

JUNE 2012

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Contents

LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

FEATURES

10 Leathernecks With Sheepskins—The Leadership Scholar Program *By Beth Morgan*

The Corps revolutionizes support to assist transitioning Marines in gaining entrance to some of the finest colleges and universities.

12 The War on Terror *Edited by R. R. Keene*

MV-22 Ospreys and KC-130J Super Hercules with the Harvest Hawk system shine as Marines continue to press the attack against the Taliban.

18 The Korean War: The Chosin Reservoir—Medical Care in Subfreezing Weather *By Dr. Stanley I. Wolf*

The battalion surgeon for 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment recalls caring for wounded in the November-December 1950 “Frozen Chosin” campaign.

22 Marine Earns Spot in Famed French Foreign Legion School *By SSgt David Hercher*

Marine master linguist Staff Sergeant Rafael E. Campos sought a unique challenge and rose to the occasion.

28 A Legacy 89 Years in the Making

By Sgt T. M. Stewman

World War II Marine R. V. Burgin continues to tell his story.

32 Vietnam: Return to Hill 488—“Howard’s Hill”

By Ray Hildreth

“Marines, you die in an hour” rang hollow as the small band of recon Marines reigned victorious.

46 Portrait of Jarhead Red *By Ed Vasgerdsian*

Made by Marines for Marines, and all those who enjoy the fruit of the vine.

DEPARTMENTS



- 2 Sound Off
- 26 Leatherneck Laffs
- 38 We—the Marines
- 41 Crazy Caption
- 42 In the Highest Tradition
- 44 Leatherneck Line
- 50 Books Reviewed
- 52 In Memoriam
- 62 Mail Call
- 64 Gyrene Gyngles

COVER: Marines in Co B, BLT 1/2, 24th MEU suppress a target during predeployment training in January at Farmville Municipal Airport in Virginia. Photo by SSgt Robert Fisher. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

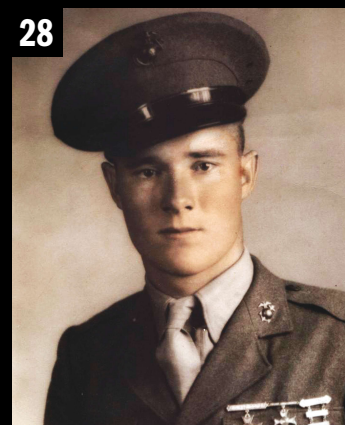
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44



12



28

Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

Letter of the Month

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

I am writing in response to the last paragraph of Corporal Frank Murphy's letter that appeared in the April "Sound Off." Corporal Murphy apparently spent his nine years in Marine aviation and expresses concern at how he is looked at by those who served in the infantry.

I served as an infantry officer my 20 years on active duty, and I am proud of that service. But, Corporal, anyone who would consider you as something different from any and all other Marines is a fool. Do not forget that. We have all been privileged to be called "Marine." Our current Commandant, God bless him, has reminded us that there are no "ex, Reserve, retired, former, draftee" Marines. We are all "Marines."

From time to time, I meet someone who has served in our Corps. Out of curiosity, I usually ask when and where they served. Often the reply is, "Oh, I didn't serve in any war." It is like an apology. I tell them, truthfully, that peacetime service is more often than not the most difficult time to serve. The military services have lost their "glamour." Money is short; time is even shorter, for there are fewer people to get the job done. Politicians, the press and the public in general have lost interest. Rudyard Kipling expressed the phenomena thusly: "For God and the soldier we adore, in time of danger, not before! The danger passed, and all things righted, God is forgotten and the soldier slighted."

The peacetime Marines have always had the difficult task of, under the most trying circumstances, keeping our Corps fighting trim and ready to be the "first to fight" when our country is threatened.

And so, Cpl Murphy, be of good heart. We have all been in this together, and it will be ever so. When I close my eyes for the last time I will be unworried, knowing that Marines will always be there for any task assigned them.

LtCol James B. Vanairsdale, USMC (Ret)
St. Augustine, Fla.



COURTESY OF JACK KING

Like all gate guards, Jack King was a sharp-looking Marine.

Time for a Change in Uniforms

I agree that the green service uniform is much preferred for gate duty and other public appearances. I was proud to have been a guard at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., when I returned from Korea.

Cpl Jack King
USMC, 1950-54
Fayetteville, Ga.

After reading several letters dealing with wearing the utility uniform in the April issue, I was prompted to write "Sound Off."

I agree that the Marine Corps seems to have become much too informal. For several years, I have seen pictures in *Leatherneck* of Marines wearing their utility uniforms when receiving medals for valor.

I remember when Marines receiving decorations were honored with parades or ceremonies in which the Marines being awarded wore their service uniforms.

I may not have been in the "Old Corps," since almost every Marine who enlisted

prior to my 1962 entry was quick to inform me that they had been in the Old Corps. As we all know, any Marine worth his salt would be quick to tell you how things were done in the Old Corps. This was especially true when it came to uniforms.

The "Old Salts" would be quick to remind that in the Old Corps, the appropriate uniform for such events was the service uniform. And that tradition continued during my three years in. I marched in my share of parades and, like most young Marines, I would gripe and complain about the amount of time and effort we had to spend getting ready for the parades.

When I think back to the parades, a smile appears on my face. I fondly remember hearing the command "Pass in review" and my feelings as we stepped out in unison with the band's music. My heart would beat faster and harder, filling quickly with pride. When my ears heard the sound of the first notes of marching music, my back would automatically straighten up and my 30-inch marching stride would become crisp and sharp. And do I need to describe how I felt when the band would play "The Marines' Hymn"?

Although my part in honoring those Marines being decorated may have been small, I earned huge returns in pride, which I still treasure.

I am urging our new generation of Marine Corps leaders: Let's get back to wearing the service uniforms for parades and ceremonies. Let us honor our fellow Marines for their valor and service with the formality they deserve.

Cpl Freddy R. Gonzales
2d LAAM Bn, 1962-65
Richardson, Texas

I have been trying to bite my tongue about the use of uniforms in public, but I refuse to stay silent.

It used to be that when a Marine received an award, he would be in his service or dress blue uniform. Now, when awarded, you see the Marine in "cammies." A total disgrace to the uniform regulations in my opinion.

Let me ask a question to all past, present



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President/CEO, Marine Corps Association & Foundation

MajGen Edward G. Usher III, USMC (Ret)

Publisher/Executive Editor

Col Walter G. Ford, USMC (Ret)

Deputy Editor

Nancy Lee White Hoffman

Associate Editor

MGySgt Renaldo R. Keene, USMC (Ret)

Staff Writer

Clare A. Guerrero

Copy Editor

Nancy S. Lichtman

Editorial/Production Coordinator

Patricia Everett

Art Director

Jason Monroe

Web Content Editor

Margot Cornelius

Asst. Web Content Editor

Michael Langston Jr.

Advertising Director

G. Scott Dinkel
(718) 715-1361

Advertising Representative

Richard Guillopo
(718) 576-1286

EDITORIAL OFFICES

Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134

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

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

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E-mail: leatherneck@mca-marines.org

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

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and future Marines. Don't you want to look your best when receiving an award?

Our leaders need to consider how Marines look in public. The point being: Wear the service or dress blue uniforms for awards, public events, ceremonies and use the cammies for their originally designed work.

W. S. "Billy" Stalker
Manson, N.C.

Why has the Marine Corps become so lax on dressing up? High-ranking Marine officers presenting awards in utility uniforms is not in good taste.

Marines used to be known for how sharply they dressed. Let's get back to it. The Herringbone utilities we used to wear were strictly for work.

(I have a grandson who leaves for Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego this month. He will make me proud!)

Cpl Darrell E. Jensen
USMC, 1954-56
Audubon, Iowa

Regarding those letters about "cammies" or service uniforms: Cammies and "jammies" all look the same to me. I like the World War II uniforms better.

Francis E. DeVine
USMC, 1943-46
Reading, Pa.

Over my years of reading *Leatherneck*, there have been a great many letters written on why the Corps should not follow the other military services and use utilities as a dress uniform.

However, the practice continues. The letters in the April issue "Sound Off" column go a long way toward explaining the reasons why Marines should wear the appropriate uniform.

One wonders if the senior officers of the Marine Corps read "Sound Off" letters and if they realize we readers are important and reliable supporters when the next politician decides there is no real need for the Marine Corps. By blending

into other services from an appearance standpoint, our Corps' leaders play into the hands of the uninformed.

Cpl Ernie Ryder
USMC, 1954-57
Bradenton, Fla.

Was There a Steward's Assistant Rank In the Corps?

Can someone provide me with an answer to the following? I have seen the following notation "STDA2" on Marine headstones of World War II veterans. Can someone define?




Jacobs E. Lang
Macon, Ga.

We asked the people at Arlington National Cemetery and they replied: "The STDA2 rank is a Steward's Assistant Second Class, USMC, in the sixth pay grade." "Well," I thought, "there has to be more to this." So, we looked it up at www.w2gyrene.org/rank_structure.htm, owned and maintained by Mark Flowers: "As more and more technical innovations changed the Naval services, the rank and pay structure became more complex. By World War I, there were special pays for gun pointers, cooks, signalmen, members of the Marine Band, and others," according to the website.

"In 1923, the Marine Corps aligned its rank structure with the system used in the [U.S.] Army. This added a pay grade, which the Corps used to create the new rank of staff sergeant. The system of seven enlisted pay grades would remain in use for over thirty years. In 1925, the technical ranks were established for the first time. In 1935, cooks and bakers were aligned into the technical ranks, giving them a logical career progression.

"World War II brought an explosion of ranks and titles. It was fairly straightforward for Marines serving in line billets. For those in technical or clerical duties[,] however, the system mushroomed into a bewildering array of rank designations. The system was streamlined somewhat by

1st Pay Grade

		
Sergeant Major	First Sergeant	Master Technical Sergeant
Master Gunnery Sergeant		Quartermaster Sergeant
Master Sergeant		Paymaster Sergeant
		Master Steward
		Master Cook

Everybody knows that a single chevron is a PFC. It also was a Steward's Assistant Second Class. Above are the top pay grades from that era.

1944." A Steward's Assistant Second Class in the sixth pay grade was the private first class of his technical field. Depending on his time in service, he made between \$50 and \$75 a month.—Sound Off Ed.

It Takes a Brave Man to Step Between Two Women Fighting

On March 31, my husband and I went to Walmart in Bensalem, Pa. I dropped my husband, Anthony J. Gentile, off at the door. It was about a five-minute walk from the back of the parking lot to the store.

I was surprised to find my husband still standing outside, and around him was a large crowd of people. I asked him what was going on. He pointed out two women who were using their cell phones to call the police. He told me that he had just broken up a fight between the two who were fighting over a parking spot.

He said they began to slap each other, then punch each other, and then they fell to the ground and it became very violent.

Being a Marine, although he is 68 years old, he was the only one who stepped in to help. He found the strength to pull the much larger lady off the other. Once he pulled her off, she continued to kick the other on the ground. Not until he pulled her off did another man, the cart attendant, offer to help. The other onlookers just yelled, "Stop," which of course did nothing. No one wanted to get involved.

It was a Marine who chose to react and step up to help.

Suzanne Gentile
Newtown, Pa.

Line Charges Then and Now, Nothing's Changed

What a difference a day makes. In this case, it has been many, many days since Marines operated the landing vehicle tracked (LVT) in Vietnam. Why is that relevant? In the April issue, the article "Marine Corps Heavy Metal Moves to Georgia" by CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret) has a description of the firing of a "mine clearing line charge," described as "historic."

As we prepared at Camp Pendleton, Calif., for deployment to Vietnam in the mid-1960s, we fired many "line charges." Later, in Vietnam, our operational missions always involved the firing of line charges.

Leatherneck photos clearly show the palletized MCLC being readied for loading onto an assault breacher vehicle (ABV) and the loading of a rocket to pull the line charge from the vehicle. This technology is exactly what we did back then. The only difference I see is that the ABV is not amphibious.

The article went on to say that graduates of the Armor School were awarded an en-

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gineering military occupational specialty of 1371 and 1372.

We did our training at Camp Pendleton, and when we couldn't get engineer support in Vietnam, we improvised and got our missions done.

Congrats to this new generation of Marines carrying on today what we did earlier.

SSgt Jim Lynch
3d Amtrac Bn, Chu Lai, Vietnam
Portage, Ind.

• When CWO-4 Randy Gaddo wrote that the line-clearing mine charges were "historic," it was because they were doing them in Georgia instead of Kentucky.—Sound Off Ed.

Ripley at the Bridge

I just read the article "Captain John Ripley at the Bridge" in the April issue. I learned more about this act of heroism than I knew in the past. It was well worth the wait. Colonel Ripley told us some of the details, but clearly not as much as the author. Thanks for getting it done, because it needs to be told to the young Marines.

The incident in USS *Harlan County* (LST-1196) we heard about from the colonel a number of years ago at a gin mill on F Street in downtown Washington, D.C.

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I have often wondered why Ripley never made general. Could this have played a part? Any thoughts?

Mike Warner
Naples, Fla.

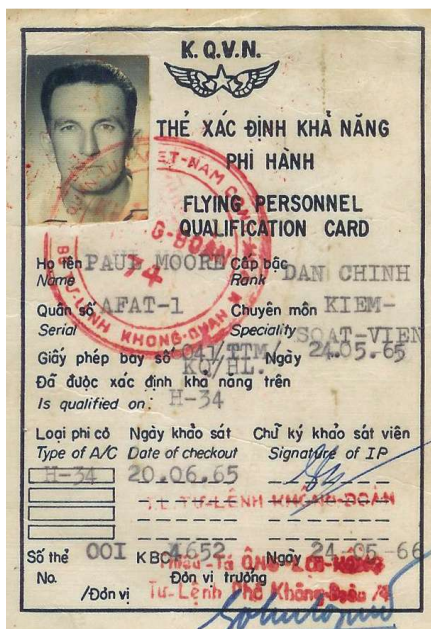
• *No thoughts other than that any promotion past gunnery sergeant for us enlisted, and major for officers, is gravy, as those are the median ranks of retirement. And when you're talking about promotion to general, you are talking way more than just dropping some Navy officer over the side as a lieutenant. Competition is exceptionally keen, but tiebreakers can go back a long way.—Sound Off Ed.*

Those Early Years for Marine Aviation In Vietnam

The "Shuffly" article by David H. Hugel in the April issue brought back my memories of four years as a civilian technical advisor to the Vietnamese UH-34 helicopter squadrons at Da Nang, Nha Trang, Saigon and Binh Thuy from 1964 to 1968. I flew, rotating between the squadrons, during those four years.

During 1962 and 1963, I was in Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 16 at Okinawa. I flew to Da Nang with UH-34D helicopters and retired in 1963.

My last mission as a civilian technical



COURTESY OF MSGT PAUL MOORE, USMC (RET)

Retired MSgt Paul Moore's Vietnamese "Flying Personnel Qualification Card" circa 1965.

advisor (1968) was at a small Vietnam Air Force Base at Binh Thuy in the Delta. I now wonder if that small base was the one known as Soc Trang.

When I arrived there, the base came under attack and was overrun that night. I was in a bunker where we were covered

by circling gunships. The next morning, the enemy withdrew under a B-52 bombing mission. All our H-34 helicopters were destroyed as were the hangars. Colonel Jim Shelton (who was a captain in the "Shuffly" article) was the Marine aircraft group commanding officer when I was on Okinawa as the senior CH-53 representative. I was on Okinawa from 1973 to 1987.

MSgt Paul Moore, USMC (Ret)
1942-63
Keeau, Hawaii

There Are Still a Few Good Trailers Traveling on the Highways

In the April "Sound Off," a letter from Ken Wire inquired about tractor trailers with the Marine Corps emblem and a mural of Marines in dress blue uniforms painted on the side. I assure him he was not seeing things.

I am a retired tractor-trailer driver. In 1980, I spoke to a driver who pulled one of those rigs. He informed me that earlier the Corps struck a deal with a trucking company. The Marines asked the company to advertise for the Corps, and they would supply the advertisement. I've seen a few trailers still on the road.

Marine veteran Guy Hall
Glen Burnie, Md.

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Some Leathernecks Remember Their "One-Year Enlistments"

In response to the inquiry from the "one-year man" in the April issue "Sound Off," I was serving a three-year enlistment when the program started. The Marine Corps wanted a supply of well-trained young Marines for the Marine Corps Reserve. An enlistee would spend about three months at boot camp, then be assigned to one of the military occupational specialty (MOS) schools or training programs. By the time this was over, and a 30-day leave completed, he would be ready to go back home to a Reserve unit.

Prior to this, in the late 1940s, reservists of all services received their basic training in their hometown units rather than Parris Island or San Diego. Before joining the Marine Corps, I had "fudged" on my age and joined the Oregon National Guard at the age of 16 and had been trained during weekly drills. It wasn't the best of basic training, but after I went to Marine boot camp at age 17, I was quite a bit ahead of the others. As it turned out, not many actually served one year.

When the Korean War started in 1950, all of the one-year men immediately were activated with their Reserve units, and those still on active duty were extended. Along with this, hundreds who were called up with the Marine Corps Reserve had received no formal basic military training. Some learned to fire their weapons off the fantail of the troop transports on the way to Korea.

In 1951, the Corps set up a boot camp of sorts in Japan. Some Marines who had been in combat for months were sent there for basic training at the option of their commanding officer. I was in a 4.5-inch rocket battery. Our commanding officer sent about 13 reservists, who had come in as replacements, to Japan for the special training program, since they had never been to boot camp. I want to emphatically say that this is in no way any kind of a put-down for these folks. I would have served with them any time, any place, and they did an outstanding job.

It's just like the man says though: if war starts, you go with what you got, not what you'd like to have.

Former GySgt John W. Cunningham
Richland, Wash.

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Referring to Lieutenant Colonel Milton H. Jerabek's "Sound Off" letter in the April issue about one-year enlistments, I enlisted in 1956 on a two-year enlistment with two years' active and five years Reserve. But after 10 weeks of boot camp, they told me that if I would reenlist for three years, they'd give me any school in the Marine Corps. After three years and two months, I was discharged and never heard from the Reserve.

Former Cpl Ron Baker
Chehalis, Wash.

I entered Parris Island as a boot in July 1948 beginning a one-year enlistment. There was a seven-year inactive Reserve requirement at the end of the year. As I recall, the program was open only to 18-year-olds.

I was issued a set of dress blues, became a private first class and was sent to Camp Lejeune, N.C., for infantry training. In October 1950, I was recalled to active duty. During my time in the Corps, it was essential that we look sharp and trim at all times.

It was unheard of to wear utilities when not in the field. I remember mine being heavily starched and bleached from the washing. At later stations when standing guard at a gate, we were always trim and

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The event is open to the public and kicks off with a wreath laying ceremony and keynote remarks by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

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Capt Gerald Fisher
USMC, 1948-58
Glenview, Ill.

• John F. Forgette of Bellingham, Wash., and William P. Crozier of Weymouth, Mass., also wrote us as did Jack Dougherty of Lewisburg, Pa.

The Selective Service Act of 1948 created a new system for service to the nation. All males, ages 18 to 26, had to register for service in the armed forces and their Reserve components. All males between the ages of 19 to 26 were eligible to be drafted for an active-duty service requirement of 21 months. The Act also declared that those inducted, enlisted or appointed for less than three years would be transferred to a Reserve component for a period of five years or until discharged from the Reserve component.

Persons between 19 and 26 could volunteer for service in the Regular Army for a term of 21 months. The 1948 Act did authorize one-year enlistments, but restricted them to "qualified male persons between the ages of eighteen and nineteen."

The outbreak of the Korean War caused

a change to the Selective Service Act of 1948, a change referred to as the Universal Military Training and Service Act of 1951. The draft age was lowered from 19 to 18½, and active-duty service time was extended from 21 to 24 months, while the total obligated service was extended to eight years. Exemptions were available for students attending a college or training program.—Sound Off Ed.

Oops! Geography 101 For Editors of *Leatherneck*

I noticed a picture of three Marines on page 42 of the April issue. Part of the caption says: "All three were wounded during a grenade fight at Haditha, Afghanistan, on Nov. 19, 2005." That would be incorrect; Haditha is in Iraq. It really is not a big deal, but then again to those of us there, we like to make sure things are as accurate as possible. I know this because I was deployed with the "Thundering Third" to Iraq from September 2005 to March 2006.

SSgt Bryan M. Rauch
San Clemente, Calif.

• No big deal for you, perhaps, but a really big deal for us. Our mistake, sir, and thanks for your service.—Sound Off Ed.

[continued on page 54]

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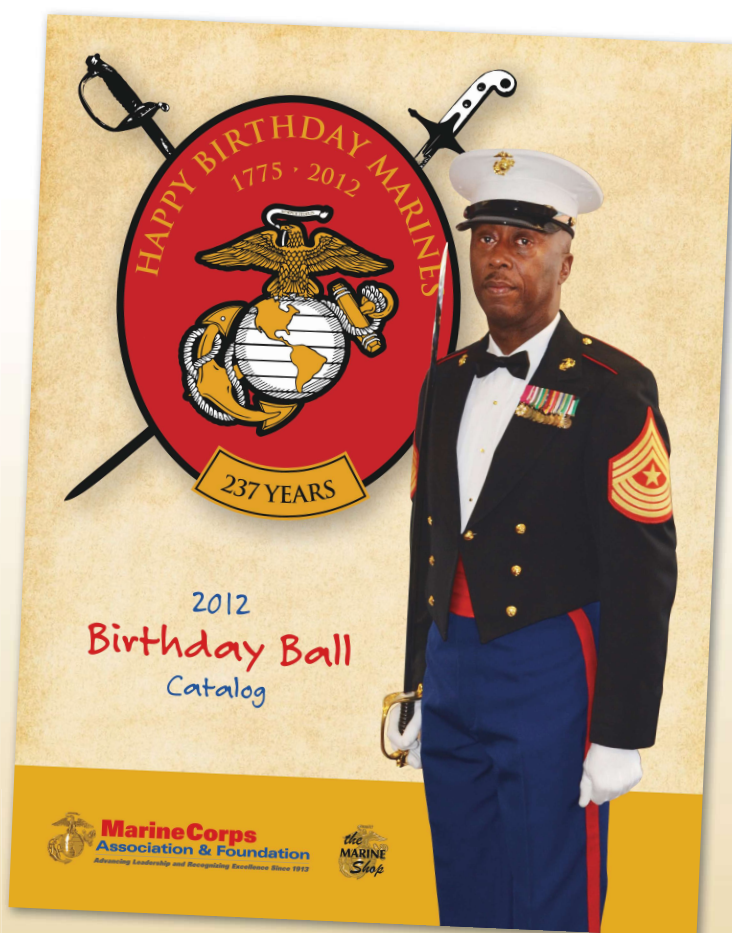
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LCpl Kevin Varga took advantage of the Marine Corps Leadership Scholar Program to successfully interview with the Colgate University Dean of Admission, Gary L. Ross, for the fall 2012 semester.



CPL DAMIEN GUTERREZ

Leathernecks With Sheepskins—

The Leadership Scholar Program: A Marine Corps Partnership for Academic Excellence

By Beth Morgan

For Marines nearing the end of their active-duty commitment, the transition to civilian life can seem very uncertain. There are many decisions that need to be made. Can I reenlist, should I go to college or a trade school, or should I try to find a job?

The Commandant's Planning Guidance directed that Transition Assistance Programs be revolutionized to better support transitioning Marines. The Marine Corps Leadership Scholar Program (LSP) is a new initiative in line with the Commandant's guidance to help transitioning Marines.

LSP can assist qualified Marines to gain entrance to some of the finest colleges

and universities in the country. These institutions have agreed to a fast-track review and/or admission of LSP-screened candidates. Typically, students will use their GI Bill benefits to pay for the tuition and other fees associated with pursuing their undergraduate degrees. Many of these universities also participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs Yellow Ribbon Program. In practice, this means Marine participants in the LSP will not incur any tuition expenses beyond those provided for by the Post 9-11 GI Bill.

Some schools go even further. For example, at Colgate University, a private school, if the LSP Marine applies for and receives benefits provided by the Post 9-11 GI Bill, Colgate is willing to guarantee, based upon the Marine's demonstrated

need, that the maximum annual cost for room, board, tuition and books will not exceed \$2,000.

Originally launched with the California State University System, the program has grown and been formalized Marine Corps-wide. Currently, the LSP has more than 220 institutions in 41 states participating, with a long-range goal of having at least two colleges/universities in each state. Marines may register for the program on the LSP website at www.LeadershipScholarProgram.com.

Leadership Scholar Program applicants must be active-duty, Reserve or veteran Marines who are planning to attend a school as a freshman or transfer student. Active-duty Marine applicants must be honorably discharged prior to the begin-

ning of the school semester in which they plan to enroll. Institutions dictate all academic criteria and other requirements, but to be eligible to participate in the LSP, Marines must be high-school graduates and possess a minimum combined score of a 70 on the Armed Forces Qualification Test or a General Technical score of 115 or higher.

On occasion, the LSP will grant waivers for those not meeting the requirements. The requirements for admissions vary and are set by each institution, and many require SAT or ACT scores. To ensure that Marines meet the requirements of the institutions to which they apply, applications are screened and then forwarded to the admissions office for a final decision.

So, what is the advantage of applying through the LSP versus on your own? Many colleges and universities participating in the program will guarantee a “fast-track” admission to Marines who meet their standards without going through a lengthy application process that includes essays and interviews. Additionally, for those schools that don’t offer any guarantee for admission, the Marine Corps staff of the LSP has established direct lines of communication with the admissions office to advocate a Marine’s admission.

An LSP recommendation adds significant weight to the application. It essentially provides an extra “look” prior to the school’s admissions office making final decisions on who is offered the opportunity to enroll.

Former Marine Sergeant Nicholas Keith, a student at Chico State, located in Chico, Calif., attended college through the LSP. “It’s the most advantageous decision I’ve ever made,” said Keith. “I never would have been able to get my bachelor’s degree

if it weren’t for this program, and now I’m going to be the first person in my family ever to graduate college.”

Some prestigious universities have long admission cycles and about 1,000 applicants for a single freshman admission. Marines need to start the application process early to improve their chances at being accepted. It is recommended that they begin the process at least 18 months before leaving active duty. With more lead time, the Marine will have more options from which to choose.

“Going to school is a process alone, but

“It’s the most advantageous decision I’ve ever made. I never would have been able to get my bachelor’s degree if it weren’t for this program.”
—Sgt Nicholas Keith

applying to a top-end school is more difficult and challenging,” said John R. Maki, a transition employment specialist with the Camp Pendleton, Calif., Transition Assistance Management Program. “Marines that are seeking a top-end school and wanting to do bigger and better things could really benefit from the program.”

Columbia University was a founding member and the first Ivy League institution to join the LSP. Dean Peter Awn, who runs the School of General Studies at Columbia, recently said that having such skilled men and women at the university is a great benefit to the school. “We have linguists, brilliant Arabists, people who’ve been working in intelligence, technology,

in covert operations. I mean this is a very high-end crowd.” Awn also pointed out that the veterans have to work just as hard as any other student does. They receive no special favors. “I say this rather bluntly ... this is NOT Affirmative Action for veterans.”

Many schools are interested in military veterans because of their experiences and leadership skills. “There is a real commitment to making sure education opportunities exist for Marines,” said Dean Curtis Rodgers of Columbia University. “They bring enormous value to our classrooms.”

The Texas A&M University System recently joined the LSP, and Dr. Michael D. McKinney, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, said, “The A&M system’s historic ties to the military make the USMC’s Leadership Scholar Program a perfect fit for our campuses. ... We not only welcome the arrival of these fine young Marines, but we are privileged to have students of this quality to support our mission of service and leadership.”

Marines already are valued and respected members of campuses around the country as a result of the LSP. They bring a unique diversity along with maturity, leadership and self-discipline. Marines are receiving a great education, and the country has citizens better prepared to compete in the job market.

Editor’s note: Beth Morgan is the director of the Marine Corps’ Leadership Scholar Program. Further information on the program can be found at www.LeadershipScholarProgram.com or by calling (760) 429-4124.



SGT RICHARD BLUMENSTEIN



CPL JENN CALAWAY

Above left: Cpl Kyle Lichtenberger interviewed with Columbia University during the summer of 2011 under the Leadership Scholar Program at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and was accepted to the Ivy League school.

Above right: Michael McCracken, an education specialist at MCB Camp Pendleton, visits base units to tell Marines and sailors of the many education opportunities available to them while on active duty and of the Leadership Scholar Program when they leave active duty.

THE WAR ON TERROR

Edited by R. R. Keene



Infantrymen of 2/6 disembark an MV-22B Osprey somewhere in Helmand province, courtesy of VMM-365 crews who are inserting not only fellow Marines but members of the Afghan National Army during combat operations.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM **■ Helmand Province** **Ospreys Give 2/6 a Lift**

The rotor blades are spinning and low chatter is drifting in over the internal communication system. The flight crews of the two MV-22B Ospreys awaiting takeoff—again—have been flying since before 5 a.m., March 28. It's late morning, and their day is far from over.

When it does end, the aircrews from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, known as the "Blue Knights," will have transported nearly 40 Marines, sailors and Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers from a remote patrol base to a location even deeper into Helmand province, Afghanistan.

"When getting ready for an [operation], I'm thinking about prepping the aircraft and making sure our weapons are clean and ready," said Sergeant Kyle Harrison, a crew chief with VMM-365. He explained that clean weapons and updated personnel rosters are important concerns for a crew chief. He ensures that the aircrews have everything they need to complete the mission, whether it is ammunition, fuel or available seats for passengers.

Upon landing at the patrol base, there

is little time before the leathernecks of 2d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment are to file onto the two aircraft. They are ready. They have all the gear they will need to spend several weeks outside the wire conducting combat operations.

The men of 2/6 have been in Afghanistan for only a few months, and some already have taken note of the efficiency and pro-

fessionalism of the aircrews they depend on for supplies, long-distance movements and infiltrations.

"Every time we do this, they're very professional," said Lance Corporal Dylan Jackson, a fire team leader.

Jackson explained that he has participated in three aerial infiltrations, and each time the aircrew has worked to deliver the Marines to their destination safely and ahead of schedule.

Harrison added that the ability to fly to these locations is crucial to completing ground operations.

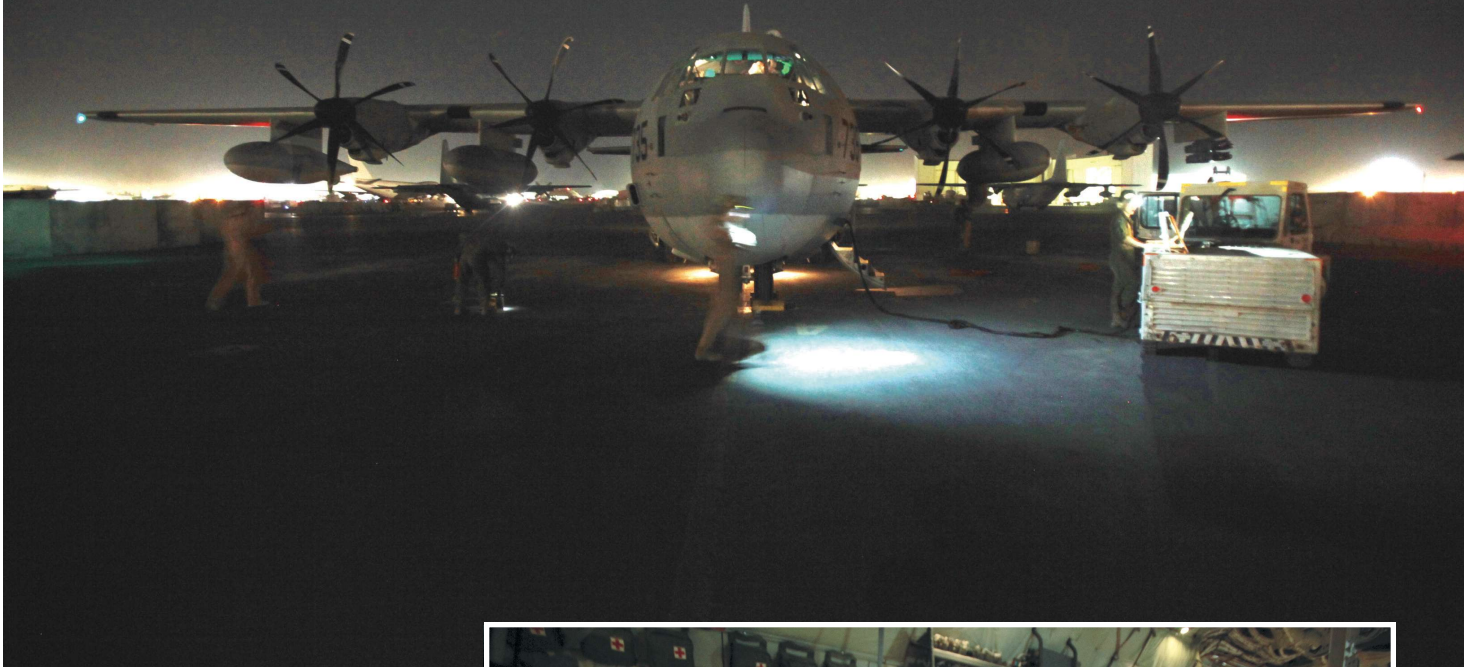
"We have the element of surprise," said Harrison. "We drop out of the sky and land anywhere. If [ground troops] walk, they're [vulnerable] to attack. If they have to take their vehicles, they're forced to travel on roads with [improvised explosive devices]."

When the Ospreys land at the predetermined patrol site in southwestern Afghanistan, the Marines and ANA soldiers are off the aircraft even faster than when they boarded. The well-trained personnel fan out in a defensive arc, facing barren desert with sparse farms.

"Once we got off the deck . . . everything went very quickly," said Harrison. "We got the [ground combat element] exactly where they wanted to go. That helps them



After a 10-hour flight, the crew of this KC-130J, installed with a Harvest Hawk system, gets ready for another mission flying out of Kandahar Airfield. (Photo by Cpl Isaac Lamberth)



effectively carry out their mission.”

The Blue Knight crews take flight as soon as the last man is on the ground and at a safe distance from the Ospreys. The aircraft depart quickly, racing upward and conducting stomach-churning turns. The faster they get back in the air, the safer they are. It’s time to return to Camp Leatherneck and prepare for the next mission.

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

■ **Kandahar Airfield** “Harvest Hawk” Gives Peace of Mind To Leathernecks on the Ground

A modified KC-130J Hercules flies over Afghanistan ready to unleash a tremendous amount of firepower for the Marines it supports.

Equipped to fire Hellfire and Griffin missiles, the aircraft with the weapons package known as the Harvest Hawk (Hercules Airborne Weapons Kit), provides close air support (CAS) for Marines conducting ground operations.

“We can give the commander on the ground peace of mind knowing he has these assets in the sky,” said Captain Dusty Cook, a Harvest Hawk pilot in Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 352.

Cook said the aircraft has several elements that distinguish it from other CAS platforms and have made it successful.



Maj John Pelzer, left, and Capt Michael Wyrsh, fire control officers with VMGR-352, scan video monitors for enemy activity from their stations aboard a KC-130J equipped with a Harvest Hawk.

He explained that Hellfire and Griffin missiles are ready for every mission, along with a sophisticated camera that both scans for insurgent activity and guides the missiles.

“When you put all these things together, you get a very deadly system,” he said. “We give the ground commander more precision munitions than any other plane, next to a bomber. Helicopters and fighters [planes] are good, but they do not carry the number of missiles we do and cannot

stay in the sky the amount of time that we can.”

Cook said the aircraft’s extended flight time allows it to stay aloft long after other attack aircraft have left because of the need to refuel.

Corporal Tom Wicklow, a Harvest Hawk crew chief, said another key element to the success of the aircraft is the tremendous coordination between Marines on the ground and the crew in the air.

“We’re all in contact with what’s going



CPL MARK W. STROUD

M1 main battle tanks of 1st Tank Bn, attached to RCT-6, pass a CLB-4 combat logistics patrol March 13 in Helmand province.

on,” said Wicklow. “When the guys on the ground call us, it’s put on the internal communication system so everyone can hear and understand what is going on.”

“When you hear those gunshots in the background and the Marines returning fire with the urgency in their voices, it really gets the blood pumping, knowing that their lives depend on you.”

When a commander on the ground needs air support, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) sends the request to the Direct Air Support Center (DASC), which then puts the JTAC in direct contact with the Harvest Hawk.

The pilots and fire control officers (FCOs) of the Harvest Hawk crew have served with ground units as JTACs and understand firsthand the need for efficient and accurate communication. This unique pairing adds a new dynamic to the battlefield. Additionally, the FCOs who control the weapon systems on the aircraft have flown in other CAS platforms. They have been specifically selected because of their experience with AV-8B Harriers, F/A-18 Hornets or AH-1W Super Cobras.

Capt Michael D. Wyrsh, an AV-8B Harrier pilot and an FCO for the Harvest Hawk, explained that his experiences as an attack pilot have been very beneficial.

“Giving close air support helped me understand what the guys on the ground are looking for.”

Cook said the Harvest Hawk can perform the duties of the standard KC-130J Hercules, such as battlefield illumination, aerial refueling or hauling cargo and personnel; however, the aircraft with the Harvest Hawk system has a primary mission to support ground forces with the aircraft’s sensor and deadly weapons—to unleash massive amounts of firepower whenever and wherever ground troops need it.

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

■ Helmand Province “Alpha” Company Hits Stride, Completes Largest Patrol to Date

Company A, Combat Logistics Battalion 4 completed its largest combat logistics patrol through Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 12-14.

The patrol was completed ahead of schedule despite consisting of more tactical vehicles and more supplies than any previous CLB-4 patrol. CLB-4 is part of First Marine Logistics Group (Forward), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Fwd).

“The Marines are getting the hang of

operations out here and are becoming [more proficient],” said Staff Sergeant Luis Martinez-Bido, a platoon sergeant with CLB-4. “We set ourselves a goal to complete the convoy ahead of schedule on this run, and the Marines worked together and went the extra mile to get that done.”

The convoy delivered supplies to Regimental Combat Team 6’s forward operating bases and combat outposts. It also backhauled equipment for repair and retrograde, according to Second Lieutenant Charlsie M. Brooks, a platoon commander with CLB-4.

The number of moving parts involved in the convoy increased the chances of something going wrong and presented a new level of challenges.

“This mission was the largest that [CLB-4] has done so far. That alone was a challenge,” said 2dLt Brooks. “The patrol required a lot of detailed planning from [noncommissioned officers] on up to establish a good security posture and deliver supplies needed to support RCT-6 safely and successfully.”

The Marines also rose to the increased logistical challenge of transferring the large quantity of supplies at the outposts and fire bases, according to Brooks.

“We are becoming more proficient with

the actions on [the] objective,” said Brooks. “We [offloaded and loaded supplies] in less time than any previous convoy, despite having more vehicles.”

Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG (Fwd), and also soldiers with 96th Transportation Company, 375th Combat Service Support Bn, Task Force Resolute, joined the convoy for separate combat logistics support operations.

“The Army and [9th ESB] embedded trucks in our convoy to complete their own mission,” said Martinez-Bido. “We basically provided them with gun power and security along the route.”

The arrangement turned out to be mutually beneficial when the Army assisted on the recovery of a pair of broken M870A2 semitrailers stacked on top of each other.

“Working [with the Army] helped us because we were able to take advantage of their [trailers] for a vehicle recovery operation,” said Martinez-Bido. “You do not often recover an 870 on top of an 870 ... and their flatrack [trailers] were better suited to the job than our own.”

The success of the operation reflected the work and mission-readiness of those involved, said Brooks. “[The convoy] proved to us that we are fully capable of being flexible and adapting on the move.”

Cpl Mark W. Stroud

Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)

■ Camp Leatherneck Marines Repair Equipment, Save Millions of Dollars

Leathernecks with Maintenance Company, Marine Air-Ground Task Force Support Battalion 11.2, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward) are wrapping up their last few days of deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan, having saved their government and Corps millions of dollars’ worth of gear.

“We have repaired 24,000 pieces of equipment [as of their September arrival in country through March] that have been pushed back into the battlespace,” said Major Brian Spooner, Commanding Officer, Maintenance Co.

From communications gear, to disabled trucks, to pieces of ordnance, the Marines have worked diligently to repair broken items and return properly working gear to their respective units.

“We provide general support to [Regional Command Southwest],” said Spooner.

Although most gear is taken to the lot at Camp Leatherneck for repair, in order to save travel time, the unit has Marines scattered across the province, working to repair equipment at Camp Dwyer and Forward Operating Bases Payne, Edinburgh and Nolay.

“We have conducted numerous main-



SGT MICHELE WATSON

Above: Sgt Donald Sickenberger, the fire control noncommissioned officer with Maintenance Co, MAGTF Spt Bn 11.2, 1st MLG (Fwd), checks an M67 sight used to align mortars with their targets.

Below: The sight and other items are stored at the Repairable Issue Point at Camp Leatherneck and will be issued to units needing replacements.



SGT MICHELE WATSON

tenance support teams, where the Marines go out to the unit requesting maintenance equipment versus the equipment being brought to us here at the lot,” said Staff Sergeant Abigail Lentz, company gunnery sergeant of Maintenance Co.

At the maintenance lot at Camp Leatherneck, multiple repair shops are set up to organize the incoming gear.

“I’ve never seen a more proficient, productive and motivating group of Marines,” said Spooner.

At the ordnance shop, Marines work to repair weapons and optics. An electronics shop is set up to fix communications gear. In another area, tactical vehicles are lined up for their turn in the auto shop.

“Our Marines ... can see the equipment come in for repairs and go back out,” said Spooner. “They can see the fruit of their labor.”

To speed up the process of returning usable gear, maintenance has a Repairable Issue Point. When a piece of equipment with a broken part is brought to the lot, the RIP serves as a back stock area. Often, the broken part immediately can be traded in for a working one, so a unit does not have to wait for the repair to be finished. The broken piece is then fixed and placed on the shelves to await another unit in need.

During its tour, the maintenance team has returned more than \$1 million worth of repaired equipment to units in surround-



SGT JOHN JACKSON

Above left: Sgt Cliff Lucker, a 2d EOD Co technician with 9th ESB, instructs 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment leathernecks on counter-IED tactics.



SGT JOHN JACKSON

Above right: LCpl John Clark, a welder with 2d EOD Co, fills a mold with concrete while constructing a mock Afghan compound that will serve as a training site at Camp Leatherneck.

ing areas. Additionally, the Marines have sent extra gear that is not being used back to the United States.

“We always have the ability to provide unique solutions to unpredictable problems,” said Spooner.

Maintenance Co is made up of more than 300 Marines. While more than half come from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., approximately 100 of the leathernecks are reservists from all around America. Regardless of where they come from, the Marines have formed a strong bond during this deployment.

“The camaraderie that the Marines have built, there is no separation,” said company First Sergeant Marcelino Del Valle. “It’s a band of brothers here.”

Sgt Michele Watson
Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)

■ Camp Leatherneck Giving EOD Company a Hand

Operational tempo in Helmand province, Afghanistan, continues at a high pace. There are foot patrols, mounted patrols, resupply convoys and construction projects conducted on a daily basis. Across these missions, the No. 1 threat to coalition forces continues to be improvised explosive devices.

Because of the insurgents’ use of these homemade explosives, explosive ordnance disposal technicians with 2d Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward) are engaged each day working to neutralize and eliminate these threats.

The EOD Co is made up of more than 100 Marines and sailors. While the majority of those Marines are EOD techni-

cians spread throughout Helmand province, 16 are attached to the company to perform a supporting role. Those 16 Marines and sailors ensure the company continues to accomplish its mission.

“We have communication Marines, supply Marines, a motor transport Marine, a welder, corpsmen, P3 [preservation, packaging and packing] Marines and bulk fuel Marines,” said Master Sergeant Shane Langerud, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, 2d EOD Co. “These Marines are doing a little bit of everything. They are filling that ‘any Marine role’ and doing a phenomenal job. The EOD company commander and I couldn’t be more proud of them and what they’ve accomplished throughout this deployment.”

Even though the support Marines and sailors do spend time working in their primary military occupational specialty while deployed with EOD Co, they often find themselves completing tasks outside of their areas of expertise.

According to the company gunnery sergeant, GySgt George Carter, “We have a bulk fuel Marine who also serves as the administration chief; another bulk fuel Marine is our intelligence chief. We have a P3 Marine who manages the upkeep, accountability and maintenance on all of the EOD robotics.”

In addition to filling those new roles, the support Marines also have completed several improvements to the EOD compound that will allow everyone to be better trained. They’ve built a 63,000-square-foot IED training lane, realistic Afghan compounds for mission training, a classroom to facilitate counter-IED classes and even an outdoor museum, which shows the different types of unexploded ordnance

and IEDs that have been found throughout Afghanistan.

“Through the blood, sweat and tears of the support Marines, we have been able to build a comprehensive training lane for not only EOD personnel, but also the infantry battalions and our [International Security Assistance Force] and NATO partners,” Langerud said.

Besides constructing areas for education and training, the company’s support personnel also have successfully retrograded approximately \$10 million worth of gear and equipment since arriving in Afghanistan in October, said Langerud.

“We came here and took a very broad skill set of young personnel in the military, and [they] were able to successfully become an excellent support element for the EOD Company,” Carter said. “Every one of these Marines and sailors has grown professionally.”

Sergeant Cerina Mingle, supply chief for EOD Co, said of her first deployment: “It’s been an eye-opening experience. ... I am truly glad I have gotten this experience.”

Corporal Joshua Smith, radio chief, is responsible for all of the company’s communications gear—a job typically held by a staff noncommissioned officer. “I think it has been a very successful deployment. ... The command has really taken care of [the support personnel]. I think the command has a lot of trust in us.”

“This compound is our home, and we all have a lot of pride in what we’ve accomplished throughout the deployment,” Langerud said.

Sgt John Jackson
Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)



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The Chosin Reservoir: Medical Care in Subfreezing Weather

By Dr. Stanley I. Wolf

The Chosin Reservoir is a large, lake-like reservoir in northeast North Korea, one of a chain of lakes used to create hydroelectric power for that area. Then a lieutenant in the Medical Corps, U.S. Navy, I served as a battalion surgeon in 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division in the Korean War's Chosin Reservoir campaign during November and December 1950.

Temperatures were some of the lowest ever recorded in North Korea, reaching minus 40 degrees on occasion. Wind chill was not recorded at that time, but current credible estimates suggest that temperatures of minus-60-to-minus-70 degrees probably were reached at night.

My battalion aid station was located in Hagaru-ri, a small village on the south end of the Chosin Reservoir. On the east side of the reservoir, about 15 to 20 miles north of Hagaru, were stationed U.S. Army units that had been placed in an isolated geographic location, with only a single, narrow winding road offering supply and evacuation possibilities. A small town called Yudam-ni was located on the west side of the reservoir, approximately 10 miles over rugged terrain north of Hagaru.

As we marched into Hagaru-ri, the temperature was well below zero. Marines were forced to stand in line for long periods while the area in front of our troops was cleared. It soon became apparent that while standing still, men were freezing, with white discoloration of the nose, cheeks and ears. I assigned my corpsmen the job of going up and down the line of troops to establish a buddy system. Each Marine would monitor his buddy for frostbite and then cover and warm those freezing body areas.

The Marines were assigned positions in the mountains surrounding Hagaru. The Chinese unexpectedly had come into the war, bringing thousands of soldiers against our units. Unfortunately, at first contact with the Chinese, some of our troops were bayoneted in their sleeping bags. The story quickly spread throughout the entire battalion. As a result, many men were unwill-

ing to crawl into a sleeping bag, using it as a blanket instead.

We were provided shoepac boots for the extreme cold. They contained a 3/4-inch felt innersole plus a spare innersole. The theory behind the special boot was that body heat would evaporate any perspiration in the innersole. At night the shoes could be taken off, the toes massaged and possibly powdered, and a fresh, dry, warm



COURTESY OF DR. STANLEY I. WOLF

LTJG Stanley I. Wolf, USNR, the battalion surgeon of 2/7, said, "Everyone [at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950] had some degree of frostbite."

innersole could be inserted. The other perspiration-laden innersole was to be removed and placed against the body for evaporation.

Unfortunately, men in the field were unable to take off their boots, especially if they were not sleeping in their sleeping bags. The moist innersoles froze in the minus-30-degree weather. A layer of ice formed across the sole of the shoepac, causing frozen feet and painful walking.

When the boots were removed, feet swelled to a point that the boots could not be placed back on. The soles of those men's feet looked like raw meat. Many had bloody blisters on their toes. In addition, some sustained cold injury to their fingers and hands.

At the time 1stMarDiv moved into northeast Korea, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's headquarters issued statements that the war was over for practical purposes and that we would be home by Christmas. The issuing of winter gear was delayed until late November, since we would be gone in such a short time. Unfortunately, the weather was already below freezing before we received winter parkas, heavy gloves and shoepac boots.

In usual wartime conditions, seriously wounded troops could be evacuated to medical facilities behind the lines for treatment. However, since we were surrounded by more than 125,000 Chinese, land evacuation was not possible. A small airstrip was bulldozed from the frozen soil and ice in Hagaru.

This strip was able to take small, two-engine, propeller-driven aircraft, which could evacuate only 28 stretcher cases or about 32 seated casualties at a time. Evacuation of many of the frostbite victims would have been desirable. That certainly would have allowed them to go to Japan where the weather was warmer and where slow thawing of tissue and proper treatment could have been administered.

Unfortunately, we were overwhelmed with severe combat casualties, many from the 7th Army's 31st and 32d Infantry regiments, which had been stationed east of the Chosin Reservoir. The Chinese took their time destroying those trapped fighting units, using the wounded on stranded trucks for target practice. Many soldiers crawled onto the ice of the Chosin Reservoir, trying to reach Marine positions. Some were on the ice for three or four days.

A Marine tank-infantry team swept the ice and placed drivers on trucks that had been trapped on the single-lane road. Those trucks were taken into Hagaru, and many



COURTESY OF DR. STANLEY I. WOLF

of the casualties were assigned to my battalion aid station. We treated hundreds of casualties over the next few days. Some of the casualties had fractures, skull injuries and sucking chest wounds. Many soldiers had three or four bullet holes that started to bleed when they thawed out in our aid tent (in those cases, the freezing weather probably stopped bleeding and perhaps saved their lives).

All of those soldiers were frozen. Initially, when we tried to remove the boots, some of their toes would come off in the boot. We found we could do less damage by cutting the leather boots and slowly removing them, almost dissecting the foot out of the boot, in an attempt to preserve tissue. With those multiple, severe, life-threatening injuries, the evacuation of Marines and soldiers with simple frostbite had a lower priority. In fact, we had orders to keep all troops in the line who could ride "shotgun," even though they could not walk.

At the same time, Marines were returning from Yudam-ni, having successfully escaped from Chinese encirclement. All of those troops had experienced prolonged exposure to freezing weather and snow.

LTJG Stanley I. Wolf, USNR, second from the right, observes as his corpsman bandages a wounded Chinese Communist soldier near Sudong, North Korea, in early November 1950. The photo was published in *The Washington (D.C.) Star* later in the month.

Many had been forced to keep their boots on for days during prolonged combat.

One of the most difficult decisions a physician had to make was deciding who should be evacuated by plane. I was fortunate to have Lieutenant Junior Grade LaVerne Pfeiffer with me in our aid station. LTJG Pfeiffer was a surgeon who had served during World War II. Having his surgical judgment was invaluable in making the decisions about who would be sent to Japan. Our decision was based on the wounded man's chance of surviving if he received prompt hospital care in Japan. Many wounded troops who were retained would not have lost their toes, feet or possibly their lives if they could have been sent to Japan.

Our corpsmen were the unsung heroes of the Chosin Reservoir. Working under heavy fire in freezing weather frequently



COURTESY OF DR. STANLEY I. WOLF

required them to remove their gloves to apply dressings. Morphine came in plastic syrettes that froze and had to be thawed in the corpsmen's mouths. Out-of-date plasma (from 1947) was used in the aid

A 7th Marines recon patrol returns to the base at Hagaru-ri, located at the south end of the Chosin Reservoir, 18 Nov. 1950.



TSGT J. W. HELMS, JR.

Left: Leathernecks with Fifth Marines are treated after an attack by hordes of Chinese Communist soldiers near Yudam-ni, west of the Chosin Reservoir, 29 Nov. 1950.



SGT F. C. KERR

Below left: LTJG Stanley Wolf is pictured in front of the temporary 2/7 battalion aid station in Korea on one of the warmer days.



COURTESY OF DR. STANLEY I. WOLF

station, but froze when used outdoors. The corpsmen's prompt responses in such terrible conditions saved many lives.

Six or eight machine-gunners were placed outside of our battalion aid station. The Chinese attacked en masse every night. The next morning, their dead were piled five deep in front of each gun. Despite the intensity of the battle, we knew that the Marines would stay together as a fighting unit and that we would get out safely.

After the march from the Chosin Reservoir to board ships at Hungnam to move to Pusan, South Korea, many of the troops who had blistered feet found that the fluid was absorbed and that the tissue returned to "normal." Those men stayed in the line, and no record of frostbite was documented in their medical records.

After we reached warmer weather in Masan, South Korea, we suddenly found our sick-call line two city blocks long. Those men had upper-respiratory infections with nasal congestion, coughing and sneezing. Apparently, while they were in North Korea's subfreezing weather, the common-cold virus somehow did not cause trouble. We did see respiratory illness, such

as bronchitis and even pneumonia, but even those were uncommon. The sudden emergence of upper-respiratory infections certainly was associated with exposure to a warmer environment.

It has been 61 years since the Chosin Reservoir campaign. Many Chosin veterans have lost fingers, toes and feet due to the ravages of subfreezing-temperature exposure. Most of us now are experiencing the long-term effects of cold injury, such as chronic nerve pain in our hands and feet, damaged nails, excess sweating and hypersensitivity to both cold and heat. Nevertheless, we can live with these symptoms, especially when we recognize how fortunate we are to have survived.

Editor's note: Dr. Stanley Wolf, a lieutenant junior grade, was the battalion surgeon for 2d Bn, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv from July 1948 to March 1951. He was awarded a Bronze Star for "heroism under fire" in Korea, where he treated hundreds of casualties from battle wounds and severe frostbite injuries as Marines were surrounded and almost overrun by the Chinese at Chosin Reservoir.



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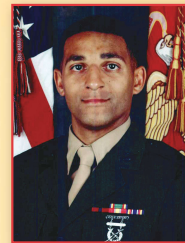
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SSgt Rafael E. Campos, a Marine Modern Standard Arabic instructor at the Defense Language School, checked off a “bucket list” item when he completed the French Foreign Legion’s Army Jungle Warfare School in French Guiana, South America, in February 2012.



Marine Earns Spot in Famed French Foreign Legion School

Story by SSgt David Hercher • Photos courtesy of the French Foreign Legion

“**T**he Sandman,” a mythical character, delivers dreams to children throughout the world while they sleep. So he has heard it all when it comes to what young boys want to be when they grow up. The list of hopes and dreams is limitless.

If the “Late Show with David Letter-

man” had a Top 10 list of the “Hopes and Dreams of Aspiring Young Boys,” becoming a member of an elite Special Forces unit presumably would be on that list. It might be to become a member of the Navy SEALs, Delta Force, Army Green Berets or Rangers, the Air Force PJs, a U.S. Marine Corps Force Recon

team, or the British SAS or the French Foreign Legion.

All the backyard sandbox wars inspire young minds to turn those green-plastic army men into whomever they want them to be. More importantly, those imaginative heroes teach them that victory, fun and adventure aren’t just pipe dreams,

Students from 16 countries attended the demanding two-month jungle warfare course.



but can become reality with initiative and hard work.

For many of us, those childhood dreams begin to fade as we approach adulthood. For some, the daily grind has killed those dreams. For others, their contribution to society is nonexistent; some simply exist from one day to the next. Ronald Reagan summed it up best when he said, “Marines don’t have that problem.” For those who walk the roads less traveled, adulthood morphs from childhood fantasy to a kaleidoscope of dreams woven, thread by thread, into the fabric of their daily lives, dreams that become reality, dreams that change the world.

One such Marine, Staff Sergeant Ra-

Right: SSgt Rafael Campos grips the coveted “Chef de section,” or jungle warfare platoon commander badge, presented at completion of the jungle warfare course.

fael E. Campos, certainly has lived his life to improve the world. He currently is serving as a military language instructor at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in Monterey, Calif., a Department of Defense school that provides resident instruction in 23 languages and two dialects, five days a week, seven hours per day, with homework each night.

At 26, SSgt Campos, a Modern Standard Arabic instructor, already had reached an “elite” class in his own right.



While serving in the Marine Corps, he has become a master linguist who speaks, reads and writes six languages and teaches at what is regarded as one of the finest foreign-language schools in the nation.

As a boy, Campos had a dream: to serve in the world-renowned French Foreign Legion. Fast-forwarding to 2011, Campos was working in his office when a unique opportunity presented itself to the Floresville, Texas, native and 2004 graduate of Floresville High School. A colleague walked in and announced that he had an exclusive opportunity for the “right” Marine.

The French Foreign Legion was looking for one of the “few and proud” to train alongside their elite legionnaires

for two months at the Centre d’Entraînement en Forêt Equatoriale (CEFE), which translates to the Center for Equatorial Jungle Training, a French Army Jungle Warfare school colocated at Camp Szuts in Regina, French Guiana, and Camp Forget in Korou, French Guiana, home to the 3e Régiment étranger d’infanterie or the 3d Foreign Legion Regiment.

Only one U.S. Marine would be chosen to train with France’s elite and attend the Chef de section jungle or Jungle Platoon Commander Course. Campos quickly jumped at the chance to be that Marine. However, one thing was keeping him from training alongside France’s finest. The master linguist and highly motivated Marine did not speak French; a requirement

which, to a lesser man, would seem like an impossibility to achieve in less than a month.

Not one to turn away from a challenge, Campos, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009 and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010, had what some may consider an impossible obstacle standing between him and his chance to fulfill a childhood fantasy.

“It had been an early dream of mine to be a legionnaire,” said the seven-year Marine Corps veteran. “I jumped at the opportunity by asking my CO [commanding officer] for permission to attend. I promised him I’d learn French in the three weeks I had until the course began.”

With time ticking away to teach himself French and a busy schedule to juggle with his duties as an instructor, Campos, who has a proven affinity for learning foreign languages, submitted his résumé and was selected to attend the course. “My CO saw that I had a strong background of language skills with exams on file for Iraqi, Levantine, Egyptian, Pashto and Spanish,” in addition to Modern Standard Arabic.

Having been an instructor at DLI for merely four months before attending the CEFE, Campos said he enjoys his job as an instructor and likes the multicultural atmosphere that the school provides, as well as the opportunity to share his learning methods with new trainees.

It is challenging to teach servicemembers a new language, specifically Arabic, which is considered by some Westerners to be one of the most difficult languages to learn. But Campos quickly found himself up for a different challenge: the chance to represent the Marine Corps and endure the French Foreign Legion’s Jungle Platoon Commander Course at the CEFE taught by none other than the famed legionnaires.

At the course indoctrination, Campos found himself training alongside warriors from Canada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Brazil, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Poland, England, France and Suriname. He graduated from the two-month course on Feb. 29, 2012.

Asked about the challenges he faced, Campos humbly stated that he was thankful to have the opportunity to “enjoy an atmosphere of cooperation. ... I was able to train with men and accomplish tasks and missions in order for the group to benefit. We looked out for one another and had victory, not personal agendas, on our minds. ... I enjoyed the



Learning to construct or take advantage of available shelter and knowing how to find and prepare food and water is a big part of the jungle warfare training course.





According to SSgt Rafael Campos, “talking with the fish” is a game instructors at the Center for Equatorial Jungle Training played with the students.

opportunity to work with dedicated men in a challenging environment.”

Together, this cadre of international military students—leaders among their respective services—trained alongside one another to become one of the elite 1,800 graduates the CEFE trains annually and aims at “hardening ... in its harsh environment,” according to the 3e Régiment étranger d’infanterie unit website.

The CEFE also offers several different training courses in jungle warfare for unit-sized groups: the Initiation Course, which lasts four days during which the students are familiarized with jungle survival; the Jungle Warfare Course, which lasts for two weeks during which the unit is prepared for operating in a jungle or tropical environment; the Advanced Jungle Warfare Course, which lasts for two weeks and was developed to impart specific skills to infantry and special forces units; and the Survival

Course, which is intended to impart the unit with specific survival skills or field test equipment in a jungle environment.

So what is gained by sending one of the nation’s finest to train alongside his brothers from around the world?

Simply put, the CEFE participants gain the opportunity to work alongside one of the Marine Corps’ best and brightest. In return, the Corps gains a sharper, more-skilled and well-rounded Marine Corps staff noncommissioned officer who directly impacts the lives of countless military personnel who pass daily through the halls of DLI. Even more significantly, the Corps is developing a senior enlisted leader who will have the opportunity to bring back what has nearly become a lost art due to the Corps’ focus on desert training and combat for the last decade: an improved chance to reinforce the Corps’ return to its amphibious roots.

Campos gained the experience of a lifetime, additional training and a chance

to make lasting friendships. He returned to DLI to rejoin an elite fraternity of 2,000 highly educated instructors and continue the long-standing tradition of training some of the world’s finest foreign-language students and servicemembers dedicated to the security of the nation.

Editor’s note: SSgt David Hercher is serving as the public affairs officer for U.S. Marine Corps Forces South, which is the U.S. Marine Corps Service Component Command for United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), located in Miami, and commands all Marine forces assigned to Commander SOUTHCOM. He joined the Marine Corps in 1997 at the age of 22 and has served as a combat correspondent, marketing and public affairs noncommissioned officer, combat-camera production chief and a public affairs officer.



Leatherneck Laffs



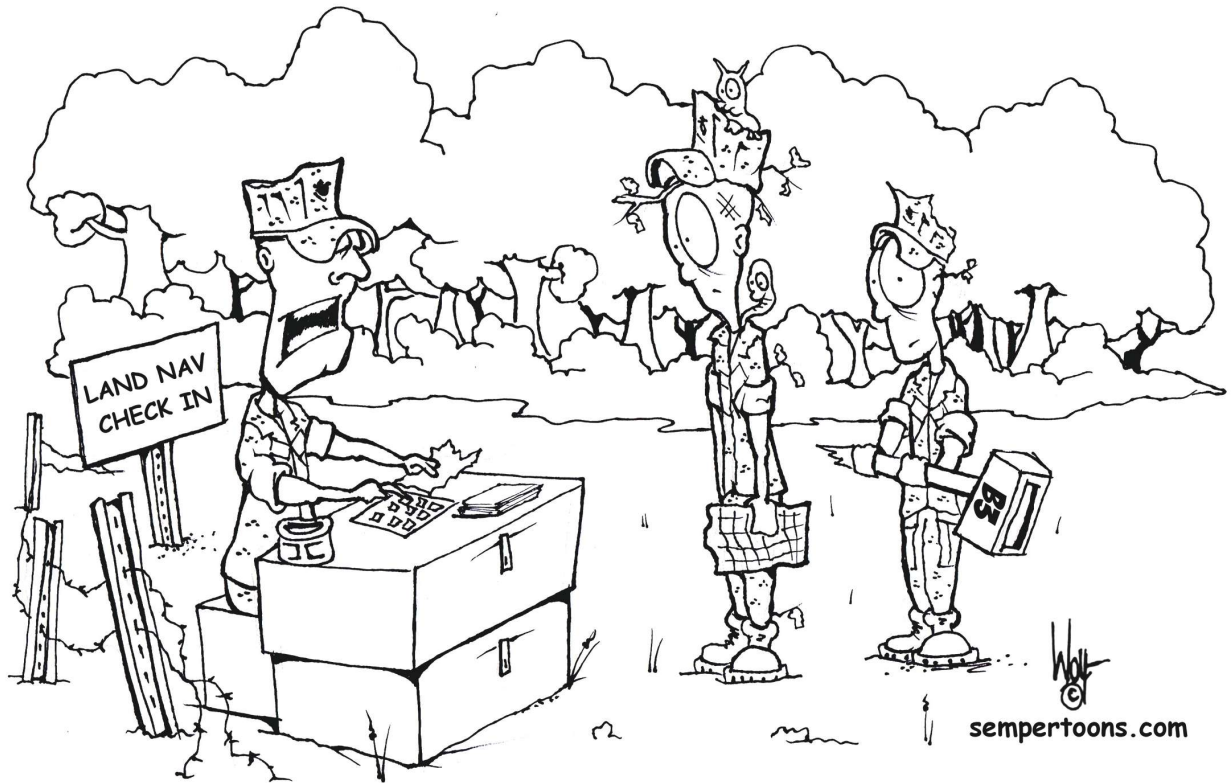
"Grab some salt and come on over.
Gas tank's filled with margaritas."



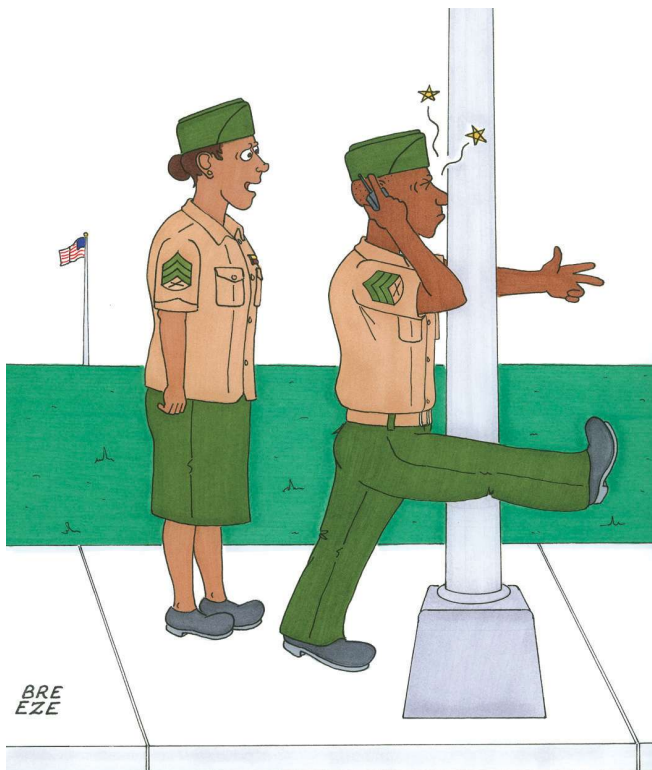
"Very well, Marine. Stand by for the rules of engagement."



"Trust me, you're not going to
need an alarm clock."



“The good news is you found all the boxes. The bad news is none of them are yours.”



“Explain again why it’s called a smart phone?”



“How many times I gotta tell you?
Never let a camel breathe on your equipment.”

A Legacy

89 Years in the Making:

World War II Marine R. V. Burgin Continues to Tell His Story

By Sgt T. M. Stewman

It has been more than 70 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor, the driving force behind the United States' involvement in what is considered to be the greatest war fought by the greatest generation in history. More and more of those great warriors are dying, and their stories are fading with them. For one 89-year-old Texan, the story is very much alive, and over a cup of coffee and a cookie, he'll tell anyone who will listen.

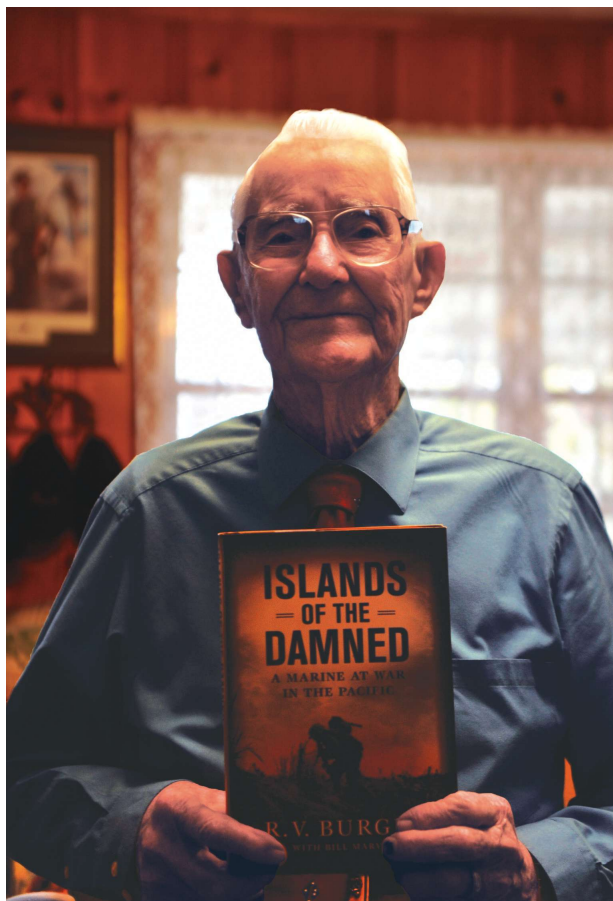
R. V. (Romus Valton) Burgin was born on Aug. 13, 1922, in Jewett, Texas. He was named after his father's brother Romus, who served in the Army during World War I. The third child of seven, Burgin and his six brothers and sisters grew up on a farm during the Great Depression.

Burgin graduated from Jewett High School on May 28, 1941, and soon after moved to Dallas where he worked various jobs, including one as a traveling salesman where he was able to visit 18 states. After the attacks on Pearl Harbor that year, many young men responded to the call of duty and enlisted. Burgin always had intended to do the same; it just took him a little longer.

"I remember when I was on the road people used to ask, 'Why aren't you in the service?' I always told them that I was going to join the Marine Corps on Friday. It didn't matter what day of the week it was; I would always say I'm going to join next Friday. Sure enough, I ended up joining the Marine Corps on Friday, November 13, 1942."

Soon after, Burgin shipped out to boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, where he endured six weeks of training that normally took 12 weeks.

After graduating on Jan. 6, 1943, he shipped out to Camp Elliott, Calif., where he joined the 9th Replacement Battalion and trained with 60 mm mortars. On



WW II Marine veteran Romus Valton Burgin holds his book, which relates his experiences in the Pacific battles of New Britain, Peleliu and Okinawa.

March 12, 1943, he boarded USS *Mount Vernon* (AP-22) on his way to the Pacific.

"I never got a furlough. I never came home. My parents never saw me in uniform until I bought my dress blues for the presenting of my Bronze Star."

Burgin made it to Camp Balcombe, just outside Melbourne, Australia, on March 31, 1943. He linked up with the First Marine Division, which had just returned from Guadalcanal.

"It was like being at an advanced course with the Marines from Guadalcanal telling their stories," he explained. "I would listen and ask questions because I knew we would be going into something just as bad if not worse, so I wanted to know

any and everything that I could find out about the [Japanese] tricks and tactics and what to expect."

He stayed in Melbourne for six months before he and other Marines left to face combat in the Pacific. During his time in Melbourne, he met the love of his life, Florence Riseley, while on liberty with his Marine buddy Jim Burke. After a period of courtship, Burgin became engaged to the 16-year-old Riseley and they spent four months together before he had to leave on Sept. 26, 1943. He would not see her again until Jan. 27, 1947.

"I found a keeper. We were married for 64 years," said Burgin with a wistful grin. Sadly, Florence Joan Burgin passed away on Aug. 25, 2011.

After leaving Australia, Burgin went to New Guinea for three months to train in jungle warfare. "The training was just about as close as you could get to the real thing. The only thing, there was no one shooting back at you."

Burgin would experience the real thing when Company K, 3d Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment made it to New Britain, Jan. 1, 1944. The very first day the Marines moved forward and didn't run into any resistance. That night they started to dig in and had their first banzai charge.

"Twelve to 15 [Japanese soldiers] crossed a little creek with their bayonets raised and hollering, 'Marine, you die!'" he said. At the time, the only thing Burgin had was a .45-caliber pistol because he was a gunner on the 60 mm mortar.

"I jumped behind a log and shot a [Japanese soldier] in the chest. That next afternoon I had made up my mind that I didn't want the enemy getting that close to me again, so I picked up an M1 rifle, and I carried it the rest of my time in the Pacific."

For four months Burgin and the Marines continued to fight in New Britain where it "rained, and it rained, and it rained some more. Mosquitoes, land crabs, jungle

On Peleliu in September 1944, Marine half-tracs pound Japanese pillboxes as infantrymen move forward to close with the enemy. (Photo by Sgt W. A. McBride)



“So, once I got into where I thought the line of fire was at, I turned around and started walking backward, and sure enough he opened up on me.”

rot, dysentery, sleeping in foxholes full of water—because during World War II Marines didn’t get out of their foxholes at night. Period. So, if anybody was moving, you shot them.”

The fighting continued as they landed on the beach at Peleliu. The 1stMarDiv took huge losses during the campaign that was executed to gain control over a strategic airstrip for the United States. Of the 6,500 casualties the division suffered on that island, 1,250 were killed in action.

The Marines continued to advance, this time to Okinawa where Burgin’s heroism earned him the Bronze Star.

The morning of May 2, 1945, the Marines of “King” Co immediately were pinned down. They tried to cross a valley three times. That afternoon, while set up behind a knoll, Burgin noticed that anytime anyone advanced up to the south side of the knoll, a machine gun would open up on them. He knew approximately where the gunner was, but couldn’t tell for sure.

He had the idea to walk up to that side of the knoll, then turn around and walk backward so he would be able to see the fire from the machine gun, because he knew the gunner was going to open up on him.

“So, once I got into where I thought the line of fire was at, I turned around and started walking backward, and sure enough he opened up on me. He put two bullet holes in the left leg of my dungarees between my knee and ankle and put one bullet hole in the right leg of my dungarees between my knee and ankle,” he said.

Burgin saw the fire and called back to the mortars, and they fired the first round. He quickly made an adjustment, and they scored a direct hit. The gun went forward, and the Japanese soldier went backward. He never had a chance to confirm the kill, but he and the Marines made it across the ridge and had it secured by nightfall.

“I didn’t even know I was put in for the Bronze Star until February of 1946 when

it was presented to me.”

Facing a fanatical enemy willing to defend Okinawa at all costs, Burgin was wounded on the afternoon of May 20, 1945, when an artillery round landed nearby. Before he knew it, there was a flash and crack, with the impact knocking him off the helmet on which he had been sitting. He felt something sting on the back of his neck, and when he reached up to brush whatever it was away, he realized that he had been hit. A finger-size piece of shrapnel had lodged itself in his neck.

After a Navy corpsman removed the shrapnel, he was evacuated to the battalion aid station. That evening, he was put in an ambulance and taken to a medical tent where he laid on a stretcher all night.

“I’ll never forget—a guy came along and gave me a shot. A few minutes [later] then another guy came along and gave me a shot. A few minutes and then another guy came and gave me a shot. Then here comes another guy with a needle and I

Marines are pinned down by Japanese mortar and machine-gun fire on the crest of a newly won hill bounding "Awacha Pocket" on the Naha front, May 19, 1945.

said, 'What in the hell is going on? I've already had three shots.' He said, 'You've what?' And I said, 'You've already given me three shots. How many damn shots are you going to give me?' He just shook his head and walked off. They were Army medics."

The next morning, he was put in another ambulance and transported to a field hospital where he spent 20 days. Just as most did, he returned to his unit and picked up right where he had left off.

After two years, seven months and 26 days in the Pacific, Burgin finally returned to California on Nov. 9, 1945. Unlike a storybook ending, it would be almost another two years before he would be able to bring Florence to the States from Australia. On Jan. 29, 1947, just two days after her arrival in the United States, they were married.

Being a Marine as a career was never an option for Burgin. After leaving Peleliu and before getting to Okinawa, he and three others were nominated for a field commission. It was then that he explained to the members of the field selection board that he had no intent of staying in the Corps.

"I told them that I joined the Marine Corps to whup the [Japanese], and whenever we were done kicking their butts, I'm going home," he declared.

Burgin was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps on Nov. 24, 1945. Two years later he joined the active Reserve and served for another two years. He had other plans for himself, so he marched forward and made them happen.

"It was always my intention to work for the government, preferably the Post Office. When I was growing up, I knew a few rural carriers, and they were always nice to me. Also, during the Depression days there weren't too many people that had a job, but the rural carriers had a job. It might not have paid a lot, but they were getting more than those without a job. I decided they had good benefits and retirement, so that's the way I wanted to go."

He started out carrying mail for 15 months, and during that time he was given the option to become a clerk or stay with his position as a carrier. The promotion opportunities weren't as good being a carrier, so he went the clerical route in 1947. Through hard work Burgin did well for himself, becoming a superintendent in 1973.

"I went into the Post Office carrying mail on my shoulder and came out a super-



intendent, so I think I did OK," Burgin said.

He had served his country and had completed a successful career with the United States Postal Service, but like many other Marines, Burgin didn't talk to anyone about his experiences while fighting overseas—not even to his wife or four daughters. It would be nearly 35 years before he ever would speak about what happened during his time spent in the Pacific. It ultimately took reuniting with the Marines with whom he had served to feel comfortable with reliving and sharing his experiences on those now hallowed grounds in the Pacific.

"In 1980, I went to my initial First Marine Division reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana. There was 20 Marines from K Company, and I knew every one of them. I had done foxhole duty with them. Every

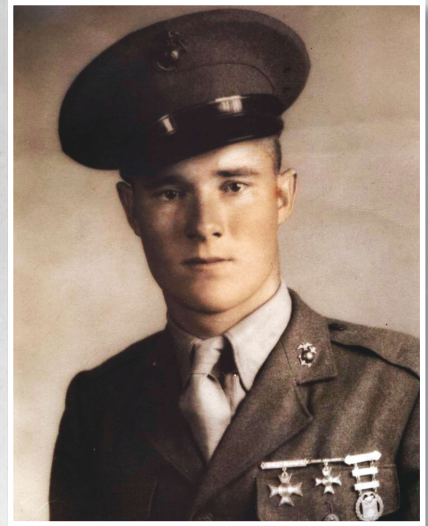
year since 1980, I've gone to each of the reunions. For the first 20 years, each year I would see someone that I hadn't seen since 1944 or 1945."

Staying connected with the Marine Corps was only part of what he wanted to do. He knew deep down that he needed to do his part to ensure that the legacy of the Marines who fought in the Pacific, specifically Peleliu, would not be forgotten.

"My Marine buddies all over the United States had been trying to get me to [write a book] for over 20 years. My family had been trying to get me to write it as well, and I'd always say, 'Yeah, I'm gonna do that. I wanna do that.' I procrastinated a lot."

What finally convinced Burgin to put his plan into action was in February 2008 when he had to have a pacemaker. "I was all alone laying in the hospital bed, and I

As a sergeant in the Battle of Okinawa, Burgin earned a Bronze Star medal when he exposed himself to enemy fire to locate a Japanese machine gun that had stopped his company's advance.



COURTESY OF R. V. BURGIN



USMC

“I was all alone laying in the hospital bed, and I thought to myself, ‘You old coot! You ain’t gonna live forever, so if you wanna write this book, you better get after it now.’”

thought to myself, ‘You old coot! You ain’t gonna live forever, so if you wanna write this book, you better get after it now,’” he noted.

By April 1 of the same year, Burgin had an agent and a writer and immediately went to work. For almost a year, writer Bill Marvel visited Burgin’s home once a week for about an hour, turned on the tape recorder and just talked.

“After each time, he would go home and type up everything, bring it back and then we’d sit at the table and go over it,” Burgin said.

In April 2009, the book was finished and sent to Penguin Group Publishing Company. On March 2, 2010, “Islands of the Damned” was published, and to date, Penguin Group has printed more than 60,000 copies of his book.

“What really gives me a thrill about

the book is whenever someone tells me that while reading it, they didn’t want to put it down,” Burgin proudly revealed.

Excitement about his book increased exponentially when HBO released a miniseries, “The Pacific,” on March 14, 2010. The series tells the story of the 1stMarDiv’s campaign in the Pacific during WW II. Martin McCann stars in the miniseries as Burgin in episodes 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

“That’s the one thing I wanted everyone to know about,” he said, “the story of the First Marine Division Marines on that small island [Peleliu]. An island that had so many casualties that no one knew about. That was what inspired me to write the book.”

The war in the Pacific helped produce and solidify Marine legends such as E. B. Sledge, John Basilone and Lewis B.

“Chesty” Puller, but a steep price was paid by those who never made it back to the States. Even for those who returned, the experience took a toll on them, and some never recovered. The story of that generation needs to be told and retold. Luckily, we still have men like R. V. Burgin who continue to tell their story.

Editor’s note: Leatherneck’s review of “Islands of the Damned” was published in the April 2010 issue. The book is available from The Marine Shop and online at www.marineshop.net/browse.cfm/islands-of-the-damned-%28hb%29/4,9058.html.

Sgt Stewman is a combat correspondent currently stationed at the 8th Marine Corps District in Fort Worth, Texas. A native of Lancaster, Calif., he joined the Marine Corps in August 2005.



Return to Hill 488—“Howard’s Hill”

Story by Ray Hildreth · Photos courtesy of the author

13 June 1966, dusk: My platoon, 1st Plt, Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, led by Staff Sergeant Jimmie E. Howard, was inserted near the top of Hill 488. As part of Operation Kansas, our mission was to establish an observation post on Hill 488, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, and to observe the valley below for any enemy activity. Over the next two days we made several sightings and called multiple fire missions into the valley. One of the fire missions caused secondary explosions, which indicated enemy munitions storage.

On the evening of 15 June 1966, Howard received word that a large North Vietnamese Army (NVA) unit had been sighted and might be headed our way. Since there was no clear evidence that we were the intended target and feeling that we had a good defensible position, Howard opted for us to stay.

At dusk, Howard strategically placed listening posts around the hilltop. As a scout sniper lance corporal, I was paired with Private First Class James McKinney on the east side of the hill. At approximately

10:30 p.m., Corporal Jerald Thompson approached our position and placed us on 100 percent alert, moving me approximately 10 yards south of McKinney.

I had not been in my new position very long when two shots rang out. LCpl Rick Binns had seen a shadow move. When it moved a second time, he fired at it. The shadow fell backward, and Binns’ team retreated to the top of the hill.

Rifle fire rang out again, and LCpl Tom Powles, one of our M79 grenadiers, screamed. Powles was in agonizing pain as he had taken a round in the gut. Seconds later, a grenade exploded near McKinney’s position. Along with dirt, rocks and debris, McKinney’s poncho fluttered down next to my position. I grabbed my cartridge belt and scrambled to the top of the hill.

“Marines, you die in an hour,” one of the NVA shouted. We shouted back using classic Marine-graphic language. Then SSgt Howard told us to laugh at them, and we did. Forty-five years later I would learn that this taunting laughter probably was the greatest contributing factor that

kept us from being overrun because the NVA thought that they were dealing with a much larger unit.

Throughout the rest of the night and into the next morning, the firefight, including hand-to-hand combat, continued. We had eight rounds of ammo left among us when the Sparrow Hawk reactionary force arrived the next morning.

When it was over, six Recon Marines were dead, and the remaining 12 members of the platoon were wounded. Only three of us were able to walk out unassisted. The relief force from Marine Aircraft Group 36, MAG-12 and “Charlie” Co, 1st Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment lost five men coming to the aid of our platoon. However, the NVA paid a heavier price. Around the hilltop lay 39 dead, and drag marks indicated that many more dead or wounded were carried away.

SSgt Jimmie Howard was awarded the Medal of Honor. In addition, there were four Navy Crosses and 13 Silver Stars awarded for this battle. Rick Binns’ Navy Cross citation currently is being considered for an upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

In August 2010, I was the guest speaker at a church during a monthly men’s breakfast. Afterward, some Marine Vietnam veterans told me of their pending trip back to Vietnam and that Hill 488 was one of the sites on their itinerary. They asked if I would be interested in going with them. There were sites on their itinerary that I had no interest in seeing, so I gracefully declined. However, I began to consider the trip once more, and within a few days my mind was made up: I would return to Vietnam.

I contacted a travel agency in Vietnam and carefully planned the trip to be symbolic and to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the 1966 battle, right down to the day of the week.

I had questions lingering in my mind about the Battle for Hill 488. How many NVA soldiers actually were in the attacking force? Officially, the USMC called it a reinforced battalion and did not give a specific number, but some articles put the numbers at 200, 250 and 300. How many of them did we kill? Some estimates were as high as 200 NVA dead. With the size



From left: Ray Hildreth; Vinh Pham, a Vietnamese guide; Hoang Minh Tien, an NVA lieutenant during the Battle of Hill 488; and two Viet Cong women gather for a photograph prior to the hike up Hill 488, “Howard’s Hill,” in June 2011.

Ray Hildreth pauses to catch his breath as he makes the memorial hike up Hill 488, Howard's Hill, in June 2011.



of the NVA unit being so large, why didn't they just overrun us? The only way to find answers to those questions would be to talk to an NVA veteran of the battle.

My travel agency's website had testimonials from other American Vietnam vets stating that they were able to speak with their counterparts of various battles. With this in mind, I asked my travel agent to find an NVA veteran of Hill 488. She located Hoang Minh Tien, a retired NVA colonel, who was a platoon leader in the Battle for Hill 488, and he was willing to meet with me. A chill went down my spine as I pondered the idea of finally getting the answers to the questions that had haunted me over the years. In addition, I extended an invitation for him to hike to the top of Hill 488 with us, and he accepted.

My tour group included Charles "Chuck" Sasser, my co-author of the book "Hill 488"; Don Buatte, a fellow sniper who was assigned to Alpha Co, 1st Recon Bn and was on an adjacent hill during the Battle for Hill 488; and more friends.

We arrived in Saigon on 13 June 2011, and early the next morning, we boarded a plane for a short flight to Da Nang. When we disembarked at Da Nang and were walking to the terminal, a MiG roared past us. We stopped and watched as it took to the air. A reference to the movie classic

"The Wizard of Oz" seemed appropriate. We realized that "we're not in Kansas, Toto."

On Wednesday morning, 15 June 2011, our Vietnamese guide, Vinh, arrived, and we went to pick up Col Tien. I was somewhat anxious at the thought of meeting someone who 45 years ago was trying to kill me. Tien had two women accompanying him. After the introductions, we were told that the women were friends of his and were members of the Viet Cong during the war. One was a nurse, and the other was in communications.

My first impression of the VC women was not a good one, and I became more nervous when I heard that they planned on hiking with us. I had brought a memorial plaque to place on top of Hill 488 to honor those who died there. Fearing that the Vietnamese government would not authorize me to place the plaque on their soil, I had not asked permission to do so.

The starting point for the trek up Hill 488 was sort of a way station along the main road in the valley below Hill 488 that sold supplies to miners. There was a relatively new dirt road that the miners used to get up to a gold-mining operation on one of the lower adjacent hills. We would take the road part of the way up and then go cross-country to Hill 488.

Vinh later told us that one of the Vietnamese at the way station was the secret police and was there to keep an eye on us.

We took some pictures of our group with Tien and the VC women and then started up the road. The secret police stayed behind. After about 10 minutes, Tien and the VC women began to lag behind, so I waited under the shade of a small tree for them to catch up. When they reached my position, Tien and the VC women told us to go on without them. I gave a sigh of relief.

The road was steep and winding, and the hike was more demanding than I had imagined. After I got out of sight of Tien and the VC women, I took another break. My thighs felt like they were on fire. I thought that I had been getting into shape by working out on the stationary bike and elliptical machine three to five times per week several months ahead of the trip, but the hike up the road was kicking my butt. At 64 years old, I was not the lean, mean fighting machine that I once was. However, good old USMC stubbornness, fortitude and pride launched me onward. Failure was not an option.

We took the road as far as we could and then headed cross-country with almost two more clicks to hump. Then it happened: "Murphy's Law"—if something could go



Ray Hildreth shows the position where he and PFC James McKinney, while with 1st Plt, Co C, 1st Recon Bn, sat on 50 percent alert on the night of 15 June 1966.



Looking out toward a current gold-mining operation on a hill adjacent to Hill 488 provides more perspective on the difficult terrain.

wrong, it would. The sole of my right hiking boot came loose and was flopping halfway back to the heel, causing me to stumble and fall several times, as I traversed up the steep terrain. In addition, I had rubbed a blister on the bunion of my left foot that began to radiate pain with each and every step. Also, the lens of my camera fogged up, making it impossible for me to take any more pictures.

Around noon we reached the top of Hill 488, or was it?

In 1966, it was almost barren with nearly knee-high grass and some scattered rocks. Now, there were trees and some small bushes scattered around the top of

the hill. I knew that the Army had put a fire base on top of Hill 488 in 1968 and named it Landing Zone East. The topography of the hill around the rock could have been altered some by their presence, which would account for some of my uncertainty.

To clear up my confusion, I humped northwest to an adjacent hilltop and took a look back at the hill. That had to be Hill 488. I humped back and pulled out my map and started to identify the surrounding terrain and triangulate our position. The rock from where Howard directed our defense was almost invisible because trees had sprung up around it. I tried to visualize the hill without the trees and additional

foliage, and it started to come back to me.

There had been a group of Marine Vietnam vets on the hill in April who buried a copy of my book in a plastic bag next to the rock for me to find when I got there. Other members of our group looked around for signs of the dig and found it. Just a few inches below the surface, they recovered the book.

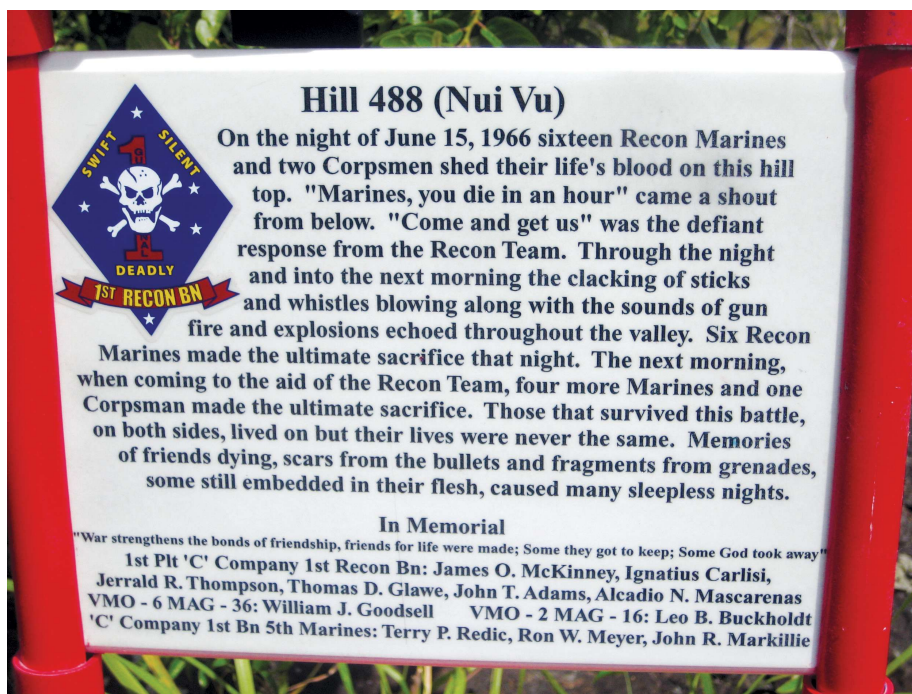
Now it was time to plant our memorial. We all took turns digging the hole. When the memorial was in position, we had a moment of silence and then took pictures standing next to it. With my mission accomplished, I collected a few rocks for souvenirs, and we started back down.

I had planned a dinner with Tien that evening after our trip to 488. Part of the lure to meet with me was that I intended to return some personal items that were taken from NVA bodies after the battle. Those items had been returned to me after G-2 had gathered any useful intelligence from them. It was during this dinner that I expected to find the answers to my questions.

I was working on my second bottle of beer in the dining room when Tien and the VC women walked in. Since they did not speak English, we had to wait for Vinh to arrive and translate for us. When Vinh arrived, I learned that Tien's battalion was

Don Buatte (below left) helps dig a hole for the base of the memorial that he and Ray Hildreth flank in the photograph on the right.





The memorial, carried from the United States and up the side of Hill 488, stands atop the hill as a reminder of the bitter fighting and bravery on the night of 15 June 1966 and into the early morning of 16 June.

nicknamed “The Sunrise Battalion” and that it had taken them 90 days to get from Hanoi to the valley below Hill 488. They had arrived two days prior to engaging us. I asked Tien why his battalion was called the Sunrise Battalion, and he answered that it meant that they would be victorious and that the battle would be over by sunrise. I thought, “Well—it didn’t quite work out that way this time.”

I asked how many men were in his unit, and he said that 80 came up the hill after us and that 80 remained in the valley as reinforcements. Next, I asked him how many of his men were killed. He hesitated and then asked me how many I saw. I answered that I had seen 39. After another

moment’s hesitation, he said that 41 were killed.

Later, I would find out from Vinh that the husband of one of the VC women had said that there were many more killed. Tien, understandably, wanted to know how many were in my platoon that night on Hill 488. Until then, Tien had exuded arrogance and pride when talking about his battalion, but when I answered that there were 18 of us, he looked at me in disbelief.

Thinking that I may have misunderstood the question, he asked it again. On a napkin I drew a likeness of the top of Hill 488 and placed an X for the positions of each of my platoon members. Tien’s expression

changed little. I asked Tien what they thought when we laughed at them that night. His reply was that they thought we were a much larger force.

Then it was time to present the NVA personal items to Tien. I picked up the bag of items and stood up. A serene quietness came over Tien and the VC women. Tien stood up, and I handed him the items. He stood quietly for a moment. Someone said, “Let’s get a picture.” Both of us looked at the camera to capture the moment. Tien and the VC women carefully looked at each and every item and thanked me for returning them.

Unexpectedly, Tien and the VC women had a presentation to make. First, Tien presented me with a gold pin with the likeness of Ho Chi Minh on it with a red background. Then the VC women presented Don Buatte and Chuck Sasser with identical pins. At the end of the presentation, we were told that these pins were given by North Vietnam to their Vietnam veterans. In honor of the personal items being returned, we were declared official Vietnam veterans.

We made a toast to let the past be the past and to move forward with mutual respect. We did not part as friends, but as other Vietnam vets have stated, “We weren’t enemies anymore either.”

Editor’s note: Ray Hildreth was one of three Recon Marines who were able to walk off Hill 488 unassisted. Hildreth and co-author Charles W. Sasser chronicled this historic battle in the book titled “Hill 488,” published by Simon & Schuster and released in October 2003. Hildreth retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2002 and is a martial-arts instructor in Tulsa, Okla.



At a farewell dinner, Ray Hildreth (above left) presents Hoang Minh Tien with personal items collected for their intelligence value from NVA bodies after the Battle of Hill 488, and Don Buatte (above right) accepts a Vietnam War service pin from one of the VC women.

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We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Leathernecks Feel the Heat Of Corps' New Non-Lethal Weapon

■ The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, invited senior members of the Marine Corps and members of the media to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., for a firsthand opportunity to feel the effects of the new Department of Defense Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate's Active Denial System, March 9.

The Active Denial System (ADS) is an advanced non-lethal technology that projects a long-range, man-sized beam of millimeter waves at a distance of up to 1,000 meters to counter personnel.

"The system is state-of-the-art technology; it's not widely known. ... [There are] a lot of perceptions and misconceptions about what the system is and what it isn't. It is a millimeter wave system; it is not a microwave," said Marine Colonel Tracy Tafolla, director of the DOD Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate.

The ADS produces a reversible heating sensation to the skin. The system uses a 95-gigahertz, millimeter wave beam that penetrates only 1/64 of an inch into the skin.

"It's a system that has been researched for 15 years. We're comfortable that it's a

safe system," Tafolla said.

Most of the current non-lethal weapons use kinetic energy, where the size and range of the target can limit or change the effectiveness of the weapon. The range of the ADS is 10 times greater than other non-lethal weapons and can have the same compelling non-lethal effect on all human targets.

"It could be used across the military spectrum of operations: perimeter security, crowd control, entry control points. You name it. I think our forces will figure out the many different applications that it would have," Tafolla said.

The technology has undergone a full legal and treaty review and has been found to be compliant with the international legal obligations of the United States.

"Part of our job is educating and making sure that everyone ... not only our military forces, but our general population, understands that it is a safe system and we know a lot about it," Tafolla said.

The Active Denial System remains at the ready state and is available for operational requests worldwide by commanders. Currently, there are no plans in place for its deployment.

SSgt Will Skelton
DivPA, HQMC

Combat SkySat System Will Improve MAGTF Communication Capabilities

■ Leathernecks with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit strained their necks as they looked up toward the sky at what could only be described as a giant balloon flying above Camp Del Mar, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., as they tested a new communications system that expands the capabilities of the Marine air-ground task force March 29.

The new system, called "Combat SkySat," is used to retransmit information to extend the range of ultra high-frequency communications.

The SkySat uses a helium balloon with a hanging antenna to relay UHF signals. Flying at an altitude between 55,000 and 85,000 feet in the Earth's stratosphere, the balloon can increase a range of communication to 600 miles.

The system is built by Space Data Corporation and is billed as a "float and forget" retransmission system. The balloon has a communications payload attached to it containing a global positioning system, radios and antennae. Two separate radios, one that controls the height and one that allows communication between personnel, are the lifeline of this high-tech equipment.



Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett (right) grimaces while experiencing a heat wave projection during a demonstration of the new Active Denial System (ADS), and (above) field radio operator Sgt Frank Torres and his group of "riffraff" test the ADS and retreat from a wave of hot air that feels much like opening a hot oven.



The main benefit the SkySat provides is that it uses UHF “line of sight” instead of UHF satellite communications. This allows Marines on the ground to speak directly to pilots during operations and exercises without having to retransmit through a middleman.

The launch control station allows the operator to “drive” the balloon. Using helium or hydrogen to inflate the balloon and an internal ballast system (about 5 pounds of sand), the operator can remotely make elevation adjustments, as necessary. If the balloon needs to be higher, the operator can unload some of the sand to make the system lighter. If the balloon elevation needs to be lower, the operator can release some of the gas through the venting system, which drops the balloon. There are no fans to assist in directional change; that’s up to the wind currents.

“The 15th MEU is adopting the system in response to the 26th MEU’s successful use of it in Libya, Afghanistan and Pakistan,” said Captain Michael E. Ginn, the assistant communications officer in the command element of 15th MEU.

The battery life for the system is about eight to 10 hours, and the system can be launched in winds up to 45 knots, said Ginn. Depending on wind speed, the system easily can cover hundreds of miles before it dies.

“The communications’ Marines have launched three balloons this week,” said Ginn.

With the SkySat, the 15th MEU will be more capable than ever as it continues training for its upcoming deployment.

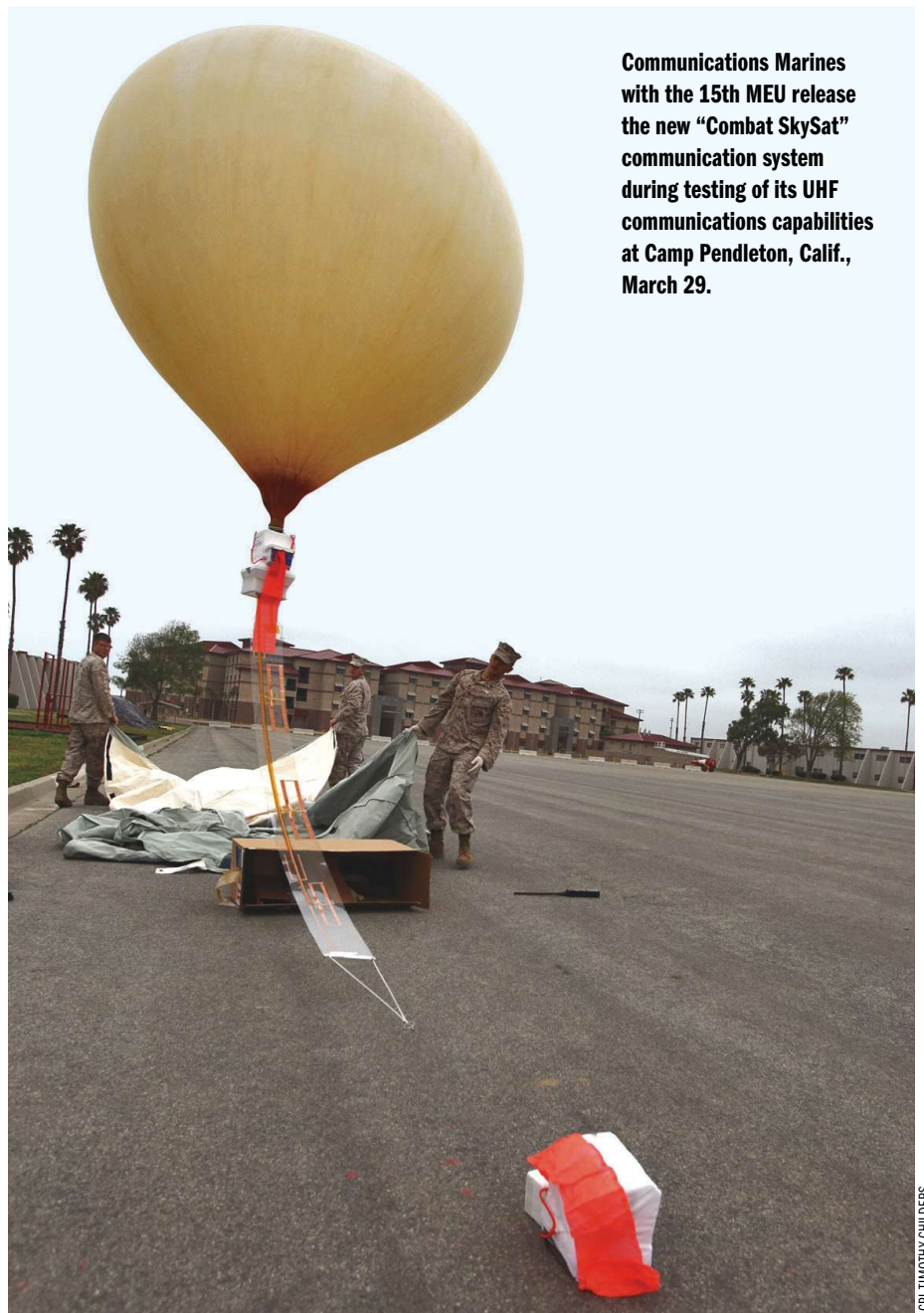
LCpl Timothy Childers
Combat Correspondent, 15th MEU

HQMC Establishes SRT School At MCB Camp Lejeune

■ The first Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps certified course designed to train special reaction team personnel graduated its first class in April, at the school’s new home on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“Each Marine Corps installation has a need and is required by the law enforcement manual to maintain a special reaction team capability,” said Maceo B. Franks, the executive director for Marine Corps Police Academy East and HQMC’s East Coast senior law enforcement coordinator. “One of the problems we have run into in the past is a difficulty in acquiring enough school seats. Headquarters Marine Corps has decided to pull together our resources and put on and sponsor our own special reaction team course.”

Before the SRT school was established at MCB Camp Lejeune, Marine and civilian SRT members were trained at other



Communications Marines with the 15th MEU release the new “Combat SkySat” communication system during testing of its UHF communications capabilities at Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 29.

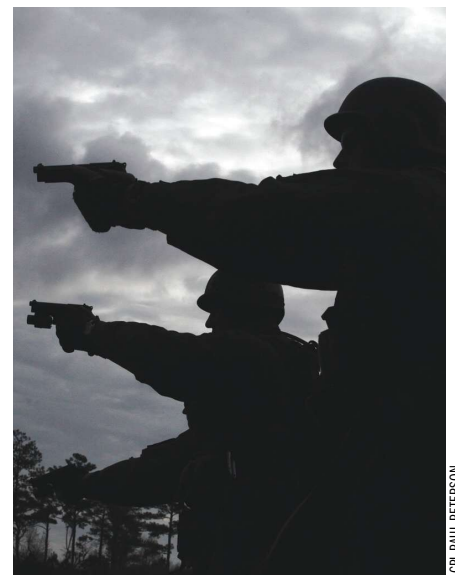
LCPL TIMOTHY CHILDERS

schools such as the one at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The new school is designed to help fill the training needs of Marine Corps installations, augmenting the training that is done at the other facilities.

Franks said the search for a suitable location to train SRT personnel led to MCB Camp Lejeune, where the SRT could utilize the resources aboard the Stone Bay rifle range and Lejeune’s urban terrain training facilities.

The school also trains civilian law enforcement personnel, said Franks. Some

Students attending the first Marine Corps-certified SRT course train to fire on the move at the Stone Bay range, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 22. The new SRT course at Camp Lejeune will help other Marine Corps installations fill their quota by providing training for SRT personnel.



LCPL PAUL PETERSON

Marine installations partner with local law enforcement to fulfill their SRT requirement using memorandums of agreement as a basis for partnering. “We want to ensure that both civilians and military police working side by side on the same team have the same tactics and training,” said Franks. “What people don’t realize when they look at an SRT member is that that person has been trained in additional special tactics as it relates to going out and performing law enforcement missions. They may be asked to perform at a higher standard than a traditional officer.”

Each member receives training on various weapons systems, communications, breaching equipment, casualty care, strong-hold assaults, hostage rescue and a host of other small-unit tactics.

Both civilian and military students are

required to achieve a first-class physical fitness test score and qualify as “Expert” on both the pistol and rifle range.

The initial class consisted of 30 students who had to complete three weeks of training to receive certification. The course itself went through a pilot phase last August to determine where it could be improved.

“We got back very positive feedback, and it was more so in what additional tactics we need to include and what would not be as relevant to our Marines and civilian personnel,” said Franks. “So we trimmed the fat and we came up with a three-week curriculum.”

Franks also said there are plans to expand the training. In addition to three annual SRT classes of around 30 students, the school also will conduct three certifying courses in SRT leadership, command

and marksmanship. Plans also include a possible school on the West Coast in the near future.

LCpl Paul Peterson
PAO, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Marines, Sailors Land in Australia

■ Approximately 200 U.S. Marines and sailors with a new rotational force arrived at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, April 3, in accordance with an announcement made by Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and U.S. President Barack Obama last November.

The rotational force, currently Company F, 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, will conduct bilateral training with Australian allies to maximize interoperability between the forces.

“This is very much an historic day; it is an historic day which is wedded deeply in the United States-Australian Alliance, forged over 60 years ago,” said Australia’s Minister for Defence Stephen Smith during a press conference on April 4. “That alliance was forged in the Pacific in the course of World War II, where United States defense force personnel, including Marines, and Australian Defence Force [ADF] personnel stood shoulder to shoulder, not just in the defense of Australia but in the defense of the Pacific.

“The United States Marines are here to facilitate the reinvigoration of our partnership with our Australian brothers-and sisters-in-arms,” said Lieutenant Colonel AnDroy Senegar, the officer in charge of the III MEF command and control element assisting Co F during the first days of its deployment.

Upon arrival, Marines were greeted by Australian and U.S. officials, including Defence Minister Smith; Australia Army Major General Michael Krause, head of the U.S. Force Posture Review Implementation team; Jeffrey L. Bleich, U.S. Ambassador to Australia; and Lieutenant General Duane D. Thiessen, commanding general of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific.

The III MEF command and control element arrived in Australia approximately two weeks before the company, which allowed for the coordination of numerous logistical details and helped ensure a smooth arrival, said Senegar.

Although tired from the long flight, the Marines’ and sailors’ spirits were high.

“I am absolutely excited to be here,” said Sergeant Andrew R. McConnell, a Co F squad leader. “I want to see what we can learn about how the ADF operates, especially in close-quarters battles and their interaction with locals during operations.”

The Marines are scheduled to train in



CPL MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

FIRING WITH JUSTICE—PFC William Justice, a machine-gunner with Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, Second Marine Regiment, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, demonstrates gun drills for members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces in Morocco during bilateral training Exercise African Lion 12. The 24th MEU and the *Iwo Jima* Amphibious Ready Group deployed in March on a regularly scheduled deployment to serve as a theater reserve and crisis response force.



LCPL IAN McMAGON

U.S. and Australia officials greet 200 Marines and sailors with F/2/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF upon their arrival to Australia, April 3. The new rotational force will be working with the ADF at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, Northern Territory.

Australia and nations in Southeast Asia for approximately six months before returning to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

“I am absolutely confident that the Marines will enjoy very good training experience,” Defence Minister Smith said. “They’ll work well with our defense force personnel, and they will be particularly welcomed by the people of Australia, but in particular by the people of Darwin and the Northern Territory.”

LCpl Ian McMagon
PAO, Marine Corps Installations Pacific

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Corporals Course DEP Now in Place

■ The Marine Corps College of Distance Education and Training reports that a new Corporals Course Distance Education Program (DEP) is now in place to provide Marine Corps corporals with additional knowledge and skills necessary to assume leadership roles of greater responsibility.

In accordance with ALMAR 026/10, completion of a command-sponsored Corporals Course or the Corporals Course DEP will be required for promotion to sergeant. To provide commands and in-

dividual Marines the time to manage their education requirements, neither the command-sponsored Corporals Course nor the Corporals Course DEP will be required for promotion to sergeant until after the expected date of Oct. 1, 2013. The official date will be communicated via Marine Administrative Message.

For more information about the Corporals Course DEP, visit www.tecom.usmc.mil/cdet/corporals_course.asp.

Corps Expands Urinalysis Testing To Include Prescription Drugs

■ Lance Corporal Sarah Wolff, Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., reports that the Department of Defense has expanded military drug testing for Hydrocodone and Benzodiazepine. These commonly abused prescription drugs are prescribed to treat severe pain and a variety of ailments such as alcohol dependence, seizures, anxiety, panic, agitation and insomnia.

The DOD is expanding military drug tests to adapt to current trends of prescription drug abuse, said Steven L. Butler, substance abuse prevention specialist, Camp Pendleton.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL DENCHER BAEZ

“We are going to get a little wet— but we will at least have a front-row seat.”

Submitted by
Francis W. Landry
Lynn, Mass.

This Month's Photo



CPL MARCEL BROWN

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

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

In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Lawralynn Diehl



COURTESY OF BYRON MOORE

LtGen Frank Libutti, USMC (Ret), Cpl Cleveland King Jr. and the 2/14 sergeant major, SgtMaj Willard Roberts, pose for cameras after LtGen Libutti presented Cpl King with his medals and ribbon earned during the Vietnam War.

Radioman Corporal Receives A Slew of Awards for Valor

Corporal Cleveland King Jr. was presented the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with combat "V," the Purple Heart with two gold stars and the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) March 31, four decades after his heroic service during the Vietnam War.

King's wife and extended family joined him at the Huntsville Marine Reserve Center, in Alabama, where dozens

of veterans gathered to congratulate King, including Lieutenant General Frank Libutti, USMC (Ret), who presented the medals and the CAR; the 2d Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment sergeant major, SgtMaj Willard Roberts; fellow Marines from Company C, 1/4; and platoon members, including Richard D. Porrello and Karl Marlantes.

Also in attendance were Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Alabama State Senator Bill Holtzclaw.



The Marines said Cpl King earned his awards in March of 1969, but only recently was the Corps able to find and present the medals, which had been signed off by LtGen H. W. Buse, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force in June and July of 1969. Credit for this long-overdue recognition goes to Byron Moore, who first contacted King, and Gunnery Sergeant Wayne T. Byron, the operations chief of Battery K, 2/14, at the Marine Corps Reserve unit in Huntsville, who organized the awards ceremony.

Moore's father-in-law had served in the same platoon as King during the Vietnam War. Moore wrote to explain how the presentation of the awards came about: "I started putting my father-in-law's Vietnam photos together for him. I started labeling places and times and people. This led me on a search to find all the guys I could in those photos (and I'm still working on it). In doing all this research, I started looking up awards that were earned during the Battle of Hill 484. I found where Cleveland King had been awarded the Silver Star. I found Cleveland in Alabama (he had not heard from anyone from Vietnam in 43 years).

"I explained what I was doing and congratulated him on his Silver Star. He said he didn't know anything about a Silver Star. I sent him a copy of the citation I had found and let the other guys know what I had figured out. The other guys in the platoon that I had found got the ball rolling. They wanted to make sure their brother got an award he had earned 43 years ago."

King was a radio operator with C/1/4, Third Marine Division at the time of the action that earned the medals for heroism. His Silver Star cites action on March 1, 1969, when King's unit got into a firefight against a large force of North Vietnamese soldiers near Khe Sanh. Gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades wreaked havoc, wounding King's platoon leader and platoon sergeant. King took command of the platoon and led by example. His citation reads, "During the assault upon the enemy-held hill, Corporal King repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire as he moved among his men, shouting

Cpl King, seated in the center, looking left, is surrounded by fellow platoon members of 2d Plt, Charlie Co, 1/4 during February 1969, just a few short weeks prior to the heroic action that resulted in his multiple personal decorations.

words of encouragement.”

He then ensured medevac helicopters were summoned to pick up the wounded. King then “fearlessly rushed out into the open landing zone and released a smoke grenade to mark the area.” As he did so, an enemy mortar round landed, knocking him down and wounding him. Nonetheless, he remained on the radio with the helicopter pilot and, when the first chopper landed, King helped load the wounded. He then assisted in loading other wounded into a second helicopter. In two medevac trips by the two helicopters, 23 wounded were evacuated.

Cpl King’s Bronze Star was earned on the early morning of March 3 when 2d Plt, C/1/4 came under attack by a North Vietnamese Army regiment. The Marines took many casualties. King accompanied his company commander to the enemy point of heaviest contact and then “fearlessly moving throughout the fire-swept terrain, assisted in reorganizing and encouraging the men. Realizing that four Marines in the listening post forward of the perimeter were seriously wounded and dangerously



COURTESY OF BYRON MOORE

exposed to enemy fire, he unhesitatingly rushed forward and assisted in moving them back to the relative safety of the company perimeter.”

Between Feb. 28 and March 6, 1969, the company suffered 22 KIAs and, among the 160 men of “Charlie” Co, 1/4, 102 were wounded. Because some had multiple wounds, 157 Purple Hearts were awarded

during this short period. Additionally, six Navy Crosses were awarded, three of which were posthumous awards. There were four Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded to Marine aircrewmembers, and eight Silver Stars were earned, one posthumously.

Compiled from a news report, official citations and information from Byron Moore

Personal Combat Awards

The awards records in the Marine Corps’ Award Processing System (APS) and Improved Awards Processing System were used to populate this list, which reflects personal combat awards from the start of the global war on terrorism presented to Marines and sailors serving with U.S. Marine Corps forces only. This list may not reflect certain personal combat awards

processed outside of either system and/or approved by another branch of service. Any questions on the content should be submitted in writing to the Personal Awards Section at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, MMMA-2, 2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134.

The following awards were announced in March:



Navy Cross

Cpl Clifford M. Wooldridge,
3d Battalion, Seventh Marine
Regiment, First Marine Division



Silver Star

HM3 Todd J. Angell, 1/8,
2dMarDiv



Bronze Star With Combat “V”

MSgt Stephen F. Krueger, 1st
Marine Special Operations Bn
(MSOB), U.S. Marine Corps
Forces Special Operations
Command (MARSOC)
Capt Matthew H. Lampert,
1st MSOB, MARSOC
SSgt Michael S. Winn, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat “V”

Sgt Michael A. Hawkins,
1st MSOB, MARSOC
SSgt Humberto Magana Jr., 1st
Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company,
I Marine Expeditionary Force
Headquarters Group
SSgt Taylor J. Morgan, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC
LCpl David B. Pond, MHG, II MEF
Sgt Michael J. Sims, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC
GySgt Todd D. Stolte, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Nathan M. Stuhr, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC
1stLt Ocie C. Vest, 1/6, 2dMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat “V”

Sgt Damien G. Descant, 1st
Reconnaissance Bn, 1stMarDiv
Capt Michael S. Ercolano, 1/25,
4thMarDiv
Sgt Rigoberto Gonzalez Jr., 2d
Supply Bn (Reinforced)
Cpl Adam J. Hoffman, 2d Radio Bn,
II MEF
SSgt Gabriel A. Pirman, 2d
Intelligence Bn, II MEF
SSgt Derik A. Roberts, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC
Cpl Peter B. Simmons, 1st Recon
Bn, 1stMarDiv

Compiled by the Personal Awards Section, HQMC



Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Kubasaki High School Marine JROTC Wins Far East Drill Championship

The Kubasaki High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps won the title of 2012 JROTC Far East Drill Champions for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) Pacific during a competition on Kadena Air Base, Japan, March 26-28.

The competition included 156 cadets representing 12 DODEA high school JROTC units in the Asia-Pacific region including schools from the Republic of Korea, mainland Japan and Guam.

Since October 2011, the Kubasaki team practiced more than two hours of drill per day during the school week.

"The team started off practicing unarmed drill and then progressed to armed drill with [M14A1 rifles] and then finally into armed exhibition, which is similar to what you see in the silent drill team during their performances of exchanging rifles and throwing them in the air," said Robert Mastriano, a Kubasaki JROTC instructor and retired sergeant major.

The Okinawa-based team competed in a total of six graded events during the competition.

"We took first place in armed regulation, unarmed regulation and color guard," said Mastriano. "[We also took] second place in unarmed exhibition and third place in personal inspection."

"Drill is six months of preparation and

refining our drill procedures," said cadet Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuelle Corderro, the cadet battalion commander.

The JROTC program, although time-consuming, provides the students with confidence, opportunities to grow and obtain leadership positions, patriotism and the love of being an American overseas, said Corderro.

"I am very proud of our team. Their dedication is indicative of the future of a country we can be proud of," said Mastriano.

LCpl Courtney White

PAO, Marine Corps Installations Pacific

Camp Pendleton ASYMCA Promotes Operation Kid Comfort

In 2011, the Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA launched its Operation Kid Comfort, which uses patchwork quilts to bring comfort to the children of deployed military personnel.

Volunteers create custom-made quilts for children of deployed U.S. military personnel who experience grief from missing their mom or dad. "We take family photos and transfer them onto fabric and send to the quilters. They make the quilts and return [them] for us to give to the families," according to George Brown, the ASYMCA executive director at Camp Pendleton.

The ASYMCA Camp Pendleton website notes that its Operation Kid Comfort quilts are for children, age 12 and under, of deployed military men and women

stationed at Camp Pendleton. To request a quilt, email admin@camppendleton.asymca.org.

Currently, there are 10 military installations that offer the ASYMCA Kid Comfort program, and some provide pillows in addition to the quilts. Children with deployed parents who are not stationed at one of the locations can receive a quilt or pillow through the ASYMCA website, www.asymca.org/.

Operation Kid Comfort recently gained publicity after it was featured on CNN's "American Morning" and in numerous trade and military magazines and local newspapers. Volunteers have created about 7,000 quilts since the program's inception in 2003. The ASYMCA at Camp Pendleton distributed 310 quilts in 2011 and hopes to distribute 500 this year.

In addition to Operation Kid Comfort, the ASYMCA at Camp Pendleton offers programs to meet the variety of military families' needs. The programs include "Mommy and Me" Preschool Programs, Y Shuttle Transportation Program, Project Liberty Call and the Operation Hero Program.

Brown also said the ASYMCA at Camp Pendleton is continuing to expand its programs and will be adding a mother-son dance in addition to the father-daughter dance that was established a few years prior.

For more information regarding the



ROBERTE MASTRIANO

Cadets with the Kubasaki High School JROTC are inspected by SSgt Junior E. Diaz during the 2012 JROTC Far East Drill competition on Kadena Air Base, Japan, March 26-28.



RACHEL SMITH

Leslie Keene and her daughters, Amelia Grace, 6, and Allison, 3, participants in Operation Kid Comfort at the Camp Pendleton ASYMCA, hold up their patchwork quilts, made by program volunteer Mrs. Yolanda Aguilera. The quilts include pictures of husband and father, deployed Sgt Michael Keene.



COURTESY OF OPERATION HOMEFRONT

Erika Booth (third from right), flanked by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, and his wife, Bonnie Amos, accepts the Marine Corps 2012 Military Child of the Year award. Booth's family members, (left to right) Dylan Thomas Booth, SgtMaj Scott T. Booth and Ginger Booth, also attended Operation Homefront's 2012 Military Child of the Year awards gala in Arlington, Va., April 5.

services offered by the ASYMCA at Camp Pendleton, visit www.camppendleton.asymca.org/services.html, or call (760) 385-4921.

For a list of bases where Operation Kid Comfort is offered, or to volunteer as a quilter, visit www.asymca.org/what-we-do-3/national-programs-services/operation-kid-comfort/.

Leatherneck

Erika Booth Honored as Corps' Military Child of the Year

Erika Booth was named the Marine Corps' 2012 Military Child of the Year at the Operation Homefront's awards gala in Arlington, Va., April 5.

The military's top leaders heaped praise on five military children—one from each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces—for their resilience, strength of character and leadership.

Operation Homefront, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance to military families, annually presents the award to honor military youth for their service and sacrifice.

The honorees ranged from a 9-year-old who started a blog to support other children dealing with deployment, to a 17-year-old who dealt with her Army father's illness, then the loss of her soldier brother in Afghanistan.

Senior military leaders presented the awards to their service's honoree, first citing their exceptional qualities and accomplishments and passing on their personal gratitude.

Erika Booth, 16, of Jacksonville, N.C., was presented the award for the Marine Corps by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos.

Booth, the daughter of Sergeant Major Scott T. and Ginger Booth, was an avid softball player until she was diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease that affects her blood and requires painful monthly kidney checks. While dealing with her own health issues, Booth also helps to care for her 13-year-old brother, who has autism.

Despite these challenges, Booth is ranked first in her class academically, serves as the junior class president and as

vice president of her local Health Occupations Students of America chapter, and volunteers as a mentor with the Drug Education for Youth program. She also works with other military children and adults to help them cope with the challenges of military life and has traveled abroad with the People to People Ambassador Program.

A committee of active-duty military personnel, family readiness support assistants, teachers, military mothers and community members selected the children from a pool of more than 1,000 nominees. Each awardee received \$5,000, along with other gifts from nonprofit organizations such as Soldiers' Angels and Veterans United Foundation. Jim Knotts, Operation Homefront's president and CEO, called the honorees examples for thousands of other military children. "I know you all will do us proud," he told them.

Elaine Sanchez
American Forces Press Service



KATHY REESEY

QUANTICO BAND INVITED TO PERFORM IN MACY'S PARADE 2013—From left, Wesley Whatley, creative director of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and head of the band selection committee, presents Quantico Marine Corps Band representatives Sgt William J. Pierce, bassist and guide, and GySgt Timothy W. Otis, enlisted conductor, with a ceremonial Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade drumhead April 5. The band was selected to be one of 11 marching bands in the 2013 parade out of more than 150 nationwide applicants. The band rose to the top of the applicant list because of its amazing military precision, musical ability and, most of all, incredible entertainment value.



ED VASGERDSIAN

Portrait of Jarhead Red

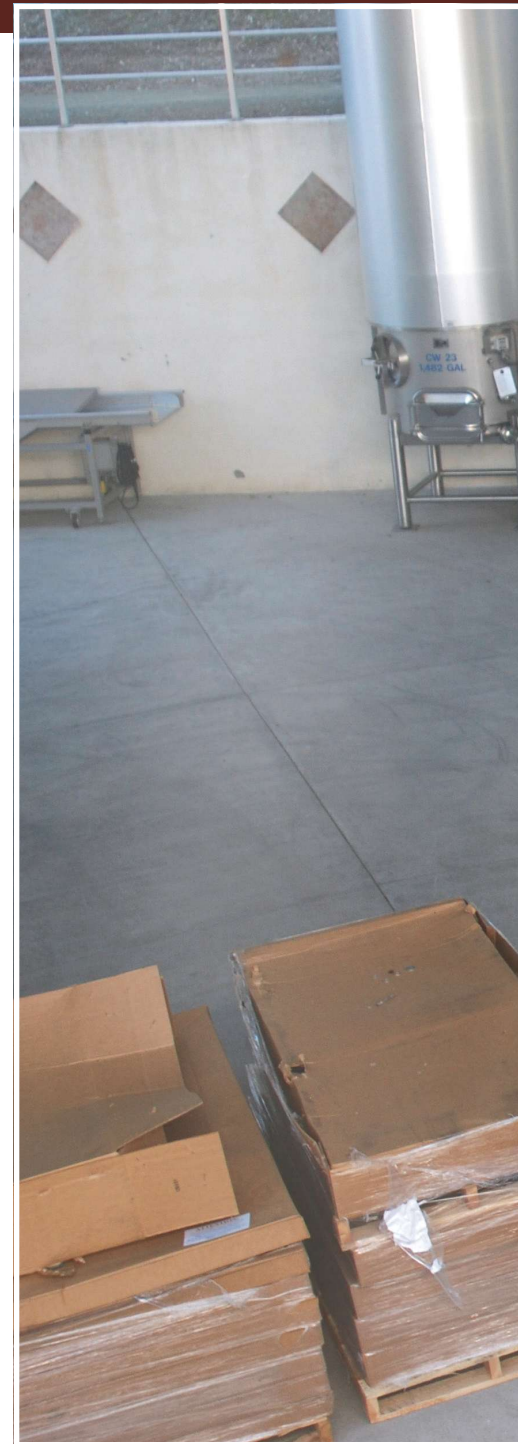
By Ed Vasgerdsian

Pinot Noir and Chardonnay probably were not on the menu at Tun Tavern in 1775. A Marine's bar call was a tankard of ale. And further, U.S. Marines of the Central America, Belleau Wood, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam or Iraq eras did not sip Gewurztraminer; a bottle or can of beer was the drink that soothed the soul and reminded them of better days.

Toward the end of the Vietnam period, wine began to gain considerable favor with civilian and military personnel alike. Beer hasn't lost its popularity, but where wine once was an offering for special occasions, it has become an everyday staple. Today,

American wine is produced in all 50 states, and Napa and Sonoma wines can dominate a conversation about the industry. In spite of this, there are an infinite number of excellent large and small wineries along Southern California's coastline, which may justifiably compare with the more popular labels in Northern California.

Between the cities of Paso Robles and Santa Barbara in the Santa Ynez Valley, less than 200 miles as the crow flies from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, is the Curtis Winery. Cultural historians and genealogists may find some interest in the winery's original ownership and



name. Leonard Firestone, son of Harvey S. Firestone, the auto-tire magnate of the early 1900s, began the Firestone Winery after serving as U.S. Ambassador to Belgium. Leonard's son, Brooks, followed and passed it on in 1994 to his son, Adam, Captain, USMC.

A Trade With the Navy

Whenever a group of Marines gather, the topic commonly turns to why each chose the Marine Corps over the other branches of service. Simply wanting to be a Marine and all that goes with its identity is an unpretentious reason for becoming a

From the left, Curtis Winery marketing coordinator Christopher Weir and winemaker Chuck Carlson are dwarfed by 4,000-gallon stainless-steel tanks in the crush pad area of the winery where harvested grapes arrive, are fermented in steel tanks and then transferred to French-oak barrels for aging.



ED VASGERDSIAN

Marine, but seldom said as such.

Adam Firestone's first choice of military service wasn't the Marine Corps. There is little to suggest any family influence. His father was an Army veteran; his grandfather, a Navy veteran; and the family patriarch, Harvey, was the rubber-tire magnate.

Adam had been exposed to the same amount of Marine Corps information and influence that others experience in their young lives. As a teenager in 1974, he did see his Grandfather Leonard, the former Navy officer, introduced as American Ambassador to Belgium, accompanied by an

honor guard in blue dress uniforms from the Brussels Marine Security Guard Detachment, but this was not a persuasive factor. Adam joined the Navy while he was a second-year law student at Pepperdine University despite the efforts of Marine Captain Doug Hamlin, who was on campus as a recruiter.

Firestone received an ensign's commission and then continued his law studies, but with less than an enthusiastic attitude about his service choice. He quickly saw that Navy life was not what he thought it was going to be, but he was under contract.

Firestone and Hamlin met again on

campus, and Ensign Firestone admitted he might have made a mistake. Hamlin's response was, "You still look like Marine material."

By coincidence or pure luck, the Navy recently had accepted 180 Marine officers into flight school, leaving openings for an interservice transfer. This type of transfer can be likened somewhat to a player-trade transaction in professional sports. One team trades a couple of right-handed pitchers and an outfielder for a rookie sensation left-handed pitcher. Hamlin championed Firestone's transfer with the Marine Corps' Director of Personnel Procurement. Thus,

the Navy received its right-handed pitchers and fielder, and the Marine Corps received the rookie sensation.

After seven years of service, including duty in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm, Firestone returned home in 1991. Joining his brother and father, he took up the responsibilities of the family winery. A portion of the original Firestone winery was sold off, and the remaining vineyards were renamed after Polly Curtis Firestone, Adam's mother.

In 1999, retired Doug Hamlin, serving on the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation's board, called Firestone to ask for a donation of wine for an upcoming fundraising dinner. After all, thought Hamlin, who else to call than someone he helped recruit 15 years ago?

Firestone knew of the foundation, but not the significant role it plays in providing scholastic opportunities. He immediately agreed to Hamlin's request, but there was a slight problem. This was a Marine event, and, therefore, the wine required some distinction by way of an appropriate label, but what to name it?

The subject required some thinking and a sense of historical perspective. A few friends and associates gathered to consider an appropriate name. Suggestions were made and then Firestone said, "Let's call it ... Jarhead Red."

The fundraiser, coupled with the introduction of Jarhead Red, was an outstanding success. Not a single bottle of Jarhead Red remained on the tables; empty bottles of the wine were taken home as souvenirs.

Brothers in Arms

Pete Nicholson and Adam Firestone served together in Hawaii with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade; they became good friends and, despite their whereabouts, remained in contact. Nicholson rotated to Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, Calif., and then on to MCAS Miramar, Calif., while Firestone went to Pendleton. Nicholson went to Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School and became a pilot, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel. Firestone went to the Gulf as a civil affairs officer.

Firestone recalled, "[Pete] was a great friend, father and Marine, admired by his fellow officers and loved by his troops."

LtCol Peter T. Nicholson and three other Marines (LtCol Robert M. "Mike" Zeisler, Gunnery Sergeant Francisco I. Cortez and Lance Corporal Jeremy M. Lindroth) were killed when their Cessna UC-35 aircraft crashed east of Miramar's flight line March 10, 2004.



COURTESY OF DOUG HAMLIN

Above: Capt Douglas J. Hamlin was an Officer Selection Officer in Recruiting Station Los Angeles in 1983-86. "I'm extremely proud to have played a small part in the recruitment of Adam Firestone and the creation of Jarhead Red. Jarhead Red might have been Swabbie Red."

Below: Chuck Carlson is the Curtis Winery's winemaker and general manager entrusted with ensuring that Jarhead Red, the brainchild of vintner Adam Firestone (Capt, USMC, 1984-91) and vineyard foreman Ruben Dominguez (Sgt, USMC, 1979-84), is the best possible wine.



ED VASGERDSIAN

The success of Jarhead Red at the 1999 Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation's fundraiser gave cause for Adam to believe there was a way to become more involved in its scholarship efforts. His friend, Pete Nicholson, left behind a wife and four children. Firestone knew they were being taken care of, but what of the other Marine families and their children? Firestone never forgot his years as a Marine and those with whom he served. Commitment, honor and duty had become part of his life; it was what he was looking for and what he found. Now Jarhead Red would be a conscious effort to help others.

Supporting Marine Families

According to Adam Firestone, "We donate the net proceeds (i.e., what's left after we recover costs for farming, grapes, winemaking, labor, materials, shipping and, of course, federal and state taxes) of all wine sales to USMC-based charities, primarily to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation."

The foundation provides scholarships for post-high school education to deserving sons and daughters of Marines and Navy corpsmen, particularly those who have had a parent killed or wounded in action. According to MCSF's website, "Additionally, the Scholarship Foundation's Heroes Tribute for the children of the Fallen Fund provides up to \$30,000 over four years to every child of a Marine, or Navy corpsman serving with Marines, who has been killed in combat since September 11, 2001."

Net profits donated to scholarships from the sales of Jarhead Red have exceeded one-half million dollars. According to the foundation's official website, "[M]ore than 25,000 scholarships valued at more than \$60 million have been given to deserving students, including 1,600 for the 2011-2012 academic year." Events such as golf tournaments and the Marine Corps Marathon help in funding scholarships.

Red vs. White

A bottle of wine with a label referencing the Marine Corps may appear to be a lure, a tease, or a come-on to some. For Curtis Winery's winemaker and general manager, Chuck Carlson, the importance is always the wine. Carlson has been at his trade for 25 years, and whether it's produced for a Marine or anyone else, the quality of the product is all important.

Curtis Winery says of Jarhead Red, "True to its name, Jarhead Red boasts intense flavors, a rich texture and a long, lasting finish."

Perhaps it's enough to say, a glass of Jarhead Red is as popular with Marines today as a tankard of ale was at Tun Tavern.

Editor's note: If Jarhead wines are not sold in your local area or base package store, you may be able to order online at www.jarheadred.com. A complimentary wine club membership offers 15 percent savings. Proceeds from the Jarhead Wine Club support Marine Corps nonprofit organizations.

Leatherneck contributing editor Ed Vasgerdsian is a Marine veteran and a member of the Marine Embassy Guard Association.



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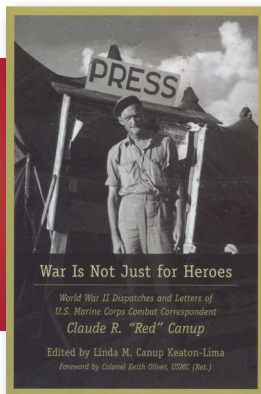
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Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from The Marine Shop. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 5 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 6.75 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at www.marineshop.net.



WAR IS NOT JUST FOR HEROES: World War II Dispatches and Letters of U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondent Claude R. "Red" Canup. Edited by Linda M. Canup Keaton-Lima. Published by the University of South Carolina Press. 264 pages. Stock #1611170672. \$26.96 MCA Members. \$29.95 Regular Price.

At the outbreak of World War II, Brigadier General Robert L. Denig Sr., then heading the Marine Corps' Department of Public Relations and tasked with finding experienced reporters, photographers and broadcasters to cover the Pacific campaigns, put out the word to civilian newsmen: Make it through boot camp and we

will make you sergeants and send you to the Pacific.

Two years later a 33-year-old sports editor from South Carolina answered the call. His friends in Anderson, S.C., thought Claude "Red" Canup was several bricks shy of a full load. No spring chicken, Red made it through Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and soon found himself attached to Marine Aircraft Group 45, Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing and on the tiny atoll of Ulithi, soon to be in support of Iwo Jima combat operations.

The first order BGen Denig gave to his new group of correspondents in 1942 was, "[G]ive most of your time to the enlisted man, what he thinks, says and does. If Pvt. Bill Jones of Cumberland Gap wins the boxing title, tell the people of Cumberland Gap about it."

Canup took this to heart and, by war's end, had produced 398 "dispatches" about Marines of his unit for various hometowns across America. Fortunately for us, Red was a pack rat and kept copies of everything he wrote.

Now, 68 years later, his onion-skin dispatches are brought to life in the book

"War Is Not Just for Heroes," edited by Red's daughter, Linda Canup Keaton-Lima. This work has captured some of the best reporting of flight operations ever to come out of World War II. More interesting is how and why this combat correspondent came to produce them.

You can almost see Red perched on the wing-root of a shot-up fighter jotting down the pilot's thoughts when he engaged the Japanese Zero. He would be equally at home writing about parachute riggers or a Marine pilot who inadvertently became a military "pinup" winner of a girl's college contest. Calling him prolific is an understatement.

Red also kept a daily log of happenings on Ulithi and wrote highly descriptive, humorous narratives in letters home. The letter writing carried over to the Okinawa campaign and the occupation of Japan.

His first dispatches, plus his letters home, quickly proved that Okinawa was a different ball game than Ulithi. To his brother: "Things have been rough, and a few nights I dared not leave my hole in the ground."

Typical of his dispatches was this one about a new air ace: "Capt Floyd C. Kirkpatrick, 26, flying with the Black Jack squadron of the 2nd MAW, recently became an ace. Shooting down three enemy planes from his Corsair plus the two and a half kills from the Samoan area gives the pilot ace status. He is a graduate of Klamath Union High School and attended the University of Oregon, commissioned April 1942." Short, to the point and exactly what his bosses at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps expected.

Red's tent soon took on "formal" trappings as the Okinawa Press Club, operated by then-Staff Sergeant Canup, fellow Marine combat correspondent Sgt James Driscoll and combat photographer Technical Sergeant Charles V. Corkran. During the shelling, bombing and strafing of Yontan Airfield, civilian and military correspondents alike crowded into a "family size" foxhole in back of the press tent along with visiting pilots. It would be at

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—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*

“Dr. Tom’s War.” Lucia Viti came across a box filled with memorabilia of her late father, Gaetano T. A. “Tom” Viti, a well-known and respected New York surgeon. The memorabilia was from her father’s Vietnam tour in 1967 as the battalion surgeon with 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. The remnants were bits and pieces of a poignant and sanguinary tour of duty in a war that daily challenged her father’s medical skills and tested his mental endurance.

She saw him as she never had before. She realized his was a journey of discovery accompanied by young Marines with whom he bonded. She pieced it together with four years of research and came away with this surprisingly good book of a doctor who lived by the Hippocratic oath he’d taken and whose natural concern for others, along with an innate willingness to befriend those he served with, made him a perfect fit for the brotherhood of Marines whose lives he often had to save.

It is not all about Dr. Tom. It also is about the people he served with, who in their own words tell it with quick, but insightful quips and snapshots of dark humor, troubled thoughts, moments of frustration and examples of Marines who rose above the din and destruction of their situation.

This is not just another book about someone’s tour in country.

Lucia Viti did her father proud, and in 356 pages grasped what some of us do not grasp in a lifetime.

Published by Bedazzled Ink Publishing Company, it can be ordered through Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com. The paperback version (ISBN: 978-1-934452-51-6) sells for \$14.56, and the Kindle or Nook e-reader, \$9.95.

“Echoes From the Halls” and **“The Yellow Footprints to Hell and Back.”** These are two books written by Gregg Stoner who in the 1960s, in disagreement with the war, joined the Corps as a protest against the draft and with a strong desire to avoid fighting in Vietnam. He ended up serving as a drill instructor and serving in Vietnam. Obviously something went wrong with his plan.

“The Yellow Footprints” explains, in 166 pages, the details. In reading, you learn what it is like to be a drill instructor, not the “Full-Metal Jacket’s” “Gunnery Sergeant Hartman” or “Gunny Jim Moore” in “The D.I.,” although there are some resemblances.

A more gung-ho and seasoned Stoner in “Echoes From

the Halls” introduces us to Marines of the modern-day Corps who could be and probably already are the stuff of those who famously served in the “Old Corps.” His is an anthology, actually vignettes of Marines and corpsmen who’ve served since World War II: Rick “60 Gunner” Mack, Doug “Captain” Kirk, Bill “Oorah” Paxton, Mick “0369” Paxton, and a lengthy roll call of others.

It is an easy read of daily life in the Corps and the Navy, covering the unique experiences in the lives of men who, at any moment, could be called to action anywhere in the world. It is 350 pages.

Both books can be purchased through Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. “The Yellow Footprints to Hell and Back” (ISBN: 978-0-595-48422-5) paperback version is \$16.95. “Echoes From the Halls” (ISBN: 978-1-4401-6957-1) is \$24.95. Both can be purchased digitally at significantly lower costs.

“Dust to Dust: A Memoir.” Author Benjamin Busch is an actor, film director and, more importantly, a U.S. Marine infantry officer. As one of the “pure of heart,” he served two combat tours in Iraq.

The son of novelist Frederick Busch, Benjamin has his father’s instincts when it comes to selecting those elusive phrases that create prose with great impact.

“I knew very early that I was a solitary being,” he states in the first words of his book. “I longed for the elemental. As a child I was drawn to wilderness ... and the ruins left vacant by human decline, neglect, and tragedy. ... War was wilderness, and I went there too.”

Busch covers his childhood in rural central New York, time stationed on Marine bases at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the great wilderness of war in Iraq. He writes with poignancy about melting down crayons to make pretend bullets as a boy, playing high school football, Marine hijinks, moments of danger and death. His is a memoir that comes within a cropped high-and-tight trim of a Marine: so well-crafted, so simply and colorfully stated; so hard to put down.

It’s 307 pages and published by Harper Collins (ISBN: 978-0-06-201484-9) and well worth the \$16.56 in hardcover through Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble. Kindle and Nook e-book versions are \$13.99.

this tent that Red would later interview Marine pilot First Lieutenant Tyrone Power, former Hollywood great, and Captain James “Zeke” Swett, an ace credited with 16½ planes, landing there after his carrier, USS *Bunker Hill* (CV-13), was disabled by the Japanese.

Red’s writings were not confined to war action. At war’s end and just before his promotion to technical sergeant, he reported from Yokosuka, Japan, on the formation of the Tokyo Bay Masonic Club and wrote vivid descriptions of the decimated cities, as well as interviews with recently released Marine prisoners of war. As interesting and as prolific as his dispatches were, perhaps equally interesting

is Red’s commentary on the day-to-day life of a correspondent in a Marine aviation unit in WW II.

Throughout “War Is Not Just for Heroes,” Red offers his own accounting of what it was like to be a somewhat over-aged Marine given the great opportunity of reporting from a war zone. His wit and wisdom make this a great read, and we can thank his daughter for having the perseverance to see it through to publication. In this centennial year of Marine aviation, this book is even more relevant.

On a personal note, I met Red in the late 1980s long after my Marine retirement. During the next 10 years or so of his life, we kept up regular correspondence and,

after my retirement to Florida in 1994, he would often call me from a restaurant on nearby Interstate 75, asking if I wanted to have lunch “with an old redhead” and his wife who were on their way farther South. I’m sure restaurant onlookers thought we were nuts because most of his stories kept the three of us old-timers in stitches, and Red always had a story to tell.

Capt Jack T. Paxton, USMC (Ret)

Editor’s note: A retired Mustang captain, Jack Paxton is executive director of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association. He lives with his wife, Pat, in Wildwood, Fla.



In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, March 1-31, 2012

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

Corporal Roberto Cazarez, 24, of Harbor City, Calif., with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 30, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Joseph D’Augustine, 29, of Waldwick, N.J., with 8th Engineer Support Bn, Second Marine Logistics Group, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 27, in Helmand province.

Cpl Conner T. Lowry, 24, of Chicago, with 2d Bn, 11th Marine Regiment, 1stMarDiv, I MEF, Camp Pendleton, March 1, in Helmand province.

SSgt Raymond J. Ambrose, 79, of Pawtucket, R.I. He served as a Marine from 1949 to 1953 and, later, in the Rhode Island National Guard. He was a construction and maintenance electrician at Texas Instruments Inc. in Attleboro, Mass., for 32 years, retiring in 1997.

Kerry M. Ayers, 54, of Grand Prairie, Texas. He served from 1976 to 1980 as a special intelligence communications operator. He then had a 30-year career with the Grand Prairie Police Department, serving as a police instructor, field training officer, firearms instructor, hostage negotiator and first responder/EMT.

James F. Campbell, 85, of Crown Point, Ind. He was a WW II veteran of the Pacific who served on Tinian. He retired as an industrial engineer for U.S. Steel Company.

MGySgt Leo P. Eaglin, 87, in Opelousas, La. He served 30 years, enlisting in 1942 as one of the first Montford Point Marines. He saw action in WW II and in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Danny (Dannie) W. Evins, 76, in Lebanon, Tenn. He was a three-year Marine veteran who later founded Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, a restaurant heavy on grits and nostalgia, and expanded it into a \$2 billion chain.

Originally in the oil industry, Evins hit on the idea of a down-home restaurant with rocking chairs on a front porch, potbellied stove and fireplace inside, homemade jellies and big jars of candy, and a checkerboard on every table. It expanded to more than 600 restaurants in 42 states with annual sales in excess of \$2.4 billion.

George E. Fix, 83, in Pittsburgh. He enlisted in 1946 and spent most of his service in China. He was a letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service for 32 years.

Cpl Gerald G. Gabay, 85, in Mauston, Wis. He enlisted in 1944, was in the Okinawa

campaign of 1945 and at Tokyo Bay, Japan, for the surrender. He was with the occupation force in Japan for 2½ years and stationed at Yokosuka Naval Base. Discharged in 1947, he eventually formed Nemco, a company that designs and produces special industrial equipment. He also owned a bait company.

While overseas, he got his GED and designed a home, which he later built. He was an Eagle Scout and for many years was a Scoutmaster. He and his wife, Margaret, had 10 children.

Capt Bruce L. Gillaspie Sr., 68, in Lafayette, La. He was a Vietnam veteran and helicopter pilot. He later worked in the oil and gas industry as a pilot for PHI Inc. until his retirement in 1997.

SgtMaj Warren L. “Bill” Gulley, 89, near Palm Springs, Calif. He enlisted in 1939 and served in USS *Savannah* (CL-42) from 1939 to 1942. During WW II, he served in the 1stMarDiv on Guadalcanal, was wounded in hand-to-hand combat and evacuated to Australia for recuperation before returning Stateside to San Francisco. In 1943, he was given a temporary commission to second lieutenant and appointed a first lieutenant in 1945. In 1946, he reverted to enlisted status.

He served in the Korean War with the 1stMarDiv and participated in the assault on Inchon, the capture of Seoul, the Chosin Reservoir and operations against enemy forces in South and Central Korea.

He later was stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, before returning Stateside to assume various postings from California to a Reserve Training Detachment in Columbus, Ohio, and then returning to the Pacific for a tour of duty in Okinawa. He was stationed in New Bedford, Mass., before being transferred to MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., as the MAG-14 sergeant major. His group was deployed to the Florida Keys during the Cuban Missile

Crisis. He then served as base sergeant major at Camp Geiger, New River, N.C.

He was selected as Chief Administrator in the Office of Military Affairs in the East Wing of the White House, serving in the Military Aides Office under President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966, and, subsequently, served under Presidents Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford and Jimmy Carter.

He eventually rose to become the first-ever civilian to head the Military Office at the White House. The head of the Military Office historically has been led by high-ranking military officers and other prominent military figures.

The appointment of a retired Marine sergeant major was unheard of. Since he was serving as a civilian in the White House, a new category and title had to be created when he assumed the position of head of the Military Office. The new position was Director of the White House Military Office, where he had more than 2,000 military personnel in service to the President of the United States, which included the Marine detachment of Marine Helicopter Squadron One.

In 1980, he left the White House to start an international consulting firm with offices in Washington, D.C., London and Cairo. He served as president of the company. In 1981, he wrote a best-selling book, “Breaking Cover,” about his experiences at the White House.

Robert “Bob” Gump, 64, of Johnstown, Ohio. He was a Vietnam veteran who earned Combat Air Crew insignia and the Air Medal.

Cpl Patrick T. Hayes, 91, of Bergenfield, N.J. He enlisted in 1943, served at Quantico, Va., and then with Co B, 1st Bn, 8th Marines, 2dMarDiv at Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa and Sasebo, Japan. He worked for the Penn Central Railroad in New York for 46 years.

Cpl Hobert J. “Jay” Huff, 88, in Cincinnati. He enlisted in 1942 and served as an air-

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craft armorer with VMSB-133. He participated in the defense of Johnston Island, Bougainville, British Solomon Islands and in the invasion of Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands. He reenlisted in 1948 and was an aviation ordnanceman in Philadelphia. He left the Corps in 1951, going to work for Baldwin Piano Company for 40 years.

Sgt William "Jack" Johnston, 92, of Meredosia, Ill. He was a WW II squad leader and mortar section leader with Co K, 3d Bn, 4th Marines and 3d Marine Raider Bn in the Pacific.

LtCol Paul J. Klepper II, 68, of Springfield, Va. In retirement, he was a member of the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation.

Sgt Timothy C. McDonald, 48, of Wanamassa, N.J. A Beirut veteran Marine, he participated in the historic 610-mile run that raised funds for the Statue of Liberty restoration project in 1985.

In 1983, he was with 8th Marines, as part of the Multinational Force in Beirut, Lebanon. He was discharged in 1991, having served eight years. As a Marine reservist, he also was a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

SSgt Dan E. Moore, 63, in Denver. He was a Vietnam veteran who served with H/3/12, 3dMarDiv in Vietnam. He was awarded the Silver Star for action on Aug. 26, 1966.

His citation reads in part: "While manning an M-60 machine gun against a heavy attack by a strong North Vietnamese force, [then] Private First Class Moore interdicted the penetration of the enemy into his Battery area. ...

During the fierce firefight, he was wounded when a bullet hit the ammunition can of his machine gun, cutting his right wrist with bullet and can fragments. [He] also received a traumatic wound to his hip when a bullet knocked his canteen off, cutting his cartridge belt suspenders.

"Despite his painful injuries, he was instrumental in defeating the enemy's advance, killing approximately 36 North Vietnamese."

He also was awarded the Purple Heart and went on to become a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., and was discharged in 1974. He was a member of the MCL Union Colony Marines Detachment 1093, Greeley, Colo.

Joseph V. Nevitt, 89, in Dallas. He served in WW II and Korea. In WW II, he was an F4U Corsair pilot with VMF-155 and VMF-114 and flew as wingman to then-Capt John Glenn. His awards include the Air Medal.

He was the soccer coach for St. Pius X Catholic Church, also serving as a Eucharistic minister.

LtCol Francis J. O'Connor, 84, of Wesley Hills, N.Y. He became a Marine in 1945, serving in China and Korea and in the Marine Corps Reserve until he retired in 1987. He also retired from the NYPD as a detective lieutenant with 38 years of service.

John D. Ratza, 88, of Charlottesville, Va. He enlisted in 1942 and saw action in the Pacific, including Guadalcanal. Discharged in 1946, he became a brick contractor and licensed general contractor in northern California. In

1969, he purchased an outdoor furniture shop, Sun Fun, in Santa Clara, Calif., which he and his wife operated for 15 years before moving to Virginia.

Pvt Charles J. Stillman, 86, of Norwood, Mass. He served as an AA gun crewman during WW II, including two years in the South Pacific. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a general foreman.

Robert L. Tonkel Sr., 75, in Marion, Ind. He was a 21-year Marine veteran, retiring in 1974. He then worked as a mechanic with Stockberger Machine/Circle S for 20 years, retiring in 2003. He was a member of the USMC Motor Transport Association.

Everett R. Waldrum, 89, of Frankston, Texas. He was with Co B, 4th Marines at Corregidor, Manila Bay, Philippines, when the regiment surrendered to the Japanese in 1942. He was sent to Mukden, Manchuria, to labor in a textile factory. He contracted appendicitis, and the Japanese removed his appendix without anesthesia. He suffered from tuberculosis and weighed only 88 pounds when liberated by the Russians in 1945.

He went on to become an educator in Texas and retired as principal of Lamar Elementary School in Odessa.

Frederick S. Ziemann, 88, of Wausau, Wis. He served during WW II.

Robert C. Zwiener of Sonoma, Calif. He was a veteran of Korea and Vietnam and a member of the United States Seagoing Marine Association.





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Reunions

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

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

- **5thMarDiv Assn. (WW II, RVN)**, Aug. 26-31, Reno, Nev. Contact LtCol Thomas Kalus, USMC (Ret), 98-1927 Wilou St., Aiea, HI 96701, (808) 486-5004, or Dale Pack, 32175 S.W. Laurel Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123, (503) 545-7899, dalep@upwardaccess.com.

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

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

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

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

- **Marine Air Traffic Control Assn.**, Sept. 19-23, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Roger McIntosh, 5 Quartz Cir., Fredericksburg, VA 22405, (540) 373-9691, mac13120@cox.net.

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

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

- **USMC Hawk Assn.**, June 8-14, Washington, D.C. Contact Stan Buliszyn, 1 Cherry Drive Ln., Ocala, FL 34472, www.usmchawkassociation.com.

- **1st Bn, 4th Marines Assn.**, Oct. 10-14,

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

• **2d Recon Bn Assn.**, June 21-24, Jacksonville, N.C. Contact 2d Recon Bn Assn., P.O. Box 1679, Westminster, MD 21158, or Bob Moody, sgtrecon73@gmail.com.

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

• **2d Bn, 4th Marines Assn.**, June 13-17, San Clemente, Calif. Contact Frank Valdez, valcone@hotmail.com, or Becky Valdez, (714) 281-2846, fxala@hotmail.com.

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

• **3d Amtrac Bn**, June 15-16, Tampa, Fla. Contact Philip Anninos, (386) 447-0171, (386) 569-5977.

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

302-2151, 2826rjh@gmail.com, www.3rdrecon.org.

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

• **3/10 (Camp Lejeune, N.C.)**, June 22-24, Jacksonville, N.C. Contact Donald Jones, mr.djones@mail.com.

• **7th Engineer Bn, Vietnam Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 20-23, Branson, Mo. Contact Norm Johnson, 6100 Cochrane Rd., Marlette, MI 48453, (989) 635-6653, delta1@centurytel.net, or Doug McMackin, 4859 W. Cinnabar Ave., Glendale, AZ 85302, (623) 466-0545, gunnymac@hotmail.com, www.usmc.org/7th/.

• **7th Comm Bn, 1stMarDiv (RVN)**, June 21-23, Las Vegas. Contact Keith Christensen, (530) 333-1916, K9notails@aol.com.

• **11th Engineer Bn Assn.** is planning a reunion. Contact Charles Luhan Jr., 8451 S. Kilbourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60652, (773) 585-9629, CL11engrbn@sbcglobal.net.

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

• **A/1/12 (RVN)**, Oct. 18-21, Charlotte, N.C. Contact Dale Punch, 131 Boulder Dr., Lincolnton, NC 28092, (704) 477-8829, dalepunch@charter.net.

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

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

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

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

• **G/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Aug. 15-20, Palm Springs, Calif. Contact Ron Myers, (916) 723-7324, rlmyers5@comcast.net.

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

• **K/3/1 (RVN, 1966-71)**, Aug. 22-25, San Francisco. Contact Bryan Lash, (770) 978-1386, usmc1@mindspring.com.

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

• **L/3/9 (RVN, 1967-69)**, Sept. 6-9, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Robert Citron, 16365 Crescent Dr., Southfield,

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- **1st ANGLICO**, June 11-17, Cleveland. Contact John Maurer, (614) 262-9002, jmaurer@columbus.rr.com, www.1anglico.org.

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

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

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

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

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

- **Chosin Few (Korea, 1950)**, Aug. 22-25, San Antonio. Contact LtCol Jack Nolan, USMC (Ret), (903) 595-0556, or

Don H. Gee, 238 Cornwall Cir., Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9093, chosinfewhq@aol.com.

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

- **Korean War Recon Marines**, Oct. 3-6, Houston. Contact James Sauser, (281) 332-5725, jimsauser1@gmail.com.

- **MarDet, USS Juneau (CL-119)**, Aug. 29-Sept. 2, Branson, Mo. Contact William S. Gerichten, 141 Pinelawn Dr., Kernersville, NC 27284, (336) 993-5415.

- **1st 8-Inch Howitzer Btry**, Sept. 5-9, Branson, Mo. Contact Pam Brown, (417) 238-4048, or Greg Ladesich, (949) 249-3525,

- **American Embassy Saigon (RVN)**, Sept. 26-29, Chesapeake, Va. Contact MSgt Gus F. Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

- **21st Special Basic Class (1953)** is planning two reunions for 2012. Contact Shirley Fry, (703) 469-3750, ssfry@juno.com.

- **7th WOCS (1966)**, August 2012, Quantico, Va. Contact Bob Dalton, (443) 203-6408, prdalton@msn.com.

- **Scout Sniper Plt, 3d Marines (RVN)**,

Feb. 8-10, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact Jim O'Neill, (928) 684-2309, taraniall@gmail.com.

• **Plt 115, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion for 2012. Contact SgtMaj D. J. Farrell, USMC (Ret), (918) 689-1989, or Steve Holton, (301) 375-6036.

• **Plt 151, Parris Island, 1962**, Oct. 4-7, Bluffton, S.C. Contact Larry Smith, 19624 Middletown Rd., Freeland, MD 21053, (410) 343-2354, asylrs@comcast.net.

• **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion for 2014. Contact SgtMaj James Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

• **Plt 331, Parris Island, 1959**, June 27-30, Parris Island, S.C. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com, or Bob Wood, (205) 856-3416, bwood9@bellsouth.net.

• **Plt 339, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion for 2012. Contact LtCol Bob Mullins, USMC (Ret), (740) 417-9112, rmullins11@columbus.rr.com.

• **Plt 529, Parris Island, 1952**, is planning a reunion for September. Contact Chris Vail, (770) 321-5018, greenmtchris@comcast.net.

• **Plt 1089, Parris Island, 1986**, is planning a reunion. Contact Mark Smith, P.O. Box 828, Columbus, MS 39703, (662) 549-7712, msmith@cpi-group.com.

• **Plt 2085, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Simmons, jstlputt@aol.com, mkboyle@myfairpoint.net.

• **Aviation Logistics Marines**, Sept. 27-30, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Don Davis, (252) 444-1777, greyegl@ec.rr.com.

• **VMA(AW)-533 (1969-70)**, June 2, Las Vegas. Contact John Murphy, 3524 Dora Ln., West Palm Beach, FL 33417, (856) 848-7557, jmurphy425@gmail.com, or Jerry Callaway, 6545 Union St., Arvada, CO 80004, (303) 467-9896, j2callaway@q.com.

• **VMF/VMA-311**, Sept. 5-9, Dumfries, Va. Contact Jim Galchick, 1290 E. 12th St., Salem, OH 44460, (330) 337-9383, jgalchick@neo.rr.com.

• **Marine F-4 Phantom Reunion**, Nov. 1-4, San Diego. Contact AFRI (Attn: F-4 Phantom), 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510, f4phantom@afri.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS America Carrier Veterans Assn.** (CVA/CV-66), Sept. 11-15, Baton Rouge, La. Contact Harry Rodriguez, (845) 661-1284, hatron10@aol.com, www.ussamerica.org.

• **USS Antietam (CV/CVA/CVS-36)**, Sept. 19-23, Portland, Ore. Contact Lyonel Young, (316) 425-5693, lyonel.young@cox.net.

• **USS Cabot (CVL-28)**, Oct. 21-25,

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Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Marie Saraceni, (484) 494-5533, msaraceni@comcast.net.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 10-14, Warwick, R.I. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Canopus Assn. (AS-34/AS-9)**, Sept. 6-9, Branson, Mo. Contact Richard Retin, 2245 Wintercreek Way S.E., Salem, OR 97306, (503) 689-1712, retinr@mail.com, www.usscanopus.org.

• **USS Elokomin (AO-55)**, Sept. 25-28, Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert F. O'Sullivan, 25 Denny St., Dorchester, MA 02125, (617) 288-3755, theeloman@verizon.net.

• **USS Everett F. Larson (DD/DDR-830)**, Sept. 16-20, Warwick, R.I. Contact Art Colson, 17 Maple Ave., Eliot, ME 03903, (207) 439-2123, acolcnett@aol.com, www.uss-everett-f-larson.com.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV-12/ CVA-12/ CVS-12)**, Sept. 11-16, San Mateo, Calif. Contact Carl or Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7)**, June 6-10, McLean, Va. Contact Robert G. McAnally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack@megalink.net.

• **USS Northampton (CA-26/CLC-1/CC-1)**, Sept. 6-10, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Len Shults, (334) 273-9804, nortnsailor1@att.net.

• **USS Perkins (DD-26/DD-377/DDR-877)**, Sept. 12-16, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Robert J. Linton, 8900 Julia Dent Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123, (314) 397-2388, malinton@sbcglobal.net.

• **USS Plymouth Rock (LSD-29)**, Sept.

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20-25, King of Prussia, Pa. Contact David Dortch, (870) 236-3725, tazrhondave@yahoo.com, or Harry T. Andersen, (847) 336-2151, htajma@comcast.net, www.ussplymouthrock.com.

- USS *Ranger* (CVA/CV-61), Sept. 22-29, New England/Canada cruise leaving from Manhattan, N.Y. Contact Brian Forrester, (800) 998-1228, brian@hcttravel.com, or Herb Boudrot, (207) 251-3793, boilerman006@yahoo.com.

- USS *Yarnall* (DD-541), July 3-5, Baton Rouge, La. Contact Roger McCracken, (818) 984-4982, dd541@verizon.net.

- **NOB/NAS Trinidad Reunion Assn. (including FASRON-105, VPB-208, VPMS-8, VP-48, VPB-213, VP-34, Seabee Dets and USMC)**, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Washington, D.C. Contact F. D. Barrett, ADCS, USN (Ret), 1448 W. Highway 16, Witts Springs, AR 72686, (870) 496-2285, barrett27@dishmail.net.

Reader Assistance

Readers are cautioned to be wary of sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered.

Wanted:

- Marine veteran Charles Young, 9703 E. County Rd. 550 N., Mattoon, IL 61938,

(217) 235-5358, cyoung@brankeysmithepc.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 161, Parris Island, 1961.**

- Former Sgt Emidio J. Lupini, 2025 Rockstone Pl., Henrico, VA 23238, (804) 363-0972, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 366, Parris Island, 1954.**

- Marine veteran Bill Kroeger, 12085 Country Club Dr., Rolla, MO 65401, (573) 426-5707, (573) 263-4066, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3114, San Diego, 1980.**

- Marine veteran Gregory M. Davis Sr., 735 Canterbury Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546, (804) 448-9741, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 81, Parris Island, 1956.**

- Marine veteran Leonard Mitchko, 201 Jackson St., Olyphant, PA 18447, (570) 383-2632, (570) 677-1557, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 17, Parris Island, 1954**, and a 1954 "Guidebook for Marines."

Sales, Trades and Giveaways:

- Marine veteran Robert L. Brunelle, 25 Bosse St., Lewiston, ME 04240, rlb8081@myfairpoint.net, has a **recruit graduation photo of Plt 466, Parris Island, 1952.** He will send it to anyone who is in the recruit graduation book.



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Mail Call

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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- Daujvaun C. Miller, P.O. Box 203, Gurley, AL 35748, daujvaun@gmail.com, to hear from **SSgt Joseph Robert RAYMOND Jr.**, who was stationed at **Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.**, from **1992 to 1999**.

- Marine veteran Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385, to hear from **the last Marines who were transported by train to Yemassee, S.C.**

- Marine veteran Paul Lello, P.O. Box 262, Haslett, MI 48840, (517) 580-4305, to hear from Marines who may have witnessed a **Marine, who was wearing an Easy Rider motorcycle helmet, have a head-on collision with a jeep during a 3dMarDiv flag-football game on Okinawa in the autumn of 1971.**

- SGM Daniel G. Murphy, USA (Ret), 2921 Mollimar Dr., Plano, TX 75075, danielptx@att.net, to hear from Marines who knew **LCpl Timothy M. MURPHY**, who may have been injured in a **vehicle accident while serving as a chaplain’s driver on Okinawa during the mid-to-late 1970s.**

- Former Cpl Paul A. “Pappy” Peters, 1603 Bluebird Ln., Wausau, WI 54401, (715) 842-4612, (715) 297-2313, to hear from anyone who served with him at **Marine Barracks Morocco, April 1977-September 1978, at USNCS Sidhia, Morocco, or USNTC Kenitra, Morocco.**

- Marine WW II veteran Henry Riccio, 490 Sherwood Pl., Apt. 20, Stratford, CT 06615, (203) 296-9014, hank490@gmail.com, hankriccio.com, to hear from **WW II veterans.**

- Eric Sims, 7447 S. Yale Ave., Apt. 128, Tulsa, OK 74136, esimsy@aol.com, to hear from **Peleliu veterans** for a documentary on the battle. Also interested in letters



COURTESY OF MAX ROARK

Dragon Plt, Weapons Co, 1/6 at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, 1985, during a WestPac cruise.

written by veterans concerning the battle.

- MSgt Robert E. “Bob” Rees, USMC (Ret), 8870 Country Club Pl., Spring Valley, CA 91977, (619) 940-8959, robertrees@cox.net, to hear from members of **Pt 3028, San Diego, 1966**. Drill instructors were **SSgt GARCIA, (KIA in Vietnam), Sgt HISEL, Sgt RAMOS and Sgt SUNN**. Also, to hear from Marines stationed at **Marine Barracks Yokosuka, Japan, 1968-71.**

- Marine veteran Max Roark, 4517 Crestfield Rd., Knoxville, TN 37921, mroark0351@gmail.com, to hear from members of **Dragon Plt, Weapons Co, 1/6, 1984-87.**

- Traci Hoover, (620) 262-1588, traci.hoover@promachineengineering.biz, to

hear from anyone who may have known her father, **Sgt Barry D. PENNY**, who graduated from **Pt 3304, San Diego, 1968**, and was stationed at **MCB Quantico, Va.**, at the time of his death in **1973.**

- Former Cpl David Kensinger, (530) 877-1106, dalank@earthlink.net, to hear from former **Cpl Rob PEATROSS** (son of the late MajGen Oscar Peatross), or anyone knowing his whereabouts. **Cpl Peatross served as a gunner with “Alpha” Co (Tank A34), 1st Tank Bn, 3/4, RVN, 1967.**

- Marine veteran Bud Elliott, 4716 Bucks Bluff Dr., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582, (843) 280-1304, nemo121735@frontier.com, to hear from **John “Jack” PURDY, from Lansdowne, Pa.**, who served with **Weapons Co, 2/6 at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., 1957-58.**

- Former Sgt Herbert Bouck, 36408 N. Black Canyon Hwy., #288, Phoenix, AZ 85086, (623) 628-6572, wants to hear from anyone who may have information regarding the **veterans’ organization “Summer of ‘48.”**



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Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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Corps Principles

A conflict that is "limited"
Has just-as-painful casualties as all-out war,
And needs Marines
With special sensibilities.
"A time to kill and a time to heal ..."
No situation is the same.
There are no push-ups for the heart,
But big hearts win this deadly game.

In all-out wars, our troops achieve supremacy
In the air, land and sea.
In "brushfire wars," the locals learn
From us, a passion to be free.

With trigger fingers, helping hands,
And clear heads—analyzing scenes.
We fight, yet are ambassadors;
We are unique; we are Marines.
Marine veteran Burton Keith Cossey

The Dad of a United States Marine

I'm the man who looks on high,
And listens to my wife's low sigh.
It reminds me of an early morn'
When unto me a son was born.

I've watched him close as he has grown,
Until he's old enough to have known—
How cruel this little old world can be;
I hope the Lord has heard my plea!

I've waited on him from his first whim
When the pants he wore fastened with a pin.
Then through short pants and knickers, too,
And still, he grew, and grew, and grew!

And then came the time when he liked girls,
Especially ones with long, blond curls.
"Longies" were the next in line,
And with coat to match he sure looked fine.

But now that he has gone away,
Our home isn't quite as gay!
He'll always be there at the end of my dream,
And I'm more than glad to be—

The dad of a United States Marine!
Marine veteran William E. Jerrom

Why I Fight

Dried mud plains surround me;
I walk where thousands have before.
In this old, treeless land,
Each day feels like I'm dreaming a little more.

Sun setting with an orange glow, filling the desert sky,
Its beauty strikes me every single time—
I don't ever question why.
Through all of the violence, it remains a peaceful sign.

It's crazy how I've come to be here,
A Marine; a young man, 19 years old.
So much has happened, and so fast.
I was in a classroom one year ago.

I came straight out of high school,
Following my long-awaited goal.
Into this brotherhood of heroes and killers,
I wanted to defend what hung on the flagpole.

Since 2001,
I felt it deep in my gut—
As a young boy in the fourth grade,
I knew I would go to Afghanistan.

And here I am now,
That same young boy,
Defending in a land where people want to kill me.
And I can't even buy a beer!
But for this, I volunteered.

Do I feel regret for my choice?
My friends are in college, partying and having fun,
And I am out here in this sweltering sun.

After a long day's work, I wipe the sweat off my brow,
And know that my family is thinking of me now.
Friends back home check up on me often,
So I can be at ease, knowing I won't be forgotten.

So no, I don't feel regret for signing up.
I'm a Marine for life, a tough, young devil pup.
I'd give my life for our country, and the people back home,
And the "Star-Spangled Banner" that waves all alone.

LCpl Tyler Mendelson





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