

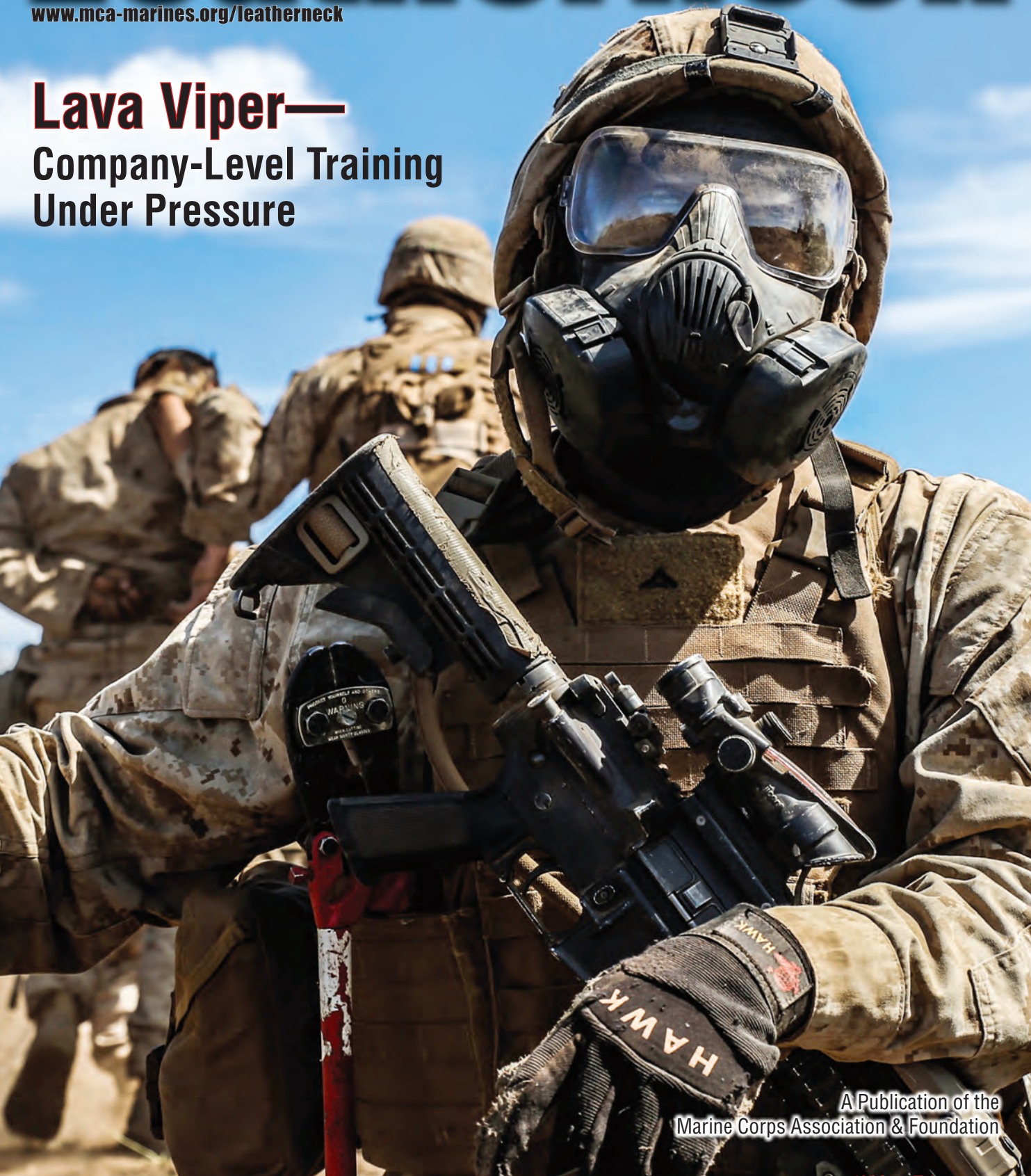
JANUARY 2016

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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Lava Viper— Company-Level Training Under Pressure



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COVER: Leathernecks with Company K, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment conduct some of their predeployment training using their gas masks, Nov. 4, 2015, at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii. The exercise, dubbed Lava Viper, provided an opportunity for various movements, live-fire and tactical training. See “In Every Clime and Place,” beginning on page 8, for the story. Photo by LCpl Harley Thomas, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

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

I am an 84-year-old Marine and long subscriber to *Leatherneck*. I joined the Marines in 1949. I went through boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif. I was discharged and recalled to active duty in 1950 when the Korean War started. I served in Korea from April 3, 1951, to April 10, 1952, and was discharged in May of 1953.

In all these years I have never written to *Leatherneck*, but I have just had a great experience that I would like to share and to encourage anyone who is presented with a similar opportunity to certainly take advantage of it.

On Aug. 28, 2015, I was fortunate to attend a graduation at MCRD San Diego. One of the graduating Marines was Private James C. Woody, my grandson. He was inducted on June 1, 2015, exactly 66 years from the date I was inducted in 1949.

Words cannot describe the emotions I felt that day. Obviously, I was very proud of my grandson, but also proud of the Marine Corps. It takes a lot of dedicated effort from the drill instructors to company commanders to affect the lives of a bunch of young men in such a positive manner. I believe the Marine Corps is as good as ever!

Sgt Harold L. Woody
Sherman, Texas

Tarawa Casualty Figures

As a student of the war in the Pacific, I read with great interest Don DeNevi's review of "Tanks in Hell" [October 2015]. Noting that he listed Marines killed in action [at Tarawa] as 1,696 and knowing that various accounts list the number at close to 1,000, I did a little research. The numbers he cites are from Wikipedia and are as follows: total U.S. casualties—1,696 killed, 2,101 wounded; U.S. Marine Corps—1,009 killed, 2,101 wounded; U.S. Navy—USS *Liscome Bay* (CVE-56) sunk

on Nov. 23, 1943, with 687 killed.

Liscome Bay was torpedoed off Makin Island.

SSgt R.L. Wenham
USMC, 1952-60
Hoquiam, Wash.

• *According to the late Colonel Joseph H. Alexander, who wrote "Across the Reef: The Marine Assault of Tarawa," one of the pamphlets in the "Marines in World War II Commemorative Series," "The final casualty figures for the Second Marine Division in Operation Galvanic [Tarawa] were 997 Marines and 30 sailors (organic medical personnel) dead; 88 Marines missing and presumed dead; and 2,233 Marines and 59 sailors wounded. Total casualties: 3,407."—Sound Off Ed.*

Air-Dropped Tootsie Rolls For Marines in North Korea

Over the course of 17 days, Marines fighting at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War put out a call for "Tootsie Rolls," their code for 60 mm mortar rounds. When supplies were finally air-dropped to them on the ground, they opened the crates to find ... candy. Thousands of actual Tootsie Rolls.

The Marines were surrounded and outnumbered by Chinese and North Korean troops as much as 10-to-1. Temperatures fell as low as 30 to 40 degrees below zero; jeep batteries cracked, weapons wouldn't cycle, and foul weather inhibited resupply missions. You might imagine how pissed off the Marines were to find candy where their mortar rounds should have been, and you'd be wrong. Since the bitter cold also froze the Marines' C-rations, Tootsie Rolls became an easy source of calories. The small chocolates also were easy to warm up and reform, so the Marines would use them to plug bullet holes in jeeps, barrels, and other materiel. The candies would quickly freeze solid again, and the materiel was ready for use.

The Tootsie Rolls absolutely reinvigorated the First Marine Division. Marines are known for their ability to "make do,"

and the Tootsie Roll airdrop was no exception. People's Republic of China Chairman Mao Zedong ordered the complete annihilation of the Marines at Chosin, but like Popeye the Sailor and his spinach, United States Marines fueled by small candies wiped the frozen Siberian tundra with thousands of Chinese Communists. To this day, when the Chosin Few have reunions, the Tootsie Roll company sends boxes to them, wherever they are.

Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret)
5th Marines, 1stMarDiv
Chosin Reservoir
Annandale, Va.

The "First Salute" To Army Officer Grandson

This is a general question. As I remember, we Marines do not wear our covers indoors unless under arms or wearing a duty belt. Thus we do not salute indoors as we only salute when covered.

Here is my quandary. My grandson has asked me to be his "First Salute" when he graduates from Reserve Officers' Training Corps. I find this to be a great honor and said yes. The ceremony will be indoors. Are there any provisions within the regulations to cover for the few minutes it will take to render the proper salute? I'm not sure as to any special allowances that may be made.

Ron Henderson
Rutland, Vt.

• *"When in Rome, do as the Romans do." I am sure you have let the young man know how proud and honored you are. And let him know that Marines do not as a rule salute indoors. However, because he has honored you, you can return his salute with pride, respect and gratitude. Congratulations, Granddad! Pass our best to your newly minted U.S. Army lieutenant.—Sound Off Ed.*

Bar Brawl to Help a Fellow Marine

I used to stop at a local bar to get a cold brew on the way home. There was always this guy, a big dude, like a linebacker,



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President/CEO, Marine Corps Association & Foundation

MajGen Edward G. Usher III, USMC (Ret)

Vice President/COO, Marine Corps Association & Foundation

Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret)

Publisher

Col John A. Keenan, USMC (Ret)

Editor

Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

Deputy Editor

Nancy Lee White Hoffman

Associate Editor

MG/Sgt Renaldo R. Keene, USMC (Ret)

Copy Editor

Nancy S. Lichtman

Staff Writer

Sara W. Bock

Editorial/Production Coordinator

Patricia Everett

Art Director

Jason Monroe

Advertising Director

G. Scott Dinkel

(718) 715-1361

EDITORIAL OFFICES

Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134

Phone: (703) 640-6161, Ext. 115

Toll-Free: (800) 336-0291

Fax: (703) 640-0823

E-mail: leatherneck@mca-marines.org

Web page: www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

Editorial Offices: 115 • Business Office: 121

Circulation/Member Services

Phone: toll-free (866) 622-1775

E-mail: mca@mca-marines.org

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quietly drinking alone. One day he started to talk to me.

We were the only ones at the bar. He ordered a plate of baked clams and shared it with me. I offered to pay and he said it was on him. We shared a lot of baked clams over the coming weeks. One day he went into a rage, and the bartender called the man's mother who came right over and took him home. I learned that he had a metal plate in his head from Vietnam.

One day I entered the bar, and three guys were taunting him. He got confused, got up and told one guy he was going to rip his head off. The guy grabbed a bar stool and backed up in front of me, not knowing I was behind him. The other two guys tried to warn him. That clown had the bar stool over his head, and as he moved forward, I grabbed the stool and yanked it back. He went backwards and hit the deck. The other two picked up their friend and ran out of the bar.

We had a few beers and I left a while later. I lost touch with this guy, but it taught me how people are screwed up—especially those three punks picking on the poor guy who already had enough problems to cope with.

I still like to kick ass, but I am not in my 20s anymore. Peace, bro, and Semper Fi.

Bruce Bender

Bayside, N.Y.

Hearing Loss From Walking Under A 155—That'll Do It

A "Sound Off" letter in the October 2015 issue reminded me of a personal hearing loss situation I encountered while in Korea in early 1953.

While serving as a crew member of a 155 mm howitzer, I walked under the muzzle of a howitzer as it went off. Although the result was uncomfortable, I did not go to sick bay and thought nothing more of it.

Over the years, my hearing loss, acknowledged by a Department of Veterans Affairs audio examination, became more apparent, so I filed a claim for service-connected hearing loss. It was subsequently rejected because of "no medical evidence." Incidentally, ear protection was not issued to artillery crewmen during my tour. I assume I may be eligible for VA hearing aids at some point.

Joe Gabrielli

USMC, 1952-55

Lebanon, Pa.

Disability and Disabled, The VA Has the Answers

Several of my friends and I are all Vietnam veterans and were talking about post-traumatic stress disorder. My one friend who has a 60 percent rating for

PTSD brought up the subject of whether he is considered a disabled vet and if he qualifies for PX privileges.

I don't believe he is, due to the fact he wasn't physically wounded or hurt while on active duty.

My father-in-law, who was in the Navy during the Korean War, lost an eye while on active duty and was medically retired. He received a 60 percent disability rating. He received an identification card that allowed him all rights of a retired serviceman and was considered a disabled vet.

I feel my father-in-law deserved what he received, but my friend, although he suffers from the war, does not rate any benefits other than medical care.

Sgt Jim Biegger

USMC, 1964-67

Maxwell, Iowa

• There's only one way to find out; contact your local VA. In spite of what you may have heard or believe, there are people there who want to and can help you find answers. Don't walk away from care you really need because of scuttlebutt and an unwillingness to try.—Sound Off Ed.

"Kowalker's Calling" Has Special Meaning to This Reader

I read with great interest the November 2015 article "Kowalker's Calling: Mission to Honor Veterans Brings Healing for All," by Christopher Hoffman. I was an attendee at the wake for Korean War veteran Edward A. Clapp Sr. In 1951, Clapp was a member of 3d Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. He was a longtime friend of mine. Ed Clapp was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during a June 17 engagement by the 3d Plt on Hill 907, Inje, Korea, and also was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds sustained.

Sgt Donald L. Sondergaard

B-1-5

Long Beach, N.Y.

The M16 Rifle's Performance In Vietnam

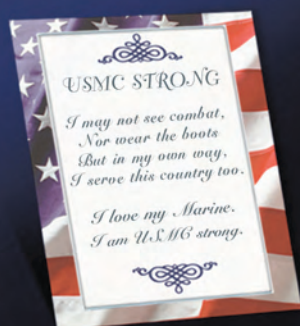
In the October 2015 article "Deadliest Weapon in the World: Parris Island Rifle Range Has Long History of Making 'Every Marine a Rifleman,'" the authors blame the rifleman's lack of care for his weapon when discussing the M16's early poor performance in Vietnam. The idea that Marines would abandon *en masse* their ethos of keeping their weapons clean (as taught in boot camp and Quantico) is ridiculous. By the time I got to Vietnam in the summer of 1967, Marines found that even when sparkling clean, the rifle was unreliable. Much research has been

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Marine Corps Gazette "Change of Command"

The December 2015 issue of *Leatherneck's* sister publication, the *Marine Corps Gazette*, was the last one with Colonel John Keenan as the editor. Since 2006, Col Keenan has been at the helm of the Corps' professional journal and has done a masterful job of shepherding the discussion and debate on numerous issues and challenges facing the Corps during one of the most tumultuous periods in its history.

Irregular warfare; "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; women in the infantry; downsizing the Corps; manning, training and equipping the Corps well into the 21st century; and fighting in both Afghanistan and Iraq are just a few of the many topics discussed on the pages of the *Gazette* during Col Keenan's tenure. His dedicated efforts have ensured that the magazine has maintained its exceptional reputation and profound influence on countless Marines.

A career infantry officer, Col Keenan graduated from Manhattan College, or "The Harvard of the Bronx" as he calls it, in 1972 and spent the next 30 years in uniform. Highlights of his career include commanding Marine Corps Security Forces Company, Naples, Italy; 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment and Third Marine Regiment. He also has served as an instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy and as the director of Amphibious Warfare School. He retired from the Marine Corps on July 1, 2003. A devoted family man, Col Keenan



Col John Keenan, USMC (Ret)

RON LUNN

is looking forward to spending more time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Col Christopher Woodbridge, USMC (Ret) will be replacing Col Keenan as *Gazette's* editor. Another native of New York City, Col Woodbridge has followed in Col Keenan's footsteps previously; he commanded 1/7 10 years after Col Keenan. Col Woodbridge, or "Woody" as he is known throughout the Corps, participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and deployed twice to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as the director of the School of Advanced Warfighting; Director, Plans Operations and Policy, Training and Education Command; and Deputy Director, Capabilities

Development Directorate. He retired from the Marine Corps on Nov. 1, 2015.

To Col Keenan, *Leatherneck* wishes you Fair Winds and Following Seas:



Col Christopher Woodbridge, USMC (Ret)

RON LUNN

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
And the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Welcome aboard,
Col Woodbridge!

done on the M16's problems and it is clear: the initial weapon was seriously flawed, poorly field-tested and, to make matters worse, supplied with a propellant likely to cause malfunctions. A single true story sums up the situation back then:

I was a second lieutenant hanging out on the hangar deck of the landing platform helicopter ship USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10) when two civilians showed up. Their job was to investigate all the rifle stoppages that 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment was having. On the hangar deck were several crates of never-fired M16s. At random, the civilians broke out rifles and fired them in the semi-automatic mode. They quickly jammed. Surprise showed and the men chose two rifles from another crate and fired them. They jammed. Now, deeply troubled, the men fired rifle after rifle from crate to crate with the same bad results. Sometimes the rifles malfunctioned on the first shot. The civilians were speechless.

I recommend to everyone the book "The Gun," written by C.J. Chivers, who was a Marine Corps officer. Although the book is about the AK47 rifle, the history

of the M16 is covered also. Chivers did his military service long after the war had ended. He later became a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer for *The New York Times*, and his writing is based on extensive and accurate research.

The authors of the October article showed contempt for those who went before them with the following words: "Many stoppages and malfunctions began to paint the weapon as inferior. Some Vietnam veterans always will hold this view [that it was the rifle and not themselves to blame] as a result." The plain truth is that the M16 debacle was a result of a failure at the highest levels, from the Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to the heads of each service. The rifleman was the only victim.

Rowland Creitz
Stow, Maine

• *The authors did not blame the riflemen's lack of care for the weapon. They did say, "The lack of maintenance training began to have an effect in Vietnam," which it did, as many Marines received the M16*

in country with a minimum amount of instruction. However, there were real problems with the rifle, especially its tendency to fail to extract the spent round from the chamber. Documented accounts of dead Americans next to their disassembled rifles eventually led to a Congressional investigation.

According to a Marine rifleman interviewed by Time magazine June 9, 1967, "We left with 72 men in our platoon and came back with 19. Believe it or not, you know what killed most of us? Our own rifle. ... Practically every one of our dead was found with his (M16) torn down next to him where he had been trying to fix it."

However, by early 1967, an improved version was authorized. The new rifle had a chrome-lined barrel to eliminate corrosion and jammed cartridges, as well as other minor modifications. New cleaning kits, powder solvents and lubricants also were issued. Intensive training programs in weapons cleaning were instituted. Reliability problems diminished and U.S. Marines and soldiers in Vietnam began to accept and rely on

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the M16A1 rifle, yet, as with most sullied reputations, the rifle continued to suffer from stories of its initial combat failures for some time to come.—Sound Off Ed.

Kudos for “Marines in Australia”

“Marines in Australia, 1943: ‘Bring Your Lads Here. We Will Show You and Your Men Every Hospitality,’ ” by Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret), in the November 2015 issue was brilliant and fascinating. I’ve read a number of books, both nonfiction and fiction, on Guadalcanal, and none have covered the aftereffects that the Marines had to go through after they were relieved from the ‘Canal. Maj Bevilacqua brought out great vivid detail.

Cpl Dennis Kavanagh, USMCR
1956-62
Sausalito, Calif.

Between the Wars, It Was Old Corps Hard

I am writing this because I have either missed it, or there has been nothing written about one period of the Corps’ history. I lived through it. It was 1948 and up to May of 1950.

Funding was extremely short. I was in Signal Company, Headquarters Battalion. My section was authorized 37 Marines.

We could muster 13 at times. The big problem, along with funding issues, was a bunch of Army generals with a bunch of politicians, and possibly President Harry S. Truman, were trying to do away with the Corps. They tried to convince the country that the Corps was superfluous.

Money was short. Everything was at its lowest ebb except discipline and pride. We stood tall. At Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and I presume throughout the Corps, life was one of strict military environment and staunch discipline. Pay was \$50 per month for privates, \$54 for privates first class, \$60 for corporals, \$74 for sergeants and \$87 for staff sergeants. We got \$5 extra per month for firing expert with the rifle and \$3 for sharpshooter. You were not eligible for promotion if you did not qualify annually with the rifle. Rifle qualification was required of all Marines.

In my outfit all Marines sergeant and below kept a made-up bunk in the barracks plus a locker with a complete set of issued clothing and 782 gear. Military clothing inspections (laid out on your bunk) were prevalent and usually on a whim. Each morning at 0530 there was roll call and 30 minutes of calisthenics. Everyone, sergeant and below, made the muster.

It was tough if you were married and

[continued on page 66]

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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



SGT AUSTIN LONG, USMC

A U.S. Marine with the 26th MEU, left, secures the beachhead with Portuguese Marines at Pinheiro da Cruz, Praia da Raposa Beach, Portugal, during the NATO-led Exercise Trident Juncture 15 on Oct. 20, 2015.

■ PRAIA DA RAPOSA BEACH, PORTUGAL

Leathernecks, Portuguese Marines Storm the Beach During NATO Exercise

U.S. Marines with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, deployed in USS *Arlington* (LPD-24), completed an amphibious beach assault training exercise alongside Portuguese Marines at Pinheiro da Cruz, Praia da Raposa Beach, Portugal, during Trident Juncture 15 on Oct. 20, 2015.

Trident Juncture 15 was the largest NATO-led exercise in 20 years. The exercise aims to increase interoperability and partner relations and improve war-fighting capabilities by focusing on maritime force readiness in support of European and African commands.

“Participating in an exercise of this scale is important for the Navy and Marine Corps because it demonstrates our nation’s commitment to NATO and our collective defense responsibilities,” said Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Coleman. “It also allows us to strengthen partnerships and improve our ability to operate and cooperate with allied militaries. This exercise is an opportunity to see how our tactical training and preparation has

strategic importance. Participating in a large exercise like Trident Juncture demonstrates our nation’s commitment to securing important interests.”

U.S. Marines and their Portuguese counterparts, along with a variety of armored military vehicles, embarked on two landing craft, air cushion (LCACs) from USS *Arlington* approximately 3 miles from the beach prior to the assault. The integrated forces landed on the beach to assault the beachhead, displaying the effectiveness of working together to accomplish a common goal.

“This is a great opportunity to show that we are able to operate together,” said LtCol Eric Hamstra, the lead Strike Force NATO planner. “Everything has been great, and the U.S. and Portuguese Marines have worked well together. I think this demonstrates our resolve to stick together across 28 countries.”

Once on the beach, U.S. and Portuguese Marines worked together to secure the beachhead and maintain security, while U.S. Marines drove vehicles from the LCACs inland.

The Marines then advanced forward with the vehicles to establish a forward command operations center and logistics

staging area to allow for quicker coordination during following training exercises.

“This exercise demonstrates that the U.S. Marine Corps can operate anywhere in the world, and it demonstrates that we can operate with the Portuguese Marines. If we can do that here, then we can do that with them anywhere in the world,” said Hamstra. “NATO is able to demonstrate its flexibility, NATO is reliable, and NATO is dependable. At the tactical level, where Portuguese Marines and U.S. Marines work together, our equipment is interoperable, and our tactics, techniques and procedures all work very well together. All the expectations were met and seen during the beach assault exercise.”

By securing the maritime environment, NATO allies can safeguard regional and global economic, energy and food security. NATO aims to help African and European nations build their capacity and capability to protect their waters, security and commerce.

Exercises of this scale take a considerable amount of time to plan. Planning for Trident Juncture 15 began approximately two years prior to the actual start of the exercise and involved approximately 36 nations with five nations observing the process. A year ago, Strike Force NATO became involved and chose to utilize the 26th MEU and *Kearsarge* Amphibious Ready Group, said Hamstra.

“The overall exercise has about 35,000-plus forces, 200 aircraft, 64 ships and eight submarines participating from all NATO nations,” said Hamstra. “These nations are completing various exercises in Italy, Spain and Portugal.”

Trident Juncture is a two-part exercise. The first part of the exercise tested command and control of coalition forces and certified Joint Force Command Blumsom and all its components as the NATO Response Force, which is a high-readiness quick response force that draws from all of the allied nations. The second part included the amphibious assault carried out by the U.S. and Portuguese Marines.

Embarked in the *Kearsarge* Amphibious Ready Group, the 26th MEU deployed to maintain regional security in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

SGT Austin Long, USMC

■ POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, HAWAII

“Kilo” Co Rushes, “Eliminates” Enemy During Predeployment Training

Leathernecks with Company K, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment gathered to perform platoon attacks in order to locate and eliminate enemy objectives during their annual Exercise Lava Viper, Nov. 4, 2015. Lava Viper, a staple in the battalion's predeployment training, was held at Range 10, Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii.

The purpose of the training was to provide Marines within the company an opportunity to utilize various tactics and weapons while organizing within the platoons to accomplish a common mission.

“We conducted a platoon reinforced attack on one squad objective and two platoon objectives,” said Second Lieutenant Shane Quinn, the platoon commander for 3d Platoon, “Kilo” Co, 3/3. “We also conducted a breach into an enemy trench and underwent an attack by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear Marines, in which we had to go through our standard operating procedures in case of such an attack.”

According to Quinn, the platoon attacks were important on every level, from the individual Marine to the entire company.



LCPL HARLEY THOMAS, USMC

Leathernecks with K/3/3 provide cover fire for Marines charging a hill during Lava Viper, an exercise conducted as part of the unit's predeployment training at Range 10, Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, Nov. 4, 2015.

“On the company level, this provided an opportunity for the company commander to assess his platoons for the first time, as this is our first live-range,” Quinn said. “For the platoons and squads, we got to see how well each Marine works with one another, and we got to see every indi-

vidual's strengths and weaknesses.”

Lance Corporal Jordan Kirchner, a squad leader with 3d Plt, K/3/3, said the training was important because it gave the Marines within the company a chance to go through and attack while operating in a high-stress environment.

A Marine with K/3/3 observes as Marines experience the effects of CS gas in trenches during Exercise Lava Viper, which provided the Hawaii-based Marines with the opportunity to conduct tactical training before participating in a battalion-level Integrated Training Exercise. (Photo by LCpl Harley Thomas, USMC)



“Under the constant threat of being gassed or having rounds continuously move downrange around us, we’re better able to understand the stress we might encounter while conducting attacks in a combat environment,” said Kirchner. “By fighting through that stress, I think we all feel more comfortable accomplishing a mission in that kind of scenario.”

Quinn said the Marines would use that information and build from this training as they move forward into their Integrated Training Exercise and eventual deployment. He said one of the greatest benefits of the training was that the Marines were able to employ their various weapon systems in order to accomplish the mission.

“From assaultmen with the shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon to the infantrymen with the light antitank weapon, we got to see the effect of our combined arms,” he said. “This allowed us to better see what the Marine Corps is capable of bringing to the enemy.”

For more than a week, the company conducted individual and squad attacks, leading up to the reinforced platoon attack. Quinn said that by using each of the company’s assets, the Marines were able to see how well the company functioned as a whole and how each individual asset added to the mission.

“The squad leaders have been rehearsing assaults, tactics and movement, and ultimately, all that practice really paid off for them,” he said. “We were successful in destroying the ‘enemy,’ and they [the Marines] performed better than I could have hoped for. These guys worked hard and didn’t simply see this as a fluke. They didn’t have the mindset that they would just show up and get it over with. They took this training very seriously and carried out the mission the best they could.”

Kirchner said coming into the training he expected his squad to be able to perform without any casualties or faults on their end and said he was happy with what the Marines accomplished.

“The Marines in the company knew what they were doing,” he said. “Because we had planned it all accordingly, they were able to carry out their tasks to the best of their ability. Every training event should be like that. I want these guys to continue to keep putting out and learn as much as they can so that we can perform attacks much larger than this and be more efficient in reaching the goals we set out to accomplish.”

Quinn said he was very impressed with the Marines’ performance during the attacks and hopes they can continue to function at such a high level.



Sgt Edward Hooper, an electrician with Engineer Co, CLB-1, currently deployed with SPMAGTF-CR-CC, attaches chains from the hook block of a MAC-50 crane onto a T-WALL at Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, Oct. 25, 2015. The 12,000-lb. barriers are placed around key structures to provide protection from shrapnel.

“I just want to say, ‘Well done,’ ” he said. “They did a phenomenal job, and although we have a lot of work left to prepare for deployment, I have faith that they can keep the momentum going to be the most lethal company out there.”

LCpl Harley Thomas, USMC

■ AL TAQADDUM, IRAQ

Marine Engineers Help Improve Living Conditions at Camp Manion

As the efforts of the Task Force Al Taqaddum (TFTQ) advise and assist team continue, so does the sustainment, improvement and growth of Camp Manion at Al Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq. The task force is composed of U.S. Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen, all in support of Combined Joint Task Force–Operation Inherent Resolve.

Coalition personnel have re-established presence in the camp since June 2015 to advise and assist the Iraqi Security Forces.

“The engineers out here have been involved in everything in the camp from its inception—from its containment to its expansion,” said Captain Samuel Modica, USMC, the task force engineer and force protection officer for TFTQ.

The mission to maintain, expand and improve living conditions is not an easy one. But Marines with Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response-Central Command have worked around the clock since they arrived in early October 2015 to carry on

the development efforts.

An essential part of the deployment strategy is the protection of living and work areas.

“We’ve recently moved out of the force provider tent, which is a soft structure, into the Alaskan-style tent, which has the Alaskan-style barriers around them,” said Modica.

Alaskan barriers, also known as T-WALLs, are 16-foot concrete structures that are steel-reinforced to provide protection from shrapnel.

“A big part of that has been the actual movement of those barriers and putting them around the key structures of the camp, such as the living areas and the work areas,” said Modica. “For example, we just recently completed the base defense operation center.”

Although the transfer of concrete and steel barriers can be a time-consuming task, the Marines of CLB-1’s logistics combat element are up for the job.

The engineers, led by Sergeant Gregory Sgarlata, USMC, an engineer equipment operator, average a daily move of 35 T-WALLs from outside the campsite into the camp. Equipped with one MAC-50 all-terrain crane, a palletized loading system and a Skytrak 10k ATLAS forklift, the team collects, transfers and stands up the barriers, which weigh approximately 12,000 pounds each.

“It takes two people to operate the crane—one rigger and one operator [in addition to] the extra support for the

forklift, the motor [transport] operator and his aide driver,” said Sgarlata. “There’s a big logistical support coming in from all the engineer community and motor transport.”

Along with moving slices of steel-reinforced concrete, the engineer community at Camp Manion also can support missions involving utilities around the site.

“[Some engineers and electricians] are working on all the power grids around the camp and rewiring everything and putting up generators everywhere,” added Sgarlata.

Sgarlata also said that depending on gear availability, the engineers are capable of working on horizontal construction too, such as cleaning up roads and expanding the camp.

By training, enabling and increasing the capacity of Iraqi Security Forces, SPMAGTF-CR-CC continues its commitment to support Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve.

Sgt Ricardo Hurtado, USMC

■ TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF. Vehicle Recovery Team Put to the Test During Live-Fire Exercise

Marines with Transportation Services Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2 and 2d Law Enforcement Battalion put their vehicle recovery team to the test during a live-fire exercise as part of In-



SGT TIA NAGLE, USMC

Above: Marines with Transportation Services Co, CLB-2 adjust the chains on a “downed” vehicle during a live-fire exercise as part of ITX 1-16, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 4, 2015.



An overturned vehicle, left, serves as a teaching tool for leathernecks in Transportation Services Co, CLB-2, during ITX 1-16, Nov. 4, 2015. The training tested the Marines’ ability to recover a vehicle while engaging the enemy in a live-fire scenario.

SGT TIA NAGLE, USMC

tegrated Training Exercise (ITX) 1-16 at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 4, 2015.

The purpose of the range was to exercise vehicle recovery operations while providing 360-degree security in a live-fire setting.

“As military police, convoy security and route security are some of our specific missions. When we arrived on scene, we set up a 360-degree cordon, allowing the wrecker recovery team to freely move in and recover the downed vehicle,” said First Lieutenant Noah Tobias, platoon commander for 1st Platoon, “Charlie” Co, 2d LEB.

CLB-2 had a chance to practice its recovery skills at the beginning of ITX in a more controlled environment before moving on to the live-fire culminating event.

“I think it’s great out here,” said Corporal Nathan Clifford, a vehicle recovery operator with CLB-2, adding that they gained a vast amount of knowledge and learned a variety of recovery methods.

CLB-2 is the logistics combat element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force, responsible for supplying necessary recovery and sustainment abilities. Military police from 2d LEB aided that mission during ITX by acting as a security element for CLB-2.

“These missions go back to our legacy mission skillsets of route security, route reconnaissance and overall area security,” said 1stLt Tobias. “This training allows us to go out and let the wreckers do their job while we provide security. During the mission, they simulated our team taking contact, and we effectively suppressed the targets so the wrecker crews could just focus on their job and know that we have their backs. So it’s a great training asset,” he added.

Sgt Tia Nagle, USMC

■ SEKONDI, GHANA

Marines, Sailors Teach Tactical Intelligence Skills

U.S. servicemembers completed a Tactical Intelligence Support course to the Ghanaian navy’s Maritime Operations Centers (MOCs) at Ghana’s Navy Trade Training School in Sekondi, Ghana, Oct. 12-23, 2015.

The two-week introduction to intelligence was the first of four planned “train-the-trainer” courses for fiscal year 2016.

U.S. Marines and sailors taught 16 Ghanaian sailors, along with two senior members of Ghana’s Marine Police Unit of the Ghana Police Service.

The course was designed as both an introduction to the intelligence process, particularly in support of their MOCs, and



Capt Jeremy Phillips, left, the intelligence security cooperation officer with SPMAGTF-CR-AF, discusses intelligence-gathering methods with members of the Ghanaian navy at their Trade Training School in Sekondi, Ghana, Oct. 19, 2015. The U.S. Marines helped teach a two-week introduction to intelligence course, designed to prepare the Ghanaian students to become intelligence instructors.

to prepare the students to become intelligence instructors for the Ghanaian navy’s internal intelligence courses.

“It is envisioned that the knowledge from this course, when put to use, will help improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the Ghana navy,” said Lieutenant Commander Kwasi Kyerematen Donkor, the commanding officer of Ghana’s Navy Trade Training.

Leathernecks with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa and Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa focused on tactical collections such as patrol briefing, debriefing, site exploitation and intelligence reporting during the first week of the course.

The second week consisted of students teaching the instructors the material that was covered during the first week of courses. Students focused on creating lesson plans and engaging students by using personal stories and practical applications.

Combined Task Force-68, led by intelligence specialists Chief Petty Officer Torivio Hall, USN and Petty Officer First Class Brett Pippen, USN, focused on understanding and utilizing multiple sources of intelligence, matching it to an indicators and warning system and then more effectively utilizing that intelligence in support of Ghana’s current MOC processes.

“We are all from different departments, and as such, information flow in the area of intelligence will [now] be easier,” said Lieutenant Michael Agyare Asiamah, Ghana navy, a student-officer taking part in the training. “Training our personnel in

the departments also will be much easier. Intelligence gathering within the Ghana navy will be greatly improved after this course.”

The Africa Partnership Station-supported training is the second joint intelligence engagement in West Africa. Further collaboration in intelligence security cooperation between U.S. Marine Forces Africa and SPMAGTF-CR-AF, U.S. Naval Forces Africa, and CTF-68 will occur in other West African maritime nations throughout 2016. The outcomes of those skills-development efforts will be tested during exercises like Obangame Express.

By building that partnership with the United States, Ghana can continue to engage in collaborative missions in support of U.S. objectives and interests in the region, said Captain Jeremy Phillips, the intelligence security cooperation officer with SPMAGTF-CR-AF.

“This event is slightly different because we are establishing an instructor cadre and helping them create a curriculum,” said Phillips. “The Ghanaian navy will use this to teach the rest of their intelligence sailors how to become effective collectors and analysts in the near future. We are impressed with the quality and dedication of the Ghanaian officers and sailors that will make up their instructor cadre, and we are looking forward to continuing this partnership over the next year.”

Maj Oliver C. Talbott, USMC
and Capt Jeremy A. Phillips, USMC



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Against All Odds

The Marine Defense of Wake Island December 8-23, 1941

Part I

Story by Dick Camp
Photos courtesy of the author

Wake Island is a remote surf-swept coral atoll located in the Western Pacific 2,000 miles west of Pearl Harbor. The atoll, shaped like a “V,” consists of two small islets, Peale and Wilkes, and the main island, Wake. Together they comprise approximately 2,600 acres of sand and coral. The atoll is surrounded by a coral reef varying from 30 to 1,000 yards in width. Its highest point is only 21 feet above sea level.

Technical Sergeant Charles A. Holmes opined, “One decent tidal wave and we will all be food for the sharks.” Lieutenant Colonel Walter L.J. Bayler wrote in “Last Man off Wake,” “Wake is by no means the bare sandy spit one thinks of when atolls are mentioned. Considerable areas of it are covered by woods, and though the trees are small, their thick foliage and the scrubby tangled underbrush provided admirable cover. ... Walking in these jungles was difficult but not impossible.”

Wake Island Defenders

By accident of geography, the barren, spit-kit atoll achieved significance when it became a valuable advance air base and

an intermediate station on the air route to the Far East. Pan American Airways installed a seaplane base and hotel on Peale Island as an overnight stop for its trans-Pacific flights. In 1940, Congress authorized funding to develop submarine and air bases on Wake. On Aug. 19, 1941, the first contingent of the 1st Defense Battalion—six officers and 173 enlisted men—arrived aboard the World War I “Hog Island” transport USS *Regulus* (AK-14) and occupied the abandoned construction workers’ tent camp on Wilkes Island, designated Camp 1.

A few days after the contingent arrived, the first of 1,200 workmen from the Pacific Naval Air Base contractors, under the supervision of N.D. “Dan” Teeters, occupied permanent facilities on Peale Island, designated Camp 2. The workers were assigned to build roads, shops, quarters and air base facilities, but no military defenses. Major James P.S. “Jimmie” Devereux assumed the island command on Oct. 15.

A second draft of Marines—nine officers and 200 enlisted men—from the 1st Defense Bn arrived two weeks later. On Nov. 29, Maj Walter Bayler, a communication expert, and a provisional service detachment of one officer and 47



enlisted Marines—mostly ordnancemen from Marine Aircraft Group 21—arrived aboard USS *Wright* (AV-1). The ship also brought Commander Winfield Scott “Spiv” Cunningham, the new island commander. Devereux retained command of the defense battalion.

Maj Paul A. Putnam’s Marine Fighting Squadron 211’s twelve Grumman Wildcat F4F-3s touched down on Wake’s crushed coral runway on the morning of Dec. 4, after launching from USS *Enterprise*

1st Defense Battalion

The defense battalions were formed in response to the rise of Japanese militarism in the 1930s. The Pacific strategy of 1941 envisioned using Marine defense battalions to protect the key outposts—Wake, Johnston and Palmyra Islands—against air raids, hit-and-run surface attacks, and even minor landings. A typical defense battalion consisted of approximately 1,000 men, 12 3-inch antiaircraft (AA) guns, 18 .50-cal. AA guns, 30 .30-cal. AA guns and six Navy 5-inch guns.

The 1st Defense Battalion was formed in November 1939

at San Diego, Calif., and was deployed to Pearl Harbor in February 1941. Within a month the battalion sent detachments to Johnston Island (March 3), Palmyra (mid-March), Midway (May to July when it was relieved by the 6th Defense Battalion) and Wake. Brigadier General Woodrow M. Kessler remarked in his memoirs, “Unfortunately we were shipped out in increments ... [and] relief groups which made the 1st Defense Battalion a replacement unit. Battery unity was lost.”

—Dick Camp

Wake Atoll, composed of Wake, right, islets Peale, top left, and Wilkes, bottom left, was fortified by the 1st Defense Bn, VMF-211 and approximately 1,200 civilian contractors on Dec. 8, 1941, when Japanese forces commenced bombing, strafing and shelling 2,600 acres of sand and coral. What followed is the stuff of Marine Corps legend.



(CV-6) 200 miles northeast of the atoll. The field was in rough shape. It lacked revetments to shield parked aircraft from attack, the runway was not wide enough for two aircraft to take off at the same time, parking areas were unfinished, and fueling had to be done by hand pumps from 55-gallon drums. The bulk of the aviation fuel was stored in two 25,000-gallon tanks that stood in the open rather than in protected underground storage facilities.

Putnam's pilots were new to their aircraft. They were used to the antiquated F3F biplane and knew little about the Wildcats. None of the pilots had more than 30 hours' flying time in the Wildcats, and they had yet to drop a bomb or fire a gun from the new aircraft. The bombs available on Wake did not fit the F4F's racks and had to be jury-rigged. The new planes had no armor, no self-sealing gas tanks nor IFF (identification, friend or foe) homing devices. Wake itself had no early warning radar.



Maj James P.S. Devereux

Major James P.S. Devereux was born in Cuba and educated in the United States and Switzerland. Devereux enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1923 and was commissioned in 1925. He saw service in the United States (Norfolk, Va., Philadelphia, Pa., Washington, D.C., and Quantico, Va.), sea duty aboard USS *Utah* (BB-31) and abroad (Cuba, Nicaragua and China). He was awarded the Navy Cross for his leadership of the Marines on Wake.

—Dick Camp

To round out the garrison, there were 10 naval officers and 58 enlisted men at the naval air station, one officer and four enlisted men of the Army Air Corps and one sailor off USS *Triton* (SS-201) who was there for medical attention. None of those men had weapons.

War Warning

"International situation indicates you should be on the alert."

—Message from Pearl Harbor

In late November, Devereux received an "imminent danger" warning from

Pearl Harbor. "I received only one official message on this subject [of hostilities] while I was on Wake." In response to the warning, he requested that the civilian workers be diverted to construct defenses. He was turned down two days later.

By dint of hard work and sweat, the defense battalion managed to emplace its weapons but only with minimal protective sandbagging and camouflage. Lieutenant Woodrow M. Kessler (later Brigadier General, retired) wrote, "There was no barbed wire immediately available but that really didn't matter for we would not have been given time to install it. There

were no personnel shelters, not even fox holes. ... It was not until 5 December that I could report that the sandbagging around the perimeter of the guns had been completed."

More importantly, Devereux noted, "We literally did not have half enough Marines to man those six batteries, three 5-inch (two guns each) and three 3-inch antiaircraft batteries (four guns each)." This meant that one 3-inch antiaircraft battery was entirely without personnel, and that the other two batteries could only man three of their four guns—of 12 three-inch guns on the island, only six were manned. Only one 3-inch battery (D) had its full allowance of fire-control equipment; Btry E had a director, but no height-finder and was forced to rely on target-altitude data by telephone from Btry D.

Less than half the minimum personnel were available to man the machine guns, both ground and antiaircraft. There was no radar, either early warning or fire-control, and the searchlight battery did not have its sound-locators to pick up the noise of approaching aircraft. Only the 5-inch seacoast batteries were at or near authorized strengths, and even those, like other units, were bedeviled by unending minor shortages of tools, spare parts and miscellaneous ordnance items.

On Sunday, Dec. 7 (Dec. 6 in Pearl Harbor, Wake being across the international date line), the men on Wake received a rare day off. Kessler wrote, "Had we known what was coming the next day, we would have occupied ourselves differently."

Sound Call "To Arms"

"Monday, Dec. 8 promised to be another calm, pleasant day," Kessler wrote in his diary. "I dressed, shaved and went to breakfast. Walter Bayler penned a note to his wife saying that the island was ... so utterly peaceful!"

At 0530, VMF-211 launched its first patrol of the day, and at dawn, Pan America's *Philippine Clipper*, a Martin M-130

flying boat, took off to finish its run to Singapore. At 0600, Field Music 1C Alvin J. Waronker sounded "Reveille," or something that sounded like it. He was not an accomplished musician; in fact, his calls "were interpreted by the time of day," according to Private First Class Jesse Nowlin. Commander Cunningham and his staff went to breakfast at the Camp 2 mess hall while Waronker struggled with his bugle. Twenty minutes later several Marines from Btry B, 5-inch coastal defense gun drove over to Peale Island's Toki Point to start work.

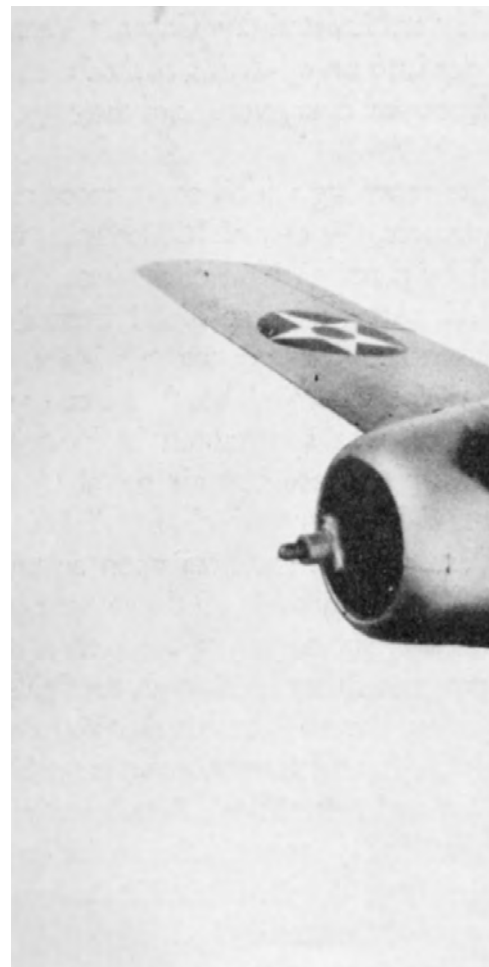
At 0630, Captain Henry S. Wilson, 407th Signal Company, Aviation, checked in with Sergeant Ernest Rogers in the Army K-19 radio van. "I don't believe what I'm hearing," he stammered and then pulled his radio receiver close to the telephone mouthpiece. "SOS SOS Japs attacking Oahu ... this is the real thing ... Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor under attack." Wilson recognized the "fist" of the operator as he pounded out the alarm in Morse code and realized it was no drill. He rushed to notify Devereux. "Captain Wilson burst into my tent with the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked," Devereux recalled. "I sent for the Music [Waronker] on the double ... the bugler ran in. I ordered, 'Sound call "To Arms."'"

Air Raid

"Look! Their wheels are falling off!"

—Unknown Construction Worker

Maj Putnam immediately ordered the squadron to "disperse planes and personnel as much as possible and to maintain all planes in immediate readiness for flight." At 0800, the dawn patrol returned, replaced by Putnam leading the squadron's first war patrol. Ninety minutes later his flight was relieved by Capt Henry T. Elrod's four Wildcats, which separated into two sections, one swinging north and the other flying southwest. The mounting overcast forced the southern section to climb to 13,000 feet.



At 0930 the *Philippine Clipper* returned after being recalled because its route took it too close to Japanese territory. Its first pilot, CAPT J.H. Hamilton, a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve, agreed to use his aircraft to search a 100-mile arc around the island. He was scheduled to take off at 1330, escorted by two VMF-211 Wildcats, piloted by First Lieutenant George A. Graves and Second Lieutenant Robert Conderman.

At 1158 a drifting rain squall passed over the island obscuring an incoming Japanese raid from the airborne patrol and the island's defenders. Twenty-seven Mitsubishi G3M2 Type 96 Attack Bombers swept in through the squall and emerged almost on top of the airstrip. 1stLt William W. Lewis, commanding Btry E at Peacock Point, spotted them just as the Japanese released their bombs. "Look," a nearby construction worker exclaimed, "the wheels dropped off the airplanes!" Within seconds, two of Btry E's 3-inch antiaircraft guns and several .50-caliber machine guns took them under fire. An instant later, 100-pound fragmentation bombs and 20 mm incendiary bullets laced VMF-211's flight line.

Several officers were in the squadron ready tent on the parking apron when the shattering explosions erupted. "An



CDR Winfield Scott Cunningham

Forty-one-year-old Commander Winfield Scott Cunningham was a 1920 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. After serving three years aboard ship, he applied for and was accepted for flight training, earning his wings in 1925. Contemporaries in the Navy regarded him as an intelligent, quick-witted officer who possessed moral courage. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his leadership of the Wake Island defenses.

—Dick Camp

Twelve Grumman F4F Wildcat fighters with jury-rigged ordnance and relatively inexperienced pilots flew patrols looking for the Japanese. The Japanese found them and delivered a devastating attack on the island, but the tenaciously stubborn Marines dug in and held on.



appalling crash made the ground tremble ... my body was shaken,” Maj Bayler described. “I was engulfed and half strangled by a choking cloud of dirt, dust, and the picric-acid fumes from exploding bombs.” Pilots sprinted across the open field to man their planes. Second Lieutenants Frank J. Holden and Harry G. Webb were caught in a hail of machine-gun fire. Holden was killed instantly, and Webb was severely wounded by a bullet in the stomach and multiple shrapnel wounds. 1stLt Graves scrambled into his seat just as a bomb hit the plane. “The powerful missile struck right behind the cockpit, killing the flier instantly,” Bayler said.

2dLt Conderman “was almost close enough to touch it [his Wildcat] when a Jap machine gunned him,” Devereux explained. “He couldn’t crawl away. Men ran to help him. ‘Let me go,’ he said, pointing to wounded men scattered beyond him. ‘Take care of them.’” Conderman died that night. Bomb fragments shattered Sgt Andrew J. Paskiewicz’s right leg. He found a piece of wood to use as a crutch and “stumbled along from one wounded man to another, doing his best to give them first aid.” Putnam, Capt Frank C. Tharin and enlisted pilot Staff Sergeant



Maj Paul A. Putnam

Major Paul A. Putnam served as an enlisted man for three years before being commissioned a second lieutenant in 1926. He received his wings three years later. For heroic action fighting Augusto Cesar Sandino-led guerrillas in Nicaragua, Putnam was awarded a special letter of commendation from the Secretary of the Navy, as well as Nicaragua’s Cross of Valor and Medal of Merit. He assumed command of VMF-211 on Nov. 17, 1941. An officer who knew Putnam well remarked, “I never saw him get excited. He is calm, quiet, soft-spoken—a determined sort of fellow.” Putnam received the Navy Cross for the Wake Island defense.

—Dick Camp

R.O. Arthur were all wounded.

The attack destroyed seven of the eight Wildcats and seriously damaged the eighth. “The Japanese caught the planes on the ground like sitting ducks,” Devereux lamented. A direct bomb hit destroyed the air-ground radio installation, and the bombing set the two 25,000-gallon aviation fuel tanks on fire. VMF-211 was decimated by the 10-minute attack. Of 55 personnel on the ground when the Japanese attacked, only 21 escaped unscathed. Twenty-three were killed outright or mortally wounded and 11 others suffered disabling injuries. At one stroke, VMF-211 had sustained

more than 60 percent casualties.

“My first tour of the stricken airfield was a heartbreaking experience,” Maj Bayler related. “The men were shocked by the suddenness of the assault, scarcely able to take in the swiftness with which death had snatched away their friends and messmates.” As bombs fell on the airfield, one Japanese division (12 planes) swept over Peale Island and Camp 2, where a large group of civilian workers had gathered for lunch. “A direct hit killed 10 of the company’s employees,” Devereux explained. “They plastered the Pan American station with bombs ... with strafing fire, and left a flame-dotted shambles in their path.”

The *Philippine Clipper* was moored alongside the seaplane ramp during the raid. “The Japs swooped down on the clipper and gave it a going-over with machine guns,” Bayler wrote. “Her engines escaped, however, and she was airworthy.” That afternoon the *Clipper* took off with passengers and crew and made it safely back to Hawaii.

As the last enemy bombers passed out of sight, the battered defenders pulled themselves together and prepared for whatever the Japanese might throw at them. The question that ran through everyone’s mind was, “Would the Japanese be back, or was this a one-time strike?”

Author’s bio: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of the Marine Corps History Division and a prolific author. His latest e-book, “The Killing Ground: A Novel of Marines in the Vietnam War,” is available online at Amazon.com, and his most recent nonfiction books, “Shadow Warriors” and “Assault From the Sky,” are available from The MARINE Shop. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.





“Can-Do” Marines Get the Job Done

Garden Shovels Were the Only Tools Available for Hornet Recovery

Story by LtCol John M. Scanlan, USMC (Ret)
Photos courtesy of the author

In the spring of 1992, I was in a Marine Corps F-18D Hornet squadron and we were deployed to Iwakuni, Japan. Overseas deployments involve participating in various exercises, and this trip called for the

squadron to send six jets to Singapore. On Friday, May 29—upon completion of the exercise—those six jets departed for the return trip to Iwakuni. Tragically, one of those F-18Ds went down in the Tanjung Kelesa jungle of Malaysia, where the pilot survived the ejection, but the backseater died.

Two days later, I found myself sitting

in the back of a KC-130 transport with 27 other Marines. Flying 10 hours to Singapore, we had one mission in life: recover that crashed F-18D and box up the parts.

What followed over the next two weeks was nothing less than superhuman. Working in the sweltering heat of the Malaysian jungle, we had to dig the jet's remains out



When the recovery team arrived on May 31, 1992, the F-18D Hornet was nose down on its back, well into the ground.



A civilian helicopter provided assistance toward the end of the recovery effort by transporting crates of aircraft parts that the recovery crew had carved out of the jungle.

Right: Hornet pilot Capt John Scanlan had the unenviable task of helping recover a downed F-18D which had crashed in Malaysia in late May 1992.

of the ground with simple garden shovels. That was all we had! Then the parts had to be boxed up into wooden crates and placed in a primitive landing zone (LZ) that we had carved out of the jungle.

Observations from those two weeks are forever tattooed into my brain.

For example, the country of Malaysia seemed to be straight out of a movie script. Jeepneys, monkeys, heat, monopoly money ... I was expecting to see Indiana Jones at any moment.

The Malaysian civilian contractor that the Marine Corps was forced to work with—Leonard—was just like Mr. Haney from the old “Green Acres” sitcom. He initially acquired garden shovels for us to do the job.

The shovels later were supplemented by pulleys, chains and an ingenious device called a “come-along.”

It is certainly a sobering sight when you first see a Marine Corps F-18D buried nose-down, on its back and in the ground all the way back to the afterburners.

While we recovered the aircraft, a small contingent of Malaysian soldiers was assigned to encircle the crash site to protect us from tigers.

One day while digging, I found one of the pilot’s running shoes and the Civil War book that he had been reading. Talk about gut-wrenching!

On Wednesday, June 10, we pulled the first wing out of the hole, and the next day we pulled out the second.

On Saturday, June 13, a Malaysian civilian work crew was contracted to improve the nearby LZ. A handful of Marines and I were almost killed when that crew felled a tree in the wrong direction.

But that same day, we removed one of the engines from the hole. The next day we removed the other. What a triumph!

Imagine the joy on Tuesday, June 16, when the last crate of F-18D parts was heli-lifted out of the LZ by a contracted civilian chopper. After which, we took a group picture behind a giant hole in the ground.

A Marine’s “can-do” attitude—there’s nothing like it.

Author’s bio: LtCol John Scanlan, USMC (Ret) is a 1983 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He currently is pursuing a second career as a writer and can be reached using ping1@hargray.com.



Ordinary garden shovels were the primary tools used to recover the aircraft piece by piece from the massive hole in the floor of Tanjung Kelesa jungle in Malaysia.

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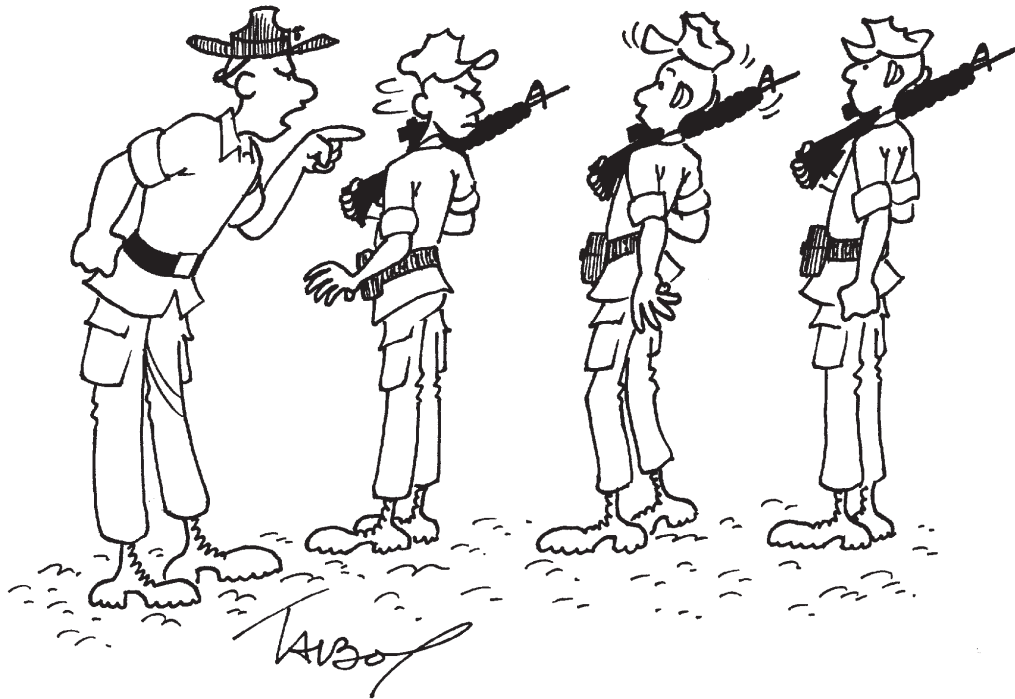


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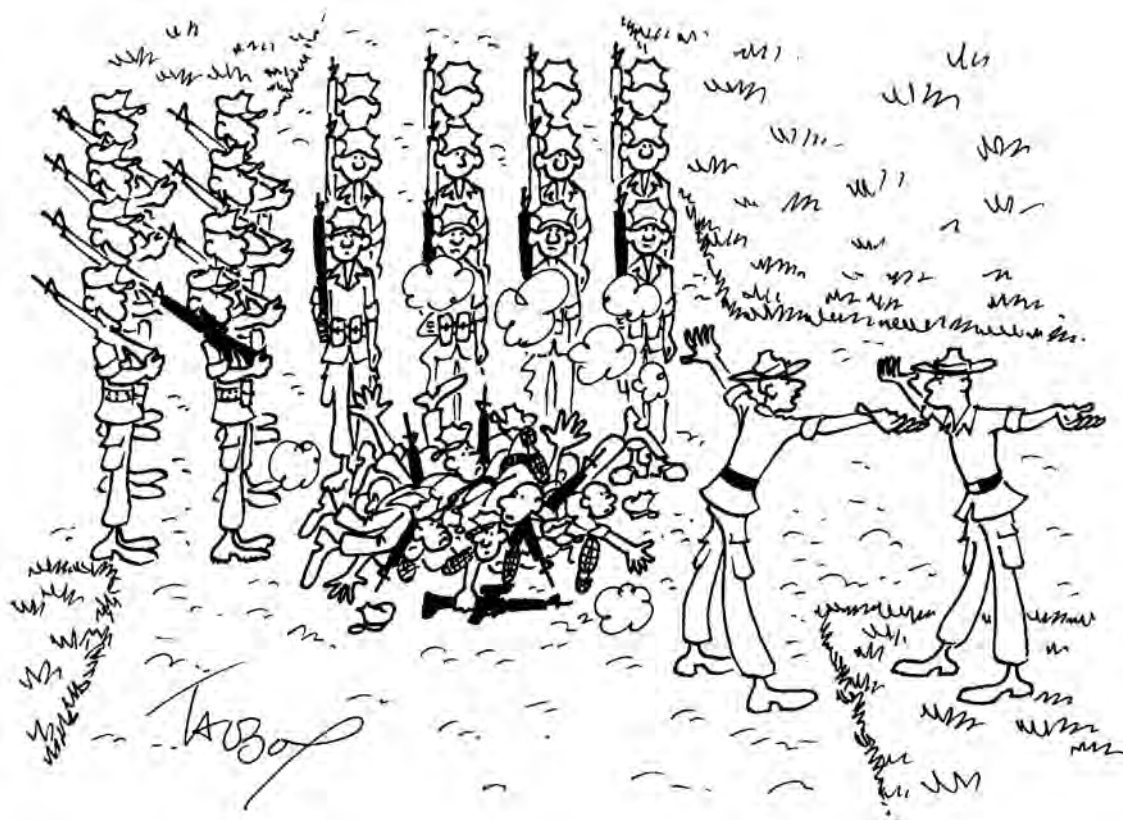
"I don't understand it. When I took it apart, it was my rifle."

BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout



"OK, OK, honey—but what are you gonna tell my DI?"



"The platoon on the right has the right of way!"

A “Colourful” Exchange

Royal Marine PT Instructor Brings His Expertise to OCS



From the PT table at OCS, Royal Marines PTI Colour Sergeant Leslie Barrow motivates U.S. Marine officer candidates as he gestures toward the O-course at Brown Field, MCB Quantico, Va., Oct. 15, 2015.

By Sara W. Bock

Early morning sunlight illuminated Brown Field, home of Officer Candidates School (OCS) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Oct. 15, 2015.

A sea of aspiring Marine officers, all part of the 10-week Officer Candidate Course (OCC) program, crowded around a platform. The candidates' collective energy and determination was so intense that it was nearly tangible.

From atop the “PT table” a man shouted: “You will put forth your best effort, is that clear?” He had a highly distinguishable British accent and was clad in a white tank top with red insignia

and trousers of a different pattern than the Marine Corps woodland MARPATs the candidates wear. Between his accent and apparel, the spirited individual certainly stood out in the crowd.

“Aye, Colour Sergeant!” shouted the candidates in unison, their voices reverberating through the crisp fall air as they prepared to take on the rigorous “O-course,” or obstacle course, designed to test their strength, agility, coordination and stamina. They had been sharpening their skills on the O-course since day one, but for the first time, on this day, their finish time would be recorded and would count toward their overall score. After a few more motivating words from the colour

sergeant, the candidates ran at full speed to assemble into their platoons, ready to face the challenges ahead.

While they negotiated the obstacles on the O-course—which consists of various logs and bars to traverse, along with a wall to scale and a rope to climb—the colour sergeant zipped from one end of the course to the other and back again with intensity and purpose. He was observing the candidates' performance, discussing any issues with the staff and correcting form and technique. His interactions revealed that he was the one “running the show” on the field.

Physical training (PT) is of the utmost importance at OCS, the grueling school in which prospective officers are screened and evaluated for their ability to lead Marines. So much so, that the United States Marine Corps has enlisted the unique expertise found within the ranks of its ally and close military partner, the United Kingdom's Royal Marines, to ensure that the PT at OCS is safe and conducted at the appropriate level of difficulty and with the right amount of rigor. It's a difficult balance to strike, and there's no greater group to call upon for the task.

Colour Sergeant Leslie A. Barrow is the current Royal Marines physical training instructor (PTI) and, just like the others who went before him in this unique exchange program, he traveled from the United Kingdom to Quantico on two-year orders. Since 1972, the PTI colour sergeant billet has been the head of all the physical training at OCS. Barrow is responsible for putting together the PT schedule for the candidates and ensuring that the program is conducted at the appropriate level.

"Colour sergeant" in the Royal Marines is the grade equivalent of a master sergeant in the U.S. Marines: Barrow has served for nearly 16 years.

Reporting directly to the commanding officer of OCS, Colonel Julie L. Nethercot, the colour sergeant, referred to endearingly by fellow OCS staff as "Colours," has received very specific training in the "science" of PT. There is no comparable specialization within the U.S. Marine Corps, which is what makes him such a valuable asset at OCS. He regularly advises the CO regarding PT modernization, improvements and accommodations.

The PT at OCS is extremely strenuous and pushes candidates to their limits as they take on physical fitness tests and combat fitness tests, endurance hikes in full combat gear, calisthenics, combat conditioning, and endurance and obstacle courses. A Marine officer must be a top PT performer, even while enduring mental and physical stress, and those challenges are intended to help the staff both "weed out" candidates who don't make the cut and recognize ones who do. Barrow is enthusiastic about his role in creating Marine officers, and the OCS staff is equally enthusiastic about his presence there.

"The colour sergeant brings with him a background in physical fitness, nutrition and physiology that allows



CSgt Barrow, right, observes a candidate on the O-course at Brown Field, MCB Quantico, Va., Oct. 15, 2015. Barrow is responsible for making sure the PT at OCS is conducted in a safe and proper manner, and he often offers critiques and suggestions to the candidates to help improve their overall performance. (Photo by Sara W. Bock)

him to be a subject matter expert on the physical development of candidates while they are here at Officer Candidates School," said Captain Lauren E. Bosco, assistant operations officer at OCS. "He's able to develop a physical fitness program

that both challenges the candidates and allows for an effective evaluation of their physical and mental capabilities."

Since the U.S. Marine Corps does not have a military occupational specialty equivalent to a PTI, the colour sergeant

trains a group of U.S. Marines to be physical training instructors at OCS. They lead PT sessions and perform many of the same supervisory tasks during training events, which is particularly important during the summer months when there are four companies of candidates training simultaneously. The colour sergeant can't single-handedly run all the PT at OCS, so it's a unique opportunity for U.S. Marines to benefit from his expertise.

"Not only does the colour sergeant bring a lot of knowledge with him about PT, but also a high level of enthusiasm and professionalism that inspires the highest effort and work ethic. It is a unique opportunity for the staff to interact with a foreign servicemember and learn more about the similarities and differences we have," said Bosco.

According to Barrow, it took some time to adjust to the realization that he was the only PTI around, and as a result, his responsibilities were weighty. Back in the U.K., he and the other Royal Marine PTIs are at the same level of instruction. At OCS, he said,



Following an OCS commissioning ceremony, CSgt Barrow, right, congratulates a newly commissioned second lieutenant in 2015.

COURTESY OF CSgt LESLIE A. BARROW, ROYAL MARINES



SARA W. BOCK



SARA W. BOCK

Above left: CSgt Barrow demonstrates proper form for the rope climb, one of the key obstacles on the O-course, Oct. 15, 2015.

Above right: Moving from the rope climb to another obstacle, CSgt Barrow is constantly “on the go” during PT events at OCS.

he’s responsible for making sure that what the U.S. Marines in his PT section are delivering is satisfactory—and it’s not a task he takes lightly.

“The Marines here have done a great job of understanding what I want them to do, and they’ve learned very quick. They deliver a great PT session,” said Barrow. “They’re very keen to learn how to actually do that, because I think in the bigger picture, once the Marines leave here and they go back to wherever they go within the wider Marine Corps, they’ve got a lot more that they can actually give back to the Marines with regards to understanding PT.”

This opportunity at OCS wasn’t Barrow’s first experience working with U.S. Marines. He had worked with them many times on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, mainly at patrol bases, and he had

conducted some training in the United States. Although training for Royal Marines is different than it is for leathernecks—in the U.K., both enlisted Royal Marines and officers must complete the same 52 weeks of training—Barrow thinks the two services are otherwise the same.

“We have the same standards and ethos. We work together well as a team,” he said of the relationship between the two services. Naturally then, he added, he always has felt like he fits in well at OCS and that he has an unmistakable bond with the U.S. Marines.

“I think we’ve got the same kind of attitude, and we like to have our fun when we can,” Barrow said.

Barrow’s billet is coveted and highly selective among the PTIs of the Royal Marines. According to Barrow, a lot of it comes down to having the right things

in the right place at the right time. It was certainly something he wanted to do, he said, and his family—a wife and three sons—were on board. Living in a different country has been an adjustment for them in many ways, but he believes they’ll look back fondly on the experience.

One of the most significant things Barrow has learned during his tour at OCS, he said, is the incorporation of female Marines into the training process. Since there are no women in the Royal Marines, Barrow said that learning how to accommodate them and work with them in a training environment has taught him a great deal. He looks forward to taking that knowledge back to the U.K. with him.

“It’s a bit different in regards to how males train ... [but] you still get the product at the end to a good level,” Barrow said of the PT for female candidates.

GySgt Rebekah Spanglerloch, left, an OCS sergeant instructor, records a female candidate's O-course finish time as CSgt Barrow looks on, Oct. 15, 2015. According to Barrow, one of the most significant learning experiences during his tour at OCS has been working with female Marines, as there are no female Royal Marines in the U.K. (Photo by Sara W. Bock)

He said he was quite impressed, and slightly surprised, that the majority of the candidates who go through OCS have spent time training beforehand and arrive at what he considers the “right level” of fitness.

“I think that’s a credit to some of the young candidates that come through and also a credit to the Marines that are training these potential candidates that come through the pipeline,” Barrow said.

The way that U.S. Marines in leadership positions manage and “look after” their Marines, he said, is something he has enjoyed observing, and he plans to employ some of those leadership strategies when he returns to the U.K. this summer.

The exchange program also includes a billet for a U.S. Marine gunnery sergeant to take on a two-year tour at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines in Devon, England, where he or she takes the lead on unarmed combat



training—what the U.S. Marines refer to as the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. In the same way that the colour sergeant ensures that the PT at OCS is conducted at the appropriate level, the gunnery sergeant at the Commando Training Centre is responsible for making sure the Royal Marines’ martial arts training is up to par.

“The relationship is strong here and

it’s good,” said Barrow of the exchange program. “It’s good for both sides that we keep that relationship going with regards to training.”

At 44 years and counting, the unique exchange between the Marines of the U.K. and the U.S. has become an institution at OCS, and “Colours” seems to be a permanent fixture.



Marine officer candidates practice rope-climbing techniques on the ground while CSgt Barrow supervises, Oct. 15, 2015.

Intrigue & Skullduggery:

Schemes To Do Away With the Corps

Part I
By R.R. Keene

If someone suggests that Marines are paranoid, you can respond, “You’re damned right we are, and we have every reason to be!” And then, tell them why.

From its inception, the Marine Corps was never fully appreciated by the Navy or the Army. The sailors, and more importantly their officers, saw Marines as ships’ policemen who worked less than ordinary tars. The Army saw Marines as potential competitors for their numbers, which they needed to fill the thinning ranks of Continental artillery and infantry.

On Nov. 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress resolved that “two battalions of American Marines” be formed, General George Washington objected, telling lawmakers it was a bad idea.

Nonetheless, 20 days later, he called for reinforcements which included three companies of Marines to cover his retreat from New York.

“Let me know,” he told his commander on the spot, “... if they [the Marines] came out resolved to act upon Land or meant to confine their Services to the Water Only.” The Marines responded willingly.

Later, dissention and discord between the Navy and Marine Corps started breaking the surface. Navy Captain Thomas Truxtun developed a distinct dislike toward Marines, and he did not hesitate to cross cutlasses with the Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps, William Ward Burrows, and the Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin Stoddert. In 1801 he said, “It is high time that a good understanding should take place between the sea officers and Marines and that an end be put to their bickerings. If this cannot be done it may be thought best to do without Marines in ships of the U.S. ... The fact is, the youngest sea lieutenant in the Navy takes seniority over the oldest Marine officer in service.”

“Truxtun’s words sounded what was to be a century-long running battle with the Marines—a battle that contributed greatly to the paranoia so often identified with the Corps,” writes Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak in his book “First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps.” He called it a



Benjamin Stoddert



Alexander S. MacKenzie

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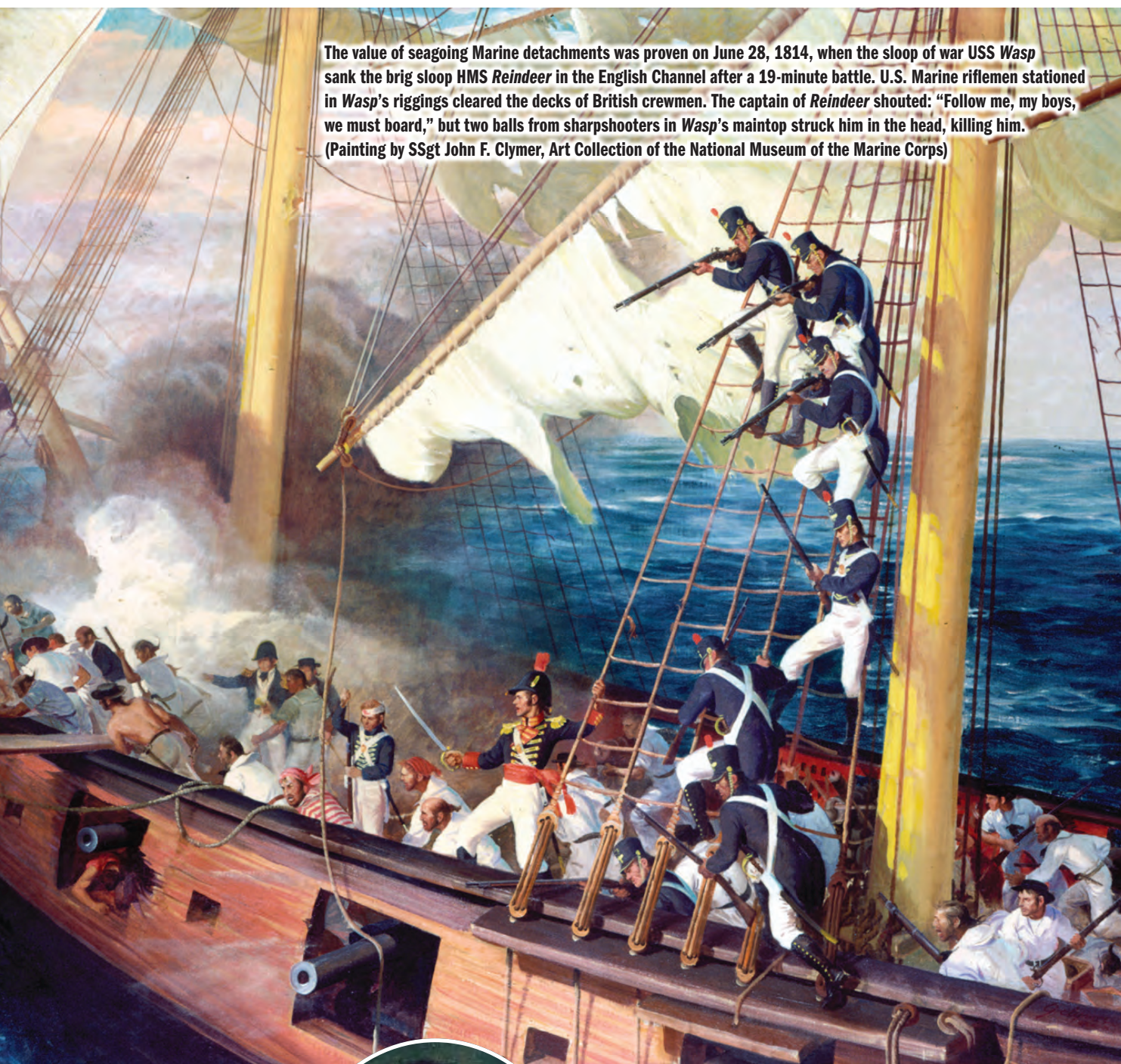
“sensitive paranoia, sometimes justified, sometimes not.”

He also notes, “At issue was what ships’ detachments should do and who should have authority over Marines on duty at naval stations ashore. Unfavorable variations in pay and in berthing and messing arrangements offended the Marines,” both officer and enlisted, because they were at the bottom of the pay ladder. “The fact that Marines did less work at sea than bluejackets was an understandable affront to the Navy.”

Marine detachments ashore were considered “worse than useless,” according to senior Navy officers. In 1830, Commander Alexander Slidell MacKenzie stated: “The abolition of the Marine Corps is absolutely necessary to the efficiency and harmony of our ships.” Not so fast, came the reply from Secretary of

In 1830, U.S. Navy Commander Alexander Slidell MacKenzie stated: “The abolition of the Marine Corps is absolutely necessary to the efficiency and harmony of our ships.”

The value of seagoing Marine detachments was proven on June 28, 1814, when the sloop of war *USS Wasp* sank the brig sloop *HMS Reindeer* in the English Channel after a 19-minute battle. U.S. Marine riflemen stationed in *Wasp's* riggings cleared the decks of British crewmen. The captain of *Reindeer* shouted: "Follow me, my boys, we must board," but two balls from sharpshooters in *Wasp's* maintop struck him in the head, killing him. (Painting by SSgt John F. Clymer, Art Collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps)



the Navy John Branch. He told the Senate that while there were strong arguments for abolishing the seagoing detachments, the treatment of enlisted bluejackets and their daily living and working conditions could lead to mutiny which justified the presence of disciplined Marines.

It should be noted that in 1842, Commander MacKenzie hanged three members of his crew aboard *USS Somers* for mutiny, one of whom was the 19-year-old son of Secretary of War John C. Spencer. The



John Branch



John C. Spencer



Col Archibald Henderson

The rough-hewn President Andrew Jackson did not take a liking to Marines and saw no need for them. In 1830, he proposed that Congress merge the Corps with the Army “as the best mode of curing the many defects in its organization.”

fifth Commandant of the Marine Corps, Colonel Archibald Henderson, quickly pointed out that *Somers* had no Marine detachment.

The rough-hewn President Andrew Jackson did not take a liking to Marines and saw no need for them. In 1830, he proposed that Congress merge the Corps with the Army “as the best mode of curing the many defects in its organization.”

Archibald Henderson, who was in his 10th year of 39 years as the Corps’ longest-serving Commandant, made the opposite and convincing case with the Senate Naval Affairs Committee and the Military Affairs Committee, and the fiery Jackson was thwarted, but not totally defeated.

In 1833, the Board of Navy Commissioners redrafted Navy Regulations with President Jackson’s signature: Marine officers were now junior to Navy officers of the same grade, regardless of their dates of commission. Further, no Marine officer could exercise command over a Navy officer, of whatever grade, unless involved in a landing party. Marine officers would not command ships or naval installations, and Marine barracks would be commanded by the Navy Yard commandants.

The crossfire from the Navy and Army would continue. The 1860s saw heated efforts from the Army and the White House under President Andrew Johnson to transfer the Corps to the Army or “abolish it all together.”

According to “Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps” by Allan R. Millett, it didn’t get any better with the industrial age of iron ships. Naval officers now saw Marine detachments as an anachronism. Their principal spokesman was a young lieutenant, William F. Fullam, who would rise to the grade of rear admiral. He became a notorious enemy to the Corps after stating he would see that the Marine Corps was destroyed. The term “Fullamite” became a name used to denote non-believers of the Marine Corps philosophy.

Fullam did offer one solid idea. In an 1894 article for the U.S. Naval Institute’s *Proceedings*, he stated that “the Marines would make more of a contribution were they removed from the combatant ships and organized as six ready expeditionary battalions to support the fleet or U.S. foreign policy as needed.”

“Here was an exciting idea,” writes Krulak, “one that should have been seized by the Marines at once.” The Marines, ever suspicious, backed away from the proposal.

In the process, something very unique was taking shape: Marines, especially under Archibald Henderson, seized every opportunity to get into combat. They helped capture slaving



Andrew Jackson



William F. Fullam

schooners off of West Africa. In 1832 they went ashore in the Falklands and “impressed the Argentines with a fanfaronade of musketry.” They killed pirates and the local sultan off Sumatra. They fought Indians in Florida and Georgia, captured Chapultepec in Mexico, and carried the American colors into skirmishes and excursions in China, Korea, Japan, Santo Domingo, Cuba and Puerto Rico, Formosa, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Panama, Hawaii, Egypt, Haiti, Samoa, Chile and Colombia. They quelled unrest in Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia and New York. Correspondent Richard Harding Davis coined the oft-quoted term “The Marines have landed and have the situation well in hand.”

According to Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret) in his book, “The United States Marines: The First Two Hundred Years, 1775 to 1975,” “They were of the kind where the after-action report almost invariably concluded with the words ‘... insult to the Flag reveng’d.’”

Away from the petty politics, Krulak writes, “They evolved an elite, almost mystical institutional personality. Partaking variously of pride, aggressiveness, dedication, loyalty, discipline, and courage, this complex personality was—and is—dominated by a conviction that battle is the Marines’ only reason for existence and that they must be ready to respond promptly and effectively whenever given an opportunity to fight. Finally, they came to accept, as an article of faith, that Marines must not only be better than everyone else but different as well.”

By the time Theodore Roosevelt became president, the Fullamites had become a cabal of senior commanders and politicians with the president as one of their supporters. He issued an executive order to withdraw Marines from ships. President Roosevelt “tried to mollify” the 10th Commandant

Major General George F. Elliott by saying he would consider a new charter, detailing “what the Marine Corps should do in the defense of the United States in place of service aboard ships of the fleet.”

Army Major General Leonard Wood applauded the removal of Marines from ships and proposed their absorption into the Army. President Roosevelt agreed, saying, “I do not hesitate to say that they should be absorbed into the Army and no vestige of their organization should be allowed to remain.”

Shots had crossed the bow, general quarters sounded. The Marines manned their battle stations and found they were not alone. Friends in Congress organized a “fire brigade.” Congressman Thomas E. Butler was the father of Marine Captain



MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION AND ARCHIVES

By 1918 when this U.S. Marine Corps publicity photo was taken, leathernecks had learned to band together for self-preservation. More importantly, according to LtGen Victor H. Krulak: “They came to accept as an article of faith, that Marines must not only be better than everyone else, but different as well.”

Smedley D. Butler, who would win two Medals of Honor, one in Vera Cruz and the other in Haiti. The elder Butler also presided over a subcommittee of the House Naval Affairs Committee.

“The subcommittee gave minimal consideration to the testimony of the navy secretary [Truman H. Newberry], Fullam and other antiships’ guard witnesses,” recounts Krulak, and they turned the tables at every opportunity. The Fullamites, while wanting Marines off ships, were not as relentless as Commander Fullam or Major General Leonard Wood or the president to do away with the Corps and said so openly. The board found in favor of keeping Marines serving in ships and tacked a rider to the appropriation bill that there would be no money for Marine Corps support unless the Marine guards were restored. The bill sailed under full canvas through both houses.

The Fullamite cabal skulked and faded. President Roosevelt must have mellowed because according to Simmons, he later stated, “that the three most efficient military-constabulary organizations in the world were the French Foreign Legion, the Canadian Mounted Police, and the U.S. Marines, each supreme

in its own sphere of operations.”

Two things came of this. First, Fullam’s idea of organizing Marine expeditionary battalions was adopted. “He offered it [the Corps] a new and important mission, one which has since become its life’s blood,” according to Krulak.

“Also, of long-term benefit was the institutional watchfulness that the shipboard-guard conflict engendered. The Marine leadership came to appreciate the great importance of maintaining the respect and good will of the Congress and the public toward the Corps. By this time, the Marines could not have been unmindful that moves to diminish or to eliminate their Corps had always begun in the executive branch—in the Navy Department, the War Department, or the White House itself. Each time, the Marines found strength and support in a steadfast Congress that saw the Corps as a reliable, austere, essential, and effective combat organization.”

“There have been some fifteen occasions since the Corps’ birth when its preservation has been due wholly to a vigilant Congress,” writes Krulak. He would not forget the lessons of history and would need to put that knowledge to work, for it was during his time in the Corps that perhaps the most critical and controversial challenge to the Corps’ existence was initiated.

Editor’s note: The biggest threat to the Corps was yet to come. Some of the nation’s most revered leaders would move to relegate the Marines to little more than a Pretorian guard. Read in the next issue how it all transpired in “Intrigue & Skulduggery,” Part II.



The Marine Corps in 1861 consisted of 1,892 officers and men. About half were assigned aboard Navy ships serving as guards and sharpshooters and leading landing parties. The Marines pictured here, led by an NCO with an M1859 sword, are guarding the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard in 1864.



MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION AND ARCHIVES

Pathways and Partnerships

Degree Achievement Opportunities For Enlisted Marines

By Capt Nicole Yarbrough, USMC
and Cassandra A. Coney

"We ask an unbelievable amount from our enlisted leaders and they deserve the same quality education as our officers."

—MajGen Robert B. Neller, USMC

Commanding General, Education Command

In a 2010 statement before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Armed Services Committee

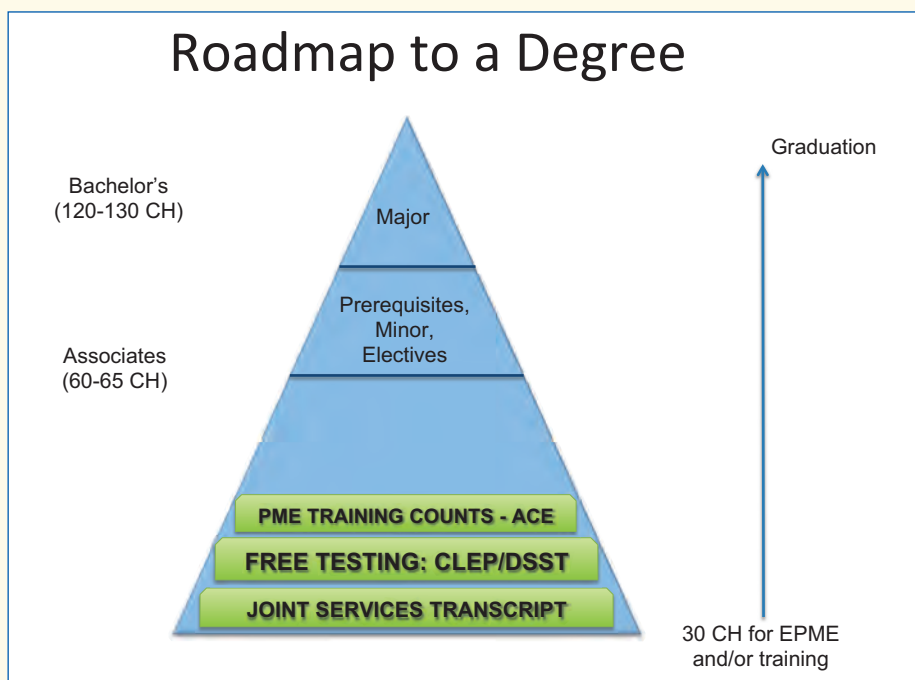
In recent years, Marine Corps Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) has undergone significant transformation. Transitioning from a purely "training model of learning" to a more academic one, EPME has fully integrated higher-order cognitive skills and learning outcomes-based curriculum to produce quality courses.

EPME has experienced growth in many areas, including the hiring of civilian instructional specialists, the use of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Degree Completion Program and increased academic rigor, resulting in additional American Council on Education (ACE) credit-hour recommendations. Those developments are important not only because they cultivate better thinkers and decision-makers for the Marine Corps, but because they also prepare Marines to be more productive citizens after their military service has ended.

Most Marines are not aware of the improvements in EPME and the increased academic credit they may potentially receive toward a college degree. Nor are they generally informed, despite increased mandates to cover those topics at various waypoints, about the variety of programs and pathways that exist to facilitate achievement of a college degree based on a combination of their EPME coursework, training programs and schools they have attended and their experience gained throughout their time in the Corps.

Background: The Navy and Marine Corps Approach to Education

Every military service approaches education differently; however, there are two general types of approaches associated



with undergraduate degrees: the partnership approach and the degree approach.

The underlying premise of the partnership approach is for the service to assist servicemembers by maximizing the amount of credits they receive for their military training, education and experience through (1) evaluation by the ACE and (2) partnerships with accredited colleges and universities. With the degree approach, the military service provides the mechanisms and pathways for a specific institution within the service to award undergraduate degrees.

The Marine Corps, Navy and Army use the partnership approach. The Air Force is the only service that uses a degree approach.

Representatives from Education Command and the Personal and Professional Development Branch of Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps have examined those models and recommended that the Marine Corps retain the partnership approach, with the caveat that the Corps must do a better job of informing Marines of existing programs and enhance the existing partnership model using the Marine Corps Career College Program.

Informing Marines

The first step in this two-phased approach is to ensure that Marines are aware of the existing programs available. The VOLED Program offers the greatest amount of flexibility by optimizing previous work to establish a base that can be tailored to fit a two- or four-year degree program, depending on the individual Marine's goals. Installation education centers are the best resources for planning a degree program that is right for each Marine.

Existing Programs and Pathways

The Marine Corps' Voluntary Education (VOLED) Program provides educational services and programs that offer the Marine Corps community the opportunity to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees via both traditional and online methods through a network of regionally accredited colleges and universities. ACE-evaluated credit hours for work or training are only a recommendation, so it is not guaranteed that all earned credits will be accepted at a civilian university or college, or that they will transfer to the Marine's desired degree program. At the same time, the Marine has the option of

obtaining a regionally accredited degree of his or her choice.

The best way to obtain an undergraduate degree in the Marine Corps is to start with the assistance of the Personal and Professional Development Branch or the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), using credits from training and Professional Military Education (PME).

Military experience could be worth up to 20 college credits. Most colleges grant four semester hours in physical fitness for recruit training. In fact, most colleges give credit for other service schools attended as long as those courses are longer than two weeks and are not of a classified nature. Some Distance Learning Courses (MarineNet Courses and courses formerly known as MCIs) also are worth college credits. Military Occupational Specialty training also may be worth college credits. Together, those credits could account for half the credits required for an associate degree.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I need in addition to my military credits for an associate degree in general studies?

Most colleges require 60 to 65 credit hours for an associate degree and 120 to 130 credit hours for a bachelor's degree. In most cases, the following college credit



PFC Armando I. Sanchez, right, a field wireman with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, discusses course options with Izzy Avila, a Grand Canyon University military division representative, during a Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., education fair.

hours or CLEP/DANTES (College-Level Examination Program/Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support) exams must be added to the average Marine's military experience to complete an associate degree in general studies (those

numbers will vary by degree program):

- Eight semester hours in natural science
- Six semester hours in English
- Six semester hours in social science
- Six semester hours in humanities
- Three semester hours in math



Marines from MCAS Miramar attend an education fair hosted by The Lifelong Learning Center aboard the air station on March 20, 2012. More than 50 schools and educational institutions participated in the fair.

Where can I find out how many credits I've earned through training and education?

All training and education is documented on the Joint Services Transcript (JST), which is available online. That document explains how many and what kind of ACE-recommended credit hours have been earned. Marines can obtain a copy of their JST by visiting the JST website at <https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signIn.do>. Common Access cards (CAC) are needed to log in.

What can the Personal and Professional Development Branch do to help me obtain a degree?

The Personal and Professional Development Branch of HQMC is responsible for a number of education programs, including the DANTES examination program, the Military Academic Skills Program (MASP), Tuition Assistance (TA), Marine Corps Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL), the Leadership Scholar Program, the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) and oversight of the installation education centers.

Installation education centers, in particular, play an integral role in facilitating

degree procurement. Their employees provide all of the necessary services to help Marines achieve their education goals. The center's education services officers help identify the available degree programs that best fit an individual's background, interests and goals. They also assist with TA applications and help with scheduling and preparing for CLEP/DANTES exams as well as professional certification testing. The installation education centers invite colleges and universities to teach evening and weekend classes on base.

What is the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Degree Network System (SOC DNS)?

Formally known as the SOC Consortium (SOCNAV, SOCMAR, SOCAD, SOCCOAST), the SOC DNS consists of 155 regionally accredited colleges and universities that offer associate and bachelor's degree programs to servicemembers, to include distance learning programs at or near base education centers worldwide. Many courses offered by DNS institutions have two-way guaranteed transferability, making it easier for servicemembers to complete associate or

bachelor's degrees no matter where they move during their military careers.

How it works: Marines select a "home college" to grant their degree. Through a Student Agreement, the home college will accept up to 75 percent of the hours required for the degree as transfer credits. For example, the home school allows a transfer of 45 (of the 60 required for an associate degree in general studies) semester hours in prior college work, military experience and CLEP/DANTES. The remaining 15 credit hours must be completed with the home college. The program is extremely flexible because it allows Marines to continue their education through changes in duty station, deployments and transitions to the civilian sector while accepting the maximum amount of transfer credit hours.

How to get started?

Step 1: Obtain JST copy and ensure it reflects training and education completed to date.

Step 2: Contact an education services officer at an installation education center. He or she will assist in calculating ACE-recommended credits and in selecting a home college and degree program.

Voluntary Education Centers Contact Information			
Base Voluntary Education Center	Phone Number	Address	Website
MCB Quantico	703-784-3340	Bldg 3088, Roan Street	http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org/index.cfm/marine-family/personal-professional-development/voluntary-education-center-vec/
MCB Lejeune	910-451-3091/9127	Bldg 825, 825 Stone Street	http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu/
MCB Hawaii	808-257-2158/1232	Bldg 220, 4th Street	http://mccshawaii.com/edcenter/
MCAS Cherry Point	252-466-3500	Bldg 4335, C Street	http://mccscherrypoint.com/programs/personal-professional-development/education-programs/
MCAS Miramar	858-577-1801/1800	Bldg 5305, Miramar Way	http://www.mccsmiramar.com/education-center/
MCAS New River	910-449-6623/5397	Bldg AS-212, 2nd Deck, 212 Bancroft St	http://www.mccslejeune.com/edu/index.html
Camp Courtney , Okinawa	098-954-9694	Bldg 445, Stillwill Drive	http://www.mccsokinawa.com/education/
MCLB Albany	229-639-5162	Bldg 7122, 814 Radford Boulevard	http://www.mccsalbany.com/MCCSAlbany/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/professional-development/base-education/
MCAS Yuma	928-269-3248/5614	Bldg 850, Aldrich Street	http://www.mccsyuma.org/index.cfm/military-family/lifelong-learning/
MCB Pendleton (Mainside)	760-725-6660/6414	Bldg 1331, A Street & 12th Street	http://www.mccscp.com/jec
MCB Pendleton (North Campus)	760-725-0606	Bldg 520512, N. Basiline Rd	http://www.mccscp.com/jec
MCLB Barstow	760-577-6118/6018	Bldg 218, O'Bannon Ave & Iwo Jima St	http://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil/Services/EducationCenter.aspx
MCRD San Diego	619-524-4275	Bldg 111, Belleau Avenue	http://www.mccsmcrd.com/MarineAndFamilyPrograms/PersonalAndProfessionalDevelopment/LifelongLearningCenter/index.html
MCRD Parris Island	843-228-3889	Bldg 923, Rm 42, 923 Chosin Reservoir	http://www.mccs-sc.com/lifelong/index.asp
MCAS Beaufort	843-228-7484	Bldg 596, Rm 211, 596 Geiger Blvd	http://www.mccs-sc.com/lifelong/index.asp

Resources

Organization	Website	Purpose
American Council on Education (ACE) Guide	http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx	Find out what courses are accredited by ACE and how many hours they are worth.
Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)	http://www.soc.aascu.org/	Lists all of the SOC member schools and describes the process of transferring credits
Marine Corps Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL)	https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/	Find certification and licenses that are related to your military occupation, information on credentialing in general, and resources to help pay for testing and training.
Joint Service Transcript (JST) System	https://jst.doded.mil/smart/dodMandatoryBannerForm/submit.do	Request a copy of your official JST and rectify any discrepancies.
Coastline Community College Military Programs	http://military.coastline.edu/marines/page.cfm?LinkID=1353	Provides example degrees and major fields for USMC MOS.
The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)	http://www.dantes.doded.mil/#sthash.3RPhOY93.dpbs	Provides information, resources, programs, and benefits available to servicemembers.
The College Level Examination Program (CLEP)	https://clep.collegeboard.org/?affiliateId=rdr&bannerId=clep	Provides information on exams you can take to earn college credits.

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY

Step 3: Choose a degree program and a home college. In-classroom courses or distance learning also may be chosen.

Step 4: Submit a Student Agreement to the home college and a request for TA to the installation education center.

Step 5: Take CLEP/DANTES exams and college courses.

Recommendations

Whether serving for two months or 20 years, there are a few things recommended for all Marines over the course of their careers.

Go early and go often. Most units require Marines to go to the installation education center as part of their check-in process. Rather than simply getting a signature on a check-in sheet, print out a copy of the JST and sit down with an education services officer to discuss education goals. Even if Marines initially have no desire to go to college, it is always good to find out how many college credits they have and what degree options are available.

Keep a record. Every Marine should establish a place to collect and store all education-related documents (school applications, transcripts, TA, written work, JST, course certificates, etc.). It is never too early to start tracking work and college credits. Information should be taken to installation education centers at least once a year so JSTs can be verified and updated to ensure credits are adding up to achieve education goals.

Ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask if a course is ACE evaluated and how many credits it is worth. If currently enrolled in

a college or university, consult academic counselors or registrars to determine if the college will accept transfer credits for particular work-related courses.

Do the research. Check out the websites included in this article to see what schools and degree plans are available. Looking at those prior to meeting with an education services officer will greatly facilitate achieving education and career goals. It also will help determine what questions to ask.

The Way Ahead: Enhancing Opportunities

Current educational programs are effective because they provide a great deal of flexibility for obtaining degrees. Marines can determine their degree and their school based on their own unique circumstance, interests and goals. Those programs have made significant strides in promoting and facilitating education for Marines; however, there is still room for improvement. The first step in achieving improvement is to ensure that Marines are informed regarding existing programs. Going forward, Marine Corps University and the Personal and Professional Development Branch should look for opportunities to partner on initiatives that will enhance the scope, accessibility and quality of the existing programs.

Regardless of the methods ultimately employed, the goal remains the same—to provide Marines with more robust and flexible pathways for continuing their education. While those programs enable Marines to transition back to society more effectively, that is not just an end-of-

service issue. In fact, the achievement of a degree at any level is merely the practical result of the education process. Enhancing the means through which Marines can seek academic credit for their military experience and schools will provide them with more flexibility in how that degree is achieved. That will, in turn, incentivize Marines to seek more education earlier in their careers, resulting in a better educated Corps at all grades.

In today's complex security environment, a better educated Corps of Marines is the best and least expensive road to mission accomplishment. Put more simply, and as an old retired Marine once said, "No one wants to be the dumbest SOB on the battlefield."

Authors' bios: Capt Nicole Yarbrough served as an air defense control officer with Marine Air Control Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 28 in Afghanistan. She is assigned to Marine Corps University at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., as an education officer, specializing in instructional strategies and techniques.

Cassandra A. Coney currently is managing the Marine Corps Career Technical and Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) programs for the Personal and Professional Development Branch, Marine and Family Programs. She has served in that capacity since October 2010, and prior to that, she proudly served in the U.S. Navy as a chief petty officer, retiring in May 2009.



MARINE CORPS GENERALS

THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY

Story by COL Glenn M. Harned, USA (Ret)
USMC photos

*"Hurrah! Hurrah for the Confederacy!
HURRAH! Down with General Grant!
Hurrah for General ... what's his name?"*

—Tucó Ramirez played by Eli Wallach in the Western
"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" (1966)

After the United States acquired an overseas empire in the 1898 war with Spain, Congress expanded the Navy and its Marine Corps to protect that empire. As part of this expansion, Congress elevated the office of the Commandant to general officer rank. From 1899 to 1916, the Commandant was the only general in the Marine Corps. In 1916, as part of another expansion of American naval power during the First World War, Congress established the Marine general officer corps by authorizing five permanent brigadier generals in the line and three temporary brigadier generals to head the staff departments at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Over the next 20 years, 39 Marine officers achieved general officer rank. Many of today's Marines are not familiar with the generals who served during the formative period of the Marine Corps from 1899 to 1936. They were a colorful lot. As suggested by the title, most were good, a few were not so good, and one was just ugly.

The Good

In a perfect world, Charles "Squeegie" Long would have been the 15th Commandant. Instead, his U.S. Naval Academy classmate, Ben H. Fuller, was selected for the job.

Long and Fuller graduated from the Naval Academy and were commissioned as second lieutenants on July 1, 1891. With four other classmates, they completed the first course for officers at the School of Application (now The Basic School), Washington, D.C. Long was selected to remain at the school for a second year to take charge of the first course for meritorious noncommissioned officers. Long and the next three officers to hold that assignment later became generals: Wendell C. Neville and John H. Russell Jr. both became Commandant, and Rufus

Lane became adjutant and inspector.

After school, Long completed two tours at sea with the Asiatic and North Atlantic Squadrons and served at the Marine Barracks at Brooklyn, N.Y.; Portsmouth, N.H.; and Washington, D.C. During the war with Spain, Long was a platoon leader in the First Marine Battalion, which seized and defended Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as an advanced base for the North Atlantic Squadron blockading Cuba. He received a brevet (honorary) promotion to captain



Charles Long

for "distinguished conduct in the presence of the enemy" in Cuba.

Promoted to captain in 1899, Long commanded a company in combat in the Philippine Insurrection (1899) and a battalion in combat in the International China Relief Expedition (1900). He was commended in Navy Department General Orders for "gallant, meritorious and courageous conduct" in China.

From 1901 to 1902, Long served as Fleet Marine Officer of the North Atlantic Squadron in the battleship USS *Kearsarge* (BB-5). During that assignment, he was suspended from duty for 10 days for failure to obey the orders of the ship's commanding officer during target practice. Long then served at the Marine Barracks, Boston, Mass.; commanded the Marine Barracks, Puget Sound, Wash., where he was promoted to major in 1903;

and enjoyed independent command of the Marines at Camp Elliott, Isthmian Canal Zone, Panama (1905-06). He commanded the Marine Barracks at Washington, D.C.; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Portsmouth, N.H.

He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1911 while one of the first two Marine officers to complete the three-month Special Field Officers' Course at the Army General Service Schools (now Command and General Staff College). Long then became the third Marine officer (after future generals Eli K. Cole and John A. Lejeune) to complete the Army War College (1911-12).

LtCol Long was second in command of the First Provisional Regiment during the five-month Nicaraguan campaign in 1912, commanding combat operations in the Leon area, and remaining behind in command of the Second Battalion during the consolidation phase of the campaign. One week after returning to the United States, he deployed to Cuba for four months as second in command of the Second Provisional Regiment, Second Provisional Brigade, organized for potential expeditionary duty in Mexico (1913).

Upon his return in June 1913, Long organized and took command of the First Advance Base Regiment at Philadelphia, Pa., with the mission of providing technical troops (artillery, engineer, signal) for the seizure and defense of advanced naval bases. He commanded this regiment in the fighting at Vera Cruz before being temporarily relieved by Colonel James Mahoney during the subsequent occupation (1914). Long resumed command of the regiment upon its return to Philadelphia. In August 1915, he was relieved by Col Theodore P. Kane for the 1915 Haitian campaign. Six days later, Long became Chief of Staff, First Brigade, for that campaign (1915-16), during which he was promoted to colonel.

In January 1917, Col Long again took command of the First Regiment at Philadelphia. That September, he relieved Brigadier General John A. Lejeune as Assistant to the Major General Commandant at Headquarters Marine Corps. Promoted to brigadier general in 1918, Long remained at Headquarters until October 1920 when he departed to take

Col Theodore P. "Tippy" Kane initially commanded the Naval Forces Ashore during a rebellion in Santo Domingo in 1916. Marines participated in the Battle of Guayacanas, shown here, during his time in country. Col Charles "Squeegee" Long also served in Santo Domingo as the commander of the Second Brigade.



command of the Second Brigade in Santo Domingo (now Dominican Republic).

Ten months later, in August 1921, Long returned to the United States in such poor health that he had to be carried off the ship on a stretcher. Physically unable to perform further active service in the tropics, he voluntarily retired from the Marine Corps on Dec. 31, 1921. Had his health not failed, Long would have been promoted to major general in 1929 instead of Smedley D. Butler. Long would have been the senior major general on active duty when Major General Commandant Wendell Neville died in office in 1930. As such, and with his distinguished record, Gen Long would have been more competitive than a junior and less distinguished classmate, Ben Fuller, to become the 15th Commandant. But Long lived in an imperfect world.

The Bad

Theodore P. "Tippy" Kane should not have been promoted to brigadier general (or even colonel). Commissioned after graduation from the Naval Academy on July 1, 1890, with future generals John A. Lejeune and Eli K. Cole, Kane and four



Theodore P. "Tippy" Kane

classmates joined the Marine Barracks, Brooklyn, for a two-month course for new officers, before the School of Application was established. He then served at the Marine Barracks at Brooklyn; Boston, Mass.; and Mare Island (San Francisco), Calif.; and spent two years at sea in

the gunboat USS *Adams* on the Pacific Station.

During the war with Spain, he served in the auxiliary cruiser USS *Harvard* in the Caribbean, but he did not see combat. After more barracks service at Brooklyn; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Washington, D.C.; Kane served as Fleet Marine Officer of the North Atlantic Fleet in the battleship USS *Kearsarge* (BB-5) and commanded the Marine Barracks, Narragansett Bay (Newport), R.I. He then served as a battalion commander in the Army of Cuban Pacification (1906-09); commanded the Marine Barracks, Portsmouth, where he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1909; and served with the First Brigade in the Philippine Islands (1910-11).

In April 1911, Kane returned to the United States for medical treatment. He was found unfit for duty because of medical conditions resulting from the excessive use of alcohol while on duty in the Philippines. On Oct. 2, after six months of medical treatment and sick leave, Kane took command of the Marine Barracks, Norfolk, Va. One week later, he was suspended from duty for five days for being under the influence of alcohol at

10:30 a.m. in the office of the commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard. Nevertheless, Kane remained in command until March 1912 when he took command of the Marine Barracks, Boston.

During the Vera Cruz expedition (1914), he commanded the Marine Barracks, Pensacola, Fla., and served three months as second in command of the Third Provisional Regiment during the occupation of Vera Cruz. He then returned to the United States to complete the Army War College (1914-15). While at the Army War College, he was promoted to colonel in 1914 for reasons it is hard to understand a century later.

Col Kane relieved Long from command of the First Regiment just before its deployment for the 1915 Haitian campaign. Upon Kane's arrival in Haiti, the First Brigade commander, Colonel L.W.T. Waller, ordered the commanders of the First and Second Regiments to exchange commands. Kane's classmate, Eli Cole, took command of the First Regiment and was sent to northern Haiti to do most of the fighting. Kane took command of the Second Regiment and remained with Brigade Headquarters in Port-au-Prince to control the occupation of southern Haiti.

In May 1916, while Cole was on leave in the United States, a rebellion broke out in Santo Domingo. Kane was ordered to Santo Domingo City to take command of Naval Forces Ashore until Col Joseph Pendleton arrived with the Fourth Regiment and relieved him. When Pendleton moved most of his forces to northern Santo Domingo to defeat the rebels, he left Kane in command of the Marines in southern Santo Domingo. After combat operations ceased and northern Santo Domingo was stabilized, Pendleton re-

turned to Santo Domingo City and assigned Kane to command the Marines in northern Santo Domingo until May 1917.

Upon his return to the United States, Kane took command of the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., from Col Charles Doyen, who was selected to command the Fifth Regiment in France. In April 1918, Kane took command of the battalion-size Marine Guard at the American Legation, Peking, China, replacing Col Wendell Neville. (Neville had already left to replace Doyen in command of the Fifth Regiment.) In May 1919, Kane was detached from command at the request of the American Minister because he was a "source of embarrassment" to the Legation. Based on the recommendation of the Commander in Chief, Asiatic Fleet, no official investigation was conducted in order to avoid further embarrassment to the State Department.

Kane next commanded the Marine Barracks, Philadelphia (1919-22) and the First Brigade in Haiti (1922-23). On Jan. 10, 1924, he was promoted to brigadier general. On Jan. 28, less than three weeks later, Kane applied for voluntary retirement. He was placed on the retired list on Feb. 7, 1924. At the time of his promotion, there was an ongoing debate within Headquarters whether promotion to general officer rank should be based on seniority, as a reward for past service or on potential for future service.

Based on his service record, Kane did not qualify for promotion under any criteria. One can only assume that MajGen Lejeune took care of his classmate with the understanding that he would voluntarily retire shortly after his promotion. It was not MajGen Lejeune's best decision as Commandant.



Harold C. Reisinger

The Ugly

Harold C. Reisinger was a rising star in the Marine Corps. Commissioned in 1900, he completed the School of Application at Annapolis, Md., and then went to sea in the armored cruiser USS *New York* (ACR-2), flagship of the North Atlantic Squadron. He transferred to the battleship USS *Kearsarge*, the new flagship, before taking command of the Marine Guard on board the hospital ship USS *Solace* (AH-2), which was serving as a troop transport between San Francisco and Manila in the Philippines.

After a year at sea, Lieutenant Reisinger completed a tour of foreign shore service in the Philippine Islands and on Guam (1902-04). Returning to the United States, he joined Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., where he met and later married Daisy Elliott, the daughter of Brigadier General Commandant George Elliott. He was promoted to captain in 1905. His subsequent barracks service in Brooklyn and Annapolis was interrupted by two tours of temporary expeditionary duty with the Army of Cuban Pacification (1906 and 1907-1908).

Captain Reisinger applied for permanent staff duty after eight years as a line officer. In May 1908, he was appointed an assistant paymaster and assigned to the paymaster's department, Headquarters Marine Corps. In January 1909, he was promoted to major as an assistant paymaster, seven years before his contemporaries were promoted in the line. He served as brigade paymaster of a provisional Marine brigade organized in Panama for potential expeditionary duty in Nicaragua (1909-10), the First Brigade in the Philippine Islands (1912-13), and the Third Brigade in Cuba and Texas during World War I (1918-19). He was in



Both Theodore Kane and Charles Long served in China in the early 1900s. Col Kane commanded the American Legation in Peking (front gate with Marine guard above) in 1918.

charge of the assistant paymaster's offices in San Francisco; Atlanta, Ga.; and Philadelphia. He served twice as the post paymaster at Quantico. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1918 and colonel in 1924.

In 1926, Col Reisinger rejoined Headquarters Marine Corps, where he spent the next 10 years as executive officer of the paymaster's department. On March 1, 1936, upon the retirement of BGen George Richards after nearly 27 years as paymaster, Reisinger became paymaster of the Marine Corps with the grade of brigadier general.

Along the way, BGen Reisinger began accumulating debts he could not pay. In those days, the comptroller general of the United States actually audited the Navy Department. In 1937, he disallowed four of Reisinger's travel claims from October 1935 to October 1936, amounting to a total of \$258.36 (about \$4,500 in 2016 dollars). MajGen Commandant Thomas Holcomb asked Reisinger to reply by endorsement, and Reisinger requested an extension because his lawyer was on vacation. On Sept. 30, 1937, when no satisfactory explanation was forthcoming, MajGen Holcomb suspended Reisinger from duty and placed him under arrest pending general court-

martial for making four false travel claims for mileage paid for official travel after he had used a military aircraft for the travel.

It got worse. When the general court-martial convened on Jan. 3, 1938, the defense counsel argued that Reisinger was mentally incapable of contributing to his own defense. MajGen James Breckinridge, presiding over the court-martial, directed that Reisinger be placed under medical supervision to determine his medical condition. The pressure must have been mounting for this disgraceful scandal to go away. On March 21, Reisinger appeared before a Naval Retiring Board, with Breckinridge presiding. The board found Reisinger permanently incapacitated for active service. On March 29, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved the findings and directed Reisinger's retirement for incapacity. The charges were dropped, and Reisinger was released from arrest, but he remained in the hospital until his retirement on May 1, 1938.

Despite the embarrassing scandal, MajGen Holcomb did not sweep Reisinger's disgraceful conduct under the rug. He held him accountable and took swift action to address Reisinger's misconduct. So did Reisinger's wife; she divorced him. The incident ended with a bit of humor when

the enlisted pilot who flew Reisinger sent a simple letter to Headquarters: "Can I have my flight log back?"

Promotion to general officer rank depends on an officer's unique combination of talent, reputation, patronage, timing and luck; all tempered by seniority and health. The reader will note one or more of those factors being dominant in each of these stories. More often than not, the Marine Corps selects the right officers to become generals. More often than not, it corrects the mistakes that occur in an imperfect system. By studying past successes and failures, the Marine Corps can ensure that Marines continue to be led by the finest generals available.

Author's bio: COL Glenn M. Harned is a retired Army infantry and Special Forces officer now working as an independent defense consultant. A distinguished graduate of the Marine Corps War College, he has written military concepts and doctrine and articles in military journals. His first book, "Marine Corps Generals, 1899-1936, A Biographical Encyclopedia," was published by McFarland & Company in January 2015.



This photo shows the Marine camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, during the summer of 1915 when Theodore Kane served as the commander of Second Regiment and Charles Long served as the chief of staff of First Brigade.



We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

MCM Makes Third Marathon In 15 Days for Wounded Vet

■ Overcoming the immeasurable obstacles faced by a double amputee, Brandon Dotson, a Marine veteran hand cyclist, completed the 40th Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va., Oct. 25, 2015. It was his third marathon in a 15-day period.

As a member of Team Semper Fi Fund, Dotson finished with a personal best of 2:06. Just days earlier, on Oct. 11, he completed the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, and the 36th *Detroit Free Press*/Talmer Bank Marathon, on Oct. 18, with the support of Achilles International Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans.

The attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, impacted Dotson's decision to enlist in the Marine Corps in 2003.

"I honestly wanted to serve my country, but I didn't know what an infantryman was before speaking to a recruiter," said Dotson, a staff sergeant who served in the Corps for 12 years.

As an infantry platoon sergeant, Dotson deployed to Iraq twice with 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Following

a deployment to Southeast Asia, he served as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

"Being a drill instructor for three years was no easy task, but it is worth it to know that your thumbprint will be on the Marine Corps for years and years to come," said Dotson, who followed his tour on the grinder with two deployments to Afghanistan, while attached to 1st Bn, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv, from Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

In 2014, during his fourth deployment, Dotson's life changed forever. He was two weeks away from returning home from Afghanistan when he stepped on a 5-pound pressure plate, which detonated an improvised explosive device and severed his legs in seconds. Within 30 minutes of the blast, he was evacuated from the battlefield.

"An amazing field combat medic, Corpsman Cappella made sure I stayed alive. It was a pure nightmare that I couldn't awake from," said Dotson.

"August 14, I landed in [Washington] D.C. and had my family by my side. Because of their support I could concentrate

on recovery," said Dotson. "I never wanted to slow down or stop living. I'm the same person I was before the injury, but without legs."

An adaptive sports therapist introduced him to hand cycling, and he now has three marathons checked off his list. Dotson doesn't dwell on the limitations he faces as a double amputee; rather, he continues to set goals and inspire his fellow servicemembers and civilians through his bravery and dedication to life.

SGT Ida Irby, USA

Camp Schwab Leathernecks Compete for Shanghai Cup

■ Marines from Fourth Marine Regiment participated in the second annual Shanghai Cup competition at Camp Schwab, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, on Nov. 10, 2015.

The competition allowed battalions assigned to the regiment, part of Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, to compete in eight athletic events, such as tire flipping and sumo wrestling.

The events began with a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the Birthday of the Corps, followed by a 3-mile motivational run around Camp Schwab. Then it was time for the competition to begin.

The competition was about more than just winning a trophy—it was about boosting morale and enhancing cohesion within the unit, according to the event organizer, Chief Warrant Officer Eric C. Auburg, the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense officer with 4th Marines.

"It's good for the community as a whole to get together and see the people that they haven't seen for a while, or just build new friendships," said Auburg.

There were approximately 1,800 Marines present for the competition, said Colonel David L. Odom, Commanding Officer, 4th Marines. Those in the regiment took time away from their busy training schedule to partake in the event, boost morale and have fun with fellow Marines.

"This is the one time of the year that we have a break from working and are able to host the Shanghai Cup," said Odom. "The Marines are forward-deployed throughout the year, so we rarely have all battalions



SGT IDA IRBY, USA

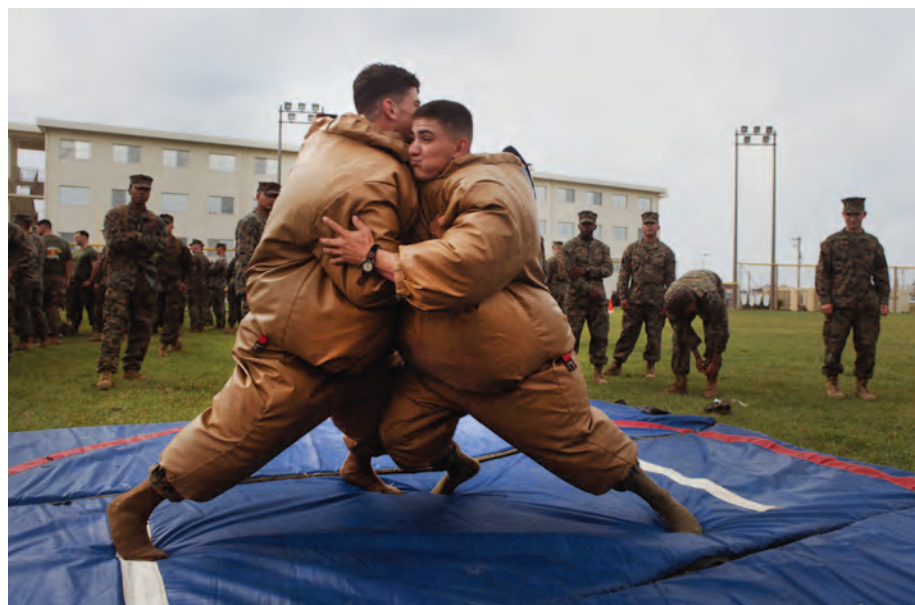
Hand cyclist and veteran Marine Brandon Dotson proudly displays his medal after completing the 40th Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 25, 2015. The marathon was Dotson's third in a 15-day period.



3dMarDiv leathernecks call cadence as they take part in a 3-mile motivational run around Camp Schwab, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 10, 2015. The run preceded a spirited competition for the Shanghai Cup during which the Division's battalions faced off in a variety of events.

LCPL DOUGLAS D. SIMONS, USMC

Below: LCpl Marcus G. Merritt, left, and LCpl Luke Copeland participate in a sumo wrestling match during the Shanghai Cup competition at Camp Schwab, Nov. 10, 2015.



LCPL DOUGLAS D. SIMONS, USMC

EOTG Marines Participate in International Sniper Competition

■ Two Marines representing Expeditionary Operations Training Group (EOTG), II Marine Expeditionary Force participated in the annual International Sniper Competition in Fort Benning, Ga., Oct. 19-23, 2015.

Staff Sergeant James Stroope and Sergeant Jordan Davis, infantry snipers and reconnaissance and surveillance instructors, had the opportunity to test their marksmanship skills against both American and international teams.

The competition was hosted by the United States Army and consisted of 37 two-man sniper teams from around the world. The teams went through 17 physically challenging events in pursuit of the first-place title.

Each team was tested on its ability to perform marksmanship fundamentals, advanced marksmanship fundamentals, firing and known and unknown distance targets, and providing cover for field craft in the form of stalking exercises.

“The purpose of the competition was to gather teams from national, international and foreign agencies to test and evaluate them on their tactics, techniques and procedures in order to create a friendly competition to crown the top sniper team this year,” said SSgt Stroope. “It also opens up opportunities for cross training between the competitors and helps build a cohesive relationship across the sniper community.”

on the island at the same time.”

The competition benefitted the Marines who participated by allowing them to make new friends and reminisce with old ones, said Lance Corporal Sam S. Goerdt, a machine-gunner assigned to 4th Marines under the unit deployment program.

“The competitions really brought all of the battalions together to have a great time,” said Goerdt. “I think everyone involved was thankful for such an opportunity.”

The final event was a tug-of-war tourna-

ment, during which different battalions took turns facing off against each other. At the end of the day, 2d Bn, 3d Marines, assigned to 4th Marines, scored the most points and took home the trophy.

“Today was about taking a day out of our schedule and spending some time together to have some fun,” said Col Odom. “I had the honor of awarding the Shanghai Cup to the winning team, but everybody takes away a share of the camaraderie.”

LCpl Daniel Jean-Paul, USMC

Participants must be graduates of a recognized sniper school in order to enter the competition.

The competitors were required to shoot an M4 carbine, an M40A5 sniper rifle and a 9 mm pistol at close distances in order to test their weapons manipulation ability to hit standing and moving targets, as well as known and unknown distances at night. Shooters used a formula called the “mill-relation” to measure an unknown distance and size of a target.

“It was challenging,” said Davis. “It really opens your eyes to the new stuff that’s out there, like the new moving targets that the Army is using. They are phenomenal because they give real-world feedback; it’s almost lifelike.”

Prior to the start of various events in the competition, the teams performed different exercises that physically exhausted them, like sprints and deadlifts of 225 pounds. This not only made the event more challenging, but also tested the team members’ ability to perform under stress.

When the competition ended, the Marines finished in fourth place. They are eager to return, if given the opportunity.

“Absolutely, I would compete again,” said Stroope. “Understanding now about what the competition entails and looking at the deficiencies of finding distances between targets, good shooter-spotter dialogue and shooting under stress—not just shooting and being in a good and comfortable atmosphere—and actually putting yourself in a rigorous setting would help out a lot in preparing for next year,” he added.

LCpl Chris Garcia, USMC

Simulator Allows Marines to Rehearse Driving in Adverse Conditions

■ With the help of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle (MATV) simulator, Marines were able to experience driving the vehicle in extreme conditions that mimicked heavy snow and 100 mile-per-hour winds. The simulation was part of a licensing course instructed by the Motor Vehicle Incidental Drivers School (MVIDS) at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 3, 2015.

Marines identified the need for the lighter, faster and smaller vehicle after operating in areas with restricted mobility. The MATV is designed with greater mobility than previous armored vehicles and maintains a high level of protection from enemy attacks while maneuvering across dynamic terrain. Licensing courses like the one provided by MVIDS allow Marines and sailors the opportunity to broaden their skill sets and prepare for unexpected situations in theater.



LCPL DAMARKO BONES, USMC

Cpl Tim Wood and Michelle Clark, instructors with MVIDS, run an MATV simulator at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 4, 2015. MVIDS offers a number of training courses designed to teach Marines how to drive tactical vehicles.

“You never know whenever you’re in a combat environment and you might have to drive,” said Corporal Tim Wood, an instructor at MVIDS. “It’s the same concept as if a Marine went on a foot patrol. We don’t want a Marine to have to get behind the wheel of a 7-ton [truck] and not know what they’re doing.”

The school allows military personnel from any background to receive the same training as Marines in the motor transportation field.

Wood continued by saying that the information and training students receive at MVIDS is almost identical to the training Marines receive when they prepare for their military occupational specialty in motor transportation.

Any Marine can take the course and earn the qualifications, and motor transportation Marines also can attend the courses to benefit themselves and become more of an asset to their units.

Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Mumper, the director of MVIDS, emphasized the ability of specialized motor transportation Marines to attend the school in order to enhance their current licenses.

In order to receive their tactical vehicle

licenses, the students must accomplish more than just driving the simulator.

According to Mumper, the course starts in a basic classroom setting with instructions, followed by written tests. After the tests are complete, the students must drive a set number of miles and perform skills tests, which consist of both day and night driving. They require the driver to properly maneuver the vehicle with confidence.

Not all drivers pass the course when they go through the school, but they are allowed to retake the class at a later time.

“If somebody doesn’t complete the course, we give them a learner’s permit and they go back to their individual unit,” Mumper said. “From there, they have to ride with a licensed driver until they get more road miles. When they’re ready, they can come back at a later date in order to retest.”

MVIDS continues to provide a universal capability that translates across Second Marine Logistics Group. Marines are teaching their peers how to be more efficient with specialized skills they can utilize both during training and deployment.

LCpl Damarko Bones, USMC

F-35B Community Marks Milestone With First Training Pipeline Selection

■ First Lieutenant Taylor Zehrung, a student naval aviator with Training Squadron (VT) 22, located at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, became the first jet pipeline aviator selected to train and fly the F-35B Lightning II after earning his wings of gold Oct. 23, 2015.

"1stLt Zehrung will be the first CAT I pilot selected to fly the F-35B," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert George, Commanding Officer, VT-22. "This is a big step towards the transition of sustaining a long-term F-35B fleet."

In 2008, the Marine Corps chose the first six pilots to fly the F-35B operationally. All six were graduates of the Marine Corps' elite Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI) and most were also instructors at WTI or Top Gun. During the past few years, the Corps selected more junior pilots to transition to the F-35B to balance out the experience in the "ready rooms." Until Zehrung's designation, all current F-35B pilots were experienced Marines selected from operational units flying the Corps' other jet aircraft, the F/A-18 Hornet, the AV-8B Harrier and the EA-6B Prowler.



Col John Rahe, CO of MATSG-22, left, presents 1stLt Taylor Zehrung with the Commodore's List Award following Zehrung's winging ceremony at NAS Kingsville, Texas, Oct. 23, 2015. Zehrung is the first jet pipeline aviator to be selected to train and fly the F-35B.

"1stLt Zehrung will be the first to go directly from flight school to the F-35B Fleet Replacement Squadron," said George. "His training will start at MCAS [Marine Corps Air Station] Beaufort, S.C., flying with the "Warlords" of Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron

[VMFAT] 501. He was chosen from a very competitive group of peers in large part due to his impeccable officer-like qualities to include professionalism, integrity and sound judgment. He did a phenomenal job as a student aviator, and his grades were exceptionally high, earning him the distinction of being on the Commodore's List. We're very proud of him and are excited to be a part of this significant milestone for First Lieutenant Zehrung and the Marine Corps."

When Zehrung was asked how it felt to be the first student selected to fly the F-35B, he said, "I feel very honored and proud. It is very exciting and exhilarating, and I truly am looking forward to the future. I know that the program is going to require a lot from me, but I am ready to give 100 percent and set the bar for future student naval aviators."

The F-35B is a single-seat, multi-role fighter aircraft with the capability to perform ground attack, reconnaissance and air defense missions. It is designed to eventually replace the F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8B Harrier tactical fighter aircraft.

Richard Stewart, PAO Chief of Naval Air Training



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



"I saw you fly in there, you little tasty morsel. Don't you know Marines will eat anything!"

Submitted by
Sgt William Duncan
Camby, Ind.

This Month's Photo



(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.

PFC Beto Chavarria sucks the blood from the head of a python during jungle survival training as part of the Malaysia–United States Amphibious Exercise 2015 in Tandu, Malaysia, Nov. 11, 2015.



AMPHIB EX 2015

Marines Learn Jungle Survival Skills



LCpl Nicholas Sellars, a mortarman with Weapons Co, BLT 3/1, 15th MEU, examines a knife made of bamboo.



Above and left: LCpl Jesse Meinhardt, a rifleman with Co K, BLT 3/1, 15th MEU, blows on embers to start a fire made using steel, a rock and dry straw.

Story and photos by Sgt Emmanuel Ramos, USMC

Malaysia-United States Amphibious Exercise 2015, a bilateral training exercise between U.S. Marines with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the Malaysian armed forces was conducted over four days in early November 2015 with the goal of strengthening military cooperation and interoperability between the two countries.

“The relationship between [the U.S. military] and the Malaysian military is essential to theater security in the Western Pacific,” said Brigadier General Christopher J. Mahoney, deputy commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, during the opening ceremony. “Exercises like these

ensure we continue to build on the foundation of a strong working relationship.”

Training included amphibious operations, weapons and tactics familiarization and cultural exchange between Malaysian soldiers and the Marines of Company K, Battalion Landing Team 3d Bn, First Marine Regiment, 15th MEU.

Jungle survival training, led by the Malaysian soldiers, also was incorporated into the exercise. The training included building shelters, traps, snares and fires, as well as locating edible vegetation and fresh water.

“The training was great. I didn’t know there was so many



A Malaysian army officer explains to U.S. Marines with Co K, BLT 3/1 how to build a wild game trap with vines and wood.

terrains you had to prepare for in the jungle,” said Lance Corporal Gary Gomez, a mortarman with “Kilo” Co. “The jungle is very giving, but it can be just as unforgiving if you don’t respect it.”

During the course, the Malaysian soldiers taught the Marines how to prepare meals using monitor lizard, python, bats, birds, turtles and monkeys. At the conclusion of the course, Marines were presented with a feast of all the animals prepared in various ways.

“You’d be surprised at how tasty those animals are,” Gomez said. “It’s nice to know that if I ever find myself lost in the jungle, I can at least count on having a good meal.”

The exercise also allotted time for cultural exchange between the two militaries, which included friendly matches of volleyball, American football, and a version of baseball that used a soccer ball and a wooden bat which was fashioned from a log.

Marines and Malaysian soldiers traded personal gear, such as rank and shirts, to remember each other by.

Last-minute photos and embraces were exchanged between Marines and Malaysian soldiers. Although the training lasted only four days, the lessons learned and relationships made are sure to last.

Author’s bio: Sgt Emmanuel Ramos is a combat correspondent assigned to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Force.





Sgt David Camerino, a squad leader with Co K, BLT 3/1, sets the example for his Marines by tasting a palm tree trunk



Cpl Tyler Potter, a "Kilo" Co machine-gunner, drinks fresh water from a tree branch.



LtCol Alfred Rivera, the commanding officer of Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 15th MEU, joins his Marines in jungle survival training and drinks python blood.



Enjoying a meal prepared by Malaysian soldiers, Marines with Co K, BLT 3/1 sample lizard, turtle, python, bats and a salad made from jungle vegetation.

Corps Connections

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



MCRD Parris Island, S.C.

Reunion Brings Together Veteran DIs

More than 100 former drill instructors gathered at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., for the 28th annual reunion of the East Coast Drill Instructors Association, held April 8-11, 2015.

On April 10, the attendees watched a graduation ceremony, attended a brief ceremony at the Drill Instructor Monument and enjoyed a picnic at Elliott's Beach. Also in attendance at the picnic were active-duty DIs and two guests of honor: Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, and Sergeant Major of MCRD Parris Island, SgtMaj Angela M. Maness (pictured). Later, the former DIs gathered for a cadence-calling contest and storytelling session.

The association wrapped up the event April 11 with a banquet featuring the Parris Island Band and guest speaker SgtMaj John V. Browne, USMC (Ret).

Submitted by Ronald Lauretti



Quantico, Va.

Oldest MCM Runner Visits *Leatherneck*

Marine veteran, *Leatherneck* reader and avid runner John R. Corbet stopped by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation in Quantico, Va., for a visit on Oct. 26, 2015, the day after he completed the 40th Marine Corps Marathon. At the age of 82, Corbet, who resides in Miamisburg, Ohio, was officially the oldest runner in last year's 26.2-mile race. He finished the race in 6:04:17.

Submitted by *Leatherneck* staff



West Liberty, Ky.

Statue Is a Tribute to Medal of Honor Recipient

Marine veterans of the Korean War gathered on July 4, 2015, in West Liberty, Ky., to honor the memory of Colonel William E. Barber, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. They held a dedication ceremony for a life-size bronze statue of Col Barber, entitled "We Will Hold."

The statue, sculpted by Marine veteran Stephen J. Tirone, depicts a wounded Barber, then a captain, exhorting the Marines of "Fox" Company, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division (Reinforced), to defend a frozen mountain pass critical to the successful breakout of thousands of entrapped Marines. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Morgan County, Ky., Post, of which the late Col Barber was a member, led the charge in the conception, funding and construction of the memorial, with the support of Kentucky Marines.

Submitted by Ed Armento



Ottawa, Canada

MSG Marines Rename Bar to Honor Canadian U.S. Marine

Leathernecks from the Marine Security Guard Detachment in Ottawa, Canada, led by Gunnery Sergeant Bradley K. Campbell, held a dedication ceremony for the newly renamed “Bunker 484” bar in the MSG residence, Sept. 15, 2015. The Marines formerly referred to the bar as the “Heritage Room,” but decided they wanted to give it a new name that had significance to the Corps.

After some research, they agreed to honor Corporal George Victor Jmaeff, who was born in British Columbia, Canada, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967 and joined the fight in Vietnam in 1968. Jmaeff was killed in action while his unit was attempting to seize Hill 484. For the heroic actions that led to his death, Jmaeff posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross.

The MSG Marines tracked down several veterans of “Charlie” Company, 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, who were with Jmaeff when he was killed. Many of them provided items to be displayed in the newly named “Bunker 484,” named for the hill on which Jmaeff was killed. Items included a shadow box containing his awards, photos of Jmaeff from Vietnam and boot camp, and Navy Cross and Bronze Star citations. Four of the veterans who served with Jmaeff on Hill 484 traveled to Ottawa to attend the dedication ceremony. They are pictured above with members of the MSG Detachment.

Submitted by GySgt Bradley K. Campbell, USMC



Largo, Fla.

MCL Detachment Presents Unique Gift to Museum

Members of the Sergeant Major Michael Curtin Detachment #1124 of the Marine Corps League, Zephyrhills, Fla., visited the Armed Forces History Museum in Largo, Fla., Sept. 18, 2015. During a formal presentation, the detachment’s commandant, Rod Rehrig (center), presented two original Vietnam War-era conical hats, which happily were received by representatives of the museum.

Submitted by Robert B. “Bob” Loring

Our newest department, “Corps Connections,” highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks.

We welcome submissions of photographs from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.rock@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of submitted photographs.

Veteran Marines Ensure “No Marine Stands Alone”

Organization Sends Marines and Families to Disney, Parents to Parris Island/San Diego

Story by CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)
Photos courtesy of
Marines & Mickey Foundation

What started as different acts of service by veteran Marines about two years ago has grown into a nonprofit organization with one simple goal: assist Marines and their families who need help.

The Marines & Mickey Foundation has two missions: sending Marines and their families to visit Disney theme parks and providing parents with the means to attend their Marines' boot camp graduations. The organization's motto: “No Marine Stands Alone.”

According to Marines & Mickey organizers Kimberly McDonough and John Simpson, in the 15 months since the two of them coordinated their efforts, they have fully funded Disney visits for 22 Marines and their families, and nearly 300 families have traveled to see their Marines graduate from recruit training at Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego, Calif.

Veteran Marine Kimberly McDonough said she remembers standing on the grind-er in January 1993 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island after becoming a United States Marine. Her family was there to celebrate with her, but she saw graduating Marines who were alone.

Twenty years later, she decided to help those whose families were not able to afford travel expenses to attend the graduation. In the process, she coordinated efforts with retired Marine John Simpson who, out of the same drive to continue serving fellow Marines, started a program to send Marines to Walt Disney theme parks.

McDonough's concept started two years ago when her son's girlfriend was in recruit training at Parris Island. “I promised her that I would go to her graduation,” she said. “Our families are very close, and



One of the many families that the Marines & Mickey Foundation has sent to Walt Disney World in Florida poses happily with Mickey Mouse.

they'd get letters from her in boot camp so I'd help 'translate' them, to let them know what she was going through at that point.”

This led McDonough to Facebook to follow the groups there that supported recruits' families. She noticed that many questions about female recruit issues went unanswered, so she started a site entitled “4th Recruit Training Battalion Families Parris Island” for the female recruits.

“At first I knew each and every family, but now the group has nearly 1,500 members,” she said. Early in the process she became close with one family and contacted them as their recruit's graduation neared to ask if they were getting excited about going.

“They told me they couldn't afford to go, and I said, ‘No, hell no, you are going,’ ” she declared. McDonough said that she began to search online for a Marine-owned business that might help fund travel for the family.

Through that effort she found Semper Fi Security Systems Inc., owned by Simpson. “Generally if you say you're a Marine and tell me what you're doing and that you need help, that will get me on the hook with you,” said Simpson. After a few e-mails with McDonough, then phone calls, he offered to pay for the family's

expenses to see their daughter graduate. This was the genesis of the “Parents to Parris Island/San Diego” program.

Through this interaction, McDonough found out about an initiative that Simpson had conceived before he retired. While he was stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during his final tour, he had two Marines who were experiencing personal difficulties. He wanted to do something to ease their stress, so he treated them to a weekend at Disney World.

Another time, Simpson said he contacted the 6th Marine Corps District and obtained the name of a recruiter who was going through some tough times and paid for the recruiter and his family to go to Disney World.

At this point there was no foundation; Simpson was funding the trips out of his pocket. He initially called it a foundation but hadn't actually formed a nonprofit organization under tax code 501 (c) 3. When McDonough found that out, she knew she could return the favor and help Simpson.

She had experience working with the Marine Corps League and the Women Marines Association and had been on the board of the New York City Marine Corps



Above: Several families who were assisted by the Marines & Mickey Foundation's Parents to Parris Island/San Diego program gather for a group photo with their new Marines.

Below: Kimberly McDonough from the Marines & Mickey Foundation and several new Marines enjoy MCRD Parris Island's Family Day. The veteran Marine and other volunteers, including drill instructors' spouses, are available each Family Day to support Marines whose families cannot attend their recruit training graduation.



Council. "I helped facilitate everything from motorcycle charity rides to black-tie dinners, so I had a little fundraising ability," she said.

Simpson started the foundation in April 2014, McDonough came on board in May, and by June, with outside professional assistance, the two had their 501 (c) 3 designation in place.

"I had no clue how a foundation

worked," Simpson said. "I didn't even go on Facebook before this. Kimberly takes care of all that, she's pretty tech savvy—otherwise, I'd probably still just have a website and not much else."

"I was giving him advice on how he could do some things, and he said I needed to just join his board and do them for the organization," McDonough said. This was the start of the consolidated initiatives.

In the meantime, McDonough's parent discussion groups were getting larger and more involved. "I was getting calls from families with so many questions," McDonough said, when the program was still just centered on Parris Island. "So I decided to go to Parris Island to be with them and help where I could."

This meant a self-funded 14-hour drive and two overnight stays from her home in New York to Beaufort, S.C. To save time, she'd buy a bucket of fried chicken the night before because "it was good hot or cold, and I can drive while I eat to save time," she said. She'd make the trip about every three weeks, normally leaving early on Wednesdays to be there for the Thursday Family Day, when recruits are allowed a bit of time with their families before the graduation ceremony on Friday.

"While the families had free time with their recruits, I'd drive around the base and see all those recruits who didn't have families coming to the graduation just wandering around alone," she said.

Waiting in line for her fried chicken prior to the next trip, she thought of the lone recruits and bought an extra bucket of chicken as well as some desserts. At Parris Island she mustered some of those recruits and shared her food. She went to the liberty ceremony held just before recruits are released to their parents for three-hour base liberty.

"Once the parents had all taken their recruits away, I'd find recruits who didn't have anyone and ask them if they had

Retired MSgt John Simpson stands with Cathy Wells during a memorial service for Cathy's son, LCpl Skip Wells, at Sprayberry High School, Marietta, Ga. LCpl Wells was killed in a terrorist attack at the Navy Operational Support Center, Chattanooga, Tenn., on July 16, 2015.



family coming,” she said. “If they said they didn’t know, I’d give them a cell phone so they could call and find out. If they said no, I’d tell them I was their big sister, that I’d graduated from here in 1993, I understood what they were experiencing and that I had fried chicken and treats.”

Eventually she arranged to have a tent and picnic tables set up at the Marine Corps Exchange and enlisted the spouses of drill instructors to assist. She picked up copies of local newspapers that had the names of all graduating recruits and had them there for the new Marines to take home to their families. She would buy each of them their battalion coin. Then, before their liberty expired, she took them to featured sites at Parris Island to take pictures for their families.

During one of her visits, a battalion chaplain suggested that she could receive assistance from drill instructors’ spouses to help fill in for her the weeks she couldn’t be there. She obtained contact numbers and made some calls. “Within 12 hours, I had 30 volunteers, and they started that next week,” she said.

She finally decided to move to Beaufort to be available for every graduation. Two

of her three children already were out of the house, and the last one was a high school senior. “He was actually very supportive of going, so we moved here in early March 2015,” she said.

Both Simpson and McDonough admit that their efforts have become a time-consuming job—and sometimes they move outside their primary mission if it means helping recruits, Marines or their families.

“I got a call last night about a female who graduated last week, and her house burned to the ground the day before, losing all her uniforms, her orders and her plane ticket,” McDonough said during a phone interview in early September 2015. “She was slated to check into MCT [Marine Combat Training] at Camp Lejeune on the Tuesday after Labor Day.”

McDonough immediately started making phone calls and went on Facebook with the Women Marines Association for help. She contacted the Marine’s senior DI to get an eagle, globe and anchor to replace the one that had been lost in the fire. She had a set of utilities sent to a master sergeant at Camp Lejeune who had name tapes put on them and who also purchased a set of boots for the Marine.

“At least she would be able to check in wearing a uniform,” said McDonough. They also arranged to have her recruit photos reprinted.

McDonough also made arrangements to help the new Marine’s parents in the aftermath of the fire.

McDonough and Simpson had occasion to help out again when four Marines were killed by a gunman in Chattanooga, Tenn., last July. One of the Marines killed was Lance Corporal Squire K. “Skip” Wells.

“I was driving from Beaufort to Florida when I got a voice mail from his mother, Cathy Wells, that same day as the shootings,” Simpson said. “I called her back, and she told me that her son, Skip, had lost his life in that tragedy. The first thing I wanted to know is what I could do for her, but she said Skip loved Disney, so she wanted to send someone there in his name.”

“She was a single mother for Skip’s whole life from birth,” explained McDonough, also a single mother. “She was a school bus driver, and every year she took Skip to Disney. Eight days before he was killed, for the first time, he was able to pay to take her to Disney.”

Simpson suggested that from that point forward the Disney trips would be named



This new Marine and his mother send a thank you to Marines & Mickey for helping fund the mother's visit to see her son graduate from recruit training. This was the first family assisted by Parents to Parris Island/San Diego through the foundation in May 2014.

the "LCpl Skip Wells Marines & Mickey Disney Vacation."

"Since we renamed it, we've been able to send three families, and Mrs. Wells was able to present Lance Corporal Wells' recruiter and his family of five a paid three-day, two-night Disney vacation," Simpson said.

Simpson went to a memorial service at Wells' high school, and McDonough attended his funeral in Atlanta. Proving that it is a small Marine Corps world, she ran into a major she'd worked with in the New York City Marine Corps Council. Turns out he was Wells' battery commander; they talked, and now he and the unit are onboard fully with the Marines & Mickey efforts.

"My board consists of mostly active-duty Marines, which helps because we have direct contact with those we serve," noted Simpson.

Their out-of-the-box approach is apparently contagious. One of their volunteer supporters who lives in Montana and supports the West Coast parents program has a son who has been in the Corps for two years. She is the administrator for MCRD San Diego's "Golf" Company Facebook page. She issued a challenge on June 15: If the group could raise \$10,000 on behalf of the Marines & Mickey programs by the time the new group of recruits graduated on Sept. 11, she would

fly to San Diego on Wednesday evening before graduation and allow Simpson to shave her head.

"Well, I'll be going to San Diego to shave her head," said Simpson, with McDonough chiming in to stress that they actually exceeded the \$10,000 goal. "We've never had anyone come close to a contribution that large," she said.

The Marines & Mickey and Parents to Parris Island/San Diego motto, "No Marine Stands Alone," is more than just



PFC Alex Ramos is brought to tears after a call to his mother during Family Day at Parris Island. His family could not attend his recruit training graduation, but volunteers with Marines & Mickey ensured he was able to speak to his family.

a phrase according to the two founders. The website www.marinesandmickey.org speaks directly to Marine families, saying, "While self-reliance is a virtue, when you are in need and your son or daughter has volunteered to serve our



Trish Pentacost prepares to have her head shaved, fulfilling the promise she made if her MCRD San Diego "Golf" Company Facebook group raised \$10,000 for Marines & Mickey. Her successful fundraising efforts resulted in retired M Sgt John Simpson cutting her hair as her son, Cpl Tanner Barnicoat, takes a "selfie" for the Facebook page.

country by protecting it as a United States Marine, we are here to help you in two special ways."

McDonough and Simpson both stressed that these are more than just words; it is the attitude they have toward their mission. They also emphasized that they rely on strong support from family, volunteers, their team nationwide and donations.

"On Christmas day at 1 a.m. last year [2014], I was on the phone getting a plane ticket for a recruit's family so they could be there for the graduation," said McDonough. "My kids sometimes worry that I do too much, but I try to explain that it is important. I know they understand and support me."

Simpson said that his wife and Marines & Mickey co-founder, Tonya, and their three children put up with a lot, but his is a passionate mission. "I will always be a Marine, and until my last breath, I'll see that we do all we can do to take care of Marines. If a Marine calls and needs help, I damn sure will help."

Author's bio: CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), a Leatherneck contributing editor, was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He now operates his own business, and is a freelance photojournalist.



Air Show Performers, Organizers Go Full Throttle to Wow Spectators

By Roxanne Baker



OPALUSSA P. SCHUNING, USMC

First Marine Division leathernecks fast-rope out of a UH-1Y Venom during a demonstration of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations at the 2015 MCAS Miramar Air Show aboard the air station Oct. 2.



SGT URBEL AVERDANO, USMC

The 3d MAW Band performs at the opening ceremony of the 2015 MCAS Miramar Air Show.

Last year's air show at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., once again ranked as the largest military air show in the nation. "A Salute to Veterans and Their Families" was a mammoth undertaking. The show's 300 participants used 150,000 gallons of fuel to wow the 450,000 spectators who came to watch the show, which took place Oct. 2-4.

The air show is an open house to give the public a hands-on look at the military. Not only can spectators meet active-duty Marines in uniform, they can tour an MV-22 Osprey, feel the weight of a Stinger missile and sit in the cockpit of a KC-130J Super Hercules.

"It's very rewarding to see how much of an impact we have on the community; it's a high payoff," Major R.J. Thompson, the Third Marine Aircraft Wing air show coordinator, said. "As Marines, we take some things for granted, but the public and kids line up and wait just to get into a humvee turret. They're our neighbors, and I think it's a real positive impact on the community."

Since 1998, 3d MAW has hosted the air show. The wing is the aviation combat element of I Marine Expeditionary Force and integral to the training and deployment of Marines. It is included in the 67 percent of the Department of Defense aviation training airspace located within the southwest states of California, Arizona and Nevada.

So how do the show's organizers do it? *Leatherneck* got a behind-the-scenes look at the planning and logistics required for the air show to take off.

Scheduling for the air show begins immediately after the year's previous air show wraps up. Planning goes full throttle each January as more than 200 military and DOD personnel begin meeting regularly to discuss logistics, details and contracts.

"I think people would be surprised by how much work goes into it," said Thompson. "There's a lot of behind-the-scenes coordination to develop a timeline and to minimally impact operations."

Although some setup is done a week before the air show, the majority of the setup doesn't start until two days prior. Within those two days, more than 160 booths selling items from food to memorabilia are constructed and several rehearsals are conducted. The three-day show ends on a Sunday afternoon, and everything is immediately broken down in about 14 hours. Military personnel and civilians work through the night so the flight line is completely operational by Monday morning. Hundreds of Marines from 3d MAW survey the flight line starting at 7 a.m. in a foreign object damage (FOD) walk to ensure the area is free of debris and safe for regular operations.

Safety is a primary concern during the air show. Show organizers work with private companies to ensure traffic safety on base. At the 2015 event, the Saturday crowd brought in more than 200,000 spectators and 50,000 cars in just one day. There are more than 100 health care workers from the Naval Medical Center San Diego to respond to medical emergencies and possible cases of heat exhaustion and



2015 Performers

Some of the 2015 MCAS Miramar Air Show's performances included:

- U.S. Navy Blue Angels
- U.S. Army Golden Knights
- Breitling Jet Team
- Patriots Jet Team
- Sean Tucker and the "Oracle Challenger III"
- Chuck Aaron and the Red Bull Helicopter
- Shockwave Jet Truck
- F-35B Lightning II Demonstration

Left: The Breitling Jet Team performed on Oct. 2 during the 2015 MCAS Miramar Air Show. This was the team's first performance at the annual event. (Photo by Cpl Asia J. Sorenson, USMC)

MAGTF Demo

The Marine Air-Ground Task Force demo is an action-packed hour of the Miramar air show that showcases the diversity and power of the Marine Corps. The MAGTF is the organizational structure of the Marine Corps and is made up of four elements: command, ground combat, aviation combat and combat service support. This structure enables each MAGTF to be self-sustaining and immediately operational. MAGTFs are trained with specific purposes and can deploy within a few days to anywhere in the world. It is this flexibility and independence that has established the Marine Corps as the force in readiness for crisis response and emergency relief.

The MAGTF demo kicked off with an F/A-18 fly-by that screamed past the grandstands. Although extremely fast-paced with an explosion or fly-by every 15 seconds, the 40-minute demo showcased the well-oiled, seamless coordination of all four elements.

"You're getting to see real-world operations in a simulated combat scenario," said Major Elio Marchillo, MAGTF coordinator for the air show. "We're able to quickly integrate everything because this is our doctrine; it's our bread and butter."

Thirteen aircraft flew during the demonstration, including two UH-1Y Venoms, two MV-22 Ospreys, two AH-1Z Super Cobras/Vipers, two F/A-18 Hornets, two AV-8B Harriers, a CH-53E Super Stallion, an F-35B Lightning II and a KC-130J Super Hercules. Infantry Marines



Two F/A-18 Hornets are displayed in front of the "Wall of Fire" on Oct. 3, during the MAGTF demonstration at the Marine Corps Community Services-sponsored air show aboard MCAS Miramar. (Photo by Cpl Trevor A. Statz, USMC)

rappelled from a Venom, sprinted from an Osprey and sped down the flight line in M1A1 Abrams tanks and light armored vehicles.

The MAGTF demo also cranked up the heat. Specialized explosives simulated naval gunfire, bombs, Hellfire missiles, napalm, white phosphorus rockets and gun strafes. The crowd-favorite "Wall of Fire" pyrotechnic display was an explosion that created a 2,000-foot wall of fire that extended 100 feet high.

"You can feel the heat and the shockwaves," Marchillo said.

—Roxanne Baker

dehydration. Show organizers also work with local law enforcement as well as government agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to mitigate any threats or risks.

But the months of planning and coordination are well worth it come show time, said retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Ed Downum, the air show coordinator. Downum also is the director of the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at MCAS Miramar.

"It's great when it finally comes together," said LtCol Downum. "It's an open house event to show the public what their tax dollars are doing. A lot of people don't understand what the military does, so this is to explain what we do and why we do it."

Author's bio: Roxanne Baker is a writer and media coordinator for MCA&F. A Marine wife, she is an experienced multimedia journalist with hundreds of published works.



Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Employers Commit to Recruiting And Hiring Military Spouses

Thirty-seven new companies and organizations were inducted into the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP) during a ceremony at the Mark Center in Alexandria, Va., Oct. 28, 2015, bringing the total number of partners to 297.

The partners who have joined MSEP are committed to recruiting, hiring, promoting and retaining military spouses in portable careers.

Since Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, launched the partnership in June 2011, partners have hired tens of thousands of military spouses, according to Stephanie Barna, acting assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs.

"I state for the record and for the first time publicly, you—our valued partners—have hired more than 82,000 military spouses," Barna said during the induction ceremony.

"Although MSEP is still a young program, we have known from day one how eager each of you is to hire our spouses," Barna said. "You clearly see our spouses as having the knowledge, skills and, most importantly, values that your business needs to develop and reach out to new

markets and deliver new and improved products and services."

Rosemary Williams, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, addressed the military spouses in attendance.

"You represent the thousands of military spouses—both men and women—around the globe who are searching for meaningful employment and career opportunities that will not only fulfill your career dreams, but provide your families with a greater level of financial stability that keeps you strong and resilient," Williams said.

Kristine Kash, a military spouse and an employee of MSEP partner Starbucks, also spoke as part of the ceremony.

"Today's ceremony is centered around 'Building Relationships,' which is perfect, because when I joined Starbucks eight months ago, that was my only option—to build relationships," she said.

"My husband deployed to Iraq the same week I started with the company," she continued. "I knew no one. I had just moved into a new apartment. The reason I resigned from my previous career and gravitated towards Starbucks was because of the stories I had heard from those who worked there were so inspiring. Everyone was always so happy and engaged."

After the ceremony, partners attended

a meeting focused on the day's theme of building stronger relationships in support of military spouse employment.

As part of the broader Department of Defense Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program, the MSEP is a targeted recruitment and employment solution. It addresses the employment challenges facing military spouses and provides partner employers with access to a pool of highly qualified military spouses.

DOD Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program

"Guitar Pull" Brings Talent, Music And Toys for Tots to Cherry Point

Approximately 2,000 country music fans gathered for the 7th Annual WRNS Guitar Pull at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 19, 2015.

Hosted by Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) and WRNS, an eastern North Carolina country music radio station, the free concert featured talents including William Michael Morgan, Cam, Canaan Smith, Cassadee Pope and Waterloo Revival.

"The Guitar Pull is a unique event that gives the community members, who may have not ever been on a military installation, a chance for them to come out and support the military and have that close personal contact with the Marines and sailors while enjoying a great concert," said Beth McKenzie, marketing director with MCCS.

According to McKenzie, the 2,000 tickets were split among active and reserve servicemembers, radio listeners, wounded warriors, veterans and community members.

"Living in eastern North Carolina, there is not a whole lot of great big talent that comes to this area, so events like this are awesome," explained McKenzie. "It affords us the opportunity to partner with our community and the local radio stations in our community to not only bring high-caliber entertainment, but free entertainment to our Marines and sailors."

During the event, patrons who brought new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program were entered into a drawing to win a guitar signed by all of the evening's entertainers.



Steve Hosley, president and CEO of Liberty-Source PBC, signs the statement of support on behalf of his company during the MSEP induction ceremony in Alexandria, Va., Oct. 28, 2015.

Country music artists perform their hit songs and tell stories for a crowd of nearly 2,000 Marines, sailors and community members at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 19, 2015. (Photo by Cpl Neysa Huertas Quinones, USMC)



Below: Marines collect Toys for Tots donations during the 7th Annual WRNS Guitar Pull at MCAS Cherry Point, Nov. 19, 2015. The concert featured numerous country music artists and doubled as an opportunity to promote the Toys for Tots mission to members of the local community.



“The Guitar Pull is a different environment. It is a private, acoustic concert where all the artists come out one at a time, play songs, sit on the stage, talk, tell stories about the various words behind the songs they wrote, how they got started as an artist and the struggles they may have had. Some even have a military connection and have said they really enjoy performing for the servicemembers. It’s just a really great experience for everyone involved,” McKenzie said.

According to McKenzie, Toys for Tots is something people associate with the

Marine Corps, so hosting a toy drive at the concert was a great way to raise awareness for the cause.

“As a reservist, I love being a part of the Toys for Tots program, collecting toys and seeing the joy it brings to people to know they are helping someone in need during the holidays,” explained Corporal Francisco Cardenas, an operations clerk with Combat Logistics Battalion 25 and a Toys for Tots volunteer at the event.

According to Cardenas, hearing all the talented artists and enjoying the concert was a plus, but he really enjoyed volunteer-



Above: Country music artist Cassadee Pope performs at the WRNS Guitar Pull at MCAS Cherry Point. The free concert was hosted by MCCA and country music radio station WRNS.

ing and spending time with fellow servicemembers and community patrons.

“It is touching to see the huge turnout for this event,” said Cardenas. “I feel honored that these artists come all the way here to Cherry Point to perform the free concert for us. It shows that what we do matters to them.”

Sgt Grace L. Waladkewics, USMC

Redesigned TAP Succeeds in Preparing Veterans for Civilian Jobs

In the latest survey results from graduates of the military’s redesigned Transition Assistance Program (TAP), more than 80 percent of former military personnel said the curriculum prepared them well to re-enter the civilian workforce, a Department of Defense official told a

National Museum of the Marine Corps Will Temporarily Close Its Doors



If you're planning a trip to Quantico, Va., during the next few months, there is one particular landmark you'll be unable to visit. Effective Jan. 4, the National Museum of the Marine Corps will close until March 31 to make way for two new Marine Corps aircraft. A World War II SBD Dauntless dive bomber and a new tableau featuring a Vietnam-era Sikorsky UH-34D helicopter will be added to the museum's Leatherneck Gallery.

Although the museum never likes to shut its doors, the temporary closure will ensure everyone's safety as the mission is completed—to build a museum that represents every American who has earned the title Marine.

—Susan Hodges, NMMC

House Armed Services Committee panel Oct. 28, 2015.

Susan Kelly, the director of the DOD's Transition to Veterans Program, joined senior military leaders to update the committee's military personnel subcommittee on the progress of the program, which was significantly expanded two years ago under her direction.

The new weeklong mandatory curriculum now is offered in full at 206 installations, Kelly said, adding that it offers four core components:

- Career Readiness Standards (CRS), which measure a servicemember's preparedness to depart from active duty.
- Transition GPS, a curriculum that builds the skills needed by servicemembers to meet the CRS.
- A Capstone event, during which commanders verify that military personnel have met Career Readiness Standards, or, if not, ensure that they receive additional training or a warm handover.
- The Military Life Cycle transition model, which aligns transition activities with "touch points" across the military career.

"We've accomplished these core objectives, and the results are clear," Kelly said, citing the most recent participant assessment data, in which more than 80 percent of participants say they gained valuable information and skills to plan their transition; that the training enhanced their confidence in their transition; that

they intended to use what they learned in the classes; and that they knew how to access appropriate resources post separation.

Kelly said that more than 150,000 servicemembers separated from active duty between October 2014 and August 2015. "Based on data verified by the Defense Manpower Data Center, 94 percent of these eligible members met the [Veterans Opportunity to Work Act (VOW)] mandate; 88 percent either met career readiness standards or received a warm handover," she added.

The redesigned program encompasses the requirements of the "VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011." TAP was reorganized and reintroduced in 2013 as required training for servicemembers transitioning back to civilian life to pursue higher education and careers, Kelly said.

"These results indicate the commitment of the services and our partners to prepare members for civilian life," Kelly testified, adding that partner agencies include the Department of Veterans Affairs, the departments of Labor and Education, the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management.

Such agency cooperation has become an integral part of the program's inter-agency governance structure, which assesses and modifies the program in concert with the services to continually improve the program, she added.

In the last two years, both public and

private organizations recognized that military personnel "present an incredible pool of talent, and they seek increased opportunities to harness that talent," Kelly said.

"In collaboration with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's 'Hiring Our Heroes,' we've helped shape the environment in which employers gain early access to transitioning servicemembers and their spouses," she noted.

As of Oct. 29, 2015, thousands of members attended 18 large-scale transition summits at U.S. and overseas installations during the calendar year, Kelly said, adding that the departments of Energy, Agriculture and Homeland Security target servicemembers for industry jobs.

"Through the SkillBridge authority, under the office of the assistant secretary of defense for readiness, a growing number of members have developed skills for employment in high-demand industries," Kelly pointed out.

The redesigned program has had tremendous forward movement, but, as Kelly told the panel, "We must continue to work with federal partners and the private sector to gather lessons learned, improve the curriculum, instill a culture of planning for post-military life and develop pipelines into the national workforce."

Terri Moon Cronk, DOD News



GEN ROBERT E. HOGABOOM LEADERSHIP WRITING CONTEST



Gen Robert E. Hogaboom.

The *Marine Corps Gazette* is proud to announce the commencement of its annual Gen Robert E. Hogaboom Leadership Writing Contest. The contest honors the essay that is the most original in its approach to the various aspects of leadership. Authors should not simply reiterate the 11 Principles of Leadership or the 14 Leadership Traits of an NCO addressed in the *Guidebook for Marines*. Authors must be willing to take an honest, realistic look at what leadership, either positive or negative, means to them and then articulate ways and methods of being an effective leader of Marines.

Background

The contest is named for Gen Robert E. Hogaboom, USMC(Ret), who served the Corps for 34 years. Upon graduating from the Naval Academy in 1925, Gen Hogaboom saw service in Cuba, Nicaragua, and China. Following action in a number of key Pacific battles in World War II, he later served first as assistant division commander, then division commander, 1st Marine Division, in Korea in 1954–55. Gen Hogaboom retired in 1959 as a lieutenant general while serving as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, and was subsequently advanced to the rank of general.

Prizes include \$3,000 and an engraved plaque for first place; \$1,500 and an engraved plaque for second place; and \$500 for honorable mention. All entries are eligible for publication.

Instructions

The contest is open to all Marines on active duty and to members of the Marine Corps Reserve. Electronically submitted entries are preferred. Attach the entry as a file and send to gazette@mca-marines.org. A cover page should be included identifying the manuscript as a Gen Robert E. Hogaboom Leadership Writing Contest entry and include the title of the essay and the author's name. Repeat title on the first page, but author's name should not appear anywhere but on the cover page. Manuscripts are acceptable, but please include a disk in Microsoft Word format with the manuscript. The *Gazette* Editorial Advisory Panel will judge the contest during February and notify all entrants as to the outcome shortly thereafter. Multiple entries are allowed; however, only one entry per author will receive an award.

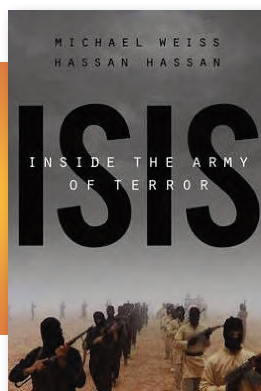
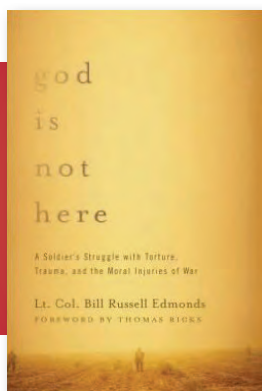
E-mail entries to: gazette@mca-marines.org

DEADLINE:
31 January

Mail entries to: **Marine Corps Gazette**
Hogaboom Writing Contest
Box 1775
Quantico, VA 22134

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 7 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.



GOD IS NOT HERE: A Soldier's Struggle With Torture, Trauma, and the Moral Injuries of War. By LTC Bill Russell Edmonds, USA. Published by Pegasus. 312 pages. Stock #1605987743. \$25.16 MCA Members. \$27.95 Regular Price.

Engaging in ethical concerns of right and wrong can be a thoroughly enjoyable exercise when the dilemmas discussed remain hypothetical. When such dilemmas are faced in reality though, individuals are confronted by life-altering tests that are of utmost importance; tests of whether or not they are capable of doing the right thing when it is absolutely necessary. There is no setting that creates these ethical tests in a more genuine, horrific and heart-wrenching fashion than a firsthand experience of war. War can force even the most ethically stubborn individuals to examine their stances on right and wrong, and unfortunately some of the new distinctions made and decided upon can be deeply erroneous.

In his memoir, "God Is Not Here," Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel Bill Russell Edmonds raises many ethical issues, both directly and indirectly, specific to our wars in the 21st century. His story forces an introspective re-evaluation of many of the reader's own positions.

Influenced by his journal from a year-long deployment to Iraq in 2005-06 as an advisor to an Iraqi intelligence unit that tracked and interrogated suspected insurgents, in conjunction with a second journal from his subsequent psychological

breakdown while in Germany during 2011, this is a uniquely tragic and sad story.

This is a story of an Iraqi unit's cruel and harsh treatment of detainees, of Edmonds' complicity by remaining quiet, and of the psychological resolution he still today has not found. Unlike most stories that come out of war, this book is unique because there is no hero, only a deeply mortified individual attempting to cope with the moral injury he sustained as people were tortured under his supervision. Although I commend LTC Edmonds for writing this emotional and personal story, make no mistake about it, this is a story about an individual who failed his test to do the right thing when it was absolutely necessary.

During the expanding civil war in Iraq, many Iraqi civilians came to join the insurgency rather than to assist U.S. troops. Then-Captain Edmonds was paired with an Iraqi intelligence officer whom he refers to as "Saedi." He empathizes greatly with Saedi, explaining that he admires Saedi's hatred of terrorists and desires to punish them and protect the innocent. In fact, Saedi taught him more than he was capable of teaching Saedi. Further exacerbating Edmonds' lack of preparedness, he received only brief training in Baghdad just prior to conveying to his isolated destination in Mosul, which he refers to as the "dungeon." With little to no interaction with other U.S. troops, and no guidance from his command, he

begins to feel isolated not only in his dungeon, but also within himself.

Making his sense of isolation even worse, Edmonds begins to torment himself over the interrogation tactics utilized by the Iraqis whom he was supposed to be advising. Like most of us Americans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, he possessed a burning desire for revenge. His experiences with interrogations, though, conflicted with his personal moral compass. The harsh interrogation tactics he witnessed caused him to inappropriately re-examine his own understanding of what constitutes torture. Misguidedly, Edmonds even began questioning whether torturing suspected insurgents, some of whom were possibly innocent, could be justified by attaining information that "may" prevent future deaths.

While he did not allow physical torture during interrogations, the mental abuses that occurred under his supervision, like threats of execution and threats of killing detainees' relatives, carved a lasting scar on his psyche. By the end of his deployment, he knew without a doubt that torture was wrong regardless of the circumstances. Nevertheless, his personal failure to follow his own moral compass when it was absolutely necessary resulted in his subsequent psychological breakdown years later.

Interwoven throughout his wartime narrative, Edmonds draws the reader into a steadily intensifying tragedy where he loses his ability to distinguish right from wrong, culminating in his eventual breakdown in Germany. As a result, he lost faith in everything, including himself. His personal story is classic of moral injury, the kind of injury suffered by committing transgressions that cause profound emotional shame. Although he claims to have partially reconciled his experience through the process of writing this book, he concludes that his inner demons will forever remain. In the end, the ethical tests that we fail are the ones that stick with us

From the Author of

The Last Hundred Yards

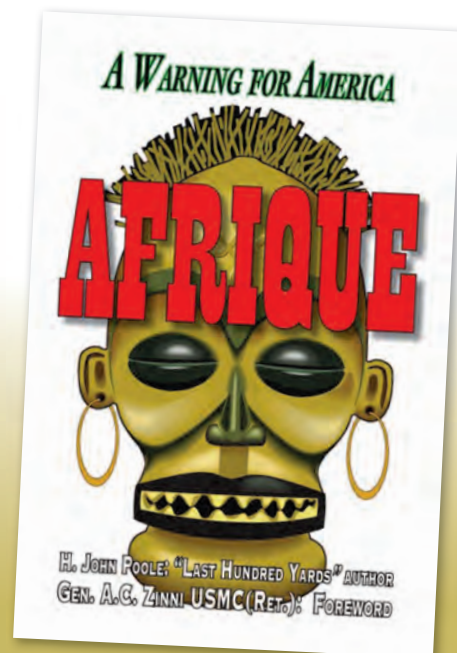
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throughout the remainder of our lives.

“God Is Not Here” is a story of how our wars in the 21st century have led to a new type of moral injury that is rooted in a hatred for terrorists so strong that it is capable of disfiguring our own moral compass. This book should be read by all Americans, especially the men and women serving in uniform, because we must never forget that our collective moral compass is the very thing that makes us a great nation.

Derek Claytor

Author's bio: Derek Claytor served two tours to Iraq in 2007 and 2008-09 with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps at the grade of corporal in July of 2010. Now utilizing his GI benefits, Derek is a senior majoring in legal studies with a minor in philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley.

ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror. By Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan. Published by Regan Arts. 270 pages. Softcover. Stock #1941393578. \$16.16 MCA Members. \$17.95 Regular Price.

Using their finely tuned journalistic skills, Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan have helped to open up the mysteries of the ISIS movement for our careful con-

sideration. In the past years, the world community was shocked by the horrendous beheadings and ruthless behaviors of the Islamic State, or caliphate, which has emerged from the chaotic Middle Eastern discord. “ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror” thoughtfully reveals the gripping story of the insurgent group’s origin, methods and ultimate objectives and goals.

The first incarnation of the ISIS movement can be attributed to its founder, the Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Shaped by his experiences in prison, this former outlaw came out of jail schooled in the rhetoric and passion for al-Qaida. Later he met Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, but was judged by the al-Qaida leadership as arrogant because he supported many “rigid views.” Whereas bin Laden and his followers wished to unite the Muslim world, al-Zarqawi retained the bitter hatred for the Shia faction, represented in Iraq by the al-Maliki-led government.

In the chaotic aftermath of the toppling of Saddam Hussein, the Shia majority took over the Iraqi government. A former U.S. military advisor stated: “The Iraq War upset the balance of power in the region in Iran’s favor.” Sunni members of Hussein’s Islamist-Baathist alliance, made up of many former Iraqi army officers,

found themselves disenfranchised. These disgruntled battle-hardened Sunnis were now primed to take back what they had lost.

By 2005, al-Zarqawi had overplayed his hand; his ruthless tactics alarmed the local Iraqi tribal leaders. In what is now called the “Awakening,” U.S. forces combined with the tribes to expel ISIS from Iraq’s Anbar Province. The radical movement then had its rebirth and occupied the chaotic battlefields in parts of Syria. In June of 2006, a U.S. drone spotted al-Zarqawi, and a well-placed 500-pound bomb from an F-16 took him out. The “Sheikh of the Slaughters” was dead.

The trap of drawing the United States into a proxy war in the region was now set. In the chaotic free-for-all that was Syria, ISIS, under new leadership, found fertile ground and took root. In June 2014, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi heralded the birth of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. A native Iraqi, al-Baghdadi championed reforming a caliphate throughout the Middle East’s Fertile Crescent. The ISIS resurgence in Iraq also involved a takeover of a large amount of territory in Syria.

When ISIS rolled into the Syrian town of al-Bab, as an example, at first they treated the civilians “gently.” They fixed damaged roads and bridges and saw to

other community needs. But quickly the hard boot of Sharia law followed. Clothing regulations and other restrictions for women were strictly enforced. Torture and kidnapping were common. Any perceived crimes were dealt harshly with by dismemberment and public beheadings.

The authors note: "Once ISIS was ensconced in a city, it spread outward, seizing towns and villages surrounding that urban hub." A common observation of how ISIS transforms a community is simple: "They come hard but get the job done." ISIS skillfully mediates between local tribal disputes, then, using a "divide and rule" strategy, co-opts and divides tribal factions with bribery, intimidation and/or coercion.

On the world stage, ISIS has set up a patronage system (read bribes) that is fed and funded with oil revenues. The authors write: "Oil was a major revenue generator for ISIS until the coalition air strikes began. Before that, ISIS was thought to have earned millions of dollars a month from oil in Syria and Iraq."

By February 2014 even al-Qaida had enough Muslim-on-Muslim violence and formally ended their associating with ISIS. In a public statement they announced: "ISIS is not a branch of the Qaidat al-Jihad [al-Qaida's official name] group,

we have no organizational relationship with it, and the group is not responsible for its actions."

ISIS continues to demonstrate a worldwide ability to utilize social media to attract a number of foreign recruits and sympathetic followers. Not allowing the world press to define them, ISIS spokesmen often used the opportunity to declare: "Don't hear about us, hear from us." To Muslims they avow: "We are your sons, we are your brothers. We can protect your religion and your homes." Their popular propaganda film, "The Clanging of the Swords," conveys their "call to arms" to their intended target audience.

Weiss and Hassan's book is an excellent primer on the ISIS movement. As the Middle East continues to rip itself apart, ISIS represents the formidable thorn festering in the side of both the multinational coalition forces and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime. With the U.S. deeply conflicted, the question remains, whom should we support? The Middle East is a quagmire of conflicting tribal factions and ancient religiously based disputes. Now, with Russia entering the equation, there is a real possibility of a wider global conflagration. Then, of course, one must factor in the "laws of unintended consequences," before

imagining the catastrophic possibilities.

At great personal risk, Weiss and Hassan have interviewed a host of participants in Iraq and Syria to bring us this in-depth examination and analysis of ISIS and other competing factions throughout the region.

Now, 12 years since the U.S. invaded Iraq, the ISIS faction has proved to be adaptable, resilient and resolved. Of this rogue strain of radical Islam, the authors conclude: "It has promised both death and a return to the ancient glories of Islam. Thousands have lined up to join it, and even more have already fallen victim to it. The army of terror will be with us indefinitely."

Regardless of all the complexity and confusion, the top U.S. priority must be to destroy ISIS.

Robert B. Loring

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



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In Memoriam

Compiled by Savannah Norton and Nancy S. Lichtman

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

GySgt Harold V. Abbott, 90, of Jacksonville, N.C. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II, Korea and Vietnam. He was a 60-year member of the Masonic Semper Fi Lodge.

Armando C. Aguirre, 90, of San Antonio, Texas. He was a Marine who served during WW II.

Ruth (Sheppard) Aller, 92, of Jacksonville, Ill. She was in the first group of women inducted into the Marine Corps during WW II. She met her husband, Harold, a fellow Marine, at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

SSgt James G. Andersen, 92, of Naples, Fla. He was a Marine during WW II. During his time in the Marine Corps he taught electronics repair.

Sgt Dorothy H. Armstrong, 93, of Glen Burnie, Md. She served in the Marine Corps during WW II. She later worked for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

SSgt Eugene "Slim" E. Besselman, 92, of Murrysville, Pa. He was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II. He worked for Union Railroad as a trainmaster for 36 years.

Gray A. Birch, 93, of St. Anthony, Idaho. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in WW II and saw action in the South Pacific. He participated in the beach landings on Saipan and Tinian.

SMSgt Maurice D. Boucher, ANG, 86, of Manchester, N.H. He was a Marine stationed in China with MAG-24, 1st MAW and later on Guam at the end of WW II. After the war he enlisted in the Air National Guard and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He retired in 1988 after 43 years of military service. He was a member of the MCL and China Marine Association.

Francis L. "Frank" Bowles, 89, of Marine, Ill. He joined the Marine Corps during WW II and fought on Iwo Jima. After the war he worked as a coal miner. He also served in the Air Force Reserve and the Coast Guard.

Sgt Lee E. Broeker, 90, of Huntingburg, Ind. He served in the Marine Corps during

WW II. He participated in the fighting on Guam, the Mariana Islands and Iwo Jima.

Ervin A. Buck, 92, of McGrath, Minn. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from McGrath High School in 1942. In the 4thMarDiv he saw action in the South Pacific and was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V," and multiple Purple Hearts.

Cpl John Bullock, 72, of Auburn, N.Y. He was with Marine Fighter Squadron 225 at Chu Lai in Vietnam in 1965. He served in the Corps from 1961 to 1966.

Donald F. Burch, 86, of Asharoken, N.Y., was a Marine who served in the Korean War.

SgtMaj James A. Butler, 68, of Jacksonville, N.C. He joined the Marine Corps in 1964. His 30 years of service included serving as the sergeant major of II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he worked for the Marine Federal Credit Union as vice president of operations.

Col Richard E. "Dick" Campbell, 87, of Owosso, Mich. He was commissioned through the NROTC program at the University of Michigan. He served as a platoon commander during the Korean War. In 1966, he served as a battalion commander in Vietnam. He also served in various public affairs positions before retiring from the Marine Corps in 1972.

After retirement, he went to work for the family newspaper, *The Argus-Press*, eventually becoming the paper's editor. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, the MCL and the MCA&F.

Jerry L. "Jack" Carter Jr., 90, of Duncan, Okla. He was a veteran who served in the Marine Corps during WW II.

Edgar S. Cremeens, 89, of Peoria, Ill. He was a Marine veteran of WW II who served with the 3dMarDiv in Guam and Sasebo, Japan. He worked 39 years for Caterpillar.

Alfonso A. Crisci, 91, of Newburgh, N.Y. He was a Marine who fought on Tarawa and Saipan. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

John M. Crowley, 86, of South Weymouth, Mass. He was a Marine who served during WW II and was a combat veteran of the Korean War. For 26 years he was a Boston police officer serving with the bomb squad, motorcycle patrol and Boston Harbor boat patrol.

Theodore "Ted" R. Cummings, 91, of Manchester, Conn. He served with the 1stMarDiv on Guadalcanal.

Joseph Cyr, 98, of Gonic, N.H. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II. He was a contractor for many years.

Priscilla (Byrne) Eichorn, 95, of Rochester, N.Y. She was a WW II Marine Corps veteran.

Harold "Ham" Enright, 89, in Wilmington, N.C. He was a Marine who served in WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He retired from the Marine Corps after 30 years. He and his wife were active volunteers at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Joseph W. Erardy, 93, in Preston, Conn. He worked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard before enlisting in the Marine Corps during WW II. He served with 2dMarDiv in the Pacific and was wounded during the fighting on Tinian. He later worked for General Dynamics as a senior design supervisor.

Dr. Lloyd E. Eslinger, 90, of Northampton, Pa. He saw action as a Marine during WW II and was awarded the Purple Heart after he was wounded during the Battle of Okinawa. He was a physician who had a family medical practice for almost 40 years.

Capt Owen C. Fredericks, 91, of Petaluma, Calif. He was a Marine aviator in WW II and Korea, who flew 147 combat missions in the F4U Corsair. His medals include the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four stars.

MSgt Kenneth "Ken" Gilman, 92, in West Paris, Maine, was a WW II Marine. He was with the MarDet in USS *Alabama* (BB-60) in 1943 and in 1944 was part of the newly commissioned USS *Missouri* (BB-63) MarDet during the Battles

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of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was on board *Missouri* when the formal Japanese surrender took place there in 1945. He also served during the Korean War.

SSgt Richard A. Green, 91, of Columbia, S.C. He was a Marine who saw action in the Philippines during WW II.

James W. Greer, 92, of Penn Township, Pa. He was a Marine Corps veteran who fought in the Battle of Peleliu during WW II.

Hilma E. Grove, 94, of Roseville, Mich., was a Marine who served during WW II.

Cpl Billy E. Haga, 87, of Chilhowie, Va. He was part of the Marine Detachment in USS *Palau* (CVE-122).

Max D. Harding Sr., 83, in Bossier City, La. He was wounded in combat and was awarded the Purple Heart while serving with the 1stMarDiv during the Korean War. He coached and taught at numerous schools in East Texas for 40 years.

Col Herbert M. Hart, 86, of Frederick, Md., was a former director of public affairs for the Marine Corps. After graduating from Northwestern University, where he studied journalism, he served in Korea and was wounded twice. He went on to serve 31 years on active duty, including in the Middle East and in Vietnam, and

also wrote several books about historic military forts. His awards include two Legions of Merit with combat "V" and two Purple Hearts.

Herbert A. Hilbun, 92, of Memphis, Tenn. He saw action during WW II with the Sixth Marine Division during the island-hopping campaigns in the Pacific. He was inducted into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in 1992.

Cpl Harold Roy Hughes, 90, of Pea Ridge, Ark. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II as a field musician.

Edwin R. Johnson, 90, of Walpole, Mass. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II and the Korean War.

Mildred "Mimi" (Leonard) Lawler, 95, of San Jose, Calif. She served in the Marine Corps during WW II in San Francisco.

Col David G. Lawson, 93, of Aledo, Ill., was a Marine aviator who flew dive bombers in the South Pacific during WW II. During the Korean War he flew carrier-based combat missions. He served 27 years in the Marine Corps.

Cpl John B. LoCoco, 88, of New Orleans, La. He served in the Marine Corps. He was a veteran of WW II, who saw action in the Pacific. He was owner and operator of LoCoco's Fairway Grocery from 1950 to 1980.

Cpl Aubrey N. Loper, 93, of Hewitt, Texas. In 1942 he joined the Marine Corps and served until 1945 in Btry C, 1st Bn, 12th Marines, 3dMarDiv. He served alongside his two brothers and saw action on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima. He was a member of the 3dMarDiv Assn.

Cpl Omer Marsh, 92, of Springfield, Mo. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. He saw action in the Pacific during WW II, including the Battle of Iwo Jima. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

Cpl George T. Mayne, 74, of Anniston, Ala. He served two tours in Vietnam and with the security detachment at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Noah "Julian" McDowell, 97, of High Point, N.C. He served during WW II and was awarded a Purple Heart. He later retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

Col John F. Mentzer, 95, of Eau Claire, Wis. His Marine Corps career spanned 28 years and three wars. He saw action in the South Pacific during WW II and was wounded on Iwo Jima. During the Korean War, he served at the Chosin Reservoir. In 1966-67, he served in Vietnam. His awards include two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart.

Frederick N. Miller, 92, of Ormond-by-the-Sea, Fla. During WW II he was a

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*Chuck Meadows
back in Hue City*



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3 - 12 Apr - Military & Cultural History of Israel

Jerusalem - Haifa - Masada - Bethlehem - Dead Sea - Golan Heights

19 - 27 Apr - Turkey WWI - Gallipoli & Istanbul

21 May - 1 Jun - WWI Battlefields - Verdun

100th Anniversary of The Great War 1916

1 - 9 Jun - D-Day: Normandy To Paris

Invasion Beaches - Airborne Ops Sites - 6 Jun Ceremony

30 Jun - 10 Jul - WWII Russia - 75th Anniversary of Op Barbarossa

Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad
Post Tour: St Petersburg

10 - 21 Sep - WWI - 100th Anniversary of the Great War

1916 Battle of the Somme
Post Tour: Battle of the Bulge - Bastogne

29 Sep - 11 Oct - Ireland - "All of the Emerald Isle"

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Navy Seabee with 3d Bn, 19th Marines, 3dMarDiv. He fought in the South Pacific and helped to liberate Guam.

Charles Pappas Jr., 91, of Tyler, Texas. In 1942, he joined the Marine Corps. He was an artilleryman who saw the American flag raised on Iwo Jima. He worked 44 years as a freight clerk for a railroad and later worked in the printing business.

Hurshel Talmage Paul, 90, of Bay Minette, Ala., was a WW II veteran who saw action on Guadalcanal, Guam and Iwo Jima.

BGen Frederick Payne Jr., 104, of Rancho Mirage, Calif. He was a WW II ace who shot down 5½ enemy aircraft during the Battle of Guadalcanal. He was awarded the Navy Cross while flying Grumman F4F Wildcats with Marine Fighting Squadron 212. He "repeatedly patrolled hostile territory and intercepted enemy bombing flights. With bold determination and courageous disregard of personal safety, he pressed home numerous attacks against heavily escorted waves of invading bombers and, in five vigorous fights against tremendous odds, shot down a total of six Japanese planes," according to the citation.

He also flew combat missions in Kwajalein and Guam and later served in the Korean War. His other awards include

the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Cpl Dominic L. Pentangelo, 90, of Staten Island, N.Y. He fought with the 3dMarDiv on Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima. He later worked as a longshoreman and was a member of the VFW, 3dMarDiv Assn. and MCL.

Capt Michael G. Pitts, 81, of Lake of the Woods, Va. He was a combat correspondent in Vietnam when he was commissioned in 1966. He served a second tour in Vietnam as detachment commander and news officer with American Forces Network Vietnam. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he worked as a news writer and editor at Voice of America in Washington, D.C. He was a three-term past president of the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association and was awarded the organization's Donald L. Dickson Award. His awards include the Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal.

August J. Ploch, 92, of North Haledon, N.J. He saw action during WW II and the Korean War. He was a self-employed milkman for more than 30 years and was a member of the Marine Corps League and the 4thMarDiv Assn.

Gloria (Yates) Ramerman, 92, of Santa Cruz, Calif. She joined the Marine

Corps in 1943. She was a reporter for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*.

Everette A. Reaney, 86, of Greenville, S.C. He served in 1st Bn, 2d Marines, 2dMarDiv during WW II.

Sgt James L. Todd, 70, of Courtland, Kan. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1964 and served until September 1968. He fought in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Glenn Todd Jr., 91, of Florence, Ky. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and saw action in the Pacific.

Kenneth A. White, 88, of Grandville, Mich. He was a Marine who served during WW II and the Korean War.

Marcus A. Yeakel, 93, of Moore Township, Pa. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II.

1stSgt Walter J. Zipkas, 84, of Neerim South, Victoria, Australia. He was a Marine who served 23 years. He was a veteran of the Korean War and was wounded by a Chinese grenade at the Chosin Reservoir. After his evacuation and recovery, he returned to the fighting in Korea. He later served at MSG detachments in Egypt, Afghanistan and Indonesia. He was a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., and served a tour in Vietnam.





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SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

lived off base because you were still required to be there. This was one time the phrase: “If the Marines wanted you to have a wife, they would have issued you one,” had meaning.

After calisthenics you went to clean up, and at 0615 you fell out for chow. Again, muster—everyone had to be in formation. We marched to chow and joined other companies of the battalion in front of the mess hall.

The Battalion Officer of the Day then took over. He would read the Order of the Day and any courts-martial that had been completed. Normally, there were one to three courts-martial a week, and they normally ended with a Bad Conduct Discharge. The culprits would have their lapels on their uniforms removed, be placed in a jeep, taken to the front gate and removed from the Corps. Most BCDs were given for absent without leave, insubordination, etc.

We then went to the mess hall in single file, stood at attention at our table until the OD gave the order to “seat.” Married Marines on separate rations were then dismissed, or they paid for their meal.

Separate rations were \$31 per month. Quarters allowance was \$36 per month. At that time, normal hourly labor in the local civilian life was 25 to 35 cents an hour.

The uniform of the day was starched cotton khaki. The base laundry starched all our khaki trousers, shirts, ties, caps and web belts. It was so heavily starched you could stand a pair of trousers by themselves. You had to become a professional to tie a tie without wrinkling it. Normally we kept a bunch of extra ties just in case we crinkled the tie. We kept on until it was perfect. All shoes were constantly spit-shined. We didn’t have boots. We used leggings. Our work shoes were leather with the slick side inside and rough side outside, and they had no color (maybe a light tan). We dyed them dark brown and polished them until they became spit-shined too. We cleaned the black off all our buttons, buckles and cartridge belt holes and shined the brass. All metal surfaces were shined. When the Korean War started, everything had to be blackened again.

Liberty off base anywhere required a Class A uniform. No civilian clothes.

On-base movies were free, even for dependents if accompanied by the Marine. There was one catch; Marines could only

attend a movie in their Class A uniforms. Dungarees were accepted only in the barracks, in the field or areas where manual labor was required. Offices, communications centers, etc., required Class A uniforms.

Weekend liberty required the passing of Friday barracks inspection. That was a terror. White glove inspections were the order of the day. I’ve had inspections fail as the result of removing the steam pipe cover at a radiator to check for dirt, running a finger into the overflow hold in the sink plus other ridiculous places. Somehow, we passed about three out of five inspections. There was no schedule for Saturdays or Sundays, but if you hung around, you were subject to getting caught for work details, policing areas, etc.

Camp Lejeune had signs that said “Keep Off Grass—Out of Brig.” You could get five days “P&P” [piss and punk was the term for bread and water]. Under “Rocks and Shoals,” Articles for the Government of the United States Navy, which preceded the Uniform Code of Military Justice, you could be walked to the brig and held there for five days.

Sergeants and below were not authorized to have motor vehicles on base, only staff sergeants and above. That was not a great problem because we did not have enough

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money to buy an automobile. Also, cars were hard to come by. If you had the money and wanted a new car, you paid up front; surplus used cars were nonexistent.

This is what I remember. And the greatest thing is this group of Marines made up the First Marine Brigade that was inserted into the Pusan enclave in South Korea in 1950. The Brigade made the first offensive action against the North Koreans in the war. The North Koreans do not like U.S. Marines.

MSSgt Mallie P. Honeycutt
Goldsboro, N.C.

A Recruiting Poster In the “Blackboard Jungle”

While channel surfing I ran across the movie “Blackboard Jungle,” released in 1955 with Marine veteran Glenn Ford in the starring role. I have seen the movie three or four times, and memories of my teen years flash back. I attended high school in 1955 on the far south side of Chicago, similar to the school portrayed in the film.

In the film, teachers were gathered in the gymnasium introducing themselves at the start of a new school year. While the camera was scanning the gym, something caught my eye. I had to rewind and replay to be sure I saw what I thought I saw.

There it was on the gymnasium wall—a poster of Marines.

Has *Leatherneck* ever had inquiries about this, and would the Marine Corps have been able to put these up in public schools at the time? Could you see that happening today?

Bill Noe
USMC, 1958-62
New Lenox, Ill.

• *As far as I can tell, you are the first to point that out. As you know, schools and society were different back then. I remember back in grade school getting the pamphlet “How to Respect and Display Our Flag,” by the U.S. Marine Corps. (You can still purchase the pamphlets on line.) In high school we had U.S. Marine Corps book covers for our textbooks and bookmarks courtesy of the local recruiters. I personally do not recall any recruiting posters aside from A-frame posters outside the Post Offices, but perhaps our readers remember?—Sound Off Ed.*

Reunions

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn. (Parris Island Chapter)**, April 21-24, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828)



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• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **D/2/11, BLT 1/5, USS Montrose (APA-212), USS Pickaway (APA-222), USS Alamo (LSD-33), USS Princeton (LPH-5), (RVN, 1965-68), Jan. 25-29,**

Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Bill Collier, (559) 790-4496, bill222u@me.com.

• **I/3/7 (all eras), April 27-30, Myrtle Beach, S.C.** Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **Btry A, 1/11 (RVN), April 15-19, Herndon, Va.** Contact Peter Van Ryzin, (540) 347-3267, vanryzin1@hughes.net,

www.all1reunion.com.

• **“Bravo” Co, 4th CEB, 4thMarDiv (Desert Storm, 25th Anniversary), May 13-14, Roanoke, Va.** Contact Steve Garman, P.O. Box 748, Salem, VA 24153, stevegarman7@gmail.com.

• **1st Provisional Marine Brigade (“The Fire Brigade,” Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.

• **American Embassy Saigon (RVN, pre-1975), Sept. 4-7, Portland, Ore.** Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.com.

• **TBS Class 5-62, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Nashville, Tenn.** Contact Denis W. Retoske, (714) 287-0706, dwrlawyer@gmail.com, tbsclass562@gmail.com.

• **TBS Co F, 6-79, is planning a reunion.** Contact LtCol Tom Connors, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconnors3@yahoo.com.

• **TBS, Co E, 5-86, June 16-19, Quantico, Va.** Contact Pete Gill, (423) 502-8963, peteandjonigill@hotmail.com, or Kevin Ainsworth, (212) 692-6745, kainsworth@mintz.com.



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• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.

• **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

• **Plt 245, San Diego, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8o06@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.

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

• **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.

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

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



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7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **VMA(AW)-242 (RVN)**, May 1-4, Gettysburg, Pa. Contact Bill Mellors, 4000 Emmitsburg Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320, 242reunion@gmail.com.

• **VMFA-212 (1975-81)**, March 18-20, San Diego, Calif. Contact J.D. Loucks, P.O. Box 1, East Jewett, NY 12424, vmfa212reunion@aol.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, May 15-19, Warwick, R.I. Contact David F. Fix, 131 Waypoint Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com, www.ussinchon.com.



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Edited by Sara W. Bock

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Mail Call

- GySgt Brian A. Knowles, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Centennial Project Historian, 701 S. Courthouse Rd., Suite 2R125, Arlington, VA 22204, (703) 604-0105, USMCR100@usmc.mil, to hear from anyone who might have **photographs, letters, diaries or other artifacts related to the Marine Corps Reserve that would help describe and preserve its 100-year history.** Please contact GySgt Knowles before sending materials.
- MSgt William Dugan, USMC (Ret), (603) 424-9517, duganb_p@comcast.net, to hear from Marines who went to **MCRD Parris Island, in January 1956, as the "Governor's Marines" from the New England states.**

- Sgt Howard E. Sweitzer, USMC, 1417 N.W. 62nd Way, Margate, FL 33063, (954) 972-0555, to hear from **Amy KILLEEN**, daughter of the late Marine **MajGen Calhoun J. "Cal" KILLEEN**, who graduated from the **University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Health and School of Medicine in the 1970s.**

Wanted

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

- Tom Morton, P.O. Box 3528, Vista, CA 92085, (760) 727-5921, wants a **Vietnam War-era "demo bag" charge assembly, demolition M-183**, which he needs for a VA claim.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

- Sgt Howard E. Sweitzer, USMC, 1417 N.W. 62nd Way, Margate, FL 33063, (954) 972-0555, has a **Korean War-era Navy flight jacket, type G1, size 42**, best offer over \$100; **Marine art; and toy helicopter collection for sale.**

- Cpl Bill Layman, bill.layman@earthlink.net, has ***Leatherneck* magazines dating back to the 1960s** to give away (recipient pays shipping costs).



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Saved Round

Edited by R.R. Keene



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BLOOD ON THE BARRICADES—It was 201 years ago on Jan. 8, 1815, that the Battle of New Orleans was won. On Dec. 23, 1814, the British army, with 9,000 seasoned veterans, marched to Lake Borgne in southeastern Louisiana. The combatants could not have known that on Christmas Eve 5,000 miles away in Belgium, the finishing touches were penned to a treaty in the Flemish town of Ghent, ending the War of 1812. On Dec. 28, the British ranks slammed into the American lines with U.S. Marines holding the center. Maj Daniel Carmick, the second-highest-ranking officer in the Corps, veteran of numerous battles and skirmishes, and credited by some as instrumental in establishing the term “leatherneck,” led a counterattack. His horse was shot from under him. He lost a thumb, part of his hand, and was hit on the forehead by a Congreve rocket, yet he survived.

The Battle of New Orleans was actually a series of fights. The final one was on Jan. 8. Marines under U.S. Army MG Andrew Jackson stood behind hastily constructed barricades with a cobbled force of American regulars, militia, Creoles and smuggler Jean Lafitte with his “Hellish Banditti” pirates along the Rodriguez Canal 4 miles below New Orleans and east of the Mississippi River. The British forces, which included Royal Marines under the command of MajGen Sir Edward Pakenham, made gallant, but costly assaults. By noon, Pakenham lay dead among the 2,036 British soldiers killed or wounded. The “Crescent City,” with the help of approximately 300 Marines, remained unoccupied by foreign forces.

