

JULY 2016

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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**Pacific Marines—
U.S. Gains Influence
With Exercises**

**JROTC Marines
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**WW II Dutch Marines
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COVER: LCpl Dallas J. Pontremoli, foreground, and a Republic of Korea Marine post security during military operations on urban terrain training at the MOUT training center in Pohang, Republic of Korea, on June 11, 2014. The U.S. Marines were in Pohang to take part in the Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-8, in order to enhance the combat readiness and interoperability of the ROK-U.S. Marine Corps forces. Photo by LCpl Drew Tech, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.



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Sound Off

Compiled by Patricia Everett

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an e-mail to: leatherneck@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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Editor

Letter of the Month

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

The May *Leatherneck* article "Pathway to Citizenship" really struck home with me. I am a Canadian who became an American citizen while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In 1961, I came south to enlist in the Marine Corps after serving in the Canadian Army. I carried a Green Card for seven years and became a naturalized citizen between tours to Vietnam.

Prior to the citizenship ceremony, I had studied U.S. history, U.S. government and the U.S. Constitution, passed the tests and then applied to be a citizen. My first tour to Vietnam was 1966-67. I became a U.S. citizen in 1968. My second tour to Vietnam was 1969-70. It truly made a big difference in serving my chosen country as a citizen.

Some years ago I was the speaker at a Marine Birthday Ball and traced my journey to citizenship. I concluded with, "I was born a Canadian, I chose to be an American, I will die a Marine!"

I do not recall that we had the Pathway to Citizenship during my time in the Corps, 1961-81. I am delighted that the information is available today.

MGySgt Chuck LeDrew, USMC (Ret)
1961-81
Yuma, Ariz.

Court-Martial of LCpl Monifa Sterling

Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling was court-martialed for refusing to remove her paraphrased Bible verse, "No weapon formed against me shall prosper." In doing this, the Corps contradicted itself on three points.

First, on the inside of the front cover of the "Guidebook for Marines," 19th and 20th editions, is listed "Definitions of Honor, Courage and Commitment." Part of the definition of commitment is dedication [which is] defined as, "Bound to an ideal: God, Country, Corps." A Bible

verse can serve as an expression of the ideal of God.

Second, the last sentence in Article VI of the Code of Conduct is, "I will trust in my God and in the United States of America." LCpl Sterling's Bible verse can be viewed as an expression of her trust in God.

Third, on each table in the mess hall at Parris Island, S.C., in 1957, the Corps had placed a place card printed with three versions of the grace before meals: Christian, Jewish and nondenominational. While standing, a recruit read one of these. These prayers were an expression of faith in God.

With the court-martial of LCpl Sterling, the Corps had contradicted itself.

Cpl Joseph P. Sincavage
USMC, 1957-61
Stratford, Conn.

• *Corporal Sincavage, there is a lot more to this story. Pvt Sterling (she was reduced to private at her court-martial) seems to have become the face of religious prejudice in the military, but what is often minimized in the media's coverage of her case is that she was convicted of numerous charges, most of which revolved around failure to obey orders and disrespect. In addition to being found guilty at a court-martial, her appeal to the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Appeals on the charge concerning the Bible verse was denied. Her case is now before the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Was she a victim of religious discrimination or was she simply a bad Marine who refused to obey lawful orders? I'm sure there's strongly held opinions on both sides.—Editor*

"Smoke the Donkey"

The article "Smoke the Donkey" [April issue] was heart touching, and as an animal lover, I have had my share of friendships and loyalty. At age 75, I have two beautiful female dogs: Sasha, a Siberian husky, and Dakota, a black Lab. What wonderful companions and how tolerant they are of this old Marine sergeant. In Vietnam in 1967 at Camp Kistler, we had several Viet-

namese dogs for companionship. After an all-night patrol or time spent at a listening post, these puppies were always there to greet us, and it was a break in the ugliness of war.

Division issued an order that, due to a rabies scare, dogs had to be put down. Our first sergeant had all the dogs brought to a foxhole and shot with his .45-caliber pistol. Several Marines were so disgusted with this that they talked about revenge on the first sergeant. As the battalion legal chief, I went to the colonel and relayed to him what happened. He was mortified and had the first sergeant transferred ASAP! We found out later that other units returned their dogs to the civilian villages. How I wish that we had done the same.

Lawrence A. Mould
Port Charlotte, Fla.

Fighter Pilot "Fokker": One Thing Is Puzzling

I enjoyed the April issue of *Leatherneck*. I am not a "winger," but I enjoyed the story "Manfred 'Fokker' Rietsch: Fighter Pilot Extraordinaire." One thing puzzles me. He left Germany at age 5. He attended high school in Minnesota. How is it he read Wild West stories, in Germany, at age 11?

MSGt Tom King, USMC (Ret)
Grand Prairie, Texas

• *Colonel Fokker and his mother and sister left East Germany when he was 5 and spent several years in West Germany before moving to Minnesota where he attended high school.—Editor*

LtCol Raymond J. O'Leary

In 1963, I joined the Marine Corps. I could cite many things from boot camp to my release from active duty and the many Marines who had an influence on me. My best memory at this time was of a battalion commander in Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel Raymond J. O'Leary, 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment.

It was my second tour, and of all the heroes I knew and served with in both tours, he stands tall in my memory. He put in more than 20 years, raised a family



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of six with his wife, retired and went to work on the Padlock Ranch in Wyoming. He then went on to teach school in Rancho, Wyo.

I followed this leader for 42 days in the DMZ [Demilitarized Zone] and learned that to be a good leader you should be like him—fair, disciplined and proud. I put him up there with "Chesty" [Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller] and the others.

I found him in 2004 and went to visit him in 2005. I talk to him every so often and just found out he is turning 91 years of age.

This country and the Marine Corps are better because of men like him. I am proud to have served under him.

Sgt Kenny R. McCauley

Blue Springs, Mo.

Enlisted Commissioning Program

I enjoyed your article, "Corps Seeks More Applicants for Enlisted-to-Officer Opportunity," in the April issue. I believe that many potential good officers are hidden in the enlisted ranks. Does the Direct Commissioning Program still exist? I was commissioned from gunnery sergeant to unrestricted second lieutenant through this program and never set foot in Quantico, Va. That program, if it still exists, might be worth an article.

Maj Jim Geiser, USMC (Ret)

1968-97

Phoenix, Ariz.

• *The enlisted-to-officer program closest to the Direct Commissioning Program is the Enlisted Commissioning Program. Enlisted Marines with a four-year baccalaureate degree can apply and, upon graduation from Officer Candidates School, are immediately commissioned.*—Editor

Russian Attack Jets

I just saw the video of the Russian attack jets buzzing our Navy ships in the Baltic Sea [April 2016] and feel outraged that our military has fallen to an all-time low where they can be terrorized, threatened and embarrassed without any means to respond.

It was bad enough to watch 10 American sailors held at gunpoint by the Iranians be demoralized and disrespected for the world to see; now we are taunted by another ally.

Other than the 1,000-yard flyby reported, there was a picture of a 30-foot-high run by one of their jets across one of our ships. My concern is, what would happen if the pilot lost control of his craft and crashed into one of our ships killing hundreds? What if a Russian pilot went rogue and decided he wanted to blow up a ship?

As a 100 percent disabled Marine Viet-

nam veteran and former squad leader in 60 mortars, I was tasked with keeping my squad alive. Having hundreds of personnel under your watch should be a top priority. Our leaders should make it clear that there won't be any more flybys that endanger our military or the taking of our troops without retaliation. Enough is enough.

Gregory J. Topliff

Warrenville, S.C.

No Yellow Footprints at P.I.

I would like to comment on the letter sent in by Tom Atkinson Sr. of Honesdale, Pa. [May issue]. His arrival to Parris Island, S.C., on July 9, 1953, precedes mine on Oct. 21, 1961. No "yellow footprints" did I land on upon my arrival.

Cpl Bruce A. Rund Jr.

USMC, 1961-67

Belcamp, Md.

There were no yellow footprints when I went through boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., in 1947—only footprints in the sand.

Sgt Daniel A. Villalobos

USMC, 1947-51

Bedford, Va.

Mercury Spacecraft

Here's a small piece of history relating to your story, "Spacecraft Recovery: Marine Aviation Played a Critical Role at the Dawn of the Space Age," in the May issue.

I believe the space capsules were manufactured in Southern California and some testing was done out on the Salton Sea.

I was in Marine (Light) Helicopter Transport Squadron 163, Marine Aircraft Group 36 at Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana, Calif., and two of our HUS Seahorses and two HR2S helicopters were sent to help with testing.

The HR2S aircraft were to carry the capsules as high as they could and drop them. The HUS would then autorotate down with the capsule and film the descent.

Thanks for another great article.

Cpl Glenn "Sam" Bass

USMC, 1958-63

Sonora, Calif.

Hearing Loss and the VA

While reading my April *Leatherneck*, I came across the "Sound Off" letter by retired Major Roy Hamilton and his hearing issues and dealing with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Maj Hamilton had stated, "I took their tests [VA] and was denied." Now, I don't know whether Maj Hamilton was denied the hearing aids for a hearing-related service connection; however, I would strongly encourage the good major not to give up when it comes to the VA. Usually it takes

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much effort and a good service office on your side. If it's a claim for service connection, a veteran must apply and keep applying if the answer is no.

There are good service officers that are attached with organizations such as the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), The American Legion (AL) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) who usually share space in a local VA Regional Office (VARO). Maj Hamilton, please check in with the VA Regional Office, 6437 Garner Ferry Rd., Columbia, S.C. Ask to speak with a service officer from one of the above mentioned organizations.

Sgt Bob Hunt, USMC
Lincoln, Neb.

• Two significant advantages of working with veteran service organizations are that they usually have representatives who are experts on working with the VA on disability claims and they rarely charge a fee for their assistance.—Editor

On the subject of hearing loss and the VA, since tinnitus is primarily subjective (belonging to the individual), tinnitus is the key word to use when being examined by a physician or audiologist. My complaint of hearing loss and tinnitus, along with

my Marine Corps history of firing the M1, M1911, and being in close contact with 105s and 155s without hearing protection, resulted in a disability rating by the VA and the provision of hearing aids. My disability rating was not awarded for hearing loss, but was granted as a result of my tinnitus.

George Collias
USMC, 1956-58; USMCR, 1958-62
Venice, Fla.

A reply to Anthony Tonda's letter in the April 2016 *Leatherneck*: I now have hearing aids issued by the VA. My current problem is that I have been denied compensation for service-connected hearing loss because of the lack of a medical link in my service records (no complaints while in service or within a year of separation).

My congressman's staff is now involved in my case. During the course of their investigation, a VA entity stated that my appeal would probably take several years for a traditional review because I did not submit the appeal in time for a speedier review by a decision review officer (DRO). Actually, I did submit the proper form within the specified time and requested a DRO, a fact that was verified by yet another VA office. My congressman's staff is continuing their investigation.

To Major Roy Hamilton on the same subject: It seems that you should have amassed enough documentation to be eligible for VA-provided hearing aids, especially if some, or most, exposures were experienced while on active duty and you were treated on base. Lacking that, I would suggest locating a service officer either at a VA medical center, county courthouse or VFW chapter (check the Yellow Pages). They can help determine your eligibility and assist in deciphering the world of VA paperwork. Good luck in your endeavors.

Joe Gabrielli
USMC, 1952-55
Lebanon, Pa.

Question About His MOS Catches Marine by Surprise

I have many covers and several have USMC markings. Recently while in the checkout line, a young cashier, a wisp of a person with big horn-rim glasses, maybe in her late teens, asked me if I was in the Marines. I nodded yes and said I was in many years ago. Tilting her head back a little, in an interrogative tone, she asked me, "What was your MOS?" I hesitated a few seconds recalling back decades and blurted out, "0331 and 8511." I asked how she would know about military occupational specialty numbers, and she said her brother is a Marine and that's how you can verify if people are telling the truth about their service. She said very politely, "Thank you for your service." In my best Elvis impersonation, I said, "Thank you, ma'am."

Edward R. Hagler
USMC, 1954-58
Orlando, Fla.

I Can Say I Belong to the Greatest Line Of Fighting Men in History

Reading each issue of *Leatherneck* from cover to cover has caused some thoughts to start percolating in the old brain housing group. I realize that I can sum up my Marine experience in three stages.

When I was young, I read everything I could about the Marine Corps. My 5th-grade teacher was a Marine as was the father of my best friend. I listened to their stories of World War II and Korea. My thoughts were that someday I would become a Marine, distinguish myself in battle and win the Medal of Honor.

Then in 1966 I became a Marine. I served in combat, but my thoughts were not on winning medals or being a hero. My thoughts were to serve honorably and perform my duty as expected of a Marine. My greatest fear was that I would fall short in the eyes of my fellow Marines—that I would let them down.

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I can truthfully say that I did do my duty, I did perform as expected, and I did not let my fellow Marines down. I served honorably and faithfully.

Now many years later I look back on my time on active duty and I read of those Marines who followed me. I have often asked myself, if I were in their position, would I do what is expected of me? I read of real heroes who in the highest traditions of the Marine Corps did their duty above and beyond the call. Could I, in those same circumstances, have done the same? Thankfully, I will never have to find out. I can only look back and say I did the best I could and performed to the level of what was expected of a United States Marine. What it all comes down to is that I can hold my head up and say that I belong to the greatest line of fighting men in the history of the United States and be proud of that.

So I say Semper Fi to those who were before me, those I served with and those who followed. I cannot say I was a hero, but as has been said before, "I did serve among heroes."

Carl Steckler
USMC, 1966-72
Dryden, N.Y.

Hush Houses Reduce Noise in Iwakuni

I have been reading *Leatherneck* magazine since I retired in 1998 and believe it to be top notch. This is my first time writing to the magazine, but after reading the February article titled "Hush Houses Reduce Noise in Iwakuni" ["We—the Marines"], many fond memories flooded my mind.

I was stationed there from 1986 to 1992 with HQHQRON, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, and for the first

[continued on page 66]

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

■ KYUSHU, JAPAN

At a Moment's Notice, 31st MEU Answers the Call for Disaster Relief

The first earthquake struck the southwestern Japanese island of Kyushu on April 15. For nine more days, aftershocks rumbled on. The largest, a magnitude-7.3 earthquake on April 17, prompted the Japanese government to ask the United States government for assistance.

Within 24 hours, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit responded with eight MV-22B Ospreys, which delivered relief supplies to areas struck by the earthquakes. Four of the Ospreys from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265 (Reinforced) flew from Manila, Philippines, to link up with the 31st MEU at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

Less than a day after departing Manila, the Ospreys were on the ground in Mina-

miaso, Kumamoto, Japan, the area most affected by the earthquakes. The aircraft provided assistance to members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force in delivering relief supplies to the disaster victims. The four other Ospreys joined the relief effort on April 18.

“[Japan] requested the MV-22B Osprey for use in this relief effort because they understand the unique capabilities of the aircraft,” said Lieutenant Colonel Christopher M. Murray, the commanding officer of VMM-265 (Rein), 31st MEU. “The speed and range enabled the aircraft to be based well outside the affected area while still maintaining a very rapid response posture to deliver supplies to those in need.”

Throughout the week, the Ospreys delivered relief supplies, including blankets, toiletries, food and water, to a distribution

point at the Hakusui Sports Complex in Minamiaso. The Ospreys were particularly useful during the relief efforts because of the combination of their vertical take-off and long-range capabilities. They could fly from Iwakuni to Kyushu in approximately 30 minutes, like a C-130, while vertically touching down at a small landing site, like a CH-53E Super Stallion.

“From MCAS Iwakuni, we were able to rapidly deliver large amounts of supplies to and from multiple landing sites, including the JS *Hyuga* and the Hakusui Sports Complex that is located in the heart of the devastation,” said Murray.

In addition to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter destroyer JS *Hyuga* (DDH-181), Ospreys attached to the 31st MEU also picked up supplies from JGSDF Camp Takayubaru at Kumamoto Airport.



Alongside members of the JGSDF, Sgt Kyle Beynon helps load relief supplies onto an MV-22B Osprey from VMM-265 (Rein) at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, April 20. The 31st MEU was called to support the relief effort after a series of earthquakes struck the Japanese island of Kyushu.

During the five-day relief effort, the Ospreys were able to deliver a total of 82,700 pounds of relief supplies to earthquake victims gathered at Hakusui Sports Complex.

The 31st MEU has been involved in numerous disaster relief operations in recent years.

“The capabilities of the 31st MEU extend beyond warfighting,” said Colonel Romin Dasmalchi, Commanding Officer, 31st MEU. “The MEU has carried out four humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in six years at locations throughout the Pacific because our air-ground task force allows us to be the premier Pacific quick reaction force. The MEU’s rapid planning and constant readiness enable us to respond to a crisis within 24 hours with capabilities that are effective in austere environments.”

The Marines from the 31st MEU who assisted in the relief efforts came away from the experience with a renewed appreciation for their role in the Pacific theater and a greater awareness of their required state of readiness.

“It was a humbling experience that will not soon be forgotten,” said Sergeant Nicholas Attikai, an MV-22B crew chief with VMM-265 (Rein), 31st MEU. “This is the second time I’ve helped in a relief effort by delivering supplies; the first was helping out the relief efforts in Saipan last summer.”

“I’m extremely proud of the work that the MEU has done during these support operations,” said Col Dasmalchi, who considered it an honor for the Marines to work alongside the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force “and be part of such an important mission.”

Cpl Samantha Villarreal, USMC

■ SOTO CANO AIR BASE, HONDURAS Security Cooperation Team Provides Counternarcotics Training

Along the northern coast of Honduras, a unique partnership exists between the Honduran navy trainers of the Centro de Adiestramiento Naval (CAN, a training center) and U.S. Marine Corps Security Cooperation Team trainers as they work to teach basic skills to new members of the Honduran navy.

In order to enhance the counter-transnational organized crime effort and the land and sea interdiction capabilities of the Honduran navy, the training teams focus on human rights, water skills, squad-level maneuvers, tactics, planning and firing techniques.

“Currently, drug trafficking operations in the country are the cause of 85 percent of the generated violence, and also, Honduras is a key point for aerial and maritime



CAPT CHRISTOPHER MESNARD, USAF

Honduran Navy trainees participate in a swimming test on the northern coast of Honduras, April 4. Marines with the Security Cooperation Team are working to help standardize training for the Honduran Navy’s newest servicemembers in an effort to better equip the South American nation to fight illicit drug trafficking.

transportation of drugs from South America to Central and North America,” said Honduran navy Captain José Herrera. “It is beneficial for the navy forces to reduce the illicit drug trafficking in our sea space and to minimize the illegal operations of organized crime groups in the critical locations in the country, such as the northern coast and rural and urban areas.”

The program the CAN is implementing provides the Honduran navy the first consolidated training program for its young servicemembers. This allows different units to train under a consolidated course versus non-standardized training at multiple locations. Prior to the establishment of the course, each Honduran naval base conducted its own training for new troops, leaving room for inconsistencies in skill sets and knowledge.

“This training will provide a much-needed common baseline skill level for new officers and junior enlisted in the Honduran naval infantry,” said First Lieutenant David Lemelin, USMC, Security Cooperation Team officer in charge. “The course material focuses on critical infantry tasks with emphasis on the environment and missions sets unique to the Hondurans, to include patrolling, local security, human rights and amphibious operations.”

Over the course of six weeks, the trainees focused on honing their knowledge of troop movements at a tactical squad level as well as how those squads support a large operation. The overall goal was to enable them to operate cohesively. Additionally, they were challenged physically each day, typically starting with a 5 a.m. physical

fitness session and incorporating basic and intermediate swimming training into the curriculum.

The Marines with the Security Cooperation Team are focused on helping the Hondurans develop their course syllabus and evolve it to fit their needs as those needs are identified.

“Those who have completed this mission in my country should be aware of the purpose that we want to accomplish with the U.S. Marine Corps—to have a better operational level to combat the illegal operations that affect the safety of this country,” said Herrera.

“The students who complete the course need to gain technical and tactical knowledge to maintain the integrity of the operations at hand and to do them efficiently, maintaining a proper use of force and respect to human rights.”

“If someone had to take away only one thing from this mission, it would be that we are helping build an institution that is intended to give the Honduran naval infantry a solid, unified training experience and identity for the first time in history,” said Lemelin.

The U.S. Marines are part of a regular training rotation that supports counternarcotics forces in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Each country requests tailored training teams to integrate with their forces, helping teach a variety of subjects, to include close-quarters maneuvers, operational planning, urban terrain navigation, basic fire techniques and basic and advanced infantry maneuvers and techniques.

Capt Christopher Mesnard, USAF

LCpl Nicholas Bouvia, a heavy equipment operator with the 13th MEU, builds a berm for security during sustainment training in Djibouti, April 9.



LCPL ALVIN PUJOLS, USMC

■ ARTA BEACH, DJIBOUTI “Fighting 13th” Builds Encampment, Conducts Sustainment Training

In 100-degree heat, landing craft, air cushion (LCACs) landed on a rocky beach dubbed “Gunsmoke Djibouti.” After the Marines and sailors of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrived in Djibouti, they underwent sustainment training during Western Pacific Deployment 16-1, April 9.

Leathernecks of Combat Logistics Battalion 13, attached to the 13th MEU, quickly went to work to establish a secure perimeter, build an encampment and maintain Gunsmoke Djibouti.

“We started with flat, rocky land,” said First Lieutenant Hugh McShane, a logistics officer with the 13th MEU. “But with the help of more than 200 Marines and sailors, we were able to set security and build a command operations center before the first day was out.”

After day one on Gunsmoke Djibouti, heavy machinery arrived to speed up the fortification process. Marines built 10- to 12-foot berms around the camp and surrounded it with concertina wire.

“My section worked a total of 72 hours to build the berms around the encampment,” said Corporal Joshua Lobue, a heavy equipment operator with the 13th MEU. “We were able to move enough dirt to build a roughly half-mile berm, 10 to 12 feet high around the encampment.”

Once the encampment was built, the

Marines and sailors were ready to conduct follow-on training.

“If we were cut off from the world right now, we can be self-sustained for more than a week,” said McShane. The 13th MEU was set to continue sustainment training in Djibouti with various ranges to maintain combat readiness and combat effectiveness during Western Pacific Deployment 16-1.

LCpl Alvin Pujols, USMC

■ CAMP ATTERBURY, INDIANA Reserve Marines Hone Skills During Live-Fire Exercise

On a cold morning, a low fog settled on a quiet range in Indiana. As the sun rose, the fog slowly dissipated and the static of radio chatter—calling for fire—broke the silence.

“Half load!” yelled a Marine in acknowledgment of the call.

With grid positions calculated and radio



SGT SARA GRAHAM, USMC

LCpl Eric Dragon, left, and LCpl John Slager, scout snipers with 2/24, finish their qualifications on the range during a fire support coordination exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 14.

checks done, the Marines loaded their rounds halfway into the 81 mm mortars. Seconds later, the rounds dropped and exploded upward, pushing suppressive “steel rain” downrange to disrupt the “enemy.”

Marine reservists with 2d Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment participated in a fire support coordination exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 12-16. The exercise allowed the leathernecks to not only hone their skills and prepare for their upcoming annual training, but it also emphasized teamwork and integration of their combined arms operations with a U.S. Army Reserve assault battalion and the U.S. Air Force.

“We are here for a combined arms live-fire exercise,” said Captain Jordan Overdorf, Weapons Company commander, 2/24. “We have Weapons Company shooting 81 mm mortars, we brought in air support, had scout snipers doing stalking and shooting qualifications, and the combined antiarmor team working on live-fire and maneuver ranges.”

In preparation for their annual training, the Marines of 2/24 used multiple assets during the exercise, combining the functions of their forward observers, 81 mm mortar teams, snipers and a combined anti-armor team (CAAT).

According to Corporal Karl Pulliam, a vehicle commander with Anti-Tank Training Co, Fourth Marine Division, Broken Arrow, Okla., the training on the CAAT range allowed the Marines to work closely with their parent company, an opportunity not normally available during a standard drill weekend. The training resulted in a more fluid and cohesive unit overall. It also allowed the shooters more time behind the trigger, the drivers more time behind the wheel, and the commanders to become more proficient in issuing orders from truck to truck.

“As a reserve Marine, you aren’t living and breathing the Marine Corps 24/7,” said Pulliam. “So anytime you get actual hands-on training with your weapons system, it helps your technical proficiency.”

Opportunities to run multiple ranges and train in a joint environment are important parts of overall readiness, and Marine reservists must capitalize on them. A large focus during the exercise was effective communication in conducting those missions with other branches of the military.

During the exercise, forward observers with 2/24 called in support from the pilots manning the A-10 Thunderbolt II, a low-altitude close air support aircraft provided by 163rd Fighter Squadron, Air National Guard. In addition, 2/24’s sniper platoon coordinated with Company B, 8th Bat-



SGT SARA GRAHAM, USMC

LCpl Brent Madison, left, and LCpl Gerald Potempa, mortarmen with 2/24, fire the 81 mm mortar during an exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 14. The Reserve Marines coordinated with forward observers to provide suppressive fire with mortars while aviation assets destroyed the target.

talion, 229th Aviation Regiment, 11th Aviation Command (Theater), a U.S. Army Blackhawk crew, to enhance their skills in casualty evacuation exercises and insertion into enemy lines. To accomplish this, learning each other’s ways of operating was an important part of completing the mission.

“I think it is important we are all on the same page, we are all learning to speak each other’s languages,” said Overdorf. “We all speak a little bit differently, so we are learning to communicate and work with different agencies. I think it’s good Marines see a different side of things.”

Sgt Sara Graham, USMC

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.

1st Recon Goes Ship to Shore In Preparation for 11th MEU

Marines with Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, First Marine Division conducted amphibious operations training using combat rubber reconnaissance crafts (CRRCs) at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 22.

The training allowed them to apply

reconnaissance and surveillance techniques in preparation for their deployment with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The Recon Marines also used this training to hone their ship-to-shore capabilities in order to maintain mission readiness.

“These amphibious missions, a lot of the time, are more complex than typical ground missions,” said Corporal Raymond Buckley, a reconnaissance Marine with Co A, 1st Recon Bn. “There’s a lot more that can go wrong out there. Most times when things go wrong, we adjust while on the move. So being good at and understanding the basic concepts is key.”

After testing the CRRCs’ top speeds and checking all the gear, the Marines conducted beach surveys from designated positions in the water. There, they observed and reported information on the objective to the headquarters team. Buckley stated that rehearsing amphibious operations ahead of time dictates success in the future.

“Rehearsing is pretty much essential for any mission,” said Buckley. “If we didn’t practice and hone our craft as much



CPL ARON S. PATTERSON, USMC

SPLASH—SSgt Jamil P. Alkattan, Advanced Infantryman Course chief instructor assigned to the School of Infantry West Detachment Hawaii, conducts a practical application prior to helocast training during the Reconnaissance Team Leader Course at Waterfront Ops at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, April 26.

as we do, then we wouldn't be ready for anything real."

Although Recon Marines are trained and capable of completing a wide range of objectives, this exercise catered to their primary unit mission: to provide in-depth, ground and amphibious reconnaissance to the ground combat element.

"This is our bread and butter," said Cpl Luke Hummel, a reconnaissance Marine with Co A, 1st Recon Bn. "In my experience, amphibious operations are what we do the most of. We have done this course and this particular training many times, but it's good to get your feet wet."

Hummel added that he takes more away from the training than just skill sets and techniques.

"It's important to build that confidence when you train," said Hummel. "The confidence to apply whatever you learn is just as important as what you are actually training on."

Overall, Buckley and Hummel realize how essential it is for 1st Recon Bn and the Marine Corps as a whole to have the capability to conduct a wide range of operations in any clime and place.

"Our contribution gives the commander an in-depth analysis so he knows what



CPL DEMETRIUS MORGAN, USMC

Leathernecks with Co A, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv, check their gear before conducting an amphibious operations training exercise at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., in April. The exercise was part of the unit's preparation for deployment with the 11th MEU.

troops will get into," said Buckley. "Having bodies go through without any intelligence on an area is setting up for failure. They send us through so we can get a closer look at terrain, which can change how we approach a mission or insert into that area."

The company is slated to support the

11th MEU during their upcoming Western Pacific deployment. Those Marines will continue to train at a high level in preparation for future deployments and operations.

Cpl Demetrius Morgan, USMC

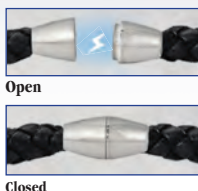


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Sea Stories

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

The Locking Order

In mid-1968, I began my second RVN (Republic of Vietnam) tour driving 5-tons and was assigned to a motor transport battalion a few miles north of Da Nang. Being a “seasoned veteran,” I felt I was quite familiar with where everything was and how things worked.

Several months into this tour, several of our vehicles were “borrowed” by unknown others, and the battalion executive officer (XO) issued a blanket order stating that “all parked vehicles will be locked at all times—no exceptions.”

Vehicles were assigned an appropriate length of chain and a lock, which were to be wrapped through the steering wheel and around the clutch pedal. Anyone found with an unlocked vehicle in violation of this order would receive “office hours.”

Needless to say, we drivers found this to be somewhat inconvenient. Locking the truck while it was being loaded or unloaded, or while getting a trip ticket signed off, seemed to be overkill. But being good Marines, we complied.

One morning, a few weeks into this order, a number of us who were not driving that day were assigned to perimeter bunker and line maintenance. My particular section was up in the hilly area on the west side of our compound. Around 1200, the XO drove up along the lines and got out to check on our progress. One of the first things we noticed was his

failure to lock his jeep.

As if we had rehearsed the following in advance, several of our party invited the XO to walk farther up the line to give us input on a certain bunker, which happened to be well out of sight of his jeep. When it was clear that he was distracted and could no longer see, one of us (who shall remain unnamed) got into the jeep, sped back down to the motor pool, hid the jeep behind the maintenance shed and ran back up to the line.

The XO finished his inspection shortly after, complimented us and began walking toward his jeep, which had disappeared. Of course, he was furious—especially when someone asked him, “Was it locked, sir?”

The “locking” order was rescinded that afternoon, and the jeep magically reappeared.

Cpl Michael S. “Large Al” Alford
USMC, 1965-69
Troutdale, Ore.

Growing Roots

It was 1975 and I was a member of Platoon 164, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. It was the week of mess duty and guard duty. I don’t remember what we called it back then, but now it’s called “team week.” In short, it was the first week since we arrived where we could take a deep breath and relax (sort of).

Well, some of us relaxed a bit too much. One afternoon, two other recruits and I were a couple of minutes late exiting the mess hall. I don’t remember why, not that it would matter. An assistant

drill instructor caught us and ripped into us. As punishment, he had us fill our canteen cups with dirt, which we were required to dump onto our spit-shined boots, followed by the contents of our canteens. In the drill instructor’s words, if we wanted to act like vegetables, we could stand there and grow roots!

It seemed like we stood in the mud for hours, but it was probably only about five minutes. The senior drill instructor walked up and asked us just what we thought we were doing. Being good recruits, we informed him, “Sir, the privates are growing roots, sir!”

He directed us to clean up the mess and get to wherever we were supposed to be.

While cleaning up the mud, we found a root, which promptly led to a plan and a dare. We piled the mud neatly on a dustpan, with the root protruding from the top of the mud pile, looking like a tiny forlorn Charlie Brown Christmas tree. I was volunteered as the spokesperson and we proceeded to the DI hut.

Remember the red wooden panel next to the hatch? I slapped it three times.

“Sir, Private Phelps requests permission to speak to Senior Drill Instructor, Staff Sergeant Miner, sir!”

And the expected response, “Did I hear someone at my hatch?”

I slapped that panel three times again, harder. “Sir, Private Phelps requests permission to speak to Senior Drill Instructor, Staff Sergeant Miner, sir!”

This happened yet again before, finally, the desired response: “Get in here!”

The three of us ran in and locked ourselves up in front of the staff sergeant’s desk, myself front and center, with my buddies flanking me.

“So, what do you maggots want?” I thrust the dustpan forward and announced, “Sir, Private Phelps requests permission to report, mission accomplished, sir!”

Cpl Michael Phelps
USMC, 1975-79
Clearwater, Fla.

Best Steak Ever

I joined the Marine Corps in 1966, and after boot camp in San Diego and Camp Pendleton, Calif., I was off to Naval Air Station Millington near Memphis, Tenn., for my air guarantee training in helicopters, a popular demand for Vietnam.

A few months later I was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Santa Ana, Calif. (later renamed MCAS Tustin). After a brief stay there, my squadron was off to Marble Mountain helicopter base in Vietnam. It was very primitive and a cultural shock. Flying as a crew chief on the big CH-53s of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, our diet was mainly “C-rats.” Even the base mess hall wasn’t much better.

But on one Sunday in May (Mother’s Day), we were treated to a steak at the mess hall. Needless to say, a couple other crew chiefs and I made time to go get our steaks. Just as we sat down to enjoy our beautiful steak dinner, Viet Cong 122 mm rockets started hitting the entrance of the mess hall.

We all looked at each other as the rockets were working their way toward us, and without saying a word, we grabbed our steaks in our hands, ran for the doors and windows and headed for the closest bunker.

As the rockets seemed to follow us, no one dropped his steak. Many others had the same idea, and the small bunker became very crowded very quickly. Inside the dark bunker, we were elbow to elbow, and all you could hear was the sound of rockets and the chewing and devouring of our steaks.

Then a voice in the darkness called out, "Did anyone grab the steak sauce?" Laughter broke the silence. The mess hall was destroyed, but our steaks were enjoyed. The best steak I ever had!

Sgt Patrick Murgallis
USMC, 1966-70
Sunnyvale, Calif.

Marines in Distress

In the late 1950s, I was assigned to the Inspector-Instructor staff at the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, Portland, Maine. We took turns serving as the overnight duty noncommissioned officer, which involved ensuring the security of the facility, manning the phones, performing some janitorial tasks and running up the colors at 0800. One morning, the man who had the duty was late with the flag and, in his haste, mistakenly ran the flag upside down.

Shortly thereafter, a newspaper reporter noticed the error and called the first sergeant, laughingly asking if the Marines were in distress. After looking out

the window and seeing the flagstaff, the Top shouted at the guilty Marine and told him to hurry out and correct the problem before the major arrived.

Fortunately, there was no photo or mention of the incident in the local newspaper. And, no, I was not that Marine!

SSgt Jack Sands
USMC, 1952-62
Waldorf, Md.

Right From Left

After all these years, my second day at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., is still the most embarrassing day of my life.

I had turned 17 just five days earlier. That night, the duty drill instructor assigned four of us recruits to fire watch. I was ordered to stand the 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. watch. I also was ordered to go into the DI hut and wake up one of the DIs.

I did as ordered. However, I woke up the wrong DI. I forgot if he was sleeping on the right side or the left side of the hut. After a dressing down by the DI that I neglected to wake up, I had to walk around all that day with one trouser leg rolled up to my knee so I would learn my right from my left. I learned that lesson well.

Lou Mello
USMC, 1951-60
Topeka, Kan.

Funny Now, But Not Then

We landed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Oct. 21, 1962. I was with Company G, 2d Battalion, Second Marine Regiment. I was a lance corporal and 1st Fire Team leader, 3d Squad, 2d Platoon. We were there a short time when the 3d Squad leader was sent

home because of an illness. Because I was 1st Fire Team leader, I became the squad leader.

They moved us around every week or so from position to position. I was at a bunker and had to check positions before night fell. It was close to dusk, and I started to walk to the first position to my left. I was in full gear, wearing my flak jacket and helmet and carrying my M14, 240 rounds of ammo, four fragmentation grenades and one elimination grenade.

I heard something drop. I looked down and saw one of my fragmentation grenades rolling between my legs.

A 4-foot-deep trench ran from bunker to bunker and was to my right.

A short distance to my left, the ground sloped away and down. I was walking up a slightly elevated narrow path with the trench to my right when I heard something drop. I looked down and saw one of my fragmentation grenades rolling between my legs. I noticed that it did not have the spoon on it. With a speed that would have put Superman to shame, I kicked the grenade into the trench and jumped to my left, down the slope and yelled out, "Live grenade!" and landed in a cactus bush.

I had cactus needles the size of 8- and 10-penny nails sticking in wherever they could find an opening. They

went through my black, rough side-out combat boots and into my legs and arms. My flak jacket and helmet were the only things protecting the rest of my body.

I lay there waiting for the grenade to go off. Seconds went by and no explosion. The pain had not set in yet and I started to move when I heard, or rather, felt, a slight movement on my jacket. There on my jacket was the spoon, pin and detonator. The body of the grenade had unscrewed and fallen off. There was no need to fear an explosion, and I called for help. Some Marines came to my aid and took me to a blackout tent where the corpsman, using a flashlight and tweezers, pulled out as many needles as he could. He explained that some had broken off below the skin and would have to fester and come to the surface in a few days. He would then remove them. He gave me a tetanus shot and light duty with no watch for two days.

GySgt Michael A. Piserchia, USMC (Ret)
Bayville, N.J.

Editor's note: Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it's a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches? We would love to hear your stories. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Sara W. Bock, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.boat@mca-marines.org. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA&F membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." Spread the word!



SPECIAL EDITION: There's something about Marines that makes people want to go out of their way to thank them for their service. For a special edition of "Sea Stories," we want to hear stories of times when someone heard you were a Marine and helped you out of a sticky situation or gave you some sort of special privilege. You never know when your service in the Corps will come in handy down the road!

The Netherlands MARINE BRIGADE

By LtCol George Egli, USMC (Ret)

The motto of the Royal Dutch Marines is “*Qua Patet Orbis*,” which means “as far as the world.” And indeed, the Korps Mariniers have fought around the world during their illustrious 350-year history. On several occasions, though, the Korps Mariniers fought closer to home when their small nation was invaded by its larger neighbors and Dutch Marines fought in pivotal battles to save their homeland.

The last such challenge occurred during World War II when Germany violated the Dutch neutrality and invaded the Netherlands. Mariniers, armed only with M1895 Mannlicher rifles and M1920 Lewis light machine guns, fought the invaders to a standstill at key bridges in Rotterdam in May 1940. The Germans resorted to an aerial bombardment of the city, which eventually resulted in the surrender of the whole nation.

Two years later, Japan invaded the Netherlands East Indies colony (present-day Indonesia), where Mariniers also fought desperate battles to delay the invaders, both aboard ship with the America-British-Dutch-Australian Naval Strike Force in the Java Sea and on land as part of the defenses of the port city of Surabaya. Of a pre-war strength of about 1,500 men, only about 400 Mariniers remained ready to fight, mainly in Great Britain and the Netherlands West Indies (Dutch Caribbean territories).

During this period of exile, the future of the Korps Mariniers was being decided between the Dutch Naval Command in Colombo on Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka), the Dutch military headquarters in London and the liaison office to the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. The goal was to build a self-supporting amphibious task force capable of forcible entry to support General Douglas MacArthur’s South-West Pacific Area Command plans to liberate the Philippines, Borneo and the Dutch East Indies.

The debate centered over which model to follow: American or British. The American successes against the Japanese led to the adoption of the U.S. model. However, the priority was the Dutch Army brigade training in the United Kingdom for operations in continental Europe.

In May 1943, the Korps Mariniers was tasked formally with forming an amphibious brigade modeled on a U.S. Marine Corps reinforced infantry regiment with



COURTESY OF LTCOL GEORGE EGLI, USMC (RET)

its own supporting arms. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb, promised to support his Dutch counterpart. A memorandum clearly delineating the responsibilities and procedures for training and equipping up to 7,000 Dutch Marines was established under the terms of the Lend-Lease Act of March 1941.

The brigade structure that was agreed upon consisted of a staff, three infantry battalions with three companies each, one artillery battalion with three firing batteries, one engineer battalion with a pioneer company, a combat engineer company, a construction company, one tank company, one reconnaissance platoon, one heavy weapons detachment with one 75 mm gun platoon and three 37 mm gun platoons, a services detachment with a medical company, a supply company, a transport company and an amphibious tractor company.

The required manning for this table of organization was 283 officers and 5,793 enlisted men. The Dutch were to provide 20 officers and 200 Mariniers to form the core of the Marine Brigade while the remainder of the unit was to be fleshed out with young men recruited after the liberation of the Netherlands, which was estimated to happen by the end of 1944.

The initial hurdle was finding replacements for the tasks the Mariniers were filling, such as training the Antillean militia, manning coastal fortifications or port security posts in the West Indies, serving at sea or as crews for Marmont-Herrington tankettes of a combat vehicle



COURTESY OF LTCOL GEORGE EGLI, USMC (RET)

Korps Mariniers badge worn on the USMC garrison cover.

Opposite page: A group of Dutch Marines move out over the bow of a landing craft at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in May 1944.

Right: Dutch Marines learn close combat skills as part of the USMC Combat Conditioning Course in May 1944.

battalion in Suriname. In October 1943, the first detachment of about 50 Marines arrived at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., where training started in earnest. Colonel Mattheus R. de Bruijne was appointed as brigade commander but had to remain in London as he also served as the inspector of Dutch troops for the forces in exile.

The Marines went through a three-week introductory course and then moved on to specialized training such as scout-sniper, combat engineer, communications, artillery, armor and amphibious operations. The majority of those courses were taught at Camp Lejeune; however, the tank and amphibious tractor crews were trained in Fort Knox, Ky., and Camp Pendleton, Calif., respectively, while the 75 mm pack howitzers and ordnance courses were conducted in Quantico, Va. Some 40 men were selected to become officers and went through 10 weeks of Officer Candidates School in Quantico.

All the weapons used were American, from the M1911 Colt .45-caliber pistol and M1 Garand rifle to the M4A3 Sherman tank. The use of mortars and artillery was a leap in their capabilities as the pre-war Korps Mariniers did not have indirect fire weapons. The training of all the cadre was practically complete by April 1944 when Colonel de Bruijne sent about 40 percent of his effectives to round out a Dutch Army brigade in Europe.

The Dutch forces in exile had been building up the Princess Irene Brigade in the United Kingdom. The goal was to form a motorized brigade with a headquarters staff, three combat groups, a reconnaissance section, an artillery battery and organic motor transport and logistics elements. Those combat groups were infantry companies reinforced with antitank and antiaircraft guns and commanded by majors.

The Princess Irene Brigade was not yet at full strength in the spring of 1944 and would miss the planned invasion of Continental Europe without additional troops. The solution came from the Marines who had completed their training in America. Captain Hendricus P. Arends and about 100 men were dispatched to a transit camp in Rosneath, Scotland, where they were issued British uniforms, equipment and weapons. On May 1, the Marines reinforced Combat Group II of the Princess Irene Brigade, which now numbered about 1,200 men, and participated in the ongoing pre-invasion training in Dovercourt.

The British forces under General Bernard Montgomery had an urgent need of troops to replace the casualties suffered in Normandy. The Dutch Brigade moved to its marshaling area, crossed the English Channel, disembarked at the artificial harbor near Arromanches on Aug. 7, and was rushed to Bréville-sur-Orne to support the British 6th Airborne Division. That area was known as "Hell's Fire Corner," and the Dutch came under heavy artillery fire.

An offensive aimed at expanding the beachhead west of the Orne River kicked off on Aug. 12, and the Marines' first direct combat with the Germans occurred at the Château Saint Côte



USMC



The shoulder tabs worn by Netherlands Marines on U.S. Marine Corps uniforms. (Photos courtesy of LtCol George Egli, USMC (Ret))



COURTESY OF LT COL GEORGE EGLI, USMC (RET)

Maj Honig, right, and 2dLt Den Hond discuss landing force tactics at Camp Lejeune, in May 1944. Only their shoulder tabs and Korps Mariniers emblems on their garrison covers distinguish them from their U.S. counterparts.



Dutch Marines double time between classes and field instruction. The acronym "RNMC" was stenciled on the breast pockets of their dungarees; the NCO on the right is wearing Dutch tropical rank collar insignia.



LtGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Maj Honig, left, Netherlands Marine Corps, inspect Dutch Marines who completed the USMC Combat Conditioning Course in May 1944.

the following day. Combat Group II suffered some casualties, including its commanding officer. Arends took over the unit, which informally became known as the Arends Company. Combat Group II was then detached from the brigade to defend bridges near Ouistreham.

After the collapse of the German defenses at Falaise on Aug. 20, the Allied advance toward Germany sped up. The bulk of the Princess Irene Brigade attacked through Pont L'Évêque and Beuzeville before reaching Pont-Audemer near the Seine River on Aug. 26. Combat Group II rejoined the unit the following day. The brigade mopped up small pockets of resistance in the area until Aug. 30, when it was reassigned to the British 49th

A Dutch recruiting poster offers a chance to train in America.



Infantry Division. A few days later, the Dutch forces crossed the Seine River and were transferred once again, this time to the British XXX Corps, which was slated to liberate the Netherlands.

The Dutch reached Belgium on Sept. 6 and briefly fought near Sint Joris Winge. The retreating Germans blew up the bridges across the Albert Canal, but the British Guards Armored Division captured a partially destroyed bridge near Beringen. The Princess Irene Brigade was tasked with defending that key bridge, which was being hastily repaired by engineers. The British and Dutch repelled a vigorous German armored counterattack and kept the bridge open. A few days later, Combat Groups I and II, while serving as flank security for the British Guards Armored Division, were heavily engaged at Houthalen.

The newly promoted Field Marshal Montgomery was the proponent of an ambitious plan to reach Germany through the Netherlands. That operation with paratroopers seizing key bridges ahead of armored and mechanized units was reminiscent of the German invasion of the Netherlands in 1940. For the Dutch,

it was a chance to finally liberate their homeland.

The operation, codenamed Market-Garden, kicked off on Sept. 17, with some members of the Dutch Brigade acting as guides for all major participating Allied units. The Princess Irene Brigade itself was attached to the British 43rd Infantry Division and crossed the Dutch border the night of Sept. 20, near Borkel en Schaft.

The Allies' progress was much slower than expected due to strong German resistance. The defense of key bridges along the route of the Allied advance became a critical task. The Princess Irene Brigade passed through Eindhoven but did not go much farther than Grave, where the Dutch took over the security of a

Rededication Ceremony Showcases Continuing Partnership

Senior leadership from II Marine Expeditionary Force and the Royal Dutch Marines took part in a rededication ceremony to honor the Netherlands Marine Brigade and to commemorate the brotherhood between the Royal Dutch Marines and the United States Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 18, 2016.

For two weeks during March, 2d Reconnaissance Battalion hosted training for the Royal Dutch Marines, which included live-fire ranges; intercostal training with Fast Raiding, Interception and Special Forces Craft (FRISC); and military operations on urban terrain. Demonstrations showcasing military working dogs and close quarters tactics courses also were included. The two corps of Marines have conducted joint training for decades resulting in increased readiness for both.

During the ceremony, a plaque was placed near the training area at Camp Davis where the Dutch Marines trained during World War II.

The plaque reads as follows:

“On this ground during the Second World War the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps formed and trained a Netherlands Marine Brigade in close cooperation with their brothers in arms of the United States Marine Corps. From here the Netherlands Marine Brigade sailed to war in the Dutch East Indies where it fought in the most challenging conditions. During more than three years of deployment in Southeast Asia, the brigade lost over 170 Marines killed in action whilst in excess of 105 Marines died as a result of accidents and tropical diseases.”

“I really do love Marines, not just United States Marines, but Marines throughout the globe,” said Major General W. Lee Miller Jr., Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force. “The [Royal Dutch Marines] don’t forget those who came before, as ... has been proved with this plaque.”

—LCpl Miranda Faughn, USMC



LCPL MIRANDA FAUGHN, USMC

MajGen Brian D. Beaudreault, Commanding General, Second Marine Division, speaks with COMO Hans Lodder, commander of the Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean, after the unveiling of a rededication plaque commemorating the joint training between the Royal Dutch Marines and the United States Marines at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 18, 2016.



LCPL ABRAHAM LOPEZ, USMC

A Royal Netherlands Marine prepares to unveil a plaque to U.S. Marines with II MEF during a ceremony at the Paradise Point Officers' Club at MCB Camp Lejeune, March 18. The ceremony commemorated the history of the Netherlands Marine Brigade that trained at Camp Davis during WW II and recognized the continuing brotherhood between the two groups.

500-meter bridge across the Meuse that had been captured by American paratroopers. Combat Group II moved up to Neerbosch to protect another key bridge near Nijmegen on Oct. 7. The German forces had been underestimated, and the ground advance stalled before reaching all Allied paratroopers.

After the defeat of the surrounded airborne units in Arnhem, the Princess Irene Brigade took up positions along the Wilhelmina Canal to assist in keeping the 80-kilometer-long corridor open. German counterattacks failed to close that liberated slice of the Netherlands. It was during one of those attacks that the first Marine was killed in action.

The failure of Operation Market-Garden shifted the Allies' focus to the vital port of Antwerp, which had been liberated in early September with little damage. The Germans still controlled access to Antwerp from heavily fortified positions on the island of Walcheren and in the Breskens Pocket on the south bank of the Scheldt Estuary. Allied shipping could thus not safely offload the much needed supplies close to the front lines. But first, the Allies had to form a united front south of the Rhine with the “Market-Garden corridor.” The Dutch Brigade reinforced the Scottish 15th Infantry Division for the advance on Tilburg on

Oct. 24. They fought through strong German defenses and difficult terrain along the Old Ley River. It then took another three days of difficult urban fighting to liberate Tilburg.

The Allies liberated the banks of the Scheldt Estuary and Walcheren after very difficult fighting in early November. The Princess Irene Brigade, after a short period in Belgium, was relocated to counter a new threat to Allied ships: German midget submarines and combat divers. By Nov. 16, Combat Group II was spread between Veere, Sloedam and the Vrouwenpolder on the north coast of the now flooded island of Walcheren and was equipped with amphibious vehicles (DUKWs) to better operate in that isolated area. The Marines engaged three German one-man submarines on Christmas Day: two sank off the coast near Domburg while the third, damaged by the Dutch gunfire, washed up on the shore near Westkapelle.

As the German threat receded in that area, the Marines finally had a chance to rest and refit in Vlissingen after about six months of continuous operations. The recruiting effort began in December and the first candidates arrived in the United States in January 1945.

On April 1, 1945, the Marines were released from duty with



BGen Alfred H. Noble, left, Commanding General, Marine Training Command, officially welcomed LtCol Langeveld, commander of Netherlands Marine Corps Detachment, in 1944.

the Princess Irene Brigade. Most rejoined the Mariniers Brigade in the U.S. to share their combat experiences. A small team remained in the homeland to continue the recruiting campaign in the liberated slice of the Netherlands. Eager young men volunteered, but it was only after the surrender of Germany in May 1945 that the whole country was open to the recruiters who had to ship 200 recruits a week to the U.S.

These war volunteers enlisted for 30 or 36 months of duty and an opportunity to train in America. Recruit training lasted 12 weeks and was followed by a 12- to 16-week individual specialist training phase in up to 50 specialties at various installations across the country. Another 12 to 16 weeks of unit training rounded out the formation of the new Marines. Three Dutch women were incorporated into the brigade staff to provide administrative support and wore USMC Women Reserve uniforms.

The end of the war with Japan in August 1945 changed the situation as the brigade was not yet at full operational capacity. The influx of Dutch personnel and U.S. Marines from the Pacific theater exceeded the available space on Camp Lejeune. The Dutch Marines had to relocate to nearby Camp Davis, a U.S. Army antiaircraft artillery facility, in September 1945 where the new recruits completed their training.

The Netherlands needed to reclaim their East Indies colony



Another example of a Korps Mariniers recruiting poster which emphasized the opportunity to train in the U.S.

as soon as possible. The Dutch Marine Brigade, consisting mainly of the staff, three infantry battalions, one motor transport battalion and support elements such as a Marine construction company, a supply and armament detachment and a medical company, started preparing for its deployment. This was a reduction from the original plan by about 1,400 men, mainly at the expense of the artillery and engineer battalions. The reconnaissance detachment, heavy weapons company, tank company and amphibious tractor company would be activated once in theater.

A little more than 4,000 Marines and all their equipment shipped out of Norfolk, Va., aboard seven Dutch ships directly for the Netherlands East Indies in November and December 1945. They were no longer going to fight against the Japanese and, at the time, were unsure of the reception awaiting them. That would turn out to be a four-year-long counterinsurgency war.

About 450 men returned to the Netherlands to rebuild the infrastructure wrecked by five years of war and to train recruits who had not been able to go to North Carolina. The Dutch Marine Corps had undergone a major transformation from lightly armed, small seagoing or overseas detachments to a combined arms brigade equipped with the latest weapons. The American-based structure, albeit in reduced size in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the weapons and equipment, remained in use into the 1970s. The Marine Brigade was the foundation of the modern-day Korps Mariniers, which still periodically sends elements to train in Camp Lejeune.

Author's bio: LtCol George Egli, USMC (Ret) retired from active duty in 2016 after more than 30 years of service. As an enlisted Marine, he was a helicopter mechanic. He later served as a combat engineer and special operations officer.



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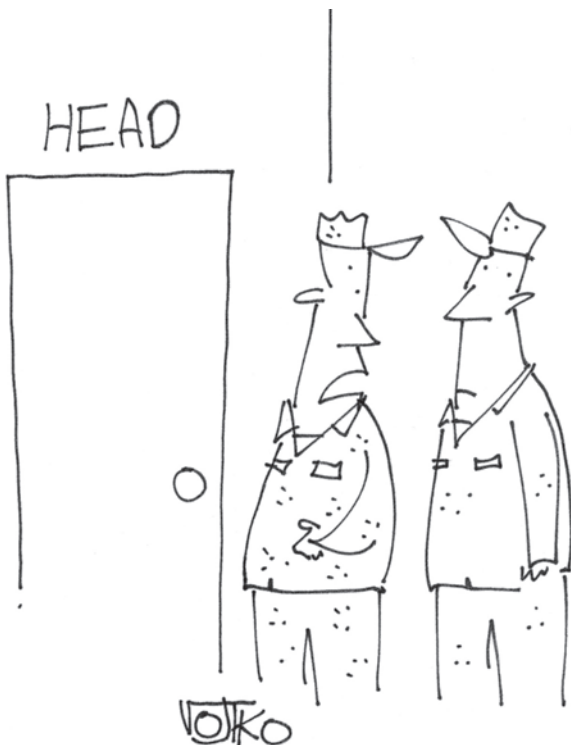
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Happy Birthday, America!



"It's for meals, ready to exit."



"It's our theme park."

BOOT CAMP

S.I. Stout



"You're a little high. Try digging your foxhole deeper."



"Hey, Mom, can we light just a few fireworks?"

TASK UNIT RAIDER

In the Battle for the City of the Dead

Part II
By Dick Camp

In August 2004, American forces battled Muqtada al-Sadr's Shiite Mahdi militia for control of the city of An-Najaf, the center of Shia political power in Iraq. Thousands of insurgents joined the fight against the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable (MEU (SOC)), forcing the Multi-National Force Iraq to reinforce the embattled Marines.

The reinforcements consisted of two U.S. Army mechanized battalions, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry (1-5th Cav) and 2-7th Cav; 1st Bn, 227th Aviation Regiment (1-227th AV); sniper contingents from the 1st Bn, 5th Special Forces Group, Naval Special Warfare Seal Team Two, Polish *Grupa Reagowania Operacyjno Mobilnego* (GROM); and Task Unit Raider, Marine Corps Special Operations Command De-

tachment One (MCSOCOM Det One).

On Aug. 18, a sub-detachment of Task Unit Raider—seven snipers, two fires Marines and a Navy corpsman under Master Sergeant Terry M. Wyrick—arrived in Najaf. The unit was assigned to support Task Force (TF) Cougar, 2-7th Cav, in the fight against the Mahdi militia. Captain Eric N. Thompson, Det One's reconnaissance and assault element commander, said, "It was our first opportunity to really use the snipers to their full capacity. ... [T]hey got a number of kills down there and greatly assisted the conventional units in shaping the battlefield and taking the city of Najaf."

Three days after the detachment arrived, a cease-fire was declared to allow al-Sadr and the Iraq interim government to begin settlement negotiations. The snipers withdrew to the vicinity of the TF Cougar command post to refit and await

orders. On Aug. 24, during the stand-down, Wyrick requested a relief as the initial subgroup had been in action for a week. "They were pretty exhausted," Staff Sergeant Chadwick D. Baker said.

The relief force was made up of two fires Marines, Capt Daniel B. "Shoe" Sheehan and Sergeant David D. Marnell, and eight snipers under MSgt Charles H. Padilla. Capt Sheehan recalled, "Myself, Sergeant [David D.] Marnell and eight snipers flew to Najaf in a CH-53 and got in about 0300."

It was a routine flight except for the landing. "There was a little dirt landing zone," SSgt Baker later explained nonchalantly. "The pilot was getting washed out with the sand and had a semi-crash landing. Everybody was OK though." The team linked up with several Bradley infantry fighting vehicles and drove to TF Cougar's command post.



Det One Marines gather for a group photo prior to their final direct-action mission in An-Najaf, Iraq.

The Schoolhouse

MSgt Wyrick briefed the relief element on the situation by “getting them in the mindset: ‘You’re going to go 12 blocks, and you’re full on—you’re in the fight.’ ” He planned to “conduct a relief in place, do a one-day turnover, and then I was going to get the guys that were spent out of there.” After the brief, the relief element was loaded in Bradley fighting vehicles and taken to a four-story, thick-walled schoolhouse about 500 to 600 meters from the Imam Ali Mosque. A platoon of the 162nd Infantry Oregon National Guard had cleared the building for use as Team Cougar’s command post.

“We were under fire the entire time,” SSgt Baker recalled. “There were rounds everywhere. The Bradley backed up and lowered the ramp. We just took off running into the building and got under cover as quickly as we could [because] there were rounds coming through the windows. ... [T]here was a full-on fight going on,” because al-Sadr and the Iraqi interim government had failed to come to an agreement.

Capt Sheehan reached the third deck just as Gunnery Sergeant Ryan P. Keeler (call sign “Kilo”) ran an Apache attack helicopter against a target 75 to 100 meters away. “The first string of 30 mm impacted short, hitting right where we were standing.” Everyone dove for cover. “At least three rounds detonated against the other side of the wall from us. Luckily none of the rounds penetrated, but the whole place filled with smoke and glass from the windows. No one was wounded, but shrapnel put holes in my pack and IR light lens on my rifle. Sgt [Miguel A.] Cervantes’ pack was shredded. The rounds were definitely an eye opener!” Despite the close call, Sheehan, together with Sgt Cervantes, Sgt Marnell and GySgt Keeler conducted several fire missions, including one with the cavalry battalion’s 120 mm mortars.

“One night,” Keeler recalled, “TF Cougar was moving tanks towards the mosque, and Basher [Lockheed AC-130 gunship] picked up several RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] teams waiting to ambush the tanks from the front and rear. I quickly called TF Cougar and had them back out of the street to safety. Once Cougar was clear of the area, I cleared Basher on all the RPG teams. Basher used all its capabilities and reported back that no one was left moving.”

The schoolhouse “was probably one of the strongest buildings around,” GySgt Jack A. Kelly said. “The building allowed us multiple decks to observe from, and it got us about as close as we could possibly get to the shrine at the time without exposing ourselves completely.” It was an



CAPT DANIEL B. SHEEHAN, USMC

A Det One sniper mans his position in the schoolhouse near the Imam Ali Mosque. The four-story schoolhouse was used as the command post for Team Cougar.



CAPT DANIEL B. SHEEHAN, USMC

An exhausted sniper grabs some sleep while he can in the relative safety of an interior staircase.

excellent location. “From its rooftop, observers could see all the way to the mosque and almost the entire southwest section of the city.” The snipers could use the lower decks while the fires Marines could get up high for better observation.

“I moved back and forth on the upper levels,” Baker said. “I would be in position for a while, and then another sniper would get on the gun. We had the flexibility to put a sniper on for two hours and then rotate him because we had so many school-trained snipers. ... [E]verybody got their trigger time.

“Once we got into the schoolhouse, we set up our positions and started shooting,” Baker said. “The rules of engagement were briefed to us before we went out. If the militia posed a threat, we had permission to shoot.”

SSgt Glen S. Cederholm said the Mahdi militia wore “green headbands and black shirts and carried a variety of weapons: RPGs, RPKs [Russian light-machine guns], as well as AKs [Soviet assault rifles] and some sniper-type rifles.” Tactically, he said, they “didn’t expose themselves for long, but when they made mistakes,

they paid for them. They used women and children to do their dirty work. The kids would walk around the buildings, trying to find out where we were, and the women were carrying water and food to the militia.”

Conditions inside the schoolhouse were extremely difficult. “The heat was ridiculous,” MSgt Padilla said. “Just unbelievably hot ... it was like an oven because the building was keeping all the heat in. The floors were like ovens.” It was difficult to stay hydrated. “You sweat all day long, all night long, you slept and you sweat the whole time,” Kelly explained. “You couldn’t drink enough water.” According to Sheehan, “The Army guys did a great job. They would make a Bradley run with water and ice.”

The heat and constant small-arms and mortar fire kept the men on edge. “We would get about two or three hours of sleep at night,” Kelly said. “Eventually you’re exhausted.” The building was filthy; flies were everywhere. “Everybody’s covered in dirt and grime and sweat and stink,” Sheehan said.

SSgt Alex N. Conrad spotted a series of loopholes through his binoculars. “I see this guy in a black shirt with a green headband on, and I see him stick his gun through a hole. I’m like, ‘That’s Mahdi militia!’ I get my .50-caliber and set up a makeshift position in the hallway, kind

of offset from the window. I told GySgt Dailey that ‘as soon as I see some kind of movement in this hole, I’m taking a shot.’ So, sure enough, the guy pops up. As soon as I saw the guy, I fired right through the hole ... and that was that.” GySgt Ryan P. Keeler, who was controlling air support, said, “I got Apaches on station; we can take that position out.” According to Conrad, “One of the attack helicopters struck the building with two Hellfire missiles. And from that time on, I didn’t receive any more fire.”

TF Cougar provided security for the Marines. “Tanks were about two minutes from us, so anytime we had trouble, we could call them in,” Capt Sheehan said. “We had about a squad reinforced of Army infantry maintaining security on the bottom deck of the building and Bradleys maintaining hard points in the streets and conducting local patrols. Several times a day the Bradleys would come up and just inundate the buildings with 25 mm and 7.62 mm to clear them out.” Baker said, “The Army took a big burden off us, so we didn’t have to really worry about providing our own internal security.”

SSgt Baker “had a position in the east side of the building on the ground level, looking straight down at the mosque and an intersection. GySgt Travis W. Clark and Hospital Corpsman First Class Matthew S. Pranka were my spotters.” The snipers

had identified several locations they suspected of being arms caches, and they were clear to shoot any armed military-aged males going in or out of those places. Baker said, “If they went in and out of those areas, they would get shot.” MSgt Padilla thought the militia was “just a bunch of idiots. We would take one guy out, and the next minute another guy was in the same spot trying to figure out what was happening. It was just incredible.”

Joint Terminal Attack Controller

Sheehan, Marnell and Cervantes were the only joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) team working air assets in the southern portion of the city. “The AC-130 would check in on station at about 2200,” Sheehan explained. “If I had targets which we had taken fire from during the day, I would get clearance to run on them. ... [G]enerally we are talking 300 meters from our position. We’d run the AC-130 all through the night on targets of opportunity as they would pop up. Then about three or four in the morning, the AC would check off station, and we’d get our heads down for a little bit. Generally, the fighting was pretty quiet at night, at least in the dead hours, and then right around sunrise it would kind of kick off again.”

The Imam Ali Mosque was the headquarters for the Mahdi militia. “You’d hear the call for prayer—we were definitely within audio range of the mosque, so we’d hear the calls to prayer throughout the day,” Capt Sheehan explained. “In that mosque they were using the loud speakers to rally the troops and use it as command and control for the fighters in there.” As soon as the sun came up, the JTACs would start getting Cobras and Apaches that the fires support coordinator at the command post, GySgt Fidencio T. Villalobos, pushed up to them. “He basically passed me a preplanned brief over the radio that afternoon, saying, ‘Hey, this is what we got,’ and he handled everything for me,” Sheehan explained. “All I had to do was talk to the ‘birds.’ ... [H]e was truly a force multiplier.”

“Gunnery Sergeant Villalobos ‘lived’ in 2-7’s fire support coordination center, filling the role of a battalion air officer,” Sheehan explained. “He slept underneath the planning table when he could catch a few winks. ... [H]e had the ear of the 2-7 CO [commanding officer].” Villalobos quickly developed a professional rapport with the battalion commander. “Whenever the CO had a decision to make, even if it didn’t deal with JTAC or sniper support, he consulted with Gunny V,” Sheehan said. Villalobos summed it up. “The main thing was just taking out those targets.”



COURTESY OF CAPT DANIEL B. SHEEHAN, USMC

Capt Daniel B. Sheehan, at his post in OP-5. From this position, the Marines of Det One had excellent fields of fire and observation on the Shiite gunmen who had previously roamed the area unimpeded.



COURTESY OF DICK CAMP

Iraqis swarm into the rubble-filled street after the cease-fire went into effect Aug. 21, 2004. The Marines of Det One were concerned that the militia would take the opportunity presented by the cease-fire to rearm and return to the buildings previously cleared by American forces.

Cease-Fire

On the afternoon of Aug. 25, offensive operations were ended to allow Iraqi political and religious officials to remove the Mahdi militia from the Imam Ali Mosque. During the night the Marines maintained observation of the area, engaged targets and controlled preparatory fires for the long-planned ground assault on the Imam Ali Mosque.

Sheehan described the preparation. “We did it on a timeline prepping for the assaulters [Iraqi soldiers] to roll through the Army that’s coming from the east and the MEU coming in from the north.” The ground assault on the mosque was cancelled. The chief Shia cleric in Iraq, Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein al-Sistani, brokered an agreement between the interim Iraqi government and al-Sadr.

Sheehan said, “On the morning of the 27th, we got word that the Mahdi militia was going to lay down their arms, and the cease-fire was going into effect.” The Mahdi militia came streaming out of the mosque. “Hundreds of chanting Sadr supporters, intermixed with uniformed Mahdi militia,” Sheehan recalled. “You had Mahdi militia guys with their green headbands and black pajamas carrying AKs and bandoliers, RPG and everything

... in plain sight! The rules of engagement have changed to ‘they must demonstrate hostile intent.’ So now we have to let these d---heads re-arm, re-occupy buildings we’ve cleared, unable to fire on them. They are looking at our positions, certainly planning their attack on us.”

SSgt Baker explained, “We were surrounded by all these people. ... [Y]ou could see them look up at us and point, so they knew where we were. We were pretty vulnerable. To me that was the worst part in Najaf.” Kelly added, “It put us on edge, not knowing what their intentions were.” TF Cougar deployed tanks and Bradleys around the school to support the detachment. “I felt a lot more comfortable,” Baker said. “We slept a little better that night.”

Sheehan wrote in his diary, “Current intelligence says the cease-fire will hold. We’ll see. I’m really disgusting. Same clothes for 5 days, temps easily 110+ during the day, still 100 at night. Beard coming in. Will enjoy a shower after this—rashes are developing from the filth.”

The cease-fire held, and on the afternoon of Aug. 27, the sub-detachment pulled back to 2-7th Cav’s command post where they stayed for three more days, waiting to see if the agreement would

continue to be observed before heading back to Baghdad. Sheehan wrote, “[We] drove through Karbala and a couple of towns enroute [sic]. Lots of traffic—nerve wracking to be in traffic jam in the middle of Iraqi city, no shots fired though, and no bombs.”

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Piedmont, USMCR wrote in “Det One: U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Special Operations Command Detachment, 2003-2006”: “The actions of Det One Marines during the battle of Najaf have no parallel in any other battle of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In a situation that called for a special operations force to completely integrate with a conventional unit as a supporting force, Task Unit Raider’s Marines shone brilliantly.”

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



Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

MCRC, *Sports Illustrated* Recognize Student Athletes

Marine Corps Recruiting Command is partnering with *Sports Illustrated* to recognize outstanding high school student athletes. The program recognizes students who are involved in community service, have outstanding academic performance, are considered leaders in school, and are outstanding athletes.

One student athlete is selected each month of the school year, from September to May, to be recognized for his or her accomplishments. *Sports Illustrated* features the winners in its monthly publication and on its website. Each student athlete also is recognized during an awards ceremony that is facilitated by the Marine Corps at the student's school. Marines in uniform are on hand to present the prestigious award.

"I think that the program has done an outstanding job of pushing the Marine Corps into the public's eye by utilizing avenues that are popular in the market where the most qualified applicants are," said Staff Sergeant David Hall, a recruiter in Denver, Colo. "Any time the public sees the United States Marine Corps, it is beneficial for us as recruiters. It keeps us fresh in the minds of America's youth."

The partnership provides an opportunity for the Marine Corps to raise awareness of its scholarship and enlistment opportunities, in addition to recognizing athletic prowess, academic excellence and community leadership values.

"We want to get out into the communities and interact with the students, educators and key influencers, while telling the Marine Corps story," said Captain Sean Pangia, paid media and advertising officer for MCRC. "By doing so, we can show the community how our values are similar to theirs."

On April 21, SSgt Hall presented the *Sports Illustrated* High School Student Athlete of the Month award to Porter Milner, a senior at Broomfield High School in Broomfield, Colo. Milner is the captain of the varsity soccer team, has received three all-state selections and earned All-American honors.

"One of my personal philosophies is that everything correlates, on the field and off the field," said Milner. "On the field, I build mental fortitude and practice my leadership and character, which transfers off the field."

At the end of each school year, one athlete is chosen as *Sports Illustrated's* 2016 High School Athlete of the Year.

To read about this year's winners and learn more about the award and the partnership between *Sports Illustrated* and MCRC, visit www.si.com/high-school-athlete-of-the-month/2015-2016.

Sgt Jacky Fang, USMC

New Home for Wounded Marine Marks Organization's 100th Build

Corporal Jonathan Dowdell and his family received the keys to their new, custom-built, mortgage-free home during a special welcome home ceremony in League City, Texas, April 14. A national nonprofit organization, Operation FINALLY HOME, and a local builder, Harbour Classic Builders, supported the construction of the home. This particular ceremony marked a milestone for the organization; it was their 100th "home build celebration" during which a new home is presented to a deserving wounded, ill or injured veteran or a surviving spouse.

"We were beyond honored to be approached to help build a brand-new home for Cpl Jonathan Dowdell and his wonderful family," said Murphy Yates, president and owner of Harbour Classic Builders. "We knew this would be a challenging project, but we couldn't be happier with the results. Jonathan deserved a home that would fit his needs and serve as a safe haven for him and his family."

Dowdell enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2004 and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He received a Purple Heart after he was injured by an improvised explosive device on June 24, 2010, while deployed to Afghanistan. Following the explosion, Dowdell was left with severe injuries, including above-knee amputation of both legs, amputation of his left index finger, and a right arm deformity. He and his wife, Rebecca, have one daughter.

"Cpl Jonathan Dowdell is an exceptional example of the power of faith and determination, and we couldn't be happier to celebrate our 100th home build in his honor," said Rusty Carroll, executive director of Operation FINALLY HOME. "Thanks to the support of the League City community and generosity of Harbour Classic Builders, we are able to give Jonathan and his family a beautiful home worthy of their sacrifices."

Operation FINALLY HOME currently



SGT BENJAMIN PRYER, USMC

SSgt David Hall, a recruiter, right, recognizes Porter Milner, the *Sports Illustrated* High School Athlete of the Month for March, at Broomfield High School in Broomfield, Colo., April 21.



ALYSSA RAMIREZ

A Marine color guard presents the colors as Alyssa Beach, left, sings the National Anthem during the Operation FINALLY HOME dedication ceremony for a new mortgage-free house for Cpl Jonathan Dowdell and his family in League City, Texas, April 14.

has more than 80 ongoing home builds in 31 different states. Established in 2005 as a nonpartisan/nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization, it partners with corporate sponsors, builder associations, builders, developers, individual contributors and volunteers to help America's military heroes and their families transition to the homefront by addressing one of their most pressing needs—a home to call their own. For more information, visit www.operationfinallyhome.org.

Alyssa Ramirez, DOD

Family Members Experience Corps Through “In Their Boots Day”

Spouses and other family members spent the day with their Marines learning some of what the Marine Corps does during “In Their Boots Day” at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 29.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn and shoot different weapon systems, eat a meal, ready to eat (MRE), and ride in 7-ton trucks on a simulated convoy.

“We arrived at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer [ISMT] and shot five different weapons,” said Adair Chesley. “I had my first MRE, which was chicken tortellini, and now we’re on a military range experiencing what you guys do.”

The spouses and family members started the day at the ISMT, where they had a chance to try out the M9 service pistol, M240 machine gun, M249 squad

automatic weapon and the M4 carbine.

“The ISMT is absolutely incredible,” said Staff Sergeant Mario Canepa, USMC (Ret). “You go in there and shoot just about any small weapon system and get a good feel of the actual thing. The technology used is very accurate at simulating what it is like to shoot the actual weapon using live rounds.”

To cap off the full experience, participants were shown a firing method known as “talking guns.” Marines from II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group operated two M240s and a .50-caliber machine gun, simulating constant suppression of the enemy by alternating among the three weapons.

The attendees also were given a class on how to properly engage targets from the standing, kneeling and prone firing positions using an M4. With live rounds in hand, and flak and Kevlar protecting their bodies, they ran through a course of fire shooting at automated targets.

“This is a great idea to bring the spouses out, let them see a little bit of what the Marine Corps is about,” said Canepa. “It is an honor and a privilege to come out here and have these Marines take the time to take us through the course of fire and show us what they do.”

Cpl Justin Updegraff, USMC



CPL JUSTIN UPDEGRAFF, USMC

Family members and spouses shoot the M9 service pistol in the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer during II MEF Headquarters Group's “In Their Boots Day” at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 29.

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Memorial 5K Honors Fallen Combat Camera Marines

■ Motivational cadence rang through the morning air at Camp Foster, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, as Marines and sailors participated in a 5K memorial run on May 12.

The run was held on the one-year anniversary of the helicopter crash in Nepal that took the lives of six Marines, including Corporal Sara A. Medina, a 23-year-old combat photographer, and Lance Corporal Jacob A. Hug, a 22-year-old combat videographer, while participating in Operation Sahayogi Haat earthquake relief efforts on May 12, 2015. Both Marines were assigned to Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations Pacific-MCB Camp Butler.

The combat camera crew that Medina and Hug served with enjoyed the camaraderie during the race, according to LCpl Sean Evans, a combat photographer who

served with the two fallen Marines during their tour in Okinawa.

“We were amazed to see all of the support,” said Evans. “Marines and sailors all over Okinawa came to be a part of this event.”

The run will be an annual tradition in remembrance of Medina and Hug, according to the group of combat camera Marines who planned the event.

Plans are being made to make next year’s memorial run even better, said Chief Warrant Officer Clinton Runyon, a combat camera officer who was the officer in charge of Medina and Hug during their tour in Okinawa. “We want to have a simultaneous 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer next year,” said Runyon. “We started small and it will get bigger. Medina and Hug were a big part of our lives, and we will remember them forever.”

Cpl Douglas Simons, USMC

Marine Corps Intelligence Schools Receives Inaugural Award

■ In May, the Marine Corps Intelligence Schools (MCIS) was honored with the Department of Defense Intelligence and Security Learning Enterprise Gold Level of Achievement Award for 2015.

This is the first year the award has been presented by the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence through the Department of Defense Intelligence Training and Education Board. MCIS received the Gold Level award for being the top school chosen from a field of 52 formal learning centers encompassing \$2 billion in resources and assets across the DOD.

In 2015, MCIS provided more than 200,000 hours of instruction to approximately 2,500 Marines. The instructor staff is made up of 165 active-duty Marines and three contractors.

“We have some very capable, extremely bright and talented, creative instructors



CPL DOUGLAS SIMONS, USMC

Marines and sailors begin a 5K memorial run in honor of two fallen combat camera Marines at Camp Foster, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, May 12. The race took place on the one-year anniversary of the helicopter crash that killed Cpl Sara A. Medina and LCpl Jacob A. Hug while they were participating in earthquake relief efforts in Nepal.



Col John E. Walker Jr., right, CO, MCIS, and MSgt Eldar Krueger, MCIS S-6 chief, display the DOD Intelligence and Security Learning Enterprise Gold Level of Achievement Award at NAS Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, Virginia Beach, Va., May 16.

on staff,” said Colonel John E. Walker Jr., the commanding officer of MCIS.

The major focus for MCIS during 2015 was a consolidation of the schools to provide a better training environment, improve training efficiency and achieve cost savings.

“The consolidation showed how well MCIS worked with other services, specifically the Air Force,” said Fred Wilson, the future operations officer for MCIS.

A significant factor in MCIS earning the award was the success of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Course at Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, Virginia Beach, Va., which annually conducts five classes. The course produces well-rounded intelligence collectors thanks to its instructor staff that is made up of outstanding intelligence Marines and sailors.

When Walker assumed command of the schoolhouse in August 2015, he didn’t make any major changes because he knew he already had a great group of instructors on staff.

“This is just a reflection of the hard work that has gone in over time, and I’m extremely proud of the instructors we have here,” said Walker. “They’re top notch; they are the gold standard across the Department of Defense.”

According to Wilson, the award is more

than just a pat on the back for the instructors.

“It means that we’re putting out qualified Marines,” said Wilson. “We’re doing a good job and making sure the Marine Corps is manned with the best possible intelligence personnel we can give them.”

Cpl Logan Snyder, USMC

Okinawa Fire Department Thanks Camp Foster PMO

■ The Provost Marshal’s Office (PMO) at Camp Foster, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, garnered numerous awards for its ongoing support of Okinawa’s Regional Fire Department on Camp Foster, May 19.

Camp Foster PMO received a unit award, and seven other awards went to individuals who played key roles while PMO supported the Okinawa Regional Fire Department over the last five years.

Camp Foster personnel went above and beyond the call of duty, according to Koichi Hirata, the chairman of Okinawa Prefectural Fire and Medical Dispatch Center Operational Council.

“We thank Foster PMO for supporting us for the past five years,” said Hirata. “They did more for us than we asked of them, which made our success possible.”

The two parties made a fantastic team, according to Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan P. Loney, Provost Marshal, Marine Corps Installations Pacific-MCB Camp Butler.

“We really enjoyed working with the Okinawa Regional Fire Department,” said Loney. “We thank them for being gracious to [us] for the past five years and hope to work together again soon.”

Working together with their Japanese neighbors allows Marine Corps Installations Pacific to strengthen power projection with our allies and partners, enabling us to preserve regional peace, stability and security and promote operating force readiness.

Cpl Douglas D. Simons, USMC



LtCol Jonathan P. Loney, left, Provost Marshal, Marine Corps Installations Pacific-MCB Camp Butler, accepts an award from a representative of the Okinawa Regional Fire Department at Camp Foster, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, May 19.

The Marine Corps' first two Kaman K-MAX helicopters prepare to land at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., May 7. The aircraft, which have the capability to fly unmanned, are unique additions to the air station's wide variety of aviation assets.



PFC GEORGE MELLENDEZ, USMC

Unmanned Cargo Helicopter Arrives At MCAS Yuma

■ The Marine Corps' first two Kaman K-MAX helicopters arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., May 7.

The unique aircraft has interlinking rotors, and its primary mission is to provide cargo load operations with a maximum lift payload of 6,000 pounds.

"The most unique thing is this aircraft can fly itself," said Jerry McCawley, a chief pilot and flight safety engineer with Lockheed Martin. "These two particular aircraft were over in Afghanistan for almost three years [unmanned] and moving almost five million pounds of cargo, keeping numerous convoys off the road [and] preventing any roadside attacks."

The K-MAX will utilize MCAS Yuma's training ranges in both Arizona and California and will soon have an integral part in testing and operations.

As MCAS Yuma continues expanding its scope of operations, the K-MAX will continue revolutionizing expeditionary Marine air-ground combat power in all environments.

"It's very resilient and can fly day or night," said McCawley. "It's out here in Yuma for future test and development with the Marines. It's great now, and it's only going to get better."

The K-MAX will be added to MCAS Yuma's vast collection of military aircraft and will even further strengthen training, testing and operations across the Marine Corps.

LCpl Brendan King, USMC

I MEF Hosts Tech Showcase

■ Technology always has been a defining factor in how the world's militaries fight wars, and the Marine Corps is no stranger to absorbing new technology to prepare for current and future conflicts. Part of making these technological strides involves building relationships and communicating with the companies that produce the equipment.

Most recently, I Marine Expeditionary Force hosted a "Tactical & Technology" day at the Pacific Views Conference Cen-

ter, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 20.

The semiannual exhibition benefits all parties involved. Companies that attend have the opportunity to market prospective technologies and troubleshoot current ones, while the Corps is able to explore cheaper, lighter and more efficient ways to enable Marines to fight battles and win wars.

"The enemy will never stop evolving, and staying several steps ahead is what has always given the Marine Corps an advantage," said First Lieutenant Carl



LCPL SHELLIE HALL, USMC

Sgt Jesus Maldonado, right, discusses radio equipment with a representative from a participating technology company during I MEF's Tactical & Technology day at the Pacific Views Events Center, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 20.



ROGER WOLLENBERG, DOD

DEFYING THE ODDS—Marine LCpl Sarah Rudder, USMC (Ret), center, takes gold in the women's 100-meter Female IT1/IT2 race during the Invictus Games 2016, held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex at Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla., on May 10. Rudder, who had her leg amputated as a result of injuries she sustained while pulling victims out of the rubble of the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, won a total of seven gold medals during this year's Invictus Games. The games brought together wounded veterans from 14 nations for events including track and field, archery, wheelchair basketball, road cycling, indoor rowing, wheelchair rugby, swimming and sitting volleyball.

Welch, a communications officer with 3d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Third Marine Aircraft Wing. "When we are given exposure to new, updated technology, taking advantage of that opportunity is key to maintaining a strong force."

More than 20 companies from around the country attended the event where they showcased their current and future technologies, offered hands-on demonstrations and also received feedback from service-members on their experiences with the products.

"This event helps start conversations that will educate folks on what's new and upcoming," said Heather Russell, an event manager with National Conference Services Incorporated. "It also allows companies that already have established a relationship with the Marine Corps to make changes based on user feedback."

At its core, the Marine Corps is an expeditionary fighting force. Much of its strength comes from its ability to traverse any climate or environment. Its ability to win battles and accomplish its missions is in part thanks to having light and portable gear, and the Corps will continue finding

the most suitable technology to bolster its strength.

"I think the future is bright," said Welch. "Seeing how this expo has opened new opportunities for the Marine Corps technologically has given me confidence that Marines will be prepared for whatever comes their way."

Cpl Jonathan Boynes, USMC

New Water Distribution System Improves Expeditionary Capabilities

■ Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) is fielding a new water distribution system that streamlines water delivery to Marines in austere locations.

The Expeditionary Water Distribution System (EWDS) delivers water with a leaner design, solving challenges of its predecessor, the Tactical Water Distribution System (TWDS). The TWDS had 9,000 parts and was 5,000 cubic feet in size, making it too large and complex for agile missions.

"In the past we had a big cumbersome kit that no one wanted to take and deal with, since it would take three tractor-

trailers to move a system out to the field," said Master Sergeant Kevin Morris, a project officer with MARCORSYSCOM's Expeditionary Power Systems (EPS). "So instead, we would fill our 900-gallon tanks and put them on the back of trucks to transport thousands of gallons from the water source all day.

When creating the EWDS, the EPS product team overhauled the TWDS with the goal of reducing the size and weight of the system for easier use, while saving money. The new design replaced aging 10-mile water hose kits with smaller, modular 1.4-mile hoses that can interconnect to expand up to 5 miles. The final product is a scalable system that eliminates 2,807 redundant parts while distributing up to 700,000 gallons of water a day.

"The smaller footprint of EWDS has reduced the number of Marines needed for setup from 11 to six," said Dr. Jennifer Stephens, training lead for EPS. "The old TWDS system required extensive time and experience for assembly and disassembly with its multiple individual parts distributed in many crates."

Additionally, EWDS can be stored



DR. JENNIFER STEPHENS

Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 work with officials from MARCORSYSCOM's Expeditionary Power Systems during new equipment training for the EWDS system at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., in March. The new EWDS system is leaner and easier to assemble than its predecessor, and can deliver 700,000 gallons of water a day to Marines in remote locations.

using only 13 crates, rather than the 30 that were required with the old system. A color-coded organization system reduces the amount of time needed for setup, teardown and inventory.

EWDS works as part of a four-step process for purifying and delivering water to camps. During water purification, the Lightweight Water Purification System purifies the water, which is then transferred

via EWDS by 600- or 150-gallon-per-minute pumps through the system's hoses to the camp's storage, said Morris.

"This modular system is the link between the purification and the end user that gives the commander the flexibility to determine the amount of water needed depending on the mission," Morris said. "Though it's not practical to run the pumps 24/7, this system is robust enough

to meet whatever the camp demands."

EWDS is being fielded to engineer support battalions and Marine wing support squadrons, whose personnel are specially trained to use the system. The training is conducted at the Marine Corps Engineer School, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., during the Basic Water Support Technician Course.

"We have already conducted two new equipment trainings for the EWDS fielded at Camp Pendleton [Calif.] and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., with approximately 133 Marines," said Stephens. "We rolled out the system really quickly and expect the EWDS to be fully phased in by fiscal year 2017."

Mathuel Browne, MARCORSYSCOM



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL JESSICA QUEZADA, USMC

"Make sure they're screwed on tight."

Submitted by
Frank Haik
Newaygo, Mich.

This Month's Photo



CPL DEMETRIUS MORGAN, USMC

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

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



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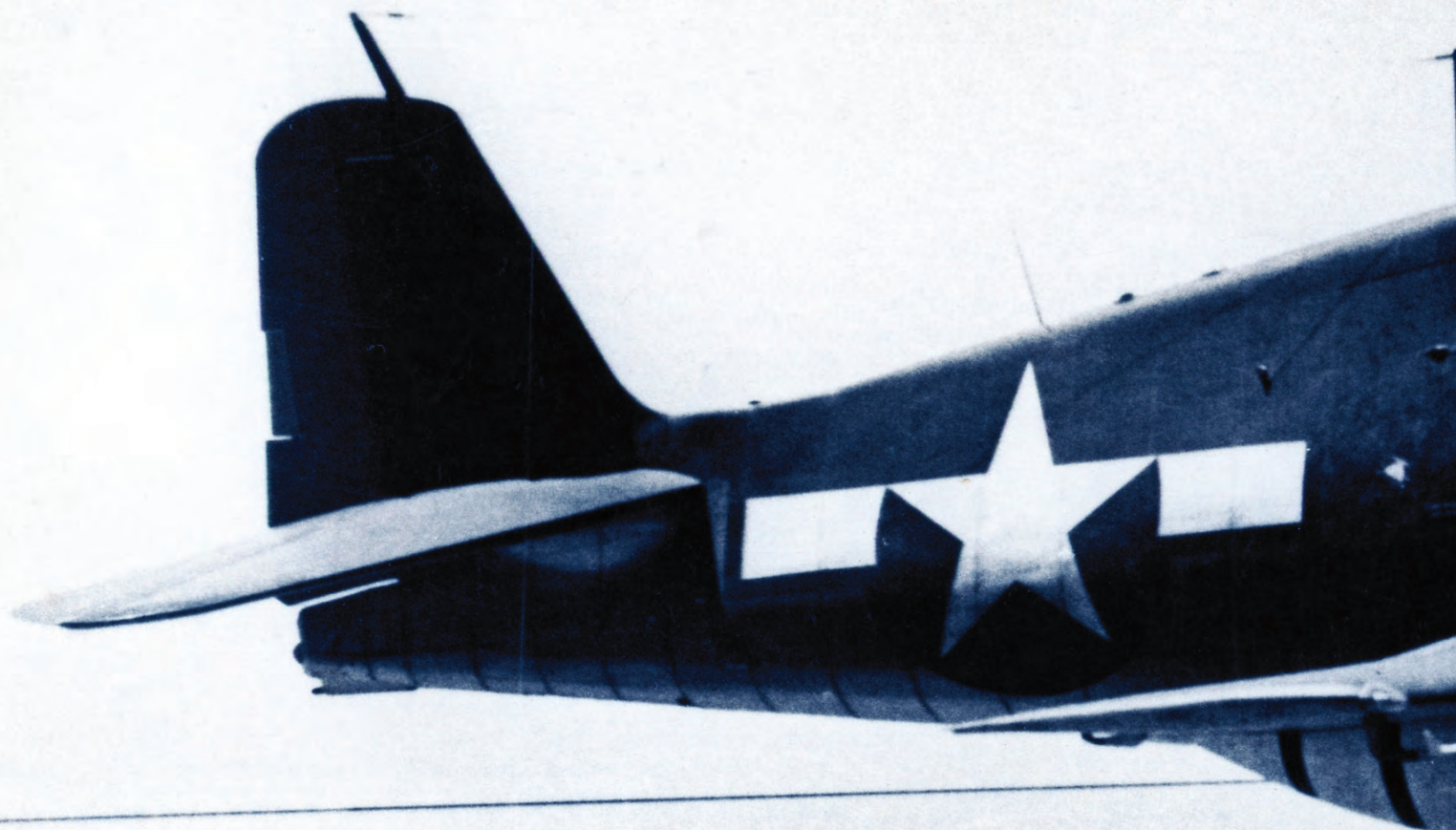
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Marine Corps Association Foundation

VMF(N)-541:



By Warren E. Thompson

In any location where several day fighter squadrons are operating, you can bet that there is at least one night fighter unit covering for them during the hours of darkness. The Marine Corps placed eight night fighter squadrons in the Pacific theater in World War II. One of these was Marine Night Fighter Squadron 541, known as the “Bat Eye” squadron. The squadron was established in February 1944 and deployed to Peleliu in the Palau

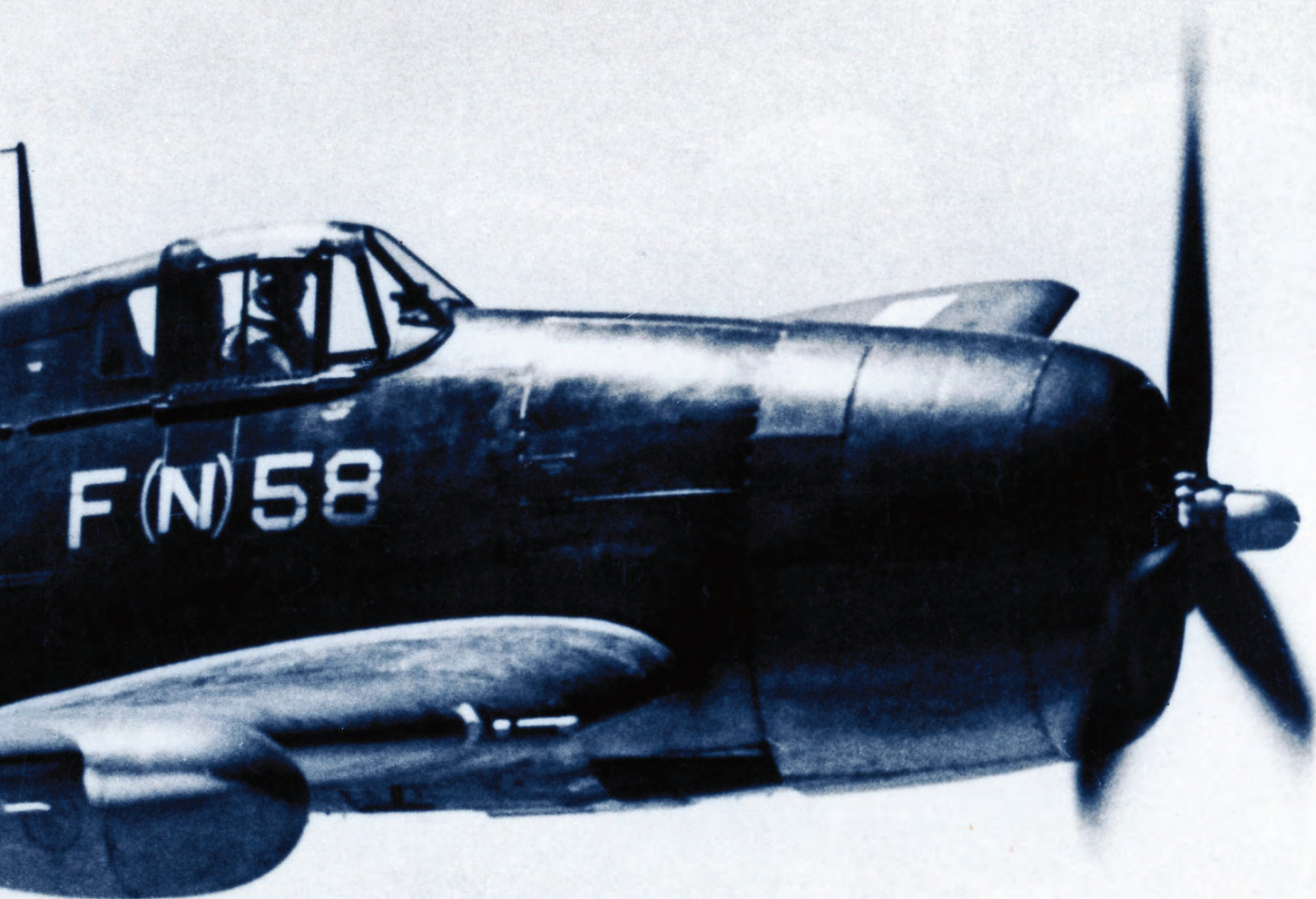
Islands chain where it flew the Grumman F6F-5N Hellcat.

The Japanese were determined to prevent the Allies from getting a foothold in their attempts to gain ground in the invasion of the island of Leyte in the Philippines. The Army Air Corps was operating P-61 Black Widows on night missions, but unfortunately, that aircraft was not fast enough to catch Japanese Ki-43 “Oscars.” They were way behind on successful missions, and as a result, General Douglas MacArthur requested

that Admiral William F. Halsey Jr. send the Bat Eyes over to Tacloban on Leyte to help with their defensive night efforts.

VMF(N)-541’s commander, Lieutenant Colonel Peter D. Lambrecht, flew to the new base to make sure the facilities were adequate; five days later, the squadron sent 12 of its Hellcats on the 600-mile flight to Leyte. They were accompanied by three Curtiss R5C Commando cargo aircraft which transported all of their supplies, equipment and personnel. The stage was set for one of the most productive

HELLCATS OVER TACLOBAN



deployments anyone could imagine.

The squadron would not get much rest. Before dawn the next day, four of its Hellcats were assigned to cover a convoy of minesweepers in the Canigao Channel between Bohol Island and south Leyte. All was quiet until a Japanese fighter (“Oscar”) came in fast and low toward the ships. Second Lieutenant Rodney Montgomery dove down to the intruder’s level right above the water. One long burst hit the Oscar, and it immediately plunged into the dark waters of the channel. It



One of the Hellcats from the Bat Eye squadron in flight over Peleliu—note the Radome’s sleek outline on the wingtip. (Photo by Rodney Montgomery)

Sgt Murray Baker, left, and Sgt Glen Bridge install a radar antenna in one of VMF(N)-541’s Hellcats on Peleliu in late 1944.

COURTESY OF GLEN BRIDGE

Bat Eye pilots pose in front of a propeller painted to show all of the squadron's kills while on Peleliu.



ROY OLIVER



ROY OLIVER

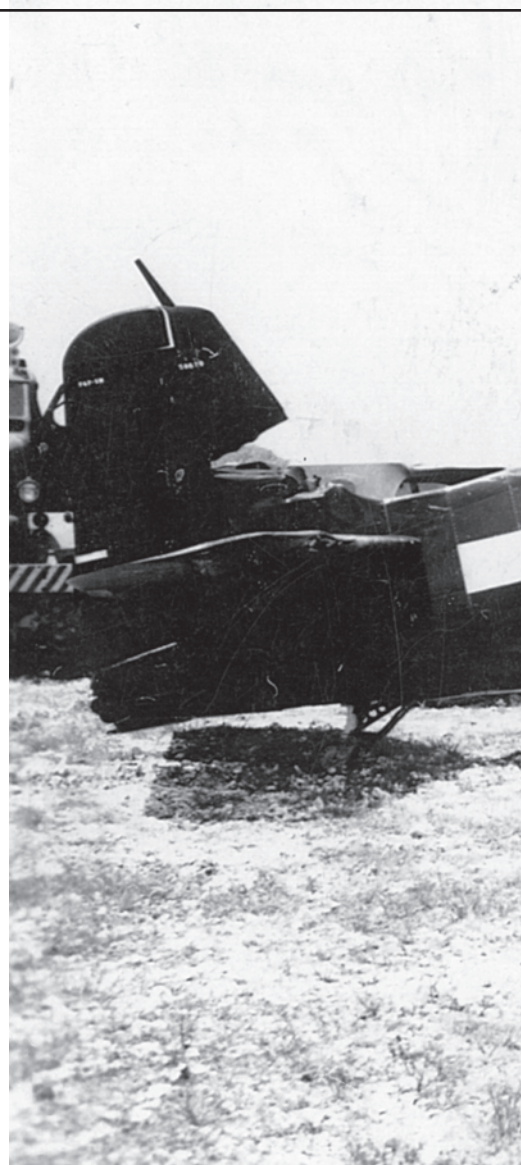
During the final days of advanced training in Southern California in 1944, pilots flying the Hellcat were still learning how to operate with huge external tanks. The tanks were a liability since they were not self-sealing, and would explode if hit.

was the first of many kills registered by VMF(N)-541. The squadron's greatest missions were still less than a week away.

The big event began on Dec. 12, 1944, as the squadron planned for another mission to protect shipping routes. On the previous two nights, the weather had been so bad that several of the Hellcat patrols had to return to base early. At 6:15 on the morning of the 12th, a flight of four Hellcats, led by Captain David

Thomson, took off from Tacloban to cover a convoy of approximately 14 ships that were supporting the surprise landings at Ormoc Bay in which the U.S. Army 77th Division was participating.

One of the defending Hellcats developed mechanical trouble and was forced to return to base, which left three aircraft to work their patrol sector. Thirty minutes later, another four planes launched to cover PT boats working in Carigara Bay, which

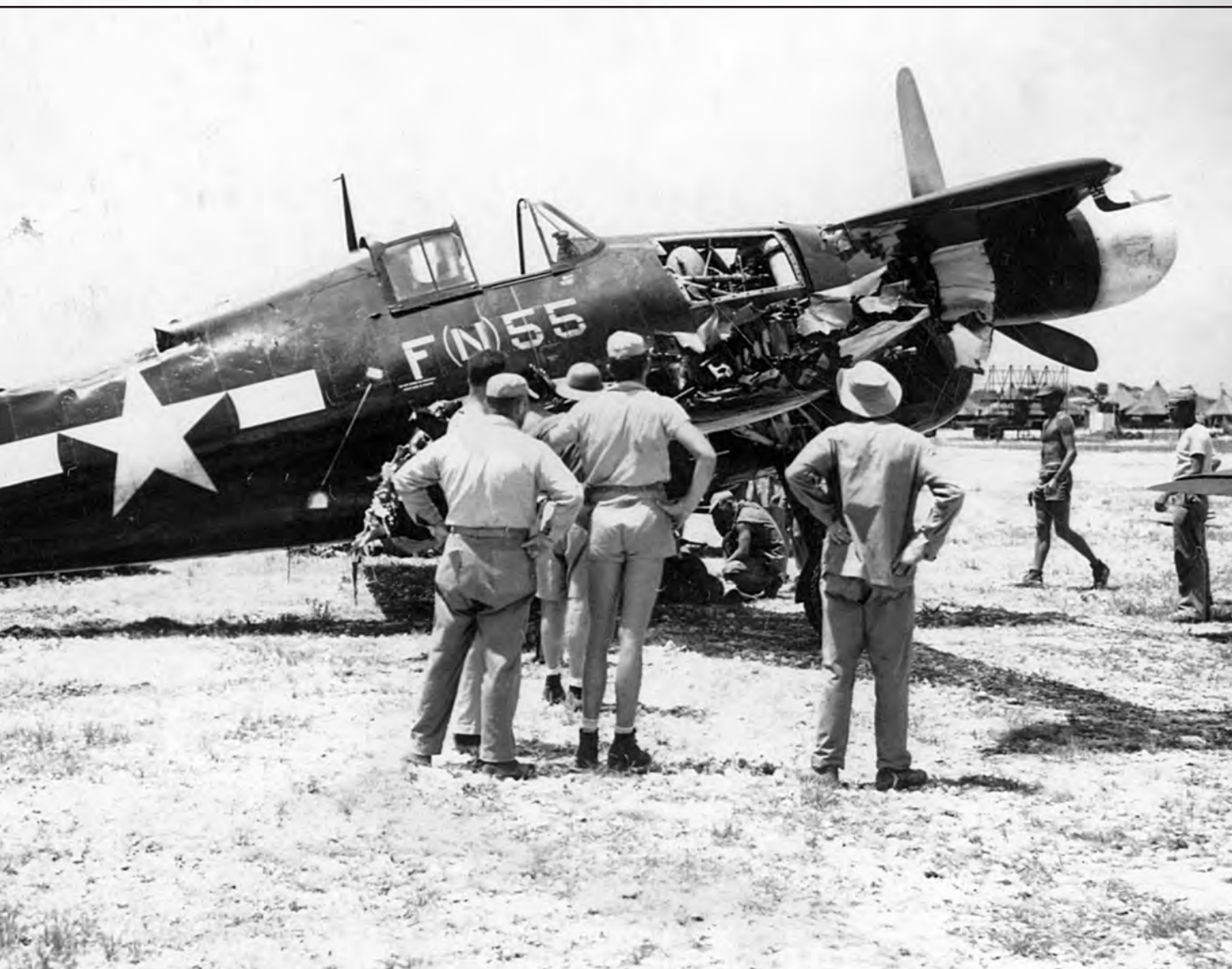


left the nightly patrol with seven aircraft.

The three-ship flight barely had time to set up their orbits when GCI (Ground Control Intercept) told them that many unidentified aircraft were orbiting to the northwest. There was no doubt that these aircraft were preparing to initiate an attack on the fleet that was anchored in that area.

The Bat Eye aircraft were carrying 50-gallon drop tanks in an effort to get more range and have more staying time in a specific patrol area. The tanks were just as much a liability as an asset since they were not self-sealing and would explode if hit. Not only were they dangerous in a fight, but they also slowed the Hellcats up to the point that in several night chases, the enemy outdistanced them.

Capt Thomson's flight made contact with the hostile force just as they were turning south toward the convoy. Lieutenant Paul Martelli was one of the three pilots in Thomson's flight. He remembers



RODNEY MONTGOMERY

the details of the first of two major clashes his squadron had on that day.

"As soon as our controllers told us of a large formation of Japanese aircraft off to the northwest, we turned in that direction at top speed. As soon as we had a visual, we dropped our external fuel tanks in anticipation of an immediate fight. There were about 30 of them, and they had already begun their attack. We were at 5,000 feet and they were below us, so we formed in single file as we came down on their formation. This allowed us to focus on a single specific aircraft to attack!" Martelli later said.

"My guns were charged and ready, and I switched on my gunsight, illuminating it on the small, flat, extra-thick protective glass situated directly in front of my cockpit Plexiglas. I have never forgotten my excitement and exuberance as our attack began, knowing that I finally engaged enemy aircraft in combat. I was also aware that we were far outnumbered, but I

was fired up by a large surge of adrenaline, and my first target was one of the Zeros."

The enemy formation consisted of several types of fighters and bombers. There were Zeros, Oscars, "Lilys" and "Marys" with most of their fighters flying escort. They already had spotted the three Hellcats that were converging on them at a high rate of speed, causing them to quickly switch their focus away from the ships and to begin taking evasive action. Martelli used water-injection, which was an emergency "short term" aid to boost the Hellcat's engine power by cooling the cylinders when full throttle (2,700 rpm) was applied to produce maximum speed out of the aircraft's R-2800 engine. All of the pilots knew that when they couldn't use this asset for more than a few minutes, to avoid overheating the engine.

Martelli said, "I was able to turn tighter and inside of the Zero, gradually narrowing the angle of deflection from the heading of my Hellcat until it had reached

Despite significant damage, Maj Mitchell was able to land his Hellcat after yet another dangerous mission in the skies over Peleliu.

the point where I thought my .50-caliber guns could hit it. As I fired a long burst, my closure continued to be very fast, and in a couple of seconds, the Zero almost filled up my windscreen. At that precise second, my target disappeared in a huge ball of fire as it exploded. I had to swerve quickly to the left, or it would [have] passed right through the explosion.

"As soon as I passed to the left, and knowing that I had the kill, I started looking around for any Japanese fighters. Instantly, I saw a lone aircraft making a run away from the melee toward the Jap-held island of Panay. I headed straight for him, and as I got in close, I saw it was another Zero that [was] slowly descending as if he was getting close to his airfield. I had already applied full power and the gap was closing.

VMF(N)-541 COMMENDED

Two years after Philippine operations, Marine Night Fighter Squadron 541 received the Army's Distinguished Unit Citation, the only Marine aviation unit to be so honored during World War II.

"The Marine Night Fighter Squadron 541 is cited for extraordinary performance of duty in action against the enemy at Leyte, Philippine Islands from 3 to 15 December 1944. During a critical period in the fight for control of the Philippine Islands, the pilots and crews of this unit signally distinguished themselves by the intrepidity and unyielding determination with which they overcame exceptionally adverse weather conditions and operational difficulties engendered by lack of facilities and incomplete radar directional coverage.

"Their superb airmanship and daring resourcefulness displayed in outstanding night patrol and interception work, which forestalled destruction of airfield facilities, and in the completeness of cover provided for numerous vital convoys and Patrol Torpedo boat patrols, effectively thwarted enemy attempts to prevent consolidation and further expansion of the foothold gained by the United States forces in the Philippines.

"Achieving a record unparalleled at that time, the unit, composed of but 15 aircraft and 22 pilots, flew 136 sorties totaling 298.6 combat hours, destroyed 18 enemy aircraft in aerial combat without unit loss or damage, and on numerous occasions pitted consummate skill and accuracy against overwhelming numerically superior enemy strength. The extraordinary performance of the air and ground personnel of the Marine Fighter Squadron 541 in overcoming the greatest of aerial hazards and maintenance difficulties reflects the highest credit on themselves and military service of the United States."

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Chief of Staff



These seven VMF(N)-541 pilots participated in the "turkey shoot" over Ormac Bay. Standing, left to right: Lt Hayes, Lt Paul Martelli, MSgt Andre and MSgt Ratchford. Kneeling, left to right: Capt David Thomson, Lt Miller and Lt Keller.

"The Zero's pilot probably knew he was being pursued because he dropped his nose at a steeper angle in an effort to pick up airspeed. To my surprise, when he reached about 1,500 feet altitude, right above the water, the fighter performed a barrel roll to the left. At that point, he

was still slightly out of range of my guns. Such a maneuver would reduce his speed and tend to narrow the gap even more. Seconds later, he did it again, and by the time he leveled back out, I was within firing range. My first burst caught the Zero in the fuselage and cockpit area, which

probably disabled or killed the pilot. At about 500 feet above the water, he went inverted nose down and banking slightly to the left. He hit the water hard, and I immediately did a 180 to fly back over the spot where he was hit. There was no sign of the pilot and there was no debris!"

While Martelli was absorbed in his pursuit of the second enemy fighter, the other flight of four Hellcats that had taken off after Capt Thomson's flight had joined in the dogfight. The original formation of enemy attackers had about 15 aircraft, and minutes later, they were joined by another 15. The dogfight, within sight of the Allied convoy, totaled about 40 aircraft, most of which were Japanese. The ships in the convoy were only lightly protected by antiaircraft guns, and evidently they did not open fire on the attackers because of the close proximity of friendly fighters and the fact that most, if not all, of the bombers had harmlessly dropped their ordnance in the ocean as soon as the Hellcats were sighted.

The view from the ships must have been spectacular, and there was no doubt as to who was coming out on top. When the fight was over, the Bat Eyes had 11 confirmed kills; none of the seven Hellcats received so much as a scratch. It was over in minutes, and the remainder of the attacking force exited the area quickly with no damage to the fleet. One of the -541 pilots reported that a radio transmission with one of the ships stated that "for a few minutes the sky seemed to be raining enemy planes!"

This had been a unique fight in the annals of aerial warfare—seven night fighters converged into a limited airspace and took on 33 enemy aircraft, killing 11 and not losing any of their own. Most night-fighter types worked a specific sector as a single. If this encounter would have developed in total darkness, that many aircraft would not have been effective in such close quarters.

Before the big dogfight broke up and right after splashing his second enemy fighter, Martelli still was looking for action. He relates an incident that could have resulted in a tragedy which would have put a damper on some of the post-mission celebrations.

"I did not receive any radio transmissions about Air Corps fighters joining this fight. They apparently arrived on the scene while I was off after the second enemy aircraft. At this point in time, I had not observed or heard of any P-47 Thunderbolts at any of our airfields in the vicinity. I noted an aircraft that resembled a

COURTESY OF KARL KELLER

Japanese 'Jack,' and I immediately went after it and maneuvered my Hellcat somewhat to its rear, and as it began to climb rapidly, it turned sharply to the right and I was able to turn inside of it which gave a clean shot. A second before I began firing, the right side of its fuselage came into view, and to my surprise, it bore the standard American military symbol. ... It was a P-47! I immediately broke off of my pursuit. What a close call!"

Soon after the high-scoring mission on Dec. 12, the Bat Eye pilots were up again to fly cover for the landing at Mindoro Island. As expected, the Japanese made a major effort to prevent it, and they came face to face with the same Hellcats. There were, once again, a wide variety of enemy aircraft types ("Vals," "Jills" and Zeros) in the attacking force which was estimated to number better than a dozen. The night patrol picked up the incoming bogeys, which led to a brief aerial battle. Within minutes, the intruders turned back toward their home base. The pilots of -541 had scored four more kills with no losses themselves.

Toward the end of December 1944, Capt Ray Torgeson, the senior ground

controller, picked up a target that appeared to be an unidentified aircraft climbing over Koror Island to 10,000 feet. Major Norm Mitchell was vectored to get the intruder.

"The distance from Koror from Peleliu was only 60 miles, and as I found him on my radar, he was headed straight for our base," said Mitchell. "I finally had him at 30 miles north of the base, and he was descending to about 5,000 feet. As I was about to get a visual on him, I was about 100 feet above him and about 300 yards behind. Our searchlights came on and they hit me first. They soon realized their mistake and switched to the aircraft in front of me, but by that time, the intruder's rear gunner had seen me.

"I identified it as a 'Jake,' a single-engine two- or three-seater float plane. I started firing at him after we crossed Peleliu when he headed for Koror. I was still behind him and still firing, and his aircraft and we were right down on the water (no more than 200 feet). His engine must have stopped because I came on him suddenly and had to maneuver quickly to avoid a collision. I was so close, the only way I could miss him was to push over

and go underneath him. All I remember is seeing his floats right above my head and his plane was on fire. I must have been within a few feet of hitting the water. I lost contact after passing him, and our ground radar also lost contact. We had an LCI [landing craft infantry] in the area that confirmed that a plane crashed near them. I was given credit for shooting him down."

When the war ended, the unit moved to China for postwar duty. They had detachments over a large area surrounding the Peking area. When that duty was fulfilled, they returned to the U.S.

Author's bio: Warren Thompson has written about military aviation history for more than 40 years, leading to numerous published magazine articles and books. A frequent Leatherneck contributor, you see his byline regularly in the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Yellow Sheet and other aviation-related magazines. Check out Amazon.com to find his book "American Night Fighter Aces of World War 2," which covers Marine, Navy and USAAF aces.



Bat Eye Marines pose outside of the "local bar" on Peleliu in 1945 near the end of their tour in the Pacific.

INFLUENCE

Victory Before Conflict



By LCpl John Gilchrist, USMC

Editor's note: The following article is the first-place winner of the newly established Leatherneck Writing Contest. Major Rick Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest through the Marine Corps Association and Foundation. Open to enlisted Marines, more than 70 entries were received. Upcoming issues of Leatherneck will feature the second- and third-place winners as well as other submissions.



The South China Sea has become a region filled with tension due to the ambitions of the People's Republic of China. These tensions are a result of Chinese actions in the Paracel and Spratly

island chains and have caused substantial diplomatic conflict in the region. Thus far, hostilities have mainly been a war of words and military posturing by China and the other nations of the region. In preparing for a possible conflict in the South China Sea, the Marine Corps is strategically preparing the region for military action by doing our part in increasing America's influence over the region's nations. The influence created by USMC operations in the region will increase the U.S. military's capability for preparing and prosecuting any future armed conflict in the region. This attempt at increasing influence correlates with China's increasing aggression in recent years.

The Situation

Since late 2013, the People's Liberation Army-Navy, or PLAN, has been conducting operations in the South China Sea at a tempo with expanding scope. These operations have been receiving substantial international media coverage. The most reported of these operations have been China's ongoing land reclamation efforts on Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratly Islands. China maintains a strong presence in seven locations in the Spratly Islands and one location in the Paracel Islands.

While many regional nations have a presence in these island chains, the Chinese have gone further in developing their military presence there. They have built large military facilities, military-grade airfields and radar stations and have stationed fighters, surface-to-air-missiles and large numbers of troops on some of these



LCPL MAKENZIE FALLON, USMC

Left: Marines with 1st Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, currently assigned to Fourth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division on the Unit Deployment Program, embark USS *Germantown* (LSD-42) during Exercise Blue Chromite 16 on White Beach, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 27, 2015.

Below: LtGen Lawrence D. Nicholson, Commanding General, III MEF, shakes hands with Gen Nakatani, Japan's Minister of Defense, at the Butler Officers' Club, Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, March 26, 2016.



PFC NELSON DUENAS, USMC



LCPL AMALIA UMANUE, USMC

Japanese Military Lt Kino, right, confers with Sgt Matthew Myers, USMC during training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, May 19, 2016.

islands. They have become more brazen in their claims of sovereignty over the islands with their coast guard and navy harassing civilian and military vessels of several other nations. In fact, China has gone as far as officially claiming sovereignty over nearly the entirety of the South China Sea with their nine-dash line.

China is not the only nation that has become more assertive with its claims on the islands in the South China Sea—just the most aggressive with their claims and extreme in their escalation. The nations of Brunei, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines also have made claims on some portion of the Paracel or Spratly islands. These claims are based on a combination of historical claims and international treaties, but the claims are overlapping and the treaties are mutually supportive.

These nations are not interested in the islands themselves but rather the undersea natural resources, including oil and natural gas, that are speculated to be there. Adding to this are the nationalistic trends that many of these nations are experiencing, and the result is no desire to cooperate or compromise with one another. Some have taken steps similar to China and have built military facilities and stationed troops on several of these islands. But while all nations have claims that overlap those of another nation, it is rare for an incident

to occur that does not involve China as an antagonist.

The importance of the region can be seen on multiple levels of perspective. Resolving these territory disputes could mean expanding available fishing territories which would boost local economies. For the nations of the region, the South China Sea represents the opportunity for their national economies to thrive by exploring, using and exporting the natural resources thought to be in the region's seabed. The global level of importance



A helicopter crew from the Australian ship HMAS Success transfers pallets of goods to the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Waesche (WMSL-751) during Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2014.

own and making it into a reality by trying to establish an unmatched military presence there, China would be able to threaten commercial shipping to many of Asia's strongest economies. If China's power grows, it could one day solve its diplomatic disputes with the threat of cutting off or at least interfering with trade through the South China Sea. China would be able to damage the economies of nations that opposed it diplomatically or economically and, in doing so, would be able to practice some measure of control over its neighbors.

American Strategy

This possible future threat is something that the United States has taken to heart. The U.S. military, in particular the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, has worked to begin countering the rising Chinese aggression. In 2007, "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower" was released. A joint work by the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, the document, which has been periodically updated, makes it clear that the interests of the United States are best served by a stable global environment, open seas with guaranteed freedom of navigation, and international trade without infringement by nations or piracy. The document also clearly recognizes China as the threat it is to these preconditions.

Dominant strategic themes of "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower" include forward presence, deterrence, power projection, sea control and, most importantly, cooperation, both inter-service and with other nations. The Marine Corps plays a key role in each of these strategic themes as demonstrated throughout history and through current practice. The position of III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in the Pacific region, the touring of our Marine expeditionary units, and application of the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin are examples of this forward presence. Deterrence is practiced in part by the Marine Corps' amphibious presence and by increasing combat capability through technology and training.

Power projection combines forward presence and deterrence with offensive action. What this means is that power projection is achieved by 1) the implied threat that exists with the orientation of a Marine amphibious force toward a potential enemy or 2) offensive actions taken by that Marine amphibious force against the enemy; i.e., invasion. Power projection can be seen in many examples



Maj Terry Heichelbech, left, greets New Zealand Army Pvt George Poa during the opening ceremony for Exercise Joint Assault Signal Company Black at Camp Linton, New Zealand, Aug. 11, 2015. Exercise JASCO Black provides opportunities for the U.S. and New Zealand military to strengthen their partnership, exchange training techniques and share knowledge.

lies in the commercial sea lanes or trade routes that cross the South China Sea. These sea lanes connect the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean and bring trade from as far as Africa and Europe to South Korea and Japan. Across these sea lanes 60,000 ships and 13 billion barrels worth of oil travel. The ability to control, cut or interfere with these sea lanes would give any nation substantial power through influence on a global scale.

Such abilities are attractive to China. For centuries, the Chinese nation had been

a major regional power which dominated its neighbors. For most of the last 150 years, however, the Chinese nation has been dominated by and then held to second-power status by Western nations. Now in the 21st century with China having established itself as an economic power and having achieved the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," China, as a nation, sees as part of its destiny the toppling of the United States as the hegemonic force in the Far East.

By claiming the South China Sea as its



CPL JEROME REED, USMC

Indonesian Marines participate in a weapons training event during Rim of the Pacific 2012, July 7, 2012. Twenty-two nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, and 25,000 military personnel participated in RIMPAC 2012.

throughout Marine Corps history, including the Pacific campaigns, the landing at Inchon in 1950, and the threat of amphibious invasion during the Gulf War which tied down several Iraqi divisions committed to defending the Persian Gulf coast.

Sea control is, as it suggests, dominance over regional waterways including open ocean and littoral waters. Sea control utilizes power projection, and while this is an objective achieved primarily by the Navy, the Marine Corps plays its role through the classic mission of seizure or defense of advanced naval bases. In practice this may include the capture or destruction of forward supply depots, eliminating forward-deployed forces meant for intelligence gathering or area denial, and the negating of enemy positions through island hopping.

While each of these strategic themes are important, the strategic theme of cooperation aids the Marine Corps, and the U.S. military as a whole, by acting as a force multiplier. Cooperation between the branches of the U.S. military has been something tested and improved since the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986. Joint commands and exercises have allowed our forces to become more capable offensively and defensively. However, nearly as important, is the cooperation that we share with our allies and partners. Working with other nations during peacetime will

provide us with resources during war that will aid us in our warfighting efforts. These resources can be represented in a variety of ways from logistical assets to specialized military units that could enhance our capabilities.

While each of these strategic themes is interconnected, the fact is that all of them aid the United States in one overwhelming way: by providing and extending Ameri-

can influence over other nations and thus maintaining our national interests. Influence to mean the ability to affect the decision making of a nation through means of a political, social-economic, and/or military nature. The Marine Corps, being unable to make decisions of state or economic policy, is of course focused on military action to achieve our strategic goals.



CPL MATTHEW MANNING, USMC

Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines take part in the Combined Marine Component Command exercise during the Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise 2014 at the 1st ROK Marine Corps Division Base in Pohang, Republic of Korea, March 18, 2014. The focus of the exercise was to enhance interoperability and expeditionary command control relationships between the MAGTF and the ROK Marine task force.



CPL CHRISTOPHER DICKSON, AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

Influence

The operations that the Marine Corps carries out in the South China Sea region and the wider Pacific area of operations build and maintain American influence. The concept of influence is not necessarily at the forefront of thought when planning or carrying out these operations, but the fact remains that every action taken by the Marine Corps, regardless of operational scope or objective, can impact this factor. Operations key to gaining influence are military training exercises and humanitarian operations.

The training exercises that the Marine Corps carries out are varied in objective, scope and location. During the 2016 fiscal year, III MEF will be conducting dozens of training exercises with our Japanese and South Korean allies. These training exercises build stronger cooperation and fighting cohesion with allied forces but also create influence. This is done by demonstrating to other nations that we and our allies can form a more powerful fighting force when working together. Furthermore, it demonstrates that instead of being a collection of forces, we can operate with our allies as a single efficient and effective force.

III MEF also will be conducting dozens of training exercises in Southeast Asia and Oceania. These exercises will be conducted with the nations of Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam among

others. Exercises like Pitch Black in Australia, which focuses on offensive/defensive air operations, are conducted mostly with American allies and deliver the same influential impact as our exercises with Japan and South Korea. Cooperation afloat readiness and training (CARAT)-type exercises meanwhile provide the Marine Corps with opportunities to work with nations not commonly associated as being allies.

CARAT-type exercises are bilateral and carried out by Marines embarked in amphibious warfare ships. The typical focus of the exercises is to train with the forces of the hosting nation in limited amphibious operations. The primary mis-

sion is to promote military cooperation and improve the relationship between the Marine Corps and these foreign forces. CARAT exercises are being held during the summer of 2016 with Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam among others. Exercises like CARAT offer the Marine Corps the greatest opportunity in increasing American influence. While these exercises are typically small in scope, they offer the Marine Corps the opportunity to press upon these other nations the capability of America's Armed Forces.

Humanitarian operations also are greatly advantageous in building influence over other nations. Whether aiding a close ally



CPL ISAAC BARRA, USMC

New Zealand Army LBdr Arana Hunter shows U.S. Marines how to disassemble an IW Steyr assault rifle during Exercise JASCO, Aug. 11, 2015.



CPL RYAN MAINS, USMC

Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers post security as U.S. Marines advance on the beach during the Japanese Observer Exchange Program, April 28, 2015, at Kin Blue, Okinawa, Japan. JOEP is designed to increase regional security, improve unit readiness and enhance overall cooperation between the two nations.

like the Philippines or an old enemy like Vietnam, humanitarian operations offer the Marine Corps an important opportunity to increase American influence. Not through a show of force or military capability *per se* but rather a show of devotion and humanity often unseen in military forces. This show of devotion and humanity can have a direct impact on the perceptions of the indigenous population which could sway public opinion in favor of the United States. This in return would likely influence a way national leaders make decisions when working with the United States.

Profits of Influence

Gaining influence over the nations of the South China Sea could mean substantial tactical and strategic advantages if we are to engage in an armed conflict in the region. These advantages are mostly hypothetical but could become very real in the case of an evolving conflict. These advantages also could mean the difference between victory and defeat when engaging a regional power like China so far from our own shores.

In future combat operations, as much as in past engagements, scouting and reconnaissance are essential to naval combat. Allies inside the region could augment our scouting and reconnaissance abilities with their own assets as well as providing

an in-region location for our forces to be stationed. One example of this is providing land-based locations close to the area of operations for large UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) to operate from, in the possible eventuality that China could eliminate our reconnaissance satellites.

Another example of possible military advantage offered by regional nations is redundancy in command and control. With the worry that China could launch a successful cyber-attack offensive on our networks or shut down our communication satellites, land-based regional redundancy would become vital for operations. Without command and control our military forces as a whole would be severely hampered as advanced networked command and control is vital for modern military operations.

Possibly more important than the advantages that we could gain from influencing the region's nations are the advantages that the Chinese would not gain; meaning that we could influence other nations to not support China with any military or economic aid. Aid from other nations could consist of sanctuary for damaged ships or aircraft, local locations for the resupply of Chinese ships, or the more dreaded possible eventuality of a regional coalition led by China and all of the advantages that such a coalition could provide.

Conclusion

Influence over other nations will provide the Marine Corps, and the U.S. military as a whole, with substantial tactical and strategic advantages during times of conflict. In the case of China and its increasing aggression in the South China Sea, this influence could be vital as China continues to build its military strength. In the near future the U.S. military could find China to be a near-equal match in an armed conflict, essentially fighting on China's home turf.

However, with Marine Corps operations and the operations of our sister branches, during peacetime the military could build enough influence with the nations in the region to equal or negate any Chinese advantage. In fact, it is quite possible that by raising American influence in the region, China could see itself losing if it initiated an armed conflict or attempted to infringe on international trade. Taking this a step further, it may be possible to outright convince the Chinese, before a conflict begins, that U.S. military capability is so enhanced by American influence within the region that their defeat is ensured. To quote Sun Tzu, "Supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting." Simply put, influence could mean victory before conflict begins.



Cadets from the Gar-Field Senior High School MCJROTC Exhibition Drill Team perform during halftime at a boys' varsity basketball game in Woodbridge, Va., Feb. 9. In addition to performing at sporting events, many units' drill teams also have the opportunity to compete against teams from neighboring schools.



MAJ WILLIAM P. BRANNEN, USMC (RET)

To Motivate and Inspire:

Marine Corps JROTC Instructors Give Back, Make a Lasting Impact

By Sara W. Bock

During her freshman year of high school, Samantha Boateng put on her crisp, newly issued dress blues for the very first time. As she looked at herself in the mirror, a rush of emotions came over her. It's a feeling that she'll never forget.

"I just felt so proud of myself and so honored that I was able to have this opportunity," remembered Boateng, a senior at Gar-Field Senior High School in Woodbridge, Va., where she has been a cadet in the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) for four years.

For high school students—especially

at a school like Gar-Field, where more than 60 percent of the students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program—the chance to wear a uniform, build camaraderie, lead their peers and learn valuable lessons from trusted mentors can make an impact that lasts a lifetime. This fall, Boateng will attend the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., where she will be a cadet in the Army ROTC program.

While a small percentage do choose to enter military service after graduation, whether through enlistment, attendance at a service academy, or participating in a four-year ROTC program or other commissioning program, the vast majority of MCJROTC cadets won't ever serve in the military. That may seem counterintuitive,

but by no means is it a disappointment for the MCJROTC instructors and staff.

According to Colonel Robert G. Oltman, USMC (Ret), the director of the MCJROTC program, despite common misconceptions, the program is not designed solely for students with a military interest, nor is it intended to convince students to enter military service.

"We teach a life skill. It's not about preparing them for military life; it's about preparing them for *life*. We teach citizenship, personal accountability. ... We tie those core threads through honor, courage and commitment—the Marine Corps ethos," said Oltman.

The high school graduation rate for MCJROTC cadets, Oltman said, is around

98 percent, compared to the national average graduation rate which has hovered around 80 percent over the last several years. Clearly, the program is doing something right, and that may be due largely in part to the mentorship it provides and its emphasis on setting goals and preparing for the future.

“My instructors taught me about a lot of opportunities that are out there that I probably wouldn’t have known about if I hadn’t joined the program,” said Rhea Ambanta, a senior and fourth-year cadet at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria, Va.

While JROTC is designed to teach leadership skills for application in all walks of life, there is one additional benefit for those who stay in a program for at least two years and then enlist in one of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces: an advance promotion in grade upon enlistment, which puts them ahead of their peers in grade after completing recruit training.

JROTC, a program that is mandated by law in Title 10 of the United States Code, allows the military services a unique opportunity to positively impact the lives of young people and set them up for future success on whatever path they may choose to take, whether that be a vocation or trade school, military service, college, or something else altogether. Although the units may differ based on which branch they are affiliated with (Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine Corps), they all serve the same overarching purpose.

“It’s a program that can fit in anywhere and be beneficial to kids,” said Major William P. Brannen, USMC (Ret), Senior Marine Instructor (SMI) at Gar-Field Senior High School. “I can’t think of a better job after being a Marine—to impact kids’ lives. If that’s what somebody is interested in doing, this is the place for them to come,” he added.

Brannen’s approximately 200 cadets (roughly 10 percent of the student body at Gar-Field), refer to themselves as a “family,” and the majority of them, he said, would likely just be going right home after school if they weren’t involved in the program. A whole lot of negative things can happen, he said, when kids aren’t using their time to do something productive.

While some of the first-year cadets may have been pressured to enter the program by parents or guidance counselors who hope that the program will help improve their behavior or keep them out of trouble, most of them want to be there. Over the course of four years of high school, the class size tends to shrink—most cadets don’t stay in the program all four years. But whether they participate for one year or four, they leave with life skills and



SARA W. BOCK

Above: LtCol Paul S. Roy, USMC (Ret), SMI at Quantico Middle High School, MCB Quantico, Va., promotes Cadet Joshua Williams during a ceremony on May 5.



MAJ WILLIAM P. BRANNEN, USMC (RET)

From the left, cadets Hendi Reynoso, Rose Shahid and Maria Corado of the Gar-Field High School MCJROTC unit participate in a fundraiser at Cicis Pizza in Woodbridge, Va., April 21. Many units conduct fundraisers throughout the year to help pay for trips, camps and other MCJROTC co-curricular activities.

leadership principles they can take with them throughout life.

“It’s so different than any other high school class experience for so many of them,” Brannen said of the impact the program has on his cadets. He strongly

believes in the importance of character development, and it’s something he and his students talk about in every single thing they do because many of them do not get that level of guidance at home. “They’re not always hearing, ‘Do the right



The Junior ROTC Cadet Pledge

I am a Marine Corps Junior ROTC cadet.

I will always conduct myself in a manner as to bring credit to my family, school, corps of cadets and country.

I am the future of the United States of America.

I am loyal and patriotic.

I do not lie, cheat or steal, and I will always be accountable for my actions and deeds.

I will always practice good citizenship.

I will work hard to improve my mind and to strengthen my body.

I will seek the mantle of leadership and stand prepared to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

thing, stay out of trouble.’ Some of them have never heard that otherwise. That’s a huge takeaway for them,” he said.

Across the nation, there are 264 active MCJROTC units at a diverse group of high schools. Most are public, but the list includes other institutions, such as the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, where the entire student body is part of MCJROTC. While the size and demographics of the student body varies from school to school, the core “Leadership Education” curriculum is standardized for all MCJROTC units. The heart of the program, however, is not the curriculum—it’s the retired Marines who have dedicated their “second career” to mentoring cadets and teaching them the leadership traits that they themselves learned in the Corps.

The majority of schools with a MCJROTC program have one SMI, who is a retired Marine officer or warrant officer, and one

Marine Instructor (MI), who is a retired staff noncommissioned officer. Depending on the individual school and the variety of cadets in their JROTC program at any given time, the instructors have to tailor their program and their curriculum to the needs of the individual unit. Some programs may have a large percentage of military dependents; others may have a significant number of English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

“It’s like a recipe,” said Lieutenant Colonel Paul S. Roy, USMC (Ret), SMI at Quantico Middle High School on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., of the curriculum. “After a while you don’t use the recipe. By hand, you add a little of this and a little of that.”

The opportunity to mentor high school students is tremendously rewarding, said Roy, who has spent the past 21 years as a JROTC instructor at two different schools.



TRACI KELLEY

When he retired from the Marine Corps in 1995, he knew he didn't want a "typical 9 to 5" job working for a government contractor. He wanted to make a difference.

"You could change kids' lives. You could take them out of the street and show them things they'd never seen before," Roy realized at the first school he worked at as a MCJROTC instructor, in which a large number of his students lived below the poverty line.

Today, at Quantico Middle High School, where all of his students are military dependents, he faces a different challenge. There are only 140 high school students at Quantico, and between 55 and 65 of them participate in JROTC in any given year. Despite its small size, the school has 14 sports teams, so most students play two or three varsity sports each year. Making time for drill team practice and other co-curricular JROTC activities in

Left: Cadets from the Quantico Middle High School MCJROTC program visit the barracks at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., Oct. 10, 2015. Orientation trips are common among MCJROTC units and allow the cadets to catch a glimpse of life beyond high school.

Below: Cadets Tabitha Moreno, left, and Summer Gilliard complete their shooting qualifications at Quantico Middle High School, May 5.



SARA W. BOCK



SARA W. BOCK

Col Caroline Simkins-Mullins, USMC (Ret), right, SMI at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria, Va., watches with pride as Kurtis White, left, thanks his fellow cadets following his promotion to captain in the MCJROTC program, May 6.

Third-year cadets from Gar-Field Senior High School's MCJROTC program visit the National Mall in Washington, D.C., April 20. The opportunity to travel is just one of the many benefits of participating in the program.

addition to sports and other clubs can be a challenge, but his students continually amaze him with their maturity and ability to handle multiple responsibilities—all while keeping their grades up. Not only is Roy the SMI at Quantico, but he also serves as the school's athletic director.

Many units provide their cadets with opportunities to travel to Marine Corps bases and recruit depots, visit service academies like the Naval Academy and West Point and attend leadership camps and competitions. For those who may come from disadvantaged backgrounds, the chance to visualize a future outside of their neighborhood or town can tremendously motivate them to succeed.

JROTC instructors like Roy serve both as academic instructors and mentors to their cadets. They hold their students to a high standard and help them stay on task with their schoolwork for all of their courses.

"They definitely motivate me to make sure that I have everything done; make sure I stay on top of things. ... They make sure that I'm staying motivated [and] staying on track," said Summer Gilliard, a senior at Quantico Middle High School and a fourth-year cadet with the MCJROTC program.

The instructors consistently emphasize to the cadets the importance of thinking



MAJ WILLIAM P. BRANNEN, USMC (RET)

about their future and realizing the impact of the choices they make today. They teach character development, self-discipline and public speaking in addition to military skills like drill and marksmanship. In addition, the cadets learn about Marine Corps history, rank structure and traditions.

The MCJROTC cadets wear rank themselves, according to the Marine Corps rank structure, and typically have opportunities for promotion twice each year. They also can be promoted meritoriously at the instructors' discretion. The cadets take turns rotating through various billets within their platoon and company. A company commander, typically a fourth-year cadet,

is appointed by the instructors, along with a host of other staff billets like company executive officer, chief of staff, company gunnery sergeant, operations officer, and so forth. As the cadets progress through the leadership education levels of the program, they are given more and more opportunities to lead and mentor the cadets below them.

Each cadet is issued a set of utilities, some also are issued service uniforms, and members of color guards and special teams are issued dress blues—all at no cost. Each unit may use a portion of its discretionary funds to help offset the cost of cleaning and alterations. It's up to the



GySgt Robert Gordon, USMC (Ret), third from left, does push-ups alongside first-year cadets during a Friday PT session at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria, Va., May 6. (Photo by Sara W. Bock)

students to be responsible for wearing their uniform on their weekly “uniform day,” bringing the appropriate PT gear on “PT day,” also once a week, and keeping up with the Marine Corps grooming standards, particularly on uniform days when the Marine instructors do an inspection of each cadet.

Having their own uniform or uniforms teaches personal responsibility, as the cadets are expected to care for and properly use them at all times. Along with teaching the Marine Corps leadership traits and principles, it’s a system that, in many ways, puts the cadets at a maturity level far above that of their peers.

The passion that the instructors have for seeing their students succeed is more than evident upon entering a MCJROTC classroom, where they run a “tight ship” but continually show the cadets how much they care.

“Work hard. Outwork people. And don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do something,” Roy tells his students. It’s advice that not every student gets at home, and coming from a seasoned career Marine with an impressive command presence, it seems to make quite an impact on his cadets.

At most participating schools, JROTC is an elective course that students must enroll in and attend in a classroom setting just as they would an English, math or science course. The curriculum is broken into four Leadership Education (LE) levels, and cadets in each level are referred to by the students and staff as “LE 1s,” “LE 2s,” and so forth.

In addition to the required classroom attendance, most programs offer a variety of co-curricular opportunities like participating in the color guard or joining one or more competitive teams, such as drill, PT, cybersecurity, academic and rifle. The teams prepare for and attend competitions where their skills are tested against teams from other local or regional JROTC units.

The chance to be part of a team is something that cadets, particularly those at larger schools where sports teams are highly competitive, seem to recognize the value of. According to Gunnery Sergeant Robert Gordon, USMC (Ret), MI at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria, Va., the transformation that can take place within one school year is astonishing.

This spring, Gordon said, the Mount Vernon MCJROTC PT team attended a competition during which one of the cadets struggled to finish the 2-mile race. All of her fellow cadets stayed back to run with her and motivate her.

“At the beginning of the year, that probably wouldn’t have happened, but they grew together, and to see things like

that is the reward itself,” Gordon said with a smile. “It’s amazing being around them,” he added.

MCJROTC color guards often are requested at local events, which gives the cadets a chance to serve their communities and interact with different types of people. Some also undertake fundraising efforts to help cover the costs of trips and special events.

The program, which was formerly housed under Marine Corps Recruiting Command, now falls under Training and Education Command. The participating schools are divided up into five regions of the United States (and including Japan and Guam), and each is assigned a regional director who is a retired Marine officer. While the national MCJROTC program, headquartered at MCB Quantico, standardizes the curriculum and handles the budget and supply requirements, the individual Marine instructors are employees of the schools in which they work. They are hired by the principal and can be fired by the principal. As a result, a strong relationship with the school’s administration is paramount to the success of each unit.

To Dr. Cherif Sadki, the principal at Gar-Field Senior High School, providing considerable support for the MCJROTC program at his school is something he is more than willing to do.

“This program gives them chances and it enriches their lives. I think it opens their eyes and gives them different perspectives,” said Sadki of the cadets, joking that he wished Maj Brannen could take all the students at the school into his program.

He spoke glowingly about the major and the program’s MI, Sergeant Major Todd Ellis, USMC (Ret).

“I look at them as role models to our students. ... They have great relationships with the kids, but they hold them to high expectations,” Sadki said.

The opportunity the instructors have to impact the lives of their cadets is immeasurable, but not everyone is cut out for the task.

“I’d say this is really very challenging but very gratifying. It tests my mental and physical abilities. It’s absolutely a great way to give back, a great way to use our experience and knowledge,” said Col Caroline Simkins-Mullins, USMC (Ret), SMI at Mount Vernon High School.

Simkins-Mullins encourages Marines who are nearing retirement and may be interested in the program to visit a participating school and see what it’s all about. She said she’s never been so busy, but to see young people’s lives transformed by the program makes it well worth it, and, she said, the cadets have taught her a lot too.

Four years have passed since Samantha Boateng’s life-changing moment when she put on her cadet uniform for the first time. And some day, not too long from now, she’ll wear the uniform of a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Chances are, she’ll look back and remember the Marine major and sergeant major at her high school, whose passion, she said, is what has motivated her to try harder, to be a leader, and to always strive to do more.



About to Retire From the Corps? MCJROTC Wants You!

“If you can see yourself leading young men and women still after you retire, JROTC is the way to go. ... The kids motivate me every day. ... It’s probably the most rewarding thing that I could do after retirement.”

—GySgt Robert Gordon, USMC (Ret), Military Instructor, MCJROTC
Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, Va.

It may not be a “piece of cake” second career—the hours are long and you’re constantly challenged—but any instructor will tell you that the rewards outweigh the difficulties. If you’re nearing the end of a 20-plus year career in the Corps and are interested in working with youth and providing mentorship and leadership training while continuing to wear your uniform and staying connected to the Corps, Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps may be a perfect fit.

Applicants for both Senior Military Instructor (SMI) and Military Instructor (MI) must have a confirmed retirement date from Manpower Management Separation and Retirement Branch, a competitive military record, and be physically qualified according to MCJROTC standards. SMIs must be an officer or a warrant officer with a bachelor’s degree with at least 20 years on active duty, and MIs are required to complete an associate’s degree within five years of hire. For more information on application requirements, as well as vacancies in the program, visit www.mcjrotc.marines.mil.



Capt Frank Farrell

Captain Frank Farrell

A Marine for All Seasons

An aerial photograph of the airfield on Peleliu; Capt Farrell and his Marines went ashore on Sept. 15, 1944, as part of Operation Stalemate II.



Farrell instructs his Marines on intelligence-gathering tactics on Peleliu. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during one of the costliest battles in Marine Corps history.

Story by Paul Roberts
Photos courtesy of the National Archives

Part I

In 1939, officials from the newly formed Naval Intelligence Volunteer Service (NIVS), a branch of the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), approached Francis T. “Frank” Farrell, a reporter and editor for the *New York World-Telegram* newspaper, with an unusual proposition. He was asked to snoop around the restaurants and bars on East 86th Street in New York City’s Yorkville neighborhood.

As a trained reporter, he would be the perfect person to mingle with patrons, picking up tidbits and engaging in personal conversations. The customers were mostly German-Americans, many of whom belonged to the German-American Bund, a group of pro-Nazi Americans.

Naval intelligence, which was grossly underfunded in those days and, thus restricted from any cloak and dagger activity, had good reason to suspect that this organization had ties to the German government and was a potential threat to the well-being of the United States. The group also was being infiltrated with espionage

agents of the German Abwehr, who had been embedded in the Bund to spread their propaganda.

They were active in the America First Committee, an organization bent on keeping the United States neutral and isolated and out of any wars. Elements of their group denounced President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a war monger who was trying to give aid to embattled Great Britain and with the goal of bringing the U.S. into the global conflict. Another target of the Bund was the American boycott of German goods, which was having a deleterious effect on the German economy due to the sanctions that the U.S. government had slapped on the Germans in an effort to stop their aggression throughout Europe.

Farrell succeeded in exposing the leader of the Bund, Fritz Kuhn, who was pilfering Bund funds, thus causing the disintegration of that organization. On the basis of this work, Farrell applied in 1942 for a direct commission in the Marine Corps, but initially was turned down for medical reasons.

He subsequently was granted a waiver thanks to his friendship with Colonel William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan, USA,

head of the newly formed intelligence agency, Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

As Farrell wrote years later to his buddy, Medal of Honor Marine Mitchell Paige, “the Almighty gave me a badly damaged heart at birth when my mother had double pneumonia. I had to swindle my way into the Corps and relinquish all titles to pension when I failed to pass the physical.” Upon completion of training on the Marine Corps base at Quantico, Va., Farrell and a fellow Marine, Guy Richards, were sent to do an undercover survey in the South Pacific.

Richards had been a feature writer for the *New York Daily News* and had worked for the Whitney American Museum of Natural History after graduating from Yale University as a researcher. He also had hunted for rare birds in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific where he had befriended and enlisted the aid of the Melanesian natives. It was considered essential to include them in future plans for expanding the stations for coast-watchers. Thanks to the breaking of the Japanese Purple Code, the West knew of the warlike intentions of the Japanese and their own need to develop plans for activating an early warning system.

Coordination was conducted with the British liaison officer, Major Martin Clemens, the designated head of the coast-watchers in the Solomons. The coast-



Farrell led his Marines on numerous patrols on Guadalcanal, occasionally resulting in the capture of Japanese prisoners.

watchers worked with the Australian and New Zealand military and the natives in gathering intelligence of enemy movements to support any invasion of these islands, including the 90-mile-long Guadalcanal. The report from Farrell and Richards would be instrumental in setting up a coordinated, deep reconnaissance intelligence system, the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB). This whole apparatus of

the combined coastwatcher-Marine-native input hastened the defeat of the entrenched enemy because the Marines were eventually forewarned of suspicious or impending operations.

The lengthy report to V Amphibious Corps by Richards and Farrell was extremely helpful, providing guidance in utilizing tactics for the coastwatchers. “The Melanesian native is a human antennae [sic] for any unit working in the bush,” they reported. “It has been proven that the bush native moves almost noiselessly, an artist of reconnaissance without detection.” In short, the coastwatchers could not have existed in enemy-held islands, let alone done their dangerous work, without the aid of those jungle-savvy natives.

Farrell’s first taste of combat was in August 1942 at the Battle of Cape Gloucester with the First Marine Division during which he led intelligence patrols, probed enemy weaknesses and gathered intelligence from prisoners on soft spots in enemy defenses. Coming off one patrol in Gloucester, Farrell walked right into the middle of a firefight and, by attacking the Japanese with two well-placed hand grenades, wound up rescuing a Marine scout who had been pinned down.

While on another reconnaissance patrol, he captured a Japanese major who seemed to be relieved at becoming a prisoner. During questioning, it was discovered that the



One of the many discoveries made by Farrell’s patrols, this Japanese firing pit was surrounded by man-made caves.

major, who spoke perfect English, was a former Columbia University student and classmate of the Seventh Marine Regiment operations officer, Maj Victor Streit. A call on a field phone confirmed this, which resulted in a strange reunion.

After the completion of hostilities on Gloucester, the Division was deployed to Pavuvu for rest and recuperation. On June 4, 1944, Farrell was ordered to lead two platoons of Marine scouts and one of military police on a mission to the coconut plantation island of Banika, just off Guadalcanal. They were to provide security during advanced testing of a new type of secret weapon which involved an abandoned Japanese flak tower that seemed impossible to destroy by conventional vertical skip bombing or strafing. The test, utilizing this new weapon, destroyed the tower on its first attempt. The weapon turned out to be a radar-controlled robot plane that was the delivery system for bombs. It was the dawn of a new era—the first “drone” had been launched.

After one week of tactical rehearsal maneuvers off Guadalcanal, the 1st Marines sailed from Pavuvu bound for Peleliu. The invasion fleet consisted of 800 ships in the task force. The LSTs, tank landing ships (carrying the amtracs which would be unleashed on the beaches), preceded the convoy by four days with two assault battalions of 1st Marines; the assault and escort ships followed, along with the battleships.

Other elements of the convoy included Coast Guard-manned assault ships that would play a major role in the invasion; destroyer and destroyer escorts to protect the convoy; sub chasers; mine sweepers; survey and hospital ships, oilers, repair and salvage vessels; tugs and gunboats. Hundreds of landing crafts, amphibious tractors and armored amphibious vehicles also were included.

They sailed from Guadalcanal on Sept. 1, zigzagging the whole 2,100 miles to avoid enemy submarines.

Navajo Code Talkers, who had perfected a system of encoding messages, also were included. Using the Navajo language, they created an unbreakable code. Many of Farrell’s critical reports were encoded in this manner, bypassing his own assigned radio operators and saving precious time.

They arrived at the Palau Islands and came upon a scene of utter conflagration. On D minus 3, seventeen destroyers, three heavy cruisers and four old battleships had begun mercilessly pounding the defenses on Peleliu, pouring 68,592 rounds of 5-inch or larger shells into one concentrated area, while carrier aircraft rained 1,218 tons of bombs, depth charges and rockets on the same targets. On Sept. 15,



Farrell often used first-generation Japanese-Americans, “Nisei,” who were serving in the U.S. military, to support his efforts in encouraging Japanese troops to surrender.

1944, the convoy arrived for debarkation during this intense naval assault. Thus began Operation Stalemate II (an apt description). The first wave was a straight-forward assault, and while the assault waves were proceeding toward the beaches, a heavy barrage was laid down by rockets fired.

Following this action, the second wave of the main body went in, which included the Code Talkers and the Farrell team. *Life* magazine artist Tom Lea and *Time* magazine’s Bob Martin also were a part of the Farrell team.

Farrell stood in the prow of his amtrac, which was just in back of the first wave. Like an avenging angel, Farrell, deeply concentrated, shouted directions to the coxswain as huge geysers of water doused large sprays on his men. One boat took a direct hit just 10 yards off his stern. In addition, a heavy enfilade was coming in from Ngarmoked Island, a tiny island to the southeast of their target, Orange Beach 3.

Farrell ordered his boats to land on the adjacent beach to their left (Orange Beach 2), to allow them to get safely to the beach

and begin their special mission. Their LTV (landing vehicle, tracked) suddenly ground to a stop, unable to maneuver over the reef, and Farrell bellowed: “OK, pile out, scatter, follow me to the right.”

As they ran, a mortar burst near them, killing three of his men. Miraculously it missed Farrell. He kept running as if possessed, looking for a suitable spot to set up the battalion command post. It was an 8-foot trench, dug as a trap for tanks, and he established possession. The beach was now marked by sheets of orange flames and utter confusion, created by the light artillery and mortar fire zeroed in on them from the high ground to the north of the beach.

All this was dramatically recorded by Tom Lea in his book, “Peleliu Landing,” as well as in an article in the June 11, 1945, issue of *Life* in which he portrayed Farrell, firing his carbine at fleeing Japanese in the inner ring of a reef. Lea labeled Farrell an intrepid hero. After it was all over, Farrell was awarded a Silver Star.

When Farrell was on the beach, he helped unscramble the utter confusion, directing the riflemen away from the

Marine aviators attacking Peleliu's Bloody Nose dropped napalm to destroy the vegetation that was helping to conceal Japanese caves.



beach to begin the assault on the airfield and clear the way for later waves.

The next day he led a patrol, skirting around the south side of the airfield, climbing up a hard core limestone slope and finding a strategic blockhouse that overlooked the airfield but was now a jagged lump of concrete due to accurate naval gunfire. Nearby were two gun pits, about 30 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep, meant for 127 mm dual mount guns which were mysteriously missing. It was surrounded by several caves containing dead Japanese.

As they moved along a narrow trace, the Marines discovered many dead enemy troops, several of whom were rigged with booby traps.

On one of his subsequent 13 reconnaissance sorties, Farrell, using a bullhorn and

the assistance of a Nisei (the child of Japanese immigrants born in the United States who joined the military), assured Japanese troops hidden within caves throughout the island that they would be properly treated if they surrendered. A flood of leaflets also were dropped near their caves. It was an exercise in futility. *Bashido* ruled. Even flamethrowers mounted on LVTs had small effect.

On another patrol, Farrell and his men were pinned down for 40 minutes with three machine guns on their left, a pillbox in front and two snipers firing from a height. They finally managed to escape and, miraculously, captured two Japanese, one of whom had a detailed map of all caves and exits and seeded minefield locations.

Farrell continued to lead this charmed

life on another mission in the Valley of Five Sisters, when he tossed a grenade into a fortified cave which must have hit an ammo cache. The result was a violent explosion and numerous fleeing Japanese who easily were mowed down.

On D+2, Farrell captured a Japanese officer (the first of more than 300 prisoners taken in the whole operation) who had documents on him showing the defensive sectors on two peninsulas, both of which were surrounded by minefields. After the areas were cross-checked on their gridded map, the transmitted intelligence resulted in a heavy reactive barrage that neutralized the minefields, enabling a rapid capture.

A general attack was launched, preceded by artillery, air and naval gunfire preparation. The 1st and 5th Marines



attacked to the north, and 7th Marines to the south. Eight hours later 7th Marines had captured the southeast promontory of the island.

In the north, the 5th Marines' right flank advanced through heavy mangrove swamps, but stiff mortar and artillery fire made their advance slow on the left. The parallel ridges and sharp peaks almost devoid of cover, vertical cliffs and deeply gutted depressions were made to order for the Japanese defense of their formidable cave system. This was dubbed Bloody Nose Ridge. There actually was no main line of defense, but a perfect defense in depth, with the whole island being a front line. Their 500 caves, strategically placed, fortified their defense, and many times gave them an aggressive advantage.

By the third day, artillery spotting planes



Above: On Peleliu, Nisei used bullhorns to tell the enemy that they should surrender.

Below: Navajo Code Talkers played key roles in communicating intelligence to higher headquarters.



of Marine Observation Squadron 3 were landing on the captured airfield. Corsair F4U fighters armed with deadly rockets poured napalm to burn away camouflage vegetation at cave entrances 1,100 yards away in the Umurbrogol Hills and Death Valley. The aircraft never raised their landing gears as they returned to the airfield, reloaded and went back out, flying the shortest bombing missions in aviation history, 15 seconds!

The casualty rate of 1st Marines by the end of September was close to 70 percent. Elements of the Army's 81st Division relieved the Marines who redeployed, Capt Frank Farrell with them, back to

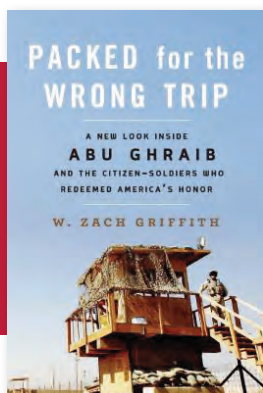
their home base on Pavuvu, northwest of Guadalcanal.

Author's bio: Paul Roberts participated in Operations Overlord, Dragoon and Market Garden in World War II as part of the First Allied Airborne Army and was awarded a Legion of Honor medal by the French government. He worked on the New York World-Telegram in 1941 with Frank Farrell and has been a photo-journalist for many publications, including The Washington Post, and now is a feature writer and book reviewer for The OSS Society Journal.



Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from *The MARINE Shop*. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 6 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 7 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at www.marineshop.net.



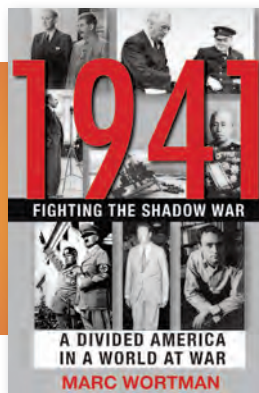
PACKED FOR THE WRONG TRIP: A New Look Inside Abu Ghraib and the Citizen-Soldiers Who Redeemed America's Honor. By W. Zach Griffith. Published by Arcade Publishing. 252 pages. Stock #1628726458. \$22.50 MCA Members. \$24.99 Regular Price.

In early 2004, soldiers of the 152nd Maine Army National Guard Field Artillery were deployed to Iraq. As the book title suggests, they were most certainly “packed for the wrong trip.”

These trained artillery guardsmen, now designated as MPs, took the place of an MP battalion guarding the prison at Abu Ghraib. Former guards at the prison recently had triggered the largest scandal to emerge from the ongoing Iraqi war. Photographs depicting U.S. guards abusing the Iraqi detainees hit the social media like a firestorm.

In the days of Saddam Hussein's rule, the prison/jail at Abu Ghraib held an evil aura for the Iraqi people. It was there, just 20 miles northwest of Baghdad, that the dictator's thugs tortured and executed thousands of fellow citizens. When the U.S. coalition commandeered it for use as a prison, it came with a huge amount of bad feelings from the average Iraqi. There, poor American leadership turned it into a horrendous propaganda victory for the insurgents.

It was that setting that the undermanned, untrained and underequipped guardsmen were expected to bring order to the confused situation. Initially, the soldiers, from Maine, had trouble adjusting to intense



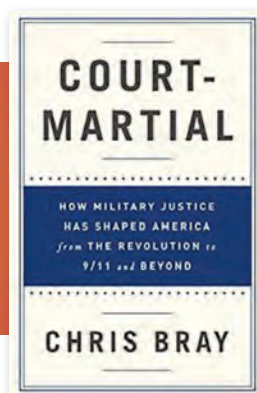
desert heat. They found an overcrowded facility located in the Iraqi city with a highway overpass towering over the prison walls. Insurgents fired mortar rounds from various parts of the city and positioned their snipers from above.

The prison was full of both high-value Shira and Sunni prisoners, but also in the mix were Iraqis guilty of lesser wrongdoings. More than 10,000 male prisoners, including children and the elderly, were incarcerated at the detention site. Renamed “Camp Redemption,” it was up to the Maine National Guardsmen and their counterparts to redeem and restore trust with the Iraqi people and the world.

Adapt, improvise and overcome became the guardsmen's watchword. Initially outfitted with faulty communication equipment and a small supply of ammunition, the soldiers began to adjust. With improved equipment sent to them by their friends and family at home, they started to make sense out of the chaos. Untrained for MP or prison duty, they pooled their citizen-soldier skills and began to address a myriad of identified difficulties.

One soldier who had briefly worked in the Maine State Prison requested that his wife send him a copy of his “Maine State Prison Policies and Procedures Manual.” Using this manual, he implemented many solutions to challenges they faced.

Slowly, they started to improve the situation at Camp Redemption with the addition of wood floors, cots and electricity. Eventually they even added heating



and air conditioning to the basic camp amenities.

Until the scandal broke, Abu Ghraib had been only a sideshow of the Iraqi war, but then the international press corps sharply focused new interest on the facility. The prison became a star media attraction and received a procession of inspections and high-level visitors. Not surprisingly, the enemy insurgents also took a renewed interest in the facility. To them it mattered not that their attacks caused death and injury to either the Americans or the detainees as long as they succeeded in creating “newsworthy” havoc and destruction.

Abuse and neglect of the detainees was reduced. Some of the detainees, noting the guardsmen's attempts to make their lives better, responded in kind. Some of the Maine men began to foster positive relationships with some of the prisoners. In one case, a guardsman shielded an Iraqi child from an incoming rocket attack. Slowly things started to change. One important improvement occurred as a result of what was called “The Separation.” During this period, many of the low-value Iraqi detainees were released while others, the more dangerous variety, were separated from the general population.

The Maine National Guardsmen's tour was extended by three months, and although none of the guardsmen had been killed, several suffered traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Speaking of one disastrous mortar attack, a Maine guardsman recounted:

“Crows and ravens gobbled up the flesh chunks of Young Elvis [a detainee] and others before the rockets and mortars even stopped falling on us all.”

The author, W. Zach Griffith, served eight years as a combat correspondent in the United States Marine Corps; hundreds of his articles and thousands of his photos have been published. “Packed for the Wrong Trip,” his first book, is well-written and full of empathy and pathos for what these guardsmen faced during their most peculiar tour of duty in Iraq.

Understandably, when asked where they served in Iraq, these Maine guardsmen avoid replying that they served at the prison in Abu Ghraib. However, while attempting to redeem some semblance of America’s honor, their lives and many of the lives of the prisoners they safeguarded were forever changed. Fittingly, the disgracefully wretched prison at Abu Ghraib was razed. Occasionally, “the evil that men do” will not be allowed to endure.

Robert B. Loring

Author’s bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran “Red Bob” Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine.

1941: FIGHTING THE SHADOW WAR: A Divided America in a World at War. By Marc Wortman. Published by Atlantic Monthly Press. 416 pages. Stock #0802125115. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

Although fully conscious of the importance of warfare in defending America from dictatorship, totalitarianism and possibly systematic murder of “undesirables,” the nation was not galvanized into preparedness when Europe burst into flames on Sept. 1, 1939. The fall of France to Adolf Hitler’s crushing tank divisions in June 1940 was followed by the surprise attack of the Soviet Union exactly a year later. That, along with other threatening events between June 22, 1941, and the attack on Pearl Harbor six months later, did little to awaken the United States from the pleasant illusions of safety and security.

The dreaded realities of danger were partially camouflaged by the perpetual rallying cries of defiant isolationists and quasi-pacifists, “No foreign entanglements,” “Not my boy!” and “Who cares? It’s not our fight!”

Fortunately, the country was endowed with an unequivocal, courageous president and commander in chief to face, arguably, the most critical pivotal year of the 20th century and, perhaps, in U.S. history. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, with his undeniable penchant to protect the citizens of his charge, knew that soon enough war



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would arrive on our seaboard. And, instinctively, he acted as early as the initial years of his first presidency.

By the eve of 1941, this somewhat quiet, certainly reflective, man of vision, uncommon honesty, with a name never connected to dishonor, told his citizens in so many words, laws, resolutions and acts that the year about to arrive was going to be hard and dangerous and that their free, peace-loving nation would be harshly tested. Yet, President Roosevelt could not foretell the throes of agony and deep anguish his people would suffer less than 12 months later. With Japan mobilized at 85 percent compared to the 15 percent of the United States, he would have to continually decide and act, even if controversially, without Congressional approval.

With the publication of the engrossing new book, “1941: Fighting the Shadow War: A Divided America in a World at War,” historian Marc Wortman commingles analyses of an indefatigable President Roosevelt at work, as well as the most fateful year of his presidency. In a solidly researched, cogently argued exposé meant more for the general public than professional politicians or the military minded, the writer convinces us that for President Roosevelt, nothing less than defeating the Axis would do.

In short, Wortman, with an easy-to-read narrative style that triggers an eagerness to digest, vividly brings home to the reader not only how complex, contentious and portentous the year was, but also how intensely and resolutely everyone worked. He writes, “Long before December 7, 1941, the United States had been caught up in the European war, already fighting in the gray zone between its self-imposed neutrality as a nation officially and lawfully at peace with every nation on earth and its president’s declared intention to destroy Hitler and Nazism, drive Japan’s military out of China and Indochina, and liberate conquered lands from tyranny.”

Everyone will appreciate the value of a history of this sort—revealing how the United States went to war on that afternoon while still caught up in its own bitter fight over what role to play in China and Europe. Four hundred pages coolly delineate how Americans, unsure which way to turn when faced with contradictory stories and opposing visions of the world’s future, floundered, stammered, disputed, disagreed and brawled while trying to find their place amid a worldwide conflict.

Rarely has a book appeared so timely apropos to the state of our ambivalent country and its definitions of “war” as they percolate all around us today. Better

that readers remain intelligently watchful while recalling the biblical truth, “Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” (Matthew 6:34)

Don DeNevi

Author’s bio: Don DeNevi has written more than 30 books, among them “The West Coast Goes to War, 1941-1942”; “The Military Railway Service: America’s Soldier-Railroaders in WW II”; and “They Came to Destroy America: The FBI Goes to War Against Nazi Spies & Saboteurs Before and During World War II.” Don lives in Pebble Beach, Calif., where he writes book reviews for Leatherneck.

COURT-MARTIAL: How Military Justice Has Shaped America From the Revolution to 9/11 and Beyond. By Chris Bray. Published by W.W. Norton & Company Inc. 416 pages. Stock #0393243400. \$26.06 MCA Members. \$28.95 Regular Price.

I know what you’re thinking. A comprehensive book about military law is proverbial literary wheat germ—it doesn’t taste good, but it ultimately is good for you. In the case of Chris Bray’s book, that is a canard of the worst kind.

Bray argues through the observations of law professor and former soldier Edward Morgan that prior to reforms in the 1950s, courts-martial were not judicial

per se, but rather extensions of the powers of commanding officers. As Bray states in his book’s introduction, “armed forces are inevitably ordered and sustained by discipline, and the characteristics of that discipline reveal the values of the country that gives a military organization its personnel and its rules.”

Men of the standing militia, however, could face court-martial for any infraction at any time. This seriously blurred the lines between private life and behavior of military bearing. To assign a modern term to this, you were never “off the clock.” A more outrageous aspect of this distinction was the rules about haircuts, the explanation of which I will leave to Bray. He argues that in modern times, law and legal matters are far more important in court-martial proceedings.

Bray keeps things in perspective by giving a short overview of what the state of the American military was prior to the years covered in the three sections of the book. What he has given us is not only a history of court-martial, but a walking tour of American military history.

In the chapter “A Blind Lottery: Discipline and Justice in the Old Navy,” Bray ascertains in the early 19th century: “a warship at sea was an island of casual and arbitrary brutality. It wasn’t a secret

or an error; it was the essence of the thing itself, the way the Navy was understood to work.” As an example of this, Bray relates the tale of sailor Thomas Ayscough, “a notorious lower-deck trouble maker,” who under the influence of alcohol ran amok in 1804 in the flagship *Constitution*. At the time, a sailor could only receive 12 lashes for an offence. Commodore Edward Preble, who was known to play it fast and loose at formal trials, had Ayscough face the ordeal of four separate charges. Ayscough ultimately received a total of 40 lashes for this one offense.

There was a price to pay for such despotism. Bray writes: “In practice, then, naval officers were barely retrained or guided by formal systems of law; in the context of their official lives, they could get away with a great deal. But other gentlemen were watching what they did with their power—and they always knew they were being watched.” After a certain point there could be a case of the straw that breaks a camel’s back, and an officer’s actions would catch up to him.

Citizen-soldiers of the Jacksonian era could face an arbitrary sentence for what was seen as desertion and mutiny. The fate could be anything as harsh as facing a firing squad, or they could be drummed out with half their heads shaved. Dracon-

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ian practices of punishment in the antebellum military abounded. Men who drank too much would be branded with an "HD" on their foreheads as a sign of a habitual drinker. Men who gave sloppy salutes were hung by their thumbs from tree limbs.

Curiously, during the Civil War, civilians could face the ordeal of court-martial. In 1863, Bray relates the sad trial of Ohio Senator Clement Vallandigham who made the mistake of saying the North would never win the war. Interestingly, it would not be until World War I that soldiers facing court-martial would know what charges they were facing before the trial began. Previously, a trial could go on for days before a defendant was told of what he was accused. It was also during this period that people voting on the guilt of a defendant could not give evidence against a defendant in a court-martial. During this period, Bray writes: "American soldiers were subject to a system of justice that was far more harsh and arbitrary than civilian justice at home, but far less harsh and arbitrary than military justice in other armies."

The march toward reform goes on. As Bray writes: "In 1983, for the first time, Congress gave military personnel the right to be represented by a lawyer during general and special court-martial, and during pretrial Article 32 hearings. It

also became easier for people convicted by court-martial to appeal directly to the Supreme Court from the Court of Military Appeals. ... Though the precise forms of the proposals have varied, some version of this is exactly the thing that reformers have tried to do in America for an entire century; they have tried to take control of military justice out of the hands of commanders, and move it into the control of lawyers."

Highly authoritative but by no means officious, I found the book impossible to put down, even though I know about as much about legal matters as I do about non-Euclidean geometry. Don't be scared away from a topic that you fear would be as dry as a bowl of shredded wheat. Bray's book has a cogency that will floor those in the justice field, written with verve and immediacy that will captivate the novice. A brilliant read that entertains as well as illuminates.

Joseph D'Alessandris

Author's bio: Joseph D'Alessandris is a freelance writer who resides in Pittsburgh, Pa. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from The Pennsylvania State University where he studied advertising as well as film theory and criticism.



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In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

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

Cpl Daniel J. "Dan" Altepeter, 75, of Lafayette, Ind. He was a Marine who served from 1960 to 1964 as a jet engine mechanic and assistant flight line chief at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

Col Francis Andriliunas, 87, of Poquoson, Va. After his graduation from high school in 1946, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and was stationed at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. Upon graduation from Brown University, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was an artillery officer during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis and the evacuation of refugees from Vietnam. He served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs and was the commanding officer of the 10th Marines.

Bruce A. Bryant, 83, of Kilgore, Texas. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War. After he returned home, he got his degree from the University of Oklahoma.

LtCol Godfrey "Del" Delcuze, 86, in Blairville, Ga. He served 25 years in the Marine Corps. He was a Marine advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps and commanded 1st Bn, 1st Marines in 1969-70.

Thomas Drought, 92, of San Antonio, Texas. He was a Marine Corps fighter pilot during WW II and the Korean War. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals. After his return to civilian life, he practiced law in the family law firm.

Joseph Garofalo, 95, of Bronx, N.Y. He was a Navy Seabee in the 121st Bn assigned to the 20th Marines, 4thMarDiv. He made landings at Roi-Namur, Saipan and Tinian.

James "Doc" Gleason, 90, of Tampa, Fla. He was a corpsman with the Marines of First Raider Regiment during WW II. It is believed that he was the youngest Raider corpsman to see combat. He joined the Navy in 1942 on his 17th birthday. He shipped out to New Caledonia and Guadalcanal before the assault on New Georgia in the Solomon Islands. He saw action in three major battles before he turned 18.

He later served aboard minesweepers, destroyers and in Navy hospitals. Recalled to active duty during the Korean War, he was assigned as a corpsman with a Marine aircraft group.

He wrote a book about his experiences with the Raiders, called "Real Blood! Real Guts! U.S. Marine Raiders and Their Corpsmen in WW II."

William P. "Bill" Grassel, 90, of Marysville, Utah. He served during WW II and the Korean War. He retired after 20 years of service.

TSgt Henry A. House, 93, in Williston, Vt. A Marine who served from 1941 to 1945, he was with 4th Parachute Bn and then he was a clerk in H&S Co, 26th Marines, 5thMarDiv. He saw action on Iwo Jima and took part in the occupation of Japan after the war ended.

He later graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in chemical engineering. He also was an avid runner who competed in eight marathons, including the Marine Corps Marathon and the Boston Marathon.

Allyn F. Jennison, 90, of Madbury, N.H. He left high school at age 17 to join the Marine Corps and fight in WW II. He was wounded in the Pacific island-hopping campaign. After the war he became the owner of an electrical contracting company and, later, Jenni's Dairy Bar.

In recent years he volunteered at the Pease International Airport in Portsmouth, N.H., as a greeter to meet with troops departing for or returning from overseas deployments.

LCpl Jerome W. Kujawa, 76, of Boca Raton, Fla. From 1956 to 1959, he was a Marine in Service Co, Hq Bn, 2dMarDiv.

John Lagoulis, 96, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. From 1942 to 1945, he was a U.S. Navy Seabee with the 58th Naval Construction Bn serving in the South Pacific with the 6thMarDiv. He saw action on Guadalcanal, Vella Lavella and Okinawa.

Ernest Linsmaier, 90, of Alliance, Ohio. He was a TBF Avenger turret gunner with Marine Torpedo Bombing Squadron

242 during WW II. The squadron served in the South Pacific and saw action at Bougainville, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

After the war he became a history and sociology teacher. He taught for 35 years. He also was active in local government and was a councilman for 12 years.

MGySgt Vincent J. Manzo Sr., 84, of Roxborough, Pa. He served 27 years in the Marine Corps. He later worked as an engineering model maker for Honeywell.

Sgt Robert W. Maughan, 69, of Taal, Batangas, Philippines. In 1965, he joined the Marine Corps and graduated from boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif. In Vietnam he was an 81 mm mortarman with 2/7, 1stMarDiv, near Chu Lai, 1966-67. He later joined the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C.

Larry G. Maurer, 79, of Cottage Grove, Minn. After his 1954 graduation from high school, he joined the Marine Corps. He also served 20 years in the National Guard.

Sgt Robert O'Neil, 92, of Coal Center, Pa. He was a machine-gun squad leader with Edson's Raiders. He served in combat on Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Emirau and Guam. After the war he was a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C.

He was active in his community and was the tax collector for West Pike Run Township for 43 years. He was a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America as well as his church.

SgtMaj Jesse Pacheco, 91, of Lawrence, Kan. He was a Marine who served in WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He retired from the Corps in 1979. He was a member of the 1stMarDiv Association, the U.S. Marine Raider Association, the Marine Corps Drill Instructors Association and the Sergeants Major Association.

Sgt Jack A. Phillabaum, 79, of Carlisle, Ohio. He was a third-generation Marine who served from 1955 to 1959. He inspired two of his brothers to become Marines. He was with 3d Bn, 3d Marines, 3dMarDiv. Later, he was assigned to the guard company at the brig at MCB Quantico, Va.



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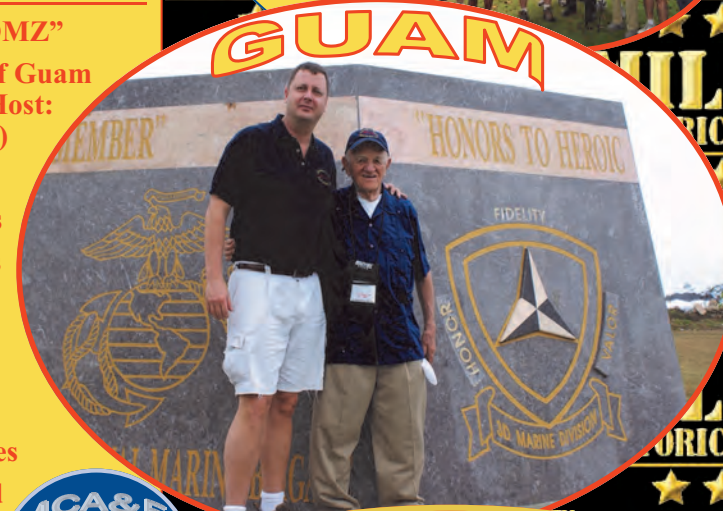
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1stSgt John F. Ragusa, 88, of Holbrook, Mass. He was a Marine infantryman during the Korean War. During WW II he was in the Coast Guard, and later, he was in the Navy as a radioman for torpedo bombers.

Duane D. "Palsy" Rakestraw, 81, of Mineral, Ill. From 1954 to 1957, he served in the Marine Corps and was stationed at MCB Twentynine Palms, Calif. He later spent 30 years as an Illinois state trooper.

1stSgt James F. Reed Sr., 85, of Sanger, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1947 and graduated from boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif. He was with 1stMarDiv in the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. Later assignments included the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif., as well as recruiting duty in Denver, Colo., and New Orleans, La. He served a tour in Vietnam in 1964-65. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1968.

CWO-4 John W. Roth, 86, of Lambertville, Mich. He was a combat veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. As a private first class, he drove an amtrac during the landing at Inchon, Korea. In the early 1960s he was a crew chief with an amtrac battalion. He completed Officer Candidates School and The Basic School in 1966.

While deployed to Vietnam in 1967,

CWO Roth earned a combat promotion to LDO captain. After his second tour in Vietnam, he reverted to CWO-4. He served subsequent tours on the I&I staff at MCRC Lima, Ohio, and with amtrac battalions on Okinawa and Camp Lejeune, N.C. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V."

Sgt Monte E. Walker, 61, of Bakersfield, Calif. He was a Marine who served from 1973 to 1980. He was part of 2d Force Recon Co, 2d FSSG.

LtCol Roger D. "Bucky" Walters, 79, of Longview, Texas. He was a Marine aviator who flew combat missions during the Vietnam War in the F8 Crusader. He made more than 200 carrier landings. His awards include the Air Medal (17 awards) and the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V."

CAPT Bryan J. "BattleChaps" Weaver, USN, 60, in Beaufort, S.C. In 1985, he was commissioned a lieutenant junior grade. For the next 30 years, he served in the U.S. Navy chaplain corps. He was remembered by a Marine who served with him as a "very good chaplain who truly loved Marines." His awards include two Legions of Merit, a Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.



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SOUND OFF [continued from page 7]

three of those years was the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) running the stand-alone jet engine test-cell facility. I also worked with Japanese contractors and base facilities personnel that were tasked with building a new acoustical enclosure—a combined enclosed jet engine test-cell and aircraft run-up facility, hence, the first hush house for MCAS Iwakuni.

If my foggy brain recalls, I believe we started construction in June 1987 and completed it around January 1998. During that time, all training policy and procedures had to be developed and lesson guides and maintenance requirements were written from scratch. You see, this was brand-new to all of us, including the Japanese contractors. The collaboration was not without challenges, both in language and work methods, but it was a great success and at that time it was state of the art. Needless to say, we adapted, improvised and overcame all obstacles and challenges and ran countless hours in successful and accident-free engine and aircraft run-ups.

What a treat that was from the aging

test cell located at the far end of the base, next to the outdoor high-power aircraft run-up pads. Sheltered from the elements and reducing the noise levels on base for the surrounding community, the new combined jet engine test cell/run-up facility was a treat!

Many great memories stirred from your article on the Dec. 14, 2015, opening of the new hush house. One of my fondest memories of my time there was occasionally during the FOD (foreign object damage) walk on the flight line. I would open the double doors of the hush house positioned on the flight line with the outside speakers playing to "Ride of the Valkries" from the movie "Apocalypse Now."

Semper Fi and thanks for your professionalism and contributions to keeping the memories alive in all of us.

GySgt Larry VanDyke, USMC (Ret)
1978-98
Ruston, La.

Jacob's Ladder

On the way to the Battle of Okinawa, most of the enlisted men of Marine Fighting Squadron 224 were aboard LST-221. We made a couple of stops en route to the invasion. One stop was Ulithi Island.

We disembarked via Jacob's Ladder and small boats to shore. When we returned



COURTESY OF GYSGT LARRY VANDYKE, USMC (RET)

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to the LST by the same small boats, we had to climb back up Jacob's Ladder to get back on board.

One young fellow, who I didn't really know, was experiencing difficulty climbing the ladder. He had attracted quite an audience because every Marine was supposed to be able to climb Jacob's Ladder. I saw his difficulty and went over to help him.

I put this young man, whose name I later knew as Hayden Duff Jr., over my shoulder and proceeded up Jacob's Ladder without further ado.

After we were on Okinawa on Yontan Airfield, it rained. It really rained! Duff had become "my boy" because I had carried him up Jacob's Ladder. Someone came to me and said, "Your boy seems to be in trouble." I looked out toward the strip where Duff was standing on one foot in water up to his ankle. I went out to see what the problem was, got him by the arms to face me and said, "Duff, what's going on?" I can't remember what he said, but it didn't make sense. I told him to come with me and took him to shelter. I immediately called the corpsman, who came and took him away. That was the last I ever saw of him.

The rest of the story: Not long ago our local newspaper assigned a young reporter, John Bear, to do interviews

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with military veterans. He chose me as one of his “victims.” In the interview, I mentioned the situation about Duff. When the article came out, I made copies and sent it to each of my three children. My daughter, Valarie, is good with computers and was interested in the part about Hayden Duff. She asked where he was now and I told her he’s probably dead. She said, “I think I’ll try to find him.” I said that would be great.

The next day she said, “Dad, I found Duff.” She said he was still alive and well in Irving, Texas. She had talked to his daughter and got some information from her. It truly was our man! I have talked to him on the phone and sent him pictures of -224. He told me how he thought he got with us but was still not sure of some things. It seems he was shipping out from San Diego with another outfit, and in the process of helping load gear, a large crate fell on his head, and he was hospitalized for about 10 days. When he was released, he was shipped out to Roi-Namur and joined -224. I didn’t remember him at all until I carried him up Jacob’s Ladder in Ulithi.

When I talk to him on the phone, he’s very sharp, but I don’t think he was in any condition to be sent to a combat zone in 1945.

Hayden had a successful life, good job

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and family. I’m glad we were able to get him off Okinawa when we did.

Sgt John L. Perkins, USMC
Belen, N.M.

Editorial Irish Pennant

As pointed out by Colonel James K. Van Riper, USMC (Ret), in “In the Nick of Time: Marines, Sailors Stage Daring

‘Hail Mary’ Rescue ‘From the Sea’ in Midst of Desert Storm” in our May issue, we used an old photo of USS *Guam* with H-34s on the rear platform. The H-34 was taken out of service by 1973 and could not have been used in Operations Eastern Exit and Desert Storm. We regret our error.—Editor



MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

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Writing Contest

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Winners

First place: LCpl John M. Gilchrist

“Influence: Victory Before Conflict”

Second place: Cpl Daniel G. Chandler

“Marines Under the Bomb: Atomic Testing and the Marine Corps”

Third place: SSgt Carson D. Clover

“An Anbar Summer”

Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Entries for "Reader Assistance," which include "Reunions," "Mail Call," "Wanted" and "Sales, Trades and Giveaways," 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 s.boock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 1-7, Houston, Texas. Contact June Cormier, (760) 763-3267, june.oldbreed@fmda.us, or Heidi Lamb, (760) 763-3268, heidi.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 23-28, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Don H. Gee, P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **5thMarDiv Assn.**, Oct. 6-8, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Ivan Hammond, P.O. Box 2312, Texas City, TX 77592-2312, (409) 770-4249, sgthambone@verizon.net.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn.**, Aug. 16-18, New Orleans, La. Contact LtCol Richard J. Sullivan, USMC (Ret), (508) 954-2262, sul824@verizon.net, www.marinecorpsmustang.org.

• **Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Assn. (Conference and Annual Training Symposium)**, Aug. 21-27, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Jack Paxton, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 17-19, Pala, Calif. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Sept. 15-18, San Diego, Calif. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, USMC (Ret), (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **8th & I Reunion Assn.**, July 14-17, Arlington, Va. Contact Maj John Marley, USMC (Ret), (703) 799-4882, jm1967a15@verizon.net, www.8thandi.com.

• **Marine Corps Counterintelligence Assn.**, Sept. 8-11, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Contact Ralph "Buck" Wheaton, (304) 947-5060, buckmccia@frontier.com.

• **Marine Corps Cryptologic Assn.**, Sept. 6-10, San Diego, Calif. Contact Clifton Mitchell, (805) 482-1936, cmitch1_1@msn.com.

• **2d Bn, 4th Marines Assn. (all eras)**, July 27-31, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. Contact Donald Greengrass, (608) 784-1549,

donald.greengrass@ho-chunk.com, www.2-4Association.org.

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans' Assn.**, Sept. 22-25, San Diego, Calif. Contact Doug McMackin, (623) 466-0545, gunnymac@hotmail.com, or Jim Taranto, (518) 567-4267, tarantoj@gmail.com.

• **Aviation Logistics Marines**, Oct. 6-9, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Don Davis, (321) 978-5147, greyegl@dec.rr.com, www.avlogmarines.org.

• **The Chosin Few**, Aug. 16-20, San Diego, Calif. Contact LtCol J.P. White, USMC (Ret), (760) 727-7796, chosin50@roadrunner.com.

• **Subic Bay Marines**, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, Boston, Mass. Contact John Laccinole, (818) 591-8916, johnlaccinole@aol.com.

• **3d and 4th Defense Bns (Solomon Islands, WW II)**, Sept. 14-17, Billings, Mont. Contact Charles Buckley, (510) 589-5380, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, (512) 638-2075, sharon_heideman@yahoo.com.

• **11th Motor Transport Bn (RVN, 1967-70)**, Oct. 6-9, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Mike "Large Al" Alford, (503) 680-6505, alfordmtd@frontier.com.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Aug. 23-28, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumcl3usmc@verizon.net.

• **1/27 (1stMarDiv, OPCON, RVN, 1968)**, Sept. 19-22, Charleston, S.C. Contact Felix Salmeron, (469) 583-0191.

• **2/3 (RVN)**, Aug. 24-27, Charleston, S.C. Contact Art Ferguson, (623) 780-1819, clydesdadfergy@aol.com.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3 (1960-62)**, Sept. 6-10, San Diego, Calif. Contact Burrell Landes, 2610 W. Long Cir., Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.

• **3/5 (Battalion Radio Operators, FACs and Pilots, RVN, 1966-68)**, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Branson, Mo. Contact Lynwood Scott, (813) 685-2197, lynwoodvscott@hotmail.com.

• **3/11 (Battery Adjust)**, Sept. 14-18, New Orleans, La. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dmiller482@gmail.com.

• **3/26 (RVN, 1966-70)**, Aug. 24-28,

San Diego, Calif. Contact Tony Anthony, (619) 286-3648, ltcoltony@aol.com, www.326marines.org.

• **A/1/8 (August 1994-July 2000)**, Oct. 21-22, Stafford, Va. Contact CWO-3 Jim Clark, (910) 381-1871, jimclark@strategiclog.com.

• **A/1/12 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Sept. 22-24, Southport, N.C. Contact David Dorsett, (910) 619-5020, dhdorsett@ec.rr.com.

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

• **D/1/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 22-25, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Bob Divine, (517) 227-3714, bwdivine@gmail.com, www.deltacompanyvietnammarines.com.

• **E/2/3 (RVN)**, Sept. 11-16, Boise, Idaho. Contact Bill Smith, 7201 Castle Dr., Dublin, CA 94568, (925) 997-8041, da190@aol.com.

• **G/2/5 (all eras)**, Sept. 28-Oct. 2, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact Martin Steinbach, 7395 Kirby Dr., Burlington, KY 41005, (513) 623-9594, martinsteiny@aol.com.

• **H/2/26**, Sept. 10-16, 2017, Branson, Mo. Contact Bill Hancock, 2748 Moeller Dr., Hamilton, OH 45014, (513) 738-5446, hancockw@roadrunner.com.

• **I/3/1 (1stMarDiv, Korea, 1950-55)**, Aug. 16-20, Branson, Mo. Contact Suzi Woodward, (860) 262-1334, suzi11111@aol.com.

• **1st Plt, I/3/1 (RVN, 1968-69)**, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Dick "Cpl Reb" Bienvenu, (636) 357-9620, dickbienvenu@yahoo.com.

• **630th Military Police Co (RVN)**, Oct. 5-8, New Orleans, La. Contact Roger Merillat, rkmerillat@gmail.com, www.630thmilitarypolicecompanyvietnam.org.

• **"Bravo" Co, 7th Motor Transport Bn (RVN, all eras)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Philadelphia, Pa. Contact Tim Weddington, (816) 808-2357, timweddington@comcast.net, or Walter Schley, (816) 377-9438, walter.schley1966@aol.com.

• **1st 8-Inch Howitzer Btry**, Sept. 7-11, San Diego, Calif. Contact Greg Ladesich, 25382 Via de Anza, Laguna Niguel, CA

92677, (949) 249-3525, GPL0812@att.net, www.rpdsquared.com.

• **3d 155 mm Gun Btry (SP) and 3d 175 mm Gun Btry (SP)**, Sept. 15-18, Charleston, S.C. Contact Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, ed-kirby@comcast.net.

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

• **10th/12th Counterintelligence Teams**, Aug. 27, Huntingtown, Md. Contact CWO-5 Ed Moroney, USMC (Ret), (301) 249-5606, ramage@aol.com.

• **Holy Loch, Scotland Marines**, May 17-21, 2017, Dunoon, Scotland. Contact Doug Ebert, (307) 349-3468, lochsailor9@charter.net, or Gerry Haight, (817) 602-0825.

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

• **Parris Island Brig Guards (1976-79)**, Summer 2017, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Ken Haney, 26420 Highway 49, Chase City, VA 23924, kenhaney79@gmail.com.

• **S-1, Hq Bn, MCB Quantico (1974-78)**, Aug. 6-7, Quantico, Va. Contact Ray Davis, 312 Bridgewater Cir., Fredericksburg, VA 22406, (540) 752-7725, scout1977@hotmail.com.

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

• **TBS, Class 1-66**, Oct. 2-5, Quantico, Va. Contact Ed Armento, (502) 228-6595, evarmento@aol.com.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

• **"Kilo" Co (Plts 277, 278, 279 and 280), Parris Island, 1961**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Martin D. Smith, USMC (Ret), 10 Lee Ct., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-3653, martann843@gmail.com.

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

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

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

• **Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is plan-

ning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.

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

• **Plt 431, Parris Island, 1945**, is planning a reunion. Contact 1stSgt George P. Cavros, USMC (Ret), (262) 782-7813, gcavros88@gmail.com.

• **Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968**, is planning a reunion. Contact Stephen Norpel, 206 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

• **Plt 3002, San Diego, 1956**, Sept. 6-10, San Diego, Calif. Contact Jack Lahrman, (765) 427-8132, jdlahrman@mintel.net.

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

• **Marine Air Groups (WW II to present)**, Oct. 5-8, Branson, Mo. Contact Jerry Gipe, 808 W. Walnut St., Waverly, MO 64096, jgipe@hotmail.com, or Joseph Mowry, josephmowry@att.net.

• **Marine Air Control Squadrons (all squadrons)**, June 22-25, 2017, Quantico, Va. Contact Frank Walter, 3465 W. Loon Lake Rd., Angola, IN 46703, fwalter@frontier.com.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons 43 and 49**, Sept. 17, Earleville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), 23 Greenwood Dr., Bordentown, NJ 08505, (609) 291-9617, mabsreunion@comcast.net.

• **HMM-265**, May 22-26, 2017, San Francisco, Calif. Contact George Cumpston, (704) 351-0193, george36691@aol.com, or Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdl@numail.org.

Ships and Others

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2, 1943-71)**, Oct. 12-16, Portland, Maine. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Elokomin (AO-55)**, Sept. 22-25, Lisle, Ill. Contact Ron Finet, N6354 County Rd. H, Elkhorn, WI 53121, (262) 742-4269, finet@hotmail.com.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 13-18, Portland, Ore. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring

Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 20-25, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48185, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)**, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Charleston, S.C. Contact George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, uss.ranger@yahoo.com.

• **USS Renville (APA-227) and USS Rockport (APA-228)**, Aug. 31-Sept. 4, Branson, Mo. Contact Lynda Rumble, 945 Oakwood Ln., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572, (704) 906-7622, lyndarumble7@gmail.com.

Mail Call

• Marge Gurrola, (703) 220-1549, grgramax2@aol.com, to hear from **1stLt "Milo" MILLER**, who was stationed at **Camp Sukiran, Okinawa**, and served in **RVN, 1964-65**.

• Maj Richard "Mike" Alleman, USMC (Ret), 17262 Northwoods Pl., Hamilton, VA 20158, (760) 908-4371, airone316@gmail.com, to hear from or about **SSgt Thomas G. HAMILTON**, who was assigned to **MATSG, NAS Pensacola, Fla., 1971-72**.

Wanted

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

• Marine veteran Bill Woodworth, (412) 673-3202, woodywoodworth@comcast.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1058, Parris Island, 1966**.

• Rich Shoemaker, reshoe-maker.usmc@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2015, San Diego, 1992**.

• Stephen Matherson, 7811 Chambers Rd., #208, San Antonio, TX 78229, wants a **1960s frame cap in khaki-cotton brown, size 7**.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Carl Withey, P.O. Box 145, Elbridge, NY 13060, (315) 689-3653, crwithey@twcny.rr.com, has **recruit graduation books for Plt 3313, Parris Island, 1977, and Plt 289, Parris Island, 1970**, that he will give to any Marine who can verify that he was a member of either platoon.



Taking Care of Our Own



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Saved Round

Compiled by Nancy Lee White Hoffman



NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

"It has been said, 'Whoever possesses Iceland holds a pistol firmly pointed at England, America, and Canada.' " —Winston S. Churchill

POLAR DUTY, 75 YEARS AGO—British Army Gunner Harold Ricardi, left, welcomes U.S. Marine Pvt Robert C. Fowler as the 1st Marine Brigade (Provisional), consisting of the Sixth Marine Regiment and the 5th Defense Battalion, arrives at a British base in Iceland in July 1941, well before winter's weather makes heavier clothing a necessity and Marines fire up stoves in their Nissen huts to protect them from gale winds.

In response to the request of Britain's Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, made in early spring 1941, a year and a half after the start of World War II, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent American troops to Iceland "to supplement and eventually replace the British forces" who already were there defending the island in the North Atlantic but were needed elsewhere. By March 1942, U.S. Army units had relieved the Iceland Marines, who then headed to newly formed units and major amphibious assaults in the Pacific.

