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COVER: MGySgt Kevin Buckles, drum major of The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, signals a column left during a March 14 pass in review at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. Photo by Sgt Austin Hazard. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

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

I believe that the Battle of Iwo Jima is one of the greatest accomplishments in military history, and I am beyond fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to visit the island. Although I was just a private first class at the time of my visit, I would like to share with you my experience there and why it changed me.

I found out about the trip at the last minute and—only by sheer luck—I managed to get the last seat on the flight. It was an all-Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, trip and about 30 MPs were allowed to go. We all understood that what we were about to experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

About 20 minutes before we landed, we all began peering out the windows, looking for the notorious pork-chop-shaped "Island of Sulfur." One of the gunnery sergeants saw it first. "There it is," he said, and we all shifted to the right side of the plane—and fell completely silent. As soon as I saw Mount Suribachi, with its crater still steaming, I became overwhelmed with emotion. Unexpectedly, tears began to fill my eyes. Somehow, I managed to keep my bearing.

The plane remained silent until we landed. From the landing strip, we began our hump to the top of the mountain. I believe the distance is about eight kilometers. We humped through the tall grass and stopped periodically to take pictures. Throughout the hike, the smell of sulfur was overpowering, and the horror that occurred all around was all I could think about. I was the last to reach the top. Just as I reached the top, the sun set, and it began to drizzle. I looked to my left and saw the Marine Corps memorial and burst into tears.

A few of the other Marines were tearful as well. Behind the monument were two small wooden stakes that marked where the flag raisings had actually taken place. Next to the stakes was a small monument in memory of Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John H. Bradley, one of the flag

raisers. The wooden stakes were covered with hundreds of dog tags, unit patches and chevrons. I found a small spot on top of an Army patch and placed a PFC chevron. I was still unable to stop crying.

That night, we had meals, ready to eat for dinner and talked about the battle. I shared the stories of the flag raisers (as I had just read "Flags of Our Fathers"). A few people had brought some Jack Daniel's [whiskey] and did shots in honor of those who served on Iwo. I didn't participate because, knowing that alcohol had killed PFC Ira H. Hayes [another flag raiser], I didn't think it was appropriate.

It had stopped raining, so I went to my sleeping bag, pulled out my iPod and lay down. I put on my headphones and listened to Johnny Cash's "The Ballad of Ira Hayes" and Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven" in honor of the fallen. As the music was playing, I saw several shooting stars and couldn't help but think that the souls of the fallen were saying hello from heaven. I finally went to sleep with the sound of the wind blowing through the dog tags.

I woke shortly before dawn to raindrops on my face. Everyone else was still asleep, so I decided to take some pictures as the sun was rising. It was the most breathtaking sunrise I had ever witnessed.

After everyone awoke, we did a proper flag raising at the flagstaff and then lowered and folded the colors to present to our Provost Marshal. I walked to the edge of the steaming crater and then over to where I could look down to the beach. I was stunned by the sheer magnitude of Suribachi. Not only at the fact that the Marines had to climb straight up the side of the mountain, but also at the absolute advantage the Japanese would have had.

Exposed to direct fire from hidden positions dug into the high ground, the Marines didn't stand a chance. Yet they took the island. They went through pure hell for more than a month so that countless generations of Americans and others could live in freedom.

We packed up and headed back down the mountain and went to the beach. As I looked out at the ocean, I felt a great

pain in my chest as I thought of how many good men's lives came to an end in the black, volcanic sand on which I was standing. The wind picked up, and as I looked at the surf relentlessly beating the shoreline, I imagined how the ocean foam must have turned red with American blood. A friend standing there with me took my picture.

As we made our way back to the flight line, we stopped to silently take in the monuments that had been placed by Iwo Jima veterans and by the Japanese. We saw the wreckage of planes that had been shot down. A few Marines decided to explore some of the tunnels, but after reading how many Marine lives had ended in those tunnels, I chose not to follow them. I was simply too emotionally drained.

I left Iwo Jima with a newfound sense of pride for our country and pride for the Corps. My short stay there also changed me in another way. I stopped complaining about petty things and even became angry when others griped about trivial inconveniences or setbacks.

Iwo Jima was and always will be my most humbling experience. It made me grateful for every day that I have in the Corps. Sadly, as the last of our Iwo Jima veterans leave us, there are fewer and fewer people who are knowledgeable and appreciative of what they endured there. I will never feel that I was worthy enough to have set foot on Iwo Jima, but I can at least rest knowing that I got a chance to pay my respects.

Sgt Bridgette M. Ross
MCRD San Diego

Ripley's Nephew Says "Thanks"

I just wanted to send a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed your April article "Captain John Ripley at the Bridge."

Colonel Ripley was my uncle, and while I've heard and read so many versions of that story, I think yours was among the best. You managed to get across not just how heroic John's actions were, but also a sense of his humor. Even though you were obviously writing for a Marine Corps audience, you told the story in a compelling

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President/CEO, Marine Corps Association & Foundation
MajGen Edward G. Usher III, USMC (Ret)

Publisher/Executive Editor
Col Walter G. Ford, USMC (Ret)

Deputy Editor
Nancy Lee White Hoffman

Associate Editor
MGySgt Renaldo R. Keene, USMC (Ret)

Staff Writer
Clare A. Guerrero

Copy Editor
Nancy S. Lichtman

Editorial/Production Coordinator
Patricia Everett

Art Director
Jason Monroe

Web Content Editor
Margot Cornelius

Asst. Web Content Editor
Michael Langston Jr.

Advertising Director
G. Scott Dinkel
(718) 715-1361

Advertising Representative
Richard Guillopo
(718) 576-1286

EDITORIAL OFFICES

Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134

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

Toll-Free: (800) 336-0291 • **DSN:** 278-3171

Fax: (703) 640-0823

E-mail: leatherneck@mca-marines.org

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

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enough fashion that it held my kids' interest, as well.

I know how hard it is to write for a specific audience, but make it interesting for a more-general audience, as well. You did a fine job of both.

Also, my mother, Susie—John's sister—wanted to pass along how much she enjoyed the story. She bought a case of magazines, had them shipped to her home and sent them to friends and relatives. So I'd say she was impressed, as well.

Bill Goodykoontz

Chief Film Critic, Gannett

Film Critic, *The Arizona Republic*

Phoenix

• *Thank you, sir, and thanks to all of John Ripley's family.—Sound Off Ed.*

The Tiger Who Almost Ate SSgt Goolden

I was going through some old pictures and ran across this "tiger" picture. On Dec. 22, 1968, I was in Vietnam and in the 9th Marines command post late at night. Then-Colonel Robert Barrow [later 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps] was monitoring the radio nets as he usually did before turning in. A call came in from a reconnaissance team for an emergency extract, so we all started paying attention.

The team said that one of its Marines had been attacked by a tiger—that got more attention—and to send a -46 [CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter] to bring out Staff Sergeant Richard Goolden (the man attacked) and the tiger!

Apparently, the tiger was an old female who crept up on the team, grabbed Goolden by the back of the neck and started pulling him out of his foxhole. The rest of the team, hearing him screaming, killed

the tiger.

The whole team came out and took Goolden to a medical facility. However, Major General Raymond G. Davis and Col Barrow wanted to see the tiger, so they brought it back to the CP for a photo op! Here it is.

I know Goolden; he went on a tour back to Vietnam with Military Historical Tours many years ago and is still living in Massena, N.Y. I just talked to him, and he remembers the attack very well. And he has the scars on the back of his neck to prove it!

I told him I was going to send the photo to *Leatherneck*, and he said, "I still get it and read it cover to cover!" You might like to try and identify the "team" in the pic. Obviously, Goolden is not in it; he was in the hospital. (Yes, the spelling is Goolden.)

Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret)

CEO, MHT

Woodbridge, Va.

• *We addressed this incident several years ago in "Sound Off" letters and in a story. One letter was from SSgt Goolden himself, who explained he spent nine months in the hospital, was slightly paralyzed on his left side and was discharged shortly after the incident.*

He also wanted to say to the team that saved him: "Thank you for a job well done." And thanks to Gen Ray Davis, Third Marine Division commander, who was so supportive following the incident.

The recon team photo identifies the Marines with the tiger as all lance corporals: team leader Shailine (kneeling, left), Howiel (standing, left), Kilroy (not shown in this photo), Blankinship (right center with glasses) and Regan (kneeling, right). If anyone can offer a more complete list of names, please let us know.—Sound Off Ed.

Clarifying Awards of the Purple Heart For Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

I wanted to bring to your attention a somewhat incomplete reference to MARADMIN 245/11 that you made in response to a "Sound Off" letter in the December 2011 issue that has been misinterpreted by at least one retired Marine who believes he suffered qualifying injuries in Vietnam.

The response failed to clarify that the revised criteria for the Purple Heart for mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) did not apply to conflicts prior to the Global War on Terror. I've pasted the applicable paragraph from MARADMIN 245/11 below my signature. I've just received a request from a retired Marine staff non-commissioned officer asking for a Purple



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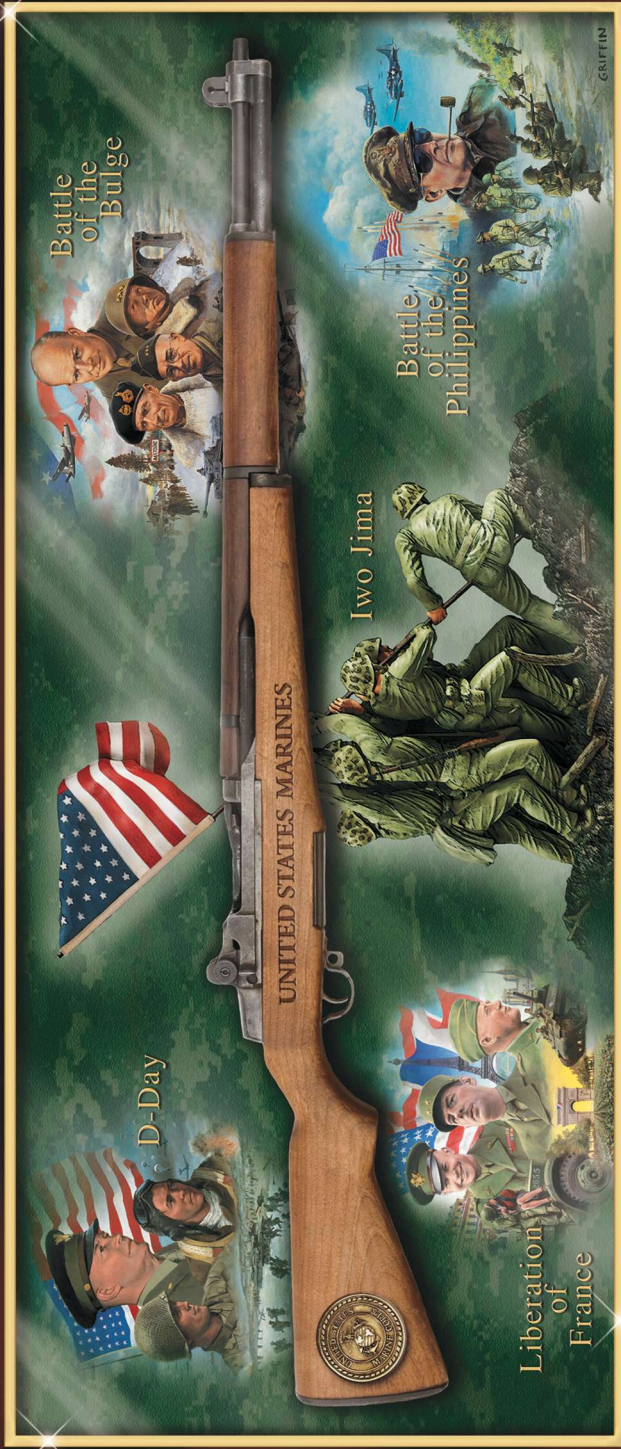
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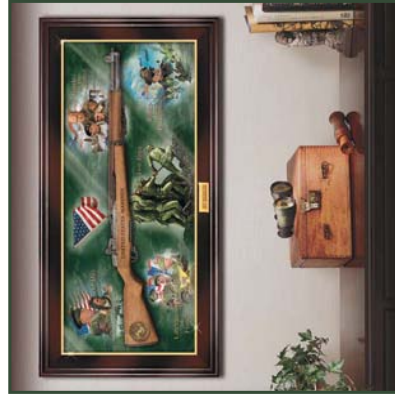
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Heart for mTBI suffered in Vietnam, and he provided this “Sound Off” editor comment as the basis for his request.

Unfortunately, the level of medical documentation from previous conflicts did not allow the Commandant of the Marine Corps to extend the retroactive criteria beyond GWOT. Any requests for the Purple Heart for conflicts prior to GWOT must be evaluated based on the Purple Heart criteria in effect at the time of the injury.

Lee W. Freund
Head, Military Awards Branch (MMMA)
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
Quantico, Va.

“Para 3.C. From MARADMIN 245/11: Subj/Purple Heart Medal-Revised Criteria for Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Updated Coordinating Instructions:

“C. For the reasons cited in the pre-

ceding paragraph, the PH criteria for mTBI/concussions has been revised. For concussive events caused by enemy action that occur on or after the start of GWOT (11 Sep 2001), award of the PH is authorized when (1) the Marine suffers a LOC [loss of consciousness] of any duration as a result of a diagnosed mTBI/concussion, or (2) when the persistent signs, symptoms, or findings of functional impairment from a diagnosed mTBI/concussion result in a medical officer disposition of “not fit for full duty” for a period greater than 48 hours. These expanded criteria apply regardless of the grade assigned to the diagnosed mTBI/concussion. Marines whose medical records contain documentation that they were previously diagnosed by a medical officer with a grade II mTBI/concussion (without LOC) that met these revised criteria since the start of GWOT who were not approved

for a PH may submit a reclama to CMC (MMMA) as outlined in paragraph 8.b. of this MARADMIN.”

Kudos and Two Beefs On May's Aviation Issue

Our May issue on Marine aviation is the best ever!

Welcome aboard, Roxanne Kaufman. You did a great job on our aviation history book and the feature story in the magazine.

It might be of interest to know that the photo on page 26 [May issue] was taken the very instant when the late Brigadier General Robert E. Galer, USMC had to ditch his F3F-2 for engine failure. Then-Lieutenant Galer never even got his shoes wet. He went on to become one of our top aces (with 13 confirmed kills) in World War II and to win the Medal of Honor.

As for 2-MF-1, she glided to the sandy bottom of the Pacific and remained there for many years. By coincidence, a Navy helicopter later went down at the same location. Divers rediscovered the aircraft, and they also found and retrieved the helo crew.

She sat on the bottom for years until one day when she was dragged some distance by the net of a fishing trawler. She was finally brought up and turned over to my old friend Ed Leiser and his restoration crew at the San Diego Air & Space Museum.

It is now on display at the National Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola, Fla.

MSgt W. F. “Fritz” Gemeinhardt, USMC (Ret)
Central Point, Ore.

• *For you younger leathernecks, MSgt Gemeinhardt is one of the duty experts, a historian and a pioneer of Marine aviation.—Sound Off Ed.*

I just received the May aviation issue. It made me remember a World War II story.

The 5th Defense Battalion (Reinforced) with infantry, Seabee Bn, and special Navy personnel occupied Funafuti and Ellice islands. Intelligence indicated that the Japanese were planning an attack on U.S. Naval Base Samoa. This attack would come from the Gilbert and Marshall islands. Ellice is exactly halfway between Tarawa and Samoa. Occupation and fortification by the Marines was a plug to stop the Japanese advance. The Seabees quickly built an airfield on the coral atoll, and we were additionally reinforced with a Marine F4F fighter squadron and dive bombers.

Not long after the F4Fs arrived, radar picked up a bogie coming from the Tarawa area. Captain Joe Boland took off to investigate and located a single Japanese

“Betty” bomber, evidently on a reconnaissance mission.

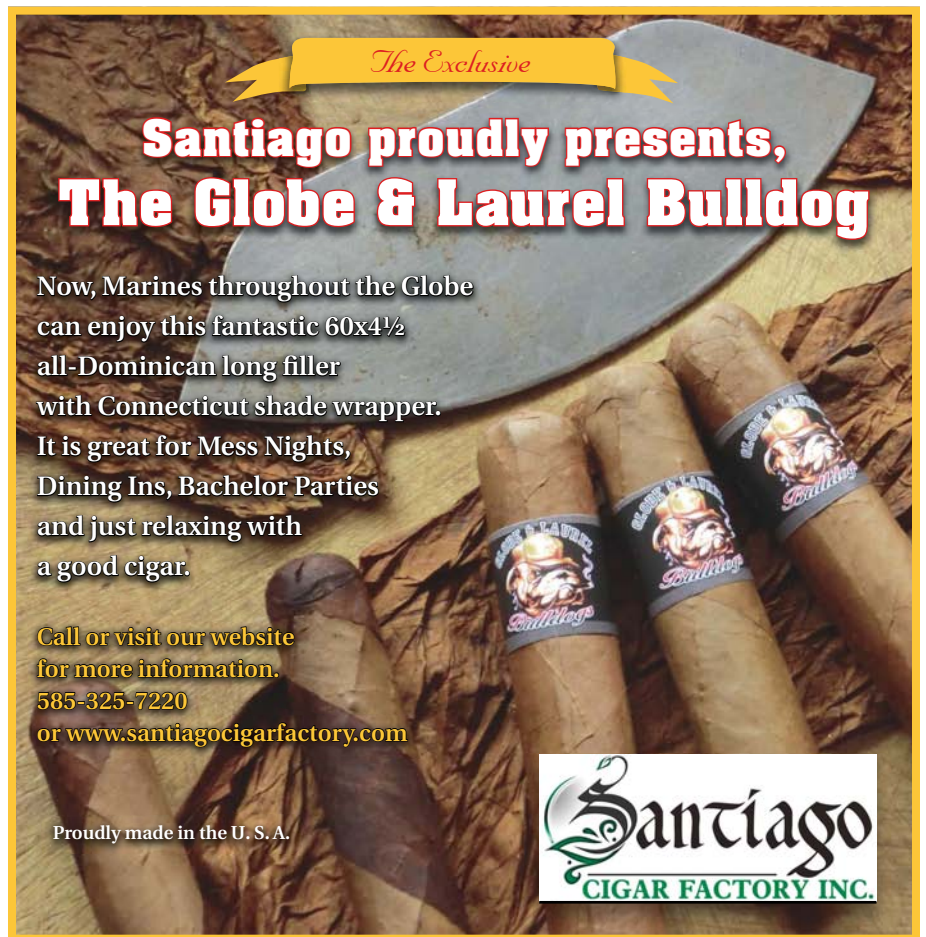
Joe shot down the bomber, came home and did a barrel roll over the airfield. He landed and was holding court, telling all the other pilots how he shot down the plane, using his hands as the planes. In the midst of his story, his crew chief came over and said he had something to show him. He showed Joe a line of bullet holes in his right wing. Joe stared at them and loudly swore, “That S.O.B. was shooting at me!”

We broke up laughing at the look on Joe’s face.

Jim Flowers
USMC, 1940-45
Southport, N.C.

I have read and enjoyed all of the articles written by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret). They are very interesting and informative. In the May issue, the “Post of the Corps: MCAS Beaufort” story was especially interesting because I was an aviation ordnanceman my entire career in the Marine Corps, first as an “Ordie” enlisted Marine and then an “OrdO” when selected for warrant officer.

I believe the photo on page 23, which identified a Marine Fighter Attack Squad-



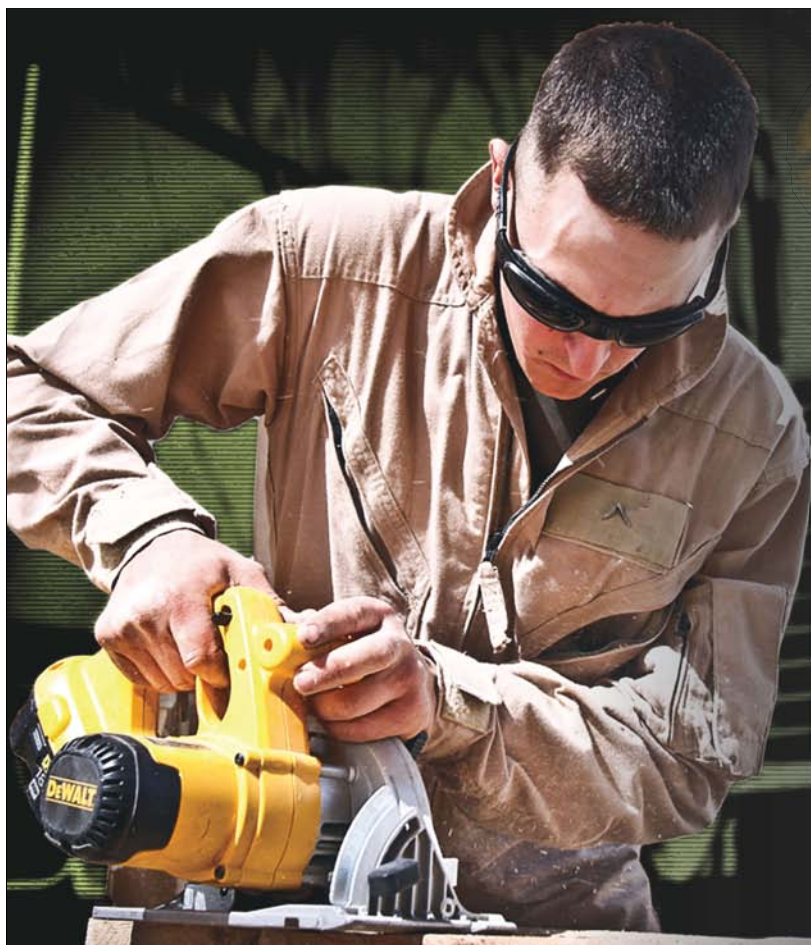

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ron (All Weather) 224 plane captain, is incorrect. In reality, it is an “ordie” communicating with the F/A-18 Hornet pilot. The red safety helmet is the color assigned to ordnance, and the number 230 on the helmet indicates the work center number for ordnance.

Thanks for a great issue of *Leatherneck* celebrating the 100th anniversary of Marine aviation.

CWO-4 Joe D. Smith, USMCR (Ret)
Aliquippa, Pa.

I find it hard to believe that your May issue, celebrating 100 years of Marine Corps aviation, failed to mention the part Marine Observation Squadron 6 and Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron 161 played in the Korean War. I think that it was the start of helicopter operations in the Marine Corps during an actual conflict.

Former SSgt Arthur W. Templeton
Toms River, N.J.

• You know, 100 years is a lot to cram into an 88-page magazine. Of course some

units and individuals were left out. We wish we could have mentioned every unit and every Marine who ever occupied a hangar. But, if you’ve read *Leatherneck* with any regularity, you know those units and the Wings’ more famous individuals have been or will be featured at one time or another.—Sound Off Ed.

While We Are on the Subject Of the May Aviation Issue ...

We ran this great center-fold pullout in the May issue. Some of you non-zoomies, and no doubt a few zoomies, were unsure of the model and name of each aircraft.

Test yourself before looking at the names below the aircraft. Score yourself: 1-5 correct, you are a hard-core sniper with no time to look at aircraft or study aircraft while putting rounds downrange. 6-11 correct, you are a salty infantryman who occasionally rides in aircraft and prays for close air, any air support, quickly on target. 11-15 correct, you are a radioman, combat correspondent or fallen angel who only thinks you know aircraft. 15-19 correct, you are a wing-wearing-

certified-wing-wiping pilot, navigator, or aircrewman who waves to those poor blighters on the ground.

And for all those Marines who flew or served as crewmen in aircraft not shown on the poster, we just ran out of space before we ran out of aircraft that made significant contributions to our Corps.—Sound Off Ed.

When Marines Carl and Frank Met

A few weeks ago I was camping at St. Augustine, Fla. I noticed a motor home and SUV that had Florida state Marine Corps tags. I went over and introduced myself. The retired Marine, whom I shook hands with, said his name was “Mundy, Carl Mundy.” Then he introduced me to his lovely wife. I did not realize that I was talking to the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps [1991 to 1995].

Our conversation lasted 30 to 40 minutes. I went over some operations about World War II, Korea and Vietnam. We discussed one of the company commanders whom my unit supported with overhead fire when we went into the attack during



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- Marine Corps Operating Concepts 2010

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Operations Ripper and Killer in Korea. His name was Captain Robert Barrow, who later became our 27th Commandant. Here I was talking to a former Commandant about a former Commandant.

Gen Mundy did not mention that he was a Commandant of our great Corps. I sincerely apologize to Gen and Mrs. Mundy, who must have been stunned that I didn't recognize him as a former CMC. I really did enjoy our conversation and wish I could do it again.

MSgt Frank R. Petrowski Jr., USMC (Ret)
Jacksonville, N.C.

• *Top, I doubt you have anything to apologize for. Gen Mundy is a fellow Marine and a gentleman. I venture to say he enjoyed the conversation as much or more than you. Thanks for a good story.— Sound Off Ed.*

Old or New, Still Marines

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting my daughter, son-in-law, grandson and brand-new granddaughter in Norfolk, Va.

While there, we had a chance to visit USS *Wisconsin* (BB-64). In the museum, we sought directions from one of the workers. He said: "All you grumpy jar-heads want something." Then came a big "Semper Fi, Marine!" He said he liked

my eagle, globe and anchor on my cover. Right away I knew I was talking to another Marine. He was a Korean War veteran, and a long conversation ensued.

When we were boarding the ship, a young lady said to me, "Oorah, Marine!" I replied, "Oorah, ma'am." Then I told her I should have said, "Semper Fi," because I'm an old Marine. She looked me right in the eye and said, "You might be old, but you are still a Marine."

My son-in-law, who is still on active duty with the U.S. Navy, looked at me and shook his head and said, "I don't believe you guys."

Thomas E. Dalecki
Clinton Township, Mich.

The Kid Stood His Ground And Earned His USMC Pocket Knife

When I saw the picture of the vintage USMC pocket knife in the May issue ["Sound Off"], it brought to mind the memory of a very brave 8-year-old boy. Several years ago a wonderful young couple with three children bought the neighboring house. After they moved in, someone jumped out of a car, ran up to the house, smashed a window and left.

The father called me from work and asked that I go next door and see if his

[continued on page 58]

ORIGINAL ISSUE



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LCDR ANESHEA S. YEE

By Robert L. Rubrecht

On March 30, recruit training company honor graduates PFC Jacqueline L. Kinman, "Oscar" Company, 4th RTB, and PFC Brian T. Rogan, "Alpha" Co, Plt 1018, 1st RTB, MCRD Parris Island, S.C., become the first recruits to be awarded the MCA&F-sponsored "Chesty" Puller Recruit Training Honor Graduate Award.

In April I attended the Marine Corps Association & Foundation C4 Awards Dinner, held in coordination with Brigadier General Kevin J. Nally, the Marine Corps' director for Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4) in Arlington, Va.

I had the opportunity to talk with Gunnery Sergeant Ryan E. Evans, recipient of the PFC Herbert A. Littleton Staff Non-commissioned Officer Trophy for Operational Communications Excellence. We chatted about hometowns, favorite books and his career.

What stood out most was the mentoring GySgt Evans said he had received throughout his career and the effect it had on him as a Marine and as a person. With piercing brown eyes and a jaw that could serve as a cornerstone if one were to build a Marine, Evans explained with conviction the importance of passing that legacy on to his Marines.

Although our conversation was brief, it left me contemplating the various ways we impact others' lives. At the MCA&F, the influence our members have on today's Marines is apparent to those of us who work here but may not be seen or felt by the membership. With that in mind, I thought you might be interested in knowing how you, as a member, donor, sponsor or reader of the *Marine Corps Gazette* and/or *Leatherneck* magazines, or purchaser of a retail item, have left an imprint on today's Marines by advancing leadership and recognizing excellence.

In addition to the C4 Awards Dinner at which GySgt Evans was honored, with your support your professional association provided awards and hosted several events and dinners during the first half of the year, including the Marine West Dinner, the Ground Logistics Awards Dinner and the Wounded Warrior Reception. These events, and others like them, serve as opportunities to recognize Marines for their outstanding performance of duty.

More than 4,000 awards, including swords, Ka-Bars, books, plaques, trophies and certificates, have been bestowed in 2012. One of our new namesake awards, The "Chesty" Puller Honor Graduate Award (sculpted by Marine veteran Mark Byrd), made its debut in late March and was awarded to MCRD Parris Island, S.C., honor graduates Private First Class Jacqueline L. Kinman and PFC Brian T. Rogan.



RON LUNN

Montford Point Marines 1stSgt George Kidd, USMC (Ret) and SSgt Charles Manuel, USMC (Ret), with the MCA&F president and CEO, MajGen Ed Usher, USMC (Ret), attend the April 19 C4 Awards Dinner.



RON LUNN

Another way in which you are reaching today's Marines is through the Commanders' Unit Library program. The purpose of this program is to ensure that Marines have the opportunity for continued learning, to foster professional development and critical thinking.

The structure of the program is uncomplicated—the unit point of contact or the commanding officer notifies MCA&F of the need and the size of the unit. A dollar figure is determined, and then the unit selects books based on the CO's objectives. Through the early part of 2012, you have



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helped provide more than 100 libraries.

The Commanders' Unit Library and Marine Excellence Awards programs are two methods in which you are advancing leadership and recognizing excellence in today's Marines.

Editor's note: Rob Rubrecht, with more than 25 years in the publishing and marketing fields, is a U.S. Air Force veteran and the director of Marketing and Membership for the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.



Above left: LtCol Mike Corrado, the executive officer of the Corps' Wounded Warrior Regiment, prepares to make a toast at a Wounded Warrior reception held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Above right: MCA&F staffers Tina Pearce, Lawralynn Diehl and Thomas Cox prepare a library for shipment.



David Douglas Duncan—

By Janet Renshaw

On 17 Feb. 1943, a 27-year-old photo-journalist wrote home to his parents in Kansas City, Mo., where he was born: “Dear Mom and Dad, Childhood and my youth are finished. Only He knows how much of my race has been run. Today, I have been accepted by the United States Marine Corps. With pride and love, Dave.”

That was David Douglas Duncan, today one of the world’s influential photographers, renowned for photographs of some of the powerful figures of the 20th century, including Mahatma Gandhi, Nikita Khrushchev,

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, Pablo Picasso and the Marines in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. War has been important, but it’s only a part of his long life. He travelled the earth on assignments for *Life* magazine, photo-reporting the world’s beauty and its troubled spots.

He also holds the rank of lieutenant colonel, retired, in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, where he was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, Air Medal with two gold stars and Purple Heart.

Today, 96, looking 20 years younger,

his memory clear, Duncan’s race is still running. While his life is now calmer, he is only a bit less active than in his early years when his sister Jean gave him an 18th-birthday present of a 39-cent Bakelite Univex camera, and he found himself facing the killer John Dillinger fleeing from a fire in the Hotel Congress in Tucson, Ariz. He discovered the man’s identity in the newspaper the next day. While his photograph was never developed, his hobby soon became a career.

Duncan (DDD) now lives in the South of France, and it was during an exhibition of his photographs of Picasso in Aix-en-



PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION, HARRY RANSON HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Left: David Douglas Duncan recorded the Marines dug in at Con Thien, in the northern part of South Vietnam, near the Demilitarized Zone, for *Life* magazine in 1967.

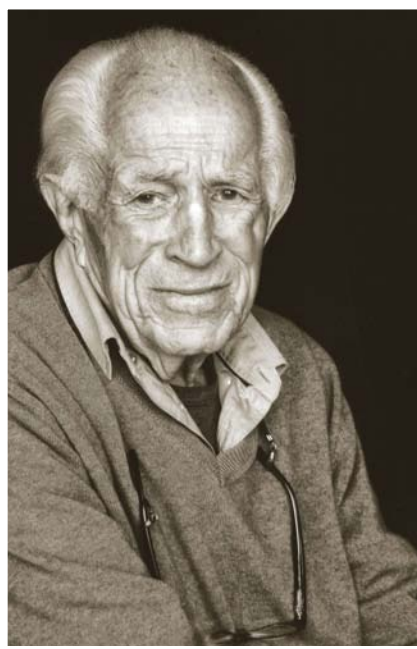
Below: Duncan photographed 2LT Minoru Wada, a Japanese Army transport officer who was captured on Mindanao, as Wada guided Marine fighters and bombers to the long-sought headquarters of the 100th Japanese Army Division still operating in the area on 10 Aug. 1945.



-Now!

Providence as adjunct to a *Picasso Cézanne* show in 2009 that I first met him. Duncan had a 17-year friendship with Picasso, sharing his life for months at a time, photographing “a legend”—DDD’s phrase—right up to the artist’s death in 1973. In eight books, his photographs shared a personal perspective on the Spanish master’s art and private life.

In the United States, Duncan also is known for his work as a combat photographer with the U.S. Marines. His 1951 photo-narrative “This Is War!” revealed the actuality of Marines in combat. The book was honored by Edward Steichen



Today, in great shape at 96, David Douglas Duncan remains very active. Photographer Franck Follet captured this recent image of DDD.

as “the greatest photographic document ever produced showing men in war.”

Leatherneck readers may recall correspondence in “Sound Off,” July 2011, regarding the identity of a Marine photographed by Duncan in “This Is War!” on the cover of “Give Me Tomorrow,” a recent book by Patrick K. O’Donnell about the stand by “George” Company at the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, 1950. The identities of the men in Duncan’s Marine shots are open to conjecture. He cannot recall any Marine being opposed to him shooting his picture, but in the middle of battle, there was no time to take names of all the men he photographed.

Each shot was a symbol of the suffering, physical conditions and bravery of those who fought and those who died. Asked if there were occasions on the battlefield when he felt it inappropriate to take photographs, Duncan’s answer was, “No!” He has insisted, however, that at no time did he knowingly photograph the faces of the dead, whether American, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese.

One photograph of Captain Francis I.



This Marine Corsair (above) launching its 5-inch rockets in June 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa was photographed by 1stLt David Douglas Duncan from a Plexiglas-nosed belly tank slung under the wing of an Army Air Corps P-38 Lightning. Marine TSgt C. V. Corkran photographed Duncan (below) cleaning the inside of the Plexiglas prior to launching.



“Ike” Fenton, Commanding Officer, Company B, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, desperately short of ammunition and men, has become an icon among other Marine Korean War images. Reproduced in “This Is War!” it’s a Duncan portrait which still resonates. A copy hangs on the wall of retired Marine Major Richard T. “Rick” Spooner’s Globe & Laurel restaurant in Stafford, Va.

In his book “Yankee Nomad,” Duncan recalls an exchange with Ike Fenton in a foxhole during an attack, 20 Sept. 1950. “OK,” growled Fenton, short of medical supplies, “get your ass down, Dave. And, for Christ’s sake don’t get wounded!” Duncan replied, “How about killed?”

Ike almost smiled said Duncan. “We were old friends.” Fenton went on to become Colonel Ike Fenton with three Legions of Merit, three Bronze Star medals and commendations for gallantry from the governments of the Republic of Vietnam and South Korea. He retired in 1970, became an executive with National Cash Register and a director of the Georgia State Golf Association. He died in 1998, aged 76.

However, the Fenton name will be linked forever to the U.S. Marines. Ike Fenton was the son of Brigadier General Francis I. Fenton Sr. and the older brother of Private Michael Fenton, who was killed in combat on Okinawa in 1945. Mike Fenton enlisted, turning down an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Ike’s son, George, followed his grandfather and father into the Marines and saw active service as an infantry officer. Now a retired colonel, he is vice president of Government and Military Programs, TASER International. His son, Marine Capt George P. Fenton Jr., currently is stationed in Norfolk, Va. The Fentons are, indeed, a remarkable Marine family.

Duncan’s assignments for *Life* magazine during the 1950s took him to Hong Kong, Burma, Malaya, India and Iran where he traced the decline of the British and French colonial empires. He tracked Communist agents through Western Europe and took the first pictures of the Iron Curtain on the German frontier. He photographed inside Col Gamel Abdel Nasser’s coup headquarters during the overthrow of King Farouk of Egypt in 1952. In 1953, he aimed cameras at the French colonial war in Indochina.

Stories took him to Turkey, Greece, Palestine, Morocco and even to Afghanistan at peace in 1955. He never seemed to ignore the beauty around him. In the years between the Korean and Vietnam wars, he found time to concentrate on the arts and produced “The Private World of Pablo Picasso,” “Great Treasures of the Kremlin” and “Picasso’s Picassos”—the

first revelation of the painter's collection of his own work.

In 1967 and 1968, Duncan was again in Indochina, now Vietnam, as a combat photographer. Published immediately after he returned from the 26th Marine Regiment in Khe Sanh, "I Protest!" was written "on behalf of the men who fell at Khe Sanh, the ones for whom help came too late." More than 150,000 copies were sold at a dollar each. All royalties were given to the widows and children of those Marines who had fallen. For his Vietnam War subjects for *Life* and for "I Protest!," Duncan received the 1968 American Photographer of the Year Award from the American Society of Magazine Photographers.

Asked for memories of contemporary war correspondents covering Korea and Vietnam, Duncan immediately recalled his profound admiration for Marguerite Higgins (1920-1966), one of the first female war correspondents and one-time chief of the *New York Herald Tribune's* Tokyo and Moscow bureaus. She was a

young woman working in what then was a man's world and shared the 1951 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting with five male war correspondents. On 2 Sept. 2010, Higgins was awarded posthumously the Heunginjang medal, one of South Korea's highest honors.

I asked Duncan what was *his* proudest moment during his combat years. His reply was typical: "Simply being a Marine."

Duncan's busy schedule meant much of my talk with him was on the telephone for this article, but on one occasion I visited him at his home. The weather was sunny, the sky deep blue, the panoramic view stunning across to the Bay of Antibes and to the mountains of the Alpes-Maritimes, dusted with snow. Duncan met me at the door, joined by his wife, Sheila. DDD was taller than I'd imagined, though slightly stooped after a hip operation.

There were no war photos, no photos or memorabilia of Picasso on the walls—just drawings by his artist wife and two abstract expressionist paintings by his

friend Paul Jenkins. I had no difficulty believing this was the home of a great adventurer, Picasso's friend and combat photographer. The ordered domestic surroundings seemed to be in tune with the life of this quietly spoken man.

The word "lucky" is one Duncan uses frequently when talking about himself: lucky to be a Marine, lucky to have been spared in conflict (a close call when, in a foxhole with Ike Fenton in Korea, a bullet bounced off his chest), lucky to have been sent by *Life* to travel the world and lucky to have been introduced to Pablo Picasso by Robert Capa, the combat photographer and photojournalist who died in 1954 after stepping on a land mine in Indochina.

I counted myself lucky to find DDD at home or at the end of a telephone line in between his visits to exhibitions of his Picasso photographs—recently in southern Spain and northern France.

His life as a photo nomad started in the late 1930s in Mexico, turtle hunting in the Cayman Islands and big-game fishing

Remembering "Ike"

David Douglas Duncan met a great many Marines, but became a fast friend with one in particular—Ike Fenton. He really came to know then-Captain Francis I. Fenton during the Korean War. DDD still holds one of Fenton's letters close.

In 1997, the year before Ike Fenton died at age 76, Duncan received an unexpected, but appreciated letter dated 29 Aug. from Fenton. In the letter, Fenton wrote: "A lot of water has gone under the bridge since our Korea and Viet Nam days. However, with the news and TV media I have been able, from time to time, to keep up with your ventures and your fame.

"We have been living in Peachtree City, Ga., since 1973, when I came to the area to run the National Cash Register's Worldwide Parts Center. In 1976, they wanted me to relocate, but my wife and I decided that we had moved every 2 to 3 years since our marriage and it was time for us to establish ourselves in one place. I tried a little consultant work and then went to work as a rules golf official for the United States Golf Association and the Professional Golf Association here in Georgia. I am happy as can be and outside in the sunshine almost daily.

"I have had some health problems (sic) in the past few years—a quadruple heart by-pass 3 years ago; prostate cancer operation last year and, a stroke this past July. I thank the Good



PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION, HARRY RANSOM HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

David Douglas Duncan captured this iconic image of Capt Francis I. "Ike" Fenton, commanding Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Marines in August 1950, after his first sergeant was killed and his unit was out of ammunition and facing a North Korean counterattack in the Pusan Perimeter.

Lord that the stroke was not real severe as I have been able to recover nicely. I now have full use of my limbs, only a small numbness in my lower right cheek and my speech is almost back to par. I am back to playing golf, so what more can a fellow ask for!

"My number two boy, George Patrick, has carried on the Fenton tradition in the Marine Corps. He is a full colonel stationed in Headquarters Marine Corps and is one hell of a good Marine! ... My other four children are scattered throughout the country and are doing well. We have 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild."

Duncan kept that letter and his reply. In his response, dated 12 Oct. 1997, DDD wrote, "So here we are! You've taken a coupla hits but, as Chesty Puller shouted at the nearby Japanese sniper who'd just put one through his shoulder at Guadalcanal, 'You bastard ... you can't kill me—I gotta war to fight.'

"Am right at the end of a 384-page (13th dummy) photo-autobiography ['Photo Nomad']. You'll be there.

"And don't worry (I'm still on point ahead of you!)
"Dave"

Just like two old war-torn buddies in need of catching up, but never forgotten.

—Janet Renshaw

Right: David Douglas Duncan took numerous photographs while aboard USS *Missouri* (BB-63) during the signing of the Japanese surrender documents. This one is of the Marine honor guard standing by as the official Japanese party arrives for the formal acceptance of the peace terms on 2 Sept. 1945.

Below: Duncan recorded a great many photographs of Fijian infantrymen fighting the Japanese in the jungles of Bougainville in 1944.



off Peru and Chile. Photos later were published in *National Geographic*. A year was spent in Mexico and Central America for the U.S. Office of Inter-American Affairs, and while on this assignment, he developed friendships with several Latin American Presidents, including Anastasio “Tacho” Somoza, President of Nicaragua.

On this assignment in 1943, faced with being drafted into the U.S. Army, Duncan told me, “My pal, ‘Tacho’ Somoza, telegraphed *his* pal, Franklin D. Roosevelt, requesting a deferment for me. One wasted telegram. FDR was with Churchill in Casablanca, planning the attack strategy against Hitler for World War II.” DDD volunteered as a Marine.

Duncan was sent to officer training at Quantico, Va., and became a photo specialist, second lieutenant, a brand-new Marine. Later he was the photo officer at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro near Laguna, Calif. Shipped to Hawaii in the aircraft carrier USS *Essex* (CV-9) as the photo officer for Marine Aircraft Group 23, he then was transferred to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, to photograph South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command (SCAT) operations throughout the Pacific.

He fought alongside Fijian guerrillas behind enemy lines on Bougainville and filmed fighter/bomber attacks over Okinawa. Shooting from a Plexiglas nose pod slung beneath the wing of a P-38 Lightning single-seat fighter, he photographed napalm and rocket attacks silencing enemy

guns hidden in caves on the Shuri Castle Line in the Battle of Okinawa.

Forgetting to adapt air-scoop ventilators for the pod, Duncan lost 11 pounds in the one-hour 45-minute flight he recalls in “Yankee Nomad.” The self-named gypsy Marine was able to take shots so close to the attacking Corsairs, he could look over the fighter pilot’s gunsights. U.S. Air Force pilot Major Ed Taylor, in a P-38 photo-reconnaissance squadron, flew straight through the exploding targets at 400 mph. The shutter of Duncan’s Carl Zeiss Ikon camera didn’t stop.

On 2 Sept. 1945, Duncan photographed the Japanese surrender ceremonies aboard the battleship USS *Missouri* (BB-63) in Tokyo Bay. Again, luck was with him. With no press card, he heard that the officer in charge of accreditation was the same former executive officer whom he’d photographed in the aircraft carrier *Essex*, Fitzhugh Lee, who immediately recognized Duncan and said, “Don’t worry! You’re aboard. Surely no man here deserves it more for just being a Marine.”

I was intrigued by the transition Duncan had made to the world of art after life as an adventurer reporting from remote lands and as a combat photographer. Different worlds. But in 1957, Picasso entered his life with a friendship that lasted until the artist’s death in 1973. Duncan’s shots of “the legend” are now themselves legendary—Picasso in his bath at villa *La Californie* near Cannes; in his studio; with



his children; with his wife Jacqueline; even with a double rainbow above him at the Château de Vauvenargues near Aix-en-Provence.

Duncan’s book “Picasso’s Picassos,” published in 1961, emphasizes the friendship and respect between the two men. In recognizing their collaboration (Picasso allowed him privileged access to hundreds of works in his private collection), Duncan wrote to Picasso enclosing a check for half the payment he had received from the publishers, Harper & Row. The check was later returned by Picasso with a drawing of a faun applauding Duncan for his book.



In “Picasso’s Picassos,” Duncan’s talents and the genius of “Le Maestro” combine.

Asked how he worked alongside such a man, Duncan replies, “Without talking. My French? My Spanish? OK. Art historian? I was just a guy with a camera that he liked. He called me Ishmael. I never knew why. He exposed me to a world unknown to me. I had my own interests in archaeology and medieval art. But Picasso was my Picasso professor!”

I had the pleasure of watching Duncan at a preview of his exhibition of Picasso photographs in Aix-en-Provence. He was constantly on the move, explaining tech-

nicalities of shooting pictures over 50 years. At 96, with more than two-dozen books to his credit and shows of his work always in demand, DDD, Marine, is still shooting for the fun of it. His race still runs.

Author’s note: David Douglas Duncan’s lifelong archive has been donated to the Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Editor’s note: Janet Renshaw is a British freelance writer and art historian living in France. She spent seven years in the United States and is delighted to have

had the opportunity to meet the Marines at Quantico and to write about one in particular.

Leatherneck appreciates Susan Strange for the difficult but successful search of the National Archives for WW II photos by DDD.



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more of Lt David Douglas Duncan’s photos from WW II at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/daviddouglasduncan

THE WAR ON TERROR

Edited by R. R. Keene

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

■ Sabzikar

Marines, ANSF Root Out Insurgents During Operation Reservoir Dogs

After the sun came up, all hell broke loose.

Leathernecks from Company A, 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, along with Afghan National Security Forces, descended on the small town of Sabzikar, Afghanistan, to root out and eliminate insurgents operating in the area during Operation Reservoir Dogs, May 1.

In the early morning darkness, MV-22 Ospreys dropped the Marines and ANSF soldiers into an open field. From there, they silently moved to their first objective to establish a base of operations before conducting a sweep of the town.

At first light, insurgents unleashed an onslaught with heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and sniper fire on the Marines' positions. This continued throughout the day.

"After we set up an overwatch position, the first two patrol bases came under fire, so we maneuvered to the compounds the insurgents were firing from and engaged

them," said First Lieutenant Devin Claridy, 3d Platoon commander, A/1/8. "It was very close up, very kinetic fighting. Rounds were snapping off less than a foot over our heads. They came at us with everything in their arsenal."

Under heavy fire, the Marines and Afghan soldiers relentlessly pushed forward, forcing the insurgents to break contact and run.

"We moved up to the next compound, and it felt like everyone in the world was shooting at us," said Corporal Justin Christ, a squad leader with "Alpha" Co. "I had a team set up in the building and open up on the insurgents. We kept moving, kept up momentum and continued to push."

Despite taking fire from multiple positions at once, the Marines and Afghans continued to advance, repelling every attack with an assault of their own.

"We went from compound to compound, shooting almost nonstop," Christ said. "The enemy knew what they were doing, but they couldn't handle the sheer volume of fire raining down on them."

"My guys knew their job and did their job despite bullets constantly whizzing

over their heads. At the end of the day, everyone came home safe, and we killed some bad guys in the process. It was a good day," he added.

Sgt James Mercure
Combat Correspondent, RCT-6

■ Trek Nawa

Through Dust and Heat, ANA Leads Successful Operation

The people in Trek Nawa, an area located between the Marjah and Nawa districts in Helmand province, Afghanistan, witnessed an unusual sight April 23-26. The Afghan National Army dispatched about 190 soldiers from various *tolais* [companies] within 1st Kandak [battalion], 1st Brigade, 215th Corps to areas throughout the expansive landscape. During the maneuver, leathernecks with 2d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment partnered with the kandak to clear the area.

To reach their objectives, Afghan soldiers, with their Marine counterparts, hiked through a range of open, dry, dusty ground to lush green fields.

During the Afghan-led Operation High Noon 15, three Afghan *tolais* patrolled from north to south, clearing the area, while searching for weapons caches and improvised explosive devices.

A fourth *tolai* supported the operation by blocking the escape routes of possible insurgents.

"The Marines' role in the operation was a supporting one," said ANA First Sergeant Mubarak, the kandak operations first sergeant.

A Marine platoon accompanied each *tolai* during the operation, providing extra firepower and logistical support.

"Our mission was to follow and support," said First Lieutenant Joseph Hoeksema, a platoon commander with Weapons Co. "I helped if they needed it, but it was an ANA-led operation."

Hoeksema's platoon accompanied the weapons *tolai* during the operation.

"[The ANA] planned the patrols, searched the houses and talked to the local people," said 1stLt Qeyashkhan, the executive officer for the weapons *tolai*.

After several hours of clearing the



LOP TYLER REIRZ

Sgt Joshua V. Armstrong, team leader with Police Advisory Team 1, 1/8, coaches an Afghan police officer on the range. A few days later, on May 1, Marines and Afghan forces descended on the town of Sabzikar in a fight against well-entrenched insurgent forces.

northern area, Qeyashkhan decided to establish a temporary patrol base in a local compound. Marines and Afghan soldiers were soaked in sweat from the intense heat of an unfiltered Afghan sun, as they set up their command center, security posts and radios. They had hiked about eight miles before they reached their resting point.

“It was really hot, and we were running low on water,” said Qeyashkhan. The first priority was getting resupplied with water and food for the next couple of days.

The ANA established its patrol base near a major road that provided Afghan resupply trucks easy access to the Afghan soldiers. Route-clearing vehicles, specially equipped trucks designed to find and clear IEDs, led the way.

“Some routes are too narrow to get our trucks through, so we worked with the [Marine] Embedded Training Team to find the routes we could go through,” said Mubarak.

The logistics of getting supplies to the patrol bases and the communication between different *tolais* was a focus prior to the operation.

“Operationally, they are ready to fight, ready to go out there, and I think they do a pretty good job,” said Captain Stephen Walker, the operations advisor with the embedded training team.

On day two of the operation, the *tolais* conducted partnered patrols with the Marines. Afghan squads, intermixed with Marines, went through the surrounding areas, talking to locals and clearing houses.

“This is an [insurgent] hotspot, and we’ve been engaged by as many as 10 insurgents, found IEDs, weapons caches, you name it,” said Hoeksema.

Marines and ANA soldiers could be seen traversing the terrain under the blistering sun throughout the day, going from compound to compound. The patrols moved through fields, some blooming with poppies and others dried from the heat.

“We didn’t find any caches or IEDs, but we talked to locals and let them know we are here for them,” said Qeyashkhan.

The cracked earth was pounded by Marine and Afghan boots as the Marines and soldiers continued to patrol. Other *tolais* had more success finding caches, IEDs and detaining a suspected insurgent leader.

“We tried to flood the area with ANA presence,” said Capt Walker. “The patrols allowed the [ANA] to get a better feel for the area and talk to more locals.”

On the third day, the *tolais* continued south, clearing the area, before returning to Patrol Base Jersey.

The landscape around PB Jersey is sparse with cracked, dry fields for several miles. With the clouds providing some



CPL TIMOTHY LENZO

LCpl Brandon Debruler, with Wpns/2/6, patrols with fellow Marines and Afghan National Army forces on Operation High Noon 15, which was planned and led by Afghan forces.



JASON MONROE



Capt Joshua B. Kling, CO, G/2/11, checks positions at OP Shrine, the northernmost Marine position in Kajaki on the north bank of the Helmand River.

relief from the glowing sun, one by one the different *tolais* arrived at base camp.

When the last of the patrols arrived at PB Jersey, the operation, planned by the kandak, with minimal Marine influence, concluded. It had run smoothly, and one of the most active insurgent areas had been neutralized without any losses.

“They did well,” said 1stLt Hoeksema. “They planned it all and executed it accordingly.”

Cpl Timothy Lenzo
Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv

■ **FOB Zeebrugge** **Marines Focus “Eyes on the Enemy”** **At Northernmost Position in Kajaki**

Key commanders of Afghan and U.S. Marine forces took a tour of a vital partnered position in Kajaki, Afghanistan, April 20.

Brigadier General Abdul Wasea, Commanding General, 2d Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, and Colonel John R. Shafer, Commanding Officer, Regimental Combat Team 6, inspected the position and talked to Marines and Afghan National Army soldiers at Observation Post Shrine.

OP Shrine is the northernmost Marine position in the Kajaki district of Helmand province. It occupies the high ground along the northern side of the Helmand River, preventing insurgent forces from crossing the river and moving south.

Corporal Kenneth Mull, a squad leader serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, said that from Shrine, the Marines have a clear line of sight of the entire area. With sniper teams and binoculars, the Marines can see for miles. Mull said sometimes the insurgents have no idea they are being watched.

South of OP Shrine is Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge and the Kajaki Dam. The dam is a key part of the Helmand infrastructure, providing power to the region. OP Shrine stands between the dam and areas of known insurgent activity.

“As long as we want to keep FOB Zeebrugge and the dam secure, we need to have Marines at OP Shrine keeping eyes on the enemy,” Mull said.

The “Alpha” Co Marines stand watch at OP Shrine in shifts, spending the remainder of the time at FOB Zeebrugge.

Forward Operating Base Zeebrugge also is home to “Golf” Battery, 2/11.

“Goliath Battery” as the Marines call it, supports the area, including OP Shrine, in a variety of ways.

The Marines use M777 155 mm howitzers to protect Marines miles out. They fire illumination rounds, for visibility in the night, and provide highly accurate fire support with Excalibur GPS-guided rounds and unguided high-explosive rounds.

First Sergeant Christopher S. Gasser, battery first sergeant, said the Marines have done a phenomenal job. They recently set a unit record with a direct hit on a target 23.6 miles away.

The next nearest Marine position is six miles away, while the nearest known insurgent position is less than two miles away, but Cpl Daniel Thompson, a team leader with Alpha Co, said that doesn’t worry the Marines.

“The insurgents are out there and they’re watching,” he said. “It’s important to present a hard target. They have seen us, and they can tell that we take our jobs seriously. They know we are not to be trifled with.”

LCpl Tyler Reiriz
Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv

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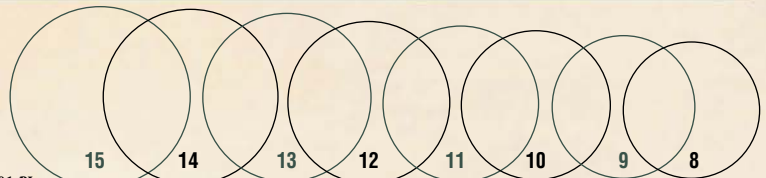


3 Left side: CUSTOMIZE with an IMPORTANT YEAR etched above the USMC crossed flags



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■ Khan Neshin District The Complete IED Detection Team

A team of two jumped out of the vehicle as it came to a stop at a chokepoint.

While Ace, an improvised explosive device detection dog, wandered around the vehicle, Corporal Sean Grady, Ace's handler and a point man with Company E, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, began preparing his sickle stick—a bamboo pole used to detect IED wires—and combat metal detector.

The pair then proceeded with what they do best: clearing a safe path for their fellow Marines.

They moved down the road, methodically searching for the disguised and dangerous devices. Cpl Grady launched Ace forward with an array of hand signals and verbal commands, while he swept the path with his metal detector.

Being the point man for his platoon requires Grady to efficiently utilize all of his tools. With his sickle, metal detector, combat experience and Ace's canine skills, a complete IED detection team is effectively leading the platoon.

"I volunteered to be a point man during this deployment," said Grady. "The only thing I care about is keeping my Marines safe."

The Otho, Iowa, native considers their tactical approach atypical. While most

dog handlers usually are positioned farther back in a patrol, Grady saw that having Ace at the front of his platoon would greatly enhance their ability to find IEDs.

"As a dog handler, most of the time we're in the back of the patrol," said Grady. "They only call us up when they see suspicious things on the road, or when the point man needs to confirm something."

"I was a point man on my last deployment, and I know the danger that comes with dealing with IEDs, and didn't want anyone else dealing with that," explained Grady, who previously served in Afghanistan in 2010.

The team's unusual method has produced uncanny results, with their 16 IED finds since arriving in southern Helmand in October 2011 being the highest of any IED detection team in the battalion.

"Ace has found five IEDs and also confirmed three suspicious hits," said Grady. "I've found seven during our time here."

In addition to the tools of his trade, Grady credits tactical decision games (TDGs)—a basic skill set taught to all infantrymen—for much of his success in Khan Neshin.

"In my head during a patrol, I'll go through my TDGs," explained Grady. "I ask myself, 'If I was the Taliban, where's

the best place to put the IEDs?' I would look around the area and focus my attention where I think the enemy would put the IED."

Grady recalled an incident, where he found an IED using lessons learned from conducting TDGs. He used his sickle stick to investigate a suspicious spot on the road and uncovered a bucket filled with 50 pounds of explosives.

Grady and Ace have been teammates since July 2011, after Grady attended the Marine Corps' dog handling course. He was amazed by Ace's obedience and the skills Ace had acquired from training with K2 Solutions Inc., before they were partnered together.

"It blew my mind how disciplined Ace was, the amount of different explosive scents that he could recognize, and how useful his skill can be in the field," Grady explained. "He's a superb dog, and he helps me do my job. I wasn't really aware of how amazing the Marine Corps dog handler's program is until I met Ace."

Just as he was taught in boot camp and infantry training, Grady keeps his weapons, tools and skills well-maintained. He constantly trains Ace. "We keep up with his obedience and reset training to make sure he keeps his skills and stays on his game," he said.

"It's hard, because I want to love him as



Cpl Sean Grady, along with Ace, his IED detection dog, patrols the Khan Neshin District in southern Helmand province. The duo with Echo Co, 1st LAR Bn located a combined 16 IEDs from October 2011 to April 2012.

CPL ALFRED V. LOPEZ



CPL LISAM. TOURTELLOT

Above: Traffic, both air and ground, near the Marine air traffic control tower at FOB Edi, is always busy. Still, MACS-1 air traffic controllers at FOB Edi have cut the response time between urgent requests for air support and delivery of the needed air support.

Below: Air traffic controllers watch an AH-1W Super Cobra of HMLA-369 swooping back onto the base after a mission.



CPL LISAM. TOURTELLOT

a pet, but I have to treat him as [a] tool as well,” said Grady. “I’m constantly on that fine line of being his friend and master.”

Cpl Alfred V. Lopez
Combat Correspondent, RCT-5

■ **FOB Edinburgh** **Mobile Air Traffic Controllers** **Get Aircrews on Missions Faster**

Staff Sergeant James Fishburne, a Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team leader, and Sergeant Travis Shiflett, an air traffic controller with Marine Air Control Squadron 1, cleared two AH-1W Super Cobras to land at their airfield in Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, known as “FOB Edi,” April 28.

The two helicopters had only just landed, but word had come that they needed to be back in the air as soon as possible: an

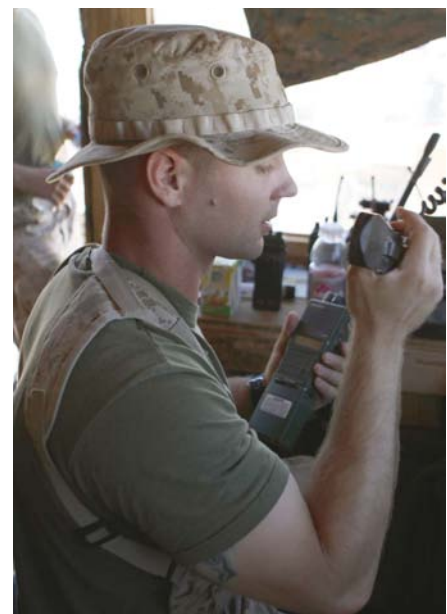
Afghan National Army soldier was injured in a vehicle accident not far from the base, and medical evacuation helicopters needed close air support to rescue their casualty.

It is up to the members of the Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team, or MMT, to coordinate the efforts of Army medical evacuation crews with close air support from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369.

Fishburne said: “We’re very unique in that we [are a] communications hub, especially when it comes to the support of troops-in-contact and medevac [medical evacuation] missions.”

Fishburne explained that not only do his team members provide communication between assets from multiple armed forces and nations, but they also notify

Below: SSgt James Fishburne, an air traffic control team leader at FOB Edinburgh, communicates with a pilot, facilitating air support for ground combat units.



CPL LISAM. TOURTELLOT

aircrews as soon as information arrives about missions they could be tasked to support.

When most air traffic control teams receive word that an incident requiring air support has occurred in their area of operations, they do not inform the aircrew until that crew is officially tasked with the mission.

The FOB Edi MMT, however, carefully monitors all communication lines for any air support need. Whenever that need arises in their area of operations, the team gives the waiting crew a heads-up. By the time that aircrew is actually tasked with the mission, they are already in their helicopters with rotors spinning, ready to take off.

“Fifteen minutes is considered a good response time, from being tasked to taking off,” said Fishburne. “Here, we can have the aircraft off the ground in three minutes.”

In combat, this accelerated response time can mean the difference between life and death.

Super Cobra pilot Captain Robert Mauro, with the HMLA-369 “Gunfighters,” explained that early notification and accurate information make the FOB Edi MMT especially effective.

“We couldn’t launch on our missions without ATC [air traffic control],” said Mauro. “They’re very good at what they do and getting us in the air quickly.”

Cpl Lisa M. Tourtelot
Combat Correspondent, 3d MAW (Fwd)



Leatherneck Laffs



"Hey, Sergeant, whadaya think happened to my transfer request to recruiting duty?"



"I've been back from Iraq for five years, and I'm *still* trying to get the sand out of my hair."



"I'm going to have to charge you for the second bag."



"Wow, '8th & I'? What exactly do you do there?"



"It appears the Marines were not intelligent enough to understand the secret documents we allowed them to steal."



"Except when there are other guys around, then you can drop the 'Your Highness' stuff and just address me as 'Corporal, sir.' "



"And when you get up there, don't forget to yell, 'Happy Fourth of July!'"

Nemo Resideo

PRP Marines Ensure No One Is Left Behind



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

From left, Lance Corporals Jeremiah Flippen, Michael Downs and William Johnson, Det Personnel Retrieval and Processing Co, Smyrna, Ga., drape a flag as they prepare a transfer case during a training exercise.

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

Their motto is the Latin phrase, *Nemo Resideo*, which means “No One Left Behind.” The logo on their unit emblem is, appropriately, an M16 service rifle crossed with an E-tool overlaid with a triangular funeral flag. Their job, largely unheralded,

is the consummate expression of Marines taking care of their own; expeditious, proper and respectful retrieval of Marines killed in action.

Among the hundreds of primary Marine Corps military occupational specialties (MOSs), there is one in the logistics family identified as Personnel Retrieval and Processing (PRP) Specialist, 0471. There also is a secondary MOS of 0472, PRP Technician, which can be acquired by Marines of PRP Company who have other primary duties.

“Not everybody can do this job,” said Corporal Thomas Duckett, 23, from Loganville, Ga., who has served in the MOS for five years, deploying once to

Afghanistan. “We have the capability to do it, and it is an honor to provide the final measure of utmost respect to our fallen.”

Marines who perform this mission frequently use words such as “honor,” “respect” and “dignity” when discussing what they do. They perform a seriously difficult mission, and they are diligently serious about it.

There are only about 215 PRP Marines Corps-wide, and they are all in Marine Forces Reserve. There is only one Personnel Retrieval and Processing Co. It’s part of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Fourth Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, and it is split into elements in the two Reserve centers: PRP Co (-) in Washington, D.C., and Det PRP Co in Smyrna, Ga.

Company-grade officers can attain an 0407 MOS (PRP Officer) by going to the two-week officers’ course at the U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs (MA) School at Fort Lee, Va. Enlisted Marines complete a six-week course there. The Army is the



executive agent for mortuary affairs in the U.S. Department of Defense.

The training prepares them for the technical aspects of the job: how to approach a recovery site, properly document it and process what they find for further transport. It is, technically, a logistical process of retrieving and moving materials from one point to another. But it obviously is much deeper than that.

“You have to get past the psychological aspect that these are fallen Marines and accept that they are gone,” said Cpl Ryan King, 25, from Augusta, Ga., who has deployed twice. A Columbia County sheriff’s deputy in civilian life, he has been in PRP for six years.

“We can’t focus on personal items,” he said, such as the photos, wallets, letters or wedding rings that they come across while processing a site, things that remind them that these are fellow Marines and



A PRP carry team of Marines in Afghanistan formally escorts a fallen Marine to a military aircraft waiting to take him home as all hands assemble in formation, rendering honors.

COURTESY OF DET PRP CO

fellow Americans. “We have to focus on our mission, which is to get fallen Marines home as quickly as possible.”

“We are the first step to getting them back to their families,” said Cpl Jamal Shelton, from Atlanta. “To do this job you’ve got to separate yourself from the emotion and focus on the mission,” said the 22-year-old, who started with PRP before he turned 19 and has deployed once.

The experience can have unexpected impact on their lives as well. Cpl Luis Martinez, 23, deployed once and changed his major in college because of it. “I discovered I had the ability to handle some intense things that other people can’t, and I changed my major to nursing as a result,” said the Carrollton, Ga., resident, who also works at a hospital.

They don’t often witness the end result of their efforts, but occasionally they may catch a glimpse that motivates them to

press on. Martinez recalled a time in Germany when he unexpectedly saw the response of a family to the high degree of honor and respect that was shown to its fallen Marine.

“When you see how much it means to the family, you know you are doing something important,” he said.

To say the emotion is intense would be an understatement. The recovery sites are predictably horrific scenes of carnage, and PRP Marines aren’t looking only for bodies, but for parts of bodies, termed “portions.”

During a training weekend in Smyrna, it was sobering to watch these young men and women go about the business of learning how to prepare calmly for the task. Their demeanor in training is every bit as serious as in reality; like all Marines, they train as they will operate in combat.

“We first flag off the site perimeter and

establish perimeter security,” said Sergeant Torian Welch from Lithonia, Ga., who leads the four-member team on the training exercise. He was polite as he explained, but distracted as he closely monitored his team of three lance corporals.

“We will generally make at least three or four passes of the entire site before we touch anything,” explained Welch, who deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. “We sketch it, take photographs and establish GPS coordinates.”

Only then do they begin the critical task of documenting, tagging and preparing remains or portions for transport to the field processing area. They also collect and package personal effects and military gear. Even handling training mannequins and portions, the high degree of care and respect they demonstrated was moving.

The extreme attention to detail is necessary in case there are questions about the

circumstances of the deaths later on. They periodically work with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) on cases as circumstances warrant.

The discipline needed to maintain that level of detachment can take an emotional and psychological toll, but measures are in place to minimize the impact. In addition to stress-management courses, psychological counseling and pre- and post-deployment evaluations, the PRP students receive real-life training.

“We have agreements with local county morgues,” explained Gunnery Sergeant Octavius Shivers, 35, acting 4th Platoon commander. “Our Marines are able to gain experience and exposure they wouldn’t get elsewhere, short of the battlefield,” said Shivers, who lives south of Atlanta in Jackson, Ga.

After a deployment and prior to returning home, Marines are flown to the Air Force Deployment Transition Center at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany to conduct four days of “third-location decompression,” according to Major Randy J. Velez, Instructor-Inspector in Smyrna, which is just outside Atlanta.

They are formed into two groups, each led by a Marine PRP staff noncommissioned officer or warrant officer trained at the center as career field facilitators. Each group has an active-duty chaplain or mental-health provider with deployment experience.

Civilian clothes are worn at all times, and the atmosphere is intentionally low stress. They are taken out to see local sights, eat at restaurants and enjoy each other’s company in a relaxed environment.

All the while, they are being watched for indicators warranting further intervention.

“Once they return to Washington or Smyrna, they also receive a brief from the Psychological Health Outreach Program, which provides counseling, follow-up or outsourced care as needed,” said Maj Velez, adding that active and Reserve leadership keeps identification and treatment of psychological health problems a high priority. “We strive to ensure our Marines receive assistance if they need it.”

When Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) began in 2003, the structured MOS did not exist.

“The Marine Corps did not have a mortuary affairs company nor did they have Marines trained in the retrieval and processing of remains,” said Velez. “We relied on the U.S. Army and a small cadre of Marines for mortuary affairs.”

Those Marines were categorized as Mortuary Affairs Plt, H&S Bn in Dayton, Ohio, mobilized to support I Marine Expeditionary Force. Other Reserve Marines and a handful of active-duty Marines also were formed into mortuary affairs units assigned to First Force Service Support Group battalions. About 300 Marines were trained through mobile training teams using instructors from Ft. Lee and the Dayton Marines.

“These Marines were part of the first MA company to serve in combat,” Velez explained.

It soon became obvious that more capability was needed.

“Marine Corps mortuary affairs personnel, who by definition and doctrine focused primarily on graves registration,

found themselves tasked with combat recovery of remains ... which required much more capability in terms of personnel numbers, skill and equipment than existed at the outset of OIF,” stated a report in the Naval Institute publication *Proceedings* in April 2004.

The article titled “Caring for the Fallen: Mortuary Affairs in Operation Iraqi Freedom” was co-authored by Lieutenant Colonel John M. Cassady and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Cheryl Ites, both now retired Marines. They were involved closely in the genesis of today’s program.

“Prior to 2003 there was a Reserve mortuary affairs platoon out of Dayton, Ohio, which had been in existence since the 1980s,” said CWO-4 Ites, who now works for the Joint Mortuary Affairs Center at Ft. Lee in the operations division, writing doctrine and policy.

“These Marines were involved in the first Gulf War in 1991. The term ‘Graves Registration Platoon’ was used until 2001, when we got the name changed to ‘Mortuary Affairs’ to be aligned with the Army,” Ites said.

At that time they had one officer and 42 enlisted. Ites enlisted in 1974 and started her Marine Corps career as a military police officer. While serving in Dayton, she was appointed Graves Registration Plt commander as a CWO-4. She had no background in her new MOS but took the two-week officer course, was schooled up quickly and soon became one of a very few Marine officers with knowledge of that field.

She separated from the Corps in early 2001, but returned in 2002 when the Corps’



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

Above left: Sgt Jose Vasquez, far left, and one of his PRP team members move a mock casualty, while two other team members prepare to make another recovery during an April exercise at the PRP training facility in Smyrna, Ga.



Above right: Sgt Torian Welch, far left, explains procedures conducted by, left to right, Lance Corporals Michael Downs, William Johnson and Jeremiah Flippen. (Photo by CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret))



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

A Marine PRP team carries a mock casualty to a waiting truck as other Marines in the unit render honors.

leaders decided they needed to expand MA capabilities in preparation for anticipated casualties associated with OIF in 2003.

LtCol Cassidy, who had retired in 2001, also was recalled in 2002 because he had been a logistics officer involved with the Graves Registration Plt during Desert Storm in 1991. Tasked with putting together a team, Cassidy came across Ites' name.

"He heard about me because I was one of the few people in the Marine Corps who had an entry in their record book that I had attended the officers' MA course," she said.

The mortuary affairs platoon was still in Dayton, but hadn't trained and was being used as a holding unit for new Reserve Marines coming into the military police MOS, Ites recalled.

"Some had interest in the MOS; some didn't," said the Mankato, Minn., native. "We used those who did as the basis for developing the ad hoc capability, along with Marines from Headquarters Battalion in Marietta and personnel from Rations Company in Washington. We also brought in Reserve Marines from Aurora [Colorado], because we wanted to have a security element."

More than 300 Marines initially were trained because of anticipated high casualty rates in OIF. When those rates thankfully were not experienced, most were released to other logistics duties, and only about 120 were retained to support mortuary affairs operations.

They trained them to operate in the field as four-member teams.

"We worked with them prior to their leaving, then gave them OJT on deployment," Ites recalled.

The MA terminology eventually was changed to Personnel Retrieval and Processing to reflect more closely the job these Marines do or, more accurately, what they don't do. They don't perform mortuary functions such as embalming or preparing bodies for viewing.

Marine Corps doctrine dictates that timely and accurate completion of the PRP mission is important for several reasons, according to briefing materials provided by Maj Velez.

It helps unit commanders know their casualty rate and remain accountable, and it avoids possible confusion about the status of individual Marines. Timely retrieval of remains protects them from effects of weather or animals and keeps them out of the hands of the enemy, who might desecrate them for their own purposes. Rapid retrieval also helps sustain the morale of the Marines continuing the fight, knowing their comrades will be cared for and if they themselves fall, they will not be abandoned.

Today, about 14 PRP Marines constantly are deployed on a six-month rotation to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. That number is down from 19 and being reduced as Marine forces begin to draw down. As they are deployed, others

are training for deployment to OEF, or participating in annual training or other exercises around the world.

"We normally have three 14-member units rotating on that schedule," explained 30-year-old Staff Sergeant Joshua Thibadeau, who has deployed three times with a PRP team.

"The movie 'Taking Chance' shows the final phase of the effort to get one of our fallen Marines home," said Thibadeau.

The 2009 HBO film is a true story, starring Kevin Bacon as Marine officer LtCol Michael Strobl, as he accompanies the body of a fallen 19-year-old Marine, Chance Phelps, back to his hometown of Dubois, Wyo. The military advisor to the director of this film was Master Sergeant Victor Szalankiewicz, a former member of the PRP Co in Washington.

"What it doesn't show are all the dedicated Marines in the field, on the front end of that process, helping to make sure he got home," Thibadeau pointed out.

"That's what we do, and we do it with all the honor and respect that comes across in the movie."

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





The Marine Corps Association

Pushing Forward Toward a Century of Service

By Jessica Bass

In the early years, there was a humble collection of just 432 members of the Marine Corps Association. Nearly 100 years later, the MCA caters to more than 79,000 members including a wide-ranging number of active-duty, Reserve and veteran Marines, their families and friends of the Corps. In the beginning, then-Lieutenant Colonel John A. Lejeune, the father of the Association, aimed to bring Marines closer together through education. This still is one of the main goals of the organization and its Marine Corps Association Foundation today.

On April 25, 1913, a group of Marines of the 2d Provisional Marine Brigade at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, banded together to form the MCA. The Association was created to spread "information concerning the aims, purposes and deeds of the Corps, and the interchange of ideas for the betterment and improvement of its officers

and men," according to one of the original statements signed by then-LtCol Lejeune, who went on to become the Corps' 13th Commandant.

In March 1916, the Association launched the *Marine Corps Gazette* to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas to advance knowledge, interest and esprit within the Marine Corps. The *Gazette*, known as "The Professional Journal of the U.S. Marines," provides a vehicle for dissemination of military art and science among Marines. Lejeune penned a major article in the first *Gazette*. The article, "The Mobile Defense of Advance Bases by the Marine Corps," was based on Lejeune's lectures, which were drawn largely from the writings and lectures of one of the Corps' visionaries, then-Captain Earl Ellis.

Initially, some of the articles in the *Gazette* were republished from other periodicals, but there was a foundation of

basic content including proper rifle practices and Marine Corps history. At this point, MCA operations and the *Marine Corps Gazette* were managed and operated by active-duty Marines.

Originally, the professional journal was issued quarterly. Its popularity grew over time, allowing the publication to flourish into a monthly periodical. By 1938, total MCA membership had more than doubled.

The MCA was synonymous with the *Gazette* for nearly 50 years. Once the journal had a strong base, the MCA began to branch out. By the 1950s, approximately 48,000 members had an opportunity to participate in their membership rather than just read about it.

The growth of the Association gave rise to an awards program to recognize and promote professionalism in the Corps. The Association's website notes: "The awards program was established to recognize the



RON LUNN

Below: GySgt Steven D. Williams, the public affairs chief at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., accepts *Leatherneck* magazine's Ronald D. Lyons Award for the best article published in the magazine during 2011. Williams accepted the Award on behalf of Sgt Ryan Rholes, who could not attend the USMC Combat Correspondents Association awards dinner, Sept. 14, 2011, in New Orleans. MajGen Ed Usher, USMC (Ret), left, president and CEO of the MCA&F, presented the award along with BGen (Sel) Paul Kennedy, director of the Marine Corps' Division of Public Affairs, and retired MGySgt Don O'Neal, president of the USMCCCA.



LCPL AUDREY GRAHAM

Below: Retired BGen George Bartlett, left, then-director of the MCA, shows LtGen Joseph J. Went, Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, the construction progress on the new home of the Marine Corps Association. The Bartlett Building (opposite page) was dedicated on Nov. 10, 1986.



RON LUNN

professional achievements of Marines and sailors (serving with Marine units), and to recognize the honor graduates throughout the Marine Corps officer and enlisted formal schools.”

In 1957, the Association's annual report boasted that five TBS Honor Graduates received swords to recognize excellence. The Association's Naval Academy Award was presented to the author of the best

paper published by the *Gazette* on military operations. Also, 49 Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps honor graduates were awarded two-year memberships in the MCA. The *Gazette* ran a prize essay contest, and the winner received \$1,500.

Leatherneck magazine took another path to the MCA. It was born in November 1917 when Corporal W. L. Foster asked then-Brigadier General Lejeune if he



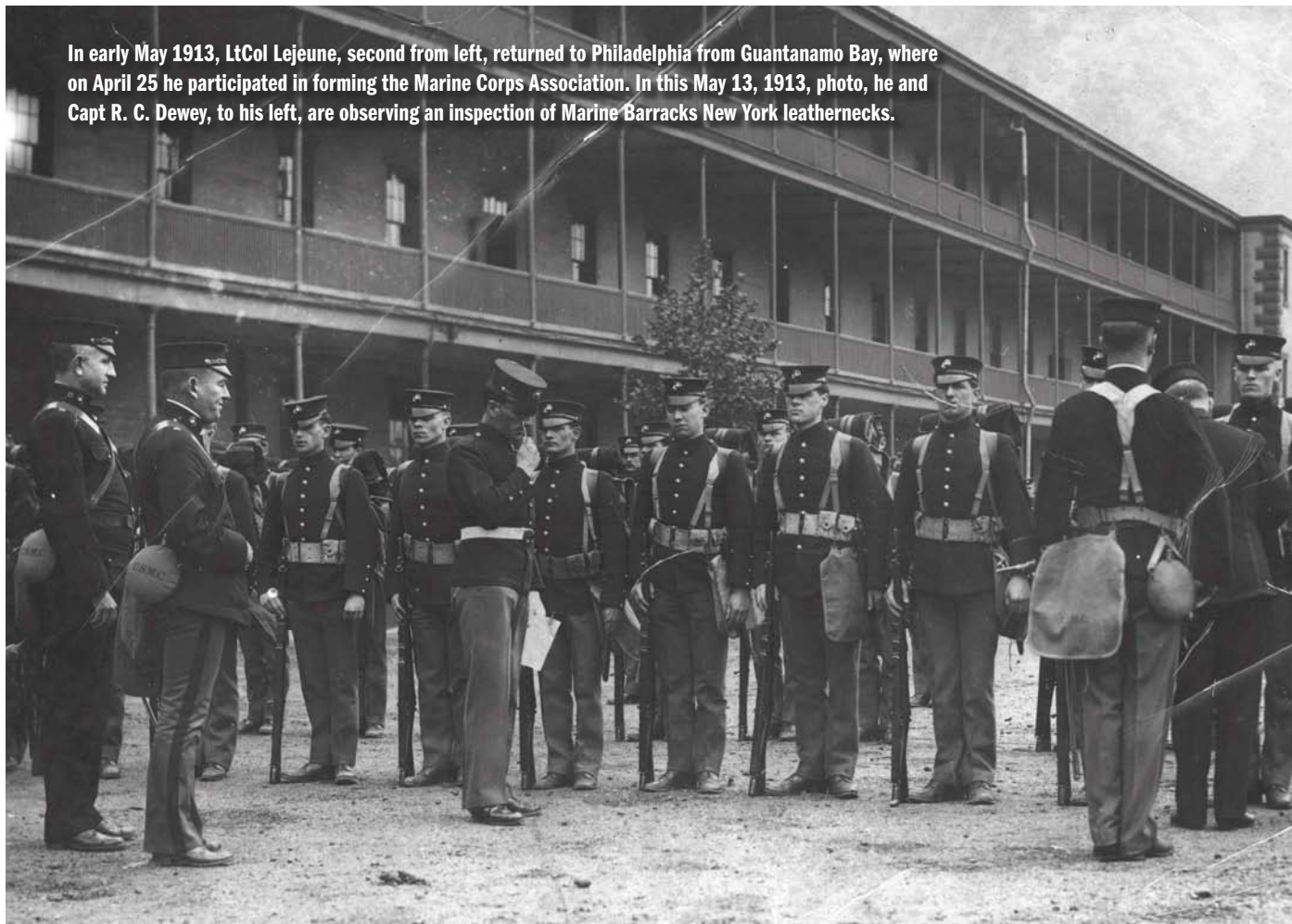
USMC

Above: BGen John A. Lejeune was assistant to Major General Commandant George Barnett prior to taking command of Marine Barracks Quantico, Va., in late September 1917.

could publish a local newspaper for the Marines at Marine Barracks Quantico, Va. After receiving tentative approval, Cpl Foster teamed with Sergeant J. C. Smith to start the *Quantico Leatherneck*, a four-page newspaper.

In 1918, *Quantico* was dropped from the masthead, and in 1921, *Leatherneck* evolved into a magazine published by the Marine Corps Institute. By 1926, *Leatherneck* was a 64-page magazine filled with photos, tales of the Corps, cartoons and poetry and distributed nationwide. It was the “only national publication published

In early May 1913, LtCol Lejeune, second from left, returned to Philadelphia from Guantanamo Bay, where on April 25 he participated in forming the Marine Corps Association. In this May 13, 1913, photo, he and Capt R. C. Dewey, to his left, are observing an inspection of Marine Barracks New York leathernecks.



by active servicemen for active servicemen,” according to a 1992 *Leatherneck* historical article.

Early on, *Leatherneck* became known for its colorful cover art. The September 1929 cover, which depicts a “Marine patrol fired on while fording the Coco River,” was drawn by an active-duty Marine named Donald L. Dickson. Thus Dickson began an association with the magazine that lasted more than 40 years.

Dickson’s pencil sketches and oil paintings drew readers’ attention. His drawings during the Battle of Guadalcanal also graced the pages of *Life* magazine. While his art and articles were published in *Leatherneck* for decades, he also was the editor for 19 years. Retiring from active duty in 1965, he continued to write and produce art for the magazine. During his career, he rose from private to colonel.

Beginning in 1943, *Leatherneck* was published by the *Leatherneck* Association. Over its 95 years, *Leatherneck*’s pages have been filled by some of the best Marine combat artists, photographers and writers.

Due to a change in law, the last active-duty Marines departed the *Gazette* and *Leatherneck* staffs in 1972. The production of the periodicals and the operations of

the MCA were civilianized. Many of these civilians, though, were retired or veteran Marines.

Based on a study and recommendation to the boards of the MCA and the *Leatherneck* Association by then-BGen Paul X. Kelley—later the 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps—on Aug. 31, 1976, the two associations merged.

The unification of the two not-for-profit organizations safeguarded the longevity of each organization for loyal members and readers.

“[T]he purpose was to ensure the stability and continued growth of a dynamic professional association serving all Marines—active, reserve, retired, and former,” proclaimed a *Gazette* article from the September 1976 issue.

The MCA mission remained as before: “support the Marine Corps by disseminating knowledge of military art and science among Marines, provide opportunities for professional development for Marines, and foster the spirit and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps through the Marine Corps family.”

The *Leatherneck* awards program, which was primarily focused on recognizing and promoting excellence within the enlisted ranks, was combined with the MCA awards

program, allowing a greater recognition of achievement across the Corps. MCA insurance programs, which were created before the merge, were fortified. The MCA bookstore merged with the *Leatherneck* bookstore.

With the addition of *Leatherneck* magazine and the *Leatherneck* Association’s key departments, the MCA needed a permanent home where all could function together.

A November 1986 *Leatherneck* article said: “[T]he Association has known many homes, perhaps its first being in Lejeune’s footlocker. Interim stops have been made by its major components *Leatherneck* and the *Marine Corps Gazette*: at Marine Barracks 8th [and] I, Washington, D.C.; in civilian quarters in downtown Washington; at Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va.; and at several space-available locations on the base at Quantico.”

On Nov. 10, 1986, the Corps’ Birthday, then-Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Thomas R. Morgan, dedicated the current headquarters of the MCA aboard MCB Quantico. Its physical location on base at the “Crossroads of the Corps” made it easily accessible to Marines and their families and also close to Marine headquarters. For the first time,



LCPL HAYDEN K. HOWARD-BROWNE

Above: LCpl Lawrence A. Short, Platoon 1029, Co B, 1st RTB, MCRD San Diego, flanked by his drill instructor, Sgt Matthew L. Harmon, left, and his recruiter, Sgt Joseph B. Orozco, Recruiting Substation Chandler, Ariz., shows off his company honor graduate award, the MCA&F's newly designed Chesty Puller Award, that he was presented on May 11.

Below: The MCA&F Hulbert Award for outstanding leadership by a Marine gunner, named for the first Marine gunner, Henry Lewis Hulbert, was presented to CWO-2 Joel R. Schwendinger by LtGen Richard T. Tryon, right, June 3, 2010. Also attending were Steve Wagner and Edgar Fossheim of Nammo, sponsors of the Hulbert Award.



RON LUNN

all departments of the Association, except insurance, were under one roof.

With newfound unity, the success of the MCA exploded.

By 1992, the awards program expanded to include not only swords, trophies and certificates, but books and other gifts. The MCA retail department became a hub for Marine Corps Birthday Ball supplies and filled orders for more than 734,000 party supplies in 1991, ranging from placemats to flag sets.

In an effort to keep up with the times, the MCA launched its website in 1998.

“We’ve expanded the audience exponentially by developing the MCA&F website,” said retired Major General Edward Usher, president and CEO of the Association and the Foundation.

In 2001, responding to calls from membership and researchers, all the back issues of the Marine Corps *Gazette* and *Leatherneck* were digitized and made accessible online via the website (www.mca-marines.org) for search by keyword, date and author. In 2006, digital editions of both periodicals were offered for members who prefer their reading online via the

Below: Gen Lewis A. Walt, left, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and president of the *Leatherneck* Association, accepts a *Leatherneck* blazer patch from MSgt Tom Bartlett, later the magazine’s managing editor, after Gen Walt thanked the staff for its Vietnam service, for which *Leatherneck* was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation on Sept. 25, 1970.



LEATHERNECK ARCHIVES

computer, smartphones and tablet devices.

“It allows readers to access additional relevant content,” said *Leatherneck* editor Colonel Walt Ford, USMC (Ret). “In our digital editions, we attach photos, videos and even link previous articles from the archives to enhance reader experience.”

While reader surveys confirm that current members and subscribers still prefer the print edition of the magazines, MCA&F planners see their future in the digital world. There are about 7,000 readers of the MCA periodicals who are online-only consumers of content.

“Without online publication our readership probably would have declined,” *Gazette* editor Col John Keenan, USMC (Ret) said.

In addition to a very dynamic website, the Association is fully invested in social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. The “likes” on the Facebook page skyrocketed from 100 to 20,000 in a six-month period in 2009. Its popularity is rooted in the expansive Marine-oriented content that is updated constantly.

“We try and find a good balance between retail, membership, information and interactive postings,” MCA&F webmaster Bradley Kirkland said. “We also post at night and on the weekends.”

Also in 2009, the Marine Corps Association Foundation made its debut.

Membership was previously limited to veterans, retirees and active-duty military personnel. The Foundation affords “friends of the Corps,” as MajGen Usher stated, the opportunity to become members. Parents, spouses, aunts, uncles and other interested parties finally have the opportunity to join the Association’s Foundation and support its efforts in advancing leadership and recognizing excellence. Estab-

Right: First Lt Joseph O. Butcher, as CO, Marine Corps Institute Det, served as editor and publisher of *Leatherneck* magazine. In this 1939 photo, he was a member of the President's guard at the "Little White House" in Warm Springs, Ga. He returned to *Leatherneck* as editor in 1946 and retired as a major general in 1968.

Below: BGen George Bartlett, USMC (Ret), right, the director of the Marine Corps Association from 1979 to 1988, stands with Col Frank W. Harris III, USMC (Ret), the building project engineer, during an MCA building opening reception in 1986.



COURTESY OF BGEN GEORGE BARTLETT, USMC (RET)

lishing the Foundation also made donations tax-deductible.

"We now have two great organizations, aligned for one purpose: advancing leadership and recognizing excellence," MajGen Usher said.

The Foundation now distributes more than 10,000 awards annually.

"That's a lot of awards," MajGen Usher said. "They're important awards. We recognize Marines going to their military occupational specialty school. If they graduate at the top of their class, we provide them with recognition of that."

Awards are given to recognize and promote excellence. Among the many awards recognizing excellence in writing is the annual Colonel Bevan G. Cass Award, named for the first MCA director after the merger with the *Leatherneck* Association, presented to a Marine Corps Command and Staff student. Recognizing the exemplary writing of a selected enlisted Marine is the Ronald D. Lyons Award, named for a Marine veteran and former *Leatherneck* editor, which is awarded for the best news or feature story in *Leatherneck* magazine written by a sergeant or below in grade.

The MCA&F also recognizes the recruiter and drill instructor of the year and honor graduates of recruit training, Officer Candidates School and The Basic School. Even JROTC and ROTC programs nationwide are recognized by MCA&F.

For units, a grant can be obtained to



LEATHERNECK ARCHIVES

Retired Mustang 1stLt Ronald D. Lyons served *Leatherneck* and its readers for 34 years, the last nine as the editor.

further the development of Marines through the Commander's Unit Library Program. The MCA&F goes to great lengths to make all books listed in the Marine Corps' Professional Reading Program available to Marines through its book service. The MCA's Commander's Unit Library grants help ensure access to books that educate Marines on combat, leadership and other knowledge through literacy.

"I think we hit two major home runs in our awards programs and our Commander's Unit Library program," said the



MCA&F Quantico and National Capital representative, retired Sergeant Major Kevin Bennett. "These two programs set the stage for everything we are and do for our Marines. From the time they leave the yellow footprints and get called a Marine for the first time ... to retirement, MCA&F will be a significant part of that Marine's life from cradle to grave."

The MCA&F also funds Commanders' Forums, which specialize in supporting professional military education programs at major commands. The seminars are designed to enhance Marines' and sailors' understanding of current operational and training issues. The MCA&F website notes that professional military education (PME) can be a presentation with a keynote speaker or even a battle study.

On May 2, 2011, the MCA&F co-sponsored a PME with the "Institute for the Study of War" that focused on the war in Afghanistan. Dr. Kimberly Kagan, ISW's president, interviewed and mediated a Q&A session with then-MajGen Richard P. Mills, who now is Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration. Discussion topics ranged from the future of the war after Osama bin Laden's death



Below: SgtMaj Kevin S. Bennett, MCA&F Quantico and National Capital Area representative, presents a Marine NCO sword to Cpl Justin J. Salo, honor graduate of the Marine Security Guard School, January 2011.



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to improving infrastructure long-term.

“We provide PMEs to wounded Marines just as we have for active and Reserve Marines,” said LeeAnn Mitchell, MCA&F director of Development and Operations. As part of the Wounded Warrior Regiment’s “Survive to Thrive” program, the MCA&F sponsored a battlefield trip to Gettysburg, Pa., for about 50 wounded Marines and their caregivers from Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Va., Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., on June 8-9, 2011. The educational program allowed attendees to unite, learn and share stories of success in spite of their injuries.

In support of Marine Corps efforts to recognize excellence, the MCA&F also hosts a number of awards dinners each year. Examples of these include the Ammo Tech Awards Dinner, the Ground Awards Dinner, the Ground Logistics Awards Dinner and the C4 Awards Dinner.

The first Intelligence Awards Dinner was held on Sept. 15, 2011, in Arlington, Va. Together, the MCA&F and the Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Intelligence Department hosted a dinner to acknowl-

edge the accomplishments of officers, enlisted Marines and units in the intelligence field. The dinner featured Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, as guest speaker. Awards, provided by the MCA&F members and sponsors, were presented by BGen Vincent R. Stewart, the director of Intelligence for the Marine Corps.

In April, on the USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment’s fifth anniversary, the MCA&F sponsored the first Wounded Warrior awards ceremony and reception at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. Funding for events, awards and grants continues to be predominately provided by membership dues, sponsors and donations; however, a significant source of funds for use in advancing leadership and recognizing excellence is the Association’s retail operation—The Marine Shop.

The Marine Shop makes every effort “to provide resources for the Association to use for libraries, PMEs, dinners and everything else that we do,” according to Lynn Khanna, the MCA retail director.

Uniform purchases at the stores allow Marines to look their best. The Marine

Shop in the town of Quantico, and its mail order department offer high-quality uniforms tailored to order. All stores, including the Camp Lejeune location, offer a multitude of items ranging from professional reading to sword display cases and bumper stickers.

The Marine Shop also takes pride in being the premier location for Birthday Ball supplies. During the 2011 Marine Corps Birthday season, orders were shipped around the world to assist Marines in their celebrations.

Although the MCA&F has changed over time, the goal remains the same: educate and unite Marines.

“I think initially the rationale was ‘you’re a Marine. Therefore, you’re a professional and this is a professional organization. Professionals join their professional association.’ That was the case when I became a member in 1979,” MajGen Usher said. “I think over time, though, that has changed. Now I think the focus is what we give back to the institution.”

Editor’s note: Jessica Bass, a Marine wife, is a graduate of the University of Central Florida. She studied English and journalism, and Leatherneck is pleased to be among the first to show off her writing skills. She has been working for the MCA&F since August 2010 and currently is a lead customer service representative in retail.

Over the next several months, Leatherneck will mark the 100th MCA Anniversary with reprints of past hallmark articles.





Corps Pageantry

Edited by Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret)

Every January, the Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Battle Color Detachment begins a grueling march toward perfection for a spring National Installations Tour and the coming Washington parade season. The Battle Color Detachment is made up of the “The Commandant’s Own,” The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps; the Silent Drill Platoon; and the official Color Guard of the Marine Corps.

This year, the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment kicked off its tour on March 1. The Detachment traveled the country, delivering 18 performances aboard various Marine Corps installations and at public venues, mostly schools.

The photographs by Barracks combat correspondents, Sergeant Austin Hazard and Corporal Dengrier Baez, tell the story of the Battle Color Detachment’s 2012 National Installations Tour.

Right: Sgt Codie Williams, a ceremonial bugler, speaks with Pueblo Elementary School, Yuma, Ariz., students prior to a performance on Feb. 29.



The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps passes in review at the conclusion of a Battle Color Detachment performance at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., on March 12. (Photo by Sgt Austin Hazard)



CPA DENIGER BAZ



SGT JUSTIN HAZARD

Left: LCpl Carlton Williams (left), the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon rifle inspector, and LCpl Andrew Wingate, exchange M1 rifles during a ceremony at MCRD Parris Island, March 12.

Below: The Silent Drill Platoon performs at MCRD Parris Island, March 12.



SGT JUSTIN HAZARD



CPL DENIGHER BAEZ

Leathernecks with "The Commandant's Own" (above) meet children after a March 5 performance (right) at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.



The Silent Drill Platoon executes its “bursting bomb” formation at MCRD San Diego, March 10.



CPL DENIGRIER BAEZ



CPL DENIGRIER BAEZ



CPL DENIGRIER BAEZ

Left: The Marine Corps Color Guard presents the colors at Kofa High School, Yuma, Ariz., on March 1.



We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Marines Win Chairman's Cup At 2012 Warrior Games

■ The Warrior Games, one of the most pride-fueled events in the U.S. Armed Forces, took place at the U.S. Air Force Academy, May 1-5, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Having won the Warrior Games' Chairman's Cup two years in a row, the Marine Corps team was the one to beat. Opposing athletes and fans were aiming to crush the Marine ego that had carried the leathernecks to victory in the past.

The first day of competition drew cyclists to the Air Force Academy. Prior to the first race, a cyclist from the Navy team snapped a cable on his cycle, and the Navy team didn't have the parts or mechanic to fix it before race time.

"We rolled down to the Marine Corps

cadre, and without hesitation they jumped on it," said James Wilson, the program manager for the Navy Wounded Warrior Adaptive Sports program. Cycling mechanic Royce Riggan, with the Marine Corps team, fixed the cycle in less than 10 minutes. "They got the part, fixed the bike and got the kid in the race. Had it not been for the Marine team, our guy would not have raced."

Wilson was appreciative of the generosity and sportsmanship the Marine team displayed and made it known during a visit by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Micheal Barrett.

"In the big scheme of things, those medals hanging from the awards table are just for display. What just happened down

there, fixing that bike—that's Warrior Games," said Wilson to the Corps' top leaders.

The shooting and archery team shared training spaces with the Army before the games began. The Army and Special Operations Command team didn't have the gear the Marines brought with them, so, as a token of good sportsmanship, the Marine shooting coaches shared their rifle and pistol scoring system during practice. The Army shooting team went on to win four out of 24 medals at the competition.

The Marine shooting team coach, Roger Withrow, said that his shooting team wanted to make the competition fair across the board.

"We could have just kept it to ourselves, but our Marines were doing great," Withrow said. "We knew it as coaches, and



Sgt Stephen K. Lunt bumps the ball to a teammate as the All-Marine Team plays the United Kingdom in a sitting volleyball match during the 2012 Warrior Games at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 2.

we had all the confidence in the world. However, it's not just about winning medals. ... The whole thing is about helping our brothers and sisters build self-worth within themselves so they can go out and be productive citizens."

"These Marines represent all that is good about our Corps," SgtMaj Barrett said. "Their efforts and successes reflect that they still have a lot to give. As a matter of fact, they are thriving."

In 2012 the Chairman's Cup again went to the Marines with an impressive win over the other services. The Corps racked up 89 medals. The shooting team alone garnered 20 out of 24 medals.

As the athletes return to their respective hometowns or battalions, they look forward to next year's Warrior Games, where they hope to turn their "three-peat" into a dynasty.

SSgt Heidi Agostini

PAO, Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment

TRAP Trains to Rescue Downed Pilots

■ The Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) platoon with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit underwent specialized training under the supervision of I Marine Expeditionary Force's Special Operations Training Group (SOTG), May 10, in Warner Springs, Calif.

"We are doing everything to make the training for these Marines and sailors as realistic as possible," said Major Scott A. Huesing, assistant operations officer of 15th MEU. "This scenario involves the TRAP platoon recovering a downed pilot."

With a UH-1Y Super Huey and an AH-1Z Super Cobra in the air as an escort, the platoon landed in a CH-53E Super Stallion in a nearby location, immediately set up a security perimeter and, using a honing beacon, began patrolling in search of the role player acting as the pilot.

Other role players were staged in the training area. They simulated a hostile force, "firing" at the Marines during their rescue efforts. The rest of the platoon provided security while Sergeant Scott W. Gilchrist, the TRAP platoon's recovery team leader, climbed up a tree and lowered the pilot to safety.

"They had two safeties and created a pulley system to help ease me down," said Corporal Brittany L. Jones, the pilot role player and a radio operator with the command element, 15th MEU. "They got me to the helicopter pretty quickly, and they did an excellent job. I'm sure if they were called upon to execute this mission in real life, it would go as well as it did today."

TRAP platoon carried the pilot on a stretcher back to its helicopter and re-



Sgt Scott W. Gilchrist, recovery team leader, TRAP platoon, 15th MEU, prepares to rescue downed pilot role player Cpl Brittany L. Jones, May 10.

turned to base.

"In real life, the pilot could be incapacitated," said Maj Ruben Gutierrez, officer in charge of amphibious raids, SOTG, I MEF. "We build these scenarios off of missions that have really happened,

such as the TRAP, 26th MEU recently performed."

This particular scenario is one of many the platoon will undergo to improve its specialized skills set.

"The 15th MEU is the middleweight force that can handle missions big or small," said Huesing. "The TRAP platoon is one of the many tools the MEU commander can use to leverage a situation."

The TRAP training was conducted as part of the ground portion of Realistic Urban Training, in preparation for the unit's deployment this fall.

Cpl John Robbart III

Combat Correspondent, 15th MEU

Unmanned Helos Deliver Supplies, Reduce Need for Convoys

■ Because of the rising need for supplies to reach most remote parts of Afghanistan in a quick, safe and reliable manner, the Corps began experimenting with the "K-MAX," an unmanned helicopter that can transport large amounts of cargo and reduce the need for convoys.

With troops spread across a desolate country having steep mountains, rocky terrain and few paved roads, the K-MAX has arrived to help deliver supplies across the harsh conditions of Afghanistan.

Convoys are exposed to many potential dangers, such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and ambushes.

"The need [for an alternate transport solution] came about because the Marine Corps wanted to get trucks off the road," said Major Kyle O'Connor, the detachment



QUANTICO MARINE ATHLETES OF THE SIXTIES REUNITE—Among those gathering at the May 3-5 Quantico Marine Athletes of the Sixties reunion in Quantico, Va., were, from left, former 800-meter teammates John Perry, Denis Flood and John Tillman. During their time in the Corps, the three squeezed athletic training and competitions between combat duty in Vietnam and other assignments. Perry and Tillman ran in the 1968 U.S. Olympic Trials, with Perry placing fifth in the 800-meter final. Flood was recovering from wounds and later rejoined the team.

A Marine K-MAX unmanned helicopter prepares to lift off for a supply mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 30.

officer in charge for Cargo Resupply Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CRUAS), a component of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1.

“They wanted to be able to deliver supplies from one locale to another without putting Marines in danger of IEDs,” he said. “The Marine Corps needed a fast, reliable platform with which to deliver to COPs [combat outposts].”

The K-MAX platform has a unique configuration. The two sets of rotors are mounted side by side and turn in opposite directions. Each rotor on the helicopter is mounted at a slight angle to the other so that the blades can spin simultaneously without colliding. This configuration allows for superior stability and power while eliminating the need for a tail rotor.

Thus far, K-MAX has fulfilled the Corps’ requests for transporting large amounts of cargo over great distances in an expeditious manner.

O’Connor explained that in the month



CPL ISAC LAMBERTH

of March, the K-MAX ferried approximately 500,000 pounds of cargo. After five months of being in country, it had transported more than 1.3 million pounds and flown roughly 400 missions in theater. O’Connor said the K-MAX has performed so well that the original six-month trial has been extended in theater.

“It’s such a new system for the DOD [Department of Defense] that there isn’t a

whole lot of reliability data for it,” he said. “Since it’s done so well, the deployment extension is going to give us more time to continue to gather data on its performance and transport more cargo.”

The data collected will give Marine officials insight on whether to keep the K-MAX as a permanent addition to the Corps’ unmanned squadrons.

“We’re flying to see if there are any



CLARE A. GUERRERO

COMMANDOS GIVE MARINES A BLOODY GOOD GAME—The British Royal Marines beat the U.S. Marines 42-10 in a Rugby match at Barnett Field, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., April 28—but not before a heated battle by the leathernecks who heartily embraced the foreign challenge on their home turf. The Rugby match was one in a series of 16 competitive events in Virginia Gauntlet 2012, which promoted healthy competition between the two services. The Rugby match was attended by both the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, and MajGen Buster Howes, OBE, Defence Attache, British Embassy Washington, who is the former Commandant General Royal Marines. After the match, Gen Amos presented each of the players with medals, congratulated them and reminded the Marines of their historical ties.

issues and see if problems come up," O'Connor said.

While data is being collected, new tactics, techniques and procedures have been created to weave the K-MAX into everyday operations across Helmand province.

Sergeant Trevor Scarberry, an air vehicle operator with CRUAS, said he has helped create new procedures for the aircraft.

"Since no one has done this and it's all brand-new, we're having to develop new ways of doing things," said Scarberry.

He said new procedures have been implemented for safety, landing zone and airspace coordination. One such procedure ensures the safety of ground crews unloading the K-MAX once it reaches its destinations. The intermeshing dual rotors spin within a few feet of the ground, and surrounding personnel must be keenly aware of the down tilt of the rotor blades.

Even though the K-MAX is still in its trial run, Scarberry said he is very pleased with the performance of the aircraft.

"The precision of the system is amazing," he said. "I've been impressed and surprised."

In addition to resupplying units on the

ground, the K-MAX also will support the reduction of international troops. While NATO forces prepare to withdraw from Afghanistan, the K-MAX will be working alongside them.

"As the drawdown occurs, there will be fewer vehicles and a greater demand for air transportation," O'Connor said. "With K-MAX being extended, we hope to use it to assist in retrograde operations."

O'Connor added that since February, the K-MAX has helped retrograde equipment from several combat outposts and likely will continue these types of operations in the future.

Cpl Isaac Lamberth
Combat Correspondent, 3d MAW (Fwd)

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Lejeune Marines Host Delegation From People's Republic of China

■ The Public Affairs Office at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., reports that a military delegation from the People's Republic of China (PRC) visited Marine units at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., during an official visit to the United States—the first time in nine years.

The II Marine Expeditionary Force hosted General Liang Guanglie, PRC Minister of National Defense, and several senior officers of his staff. The official visit emphasized the importance of improving U.S. capacities to cooperate in areas of mutual interest, such as humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and addressing nontraditional and transnational security threats and counterpiracy.

BSRF-12 Assists With Car Crash Rescue

■ SSgt Nate Hauser, a combat correspondent with Black Sea Rotational Force 12, reports that Marines and sailors with BSRF-12 assisted in the rescue of a Romanian family, after a car carrying the family of four crashed down a steep embankment due to inclement weather May 6 outside Posada, Romania.

The 15 Marines and sailors with BSRF-12 were en route to their station at Mihail Kogalniceanu after running a 14-kilometer race in Transylvania.

The Marines and sailors on scene worked to safely remove the family from the car, while others communicated the location and nature of injuries to the local authorities.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



GS/SGT SCOTT DUINN

"Sure beats the old tire swing on the tree at the creek back home!"

Submitted by
Susan Dickerson Cox
Edmond, Okla.

This Month's Photo



SGT BRYAN A. PETERSON

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

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



In this print from the 1888 book “Drum-Beat of the Nation,” Union artillery, supported by the Marine battalion, fires on the Confederates occupying Henry House Hill. (Photo courtesy of Suzanne Pool-Camp and Dick Camp)

The Marine Battalion at the First Battle of Bull Run

By Suzanne Pool-Camp and Dick Camp

Prologue

The First Battle of Bull Run, also known as the First Battle of Manassas, was fought on 21 July 1861, just a few months after the start of the war. It was the first major land battle of the American Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln, under great pressure to move against the Confederate capital, pushed Union Brigadier General Irvin McDowell to attack the Confederate defenses along a small stream named Bull Run, near Manassas, Va. The fighting saw-sawed back and forth until the timely arrival of Confederate reinforcements turned the tide of battle. As the Union troops began withdrawing, many panicked and a rout ensued, leaving Confederate forces in command of the field.

Temporary Field Service

*Colonel John Harris,
U.S. Marine Corps
NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 15, 1861*

Sir:

You will be pleased to detach from the Barracks four companies of eighty men each, the whole under command of Major [John G.] Reynolds, with the necessary officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians, for temporary field service under Brig. General [Irvin] McDowell, to whom Major Reynolds will report. General McDowell will furnish the Battalion with camp equipage, provisions, etc.

*I am respect'y
Your obed. svt.,
Gideon Welles*

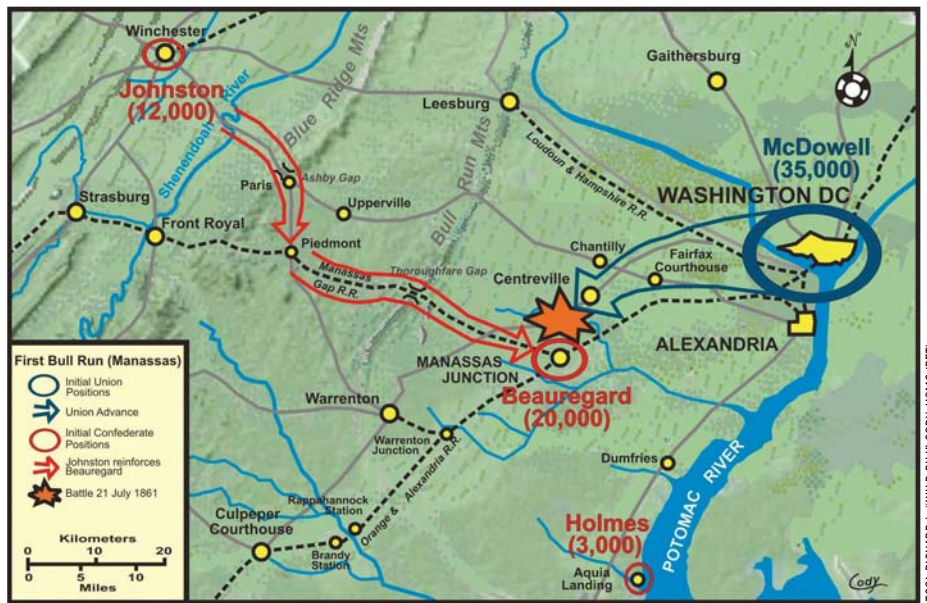
Secretary of the Navy Welles' order to the Colonel-Commandant, Col Harris, was the result of a War Department request from Secretary of War Simon Cameron, who wrote on 12 July 1861: “I have the honor to request that the disposable effective [M]arines now here may be organized into a battalion and held in readiness to march on field service.”

Harris, much to his chagrin, forwarded Welles' order to Reynolds for compliance. The Colonel-Commandant thought he would lead the battalion, as noted in a letter to First Lieutenant Alan Ramsay. “I have received your letter of the 11th instant, asking to be attached to a Battalion of Marines that is about to join the Army to which I reply that I have no knowledge of such a Battalion but if such an order be given, I will command it myself.”

The fact that Welles did not confide in Harris speaks volumes about the acerbic relationship between the two men. Not only was Harris passed over for command, but his nemesis, the 60-year-old Reynolds, was to be the commander. Harris and Reynolds' relationship deteriorated to the point that in 1862, Harris referred Reynolds to a court-martial for "drunkenness and for treating with contempt his superior officer in the execution of his duties."

Reynolds was acquitted, although there may have been some truth to the first charge. One of his lieutenants said, "Colonel Reynolds always has everything about him in order, and, drunk or sober, duty must be carried on right." Reynolds, in a fit of pique, preferred charges against the Colonel-Commandant. Secretary Welles was fed up by the entire affair. "Almost all the elder officers [of the Marine Corps] are at loggerheads and ought to be retired," he complained and solved the dueling courts-martial by issuing "a letter of reproof" to both officers.

There was consternation at the Marine Barracks when the order to march was received. Second Lieutenant Robert E. Hitchcock, the post adjutant, wrote in a letter to his parents on 14 July: "Last night after I passed down the line to receive the reports of the companies, I was met by [Captain James Hemphill] Jones, who said to me, 'Mr. Hitchcock, prepare to take the field on Monday morning.' So tomorrow morning will see me and five other Lieuts. with 300 Marines (raw recruits in every sense of the term) on our way to Fairfax Court House to take part in a bloody battle. ... This is unexpected to us, and the Marines are not fit to go into the field, for



every man of them is as raw as you please, not more than a hundred of them have been here over three weeks."

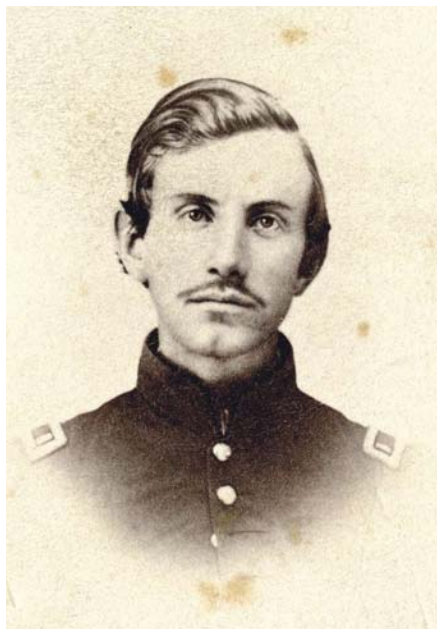
Judge Samuel H. Huntington's son, 2dLt Robert W. Huntington, was assigned to Company B under Capt Jones. In a letter to his wife, the judge noted, "The Corps ... consists mostly of raw recruits and there are too many young and inexperienced officers."

The 353-man battalion formed up in marching order—"ammunition box full, haversacks with three days rations, full canteen and blanket in a roll with the ends tied and worn from the right shoulder to the left side; a pair of stockings to be rolled up in the blanket"—on the parade deck shortly before 1400. They were ordered to "pass the long bridge by 3:00 pm to-

morrow [16 July] ... follow up the Columbia Turnpike as far as the New Fort and Toll Gate where they will receive further orders."

The battalion was organized into a small headquarters element (Reynolds, Sergeant Major Nicholson Slack and Quarter Master Sergeant Smith Maxwell) and four companies: Co A (Brevet Major Jacob Zeilin, who would become the seventh Marine Commandant in June 1864), Co B (Capt James H. Jones), Co C (1stLt Alan Ramsay) and Co D (2dLt William H. Cartter).

Author David M. Sullivan in "The United States Marine Corps in the Civil War: The First Year" noted, "Twelve non-commissioned officers served in the four companies. ... Three musicians and one apprentice music boy were also assigned.

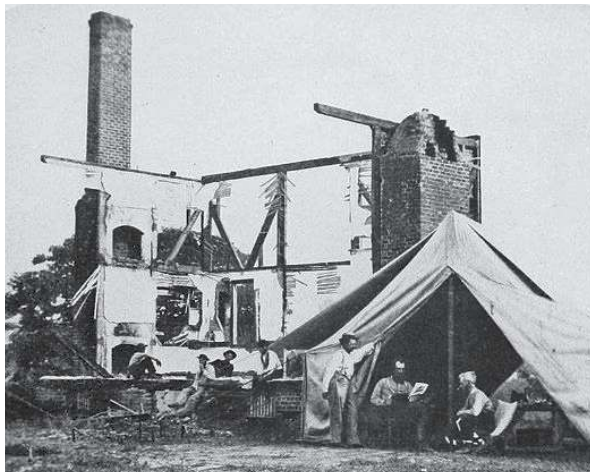


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GRAY RESEARCH CENTER, MARINE LIBRARY

Two young U.S. Marine second lieutenants experienced combat for the first time at Bull Run. One, 2dLt Robert E. Hitchcock, above left, did not survive, but Robert W. Huntington, pictured on horseback at Marine Barracks Portsmouth, N.H., retired from the Corps as a colonel in 1900.



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Above left: Judith Henry was killed, and her home was destroyed by Union artillery.



PHOTO BY GEORGE BARNARD COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Above right: Stone Bridge, crossing Bull Run, near Manassas, was destroyed, but the creek gained everlasting notoriety as the Union forces named the battle after the creek.

... There were 324 privates. Some were enlisted as recently as July 8 [1861] and had less than a week's drill. The majority of the battalion had enlisted during May and June. ... Only seven privates had been in the Corps prior to the opening guns of Fort Sumter."

"On to Richmond"

The battalion's line of march took it through southeast Washington, D.C., whose streets were thronged with blue-coated infantry, horse artillery and well-mounted cavalry, their steeds nervously prancing and rearing in the unaccustomed commotion. Well-wishers stood several ranks deep, clapping and hurraing the saviors of the Union—heady stuff for the youngsters of the Marine battalion as they went off to war. Private John E. Reily wrote, "I am in good health and well satisfied with the life of a Marine."

Some were not so filled with martial zeal. Pvt Joseph Pennypacker was left behind because "he is satisfied that soldiering does not agree with him and therefore wishes to obtain his discharge." Second Lt Hitchcock did not join the other junior officers in pre-battle bluster. In a premonition of his death, he gave a fellow officer his personal effects "in case anything happens to me." In a letter to his parents he wrote, "I hope the God of Battles will give me strength and wisdom to act wisely, and do my duty well. I am not prepared to die, but I am prepared to serve my Country, and stand by the Stars and Stripes till the last."

Despite the crowds and military traffic, the battalion made good time advancing along the two-mile stretch to the Long Bridge, which traversed the Potomac River into Virginia. The battalion crossed the bridge on schedule and continued for about a mile until reaching Fort Runyon,

where it turned onto Columbia Turnpike. Another mile brought it to the Toll Gate, where the battalion halted and waited for instructions. Reynolds reported that "an officer, purporting to be the assistant adjutant-general of Colonel [Andrew] Porter's brigade, came up and assigned us position in the line of march, which placed us immediately in the rear of Captain [Charles] Griffin's battery of flying artillery," known as the West Point Battery.

The battalion swung into line behind



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Col John Harris

the battery and quickly was swallowed up by the 35,000 men of BG McDowell's Army of Northeastern Virginia, the largest field army ever gathered in North America. The general's plan was to move westward in three columns, make a diversionary attack on the Confederate line at Bull Run with two columns, while the third column moved around the Confederates' right flank to the south, cutting the railroad to Richmond, Va., and threatening the rear of the Rebel army. He as-

sumed that the Confederates would be forced to abandon Manassas Junction and fall back to the Rappahannock River, the next defensible line in Virginia, which would relieve some of the pressure on the U.S. capital.

COL Andrew Porter's brigade consisted of 3,700 newly enlisted volunteers, along with a smattering of regulars. They were dressed in a variety of colorful uniforms, for example, the gray militia uniforms of the 8th New York State Militia and the red-legged devils of the Militia. The five-day movement quickly turned into the "march from hell" in the heat and humidity of a Virginia summer.

The Marines' heavy blue wool uniforms trapped the heat, and the men quickly broke out in sweat that developed into rashes rubbed raw by their equipment. They were unaccustomed to marching and soon became footsore, hobbling along on blistered feet caused by stiff brogans that had not been broken in. The long columns of men moved in fits and starts, mostly stops.

Maj Reynolds maintained tight discipline and reportedly drilled the men during the frequent halts, much to the amusement of the regulars of the U.S. Infantry Battalion.

Hitchcock wrote to his parents, "This is rather rough life after all, in the field as we are without the usual conveniences of camp." The brigade's militia units lacked the same level of control. Hundreds of men broke ranks to wander off to pick apples or blackberries or to get water from streams, many of which were brackish. Dysentery swept the ranks, competing with poor food quality as the No. 1 cause of stomach ailments. It was not until the 20th that the army reached Centreville, the last stop before attacking the Confederates near Manassas Junction.

Galling Fire

On the 21st, Porter “paraded the brigade in light marching order at 2 o’clock in the morning.” He reported: “The Marines were recruits, but through the constant exertions of their officers had been brought to present a fine military appearance, without being able to render much active service. They were therefore attached to the battery [Griffin] as its permanent support through the day.”

Delays kept the brigade marking time until after sunrise. It did not reach Bull Run creek until some four hours later. Reynolds complained: “On reaching the field, and for some hours previously, the battery’s accelerated march was such as to keep my command more or less in double-quick time; consequently the men became fatigued or exhausted in strength. Being obliged at this period to halt, in order to afford those in the rear an opportunity of closing up and taking their proper place in line, the battery was lost to protection from the force under my command.”

Griffin’s battery was ordered forward through a grove of trees and into an open field before deploying 1,000 yards from a Confederate battery. The Marine battalion followed at the double quick. “The position of the battery [Griffin] was pointed out,” Reynolds noted in a report, “and I was directed to afford the necessary support.”

The Union artillery “opened a deadly and unerring fire, which soon silenced and drove away [the Confederates],” Porter



Brevet Major Jacob Zeilin

noted. “Our right was rapidly developed by the [M]arines, [the] Twenty-seventh, Fourteenth and Eighth ... the enemy retreating with more precipitation than order.”

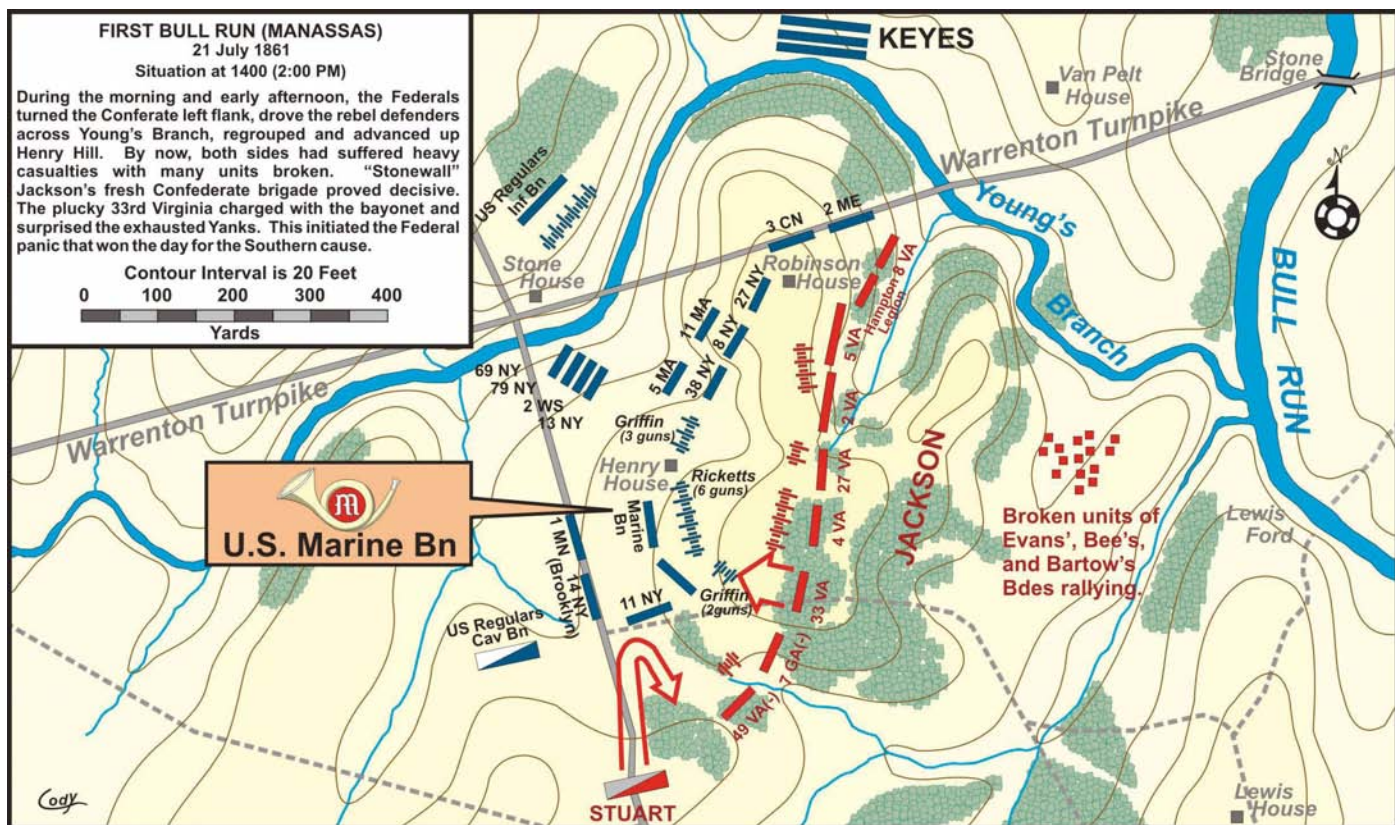
At the time, Porter’s 1st Brigade “occupied a line considerably in advance of that first occupied by the left wing of the enemy,” he recalled, who “had been forcibly shifted nearly a mile to their left and rear.” The advance was not without cost. The 14th New York Militia had broken, but rallied in the rear of Griffin’s battery; the 8th New York Militia had “lost its organization” and was out of the fight, but “the Marines were moving up in fine style in [the] rear of the 14th.” Griffin’s

battery was ordered to the top of a hill, and in the process, “a murderous fire of musketry and rifles, opened at pistol range, cut down every cannoneer and a large number of horses.”

Reynolds’ Marines were ordered forward in support. They formed two ranks, shoulder to shoulder as prescribed by regulations. Sullivan wrote that Capt Jones ordered 2dLt Huntington to dress the company and bring it into proper line to ensure compliance. “The battalion took the position indicated,” he recalled, “but was unable to hold it, owing to the heavy fire which opened upon them.” Confederate artillery ranged in on the Marine formation. Hitchcock was heard to remark, “The cannon balls are flying pretty thick,” when one tore off his head, fulfilling his worst fears.

Pvt William Barrett reported, “We faced them on the left of the battery, and when about fifty yards from it, our men fell like hailstones,” as the Confederates fired. “I think they intended to fix me when they hit the lock of my musket ... which put me back about three feet. As soon as I came to my ground again two men were shot down on my right and one on my left. ... You could hear the band playing ‘Yankee Doodle’ around your ears.” Porter saw them give way. “The Marines, in spite of the exertions of their gallant officers, gave way in disorder.”

Reynolds admitted that his men “broke three separate times, but reformed and went back to their positions, where finally





The Long Bridge over the Potomac River was a well-guarded major access point for Washington, D.C., and guards held up the Marines as they sought to return to their barracks after being overwhelmed at the Battle of Bull Run.

a general rout took place, in which the Marines participated. No effort on the part of their officers could induce them to rally.” It was reported that Reynolds used “language more forcible than pious” in his attempt to rally his men.

Barrett described the retreat. “At the time of the retreat, we ran over the dead and wounded for a mile from the battery and to hear the wounded crying for help would have made the heart of stone ache. All along the road we had men, only wounded a little, who, when the long march came, had to give out and lie down and die. For ten miles this side of the field they could be seen lying here and there on the roadside.”

Thousands of fleeing men were trapped in the bottleneck, trying to cross the narrow bridge over Cub Run. Confederate artillery bombarded the panic-stricken men and sent them fleeing in all directions, trying to find safety on the other side of the deep-water barrier. Shouts of

“Confederate cavalry” increased the urgency of their flight. “If you had seen us swimming across ... you would have thought there was something after us then!” Barrett recalled.

Reynolds reached the Long Bridge on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., just after daybreak on the 22nd and found his men being held by the Provost Guard. “[O]n my arrival [Long Bridge], I found some seventy or more, who, at my urgent solicitation were permitted to accompany me to the barracks.”

Two days later, Reynolds submitted a report of the action to Harris, who forwarded it to the Secretary of the Navy. In the letter of transmittal, Harris commented sadly, “It is the first instance in history where any portion of its members turned their backs to the enemy.”

Despite Harris’ comment, the Marine battalion’s flight from the field was no worse than the rest of McDowell’s amateur army. Reynolds did not make any excuses

for the conduct of the battalion, except to state the obvious. “Of the three hundred and fifty officers and enlisted men ... there were but two staff-officers, two captains, one first lieutenant, nine non-commissioned officers, and two musicians who were experienced from length of service. ... The remainder was raw recruits ... not one being in service over three weeks, and many had hardly learned their facings, the officers likewise being but a short time in the service.”

The Marine battalion suffered nine men killed in action, including Pvt Reily, who told his parents before the battle that he was “well satisfied with the life of a Marine.” In addition, 19 men were wounded (Brevet Maj Zeilin was wounded in the arm), and 16 privates were missing in action.

Editor’s note: Suzanne Pool-Camp has contributed previous articles to Leatherneck. She and her husband, retired Marine Col Dick Camp, live in Fredericksburg, Va.

Col Camp recently retired as vice president of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps and is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck. His latest book, “Boots on the Ground: The Fight To Liberate Afghanistan From Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, 2001-2002,” was reviewed in the March Leatherneck and is available from The Marine Shop at www.marineshop.net or by calling toll-free, (888) 237-7683.



Organization of COL Andrew Porter’s 1st Brigade

- 8th New York Militia (three-month volunteers)
- 14th New York State Militia (three-year volunteers, nicknamed “Red-legged Devils”)
- 27th New York Infantry (two-year volunteers)
- U.S. Infantry Battalion (eight companies from the 2d, 3d and 8th United States Infantry)
- U.S. Marine Corps Battalion
- U.S. Cavalry Battalion (eight companies of the 1st and 2d United States Cavalry)
- Battery D, 5th U.S. Artillery (Captain Charles Griffin’s West Point Battery, four 10-pound Parrott rifles and two 12-pound field howitzers)

In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Lawralynn Diehl

Heroic Corpsman Awarded Silver Star For Saving Lives Under Fire



Hospital Corpsman Third Class Todd Angell was awarded the Silver Star for his heroism in Afghanistan while serving with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division.

Corporal Brandon Rumbaugh, a Marine whose life Angell helped save, pinned the medal on the Bethel, Conn., native during a ceremony April 27 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Rumbaugh lost both of his legs after stepping on an improvised explosive device (IED). Angell rushed to his aid and started him on intravenous fluids and medication.

“One of the hardest [casualties] I worked on was Rumbaugh; he was one of the most unstable casualties I had,” said Angell. “I did everything I could, but I didn’t know if it was enough. Having him pin me meant the world to me. Just to have Rumbaugh alive to pin me, that’s more than any Silver Star or any medal.”

Rumbaugh wasn’t the only one Angell saved during his tour in Afghanistan. Angell risked his life on many occasions to save others, and he said, “If that means being hurt on the way, so be it.”

During one incident, Oct. 12, 2010, Angell unknowingly ran more than 500 meters through an IED hotspot to provide immediate care for Marines injured by IEDs, rather than wait for vehicles to navigate the difficult terrain in the area.

“I just grabbed my gear and just ran. It was a long run, probably the longest run of my life. I was pretty broke off by the time I got up there,” said Angell.

Another incident on Nov. 8, 2010, involved the treatment of an Afghan National Army soldier who stepped on an IED. Angell was following a Marine handling a minesweeper to get to the wounded soldier when the Marine struck an IED. Angell assessed the Marine’s injury before moving toward the soldier, where he applied tourniquets to both amputated legs, administered intravenous fluids and stabilized the soldier.

As he was treating the soldier, an explosive ordnance disposal Marine, working on-site, also struck an IED and received minor blast injuries. After treating the three injured men and ensuring the safe evacuation of the soldier, a firefight broke out, resulting in a local resident being shot in the head. Angell promptly treated the civilian and saved his life.

Angell wasn’t done yet. On Dec. 20,

2010, it was his combat skills that shined. During a firefight, he killed two insurgents at distances up to 400 meters. As the firefight continued, Angell also acted as the assistant mortar gunner. By the end of the day, he had fired 17 mortar rounds at enemy positions.

“I don’t see Doc Angell as a corpsman,” said Cpl James D. Freeman, who spent the latter half of his deployment as a rifleman in the same platoon as Angell. “He’s just another Marine who knows how to fix people better than we can.”

“Doc Angell is a constant professional; they broke the mold with that guy,” said Staff Sergeant Ysidro R. Gonzalez, Angell’s platoon sergeant, who felt the doc was one of the best corpsmen he’s seen in his 17 years in the Marine Corps.

“Doc Angell never hesitated under fire, and I believe that his devotion and dedication to his Marines is what drove him ... to perform the way he did. He never once thought of himself; he always thought of his Marines, no matter what was on their collar, and for the Afghans as well.”

The ceremony brought out many different emotions from comrades in attendance, but the most commonplace was pride.



HM3 Todd Angell, right, is about to be presented his Silver Star by MajGen John A. Toolan Jr., Commanding General, 2dMarDiv, on April 27 at MCB Camp Lejeune for saving several lives in Afghanistan. Cpl Brandon Rumbaugh pinned the medal on Angell, who saved his life.

CPL TIMOTHY SOLANO



CPL ANDRES J. LUGO

The two men are more than members of the same unit; they are good friends.

"I'm very proud of him and proud to know him and [to] have been a small paragraph in Doc Angell's life," said SSgt Gonzalez. "Doc Angell is a great American; he saved a lot of lives. Everybody always talks bad about the kids of this generation ... and how they don't measure up. But whoever says those things have never seen a young man like Doc Angell in combat."

"I'd say Doc Angell was there for me every time we stepped outside the wire. He loved to take care of his Marines," said Lance Corporal Timothy J. Hagem, a mortarman in Angell's platoon.

"When he came up and helped Rumbaugh out, I was there for that. I'd say it was a combination of his duty and love of his Marines. Yes, he knew he had to do his job as a corpsman ... [but his attitude was]: 'I'm not just doing this as a corpsman; I'm doing this because these guys are my friends. Yeah, I want to come home, but I want to see these guys come home just as much,' added Hagem. "If you love that person who's hurt, you're going to get there no matter what, and Doc Angell and [Corporal] Rumbaugh are real close."

Angell acted with complete disregard for his own personal safety, and his actions are a testament to his devotion to the Marines he served, but he humbly attributes his successes to those around him.

Cpl Walter D. Marino II
Combat Correspondent, 2dMarDiv

Marine Awarded Silver Star For Afghanistan Acts

The parade ground at Camp San Mateo was filled with Marines on March 29, as Sergeant Ryan T. Sotelo was awarded the Silver Star. He was honored for the actions he took as a squad leader with Company K, 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment deployed to Sangin District, Afghanistan.

Major General Ronald L. Bailey, Commanding General, First Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., presented the medal to Sgt Sotelo, who now is a scout sniper with Battalion Landing Team 3/5, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"It was humbling when the general pinned on the star," said Sotelo. "When we perform out in country, we don't do it for medals, we do it for the Marine on the right and left of us."

On Nov. 25, 2010, Sotelo's squad was ambushed in an open field with machine-gun and small-arms fire, which killed the platoon commander. Without hesitation, Sotelo took charge of the unit and moved them to a nearby canal. He then sprinted through heavy fire across open ground to retrieve the body of his fallen lieutenant.



L CPL TIMOTHY CHILDERS

When the defensive position became [untenable] because of intense small-arms fire, he called in supporting arms to cover the squad's movement to a nearby compound. As insurgents began to assault the position, he led his squad as they repelled the enemy.

When one enemy combatant began to

MajGen Ronald L. Bailey, CG, 1stMarDiv, presents Sgt Ryan T. Sotelo with the Silver Star during a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 30.

fire on an exposed Marine, Sotelo closed in on the insurgent and killed him with a grenade.

"As soon as we got across, we got lit up and engaged in every direction," said Corporal Jose Launder. "[Sergeant] Sotelo just ran over and threw a grenade."

After a reinforcing Marine unit was pinned down by heavy fire from the insurgents, Sotelo again disregarded his own safety to engage the enemy machine gun with a rifle, finally calling in an air strike that silenced the enemy fire.

"I think a lot of us are here because of his actions that day," added Launder.

Realizing that his situation was dire, Sotelo led a fighting withdrawal more than 600 meters through enemy fire to bring his squad back to friendly lines.

Sotelo continues serving his Corps and country as he prepares for the 15th MEU's upcoming deployment.

L Cpl Timothy Childers
Combat Correspondent, 15th MEU

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 April:



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

MSgt Marcus R. Bacahui,
Marine Corps Augmentation &
Transition Support Unit
GySgt Ricardo Cross, MarCor

Augmntn & Transn Spt Unit

Capt Matthew E. Earnhardt, 3d
Reconnaissance Battalion, Third
Marine Division

Sgt Dominic D. Esquibel, 3d Bn,
Fifth Marine Regiment, 1stMarDiv

GySgt Jens D. Merritt, MarCor
Augmntn & Transn Spt Unit

MGySgt Keith E. Oakes, MarCor
Augmntn & Transn Spt Unit

SSgt Guillermo A. Tejada, 3/5,
1stMarDiv

SSgt Thomas L. Williams, 9th
Engineer Support Bn, Third Marine
Logistics Group



Air Medal With Combat "V"

Capt Joseph C. Anagnos,
Marine Light Helicopter
Squadron 367, Marine Aircraft
Group 39, Third Marine
Aircraft Wing



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"


SSgt Charles B. Bailey,
Marine Special Operations
Support Group, U.S. Marine Corps
Forces Special Operations Command
(MARSOC)

1stSgt Douglas R. Blose, 1st Recon
Bn, 1stMarDiv

Capt Alexander R. Brough, 2/4,
1stMarDiv

SSgt Scott M. Chirdon, 2d Recon
Bn, 2dMarDiv

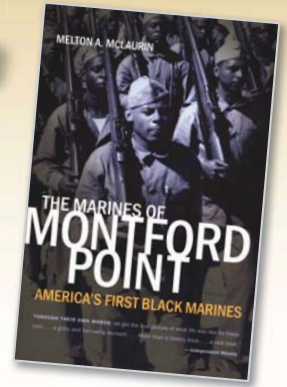
GySgt Jerry C. Jordan, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Michael A. Kinsel, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
HM1 Nigel R. Kissoon, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Roderick H. Ledbetter, 3d Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Luis A. Limon, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Jason E. May, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv
Capt Matthew L. McCue, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Alexander J. Micciche, 2d CEB, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Erwin R. Navarro, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
SSgt Justin O. Smallwood, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv
GySgt William G. Strohsahl, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv
Capt Justin M. Trowbridge, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv

 **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"**
Sgt Blake J. Amesquita, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv

1stLt Anthony R. Arguelles, 2/11, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Corey R. Baldwin, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Aaron J. Barnes, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
GySgt Brian T. Boger, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Christopher D. Bordoni, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Daniel D. Briggs, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Matthew C. Burke, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
Cpl Antonio Bustos, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Brian D. Carney, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Edward J. Chapman, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
Sgt Adam C. Clements, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
Sgt Sean T. Cliften, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Christopher M. Creech, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Nicholas D. Doeyk, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Matthew J. Eatherton, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
SSgt Graig A. Fraser, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Christopher Z. Gramlich, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv

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1stLt Dennis A. Graziosi, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Lee W. Harris, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Jesse S. Haxo, 2d Supply Bn (Reinforced) Forward
1stLt Walter H. Haydock, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Gibson B. Hein, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Chad A. Jackson, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Nathan C. Kerr, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Ryan A. Knox, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Michael S. Lindsay, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Kevin P. Locke, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Edward C. Ludwig V, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
Sgt David D. Mead, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
Sgt Maryann Miller, 1stMarDiv (Fwd)
Cpl Shane W. Newby, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
1stLt Samuel W. Pierce, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Joshua M. Pike, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Mark L. Pins, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv

Sgt Adam C. Richwine, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv
Sgt Ryan L. Rodriguez, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
LCpl Mauro Rosales, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Brandon B. Ryals, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Dane N. Schielke, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
LCpl Andrew J. Schondelmayer, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Christopher M. Skaggs, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Ryan A. States, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv
HM2 Joseph N. Surdynski, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Matthew Z. Vandiest, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Andrew F. Vonkuhn, 1st LAR Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Brandon E. White, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Liam D. Williams, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Eric G. Wright, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

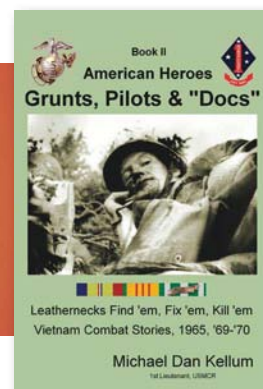
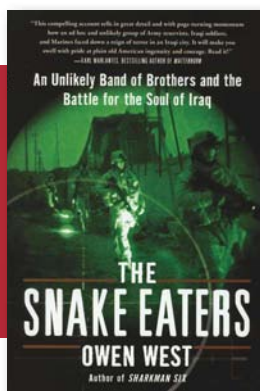
Compiled by the Personal Awards Section,

HQMC



Books Reviewed

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THE SNAKE EATERS: An Unlikely Band of Brothers and the Battle for the Soul of Iraq. By Owen West. Published by Free Press. 352 pages. Stock #1451655932. \$23.40 MCA Members. \$26 Regular Price.

Pulsating throughout the pages of “The Snake Eaters: An Unlikely Band of Brothers and the Battle for the Soul of Iraq,” often paragraph by paragraph, is probity, a virtue defined by this noblest noun in the English language. Resonating among a small team of U.S. advisors, call sign “Outcast,” it meant to them exemplifying the highest of human principles and ideals while embedded in Iraqi Battalion 3/3-1—the 3d Battalion, 3d Brigade, First Iraqi Army Division—nicknamed “Snake Eaters,” often thrust into bitter and sanguinary urban fighting.

The author, Owen West, was a member of the fourth Outcast team to mentor the Snake Eaters in the battalion’s 33-month existence. The U.S. Army most often had provided staffing for the advisor team, but in 2006, the author’s team was an uninitiated, no combat-experienced hodgepodge, including a cop, a firefighter, an unemployed rock ‘n’ roll guitarist, a plumber, a mailman and a DEA agent. Together, they planned amid pessimism and fought in optimism.

Binding them to each other as well as their “Snake Eater” Iraqi soldier-cousins was a strong, unwavering allegiance to the Allied mission bolstered by an empathetic understanding of the odds against any of them surviving the street-by-street, house-

to-house killing in Anbar province’s Khalidiya, an insurgent-infested town along the Euphrates River. No amount of cunning or overwhelming enemy fire weakened their resolve or loyalty to each other.

West, a third-generation U.S. Marine who served two combat tours in Iraq, one as an advisor to the Snake Eaters, explains that his account focuses upon how ordinary American weekend reservists were deployed in extraordinary ways.

Researching, interviewing, gathering material and then writing the book required more than four years of constant effort, a dedication and commitment that he said “almost killed [him]. ... It was worth it. The incredible contribution of these advisors is now memorialized, and with a collective voice we assert that the advisor model works.”

Indeed, as it should be. For West smoothly carries readers into Khalidiya, placing us into the streets, schools and homes of supporting civilians whom the 12 advisors were trying to protect. The only problem was that their friends were indistinguishable from the enemy they were determined to destroy. Complicating things was that the Iraqi battalion they mentored was at first amateurish and hostile, leading to the possibility of a failed mission.

But the men of Battalion 3/3-1 wouldn’t give up. They quickly acclimated to the culture, made friends with translators, and learned how to work with townspeople. By the end of their stay, Battalion 3/3-1

was the first Iraqi battalion granted independent battlespace, the insurgency was wiped off the streets, and peace was restored.

Although the core of the narrative zeros in on and details the near epic struggle where the fighting was so intense and prolonged that the combatants knew each other’s names, faces and families, West offers significant lessons for future counterinsurgency wars. During interviews, West argues the problem today is that the role of the military advisor is “a mystery to the public and misunderstood by politicians.” Even President Barack Obama has declared “that advisors are not combat troops.”

But the author says the opposite is true: “Few troops take as much risk as advisors, whose unwritten orders are to set the example in battle.” Our response in Iraq and Afghanistan has been “to send hundreds of thousands of troops at a cost of a hundred billion dollars a year, mistakes reminiscent of Vietnam that, left unchallenged, will be repeated.” West’s book now demonstrates there is a better way.

“The Snake Eaters: An Unlikely Band of Brothers and the Battle for the Soul of Iraq” is neither a memoir nor an official history. It’s a case study for a new way of war: the advisor model. Suggested by Owen West after observing one particular group of 12 ordinary but resolute men, who found themselves together in one small phase of an anguishing conflict waging battle in an unorthodox way, the

model in its full measure is certain to be appraised by military strategists and historians alike, especially in light of our counterinsurgency efforts in the wars yet to come.

Don DeNevi

Editor's note: Don DeNevi, an author himself, is a frequent reviewer for Leatherneck magazine.

AMERICAN HEROES: Grunts, Pilots & "Docs," Books I and II. By Michael Dan Kellum. Published by Navarro-Hill Publishing Group. Vol. I, 518 pages. Vol. II, 477 pages. Vol. I Stock #0984513205. \$24.26 MCA Members. \$26.95 Regular Price. Vol. II Stock #0984513221. \$23.36 MCA Members. \$25.95 Regular Price.

With great pleasure, I highly recommend to *Leatherneck* readers two new companion books, "American Heroes: Grunts, Pilots & Docs," Books I & II, written by former First Lieutenant Michael Dan Kellum, a Mustang officer, who served in the Marble Mountain region of the Republic of Vietnam throughout 1970.

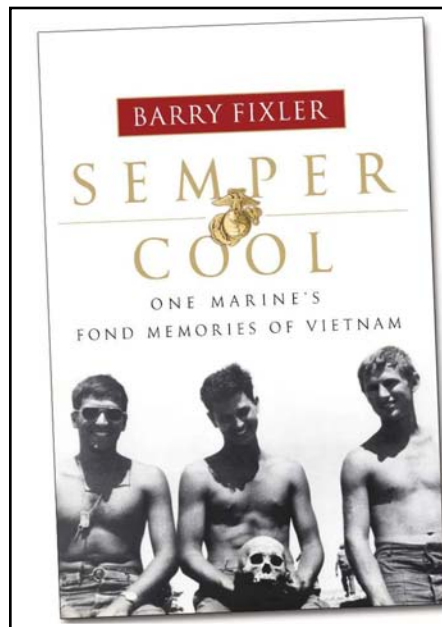
In these two volumes, Kellum skillfully weaves his exciting first-person narrative with assorted oral histories of the Marines and Navy corpsmen who served in "the Nam." Remarkably, in his more than 20 years of dogged research, he interviewed 1,019 Marines, 42 "Docs," and included are the testimonies of six Navy physicians.

Kellum declared that he had joined the Corps due to a teenage broken heart. As an enlisted man, he received his initial "boot" education on the West Coast at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. But the Texan found a new home in the Corps.

In the mid-1960s and as the war in the Far East began to escalate, there was a crying need for newly minted Marine second lieutenants. Kellum was sent off to the new Enlisted Commissioning Program, earning his commission and shiny gold bars as a second lieutenant and then completing The Basic School (TBS) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Second Lt Kellum was sent to Eighth Marine Regiment at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., and then deployed to guard fences around the naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. By early January 1970, he was transferred to the 26th Marine Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam. Kellum finished his year's tour as a "grunt" officer with 2/26. Toward the end of his combat tour, 1stLt Kellum briefly commanded "Echo" Company.

In and around the 1970s, if you or your friends served in Vietnam, your name, or the names of Marine and Navy personnel with whom you served, may well be included in one or more of Kellum's well-crafted, salty reminiscences. These two



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

—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*

amazing volumes represent a splendid example and a guide for future oral historians.

With the personal testimonies of more than 1,000 combat veterans and the inclusion of many previously unpublished photos, these two books are a pleasure to read and carefully consider. Kellum pulls no punches in his assessment of the situation that he, his Marines and corpsmen encountered. By 1970, America slowly began to withdraw combat forces from the theater of operations. This period marked the escalation of a Vietnamization program and a marked reduction in aggressive Marine-led operations.

Besides Kellum's well-written personal story, he includes various sidebar accounts of the heroic Marines and corpsmen who served in country during the war. Of Kellum's TBS class, "Charlie" Co, 1969, we learn that nine were killed in action and 15 wounded.

These remarkable volumes provide the reader with immense insight into the mind of an infantry officer at war. The North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong notwithstanding, Marine officers and their men faced many other disquieting difficulties: The devious VC forced or paid children to set booby traps and mines; race relation problems existed between the white and the black Marines; and many maddening problems occurred while working with our South Vietnamese allies. All are aired by Kellum.

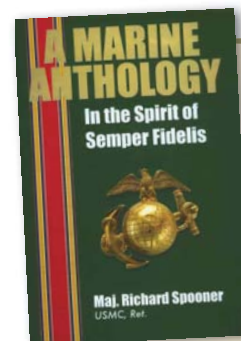
Returning home after the war, Kellum graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, with a degree in communication and English and became a journalist for the local *Longview Morning Journal* in Longview, Texas. Of his career and his experience

researching the book, Kellum writes, "The time I spent in the Marine Corps evolved into an experience I will always cherish as I matured and was blessed to meet some truly amazing people in and out of Vietnam."

So, buckle your chinstrap and go to war with the finest! For more information about Michael Dan Kellum, check out: MichaelDanKellum.com.

Robert B. Loring

Editor's note: A prolific reader and Leatherneck contributor, "Red Bob" Loring is dedicated to supporting social programs that improve the lives of citizens in East Pasco County, Fla.



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Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Wounded Warrior Receives New House

With the turn of a key, retired Marine Staff Sergeant Vincent Gizzarelli stepped into his new Jacksonville, N.C., house for the first time on April 28. His wife, Jamie, shedding joyful tears, accompanied him inside with their five children in tow. The 3,000-square-foot home looked like a display model, complete with furniture, linens, upholstery, dinnerware and televisions in the main rooms.

The donated house, valued at approximately \$400,000, was built using supplies and donations from local businesses and various veterans groups in a project coordinated by Operation Finally Home (OFH), a nonprofit organization that provides custom-made, mortgage-free homes to wounded and disabled veterans as well as widows of fallen military personnel. Since being established in 2005, OFH has built nearly 50 homes in 10 different states.

"If anybody deserves the American dream, it's those who are fighting for it," said Daniel Vargas, executive director of OFH. "It's the men and women who protect us day in and day out."

Home has been an elusive concept for Gizzarelli, who has traveled a rough path during the past nine years.

Gizzarelli enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 1998. From the age of 10, he knew he wanted to be a Marine. He grew up in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and loved listening to his father's stories about serving in the Marine Corps during Vietnam.

During his first enlistment, Gizzarelli served in Marine Corps Security Force Company, Keflavik, Iceland, and participated in peacekeeping operations while aboard ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

After reenlisting in 2002, Gizzarelli received orders to 1st Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division and deployed to Iraq during the initial invasion in March 2003. He took part in the fighting that occurred on March 23 around the city of An Nasiriyah. Eighteen Marines made the ultimate sacrifice that day.

"It was my baptism of fire, and it was pretty bad," recalled Gizzarelli. "I'm just going to leave it at that."

In July 2004, Gizzarelli again deployed

to Iraq. During this deployment, he survived five improvised explosive device blasts, two of which knocked him unconscious and left shrapnel in his left leg. He was awarded a Purple Heart for the combat wounds.

After returning to the United States in March 2005, Gizzarelli was selected for recruiting duty and was sent to a recruiting station in southwestern Pennsylvania. During this time, he and his former wife separated, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) became evident.



Medically retired SSgt Vincent Gizzarelli unlocks the door to his new house, built and donated by local businesses and veterans groups, in Jacksonville, N.C., April 28.

"I didn't recognize it at first," said Gizzarelli. "I was having a lot of difficulty sleeping, I had a real short fuse, and recruiting duty isn't the easiest duty at all.

"I prefer combat over recruiting duty—I'd take it in a heartbeat. Long hours, [a] lot of hard work, [a] lot of stress; you're dealing with Mom and Dad, and they don't want their boy or girl going into the Marine Corps. It kind of wears on you. I started losing hours. I'd look at the clock, and I would wonder where two hours went."

With the strain of recruiting and the dissolution of his marriage, Gizzarelli found himself in a hole, physically and mentally. He sought help at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center and, after

five years of suffering from the effects of PTSD, was finally diagnosed and able to begin treatment.

It also was during this time that Gizzarelli met his wife Jamie, whom he married in November 2007. He credits her with being able to help him seek treatment and get his symptoms under control.

Following his stint as a recruiter, Gizzarelli was assigned to the operations office for Headquarters Battalion, 2dMarDiv, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. His duties included organizing and executing training operations and trips to the rifle range. Despite his previous treatment, Gizzarelli found himself struggling to focus and complete the simplest of tasks.

Gizzarelli was suffering from an injury common to those who have been exposed to IED blasts: traumatic brain injury (TBI). According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, during 2007-09, more than 24,000 veterans were confirmed to have sustained this signature injury of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

After going through the process for transitioning back to civilian life at Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, Gizzarelli was medically retired from the Marine Corps in February 2009.

Since then, the Gizzarellis have continued to live in Jacksonville, N.C., only a few miles away from MCB Camp Lejeune. Despite facing financial hardship and taking care of their own two children, the couple decided to adopt three boys, ages 3 to 5, who were living in an abusive home.

According to Vargas, the Gizzarellis' quest to gain custody of the three children is what led Operation Finally Home to select them as the recipients of the new house. "That service before self is still there," said Vargas. "That basically set it off. They need this home. [He's] not only taking care of his family, but he's taking care of three others."

The Gizzarellis said they are more than thankful to all of those who have had a hand in building and putting the house together, which they see as a "new beginning."

"It hasn't been easy since I've gotten out of the Marine Corps," said Gizzarelli. "Emotionally, it's been very difficult."

He said that organizations like Opera-



COURTESY OF DONALD L. VERSAW



COURTESY OF DONALD L. VERSAW

MSgt Donald L. Versaw, USMC (Ret), now the last surviving member of the Fourth Marine Regiment Band, “The Last China Band,” poses with the French horn he played while a member of the band (above left). The Fourth Marine Regiment Band (above right) paraded down East Nanking Road in Shanghai, China, during its final performance in 1941. Redeployed to Corregidor in the face of invading Japanese, bandsmen exchanged their instruments for rifles after Dec. 8, 1941, and were captured and held by Japan as POWs for more than three years.

tion Finally Home, who do this type of thing for servicemembers, give them “a fresh start.” He also said he could think of many others he served with whom he felt were more deserving than him.

“I’m blessed. My family’s blessed that we’ve been given this opportunity,” Gizzarelli said.

Cpl Bryan Nygaard
Combat Correspondent, II MEF

Last Surviving China Band Marine Shares Experience as a POW

Master Sergeant Donald L. Versaw, USMC (Ret) recently attended the 27th annual Marine Corps Musicians Association (MCMA) dinner in San Diego as a distinguished guest and relived his experience with the Fourth Marine Regiment Band, “The Last China Band.”

Stationed in Shanghai, China, in 1941, Versaw recalled that “The Last China Band” became the band’s call to arms as its new persona on Dec. 8, 1941.

Amid the threat of an impending world war, the entire band was withdrawn on orders from Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps and was relocated to the U.S. Naval Station at Olongapo, Philippine Islands.

The Fourth Marine Regiment Band became a fighting unit and was renamed 3d Platoon, “Easy” Company, 2d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment. “In the Marine Corps, you’re Marines first,” said Versaw. “Everything else is secondary.”

The band members-turned-infantrymen took defensive positions along the Olongapo coast in preparation against a beach-front attack.

Once the threat of such an attack subsided, the fighting bandsmen moved to the tip of the Bataan Peninsula, near Corregidor, the site of the terrible Bataan

Death March, which took place a few short months later.

On May 6, 1942, the entire band platoon was captured and members became prisoners of war.

The captured Marines were transported in the aptly named “Hell Ships.” More than 1,000 POWs were stuffed into the hull of the *Nissyo Maru*, a Japanese vessel. The tightly packed “human cargo” suffered from sweltering heat, unsanitary conditions, exhaustion, thirst and hunger.

Seventeen agonizing days later, the ship laid anchor at the dock of Moji, Kyushu, Japan. The POWs were then transported by train and foot to the coal-mining city of Futase in Fukuoka province, where they worked more than 11 hours a day, seven days a week, for pennies a day.

More than three years later, the POWs were liberated following the end of the war.

“Just being in the same room as him gives me goose bumps,” said fellow MCMA member and tuba player MGySgt William F. Schnell, USMC (Ret), an Avon Lake, Ohio, native.

As the last surviving member of “The Last China Band,” Versaw’s legacy, as well as the band’s, continues in his books, “Mikado no Kyaku (Guest of the Emperor): The Recollections of Corporal Donald L. Versaw” and “The Last China Band.”

LCpl Michelle Piehl
PAO, MCAS Miramar, Calif.



COURTESY OF WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

WARRIOR ROUNDUP—Sgt Matthew Smith waves his hat to the crowd after being named the semipro division winner of the Wounded Warrior Cutting Classic III, April 14, at the D&M Cattle Company in Nokesville, Va. Smith, along with other wounded warriors who participated in the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund’s Jinx McCain Riding Program, experienced many personal and professional victories during a week of training in the equestrian sport of cutting. Leathernecks, many with no prior experience riding horses, came from units all across the country and competed successfully in the program.

In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, April 1-30, 2012

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

Corporal Christopher D. Bordoni, 21, of Ithaca, N.Y., with 1st Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 3 of wounds sustained Jan. 18, 2012, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Joseph H. Fankhauser, 30, of Mason, Texas, with 7th Engineer Support Bn, First Marine Logistics Group, I MEF, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 22, in Helmand province.

Cpl Aaron M. Faust, 22, of Louisville, Ky., with 2/9, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, April 15, in Helmand province.

Cpl Alex Martinez, 21, of Elgin, Ill., with 1st Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv, I MEF, Camp Pendleton, April 5, in Helmand province.

Master Sergeant Scott E. Pruitt, 38, of Gautier, Miss., with Headquarters Group, I MEF, Camp Pendleton, April 28, in Helmand province.

Lance Corporal Abraham Tarwoe, 25, of Providence, R.I., with 2/9, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, April 12, in Helmand province.

John B. Hirt

Major General John B. Hirt, USMCR (Ret) of Beaver, Pa., died on March 18, at the age of 84.

MajGen Hirt was the former Deputy for Education/Director, Education Center, Marine Corps Development and Education Command (MCDEC) Quantico, Va.

A Reserve officer, MajGen Hirt served as professor and dean of a school of engineering and president of two different colleges for more than 15 years prior to assuming the presidency of an engineering and management consulting firm in Pittsburgh.

He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1951 and holds a B.S. degree in engineering, an MBA in management and a Ph.D. in business administration and engineering.

He enlisted in 1946, and upon release from active duty in 1947, he maintained his Reserve status. He was recalled to active duty and commissioned in 1951.

He served in command and staff billets in the 34th Infantry Company; as Officer Selection Liaison Officer for Colleges and Universities; as an adjunct faculty member of the Command and Staff College at Quantico; and as an instructor at Marine Corps Schools and the Naval War College.

In 1974, he commanded 3d Staff Group in Pittsburgh.

MajGen Hirt was elected president of the Southern Cross Chapter of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association in December 1976 prior to his appointment as Commanding Officer, Volunteer Training Unit 4-54 in Pittsburgh. In March 1977, he was selected for

brigadier general, USMCR, and appointed Assistant Division Commander, Fourth Marine Division (Reinforced), Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

MajGen Hirt was recalled to active duty on March 31, 1981, and assigned duty as Director, Education Center for MCDEC Quantico. He was advanced to major general in 1981 and was assigned duty in his mobilization billet as Director, Naval Council of Personnel Boards in Washington, D.C. He served in that capacity until 1983 and as Deputy for Education/Director, Education Center, MCDEC Quantico.

In 1983, he was appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

Jack W. Jaunal

Sergeant Major Jack W. Jaunal of Federal Way, Wash., author and veteran of three wars, with 33 years of service, died April 8. He was 84.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1952 after serving seven years in the U.S. Army. During World War II, he served as a seaman with the U.S. Maritime Service. He entered the Marine Corps and was wounded during the Korean War while serving with the First Marine Division, which included temporary duty with the British 29th Brigade.

As a Marine, he was a communicator, artilleryman, reconnaissance man, recruiter, served with the aircraft wing, and as a monitor at two atomic tests in Nevada. He was promoted to sergeant major in 1968 while serving in Vietnam with the 1stMarDiv. His service in Vietnam included the Tet offensive, Operations Auburn and Meade River, the battle at Cam

Le, and one long-range reconnaissance patrol. Vietnam provided the basis for his book, "Vietnam '68: Jack's Journal," published in 1989. When he retired in 1978, he was Sergeant Major of the Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic.

After retirement, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in history from Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, Wash.) in 1983 and a Master of Arts degree in American history from the University of Washington (Seattle) in 1985. His thesis, "The U.S. Marines in the China Relief Expedition, 1900," was published in 1986. At the time of his death, he was a college history instructor.

His military awards include the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V," Combat Action Ribbon, eight Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

He was a *Leatherneck* reader, who often contributed to the "Sound Off" column.

Paul J. Abelson Jr., 86, of Sioux City, Iowa. He enlisted in 1944 and fought on Okinawa and participated in the occupation of China.

Discharged in 1946, he worked for Kutil Refrigeration and also at the Strategic Air Command. He was a diesel operator at the Atlas Missile Site in Beatrice, Neb. He opened and operated Billy Boy's Drive Thru in Sioux City, which became famous for its onion chips and dip. He was a member of the MCL Det. #507 and served as deputy commandant.

SSgt Douglas E. Barton, 84, in Houston. He served from 1946 to 1947 and reenlisted in 1951 for the Korean War, where he was an amphibian tractor operator. He later worked

for Hudson Products Corporation of Houston.

Maj William D. Benner Sr., 73, of Eagleville, Calif. He graduated from high school in 1956 and enlisted as a 17-year-old. In 1961, he was chosen for Officer Candidates School and commissioned later that year. He served two tours in Vietnam and retired at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1976, where he commanded Co L, Marine Security Group.

He moved to Cedarville, Calif., where he sold real estate, started a custom haying and farming business and purchased the Benner Ranch just south of Cedarville. He sold the ranch in 1999 and continued to work as a community volunteer and advocate. His projects included the Surprise Valley Health Care District and the restoration of the Eagleville Church.

Bill's son, Bill Jr., served in the Marine Corps, and his grandson Cole Stevenson is now on active duty.

G. Dean Bowder, 87, of Laurel, Neb. He served at New Britain and Peleliu and later farmed and worked as a mail carrier in Nebraska.

Harry Crews, 76, in Gainesville, Fla. He suffered from infantile paralysis and once fell into a vat of boiling water. Still, he joined the Corps and later said, "If I hadn't gone in the Marine Corps, I wouldn't be a professor in the university [University of Florida]. I'd be in the state prison because I was a bad actor and a bad boy."

He did grow into a hell-raiser who, thanks to the GI Bill, graduated from the University of Florida. He wrote 17 novels, including "Gospel Singer," "Car," "Feast of Snakes" and "The Knockout Artist." His book "The Hawk Is Dying" was made into a 2006 film, starring Paul Giamatti and Michelle Williams. He wrote numerous short stories and novellas and the memoir "A Childhood." His work also appeared in *Playboy* and *Esquire* magazines. He taught graduate and undergraduate fiction writing at the University of Florida from 1968 to 1997.

William R. Drummond, 86, of Taunton, Mass. He was a WW II veteran and later owned and operated Taunton's Drummond Printing Company. He was a member of the 1stMarDiv Association and the China Marine Association.

Frank B. Fryery, 71, of Lecompte, La. He served in the Corps from 1959 to 1969. He was a Vietnam veteran and also was stationed at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. He later became a commercial agricultural pilot.

Col Laurence R. Gaboury, 78, of Arlington, Va. He was commissioned in 1955 and served in Vietnam, at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., the Armed Forces Staff College, CINCPAC, JCS, the Armed Forces Staff College, HQMC and the Naval War College. He commanded Companies I and K, 2d RTB, RTR, MCRD Parris Island, S.C., 1/3, 1/9, Eighth Marine Regiment and was the assistant division commander for 2dMarDiv.

His decorations include the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star with combat "V," the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the

Navy Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with star.

He retired in 1985 and was the executive director of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association. He also was co-owner of L.E.G. Elegant Interiors and CEO of Service Solutions Inc.

Gerald J. Hansen of Randolph, Neb. He was a WW II veteran who served at New Britain and Peleliu. He went on to be a farmer in the Coleridge and Randolph areas.

Bill Janklow, 72, in Sioux Falls, S.D. He left high school to join the Marines, serving from 1956 to 1959. He went on to become South Dakota's attorney general, governor and congressman and helped change the state's economy, education system and tax structure.

His accomplishments included saving the state's rail service, cutting property taxes and connecting classrooms to the Internet. He also was known to help those without funds. He paid to send young people to college and bought gear for a baseball team at an American Indian reservation.

In August 2003, Janklow sped through a stop sign and was convicted of second-degree manslaughter and misdemeanor charges of reckless driving, failure to stop and speeding.

It haunted him. He recently said his only regret was running a stop sign and killing a motorcyclist. "If I had it to do over, I'd do everything I did, but I'd stop at a stop sign."

He was elected attorney general in 1974 and then elected governor in 1982, 1994 and 1998.

Cpl Wallace E. Karte, 74, of Zionsville, Pa. He served in the Corps during 1956-58 in H&S Co, 8th Marines and in Weapons Co, 1/8. He volunteered to be a forward observer during deployment to Lebanon in 1958.

Joseph C. Margraf, 81, of Suntree, Fla. He was a veteran of the Korean War and the landings of Inchon and Wonsan. He served in the MarDet of the cruiser USS *Worcester* (CL-144) from 1949 to 1952. His awards include the Combat Action Ribbon.

After leaving active duty, he served in the Marine Corps Reserve for six years and helped form the 11th Rifle Co in Freeport, N.Y., which grew to a 1,000-man battalion.

He joined Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith in 1958 as an over-the-counter trader. He became vice president and head of the over-the-counter division and later served on the first NASDAQ committee in Washington, D.C., and became president of Merrill Lynch of Puerto Rico.

In 1972, he retired from the securities industry and purchased a marina in Alton Bay, N.H., on Lake Winnaspaukee. He and his family moved to Vero Beach, Fla., subsequently forming Seacoast Investor Services in Stuart, Fla., which he owned until 1991. He was a life member of the MCL and a member of the MCA.

Cpl William J. "Bill" Maxam, 88, of Greenfield, Mass. He was a decorated Marine veteran of WW II and a retired sergeant with the Greenfield Police Department. He enlisted in 1943 at the age of 19 and was assigned to the 2dMarDiv. He was a machine-gunner, rifle expert and bazooka operator who saw action

at Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa and participated in the occupation of Japan. His awards include the Purple Heart (for wounds on Okinawa) and the Combat Action Ribbon. He was discharged in 1946.

He joined the Greenfield Police Department in 1951 as a reserve patrolman and was later appointed a provisional reserve officer and then a permanent patrolman. He was promoted to sergeant in 1973 and retired in 1982 with more than 30 years of service. He received four written commendations for outstanding performance as a police officer.

He was a life member of the 2dMarDiv Association and the MCA. His grandson, Aaron, is a Marine veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Louis J. Michot Jr., 89, in Lafayette, La. He was an Eagle Scout who joined the Civilian Conservation Corps as a firefighter and reforestation worker in North Carolina. He enlisted during WW II and served in the MarDet aboard USS *Enterprise* (CV-6).

He built and owned two drive-in theatres. Other business ventures included real estate development, 45 Burger Chef fast-food restaurants, commercial air and water transportation, oil well drilling, offshore and marine construction, general insurance, textile manufacturing in Mexico, foreign trade and cattle ranching in Central America. He was an organizer of the Bank of Lafayette.

He was elected to the Louisiana Legislature from Lafayette Parish in 1959 and was elected as the state superintendent of education in 1971. He helped establish Louisiana's system of Voc-Tech education and training.

George K. Potter, 85, in Fair Oaks, Calif. He grew up during the Great Depression and took art classes under a federal New Deal program. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1944 and sketched his fellow Marines while serving as a machine-gunner in the Pacific.

He later studied art in Paris, Florence and Rio de Janeiro before moving to San Francisco during the 1950s. He settled in Sacramento and taught workshops on watercolor painting.

Potter was known for his work in the "California Style" of watercolor painting—breezy Pacific Coast scenes on a large canvas. He was a member of the American Watercolor Society. His works are considered historical because the scenes he painted are places that no longer exist.

Sgt Michael J. Uhouse, 88, of Binghamton, N.Y. He enlisted in 1944 and fought at Iwo Jima with Co I, 3d Bn, 24th Marines, 4thMarDiv. He was a carpenter by trade and a life member of the MCL and a member of the MCA.

HM1 Matthew A. Zimmerman, 32, in Newport, N.C. Originally from Dover, Pa., he was assigned to 3d MSOB, MARSOC. He enlisted in 2003. He served at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center, Md., in USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20), and he participated in several humanitarian and disaster relief operations. He graduated from the Surface Warfare Medical Institute and the Independent Duty Corpsman School with honors.

His personal decorations include a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and two Good Conduct Medals.



wife and kids were OK. I grabbed a .45 and a flashlight and ran next door. I found the 8-year-old son standing in the foyer with a corkscrew in his hand and the little 1-inch foil cutting blade out. He was standing in a fighting stance, shaking like a leaf. He was ready to go down fighting to protect his mother and two sisters.

A couple of years later when his parents agreed that he was old enough to own his own pocket knife, I gave him my USMC pocket knife like the one pictured in the letter from Sergeant Bill Furey. I told him that anyone brave enough to do what he did deserved to own the knife of a Marine.

MAJ Ric Neumann, USAR (Ret)
USMC, 1967-71, USAR 1971-96
Ashburn, Va.

The China Marines’ “Knights of the Round Table”

I just finished reading “The United States Marines in North China, 1894-1942,” by retired Master Sergeant Chester M. Biggs Jr. Mentioned in the book is a round table that was in the back of Hempel’s Restaurant on Hataman Street for a select group of Marines known as “knights of the round table.”

My question is, Are there any photos of the table or the Marines around the table?

Robert M. Yarzab
USMC, 1967-71
Spring Hill, Fla.

• *Leatherneck has had several mentions of Hempel’s Butchery or Hempel’s Restaurant since the 1920s. In the November*

1929 Leatherneck, there was a short update from the Peking Marines: “Frankie Gowen, who use [sic] to dominate the Privates Club is now sole owner of Hemples Butchery . . . well known to the Marines.” This is the only time we’ve seen it spelled “Hemples” in the magazine.

There is a very good article about the table in the September 1983 magazine by P. L. Thompson. The below photographs, from our archives, were taken by Leatherneck staff photographer Sergeant Ray Tyler in 1946 in China. The inscription in the middle of the table is “Knights of the Round Table.” The table is at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers’ Club, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. Next time you attend a Friday Evening Parade at 8th & I, drop by and see it.—Sound Off Ed.

What Does It Take to Earn a Good Conduct Medal?

When was the last time a private first class received a Good Conduct Medal?

Some background: He is a four-time Expert Rifleman, runs a first class in the physical fitness tests and has never had an Article 15 nonjudicial punishment.

Paul Garrison
Tomball, Texas

• *In response to your direct question, Leatherneck has no available resources to tell you the last time a private first class was awarded a Good Conduct Medal.*

A better question might be: When was the last time the Marine Corps had a Marine still wearing PFC chevrons after three years of service who had a clean enough record to warrant the award of the Good Conduct Medal (MCGCM)?

According to SecNav Instruction 1650.1H,

the Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual, the service requirement for award of the MCGCM includes, “Any three years of continuous active service after 10 December 1945.” Later, in the same order, under “Conduct,” you will find, “The MCGCM shall be earned for otherwise qualifying service, involving no convictions by courts-martial or non-judicial punishment (NJP) under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 15, and no lost time by reason of sickness-misconduct or injury-misconduct. Prior to 27 April 1990, not more than one NJP was allowed.”

So, a Marine has to show up, do the job and stay out of trouble for three straight years to qualify for the MCGCM.

Now, looking at MCO P1400.32, the Marine Corps Promotion Manual, Volume 2, Enlisted Promotions, we find that the minimum time in grade for regular promotion to private first class is six months. Then, the time in grade as a PFC to become a lance corporal is eight more months. These are time-in-grade minimums for regular promotion. There is no time-in-grade requirement for meritorious promotions to these two grades.

So, today, there is very little chance that any Marine with a clean record will still be a PFC after three years of service.—Sound Off Ed.

Sailor’s Son Makes Dad Proud

An old friend of 20 years, a Navy veteran, sent me an e-mail the other day. We hadn’t seen each other for many years. He lives in Chicago and I live in Wisconsin. He was going to be in my neck of the woods and asked if I had time for lunch and a beer. I said sure.



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When I walked into the bar and grill, he was sitting there wearing a camouflage baseball cap with the eagle, globe and anchor on it. I shook his hand and asked what this old squid was doing with a Marine cover? He took it off and after a closer look, I noticed the cover said "Proud Father of a U.S. Marine."

He told me about his son joining the Corps and how he had turned his life around. He said: "Bil, the top three happiest and most memorable days of my life were the day I got married, the day my son was born, and the day I attended his graduation at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego."

We talked at length about his son's boot camp and Marine experience. My son graduated from MCRD in 1987, so I could really relate. It sure made my day. I had never seen Tom so happy.

Bil Pederson
Mauston, Wis.

"Foul Barracks Language," Guilty!

I never expected to see the foul barracks language used in the May 2012 issue on page 4. I guess I won't be passing this interesting issue about Marine Corps aviation around.

Not only would I have to explain what you mean in your reference to bread and

water, but would have to apologize for the language. Some of us just accept that we make mistakes.

Maj F. G. Balderston, USMC (Ret)
Roswell, N.M.

Editorial Irish Pennants

Taps for Navy Annex

The 70-year-old Navy Annex complex, former home of Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps on the eastern end of Columbia Pike next to the Air Force Memorial, is being torn down.

Demolition began in late May and is expected to last several months.

Until recently, the Navy Annex housed the administrative offices for the Marine Corps and the Navy's Bureau of Personnel. It originally was built as a warehouse in 1941. HQMC moved across the Potomac to the Annex at the beginning of World War II when Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb was the 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps and his staff left Main Navy Building at 18th Street and Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C.

In 1996, as renovations were made at the Pentagon, HQMC started shifting its 1,400 military and civilian personnel, their offices and the flag to the third and fourth floors of the Pentagon, other lo-



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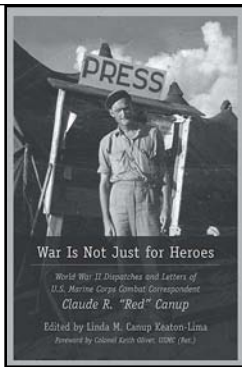
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cations around the I-495 beltway and 40 miles south, at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

The 37-acre site, along with other surrounding land, will be used to expand Arlington National Cemetery. Although never the "Valhalla" envisioned by some who never visited it, or home of the mystical "They" who ran and knew everything about the Corps, HQMC never lost its warehouse atmosphere and rubberneck, traffic-jam frustration. Nonetheless, it was the repository for some of the Corps' best minds and for planning, and provided a sense of accomplishment for those who daily made their way to and from and toiled in the old warehouse.

Reunions

Reunions are run on a space-available basis. Information should be submitted no later than four months in advance of the reunion.

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 21-26, San Diego. Contact GySgt Don H. Gee, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **5thMarDiv Assn. (WW II, RVN)**, Aug. 26-31, Reno, Nev. Contact LtCol Thomas Kalus, USMC (Ret), 98-1927

Wilou St., Aiea, HI 96701, (808) 486-5004, or Dale Pack, 32175 S.W. Laurel Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123, (503) 545-7899, dalep@upwardaccess.com.

• **6thMarDiv Assn.**, Sept. 17-22, Portland, Ore. Contact Sharon Woodhouse, (503) 642-3439, SJAWoodhouse@gmail.com.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Sept. 10-14, San Diego. Contact Jack T. Paxton, 110 Fox Ct., Wildwood, FL 34785, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com, www.usmccca.org.

• **Marine Corps Counterintelligence Assn. (MCCIA)**, Sept. 4-8, Fort Worth, Texas. Contact David M. Crawford, (817) 975-3064, davidcrawford1952@yahoo.com, www.mccia.org.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn., SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter**, Sept. 6-9, MCRD San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or SgtMaj Bobby Woods, (760) 215-9564, or visit the website at www.westcoastdi.org.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 10-12, Branson, Mo. Contact Col Ken Frantz, USMC (Ret), (936) 273-4830, execdir@marcorengasn.org, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **Marine Air Traffic Control Assn.**, Sept. 19-23, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Roger McIntosh, 5 Quartz Cir., Fred-



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ericksburg, VA 22405, (540) 373-9691, macl3120@cox.net.

• **Marine Corps Air Transport Assn.**, Sept. 19-23, San Antonio. Contact Humberto C. Reyes, 2103 W. Mulberry Ave., San Antonio, TX 78201, (210) 867-9226, (210) 734-5967, hreyes5416@aol.com.

• **USMC Motor Transport Assn.**, Sept. 16-19, Seattle. Contact Terry Hightower, P.O. Box 1372, Jacksonville, NC 28541, (910) 450-1841, secretary@usmcmta.org.

• **Moroccan Reunion Assn. Inc.** is planning a reunion for Marines and sailors who served at Port Lyauyte/Kenitra, Morocco. Contact Robert Sieborg, Moroccan Reunion Assn. Inc., P.O. Box 13362, Omaha, NE 68113, (402) 496-1498.

• **26th Marines**, Sept. 14-16, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact Sonny Hollub Jr., (515) 312-4168, sonnyusmc@gmail.com, or Harvey Lang, (575) 542-8085.

• **1st Bn, 4th Marines Assn.**, Oct. 10-14, Laughlin, Nev. Contact Brad Bennett, (218) 722-4589, bradbennett@hotmail.com, or Richard Camacho, (805) 384-9138, camacho4@roadrunner.com, www.1stbn4thmarines.com.

• **1/27 (and supporting units, RVN, 1967-68)**, Sept. 20-23, San Diego. Contact Felix "Sal" Salmeron, 1406 Nighthawk Dr., Little Elm, TX 75068, (469) 583-0191, mar463@aol.com.

• **2/1 (RVN)**, Nov. 8-15, San Diego. Contact Paul Mangan, (515) 360-2600, namgrunt@aol.com, www.firstmarines.org.

• **2/3 (RVN)**, Aug. 19-22, Waikiki, Hawaii. Contact Milton Hoch, 2324 N.E. 46th Ave., Portland, OR 97213, (503) 701-8497.

• **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Branson, Mo. Contact Gabe Coronado, (810) 334-0377, member 3107@aol.com.

• **3d Recon Bn Assn.**, Sept. 25-30, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Doug or Aggie Heath, (770) 684-7668, dnaheath@aol.com, or Bob or Sandy Hoover, (843) 302-2151, 2826rjh@gmail.com, www.3rdrecon.org.

• **3/3 Reunion and Auction of Military Memorabilia**, July 31-Aug. 5, Branson, Mo. Contact C. W. Hopkins, P.O. Box 744, Gentry, AR 72734, (573) 673-5441, ThirdMarinesNet@aol.com, www.33USMC.com/auction.html.

• **3/7 (Korea, 1950-54)**, Aug. 13-19, Portland, Ore. Contact Tom Tompkins, 1533 Broadview Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722, (563) 355-6912, sondra_t@hotmail.com.

• **7th Engineer Bn, Vietnam Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 20-23, Branson, Mo. Contact Norm Johnson, 6100 Cochrane Rd., Marlette, MI 48453, (989) 635-6653,

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• **11th Engineer Bn Assn.** is planning a reunion. Contact Charles Luhan Jr., 8451 S. Kilbourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60652, (773) 585-9629, CL11engrnb@sbcglobal.net.

• **A/1/7 (Korea, 1950-53)**, Oct. 8-11, Charleston, S.C. Contact Leonard R. "Shifty" Shifflette, 25 Emery St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801, (540) 434-2066, CaptShifty@comcast.net.

• **A/1/12 (RVN)**, Oct. 18-21, Charlotte,

N.C. Contact Dale Punch, 131 Boulder Dr., Lincolnton, NC 28092, (704) 477-8829, dalepunch@charter.net.

• **B/1/1 (Okinawa, 1959-60)**, Sept. 24-26, Las Vegas. Contact William Sitar, (732) 283-9000, sitar@sitarcompany.com, or Donna Goldbach, (908) 510-9600, goldbach@sitarcompany.com.

• **D/2/7 (Korea)**, Sept. 12-16, Bakersfield, Calif. Contact Charles W. Curley, (716) 372-4216, cwc1127@aol.com.

• **E/2/5 (RVN, 1966-70)**, Oct. 18-21, Quantico, Va. Contact Ochal Caudill, (909) 271-5323, ochal@roadrunner.com.

• **F/2/5**, Sept. 16-20, Nashville, Tenn. Contact 1stSgt William B. "Sam" Henderson, USMC (Ret), (775) 980-9603, deh1262@aol.com.

• **G/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Aug. 15-20, Palm Springs, Calif. Contact Ron Myers, (916) 723-7324, rlmymers5@comcast.net.

• **G/3/1 (Korea, 1950-55)**, Oct. 8-11, Oklahoma City. Contact Bob Harbula, (412) 462-8537, bobbyjuly@yahoo.com.

• **K/3/1 (RVN, 1966-71)**, Aug. 22-25, San Francisco. Contact Bryan Lash, (770) 978-1386, usmcl@mindspring.com.

• **K/3/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 20-24, Oklahoma City. Contact William Rolke, (262) 780-0993, k37usmc@att.net.

• **L/3/9 (RVN, 1967-69)**, Sept. 6-9, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Robert

Citron, 16365 Crescent Dr., Southfield, MI 48076, (248) 569-4771.

• **USMC Postal (MOS 0160/0161)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 5, Branson, Mo. Contact MSgt Harold Wilson, USMC (Ret), 835 N. Wood St., Logan, OH 43138, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne06@gmail.com.

• **Yemassee Train Depot**, Oct. 19-20, Yemassee, S.C. Contact Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385.

• **Marine Security Force Co, Marine Barracks Adak, Alaska (all years)**, July 20-22, Deep Creek Lake, Md. Contact Pete Cunliffe, (256) 379-2080, acunliffe@hotmail.com, or Mike Herdering, (301) 746-7776, herdering@earthlink.net.

• **Marine Barracks Subic Bay and Sangley Point Marines**, Sept. 10-16, Bremerton, Wash. Contact Bob White, 205 Pebbles Ave., Belvidere, IL 61008, (815) 544-3932, bobwhitelady@aol.com.

• **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Oct. 8-11, Quantico, Va. Contact 1stSgt C. R. McCarthy, USMC (Ret), (515) 274-9110, coach430@aol.com.

• **Marine Barracks, NAS Sigonella, Sicily, Italy**, Aug. 2-5, Arlington, Va. Contact John Witherspoon, teaspoon76@hotmail.com, or P. J. Jancewicz, 19 Whittier Ave., Amesbury, MA 01913.

• **Chosin Few (Korea, 1950)**, Aug. 22-25, San Antonio. Contact LtCol Jack Nolan, USMC (Ret), (903) 595-0556, or Don H. Gee, 238 Cornwall Cir., Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9093, chosinfewhq@aol.com.

• **Combined Action Unit (RVN, 1965-71)**, Nov. 8-12, Treasure Island, Fla. Contact Ken Scoggins, 4856 Lowndes St., St. Louis, MO 63129, (314) 894-3225, scoggins@swbell.net.

• **Korean War Recon Marines**, Oct. 3-6, Houston. Contact James Sauser, (281) 332-5725, jimsauser1@gmail.com.

• **MarDet, USS Juneau (CL-119)**, Aug. 29-Sept. 2, Branson, Mo. Contact William S. Gerichten, 141 Pinelawn Dr., Kernersville, NC 27284, (336) 993-5415.

• **Tri-State Marine Det 494, MCL**, Aug. 18, Youngstown, Ohio. Contact Chester Kaschak, (330) 533-6084, or Ed Levisieur, (330) 702-0677.

• **1st 8-Inch Howitzer Btry**, Sept. 5-9, Branson, Mo. Contact Pam Brown, (417) 238-4048, or Greg Ladesich, (949) 249-3525,

• **Alpha Btry, 1/11 (1965-66)**, Oct. 14-17, Las Vegas. Contact Kathy Carter, (702) 951-5942, for reservations, or Gordon Hansen, (928) 757-4882, for information.

• **American Embassy Saigon (RVN)**, Sept. 26-29, Chesapeake, Va. Contact MSgt Gus F. Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

• **21st Special Basic Class (1953)** is planning two reunions for 2012. Contact Shirley Fry, (703) 469-3750, ssfry@juno.com.

• **7th WOCSC (1966)**, August 2012, Quantico, Va. Contact Bob Dalton, (443) 203-6408, prdalton@msn.com.

• **Scout Sniper Plt, 3d Marines (RVN)**, Feb. 8-10, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact Jim O'Neill, (928) 684-2309, taraniall@gmail.com.

• **Plt 115, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion for 2012. Contact SgtMaj D. J. Farrell, USMC (Ret), (918) 689-1989, or Steve Holton, (301) 375-6036.

• **Plt 151, Parris Island, 1962**, Oct. 4-7, Bluffton, S.C. Contact Larry Smith, 19624 Middletown Rd., Freeland, MD 21053, (410) 343-2354, asylrs@comcast.net.

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

• **Plt 339, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion for 2012. Contact LtCol Bob Mullins, USMC (Ret), (740) 417-9112, rmullins11@columbus.rr.com.

• **Plt 529, Parris Island, 1952**, is planning a reunion for September. Contact Chris Vail, (770) 321-5018, greenmtchris@comcast.net.

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

• **Plt 2085, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Simmons, jst1putt@aol.com, mkboyle@myfairpoint.net.

• **Marine Air Groups (WW II-present)**, Oct. 17-21, Branson, Mo. Contact James Jordan, (417) 535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net, or MSgt Bob Miller, USAF (Ret), (636) 327-5854, mbobsue13@yahoo.com.

• **Aviation Logistics Marines**, Sept. 27-30, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Don Davis, (252) 444-1777, greyegl@ec.rr.com.

• **VMF/VMA-211 "Wake Island Avengers,"** Sept. 18-23, Dearborn, Mich. Contact Richard Downs, 7 Elizabeth St., Enfield, CT 06082, (860) 745-0144, vmfma-211@cox.net.

• **VMF/VMA-311**, Sept. 5-9, Dumfries, Va. Contact Jim Galchick, 1290 E. 12th St., Salem, OH 44460, (330) 337-9383, jgalchick@neo.rr.com.

• **Marine F-4 Phantom Reunion**, Nov. 1-4, San Diego. Contact AFRI (Attn: F-4 Phantom), 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510, f4phantom@afri.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS America Carrier Veterans Assn.** (CVA/CV-66), Sept. 11-15, Baton Rouge,



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La. Contact Harry Rodriquez, (845) 661-1284, hatron10@aol.com, www.ussamerica.org.

• USS *Antietam* (CV/CVA/CVS-36), Sept. 19-23, Portland, Ore. Contact Lyonel Young, (316) 425-5693, lyonel.young@cox.net.

• USS *Cabot* (CVL-28), Oct. 21-25, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Marie Saraceni, (484) 494-5533, msaraceni@comcast.net.

• USS *Canberra* (CA-70/CAG-2), Oct. 10-14, Warwick, R.I. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• USS *Canopus* Assn. (AS-34/AS-9), Sept. 6-9, Branson, Mo. Contact Richard Retin, 2245 Wintercreek Way S.E., Salem, OR 97306, (503) 689-1712, retinr@mail.com, www.usscanopus.org.

• USS *Elokomin* (AO-55), Sept. 25-28, Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert F. O'Sullivan, 25 Denny St., Dorchester, MA 02125, (617) 288-3755, theeloman@verizon.net.

• USS *Everett F. Larson* (DD/DDR-830), Sept. 16-20, Warwick, R.I. Contact Art Colson, 17 Maple Ave., Eliot, ME 03903, (207) 439-2123, acollcnett@aol.com, www.uss-everett-f-larson.com.

• USS *Hornet* (CV-8/CV-12/ CVA-12/ CVS-12), Sept. 11-16, San Mateo, Calif. Contact Carl or Sandy Burket, P.O. Box

108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• USS *Northampton* (CA-26/CLC-1/CC-1), Sept. 6-10, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Len Shults, (334) 273-9804, nortnsailor1@att.net.

• USS *Perkins* (DD-26/DD-377/DDR-877), Sept. 12-16, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Robert J. Linton, 8900 Julia Dent Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123, (314) 397-2388, malinton@sbcglobal.net.

• USS *Plymouth Rock* (LSD-29), Sept. 20-25, King of Prussia, Pa. Contact David Dortch, (870) 236-3725, tazrhondave@yahoo.com, or Harry T. Andersen, (847) 336-2151, htajma@comcast.net, www.ussplymouthrock.com.

• USS *Ranger* (CVA/CV-61), Sept. 22-29, New England/Canada cruise leaving from Manhattan, N.Y. Contact Brian Forrester, (800) 998-1228, brian@hcttravel.com, or Herb Boudrot, (207) 251-3793, boilerman006@yahoo.com.

• **NOB/NAS Trinidad Reunion Assn. (including FASRON-105, VPB-208, VPMS-8, VP-48, VPB-213, VP-34, Seabee Dets and USMC)**, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Washington, D.C. Contact F. D. Barrett, ADCS, USN (Ret), 1448 W. Highway 16, Witts Springs, AR 72686, (870) 496-2285, barrett27@dishmail.net.

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Wanted:

• Vietnam veteran Doug A. Berg, 4037 Dolbil Dr., St. Louis, MO 63125, (314) 638-4295, wants **copies of photographs of Christmas trees or any Christmas-related photographs taken in Vietnam** for a possible book. Include contact information with your submission.

• Marine veteran Robert A. Rainey, (214) 295-4327, (972) 437-2219, brainey57@mail2king.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3107, San Diego, 1974.**

• Former Cpl Gene L. Bullard, P.O. Box 975, Cumberland, MD 21501, (814) 356-0103, wants a **1950 "Guidebook for Marines."**

• Former Sgt Emidio J. Lupini, 2025 Rockstone Pl., Henrico, VA 23238, (804) 363-0972, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 366, Parris Island, 1954.**

• Marine veteran Robert D. Boyden, (610) 517-6564, ForensicPicCop@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 386, Parris Island, 1974.**



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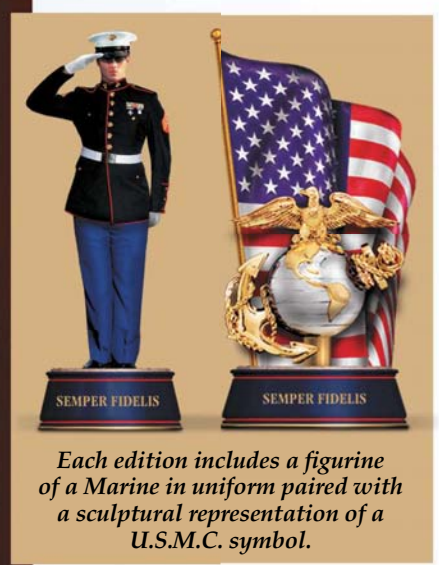
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Mail Call

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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

• Former Cpl William H. Dalton, 2433 Robin Way, Manasquan, NJ 08736, (732) 223-4404, to hear from **Marines who served with him on Okinawa, 1960, as American Red Cross water safety instructors known as “Okinawa Life Liners.”** Also, to hear from members of **Plt 211, Parris Island, 1958, for a possible reunion.**

• William M. “Bill” Mason, 8936 Tuscarora Pike, Martinsburg, WV 25403, (304) 263-4963, masoncap@comcast.net, to hear from members of **Plt 327, Parris Island, 1961.**

• Marine veteran John T. Ward, (412) 371-3639, jtwardmarine@yahoo.com, to hear from those who served with **H&S Co, 1/7 (later renamed 1st Bn, 9th Ma-**

rines), stationed at Camp Sukiran on Okinawa, 1960-61.

• John J. Belcher, Military Affairs Advisor, U.S. Rep Lou Barletta (PA-11), 1112 Rt. 315, Plaza 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, (570) 235-1420, john.belcher@mail.house.gov, to hear from **Allan P. WOODS**, from White Plains, N.Y., who served with **3d Sqd, 2d Plt, Co K, 3d Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv in Vietnam**, or anyone who served with **Alan HANCZYC during an attack on April 5, 1968**, for information regarding **wounds Hanczyc may have received while serving in Vietnam.**

• Debbie Muellner, P.O. Box 14, Wyoming, MN 55092, dkmuellner@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who served

with or knew her brother, **PFC Gary L. KUNSHIER, who was KIA in Quang Tri Province, RVN, on Oct. 4, 1968**, while serving as a rifleman with **2d Plt, Co G, 2d Bn, 26th Marines.**

• R. Lynn Johnson, 48200 219th Trl., Chariton, IA 50049, (641) 774-4962, (515) 480-2085, ljohnson343@mchsi.com, to hear from members of **Preflight Class 35-60, NAS Pensacola, Fla., 1960**, for a possible reunion. Drill instructor was **Sgt MONTELEONE**; officer in charge of the Indoctrination Battalion was **Lt COLLINS.**

• Ellie Bell, (406) 755-4818, (406) 253-5232, to hear from anyone who may have known or served with her father, **PFC Robert Rodie BELL**, who served with the **2d and 4th Raider battalions, 1st Raider Regiment and Fourth Marine Regiment, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade in the Solomon Islands and on Bougainville, Guam and Okinawa during WW II (1942-45).**

• Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), President/CEO, Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, to hear from anyone with contacts in the **Marine Corps Regiment in Bermuda, for a Military Historical Tours trip to Bermuda in November.**

• Chuck Messina, 722 Ivy Ln., Aliquippa, PA 15001, (267) 978-9083, chuckmessina@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who may have photographs of his father, **PFC James J. MESSINA**, who served with **Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv on Guadalcanal**, or from the following Marines with whom his father served: **Capt William L. HAWKINS**, Cpl **Albert S. PODRACKY**, GySgt **Eugene BREEDING**, Lt **Austin W. POLLOCK**, 1stLt **George H. GUYER Jr.**, PFC **Cosimo A. NEGRI**, PFC **Davie W. SHUFORD**, PFC **George F. JONES**, PFC **Robert J. HILSKY**, PFC **Robert J. JOHNSON** and PFC **Salvatore A. MESSINA.**



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Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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This Flag

This flag flies so brilliant and true,
 A flag that I love, my red, white and blue.
 The flag of my father, the flag of his sons—
 This flag unites a nation, turns the many into one.
 Blood has been shed; many lives have been lost;
 Every soul willing; so very worth the cost.
 For me, your freedom is worth all I've got—
 I can't promise perfection, but quit, I will not.
 My flag stands for glory, and the country I love—
 Take a moment to reflect as she flies high above.
 Please don't let her tatter, fade or fray,
 Hoist her up with the sun, down at the end of each day.
 Hold her in your heart and never let go,
 For as long as she flies you will know—
 Men may perish; our brothers may be gone,
 But our flag still flies, and freedom lives on.

LCpl James W. Lee

(Dedicated to his father, MSgt David A. Lee, USMC (Ret))

Sing Me a Song

Sing me a song of the leathernecks,
 Tell me a tale of the bold.
 Teach me of battles gallantly fought
 In seafaring days of old.

Search through your country's history.
 Seek out the truths of yore.
 Read of their record that's written in blood.
 Tell me the tales of the Corps.

Speak of the ships that caught the wind
 And Marines who fought out at sea—
 With muskets, high in the fighting tops,
 For a country yet to be.

And then move on to the next big fight,
 The Battle of New Orleans,
 Where Andrew Jackson trusted his flank
 To a handful of Marines.

Talk of the siege of Chapultepec
 After Montezuma's reign
 And the Hall of Kings that lent itself
 To your proud and strong refrain.

Point to those fabled "devil dogs,"
 The heroes of Belleau Wood,
 Who charged through a hail of fire,
 Where no other regiment could.

All of those fighters are gone from us now—
 Their stories, a part of the past,
 But the legends that tell of their gallantry
 Are destined to teach and to last.

Their spirit transcended the centuries
 To all who came into the fold.
 To all who gave of their hearts and hands
 To honor the Scarlet and Gold.

So, that torch that was lit in a tavern,
 Back in 1775,
 Still shines through our darkest hour—
 Keeping freedom and justice alive.

Yes, tell me again of the leathernecks,
 Speak of the now and the then,
 And the everlasting spirit
 That lives in these women and men.

R. A. Gannon

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There is something all Marines possess,
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Marine veteran Michael Spataro





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