

JANUARY 2015

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Sound Off

Edited by M.H. Reinwald

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

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

I just wanted to comment on the [November 2014] article, “Young Fellows, My Lads.” I was really touched by the kindness of the people who have chosen to find the graves of Marines lost since the time of the Vietnam War. To make this effort on their behalf is very kind and really shows the caring of the U.S. Marines and all military people in general. All of the troops who have died in service to our country should be remembered, honored and recognized for the sacrifices that they have made.

This article moved me; it did my heart good to know that there are people out there who care enough to find the graves of these fine young men and women. Thank you, Master Gunnery Sergeant [R.R.] Keene, for writing this article. I thought it was inspirational.

Rick Hatfield
Glasco, Kan.

The article “Young Fellows, My Lads” really found my heart, as I was a member of 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment in 1969-70 in Vietnam. Whenever I receive a new copy of *Leatherneck*, I first read all the letters as I very much enjoy what everyone else has to say and the stories they want to share or correct. I learn a lot from those letters. I then page all the way through the rest of the issue without

reading anything more than a caption. When I get to the end, I then go back to the beginning to start reading individual selections.

When I got to page 28 of the November 2014 issue, the first picture showed Private First Class Gene T. Gietzen’s grave marker. Seeing “Alpha” Company, 1/7 and realizing all the graves were from 7th Marines really got my attention. Most markers shown were from 1st Bn and cover virtually all the years the regiment fought in Vietnam. It is such an outstanding service that Victor Vilionis is performing. I knew and served with many of the 7th Marines killed in action.

One gravesite in particular that Staff Sergeant Vilionis would have found is Lance Corporal John P. Rackhaus, Silver Star winner, who is buried in Marshall, Ill. John was a great friend of mine, a boot camp buddy, who distinguished himself in battle, earning the nickname “the Bezerker” for his courage and fighting style.

I am writing this letter on Veterans Day, which, like Memorial Day, is every day all year-round for me. Bless Victor Vilionis for his labor of love and bless all the surviving families and friends of the fallen. We will never forget.

Richard Ellenberger
Normandy Park, Wash.

Readers Add New Details To Sheet-Music Story

I read the excellent article by Sara Bock about Colonel Blake Wilson’s collection of “Marines’ Hymn” sheet music in the November *Leatherneck*. After Major Gen-

eral Commandant John A. Lejeune’s 1929 approval of the version we know today, she wrote, “Since then, the only change made to the lyrics occurred in 1942, when aviation units were given a nod in the fourth line of the hymn. The line officially was changed from ‘on the land as on the sea’ to ‘in the air, on land, and sea.’ ”

If I may add a bit of detail, that change was made due to a letter sent to then-Commandant General Thomas A. Holcomb by former Gunnery Sergeant Henry L. Tallman. Gunny Tallman was a member of the First Marine Aviation Force in 1918. He flew missions as an observer/gunner in France, including the first aerial resupply mission in Marine aviation history on Oct. 2 and 3, 1918, when he helped air-drop more than 2,600 pounds of supplies to a French infantry regiment surrounded by German forces near Stadenburg.

Gunny Tallman was a founding member of the First Marine Aviation Force Veterans Association (FMAFVA) in 1938. During the FMAFVA’s reunion in Cincinnati in 1942, he proposed the change. The group approved, and he wrote to Gen Holcomb. The Commandant approved the change on Nov. 21, 1942. Gunny Tallman went on to become the national commander of the FMAFVA in 1944, the predecessor of today’s Marine Corps Aviation Association.

CWO-4 Jim Casey, USMC (Ret)
Deputy Executive Director
Marine Corps Aviation Association

I thoroughly enjoyed Sara W. Bock’s excellent *Leatherneck* article on “The Marines’ Hymn” and about Colonel Blake Wilson’s admirable collection of sheet-music editions of it. She correctly attributed the melody to Jacques Offenbach. I was a bit taken aback, though, by her recitation of its history where she asserted, “However, many believed that the air originated from an old Spanish folk song, which is quite possible, since it is said that Offenbach spent a good deal of time in Spain.” I believe that these two statements are somewhat misleading.

Let’s state the facts we know. The

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Do you have a great story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it’s a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches? We would love to hear your stories and possibly feature them in a new department in the magazine. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.bock@mca-marines.org. Once we begin publishing them, we will offer \$25 or an MCA&F membership for the “story of the month.” Spread the word!—*Leatherneck* Ed.



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MajGen Edward G. Usher III, USMC (Ret)

Vice President/COO, Marine Corps Association & Foundation
Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret)

Editor

Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

Deputy Editor

Nancy Lee White Hoffman

Associate Editor

MGSgt Renaldo R. Keene, USMC (Ret)

Copy Editor

Nancy S. Lichtman

Contributing Editor

CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

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

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music is from the "Gendarmes' Duet" from an 1867 revision of the 1859 opera buffe "Geneviève de Brabant" by Jacques Offenbach that debuted in Paris in 1859. Correspondence between Col Albert S. McLemore and Walter F. Smith (the second leader of the Marine Band from 1899 to 1921) traces the tune: "Major Richard Wallach, USMC, says that in 1878, when he was in Paris, France, the aria to which the Marines' Hymn is now sung was a very popular one."

The name of the opera and a part of the chorus was secured from Maj Wallach and forwarded to Mr. Smith, who replied: "Major Wallach is to be congratulated upon a wonderfully accurate musical memory, for the aria of the Marine Hymn is certainly to be found in the opera, 'Geneviève de Brabant.' ... The melody is not in the exact form of the Marine Hymn, but is undoubtedly the aria from which it was taken. I am informed, however, by one of the members of the band, who has a Spanish wife, that the aria was one familiar to her childhood and it may, therefore, be a Spanish folk song."

However, John Philip Sousa once clearly wrote: "The melody of the 'Halls of Montezuma' is taken from Offenbach's comic opera, 'Geneviève de Brabant,' and is sung by two gendarmes."

Sousa himself had spent a great deal of time as a violinist under the baton of Offenbach at a theater in Philadelphia during the Centennial Exposition of 1876 and clearly recognized the latter's musical genius. Indeed, several of his marches display Offenbach's musical influence. He makes no mention of Spanish folk tunes.

So, in other words, are we to believe, based upon Director Smith's offhand speculation which occurred nearly 40 years after Offenbach wrote the "Gendarmes' Duet," that because the tune was familiar to one single Spanish woman years after its composition, it was not the musical idea of Offenbach?

Ms. Bock states that "many believed" this. But it is clear that many rather believe in Director Smith's lone speculation rather than in any possible validation of this idea from Spanish musicologists over the course of the last century. She then goes on to assert that this is "quite possible, since it is said that Offenbach spent a good deal of time in Spain." Who said that Offenbach spent a good deal of time in Spain? As far as I can tell, Offenbach once visited Spain to get his family away from the Franco-Prussian War, in 1870, nearly three years after he wrote the "Gendarmes' Duet." How could that have influenced him?

For my money, I think we ought to accept Director Sousa's clearly worded

statement that Offenbach is the composer of this tune and that the Spanish wife of one of the musicians in the Marine Band heard this melody when she was a child and perhaps only assumed it was Spanish. Director Smith only says that it *may*, therefore, be Spanish.

Robert M. Goodman
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

• I agree that it is more likely that Sousa was right. But the bottom line is no one really knows for sure when "The Marines' Hymn" melody we know today became the melody, or where it was picked up—thus the differing theories. Offenbach's opera debuted in 1867 in Paris, but Marines of the American Civil War days said the hymn was popular during the Civil War (1861-65). Was the melody different in those early days? No one seems to know. In 1943, Leatherneck published a brief article about the hymn, stating that Offenbach spent a good deal of time in Spain, where he might have picked up the folk song and later incorporated it in the opera. It has been, and continues to be, a mystery.—Sara W. Bock

Veteran of Cuban Missile Crisis Says Smaller Conflicts Are Forgotten

I would like to address something that has been bothering me for a long time. I feel like everyone has forgotten the smaller conflicts like Panama, Grenada and Cuba. I was [recently] in a store, and a guy came up and asked if that was my truck with the Cuban Missile license plate on it. I said yes, and he thanked me for my service. Then he told me he was a teacher, and he had asked his class if anyone had heard of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Can you believe only 10 percent of the class raised their hands? What a shame! You hear all the time about Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, but I think we are being forgotten—those who sacrificed and also lost lives.

If only 10 percent heard about Cuba, maybe they never heard of the other conflicts. What are they learning in history class?

John Klosinski
1959-63
Temperance, Mich.

Navy "Doc" Says, Sailors Saltier Than Marines

OK, you Marines, LISTEN UP! There's no way you can look as salty as we gobs did just by drawing bell bottoms on the Marines depicted in the cartoons in the latest *Leatherneck* magazine! I'm an old gob now, but I was a salty-looking gob in 1943-45, and [bell bottoms] were a chick magnet!

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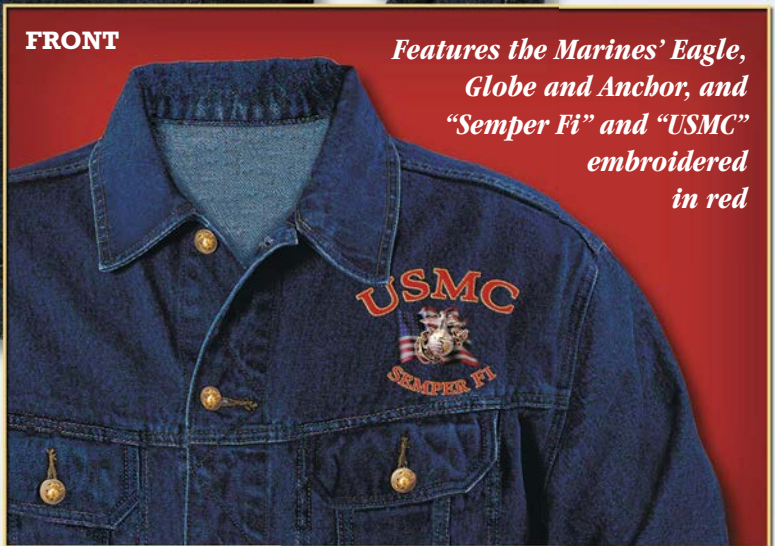
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Well, bell bottoms or not, I was greatly pleased to have you leathernecks of the First Marine Division between me and the Chinese for the 15 months I was in Korea. Semper Fi and GO NAVY!

J. Birney Dibble
Eau Claire, Wis.

• For younger readers who may not know, a “gob” is slang for an enlisted man. Some of you may remember Birney Dibble’s article in the September 2012 issue of *Leatherneck*: “The Battle of Bunker Hill, August 1952: As Seen From ‘Easy’ Med.” He was a corpsman during World War II at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and following medical school, he served as a surgeon for 1stMarDiv in Korea.—Leatherneck Ed.

Gen O.P. Smith Held in Highest Regard

Is there still that much animosity against General O.P. Smith that Colonel Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller is shown by Sara Bock as having “led the legendary Chosin Reservoir campaign ...” [November *Leatherneck*]?

It was Gen Oliver Smith, not Puller, who led the First Marine Division in the Chosin Reservoir campaign. Had Gen Smith not been there at that time, there may well not be a First Marine Division.

It was Gen Smith’s ability to maximize the strength of his staff, his devotion to his men, his courage to stand up to Generals MacArthur and Almond when they were wrong, and his foresight to establish supply dumps all along the main supply route in the Taebeks that saved the 1stMarDiv. Puller commanded just one third of the force.

Please give Gen Smith the credit he was denied by the political machinations of Gen Clifton Cates and cronies. It is long overdue.

John B. Tonkin
USMC, 1955-58

• *Leatherneck bears no animosity toward Gen O.P. Smith and holds him in high esteem. We chose poorly in using the phrase “led the legendary Chosin Reservoir campaign” in referring to Col Puller. While Col Puller was the regimental commander of the 1st Marines in Korea, it was Gen Smith who served as the commanding general of the 1stMarDiv at the Chosin Reservoir.—Leatherneck Ed.*

The United States in Vera Cruz: “Dollar Diplomacy,” Not Democracy

In the July article “Marines at Vera Cruz,” J. Michael Miller writes that “President Woodrow Wilson saw the need to protect American interests and promote democracy in Mexico” and thus he sent the Marines and the U.S. Navy to Vera Cruz in April 1914.

Since we are now in the 21st century, I think it’s time to drop the nonsense that President Wilson had any interest in promoting democracy in Mexico, at that time or any other time. He followed the policy of the times which was then called “Dollar Diplomacy,” enforced by the “Big Stick” policy. Neither of which had anything to do with democracy.

I’m surprised that historian J. Michael Miller is unfamiliar with the legendary Marine hero Smedley Butler’s remembrances of these events: “I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenue in. ... I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912.” And let’s not forget the observation by an American historian that the Standard Oil Company did everything to the Pennsylvania legislature except refine it.

Protect American interests, yes. Promote democracy? Could this be the reason why some folks refer to history as “a conspiracy against truth”?

Ternot MacRenato, Ph.D.
USMC, 1966

Recalling “Huss” and Other Phrases

I reported to my first duty station, Company “A,” 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment in May 1961. The battalion was in the forming stages. The first time I heard the word “huss” was from Marines returning from duty overseas. “Huss” was used for “give a hand” or “help me.” The word “slack” was used in place of break.

We new guys picked up these phrases: “Give me a huss.” (Help me or give me a hand.)

“Give me some slack” or “Cut me some slack.” (Give me a break.)

“If you check it.” (See for yourself or check it out.)

There were many others, but the memory isn’t what it used to be. Maybe other readers remember using these phrases prior to 1961.

GySgt H.G. Almendarez, USMC (Ret)
Williams, Ariz.

Air Wing Marines, Still Leathernecks

In the May 2014 “Sound Off” of *Leatherneck*, Sergeant Paul Hughes referenced a statement made by Sgt J.J. McGinty that if you were not 0311 or if you were with the air wing, you “should have joined the U.S. Air Force.”

I had a military occupational specialty of 1161 and was assigned to the First Marine Air Wing in Japan. If you are a Marine, regardless of your MOS or where you serve, you are still a Marine and can be damn proud!

I have heard from many World War II veterans that during that war, when they were getting air support, you could always tell which pilots were Marines. The Marines would always come in lower (treetop level) than the Air Force.

Our military is made up of fine men and women. It takes all of us to do our job and keep America safe ... but a *Marine* is a *Marine* ... God’s finest!

Cpl Jerry L. Snyder
USMC, 1957-60
Jamestown, N.C.

Movie Studio Goofed Up Emblem In “The Singing Marine”

In the November 2014 “Reader Assistance” column, Gunnery Sergeant Steven A. Cole was looking for a copy of “The Singing Marine.” If he checked Turner Classic Movies, they showed the movie last month.

I watched the movie to the end. I looked at how the characters wore the Marine Corps uniform. Near the end, Warner Brothers goofed. They probably did not have advisors in 1937 (the year I was born). At the end of the movie, there was a large Marine Corps emblem. One thing was wrong. The eagle’s head was facing

left. If I remember correctly, if it faces right, it means peace. If left, it means war. During World War II, the eagle faced left.

Dec. 1, 2014, will be an anniversary for me—60 years since I entered MCRD San Diego as a recruit.

Melvin H. Stazoff
Long Beach, Calif.

• *Congratulations on your anniversary! I have never heard anything about the direction of the eagle's head representing war or peace. The December issue of Leatherneck had an article entitled "The Marine Corps Trademark Licensing Program Stands Guard Over the Symbols of the Corps" which detailed the history of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, and no mention was made of the direction the Eagle's head faces meaning anything throughout history. I've queried numerous "older" Marines and received the same negative response, so I'll ask our readers. Has anyone heard of this?—Leatherneck Ed.*

He Was Too Young to Fight in Korea

I read in the "In Memoriam" column of *Leatherneck's* November issue of the death of Grant K. Dieck. It may have been an editorial error; however, if Mr. Dieck died at age 76, he would have been the youngest Korean War veteran to have served in the Corps. I, too, am 76 and enlisted in the Corps on my 17th birthday in 1955. So, Mr. Dieck would have been between 12 and 15 years old when he entered the Corps. I don't think so.

Frank Murphy
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

• *The obituary that Leatherneck received and another one found during our subsequent research stated that Mr. Dieck was 76. Mr. Murphy was one of several Leatherneck readers who caught this discrepancy.—Leatherneck Ed.*

"Easy Uniform" Leathernecks Are Still the Sharpest Around

I just read the November "Sound Off" letter from Master Sergeant Dick Bowers, USMC (Ret) about how Marines "of old" spent time pressing and starching their uniforms and being proud of their work while wearing their uniforms. Your response was awesome and professional, and I have re-read this letter and shared it with friends as I am a part of the "easy" uniform Marine Corps.

I wore a T-shirt and jeans through most of high school and college, so I never used an iron or starch until I became an NROTC midshipman and had a uniform to take care of. Many of my peers had gone to private school where they had to wear a

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shirt and tie, so I learned the fine art of starch and press from these experienced folks. I agree with MSgt Bowers in the pride instilled by making my own uniform crisp and neat. However, I was never very good at this, and over time, a trip to the dry cleaners often was easier than struggling with a hot iron and starch. Both could be frustrating at times.

When the modern digital utilities came out (around 2002, I believe), many of us jumped at the chance to save time and dry cleaning bills with the new uniforms. At last I did not have to stress about looking like a dirtbag next to my peers and fellow Marines who were more highly skilled with spray and iron. Now in the civilian world, I continue to buy dress shirts and pants that are "wrinkle-free" for the same benefits. My appearance as a proud Marine veteran is more about how I carry

myself than how nice my clothes look. I now have a lot more time to work on other things too!

Things change over time, and I'm sure if I'm still around in 30 years, I may have an opinion about certain topics that is similar to that of MSgt Bowers. Regardless, your response will still apply then.

Capt David Bernard
USMC, 1999-2004
Westminster, Colo.

Your reply to Master Sergeant Dick Bowers' "Sound Off" letter regarding today's shiny brass, Corfam shoes, wash-and-wear dungarees, etc., compared to his Marine Corps days of Brasso, shoe polish and starch, was outstanding! I, too, remember those days and would have given a month's pay for a few sets of wash,

[continued on page 64]

A Story of Survival, Loyalty

WW II Marine Who Escaped Sinking of USS *Indianapolis*, Committed to Honoring Memory of Lost Shipmates

By Roxanne Baker

Standing tall in a crisp set of dress blues, Edgar Harrell walked across the stage of an Illinois church. The hundreds of people in the audience listened intently as he gave a firsthand account of being a young Marine aboard the sinking USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) and the horrific nearly five-day wait to be rescued from shark-infested waters.

“It’s the greatest tragedy at sea in the history of the U.S. Navy,” Harrell said. “A true story of survival.”

Harrell, who is 90 years old, has spoken to thousands across the country on his mission to tell people the story of the 1,196 crewmembers of the doomed ship. He said he feels compelled to honor the memory of his fellow servicemen and to set the record straight.

“It’s sad, but the history books have been rewritten with a false history. That is why I have written my story.”

The Sinking

USS *Indianapolis* played a critical role in ending World War II. On July 26, 1945, she sailed to Tinian to deliver components of the two atomic bombs that were to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Without an escort, the ship departed for the Philippines to prepare for the expected invasion of Japan. But at 12:14 a.m. on July 30, 1945, a Japanese submarine torpedoed the ship in the Philippine Sea. She sank in just 12 minutes, and almost 300 of the men aboard went down with her. Few life rafts were deployed, and only some crewmembers had time to grab a kapok life jacket.

When the sun rose that morning, many of the men already had succumbed to the injuries they sustained from the explosions that had rocked the ship. That’s when the sharks arrived. The men tried to stay in packs as they watched the fins encircle them. Although the men fastened their life jackets together, often a man would drift away, panic or hallucinate and swim away from the group. Harrell said there were blood-curdling screams from the men who fell prey to the sharks, but the

attacks happened so quickly, no one could help. The survivors tried to collect and save as many dog tags as they could. Many men died from dehydration, drowning, starvation or exposure, while others suffering from hallucinations killed their fellow sailors.

As the days wore on, it was clear that a rescue was not on the way; no one was



In Chicago, at one of his many speaking engagements, former Cpl Edgar Harrell recounts the sinking of USS *Indianapolis*.

looking for them. That loss of hope took a toll on the survivors, Harrell said, and in the desperate conditions, some lost their will to live. Controversy still remains as to why the absence of *Indianapolis* was not noticed sooner. Distress signals were sent, but never acted upon despite the ship being days late from her scheduled arrival.

It wasn’t until the morning of Aug. 2, 1945, that Navy pilot Lieutenant Junior Grade Wilbur “Chuck” Gwinn spotted the wreckage while flying a PV-1 Ventura. He immediately called for help, and Lieutenant R. Adrian Marks, USN, piloting a PBY Catalina, was one of the first on the scene.

LT Marks alerted Lieutenant Commander W. Graham Claytor Jr., skipper of the nearest ship, USS *Cecil J. Doyle* (DD-368), and Claytor immediately diverted on his own authority. The crew of Marks’ PBY started picking up survivors from the water, despite immediate danger from the sharks. They even tied men to the aircraft’s wings and somehow managed to fit 56 survivors on board the plane. But it wasn’t until Claytor shone his ship’s searchlight when night fell that most of the survivors knew a rescue had finally arrived. Only about 315 men were recovered alive from the water.

USS *Indianapolis*’ Captain Charles B. McVay was later court-martialed for not zigzagging to avoid a torpedo. The trial is still controversial, as he was the only captain in U.S. Navy history to be court-martialed for the sinking of a ship during war. Information was not released to the public until years after. Harrell had served as McVay’s orderly and offered to speak in his defense at the trial. Even Mochitsura Hashimoto, the commander of the submarine that sank *Indianapolis*, said at the trial that zigzagging would not have prevented the torpedo hit. McVay committed suicide in 1968. In 2000, with the support of *Indianapolis* survivors, he was exonerated.

Keeping the Legacy Alive

Harrell said he was compelled to write the story of *USS Indianapolis* after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. His published book is called “Out of the Depths: An Unforgettable WW II Story of Survival, Courage, and the Sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*.”

Several years later, 12-year-old Ellie Rutan read Harrell’s firsthand account while researching World War II, and it impacted her to the core.

“We celebrate Marine Corps history through supporting Marines like Edgar Harrell. ... We are happy to be just a small part of that presentation.”
—Stacey Churchill
Marine Corps Association & Foundation

“When you read it directly from him, there’s a feeling of reverence and you walk away with such gratitude,” Ellie said. “His faith was so strong and his anchor was in Christ. His story strengthened me so much, and I wanted to deeply say ‘thank you.’”

Ellie, now 14, organized and raised funds for a speaking event near her home outside of Chicago. More than 450 people attended, including decorated veterans, the North Suburban Young Marines and Navy Band Great Lakes.

Harrell always had worn civilian clothing at his previous speaking engagements, but Ellie said she felt it was important for him to wear dress blues, especially with the other veterans in uniform.

“He is a Marine who has truly earned them [dress blues],” she said. “When I met him I felt like I was facing an absolute giant that I have an incredible respect for.”

She contacted *The MARINE Shop* in Quantico, Va., for a donation. Owned and operated by The Marine Corps Association & Foundation, the shop tailored and shipped trousers, a cover and all accessories.

“We celebrate Marine Corps history through supporting Marines like Edgar Harrell,” said Stacey Churchill, the director of individual donor development for the foundation. “It was wonderful to see the expertise of our tailors at work creating the trousers for Corporal Harrell. A Marine in uniform always makes an impact, and I know that Corporal Harrell captivated his audience with his account of courage and survival. We are happy to be just a small part of that presentation.”



USS Indianapolis off the Mare Island Navy Yard, Calif., July 10, 1945.

USN PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Passing the Torch

Ellie said she hopes other young people read Harrell’s story of USS *Indianapolis* and realize the ultimate sacrifice that so many have given for American freedom.

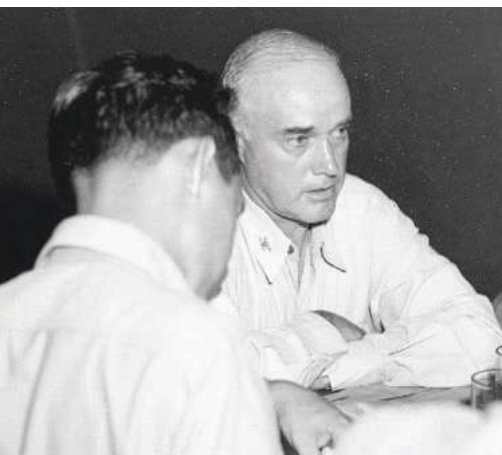
“You can’t appreciate something unless you understand the price that was paid,” she said.

Remembering that cost is why Harrell continues to travel throughout the country speaking about USS *Indianapolis* and the roughly 900 men who gave their lives. History should relay what truly happened that night, he said, and his shipmates’ lives should forever be honored.

“Many people do not know the horror

we encountered. Be reminded of the sacrifice of the past, the cost of freedom, and the continued conflict we must face yet in the future. Make sure you are prepared for life after death by embracing the gospel of God. As my son often says, ‘A man is not ready to live until he is ready to die,’” Harrell said.

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.



USN PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Above: CAPT Charles B. McVay III, the commanding officer of USS *Indianapolis*, right, was later court-martialed for hazarding his ship. He was exonerated in 2000.

Right: Of the more than 900 soldiers and Marines who survived the sinking, fewer than 320 were alive when rescuers finally reached them five days later.



USN PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

In Every Clime and Place

Edited by
Sara W. Bock

■ PENANJONG GARRISON, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Marines and Royal Brunei Land Force Conduct Bilateral Training, Assault Through MOUT Town

U.S. Marines and servicemembers from the Royal Brunei Land Force trained together for military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) during Exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) at the Penanjong Garrison, Brunei Darussalam, Nov. 13, 2014.

CARAT 2014 was a series of bilateral exercises between the United States and the armed forces of nine partner nations in Asia—Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

“MOUT training is very important, because most combat ... in today’s world takes place in urban areas,” said Lieutenant Syuiab Hjmeraj, a platoon commander with 1st Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Force. “This training is a big adjustment for us, because our main focus was jungle warfare before this.”

Throughout the course of the week, U.S.

Marines trained with Royal Brunei Land Force servicemembers in MOUT tactics, techniques and procedures that have been developed and refined following several years of urban warfare. They participated in classes covering topics such as clearing entire buildings and moving through individual rooms.

“MOUT was largely introduced to the Marine Corps in Vietnam and became a priority during the war in Iraq which saw Marines going from building to building,” said Sergeant Jordan M. Nold, a squad leader with 2d Bn, Ninth Marine Regiment, currently attached to 4th Marines, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force under the unit deployment program. “[This training provides] a three-dimensional look at an urban environment and gives us the ability to effectively clear an area in all dimensions on the streets, in the buildings, on the rooftops and anywhere else that there may be a threat.”

The bilateral training provided all military personnel involved the opportunity to compare tactics and techniques to

further improve on current methods and develop new ways of operating, said Lance Corporal Luke A. Racavich, a rifleman with 2/9.

“Looking at the way we normally do MOUT, and comparing with the way someone else does it, is probably one of the best ways to learn these kinds of tactics,” said Racavich. “There’s a lot of different ways you can go about clearing a building, and I’ve learned more than a few new ways to do that throughout this training.”

Racavich spoke highly of the members of the Royal Brunei Land Force, saying that they were eager to learn, very kind and “just overall good people.”

The CARAT maritime exercise series promotes regional security cooperation and mutual understanding and enhances interoperability among participating forces. This is achieved through a partnership that allows those involved to also share their culture with one another and strengthen relationships.

PFC Cedric R. Haller, USMC
Combat Correspondent, III MEF



While servicemembers from the Royal Brunei Land Force observe, U.S. Marines demonstrate how to clear a room during MOUT training at the Penanjong Garrison, Brunei Darrussalam, in November 2014.

■ BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA MV-22s, KC-130Js Team Up, Fly Down Under

In November 2014, Marines and aircraft from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265, VMM-262 and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport (VMGR) Squadron 152 flew approximately 4,700 miles from Okinawa, Japan, to Brisbane, Australia. The MV-22 Osprey and KC-130J Super Hercules squadrons conducted aerial support missions with Marine Helicopter Squadron One in support of President Barack Obama's attendance at the G-20 Summit.

Their long-range trip emphasized the strategic importance of both the Osprey and the Super Hercules.

In the Marine Forces Pacific area of responsibility (AOR), which covers approximately 105 million square miles, distance is a hurdle that confronts commanders on a daily basis. That area encompasses close to 50 percent of the world's surface area and is home to 60 percent of the world's population. In that region of the world, transporting Marines and equipment to the areas in which they are needed can be a challenge.

"The Osprey/Hercules team provides the Marine Corps a long-range operational capability to deliver combat troops, humanitarian supplies and equipment to austere locations that have traditionally been unattainable by helicopters, due to their lack of range, or traditional transport fixed-wing aircraft because of a lack of an airfield," explained Colonel Dave Krebs, the First Marine Aircraft Wing chief of staff. "This enhanced capability enables us to meet our regional security agreements, extended deterrence, and decrease response times to our multilateral partners within the Pacific AOR."

Taken in three separate "legs," the journey required the MV-22 to refuel in flight several times. Both the Ospreys and Super Hercules transported the parts and equipment they would need to be completely self-sustained during the mission, along with the Marines needed to perform aircraft maintenance. It is that ability to self-deploy that enables the two aircraft to be as effective as they are.

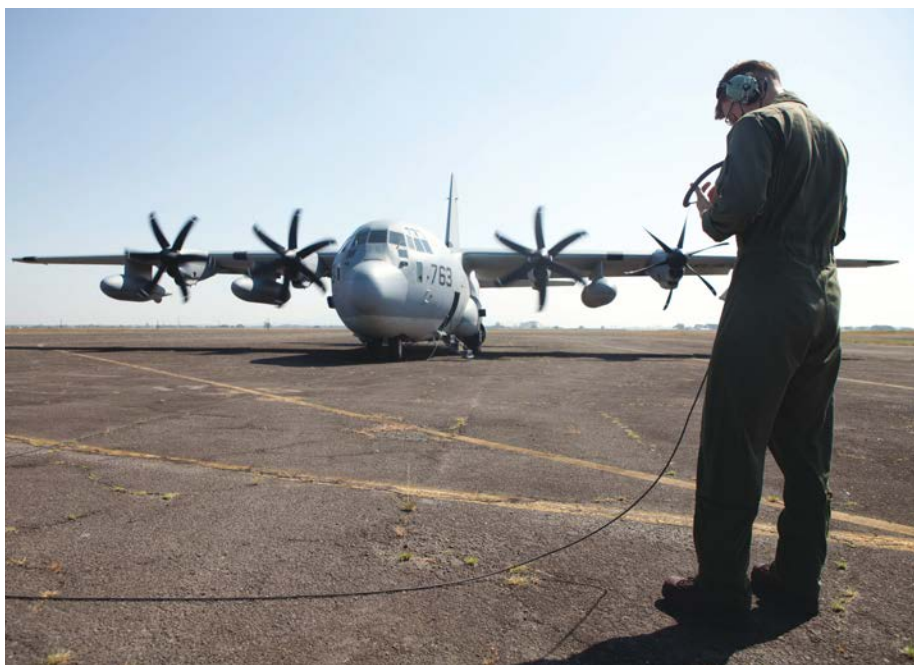
"I've watched [the team] grow over the last few years, and it continues to sharpen," said Major Mitch Maury, the executive officer for VMGR-152. "We're getting better, getting to know each other better, and learning what both platforms can do."

Col Krebs pointed out the significance of the operational reach of the MV-22 and KC-130J, stating that 1st MAW can respond to a crisis anywhere in the Pacific AOR rapidly, "ready to support or fight the moment we arrive."



Above: An MV-22 Osprey from VMM-262 soars over the Pacific Ocean during a flight from the Philippines to Australia, Nov. 8, 2014. (Photo by SSgt Zachary Dyer, USMC)

Below: LCpl Kasey Pike uses an interphone communications system to talk to the pilots of a KC-130J Super Hercules from VMGR-152 as the aircraft prepares to take off from Clark Air Base, Philippines, en route to Brisbane, Australia, Nov. 8, 2014. Together, the MV-22 and KC-130J are capable of quickly providing assault support to any location in the MARFORPAC area of operations.



SSGT ZACHARY DYER, USMC

The mission to Brisbane is just the latest notch in the team's belt. Since the MV-22 first arrived in Okinawa in late 2012, it has supported several high-level missions—most notably providing humanitarian

assistance and disaster relief during Operation Damayan when Super Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines in 2013.

SSgt Zachary Dyer, USMC
Combat Correspondent, III MEF

■ FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PA.
“Shoot, Move, Communicate”:
3/14 Hones Skills During Exercise

In the hills of Pennsylvania, a loud and thunderous blast is heard with only the “dragon’s breath” of the M777A2 lightweight howitzer seen through the trees. The Marines of “India” and “Golf” batteries, 3d Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Fourth Marine Division unleashed the continuous fury that is field artillery during Exercise Twisted Sister, a battalion fire exercise, Oct. 25, 2014.

The M777A2 lightweight howitzer is the Marine Corps’ only means of indirect fire support in any weather condition, and the cannoners of 3d Bn, 14th Marines had the opportunity to hone their skills during the exercise.

“Artillery is of extreme importance on the battlefield,” said Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Davis, the commanding officer of 3d Bn, 14th Marines. “When our maneuver elements and infantry have already engaged with the enemy, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions, the artillery is there to bring indirect fire support to their aid. We have the ability to reach out 18 miles with 24 cannons and 800 Marines that bring an awesome amount of firepower that enables the maneuver elements to engage the enemy with combined arms.”

It is essential to the Corps’ combined-arms tactics that modern-day field artil-

lery has the capability of moving at a moment’s notice. In the past, artillery was laborious to move and emplace.

“The three words associated with artillery throughout the artillery community are ‘shoot,’ ‘move’ and ‘communicate,’” said Major Jeff Stewart, the operations officer for 3d Bn, 14th Marines. “You have to do all three, and they all rely on each other. The M777A2 lightweight howitzer is designed to be more rapidly mobile than previous howitzers. Batteries can be displaced and emplaced in different locations within a matter of minutes, as well as hasty emplacements on the move if they need to. Rapidity and mobility are key to our survivability as an artillery battery.”

Training during a battalion-sized fire exercise is centrally focused on the battalion’s ability to command and control its battery elements in the field, as well as to hone its support maneuver warfare tactics.

The gun batteries on the firing line are presented with a number of scenarios to better understand the different conditions and possibilities that could result when conducting support maneuver tactics.

“Since we have received shooting authorization, these Marines have put more than 100 rounds effectively downrange in various different call-for-fire scenarios. Meeting time ‘hacks’ coordinated by battalion is probably one of the hardest, because you never know exactly what could be going on at the battlefield,” said

First Lieutenant Terence Foley, platoon commander for Btry I, 3d Bn, 14th Marines.

“Say we are coordinating a combined-arms attack. We either have to get our shots in either before or after the plane has passed and when the ground guys are clear. The slightest miscalculation could be devastating for our own guys, so training to better ourselves in those aspects makes sure we are at the top of our game.”

Training in support maneuver warfare comes with its own logistical challenges—given the sheer scale, size and distance between each unit—along with the battalion’s ability to only bring the Reserve unit together to train in force twice a year.

“One of the things we take seriously is our mission to support maneuver,” said LtCol Davis. “These exercises are really important for us to hone our skills so that when we are put in front of our counterparts, whether Reserve or active, we have the skills necessary to support them so that they understand that we take our mission of providing fire support seriously.”

Exercise Twisted Sister allowed 3/14 Marines to bring it all together for their fire exercise, practicing command and control of their batteries and elevating their support maneuver warfare tactics.

Cpl Joseph Karwick, USMC
Combat Correspondent, MARFORRES



LCpl James Whearry, a field artilleryman with 3d Bn, 14th Marines, 4thMarDiv, fires the M777A2 lightweight howitzer in a call-for-fire scenario during Exercise Twisted Sister, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Oct. 25, 2014.

■ CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.

3/1 Conducts Vertical-Assault Training

After a brief by the platoon commander, Corporal Jose W. Delgado gathered his Marines around a terrain model to go over his squad's mission.

"There's nothing routine about this, gents," said Delgado, a squad leader with "Lima" Company, Battalion Landing Team 3d Bn, First Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. "We're the main effort on this. There's a lot of moving parts so try to keep up."

This was the scene as Marines with Lima Co, BLT 3/1 began preparations for a raid exercise during a weeklong vertical-assault training course at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., in late October 2014.

The course is designed to give Marines a solid understanding on how vertical-assault missions will be conducted while deployed with the 15th MEU.

"This training makes us better," said Sergeant Andrew McGinty, a squad leader with Lima Co, BLT 3/1. "The instructors are throwing us real-life scenarios with buildings and key terrain that we may be encountering, with regards to what's going on in the world."

Students in the course first received lessons on the capabilities of the aircraft they could use in a vertical-assault operation. They also learned about overcoming hurdles, like improvised explosive devices and handling casualties, they may encounter when conducting a raid.

In these scenarios, instructors emphasized that immediate actions may make the difference between success and failure.

"Your key leaders can't be with you at all times, so in order for the mission to get accomplished, you have to rely on the individual actions of all the Marines, down to the simple rifleman. The squad leader is going to be tasked out to do different things, as well as team leaders, so it really falls on the individual actions of the most junior Marines to make the right decision," said McGinty.

After receiving instruction, platoon commanders were given their orders and platoon sergeants had a few hours to brief and prepare their Marines. Fresh from completing a raid-leaders training course, Sergeant Joshua Germond, a platoon sergeant with Lima Co, provided his squad with valuable knowledge that helped them iron out wrinkles in their tactics.

"It definitely gave us a leg up," said Germond. "I trained my guys how to set up blocking positions and assault support security, so we came ready to build on that and get better."

During the course, the Marines learned



Above: Marines with Lima Co, BLT 3/1, 15th MEU boost a Marine over a wall during a vertical-assault raid course at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 29, 2014. (Photo by Sgt Emmanuel Ramos, USMC)

Below: Leathernecks of Lima Co disembark from a CH-53E Super Stallion during an offset night raid, which was the final exercise of the vertical-assault raid course.



SGT EMMANUEL RAMOS, USMC

SOUTH BASE, SERBIA



SGT DERRICK IRONS, USMC

KEEPING THE PEACE—U.S. Marines attempt to break through a wall of Bulgarian and Serbian soldiers during Platinum Wolf 15, a riot control course at South Base, Serbia, Nov. 19, 2014. Platinum Wolf is a peacekeeping operations training exercise focused on nonlethal systems and basic infantry skills. Units train together as coalitions, developing and improving proficiency of peacekeeping procedures like crowd and riot control. Forces from Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and the United States participated in the two-week training.



SGT EMANUEL RAMOS, USMC

Cpl John Salazar, an engineer with Lima Co, BLT 3/1, 15th MEU, places simulated explosives to breach a fence during the vertical-assault raid course at MCB Camp Pendleton, Oct. 29, 2014.

two types of raids—offset and hard-hit. An offset raid inserts Marines away from their target and allows them to tactically make their way to the objective, while in a hard-hit raid, Marines land directly on their objective.

To add to the realistic nature of the training, platoons were given new intelligence that would affect their raid minutes before their raid exercise began.

“Realistically, this is what’s going to happen,” Germond said. “It kind of threw us off a little, but that’s why we do them now, so we’re prepared when it happens.”

After each raid exercise, platoon commanders and squad leaders were briefed by instructors on their actions and given direction on how to improve.

“The raids got progressively harder, but they give us the opportunity to take what we learned and apply it,” McGinty said.

For their final exercise, the Marines conducted an offset night raid, inserting 3 kilometers away from their objective. Under the cover of darkness, they moved

clandestinely into position to assault a simulated enemy position.

After laying down suppressive machine-gun and mortar fire, the Marines swiftly swept through the town and accomplished their mission.

“There was a big difference between our first raid and our last raid,” Germond said. “They were more vocal and made decisive decisions.”

As the training came to a close, Marines walked away with newfound knowledge and stronger confidence in each other.

Sgt Emmanuel Ramos, USMC
Combat Correspondent, 15th MEU

■ CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, OKINAWA, JAPAN

Military Working Dog Plays Vital Role In “Locating” Marines

Marines, accompanied by a working dog, descended on a rope from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter. Once on the ground, the tracking dog led the Marines through the jungle in search of three simulated downed aircrew.

The Marines conducting the tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP) exercise were with 3d Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF in support of Exercise Blue Chromite 15 in the Central Training Area, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 5, 2014.

“When aircraft go down and there are isolated personnel, or IPs, the Marine Corps has to go find them,” said First Lieutenant Christina M. Nymeyer, a platoon commander with 3d LE Bn. “Once we know they are alive and we know their location, that’s when we launch the TRAP force. We go in. We secure them. We authenticate their data to make sure that they are in fact the aircrew who went down and not someone in disguise.”

The planners of Chromite wanted to do a TRAP scenario not only for training purposes, but also for real-life situations that may arise during the exercise.

“This was the first time we have ever fast-roped out of a [CH-53] and conducted training as real as we can get it,” said Lance Corporal Cody J. Vassar, a military policeman with 3d LE Bn. “It was a little different. But all in all, it went well. We learned to work on our communication a little more, and we completed the mission in good time and successfully rescued all three ‘downed’ aircrew.”

During the exercise, the Marines came in contact with simulated enemy forces and traversed several streams and climbed hills to reach their objectives. This was also the first time they worked closely with air units.

“It was definitely a success today,” said



LCPL TYLER S. GIGUERE, USMC

Cpl Nicholas B. Majerus and his dog, Sgt Iggi, patrol in search of simulated downed aircrew during Exercise Blue Chromite 15 at the Central Training Area, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 5, 2014. Using only the scent from a hat, Sgt Iggi was able to track down two of the missing aircrewmen in a dense jungle area.

Vassar. “We had a K-9 tracker dog with us, and she found the first two pilots, and we secured that location and found the third pilot at our LZ [landing zone] pickup location.”

Corporal Nicholas B. Majerus, a military policeman and working dog handler with 3d LE Bn, employed his combat tracking dog, “Sergeant” Iggi, to help find the lost Marines. Iggi was able to use a hat dropped by one of the downed aircrew from which to get a scent.

“It was a big confidence booster knowing that everybody is watching me and my dog, and I can still perform,” said Majerus. “It’s my job to use my combat tracking

dog to track them down. Obviously they were trying to move fast and get out of that area before the enemy found them. My dog picked the scent up, and she followed their trail all the way through the jungle and up to the LZ.”

Exercise Blue Chromite 15 was led by Fourth Marine Regiment and prepares Marines and sailors for future deployments by practicing integration of arms and testing new technologies.

LCpl Tyler S. Giguere, USMC
PAO, MCIPAC





GLENN FANCETT

Getting to Know Robert Work, Deputy Secretary of Defense

By Maj Fred C. Lash, USMC (Ret)

As Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert O. “Bob” Work likes to say, “Every now and then, I get to escape the five sides of the Pentagon. People ask me, ‘What is the difference between the deputy secretary of defense and the secretary of defense?’ And I just ask them to think back to the movie “Jurassic Park” and imagine that the secretary is T-Rex, and the deputy secretary is the tethered goat. So anytime I can

break free of my tether and go out to talk to people, I really enjoy it.”

It didn’t take long after his arrival at the Pentagon for Bob Work to slip the tether. In August 2014, after Secretary Charles “Chuck” Hagel asked him to oversee the implementation of the U.S.’s rebalance of forces to the Asia-Pacific region, Work traveled to Hawaii, Guam, South Korea and Japan. His stated purpose, according to Work, was to “observe firsthand what was going on with the adjustments we are making to our presence out there and to

discuss the strategic environment with our allies, specifically the Republic of Korea and Japan.”

To those who asked Work just how committed the United States government is to the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, his response is unequivocal: The United States is an Asia-Pacific power and will remain one in the future. In a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations this past September, Work said the United States is “seeking a posture in Asia that is geographically dispersed, operationally resilient, politi-

cally sustainable, with the aim of maintaining peace and prosperity in one of the most important regions in the world.”

He also emphasized that by 2020, both the Navy and the Air Force will have 60 percent of their combat forces in the Asia-Pacific region. Not to cut out the Marine Corps from this equation, he stated, “Marines are geographically dispersing four powerful Marine air-ground task forces [MAGTFs] around the Pacific.” As Work observed, “The budget request for fiscal year 2015 calls for \$22.7 billion for the Marine Corps to support an end strength of 182,700 Marines, including funds to support 900 Marines for increased security at American embassies overseas. Funds will also support a geographically dispersed force posture in the Asia-Pacific, which will be increasingly important as U.S. forces are rebalanced to that region.”

Not only are Navy-Marine Corps operational and organizational plans being developed, but four key construction projects are underway in the region, three of which directly involve the Marine Corps. First is the Futenma Replacement Facility on Okinawa that, according to Work, will allow the Marine Corps to concentrate its aviation assets in the northern part of the island and “become more politically sustainable.” South of Okinawa, on Guam in the Mariana Islands, there soon will be facilities to house 5,000 Marines at a new base there. With a certain glint in his eye, he went on to add Iwakuni, Japan, to that list of impressive construction sites.

“Iwakuni, what a wonderful place,” he pointed out. “Literally, the Japanese government ‘shaved’ the top off of a nearby mountain, conveyed the dirt down to a bay, put it on barges and reclaimed an enormous part, expanding the area so that the Navy’s carrier air wing that is currently in Atsugi can move down there.”

Navy Officer or Marine?

“I was born into a Marine family,” noted Work with pride. “My dad served his country as an enlisted Marine during World War II and went on to attend the first Basic School class in 1945. After that, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve and served as a captain, a company commander, during the Korean War and received the Silver Star. After the war they gave him a choice: either revert back to his permanent grade of E-8, a master sergeant, or get out. For him, there really was no choice. He reverted back to his E-8 grade and eventually became a warrant officer and retired as a CWO-4, having served in three wars and more than 30 years of service.

“So I grew up in a Marine Corps family, a Marine Corps ‘brat’ living on Marine



**Deputy Secretary of Defense
Robert O. “Bob” Work**

Corps bases just about everywhere. We were even stationed in Rota, Spain, during one of my father’s tours of duty, and I attended high school there. Then I went off to school at the University of Illinois and had every intention of becoming a naval officer because ... my dad was a Marine, and I didn’t want to be in his shadow. But that dream only lasted until my third-class midshipman cruise when I spent six weeks aboard USS *Chicago* (CG-11), a converted World War II *Baltimore*-class heavy cruiser. The rest, as they say, is history.

“I ‘saw the light’ and was commissioned a Marine officer in 1974, after having been a Marine option for three of my four years

at the university. So with the exception of that one year, when I had been still saying to myself that I couldn’t follow in his footsteps, and I have to, you know, blaze my own path, I became a Marine and have remained one throughout these past 40-plus years. So then, throughout these many years of being an active-duty Marine, a retired Marine, a Marine father and a Marine spouse (which totals 61 years), I guess you could say that I have earned the title of Marine.”

Just how proud is Work that he is a Marine? During his Senate confirmation hearing, Work would make that point very clear to Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi when the senator referred to him as a “former Marine Corps officer and former undersecretary of the Navy.” The senator then went on to note that it was well-known that Work knew a lot about amphibious ships. At the end of the senator’s remarks, Work politely corrected the senator by saying, “Sir, if I could make one correction, for the record, I am a Marine and a former undersecretary.”

Senator Wicker, not to be totally outdone, noted, “When I was reading that statement, I expected to be challenged. At least in the minds of all the Marines in the audience and within the sound of my voice. So, thank you for clarifying that.” Work was reiterating what he truly feels, “Once a Marine, always a Marine.”

Later during that hearing, in a show of support for Marine Corps amphibious lift, Sen. Wicker said that he “remains seriously concerned that our Navy may be unable to support all requests for amphibious ships for our combatant commanders.”



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel addresses the press as Work looks on at the Pentagon, Oct. 1, 2014.

He closed by saying, “I secured a provision in the most recent NDAA [National Defense Authorization Act] requiring the Commandant of the Marine Corps to inform Congress on the number of amphibious ships required for the Marine Corps to execute the president’s national security strategy.”

Then at the end of the testimony, the senator asked the deputy secretary of defense-designee if he would pledge to meet with Wicker’s committee to discuss, “in plain English,” the Department of Defense’s plan to provide sufficient amphibious ships to execute the full range of operational requirements from the combatant commanders. Work, the retired Marine artillery officer, simply and clearly responded, “Yes, sir.”

The Right Marine at the Right Time

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said of Work’s nomination to be the deputy secretary of defense, “Bob is an admired and tested leader, with a distinguished career of public service. He brings to this position a depth of experience, knowledge

and expertise that will greatly benefit the Department of Defense.”

Echoing those sentiments was former Secretary of the Navy Richard J. Danzig, Work’s former boss and a member of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) board of directors. “Bob Work is among the most gifted analysts and defense leaders of his generation, and he will do extraordinary things in helping Secretary Hagel lead the Department of Defense. He’ll be sorely missed at CNAS [where Work served as CEO from 2013 to 2014], but Bob is the perfect person to help lead the Department of Defense through a critical period.”

Retired Marine Colonel Walt Ford, a fellow artillery officer and former editor of *Leatherneck*, also recalled his impression of Bob Work when they were on active duty together. “While I was the executive assistant in Plans, Policies, and Operations [PP&O], Lieutenant General Jim Jones [future Commandant of the Marine Corps] brought Bob in to create the Headquarters Marine Corps Strategic Initiatives Group to research and synthe-

size for the Commandant the political-military issues from around the world and inside the Beltway. His insightful assessments and recommendations in the 1996 Quadrennial Defense Review greatly assisted the CMC in gaining a very favorable outcome in that QDR, particularly in the numbers of MV-22s and funding for these aircraft.”

On the subject of the V-22 Osprey, Work had a few words to say when he was an analyst at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, where he first served as senior fellow for maritime affairs, and later as the vice president for strategic studies. “There have, in the past, been a lot of arguments for and against the V-22. A few years ago I was not a fan of this aircraft, but the bottom line is now there really is no other option. The war years have essentially worn out the Marine Corps’ helicopter fleet, and the V-22 is the answer that we’re going to make work.”

The CH-46 Sea Knights or “Phrogs” as they affectionately are known, had been the workhorses of the Marine Corps’ helicopter fleet since the Vietnam War.



DepSecDef Work shares lunch with a group of junior officers at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, June 24, 2014.

Okinawa: Still the Keystone Of the Pacific?

For decades, the Marines have been a centerpiece of U.S. strategy in the Pacific. From Okinawa, Marines were only a few days sailing time from Taiwan, the Korean peninsula or other potential trouble spots. A powerful Marine task force just over the horizon was considered a strong deterrent to bad actors from East Asia to the Persian Gulf. This meant preserving multiple bases on Okinawa, which have impacted island residents since the United States defeated imperial Japanese forces there in 1945.

In speaking about both the V-22 and Okinawa, Work emphasized that it is necessary that the Ospreys are always close to the Marines who are based on Okinawa. "With the coming of the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF), we'll be returning some of the land to the Okinawan people. Ultimately, the V-22s will all be up in the north. Okinawa's governor has acceded to U.S. plans to maintain a large Marine contingent on the island, despite local opposition, by approving site preparation for the new air base on the less-populated northern half of the island in the Camp Schwab-Henokosaki area and its adjacent waters."

Work believes the safety of the aircraft is now well-known, and the fear factor that existed before now has dissipated. "As it turns out, when you look at the data, it [the V-22] is one of the safest aircraft anywhere. So we're moving about 10,000 Marines off of Okinawa which make our presence there more politically sustainable for the government of Japan and the people of Okinawa. Then, with the relocation of a KC-130 squadron from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to the MCAS Iwakuni, we'll be able to consolidate our forces in the north and, ultimately, close MCAS Futenma."

So, with Okinawa still very much in the picture, Work noted, "We also reorganized into a more operationally relevant posture with an emphasis on our Marine air-ground task forces, or MAGTFs. As it stacks up now, we'll have something like a Special Purpose MAGTF in Australia [Darwin], MAGTFs in both Guam and Hawaii and a 'super' MAGTF in Okinawa. By 'super,' I mean there'll be a Marine expeditionary force headquarters, plus the MAGTF. As far as the Asia-Pacific goes, Marines are being distributed around the entire region, with 5,000 Marines going to Guam, 2,500 to Australia, a number back to Hawaii and about 3,500 up to Iwakuni, Japan."

The result of all those movements and repositions is, according to Work, a Pacific-Asia force that is operationally resilient and geographically dispersed,

allowing it to be far more reactive and respond more rapidly. "And we want to continue to foster revitalized alliances that we're seeing right now with our allies in South Korea, Japan and Australia, besides continuing the talks that we're having with the Philippines and expanding our initiatives in Singapore. The move to Guam is really going to be big because we'll then have a Marine expeditionary brigade headquarters right next to the largest U.S. aircraft hub in the region [Anderson Air Force Base]. This means that Marines can go north to Northeast Asia, south to Southeast Asia or head off to the Philippines."

All of that new capability, according to Work, provides a very useful platform from which the Marines may operate.

of possibly allowing women in ground combat positions, Work noted that he is aware of the requirement that each service report its plans by January 2016, and he commented, "We're doing pretty good at this point. The going-in assumption is that we want as many MOSs [military occupational specialties] as we possibly can to be open to both men and women, and the presumption is that we are going to get there, with the onus being on the service chiefs to request any exceptions. But I think it's been established beyond a shadow of a doubt that we're stronger by having a gender-diverse military, that women are as capable as men in almost any activity that you can think of."

Work stated that he is "pretty impressed" with the way that the Commandant of the



The vice commander of the 432d Air Expeditionary Wing, Col James Chittenden, USAF, escorts Work to an awaiting helicopter at Creech Air Force Base near Las Vegas on Nov. 4, 2014. (Photo by Glenn Fawcett)

Women in Ground Combat Positions

This past October, three female Marine Corps officers passed the grueling combat endurance test that kicks off the service's screening for infantry officers. The test was conducted at Quantico, Va., and is designed to assess each individual's ability to withstand exhausting physical conditions and make difficult decisions at the same time. The integration of women at the Infantry Officer Course is one of the high-profile parts of the Pentagon's ongoing research into which jobs women should be allowed to serve while in combat units.

Regarding this controversial subject

Marine Corps, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Chief of Naval Operations have all taken a hard look at this. "I'm very confident that the force is going to be able to work through this. And, when issues come up, we'll address them in a forthright manner."

When then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta set this research in motion, he told the service chiefs that he would look to them to tell him whether there should be exclusions. Work noted that the Department is going in with the assumption we're going to open up specialties to women "because it makes our force stronger."



GLENN FANCETT

On a flight from Kabul to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, DepSecDef Work talks with MG Jeffrey N. Colt, USA, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, on June 24, 2014.

Never Enough Amphibious Ships

In November 2004, in a report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), titled “The Future of the Navy’s Amphibious and Maritime Prepositioning Force,” it was stated, “The Navy intends to replace most of its amphibious warfare ships and all of its maritime prepositioning ships over the next 30 years. Specifically, the Navy plans to replace all of its current amphibious transport docks with the LPD-17 class; begin a new class of amphibious assault ships, the LHA(R); and replace all of its dock landing ships with the still conceptual LX(R).” That modernization program would keep the size of the L-class force at 36 ships through 2035. It is worth noting that Robert O. Work contributed to that CBO report.

Fast-forward to the present time when Marine planners are struggling with a shortage of Navy amphibious ships. Only 30 will be in operation by fiscal year 2015, far fewer than the 38 that Marine leaders wanted and the 33 minimum they say are necessary for operational requirements. “As the deputy secretary of defense,” said Work, “let me say that I don’t think we have enough amphibious ships, nor do we have enough ships in general. I would feel more comfortable if we had more slack in our force structure.” Work went on to

note, “Our goal is to try to keep a two MEB [Marine expeditionary brigade] capability, and so our hope is to have 33 amphibious ships, which would give us 30 that are operationally available. We’re not there right now, but we hope to be at 33 ships sometime about the end of this Future Years Defense Program.”

He admitted that the “mix” of ships may not be the “11, 11 and 11” that is desired. “We won’t have 11 big deck amphibs, 11 LPD-17s and 11 LSDs. So in the near term, what we’ll have are more LSDs and not as many big decks. Every single part of our force structure is under pressure, and I never say ‘never’ and I never say ‘always.’ And it’s hard for me to predict where we’ll be in, say, five years. But for right now, we’re trying our best, our level best, to keep a two-MEB capability in the Marine Corps to some degree.”

When Work recently was in Guam, during a question-and-answer session with Marines and airmen, he was asked about building ships without well decks and, if so, would it be a trend that would continue. Work responded, “All right, well the LHA-6 and LHA-7 were the first two big decks that we’ve ever built without a well deck. And, quite frankly the Navy and Marine Corps have concluded that this is something that will not continue, although

these two ships are going to be awesomely capable aviation platforms that will be able to operate like small aircraft carriers with F-35s, V-22s and other aircraft. But the next LHAs to be built after these two will have well decks.”

Thoughts of the Corps— Then and Now

During the interview, Work said he could honestly say that, during his 27 years in the Corps, he was never assigned to a place that he didn’t want to be. And when asked about the jobs he enjoyed the most, the response came almost immediately, without much thought or recollection. “Obviously they were my command positions. I had the great fortune to command an artillery battery, an artillery battalion, the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, and serve as the base commander at Camp Fuji, Japan.” He admitted that the jobs he liked best were the smaller units because he “could connect with Marines on an individual level.”

What about any difference between the character and performance of the Marines back when he was on active duty and now? “To me,” he explained, “when you get Marines to the field, it really doesn’t matter. When Marines are in the field, they’re all the same. They want to go out. They want to do what they’re trained for; they’re ready to get after the bad guy. When you get the Marines out in the field, it doesn’t matter. They’re all ready to go.”

Summing up his feelings about Marines and their commitment to serve their nation, Work observed, “I would just say, that is our secret weapon. I mean the secret weapon of the United States military is its men and women, and its active duty, its Reserve, its civilians and its contractors. They are just endlessly innovative. So what is different about Marines then and now? Well, you’d probably have to tell your Marines what you wanted them to do more directly, whereas today you just say what you want to have accomplished, and they will get it done.

“My dad used to complain about the ‘Pepsi generation,’ and people complain about ‘Generation X,’ and other people will surely complain about ‘Generation Y,’ but to me they’re all the same. I mean, once they put on a Marine uniform, they’re Marines, and they’ll always be Marines. And so the things they can do will always surprise and astonish you.”

Author’s bio: Maj Fred C. Lash, USMC (Ret) is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck and currently is serving in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Diplomatic Security.





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Averting Starvation

U.S. Marines in Somalia (1991-95)

By Savanna J. Buckner

In Operation Restore Hope, the American response to the Somali famine of the early 1990s, Marines participated in one of the largest humanitarian relief efforts in history. While U.S. forces conducted humanitarian and peacekeeping operations, the threat of armed Somali gangs and overcrowded cities complicated their mission.

Somalia, a country characterized by a tribal culture and a hot desert environment, is a 250,000-square-mile landmass on the Horn of Africa, bordering Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti. During the Cold War, Somalia received military and economic aid from both the Soviet Union and the United States, resulting in a flood of unsecured weapons available to the various tribal militias when the government collapsed in 1991.

The Marine Corps began a series of deployments to Somalia in January 1991 when Marines participated in Operation Eastern Exit, a daring noncombatant evacuation of 260 American and foreign citizens from the increasingly violent and ungoverned country. The same month, Somalia's president, Mohammed Siad Barre, was overthrown, and warring factions plunged Somalia into bitter civil war and widespread lawlessness. Besides the lack of any functioning, legitimate government, the country already was experiencing a three-year drought that led to a crop shortage, resulting in more than 500,000 Somalis dying of starvation by early 1992.

In August 1992, President George H.W. Bush ordered the beginning of Operation Provide Relief, the emergency airlift of 145,000 tons of food to Somalia. Military and civilian aircraft flew shipments into

Somalia from bases in Kenya. Fighting between rival militias soon made this relief effort ineffective, as bandits often stole food supplies before they could be distributed by humanitarian organizations.

For Operation Restore Hope, which followed Operation Provide Relief, the United Nations authorized an American-led international relief force to deploy to Somalia to safeguard distribution of food and medicine to those in need. The United States provided the majority of the forces for the mission, which eventually was handed over to the United Nations. Lieutenant General Robert B. Johnston, commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, assumed command of the U.S. joint task force, about 57 percent of which was Marines.

On Dec. 9, 1992, Marines and Navy SEALs landed at Mogadishu, Somalia's



PHI(AW) JOSEPH DOREY, USN

Left: Somali residents enthusiastically welcome the 15th Marine Amphibious Unit as Marines secure the city during relief efforts.

Below: A Marine from Landing Support Battalion, First Force Service Support Group watches as another Marine picks up a pallet of supplies with a forklift during the multinational relief effort Operation Restore Hope.



JOI(SW) JOE GAWLOWICZ, USN



GEN ALFRED M. GRAY MARINE CORPS RESEARCH CENTER

Somali children gather skeptically around a photographer during the multinational relief efforts in Somalia in July 1993.



GEN ALFRED M. GRAY MARINE CORPS RESEARCH CENTER

capital, where the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) was to establish a base of operations to gain control of the flow of humanitarian relief. Marines of the 15th Marine Amphibious Unit and soldiers of the Army's 10th Mountain Division secured Mogadishu's port and airfield. U.S. forces expanded their presence and were joined by troops from more than 20 other nations. The combined strength of participating nations allowed UNITAF troops to push into the interior of Somalia, securing relief sectors in Bale Dogle, Baidoa, Kismayo, Bardera, Oddur, Gialalassi, Belet Weyne and Merka. Operations expanded to include relief convoy security operations

and opening up additional ports and airfields.

UNITAF faced a precarious situation in the devastated country, where some Somalis responded to troops with friendly smiles, but others responded with sniper fire. After years of civil war, there was no recognizable government in the country, making it difficult to establish stability and rule of law. Transportation was haphazard and slow, infectious diseases were rampant, and virtually all Somali males older than the age of 12 carried weapons. UNITAF worked swiftly to secure the environment for relief supply distribution and establish bases to house follow-on

Two Marines from Task Force Mogadishu prepare to clear a building during a raid on a weapons storage site. During Operation Restore Hope, Marines worked to reduce the number of weapons on the streets by raiding arms markets that operated in the city.



PHCM TERRY C. MITCHELL, USN

U.N. forces. The task force, including Marine Forces (MARFOR) Somalia, concluded numerous agreements with tribal leaders to control weapons, supported a series of peace conferences and encouraged the restoration of Somali police forces.

On Jan. 6, 1993, tribal gunmen, using weapons taken from two authorized weapons storage sites, fired on a UNITAF convoy in Mogadishu. UNITAF troops surrounded the sites, using loudspeakers to demand their surrender. When Somalis at one of the two sites resisted, UNITAF deployed Marines, along with helicopters and tanks, to quickly secure the site. UNITAF's no-nonsense demonstration of force on that occasion temporarily reduced further aggressive attacks by the Somali factions.

During the course of Operation Restore Hope, MARFOR Somalia completed a variety of tasks, including medical and dental assistance visits, security sweeps and patrols, and work with Somali schools. Everything did not go peacefully, however. On Feb. 23, thousands of Somalis demonstrated in the Mogadishu streets. As MARFOR Somalia worked to clear the streets for traffic, some Marines were pelted with rocks from the crowd. Marines joined soldiers from Botswana and Nigeria in conducting a security sweep of the area



PHCM TERRY C. MITCHELL, USN

A Marine prepares to load a box of weapons parts onto a truck filled with confiscated munitions. Warring clans in Somalia had an abundance of military hardware, weapons and ammunition, ranging from World War II-era .30-caliber machine guns and rocket launchers to Soviet-made AK47 rifles and U.S.-made M16s.

on Feb. 25. After that incident, pepper spray and protective visors were issued to MARFOR units for riot control. UNITAF balanced lethal fire with a non-lethal approach throughout the operation, recognizing non-lethal fire as a better way of separating rebel fighters from noncombatants.

UNITAF's Joint Psychological Opera-

tions Task Force used various methods—face-to-face communication, radio and loudspeaker broadcasts, leaflets, posters and coloring books—to convey themes of legitimacy and neutrality toward the Somalis. It developed a Somali language newspaper, *Rajo* (Hope), which was particularly influential in disseminating in-

Village women wait outside Baidoa for delivery of food during Operation Restore Hope. The descending spiral of rape, murder, destruction of crops and water supplies, and wholesale slaughter led to mass starvation and forced thousands of Somalis to flee their homes.



PHI(LAW) JOSEPH DOREY, USN



GEN ALFRED M. GRAY MARINE CORPS RESEARCH CENTER

A Navy corpsman provides aid to a Somali woman and child near Kismayo. Medical units played an important role in safeguarding the health of troops, as well as providing some services for Somalis.

formation to the local population.

Throughout Operation Restore Hope, air support from the four U.S. services (Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps) reinforced UNITAF troops on the ground. Naval operations also played a significant role by conducting surveillance, training with coalition partners and intercepting merchant vessels in the area of operations. Marine Corps medical units helped UNITAF combat health concerns such as heat stress, as well as environmental threats from mosquitoes, snakes and scorpions. Engineering assets from MARFOR Somalia prepared the Mogadishu port and

airfield for UNITAF activity, repaired roads and constructed base camps.

Operation Restore Hope successfully ended the famine in Somalia, saving countless lives by distributing relief supplies to starving citizens. The operation also highlighted important lessons about creating an effective joint task force and cooperating with civilian operations. On May 5, 1993, control of Operation Restore Hope passed from American forces to U.N. Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II). By that point, the majority of MARFOR Somalia had redeployed to the United States, leaving a few Marines detailed to

work in the U.N. military headquarters.

In early June, forces associated with General Mohamed Farah Hassan Aided, a prominent Somali warlord, attacked UNOSOM II troops, killing 24 Pakistani soldiers and leaving many others wounded. The United Nations responded by challenging Aided's power structure with additional force. Because of the increased conflict with Somali warlords and the threat of additional instability, the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed to Somalia on June 24, 1993.

On Oct. 3, Aided's militia shot down two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters carrying U.S. Army Rangers. Mobs of Somalis swarmed around the fallen helicopters and crowded the city's web of streets, turning the recovery operation into a bloody battle. In the Battle of Mogadishu, also known as "Black Hawk Down," 18 American soldiers were killed and 78 wounded. The resulting outcry back home forced the United States to withdraw from Somalia shortly afterward. The fallout from that battle negatively affected planning for subsequent humanitarian relief operations for many years to follow, such as the one that occurred in Haiti in 1994.

Meanwhile, Marines provided security for the U.S. liaison office in Mogadishu from March 1993 to September 1994. When the office closed in September, Ambassador Daniel H. Simpson, U.S. Special Envoy to Somalia, wrote to the Commandant of the Marine Corps commending the Marines who served with the liaison office for their exceptional behavior under pressure.

Marines returned to Mogadishu in March 1995 for Operation United Shield, a mission designed to protect the last UNOSOM II forces as they withdrew from Somalia. Lieutenant General Anthony Zinni, chief of operations for the U.S. mission to Somalia in 1992, served as commanding general of the combined coalition task force. Thanks in part to the Marine Corps' reputation of military effectiveness and readiness to use overwhelming force, Operation United Shield ran smoothly, and the last U.N. and American forces departed Somalia on March 4, 1995.

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



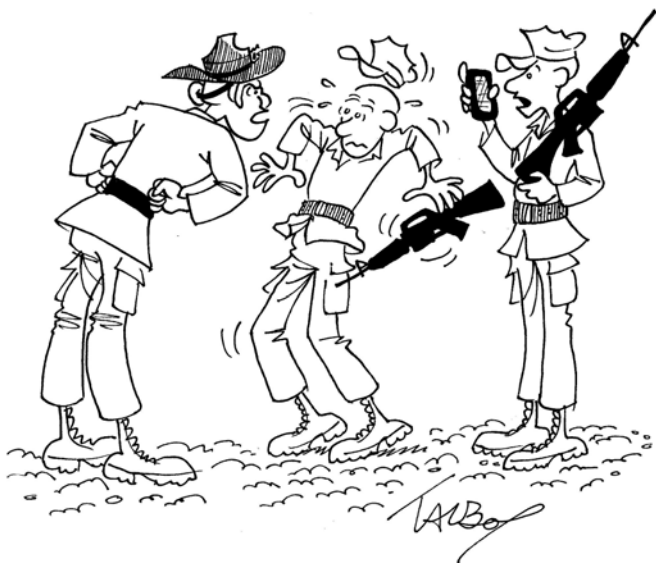
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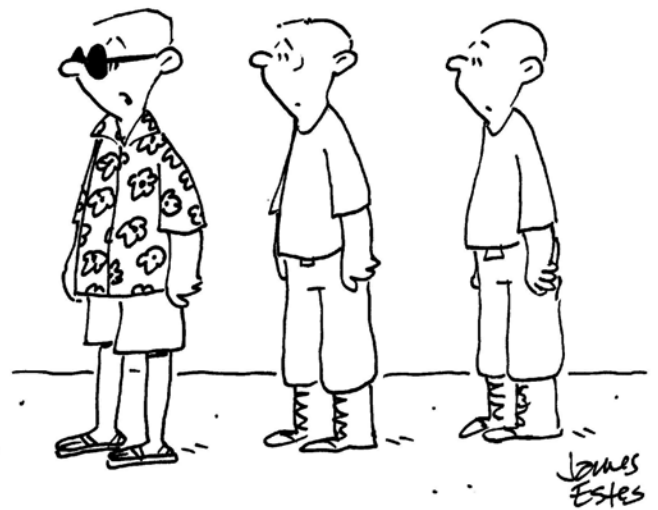
"Smile for the folks back home, Drill Instructor."



"Are there gas masks available in case the mess hall serves beans?"



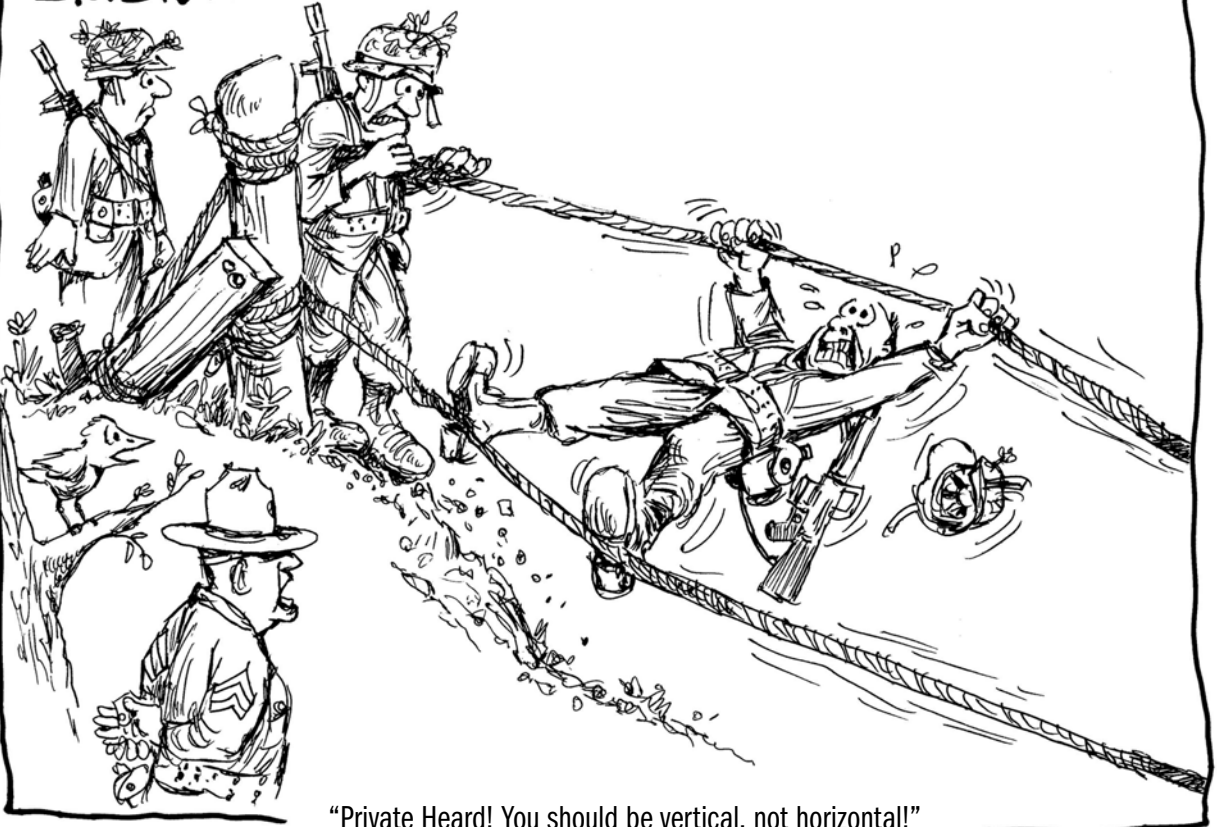
"Amazing! He knew the answer before I could Google it."



"When I heard I was going to Parris Island, I was thinking French Riviera."

BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout



"Private Heard! You should be vertical, not horizontal!"

BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout



"I'm the driver, sir. The DI went to the head. The troops ordered pizza and beer. Do you want to hear a dirty joke? ... Over."

How Does the Corps Conduct Promotion Boards?

By Col Bradley E. Weisz, USMC

Most Marines know when they are “in the zone” for promotion, but who sits on the board? How is each Marine’s record handled? What is the board looking for when selecting Marines for promotion? These and other questions are common to Marines facing their first formal promotion opportunities. Colonel Bradley Weisz, Chief of Staff, Marine Forces North, recently served as the president of the fiscal year 2014 Staff Sergeant Selection Board and provided the following report to help educate Marines on the selection board process.

Many Marines have limited understanding of the manner in which the Marine Corps’ promotion boards are conducted. This article pro-

vides Marines, especially sergeants, with background information on the boards and will remove some of the mystery surrounding the process. Key observations and recommendations are provided to increase Marines’ overall awareness of the process and assist them in preparing for their future boards.

Board Composition. The selection board convened at Harry Lee Hall aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., for approximately nine weeks. The size and duration of selection boards vary based on the number of Marines eligible for promotion.

This year’s Staff Sergeant Selection Board had 21 Marines serving as board members. The board members were a mix of grades and military occupational specialties (MOSs) and came from commands throughout the Corps. Of the 21

board members, 16 were male and five were female; nine were officers and 12 were staff noncommissioned officers (SNCOs). The nine officers consisted of one colonel (board president), one lieutenant colonel, five captains, one chief warrant officer three, and one chief warrant officer two. The 12 SNCOs consisted of three sergeants major, two master gunnery sergeants, two first sergeants and five master sergeants. Three additional Marines served as recorders. Recorders provide administrative support to the board members in a variety of ways from requesting missing material to assisting with the electronic boardroom applications to researching myriad questions which arise as each record is prepared.

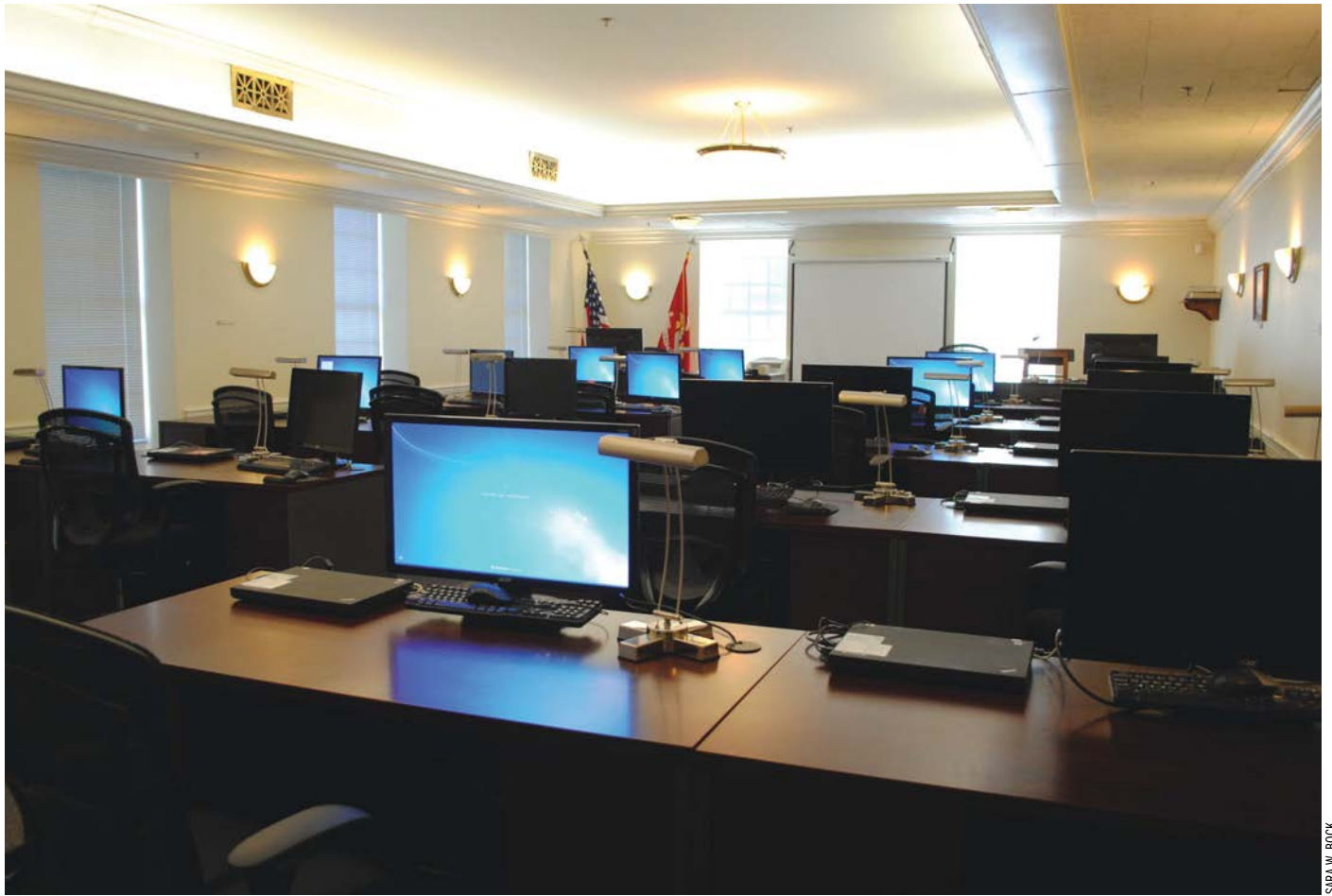
Precept. The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, provided his guidance and instructions to the selection board via written precept.

The precept directed the following: The function and purpose of the board was to recommend eligible sergeants to the next higher grade. The Marines selected would be staff noncommissioned officers whom a majority of the members of the board considered best qualified for promotion to meet the needs of the Marine Corps. In addition to the standard of *best* qualified, all Marines recommended for promotion had to be *fully* qualified. Each Marine’s qualifications and performance of duty had to clearly demonstrate the Marine would be capable of performing the duties normally associated with the next higher grade. This standard applied to all eligible Marines, including those above and below zone.

The precept highlighted that all Marines are assigned to billets at the discretion of competent command authority. Accordingly, billet assignments are widely diverse, with many Marines serving outside of their primary MOS in billets that could be considered less desirable, or in commands that may not be considered within the mainstream of the Marine Corps. Regardless of duty assignment, all Marines serve because there is a vital need to support the continued readiness of our Corps. Marines serving in billets outside



Sgt Robert Kresa, a logistics Marine from Regional Support Command Southwest, is promoted to staff sergeant during a ceremony aboard Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 1, 2012.



SRA W. BOCK

Above: One of the four boardrooms in Harry Lee Hall, MCB Quantico, Va. The board members' ability to electronically access the records of eligible Marines is a significant improvement over the previous microfiche method.

Right: As his wife, Tina, and daughter, Natalie, watch, SSgt Luke Boyd is promoted by Capt Andrew Kettner at Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium suites Aug. 1, 2014.

their primary MOS are to be considered qualified for promotion based upon their performance in their assigned duties.

The precept also directed the board to find the "best qualified" Marines. A judgment of the whole person and the entire record is required to determine who has the best potential to serve the Marine Corps of the future.

Finally, the precept instructed the board to be sensitive to the fact that the needs of the Marine Corps have changed over the years and will continue to change. The board was required to be especially alert for Marines who have embraced change by trying new solutions to our most challenging problems. Priority was given to selecting Marines who have shown initiative in finding and pursuing the most effective ways of accomplishing our mission.



SGT LUKE JOHNSON, USMC

Conduct of the Board. The board was in session from mid-July through mid-September 2014. The board reviewed, briefed and voted on the records of more than 4,500 sergeants; approximately 125 records were prepared and briefed each day. Each record took about an hour to prepare; however, briefing each record took only about three minutes.

For consistency and standardization, the board agreed to a briefing sequence which consisted of the following:

- Professional Military Education—Complete (Yes or No)
- Letter to the President of the Board (Yes or No)
- Current Photo (Yes or No)
- Height/Weight/Body Fat Percentage (Within or Out of Standards)
- Training Statistics and Currency (Rifle/Pistol/Physical Fitness Test (PFT)/Combat Fitness Test (CFT)/Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) Qualification)



SIRAW BOCK

Above: Located in the middle of Harry Lee Hall, the Regimental Room has been the site of countless promotions, retirements, mess nights, and weddings and receptions.

Below: MajGen Harry Lee commanded MCB Quantico from March 1, 1933, until his death in 1935. Originally built as an officers' club, the building, which now bears his name, was refurbished in 1998 and became home to the Corps' Promotion Branch.



SIRAW BOCK

- Civilian and Military Education
 - Personal Awards
 - Special Duty Assignments
 - Combat and Deployments
 - Joint Individual Augment/Transition Team Assignments
 - Adverse Material
 - Reporting Senior Relative Value and Reviewing Officer Assessment
 - Reporting Senior and Reviewing Officer Comments from Fitness Reports
- The briefer concluded each record presentation with a numerical recommendation in accordance with the following scale:

- Water Walker-6
- Recommended with Enthusiasm-5
- Recommended with Confidence-4
- Recommended with Reservation-3
- Not Recommended-2

Observations and Recommendations. Primary observations and recommendations from the board include:

(1) Key to selection is *performance, performance, performance*. The old adage “bloom where you are planted” proved true.

(2) Marines must be *PME complete; no exceptions*. No PME, no selection. The board precepts and convening Marine Administrative Messages (MARADMINs)

The Promotion Branch is staffed by both Marines and civilians who support numerous promotion boards throughout the year. The current Marine contingent includes (from left): Cpl Alejandra Rodriguez, Pvt Richard Randall, LCpl Jake D. Breeden, LCpl Nigel C. Moffett, LCpl Brandon D. Tucker and LCpl Danielle M. Snell.

clearly state the requirement for completion of PME. Marines eligible for selection missing evidence of required PME are briefed as not qualified for selection. Approximately 3 percent of Marines eligible for selection to staff sergeant did not complete their required PME.

(3) Marines should be current in their required annual training qualifications (Rifle/PFT/CFT/MCMAP). A lack of a current PFT or CFT score usually results in non-selection. No current rifle qualification “could” be a non-selection if a trend exists or proper documentation is absent. If a Marine is not current in annual training requirements, a letter should be sent to the board clarifying or explaining the situation.

(4) Fitness report gaps have a negative impact on a Marine’s competitiveness and raise questions as to the complete record. Even gaps of 30 days can be discriminators based on the totality of the record.

(5) Photographs need to be current. Approximately 40 percent of Marines did not submit a current photo. A lack of an up-to-date photo can cause the perception that Marines are hiding something including weight gain or a poor physical appearance in uniform. Convening MARADMINs clearly state the requirement for all eligible Marines to submit an official photograph taken within 12 months of the convening date of the board. While the absence of a current photograph does not automatically result in a non-selection, an updated photograph or letter explaining the absence of a photograph is one of the many elements viewed by a selection board in deliberations as to who is best qualified for selection.

(6) Marines who completed or were assigned to Special Duty Assignments were considered highly qualified and competed exceptionally well with their peers.

(7) Far too many Marines were missing crucial documentation including awards and school completion certificates from their official military personnel files (OMPF) and master brief sheets (MBS). Each Marine is responsible to ensure the OMPF and MBS are accurate and up to date before the board convenes. Marines are responsible for conducting an audit of their records prior to every selection board for which they are eligible.

(8) Marines can overcome adverse incidents and be selected for the next high-



SARAH BOCK



CPL LARRY BBLIUA, USMC

SSgt Sean Yates has his staff sergeant chevrons pinned on by his brothers during a ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., April 2, 2014.

er grade. As SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, Sergeant Major of the Major Corps, has often stated, “Always bring your ‘A’ game.” Letters of recommendation and letters to the president of the board clarifying records or explaining adverse incidents are beneficial.

(9) Marines who have advanced academic degrees or are attending college fare well on selection boards. Bachelor’s and associate’s degrees are viewed favorably by board members.

Summary. As with all Marine Corps selection boards, the purpose of this year’s Staff Sergeant Selection Board was to select the best fully qualified Marines for promotion in order to meet the needs of the Marine Corps. To properly evaluate a

Marine, a judgment of the whole person and the whole record is required in order to determine whose future potential will best serve the Marine Corps. Our current selection system is an extremely fair and open process; I wholeheartedly support it. The best advice I can give Marines: Properly prepare for all of your boards! Ensure that your OMPF and MBS are current and an accurate reflection of both your performance and experience.

Author’s bio: Col Bradley E. Weisz currently is serving as the chief of staff for Marine Forces North in New Orleans. His background is aviation command and control.



We—the Marines

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Swimming Course Prepares Marines For Amphibious Raids

■ Marines participated in a scout swimmers course at the Camp Hansen Aquatics Center, Camp Hansen, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, during October 2014. The course provides training so that Marines can launch a boat raid from land or sea.

Students initially went through a screening process to ensure they knew how to swim and were comfortable in the water, said Sergeant Gerry Pratama, an amphibious raid instructor with Expeditionary Operations Training Group (EOTG), III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

Marines who passed the three-week course became qualified as basic scout swimmers, a certification which allows them to participate in boat raids. During a raid, scout swimmers are the first to leave the boat, then swim long distances

to secure the beach and signal for follow-on forces to come ashore.

Before entering the ocean, the Marines spent a week in the pool and classroom for conditioning purposes, earned a lifeguard certification and learned about the dangers of the water. The course is geared toward making students proficient at swimming with fins for long distances—a vital skill for scout swimmers to have when they approach a beach.

“Everyone’s been exhausted before, but once you’re in the water, it’s a whole different mental process,” said Sgt Jon Walters, the senior amphibious raid instructor with EOTG. “Some guys will get a little nervous in the ocean if they’re exhausted because if you’re on land, you can sit down, but if you’re in the water and you get tired, there’s nowhere for you to go.”

“I’ve always been a fairly strong swimmer,” said Captain James S. Mackin, a

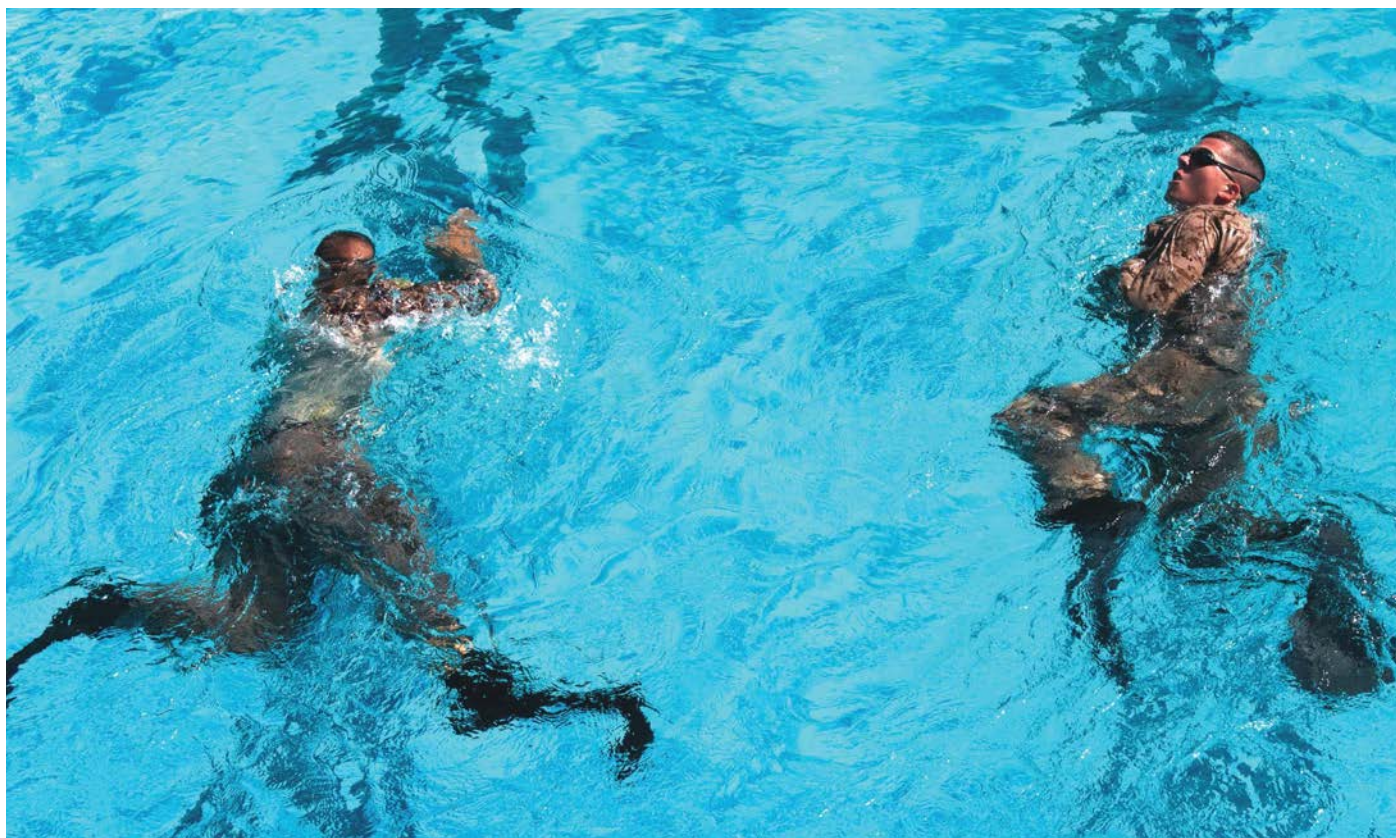
student in the scout swimmer course. “I never swam over a long distance with fins. Having to swim 800 meters in the pool with fins is definitely a new experience.”

The instructors led students in surface swims with fins, rescue techniques, water aerobics and regular swimming techniques to include the front crawl, breaststroke, sidestroke and backstroke, said Walters.

“The first week in the pool is the hardest week, especially the water aerobics,” said Pratama. “We are swimming back and forth, but we are not just doing the cross-stroke or sidestroke. We’re putting rifles in there, we’re doing underwater swims, we’re doing buddy-tows—and it creates a lot of friction in the course.”

The culminating event of the scout swimmer course was a 2-kilometer surface swim with fins. Those who passed the course earned the title of scout swimmer.

LCpl Abbey Perria, USMC
PAO, MCIPAC



Maj Breck Perry, left, and Sgt Christopher Rateau-Holbach swim laps with fins during a scout swimmers course at the Camp Hansen Aquatics Center, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 21, 2014. One of the most vital skills learned during the course is the ability to swim with fins for long distances.

MWCS-28 Hosts Seminar For Lance Corporals

■ Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28 hosted its first command-sponsored Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 3, 2014.

The squadron planned the seminar as part of a Corps-wide initiative to empower the future leaders of Marines: the lance corporals who are next to join the ranks of the noncommissioned officers, said Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Macias, the commanding officer of MWCS-28.

The course was established by Marine Corps University at the direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, with the goal of enhancing small-unit leadership and ensuring a better understanding of Marine Corps ethos, leadership fundamentals and the “total Marine” concept. The seminar is planned and implemented at the unit level by the command sergeant major or senior enlisted advisor. Seminar size is usually 50 Marines, broken down into five groups of 10 lance corporals, each led by an NCO or staff NCO who will facilitate guided discussions.

“The seminar covers a range of topics intended to address concepts which will aid our lance corporals in the execution of their duties both on and off duty,” said Macias. “The Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar is the first building block in the PME [professional military education] of our future leaders. This seminar will get them ready to start thinking like noncommissioned officers.”

While the purpose of the seminar is to teach the participants leadership skills and how to perform their duties, it also helps build unit cohesion at the squadron. Sergeants from the unit led the seminar at MCAS Cherry Point and mentored the future NCOs, according to Macias.

Sergeant Eric Solis, an administration and operations specialist with MWCS-28, was one of three seminar leaders during the five-day course. According to Solis, a sergeant seminar leader is appointed to mentor and encourage junior Marines.

“I think this seminar is important because it’s easy for Marines to get complacent,” he said. “Each seminar leader will give the students personal examples to make them aware of possible outcomes and consequences for their actions.”

As a leader, Solis believes leadership is the most important topic covered in the seminar. Marines must be able to make sound and moral decisions that uphold Marine Corps standards, he said.

Effective October of this year, lance corporals across the Marine Corps must



LCPL UNIQUE B. ROBERTS, USMC

LCpl Dylan Alland reads “Our Ethos” during a Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar hosted by MWCS-28 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 3, 2014. The Marine Corps recently started requiring lance corporals to complete the seminar before being eligible for promotion to the grade of corporal.

complete both the command-sponsored Lance Corporal Leadership and Ethics Seminar and the distance education “Leading Marines” course on MarineNet, the Corps’ distance-learning website, before being considered eligible for the grade of corporal.

Compiled from reports by LCpl Unique B. Roberts, USMC
Combat Correspondent, II MEF
and LCpl Ian Leones, USMC
Combat Correspondent, MARFORRES

Firefighters, 3d MAW Leathernecks Conduct Helo Mishap Drill

■ Leathernecks with Third Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force conducted a helicopter mishap drill at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 27, 2014.

The drill gave several units in 3d MAW the opportunity to practice every step of responding to a disabled aircraft, including coordination of all agencies involved in the response and the rescue of the crewmembers.

“Our scenario today is based on an UH-1Y [Huey] helicopter, which has a crew of four, going out on a local mission doing a familiarization flight within the area,” said Captain David Novak, the aviation safety officer for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3d MAW, I MEF. “They experience a failure in flight, and the aircraft crashes, rolls and catches on fire.”

The opportunity to actually mobilize personnel and go through the response process gave the Marines a more complete perspective of how prepared they are to deal with a real incident, he added.

The drill also gave newer personnel the experience of reacting to a mishap and applying the skills they learned during entry-level training.

“We have a lot of people who have never done this before,” said Novak. “For some people, their first exposure to the steps is looking through a binder and figuring out what to do next.”

Sergeant Miguel Corral, an assistant section leader for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF), Headquarters and



LCPL CANTLIN BEVEL, USMC

Marines with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, H&HS, 3d MAW, I MEF remove a simulated casualty from beneath an aircraft during a mishap drill at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 27, 2014.

Headquarters Squadron, 3d MAW, I MEF, explained that the drill helps Marines build important skills and work together as a team.

The drill also included personnel from the base fire department, who are integrated into the response plan for this type of incident.

“We have a mutual aid agreement with them, so any time they respond to anything in [our area], we respond with them,” said Corral. “If something like this happens off-station, they come out to support us.”

Novak explained that a lot of coordination is required in scheduling and setting up the scenario for the drill.

“We talk to the tower, range control, the base fire department and ARFF on the air station to let them know,” said Capt Novak. “For four to six hours, we shut down the entire squadron and everything people are doing is dedicated to the drill.”

By involving all of the personnel and protocols that would be involved in an actual crash, the training’s effectiveness was maximized. Complex training exercises like mishap drills help ensure that I MEF is able to respond to these types of crises.

LtCpl Caitlin Bevel, USMC
Combat Correspondent, I MEF

Community Remembers Fallen During Beirut Memorial Ceremony

■ It’s a place of serene peace, far removed in time and space from the events that gave it birth. But even three decades later, the single granite wall and surrounding gardens at the Beirut Memorial in Camp Lejeune, N.C., are filled with living memories.

On Oct. 23, 2014, veterans, families and community leaders from Jacksonville gathered at the memorial to reflect on the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, 31 years prior.

On the morning of Oct. 23, 1983, 220 Marines, 18 sailors and three soldiers lost their lives when a truck loaded with 2,000 pounds of explosives destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut. The military personnel who were killed that day were part of a multinational peacekeeping operation, and the attack still is considered to be one of the first “shots” in the war on terror.

Those in attendance on the 31st anniversary gathered before the single granite wall, partially broken at the center to symbolize the crumbling barracks where so many lost their lives. The words “They came in peace” are forever etched beside the statue of a single Marine.

“I am one of those Marines old enough to remember the attack,” said Major General Richard L. Simcock II, Commanding General, 2d Marine Expeditionary Bri-



CPL JAMES R. SMITH, USMC

A visitor runs his fingers along the names etched into the wall at the Beirut Memorial in Camp Johnson, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., after a ceremony on Oct. 23, 2014.

gade, II Marine Expeditionary Force. “I remember the memorial service we had,” he continued, adding that he was in training at the time.

“It was the first time I felt the loss of a comrade in arms. I remember thinking that the only thing that separated me from the lieutenants of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit, or the platoon commanders of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, was just a couple of months. ... [They] had completed the same training I was just beginning,” MajGen Simcock added.

Each year on the anniversary of the bombing, similar gatherings take place at the memorial site to remember the history and sacrifice of fallen brothers. To this day, groups of Marines still visit the site as part of leadership courses or simply to pay their respects.

“Sacrifices such as those on 23 October 1983 are difficult to accept,” acknowledged MajGen Simcock. “But the memory of those lost gives us strength and determination to win the long war in their honor. It clearly demonstrates to the world and to our enemies that U.S. Marines, even in the face of such sudden losses, will remain undaunted, that we will continue to hold the line, to fight and win.”

The Jacksonville community joined MajGen Simcock in his pledge to remain vigilant, ready and, above all, to remember.

“People need to remember that life is short, and they shouldn’t take anything for granted,” said David Burdette, a Beirut veteran who went to pay tribute to his fallen comrades. “I’m going to continue to come here and pay my respects as long

as I’m physically able to. I owe it to those guys on that wall.”

As the ceremony came to a close, guests paid their respects at the memorial. They left mementos, flowers and tears near the foot of the Marine statue and the names engraved on that broken wall.

Cpl James R. Smith, USMC
Combat Correspondent, II MEF

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Long-Term Temporary Duty Rates To Change, DOD Official Says

■ Effective Nov. 1, 2014, new long-term temporary duty (TDY) per diem rules will save the Department of Defense about \$22 million annually, Harvey Johnson, director of the Defense Travel Management Office announced.

Long-term TDY is considered to be any temporary duty longer than 30 days. For travel from 31 to 180 days, military personnel will receive a flat-rate per diem of 75 percent; for travel greater than 180 days, they will receive a flat-rate per diem of 55 percent.

The changes are meant to give long-term TDY travelers an incentive to seek out extended-stay lodgings, which generally are less expensive. The reduced per diem rate applies to all three parts—lodging, meals and incidentals.

Travelers who are authorized the flat-rate per diem no longer have to submit a lodging receipt, but do need to validate that lodging costs were incurred.

At no time should travelers end up paying out of pocket for authorized TDY

expenses, Johnson said. “The intent is to do no harm. The intent is to ensure that we’re finding affordable travel solutions.”

Claudette Roulo
Defense Media Activity

DOD Authorizes War on Terror Award For Inherent Resolve Ops

■ On Oct. 31, 2014, Pentagon officials announced that U.S. military personnel serving overseas in support of Operation Inherent Resolve are eligible for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

The award is retroactive to June 15, 2014, when President Barack Obama ordered U.S. forces to the region in response to offensives by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq.

The award recognizes U.S. military personnel supporting efforts to eliminate the terrorist group ISIL and the threat it poses to Iraq, the region and the international community. Servicemembers deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve may be eligible for the award.

Jim Garamone
Defense Media Activity



SGT LUCAS VEGA, USMC

THE LEJEUNE LEGACY—Ayden J. Lejeune, left, whose great-great-great uncle was LtGen John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, shakes the hand of his recruiter, Sgt Dallas Allen, Recruiting Substation Oklahoma City South, Recruiting Station Oklahoma City. Lejeune shipped to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for recruit training on Nov. 3, 2014. The 19-year-old said he has wanted to join the Marine Corps since he was young because the Marines are the “best of the best.”

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL PAUL TORRES, USMC

“Hey, this one’s a rooster.”

Submitted by
Former Sgt Mike Loughney, USMC, 1950-54
Chicago

This Month's Photo



COURTESY OF AMY WIRTALA

(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.

Medal of Honor Recipient

Colonel Donald G. Cook



*“Do What Is Right and Just,
No Matter What the Personal Cost”*

By Don Price

Taken prisoner by the Viet Cong on Dec. 31, 1964, Donald Gilbert Cook was the first Marine officer captured in Vietnam and the only Marine in history to earn the Medal of Honor while a prisoner of war (POW).

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Cook was born into a blue-collar, Irish-Catholic family on Aug. 9, 1934. He attended parochial grade school in the Windsor Terrace neighborhood of Brooklyn and was a choirboy. Cook graduated from Xavier High School in Manhattan where he was an outstanding football lineman earning the nickname: “The Bay-ridge Bomber.”

A deeply religious scholar, he went on to attend St. Michael’s College in Burlington, Vt. During his summer breaks, Cook worked as a stevedore at the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard. In his senior year, he met his bride-to-be, Laurette Giroux, a French-Canadian beauty from a prominent Burlington family.

A gifted linguist, Cook was fluent in Latin, German and French by the time he graduated with honors from St. Michael’s in 1956. While awaiting the start of Officer Candidates School in January 1957 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Cook embarked on an Atlantic voyage as a merchant seaman and then married Laurette on Dec. 1, 1956. Before either of them had turned 30, they had four children.

Commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve on April 1, 1957, Cook remained at Quantico for a year of training. Afterward he was assigned as a communications officer with the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. In his company-grade years that followed, Cook graduated first in his class from the Intelligence Staff Officers’ Course at the U.S. Army Intelligence Officers’ School, Fort Holabird, Baltimore, in September 1961. He subsequently served in Hawaii

from September 1961 to July 1964 as the officer in charge of an interrogator-translator team, and then as an intelligence officer on the staff of the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

Upon completion of that assignment, then-Captain Cook received orders to



Donald Gilbert Cook

Communications Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3dMarDiv on Okinawa, reporting there in August 1964. Now a geographic bachelor, he stayed physically fit and read about Asia. Setting his professional sights on Vietnam, Cook began studying the Vietnamese language and volunteered for duty there in November 1964. Before departing for Saigon, Cook wrote a prescient letter to his four youngsters back in Burlington, explaining why he was going to war. Placing the letter in a briefcase in his bachelor officers’ quarters, he mistakenly assumed it would be found if he became a casualty.

After only 18 days in Vietnam, Cook was wounded and captured at the Battle of Binh Gia about 40 miles southeast of Saigon. During the battle, he was shot in the left thigh and passed out from blood loss. While unconscious, he was taken prisoner by the Viet Cong, who dressed his wound. Meanwhile back on Okinawa, Cook’s belongings, including his briefcase with the unread letter inside, were boxed up and shipped to Laurette in Burlington. Busy raising their four children alone, she put the boxes in storage.

The VC held Cook in a number of primitive jungle POW camps. For nearly three years, he led 10 fellow POWs in captivity, always looking out for their health and welfare while complying with the spirit and intent of the U.S. Military Code of Conduct. From the outset of his captivity, Capt Cook did not waver in accepting his leadership responsibilities. Within days, he served notice to his captors that he was the senior POW and, therefore, the legal spokesman for all the Americans held with him.

Cook soon began to assert himself with his fellow POWs by setting forth his policies for their survival. He said they must stick together, help each other, especially the sick and downhearted, and keep a sense of humor. He told his men to boil their drinking water, eat anything remotely resembling food and keep themselves and their bamboo confinement cages as clean as possible. Cook and his men subsisted on a starvation diet of rice and fish. He demanded that the VC provide his men with medicine, vitamin supplements and additional and better food. From time to time, Cook’s demands paid off in the form of a pittance of vitamins and medicine, stale loaves of French bread, a few duck eggs and a banana or two, but that was about it.

Unbeknownst to his captors, Cook also continued his study of the Vietnamese language in secret, but never spoke to



MC2 SCOTT B. BOYLE USN

Above: Sailors man the rail as the guided-missile destroyer USS *Donald Cook* (DDG-75) returns to Naval Station Norfolk following a seven-month deployment. The ship was commissioned Dec. 4, 1998, and her home port is Rota, Spain.

Right: A statue of Col Cook was dedicated at his alma mater, St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt. The school's other famous Marine alumnus is the current Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Joseph F. Dunford.

Below: Col Cook's family poses for a photo beside his plaque at the dedication of Cook Hall aboard the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., Oct. 17, 2014.



PPC MEDINA WALA-LO, USMC



COURTESY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



**The President of the United States in the name of The Congress
takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to
COLONEL DONALD G. COOK
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
for service as set forth in the following**

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while interned as a Prisoner of War by the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 31 December 1964 to 8 December 1967. Despite the fact that by so doing he knew he would bring about harsher treatment for himself, Colonel (then Captain) Cook established himself as the senior prisoner, even though in actuality he was not. Repeatedly assuming more than his share of the manual labor in order that the other Prisoners of War could improve the state of their health, Colonel Cook willingly and unselfishly put the interests of his comrades before that of his own well-being and, eventually, his life. Giving more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them, he risked infection from contagious diseases while in a rapidly deteriorating state of health. This unselfish and exemplary conduct, coupled with his refusal to stray even the slightest from the Code of Conduct, earned him the deepest respect from not only his fellow prisoners, but his captors as well. Rather than negotiate for his own release or better treatment, he steadfastly frustrated attempts by the Viet Cong to break his indomitable spirit, and passed this same resolve on to the men whose well-being he so closely associated himself. Knowing his refusals would prevent his release prior to the end of the war, and also knowing his chances for prolonged survival would be small in the event of continued refusal, he chose nevertheless to adhere to a Code of Conduct far above that which could be expected. His personal valor and exceptional spirit of loyalty in the face of almost certain death reflected the highest credit upon Colonel Cook, the Marine Corps, and the United States Naval Service.

them in their native tongue. Cook's fellow POWs said their Marine leader seemed to have an uncanny ability to read their captors' minds and always was one mental step ahead of them, much to the enemy's aggravation.

Cook also was a hard-core resister to the attempts by the VC to indoctrinate him and gain his cooperation. He gave the Viet Cong only "the big four and nothing more": name, rank, service number and date of birth. Cook was so closemouthed, his captors never learned he was a Marine. They believed he was an Army officer. A fellow POW summed up his hard-core resistance in one sentence by saying, "If

Captain Cook thought the Viet Cong were using his feces for fertilizer, he would have stopped crapping."

While hiking on rugged jungle trails from one prison camp to another, Cook sometimes carried the packs of weaker prisoners. One time, on a particularly arduous forced march in torrid weather, an exhausted POW said he could not go on. Cook unburdened the struggling man of his heavy pack, patted his back and said, "You must carry on. If Apostle Paul walked to Rome, you and I can walk to Hanoi if necessary."

With more encouragement from Cook, the man was able to keep up and make

it to the new camp. Upon reaching the camp, Cook led a failed escape attempt. A VC officer then threatened summarily to shoot him. The empty-handed Cook—armed only with his faith without fear—stared the officer in the eye and said, "You can't kill me. Only God can decide when I will die." The flummoxed officer did not squeeze the trigger.

On another occasion, Cook was threatened again with summary execution. He was forced to his knees, and a guard placed the muzzle of a pistol against his forehead. Cook looked up, recognized the pistol and calmly recited its nomenclature: "The automatic pistol, caliber .45, model M1911A1, is a recoil-operated, magazine-fed, self-loading hand weapon" and so on. His unruffled recitation defused the situation, and he was not executed.

After those two scary near-death showdowns, one of Cook's fellow POWs said, "Even if I was armed with only a water pistol, I would gladly follow Captain Cook into hell and back."

Capt Cook was the quintessential leader of men in the fire and forge of captivity. Throughout his captivity, he was always one bullet away from eternity.

After three years of malnourishment, he was a mere husk of his former powerful and vigorous self. The VC reported that Cook died of malaria in the highlands of South Vietnam near the Cambodian border on or about Dec. 8, 1967. In the end, he succumbed to the sting of a female mosquito. He was 33 years old. His remains never have been recovered. While in a missing status, the Marine Corps promoted him, along with his peers, to the terminal grade of colonel.

His legacy can be found in two important national defense entities.

First, a guided missile destroyer is named in his honor. USS *Donald Cook* (DDG-75) is homeported in Rota, Spain. Launched on May 3, 1997, *Cook* continues to serve as one of America's most ready and capable warships. The ship's motto, "Faith Without Fear," epitomizes her namesake's life. Her crew proudly refers to the ship as the "Fearless Warrior." *Cook's* indomitable presence is felt by all hands on board.

She has seen combat in the Persian Gulf, off the Horn of Africa and in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black seas. Her readiness has been tested, and each time she answered the call. *Cook* was the first to come to the aid of USS *Cole* (DDG-67) when she was attacked by terrorists on Oct. 12, 2000. *Cook* helped to start Operation Iraqi Freedom with Tomahawk missile strikes on important command-and-control targets in 2003. Her formidable over-the-horizon presence helped stabilize the



Above: Cook Hall is a 110,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility, using the latest energy- and water-conservation technologies. One of the most environmentally friendly structures on the campus of the DLIFLC at Monterey, Calif., it houses 100 high-tech language instruction classrooms for military students from all the services.

Below: Army COL Paul W. Fellingner Jr., garrison commander for the Presidio of Monterey; Rep. Sam Farr of California; and Thomas Cook, one of Col Cook's sons, cut the ribbon at the dedication of Cook Hall aboard the Presidio on Oct. 17, 2014.



crisis in Crimea caused by an increasingly aggressive Russian military in 2014.

Currently, *Cook* is the first of four U.S. Navy forward-deployed destroyers permanently serving in Europe. She was selected from an elite group of *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyers with unique weapons capabilities, and her “Fearless Warrior” attitude certainly plays a pivotal role in her selection for this prestigious honor. Her mission is to protect NATO nations from attack by ballistic missiles. She has steamed more than 20,000 nautical miles

without a gap in coverage, providing a protective shield over our friends and allies. She has flown the American flag through 16 foreign ports, displaying a firm commitment to peace and stability in the region.

In April 1980, Donald Cook’s two daughters decided to go through their father’s stored boxes from Okinawa. More than 15 years after Cook wrote his final letter to his children and put it in his briefcase, the girls read his guidance to them. It reads in part: “Do what is right

and just, no matter what the personal cost. Love God and man above all else. Don’t judge yourself by others, but others by yourself. Life to me is so simple. There is life, death, and eternity. If we can’t save our souls, what good is anything else? This guides and will continue to guide all my actions.”

Cook’s righteous words of advice to his children, “Do what is right and just, no matter what the personal cost,” are engraved on a heavy brass plaque bolted to the bulkhead adjacent to the serving line in the galley aboard *USS Donald Cook*. The plaque is shiny because the crew constantly rubs it for good luck when passing through the line to get their daily rations. It is a firm tradition for every *Cook* sailor to be familiar with Col Cook’s story and be able to speak knowledgeably at a moment’s notice about his courage.

Col Cook’s legacy was recently expanded when a new academic building was dedicated to his memory at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), Presidio of Monterey, Calif. Col Cook had studied Mandarin Chinese for 47 weeks at what was then called Army Language School, graduating in May 1961 and finishing third in his class.

Standing four stories high, Cook Hall has 110,000 square feet of space, housing 100 classrooms, multipurpose training areas, staff and faculty offices, test control areas, conference rooms and an auditorium. It is the largest building on the Monterey Peninsula and the only one to have a rainwater-storage cistern beneath it. At a cost of \$40 million, the building is environmentally friendly and is equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technological education and training equipment. Military students from all services are taught French, Russian, German, Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese and Serbian-Croatian in Cook Hall.

Cook Hall was dedicated on Oct. 17, 2014, and although Laurette Cook had passed away the previous year, the four Cook children, Christopher, Karen, Victoria and Thomas, attended the dedication ceremony. Christopher said, “My father’s career in the Marine Corps really began here in Monterey. It has come full circle. This building pays tribute to his memory in a magnificent way.”

Author’s bio: Col Donald L. Price, USMC (Ret) earned the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart in Vietnam. His book, “The First Marine Captured in Vietnam: A Biography of Donald G. Cook,” is available from The MARINE Shop.





MARINE FOOTBALL!

Born in the Cradle of War, Leatherneck Teams Once Dominated on the Gridiron

Part II
By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

The Marine Corps football program began in 1917, and leatherneck teams compiled an enviable record, capturing six interservice championships, with nine undefeated seasons. The program served as a valuable recruiting tool. This is the conclusion to a two-part article covering Marine football during its glory years.

After being dropped during World War II, the Marine Corps football program made a comeback, waxing and waning over the next several years.

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.'s team returned in 1946 and, during the next four years, compiled a 39-12-0 record including three back-to-back All-Navy service championships, according to the "Encyclopedia of Armed Forces

Football—The Complete History of the Glory Years" by John Daye.

In 1950, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Quantico teams were ranked No. 1 and 3, respectively, among the 22 interservice teams; however, they plunged to No. 22 and 25 the following year. By the end of the decade, Quantico would again emerge at the top of the pack.

When A. King Dixon graduated from college under the Marine PLC (Platoon Leaders Course) at the University of South Carolina in 1959, you might say he was predestined to be involved in Marine Corps football. The "Gamecocks" Hall of Famer (inducted in 1991) was an outstanding halfback, graduating cum laude in 1959 with a bachelor's in political science.

Dixon recalled that 1959 was a good year for him. He played on the 1959 Quantico team that went undefeated and won the Shrimp Bowl that year, beating the

Air Force team 90-0. Also that year, Dixon was named Armed Forces Athlete of the Year. Football remained a vital part of his life throughout his successful 22-year Marine Corps career as an infantry officer. He played or coached teams state-side and overseas.

"The Marine Corps recognized that football was a tremendous recruiting tool," Dixon asserted. "On that 1959 team, we had about 33 officers and six enlisted, four who had two-plus years of college. We would go on college campuses and interact with the students, and they would see firsthand the benefits of being a Marine."

Even during the Vietnam War, when Marine recruiters weren't welcomed on many college campuses, Marine football players were.

Dixon stressed that football also directly benefited the young men playing it—

Opposite page: As many of his fellow Marines cheer him on, a member of the Quantico Marine football team runs for daylight in 1958. (Photo courtesy of Barb Keck)



COURTESY OF CINDY PEARCE

especially the enlisted Marines. “We had guys who had graduated high school and gone to college for two years and played football during that time, then joined the Corps,” he said. “They came into the Marine Corps for two to four years, played under some fine coaching and great competition and then went back to school with college-level football experience.”

Dixon acknowledged that the rules have changed significantly now, and he believes that it would be very unlikely there will be a large-scale resurgence of military football at the interservice levels it once reached. With reductions in military forces, budgetary uncertainty and general insecurity, “It would be stretching a point to see it happen again,” he said.

Several major bases such as Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms in California and Quantico do field intramural tackle leagues. Winning teams often are rewarded with funding through the Marine Corps Community Services to help pay for unit activities and events. On larger bases, competition can be quite stiff and echoes of past gridiron spirits are heard in the attitudes of young Marine players. This year for example, during a Commanding General’s Cup football league game at Camp Pendleton, one player was asked by a base newspaper correspondent why he plays.

“Eleven people with one goal, to win, there is nothing like it,” said Charles Peoples, cornerback and wide receiver for the 1st Light Armor Reconnaissance



COURTESY OF A. KING DIXON

Above: The 1947 San Diego Marine football team laid the foundation for their undefeated 1950 season when they were the top-ranked service team.

Left: Player-coach A. King Dixon received the Far East Championship trophy after his Okinawa Marine team defeated the All-Army team Nov. 10, 1961.

Highlanders. “It’s not just a game to me, it’s a lifestyle.”

Personifying the bond that still exists between players and coaches on the teams of the ’50s and ’60s, Dixon still maintains contact with his coach of the 1959 team, retired Lieutenant Colonel Wilford “Wil” Overgaard.

Overgaard served as an enlisted Marine from 1943 to 1945. After he was discharged, he went to the University of Utah where he started and excelled at left tackle for four years. He graduated and was teaching and coaching in high school when he was recalled by the Marine Corps for service in Korea. He was commissioned

and played on the Quantico team in the early 1950s, recalling, “We were so loaded with former college and even some pro players, you had to fight for your position.”

Later he coached at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Quantico and even coached a Navy team at Little Creek in Norfolk. He remembered the championship 1959 team as a talented group. “We had one player who played on that team with King Dixon—Stu Vaughn from the University of Utah; he had been the leading receiver in the nation! They were all good athletes and good Marines.”

He remembers inviting the Penn State University team to Quantico for a week

in the mid-'50s. "Joe Paterno was an assistant coach then," recalled Overgaard. "That was the year they went to the Sugar Bowl, so they had a fine ball club. We worked out with them all week and then on Saturday we scrimmaged them. We weren't keeping score; it wasn't about who could beat who. It was about working against good competition."

"If we'd have kept score, we probably would have tied," said Dixon, remembering Penn State was third in the nation at that point. "At the end of the year, the guys at Penn State said the toughest scrimmage they'd had that year was against the Marines."

Overall, throughout the 1950s, '60s and into the '70s, football remained an All-Marine and interservice sport at bases and stations across the globe. So it was when retired Marine LtCol Ron Eckert played on the 1963 and '64 Quantico teams. The 1963 team captured the interservice championship, defeating the San Diego Marines in the Missile Bowl at Orlando.

Eckert already had served two tours in Vietnam and tours in Japan and Camp Lejeune by the time his career brought him back around to Quantico in 1970. That year he served as assistant coach and defensive coordinator for the Quantico team before taking over as coach for the next two years.

"We had a good group; these guys came here, and they understood the fundamentals of what winning football should be," he said. "The problem was getting coaches and retaining them for a period of time where we could build on a vision

for the program. I had to make significant changes in my staff from the first year to the second."

Player retention was about two years for each Marine. "There was great cooperation from the enlisted and officer assignment sections at HQMC [Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps], and The Basic School also

the 1970 and '71 seasons, and we were engaged in a global recruiting program completely endorsed by the Marine Corps beginning with the '71 season. The Commandant or Assistant Commandant would send out Green Letters to the various commands letting them know we were coming, looking for football players.

We were almost overwhelmed by the response."

Commanders responded enthusiastically, but times were changing. "They were clearly behind it," Eckert observed. "One general told me there was no doubt the team had a great impact on recruiting and that the return on investment was worth it, but that there was other competition for the money, and when you do the analysis, maybe we could recruit more Marines with an expanded recruiting model rather than supporting a football team. Hard facts, but true."

One of the major contributing factors to the precipitous fall of the mighty Marine football program was the demise of competitive athletics programs in the other military services. The Corps was left without opponents.

After Vietnam, military services gradually began to scale back on the interservice football programs until the Navy team at Pensacola, Fla., and the Quantico Marines were the only remaining teams. Navy dropped out after the 1970 season, leaving Marines as the last men standing.

"I was the steward of a patient that was barely breathing," Eckert lamented. "I was left with a hole in the schedule after Pensacola dropped out, and I couldn't get a single college team to come here. They



COURTESY OF LT COL RON ECKERT, USMC (RET)

LtCol Ron Eckert's collection of Marine football memorabilia includes footballs from both the 1970 and 1971 Quantico Marine teams.

pitched in with quality athletes who were also students," said Eckert. "That was a clear sign to me that they wanted this to be good," he reasoned.

The "they" he referenced were higher headquarters, especially the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Louis H. Wilson Jr., and Assistant Commandant, Gen Samuel Jaskilka, as well as other staff at Headquarters Marine Corps. "Collectively, they could not have done more to provide Marines who were anxious to carry the flag," Eckert said.

"General Wilson was our command rep," Eckert asserted. "He often came to the games and was at practices frequently, always unannounced. We had it going in



A plaque commemorating the 1963 National Service Champion Quantico Marine team and a team helmet with the distinctive Germanic "M" also are part of Eckert's extensive collection. (Photos courtesy of LtCol Ron Eckert, USMC (Ret))

Marine Football and Athletics Preserved in Paintings

Marine athletes always have been Marines first, athletes second. Some, however, have been standouts who have contributed to the Corps' lore and history in both sports and war.

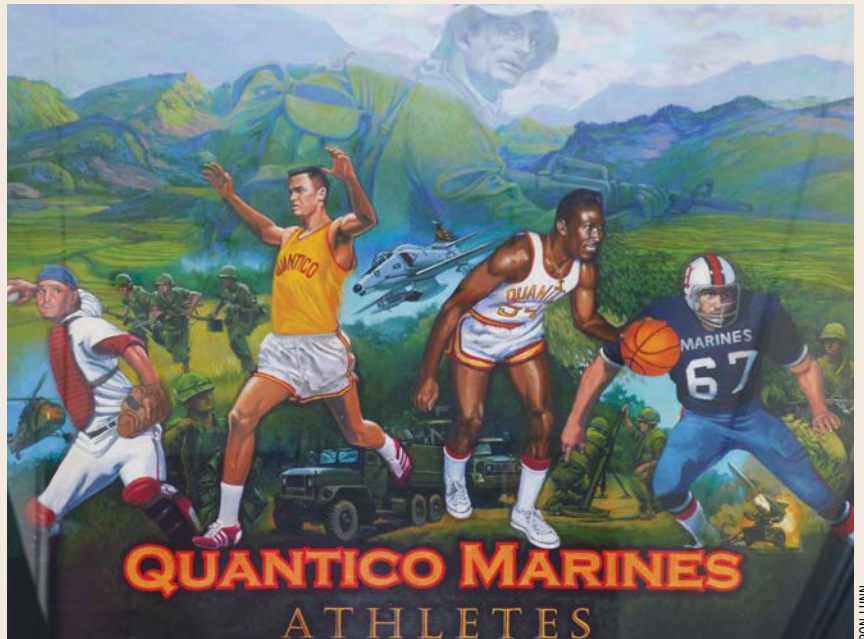
Retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Ron Eckert recognized the need to capture these warrior athletes for posterity, so he commissioned two paintings, both funded by his company, Impact Resources Technologies (IR Tech). Eckert is co-founder and chief strategy officer of IR Tech.

The first painting, by artist David Clemons, was commissioned in 2011 and was entitled "Marine Corps Athletes of the '60s Who Served in Vietnam." Peter Optekar of the Quantico Marine Athletes of the Sixties Inc., a fraternal group formed in 2001, initiated the project. The painting depicts prominent Marine athletes of past Quantico, Va., baseball, track, basketball and football teams who later served in Vietnam. It honors the Corps' commitment to physical fitness and leadership and the rich legacy of the Marine Corps athletic programs at Quantico.

A print of the painting is on display in Quantico's Colonel William E. Barber Physical Activity Center overlooking Butler Stadium, thanks to the support of the former commanding officer of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Colonel Dan Choike. Another print of the painting resides at *The MARINE Shop* in the town of Quantico; Eckert gratefully acknowledges key assistance from the president and CEO of the Marine Corps Association and Foundation (MCA&F), retired Marine MajGen Ed Usher, for that display.

Eckert also commissioned a second painting, completed in 2012, by artist Jason Breidenbach, with technical assistance from Col Paul Ortiz, USMC (Ret). The painting, entitled "Marine Football, Semper Fi on the Field," depicts Marine football stars from 1919 to 1972 when the highly competitive program ended.

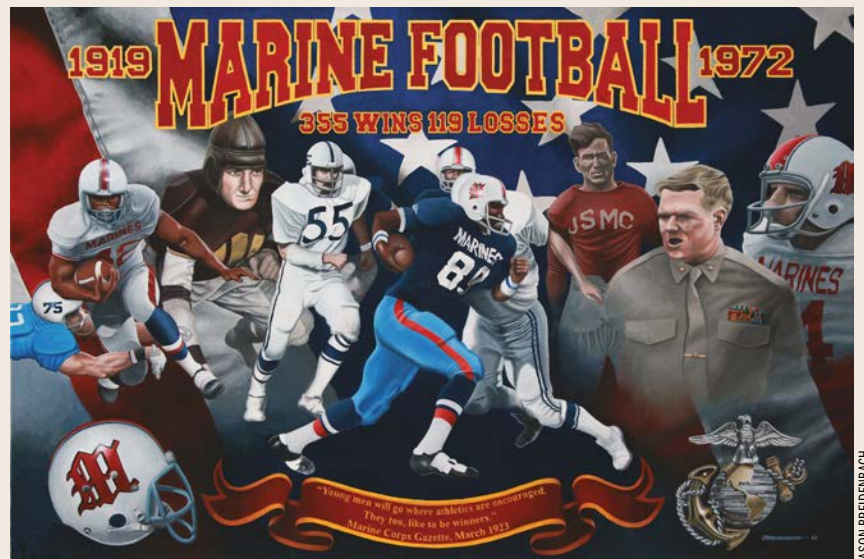
Eckert, whose passion for Marine football has not abated, would like the original paintings to be displayed in the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. "If we can't do this, who will?" he said. "I want this material in



RON LUNN

Above: The original "Marine Corps Athletes of the '60s Who Served in Vietnam" painting by David Clemons hangs in Quantico's Barber Physical Activity Center adjacent to Butler Stadium.

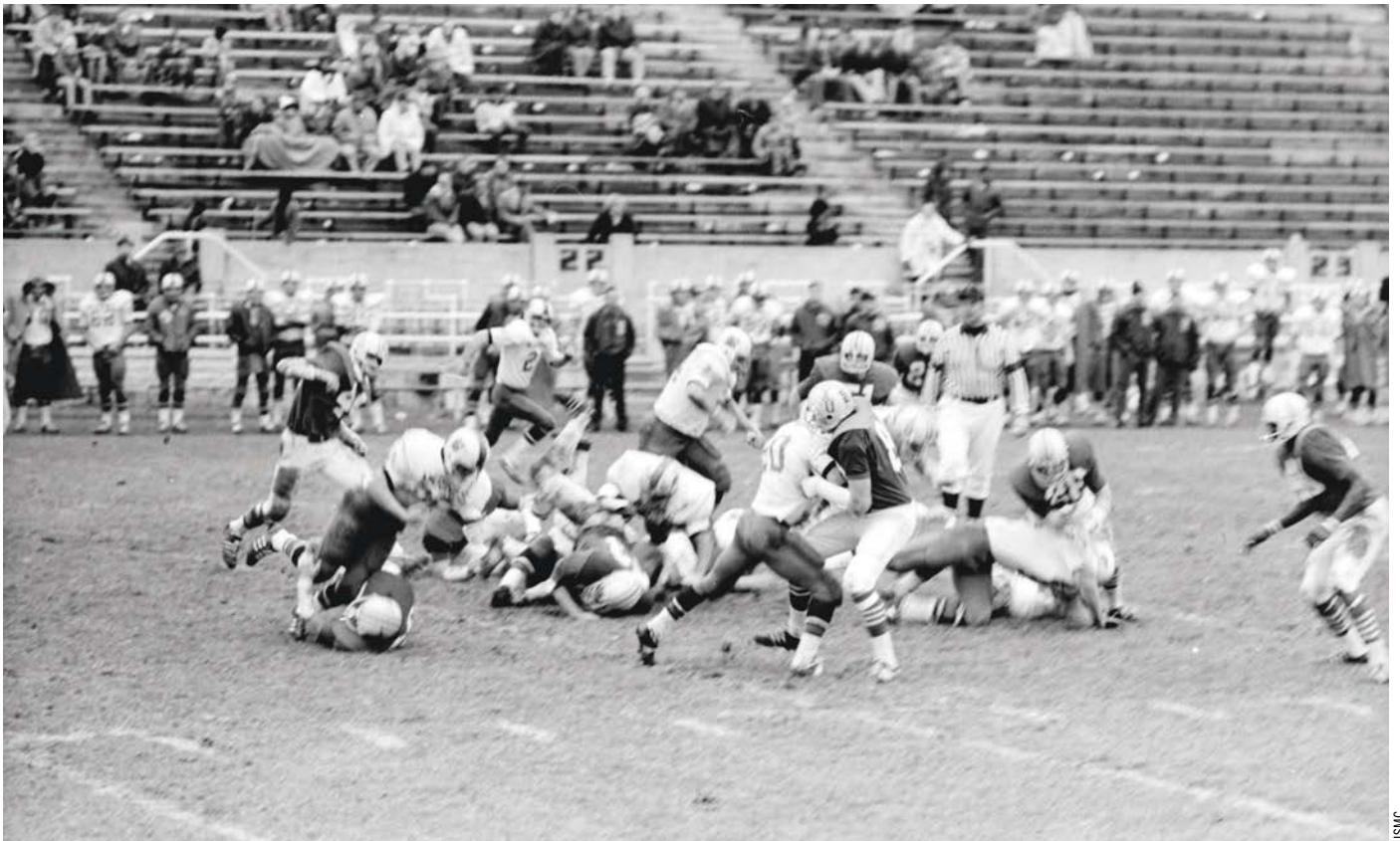
Below: Artist Jason Breidenbach created "Marine Football, Semper Fi on the Field" in 2012. He also painted *Leatherneck's* May 2014 cover, "One for the Record."



JASON BREIDENBACH

the hands of committed professionals who will provide the necessary leadership to care for and display the paintings consistent with protocols and policy. It would be a shame to have the paintings wither away while collecting dust in a remote storeroom."

—CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)



USMC

Above: The Quantico team played only collegiate teams after the other services dropped their football programs after 1970.

Right: LtCol Ron Eckert, far left, served as the team's defensive coordinator before becoming the head coach for the team's final two years.

plan their schedules four and five years in advance," he said, noting that games are tied to sponsorships, endorsements and funding that make it nearly impossible to execute last-minute changes.

Eckert said it was like "pulling teeth" to organize schedules in 1971 and '72. However, with support from college coaches like Penn State's Joe Paterno, Eckert was able to create high-impact schedules with opponents including Syracuse, the University of Delaware, McNeese State and Wyoming University.

Eckert said that in order for him to develop a team that properly represented the Marine Corps, he had to rebrand and promote the team.

He outfitted the players in uniforms of Marine Corps blue-dress colors. He obtained new helmets with a new logo, a stylized, Germanic "M" which, according to LtCol John Campbell's research, was the symbol of Marine Corps infantry during the revolutionary and Civil War periods. "That helmet was unique and got more attention in press conferences and games because people wanted to know what it meant," he said. "That and the



USMC

rebranded uniforms were great additives. Additionally, we always traveled by air, and that was a point of interest when our team arrived in a KC-130 followed by the Marine Band and Silent Drill Team a day later. What could have been finer?"

With no interservice teams to schedule, most of their games were on the road.

"We were encouraged to play more games on the road than we did at home, partially because of the impact of the Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Team, who came with us," recalled

Eckert. "So it was a definite advantage to the composite officer and enlisted recruiters to bring us to their schools."

Recruiting visits were scheduled and some great athletes were sworn in as Marines; of particular note was Second Lieutenant William Degan, University of New Hampshire. "He was a great contributor to the program," said Eckert. (Degan later would become a U.S. Marshal and was killed during the standoff at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in 1992.)

Since there were no interservice op-

ponents after the 1970 season, the Marines transitioned to an exclusive collegiate schedule and coordinated closely with the public relations and personnel recruiting domains, Eckert explained, saying, “The stage was set to move forward. The 1972 season was ambitious, opening with Syracuse, followed by games with Delaware, University of Louisiana Monroe, Eastern Michigan and South Dakota State. It was a big step forward.”

The Marine team continued to do well against college teams, in spite of inherent disadvantages. “For college coaches football was full-time, it was their job,” explained Eckert. “The college players were able to devote a great deal of time to practices. Marines had other duties and were available only about 50 percent of the time. While football was important, it wasn’t the number-one priority. Contrast that with college teams who had off-season programs, spring practice and other organized events that always gave them a leg up.”

In the end, the Marines discontinued football at the All-Marine and interservice level after the 1972 season, based on realigned priorities and financial considerations. The final away game was a 34-0 victory against Xavier University in Cincinnati, a game covered by national media. Unfortunately, the very last home game in Butler Stadium at Quantico was a disheartening loss to South Dakota State University, 24-21.

After that game in November 1972, one sports columnist wrote: “It was over now, and the only sound was an occasional paper cup cascading from one ledge to another. The afternoon chill was swirling a bit in the bowl-shaped Butler Stadium. The darkened hazy arena gave off an eerie reversal of the warm and sunny atmosphere it had provided just a few hours previously as Marines played their last home football game ever.”

Although the football program was discontinued, the Marine Corps still recognizes the value of competitive sports to recruitment.

In 2012, Marines began support for the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl, an event that selects 90 of the top athletes from high schools across the country. Selectees are chosen not only for their rating as athletes but also based on their character, academic performance and leadership skills. The game is promoted by corporate sponsors and aired by the ESPN network.

“The Semper Fidelis Football Program (SFFP) is part of our overall recruiting plan. It was one of those things we weren’t able to afford early after the sequestration reductions in our budget,” said Major

General Mark A. Brilakis, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, in a news release. “However, the Commandant has decided that this is one of those premiere events that he would like us to continue and provided the resources necessary to do it.”

The cost to execute this year’s program, including the All-American Selection Tour and week-long Semper Fidelis All-American engagements, is approximately \$2.5 million.

“I think the Marine Corps recognized the value of football to recruiting and got it back into the budget,” Eckert said, noting that the return on investment goes beyond football.

Marine Corps Recruiting Command leaders confirm his observation. Recruiting command officials note, “The Semper Fidelis Football Program provides an opportunity for the Marine Corps and Marine recruiters to connect on a personal and local level with students and influencers, demonstrates our commitment to developing quality citizens, and reinforces how our core values of honor, courage and commitment relate to success.”

The 2015 Semper Fidelis game (www.semperfidelisfootball.com) will be played Jan. 4 at the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., and will be aired on Fox Sports 1. Will there ever be a resurgence of the Corps’ football glory days?

“I wouldn’t think there will ever be another Marine team,” Eckert guessed.

“Our culture has changed, and the military just doesn’t have the same allure to attract top college players as it did during earlier years.”

Dixon reluctantly agreed with Eckert’s assessment, but defended the premise that football and other competitive sports are justifiable team-building efforts based on historical success.

“It really benefited the men greatly—especially many of the enlisted men,” he reflected. “It gave them that opportunity with good coaching, good leadership, good nutrition, physical and moral values to develop their skills and get that college education—I’m real proud of that.” Dixon said he believes the value extends more existentially to the martial attitude of Marines and their goals to find and make Marines and return quality citizens back to the country.

“When you snap that helmet on and go ... after it out there, you mature quickly—it’s sort of controlled combat,” Dixon concluded.

Author’s bio: The author, CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now operates his own writing-based business, RGCommunications, and is a freelance photojournalist.



SGT ANDRES J. LUGO, USMC

Sgt Brian Craddock, a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, speaks with players from the Semper Fidelis All-American East team at Fullerton College in California, Jan. 2, 2014. This year’s Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl will be held on Jan. 4, 2015, and will be aired on Fox Sports 1.



Marine Corps Museum Set to Expand

New Galleries Will Tell Story of Today's Marines

By Gwenn Adams

The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) already tells more than 200 years of the Corps' rich history—but it's a work in progress. In March 2015, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, in cooperation with the NMMC, will break ground on a 126,000-square-foot building expansion that includes two historical galleries featuring the Marine Corps' story from post-Vietnam to the present.

"There are very few reflective moments in American life, but the National Museum of the Marine Corps creates many such moments. The new galleries are an opportunity to tell the rest of the story for a new generation while they're still here to experience it. A rich diversity of truly

impressive Marines, all volunteers since Vietnam, have served country, Corps and God, and now we're telling their story," said Major General Timothy C. Hanifen, USMC (Ret) about the plans for the final phase of the museum. MajGen Hanifen is one of many advisors and collaborators for the "Final Phase," the nickname coined for the expansion.

The Final Phase historical galleries, scheduled to open in 2018, will include a continuation of the existing Legacy Walk, from which visitors will enter galleries that depict common Marine structure and missions (e.g., noncombatant evacuation operations (NEOs), humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), Marine security guards (MSGs)); the period from 1976 to 9/11; 9/11 as a stand-alone exhibit; Sept. 12, 2001, to the present; the

homefront; and the Corps' future. Not every Marine serves in combat, but the museum recognizes that every Marine is vital to the mission and will honor all Marines.

These galleries will occupy a space that's roughly the same size as the existing World War I and World War II galleries. In other words, 40 years of modern history will be displayed in the same amount of space that holds six years of history. Additionally, the size of the modern equipment is much larger than the older tanks and aircraft. These factors will challenge the design team when planning the galleries.

Telling such a big story in a limited amount of space requires creative thinking and planning. Doing more with less is certainly not a new concept to the Corps or to the museum. Part of the solution

Left: The National Museum of the Marine Corps will be expanding by 126,000 square feet and will include historical galleries depicting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



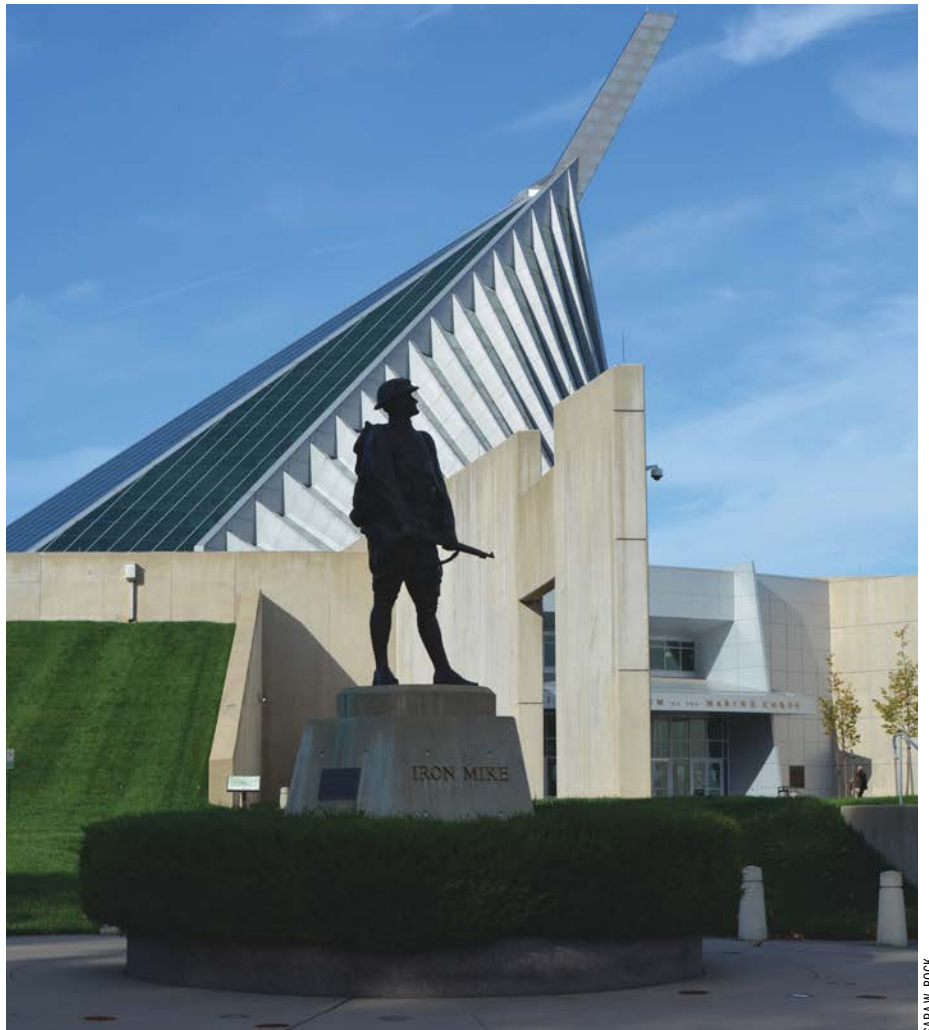
Above: The size of the equipment and space limitations within the galleries have presented challenges for designers, but their innovative approach to the exhibits includes multimedia technology and lighting that will greatly enhance the overall experience. (National Museum of the Marine Corps illustration)

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS ILLUSTRATION

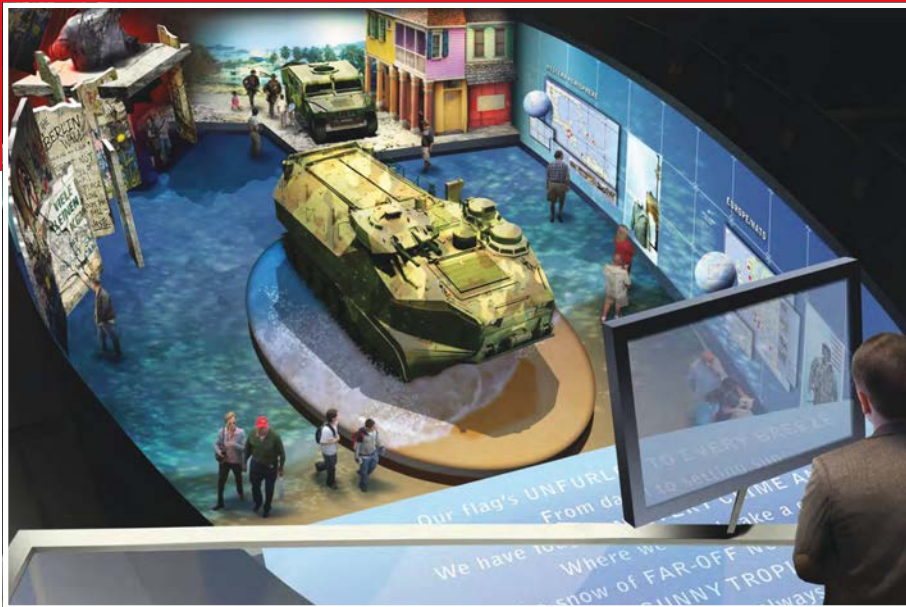
Right: The NMMC opened in November 2006, and more than 3 million guests have visited to date. The museum is a work in progress, and this latest expansion will feature the Marine Corps story from 1976 through today.

involves using the second-floor overlooks to present a different perspective from what visitors see at the ground level. From the overlook they will experience an augmented reality of sorts, using video overlays. One example will be in the Fallujah immersion, where from the ground level visitors are walking down a street during the height of the battle, and they see only what's happening at their level. However, from the overlook, they'll see the snipers and Marines on the rooftops.

Through the use of multimedia technology, it will be possible to present six



SHRAW, BOCK



Left: Second-floor overlooks will allow visitors to experience an augmented reality of the scene before them—what they see on the ground level will be different from what they see from the overlooks.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS ILLUSTRATION



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS ILLUSTRATION

different scenarios in one immersion so visitors may have a different experience every time they visit. Additionally, the use of raw footage shot during combat and virtual camel spiders crawling through the spaces will bring a very authentic reality to the exhibits.

“We aren’t letting limited space limit our vision for these new galleries. We’re using lighting, video overlays and sound to bring the spaces to life,” NMMC Exhibits Chief Chuck Girbovan said of the expansion. “Visitors will watch the activity at a FARP [forward arming and refueling point], where the helicopter’s rotors are still turning, and the Marines, though static cast figures, are quickly preparing the ‘bird’ for its next mission.”

Exhibits such as the FARP are an opportunity to showcase the importance of each Marine performing an individual job while working as a team to accomplish

the mission. The museum’s mission is to honor the commitment, accomplishments and sacrifices of Marines, as well as to preserve and exhibit the materiel history of the Corps, which is why these final galleries are so important to the museum and the Corps.

“To remain relevant we must remember where we came from as a foundation for our actions today and our accomplishments tomorrow. Our past is a springboard for those who will carry our successes and our Corps,” MajGen Hanifen said.

Over the past few years the museum team has been working on the storyline and artifacts, both of which have informed the concept development. These concepts were vetted by a collection of stakeholders and collaborators, including the historian for the first phase, the late Colonel Joseph H. “Joe” Alexander, USMC (Ret); the History Division; representatives from

Marine Corps University Officer and Enlisted Professional Military Education; the Wounded Warrior Regiment; and the Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning among others.

Outstanding support from Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps’ Manpower and Reserve Affairs department was provided in identifying individual stories. Several occupational field managers and military occupational specialty sponsors have helped to ensure their communities are represented in the Final Phase.

The museum team also received counsel and support from a diverse group of senior advisors, who represented the entire Marine air-ground task force. The Senior Advisory Committee was established to ensure these new galleries not only cover all the important historic moments in the Corps since 1976, but that the “rich diversity of . . . Marines” also is represented throughout the galleries. The committee is composed of a diverse group of officers and enlisted Marines. Their experiences and expertise will help ensure the museum captures not only historic facts, but also the personal experiences of the Marines who made that history.

“I think the concept of presenting an ongoing set of events will bring the current generation into the NMMC and make them feel directly part of Marine Corps history. These new exhibits will get a lifetime involvement from them. The displays will evolve since this an ongoing conflict. It is important to pay attention to that,” General Anthony C. Zinni, USMC (Ret), a former Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command, said of the Final Phase.

The museum team also is seeking input from another important source. The success of the expansion will depend in part on participation by Marines and sailors whose history is being told in the galleries, according to Charlie Grow, NMMC’s deputy director.

“We ask for your assistance and input through Facebook at www.facebook.com/NMMCFinalPhase and a gmail account at NMMCFinalPhase@gmail.com. We’d love to hear from you. Perhaps you or someone you know has an object, a personal photo or verifiable first-person quote that will resonate with a half-million veterans and visitors per year at the museum,” Grow said. “Please let us know your thoughts. To make the pending flood of input digestible, always use the term ‘Final Phase’ in



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS ILLUSTRATION

Exhibits on the Cold War, 9/11 and the homefront will be included in the expansion, which will open in phases beginning in 2017 with the final phase scheduled for completion in 2020.

your e-mail title and then add something that makes your message more easily searched and filed, such as ‘battle-damaged cammie trousers from the 1st battle of Fallujah.’ This is a big job, and your specificity will be greatly appreciated.”

The curators are especially interested in objects with a powerful personal story: something that’s really meaningful to the Marines who served. For instance, if a Marine made a special tool for detecting improvised explosive devices (IEDs), or if a corpsman has his medical bag with combat damage and blood stains, those are the sorts of stories the museum is looking to highlight. To learn more about items the museum would like to have in the collection, visit www.usmcmuseum.com/Museum_Expansion.asp and click on Make a Donation.

While the historical galleries are the focus of the development at this time, the expansion will include much more. There will be a 350-seat giant-screen theater, an education suite with classrooms and children’s activity area, two historical

galleries, an art gallery, a sports gallery and Hall of Fame, a Hall of Valor and a changing exhibits gallery. The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation already has begun work on the film for the theater, and items are being sought for the Marine Corps sports gallery.

The new spaces will open in phases, beginning with the classrooms, lunchroom, art gallery and theater in 2017, followed by the historical galleries in 2018. A gallery for the years between WW I and WW II will open in 2019. And, finally, the sports gallery, Hall of Fame and changing exhibits gallery will open in 2020.

There is still much work to be done, and visitors will begin seeing some subtle changes as early as this winter when a construction wall will be raised around part of the Leatherneck Gallery. Most of these changes won’t impact visitors’ experiences, and there are plans for both visitors to the museum and online to watch the expansion’s progress in continuing to tell the Marine Corps’ story.

“Those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat mistakes. History is essential for survival, both in the present and in the future. These new spaces will touch hearts and focus minds to elicit the same level of competence as those from the past,” said MajGen Hanifen about the importance of the museum.

Editor’s note: The National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas. Admission is free.

Author’s bio: Gwenn Adams is a retired Marine Corps combat correspondent. She has been serving as the public affairs director at the National Museum of the Marine Corps for more than six years.



Leatherneck—On the Web

To see additional images, go to www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/expansion

In the Highest Tradition


Edited by M.H. Reinwald

Capt Derek Herrera, 1st MSOB, is awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal at a ceremony aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Nov. 21, 2014.



SGT SCOTT A. ACHEMEIER, USMC

“Bionic” MARSOC Marine Fulfills Vow, Stands Tall at Ceremony

 Leathernecks with 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, friends and family members gathered to witness Captain Derek Herrera receive the Bronze Star with combat “V” for heroism aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 21, 2014. Capt Herrera also was medically retired from the Marine Corps during the ceremony.

Herrera spent more than eight years in

the Marine Corps serving as an infantry officer and later transitioning to become a special operations officer with U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. He was wounded in June 2012 while serving as a special operations team commander in Helmand province, Afghanistan, when he was hit by enemy sniper fire, causing injuries that paralyzed him from the chest down.

The ambush occurred while Herrera and his team, along with 10 members of the Afghan National Army, were conducting a

patrol on the western edge of the Helmand River Valley. “Shortly after sunrise, we found ourselves in a firefight with the enemy and surrounded. In the opening moments of that firefight, the sergeant next to me and I were shot,” said Herrera.

After being shot, Herrera attempted to pick himself up when he realized he was unable to move from the chest down. He remained calm and waited for his teammates to arrive and provide medical assistance, recalling that he was confident in their training and ability to successfully

evacuate him from the combat zone.

Having gone through an ordeal such as that, he said there are “so many different things that you feel; I actually think I felt a little scared because of what had happened, but shortly thereafter began to really feel just this eerie sense of calm come over me. I don’t know exactly why that was, but I think a lot of it had to do with the team I was there with, and the fact that although I had just been shot, I had no doubt that my team would get me out of there.”

Although he was told by doctors he wouldn’t walk again, Herrera was determined to make a difference and be a model of hope and inspiration for others. “I’m happy to be here, and I think I can still have an impact and positively affect society, so that is what I am focusing my energy and time on.”

His determination and proactivity toward his recovery drove him to find the resources that helped him stand and take steps again. With the help of the MARSOC Foundation and the generosity of the community, Herrera was able to obtain an Argo ReWalk ExoSkeleton.

The ReWalk ExoSkeleton is a bionic walking assistance system that uses powered leg attachments to enable paraplegics to stand upright, walk and climb stairs.

The system has changed Herrera’s life, and he believes it will do the same for others. “If you don’t do something for weeks and months on end, you start to forget what it is like,” said Herrera. “I forgot what it was like to stand and to take steps and to walk, so being able to do that with this device was incredible.”

The system allowed Herrera to stand during the ceremony to receive his award, which was a goal he had set for himself.

“I realized my retirement ceremony was coming up and figured that it would be nice if I could stand and walk and leave the Marine Corps in a similar fashion to the way that I entered the Marine Corps,” he said. “I feel very lucky to have that opportunity.”

As Herrera retires from the Corps, he said he takes with him some of the most gratifying memories as a Marine. “Leading Marines in [combat] environments is very rewarding,” he said.

Herrera also was deployed to Iraq as well as several other Middle Eastern countries during his time in the Marine Corps.

The Bronze Star recipient continues to focus on impacting society and being a model of hope for others as he leaves the military and attacks his next objective.

Cpl Ricardo Hurtado, USMC
Combat Correspondent, I MEF



CPL RICARDO HURTADO, USMC

Capt Herrera leaves his retirement ceremony at Camp Pendleton, accompanied by his wife, Maura; his service dog, Shaggy; and a fellow Marine, Nov. 21, 2014.

Personal Combat Awards

The awards records in the Marine Corps’ Award Processing System (APS) and Improved Awards Processing System were used to populate this list, which reflects personal combat awards from the start of the global war on terrorism presented to Marines and sailors serving with U.S. Marine Corps forces only. This list may not reflect certain personal combat awards processed outside of either system and/or approved by another branch of service. Any questions on the content should be submitted in writing to the Personal Awards Section at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, MMMA-2, 2008 Elliott Rd., Quantico, VA 22134.

The following awards were announced in October:



Silver Star

Sgt Andrew C. Seif, 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion (MSOB), U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC)



Bronze Star With Combat “V”

MSgt Deryck Dervin, 1st MSOB, MARSOC
Capt Joseph L. Gill III, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat “V”

SSgt Nicholus M. Blackmon, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
SSgt Jude P. Calin, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
HM1 Eric S. Gilmet, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
Cpl Joel J. Marks, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
Sgt Charles C. Strong, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
Sgt Samuel A. Zamudio, 2d MSOB, MARSOC



Chaplains and RPs: Shepherds in Combat Boots

“Where It Matters, When It Matters and With What Matters”

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

“By patient, sympathetic labors with the crew, day in, day out, and through many a night, every chaplain I know contributed immeasurably to the moral courage of our fighting men; none of this appears in statistics. Most of it necessarily secret between pastor and confidant. It is for that toil, in the cause both of God and country, that I honor the chaplain most.”

—FADM Chester A. Nimitz, USN

By all measures, Vincent R. Capodanno was a good man.

A New York boy born and bred on Staten Island, he graduated from high school there and attended one year at Fordham University before devoting himself to life as a missionary. He completed his education at the Maryknoll Missionary Seminary in Ossing, N.Y., and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1957.

After missionary work in the mountains of Taiwan and later in Hong Kong, in 1965

he made a decision that on the surface or to the uninformed observer might seem contradictory to his life’s path. He received his commission as a lieutenant in the Navy Chaplain Corps and was assigned in 1966 to the First Marine Division in Vietnam.

There, serving his flock in 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment in 1967, he was killed in action during Operation Swift while seeing to the needs of his Marines and corpsmen. Wounded, Capodanno declined medical attention, continuing to give last rites or tend to others’ wounds. His last noble act before he was killed was to help a wounded corpsman who was only yards from an enemy machine gun. In January 1969, he posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Is it incongruous for a man of the cloth such as Father Capodanno to supplement his liturgical garb with Navy blue or Marine Corps green? How does a man of peace work within the confines of a warrior’s world?

“I think a lot of chaplains would say it’s a calling, a sense of duty,” said Navy Captain Guy Lee, I Marine Expeditionary Force chaplain. “We are people of peace, but we realize that when Marines or sailors go into combat, we want to be there with them. When you think of the greatest needs that people have—a sense of hope, a sense of purpose—those things really get crystalized in a combat situation. So when people’s needs are greatest, chaplains and RPs [religious program specialists] want to be there where it matters, when it matters and with what matters, to meet those needs in a variety of ways.”

CAPT Lee espoused a divine call to a ministry that officially has existed in the Navy since 1775 when Congress approved Navy Regulations. Among other orders establishing the Continental Navy, the second article stated that commanders of the 13 colonies’ ships were to ensure that divine services be performed twice a day in ships and a sermon on Sundays. Although not overtly stated, the implication was that an ordained clergyman should perform those rites.

Today, 278 active-duty and 128 Reserve male and female chaplains serve Marines, along with 254 active and 132 Reserve



COPT TYLER DIETRICH, USMC

Navy LT Charles S. Mallie, a chaplain with Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, Fourth Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducts a religious service in the field during Exercise Koolendong '13 in Australia's Northern Territory, Sept. 9, 2013.

Marines pray with their chaplain, LT Marlin L. Williams, at an outpost in Afghanistan.



CHIEF OF NAVY CHAPLAINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Right: The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, left, congratulates RDML Brent W. Scott in the garden at the Home of the Commandants on July 25, 2014, as he assumes the billet of Chaplain of the Marine Corps.



SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHMIDT USMC

RPs, the Navy enlisted men and women who assist them. Roughly one-third of all Navy chaplains and RPs serve with Marines. Together, they form the Religious Ministry Teams (RMTs) who support the spiritual, religious, moral and personal well-being for military personnel (and their families) in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the Merchant Marine.

Chaplains officially are designated as noncombatants and do not participate in direct hostilities. When they find themselves in hostile situations, it is the RP's primary responsibility to guard the physical safety of the chaplain.

"We carry weapons; we protect the chaplains," said Navy Senior Chief Jesse Olitoquit, I MEF RP, who succinctly explained a tough and potentially dangerous job. He and CAPT Lee served together in combat in 2012-13 as the I MEF (Forward) RMT.

The senior chief explained that wherever

chaplains go, RPs are there to support them and that one of those situations might be a combat environment.

"In Afghanistan when we went on a convoy with Marines, their experiences became our experiences. My approach as an RP is to stay as close as possible to the

chaplain; that is my duty. I should not be the driver; I should not be the gunner. I am the RP, there to protect the chaplain."

"In that type of tactical situation, the RP is the lead, and the chaplain follows the RP's guidance," said CAPT Lee.

The RP rating actually goes back to

Mass is celebrated on Iwo Jima by a Catholic chaplain from the 5thMarDiv. The two Marines wearing helmets are shielding the improvised altar from the high winds that rake the summit.



SGT. L. BURMEISTER USMC

World War II. In 1942, the Navy created a number of specialist ratings, one of which was the specialist (W) for welfare. One of the responsibilities of the specialist (W) was to provide security and assistance for Navy chaplains. The religious program specialist rating was established in 1979.

Navy RPs did an exemplary job in recent engagements. According to sources at the Chief of Navy Chaplains office, no chaplains or RPs were killed in action either in Iraq or Afghanistan; however, some RPs were injured in the line of duty.

Sadly, the Army Chaplain Corps lost two chaplains, CPT Dale Goetz in 2010 (Afghanistan) and CPT Tim Vakoc, who was injured in Iraq in 2004 and died of his wounds in 2009. One Army chaplain assistant, Staff Sergeant Christopher Stout, died in 2010 in Afghanistan, the first chaplain assistant killed in combat since Vietnam.

Navy RPs and chaplains, especially those serving with Marines, know that the combat environment has harsh possibilities, and their training reflects that reality.

Chaplains and RPs receive introductory training at the Naval Chaplaincy School

and Center (NCSC), which is co-located with the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center at Fort Jackson, S.C., where Army and Air Force chaplains also receive initial training.

NCSC relocated from Newport, R.I., in 2009 as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision to put all military ministry training in the same location. The overarching NCSC mission is to provide introductory and advanced training to chaplains and RPs for professional religious ministry in the sea services.

The majority of RP students enter NCSC directly from Navy boot camp, so the training is considered their "A" school. They learn the basics of how to help manage and execute the Command Religious Program (CRP), which is intended to accommodate the diverse religious needs of today's servicemembers.

Some RP students may volunteer for or be selected to serve with the Marines, while others will go on to assignments within the Navy, but they can choose to serve with the Marines later in their careers.

Those who are selected to serve with

Marines go to additional training called CREST (Chaplain and Religious Program Specialist Expeditionary Skills Training). The course is held at Field Medical Training Battalion East (FMTB-E) at Camp Johnson in Jacksonville, N.C., near Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

The staff at FMTB-E includes infantry Marine instructors, Navy corpsmen and senior RPs. Together, they usher RPs through eight weeks of intense training to teach them how to function and operate in the expeditionary field environment.

"RPs are trained essentially by the same training team that trains corpsmen, with a focus on RP-specific duties," noted Senior Chief Olitoquit. CAPT Lee, who earlier in his career was program manager for CREST, explained that there is some common training, such as group hikes, where RPs train alongside corpsmen, but generally they have a separate curriculum. He also said that there will be follow-on training at their assigned units.

Emphasis at CREST is on general military subjects, individual and small-unit tactics, physical conditioning, field ministry support, logistics and supply in the field and the religious aspects of spe-



CHIEF OF NAVY CHAPLAINS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Above: Religious program specialists participate in a training exercise while attending Chaplain and Religious Program Specialist Expeditionary Skills Training (CREST) aboard Camp Johnson, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., in June 2014.

Below: LT Kevan Q. Lim, a chaplain with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, Third Marine Logistics Group, III MEF, provides religious services to several Marines at Ban Kuad Nam Man School in Thailand, Jan. 24, 2013, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2013.



SSGT KENNETH LEWIS, USMC

cialized warfare operations, according to Religious Program Specialist Senior Chief Quatrez Scipio, the senior enlisted leader at CREST. He noted that they also receive weapons training, such as field stripping, cleaning, assembling and firing each weapon they will use.

Students apply classroom skills during a week in the field where they patrol, enter MOUT (military operations on urban ter-

rain) scenarios, construct fighting positions, assist at a battalion aid station, learn land navigation and complete the ever popular gas chamber. During CREST they also complete 2-, 4-, 6- and 8-mile hikes.

When Olitoquit enlisted in 1995, CREST didn't exist. After boot camp and RP training, he completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., before serving with Marines. "Two years later

CREST was introduced, in 1997," he commented. General Charles C. Krulak, the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, was instrumental in ushering CREST into the curriculum.

"After Desert Storm, General Krulak wanted chaplains and RPs to be more prepared for deployment," Lee recalled. "CREST puts them into a course that is based on the backbone of the same type of training model used for corpsmen and medical officers. They adapted it to meet the needs of chaplains and RPs."

Training for chaplains begins prior to military service. To serve as a Navy chaplain, one first must have a graduate degree in theology or religious-related studies from a qualified college or school of theology, be ordained or credentialed by one's denomination and be endorsed to serve as a military chaplain by one of the Department of Defense-approved religious organizations.

"We try to draw from the diversity of religious organizations so we have chaplains from many different religions to represent the demographics of a cross section of the U.S. population," noted Lee.

Chaplain students go through five weeks of basic naval officer indoctrination at the Officers Development School in Newport before going to Fort Jackson for training in the Professional Navy Chaplaincy—Basic Leadership Course. The seven-week, three-phase course teaches students how to adapt their civilian ministry skills and education to the military culture.

Phase II of the course is the Religious Ministry Expeditionary Course (RMTEX). This one-week phase is spent in the field.

A Marine is assigned on staff at the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center to ensure that chaplains are familiar with basic Marine Corps ethos, customs and traditions as well as field skills. RP students at Fort Jackson also may have acculturation sessions with that Marine if timing works out, but chaplain students are the main focus. Marines filling that billet have previous experience as drill instructors.

Gunnery Sergeant Mark Morton has been in that billet for a little more than 18 months of a three-year tour. He explained that the position is Marine officer instructor duty, which normally could have placed him as an instructor in a college Reserve Officers' Training Corps program, "But I was lucky enough to get this diamond in the rough," said Morton.

As the only Marine on staff, he quipped that he "walks alone and unafraid" as he combines classroom instruction with field work to ensure that chaplains are ready to transition into a world they previously only have heard about.

Navy chaplain and Catholic priest, Father Bill Devine gives Cpl Joseph Duarte communion during a Mass held at Camp Coyote in Kuwait on Feb. 2, 2003.

“They live in two-man tents and eat MREs [meals, ready to eat] the entire week,” said Morton, describing RMTEX, where a lot is packed into a week. He added that there is a building with no facilities other than power and running water that is used only in extremely bad weather.

“I teach them basic, entry-level field survival skills,” noted Morton. “They run the confidence course, go through the gas chamber, go on a day and a night hike, land navigation and a combat resupply course.” While there they learn how to facilitate ministry in a field environment and manage field worship services.

“They already know how to perform ministry within their faith background,” CAPT Lee pointed out. “In RMTEX they are taught about providing ministry in a whole different context for the military. Part of that is learning about the expeditionary skills of Marines, so it is important to have that infantry Marine there to pass on his experience.”

Morton said the basic-course chaplains have very diverse backgrounds with ages ranging from their late 20s to their 50s. Regardless of where they came from, when they arrive at RMTEX, they face common obstacles. “They have to be able to hack it, or they don’t make it through the course,” noted Morton. There are also intermediate and advanced courses for chaplains at the Naval Chaplaincy School and Center as they advance in grade and experience.

“Certainly we have some chaplains who get a taste of the Marine Corps, and it’s very hard to ever get them to leave the Marine Corps, but it’s good for them to be exposed to both the Navy and Marines for their own career development,” observed Lee, noting that it is ultimately the needs of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard that dictate assignments.

“You can imagine during the height of OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan] and OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom] there was a big need to have chaplains and RPs assigned to the FMF [Fleet Marine Force],” he remarked.

Lee emphasized that the unit commander provides overall guidance to the Religious Ministry Team. “The chaplain and RP lead the command’s religious program, but it is important to remember the commander owns it.”

One aspect of the RMT that is unique and different from any other members of the command is that reporting to the commanding officer is the sacred covenant of total confidentiality. Regardless of one’s



SGT PAUL L. ANSTINE II, USMC

religious beliefs, when a member of a command, including families, goes to the chaplain to discuss a problem or issue, what happens there, stays there.

The chaplain has a duty—a sacred duty—never to reveal it to anyone unless it is with the member’s permission. This duty extends to every member of the RMT. Neither the commander nor anyone up the chain of command can compel the chaplain to share that information.

“There isn’t another community in the DOD [Department of Defense] that has that sort of complete confidentiality,” CAPT Lee said. “I think the reason the Navy and Marine Corps respect this confidentiality of the RMT is that it is a safety valve for the command. I believe it would be much better for a commander to know there is an entity that has total confidentiality, where a Marine or sailor can approach and say, ‘Hey, here’s what’s going on; here’s my problem,’ and know it will stay there,” he suggested.

As the Marine Corps winds down from more than 12 years of war, Marines, sailors who serve with them and their families will face personal and professional stress that comes with such a post-war environment. The framework to solve those problems is centralized with the RMTs. If they can’t solve the problem, they know the person to contact and, with the member’s permission, the RMTs can get him or her help.

The RP’s rating emblem is a globe overlaid on an anchor and compass. Like the Marine eagle, globe and anchor, there is deep-rooted symbolism in each element

of this compass, globe and anchor.

The compass suggests the direction that religion can give to life; the globe represents worldwide religious ministries; and the anchor confirms these services are provided for the sea services, including Marines.

“We are here to support the needs of Marines and sailors,” CAPT Lee stated. “If it means going to the field, then we want to be competent to go to the field to be with our people where it matters, when it matters and with what matters. I think chaplains and RPs play a role in that because we are concerned with core values, ethics and morality—all those things that are hallmarks of the Marine Corps and what Americans appreciate about Marines. We are honored to play a role in making the Marines who serve for four years or for 30 years model citizens when they leave.”

Author’s bio: The author, CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now operates his own writing-based business, RGCommunications, and is a freelance photojournalist.



Leatherneck—On the Web

For more photos of chaplains and RPs, go to www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/religiousministryteams

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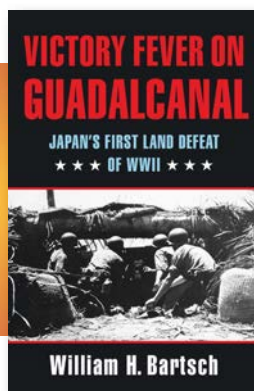
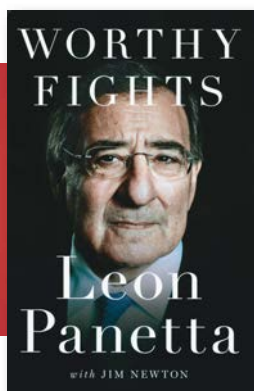
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WORTHY FIGHTS: A Memoir of Leadership in War and Peace. By Leon Panetta with Jim Newton. Published by Penguin Press. 512 pages. Stock #1594205965. \$32.40 MCA Members. \$36 Regular Price.

Leon Panetta's "Worthy Fights" is the third uncomplimentary book by a Cabinet member leaving the administration of President Barack Obama. The previous secretaries of defense and state, Robert Gates and Hillary Clinton, laid into the president's policies in their books, and now Panetta joins the crew.

The son of hard-working Italian immigrants, Panetta grew up in Carmel Valley, Calif. Demonstrating early leadership talents, he joined the Army ROTC at Santa Clara University. Commissioned a second lieutenant intelligence officer in the U.S. Army in 1963, immediate active duty was deferred while Panetta earned his law degree. After his initial training, he spent his two years of active duty at Fort Ord, Calif.

At this point, Panetta was an active Republican and began his "Inside the Beltway" career as a staffer for a moderate Republican senator. When the senator lost his seat, Panetta stayed on as an assistant in the Health, Education and Welfare Department under President Richard Nixon. In 1969, Panetta moved up to head the Office of Civil Rights where, against the president's policy, he worked to accelerate school desegregation and was forced to resign.

He returned to California, switched

political parties and, after a few years, was elected to serve eight terms in the House of Representatives. In Congress, he earned a reputation as an extremely talented political infighter, reaching across the aisle as necessary to further his budget, environmental and civil rights positions.

Named as the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget in 1989, he refined his talents in brokering consensus, understanding how real deficit reductions could be achieved. His budget skills brought him to the attention of newly elected President Bill Clinton who stole him away from Congress to head the White House's Office of Management and Budget in January 1993. Panetta writes that his work on President Clinton's budget drove the president to later write that Panetta's "budget package of 1993 was the 'most important domestic decision of my presidency.'"

As the budget czar, Panetta found a White House led by a brilliant leader with definite goals, a balanced budget being among the most important. He also discovered an inexperienced, disorganized environment, with a great deal of talking and little action. In July 1994, the president asked Panetta to take over as the White House chief of staff, to pull the team together and focus everyone's efforts.

In the chapter, "We Thought You Would Cave," Panetta speaks to the budget impasse, leading to the closing down of the government in late November 1995 and again in December 1995 into early January

1996. The Republican Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, and his allies believed the president would capitulate and reduce funding for Medicare, environmental issues and education. The government shutdown served to enhance the position of the president and his party when the Republicans finally yielded.

"Publically," Panetta writes, "the shutdown illustrated Clinton's potential for political resolve ...; privately, it revealed his lack of personal discipline and planted the seeds of his impeachment."

Panetta headed back to the West Coast in 1997.

Until 2009, Panetta was on various boards and councils while heading the Panetta Institute for Public Policy. Then, in early 2009, President Obama called on him to return to Washington to head the Central Intelligence Agency—to bring to fruition campaign promises to eliminate: secret overseas sites where the United States had held al-Qaida prisoners; use of contractors to help secure and, in some cases, allegedly torture prisoners; and enhanced interrogation (waterboarding). Surprisingly, Panetta quickly garnered support and loyalty at the CIA, and the locating and killing of Osama bin Laden is only one of his success stories during his tenure there. Panetta frequently ran afoul, however, of a micromanaging White House staff, and the reader will clearly see his mounting frustrations with the administration.

While Panetta was directing the bin Laden mission, the president was acting to move Panetta to DOD as the secretary, replacing Robert Gates. Subsequent to a unanimous Senate confirmation in June 2011, Panetta's focus was to get the military out of Iraq, get the Pentagon budget under control, reduce structure while maintaining readiness, and advance what he wrote of as his civil rights agenda: allowing gays and lesbians in the military and equality for women in the military (opening all military specialties to women). Convinced that a "boots on the ground"

force needed to remain in Iraq, Panetta again faced an intransigent White House staff that pushed back hard. The staff eventually won. Panetta knew it was time to go.

For veterans and active-duty service-members, read “Worthy Fights” to learn why Panetta wrote the book now and to gain more insight into the secretary of defense who worked to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell; to defeat the Defense of Marriage Act promoting military benefits for same sex partners; and, less than a month from leaving his cabinet post, opened all military occupational specialties, including ground combat arms, to women.

Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret)

Author’s bio: Walt Ford is the former editor of Leatherneck magazine and publisher for the Marine Corps Association.

VICTORY FEVER ON GUADALCANAL: Japan’s First Land Defeat of WW II. By William H. Bartsch. Published by Texas A&M University Press. 360 pages. Stock #1623491843. \$31.50 MCA Members. \$35 Regular Price.

Within minutes of scrambling ashore on to Beach Red on the northern coast of Guadalcanal, on Friday, Aug. 7, 1942, Company B, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, the first wave of Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift’s First Marine Division, wondered where the Japanese were.

By noon, as wave after wave of 2d and 3d battalions landed “charging out, ready to do or die” and “flopping down in their assigned spots in the sand, setting up their Browning machine guns,” they were greeted by riflemen of the first wave laughing, hooting and whistling while cutting open and eating coconuts.

Late that afternoon, MajGen Vandegrift listened to reports from his two regimental commanders stating that despite patrols and search and destroy columns being dispatched into the forested hinterlands and gloomy tangled jungles, no enemy was found. The general frowned, “I’m beginning to doubt there’s a Jap on the whole damned island.”

Boy, was he wrong—one of the great understatements of the Pacific War.

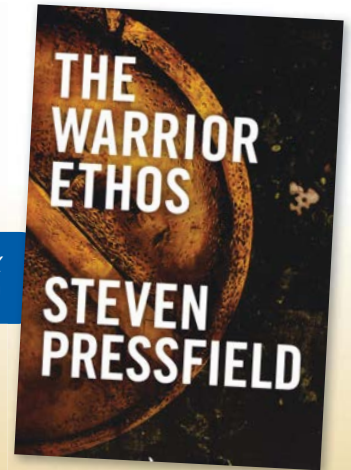
Now, thanks to William H. Bartsch’s superlative “Victory Fever on Guadalcanal: Japan’s First Land Defeat of WW II,” a book predestined for the top ranks of all military titles written during the past decade, readers follow in detail what happened over the next 13 days, culminating in the ferocious Battle of Tenaru River, or Alligator Creek. It was a victory so huge it marked the initial turning of the tide of the ground war against Japan.

Around midnight on Aug. 20-21, Ma-

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rines on guard, ignorant of the whereabouts of the Japanese and fearful of their surroundings, shouted that the jungle in front of them was “alive with the noise of moving things.” Then, suddenly, all hell broke loose.

“The Battle of the Tenaru that night stakes a strong claim for being the smallest American battle of World War II with the greatest effect,” echoes Richard B. Frank in his foreword to the book. “Tenaru became the enduring template for the rest of the war.”

Relegated to one of the hundreds of vicious battles that followed during the remaining 36 months of the war, the casualties were not as important (871 Japanese killed, 15 taken prisoner; 34 Americans killed, 75 wounded) as the mushrooming morale they generated.

Bartsch describes the struggle in a scholarly, yet easy-to-read narrative form, allowing us to feel as if we were also engaged in combat, fighting side by side with the Marines as they hold against nighttime and morning frontal suicide attack after attack.

Although “Victory Fever on Guadalcanal” is the first book-length account of Tenaru, Bartsch offers more than suspense, danger, and stirring and inspiring accounts of those few days. His writing is

a tribute and a reminder of what the island “hell hole” was all about. After a few days there, previously raw, innocent Marines, “so eager to kill Japs,” and so respectful in referring to the island as “Canal” and “guadel,” now called their temporary home, “this f----- island.” Guadalcanal, lest we forget, guaranteed saltiness.

The colossal chaos during those first weeks coupled with teeming, drenching rain one day, extreme humid heat and suffocating dust the next, accurate sniper fire everywhere, malaria-bearing mosquitoes, to say nothing of gastroenteritis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, high fever, no bedding or privies, to mention just a few irritations, made the Marines even saltier. Editors of various international news services had to rewrite the dispatches from their war correspondents, notably Richard Tregaskis (read “Guadalcanal Diary”), to read “that Unmentionable Island,” their explanation being, “Anyone who has ever known a United States Marine will recognize the prohibited expletive instantly.”

Don DeNevi

Author’s bio: Don DeNevi is a frequent book reviewer for Leatherneck magazine.



Leatherneck Line

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Officials Break Ground for Camp Pendleton Fisher House

Camp Pendleton officials, along with representatives from the Fisher House Foundation and United Health Foundation, celebrated the upcoming construction of a new Fisher House near Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 18, 2014.

Fisher Houses provide free, temporary housing to the families of military personnel and veterans needing medical care at an adjacent medical facility. Families will be able to stay at the Camp Pendleton Fisher House at no cost while their relative is receiving treatment at the hospital, which is within walking distance.

The Fisher House offers support to families by allowing them to be there for their Marines and sailors, said Brigadier General Joaquin F. Malavet, the deputy commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force and host of the event. “We’re coming together today to build this

home, which directly impacts the future health of our Marines and will, in turn, have a part in strengthening the Marine Corps in a meaningful way.”

“This hospital provides world-class health care, but sometimes the doctors, nurses and medicine aren’t enough,” said Derek Donovan, vice president of programs and community relations for the Fisher House Foundation. “Sometimes patients need their family with them in order to heal, and that’s what Fisher House provides.”

The home will be an eight-suite facility with 8,000-plus square feet of floor space and is expected to serve more than 280 families each year. It is anticipated that it will provide nearly 3,000 nights of lodging annually and save those families more than \$250,000 a year in lodging expenses.

The Camp Pendleton Fisher House will be the first of its kind to be funded through the sole support of one organization—

the United Health Foundation—which provided a \$2.65 million grant for the project.

“The fact that the Fisher House Foundation is providing us with a means to support our Marines and their families in this way is a great example of their continuity of care,” said BGen Malavet. “Projects like this one are really important because it gets to the heart of what America stands for—the coalescence of support around American families.”

According to David Coker, president of the Fisher House Foundation, the grant for this project is for more than the construction. It also will provide an endowment that will allow the family members to have childcare while visiting their hospitalized relatives.

“The Fisher House Foundation has built 64 Fisher Houses near military treatment facilities around the world, and we’re pleased to be partnering with



From left, Col Derek Donovan, USMC (Ret), vice president of programs and community relations for the Fisher House Foundation; CAPT Mark Kobelja, Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif.; BGen Joaquin F. Malavet, Deputy CG, I MEF; and Dr. John Mateczun, President, United Healthcare Military and Veterans, break ground on a new \$2.65 million Fisher House at MCB Camp Pendleton, Nov. 18, 2014.

them to provide the funds for what they do to serve the men and women who serve our country,” said Coker.

“One of my favorite stories involves a Fisher House manager who was asked by a reporter, ‘How many families do you have staying here?’” said Donovan. “The manager said, without skipping a beat, ‘Just one; we’re all family here.’”

Sgt Christopher Duncan, USMC
PAO, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

HQMC Offers Force Protection Guidance In Response to Recent Threats, Attacks

In light of recent attacks against military and civilian targets in Canada and elsewhere, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps released MARADMIN 557/14 on Oct. 29, 2014, encouraging Marines, civilian co-workers and their families to exercise vigilance in their daily lives.

The MARADMIN urges them to exercise enhanced situational awareness in unprotected venues and ensure that personal emergency action plans are in place and rehearsed. Additionally, they are encouraged to think about their postings on social media sites and ensure that they are exercising operational and personal security. According to the MARADMIN, even the most minor suspicious activity should be reported via the USMC’s suspicious activity reporting portal, www.usmceagleeyes.org, or the Eagle Eyes phone number specific to their local command.

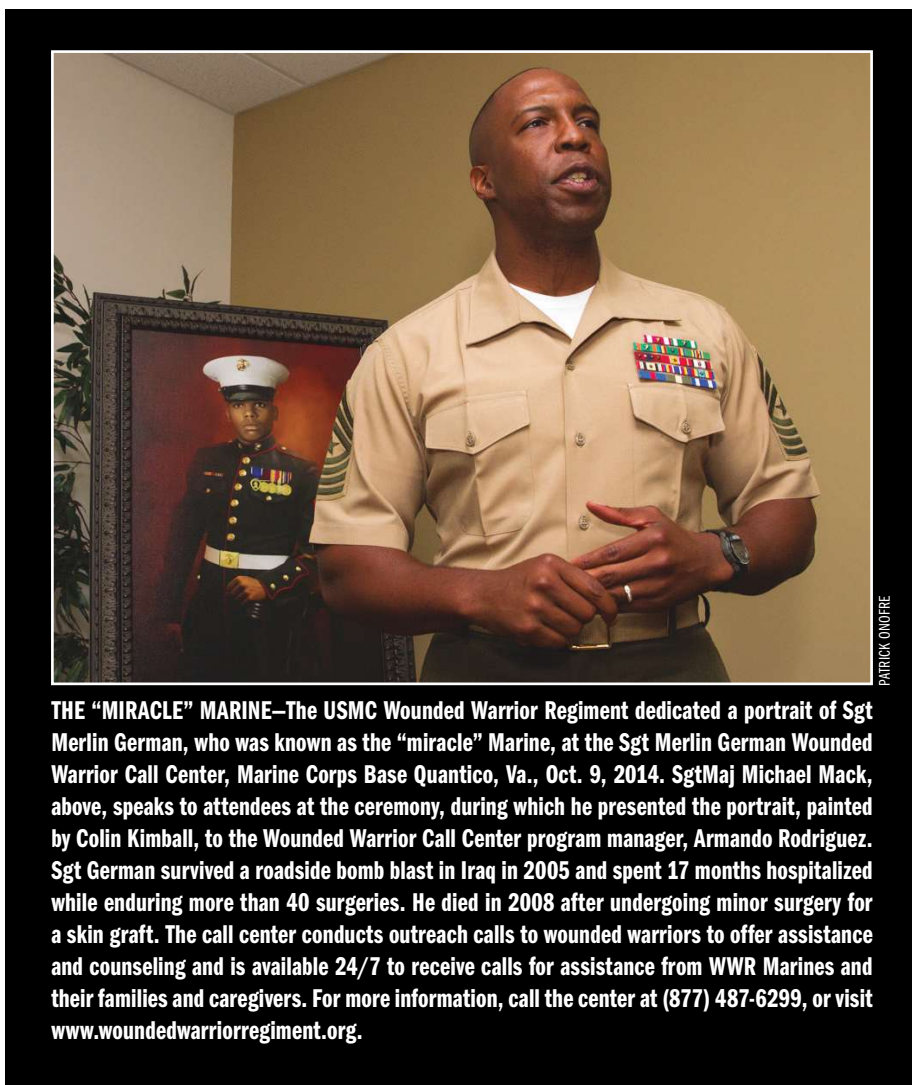
A portion of the message is specifically directed toward law enforcement and security personnel as it also addresses the importance of surveillance detection and the rapid sharing of information across the Department of the Navy.

MARADMIN 557/14 states: “While we will never be able to prevent every lone wolf or homegrown violent extremist from attacking soft targets, by exercising continued vigilance and being proactive versus reactive, and consistently reporting suspicious activity, we can reduce the possibility of an attack by stopping it in the planning phase instead of attempting to stop it in execution. Every Marine is our first line defense. If you see something, say something.”

Compiled from MARADMIN 557/14

Marine Corps COOL Links To Credentialing Opportunities

Marine Corps Credentialing Opportunity On-Line (COOL) is the newest awareness and information resource capability that assists both active-duty and Reserve Marines in learning about certifications and licenses related to their military occupational specialties. Launched on Oct. 1, 2014, COOL helps translate Marine Corps



THE “MIRACLE” MARINE—The USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment dedicated a portrait of Sgt Merlin German, who was known as the “miracle” Marine, at the Sgt Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Oct. 9, 2014. SgtMaj Michael Mack, above, speaks to attendees at the ceremony, during which he presented the portrait, painted by Colin Kimball, to the Wounded Warrior Call Center program manager, Armando Rodriguez. Sgt German survived a roadside bomb blast in Iraq in 2005 and spent 17 months hospitalized while enduring more than 40 surgeries. He died in 2008 after undergoing minor surgery for a skin graft. The call center conducts outreach calls to wounded warriors to offer assistance and counseling and is available 24/7 to receive calls for assistance from WWR Marines and their families and caregivers. For more information, call the center at (877) 487-6299, or visit www.woundedwarriorregiment.org.

knowledge and training into civilian credentialing opportunities. It provides military personnel with links to education resources, transition readiness support, and general career and professional development opportunities.

One such opportunity is the United Service Military Apprenticeship Program, which provides a tool to document skills acquired while on active duty in the Marine Corps, which can lead to civilian recognitions and “journeyman” status in a trade or skill. The program positively impacts readiness by providing an opportunity to improve personal and professional performance while encouraging continuing educational advancement for Marines whose abilities and interests are in trade skills.

The Marine Corps COOL program was developed in coordination with the Department of the Navy credentialing efforts and helps explain what Marines need to do in order to meet civilian certifications and license requirements.

“Credentials are a particularly important consideration for Marines transition-

ing from active service because they are recognized and valued indicators that our Marines have the knowledge and skills civilian employers need,” said Colonel Lee Ackiss, Personal and Professional Development deputy branch head for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Marine and Family Programs Division.

Most certifications and licenses have fees associated with them that are charged by the credentialing board or agency. The most common are application fees, exam fees and renewal fees. Eligible Marines can use the Montgomery GI Bill to pay for testing fees for approved civilian occupational licensing and certification exams. Marines with questions about this credentialing information resource capability should consult their installation education service officer or visit <https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/>.

Heather J. Hagan
PAO, MF Division

Manpower and Reserve Affairs, HQMC



In Memoriam

Edited by Nancy S. Lichtman

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

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, Oct. 1-31, 2014

There are no casualties to report for this month.

Fritz J. Aldrine, 75, in Dallas. He served in the Marine Corps and later started his own insurance company.

MGySgt John K. "Jack" Baird, 80, of Des Moines, Iowa. He forged his parents' signatures and enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 15. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. During his 22 years in the Corps, he was a combat correspondent with the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*. A number of his photographs were featured in *Life* magazine. In 2008, he wrote a book titled "Combat Combo Marine," chronicling combat operations in the Vietnam War.

Cpl Arthur G. Baker, 90, of Bear River, Minn. He was a combat veteran of World War II, serving in the South Pacific, including the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Iwo Jima. He helped defend the original flag raisers on Mount Suribachi and was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received in action on Iwo Jima. After the war, he became a carpenter and worked in the construction industry.

Daniel "Dan" Carrillo Jr., 66, in Madison, Ala. He served with the 12th Marines, 3dMarDiv during the Vietnam War. He later served 12 years in the United States Army.

Sgt Melvin "Mel" Charlton, 75, of Tyler, Texas. He served as a Marine in Vietnam, where he received his helicopter combat aircrew wings. He later worked as a field engineer with Appleton Electric Company for 45 years.

Col Charles Dowling, 48, in Norfolk, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1984 and was commissioned in 1991 from the University of Rochester, N.Y. He was assigned to Marine Forces Command, Norfolk as the G-6.

Charles A. Francis, 84, in Bryan, Ohio. After high school he joined the

Marine Corps, where he served with the 1st Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Co. During the Korean War he was involved with amphibious landings at Pohang, Iwon and Inchon. He also saw combat near Hungnam.

Charles R. Goldsberry, 75, of Galatia, Ill. He served more than 20 years in the Marine Corps, including two tours in Vietnam.

Donald K. "Don" Haleblian, 82, of Fredericksburg, Va. He was drafted after high school and served in the 1st Tank Bn during the Korean War. Later, he was stationed in Paris and worked for NATO.

Thomas E. Halloran, 83, in Livingston, N.J. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954. He was an engineer who opened his own firm, specializing in equipment for picture frame fabrication.

Thomas F. Hansen of East Islip, N.Y. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II.

Maj Jack Haskins, 86, of Spotsylvania County, Va. He served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. After his retirement from the Corps, he worked as an industrial arts teacher in Stafford County, Va.

Constance Ann (Kaneshiro) Hazen, 86, of Fredericksburg, Va. She enlisted in the Corps in 1949. After she completed the Women's Officer Training Course, she was commissioned a second lieutenant. She trained new female recruits at MCRD Parris Island, and it was there that she met and married Capt Charles E. Hazen.

CWO-5 David L. Holmes, 71, of Henderson, Nev. He joined the Marine Corps in 1962 and transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve in 1965, retiring in 2003. He attended college, earning a Ph.D. in recreation, and taught at various places, specializing in high-risk sports. An experienced skydiver, he spent his summers

coaching two parachute teams: the U.S. Army's Golden Knights and the U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue. He also worked as a skydiver stuntman on the movie "Navy SEALs."

Cpl Randall D. Lohr Sr., 85, of Indianapolis. He served with the 1stMarDiv and was wounded twice in Korea.

Herman L. Long, 84, of Virginia Beach, Va. He served in the Marine Corps for 20 years. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during the Korean War.

Roger A. Loschert, 68, of San Jose, Calif. He served in the Marine Corps and later worked for IBM.

Maj Andrew J. Melton Jr., 94, of Tequesta, Fla. He was a Marine officer during WW II, serving in the Pacific and Atlantic campaigns. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He had a distinguished career on Wall Street and was the former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Dean Witter Reynolds.

MSgt Lonnie E. Melton Jr., 82, of Millington, Tenn. He was a Vietnam veteran who served for 21 years. After retirement, he worked as a diesel mechanic and owned his own tractor-trailer repair company.

Jack T. Milhorn, 83, of Bluff City, Tenn. He served as a Marine from 1951 to 1953 and later retired from the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division of the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

LT William B. Moore, USNR, 71, in Santa Fe, N.M. As a medical officer in Vietnam in 1969, he treated wounded Marines. After his military service, he completed a residency in orthopedics and was in private practice for 30 years. He was on the Board of the International Medical Corps, where he volunteered throughout the world treating the sick and injured.

Col Jonathan P. Naylor, 90, of Merion Station, Pa. He served during WW II and fought on Guam in 1944 where he was wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart. Later, he worked as an architect,

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LCpl Sean P. Neal, 19, of Riverside, Calif., with 2d Bn, 7th Marines, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response, Oct. 23, 2014, in Baghdad, Iraq, in a noncombat related incident while supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

John E. "Jack" Oliver Sr., 86, in Tyler, Texas. He served as a Marine from 1951 to 1953. He later went to work for ENJAY chemical laboratories.

Arthur D. Roe, 93, of Brookfield, Ill. He served with 3d Plt, Co E, 2d Bn, 27th Marines, 5thMarDiv on Iwo Jima, where he was wounded. He later worked in the railroad industry.

Dr. Robert F. Schilling, 95, of Madison, Wis. He was a Navy doctor who served in the South Pacific during WW II with 3dMarDiv. After the war, he was a professor and researcher at the University of Wisconsin medical school. He was a hematology specialist and developed the "Schilling Test," which is still used today to diagnose pernicious anemia.

Gary O. Sergeant, 74, of Pass Christian, Miss. He was a Vietnam War veteran and a Purple Heart recipient. He later retired after 20 years with Lear Siegler.

SFC Peter J. Sheran, 72, of Elmira,

N.Y. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served at Guantanamo Bay during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He then served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart. He later was stationed in Hawaii, where he was an extra in the movie "Tora! Tora! Tora!" After taking a short break from military life, he joined the U.S. Army, retiring in 1986.

Cpl Jordan L. Spears, 21, of Memphis, Ind., with VMM-163, MAG-16, 3d MAW, I MEF, MCAS Miramar, Calif. He was lost at sea Oct. 1, 2014, while conducting flight operations in the North Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

LCpl Steven Szymanski, 24, of Midland, Mich., with 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 21, 2014, in a vehicular mishap during Rolling Thunder, an artillery exercise, at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Homer Tomlinson, 88, of Long Island, N.Y. He was drafted in 1944 and served as a Marine in the South Pacific and China during WW II. He was an accomplished trumpet player and was in the 3dMarDiv band. After the war, he studied music at the Juilliard School.

SgtMaj Trinidad P. "Tony" Trujillo, 91, of Los Alamitos, Calif. He served 30 years and was a veteran of three wars. During World War II, he saw action at

Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. In the Korean War, he fought with the 1stMarDiv at the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Wonsan, Chosin Reservoir, Hagaru-ri and Hamhung. He also served two tours in Vietnam, the first with the 1st and 3dMarDivs in 1965 and the second with 1stMAW in 1969. His decorations include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and the Purple Heart for action at the Chosin Reservoir.

After retiring in 1973 as the sergeant major of Marine Barracks Long Beach, Calif., he worked for Southern California Edison for 20 years.

James H. "Jim" Webb Jr. of Dallas. He served as a Marine officer during WW II and the Korean War. He was an Eagle Scout.

Harvey F. Wright Jr., 71, of Dallas. He served in the Marine Corps from 1961 to 1965. Later he worked as a real estate broker and was an appraiser with the Texas General Land Office.

William E. York, 91, of Dallas. He served in Co K, 3d Bn, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv during WW II. His decorations include the Silver Star for actions on Peleliu and two Purple Hearts. He later worked for 40 years at Southwestern Bell.



SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

dry and ready-to-wear utilities.

His letter caused me to recall the introduction of anodized brass. As soon as they were available, I purchased a complete set of anodized brass from *The MARINE Shop*. It came in a leather-bound presentation box—I still have it. The November Birthday Ball (forget the year) was quickly approaching. A gunnery sergeant I knew said nothing could compare with his daily use of a polishing cloth on an issued standard set of brass buttons. I knew he worked diligently at this task.

On the evening of the Ball, the gunny hunted me down. He took one look at my anodized brass, didn't say a word, turned around and walked away. It wasn't my intent to compete with him, but the sweet taste of victory can come in small ways!

MGySgt Robert Duerden, USMC (Ret)
Green Valley, Ariz.

I know if I were with a rifle fire team from the Old Corps and made the statement below, I would stand a real chance of getting shot! However, having served way back in the early 1960s, and putting in my time on the grinder as a drill instructor

from Parris Island, and taking a chance on receiving a lot of hate mail from now on, here goes—why do we need two different-colored uniform emblems? Why not only one? Drop the black ones, and all Marines and the Marine Corps as well as the taxpayer can save money.

The anodized brass ones look very nice on all the covers, the dress blues, and the all-season alphas, and they match the tie clasp, the belt buckle, the belt tip and waist plate. They stand out real well in the sunlight, and all persons can see them a lot better, at a greater distance, than the black ones. It is also a lot easier to keep one emblem, than two, when it comes to uniform inspection. May be a big morale builder.

Sgt Quinton Hamilton, USMC (Ret)
Lakeland, Fla.

Nation's Veterans Deserve Proper Funeral Honors

Our government has promised all of the honorably discharged veterans from our many wars a military funeral upon request but not necessarily a full honors military funeral. A full honors funeral for enlisted personnel at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia is as follows:

There are on average 20 services per day. Each one is conducted by the de-

ceased's branch of the service. Each service consists of a nine-man casket team (pallbearers) who also has the honor of traditional folding and presentation of the flag. Seven men fire the three rifle volley salute, and a bugler plays "Taps." More extensive services are offered to officers according to rank. For example, cannons are fired instead of rifles for flag officers. Active-duty personnel attired in their dress uniforms perform all services.

These stirring rites, as performed at Arlington, are the epitome of military pageantry and precision! No one does it better! These traditions make one proud to say, "I am an American!" There may be some among you who can recall past presidential funeral processions with bands and the troops and those horse-drawn artillery caissons. Due to economic restrictions, which are understandable, inactive veterans from all across the country have donned their dress uniforms and performed funeral services. These services have consisted of two men to fold and present the flag, a bugler to play "Taps," and a three-man rifle team.

In August of last year, I attended the funeral of a World War II Navy enlisted man at Eagle Point National Cemetery in Oregon. I was shocked to discover that this solemn ceremony was reduced to a



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sham of what had been promised. A recording device that was difficult to hear from only 10 feet away played "Taps." Two Navy men in dress white chiefs' uniforms performed the flag folding and presentation to the widow in proper crisp military manner. But zero riflemen.

Since then I have attempted to discover an answer to my burning question. Why has this certain and formal ceremony been reduced to such a degree as to have become ludicrous when compared to what was promised? My question: What has happened to our once proud nation who despite the shortage of monies and mismanagement of the Veterans Affairs has again decided to break a promise and reduce the pageantry presented for our deceased veterans and their families by not showing up to honor them as we say goodbye for the final time?

Not showing up to honor a promise is a prime example of used and abused.

I am a veteran of WW II.

PFC Francis Welsh, USMC
Eagle Point, Ore.

• According to the Marine Corps Casualty Assistance Program Order, MCO 3040.4, "Marine Corps policy and tradition has been to provide the maximum number of personnel when rendering Mil-

itary Funeral Honors (MFH) at any burial or inurnment. Marine Corps activities will provide MFH within the constraints of available resources; however, MFH support consisting of a minimum of two persons must be the exception rather than the norm."

The order further states that, at a minimum, funeral support will include the folding of a U.S. flag, the presentation of the flag to the veteran's family, and the playing of "Taps." If a bugler is not available, the playing of a recorded version of "Taps" is authorized.

I coordinated Marine Corps funeral support throughout the southeastern United States in the mid-1990s, and the Marines of local detachments and Inspector-Instructor units did an outstanding job (usually on weekends or holidays in addition to their regular duties) ensuring their fellow Marines were buried properly. They could not, however, provide the maximum support in every case. Resource restraints, geographic locations and deployment schedules often resulted in limited support. Veterans organizations and JROTC units have done an outstanding job of providing the additional support when active-duty units cannot.—Leatherneck Ed.



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It Was Compressed Air, Not Oxygen

I really enjoyed the November 2014 issue of *Leatherneck*, especially "A Veterans Day Tribute."

In "Every Clime and Place" under the Camp Pendleton section on page 15, I think there was a grave error in the photo caption, "Firefighters wearing flame-resistant suits with oxygen tanks prepare to tackle a controlled burn at Camp Pendleton." If I'm not mistaken, firefighters use compressed air, not oxygen, as oxygen would be like a bomb on their backs.

Thanks for another great edition.

Capt Lauren Ayers, USMC (Ret)
Delano, Tenn.

• *Great catch, Captain Ayers, you're right. Firefighters carry self-contained tanks with a mixture of air that is similar to the air we breathe vice pure oxygen.—Leatherneck Ed.*

Question About Marksmanship Badges

I'm a little confused in your quote from Marine Corps Uniform Regulations (October 2014 "Sound Off") stating in part that "marksmanship badges will not be worn with the blue dress 'A' uniform." In this same issue, on page 48, there are pictures of Marines wearing ribbons and marksmanship badges. And, yes, I do

know the difference between ribbons, medals and badges.

Also, if you can accept one more comment on the "Drummed Out" issue [October 2014 "Sound Off"], Gunnery Sergeant John Boring seems to suggest that the practice was stopped around 1951 because of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. That is not so. Like your other writer, First Sergeant James Langford, I was in the Sixth Marine Regiment (L/3/6) and witnessed a "Drumming Out" in 1958 or 1959. Memories get cloudy as time goes by, but I certainly know when I was with the Sixth Marines and what I witnessed.

Milt Hazzard
Baltimore

• *The "Sound Off" editor was correct in noting that marksmanship badges are not to be worn with blue dress "A" uniforms. Medals are never worn with marksmanship badges. Ribbons may be worn with shooting badges or can be worn alone. Commanders have the discretion of choosing between medals, ribbons alone, or ribbons and badges. The reference is paragraph 5501 of Marine Corps Order P1020.34G. I hope this answers your question.—Leatherneck Ed.*

Reading the October issue of *Leather-*

neck, this pertains to the letter in "Sound Off" by Gunnery Sergeant John R. Boring, USMC (Ret) about the office hours he received at the sergeant major's suggestion. He received five days bread and water. During my time in the Corps, 1947-51, bread and water was called "piss and punk" or "cake and wine."

Sgt Daniel A. Villarial
Bedford, Va.

Reunions

• **USMC Hawk Assn. (50th Anniversary)**, Aug. 19-23, Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage, Calif. Contact Stan Buliszyn, (352) 509-2043, sb353@usmchawkassociation.com.

• **Veterans of Guam and Iwo Jima (70th Anniversary)**, March 16-23, Iwo Jima. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.

• **BLT 3/9 (50-Year Reunion)**, Sept. 8-12, San Diego. Contact Charles Saltaformaggio, (504) 812-7369, csaltaformaggio@yahoo.com.

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.

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• **3d Plt, H/2/3 (RVN, 1967-68)**, Oct. 8-11, Stafford, Va. Contact Chuck Gaede, (512) 750-9265, csgaede@gmail.com.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, June 5-7, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Ralph Sirianni, (716) 903-9640, trippr19@aol.com.

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

• **American Embassy Saigon, RVN (all military and civilian personnel stationed pre-April 30, 1975)**, May 17-21, Louisville, Ky. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

• **Marine Barracks, Great Lakes, Ill.**, is planning a potential reunion. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethe marine@gmail.com.

• **Ontos Crewmen (all eras)**, May 5-9, San Diego. Contact Louis Najfus, (678) 546-1444, najfus@hotmail.com.

• **1st, 2d and 3d Amtracs (all eras)**, June 24-26, Biloxi, Miss. Contact Vic Ciullo, (941) 496-8119, castingalpha23@verizon.net.



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• **TBS, Co A, 1-68 (June-November 1967)**, April 28-May 4, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact LtCol Dick Kurth, USMC (Ret), tbsldash68@gmail.com.

• **TBS 1-70**, June 25-28, Quantico, Va. Contact Bob Del Grosso, (908) 334-3496, robdelgr@aol.com.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners,

USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

• **Plts 17 and 19, Parris Island, 1955 (and others who went through PI during 1955 are welcome too)**, June 4-6, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Al Pasquale, (484) 802-2516, pasquale@bigplanet.com.

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx,

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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 255, Parris Island, 1957**, is planning a reunion. Contact Richard Proot, 457 Gaillardia Way, Acworth, GA 30102,

(770) 592-5968, richardproot@aol.com; or Jack Marion, 6 Setters Rd., Sussex, NJ 07461, (908) 675-1675, jackmarion@embarqmail.com.

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

• **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**,

is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.

• **Plt 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **East Coast All-Seabees, Feb. 27-March 1, Hampton, Va.** Contact Tom Marone, 7305 Cannonade Ct., Midlothian, VA 23112, seabeamac40@verizon.net, www.ecasr.com.

• **HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 4, Pensacola, Fla. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, jruffini5@gmail.com.

• **VMF/VMA-214, April 24-25, MCAS Yuma, Ariz.** Contact 1stLt Shane Long, (928) 269-2730, shane.h.long@usmc.mil.

Ships and Others

• **USS Bremerton (CA-130/SSN-698)**, Sept. 13-18, Louisville, Ky. Contact Jerry Adams, 106 Ashley Dr., Winchester, KY 40391, (859) 771-5651, jeradams106@gmail.com.

• **U.S. Naval School, Underwater Swimmers (Marine divers trained from recon and force recon)**, May 14-17, Panama City, Fla. Contact Aaron Farrior, (850) 240-7417, bare4@cox.net.



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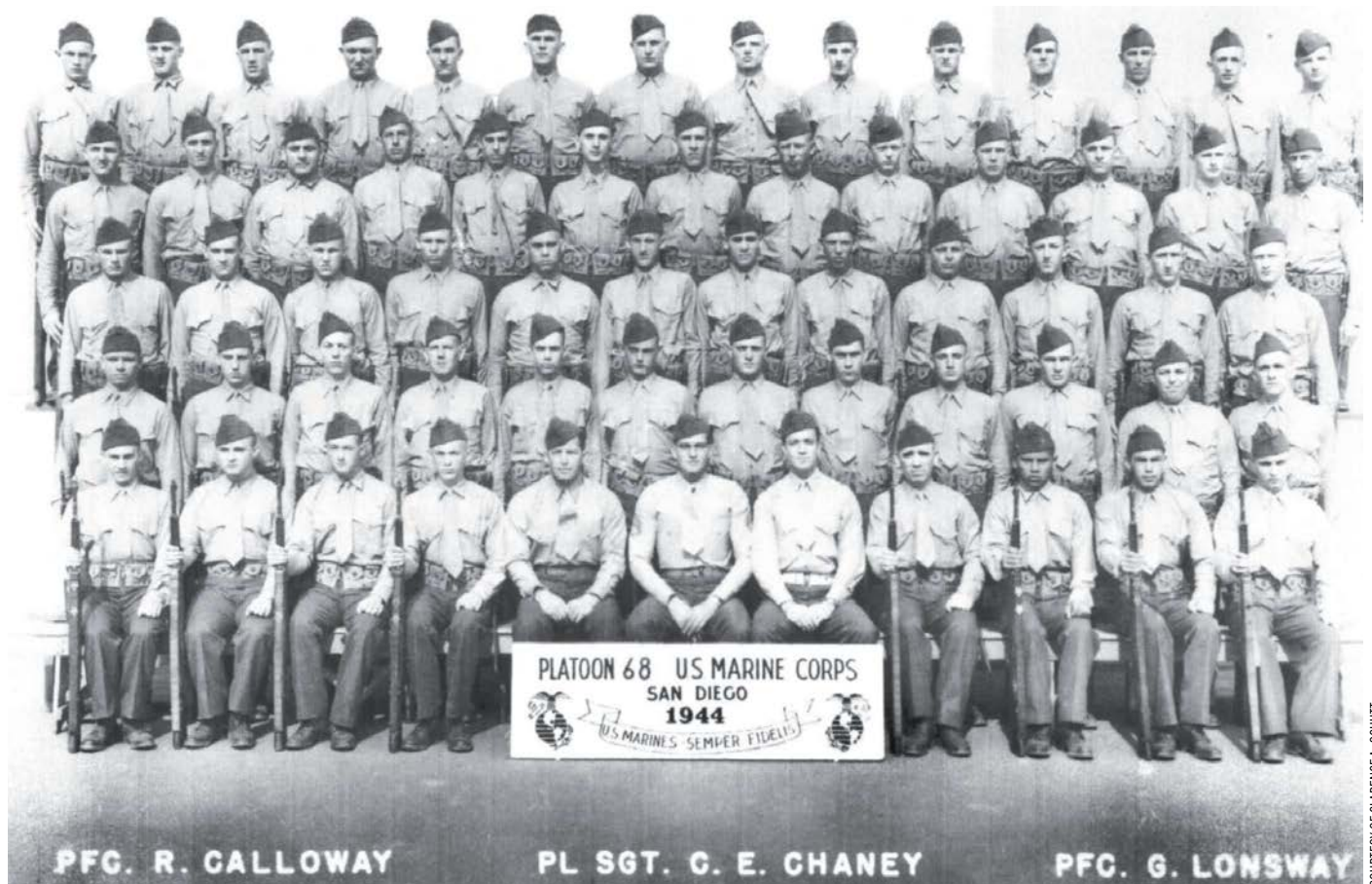
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Clarence Schutt would like to hear from the Marines of Plt 68, San Diego, 1944, who served with Howard “Jiggs” Wolf, middle row, fourth from left.

- Marine veteran Clarence A. Schutt, 4167 Gann Store Rd., Hixson, TN 37343, (423) 876-9082, to hear from members of **Plt 68, San Diego, 1944 (above)**, who would like to get in touch with platoon member **Howard “Jiggs” WOLF**.

- Steve Waldner, President, 3dMarDiv Assn., Houston/Galveston, Texas, chapter, (281) 992-4419, wes.waldner@gmail.com, to hear from anyone interested in contributing to a monument for Medal of Honor recipient **LCpl Richard A. ANDERSON, Co E, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv, RVN, 1969**.

- Marine veteran Eddie Bates, 58260 Joshua Ln., Yucca Valley, CA 92284, (760) 401-6411, three4limal@verizon.net, to hear from a Marine who went by the nickname “**Bambi**” and was in **Plt 114, San Diego, 1968**.

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- Alan Chappell, (203) 843-7173, a_dchappell@yahoo.com, wants a **recruit graduation book and platoon photo, Plt 1013, Parris Island, 1972**.



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Step 2. Write another letter in which you state that you would like to have the enclosed letter forwarded to the Marine whom you are trying to locate. Include as much information about the person as possible, i.e., full name, last known rank, year of retirement or separation, and units in which they may have served.

Step 3. Package the letter and your return addressed, stamped letter in another envelope. Address the envelope to:

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Please do not send correspondence via Certified or Registered Mail because it will delay processing.

The Separations and Retirement Branch will use Defense Finance and Accounting Service records and other military data bases to attempt to locate an address to forward your letter.

Once the letter is forwarded, it will be up to the individual you are looking for to decide if he or she wishes to respond. There is no guarantee that the Separations and Retirement Branch will be able to honor your request or that the address available will be correct. It is important that you provide adequate information about the individual you are looking for to ensure that in cases of Marines with common names, the letter is forwarded to the right person.

For more information, contact MMSR-6 at (703) 784-9310/1/2 or (800) 336-4649, Option#0.

Saved Round

Edited by Sara W. Bock



SGT CLINTON FIRSTBROOK, USMC

FAITH IN FALLUJAH—U.S. Navy chaplain LT Kenny Lee prays with a leatherneck from “Charlie” Company, 1st Battalion, Third Marine Regiment during the Second Battle of Fallujah, Operation Al Fajr, Nov. 29, 2004. Al Fajr was an offensive operation to eradicate enemy forces within the city of Fallujah. The Marines of 1/3 battled insurgents in support of continuing security and stabilization operations in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. Chaplains like LT Lee stayed with their Marines throughout the heavy combat, offering them prayer and spiritual guidance.



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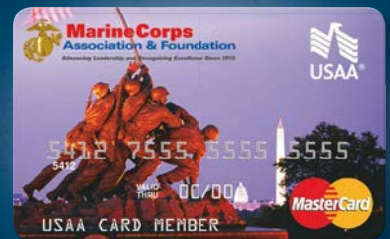
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