 20, of Richwood, La., with 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, Oct. 20, 2013, in Helmand province.

EOD Marines Die in Pendleton Explosion

Four Marine explosive ordnance disposal technicians were killed when ordnance blew up in a training accident Nov. 13, 2013, in the "Zulu" impact area of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

According to Marine officials, the Marines were conducting range maintenance, which consisted of disposing unexploded ordnance. The range is used as an impact area for grenades, mortars, artillery and rockets and for aircraft.

Those killed were **Staff Sergeant Mathew R. Marsh**, 28, of Long Beach, Calif., who joined the Corps in July 2003 and served in Iraq in 2005 and 2008, and in Afghanistan in 2010 and 2012; **Gun-nery Sergeant Gregory J. Mullins**, 31, of Bayou L'Ourse, La., who joined the Corps in March 2002 and served in Afghanistan in 2011 and 2012; **Sergeant Miguel Ortiz**, 27, of Vista, Calif., who joined the Corps in March 2006 and was deployed to Iraq in 2007, the Western Pacific in 2008 and Afghanistan in 2012; and **SSgt Eric W. Summers**, 32, of Poplar Bluff, Mo., who joined the Corps in July 2000 and was deployed to Kuwait in 2003, Iraq in 2004, and Afghanistan in 2009, 2011 and 2012.

Additionally, one Navy corpsman and two other Marines nearby were treated and released. The cause of the explosion is under investigation.

Jack Glasgow

Colonel John P. "Jack" Glasgow Jr., USMC (Ret), who for six years, 2000-2006, was editor of the *Marine Corps*

Gazette, died Oct. 18, 2013, in Manassas, Va. He was 69.

He was a friend and colleague to the *Leatherneck* staff and those who work at the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. His sense of humor and indomitable spirit left a lasting mark on all who knew him.

The former president and chief executive officer of the MCA, and publisher of the *Marine Corps Gazette*, Major General Leslie M. Palm, USMC (Ret), in 2006 wrote of Col Glasgow: "Jack took over as editor of *Gazette* with the August 2000 issue and quickly developed his own style of editing the 'Professional Journal of U.S. Marines.' His editorials became a 'must-read' for *Gazette* readers." He added that "Jack's editorials have been instrumental in promoting the dialogue that has helped shape the issues facing our Corps and its Marines."

MajGen Palm continued, "Jack has always had a passion for the *Gazette* and what it provides to the Corps and its Marines. ... [H]is conviction that the *Gazette* is the tool for Marines to exchange and debate the issues facing the Marine Corps never waned. He ... considered the magazine the 'avenue of advance' for Marines of all ranks and billets to tell their stories, to ask the hard questions, and to demand that their professional journal meet their standards and levels of expectation."

Col Glasgow's time at the *Gazette* followed a successful Marine Corps career. An artillery officer by training, he saw action in Vietnam; commanded 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment; was

an instructor at Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.; commanded the Marine Detachment of USS *Coral Sea* (CV-43); was a military instructor at the University of Rochester, N.Y.; taught on the faculty of the National War College, Washington, D.C.; and held various other billets in the operating forces and supporting establishment.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Christine (Sokolski) Glasgow; his daughter, Sara Glasgow, and son-in-law, Sean Eudaily, of Dillon, Mont.; his sisters, Patricia Moell of Raleigh, N.C., and Joanne Glasgow of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; and brother, Tom Glasgow of Plattsburgh, N.Y., as well as a great number of cousins, nieces and nephews, and in-laws.

Charlie Waterhouse

Colonel Charles Waterhouse, USMCR (Ret) died Nov. 16, 2013, in Toms River, N.J. Col Waterhouse, a veteran of Iwo Jima who was awarded the Purple Heart, was the first and only artist-in-residence of the U.S. Marine Corps. He was 89.

Graduating from high school in 1942, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served with Company C, 5th Engineer Battalion, Fifth Marine Division. He was with the first wave on Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945, and was seriously wounded. The resulting nerve damage caused him to lose the feeling in most of his left hand, but there was no damage to his right painting hand.

After the war, he attended the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts. He stayed on at the school as a teacher for

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28 years and illustrated for *Outdoor Life*, *Reader's Digest*, the Rutgers Press and for the Boy Scouts of America.

The Marines took note and sent him to Vietnam for three tours as a combat artist. Then, in 1973, he was returned to active duty as a major. For the Corps' 1975 bicentennial, he produced a series of paintings called "Marines in the Revolution." He continued on active duty documenting Marine Corps history with his art, completing 160 major works by the time of his retirement in 1991.

Col Waterhouse opened The Colonel Charles Waterhouse Museum, a nonprofit organization in Toms River, in 1991. When the museum closed its doors, the majority of Waterhouse's body of work was gifted to the Marine Corps. In his final years, Col Waterhouse brushed a series chronicling Medal of Honor Marines and sailors.

He continued to paint until three weeks before his death. He was a great friend of *Leatherneck* magazine, and his artwork appeared in numerous issues and on several covers. For more on Col Waterhouse's contributions, visit our archives to read "Marines on His Canvas: The Art of Charles H. Waterhouse," by Mary D. Karcher, in the June 2005 *Leatherneck*.

Peter Murphy

Honorary Marine Peter M. Murphy, Counsel to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for 20 years (1984-2004), died Nov. 15, 2013, of complications from a Parkinsonian syndrome. He was 68 years old.

Mr. Murphy was appointed Counsel by General Paul X. Kelley, 28th CMC, in 1984. He would go on to serve six Commandants, spanning a period that included the Beirut barracks bombing, Iran-Contra, the first Gulf War and 9/11.

As Counsel, Mr. Murphy oversaw a staff of 60 military and civilian lawyers and 60 support staff around the world. He directed the Marine Corps administrative procurement, environmental, ethics and labor law programs and served as the principal advisor to the USMC on issues encompassing international relations, community outreach, major weapons systems acquisitions, complex investigations affecting national and Marine Corps interests, commercial legal issues (including base closures and legal aspects of homeland security), and environmental litigation and legislation.

He was instrumental in the implementation of the Goldwater-Nichols Act, the 1986 law which reorganized the Depart-

ment of Defense. In addition, he was a member of the Defense Department's senior legal leadership group and was the Marine Corps' senior ethics advisor during his entire tenure. He assisted in the creation of the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund, which provides financial assistance and lifetime support for injured and critically ill members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families, and continued to serve on its board of directors after his retirement.

When Mr. Murphy retired from the Office of Counsel in 2004, Gen Michael W. Hagee, the 33rd Commandant, bestowed upon Mr. Murphy the title of Honorary Marine. Following his retirement, Mr. Murphy served as a partner at Holland & Knight LLP, Washington, D.C., for two years.

Mr. Murphy earned numerous awards, including the Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive in 1996 and 2004, and the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Award in 1992 and 2000. In 1997, the Secretary of Defense presented him with the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest honor awarded by the Secretary to a career employee. Mr. Murphy also is remembered as a mentor and friend to generations of

[continued on page 64]

Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero



Capt Charles R. Michalk, left, and Capt Charles W. Michalk, USMC (Ret) stand alongside an AH-1W Super Cobra at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., in September 2011. Both father and son piloted Cobras for the same squadron.

Michalk Family Fliers

“Like father, like son” is more than just an expression to Charles Michalk, junior and senior. The father and son have more than just the same name; they also have taken similar paths during their time in the Marine Corps. Both became helicopter pilots and have served in the same squadron.

The senior Charles Michalk served 12 years active duty in the Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot. After attending Officer Candidates School, he reported to Pensacola, Fla., for aviation preflight training. He was selected to fly helicopters and earned his wings in May 1976. He transferred to his next command at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and was assigned to Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMA) 169. There, Charles flew the AH-1J Sea Cobra and AH-1T Improved Sea Cobra for four years.

In 1980, Charles left HMA-169. Little did he know that it wouldn't be the last time the squadron would see the Michalk name tape.

In 2005, Charles' son, Charles “C. R.” Michalk, followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Marine Corps. C. R. originally was an infantry officer, and he completed two combat tours with 1st Battalion

Third Marine Regiment. He then went before a field accession board where he was one of only three officers selected to complete a lateral movement into the aviation field.

The father points out that his son's selection for helicopter training wasn't planned. But when he was selected for helicopter training after primary flight training, he asked for Cobras. HMA-169 had long since redesignated to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA), and the senior Michalk added, “Then he just happened to get sent to the West Coast and HMLA-169. It's just amazing really.”

Captain Michalk currently flies the AH-1W Super Cobra and soon will transition to the “Zulu” model of the aircraft, the AH-1Z Super Cobra, or “Viper.”

Between the dad and son, they have flown almost the entire Marine Corps inventory of Cobra helicopters, said the younger Michalk.

Lcpl Owen Kimbrel
PAO, MCAS Miramar, Calif.

Twentynine Palms D.A.R.E. Program Is a Positive Influence on Community

“I pledge to be drug free” was proudly exclaimed by students at Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms elementary schools as

they raised their right hands and took a vow to live healthy, drug-free lives.

Smiles, hugs and high-fives were exchanged as the 9- and 10-year-old graduates walked across the stages in November 2013 to receive their certificates of completion from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.

Meghan Estrada and Vince Westover, D.A.R.E. officers for the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Provost Marshal's Office (PMO), spent nine weeks teaching the program to the students.

“We teach the students about peer pressure, decision making, bullying and the effects of drug and alcohol abuse,” said Estrada. “There are approximately 400 students across six schools graduating for the first half of the year.”

The combat center also is dedicated to being a positive influence on local children by helping fund the D.A.R.E. program, according to Westover.

“The installation commander sees the importance of the D.A.R.E. program and finds ways to continue funding it because of its positive influence on the community,” said Staff Sergeant Apollo Fisk, Physical Security Chief, PMO.

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms' PMO also supports the D.A.R.E. program by participating in Red Ribbon Week or hosting events such as school visits and school fairs for child safety, Trunk or Treats, and booth presentations in addition to the weekly classes they provide.

“The program officers and PMO provide 45-minute classes once a week during the school day for nine weeks,” said Estrada. “We build a relationship by showing the students that we care, through spending that time with [the students] and teaching them the fundamentals of the curriculum.”

D.A.R.E. officers often will stay for multiple classes and through lunch to be there for the kids. They have shown a commitment to the development of their students, said Fisk.

The program has encountered many obstacles over the years, but the Combat Center and the base PMO are committed to doing the best to keep it going.

“We are the only law-enforcement agency that still does the D.A.R.E. program for all fifth-grade students in the Morongo

Basin district,” said Fisk. “The D.A.R.E. program is great, and we’re going to keep it active in the community.”

LtCpl Paul Martinez
PAO, MCGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.

One Man’s Trash Is Another’s Geocache

One man’s trash is another man’s treasure, so the saying goes. In this case, Major Doug Strahan finds treasure in some pretty amazing places.

Strahan, an operations planner who works in the G-3 section at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, located at Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii, was bitten by the “geobug” nearly three years ago and dedicates some of his free time to a worldwide hobby, geocaching.

Strahan was a Marine reservist living in Oregon when he heard about geocaching. Curious, he did some research, and found out there were several geocaches near his house. From there, it grew into a hobby, and he continues to hunt for geocaches while working as a mobilized reservist in Hawaii.

Geo means “earth,” and a cache is a group of objects hidden together, according to “The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Geocaching.”

The staff of www.geocaching.com recently published the third edition of the guide, which gives a history of this technology-driven hobby that emphasizes utilizing the Global Positioning System.

Today, geocaching features new activities, items, terms and more, according to the guide. People leave and take items, calling them “Stuff We All Get,” or SWAG.



KRISTEN WONG

On Oct. 12, 2013, Maj Doug Strahan, an operations planner with G-3, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, and his son open one of the oldest geocaches hidden in Hawaii. Strahan said ammunition cans are good containers for geocaches.

In traditional geocaches, the geocacher will find a container holding a log. Those who successfully locate a geocache can write their name in the log as proof of their find. In multi-geocaches, the geocacher may have to locate several objects containing clues that lead to the geocache itself. Some of the geocaches have puzzles, while others are virtual geocaches and require e-mailing the geocache owner with proof found at the site to receive credit.

Geocaches vary in size, shape and form. Sometimes a geocache is disguised as a

commonplace item that blends in well with its environment. Strahan said geocaches vary in difficulty as well. Websites listing available geocaches will generally indicate the difficulty level. The most challenging geocaches have a maximum of five stars on both scales, giving them the title “5/5.”

Strahan said he once had to find a physically demanding “5/5” geocache in Maui that required traversing as many as four waterfalls, followed by a lengthy swim across a river. He added that nearly all the “5/5” geocaches on Oahu require scuba diving.

Geocaching combines physical and mental challenges that Marines might find particularly beneficial and rewarding. Strahan encourages people who are just starting to learn geocaching not to give up. Although some geocaches present quite a challenge, he advises beginners to start looking for the simple geocaches first, like those that are large in size.

Now having explored nine states and five countries outside of the United States, Maj Strahan continues the hunt for more geocaches.

“[Geocaching] takes you places you never thought you’d have gone to before,” he said.

Brand-new geocachers can find various geocaching websites to get started, such as www.geocaching.com or www.terracing.com.

Kristen Wong
PAO, MCB Hawaii

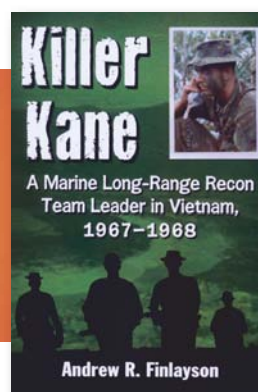
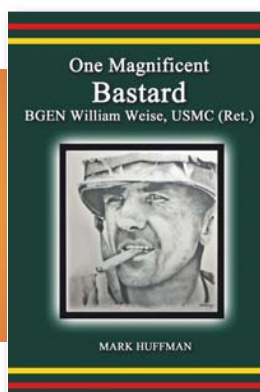
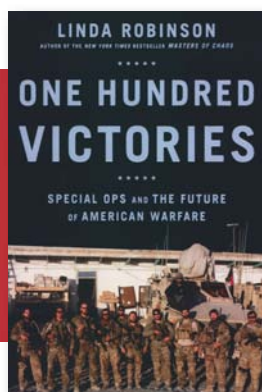


COURTESY OF III MEF BAND

“DUETS”—Sgts John and Wayne Geary are twins who share a love of music along with a sense of duty to the Marine Corps and their nation. The Gearys each play the trombone in the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Band and inspire those around them with their music and camaraderie. Pictured here, as corporals prior to their promotions in 2013, John Geary, right, and Wayne Geary high-five another set of twins following a III MEF Band concert in 2012. Many join the Marine Corps for a sense of brotherhood, but the Geary brothers enhance the family relationship with a passion for music and teaching.

Books Reviewed

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



ONE HUNDRED VICTORIES: Special Ops and the Future of American Warfare. By Linda Robinson. Published by PublicAffairs. 344 pages. Stock #1610391497. \$26.10 MCA Members. \$28.99 Regular Price.

Author Linda Robinson is a well-known authority on special operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Latin America. A *New York Times* best-selling author of several other works, she has received numerous awards for her work and is highly respected throughout the special operations family.

The title of her latest book, "One Hundred Victories," signifies the many small battles that must be accomplished to achieve positive results in the ongoing war in Afghanistan by special operations units. Her background and friendships established during many years of research and information gathering has resulted in close working relationships with leaders within the special operations community who have been deployed multiple times. She has seen those leaders rise through the ranks, proving their skills and expertise, some rising to the two- and three-star level.

The author goes into great detail regarding the vast amount of money spent by the United States to accomplish the mission, and even more startling, the amount of money paid to Afghanistan just to use airfields or to have access to airspace.

This work provides details from just after 9/11 to as recent as June 2013, and notes the failures by U.S. special ops units

as well as their accomplishments. Covered at length is the fact that Afghanistan units have been undermanned from the beginning and have remained understaffed, as well as the infighting between commands within special ops and between regular Army commanders and special ops.

Robinson points out that it took eight years to get a game plan put to use, and it was only then that special ops commanders began to see positive results. What finally worked was commanders began putting troops in the towns and villages to live with the population, which is exactly what was done in Vietnam more than 40 years prior.

Readers will be amazed to learn that micromanagement is alive and well and is tracked all the way to Washington, D.C., as well as problems are caused by news reporters in country, which occasionally created near-international incidents between coalition troops and the political leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The author poses the question through her chronology that makes the reader wonder how we have made the advances that we have.

I would especially recommend this book as mandatory reading for all officers and staff noncommissioned officers.

Raymond Wright

Editor's note: A Marine veteran, 1966-72, Raymond Wright was wounded in action while serving with Company K, 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment in

Vietnam. Other tours included embassy duty, 1968-70, and serving as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. He retired as an assistant chief of police in 2011 after 29-plus years.

ONE MAGNIFICENT BASTARD. By Mark Huffman. Published by R. H. Rositzke & Associates, LLC. 200 pages. Stock #1492769444. \$18 MCA Members. \$20 Regular Price.

Most Marines know that the leather-necks of 2d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment are known as "The Magnificent Bastards." That title originated in 1965 with the battalion's arrival in Vietnam. They gained honor and glory a couple of years later at the Battle of Dai Do under the leadership of then-Lieutenant Colonel William "Wild Bill" Weise.

Now a retired brigadier general, Weise is the central figure in "One Magnificent Bastard." BGen Weise is a perfect example of why the relationship between Marine Corps leaders and the men they lead is so powerful.

Intuitively, he knows that Marines will accomplish what is expected of them, and that Marines excel when challenged. Marines seek great leadership, and Bill Weise provided that in a long, illustrious active-duty career and continues to provide that dynamic leadership today. This is his story.

Having completed boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., in 1951, during a time when most newly made Marines were sent first

to Infantry School and then directly to combat in Korea, Weise internalized the importance of training Marines to know their weapons, and of ensuring that his Marines were physically conditioned so that they could defeat any enemy.

Throughout his 31-year career, he challenged himself and his Marines to excel in their preparation for success in combat. At the small village of Dai Do in Vietnam, his leadership skills were put to the supreme test. Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of this book describe the incredible odds that Weise's battalion landing team faced during a three-day period against the 320th NVA Division. The price of this book is worth it for these three chapters alone.

But BGen Weise is much more than a great combat leader. His life story, both before and after the Battle of Dai Do, contains compelling examples of this exceptional man's qualities. His faith in God, his love of family and the deep respect that he holds for Marines—especially those whose lives were entrusted to his leadership—are values to be emulated by all of us. To this day, "The General" still takes care of his Marines.

An easy, well-paced, engrossing read, "One Magnificent Bastard" will be enjoyed by Marine families as well as military men and women of all services. As a tribute to BGen Weise and his commitment to the Marines and families of "The Magnificent Bastards," the proceeds from

book sales will be used to place bricks along the trails through the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Heritage Center in Triangle, Va. Those bricks will contain the names of each 2/4 Marine killed in action over the years.

MGySgt James W. Rogers, USMC (Ret)

Editor's note: The e-book is available for download from the MCA&F's The MARINE Shop Amazon bookstore.

MGySgt James W. Rogers served 27 years in the Corps, entering as an infantryman and then making a lateral move to the comptroller field. In Vietnam, he was with 2d Bn, 4th Marines, "The Magnificent Bastards," and fought at the Battle of Dai Do in 1968, earning the Bronze Star with combat "V." He is on the board of the 2d Bn, 4th Marines Association. The association is now embarked on a program to install bricks honoring every Marine killed in action while a member of the battalion.

KILLER KANE: A Marine Long-Range Recon Team Leader in Vietnam, 1967-1968. By Col Andrew R. Finlayson, USMC (Ret). Published by McFarland. 288 pages. Softcover. Stock #0786477016. \$31.50 MCA Members. \$35 Regular Price.

When he was a young Marine officer, Colonel Andrew R. Finlayson commanded a reconnaissance team named "Killer Kane." This action-packed thriller is his

story, the story of his team and the war in Vietnam and at home.

Finlayson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1966 and, after completing The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., shipped out to the Republic of Vietnam. Principally because he had become a qualified parachutist during one summer while attending the Naval Academy, he was assigned to 1st Force Reconnaissance Company located at Camp Reasoner, west of Da Nang.

The tales of his patrols provide insight for old Marines and new Marines alike, particularly noncommissioned officers and junior officers with a thirst for developing professional skills.

Finlayson notes that initially on arriving in country he was a participant in what were termed "snap in" patrols—he was a patrol leader. The new lieutenant learned how to prepare patrol orders, brief the team and write detailed patrol reports. Finlayson then takes the reader with him on his first encounter with a deadly enemy on Feb. 4, 1967, during a "false insertion," executed to confuse the enemy. He writes, "The thought struck me: This was the first time in my life someone had shot at me; I thanked God that they had missed."

After his break-in period, Finlayson was assigned as patrol leader of Killer Kane. He and this team would go on to become one of the very best, with higher headquarters frequently requesting Killer Kane

Leatherneck Book Browser

"Defend Freedom," by Lieutenant Colonel Dominik George Nargele, USMC (Ret), is the fifth book by this Post-World War II escapee from Communist Europe. A two-tour veteran of the Vietnam War, Nargele presents his experience-based opinions on communism and left-leaning government in this effort to raise the alarm on the erosion of rights and liberties expressed in our Constitution.

His personal background and his career of service to Corps and country, reinforced by his academic achievements while earning a graduate degree from George Washington University and a doctorate from Georgetown University, make him extremely qualified to voice his call to "Defend Freedom."

LtCol Nargele's "Defend Freedom" is published by AuthorHouse and available from *The MARINE Shop's* Amazon Associate Store at www.marineshop.net under the "Store Information" drop-down menu. Available in softcover, ISBN: 1481728261, 288 pages, for \$17.39; and as a Kindle e-book for \$3.99. Your purchase from the Marine Corps Association & Foundation's *The MARINE Shop*, through Amazon, helps support MCA&F programs.

"Heroes in Our Midst: WW II American Airborne: Early Years, Training, Jump Wings, Parachutes, Jump Helmets, Paramarines, Volume 1," by Lieutenant Colonel John R. Angolia, USA (Ret), assisted by Jake Powers and

George A. Petersen, is published by R. James Bender Publishing. While this 528-page history of airborne forces in the U.S. military is predominately a very well-researched and artfully presented reference of the U.S. Army airborne, "The Paramarines" chapter is well worth the price of the book for any Marine interested in the history of the Corps' Paramarines.

The extensive Paramarine chapter details the uniforms, weapons unique to Paramarines, specific insignia, parachute and glider techniques and a short history on the Marine Corps' glider squadron. The photos, including many in color, provide extremely valuable insight into an almost forgotten piece of Marine Corps history.

As in the case of many large tabletop reference works, "Heroes in Our Midst," ISBN: 1932970231, is not inexpensive, but it will be particularly valuable for collectors and those Marine historians interested in the history of the Paramarines. It is available from *The MARINE Shop's* Amazon Associate Store for \$131.10 at www.marineshop.net under the "Store Information" drop-down menu. Your purchase from the Marine Corps Association & Foundation's *The MARINE Shop*, through Amazon, helps support MCA&F programs.

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for the exceedingly hazardous missions.

The team was known as aggressive, willing to take every risk to accomplish the mission, but always with an incredibly focused and detailed training plan that kept the team ready for the fog of battle—realizing there is no certainty or assurances, that best plans often go astray when the first round is fired, and flexibility and initiative will win the day.

Recon team Killer Kane struck the fine balance of collecting valuable intelligence and killing the enemy while under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Here, for the reader's appreciation, one can begin to understand the uniquely stressful self-discipline the men were subject to while constantly surrounded by a battle-tested professional fighting force. There is no false bravado, just a well-told look into how it really was.

Also noted, as a token of respect for the recon teams' effectiveness, the North Vietnamese Army trained and equipped a special "counter-recon" force to help find and annihilate U.S. Marine recon teams.

Finlayson has given us a superb chance to understand a combat-hardened Force Recon team in action. But his story doesn't end with his return to the States. Posted to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., he describes encounters with protesters, riots

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and a population tired of war, often taking out frustrations on returning veterans and active-duty military personnel.

Still, this many years later, the reader easily can understand the author's anguish and some disappointment in facing the political realities at home. In this, once again, "Killer Kane" provides lessons for the professional Marine.

Finlayson's dismay, dissatisfaction and regret are evident when, after he learned that many recon team members had been lost in the 1968 Tet Offensive, he requested orders back to Vietnam. In a letter home, he wrote, "I don't think I could live with myself, if I did not return to the fight. I would be ashamed."

"Killer Kane" is a page-turner testament to the men who stood in an unpopular breach when the nation called. Perhaps they were a bit crazy, but they willfully went forward into the fight. Vietnam veterans will say, "Yes, he's right on target." Marine families and today's Marines will close the book and say, "Thank God for men such as this."

Robert B. Loring

Editor's note: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer. This review marks his 100th published book



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review since his first in 1999. Thank you, Red Bob, and thank you for all you do as a hardworking volunteer for various charities, including a very successful Toys for Tots program in Pasco County, Fla. Now let's get going on the second 100.



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IN MEMORIAM

[continued from page 57]

civilian and military lawyers.

During the Vietnam War, Mr. Murphy served as a U.S. Army infantry officer.

Mr. Murphy earned his bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Long Island University in 1972 and his J.D. from St. John's Law School in 1974.

Edward Andrusko, 89, in Boulder, Colo. He enlisted when he was 17 and served more than four years, with 33 months in the Pacific with Co I, 3d Bn, 7th Marines, including combat on Guadalcanal, New Britain and Peleliu. He was wounded in action three times.

After the war, he worked at RCA from 1947 to 1959, and then he worked for Martin Marietta Missile Company and Colorado Research Division, ITT Bell and Gossett, in Broomfield, Colo. In 1963 and 1964, he worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver, focusing on pacemakers and other hospital medical electronic equipment. He finished with a 28-year career at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (previously National Bureau of Standards) in Boulder, working in the Radio Standards Engineering Division.

He was a volunteer at Boulder Community Hospital and was named Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. He became a freelance writer with many short stories and articles in magazines, newspapers and books. His work includes the book "Love and War Beneath the Southern Cross" about WW II. His *Leatherneck* magazine articles are "A Christmas Miracle," published in December 1995, and "The Wallis Landing," published in May 1992.

Cpl Kyle A. Boline, 23, of Robbinsdale, Minn. He enlisted in 2008, served as an aircraft hydraulics mechanic with MALS-13, MCAS Yuma, Ariz., and became a collateral duty inspector for the hydraulic and tire and wheel work centers. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2012.

He was on terminal leave in Minnesota when he died as a result of an automobile accident. He is survived by his wife, Rachel.

Cpl Joseph E. Cavanaugh, 71, of Vero Beach, Fla. He served from 1958 to 1962 and was with 81 mm mortars, H&S Co, 1/2, 2dMarDiv at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He later became a police officer with the Greenwich Police Department in Greenwich, Conn., serving 23 years before his retirement in 1987.

CWO-3 Daniel Morgan Dyer, 83, of

Riverside, Calif. He enlisted in 1947 and trained at MCRD San Diego. After Infantry Training School, he was assigned to the MarDet aboard USS *Valley Forge* (CV-45) from 1947 to 1949.

He then was assigned to a Naval Aviation Detachment and upon being transferred to Camp Pendleton was ordered to Korea with B/1/5, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade and 1stMarDiv. He fought in the Pusan Perimeter defense, made the Inchon landing, was at the capture of Seoul, made the Wonsan landing, marched up to and back from the Chosin Reservoir where he was wounded. In 1951, he took part in the Pohang guerrilla hunt, Operations Killer and Ripper.

After Korea, he held billets in the Marine Corps Reserve in an antitank company, and as an infantry platoon leader, Military Police officer, admin chief and admin officer. He also served as the director of drill and ceremonies at the John Brown Military Academy in Signal Hill, Calif., from 1958 to 1960. He was promoted to warrant officer while a first sergeant. He retired from the Corps in 1988 after 41 years of service.

He worked for the city of Long Beach and eventually retired as the Parks and Recreation Department manager after 28 years of service. He was ordained a min-

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PACIFIC

26 Jan - 4 Feb - Philippines WWII - Bataan "Death March," Manila & Cabanatuan Liberations

Manila - Corregidor - Bataan - Subic Bay
Post Tour: 4 - 7 Feb Hong Kong



Iwo Jima Vet Gene Bell with
Gen Paxton ACMC

14 - 21 Mar - Exclusive 69th Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor

Iwo Jima Symposium - Guam - Charter Jet to Iwo Jima
Pre Tour: 11 - 15 Mar - Saipan/Tinian Post Tours: 21 - 25 Mar - Hawaii/
21 - 26 Mar - Peleliu/7 - 16 Mar - Yap Dive Adventure



Marine Vet on Nimitz Hill

8 - 16 Jun - 70th Liberation of Saipan & Tinian "Marianas Island Campaign 1944"

Post Tour: 16 - 19 Jun Guam

18 - 24 Jul - 70th Liberation of Guam "Marianas Island Campaign 1944"

Post Tour 24 - 28 Jul - Saipan & Tinian/28 Jul - 1 Aug - Honolulu, HI



Back on the Canal

2 - 12 Aug - Guadalcanal - "Turning the Tide"

Edson's Ridge - Henderson Field - Iron Bottom Sound
Post Tour: 11 - 17 Aug - Up the Slot



Semper Fi flag on Peleliu

12 - 19 Sep - 70th Anniversary of Peleliu

Post Tour: 19 - 23 Sep - Manila, Philippines

13 - 26 Oct - China Marines & U.S. Military Involvement in China 1835 - 1949

Beijing - Tientsin - Tsingtao - Xian - Chinwangtao - Peitaho
Post Tour: 26 - 29 Oct - Shanghai

10 - 19 Nov - 70th Anniversary Burma Campaign

Rangoon - Mandalay - WWII Sites



Gen Peter Pace, 16th
CJCS back with MHT

VIETNAM

15 - 28 Feb - Hue City, Khe Sanh & Tet Offensive

Phu Bai - Da Nang - Chu Lai - Leatherneck Square
Host: Col Chuck Meadows, USMC

25 Mar - 5 Apr - 50th Anniversary of the VN War - 1964 POW Memorial Tour

Saigon - Delta - Plekiu - Hue City - An Khe - Dak To - Da Nang
Hoi An - Con Thien - Khe Sanh

5 - 21 Apr - U.S. Military in I, II, III & IV Corps "Saigon to the DMZ"

Saigon - Delta - Plekiu - Hue City - An Khe - Dak To
Da Nang - Hoi An - Con Thien - Khe Sanh



45th Anniversary of
Khe Sanh



MHT Shall Return

13 - 25 Apr - 45th Anniversary Operation "Dewey Canyon"

A Shau Valley - Ques Sons - Hoi An - Da Nang - Hue City
Leatherneck Square - Khe Sanh - Con Thien

7 - 19 Jun - 1st & 3rd Marine Divisions in I Corps

Da Nang - Leatherneck Square - Que Sons - Con Thien - Hue City
Chu Lai - DMZ - Hoi An - Khe Sanh



Winning Starbucks Saigon

23 Aug - 6 Sep - U.S. Military "Delta to the DMZ"

I-II-III Corps - War Zone C - An Loc
Tay Ninh - Bien Hoa
An Khe - Pleiku - Qui Nho

23 Aug - 4 Sep - USMC Units in I Corps

Que Sons - Quang Tri - Hue City - Da Nang - Hanoi
Khe Sanh - Hoi An - Red Beach - Leatherneck Square



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Back in the Delta

EUROPE

18 - 27 Apr - Turkey WWI Dardanelles Campaign

Istanbul, Gallipoli Battlefields & Troy
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16 - 26 May - WWI USMC Battlefields & Paris

Belleau Wood - Chateau Thierry - Meuse-Argonne
Verdun - Mont Blanc - Reims
Post Tour: 26 May - 1 Jun - Battle of the Bulge

17 - 25 May - Viking Seine River Cruise

Paris - Giverny - D-Day Beaches
Post Tours: 25 May - Belleau Wood & 26 May - 2 Jun - Battle of the Bulge



If you missed the
MHT Bus...Nuts

24 May - 2 Jun - 70th Anniv Battle of the Bulge

Bastogne - Band of Brothers - Patton's Gravesite

31 May - 11 Jun - 70th Anniversary Liberation of Rome & Anzio Invasion

Salerno - Naples - Rome - Florence - Cassino - Anzio - Pisa
Venice - Milan - Lake Como



MHT Group raising the flag at
Normandy Cemetery

1 - 9 Jun - 70th Anniversary of D-Day: "Normandy to Paris"

Omaha Beach - Utah Beach - St. Mere Eglise - Pegasus Bridge - Bayeux
Atlantic Wall Fortifications - Paris - Airborne & New D-Day Museums
Pre-tour: 24 May - 2 Jun - Battle of the Bulge

2 - 14 Jul - WWII Russia "Eastern Front"

Moscow - Stalingrad - Kursk
Post Tour: 14 - 17 Jul - St. Petersburg



MHT Gun Crew Kursk 70th

3 - 14 Sep - 100th Anniversary of WWI "The Great War - 1914"

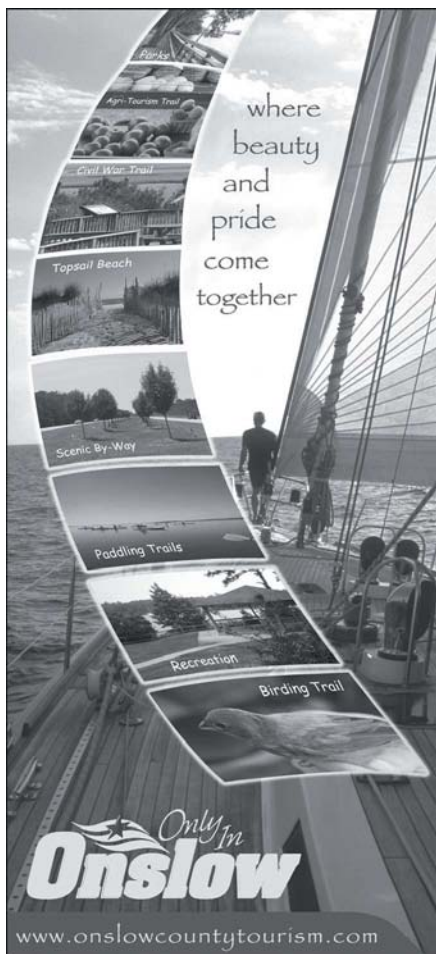
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ister in 1980, and served as the director of operations for the Campus Crusade for Christ at the Christian Conference Center in Arrowhead Springs, from which he retired after nine years of service. He also served with the Civil Air Patrol as a search-and-rescue pilot for 35 years.

His personal decorations include three Purple Hearts and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Col Robert G. Essink, 66, of Virginia Beach, Va. He was commissioned in 1969 and served 30 years in various command and staff billets, retiring in 2000.

He was employed by TRW and Northrup Grumman at the U.S. Joint Forces Command and Joint Training and Simulation Center, Suffolk, Va.

MSgt Robert C. Graham, 68, of Temecula, Calif. He enlisted in 1963 and served two tours in Vietnam, was a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego and an intelligence analyst. During his time as an analyst, he served in the Beirut, Lebanon, peace mission in 1983. He retired in 1985 after nearly 23 years.

He had a passion for history, particularly the military campaigns of ancient Rome. He read hundreds of books on the subject and taught himself Latin.

Harold P. Hine, 87, of Richardson, Texas. He was a WW II Marine who

served in the Pacific with the 1stMarDiv.

He spent 37 years managing government and commercial electronics for General Electric, Hughes Aircraft and Rockwell International. He retired in 1990. He volunteered at the First United Methodist Church of Richardson and the Network of Community Ministries.

MGySgt Henry G. "H. G." Howard Jr., 81, in Jacksonville, N.C. An amtrac Marine, he served 21 years, including tours in Korea and Vietnam. He was a drill instructor and recruiter in Pensacola, Fla., and Anniston, Ala.

He enlisted in 1953 and considered himself a West Coast Marine, having spent time at Camp Pendleton and Del Mar in Southern California. He was stationed at Onslow Beach, N.C., very early in his career.

After retirement, he attended college in Pensacola and earned an accounting degree.

Daniel L. Inman Jr., 89, in Dallas. He served in the South Pacific during WW II and went on to a successful career with the Lone Star Co.

Michael Landsberry, 45, in Sparks, Nev. He was a math teacher, a Marine veteran and a member of the Nevada Air National Guard who tried to stop a seventh-grade student who had a gun at

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Sparks Middle School, Oct. 21, 2013, but the boy shot him in the chest, and Landsberry died at the scene.

Landsberry left the Corps in 1994 and had worked for the Washoe County School District since 2001. He also coached girls' soccer and volleyball and boys' basketball at Sparks High School.

He was a technical sergeant with the 152d Logistics Readiness Squadron in Reno. His ANG commanding officer, Col Jeffrey Burkett, said, "Mike is a hero because he chose to serve his country as a Marine and as a Nevada Guardsman, but he was also a hero because he chose to serve his community in the most commendable way imaginable—as a teacher committed to the education of our youth."

BGen Richard G. "Dick" Moore, 83, of Fairfax, Va. His successful career as a Marine lawyer includes service while a major in Vietnam as staff judge advocate of Force Logistics Command, 1968-69.

During his career, BGen Moore was SJA of the 3d MAW, MCAS El Toro, Calif., then deputy director of the Judge Advocate Division. He graduated from the State Department's year-long Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy and became SJA, 3dMarDiv, and served a second assignment as SJA, 3d MAW. After serving as Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy for Military Law, he retired and was promoted to brigadier general in 1981.

Robert S. "Bob" O'Burke, 88, of Duncanville, Texas. He served during the Korean War.

He later retired as fire chief from the city of Duncanville in 1988 after 25 years of service.

LCpl Theodore J. Przetakiewicz, 71, of Carmel, N.Y. He was a Life member of the Marine Corps Association.

Sgt Charles A. Reinke Jr., 85, of Hobbs, N.M. He served on the Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol Team.

He went on to play football for the University of Michigan and to become an Army lieutenant. He worked for Magnolia Petroleum Corporation, and when Magnolia became Mobil in 1960, he became Mobil's senior regional recruiting coordinator. He retired in 1984, but continued to work as a consultant. He served in the Mentoring Program for the Hobbs Public Schools.

Col Martin Roush, 95, in San Diego. He went through flight school in 1941 and was commissioned in 1942. He was a torpedo bomber pilot during WW II in the Solomon Islands and later at Guam. He also flew missions in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was assigned to the first naval atomic bomb delivery unit.

He served on the joint staff of CinC Pacific and at HQMC and was Chief of

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Staff, Marine Corps Air Bases, Pacific, when he retired from active duty in 1969.

Col Roush went on to a career in bank management in California.

Charles Sperry, 80, in Reno, Nev. A Marine veteran of Korea and Vietnam, he was a customer at the Bank of America when he tried to stop a robbery, Oct. 16, 2013, and was shot and killed. Sperry told the robber to leave and asked customers to call 911. As he approached the robber, a scuffle ensued, and Sperry was shot in the chest.

GySgt Albert E. Stone, 85, of Gillette, Wyo. He enlisted in 1945, and his service included WW II, Korea and Vietnam.

He worked for his brother in the oil fields after retiring from the Corps in 1970. He was an avid pilot who loved riding motorcycles with a passenger in the side car.

MSgt Charles E. "Chuck" Warrington, 92, in Gibbon, Neb. He enlisted in 1940 and participated in the occupation of Tarawa and the liberation of the Philippines and was with the 1stMarDiv in Korea.

He retired in 1960 and served as an administrator of the Good Samaritan Society. His son Ed and three grandsons, Glenn, Jon and Matt, followed his example by serving as U.S. Marines.

MSgt Meca J. Williams, 38, in Okinawa, Japan. He enlisted as a radio operator in 1993. Promoted to master sergeant on March 1, 2013, he was the communications chief for 3/12 at Camp Hansen.

In addition to his wife, Shawn Tamille Hagans, he is survived by two sons, Jalen Ja'von and Devin Jaden.

Maj Charles R. "Bob" Wilson, 83, of Dallas. He was an Eagle Scout, who became a Marine officer in 1951 and fought

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in Korea. He remained in the active Marine Reserve until the 1970s and was a top salesman for IBM throughout the 1960s and '70s.

He worked for ARCO in Dallas in the 1980s, and, in the 1990s, set up his own firm assisting people with their business affairs and medical claims.



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SOUND OFF
 [continued from page 8]

Reunions

- **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 12-17, Reno, Nev. Contact GySgt Don H. Gee, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.
- **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Sept. 8-11, Oceanside, Calif. Contact Jack T. Paxton, 110 Fox Ct., Wildwood, FL 34785, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.r.com, www.usmccca.org.
- **Marine Corps Aviation Assn. ("Gray Ghost" Squadron 531)**, April 24-27, Quantico, Va. Contact Ralph Delisantie, (585) 426-4091.
- **Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Assn.**, May 1-5, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Paul Melcher, (803) 359-9338, melch12@msn.com.
- **Marine Corps Musicians Assn.**, May 5-9, Honolulu. Contact Matt Stevenson, (920) 676-1260, mmusmceod@gmail.com.
- **USMC Hawk Assn.**, May 19-22, New Bern, N.C. Contact Stan Buliszyn, 1 Cherry Drive Ln., Ocala, FL 34472, www.usmchawkassociation.com.
- **Rose Garden Marines (Nam Phong, Thailand, 1972-73)**, May 23-26, Kansas

City, Kan. Contact John Tabarrini, (951) 880-3634, jpwoody51@gmail.com.

• **26th Marines Scout Snipers (1968-69)** is planning a reunion for 2014 in Omaha, Neb. Contact Cleveland Mason, (209) 358-1646, clevm@sbcglobal.net, or Tom Phillips, (402) 672-1271, tomandwoo@swvawcreek.net.

• **3d, 4th and other Defense Bns**, May 21-23, San Diego. Contact Charles Buckley, 35925 Ashton Pl., Fremont, CA 94356, (510) 794-7280, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, 140 Grist Mill Rd., Uhlend, TX 78640, (512) 738-2075, sharon_heideman@yahoo.com.

• **11th Engineer Bn (RVN, 1966-69)** is planning a reunion for 2014. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethemarine@gmail.com.

• **A/1/12 (3dMarDiv, RVN)**, Sept. 17-21, San Diego. Contact Bob Schoenleber, (425) 822-7474, bobschoenleber@comcast.net.

• **1/3/7**, April 30-May 3, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **K/3/7 (and attached units, RVN)**, Sept. 9-15, San Diego. Contact William Rolke, (262) 780-0993, k37usmc@att.net, or Jerry Walker, (951) 203-2280, jwalkercdr@verizon.net.

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• **American Embassy Saigon (pre-1975, RVN)**, April 27-30, Galveston, Texas. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

• **Recruiters School Class 3-69 (1968)** is planning a reunion. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **TBS Co C, 3-69**, May 1-4, Quantico, Va. Contact Jim Bowen, (423) 413-2859, jimbowen@gocarta.org.

• **Plt 291, Parris Island, 1964**, is planning a reunion. Contact Sgt Ernest Bennett, (304) 269-3294, sfceb@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, Nov. 7-10, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Jim Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

• **Plts 316-319, Parris Island, 1964**, are planning a reunion for April 24-26. Contact Alex Nevglowski, (910) 325-9148, (910) 548-5227, gunnr88@hotmail.com.

• **Plt 331, Parris Island, 1959**, is planning a reunion. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com, or Bob Wood, (205) 903-7220, bwood@bellsouth.net.

• **Plt 358, San Diego, 1959**, Aug. 7-10, San Diego. Contact MSgt John Newport, USMC (Ret), (770) 926-4752, mrmnrs41@aol.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.

• **East Coast All-Seabees**, Feb. 21-23, Hampton, Va. Contact Bruce MacDougall, (804) 921-4753, seabeamac40@verizon.net, www.vietnam-era-seabees.org.

• **NMCB-62 and PWD Edzell Seabees**, Feb. 21-23, Hampton, Va. Contact Frank Thompson, seabee@bardstowncable.net, www.nmcb62alumni.org.

• **HMR(L)-261**, April 30-May 4, Quantico, Va. Contact Bill Wells, 14 Flicker Dr., Greenville, SC 29609, wewii@bellsouth.net.

• **VMA(AW)-225 (RVN, 1969-70)**, Feb. 6-9, Yuma, Ariz. Contact Jim Henshaw, (502) 836-7303, igor1944@aol.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS Houston (CL-81)**, Oct. 20-25, Norfolk, Va. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113, dlr7110@yahoo.com.

• **USS Tarawa (CV-40, LHA-1)**, April 24-27, Branson, Mo. 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.

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• **USS Tulare (AKA-112)**, Feb. 27-March 1, San Antonio. Contact Sam or Sharon Schrock, 74651 T. Road, Elm Creek, NE 68836, (308) 236-0227, (308) 991-1112, samsldodge@frontier.com.



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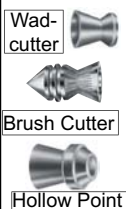
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Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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

Mail Call

- Don O. Jordan, #322141, Dixon Correctional Institute, D-12, P.O. Box 788, Hwy. 68, Jackson, LA 70748, to hear from members of **Plt 3010, San Diego, 1981**, or anyone who served with **Co B, 1st Bn, 9th Marines, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., 1981-85**.

- MGySgt Larry Inscoc, USMC (Ret), 2700 Riva Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 224-2606, linscoc@aacps.org, to hear from **Marines who served at Marine Barracks Annapolis, to include Annapolis Company, Marine Barracks Washington, for a possible reunion**.

- Ken Sanders, 1500 Arlie Lacey Rd., Boaz, AL 35957, (256) 878-6153, 19kgs65@gmail.com, to hear from those

who served with **A/1/26 at Khe Sanh, RVN, 1967**, or anyone who knew his family member **Glen "Sandy" SANDERS, who was KIA, June 27, 1967**.

- Marine veteran Vince Gomez, (425) 202-7985, ancient.voices@comcast.net, to hear from members of **Plt 131, San Diego, 1963**.

- Former Navy LT J. P. A. Maldonado, 37505 N. 17th St., Phoenix, AZ 85086, (623) 363-6539, jpdbltap@gmail.com, to hear from **then-GySgt Joseph M. MONTELEONE**, who was Maldonado's drill instructor for **Class 40-60, Aviation Officer Candidates School, NAS Pensacola, Fla. Monteleone retired as a sergeant major**, and his last known duty station was **MCLB Albany, Ga.**

- Jim Westhoff, (302) 943-3589, jwesthoff1021@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who knew **PFC Elmer L. FAULKNER Jr., KIA at Khe Sanh, RVN, June 18, 1968**, while serving with **Co A, 3d Engineer Bn, 3dMarDiv, attached to 3d Bn, 4th Marines**.

- Henry M. Stevens, 5632 N.W. 25th Loop, Ocala, FL 34482, (352) 622-9078, who served with the **1st Sep Eng Bn in Tientsin, China, 1945**, to hear from anyone who may know the whereabouts of, or have information on, a **Samurai sword that was taken from Stevens' bunk**.

- Marine veteran John N. Survilla, 65 Williams St., Edwardsville, PA 18704, to hear from **"BOB," Plt 178, Parris Island, 1964**.

Wanted

Readers are cautioned to be wary of sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered.

- Former Sgt Phil Schantz, 4045 Primrose Dr., Allentown, PA 18104, phil307@ptd.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 62, Parris Island, 1955**.

- Craig O'Rourke, (508) 333-3744, craigdoc34@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 350, Parris Island, 1967**.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

- Marine veteran G. A. Schmitt, (850) 478-0880, big747@att.net, has the following books for sale: **"Tarawa: The Story of a Battle," by Robert Sherrod, 1944;** **"Utmost Savagery: The Three Days of Tarawa," by Joseph H. Alexander and Edwin H. Simmons;** **"76 Hours: The Invasion of Tarawa," by Eric Hammel;** and **"Line of Departure: Tarawa," by Martin Russ.**



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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.

Korea, 1950-53

We've come together under one flag,
And its name is United Nations.
We're here in the "Land of the Morning Calm"
To stop an aggressor nation.

From all four corners of this world
We have gathered to stop the foe,
Under a grueling sun and incessant dust,
And in winter's ice-cold snow.

We've soldiered the life of a Marine
In one of the world's coldest places,
Where brutal Manchurian winds race down,
And sting our frozen faces.

We have weathered winter storms,
And have beaten a formidable enemy,
But a truce has denied us what we want
And that is ... a convincing victory.

Our sacrifices have not been in vain,
The South Koreans know all is well,
Their precious freedom has been won;
We have conquered our time in hell.
Sgt Robert Ortega, USMC (Ret)

A Hero Comes Home

There he stands so quietly
In this sacred hallowed place—
Stands so tall and brave
While tears mar his sweet face.

His daddy is a hero now;
Everybody knows his name.
But now it's just him and mom,
And nothing will ever be the same.

Twenty-one guns bark a solemn salute;
The sound lingers on the morning air.
Oh how he wishes in his heart,
His daddy could be here.

Childhood should be a special time:
Football games and teddy bears,
Bedtime stories and nursery rhymes
And a daddy who's always there.

The war had taken him away,
Across an ocean far and wide—
Where in that war-torn land
His brave Marine fought and died.

Fellow Marines brought him home
To his heartbroken family yesterday.
The lad knows life will never be the same—
No matter what these Marines may say.
Former LCpl Paula K. "Sunny" Barnhart

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We do! We will! We can, sir!
We are "the ties that bind."

Our Corps is strong and steady,
To keep our country free.
We leathernecks are ready,
And ever we will be!

Former Cpl Chuck Parnell

The Sleeping Marine

The sleeping Marine, may his dreams be sweet.
He's earned the right to a peaceful sleep.
Never once did he consider retreat.
Never once went he down in defeat.

Now the battle is up to God.
The Marine is nearly a sleeping clod.
His commander has given the approving nod.
The Marine lies down as part of the sod.

What part of the gift is misunderstood?
The Marine has given all that he could.
His life is given for his friends and the good.
He rests in the heroes' brotherhood.

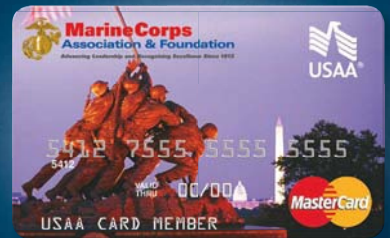
Marine veteran J. Charles Cripps





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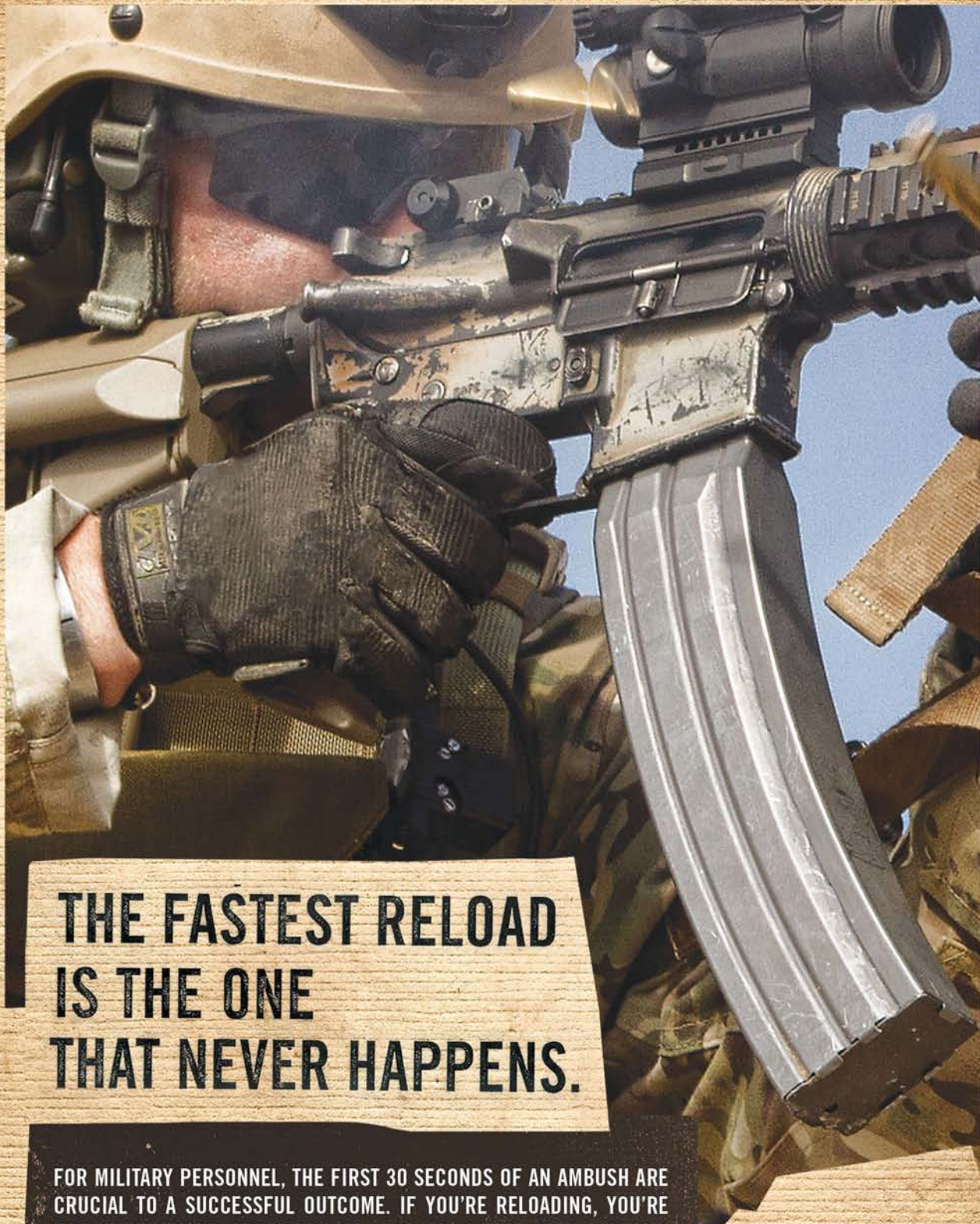
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