

JULY 2017

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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**Corps Rolls Out
Motorcycle Safety
Training Initiative**

**Embassy Marines
Return to Beirut**

**PFC Matt Davis:
A "Magnet" for
Enemy Rounds**

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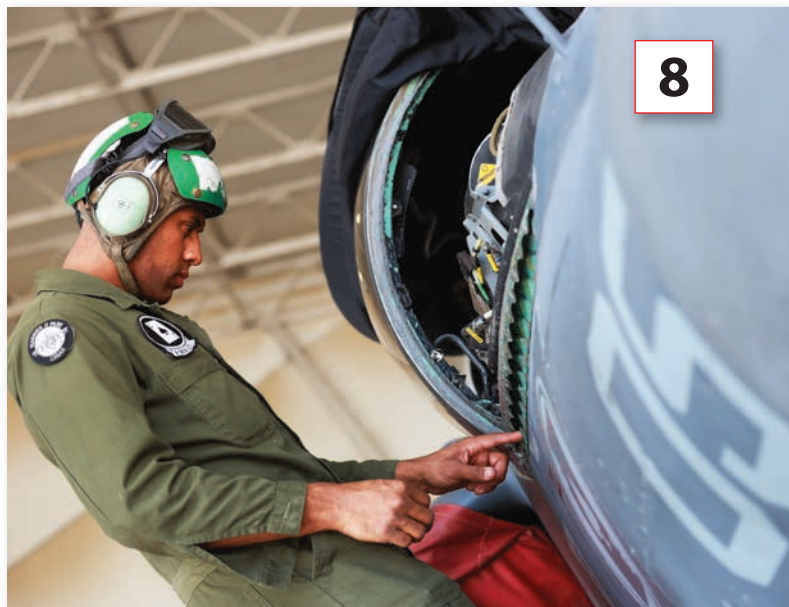
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COVER: U.S. Marines with the 11th MEU fire an M777 howitzer during a fire mission in northern Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), March 24. The unit provided 24/7 support in all weather conditions to allow for troop movement and ensure terrain denial and the subduing of enemy forces. Read more about the Marine Corps’ support of OIR on page 8. Photo by LCpl Zachery Laning, 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.

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.)

In September 2014, my cousin, Dr. Mike Ptaszynski, called to ask if I would like to attend the Saint Anthony High School class of 1966 50-year reunion to be held in October 2016. I reminded him that I had graduated early so I could enlist in the Marine Corps on my 17th birthday, Dec. 9, 1965. He said that he and the other classmates on the reunion committee all agreed that I should attend because they considered me part of the class. Needless to say, I attended our reunion.

Mike was the master of ceremonies and shared events in his life through the past 50 years. He then offered if anyone would like to share their information with the class. After a few classmates shared their stories, Mike asked me to share mine.

I then shared that I had enlisted in the Marine Corps and there were only two Marines from our class—myself and Private First Class Robert M. Jacobs, who was killed in action on April 4, 1968, while serving as an infantryman with Bravo Company, First Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division.

Three weeks later, while I was still in country, I received a copy of his obituary in a letter from my mom. My unit, "Whiskey" Battery, 2d Bn, 12th Marine Regiment, 3dMarDiv was providing

artillery support when he was killed. Robert and I were close friends in high school.

I also shared that I am a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. I told them if I were ever to be recalled for another conflict I would not hesitate to do so to keep them safe and out of harm's way.

When I finished, all of my classmates stood and gave me a round of applause in appreciation of my dedication to our God, country and Corps.

Stas Barlowski
USMC, 1965-69, 1976-92
Burnsville, N.C.

All Covered in Cosmoline

I read Staff Sergeant Donald MacDermott's letter in the March issue, "Marine Reserve of 1948," with great interest. I was a private in the 1st 105 Howitzer Battalion, USMCR, in Richmond, Va., that went to that summer camp in 1948 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. I remember being issued an M1 carbine covered in cosmoline. We had to clean that rifle before going to the range to fire it. Some of us ran hot shower water on them to melt the cosmoline. What a job that was. I do remember the regular Marine instructors being so nice to us that, in 1949, I joined the regulars for a four-year hitch.

SSgt J.B. Bell, USMC
Richmond, Va.

Does Anyone Remember This Scuttlebutt?

I have told this story only a few times, mainly because of the glazed-over look of disbelief that I always seem to receive. So, all these years later, I wonder if there is anyone out there that remembers the scuttlebutt to top them all.

It was mid November 1968. This Marine, along with a few dozen others, left Da Nang Air Base on a C-130 headed for Okinawa. I was going home after my second and last tour. The only distinctive item that set this Marine apart from the rest of the Marines on the flight was that I carried a registered war trophy, a SKS-56. A great conversation piece, but awkward to carry along with my bags and the big envelope with my file and orders. All this aside, I felt a tremendous freedom from that God forsaken place. I was heading home!

We landed at Kadena Air Base then were bused to Camp Butler where we were given a speech on what not to try to sneak

back into the states. There was a box by the door to drop any contraband we felt guilty enough to get rid of. For me it was about 50 rounds of ammo for my SKS.

Now I felt better about myself, but sure missed my ammo. It didn't feel right, carrying a weapon with no ammo. After that, it was a few days of retrieving our seabags and getting squared away enough for our upcoming flight home.

The days before it was our turn to board the "Freedom Bird" dragged by until one morning we got the word it was time. Boarding another bus we headed back to Kadena Air Base.

After all our checkpoints, we settled into the lounge area with a lot of guys from other services and waited to be called. An hour into the wait, a couple of guys behind me were in an intense chatter about what happened to the flight ahead of ours. As their story went, the flight had landed at El Toro, and as the veterans disembarked the aircraft, a hippie sniper opened up on them.

That was all the information they had, no word of casualties, nothing more. As you can imagine, a story as serious as that spread to every man in that lounge area. Just then our flight was called. As we boarded, everyone was looking around at everyone else in kind of a wondering state.

The big question was, how in the hell could a hippie with a weapon gain access to a Marine base?

To make the story even more convincing, after we were all seated, a Navy corpsman boarded the aircraft and proceeded to hand out one Darvon 65 to each of us with instructions to swallow it in front of him, along with a comment that it will help the 11-plus hour flight go faster. We felt it was to calm us down before getting shot at El Toro. No ammo, I kept thinking, a SKS beneath my seat with a folding bayonet, but no ammo; it was worthless as a weapon.

After all those flight hours were behind us, the captain announced we were off the coast of California but told us not to be concerned about the vapor trail coming from the wings; he was dumping fuel before we landed. What? Now why would he do that? As a grunt this did not make sense. Don't we need fuel? All it did was to add to this out of control scuttlebutt.

The 707 finally touched down; not a cheer, a laugh or smile ... silence. We were all on guard for what might be out there. Many of the veterans onboard had re-

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Preserve the Marine Corps' Legacy at Princeton!

Fellow Marines,

"Semper Fidelis" is more than just a motto to the United States Marine Corps – it is a promise, deeply symbolic of the lifelong commitment held by every Marine for the Corps and America. It is in this spirit of being always faithful that we look back on the first Marines who fought, and shed their blood, during the American Revolution at the Battle of Princeton.

On January 3, 1777, George Washington and his outnumbered Continental Army confronted trained British Regulars on frostbitten farmlands in what became known as the Battle of Princeton. Fighting his third battle in 10 crucial days, Washington personally led these brave Marines, including a young officer named William Shippen, in a charge that miraculously secured a decisive victory, reinvigorating a cause for American independence that seemed all but lost less than two weeks earlier. It was on this battlefield that William Shippen became the first Marine to die in a land battle in our nation's history.

Now, 240 years later, we ask you to join us in helping to preserve this memorial to the Marine Corps' first faithful brothers. The Institute for Advanced Study has agreed to sell 15 acres of hallowed ground to the Civil War Trust, through its Campaign 1776 initiative to preserve Revolutionary War sites, for \$4 million, which must be raised by December 15, 2017. Time is running out to preserve the site of George Washington's first victory over British Regulars, and to preserve the site where the first Marine gave "the last full measure of devotion."

Please consider joining us in supporting the Civil War Trust's efforts to preserve the Princeton battlefield. We deeply thank you for your support, your service, and for your patriotism.

Semper Fi,

Edwin C. Bearss

Corporal USMC 1942-1946
WWII service during 1942-1944

Carlton B. Crenshaw

Captain USMCR 1966-1969
Vietnam service during 1967-1968

Vincent Dooley

Captain USMC 1954-1956
USMCR 1956-1964

Ruff Fant

Captain USMCR 1966-1969

Clark B. Hall

Sergeant USMC 1963-1967
Vietnam service during 1965-1966

Richard P. Mills

Lieutenant General, USMC (Ret) 1975-2015
Somalia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan

Mike Stelzel

Sergeant USMC (Ret) 1969-1990
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ceived a Purple Heart or two. I had one and I'm sure none of us wanted another. The back ramp went down and a set of stairs were wheeled up to the exit. No one moved. All eyes were on the building a good 70 yards away.

Finally, one good first sergeant stood up and said, "To hell with this shit, move out!" So we did. We gathered up our gear and headed for the exit. We were all in a hurry to get to the back exit. I passed one of our stewardesses who was trying to keep out of our way. I noticed she was in tears—the panic was contagious.

Now everybody was in high speed, it almost felt like getting out of a chopper in a hot LZ. We were like a thundering herd running for the double glass doors that had "Customs" in big letters above them. Jam packed in a small area with the customs officer standing on top of the luggage conveyer, yelling over and over again, "It's not true! It's not true!" It was such a huge cluster that he waved the lot of us through, no inspection, nothing, just out to the waiting room to find our loved ones. Welcome Home!

Cpl Frank "Bush" Buschbacher
USMC, B/1/7
Prescott, Ariz.

WW II Marine Jack Thurman

I just read the April issue of the *Leatherneck* magazine and have a comment on a picture on the bottom of page 18, [Corps Connection] the Denver Stock Show

event. If I am not mistaken, you have a famous World War II Marine in the picture. Jack Thurman, from Boulder, Colo., is pictured standing between Lieutenant General McMillian and Master Chief Petty Officer Kotz.

Jack was present at the flag raising on Iwo Jima and is in the "Gung-Ho" picture that was taken shortly after the flag raising. He is standing directly behind Ira Hayes and has his arm extended with his helmet in his hand.

I had the honor of meeting Jack and visiting with him in a chance meeting at a café in Colorado and also was on a trip to Iwo Jima in 2013—a great man with great stories to tell.

Seems that someone like Jack should have been acknowledged in the *Leatherneck* picture, but knowing Jack he most likely didn't tell the reporter his story. May I suggest a future story on Jack would make for an interesting read.

Martin Johnson
USMC, 1960-66
Portland, N.D.

Hitting the Target at 1,000 Feet

I mean no disrespect, but the letter from Sergeant E.M. Smith, of Sun Valley, Nev. [April issue], having to do with the capability of the M14, Cal 7.62x51 NATO chambered rifle not being able to hit a target at 1,000 yards is absolutely untrue.

I was attached to the USMCR high power shooting team during the years,



Sgt John "Jack" Thurman, right, a veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, autographs a book for LtGen Rex C. McMillian, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Jan. 17, 2017. Jack was present at the flag raising on Iwo Jima and is pictured in the "Gung-Ho" photo.

USMC Semper Fidelis

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1964-67, shooting the Leech Cup competition held at Camp Perry, Ohio. This is a 1,000-yard, two rounds for sighting, 20 rounds for record match for the service rifle of the period. The issued rifle was an M14, equipped with a 1/4 MOA aperture rear sight and post front sight.

I earned several bronze medals, barely missed winning a silver medal shooting 14 center hits, dropped a nine on the 15th round due to a light change, ran the rest in the X ring. This M14 was one of the most beautiful rifles I have ever had the intense pleasure of firing. It was built by Staff Sergeant Sweet, forgive me if the rank and spelling is incorrect. He was a master USMC armor.

One last comment, the statement, "the effective range of the M14 was only 500 yards." Trust me, you do not want to be exposed to incoming rounds fired from an M14, even at 1,000 yards let alone 500 yds.

You do a great job with *Leatherneck* magazine.

PFC Terry Crowell
USMCR, 1962-68
Georgetown, Ind.

Regarding the April Sound Off letter from Sgt E.M. Smith, I absolutely agree that the M14 rifle properly tuned and in the hands of an expert rifleman will fire

bull's-eyes at 1,000 yards. It, and before it, my beloved T/O weapon in Korea, the venerable M1 rifle, had done just that at Camp Perry and other major meets for many years.

The editorial response to the sergeant's letter speaks of great accuracy at much longer ranges but those shots were with weapons different from the M14 so it's apples and oranges to compare those feats, impressive though they certainly are, with the performance of the M14.

William P. Crozier
North Weymouth, Mass.

Not trying to be a so-called expert but I do have a few comments on the letter headed as "Hitting the Bull's-Eye from 1,000 Feet." The letter was talking about shooting the U.S. Rifle M14 at 1,000 yards.

Editorial comment was that they would not be shooting at 1,000 yards with an M14 since it was only accurate to 500 yards.

I agree that USMC qualification was only back to 500 yards, however, the NRA "over the course" match is 200, 300 and 600 yards.

Service rifles are allowed to fire in the 800, 900, and 1,000 yards matches.

While I make no claims to be the greatest marksman on the planet, I have shot

[continued on page 64]



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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Alert Force Marines

Rehearse Rapid Response

The sun was still hours from rising when approximately 160 Marines with Third Battalion, Second Marine Regiment gathered with their bags and rifles. They were ready to fly from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of a weeklong exercise as the Continental U.S.-Based Alert Force (CBAF).

The designated CBAF unit is made up of an infantry battalion and attached support units, which form a rapid crisis response force that is available to be sent anywhere in the world on short notice.

"It provides the nation a company and a battalion of Marines who are ready to respond to anything," said First Lieutenant David Kerby, the executive officer for "Lima" Company, 3/2. "The mission can include humanitarian aid, disaster relief or a security crisis anywhere in the world."

The mission to Cuba was a test to see how well the unit could respond and what

plans might need refining for any future missions.

"When we first get the call, we need to get all of the Marines with their gear, radios and weapons systems together," Kerby said. "Once we receive more information we can sit down and come up with a specific action plan for when we arrive in that particular country."

The training in Cuba included multiple shooting ranges conducted during the day, with squad-sized tactic drills and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear classes conducted at night.

"It gives the Marines another opportunity to train in a new environment," said Kerby. "At the same time, it gives the company-level leadership the chance to refine how we plan training and operations."

The CBAF is a critical aspect to maintaining readiness and making sure that Marines can provide assistance or "bring the fight" at any time to anywhere in the world.

LCpl Jonathan Sosner, USMC

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

Harrier Squadron Supports

Kinetic Strikes in OIR Missions

The sun had barely cracked the horizon as the alarm went, signaling the day's start. Get up, shower, shave and head into the office—except a day in the office consists of donning a flight suit and helmet and jumping into the cockpit of an AV-8B Harrier.

The aircraft and their pilots were with Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 231, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response-Central Command. In April, the squadron, better known as the "Ace of Spades," was supporting kinetic strike missions in the Middle East as part of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR).

Strategically placed in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility, the squadron offered a wide range of capabilities to the CENTCOM commander, to include close air support, deep air support and active air defense for major contingency operations, according to Lieutenant Colonel

PFC Alexander Wilson, left, a machine gunner with 3/2, dons mission-oriented protective posture gear during CBRN training at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, April 9. The battalion is currently designated as a CBAF unit and traveled to Cuba from MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., to rehearse rapid crisis response.



PFC TAYLOR W. COOPER, USMC



SSGT JENNIFER POOLE, USMC

Sgt Chase Baker, an airframes mechanic with VMA-231, conducts a maintenance check on an AV-8B Harrier, Feb. 27. The squadron was deployed with SPMAGTF-CR-CC to an undisclosed location in support of CJTF-OIR.

Charles Del Pizzo, the commanding officer of VMA-231. When OIR began, the squadron was able to quickly pivot to flying offensive air missions in support of the ground scheme of maneuver.

“Our mission here, first and foremost, is crisis response,” said Del Pizzo. “[Our strategic location] allows our Marine squadrons, VMA and Marine Wing Support Squadron, to rapidly respond to crises throughout the theater. In the case of OIR, through the use of airborne tankers, the squadron is able to support the CJTF while allowing the SPMAGTF to maintain a distributed base posture.”

The squadron has been in theater for more than six months and supported 644 strikes during more than 3,500 flight hours alongside coalition forces in support of the battle for Mosul.

These strategically important strikes would not be possible without maintenance crews working around the clock to keep the Harriers flying high. Their work is divided into two 12-hour shifts, day and night.

“We produce flight hours, from safe, reliable aircraft to support combat operations,” said Master Sergeant Travis Dusenberry, the maintenance chief for VMA-231. “We are very much like a factory, and within that factory you don’t just walk in, flip the switch on and everything runs smoothly. There are endless hours that go into maintaining these aircraft.”

The maintenance side of the squadron consists of different sections to keep the aircraft flying in top condition. The sections include the airframes shop, avionics, powerline, ordnance, flight equipment, tool room, ground support equipment, maintenance administration, aviation logistics and quality assurance.

“Each and every Marine plays a part in the whole ensemble in order to keep the aircraft flying to support our mission forward,” said Gunnery Sergeant Mark Richesson, powerline chief with VMA-231. “Everyone’s pulling together to accomplish the mission. It’s very important and rewarding when you’re able to maintain or fix something ... it’s good to have that tangible aspect to our mission accomplishment.”



SSGT JENNIFER POOLE, USMC

LCpl Kyle McGroarty, an airframes mechanic with VMA-231, conducts a pre-flight check on an AV-8B Harrier, March 2. As part of CJTF-OIR, VMA-231 supported kinetic air strike missions and relied heavily on the hard work of its maintenance Marines to keep its aircraft flying.

The squadron, just like the majority of the Marine Corps’ enlisted Marines, is very young, said Dusenberry. For most of the Marines, this was their first deployment; however, in their military occupational specialties they are afforded great responsibilities.

“There have been instances where a pilot needed to use a piece of the survival equipment and just knowing the gear worked properly is extremely rewarding. We are there as a safety net, while the pilots are out there supporting operations forward. It’s important we’re doing our job back here to ensure the good guys, our Marines, come back home,” said LCpl Sierra Mendibles, a flight equipment technician with VMA-231.

Dusenberry, who was nearing the end of his 10th deployment, explained what kept the squadron’s Marines motivated while working such long hours.

“Marines will get tired ... have a bad day, but ultimately you come to work and you get to do your job. Us, doing our mission, this is what we have trained to do. You get to fix the plane, watch bombs be put on them, watch the aircraft take off, then return. And then you come back the next day and do it all over again. These Marines get to see for themselves the end game. Most of the time in a true factory, you don’t get to see the end game and ultimately you get to see that here. Everything you’ve ever been told, you get to see that come to fruition here. These Marines get to see that every day. It’s a good day every single day.”

SPMAGTF-CR-CC continues its commitment to support OIR and USCENTCOM through employment of kinetic air strike missions, security cooperation and crisis response assets within the region.

SSgt Jennifer Poole, USMC

THIES, SENEGAL Marines to Senegalese: Infantry Fundamentals Are Key

Members of Senegal’s Compagnie Fusilier de Marin Commando (COFUMACO) and U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa combined forces during a four-week bilateral exercise to strengthen partner nation capabilities in Thies, Senegal, April 12-May 9.

Marines and Sailors with SPMAGTF-CR-AF Ground Combat Element served as instructors and led infantry-based



SGT SAMUEL GUERRA, USMC

LCpl George Froggatt, a machine gunner with SPMAGTF-CR-AF, loads ammunition into an M60 machine gun during a live-fire range with Senegal's COFUMACO in Thies, Senegal, May 1. The U.S. Marines and COFUMACO spent four weeks conducting bilateral training, including advanced combat firing techniques, on a machine-gun range and live-fire platoon attack range.

practical application exercises with the COFUMACO to better enhance their war-fighting capabilities. The unit focused on reinforcing the importance of small unit leadership and tactics while conducting live-fire ranges, known distance engagements, movement to contact drills, combat marksmanship program and squad-level maneuvers.

“Our team is here to help develop new combat procedures the COFUMACO can implement when dealing with enemy forces in a variety of deployed [environments],” said Staff Sergeant Frank Navratil, a team chief with SPMAGTF-CR-AF. “We’ve utilized separate ranges allowing them to execute these newly taught techniques and observed their performance to [detect any deficiencies] and correct them.”

Throughout the exercise, Marines evaluated the four COFUMACO squads on their proficiency regarding land navigation skills, patrolling techniques and the employment of the M60 machine gun and M16A2 rifle at known and unknown distances. The Marines also worked to build a cadre of proficient small unit leaders to reinforce the lessons learned during the training and bolster the COFUMACO’s ability to operate independently after departing their country.

“Practicing these combat skills [sharpens] that muscle memory on how to properly react in combat to engage hostile threats,” Navratil said. “Upholding these basic infantry fundamentals is crucial to making them that much better and proficient

in their jobs if they find themselves in real-world scenarios.”

The bilateral training afforded the two nations an opportunity to learn from one another. This was the first deployment for some of the Marines, and the opportunity pushed them out of their comfort zone and allowed them the experience of working with a foreign military. The unit members ultimately discovered that by working

together, they can advance shared goals and the two nations’ commitment to work together as allies.

“No matter how experienced you may be, working with allies and learning their tactics provides leaders with more options to utilize on the battlefield,” said First Lieutenant David Beltz, theater security cooperation Senegal team leader. “Yearning for additional knowledge only strengthens the warfighter and makes the Marine Corps a more effective fighting organization.”

Together, the U.S. and Senegal have a proud history of conducting combined-arms exercises. Over the years, COFUMACO and the Marine Corps have developed a robust relationship. They have a partnership and camaraderie that is easily recognizable.

“Since the first day, I have seen motivation on both sides and I have felt the brotherhood,” said Senegalese Captain Goumalo Sall, a company commander with the COFUMACO. “On behalf of the COFUMACO and myself, I sincerely thank [the Marines] for everything they have taught us. We look forward to working with them again. It is always a pleasure.”

Sgt Samuel Guerra, USMC

OKINAWA, JAPAN

3d Recon Bn Hosts First Freefall Jumpmaster Course Outside U.S.

For the first time in history, the military freefall jumpmaster course was delivered outside of the continental United States. Hosted by the Marine Corps’ Third Reconnaissance Battalion and administered



LCPL JORDAN TALLEY, USMC

Marines were among the U.S. Special Operations Forces personnel taking part in a the first-ever military freefall jumpmaster course delivered outside of the continental U.S. at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, April 19. The course was hosted by 3d Recon Bn and administered by a mobile training team.



SSGT VITALIY RUSAVSKIY, USMC

COLLISION—Marines with Military Police Company A, Fourth Law Enforcement Battalion and the Jordanian 77th Marine Battalion participate in a non-lethal weapons and tactics course during Exercise Eager Lion 17 in Jordan, May 11. Eager Lion is an annual U.S. Central Command exercise designed to strengthen the military-to-military relationship between the U.S., Jordan and other international partners. This year's iteration included about 7,400 military personnel from more than 20 nations who responded to scenarios involving border security, command and control, cyber defense and battlespace management.

by a mobile training team (MTT), the course qualified 27 Marines, soldiers and airmen as military freefall jumpmasters at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, April 21.

"Military freefall is done with the end goal of being able to use that skill set to practically insert into any enemy territory," said Master Sergeant Clifford E. Moffitt, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Military Freefall Jumpmaster Detachment at U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School in Yuma, Ariz.

"Within the operational forces there was not enough to sustain or grow this capability [abroad]. A decision was reached a couple years ago and we began—myself, and other Marines out of the detachment—to execute military freefall jumpmaster Mobile Training Teams."

According to Moffitt, two Marines and two Department of Defense contractors make up the MTT staff. During fiscal year 2016, they executed three military freefall

jumpmaster courses in the continental United States. This iteration marked the first of four scheduled courses in fiscal year 2017 and the first to be held overseas.

Annually, the Marine Corps receives 28 allocations to the resident military freefall jumpmaster course. The course is one of three joint forces military freefall parachuting courses held at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School: basic, jumpmaster and advanced military freefall. These courses educate students in conducting High Altitude Low Opening and High Altitude High Opening parachuting techniques with practical application.

Conducting the MTT with four instructors reduces government spending while increasing training capabilities to military personnel stationed in Okinawa. Students attending these courses typically come from organizations like Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance, Navy SEALs, Army Special Forces and Air Force Pararescue.

"This is really big to us, with the com-

mandant's message of Special Operations Forces [SOF] interoperability; however, this is nothing new to Marine reconnaissance," said Master Gunnery Sergeant Mariota Pa'u, the operations chief with 3d Recon Bn.

"We have been doing SOF interoperability for decades and we will continue to meet that interoperability within the future with our SOF counterparts on Okinawa."

When training for military freefall operations, students face both physical and mental challenges. As a military freefall jumpmaster, they are required to maintain their poise at all times since the larger team depends on their ability to execute flawlessly.

"You are the focal point in regards to ensuring that the desired impact point where you are dropping your Marines, Sailors and soldiers is correct—because what you do hinges on mission success," said Pa'u.

The military freefall jumpmaster course



CPL HOLLY PERNELL, USMC

A Marine with 1/10 clears the barrel of an M777A2 howitzer before reloading during a distributed battery experiment at Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 3. The experiment was conducted to test the feasibility of precision artillery strikes with dispersed gun positions.

provides an ideal venue to aggregate joint special forces in Okinawa with the desired end states of honing operational readiness across the services.

“It is going to present all of the SOF entities located here on Okinawa as a unified front, and now if we do bilateral training with other countries we are all on the same page as far as the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, and we can portray that to the host nation we are working with,” said Staff Sergeant Joshua Hayes, the current operations SNCO with Force Reconnaissance Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “Mission success rides on your ability to get your team inserted. The jump is just getting you to work; the mission is as soon as you hit the deck and move forward.”

LCpl Jordan Talley, USMC

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. **Distributed Battery Experiment** **Puts 1/10 to the Test**

Marines with First Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment conducted the unit’s first-ever distributed battery experiment to test possible combat scenarios at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 1-4.

During the experiment, Marines fired

M777A2 howitzers from six different gun positions into one impact zone. The separation of the howitzers is what set this exercise apart from previous training.

“What we are doing today is trying to test the feasibility of being dispersed,” said Second Lieutenant Juan Martinez, a platoon commander with 1/10. “We’re testing if we can occupy six different gun positions with six different howitzers and six different sections and be able to destroy, neutralize or suppress the enemy.”

Positioning the teams in separate areas gives them the flexibility to move to a new location immediately after firing and provides defense against counter attacks, which previously could have taken out multiple sections.

“If we’re all in one gun position, an air strike or counter battery can come in and wipe us all out,” said Sergeant Anthony Vissoc, a section chief with “Alpha” Battery. “But if each gun is spread 2 to 4 miles apart, they have a smaller chance of taking us all out at once.”

For the month prior to the training, the unit’s Marines prepared for the exercise by conducting mission rehearsals. During preparation, the unit was able to detect any possible issues with the training and

come up with solutions to prevent delays during execution.

Maintaining communication between all six locations was a source of friction during the experiment, said Martinez. Normally all six guns are in one location, but having them spread across the Camp Lejeune training area, transmitting all of their firing missions digitally, makes the communication for this type of training more complex.

Although communications were somewhat problematic, overall the experiment was conducted successfully, said Gunnery Sergeant William Day, the Alpha Btry gunnery sergeant. He expects to see more experiments that will test their capabilities with separation and cover.

“This exercise helps with our unit’s readiness by allowing us to be flexible operationally, and it allows us to gain experience and skills where we haven’t had it before,” said Martinez. “We can also look at the after actions of this experiment and go back to the drawing board to see how we can do it better next time.”

II MEF PAO



USMC

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Brunswick, Maine

Bowdoin Hosts Inaugural Pope Lecture

Marine veteran and Bowdoin College alumnus Gil Barndollar presented a plaque to U.S. Ambassador Laurence E. Pope on behalf of the Bowdoin Marine Corps Society following the inaugural Everett P. Pope Lecture held on Feb. 6 at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

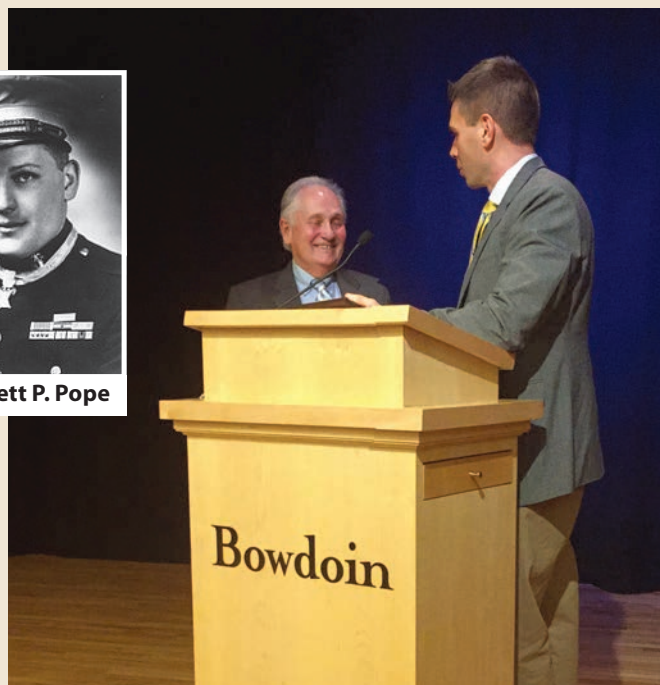
Ambassador Pope is the son of the late Medal of Honor recipient Major Everett P. Pope, USMC, who graduated from Bowdoin in 1941. The former ambassador to Chad and political advisor to General Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret), Ambassador Pope fittingly delivered the inaugural Pope Lecture. Ambassador Pope was recalled from retirement in 2012 following the Benghazi attack to serve as the Charge d'Affaires in Libya where he was guarded by a Marine Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST) platoon.

Invoking his father's coming of age in a world shaped by World War I and the Versailles Treaty in his speech, Ambassador Pope made the case for the international system built by America in the wake of WW II. He closed by telling the Bowdoin students in attendance that they should reflect on the correct uses of American power. In doing so, he said, they will do well to remember the legacy of Bowdoin's Marines.

The Ambassador's father, Everett P. Pope, graduated magna cum laude from Bowdoin in 1941, having been captain of the state champion tennis team and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was commissioned a Marine Corps officer shortly after his graduation and was assigned to First Battalion, First Marine Regiment. After fighting on Guadalcanal and in the Cape Gloucester campaign,



Maj Everett P. Pope



COURTESY OF BOWDOIN MARINE CORPS SOCIETY

then-Captain Pope landed on Peleliu as commanding officer of Company C. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism and leadership in taking and holding Hill 100 against overwhelming odds on the night of Sept. 19-20, 1944.

For video and transcript of the inaugural Pope Lecture, go to www.bowdoinmarinecorpsociety.org.

Submitted by Gil Barndollar

Camp Lejeune, N.C.



LCPL JUAN A. SOTO-DELGADO, USMC

2dMarDiv Marines Reflect on Past, Present And Future

Active-duty and veteran Marines who have served with the Second Marine Division gathered at Liversedge Hall, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., on Feb. 10, for a battle colors rededication ceremony and to celebrate the Division's 76th birthday. During the ceremony, veterans of all eras presented the Division with ribbons for their individual units' actions. Veterans in attendance carried streamers for the Division's colors and passed them off to active-duty Marines, symbolizing the passing down of the legacy and traditions of 2dMarDiv's units.

According to Major General John K. Love, Commanding General, 2dMarDiv, the legacy of the Division wouldn't be possible without the Marines who dedicated their lives and time to their units. During the ceremony, MajGen Love also implored the active-duty Marines to continue the proud legacy and traditions of their predecessors.

LCpl Juan A. Soto-Delgado, USMC

Quantico, Va.

Family's Three Generations Fitted for Uniforms At *The MARINE Shop*

For generations, Marines have frequented *The MARINE Shop*, a mainstay in the town of Quantico, Va. The reputable establishment and retail arm of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation is known for offering a wide variety of Marine Corps-related merchandise—but most notably, for high-quality uniforms and impeccable tailoring services. In particular, newly minted second lieutenants about to graduate from Officer Candidates School file into the store to purchase their iconic dress blue uniform and have it custom-tailored prior to commissioning. On “Family Day,” hosted in conjunction with OCS and OCC graduations, candidates often bring their proud families along during their visits to the iconic store.

On March 17, three generations of the Beckwith family walked through *The MARINE Shop*'s doors. Michael L. Beckwith, who was preparing to graduate from OCS as part of OCC-224 and receive a commission as a second lieutenant, brought his father, Lieutenant Colonel Brian T. Beckwith, USMC (Ret), left, who graduated from OCS in 1986, and his grandfather, Major General Ronald Beckwith, USMC (Ret), right, with him as he tried on his new dress blues.



RON LUNN

All three generations purchased their uniforms from *The MARINE Shop* over the decades—and all are members of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. For families like the Beckwiths, the word “legacy” takes on a whole new meaning.

MCA&F

Florence, Ala.

Softball Tournament Unites Community, Pays Tribute To Fallen Marine

Family, friends and Marines who served with the late Corporal Matthew Conley, USMC, united as a team at the first Hometown Heroes Festival and Memorial Softball Tournament held in Conley's memory at Rogers High School in Florence, Ala., March 25. Conley, who was killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) while serving in Iraq in 2005, left behind a daughter, Catherine, born after her father's death; Catherine threw out the first pitch during the tournament.

The festival and tournament were hosted by the nonprofit organization A Warrior's Mind, which was founded by Navy veteran Mike Woods, also a Florence native. During the weekend event, the group raised more than \$5,000 to help build a veterans' memorial and dedicate the Rogers High School baseball fields in Conley's name. Many Marines who had served with Conley in Iraq traveled from out of state to participate, and they immediately bonded with Conley's family and hometown community.



COURTESY OF BRIAN BLACK

“Sitting around telling stories of playing ball with Matthew, and his brothers that served with him telling stories from overseas made for many laughs and plenty of tears,” said Brian Black, a friend of Conley's.

The community is planning to host another weekend event for Cpl Conley next year and its members hope to continue to support the Conley family and show his daughter what her father meant to them.

Submitted by Brian Black

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

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



Marines Return to Beirut



Above: The original Post One sign after the April 18, 1983, bombing.

Left: At a memorial service at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut on Oct. 23, 2016, SSgt Michael J. Corban lays a rose in remembrance of the 241 victims of the Marine Barracks bombing.

By SSgt Michael C. Woodall, USMC

Editor's note: The following article is the second-place winner of the Leatherneck Writing Contest. Maj Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines, through the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Upcoming issues of Leatherneck will feature the third-place winner as well as other submissions.

On Sept. 6, 2014, the Marine Security Guard (MSG) detachment at U.S. Embassy Beirut, Lebanon, was reactivated after nearly 30 years without a continuous Marine presence. As the Marines hoisted the American flag over the embassy, they stood in the shadow of Beirut's tragic past. The skeletal remains of the U.S. Embassy Annex in the middle of the compound are a constant reminder of the importance of the Marines' as-

signment and the legacy of those who lost their lives on Sept. 20, 1984.

The annex was the site of the last of three deadly attacks on U.S. government facilities in Beirut in the early 1980s. The suicide bombing of the U.S. Embassy Beirut on April 18, 1983, left 63 Americans and Lebanese dead, and the devastating attack on Battalion Landing Team, First Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, 22d Marine Amphibious Unit, killed 220 Marines and a total of 241 military servicemembers. These attacks would signal the true beginning of what later became known as the global war on terrorism (GWOT), although it would not be officially declared until after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

As the flag was raised over the new embassy, the GWOT Marines became "Beirut Marines," charged with the duties and responsibilities of their namesakes to carry on the tradition of peace through

diplomacy. The detachment activation ritual, however, was different from those previously conducted at embassies throughout the world; during this ceremony the Marine Corps colors were raised after the national ensign.

After an absence of Marines in Beirut for nearly 30 years, veteran Marines proposed and funded a flagpole dedicated specifically to "... a selfless generation of United States Marines—who demonstrated undaunted courage and an unwavering devotion to duty in their willingness to defend those who could not defend themselves; thriving on the hardship and sacrifice expected of an elite warrior class while upholding the highest tradition of the United States Marine Corps" in 2012.

The flagpole was dedicated by General James Mattis (now serving as Secretary of Defense); Major General Carl E. Mundy III, Commander, U.S. Marine Special Forces; and John Dalziel, a retired Federal



FADY DAGHER

Beirut Marines conducted a memorial ceremony at the embassy, Oct. 23, 2016. From left to right: SSgt Michael Woodall, Sgt Scott Nault, Ambassador David Hale, Sgt John Ramos-O’Connell and Cpl Chase Ferguson.

Bureau of Investigation special agent and survivor of the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing. The U.S. Embassy Beirut is the only overseas embassy to fly the Marine Corps colors 24 hours a day, seven days a week as a constant reminder that, “They Came in Peace.” The colors continue to honor the legacy of all Beirut Marines and serve as a symbol of the MSG detachment’s inheritance of the mission to defend the United States of America’s efforts to achieve peace and diplomacy in Lebanon.

The Honorable David Hale, former U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, called the return of MSGs to Beirut a “clear and historic demonstration of integrity, courage, loyalty, and commitment—American values that run deep in the Marine Corps and the Department of State.”

The Marines were supplemented in their mission by a number of security force elements to include Embassy Security Force Guards, Security Operations Center watch officers, and the well-known abilities of the Close Protection Unit. Not the average local guard force, the force is made up of all local religions, to include Sunni and Shia Muslims, Christians and even Druze and Maronite. They are a highly trained group with experience forged in the flame of decades of crisis, war and terrorism. The first group of Marines quickly integrated with the local forces to facilitate the best defense of the embassy. Training remained intense and realistic and included hands-on familiarization of gear, weapons systems and tactics. Through shared hardship and persistent rehearsals and training,

the Marines found a new family among their Lebanese brethren.

In October 2015, the detachment opened a new Post One, the most prominent feature of MSG duty around the world, with a mission of ensuring the safety of American employees and classified material at the embassy. It would transition as a hub for security efforts on the 17-acre compound, bolstering command and control capabilities and highlighting the efforts and achievements of Marines throughout the embassy. The new post helped to assure the attention of the detachment would remain on efforts to improve the combined defensive capabilities of the embassy and result in a multilateral and multicultural effort dedicated to the safety and security of hundreds of American

Marines participate in a ceremony in remembrance of the French paratroopers who were killed in a coordinated attack on the Drakkar building in Beirut on Oct. 23, 1983, minutes after the Marine barracks was bombed. From left to right: a French soldier, SSgt Michael Woodall, Sgt Daryl Jiminez, Ambassador Elizabeth H. Richard, LCpl Nathan Rodgers, Defense Attaché COL Ulysses Calvo, COL Glenn Thomas, MAJ Jeffrey Johnson, Cpl Melissa Bridges, Sgt Kyle Garcia, and a French soldier.



SSGT JUAN BEDOLLA, USMC

diplomats and locally engaged staff.

The importance of their history was not lost on the Beirut Marines who also had a critical secondary mission during their assignment—remembrance. On Oct. 23, 2015, the embassy Marines took part in their first memorial ceremony recognizing the 241 Marines and other military personnel who were killed in the bombing of the Marine barracks on Oct. 23, 1983, the Marine Corps' largest loss of life since World War II. The embassy Marines would also take part in ceremonies with the French delegation in remembrance of the 58 French paratroopers also killed on Oct. 23 in a secondary attack on the Drakkar building, which occurred minutes after the attack on the Marine barracks.

Less than two weeks after the ceremony, on Nov. 12, 2015, the detachment experienced its first terrorism incident in Beirut. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) suicide bombers detonated themselves in the Bourj el-Barajneh suburb of Beirut, killing 40. Because the event occurred days before the detachment's Marine Corps Birthday Ball, the decision was made to cancel the event out of respect for those who lost their lives and to ensure the focus remained on the security of

American personnel and diplomatic interests.

In addition to security duties, the Marines worked hard to complete their new MSG residence in order to accommodate increases in personnel, provide a larger security footprint and deliver further capabilities for the embassy. The Marines dedicated hundreds of man-hours to complete the \$27 million hardened alternative trailer system, outfitting it to sustain Ma-

rines on a day-to-day basis while providing storage facilities for their required gear and equipment in the event of a response scenario on the embassy.

In June 2016, the MSG detachment officially opened their new residence. The small, reinforced container rooms—similar to the containerized housing units that are utilized in Iraq and Afghanistan—are a snug, but comfortable, home to these Marines during their assignment. As is



Cpl Robert McMaugh was killed in the embassy bombing April 18, 1983.

COURTESY OF SSGT MICHAEL C. WOODALL



COURTESY OF SSGT MICHAEL C. WOODALL

tradition in the MSG program, each house has a room used for social gatherings and functions. MSG Marines dedicate the room to a Marine or individual who has had a significant impact on the Marine Corps in that country. The Marines of the Beirut detachment dedicated their gathering room to Corporal Robert McMaugh, the Marine security guard who was on Post One on April 18, 1983, the day of the embassy bombing. Cpl McMaugh was one of the 12 MSG Marines who died in the line of duty.

Despite strict security restrictions and limitations, the Marines found the opportunity to conduct promotions in meaningful sites throughout Beirut while also finding the time to volunteer in the community. Marines had the opportunity to partner with the Lebanese armed forces, the United Nations representatives and State Air contingents to perform memorable promotions. In addition, the Marines found time to volunteer and conduct Toys for Tots activities.

In 2016, embassy Marines conducted their largest ceremony to date in commemoration of the anniversary of the Oct. 23, 1983, attack on the Marine barracks. A crowd of more than 200 was in

Above: The view of the bombed U.S. Embassy Annex on the new embassy compound. The annex was the site of the last of three deadly attacks on U.S. government facilities in Beirut in the early 1980s.

Below: Sgt Daryl A. Jimenez salutes during the Oct. 23, 2016, Beirut Memorial Ceremony.



FADY DAGHER



Marines visit the site of the Oct. 23, 1983, Barracks bombing, now a parking lot near the Beirut International Airport. From left to right: SSgt Michael Woodall, SSgt Michael Corban, Sgt John Ramos-O'Connell and Sgt Nathaniel O'Brien.

securing diplomacy for the country in the future.

No tour in Lebanon is complete without a visit to the site of the Barracks bombing. Now a parking lot near the Beirut International Airport, it still brings out emotions in the Marines and reminds them of their history. Marines visit the site to pay their respects to those who gave their lives for freedom. It is through their spirit and through unrelenting dedication to their sacrifice that we, as Marine security guards in Beirut, honor our fallen and truly become "Beirut Marines."

Author's bio: SSgt Michael C. Woodall, a native of Lancaster, Ohio, joined the Marine Corps in August 2007. He was an infantryman with 3/8 before joining Marine Corps Embassy Security Group in December of 2012. He has been posted in Beijing, China, and Tallinn, Estonia. He was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant in July 2014 and was chosen to be the detachment commander for MSG in Beirut, Lebanon, from October 2015 to April 2016. He is currently stationed in Camp Lejeune with Second Intelligence Battalion.



attendance, including many dignitaries from other embassies who paid their respects as the U.S. ambassador and Marines read the names of the 241 servicemembers who lost their lives during the attack. Final salutes were given and flowers were laid at the memorial located on the compound, paying tribute to the lives given in pursuit of peace in Lebanon.

At the end of 2016, the MSG detachment carried out yet another historical event—

the 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The embassy Marines had the honor of welcoming back Special Agent John Dalziel, former legal attaché to Lebanon and a survivor of the BLT 1/8 HQ barracks bombing, as the guest speaker at the first Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Beirut, Lebanon, in 31 years. The event allowed the detachment to pay homage to those Marines who came before them and reminded the Lebanese that the Marines were both here to stay and focused on



FADY DAGHER



FADY DAGHER

Above left: Guest speaker John Dalziel, a veteran Marine who survived the bombing and later served as an FBI Special Agent and legal attaché to Lebanon, gives a memorable speech at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in 2016.

Above right: SSgt Michael Woodall cuts the first piece of cake at the 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

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BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE

PFC Matt “The Magnet” Davis And his “Good Shepherd”



PFC Matt Davis was wounded three times during the Korean War, all during a 10-month period. Here, he is being presented one of his three Purple Hearts.

By Arthur G. Sharp

There is a popular story that is told about Secretary of Defense James Mattis, who as a brigadier general, volunteered to serve as the officer of the day at Marine Corps Base Quantico on Christmas Day. In classic Marine Corps style, the general stepped in to allow the young officer, who was scheduled for duty, to spend the holiday with his family. Like many other general officers in Marine Corps

history, General Mattis intervened to help a young Marine. During the Korean War, Lieutenant General Lemuel B. Shepherd was another general who intervened to help a young Marine.

Priate First Class Matt Davis was wounded three times in Korea between November 1950 and September 1951. Somewhere in China or North Korea during that time there must have been a munitions maker who stamped

several bullets with the message, “Made for PFC Matt ‘The Magnet’ Davis, USMC.” Davis, who served with Company D, Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, was wounded so often that one of the Corps’ most senior Marines interceded on his behalf to get him a well-earned promotion at a time when promotions were scarce.

“The Magnet”

PFC Davis was unique, according to his buddy, Fred Frankville. He described Davis as a “thinker, philosopher, historian, first-class warrior—and a magnet for enemy fire.”

“Matt attracted enemy bullets like flowers attract bees,” Frankville recalled. When the two Marines met in February 1951 during the United Nations’ offensive against the Chinese, Davis had just returned from the hospital after being wounded at the Chosin Reservoir on Nov. 27, 1950. Davis mentored Frankville, a reservist who had never gone to boot camp. The Chosin Reservoir was where Davis intercepted a Chinese bullet for the first time. He had two more dates with enemy rounds ahead.

Despite his penchant for attracting bullets, Davis had a positive outlook on life. “No matter how cold, hungry and tired we were, Matt could reach back in history and compare our hardships with another group of soldiers long past,” Frankville recalled. “He made us feel we were part of a military tradition that is steeped in a thousand years of history.”

As Frankville emphasized, Davis’ philosophy and uncomplaining attitude lifted the spirits of the Co D Marines and helped create the bond to which only warfighters can relate.

Not long after Davis returned to Co D, he was wounded a second time. Frankville was next to Davis when his friend was shot in the chest on June 10, 1951. Frankville also had been with Navy corpsman Richard B. DeWert when he was shot and killed protecting one of his Marines on April 5, 1951. DeWert received a posthumous Medal of Honor for his actions that day; Frankville received the Silver Star during the same firefight.

In Davis’ case, the outcome was more fortuitous. He recovered, and after being



The 7th Marines at Yudam-ni prepare for a march back to Hagaru-ri. Davis served with Co D, 2/7 until being wounded for the third time on Sept. 6, 1951. (USMC photo)

wounded twice, the Corps decided to send him stateside. Davis, however, refused. The next option was an assignment to a rear unit that would keep him out of harm's way.

Many men who had been wounded twice in combat might not have wanted to press their luck, especially if there was no reward in it for them, e.g., a promotion. Davis was not such a man. He declined the assignment and demanded that he be returned to "Dog" Co as a rifleman. Davis got his wish, and he remained a PFC. There didn't seem to be any promotions in his future no matter how many times he got shot.

His buddies were surprised when he returned to the unit. They had one question: "Why?" Davis' answer was simple: "I would not feel right if I left this unit to serve with another group," he explained. Davis avoided any more damage to himself until the company commander, Captain Alvin Mackin, "volunteered" him for a reconnaissance patrol on Sept. 6, 1951. Mackin was reluctant to assign any of his Marines to patrol that day since company members had gone over the

same ground each day for three days. Mackin believed that a fourth day of patrol in the same place was an invitation to disaster. He was right. On that patrol, Davis fell gravely wounded by enemy machine gun fire.

Patrol member Bob Weidner remembers the event clearly. "We were climbing the side of a mountain in single file. What sounded like a .50-caliber machine gun opened fire on us, and we all hit the deck. Davis was on the ground positioned above me; Mike Kamenca was above him.

"I use the term above because we were on the side of a mountain. Since we were lying in the prone position, Matt's foot was atop my helmet. Suddenly, he yelled out. His body appeared to move and he started to roll down the mountain."

Weidner yelled to Kamenca, "Matt's hit. I'm going down after him." They went together, ignoring the withering enemy fire.

"Bullets were still hitting around us, and we slid, not ran, down the mountain to where Matt had finally landed," Weidner revealed. "I took Matt's first aid kit and applied a bandage to his wound. If I

remember, the bullet entered his back because of the position we were lying in. I don't recall if he was hit twice or once."

Kamenca and Weidner carried him back to the battalion's headquarters. There, Frankville helped put Davis on a helicopter that was transporting wounded Marines to the rear for medical treatment. According to Frankville, the medical personnel who loaded Davis aboard the helicopter did not believe that Davis would survive the trip. They did not know Matt Davis.

Once again, Davis beat the odds. He survived the trip—and the war. In fact, he lived another 47 years. He died on Nov. 1, 1988.

The Rest of the Story

Certainly, Davis was not the first Marine in history to sustain three wounds in combat—and being wounded in action, regardless of the number of times, does not result in an automatic promotion. LtGen Lemuel B. Shepherd, however, asked if there was any possibility of a promotion for Davis.

LtGen Shepherd carried a bit of in-

The 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Shepherd, visited his Marines in Korea, late in 1953. Before becoming the CMC, Gen Shepherd “recommended” that the thrice-wounded Davis be considered for promotion to corporal.

fluence. When the Korean War began, he commanded the Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific and played major roles in both the September 1950 amphibious assault at Inchon and the evacuation of U.S. forces from Hungnam following their withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir in December 1950.

Shortly before becoming the Corps’ 20th Commandant in 1952, Shepherd wrote a letter to Captain Mackin to “suggest” that Davis deserved a promotion. He told Mackin that he had spoken with Davis while he was awarding the rifleman his third Purple Heart at Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. He learned from the young Marine (or “boy,” as he called him in the letter) that he had been considered for promotion on several occasions, but upgrades were hard to come by in the company due to an influx of replacements who held the rank of corporal.

“I realize that first impressions are not always correct,” Shepherd told Mackin. “But in view of Davis’ combat service and the fact that he has been wounded three times, I would like your comments concerning this and whether or not he was considered for promotion to corporal.”

The fact that a general officer was asking questions of a captain regarding a promotion put Mackin in a delicate situation. There was, after all, a hint of suggestion in the general’s request. Frankville



USMC

noted that some of the fire team leaders in the company in late 1951 were privates and privates first class, and promoting Davis, regardless of how respected he was, to corporal ahead of them would have been hard for them to accept and possibly lower unit morale. Fortunately for Mackin, his Marines respected his judgment a great deal.

Two of Mackin’s actions in particular had earned him the confidence of D/2/7’s members. On his first day with the company, Mackin made sure that he shook the hand of every Marine under his com-

mand. According to Frankville, at a time when many of the Marines in the company didn’t know many people outside of their fire teams, this made a big impression on the company. Mackin later risked his own safety to check the route of a patrol before he sent his Marines out. The Marines of Co D considered him a true leader, which was a high compliment in their eyes.

Leader or not, Mackin was in a bind once Shepherd took a personal interest in Davis’ case. “What could I do?” he asked the members of the D/2/7 association years after the Korean War ended. “My company was filled with privates and PFCs who merited promotions. And promotions came from Marine Corps Headquarters,” he said. Despite his concern, however, the promotion came through.

Matt Davis was promoted to corporal, thanks to the gentle urging of a “good Shepherd” who just happened to be a general who took a personal interest in his Marines—especially one who seemed to be a magnet for bullets while doing his job.

Shepherd was not the first high-ranking officer to help a young Marine—and he certainly will not be the last.

Author’s bio: Arthur G. Sharp, an occasional contributor to Leatherneck, is an author, editor and historian. He served in the Marine Corps from 1958-62 with the Second Marine Division, all with H&S/3/8. His most recent book is “Atomic Cannons and Nuclear Weapons: A Mystery of the Korean War.”



USMC

Marines with 2/7 engage with the enemy to allow the 5th and 7th Marines to withdraw from the Yudam-ni area, Nov. 27, 1950. Yudam-ni, the western extremity of the Chosin Reservoir, was the scene of early combat in the campaign. Davis received the first of his three wounds at the Chosin Reservoir.



1920 | GEN JOHN A. LEJEUNE BECOMES THE 13TH COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

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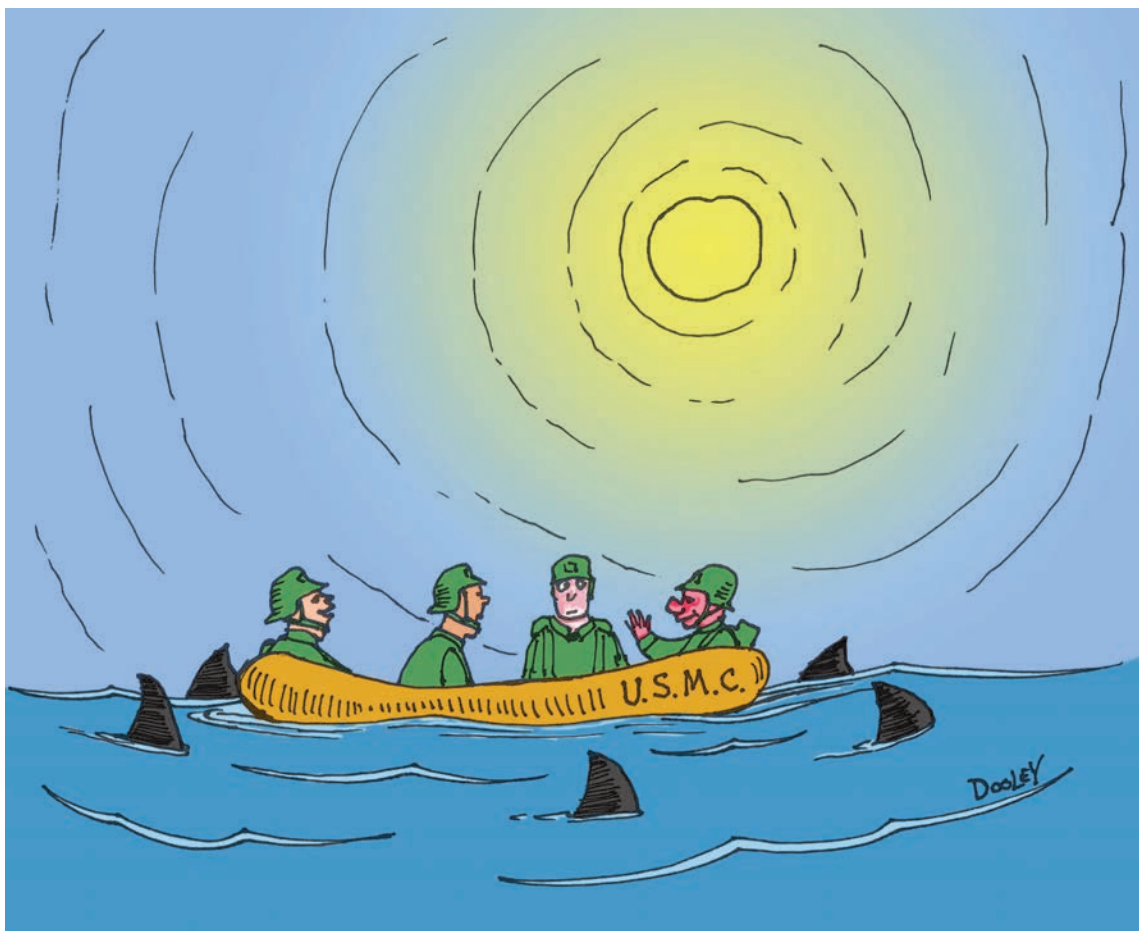
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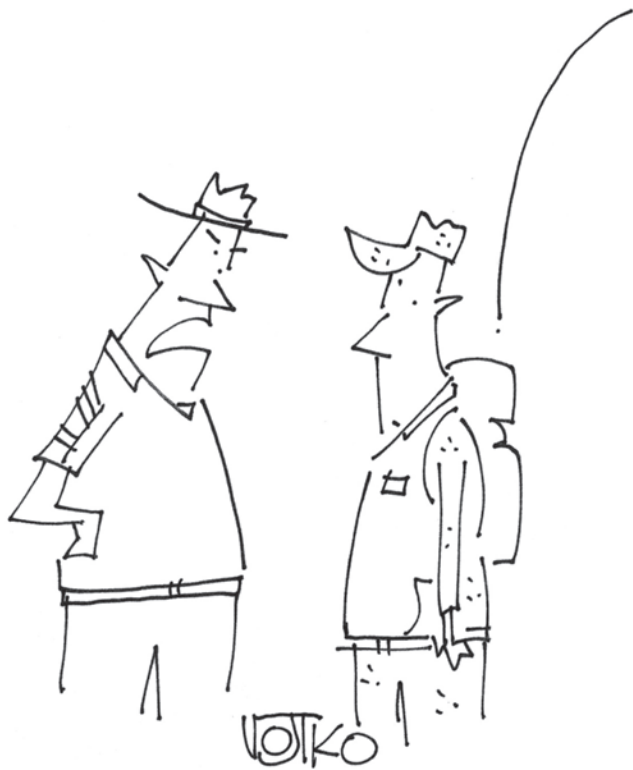
"I'm having all unwanted e-mails go to an Uncle Spam folder."



"I don't care if you do prefer credit cards.
I want to see you bounce a quarter off that bed."



"Anyone know how to prepare sushi?"



"You'd need a GPS to find your rear end."



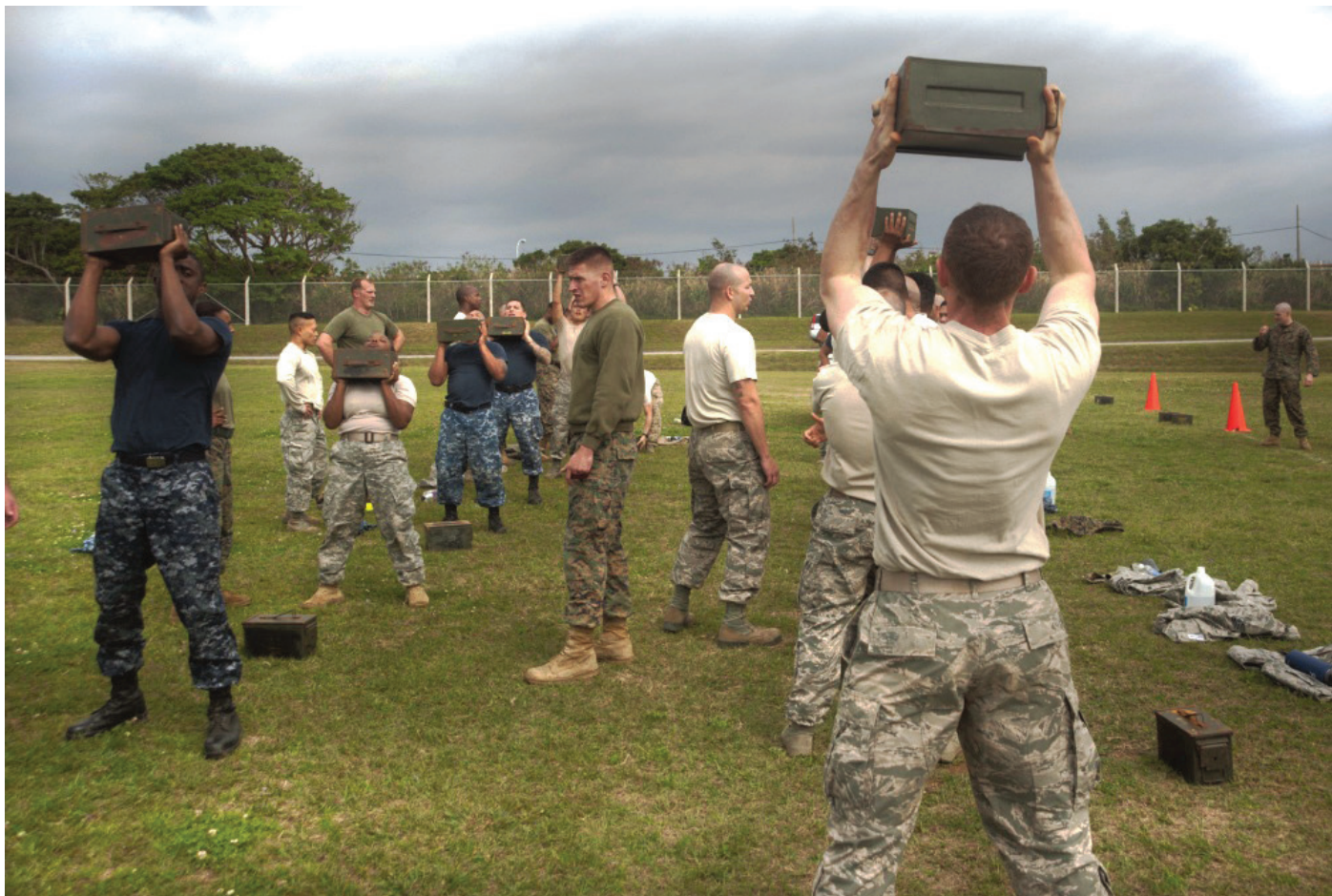
Playing golf with a Marine artilleryman ...
"Come left three degrees and fire for effect."



"No Perkins, the Marine Corps does not issue Sherpas."



"Are you coming or going?"



Enlisted servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines participate in the Marine Corps combat fitness test March 16, at Camp Hansen, Japan, as part of the Okinawa Joint Experience.

What Does Each Service Bring to the Fight?

Course Prepares Servicemembers for Joint Environment

By GySgt John E. Witt, USMC

The Okinawa Joint Experience is a newly established course that affords military personnel the opportunity to attend hands-on, in-depth training of the United States military's capabilities in the Pacific area of operations. The most recent class had roughly 30 students, grades E-6 and above, from all services.

The Okinawa Joint Experience was developed and spearheaded by Chief Master Sergeant Kristina Rogers, USAF, Commandant of the Erwin Professional Military Education (PME) Center, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, along with the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Sergeant Major, SgtMaj Lee D. Bonar. The purpose of the course is to provide an overview of what each branch brings to the Pacific area of responsibility, while introducing E-6 and E-7 personnel from all of the services to one another.

According to CMSgt Rogers, her vision

for this course was to provide servicemembers with an opportunity to learn about what each military service brings to the fight.

Rogers said servicemembers often "... believe that our service is the best and we make perceptions and/or opinions about the other services based on things we've heard and don't truly have an understanding of their capabilities or why their service culture is the way that it is."

"Being assigned in Okinawa we have such a unique opportunity to have all of the services (minus the Coast Guard) together and working so closely that it would be hard not to capitalize on the opportunity. Garnering the support and bringing in senior enlisted leaders from across Okinawa as well as Pacific Command to engage and speak with the students truly highlights the importance of the joint relationship and why it is crucial to our success. Exposing and educating our servicemembers to the joint environment

earlier will not only make them even better noncommissioned officers, but leaders that our military needs to continue to be the best," said Rogers.

The first day of the five-day training consisted of briefs from a senior enlisted advisor from each branch of service. SgtMaj Anthony A. Spadaro, Command Senior Enlisted Leader, U.S. Pacific Command, and Command Chief Master Sergeant Terrence A. Greene, Command Senior Enlisted Leader for U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force, briefed the course via teleconference and explained the importance of the Pacific region to the overall mission of the U.S.

Additional briefs were provided by each service with a focus on their specific missions on Okinawa. SgtMaj Bonar discussed the Marine Corps' Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF), the principal organization construct for the Corps for all missions across the range of military operations.

Exposing and educating our servicemembers to the joint environment earlier will not only make them even better noncommissioned officers, but leaders that our military needs to continue to be the best.”

**—CMSgt Kristina Rogers
USAF**

Command Chief Master Sergeant Michael R. Ditore, 18th Wing, Kadena AB described how the 18th Wing, the Air Force’s largest combat wing, is strategically positioned as the hub of airpower in the Pacific. The 10th Support Group Command Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major Michael Barcena discussed the Support Group’s ability to provide administrative control for all of the Army units in Okinawa as well as providing support for deployed forces throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Lastly, Command Master Chief (FMF/SW/AW) Christopher W. Moore, Command Master Chief, 3d Marine Division, and Senior Chief Notorian Q. Morris gave a brief detailing the Navy’s mission on Okinawa. By the end of the day, students had received additional information about each service’s capabilities and the employment of their forces throughout the Pacific region. The initial briefings laid the foundation for the rest of the week when each service provided interactive briefs and activities. And day two of the Okinawa Joint Experience belonged to the Army.

Army day started off with Physical Readiness Training (PRT), their version of the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test (PFT). After the conclusion of the PRT, students moved to the Army Engagement Skills Trainer (EST), the Army’s version of the Marine Corps Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer (ISMT). Despite the differences in name, the mission is similar: Train individuals on weapon systems for use on the battlefield. Accord-

SgtMaj Peter Siaw, Marine Corps Installations Pacific Sergeant Major, describes how to break out of a headlock to participants in the Okinawa Joint Experience, March 16, at Camp Hansen, Japan. As part of the joint professional military education course, Marines taught techniques from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.



Air Force Senior Airman Dustin Schaan, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, left, explains an EOD robot to GySgt Matthew Brown, 9th Engineer Support Battalion utilities chief, March 15 at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

ing to the Army Acquisition Support Center, the “EST supports ground combat readiness as the Army’s virtual Basic Rifle Marksmanship training system. It provides individual marksmanship, small-unit (collective) gunnery, and tactical training and judgmental use of force (Shoot/Don’t Shoot), which includes escalation-of-force/graduated response scenarios.” The EST is open for all branches of service on Okinawa as well.

While half of the students engaged

targets at the EST, the other half went to the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT). Identical to the one used in the Marine Corps, the HEAT allows individuals to simulate a rollover and attempt egress during various situations thrown at its crew. All of the students were put through a simulation to experience what servicemembers would endure during training. The second half of the day was a tour of the Army’s 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery (ADA) sites with ques-





Air Force Capt Nathan Franklin, a pilot with 3rd Rescue Squadron, talks to a crowd of servicemembers March 15, at Kadena Air Base, Japan. (Photo by A1C Quay Drawdy, USAF)

tion-and-answer periods provided by subject matter experts. The 1st Battalion, 1st ADA provides air defense for key assets, and although Torii Station is the main Army installation on Okinawa, Japan, the 1st Bn, 1st ADA is spread across the island and in other locations throughout the Pacific.

On day three, the Air Force was the focus. Students met at Kadena AB for a physical fitness session led by certified Physical Training Leader (PTL) who explained that each Air Force unit or squadron has certified PTLs to monitor fitness assessments and conduct physical training. The PTLs led the entire session and a noticeable difference in their approach to the training session from the Marine Corps' approach was evident. While the exercises were nothing outside of the normal, the PTLs stressed proper form and an overall team effort in accomplishing them. They emphasized a year-round total fitness mindset and the importance of airmen maintaining physical readiness.

The next stop of the day was at the 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron where students received a capabilities brief on the RC-135 & E-3 AWACS, followed by a static display of both aircraft and their maintenance

sections. By the end of the brief, the students had gained an appreciation for how the squadron's efforts supported other Okinawa units, including 1st Bn, 1st ADA, to accomplish their mission.

In the afternoon, the class moved to the 33rd Rescue Squadron for another brief and a live rescue demonstration. The students were able to watch the crew of a Sikorsky HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter simulate the rescue of an injured service member by hooking him up and hoisting him to the hovering helicopter before exiting the area. The 33rd Rescue Squadron was the unit that rescued five crew members of a Marine MV-22 Osprey that went down in December of 2016 off of the coast of Okinawa.

The day concluded with an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) display and Military Working Dogs demonstration. Students were able to get their hands on the actual gear that EOD technicians use during real-world scenarios. They were also able to wear the "bite suit" Military Working Dog handlers use to train their dogs. The handlers went through a series of commands and then let students run from the dogs to see how effective the dogs truly are. The events highlighted the roles EOD technicians and Military

Working Dogs play in providing security for the air base while also being used throughout the island when unexploded explosive ordnance is located which, given the history of Okinawa, is not an uncommon occurrence.

Day four, Marine day, started with a 0500 show time as the class boarded a bus headed to Camp Hansen, one of the northern camps in Okinawa. The Marine Corps Installations Pacific Sergeant Major, SgtMaj Peter A. Siaw, told the students, "Marines are known for their warrior ethos, small unit tactics, resiliency and selflessness to their fellow Marines." This statement became the basis for the day's schedule.

The first event of the day was the obstacle course and the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy's force fitness instructor and others on the staff described how to maneuver through each obstacle. Marines from the SNCOA gave a demonstration on techniques for each obstacle and then the class was broken down into teams of four to maneuver through the course. The first run through was for the students to gain a basic understanding; the second one was for speed.

Once the obstacle course was completed, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program

(MCMAP) demonstration and application was next on the agenda. The MCMAP instructor went through basic break falls, counters and chokes. He also described each belt level within MCMAP and the role it plays within the Corps' warrior culture. Once MCMAP was complete, students moved into the execution of a combat fitness test (CFT) where each student was able to observe and then take a CFT for score. Throughout the first few events SgtMaj Siaw explained how Marines might face similar obstacles during combat and how these events mentally prepare Marines to continue to push when they might not have any energy left.

After lunch at the 12th Marines chow hall, the class visited the rifle range where students had the opportunity to fire from the 200- and 500-yard lines. Not all of the other services qualify with their weapons the way the Marine Corps does, and some students had never fired a weapon from such a distance. The students initially shot a variety of personal weapons and then moved on to some larger weapons.

Next, the class moved to 3d Battalion, 12th Marines headquarters where the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel L.B. Butler, had set up a brief on the artillery battalions capability. He explained each step in how a target is acquired until the actual weapon system is fired and also discussed follow-on actions once a round is downrange. Once the brief was completed, the class observed a battery complete gun drills from start to finish. Students were then able to talk to each respective section and look at the M777 lightweight howitzers with subject matter experts there to answer any questions. Day four finished with SgtMaj Siaw connecting the events of the day and explaining that through Marines' unselfishness, warrior ethos and resiliency, they are able to conquer obstacles put in their way in order to accomplish the mission.

On the last day, it was time for the Navy to showcase its capabilities. At 0530, the class was introduced to Chief Petty Officer (CPO) 365, a training initiative which affords all first class petty officers the opportunity for consistent year-round professional development to prepare them for advancement to the grade of chief petty officer. All Navy E-6s and above on Okinawa attend the event with the Okinawa Joint Experience students joining in. The entire formation executed a 2-mile motivation run and upon completion of the run, two master chief petty officers discussed leadership and the Navy board system. The class then headed to the dive locker on Camp Schwab on the northern end of the island where Okinawa's only re-



COURTESY OF GYSGT JOHN E. WITT, USMC

Participants in the Okinawa Joint Experience discuss common leadership challenges, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan.

compression chamber is located. Navy master divers stationed with 3d Reconnaissance Bn provide training to Marines and Sailors and lifesaving treatment with its recompression chamber. The staff described how divers are trained to perform underwater salvage, repair and maintenance, submarine rescue, as well as support special warfare and explosive ordnance disposal from certain depths of

The interaction between the students enhanced the overall understanding of how joint services interact and what each service brings to the fight.

the ocean. They also are able to use the chamber to treat divers with symptoms of decompression sickness, also known as the bends, or other diving-related issues. The master divers have used this equipment to help servicemembers and Okinawans who have had symptoms of a diving-related medical issue.

The class then moved to the Tactical Medical Simulation Center aboard Camp Hansen, where combat lifesaving training is provided to Navy and Marine personnel throughout Okinawa. Students were given an overview and demonstration of a tactical operation medical manikin (TOM MAN). A TOM MAN is a life-size medical simulation manikin that can bleed, breath and even talk. The manikins

are controlled by a tablet computer. Scenarios can either be preloaded or adjusted throughout the event by a facilitator. The facility provides realistic training for scenarios that servicemembers could encounter on the battlefield and is the principal training location for all combat lifesaving courses island-wide. The class concluded the tour and returned to the Erwin PME Center for final thoughts and presentation of certificates for each student.

Although the course was just a small snapshot of what each branch of service on Okinawa has to offer, the interaction between the students enhanced the overall understanding of how joint services interact and what each service brings to the fight. Each student was able to walk away from the course with new connections and contacts that could prove useful in the future. The course will be held semi-annually. Although some servicemembers may never work in a joint environment, the training gives students an opportunity to see capabilities across all branches of the United States military. This course truly validates that there is no other military in the world that can match our strength, intelligence and spirit when we fight as a joint team.

Author's bio: GySgt John E. Witt is the company gunnery sergeant for the Motor Transport Company, 3d Transportation Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3d Marine Logistics Group, Okinawa, Japan. He was a member of the second class of the Okinawa Joint Experience.





A detachment of Marines pause in a jungle clearing for a brief rest during the fighting on Guadalcanal. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Marine Corps History Division)

GUADALCANAL

First Battle of the Matanikau

By Eric Hammel

For the U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal during the first few days following their unopposed landing on Aug. 7, 1942, life was an unpleasant mixture of strange and diverging impressions. Food was scarce from the start, a result of the invasion fleet's abrupt departure in the wake of the Savo Island naval battle. Japanese bombers from Rabaul, 600 miles away, ruled the skies with impunity over the Marines' Lunga Perimeter; there was not even one American fighter to challenge them, and there would be none until the captured, partially completed airfield on the Lunga Plain could be put into operation. On the other hand, there had not yet been any meaningful challenge to the five Marine infantry battalions that

were holding the Lunga Perimeter. And the few prisoners taken had been beaten, chastened men—Okinawan, Korean and Taiwanese labor troops with a few Japanese naval ratings thrown in.

The shock of discovery of what might lie ahead was crystallized on Aug. 13, 1942, when the first of three bleeding Marines arrived at the command post of the 5th Marine Regiment, the unit charged with defending the western half of the Lunga Perimeter. The three were all that remained of a 25-man patrol led by Lieutenant Colonel Frank Goettge, the First Marine Division intelligence officer. The Goettge patrol had been diverted on Aug. 12 from a heavily armed intelligence-gathering mission to an effort to rescue starving Japanese stranded to the west of the Matanikau River. It had either stepped

into a cunning trap or had blundered into an encampment of displaced Japanese naval infantry. In either case, 22 of 25 members of the patrol had gone missing and were presumed killed.

The 1st Marine Division's first offensive operation on Guadalcanal began on Aug. 19, 1942, a week after the annihilation of the Goettge patrol. The action was designed to sweep the coastal area from the mouth of the Matanikau River to Kokumbona Village of the last remnants of the dispersed Japanese Lunga garrison, an estimated 400 poorly armed Imperial Navy infantry, or "rikusentai," naval base personnel, and unarmed laborers who had been without food for nearly two weeks.

Information gleaned from patrol reports

during the week following the Goettge massacre indicated that the Japanese had landed no fresh troops west of the Marine-held Lunga Perimeter. Nevertheless, unbeknownst to the Marines, who had not been able to effectively penetrate the Japanese area, an advance detachment of the fresh Yokosuka 5th Special Naval Landing Force had landed near Kokumbona on the night of Aug. 17. While not large, the force was composed of well-armed rikusentai whose officers organized the combatant elements of the stragglers into ad hoc combat units.

Given the breadth of the new war, the first Matanikau offensive was small potatoes. Given the backgrounds of the men who planned it, and particularly their limited combat experiences during the manpower-starved inter-war years, it was about the biggest land operation undertaken by Marines since 1918.

Captain William Hawkins's Company B, Fifth Marine Regiment, was to cross the mouth of the Matanikau at dawn, Aug. 19, while Co L, 5th Marines, which would cross the river downstream on the evening of Aug. 18, pushed northward along the west bank in order to compress the Japanese in the area between itself and Hawkins' company. In a strangely unconnected maneuver, Co I, 5th Marines, was to land from small boats to seize and hold Kokumbona Village until companies B and L could secure Matanikau Village, reorganize, and fight 3 miles westward to join it.

Co B was no longer the strong 180-man unit that had stormed Beach Red on Aug. 7. A declining diet, the rigors of living in a hot climate, and the onset of exotic disease with annoying or dangerous symptoms had begun to make inroads into every unit in the division. Hawkins' company had lost its share of combat troops. Those Marines who were ill or weakened by the effects of dysentery and strange fevers were held back from the offensive.

Hawkins' company marched out of the Lunga Perimeter along the Government Track late in the afternoon of Aug. 18 and bivouacked in the bush beside the trail. Several enemy fighters were flushed from the underbrush during the approach and sent to the rear under escort. The troops were up for the fight when they left the perimeter, and the discovery along the way of several decomposing, mutilated bodies of islanders raised their ire. Several individual Japanese charged from the undergrowth into the company perimeter during the night, but they were all killed.

Co L, in pretty much the same condition as Co B, left the perimeter at about the



The temporary resting place of a Marine killed in the fighting at Lunga Point. The remains were later removed to the Division cemetery on Guadalcanal.

same time, guided by Marine Gunner Edward S. "Bill" Rust, a member of the 5th Marines headquarters staff who had been leading patrols into the area for the past two weeks. The troops were traveling light, with neither packs nor ponchos nor any other extraneous gear. It was rough going through some fairly thick growth. By nightfall, the company was safely across the Matanikau River, about 2,000 yards from the beach. Just before sunset, a sniper on a hill a half-mile to the north shot a Marine sergeant through the forehead, killing him in his tracks. Three Japanese were flushed at dusk just as the company was about to establish a defensive perimeter on the west bank of the Matanikau. One was dispatched by a Marine who swung his rifle so hard that the wooden stock shattered on impact with the prisoner's skull. The second man was

knifed to death, and the third simply disappeared after dark.

Co B marched to the river at dawn. As it cleared the last fringe of trees, all hands were stunned to see what appeared to be a Japanese cruiser steam majestically into view. As the warship streaked toward the beach, the Marines could actually see crewmen scurrying about on the decks and superstructure. After several anxious minutes, the vessel turned for deeper water.

Co L moved downhill through a light drizzle from its bivouac in the bush. The company light machine guns and 60 mm mortars were set up in a base of fire and the attack commenced at 0800, right on time. A fair measure of surprise was achieved at the outset as Co L struck the village almost dead center, its two lead platoons heading directly for the beach in the hope of cutting the defending force in two before it could recover.

Co B pressed its attack across the sandbar at the mouth of the river, also at 0800.

Captain Bill Hawkins was caught in the open by the sudden onset of defensive fires and the stock of his submachine gun was splintered by a Japanese bullet before he could get behind some cover.

Private First Class Robert Hollenbeck, a member of the medium machine-gun platoon attached to Co B, found himself tucked up behind a huge banyan tree, looking for targets, when he felt the odd stinging sensation of hundreds of bites from residents of an ant colony he had disturbed. Though Japanese machine guns on the west bank of the river were spitting bullets from every angle, Hollenbeck was too agonized to think of anything but getting rid of the carnivorous ants, which



LtCol Frank Goettge

COURTESY OF ERIC HAMMEL

were crawling down his back and into his trousers. He rolled from behind the protective tree into bushes farther back and tore off his clothing to get rid of the insects.

By the time Hollenbeck recovered, the Co B 60 mm mortars had been broken out. The company executive officer, First Lieutenant Walter McIlhenny, established an observation post at the water's edge and, by means of a telephone line run back to the company mortars, directed fire against the Japanese machine gun emplacements.

On the far side of the Japanese holding Co B, a Co L platoon sergeant leading the attack to cut off the Japanese on the east side of the village was killed and several of his men were wounded. The Co L executive officer, Second Lieutenant George Mead, heir to the Mead Paper fortune, ran forward to rally the leaderless platoon, but he was shot to death.

Marine Gunner Bill Rust, who was with the company headquarters, volunteered to take charge of the still leaderless platoon, which had to press its attack if Co L was to join up with Co B. He found only 13 effectives on hand in a small semicircle on the beach. Incoming gunfire

was very heavy, though it seemed to be letting up little by little. Rust ordered the 13 Marines in his position to prepare the way with a barrage of rifle grenades, which was bolstered considerably when Sergeant Benjamin Selvitelle arrived in the village with his light machine-gun section after being ordered to abandon his base of fire to the south. Co B's 60 mm mortars, which were firing from the east bank of the river, were of considerable help in getting Japanese heads down. Gunner Rust directed a scathing fire, then jumped to his feet and yelled "Let's get them!" All hands rose as one and spread out in firm adherence to the tenets of their training, advancing about 75 yards by means of fire-and-move tactics.

A spirited bayonet assault, perhaps the first of its kind by Marines in the Pacific, spontaneously developed as Rust's small group covered the last 75 yards to the river. Private First Class Nicholas Sileo, a Browning Automatic Rifleman, accumulated three wounds—one in the chest, one in the groin, a third through his shooting hand—but he refused to relinquish his weapon. Instead, he fired

with his good hand as his fellow Marines surged past. A corpsman who had become involved in the attack was shot through the heart.

As soon as the small platoon had overcome resistance, Bill Rust ordered all hands to fire into the Japanese bodies, just to be certain, then stood on the exposed bank to yell word of his attack to Co B Marines.

Capt Bill Hawkins did not hear Rust's shouted news, but he was aware that the gunfire holding up Co B had abruptly ceased. He ordered a squad to probe the defenses and, when it met no opposition, ordered the rest of his troops across the river. It was all over but the cleaning up.

In the meantime, Co I moved to take Kokumbona Village.

As the boats neared the objective, Marines spotted three Japanese warships beating up the channel. The ships were executing a turn to port for the run on the beach when one of them fired its main guns. The salvo was high, splashing harmlessly ahead of the tiny flotilla of landing craft. The second salvo was much closer.

Lieutenant Colonel William Whaling, the 5th Marines executive officer, was accompanying Co I as a guide and tactical commander of the three-company mission. His boat was in the lead when the warships opened fire. Whaling tried to steady the frightened coxswain by calling back from his place by the ramp, "When I think he's going to fire, I'll call you. Then you throw this thing full speed into *reverse*. Then run forward with everything you've got."

The play worked three times in a row, although a few near misses splashed seawater on all hands.

The boats were rapidly closing on the beach, and Japanese machine guns were getting the range. The warship was still firing, its rounds getting closer and closer to their countrymen manning machine guns on the beach. Suddenly, a Japanese climbed up on a big rock at the surf line, a large Rising Sun naval battle pennant in his hand. As the Marines looked on, the man frantically waved the battle colors to attract the ship's gunners.

Bill Whaling, a veteran of fighting in France and Pearl Harbor, had been a member of the 1924 U.S. Olympic pistol team. Unable to resist any target so offered, he climbed as high up on the bow ramp as he could, holding his special scoped rifle. When the little boat rose to the crest of the next swell, Whaling sighted in on the frantic flag waver. The boat pitched into the next trough, then slowly rose again. Thoroughly composed, Whaling gently squeezed off a single round and watched approvingly as the flag-waver



COURTESY OF U.S. MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Marines do some much-needed bathing on Guadalcanal as a machine gunner keeps a sharp eye on the opposite bank for a possible sniper on patrol, February 1943.



A patrol composed of fighting leathernecks start their trek on a mission at sunset on Guadalcanal, August 1942. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Marine Corps History Division)

was pitched into the sand, “flag and all.”

The Japanese warship came under probing fire from a captured 3-inch coast-defense gun manned by members of Co M, 5th Marines. Twenty rounds were expended, but all fell short. When fire from another of the three ships bracketed the gun emplacement, the Marines beat a hasty retreat. The three warships counter-marched, firing at Marine positions with total impunity, remaining just outside the range of Marine coast defense guns.

Major James Edmundson, a professional airman since 1936, had been in the Pacific since January 1940. He had been on the ground at Hickam Field, Oahu, on Dec. 7, 1941, and had participated as a squadron operations officer and airplane commander at Midway. Since Aug. 13, 1942, he had been commander of 431st Heavy Bombardment Squadron, a component of 11th Heavy Bombardment Group whose previous commander had been lost without a trace on a search mission over the Solomons on Aug 7.

Edmundson and his crew had been at the crude airstrip at Espiritu Santo—code-named “Buttons”—when word came down from Guadalcanal that Japanese cruisers were harrassing a Marine offensive operation. Theirs was the only heavy bomber that was ready to go, so they went.

The approach was made at 5,000 feet, the same height from which Edmundson had destroyed a Japanese submarine off

Hawaii during a sea-search mission early in the war.

Observers near Kukum could make out the masts of the three ships and the circling B-17, which dropped bombs as it passed back and forth over the targets. One stick of four bombs passed directly over the fantail of one of the ships, which looked like a light cruiser from the air as well as from the beach. Two of the bombs exploded on the ship and the other two near-missed on either side, likely doing damage below the waterline.

While B-17 crewmen snapped photos from beside a dark pillar of smoke, Major Edmundson continued to circle lazily over the circling victim of his bombardier’s good eye and his own steady hand. When Edmundson had expended all the fuel he dared, he made a low pass over excited, whooping Marines on the beach.

Though Jim Edmundson was given credit for sinking a cruiser, his target was a destroyer, *Hagikaze*, and she survived.

Co I had long since landed at Kokum-bona and had sent the meager opposition packing. Bill Whaling soon had the unit marching overland to join the two companies at Matanikau Village.

Companies I and L joined at midday, just as Co B was crossing the river.

Patrols discovered the remains of 65 Japanese.

Marine Gunner Rust, who was accompanying a Co I probe, was on the beach

just to the east of Point Cruz when he and his companions found a leg encased in a Marine legging and a boondocker protruding from the sand. Nearby, an oversized, handleless arm was sticking out of the ground, leading Rust to speculate that he had found the remains of either LtCol Frank Goettge or the missing 5th Marines intelligence officer, Capt Wilfred Ringer, both of whom had been very large men. Earlier, as his attack was winding down, Rust had discovered the bullet-riddled body of Corporal William Bainbridge, who had been sent for help by Captain Ringer when the Goettge patrol was ambushed a week earlier; Bainbridge’s decomposing body was interred in the sand by the mouth of the Matanikau.

The officers were about to get the troops started on exhuming the 22 bodies they had located in the area, but an urgent recall order from the 1st Marine Division headquarters prevented the work from even beginning. The attack force boarded landing craft with its four dead and eleven wounded companions and headed for home.

Author’s bio: Eric Hammel is a military historian who has written dozens of books on Marine Corps history, including “Guadalcanal: Starvation Island,” “Islands of Hell: The U.S. Marines in the Western Pacific, 1944-45” and “Chosin: Heroic Ordeal of the Korean War.”



A Marine participates in a demonstration of the Marine Corps' new REST motorcycle training program at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 10, 2016. The course is designed to provide riders with training at realistic speeds.

A full-page photograph of a Marine riding a red Honda motorcycle. The rider is wearing a white racing suit with black accents, a black helmet with a white 'S' logo, and black gloves. The motorcycle is red with 'Honda' and '2LA' branding. The background shows a paved area with other people and motorcycles, suggesting a training or demonstration event.

MARINES AND MOTORCYCLES

Innovative Safety Programs are
Culmination of a Century of Riding



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Earl J. Wilson, one of the original WW II Marine Corps combat correspondents and a reporter for *The Washington Post*, sits on a Harley-Davidson Model UA in Hawaii in 1942. Since 1915, Marines have used motorcycles for official transportation, messenger and police duties, scouting and reconnaissance.

By Sara W. Bock

Risk-takers and thrill seekers. They've been attracted to the Marine Corps since the very beginning.

From Belleau Wood to the streets of Fallujah, Marines have consistently displayed an inclination to face danger head-on. This propensity for taking risks has helped win battles and solidified the nation's need for a Marine Corps—and it also carries over into off-duty hours. For many, there's nothing that quite compares to the freedom they feel when they saddle up and take in their surroundings astride two wheels on the open road.

A subculture of motorcycle enthusiasts has been part of the Corps' identity since prototypes of the beloved vehicle were introduced in the early 1900s. Used by Marines both operationally and recreationally since then, there's little doubt that leathernecks love their motorcycles. Active duty, veteran, reserve or retired; whether on cruisers or sport bikes; there's a distinct sense of camaraderie and shared pride among those who ride.

Marines' unparalleled enthusiasm for motorcycles presents the Marine Corps with a unique challenge: to preserve the force and keep Marines safe while allowing them to maintain personal freedom and responsibility.



LCPL NORMAN ECKLES, USMC

SSgt Jeffery Worley readies himself to ride his motorcycle during an advanced riders course at MCLB Barstow, Calif., July 19, 2013. Providing opportunities for Marine motorcyclists to improve their riding skills is one of the ways that the staff of CMC Safety Division, HQMC, helps ensure force preservation.

A New Approach

Although there have been occasional mumblings about a Corps-wide “bike ban,” particularly after Fiscal Year 2008 when a record-high 25 Marines were lost to motorcycle accidents, the staff of CMC Safety Division, Headquarters Marine Corps, has instead spent the better part of the last decade improving and revamping the Corps’ approach to motorcycle safety training.

“Banning the bike has been thrown around for years, but it’s unrealistic,” said John P. Waltman Jr., the traffic safety manager for CMC Safety Division. “So instead of that type of ‘nuclear’ option, we are telling our riders that if you want to ride, you will fully understand the dangers and you will understand how well you can control a motorcycle.”

The underlying notion behind these recent efforts is that taking an aggressive stance toward safety training is the key

to making positive changes. But “aggressive” doesn’t mean imposing more rules and restrictions; rather, it involves using the “in your face” style of teaching that has already been proven effective in training Marines. It also involves teaching higher-level skills early on to prepare Marines for the road. According to Waltman, as a result of these measures, mishaps and fatalities have decreased since FY 2008 and are expected to decrease even further with new programs and partnerships on the horizon.

After several years of development, the eight-hour Riders Essential Skills Training (REST) program will soon be “rolled out” at Marine Corps installations. Unlike previous Marine Corps motorcycle training, REST emphasizes braking and steering at realistic speeds. It’s sustainable, “real-life” training that is beneficial to all motorcyclists, whether they ride cruisers or sport

bikes, and whether they’ve been riding for one year or 20.

With Waltman at the helm, a team of active-duty Marines and civilians has worked to create REST: a class that is “aggressive enough for Marines to respect, yet meaningful enough to change behavior,” said Waltman, a Marine veteran who served for 10 years in motor transport then left active duty, but came back to the Corps as a civilian in 2005 to work at the Base Safety Division, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. He has served in his current position with HQMC since 2009 and is tasked with creating policy that will help reduce the number of traffic-related mishaps the Corps suffers.

“We must find a way to get our riders prepared for open roads and highways as soon as possible,” said Waltman, adding that traffic mishaps are the number one killer of Marines. On average, the Marine Corps loses one Marine each month to motorcycle-related incidents, according to Waltman.

REST is designed to eventually replace the Corps’ current training, a three-level system that relies most heavily on “Level I” training, known as the Basic Riders Course (BRC), which is accepted by most states as a licensing requirement. Within 120 days of completing the BRC, all Marine riders are required to attend the next level of training: an intermediate or mid-level training approved by CMC Safety Division. These “Level II” courses help guarantee that Marine riders have more than just the basic knowledge of riding taught in the BRC. An individual can complete the BRC and be out on the road despite being completely inexperienced, said Waltman. Simply put, Level I BRC training is not enough to ensure that Marines will be safe on the road while using the powerful bikes available in today’s market.

Currently, every three years, Marine motorcyclists are required to receive “refresher training” through either a Level II or III training program. Level III are advanced courses designed for experienced riders, such as California Superbike School, Advanced Motorcycle Operator School and others. By challenging riders to ride safely at high speeds in controlled environments, such as on a racetrack, these higher-level training opportunities are key to keeping Marines safe.

REST is the Marine Corps’ way of

PFC Rogelio Guerra, a vehicle operator with 3/3, rides a KLR 250-D8 while acting as a messenger during Exercise Tandem Thrust 2001 at the Shoalwater Bay training area, Queensland, Australia, May 15, 2001.

providing higher-level training designed specifically with Marines of various age, rank and skill in mind.

“It is wrong for us as a Corps or nation to believe that by taking a two-day motorcycle riding course we are by any means ready for the open road or highways across this nation ... Marines must have higher-level training sooner,” said Waltman, referring to the limitations of the BRC.

In 2013, Waltman and his team began the early stages of developing a new training program and looked heavily at analytics to diagnose the underlying problems at hand. They noticed a trend; the majority of fatal mishaps involving Marines on motorcycles involved a single vehicle “going wide” on a turn or curve, applying the wrong braking technique and dropping the bike and sliding into a fixed object or another vehicle. This recognition was the impetus for the creation of REST. Why not create a program designed specifical-



LCPL LIZ HERRERA, USMC

ly for a young, active, well-educated force that addresses the exact situations in which most fatal mishaps occur? So they did.

“By teaching riders to accelerate and then stop in a controlled manner from highway speeds will dramatically change our fatality rate,” said Waltman.

REST teaches some of the same content as the Level III training courses, although rather than being track based, REST focuses on riding safely on

roads and highways when there are other vehicles and obstructions in the equation.

“There is no hand holding and soft words to make you think you know what you are doing ... the class the Marine team built does not care what type of bike you ride, or how badass you think your bike is or how great a rider you feel you are. If you stay the eight hours, you will have a moment,” said Waltman of REST.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Marines stand alongside their Indian motorcycles in Haiti in 1915. Early prototypes of the modern motorcycle were little more than fortified bicycle frames with engines mounted above the pedals and were used by Marines performing police duties in a variety of locations.



CPL BRIANNA CHRISTENSEN, USMC

LtGen John A. Toolan Jr., then-Commanding General of I MEF, stands in front of his Harley-Davidson during a motorcycle safety seminar held at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 8, 2014. In recent years, many senior Marines and general officers who ride motorcycles have taken advantage of the opportunity to mentor and guide young riders rather than taking an anti-motorcycle stance.

A Decade of Culture Change

The REST program isn't the first initiative that Waltman and his team at CMC Safety Division have introduced; in fact, its development wouldn't have been possible without its precursors, which standardized motorcycle safety Corps-wide and established a culture of command support and unit-level mentorship.

In the past, said Waltman, each installation or command was virtually on its own in terms of motorcycle safety training and regulations.

"There was not a centralized program, there were not three levels of training and Marine motorcycle fatalities were just accepted. We didn't know how many riders we had, most of our fatal mishaps were unlicensed and/or uninsured riders, and more often than not the command didn't even know the Marine owned a motorcycle," Waltman said. "Not anymore. We have been able to change this and I push daily for even more training and better policy."

In 2011, a whole chapter of a Marine Corps order was dedicated to motorcycle safety and training. MCO 1500.19F, Chapter 4, established the three tiers of training (Level I, Level II and Level III) that are now commonly accepted Department of Defense-wide.

And while the implementation of REST will impact the training requirements in future years, the chapter is comprehensive and deals with a lot more than just training courses. It standardizes all aspects of motorcycle safety and requirements and eliminates the existence of installation-specific or command-specific regulations in that regard.

The chapter defines the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that Marines are required to wear while riding. At a minimum, both on and off Marine Corps installations, they must wear a helmet, eye protection, hand protection, long sleeve shirt or jacket, leg protection and foot protection. Regarding the wear of colored or reflective vests, the chapter

There's Always More to Learn

Active-duty motorcyclists range from junior enlisted to general officers and everywhere in between, and while their ranks may vary, every Marine rider has more to learn, no matter how long they've been riding.

Brigadier General Austin E. Renforth, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and Eastern Recruiting Region, has been riding motorcycles for 40 years. Undoubtedly he is experienced and responsible, but even he continues to pursue opportunities to learn more about riding safely.

"I've gone to the experienced rider course, and every time I've gone I've learned something," said BGen Renforth. "And I thought I knew everything about the bike. Every time I've gone it's made me a better rider."

As a young boy growing up in West Virginia, the general began riding motorcycles at the age of 12.

"You could get a motorcycle license before you could get a driver's license," he recalled with a chuckle. Riding gave him a taste of independence, he said, and he continued to ride when he enlisted in the Navy in 1982. Two years later, he entered the U.S. Naval Academy as a midshipman and was unable to own a motorcycle for four years. As soon as he was commissioned and arrived at The Basic School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., he got back into riding, and he has continued throughout his career.

These days, he rides his Harley-Davidson Street Glide Patriot Edition around Beaufort, S.C., when the weather's nice and he has the time.

"I always feel better when I come home from a motorcycle ride," said BGen Renforth. "Truly, there's something really invigorating about it—there's truly a sense of freedom ... and it gets me to kind of think and ponder. I see the beauty of things more than I do when I'm in the car."



CWO-2 ED BAILEY, USNR

A Marine sits astride his motorcycle, Feb. 1, 1991, at a camp in northern Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm.

Marines unload a motorcycle during maneuvers in Hawaii in 1943. While most WW II-era military motorcycles were used in Europe, Marines in the Pacific theater did acquire a few motorcycles which they used for various purposes.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

eliminated the requirement for such PPE but encourages its use.

Perhaps the most vital portion of the chapter established a requirement for all commands, battalion/squadron level and above, to establish motorcycle mentorship programs or “clubs” designed to identify and mentor inexperienced

riders, promote respectful riding and help ensure that every Marine who rides has the opportunities to learn more. And, as a byproduct, a sense of camaraderie is shared among each unit’s “motorcycle Marines.”

By meeting monthly, battalion and squadron motorcycle clubs help ensure

that newer and inexperienced riders don’t “fall through the cracks.” They generally begin with a safety class, followed by a group ride.

“The clubs are the best way we have found to ensure that all commanders know who their riders are and what level of training they have received,” said Waltman.

Brigadier General Julian D. Alford, Commanding General, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, is, like BGen Renforth, a seasoned rider. In his experience, the motorcycle clubs provide leaders with a chance to mentor and set an example. As a motorcyclist, he’s had the unique opportunity to impact Marines in his previous command positions.

“If they [Marines] see that their leadership are riders, rather than the ‘old guys’ saying ‘Don’t ride motorcycles,’ ... That culture’s changed, and the best way to make Marines safe is by example, and show that you understand why they do it, why they ride—because you like it too,” said BGen Alford, who still enjoys riding his Harley-Davidson Road King Classic 100th Anniversary Edition on the weekends. “It’s better to talk to them and lead by example rather than with orders.”

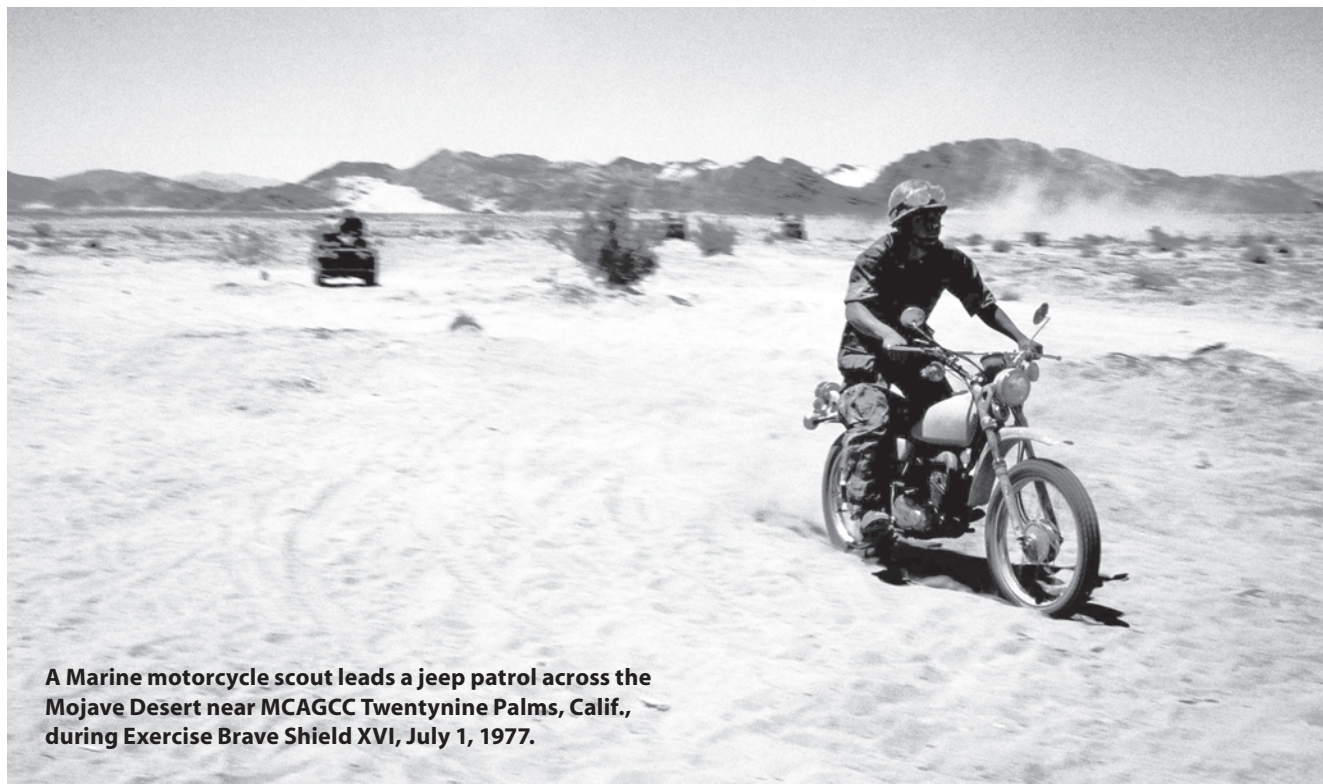
The REST Approach

The Marine Corps is introducing its new motorcycle safety program, Riders Essential Skills Training (REST), designed for “any rider on any bike at any time.” REST is not a pass or fail course and is not designed to make riders; rather, it’s designed to expose the realities of riding a motorcycle in a realistic training environment.

REST:

- Is dedicated and designed for real-world speeds (60+ miles per hour)
- Emphasizes the fundamentals of continued risk assessment (mitigating risks at intersections, corners, and continually assessing risks while riding)
- Includes a series of drills designed to practice the fundamentals of safe motorcycle operation (theory and application of traction control, braking and brake-assisted steering, accelerating, “loading the tire,” shifting up and down through the gears)
- Focuses on emergency braking techniques and application at typical highway speeds
- Exposes the misconceptions of brake-assisted steering
- Focuses on the theory and application of brake-assisted steering in curves and turns
- Focuses on rider preparedness for hazard avoidance

CMC Safety Division



SSGT JOE SMITH, USMC

A Marine motorcycle scout leads a jeep patrol across the Mojave Desert near MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., during Exercise Brave Shield XVI, July 1, 1977.

Not only do the motorcycle clubs foster mentorship, but they also allow seasoned riders to take a look at the Marines' motorcycles for potential maintenance and safety issues like slick back tire, sticky throttles or loose components.

When BGen Renforth was a battalion commander and a regimental commander, he also regularly rode with the motorcycle clubs.

"It allowed me to ... get a handle on our at-risk Marines. You know, as a commander, leadership and the use of risk management concepts and techniques are key in supporting force preservation and operational readiness. So what I was able to do as a commander was I was able to watch these young men in my battalion or regiment and see how they rode and see how seriously they took it," said BGen Renforth.

Semper Ride

In 2009, the Marine Corps unveiled Semper Ride, its own "brand" of motorcycle safety with the release of a 45-minute film by the same name, featuring some of the most talented, well-known riders in the motorcycle industry. Allowing Marines to hear anecdotes and safety tips from top professional athletes who emphasized 'riding within your limits' and avoiding overconfidence proved to be highly effective. The film's release was accompanied by

a Semper Ride motorcycle safety awareness campaign, which hosted events at racetracks nationwide.

When Semper Ride started, Marine Corps motorcycle fatalities were at their peak. By 2010, annual fatalities had lowered to single digits, Waltman said. Unfortunately, due to sequestration,

some Semper Ride programs were eliminated.

The program currently is being revitalized by a new partnership with Marine Corps Community Services. According to Waltman, the partnership is the biggest thing to hit the safety program aside from REST.



LCPL MARCIN PLATEK, USMCR

Cpl Charlee Law practices deep turning during a Semper Ride event in New Orleans, Sept. 17, 2011. A new partnership between CMC Safety Division and MCCS will bring five Semper Ride events to various locations in 2017.

As of April 14, there were plans for five Semper Ride events across the Corps this summer. Gaining sponsorships for the Semper Ride program is part of the revitalization effort and will help ensure that it's sustainable.

"We intend on using the power and abilities of the MCCS command to grow Semper Ride into a sustainable program through sponsorship," said Waltman. "Having MCCS on board with motorcycle safety opens up possibilities that we have just started to realize and will help drive needed change in how we deliver training."

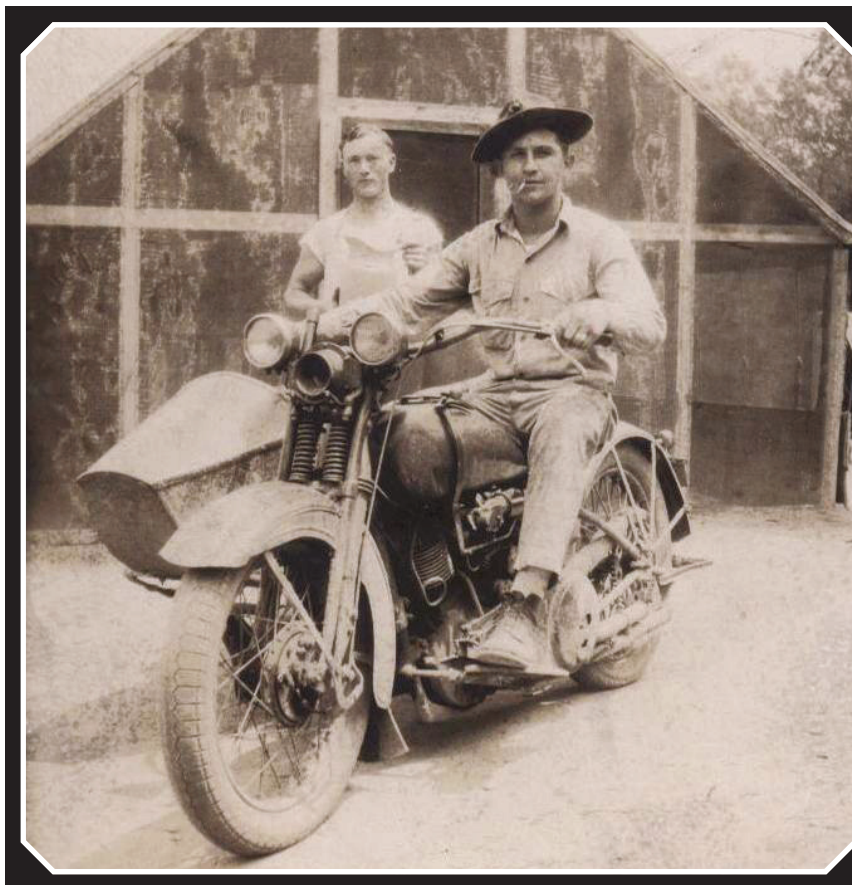
A Century of Riding

For more than a century, Marines have been on motorcycles for reasons other than pure recreation or personal transportation. Since 1915, in locations ranging from the islands of the Caribbean to Asia and the Middle East, Marines have used the two-wheeled powerhouses to conduct messenger duties, lead patrols and convoys, perform police duties, transport officers, and carry out scouting and reconnaissance missions.

In 1915, Marines used bicycle frames with engines mounted above the pedals—prototypes of the modern motorcycle—in Haiti while augmenting the Haitian police force after a government overthrow. The next year, in 1916, they received motorcycles manufactured by the Indian Motorcycle Company and used them to carry out their official "policing" duties. Around this time, Marines also were using motorcycles in locations including Cuba, the Azores and the Dominican Republic.

The U.S. Armed Forces used thousands of motorcycles during their involvement in World War I: 41,000 Indians and approximately 15,000 Harley-Davidsons, wrote Jack M. Sands in a 1982 *Leatherneck* article entitled "The Motorcycle Marines." The Marine Corps used some of these motorcycles for messenger duties and convoy-related operations, but the bulk of the use was by the U.S. Army.

Motorcycles had a place among the China Marines of the Fourth Marine Regiment who were stationed in Shanghai between 1927 and 1941. Used for motorcade escort duty and general transportation, Harley-Davidson Model JDs, many of which included sidecars for officers, were commonplace. In 1932 in Nicaragua, Marines used Harley-Davidsons to carry out police duties dur-



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

A Marine rides a Harley-Davidson Model JD in Nicaragua in 1930 when Marines were called on to establish neutral zones to protect American citizens and augment the Nicaraguan Guardia Nacional.

ing a period of unrest, where they were tasked with the establishment of neutral zones and protecting American interests.

By the early 1940s, "Harley Hogs," Harley-Davidson motorcycles with sidecars, were what one might call the "typical" USMC motorcycle and during the U.S. involvement in World War II, Harley-Davidson had become the largest manufacturer of military motorcycles. They were used more in Europe than in the Pacific, but even on Wake Island the Corps' First Defense Battalion had three.

Following WW II, the development of the jeep had replaced much of the Corps' need for motorcycles, wrote Sands. However, in the 1970s, Marine Corps units began evaluating the use of the modern motorcycle during exercises, primarily for scouting purposes.

From the Gulf War to Operation Enduring Freedom, Marines took advantage of the tactical abilities of motorcycles. Kawasaki dirt bikes allowed Marines in Afghanistan to scout out off-road areas in the mountains and provide vital reconnaissance.

The Future

Looking forward, there's no telling whether motorcycles will be used operationally in future conflicts; but one thing is certain—Marines will continue to ride them, just as they always have. Waltman and his counterparts at CMC Safety Division are confident that the implementation of REST and the renewal of the Semper Ride program will save lives on the road. The other services within the Department of the Defense, Waltman said, are watching to see the positive impact REST has on force preservation and to see how they too can implement similar training. Motorcycle safety is an area in which the Marine Corps has an opportunity to lead the way within the DOD and help ensure the safety of all of our nation's servicemembers.

Waltman acknowledges that effecting big changes is not without risk.

"But we will never get any better at motorcycle safety if we don't make a change," he said.



We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Friendship Day Strengthens U.S.-Japanese Bond

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, opened its gates to approximately 210,000 guests for the 41st Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force–MCAS Iwakuni Friendship Day, May 5.

Since 1973, MCAS Iwakuni has hosted the event, which is designed to foster positive relationships and display the communal support between the U.S. and Japan.

“Friendship Day is a community relations event,” said Major Nathan Hoff, the station operations officer and air show director. “The big thing to me is the opportunity we have to open our gates and welcome in the whole community of Japan. They are able to see what we are all about ... our ability to perform military tasks as well as integrate in with the JMSDF. Whether it’s training for real-world contingencies or in this case hosting

a community-related event ... it is an opportunity to showcase our bilateral cooperation.”

Hoff also said this year differed from years past in that the event highlighted aerial performances and capabilities, including a Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstration of aviation support for ground units.

Performances included the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, Whiskey Papa Skywriting, demonstrations by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force rappelling team, Pacific Air Forces’ F-16 demonstration team and Japan Air Self-Defense Force’s Blue Impulse.

The air show also encompassed various U.S. and Japanese static display aircraft, food and entertainment. Some displays included F/A-18C and F/A-18D Hornets, an MV-22B Osprey and F-35B Lightning II from III Marine Expeditionary Force and an F-16 Fighting Falcon, an A-10 Thunderbolt II and a KC-135 Stratotanker from U.S. forces in Korea.

Marines with Headquarters and Support Company, 3d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, currently forward deployed to Okinawa, Japan, displayed their proficiencies in ground tactics.

Visitors traveled from all over Japan to experience the one-day event, hoping to witness firsthand the unique U.S.-Japan alliance and the various Marine Corps capabilities showcased at the event. “This is my first time visiting Friendship Day and I loved watching the air show,” said Kuniko Koyanagi, a Japanese guest. “The Americans seem very friendly, and I want to come back even though it is very far from Sapporo, my home.”

“Friendship Day is one of the many ways MCAS Iwakuni can show their respect for the Japanese people, their culture and their country,” said Colonel Richard F. Fuerst, the commanding officer of MCAS Iwakuni.

Although Friendship Day is a one-day event, it exemplifies and reaffirms the remarkable bond between two nations.

Cpl Aaron Henson, USMC



LCPL TIANA BOYD, USMC

A Marine helps a Japanese child get a taste of Marine Corps life during the 41st Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force–MCAS Iwakuni Friendship Day, May 5.



LCPL TIANA BOYD, USMC

An Iwakuni local connects with a Marine during the Friendship Day air show and community event held at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, May 5. The annual gathering allows Japanese visitors to enter the air station and gain a better understanding of what the Marines’ presence in Iwakuni entails.

MV-22 Task Trainer Connects University, Marine Corps

Students at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., recently visited Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., where they explored the MV-22B Osprey to gain knowledge and inspiration for a multi-



From the left, ECU medical student Daniel Jourdan; Andrea Strickland from the ECU Office of Innovation and Economic Development; and ECU student Tulsi Patel simulate critical care operations on a patient in the university's MV-22 Osprey Task Trainer. The project, supported by the Marine Corps and designed and built by ECU students, will allow Navy corpsmen and nurses to practice in a realistic aircraft setting. (Photo by Wayne Godwin)

disciplinary project that could transform the way Navy corpsmen and critical care nurses practice for medical evacuations.

The MV-22 Task Trainer, housed in ECU's Innovation Design Lab, was built as part of a collaboration between the university, the Marine Corps and the Brody School of Medicine.

From the outside, it's a big black cylinder; but step inside, and you're aboard an Osprey. When the "engines" start, it's easy to believe you're about to take off from an air base, not standing in a university lab.

"It recreates the environment in which they're going to have to work," said Jim Menke, military research liaison and project manager for Operation Reentry North Carolina, an organization dedicated to addressing the resiliency, rehabilitation and reintegration concerns of servicemembers through university-military partnerships.

"Our medical personnel can learn to do procedures and monitor patients, and do

all these things in a clinical situation with a bed in a hospital," said Menke. Providing medical care aboard an aircraft is different for a number of reasons. "It's extremely noisy; you have to wear a headset to communicate and hear what's going on. At night you're under green light, so vision is difficult. You're on your knees because the patient is on a stretcher on the floor of the aircraft. There's vibration. There's a very strong diesel smell; your eyes will burn."

ECU students in a variety of disciplines had a hands-on role in designing and building the task trainer, which is capable of reproducing all of those conditions and more. The interior bay of an MV-22 was recreated inside a 4,800-gallon agricultural sprayer tank.

There's engine noise, heat, wind, odors and vibration. An array of cameras captures each training exercise for debriefing. Even the "patients" are high-tech—they're high-fidelity mannequins that have cardiac

and blood pressure monitors—and the training missions are based on actual casualties from the military's war trauma registry.

"The collaboration involving the Brody School of Medicine Clinical Simulation Program, the ECU Office of Innovation and Economic Development, and the military is an important one," said Dr. Skip Robey, assistant dean of safety and simulation at Brody School of Medicine at ECU. "Integration of the Osprey simulator into the current corpsman simulation training activities adds an important dimension to the reality-based educational experience."

"The project was pretty much student-led," Menke added. "We had biomedical engineering students, ceramics, art and design, and education. Geography students went down and laser mapped the inside of an Osprey so we'd have measurements for how to recreate it. It has been a multidisciplinary, cross-campus project

to get it built and working. Now we're working with medical students to develop the training."

Brendan Mims, an ECU graduate student studying ceramics, helped turn the agricultural tank into a convincing replica of an Osprey interior.

"I was brought on for my background in construction and problem solving with alternative material," Mims said. "It has helped my education by exposing me to material I had not utilized before and increased my ability to create prototypes for ceramic mold making."

Another tool available for training is an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset, which provides a 3-D representation of the aircraft for familiarization purposes. As a graduate student in biomedical engineering, Blair Weaver helped create the virtual environment.

Weaver visited MCAS New River and used 12 GoPro cameras to capture full spherical video of an MV-22 Osprey. Using the Oculus Rift headset, she said, "military personnel can train at our lab by immersing themselves in this setting and experiencing the Osprey as if they were actually in one."

"We're allowing them to practice tasks like crew coordination; they have to coordinate just like the pilot and copilot would on an aircraft," Menke said. "You have a critical care nurse and corpsmen and they have to learn to work as a team to take care of that patient. This is a much more cost-effective means to practice these long exercises."

Jules Norwood, ECU News Services

.50-Cal Gets an Upgrade: Fielding of New M2A1 is Underway

Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) is equipping Marines with the updated M2A1 .50-caliber machine gun, increasing their survivability and lethality on the battlefield.

The M2A1 serves as an upgrade to the legacy M2 machine gun currently used by Marines across the Corps. The updated M2A1 is easier and safer to use due to three major changes: a quick-change barrel, fixed headspace and timing, and a flash hider that reduces the weapon's signature by 95 percent at night.

"M2s are the most reliable heavy machine gun," said Major Harry Thompson, team lead for General Purpose Weapons

at MCSC. "The improved M2A1 makes Marines more lethal because they're able to get rounds downrange quicker. Marines will have better mobility because of the fixed headspace and timing—it's much quicker to move the gun from position to position and put it back into action. Because they're less exposed, Marines will have better survivability too."

The current M2 requires Marines to manually set headspace and timing before firing, after assembly and after required barrel changes when the barrel becomes extremely hot from high volumes of fire. Headspace is the distance between the face of the bolt and the base of the cartridge case when it is fully seated in the chamber. Timing is the adjustment of the gun so that firing takes place when the recoiling parts are in the correct position for firing.

Correct adjustments of both are necessary for the gun to work properly and continue to work; improper adjustments can lead to malfunctions that could potentially injure the user or damage the weapon. Fixed headspace and timing reduces operator risk and eliminates the need for Marines to master and execute



LCPL JOSEPH PRADO, USMC

Marines with Company A, Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry-West, fire the new M2A1 during Phase I fielding as part of their basic infantry training at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 20, 2016. The M2A1, an upgrade from the legacy M2, has a quick-change barrel, fixed headspace and timing and a flash hider.

this time-consuming procedure.

The fixed headspace and timing on the M2A1 enables the machine gun's second major improvement—the quick-change barrel, said Thompson.

“Marines no longer have to manually screw the barrel in to set the headspace,” he said. “Instead, the barrel pops into the receiver and locks in place quickly, similar to the M240B machine gun.”

Having a quick-change barrel improves Marines' readiness by reducing the amount of time they are exposed to enemy fire and shortens the amount of time the weapon is out of operation. By spending less time manually adjusting headspace and timing settings and having the ability to change the M2A1's barrel quickly, Marines can respond faster and more efficiently to enemy fire.

The third major improvement is the flash hider at the end of the barrel, said Thompson. By significantly reducing muzzle flash, Marines can better mask their position in firefights. The flash hider also limits whiteout conditions caused by the brilliance of the weapon firing, enabling Marines to use night vision devices more effectively.



LCPL MOLLY HAMPTON, USMC

BREAKING BARRIERS—2dLt Lillian Polatchek, USMC, was named the distinguished honor graduate at the U.S. Army's Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Benning, Ga., April 12. But she didn't just take away top honors—she made history as the Marine Corps' first-ever female tank officer. A graduate of Connecticut College, Polatchek, a New York native, completed The Basic School at MCB Quantico, Va., prior to reporting to the Marine Corps Detachment at Fort Benning for the five-month course, which is the only school Marines can attend to earn the tank officer MOS. Polatchek will serve as a tank officer with 2d Tank Bn at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

According to Kelly Sullivan, a program analyst for General Purpose Weapons, MCSC, approximately 3,500 M2A1s will be fielded to Marines. Phase I fielding was completed in March 2017. Phase II was scheduled to run through the end of

May, with the fielding process scheduled for completion during fiscal year 2018.

Ashley Calingo, MCSC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL HARLEY ROBINSON, USMC

“Lieutenant, it would be easier to pull me up if you took your foot off my chest.”

Submitted by
GySgt Tim Pond, USMC (Ret)
Aberdeen, S.D.

This Month's Photo



CPL ANGELICA I. ANNASTAS

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

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

Samuel Nicholas, “The Fightin’ Quaker”

By Lew D. Feldman

Had we the information, there would be reason for talking about Nicholas’ first tooth and its subsequent influence upon our history. We would then follow this with several paragraphs, appropriately titled as “Our Hero at School,” “His First Fight,” “Vacation Days.” But since the pages of history have never divulged the minutiae of friend Samuel Nicholas’ early life, we are forced to begin by observing events that happen to be recorded.

On Nov. 10, 1775, Congress adopted the following resolution:

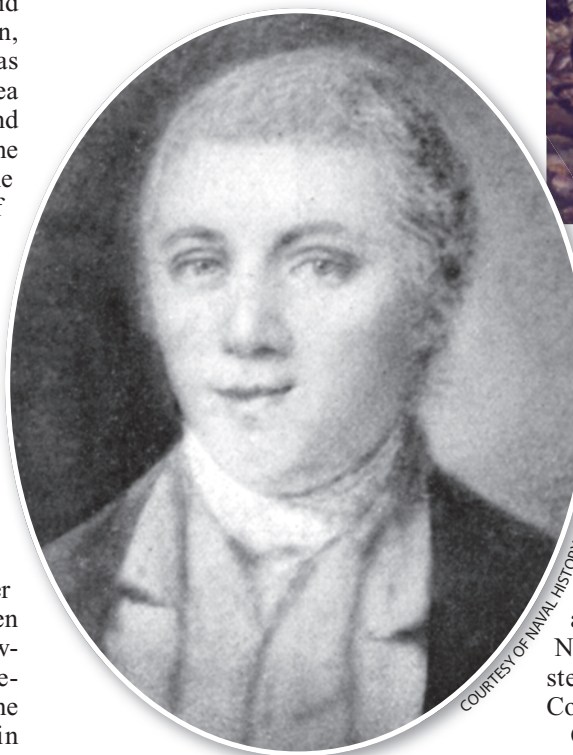
Resolved: That two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one colonel, two lieutenant colonels, two majors, and other officers, as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken that no persons be appointed to offices, or enlisted into said battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required; that they be enlisted and commissioned to serve for and during the present war with Great Britain and the Colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the First and Second Battalion of Marines.

It is apparent that the Continental Congress intended the senior officer of Marines be a colonel, but this rank was never conferred upon any Marine officer during the Revolution. On Nov. 28, 1775, the Marine Committee of the Continental Congress appointed Samuel Nicholas, of Philadelphia, Captain of Marines. Why the committee appointed Nicholas in preferment to other candidates for the office has never been fully explained; it made no mistake however. This gentle-appearing Quaker received the first commission issued in the Continental Naval Service. Captain Nicholas no sooner received official confirmation of his appointment to office than he established recruiting headquarters at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Pa.

By January of 1776, having recruited

a sufficient number of Marines to man the seven (or was it eight) vessels that made up the Continental Navy in the waters about Philadelphia, Capt Nicholas assumed command of the Marine detachment of the *Alfred*. With Commodore Hopkins in command, the *Alfred* set sail from Philadelphia on the morning of Jan. 4. The following month witnessed the baptismal fire of the leathernecks.

Lord Dunmore, with the British force under his command, had collected a considerable store of arms and provisions at New Providence in the Bahamas and had done a great deal of injury along the Colonial coast, principally confining his attentions to the shore of Virginia. Hopkins had been ordered to proceed to Avaco in the Bahamas where his squadron was to gather, and from there to operate against the force of Lord Dunmore. After an uneventful run, the squadron



A native of Philadelphia, Pa., Samuel Nicholas became the Marine Corps’ first officer after being commissioned on Nov. 28, 1775.



arrived at the rendezvous. Here, the commodore decided to make an attack on New Providence, capture the enemy’s stores and cripple his supplies. Capt Nicholas was placed in command of the landing party which consisted of about 250 Marines and Sailors. This, the first landing party ever engaged in by Continental Marines, was a complete success. “Skipper” Nicholas obtained possession of the fort without a single casualty. The Marines under Nicholas behaved with a spirit and steadiness that have distinguished the Corps from that hour down to this.

On April 6, 1776, the Marines participated in the first naval battle between an American squadron and the British. Evidently, His Majesty’s ship *Glasgow*, commanded by Lord Howe, had blundered across the path of the squadron.



In this painting, Col Charles Waterhouse depicts Capt Samuel Nicholas and Lt Matthew Park observing as the first Marine recruits were assembled on the Philadelphia wharves after a resolution was passed by the Continental Congress to bring the Marine Corps into existence.

COURTESY OF THE COLONEL CHARLES H. WATERHOUSE ESTATE, ART COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

Capt Nicholas reported that he went to bed at midnight, and at 1:30 a.m. he was awakened by the cry of "All hands to quarters!"

"We were soon ready for action, the main body of my company with my first lieutenant, was placed in a barge on the main deck; the remaining part, with my second lieutenant and myself on the quarterdeck." Second Lieutenant John Fitzpatrick fell dead by the side of Capt Nicholas at the first broadside "shot by a musket-ball through the head!" Nicholas writes of him, "In him I have lost a worthy officer, sincere friend and companion that was beloved by all the ship's company."

On June 25, 1776, Congress placed "Samuel Nicholas at the head of the Marines with the rank of Major." At this time the fleet was concentrated off Rhode Island. Accordingly, COMO Hopkins was advised to send the "Quaker Skipper"

to Philadelphia, with dispatches for the Continental Congress. It must have been with a justified sense of pride, mingled with characteristic humility that Nicholas reported to John Hancock, president of the Congress. With the notification of his promotion to a majority, he was ordered to report to the Marine Committee. This august body had ill-tidings in store for the major. Instead of complying with Nicholas' request that he be returned to the fleet, the committee detached him from the *Alfred* and ordered him to remain in the city, "to discipline four companies of Marines and prepare them for service as Marine guards for the frigates on the stocks." We cannot help but agree with the major that the assignment was an unwelcome expression of gratitude for services rendered. However, duty is duty, then as now; he set energetically to work recruiting the desired number of

men. Having recruited and thoroughly organized four companies, he requested arms and equipment for them. Congress complied by directing the secret committee on Aug. 22, 1776, to "deliver to Major Nicholas a number of muskets, sufficient to arm the Marines under his command in the city of Philadelphia." Consequently, November found a "well-organized, well-equipped and well-disciplined battalion of Marines housed in comfortable barracks."

In December, Nicholas wrote to Congress, "The enemy, having overrun the Jerseys, and our army being greatly reduced, I was ordered to march with three of the companies to be under the command of His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief."

We have here the first example of a battalion of Marines, about to serve as an actual fighting unit under the direct com-

mand of Army authority. Washington's crossing of the frozen Delaware, with his almost equally frozen Army, has ever been a stirring spectacle to all students of Americana. Everyone knows about his sudden and overwhelmingly successful attack upon the reveling Hessians at Christmas dawn, but how many ever contemplate the difficulty experienced in getting that Army across. The Marines, unfortunately, did not engage as a body in the attack upon Trenton. They accomplished the thankless but most arduous task of ferrying the half-frozen Continentals across. As in all things, the Marines did their job well; not a man was lost in the perilous trip.

Realizing that his men were itching for the glory and action of a fight, Maj Nicholas planned a raid which would revive their battalion spirit. It seems that an ex-sheriff of Monmouth, Elisha Laurence by name, having been appointed a lieutenant colonel by the British, had imprisoned 20 patriots for refusing to join his band of Tories. Nicholas requested the permission of General Cadwalader to "go after him and bring him in." Gen Cadwalader wrote to Gen Washington on Dec. 31, 1776, for authority to permit the Marine commander to start on this expedition. The Battle of Princeton occurred before authority could be granted.

After the first Battle of Trenton, Cornwallis had rushed to the scene with a large force. Reaching Trenton at night,

he waited until the next day for battle, sure that Washington was at his mercy. "At last," he said, "we have run down the old fox and will bag him in the morning." But as we all know, the "old fox" was not there in the morning. He slipped quietly away to Princeton, where he surprised and routed a detachment of Cornwallis' main army. The battalion of Marines under Maj Nicholas flung itself wholeheartedly into the fray; given a chance to fight, it made up for its ill-luck at Trenton. Washington now moved northward to Morristown, where he found a safe retreat and passed the winter. During the ensuing months, Major Nicholas' battalion served both as infantry and artillery, participating in several skirmishes.

We now lose track of Maj Nicholas until the evacuation of Philadelphia by the British in June 1778. Marine barracks were reestablished and recruiting vigorously renewed. From then until the close of the war, the major was a very busy man. Moreover, he was in active charge of recruiting, and at times acted as Muster Master of the Navy. Although he was energetic and conscientious in the performance of his duty, there is evidence of the fact that this duty was both irksome and disagreeable. Apparently, he sincerely believed that since he had volunteered to fight for his country, Congress had but little justification for making him a "Quill-Fighter." We find that on Nov. 20, 1779, he wrote to Congress, requesting that he be put in

charge of the Marine detachment on board *America*, then in process of construction. Congress was adamant in its intention that Maj Nicholas remain in Philadelphia. The major, in describing his predicament, writes, "I consequently had the mortification to become on Acct. of the promotion I was honored with, a useless officer, at least in sense of danger." Evidently he didn't think very highly of the gentlemen of the Marine Committee. But, Marine that he was, he buckled down to the grind and efficiently guided the destinies of the Marine battalions to a successful close.

With the arrival of peace, Nicholas withdrew to the obscurity from whence he sprung. Again, history fails us. All we can glean from the peaceful years is that Nicholas was a charter member of the State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania, and he served on the standing committee from 1785 to 1788. It's strange indeed that such a heroic and capable figure faded quickly from view. It is the general belief among American historians that he died while comparatively a young man. Unfortunately, Marine Corps officials have never succeeded in finding any record of the death or burial place of the first Marine officer.

The Marine Corps of today is greatly indebted to this gallant Quaker, who, armed in righteousness, established the prestige and the glory, that we are pledged to carry on.



COURTESY OF THE COLONEL CHARLES H. WATERHOUSE ESTATE;
ART COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

With hope of gaining sorely needed powder for Washington's army, 230 Marines and 50 seamen, under the command of Marine Capt Samuel Nicholas, landed on the island of New Providence in March 1776. Col Charles Waterhouse depicts in this painting the moment the Continental Marines stepped ashore from ships of the Continental fleet commanded by Commodore Esek Hopkins.

Samuel Nicholas Society

The Marine Corps Association Foundation is pleased to announce the development of the Samuel Nicholas Society. Members of the Samuel Nicholas Society have expressed their commitment to the Marine Corps Association Foundation through a very special and important form of financial support.

The Marine Corps Association Foundation honors every planned gift donor with membership in the Samuel Nicholas Society, created exclusively to honor and recognize those who have helped us continue our mission to develop leaders and provide forums for Marines to grow professionally, exchange ideas, and preserve the traditions of the Corps.

These donors have named MCAF as the beneficiary of a planned gift. Such gifts might include bequests, appreciated securities, gifts of retirement accounts, or gifts of life insurance. You can make an important impact to MCAF that doesn't cost anything during your lifetime, but is a priceless part of the legacy that you leave behind.

Add MCAF to your estate plans today and help us continue our mission to ensure that the values and traditions of the Corps live on in today's and tomorrow's Marines.

Once you complete your estate plans, please fill out our member profile form online at www.mcafdn.org to let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity by including you in the Samuel Nicholas Society.



Marine Corps
Association Foundation
www.mcafdn.org

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Volunteer Gives New Life To the Last Dauntless

Voices echoed through the warehouse, bouncing off old, dusty military vehicles and aircraft in various stages of restoration. Tucked away on one side rested a partially restored Douglas SBD-1 Dauntless dive bomber, thought to be the last surviving aircraft of its kind.

Robert Cramsie, a restoration volunteer with the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., and a board member of the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation, dedicated more than 2,500 hours since December 2012 to restoring the Dauntless using only blueprints, salvaged parts and even fabricating parts by hand when needed. Cramsie is a former aircraft mechanic who currently works at Northrop Grumman in San Diego as a production environmental test technician.

"When you start with a portion of the aircraft that is trashed and slowly build it piece by piece, seeing where you started versus where it is when you finish is the most rewarding part of this project for me," said Cramsie.

Because of his outstanding volunteerism, Cramsie received the Northrop Grumman Excellence in Volunteerism Award, which was presented by representatives of Northrop Grumman, Mission Systems, San Diego, during a ceremony held at the Flying Leatherneck Museum Restoration Facility at MCAS Miramar, April 21. For the hours he spent restoring the Dauntless, Cramsie received one of 11 awards to be given worldwide by Northrop Grumman in 2017.

"Restoration projects like the Dauntless give members of the community the ability to come and experience a piece of history," said Colonel Jason Woodworth, the commanding officer of MCAS Miramar.

"People who come and volunteer here, whether they have affiliation with the military or not, should be encouraged to continue their service because they allow everyone to get close to and touch pieces of our history."

The Dauntless was recovered from Lake Michigan in 1995, where it crashed during a training flight in November 1942. The plane, which suffered extensive physical damage and corrosion, was shipped around the country before finally finding a home at the museum.

"The aircraft was in sad shape," explained Cramsie. "The wings were re-



LCPL LIAH SMUIN, USMC

Robert Cramsie, left, a volunteer with the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, displays his Northrop Grumman Excellence in Volunteerism Award while shaking hands with Col Jason Woodworth, CO, MCAS Miramar, Calif., at the museum's restoration facility at the air station, April 21. Cramsie spent more than 2,500 hours restoring the last known Douglas SBD-1 Dauntless, which is displayed at the museum.

moved and set aside with the right wing slightly crushed and the left wing severely damaged. The vertical stabilizer was missing, the left leading edge of the inboard wing was crushed, the belly had holes punctured in it and the doors were missing."

According to Cramsie, he plans to continue restoring the Dauntless until its condition is similar to when it came out of the factory in 1940. It's a process that may take many more years of work.

"Seeing the pieces come together is really what keeps me going," said Cramsie. "The work that I'm doing, at the end of the day, is about giving a piece of history back to the museum and to the Marine Corps."

To learn more about visiting or volunteering with the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, visit www.flyingleathernecks.org.

LCpl Liah Smuin, USMC

Infrascanner to Identify TBIs In Remote Locations

Marine Corps Systems Command is introducing widespread use of an innovative, lifesaving and award-winning technology to Marines in the field.

The Infrascanner is a portable, medical

diagnostic device that provides early detection of intracranial hematomas—bleeding within the skull—potentially saving lives and improving casualty care and recovery.

The handheld device uses near-infrared, invisible light that is nearly visible to the naked eye, to effectively check for intracranial hematomas on different parts of the skull. With the device, medical personnel at battalion aid stations can quickly assess Marines in the field who may have suffered a head injury.

"Intracranial hematomas, if gone untreated, can put pressure on the brain, causing potential brain damage or even death," said Mark Urrutic, project officer for the Family of Field Medical Equipment Team, MCSC. A retired Navy chief hospital corpsman, Urrutic is familiar with the scenarios Marines face that can lead to these types of injuries.

"Marines can sustain these types of injuries by falling and hitting their heads or by being in close proximity to a blast, which could damage the brain by rattling it within the skull," he said.

Successful treatment of traumatic brain injuries often relies on timely diagnosis and intervention to prevent long-term

brain damage. Serious brain injuries can sometimes be asymptomatic, meaning there are no outward signs of injury and those injured report feeling fine, so it's important to detect these types of injuries quickly, said Urrutic.

Prior to the 2015 fielding of the Infrascanner, the Marine Corps did not have the technological capability to assess brain injuries on the battlefield. Medical personnel instead relied primarily on the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation, a questionnaire and screening tool gauging the severity of symptoms and potential cognitive deficits associated with concussions.

"Before the Infrascanner, all we could do to assess brain injuries in the field was complete a [Military Acute Concussion Evaluation] form. For more definitive care, we would perform a CT scan—a series of high-resolution X-rays to look for any kind of brain squishing in from blood," said John Philpott, medical team engineer at MCSC. "No capability like this existed before the Infrascanner."

While most hospitals have state-of-the-art CT scanners to diagnose intracranial hematomas, remote battlefield facilities lack the necessary capabilities to diagnose this condition due to the size and logistics of transporting and operating one in the field. Marines with a potential brain injury would need to be flown out to another facility to receive the scan and subsequent treatments. With the Infrascanner, corpsmen in the field can quickly determine whether someone has suffered serious brain trauma and needs additional treatment.

"This isn't going to replace the CT scan," Philpott said. "In addition to helping us determine if Marines have suffered brain



ASHLEY CALINGO

HMC Jared Anderson, USN, uses an Infrascanner to assess MGySgt Maceo Mathis for intracranial hematomas at MCB Quantico, Va., May 8. The scanner is a portable, medical diagnostic device that provides early detection of TBIs, which can save lives and improve casualty care and recovery.

injuries, it can help us rule out Marines who haven't. So Marines who aren't suffering from a brain hematoma can get back to the action sooner, rather than having to send every Marine back for a CT scan, which uses time and resources."

The Infrascanner project started as a small business innovation research grant before successfully being transitioned into a program of record at MCSC. In recognition of their efforts, the Infrascanner team received the Department of the Navy's 2016 Ron Kiss Maritime Technology Transition Award. The award recognizes the individual or team in the defense acquisition community for outstanding achieve-

ment as a result of successfully transitioning a technology into a program of record or into operational use.

"As systems engineers, we serve as the middle man between the users and developers," Philpott said. "We need to make sure that, at the end of the day, the product that is delivered meets our requirements, not just for us, but for our Sailors and Marines."

To learn more about traumatic brain injuries and access resources for awareness and recovery, visit dvbic.dcoe.mil.

Ashley Calingo, MCSC



SGT MANDALINE HATCH, USMC

BY INVITATION ONLY—While visiting Brentwood High School in Brentwood, Tenn., Sgt Roderick Evans presents Natasha Kusibab with a special invitation, May 9. Kusibab is one of 96 high school students from across the nation whose athletic performance, outstanding character, academic excellence and community leadership earned them a spot in Battles Won Academy, sponsored by Marine Corps Recruiting Command, which will take place in Washington, D.C., July 13-17. The program provides Marines with the opportunity to purposefully engage the country's top student leaders and share leadership lessons that will enhance their future success.

A Legacy Inspires

Lopez Honors His Uncle's Sacrifice By Supporting Today's Marines



LtCol John Stevens, USMC (Ret), Lt Lopez's company commander during the Korean War, and members of the Lopez family were present as 2dLt Stephen Spicher, center, received the Baldomero Lopez Award as the Honor Graduate of "Charlie" Company, The Basic School, Sept. 12, 2012. From left to right: Col Todd S. Desgrosseilliers, CO, TBS; 1stLt Lopez's niece, Karen Bunk-Lopez; Lt Spicher; LtCol Stevens; and 1stLt Lopez's nephew, Mike Lopez.

By Margot Cornelius

Mike Lopez's home office is a private place where he can meditate on his family's story. He doesn't have to look far to find reminders of the men who shaped his family's legacy.

He keeps his uncle's Medal of Honor in a prominent position in his private sanctuary. Close by hangs the famous photo of his uncle, First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez, leading his Marines of Third Platoon, Company A, First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, over a seawall at Inchon on Sept. 15, 1950, during the Korean War.

These heirlooms are tangible and precious daily reminders of "Baldy," as his family affectionately called him, and Mike's own brother, Paul Lopez, who both were Marines. 1stLt Baldomero Lopez died shortly after the iconic photo was taken, when he smothered a grenade with his body, saving the lives of his men that day. He was 25 years old.

The photo was recreated as a diorama called Seawall at Inchon as part of the Korean War Gallery at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle,

Va. "It's always been kind of surreal to see it," said Mike Lopez.

Mike Lopez traces his roots back to the Asturias region of Spain where the family lived until his grandfather, also named Baldomero Lopez, emigrated to the United States at the age of 12. His son, Baldy, was a trailblazer in the family, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy right after graduating from Hillsborough High School in Tampa, Fla. He was selected to attend a three-year, fast-track program at the U.S. Naval Academy during World War II.

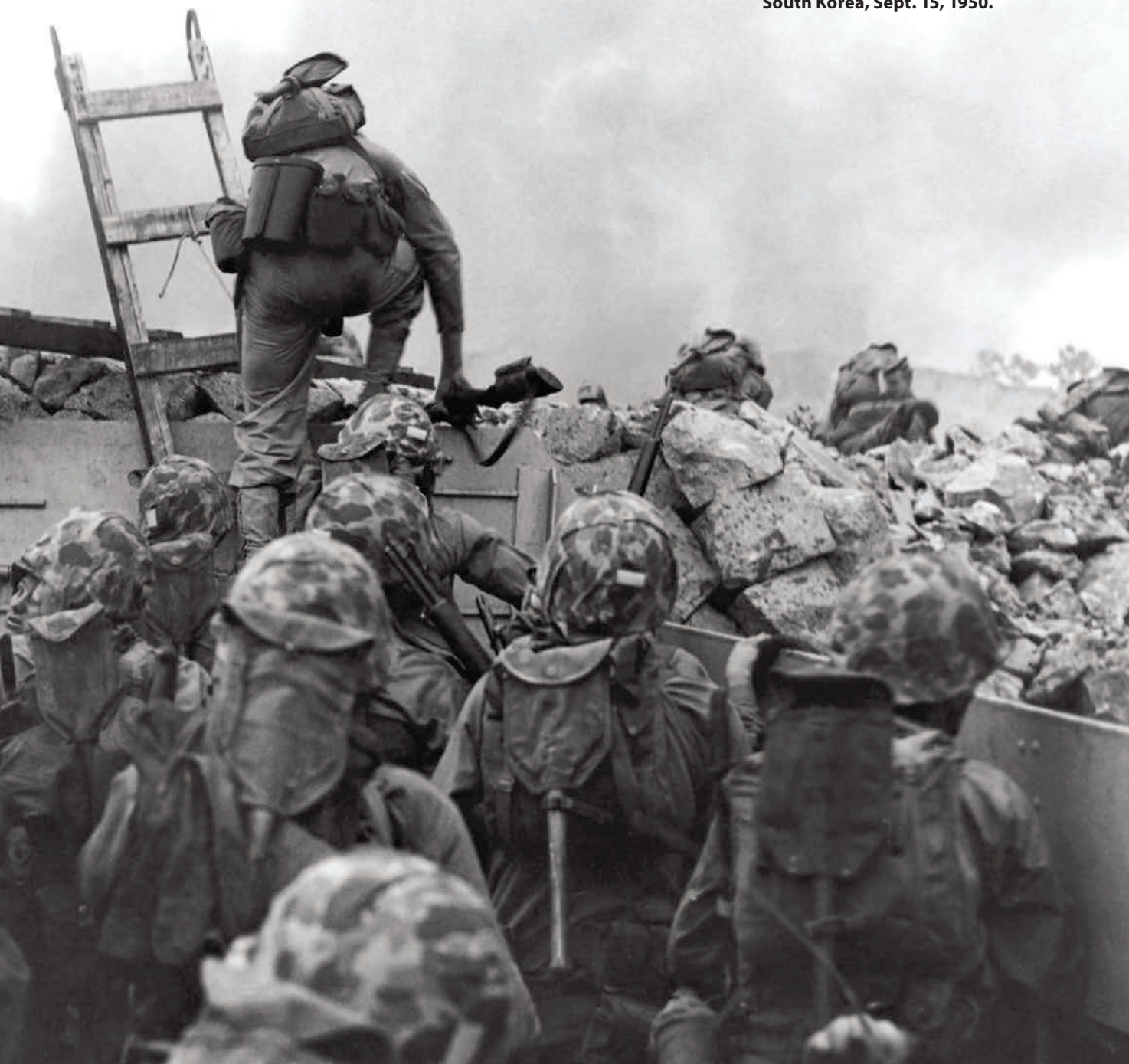
His life and sacrifice left an indelible mark on his family. Mike's younger brother, Paul, followed his uncle's example and joined the Marine Corps. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in January 1979, upon graduating from the University of Florida. He earned his wings and became a Marine Corps pilot.

"It was kind of funny. I remember my brother telling me that when he was at Quantico and they're teaching about the Inchon invasion, my uncle's name comes up, and everybody looks at him like 'Uh-oh.' And he says, 'Boy, talk about pressure.'"



1stLt Baldomero Lopez

The iconic photograph that captures 1stLt Baldomero Lopez leading his Marines over the seawall in Inchon, South Korea, Sept. 15, 1950.



USMC

In 2012, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation (MCA&F) contacted Mike Lopez to discuss renaming an honor graduate award after his uncle, Baldomero.

“I said, ‘Do you have to ask? That’s a no-brainer! Of course.’ ”



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to FIRST LIEUTENANT BALDOMERO LOPEZ UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Marine platoon commander of Company A, in action against enemy aggressor forces. With his platoon 1st Lt. Lopez was engaged in the reduction of immediate enemy beach defenses after landing with the assault waves. Exposing himself to hostile fire, he moved forward alongside a bunker and prepared to throw a hand grenade into the next pillbox whose fire was pinning down that sector of the beach. Taken under fire by an enemy automatic weapon and hit in the right shoulder and chest as he lifted his arm to throw, he fell backward and dropped the deadly missile. After a moment, he turned and dragged his body forward in an effort to retrieve the grenade and throw it. In critical condition from pain and loss of blood, and unable to grasp the hand grenade firmly enough to hurl it, he chose to sacrifice himself rather than endanger the lives of his men and, with a sweeping motion of his wounded right arm, cradled the grenade under him and absorbed the full impact of the explosion. His exceptional courage, fortitude, and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon 1st Lt. Lopez and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.



COURTESY OF MIKE LOPEZ

Mike Lopez's grandmother, Francis Lopez, with her son's Medal of Honor.



COURTESY OF MIKE LOPEZ

1stLt Paul Lopez and his father, Joe Lopez, at the ceremony during which Lt Lopez received his naval aviator gold wings.

Mike Lopez, right, and his grandchildren, pose with Col Desgrosseilliers, left, during a visit to TBS March 28, 2013. The honor graduate of each TBS company is presented with the Baldomero Lopez Award, named in honor of Mike Lopez's uncle, a MOH recipient for his heroic actions during the Korean War.



In his own quiet, thoughtful way, [Mike] has partnered with MCA&F as a donor to support other Marines and tell the story of the two great Marines in his family who served honorably.

In January 1984, Captain Paul Lopez died of cancer.

"Just meeting some of his friends and the support they gave my parents when he died, it was just really incredible," Lopez said. "Marines are a special class of people."

In 2012, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation (MCA&F) contacted Mike Lopez to discuss renaming an honor graduate award after his uncle, Baldomero.

"I said, 'Do you have to ask? That's a no-brainer! Of course,'" Lopez said.

MCA&F now provides the Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez Honor Graduate Award to The Basic School honor graduate of each company in recognition of their performance in the demanding course—a fitting tribute to both Baldomero Lopez and Paul Lopez who each completed TBS at Marine Corps Base Quantico, albeit decades apart.

"I contribute to the MCA&F on both

Baldy's and Paul's birthdays and at Christmas," said Lopez. "My donation at Christmas is in my uncle's and brother's memory," added Lopez who is not looking to shine the spotlight on his efforts. Instead, in his own quiet, thoughtful way, he has partnered with MCA&F as a donor to support other Marines and tell the story of the two great Marines in his family who served honorably.

"I was very grateful to [the Marine Corps Association & Foundation] for keeping my uncle's legacy alive and it helps keep my brother's [legacy] alive also."

Mike Lopez has one more daily reminder hanging in his office—a plaque that reads, "Today and always let us remember the sacrifices that have been made for our freedom."

"To me, that's what it's all about," he said.

In 2009, Lopez retired as senior vice president of human resources for a phar-

maceutical company. He has two sons and five grandchildren and continues to support MCA&F's programs. In 2013 the foundation provided a unit library for Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234, Marine Air Group 41, Fourth Marine Air Wing, in honor of his support.

If you would like to learn more about all the MCA&F's programs for Marines, or you'd like to support our programs with a tax-deductible donation, please <https://www.mcafdn.org/>.

Author's bio: Margot Cornelius is the web/digital manager at the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. She has a master's degree in journalism from Regent University. Margot lives in Michigan with her family and is a proud native of Cape Town, South Africa.



Books Reviewed

DEAR RITA. By William Baird. Published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. 304 pages. \$13.50 MCA Members. \$14.99 Regular Price.

"Dear Rita" is a collection of letters written by Marine Technical Sergeant George Baird, to his wife, Rita, during World War II. Interestingly, none of the letters were actually addressed to "Rita." George used a host of endearing nicknames for his wife and he began many letters with "Hello Darling," "Sweetheart," or simply, "My lovely wife."

The book was skillfully compiled and edited by one of the Bairds' sons, William Baird. In the forward he recounts, "These letters, lovingly kept—and reread—by Rita for over 70 years were only open for her children to read after her passing in 2014."

George Baird enlisted in the Corps in January 1942. His enlistment spanned most of World War II. Baird served on Midway Island, Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

He had dated Rita before the war and they were wed in 1943 after George returned from Guadalcanal, where he had been severely wound. Only one of the letters he wrote there was saved by Rita. However, she lovingly collected and saved all the letters he wrote from late 1942 until the end of the war.

Private Baird was serving as a radio operator on Oct. 13, 1942, when Japanese aircraft bombed the Marines. In a later interview, George recalled, "I was in a foxhole only to have two bombs straddle

the foxhole and create enough force to drive me underground and to really bash up the guy who was with me and break most of the bones in his body. But I was lucky..." Nearby Marines dug George out; the force of the bomb caved-in the sides of his foxhole, crushing him. He received a concussion and had damage to his chest and lungs. George was evacuated to a hospital in New Hebrides before being sent home to recover. While at home, he reconnected with Rita and they were married. Before George returned to the Pacific, Rita became pregnant with their first child, Thomas John Baird.

Sporting his Guadalcanal patch and eventually receiving a Purple Heart, George quickly rose in the ranks. He noted, "I was promoted to corporal and sergeant almost faster than they could write up the papers." He was put in charge of the MAG-33 post office where he served for the rest of the war.

While overseas, Sgt Baird started to embellish his home-bound envelopes with cartoon drawings. Copying

the drawing style of a friend, George soon became a first-rate artist. His son noted that some of the envelopes addressed to Rita sported a cartoon drawing usually depicting himself standing on a Pacific Island, accompanied by a humorous caption, or a scene portraying him dreaming of her. These charming cartoons, designed to bring a smile to Rita, have a classic style about them. Between his letters and his charming array of embellished en-

velopes, one can almost feel the depth of this Marine's love for his wife. The letters convey a mixture of news and his longing to return to his beloved Rita.

In May 1945, the Japanese made a desperate suicide attack on the mud-drenched Marine airfield on Okinawa. TSgt Baird described the incident, "Some of the guys ... picked up [Japanese] pistols, flags, and other souvenirs. The stuff came from the [Japanese] 'suicide' squads dropped on the field. One of our lieutenants killed a [Japanese] right after he hit the deck and before he could damage any planes. Most of the others were taken care of the same way. Our [Japanese] friends have tried every trick in the book since we got here but so far they haven't been very successful. Their successes will decrease with every day that goes by, too."

By June 1945, TSgt Baird learned that he had become a new father. His joyful reaction was: "HURRAY! The news finally arrived a few hours ago and I'm as proud and excited as if I'd had the baby myself! I can give you some idea of how excited I was (and am) by this. I walked into a desk and slid on my a-- on the deck to the great merriment of everyone else in the tent ... As I've mentioned before, all I wanted was a child born of our love, and to have you both come out in good health."

In George's Aug. 9, 1945, letter home, he mentioned two significant items: the Russians had entered the war, and the men on Okinawa had learned of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. TSgt Baird writes, "The news [Russian declaration of war] coupled with the announcement of the first 'atomic bomb' raid was almost too much for my poor heart to bear. This afternoon [Aug. 10 in the States], I heard of the second such raid firsthand from the pilot of the plane that took the bomb in. It's a terrible thing and makes me feel a little sick. I hope and pray that the [Japanese] will be smart enough to quit now ... Just pray with me, my darling, and maybe I'll be home in civilian clothes in less time than we ever hoped."

George wrote the last letter included in the book from the States on Nov. 17, 1945. The letter concludes, "It's hard to write now—I get all tightened up when I try to think of things to say. My mind just keeps repeating 'I'll soon be with her again' and my stomach becomes full of butterflies ... Did I tell you I love you? Maybe next week at this time I'll be showing you just



Letters Home

Do you have a letter that you treasure written by your special Marine? One you received from boot camp, OCS, or a faraway land? Is it something informative, heartfelt, or funny? If you would like to share it with our readers, we might feature it in an upcoming issue of *Leatherneck*.

Send your letter to:

Patricia Everett at: Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134,
or email them to **p.everett@mca-marines.org**.

Please do not send originals as we are unable to ensure their safe return.—*Leatherneck* Ed.

how much! Good night for now, dearest—See you very soon.”

William Baird self-published this amazing collection of his father’s endearing letters to his mother. And now, in a small way, we too are privileged to learn of this Marine’s love for his “Dear Rita.” The chronicle of TSgt George Baird and his bride is wonderfully uplifting.

Bob 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.

BLOODSTAINED SANDS: U.S. Amphibious Operations in World War II. By Michael G. Walling. Published by Bloomsbury USA. 448 pages. \$27 MCA Member. \$30 Regular Price.

Just what the literature on military history needed—an encyclopedic account of United States World War II amphibious warfare. Marines will be captivated by this volume as it sheds light on these brave men and their valor.

Michael G. Walling is the author of several books on military history including “Bloodstained Sea,” the 2005 Samuel Eliot Morison Naval Literature Award winner. A contributor to the U.S. Naval Institute’s *Naval History* magazine, Walling served in the U.S. Coast Guard and has appeared on both the History Channel and PBS. Walling lays out the purpose of the book in his introduction: “Before I began writing this book, I thought I had a pretty good knowledge of amphibious operations during World War II. I’d read about them and talked to hundreds of Coast Guardsmen, soldiers, Sailors and Marines over the past fifty years or so. These were men at the tip of the spear. ... Above all else my objective with this book is to help keep the often neglected memories of the amphibious forces alive.”

Many kudos are owed to Walling for setting the table for the uninitiated in his briefing section where he defines an amphibious operation as “a military operation launched from the sea by amphibious force to conduct landing force operations within the littorals.” Amphibious assault is defined by Walling as “a type of amphibious operation that involves establishing a force on a hostile or potentially hostile shore.” He goes on to state, “... landings or assaults have to be carefully choreographed or the operation fails at

the cost of men lost and equipment destroyed.” According to Walling, the first U. S. amphibious landing was performed by Sailors and Marines of the Continental Navy 6 miles from the port of Nassau in the British Bahamas on March 3, 1776; the nation went on to complete 168 successful amphibious landings during WW II, in addition to 68 amphibious assaults.

As an oral historian, Walling collects the reflections of WW II veterans and lets them tell their stories in their own words. These collected reflections, as well as personnel diary entries give “Bloodstained Sands” a personal touch that normal narrative telling by an author simply cannot match. Unfortunately there are no photographs, but the book is copiously illustrated with maps.

There are also some cloak-and-dagger elements in the book. Walling relates the tale of Marine Corps Major Earl H. Ellis who in 1913 presciently observed the need to defend Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines from a saber-rattling Japan. Ellis also believed that some of Japan’s islands would be needed in the near future. Walling raises the possibility that Ellis, a heavy drinker, was killed by poisoned whiskey by the Japanese.

There are some parts of Walling’s book that fall into the believe it or not category. As an aside, he tells us that the first two elite Marine Raider battalions in 1942 were modeled after, of all things, the Chinese Communist Eighth Route Army guerilla organization, as well as the British commandos. Even more amazing is the fact that an Australian patrol discovered the cipher library of the Imperial Japanese Army’s 20th Division at Sidor that the Japanese Army stupidly abandoned after a quick retreat. This invaluable windfall was discovered right when General Douglas MacArthur needed it. Furthermore, important information that the Japanese left behind was acquired during the battle of Makin when the Allies found a cache among other top secret documents that included priceless information such as secret maps that were the key to the Japanese defense of the Pacific Islands.

Attention to detail is honed to a razor sharpness. This fascinating monograph is a more than welcome edition on military

history. Both the expert and the novice will be captivated by this thrilling account and lovers of sweat and blood combat stories will be well satiated. Well-documented sections on the battles of Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa are featured.

The term tour de force is a threadbare phrase, but in the case of “Bloodstained Sands,” it is a fair comment.

Joseph D’Alessandris

Author’s bio: Joseph D’Alessandris is a freelance writer from Pittsburgh, Pa. He obtained a bachelor’s degree in communications from the Pennsylvania State University with specialties in advertising and film theory and criticism.

FAITHFUL SHEP: The Story of a Hero Dog & the Nine Texas Rangers Who Saved Him. By Don DeNevi. Published by Texas Review Press. 200 pages. \$17.06 MCA Member. \$18.95 Regular Price.

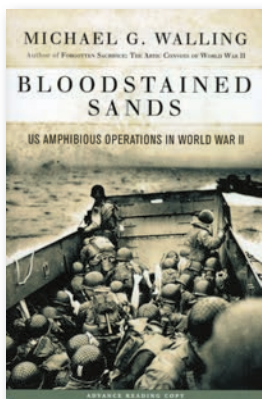
When a fact-based historian turns to writing fiction, take notice. Don DeNevi, a prolific author who has written 30

nonfiction books and many book reviews for *Leatherneck*, has turned his writing talents to an obscure but highly intriguing historical event. His book, “Faithful Shep,” takes place in the latter days of the Great American Wild West.

DeNevi’s power-driven first novel is based on a documented incident that transpired along the Texas/Rio Grande frontier in January 1880. In the fall of 1879, two Colorado ranchers traveled

along the Texas/Mexican border on a quest to procure a herd of burros. The men planned to drive the pack animals back home to Colorado. Along the way they rescued a German shepherd named Shep from certain death after a group of cruel and shiftless men staged a death match between the dog and a penned up mountain lion. The dog quickly bonded with his rescuers, Joe Andrews and his sidekick, William Wiswall, and became the men’s trusted and obedient companion.

At this time in the history of the old Southwest, most Apaches were living on reservations. However, from time-to-time, one of the bands would break-out of the reservation and raid homesteads along the Texas/Mexican border. During the brutally cold winter of 1879-80, a band led by the Mescalero Apache chief Victorio began menacing the surrounding territory. The Colorado men were warned, time



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and again, to avoid heading northeast on the Butterfield Overland mail route. The most stringent advice came from none other than the famed Ranger, Lieutenant George W. Baylor. With all the force he could muster, the Ranger implored the men to take a more southerly route east in order to avoid the area in which Victorio's band was thought to be operating. The hardheaded Coloradoans thought they knew better, and after buying a small wagon and three horses, they began their trip home over the Butterfield Trail.

DeNevi paints a colorful sketch of the arid Texas landscape of yesteryear. His writing carries the melodious touch of a Louis L'Amour novel, while also maintaining the decisive plotline of a gritty Dee Brown book with the ring of truth that only a nonfiction writer can bring to the table.

As the men traveled, they became aware that they were not alone; Apache eyes

were upon them. Throughout the ride, the men pondered the plight of the Native Americans.

Of course, the thought of capture by the feared Apaches haunted the men. "Make me a promise, partner," Wiswall said. "If it becomes truly hopeless, put a bullet through my eyes before you do the same for yourself. That seems preferable to me to enduring the tortures we've been told they inflict on their captives." "I've had the same thought. You can depend on me for that last mercy," Andrews replied.

After the Apaches stole their horses on a cold, unforgiving night, the two men made the painful difficult decision to leave Shep to guard their wagon and supplies and walk on. After a day's walk, they encountered an Apache camp and turned back to the camp where Shep continued to stand guard. Again they made the difficult decision to leave Shep with their supplies and headed back out.

After a long and difficult journey, they made it back in Ysleta where the Rangers became captivated with the account of their persistence. The men stated that they planned to quickly refit, re-equip, and return to save their beloved dog. Baylor recruited men from his Ranger company and offered to accompany the desperate men. A week later, when the company

reached the original camp site at Crow Spring, they found Shep standing guard at his appointed post. Tracks around the camp site revealed that the brave dog had fended off no less than a pack of coyotes while he steadfastly guarded the men's supplies.

Soon the men found themselves surrounded by Victorio and his warriors. It is here that old Shep saved the day.

Grab a book and read the story of this very brave dog, his owners, and the nine Rangers who came to his rescue.

It's always a treat to read a novel penned by a nonfiction writer. One expects that the facts involved will be accurate and precise, but the question remains: can the writer easily shift to the fiction genre with style and grace? DeNevi's first novel, "Faithful Shep," both meets and surpasses this all-important test. The book is a delight to read; it fulfills all the necessary elements of great historical fiction smoothly written, and of course, supported by solid historical fact. Well done, Sir! We anxiously await your next book.

Bob Loring



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Photo by: Cpl. Jason Jimenez

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* *Cancer, Facts & Figures*, 2016

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*** 5 years (2 years in GA, 12 months in TX, 6 months in CA, ME and NH)

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In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

DPAA Identifies Remains of Vietnam War Aviator

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) recently announced that the remains of a Marine, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

First Lieutenant William C. Ryan, 25, of Hoboken, N.J. was the radar intercept officer of an F4-B Phantom II with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, Marine Aircraft Group 13, First Marine Aircraft Wing on May 11, 1969. When pulling out of a bombing pass, the aircraft was hit by enemy fire and crashed. The location of the crash site precluded a search-and-recovery effort.

From May 2012 through January 2016, multiple excavations of the crash site were conducted, as a result of which, 1stLt Ryan's remains were recovered.

Compiled from DPAA news releases

Col Julia A. Hamblet

Colonel Julia A. Hamblet, who served as the director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve from 1946 to 1948, and as the director of Women Marines from 1953 to 1959, died at the age of 100 in Williamsburg, Va.

"Col Hamblet was a friend and an amazing woman who brought women forward in the Corps in ways that the majority of the women Marines past, present and future will never know," said Nancy Wilt, the historian for the Women Marines Association (WMA).

Col Hamblet was a dedicated supporter of the WMA. "It has been a long walk," she wrote in a message to WMA members on the organization's 50th anniversary. "In 1943, we were women Marines. We trod a long walk, at times a rocky path, and became Marines. No longer were there women companies, women promotion rosters and long lists of occupation fields restricted to women. Each step along the way we had to demonstrate again that we were worthy of the title 'Marine' ... we did it," wrote Hamblet.

A native of Massachusetts, she graduated from Vassar in 1937 with a bachelor's degree. She later earned a master's degree in public administration from Ohio State University.

From 1937 to 1943 she served with the U.S. Information Service in Washington, D.C. In April 1943, with the United States at war, she entered the Marine Corps. According to Mary Ann Merritt, of the WMA, Hamblet later recalled, "It was a time when everyone wanted to do what they could for their country. I had been very fortunate in my life, and I just wanted to give back. I wanted to do what my country was asking me to do."

After completing the first Marine Corps Women's Reserve Officer Training Class at Mount Holyoke, Mass., she was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Women's Reserve. At that time, she was selected as the adjutant to Colonel Katherine A. Towle (then a captain) at the Women's Recruit Training Center at Hunter College in New York.

Hamblet's next assignments were at Marine Corps Bases Camp Lejeune, N.C., Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Quantico, Va. By the end of World War II, she was the commander of Aviation Women's Reserve Group I at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

In September 1946, two months after her release from active duty, Major Hamblet was recalled to serve as the third director of the Women's Reserve. In 1948, with the passage of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act, Hamblet accepted a regular commission as a major in the Women Marines. In August 1949 she was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

After completing her graduate degree work in 1951, she was assigned to the staff of the Commander, Fleet Marine Force Pacific. The next year she was named officer in charge of the Women Officers Training Detachment, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico.

On May 1, 1953, she was named the director of Women Marines and promoted to colonel. Her next assignment took her to Europe, and her final assignment before her 1965 retirement was as commanding officer of the Women's Recruit Training Battalion at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, N.C.

After her retirement from the Marine Corps, she was an administrator in the U.S. Office of Education in Washington,

D.C., before she relocated to Seattle, Wash., to supervise a federal student loan program.

She later retired and settled in Virginia, where she volunteered with the American Red Cross and the YWCA.

Her awards include the Legion of Merit.

Maj Norman T. Hatch

Major Norman T. Hatch, a combat correspondent who filmed most of the footage used in the Academy Award-winning documentary "With the Marines at Tarawa," died at age 96 in Alexandria, Va.

Hatch, who was born in Boston, Mass., and raised in Gloucester, Mass., joined the Marine Corps on a whim in 1939 after waiting nearly a year to be accepted into active duty service by the Navy. After another fruitless visit with a Navy recruiter, he left the office in frustration, and went down the hall into the Marine Corps recruiting office to find out how long it would take before he could enlist. According to Hatch, the sergeant's response was, "Do you want to leave Friday or two weeks from Friday?"

"So that's how I joined the Marine Corps and became a Marine forever," Hatch said in a June 2012 interview with *Leatherneck*.

As a newly minted private first class, he served on the *Leatherneck* staff at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

Hatch was the photo chief for the Second Marine Division when he landed on Tarawa to film his fellow Marines during Operation Galvanic.

According to a 2007 *Leatherneck* article, a senior officer was none too keen about Hatch's request to film the landing on Tarawa. Hatch was told, "I don't want any [blank blank] Hollywood Marine with me." Hatch responded, "I'm not a Hollywood Marine. I've got five years service. I've done all the training, and I know if I need a rifle all I have to do is bend down and pick one up!"

The footage Hatch shot during the battle was later used to create the 1944 short documentary, "With the Marines at Tarawa," which won an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award in the category of Best Documentary, Short Subject.

Promoted to warrant officer, he was the photographic officer for the 5thMarDiv at the Battle of Iwo Jima. "To the Shores of Iwo Jima" was the documentary that resulted from the footage shot during

the battle. It was nominated for a 1946 Academy Award.

He returned to 2dMarDiv as photographic officer for the occupation of Nagasaki right after the end of the war.

He later was assigned to HQMC as the director of Marine Corps photographic operations and then, leaving active duty but remaining in the reserve, he worked at the Department of Defense, retiring as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense for all photographic operations. Part of his duties included serving as a technical advisor on the motion picture "Tora! Tora! Tora!" as well as other military movies.

As a civilian he was president of Photo Press International, Ltd., producing editorial/commercial photography. He was a consultant to the White House press office during four administrations, and to the House and Senate photo and TV galleries. He was a member of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association and he was a good friend to *Leatherneck*, providing us with photos and stories through the years.

His awards include the Bronze Star.

You can read more about Hatch and the filming of "With the Marines at Tarawa," on page 72.

Maj Edwin, N. Arita Jr., 73, in Savannah, Ga. His 24 years in the Marine Corps included service in the Vietnam War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Sgt Robert D. Bane, 92, in Des Moines, Iowa. He joined the Marine Corps in 1946 and served in Hawaii. He was recalled to active duty in 1950 and saw action in Korea as a squad leader with D/2/1. After the war, he returned to Iowa to work the family farm until his retirement in 1992.

Cpl William J. Benson, 94, in Lake Placid, Fla. During WW II he served with Co B, 4th Engineer Bn, 4thMarDiv. He fought on Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

MGySgt Aldo Bleggi, 82, of Jacksonville, N.C. He served in the Marine Corps for 30 years.

Sgt Lyle M. Bloom, 83, of Sparta, Mich. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War.

Sgt Gerald E. "Jeff" Bunting, 96, of Milbank, S.D. Before he joined the Marine Corps, he was part of the Civilian Conservation Corps. During WW II, he fought on Guadalcanal, Guam and Okinawa. He was awarded the Silver Star for action while serving as tank commander with Co A, 6th Tank Bn, 6thMarDiv on Okinawa, on May 12, 1945. According to the award citation, after his tank was disabled, he "dismounted in the face of enemy heavy machine-gun and rifle fire

to examine the damage, then began to repair it. When the infantry withdrew to a better defensive position and he was ordered to abandon his tank, he covered his crew as they dismounted and, after the entire crew had reached the cover of another tank, sought shelter for himself."

After the war he was a deputy sheriff.

Robert L. Corwin, 92, of Huntington, N.Y. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 17 after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He fought on Guadalcanal with 1stMarDiv. After the war, he completed high school, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree and a law degree.

Capt Phillip Delpierre Jr., of Roanoke, Va. He was a star athlete in high school and college who enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1951. He later completed Officer Candidates School. He was a platoon leader and later XO of Wpns Co, 1st Bn, 6th Marines. He was the starting fullback for the Quantico Marines football team.

MSgt Clinton W. Eubanks Jr., 81, of Winnsboro, La. He was a Marine who served for 22 years, including tours in Korea and in Vietnam. After his 1975 retirement from the Marine Corps, he spent 20 years as a game warden in Louisiana.

John Kirby, 90, of Wilton, Maine. He was a Navy corpsman assigned to the 6thMarDiv in the South Pacific during WW II. He participated in the invasion of Okinawa. His awards include the Purple Heart.

SgtMaj Gary W. Kramber, 72, in Charleston, S.C. He was an aviation Marine who served for 30 years, including in the Vietnam War. Other assignments included a tour as a DI at MCRD Parris Island and as the sergeant major of recruit training regiment.

GySgt Marvin Leaphart, 77, of Kent, Wash. He retired from the Marine Corps after 21 years of service, including two tours in Vietnam.

Cpl Archie D. "Buck" McClaire, 91, of Mellen, Wis. During WW II he saw

action on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima, where he was wounded. After the war he had a career as a logger. He was a member of the Mellen VFW.

Col Jacques C. Naviaux, 83, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. As a Marine pilot with VMFA-122, he participated in night fighter escort missions over North Vietnam in 1967-68, flying the F-4B Phantom II. During his 13-month tour, he flew nearly 400 missions. He later earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. Other assignments included CO of VMA-134 and CO of 3d ANGLICO.

He was an active volunteer with many civic, youth and military support organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America and the Flying Leatherneck Museum. He was a member of MCAA and the MCA&F.

MSgt Myron P. Parker III, 72, of Greenville, MS. He was a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War. His other assignments included recruiting duty. His awards included a Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V." He later worked as a police officer.

William G. Potter, 95, of Danvers, Mass. He was a member of the track team at Boston College before joining the Marine Corps in WW II. He was with the 26th Marines on Iwo Jima, where he was wounded in action.

Barbara A. Severance, 85, of La Jolla, Calif. In 1963 she organized the charitable organization, the New York Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. It later was taken over by the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. She was the wife of Col Dave E. Severance, USMC (Ret).

Capt Steven R. Van Tyle, 72, of Marietta, Ga. He served in the Marine Corps from 1967-72, with tours of duty in Vietnam. He later had a 46-year career in the pharmaceutical profession. He was a member of MCL Det. 1311 in Woodstock, Ga.



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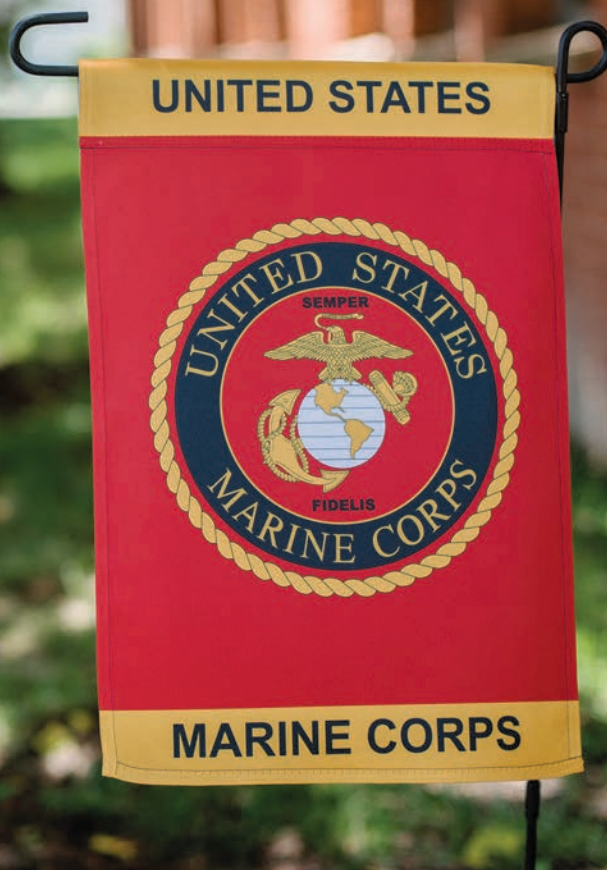


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SOUND OFF

[continued from page 6]

both my M1 and M1A at 1,000 yards alongside of other service rifle shooters. Some of who were using little black plastic and pot metal 5.56 NATO versions of a service rifle. These latter shooters were using 70-plus grain match bullets, not 55 and 62 grain as commonly used in military loads.

Cpl C.L. Hiatt
Idaho Falls, Idaho

You are correct IF shooting the 147gr FMJ loading of the 7.62 NATO. However, when shooting the 168gr HPBT or the Marine-preferred 173gr FMJ, 1,000 yards is not only possible but done on a regular basis. Really guys, are you that young that you don't know what a M14 can do in the hands of a Marine?

LCpl Zane Teboe
USMC, 1975-81
Sheboygan, Wis.

I believe Sergeant E.M. Smith got his yardage confused.

I too won the *Leatherneck* medal for high rifle in Boot Camp from my platoon in October 1964 at Camp Stuart Mesa range. The qualifying yardage was at the

200, 300 and 500 and we used the M14.

While at Twentynine Palms in 1965, I participated in base rifle matches with the M14, which was at the 200, 300 and the 600 yard range. I must agree with your statement that the M14 only having an effective range of 500 yards as most everyone on the teams would put all 10 rounds in the bull's-eye at 600 yards.

There was a 1,000-yard line but only for matches using scopes.

Sgt Jim Biegger
USMC, 1964-67
Maxwell, Iowa

• *Sgt E.M. Smith's letter on "Hitting the Bull's-Eye From 1,000 Feet" in the April issue's Sound Off brought a huge response from our readers who both agreed and disagreed with whether he and his fellow rifle team members could hit the bull's-eye consistently. Much discussion centered on ranges, matches, scopes and ammunition used. While our research led us to believe that such a consistent feat was questionable with a standard issue M14, several of the firsthand accounts we received said otherwise. Thanks to all of our readers who took the time to write and provide their own firsthand accounts of the prowess of the M14 in the hands of a Marine.—Editor*

Combat Boots Comments

Once more you have jogged memories from long ago.

I joined the U.S. Army Reserve (91st Recon Co) while in high school and was issued smooth leather combat boots. After a year I saw the light, and enlisted in the Marine Corps.

I was amazed when we were issued rough out combat boots and boondockers at MCRD San Diego.

I commented, out loud, "We'll NEVER have to shine these!"

Wrong.

We were ordered to get small bottles from sick bay, buy Kiwi brand Cordovan shoe polish and shine those boots. It took awhile, but by golly those things did shine.

I still have my boot camp issue boondockers from February 1958.

Cpl Glenn "Sam" Bass
USMC, 1958-63
Sonora, Calif.

Your article in the March issue regarding combat boots appears to have wrong information regarding the boots at Chosin.

I was with "George" Company, 7th Marines at Chosin and we were issued snow packet boots (I believe that was the name) also called Mickey Mouse boots which were ineffective since they were for gar-

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ri-son use instead of combat conditions. As such, the felt pad in the boot froze from sweat, and you were walking and fighting for 11 days on a block of ice since you were not in a position to take them off, dry the pad and change socks.

Because of the incorrect equipment almost all the Marines at Chosin had various levels of frostbite from fighting in 20 to 30 below zero conditions in foxholes and on the move. The model on page 38 had the correct uniform but not the correct footwear.

Cpl David G. Johnson
USMCR, 1947-52
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Meeting a Decorated Marine

I truly enjoyed the article in the April issue of *Leatherneck* about General Lewis W. Walt, USMC.

My Basic class was 6-70, 47 years ago. One day our instructor told us that we had a surprise guest speaker. As we were anxiously waiting at our desks, we were all called to attention and in walks Gen Lewis Walt. What a thrill, possibly the highlight of my TBS experience.

The general was very humble and he referenced one of his favorite enlisted Marines, a corporal by the name of Johnny Arrows.

He left a lasting impression on me. Sev-



Cpl David Fletcher, MAG-36, photographed the South China Sea from a CH-46. In the fall of 1967, MAG-36 moved to Phu Bai and was heavily involved in the Tet Offensive in early 1968.

eral years later I met his son, Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence C. Walt, an aviator at a Florida think tank. To this day I am forever grateful of the great Marines I met along the way.

LtCol Bob Mullins, USMCR (Ret)
Delaware, Ohio

South China Sea

I enjoyed the article and photos in the April issue on "Vietnam: Then and Now," by P.L. Thompson.

I was with MAG-36 from October 1967 until June 1969. I had to share the above photo I took from a CH-46 outside Phu Bai

COURTESY OF CPL DAVID FLETCHER, USMC

over South China Sea. I always wanted to land on that strip of beach.

Cpl David Fletcher
USMC, MAG-36, 1967-69
Sherwood, Ark.

Parade Deck Sounds Are Music to My Ears

In December 2016 I had the opportunity to attend the Friday graduation ceremony at MCRD Parris Island, almost exactly 50 years after I graduated in Platoon 209, Second Recruit Battalion on Dec. 15, 1966.

At first, I was amazed that almost nothing looked familiar to me until I was told that virtually the only surviving structures from that time were the commanding general's quarters and possibly a couple of other buildings around it. Of course I would have had no reason to visit the CG's home, except possibly that was where our roads and grounds crew picked up late fall leaves. Even the front gate, where I was dropped off in the late afternoon in October, was not only changed but relocated.

I had the chance to watch a couple of platoons working their way through the Crucible, but that didn't exist when I was there. The rifle range looked essentially the same, although I don't recall being

conscious of the totality of it. And our wooden barracks were long since gone, as was our wooden battalion chow hall.

Remarkably, the one thing I found that had not changed at all, not even a little bit, was the sound of platoons practicing on the main parade deck. As I sat in the stands later that afternoon I closed my eyes and remembered the sound of marching orders, cadence, and boots on the tarmac as if I had never left. It could have been the same drill instructors challenging their platoons by marching close to others with each drill instructor giving seemingly contradictory orders. There were about a dozen on the parade deck that day.

By the sound, no time had passed at all. I suspect it will always sound that way, no matter what physical changes are made to the buildings or the grounds.

Cpl Peter J. Sweetser
USMCR, 1966-72
Chestertown, Md.

Can Anyone Answer?

I have two questions you may be able to help me get answers to.

First, I was stationed on recruiting duty at RS St. Louis from 1972 through 1976 in an admin billet. As such, do I rate the Recruiting Ribbon?

Second, I have seen Marines, uncovered

outdoors—to include the Commandant. Have uniform regulations changed since I was in?

SSgt Louis Rapp
USMC, 1969-76
Lubbock, Texas

• *According to the Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual, only those Marines who served in an 8411 or 8412 (recruiter) billet are eligible for the Recruiting Ribbon. As far as the Commandant and other Marines not wearing covers outdoors, no, the regulations haven't changed but there are occasions when removing covers outdoors is permitted.—Editor*

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



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Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn. (all eras, 70th Annual Reunion)**, July 31-Aug. 6, Norfolk, Va. Contact June Cormier, P.O. Box 9000 Box #902, Oceanside, CA 92051, (760) 763-3267, june.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 1-8, Savannah, Ga. Contact Don Gee, P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **26th Marines Assn. (all eras)**, Aug. 11-13, Las Vegas. Contact G.H. "Sonny" Hollub Jr., (512) 825-4730, sonnyusmc@gmail.com, www.26th Marines.com.

• **Korean War Veterans Assn.**, Oct. 4-8, Norfolk, Va. Contact Sheila Fritts, (217) 345-4414, membership@kwva.org.

• **National Montford Point Marine Assn.**, July 19-23, Las Vegas. Contact MGySgt Ron Johnson, USMC (Ret), (504) 202-8552.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Aug. 21-24, San Diego. Contact Jack Paxton, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com, www.usmccca.org.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 16-18, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Sept. 14-17, San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, USMC (Ret), (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **1st MAW Assn. (RVN)**, Sept. 14-16, San Diego. Contact Al Frater, (201) 906-1197, teanal@optonline.net.

• **Seagoing Marines Assn.**, Aug. 22-27, Arlington, Va. Contact Bob Sollom, (540) 840-9310, sol136@msn.com.

• **USMC Food Service Assn.**, Oct. 17-21, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Mike Fishbaugh, (606) 789-5010, smfishbaugh@mikrotec.com.

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Sept. 21-25, St. Louis. Contact John Wear, (215) 794-9052, johnwear2@verizon.net.

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans'**

Assn., Sept. 21-24, Orlando, Fla. Contact Doug McMackin, (623) 419-2135, gunny mac@hotmail.com, or Jim Taranto, (518) 567-4267, tarantoj@gmail.com.

• **Khe Sanh Veterans Inc.**, Aug. 27-Sept. 3, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact President Tom Eichler, (773) 625-2101, teic1448@aol.com, www.khesanh.org.

• **Subic Bay Marines (25th Annual Reunion)**, Sept. 21-25, Boise, Idaho. Contact A.J. Allen, (208) 941-3345.

• **"Forgotten Heroes," Eastern Recruiting Region Recruiters**, Aug. 17-19, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Larry Risvold, (803) 760-4575, larryrisvold@att.net.

• **FLC, FLSG A/B (RVN)**, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, Monterey, Calif. Contact Frank Miller, familler56@yahoo.com, or Vern Snodderly, vasnodderly@comcast.com.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Oct. 1-6, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact Harold Wilson, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne06@gmail.com.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Aug. 1-6, Savannah, Ga. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumcl3usmc@verizon.net.

• **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 667-4762, ditson35@verizon.net, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3 (1960-62)**, Sept. 18-22, Gettysburg, Pa. Contact Burrell Landes, 2610 West Long Circle, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.

• **3/4**, Aug. 16-20, Naperville, Ill. Contact Travis Fryzowicz, (732) 251-5518, maddogandgrace@verizon.net.

• **3/9, F/2/12 and Support Units (all eras)**, Sept. 5-8, San Antonio. Contact Robert W. Stewart, (727) 581-5454, threeninemarines@aol.com.

• **Support Co, 3d Engineer Bn (RVN, 1967-68)**, Sept. 12-14, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Contact A.J. Folk, 215 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073, (610) 589-1362, ajfpa@comcast.net.

• **Battery Adjust, 3/11 (all eras)**, Sept. 20-24, Las Vegas. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dwmiller48@gmail.com.

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)**

are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **D/1/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Sept. 21-23, Arlington, Va. Contact Zack Forester, (505) 514-8499, ztfiii@hotmail.com, www.deltacompanyvietnammarines.com.

• **F/2/7 (RVN)**, July 9-14, Savannah, Ga. Contact Ron Gryn, (352) 638-2872, boatmanron@gmail.com.

• **G/2/7 (RVN)**, Aug. 3-6, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Contact Jim Stroman, (573) 545-3901 or (949) 510-7888.

• **H/2/5 (RVN)**, Oct. 26-29, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact Dave Harbin, (505) 720-4728, harbin_d@q.com.

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

• **I/3/3 (RVN, 1965-69)**, Sept. 12-17, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Contact Ted Phelps, (704) 747-6392, tedphelps@i33.org, www.i33.org.

• **M/4/12 and 3d 155 mm Howitzer Battery, 3dMarDiv**, Sept. 10-15, Detroit. Contact Alex Jablonowski, (248) 505-2183, 3rd155s.m4.12@gmail.com.

• **3d 155 mm Gun Btry (SP) and 3d 175 mm Gun Btry (SP)**, Oct. 5-7, Branson, Mo. 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.

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, dwright.schaefferoil@gmail.com.

• **Marine Detachment USNDC**, Sept. 12-17, Portsmouth, N.H. Contact Steve Jennison, (603) 988-9867, sajbuilds@aol.com.

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

• **TBS, Class 3-66/38th OCC**, Oct. 11-14, San Antonio. Contact Terry Cox, tc Cox95@cox.net, www.usmc-thebasic-school-1966.com.

• **TBS, Class 4-67**, Sept. 21-24, Washington, D.C. Contact Ken Pouch, (860) 881-6819, kpouch5@gmail.com.

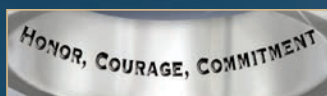
Success Story?

Has your entry in *Leatherneck's* Reader Assistance allowed you to reunite with a boot camp buddy, reconnect with old friends or track down the recruit graduation book you lost years ago? We would love to hear your success stories. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or s.rock@mca-marines.org.

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• **TBS, Co K, 9-68**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jim Stiger, (206) 999-1029, jimstiger@earthlink.net.

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

• **TBS, Co G, 7-80**, July 8-10, Quantico, Va. Contact Pete Flerlage, (703) 498-2294, petercent7@aol.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 94, Parris Island, 1955**, Oct. 19-21, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Miles Martin, (386) 315-2115, mcmartin@bellsouth.net, Orville Hubbs, (513) 932-5854, onpahubbs@gmail.com, or Dale Wilson, (434) 944-7177, wzeke35@aol.com.

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

• **Plt 171, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact J.P. Kuchar, 33 Sheridan Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, (732) 549-6468, jpkuchar@mac.com.

• **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D.

Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

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

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

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

• **Plt 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 1059, San Diego, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact Dave Jamieson, (805) 896-7404, daveyo_jamieson@msn.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 2041, San Diego, 1967 (50th**



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anniversary), Nov. 9-12, Las Vegas. Contact Daniel Palacios, (951) 541-8940, dphousemouse@gmail.com, or Enrique Ortiz, (949) 874-3636.

• **Plt 2077, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact SgtMaj Raymond Edwards, USMC (Ret), 100 Stephens St., Boyce, LA 71409, sgtmajretired@gmail.com.

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

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

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons 43 and 49**, Sept. 9, Earlville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), 23 Greenwood Dr., Bordentown, NJ 08505, (609) 291-9617, mabsreunion@comcast.net.

• **HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras)**, Sept. 7-10, Arlington, Va. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, ruffinich53@gmail.com.

• **VMM/HMM-364 (all ranks/eras)**, Sept. 19-22, North Kansas City, Mo. Contact GySgt Joe Barlow Jr., USMC (Ret), (816) 813-1662, pf6468@hotmail.com, or MSgt Dave Magee, USMC (Ret), dave@hmm-364.org.

Ships and Others

• **USS Bremerton (CA-130/SSN-698)**, Sept. 24-29, Portland, Ore. Contact N. Polanowski, 5996 County Rd. 16, Belfast, NY 14711, (585) 365-2316, rpolanowski@stny.rr.com.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 11-15, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Duluth (LPD-6)**, Sept. 6-10, Duluth, Minn. Contact John Adams, (484) 766-3715, john.adams@ussduluth.org, www.ussduluth.org.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 13-17, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.ushornetassn.com.

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, Oct. 15-19, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact David F. Fix, P.O. Box 6361, Nalcrest, FL 33856, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 6-10, Norfolk, Va. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net, www.ussjohnrcraig.com.

• **USS Providence (CL-82/CLG-6)**, Sept. 17-21, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Jim Chryst, (717) 284-6996, jchryst@embarqmail.com.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)**, Sept.



COURTESY OF JOHN BEARCE

John Bearce, pictured on the left, in 1950, would like to reconnect with the other Marines in this photo, taken at Inyokern Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, Calif.

20-23, Warwick, R.I. Contact George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, uss.ranger@yahoo.com.

• **USS Saratoga Assn. (CV-60)**, Sept. 27-30, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Contact Ed McCready, 447 Land'Or Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546, (804) 589-1170, emc0853@yahoo.com.

Mail Call

• MSgt Ron Ray, USMC (Ret), (901) 835-2056, doublescotch@rittermail.com, to hear from any **MPs who served at MCAS Iwakuni, 1973-74**, especially a **customs dog handler Cpl Steve** (last name unknown).

• Richard "Finner" Kane, (570) 343-7036, finner1418@gmail.com, to hear from any Marines stationed at the **Marine Barracks Subic Bay, Philippines, March 8-13, 1963**, who may have information regarding the missing brass bell near the guard shack or who were involved in the subsequent investigation.

• John Bearce, (309) 696-4110, to hear from or about the Marines pictured with him in the above photo, which was taken in 1950 at Inyokern Naval Ordnance Sta-

tion, China Lake, Calif. From the left, the Marines in the photo are John Bearce, Mr. Cline, Mr. Barry, and Dave (last name unknown).

• Deirdre Wortman LaMotte, (410) 778-2841, dwlamotte@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who served with her father, **Col Harry WORTMAN**, a **Chosin Reservoir** veteran who retired from the Marine Corps in 1971.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Rich Basile, rdbnco@yahoo.com, has **Leatherneck** magazines from **January 1943; June, July and December 1944; and May and February 1945**. He will give them away for the cost of shipping.

• Howard E. Sweitzer, 1417 NW 62 Way, Margate, FL 33063, (954) 972-0555, has the following items for sale: a **Colt .45 1911-A1 professional color illustration**; a rare 1943 first edition of the book **"Guadalcanal Diary"**; a 50-year collection of **toy helicopters**; 35 years worth of **Leatherneck** magazines; and many **books and other memorabilia**.



Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



ARMED WITH A PISTOL AND A CAMERA—Staff Sergeant Norman T. Hatch landed on Tarawa with the first wave of Marines from the Second Marine Division on Nov. 20, 1944. His mission was to film the battle as it unfolded.

During a 400-yard slog from his Higgins boat to the shore, Hatch and his fellow Marines were under fire the entire time. “The temptation to lower myself into the water was overwhelming, but the discipline of doing one’s job, in this case preserving my camera and film, was stronger,” he later said.

Several combat cameramen documented the bloody battle. “We had all these young cameramen on the beach who covered it from the beginning to the end ... and it was the first time a battle had been covered that way and also the first time that it had been shot in color,” Hatch said in a 2012 interview with *Leatherneck*.

Along with the footage shot by the other cameramen, Hatch’s 2,000 feet of film was edited and the resulting movie, “With the Marines at Tarawa,” won the 1944 Academy Award for Best Documentary, Short Subject. The award (right) is on display at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, in Triangle, Va.

In the top photo, Hatch, center, is filming an assault on a Japanese command post. His assistant cameraman, Private First Class William F. Kelliher, is to his right.

The inset photo of Hatch is a screen shot from footage filmed during the battle.

Hatch died recently at the age of 96. Read more about his life on page 62.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS