

JUNE 2016

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

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*Compiled by Nancy Lee White Hoffman*

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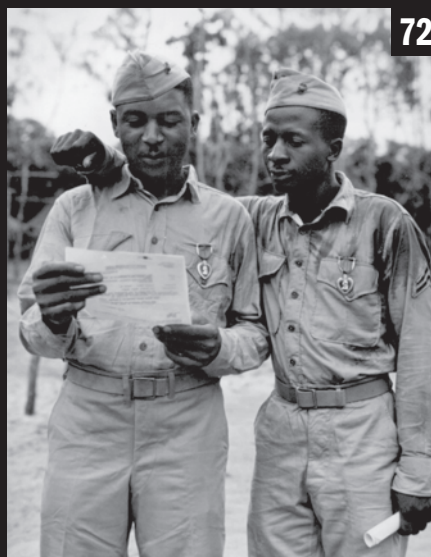
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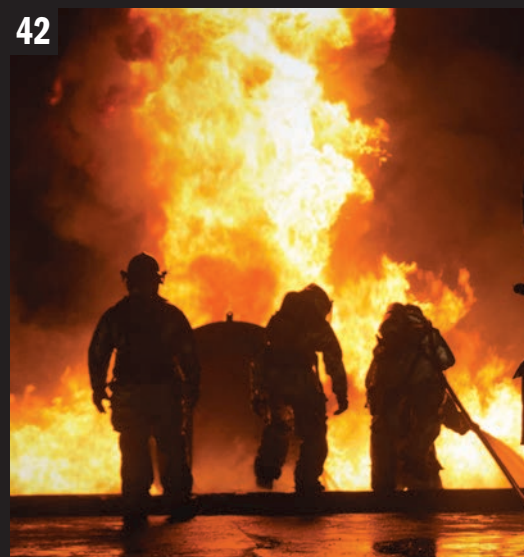
**COVER:** The Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., was funded by the Timothy T. Day Foundation. Photo by Sara W. Bock. Inset photo of Timothy Day by Nancy Lee White Hoffman. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.



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# Sound Off

Compiled by Patricia Everett

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Editor

## Letter of the Month

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

I joined the Marine Corps in 1959. In 1960 while on Okinawa, I was sent TAD (temporary attached duty) to Camp Sukiran. Because I had some background as a swimmer, I was assigned to the Olympic pool at Camp Sukiran to train Marines in combat water survival techniques. It was there that I met Howard "Joe" Collins and we became fast friends and drinking buddies.

Joe had a beautiful Marine ring. It was gold, had the Marine emblem on its face, the image of Tun Tavern on one side and the Iwo Jima flag raising on the other. Each month as our funds got slimmer and slimmer, Joe would pawn the ring and maybe get \$8 to \$10 for it. Every payday Joe and I would get the ring back from the pawn shop. At some point Joe was sent to a new duty station and was not able to get the ring out, so he gave me the ticket and told me to get it and get it back to him if and when we ever connected.

Being a good Marine and good friend of Joe's, I did exactly as I was directed and got the ring out of pawn the very next payday. To be sure I didn't lose the ring, I put it on my finger and began the process of trying to find Joe. This turned out to be a lot more difficult than expected. For years I tried everything I could but was never able to find him. As years were passing I began to wonder if Joe was even alive. I just assumed I would never find him. Then, a few months ago, as I was flipping through the pages of *Leatherneck* [July 2015], I looked down, and there was a picture of Joe and his two buddies from their mortar crew in Korea!

I called *Leatherneck*, and they passed my contact info on to Joe, and within an hour, I received a call from him. We spent the next two hours having the most unbelievable time catching up. I kept offering a plan to get the ring back to him, but he would have none of it. "Jerry," he said,



COURTESY OF JERRY TURNER

**After 50 years of wearing Joe Collins' Marine Corps ring, Jerry Turner finally tracked him down to return it.**

"you've worn this ring for more than 50 years! That's your ring now, buddy. I want you to continue to wear it proudly and in continued good health."

Joe and I hadn't spoken in more than 60 years, and as soon as we heard each other's voices, it just as easily could have been yesterday that we were young Marines trying to figure out how to make it to the next payday.

Take it from this old Marine, still proud as hell, I wear Joe's ring every day and plan to have it on when they put me in the box.

Jerry Turner  
Fairfield Glade, Tenn.

## The Known Marine

In 1966, I was one of the thousands of young men transitioning through Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., and like all recruits, my platoon mates and I were soon convinced the sun and moon would be wise to respond quickly to our senior drill instructor's directives. Turned out we were more right than we knew.

Staff Sergeant Robert C. Roper was the senior DI for Platoon 356. Right from those first days when, as a ragged herd, we would muddle our way over to stand by for chow, I noted the other DIs would migrate over to speak with SSgt Roper, a man who seemed to vibrate even while talking shop with his cohorts. And, to this day, his cadence count is memorable.

In April 1968, I was privileged to be

presented with a regimental Meritorious Mast by Colonel Edwin Schick, then Commanding Officer, 12th Marine Regiment, for my work while attached to various companies of 1st Battalion, Third Marine Regiment. It wasn't my mother and father, but rather my senior DI with whom I first tried to share this honor. But that was not to be.

For Robert C. Roper, a gunnery sergeant with 9th Marines, was already killed in action holding the line at the "Hill of Angels" (Con Thien), Sept. 21, 1967.

Sergeant Major Bill Paxton, in a Marine Corps Recruiting Command article (Sept. 17, 2004, by Sgt Ryan Smith), tells of the high esteem the command held for GySgt Roper and how he was an inspiration for "The Known Marine" memorials that flank the entrance to both MCRDs. Although not part of any official record, I know that all who knew our Gunny Roper would agree he could easily have been the whip-lean physical model for the male DI.

September 2017 will mark both the 50th anniversary of his death and the start of the movement by SgtMaj Paxton and others culminating in those bronze memorial statues.

As the concept of "The Known Marine" is such an intricate part of the time and commitment expended by male and female DIs in shepherding young men and women through their initiation into the Corps, it seems to me this is a significant anniversary Marines should acknowledge and celebrate.

Michael P. Walsh  
Chicago, Ill.

## The U.S. Marine Corps Is Unique

The United States Marine Corps is recognized as a unique and highly formidable fighting force. Yes, the Corps is small in personnel, but it has a knockout punch with any foe on land, sea and air. It all started in a whiskey-beer bar, Tun Tavern, 240 years ago.

The U.S. Marines are respected around the world. German soldiers called U.S. Marines, *Teufelshunde* ("devil dogs").

As I age into the 90s, I reflect back on





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my life and consider that the best thing I ever did was to join the U.S. Marines. After retiring from the Corps at age 37, with 20 years active duty, I hereby give the Marine Corps credit for the best education any person could expect to receive in preparation for a new career. Marine training is not to be found at universities.

From Tripoli to the sands of Iwo Jima, Marines have been there and done that, with success. Marines have lived up to their motto, Semper Fidelis (always faithful), which was adopted in 1883 and understood by every Marine to be a solemn pledge of loyalty.

Greet an officer or enlisted in the Marine Corps as, "Hi, Marine," and you will get a smile.

Noah H. Belew

Gulf Breeze, Fla.

## Promotions Before Medical Discharge

I have a question regarding being promoted if you are medically discharged before your contract ends, such as in the case of Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter, Medal of Honor recipient, who was promoted to corporal at his discharge.

My situation is that I was serving a four-year contract from 1981 to 1985. However, due to being diagnosed with reactive airway disease in Okinawa, Japan, in early 1984, I was discharged, honorably, in August, six months before my contract expired.

I was eligible for promotion to sergeant within those last six months at my discharge. I would greatly appreciate your advice on how I go about taking the next steps if eligible.

Don O. Jordan

Angie, La.

*• I recommend starting with the Separations and Retirement Branch of the Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) Department at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. They can be reached at (703) 784-9304/5 and should be able to provide a starting point for your efforts. The Promotions Branch also is located within M&RA and also may be able to help you. They can be reached at (703) 784-9700.—Editor*

## February Cover

I am sure someone else has already picked up on this and commented, but just in case, the cover of the February issue of Leatherneck proves there was divine intervention when raising the flag at Iwo. The bolt of lightning coming out of the last Marine is indisputable proof!

Sgt Bill Haase

USMC, 1963-69; RVN, 1965-66

Shelby Township, Mich.

## Intrigue & Skullduggery

After reading Part II of the great R.R. Keene article "Intrigue & Skullduggery" in the February issue of Leatherneck, I remembered a poem I picked up on Espiritu Santo Island in the South Pacific during World War II in 1943. I believe your readers will be interested to know the word of disbandment was going through our heads during that period.

### Disbandment

Aye, politicians send us out to fight our country's war,

And while we're raising Hell out there,  
Disband our gallant Corps!

Just tear the Globe and Anchor down,  
Cut out the Eagle's heart;

Clad all of us in olive drab, and split us far apart.

Take our two-toned suits of blue,  
Reclaim our thread-bare Greens,  
But those traditions belong to the  
United States Marines!

Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, St.  
Mihiel, the Argonne,  
Wake Island, Midway and the Solomons.  
Where have those memories gone?

'Tis better for to take our band, and  
group us all alone.

You'll have to search the far-flung  
fronts;

You won't find us at home.

Then give us all the guns we need  
With cartridges to spare,  
And send us to Japan itself to make a  
landing there.

Beneath the cannon's thunderous roar,  
on hot and bloody sand,  
While Wildcats strafe from above,  
Let the leathernecks make their stand.

When the "Devil Dogs" insignia waves  
o'er Nippon's shore,  
Then let the Gods of War decide  
Disbandment to our Corps.

MSgt Carl M. "Bud" DeVere Sr., USMC (Ret)

Longmont, Colo.

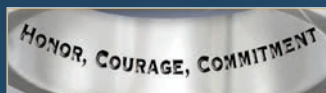
*• Leatherneck contacted MSgt DeVere hoping to determine the author of the poem. MSgt DeVere did not know the author, and the only place we could find the poem was on a blog devoted to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251. According to "A Squadron Born in War: VMFA-251's World War II History," Corporal Albert Madden, one of three brothers serving in VMFA-251 during WW II, wrote the poem to describe the feelings of the squadron's*



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*Marines after hearing talk back home of merging the services into one force.—Editor*

### **An Obligation to Honor Those Who Sacrificed Their Lives**

I was quite impressed with Sergeant Tom Isenburg's [February issue] letter of the continuing bond between Fleet Marine Force Marines and corpsmen of the past with those currently serving. It is proof of the living legacy we carry.

One line struck me very deeply, "When you witness the death of your brother, you take on an obligation of honor to live your life better because you are now living his life too."

The last 15 years or so, my wife has encouraged me to seek alternative means of dealing with my post-traumatic stress, as opposed to Veterans Affairs groups and meds, and I have done so. Since that

time, I have come to realize the amount of power that words have over us, and I changed my view of the obligation.

Now I follow this mantra, "I live my life to the fullest because I have taken on an obligation to honor those who sacrificed their lives so that I may do so."

It may sound silly, and for me, it changed the question I asked of myself, "What would my brothers do?" to "What should I do to honor my brothers?"

Semper Fi, Sgt Isenburg. Thank you for this reflection.

Sgt Joe Doyle  
USMC, 1964-70  
Scottsburg, Va.

### **Some of Best Honor Guard Units Are at Riverside National Cemetery**

One of the best honor guard units in California is at the Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, Calif. They have

four honor guard units titled Semper Fi Units 1 through 4.

These veteran Marines provide the respect to veteran Marines and other service military veterans on a daily basis five days a week. Many families of veterans find out about this unit and will ask them to perform an honor burial for their former military family member. They do it out of respect for the veterans. They are always dressed in dress blues. These veteran Marines don't do it for glory, but as a tribute to the veterans who proudly served their country in their respective military branches.

Sgt Ted K. Shimono  
USMC, 1959-68  
Lake Elsinore, Calif.

### **Teen Takes Marine Corps Challenge**

The year is 1983, and there is a teenage boy, John M. Messia, who is very unsure what to do with his future life and is looking for some advice and direction to decide what to do with his career. He was given some sound advice by a veteran Marine to take the Marine Corps Challenge. The teenager became a lance corporal and inherited a strong foundation for his life. He was discharged in 1987, and several years later, that teenager is now the sole owner of two successful businesses.

His father is so proud of his son taking the challenge, and the son is very grateful to the Marine Corps for building such a fine character and strong foundation in life. He has learned to overcome all types of problems and obstacles that he may be confronted with in the near future. He believes his success is from being a Marine.

Cpl John Messia Jr., USMC (Ret)  
1952-54  
Brockton, Mass.

### **Shipping Over or Reenlisting**

The February issue of *Leatherneck* had a letter from former Sergeant Duane Tobert informing us past-era Marines that today's Marines no longer use the term "shipping over" when referring to "reenlisting," which came as a great shock. Surely, I thought, how could this timeless term pass out of use and to the point where it was no longer understood? How could this be possible?

Shortly after becoming a Marine in 1964, an old gunnery sergeant ran a few terms by me that I had never heard before and, even throughout the next four years of my enlistment, hardly ever heard again, terms such as "geedunk" and "pogey bait." I remember the gunny looking at me in disbelief when I did not show any signs of awareness of these terms. Apparently,



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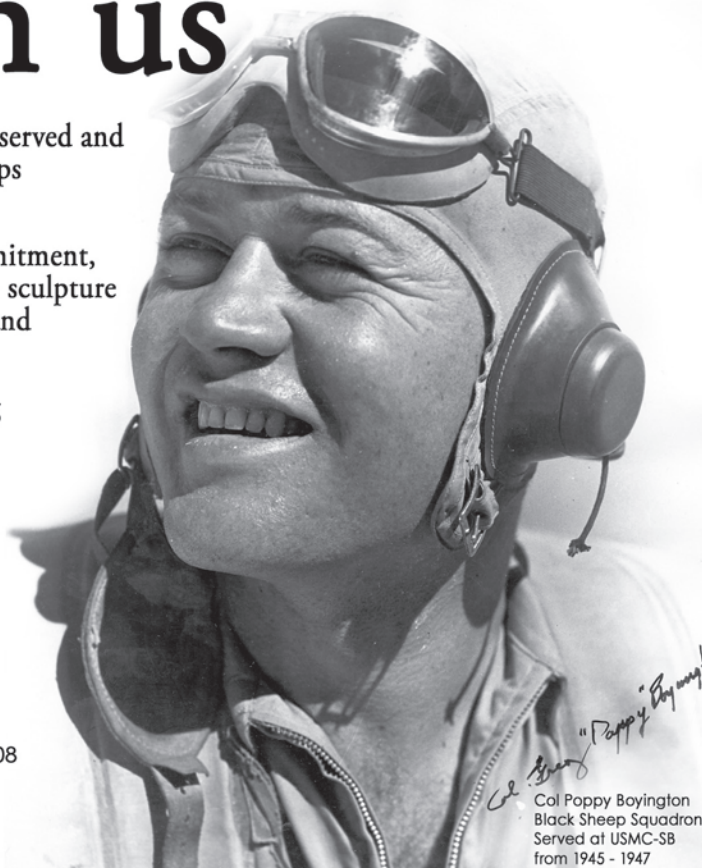
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Col Poppy Boyington  
Black Sheep Squadron  
Served at USMC-SB  
from 1945 - 1947

by the mid-1960s, they had, for the most part, passed from the culture. Now I have another term to add to the dustbin of history.

I served between 1964 and 1968 and in that time became familiar with a great many unique Marine Corps terms, terms that appeared to me would be timeless like "shipping over." My last civilian job before retiring a few years ago was that of a human resources officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and in that position I interviewed applicants seeking employment. The Texas prison system has in excess of 50,000 employees, so naturally I would find myself sitting across from a great many recently discharged military men and women, some having served one tour and some who had recently retired from active duty after 20 years or more.

One day a young Marine who had completed an enlistment was in front of me. I noticed his Marine Corps military occupational specialty had been that of a clerk, so I jokingly said he had been a "Remington Raider," which caused him to look at me with bewilderment as he had never heard that term before. I explained that "Remington Raider" referred to a Marine with an office job, a clerical worker. The applicant brought

me up to speed informing me he had used computers and word processors and didn't know what a Remington typewriter was.

So, "Remington Raider" is now obsolete, as is, unbelievably, "shipping over." Sgt Tobert also mentioned "lifers," a much used term back in the day, but the article didn't elaborate on this term. So does the Corps still have them or have they now become "Career Professional Soldiers of the Sea"? Seems the Corps is becoming much less interesting and colorful.

Sgt Paul C. Hughes  
USMC, 1964-68  
Spring, Texas

*•I would disagree, Sgt Hughes. Because the Marines on active duty today aren't using all of the same terms as Marines of other generations, that doesn't make the Corps less interesting or colorful. And most importantly, all Marines continue to use "Semper Fidelis."—Editor*

### The Active-Duty Life of a Marine Will Pay Off in Added Years

Being an old-timer, each month I first turn to the "In Memoriam" page to see if I have lost any comrades and to check to make sure I'm not listed.

I joined the Marine Corps in 1949 as

**[continued on page 70]**

## Make The Call

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# In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## ■ POHANG, SOUTH KOREA Combined Amphibious Assault Is Focal Point of Ssang Yong 16

“Attention landing force, stand by for call-aways,” said a voice over the 1 Main Circuit.

Upon hearing the call, Marines and sailors hastily began throwing packs on their backs and grabbing their weapons. The thud of boots on the deck of the ship could be heard while they rushed to get their gear ready.

The Marines and sailors made their way through the cramped passageways of the ship, trying to make it to the well deck and flight deck on time. Once they reached their designated departure areas, they boarded AAV-P7/A1 amphibious assault

vehicles, landing craft and helicopters and prepared to assault the beach.

Together with almost 20,000 military personnel from four different countries, the Marines and sailors of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted a combined amphibious assault and simulated follow-on actions as part of Exercise Ssang Yong 16 in Pohang, South Korea, March 12.

Ssang Yong, which means “twin dragons,” is a biennial combined amphibious exercise conducted by U.S. forces, the Republic of Korea Navy and Marine Corps, the Australian Army and the Royal New Zealand Army and is designed to strengthen interoperability and working relationships across a wide range of military operations.

This year, the exercise began with a

combined amphibious assault from 19 ships with the 31st MEU, 13th MEU and the ROK Marine Corps Marine Task Force. Multiple amphibious vehicles and aircraft took troops ashore to begin the exercise.

“SSang Yong 16 was among the largest combined amphibious [exercises] to date, incorporating more than 19,000 U.S., ROK Navy-Marine Corps, Australian Army, Royal New Zealand Army,” said Colonel Romin Dasmalchi, Commanding Officer, 31st MEU. “It was an incredible experience to share tactics, build personal relationships and enhance our ability to work cohesively together. Bringing together forces on a scale as large as this is complex. It is important we continue to train and work together to ensure cohesion and interoperability.”



Cpl Christopher Lee of “Alpha” Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment, 31st MEU uses hand signals to communicate with other AAV-P7/A1 amphibious assault vehicle crewmen during a combined assault on Dogu Beach in Pohang, South Korea, March 12. The training was part of Exercise Ssang Yong 16.



After the combined amphibious assault, the MEU conducted many different follow-on actions to simulate which operations would need to be conducted after carrying out a forcible entry into enemy-held territory. In addition to the initial assaults, the Marines conducted urban warfare training, live-fire platoon assaults, mortar shoots, artillery fire missions and a range of air operations.

Because of Ssang Yong's large-scale amphibious assault and follow-on missions, the exercise required a significant amount of planning and logistical support. Before Ssang Yong 16 took place, hundreds of pieces of equipment, containerized supplies and personnel were delivered to South Korea during Exercise Freedom Banner 16, a U.S. Navy and Marine Corps offload/backload exercise.

"Freedom Banner set the conditions for the combined amphibious assault that formed the cornerstone of Ssang Yong 16," said Dasmalchi. "Freedom Banner's purpose was to practice using naval and amphibious assets to support forces ashore. The amphibious operations conducted during Ssang Yong were the next operational step to Freedom Banner's sea-basing operations."

Incorporating the combined forces during Ssang Yong helped to build maritime superiority between the participating allied nations and prepared Navy and Marine Corps units to use the sea as maneuver space for operational reach and sea control.

"We are building stronger relationships and working with our allies and partners in this region to foster a collective stance, or 'peace through strength.' When faced with security challenges, these relationships are critical to the successful defense of the ROK and the ability of U.S. military forces to effectively respond to regional challenges," said Dasmalchi. "This cooperation and training ensure the 31st MEU is ready to respond rapidly throughout the Asia-Pacific as needed, across a spectrum of military operations."

The 31st MEU is the Corps' only continually forward-deployed MEU and remains a force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cpl Thor Larson, USMC

## ■ CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. Military Police Prepare for SPMAGTF Deployment

Leathernecks serving with Company A, 1st Law Enforcement Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force conducted a combat marksmanship program with M249 squad automatic weapons and M240B machine guns at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 29.



**Above:** PFC Emilio E. McDaniel sends rounds downrange with an M240B machine gun during a Combat Marksmanship Program at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 29. The shoot was part of the 1st MEB's contingency training and preparation for their SPMAGTF-CR-CC deployment. (Photo by LCpl Justin Bowles, USMC)

**Below:** In preparation for a SPMAGTF deployment, LCpl Kevin J. Earley, a military policeman with Co A, 1st LE Bn, fires an M240B machine gun from the prone position during a Combat Marksmanship Program at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 29.



LCPL JUSTIN BOWLES, USMC

The program was part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade contingency training and preparation for its upcoming deployment with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command.

"Performing these drills allows the new Marines to get more time behind the weapon, reminds them how to use their weapons properly and allows our company to maintain our military operational

specialty credibility," said Staff Sergeant Clayton L. Sanders, a platoon sergeant with Co A, 1st LE Bn.

Familiarization drills like breaking down the weapon and conducting qualification shoots help prepare the military police for their tasks on deployment.

"A big thing with us as military policemen is operating a crew-serve weapon, an MK19 40 mm grenade machine gun, Browning .50-cal. machine gun or any





CPL NATHAN WICKS, USMC

**READY TO REFUEL**—F/A-18D pilots with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 approach the drogues of a KC-130J Super Hercules from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 near Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, April 28. The two squadrons practiced air-to-air refueling in the afternoon and at night to ensure maximum readiness in any scenario.

weapon that's mounted on a tactical vehicle," said Sanders. "A lot of the Marines have been selected to go on the SPMAGTF where convoy security, combat-forensics lab, personal security detail missions and combat patrols could possibly be the mission."

As the group moved closer to joining the SPMAGTF, they planned to provide their expertise to whatever unit or units they would attach to. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is a rotational force of Marines and sailors prepared to offer a broad range of military capabilities to respond to crises in its area of responsibility, including noncombatant evacuation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, support to U.S. embassies, and other operations, missions and activities as directed by national and command leadership.

"When we go on the SPMAGTF, we organize ourselves into law enforcement detachments. Within these LEDs, we have teams that will provide a specialty skillset like accident investigation, military working dogs and tactical sites exploitations," said First Lieutenant Devin A. McAtee, a

platoon commander with Co A, 1st LE Bn. "What this does is provide subject matter experts to the larger units that will teach their Marines and provide background to what they might run into on deployment."

When the company is not preparing for the SPMAGTF, the Marines stay prepared as a mission-ready team that can respond to crisis-response operations as they occur around the world.

"We are the MEB contingency company, which means if the balloon goes up and our country goes to war again, we deploy," said McAtee. "We train to our training and readiness standards and get our Marines all the field training that we need."

As the military police prepared for their SPMAGTF deployment and maintained their MEB contingency standards, they felt confident in the skillsets they could bring to other units.

"No matter what unit tasks us out, if they need us to do police advising or need us to help the infantry in some way, we are here to help and do whatever they need to get done," said SSgt Sanders.

LCpl Justin Bowles, USMC

## ■ CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. Dutch, U.S. Marine Scout Snipers Train Together

Dutch Marines with 32nd Raiding Company and Dutch scout snipers with 2nd Marine Combat Group utilized the training facilities at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and worked alongside U.S. Marine scout snipers with 2d Reconnaissance Battalion for a bilateral training exercise March 6-25.

"There is a very good reason why we train here," said Dutch Marine Major Clemens Buter of the 32nd Raiding Co, who was the lead planner for the training exercise. "We have to operate all over the world together, so we need to train together as well. This is to ensure we have similar procedures and we know we can rely on each other when it's really necessary. The best way to be prepared is to train together, and Camp Lejeune provides us that opportunity."

Throughout the month of March, the Dutch Marines conducted urban climbing exercises, live-fire shoot houses and fast raiding intercepting special forces craft



Sgt Doug Lancia, left, a motor transportation mechanic with SPMAGTF-CR-AF, talks about engine parts with Tunisian GFS soldiers during training in Bizerte, Tunisia, in late March. The Marine vehicle maintenance and assistance team trained with the GFS to help increase the Tunisians' counterterrorism capabilities.



SSGT CHRIS BLAS, USMC

maneuvers and completed scenarios involving role players and simulated casualties.

Due to limited training facilities at their home base of Aruba, a tiny Dutch Caribbean island off the coast of Venezuela, the Dutch Marines visit Camp Lejeune to not only use its facilities, but also to compare and share their own tactics, techniques and procedures.

"When you work with units from different countries, you always learn from each other," said Dutch Marine Sergeant Dennis Godderij, a section leader with Dutch Recon Sniper Troop, 2nd Marine Combat Group. "One unit may have more experience in one area, while another unit has more experience in another area."

The Dutch Marines were granted access to air support from MV-22 Ospreys and CH-53E Super Stallions, and the U.S. Coast Guard also provided support during maneuvers on the Intercoastal Waterway.

"This is a yearly occurrence that a Dutch Marine company comes to Camp Lejeune to conduct training," said U.S. Marine Captain Cory Moyer, 2d Recon Bn. "Later in the year, they'll return the favor for us to go down to Aruba to conduct amphibious operations and continue to build on that relationship."

Cpl Justin Updegraff, USMC



SSGT CHRIS BLAS, USMC

Sgt Lancia, left, works with Tunisian GFS soldiers during humvee maintenance training in Bizerte, Tunisia, in late March.

## ■ BIZERTE, TUNISIA Marines Equip Tunisian Forces To Combat Terrorism

U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa completed a three-week training exercise with Tunisian special forces in Bizerte, Tunisia, April 8. The Marines had the opportunity to train their

counterparts with Tunisia's Groupement des Forces (GFS) in vehicle maintenance and convoy operations; this was the first training engagement between the two units.

The Marines were in Tunisia at the request of the Tunisian government, in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Tunis in order to increase the GFS' capabilities to support counterterrorism efforts.



Marines with Co B, 3d LAR Bn run through smoke during a live-fire assault on the MOUT town at Range 210, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., training area, March 24. The five-day exercise was designed to evaluate the company's combat readiness.



LCPL LEVI SCHULTZ, USMC

Motor transportation operators and maintainers with SPMAGTF–CR-AF spent their time training with the Tunisian soldiers on high-mobility, multipurpose, wheeled vehicles (humvees) and conducted preventive maintenance and various motor transportation operations. This expertise is essential to the GFS, who conduct counterterrorism operations.

Tunisia, a major non-NATO ally in North Africa, has experienced recent terrorist attacks. In June of last year, an Islamic State terrorist killed 38 people at a beach frequented by tourists.

Shortly after the attack, the Tunisian government closed extremist mosques, and its parliament passed an “anti-terrorism” law that could impose the death penalty for offenses. Tunisia is one of 34 countries from Africa, the Middle East and Asia that joined Saudi Arabia’s Islamic anti-terrorism coalition. On April 7, the interior ministry announced that Tunisian security forces shot and killed a suspected militant near the country’s shared border with Algeria.

With the increase in violence and the country’s stance on combating terrorism, the members of the GFS received the training from the U.S. Marines with a focus on the future.

“We have lots of missions going on and we always utilize the [humvees],” said

Adjutant Chief-Hlel Monji of the GFS. “Our armies have been utilizing the [humvees] since the 1980s, so we have plenty of experience with them, but we wanted to learn new ways to fix problems and issues.”

The Tunisians are well-trained and competent with their vehicles, so the Marines looked for ways to build on the skills the Tunisians already had.

“We discovered a few things that we could offer them, such as breaching techniques and night operations,” said Sergeant Aaron Mossor, a motor transportation operator with SPMAGTF–CR-AF. “This is especially helpful to this group because a majority of their missions are special force operations, and these two tactics will undoubtedly help better their ability to complete a mission.”

Cpl Olivia McDonald, USMC

## ■ TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF. Company Put to the Test During MCCREE

Leathernecks with Company B, 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion participated in a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation Exercise (MCCREE) at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 21-25.

Commanders use the MCCREE to eval-

uate their unit’s combat readiness through either a single exercise or a series of events. During its MCCREE, the battalion put Co B to the test with a live-fire movement and an assault on Range 210.

“The first part of the MCCREE began with a force-on-force scenario,” said Captain Charles H. Richardson, Co B commander, 3d LAR. “We went up against a thinking enemy, composed of conventional and unconventional forces, tasked with defending an area.”

The Marines of Co C acted as the opposition during Co B’s assault on Gay’s Pass training area. Over the first few days of the exercise, they challenged Co B with a variety of scenarios, ranging from notional improvised explosive devices to armed adversaries.

“The assault on Gay’s Pass gave us great insight on how to take on a thinking enemy and to adapt our plan to a changing battlefield,” Richardson said. “Within the company, we have 18 different military occupational specialties that allow us to conduct a wide array of operations. We can load everything up on our [light armored] vehicles and operate three to five days without much support due to our versatility.”

Upon completion of the first portion of MCCREE, the company moved on to a





LCPL LEVI SCHULTZ, USMC



LCPL LEVI SCHULTZ, USMC

**Above:** A light armored vehicle, carrying Marines with Co B, 3d LAR Bn, maneuvers during the company's MCCREE at MCGAGCC Twentynine Palms, March 22.

**Left:** Leathernecks with Co B, 3d LAR Bn participate in an assault on the MOUT town at Range 210, MCGAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 24.

live-fire and maneuver exercise. Instead of live enemies, the Marines set their sights on targets and conducted an assault over open terrain.

"The second stage transitioned to live fire with movement to contact while fighting mechanized infantry before moving on to an assault on Range 210," Richardson said. "We're not always going to have the luxury of fighting in open terrain or be able

to fight where the enemy is. Oftentimes, the enemy is going to be in urban terrain, so we have to prepare for that environment."

The location of MCCREE's culminating event, Range 210's military operations on urban terrain facility, provided the riflemen of Co B the opportunity to dismount from the vehicles and conduct building-clearing operations. Targets, designed to fall when fired upon, gave the Marines

the feeling of fighting a tangible enemy.

"At first, there were internal issues the Marines had to work through," said Sergeant Major Marcus A. Chestnut, the battalion sergeant major of 3d LAR. "It's always interesting to see them come out here and overcome those issues. At the end of it, it's all worked out, and I think they did very well."

Capt Richardson also expressed satisfaction with the results throughout the evaluation exercise, as well as confidence in his Marines' combat readiness.

"We've gone through a lot to get where we are now," Richardson said. "The Marines have come a long way, and we're a more cohesive fighting force because of it. As we are now, I'm fully confident that we can step downrange and take on any enemy that we may encounter."

LCpl Levi Schultz, USMC





# Corps Connections

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## Umatilla, Fla.

### Boy Scout, Marine Veterans Make Medal of Honor Recipient's New Grave Marker a Reality

When Marine veteran Carl Ludecke, right, 17-year-old Boy Scout Micah Martin, left, and Marine veteran Gene Packwood learned that World War II Marine and Medal of Honor recipient Private Robert M. McTureous Jr. was interred in their small town of Umatilla, Fla., with only a standard-issue grave marker, they banded together to give McTureous' resting place a tribute befitting a hero. McTureous, for whom Camp McTureous, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, is named, was awarded the MOH for actions during the Battle of Okinawa on June 7, 1945, while serving with 3d Battalion, 29th Marine Regiment, Sixth Marine Division. Medically evacuated from the battlefield, he later succumbed to his wounds on June 11.

The group raised more than \$5,000 to pay for a new grave marker. Packwood, an editorial cartoonist, designed the face of the memorial, which includes an illustration of McTureous, a sculptured depiction of the Medal of Honor, the Marine Corps emblem and the 6thMarDiv shoulder patch. (Editor's note: Packwood served as art director of *Leatherneck* from 1952 to 1954.) The new marker was dedicated during a Memorial Day ceremony on May 25, 2015, in Glendale Cemetery in Umatilla, and was attended by more than 200 people, including 10 of McTureous' relatives.



COURTESY OF CAPT JOSEPH W. PRATTE, USMC (RET)

Submitted by Capt Joseph W. Pratte, USMC (Ret)

## Lenexa, Kan.



COURTESY OF JOE HUGHES

### MCL, Local University Support Toys for Tots

The General Larry Oppenheimer Marine Corps League Detachment #1025 collected 37,884 toys for the 2015 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. That total included more than 400 toys and over \$9,000 in donations gathered by the employees of Grantham University in Lenexa, Kan.

Pictured front and center, surrounded by university employees, are Master Sergeant Bill Clinton, USMC (Ret), of the Oppenheimer Det. and Colonel Steve Waldron, USMC (Ret), chief operating officer of Grantham University. Clinton visited the university to thank its employees for their support of Toys for Tots.

Submitted by Joe Hughes



## Victoria, Australia



GRANT LEWIS



GRANT LEWIS

### Monument to WW II Marines Honors the Corps From Afar

Australian Army veteran Grant Lewis, who lives in Victoria, Australia, paid a recent visit to "Citation Oval" at Balcombe Army Camp, where he recalls playing football when he was an Australian Army apprentice in the 1970s. While at the Oval, he stumbled upon a monument commemorating the site at which Colonel Merritt A. Edson, Lieutenant Mitchell Paige and Platoon Sergeant John Basilone received the Medal of Honor on May 21, 1943, for their heroic actions at Guadalcanal. The monument also pays tribute to the entire First Marine Division for actions on Aug. 7-9, 1942, for which it received a unit citation.

"I hope the descendants of these men are proud of their achievement," said Lewis, who added that the monument is well-maintained.

Submitted by Grant Lewis

## Quantico, Va.



RON LUNN

### Leatherneck's Patricia Everett Recognized for 35 Years of Service to the MCA&F

It's likely that longtime readers of *Leatherneck* have had an interaction or two with our highly esteemed editorial/production coordinator, Patricia Everett. Major General Edward G. Usher III, USMC (Ret), president and CEO of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, recognized her contributions to both *Leatherneck* and the MCA&F on the 35th anniversary of her service at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Feb. 23.

Everett began working for the association in 1981 as the type-setter for newsletters, mess night programs, cruise books and other projects, and in 1987, she joined the *Leatherneck* staff as editorial secretary. The magazine has undergone many changes since then, but she continually has provided great support to the *Leatherneck* staff, our readers and the Corps.

Submitted by the *Leatherneck* staff



COURTESY OF MARTHA HICKS

## San Antonio, Texas

### Nonprofit Director Named Honorary Marine

Raymond "Rusty" Hicks, left foreground, the executive director and co-founder of Combat Marine Outdoors, was congratulated by Major General Juan G. Ayala, USMC (Ret), right foreground, after being given the title "Honorary Marine" during a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 3, 2015. Combat Marine Outdoors is a nonprofit organization that invites wounded veterans to participate in outdoor hunting and fishing adventures designed to aid them in the rehabilitation process.

Only the Commandant of the Marine Corps can designate civilians as Honorary Marines, and it is a recognition awarded only to those who, like Hicks, have made extraordinary contributions to the Corps.

Submitted by Martha Hicks

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

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





# In the Nick of Time

## Marines, Sailors Stage Daring “Hail Mary” Rescue “From the Sea” in Midst of Desert Storm

### Part II

Story by CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)  
Photos courtesy of CWO-3 Scott Dathe, USMC (Ret)

*Editor’s note: In Part I of this article, Marines and sailors who were in the midst of preparing for Operation Desert Storm in January 1991 were ordered to proceed at full speed on two amphibious ships—USS Guam (LPH-9) and USS Trenton (LPD-14)—to Mogadishu, Somalia. The American Ambassador there, James K. Bishop, had been granted his request to evacuate 281 American and foreign national diplomats and staff seeking safe haven at the American Embassy, which was in danger of being overrun by rebels and looters rampaging the city. Mogadishu had turned chaotic after the 20-year dictator, President Siad Barre, was overthrown. As the two ships raced at flank speed, two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters were launched at night from USS Guam, 460 miles away from Mogadishu, in a last-ditch effort to reach the embassy in time.*

*The story left off last month as the crews of the two ‘53s finished their first in-flight refueling. Fifty-one Marines and nine SEALs with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) were in the helicopters not knowing what they would face when they landed.*

With both aircraft refueled, the helicopter pilots got a better heading from the C-130 crew who had more sophisticated navigation equipment on board their aircraft. Retired Marine Colonel Dan Schultz, then a major and flying the lead helicopter, said, “At least we knew we were going to hit the coast of Africa. It’s pretty hard to miss that, but we were still trying to figure out exactly where Mogadishu and the embassy were.” They refueled a second time and, as they approached the coast, dropped down into the darkness to skim above the water.

“It was hard going from 7,000 feet to 50 feet. The water came up fast and it looked like we were getting wet as we flew in,” recalled Schultz, now president of Sikorsky aircraft company, which produces CH-53s.

“The plan had been developed on the assumption that the embassy was still in its old location,” American Ambassador James K. Bishop explained in an oral history interview by the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. However, six months earlier the embassy had been moved 6 miles inland from the old location, which had been near the sea. The mistake was caught when someone on the landing force wisely checked for any Marines on board who previously had served in Mogadishu. One warrant officer was found who had served at the new embassy location as a noncommissioned officer, and when he reviewed the plan, he caught the error, averting a serious mistake.

“A potential catastrophe was avoided,” said Ambassador Bishop. “The intelligence people, from whom our location should have been transmitted accurately, were focusing on Desert Shield. Mogadishu was just a sideshow.”

“Maps were outdated, the embassy was difficult to locate, and we were never able to establish contact with the embassy during the transit to Mogadishu,” said retired Marine Col James J. Doyle, commander of the landing force for the mission. He also was the commander of Brigade Service Support Group 4 under 4th MEB. “Therefore, there was no locally generated intelligence. National intelligence was being received during transit; however, this was of limited tactical value.”

When Marines flew in at dawn, they were told to look for a golf course as a navigation aid, so they expected typical manicured fairways and greens. “Our course featured cows, camels, manure and some trees and sand,” Ambassador Bishop recalled. “The greens were black oiled so the Marines could not recognize the course. We had a strobe light on the southern part of the water tower, which was the highest feature on the compound. The helicopters flew so low that they went under the light, and since it was dawn, they didn’t see the flashing light or the American flag. So they flew out to sea and then returned and found us.”

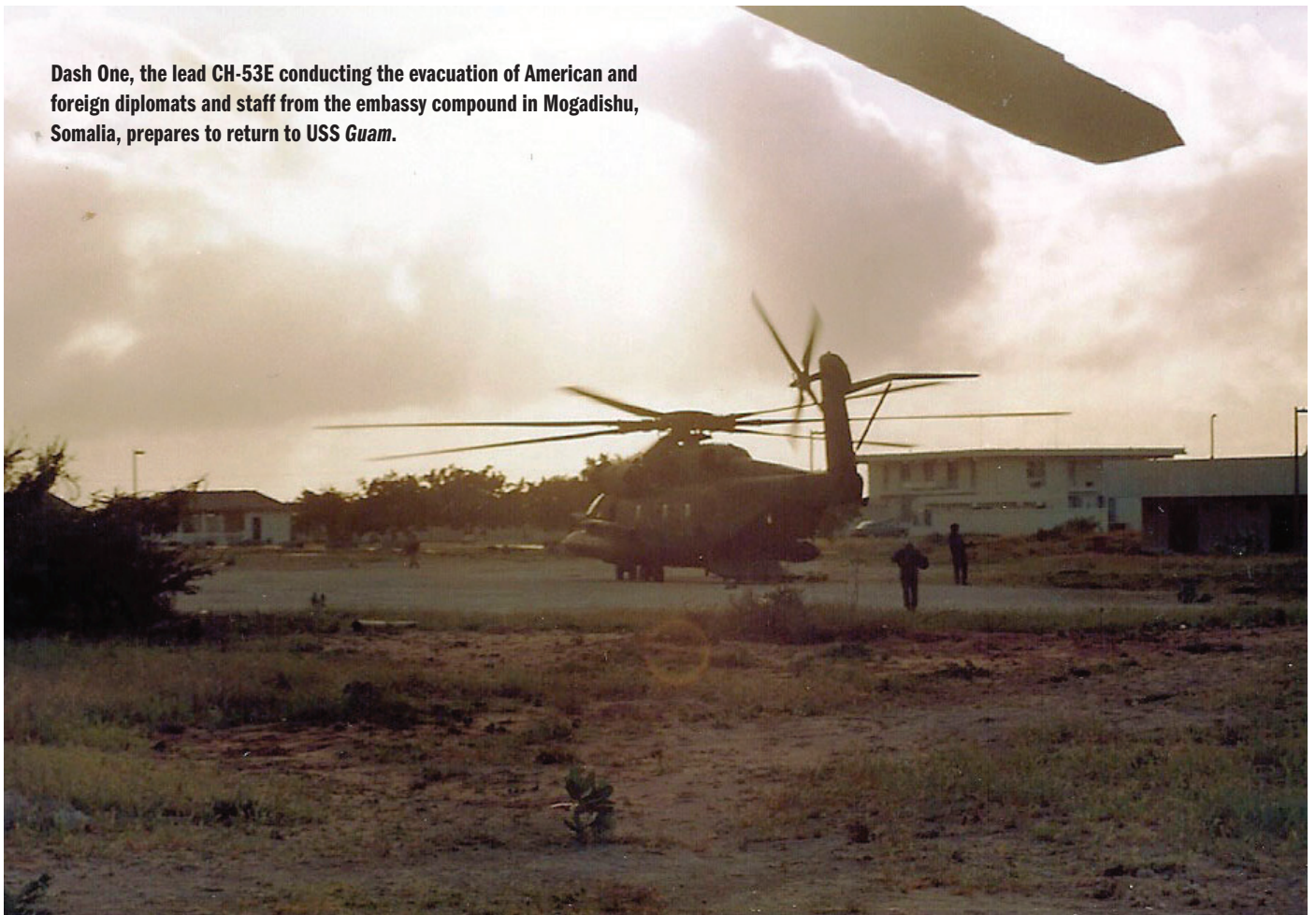
A report by the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) supported those observations. Adam B. Siegel wrote that the helicopters wandered some 15 to 20 minutes over Mogadishu because the pilots had difficulty locating the embassy compound. However, despite the problems, the two

**A ground-level view of American Embassy buildings in Mogadishu, Somalia, January 1991, after Marines arrived to provide security for the non-combatant evacuation of 281 U.S. and foreign embassy staff.**





**Dash One, the lead CH-53E conducting the evacuation of American and foreign diplomats and staff from the embassy compound in Mogadishu, Somalia, prepares to return to USS *Guam*.**



helicopters touched down at the embassy at 7:10 a.m., within minutes of their projected arrival time.

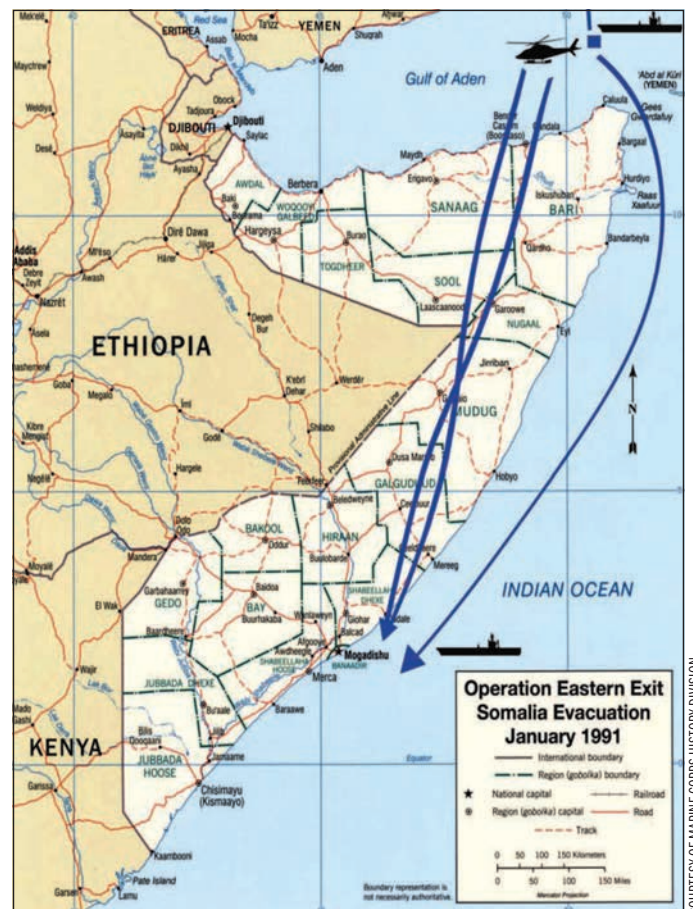
The Marines on board the helicopters had little or no idea what they would face as they stepped off the ramp.

Retired Marine Col Robert McAleer was one of those Marines. Then a lieutenant colonel, he was the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, Second Marine Regiment and chose to go in with the landing party. “Fortunately, we had been working with the ’53s over several exercises called Sea Soldier one through four,” he said. Those exercises were part of a deception plan meant to draw key Iraqi divisions away from the Desert Storm main attack. McAleer credits that training, in large part, with the success of Eastern Exit.

“We were in the highest state of readiness we possibly could be,” he said. “When orders came down, we immediately went into a planning process. There was never any question, any hesitation, no ‘Geez, how do we do this?’ It was just, OK, we got it, we’re going, we’ll do this. We had already been training and working with the helicopter squadrons, with the ship crews. All the people we needed to work with at our level were there.”

McAleer also credits the Marines and SEALs. “They were very good. It was a serious mood with everybody on board, especially when we got close to launching off the deck of the *Guam*,” he said during a telephone interview. “I remember on the hangar deck when we were issuing ammunition and going over safety procedures for the weapons we were taking. Everybody was serious, everyone really wanted to be part of it.”

McAleer also credits the helicopter pilots and crew, who were in the midst of training for Desert Storm, with getting them to the embassy. “Because we’d been out there for so long under pretty harsh conditions, mechanically the helicopters were challenged. I





had never experienced a mid-air refueling in a '53, let alone at night. I have great admiration for the pilots. It was a pretty remarkable feat of flight expertise."

In the 1991 CNA report, Siegel wrote that the helicopters "descended to 25 feet and sped over the city, landing at the Embassy compound even as looters were at its walls." Dan Schultz remembers it more like 50 feet. When they initially couldn't find the embassy, Schultz's copilot had the idea to go back to the coast and use the airport as a fixed point with which to estimate where the embassy should be. It worked.

"We penetrated the airfield just at dawn as the sun was coming up, so we had to take our [night vision] goggles off," he said. "We came up on some truckloads of rebels with .50-cals, and I don't think they'd ever seen CH-53s flying 50 feet at 150 miles per hour, and they just jumped out of the trucks and ran. We came in right over rooftops and saw the embassy wall. There were Africans coming up with ladders about to breach the walls, so we came in and side flared on the gravel and dirt so the rotor wash sprayed them and they all scattered."

Inside the embassy, evacuees knew salvation had come. "I remember later the charge d'affaires, who was a woman, said when we flared and she saw the word 'Marines' on the aircraft, she knew they were safe. They were happy to see us," Schultz said.

McAleer noted that he and his fellow Marines and SEALs in the back of the helicopters thought they might have to fast-rope from the helicopter into the embassy compound. "This was under consideration when we thought the embassy was still located downtown in the middle of a built-up area with no suitable LZ [landing zone] around," he said.

"There wasn't a detailed plan because there was no reliable, secure communication with the embassy," McAleer added. "We knew the commander's intent, we knew what we were supposed to do, and the plan was to get on the ground, assess the situation and work it out once we saw what we had to work with."

As they rushed off the ramp, McAleer recalled being happy to see the wall that surrounded several dozen acres of the compound. "There were breaks here and there where someone could stick a rifle through, though they never did, but at least it gave us a boundary inside the compound, which was very large," he said.

The SEALs' mission was to protect the chancery building while the Marines covered the perimeter. McAleer estimated that with the size of the compound, that worked out to each Marine being responsible for about 1 acre.

Although they were armed only with individual weapons, with nothing larger than a squad automatic weapon, their presence was enough to keep the rebels at bay. "We tried to present a formidable presence without having to go for it," he said. "We tried to show them that they didn't really want to take us on."



**A CH-53E's crew chief makes preparations to land in Mogadishu, Somalia, in January 1991 to assist with the evacuation of embassy personnel stranded after violence erupted in the country.**

In spite of that, the Marines were taking sporadic fire for most of the approximately 17 hours they spent inside the embassy walls, and at one point what sounded like an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) hit the outside wall of an embassy building.

"I'm not sure they were really trying to kill us," McAleer surmised. "I think they were firing at us just to see what would happen, like a kid poking a stick into a hornet's nest. Ambassador Bishop was a great guy to work with under those conditions, and I think he was very wise in making sure we didn't escalate the situation unless we absolutely had to. This included our two-man sniper team posted on the water tower, who were our eyes and ears with the vantage point to keep us informed. They started taking fire and they could have responded, but based on the ambassador's guidance, we got them out of harm's way."

"During our time on the operation, Sniper 1 and I came under fire," said a veteran Marine sergeant who spoke under an assumed





**Evacuees ride aboard one of the two CH-53Es sent ahead of the main rescue force during Operation Eastern Exit in Mogadishu, Somalia.**

Maxx said that at one point they identified a shooter as a rebel with a bolt-action rifle, had him in their sights and watched him shooting at them. However, they also noted that because of the weapon he was using, his shooting skills and the distance, there wasn't much chance of hitting them. "We reasoned that if we killed the man, we would enrage his fellow rebels who would mount a concerted assault, eventually endangering the very people we were there to rescue," he said.

Maxx noted that communication glitches, if not for good decision-making and discretion at all levels, could have turned the operation sour.

"We were never informed that the rules of engagement [ROE] had changed after we landed in Mogadishu," reported Maxx. "During pre-mission briefs, we were given ROE indicating that we 1) had to receive fire, 2) be able to identify the source of the fire, and 3) return fire with similar fire; such as, if we ... received small-arms fire, we couldn't return fire with an anti-armor weapon. We were further instructed to keep collateral damage to a minimum. I found out only after the mission that when we had arrived at the embassy, Ambassador Bishop had given instructions that nobody was to fire without his permission."

The nine Navy SEALs augmented the embassy's five Marine Security Guards protecting the ambassador while Marines secured the perimeter surrounding the chancery and the joint administrative office building where evacuees were housed. An Air Force AC-130 gunship was initially on station overhead if needed. "This aircraft was able to provide good eyes-on situational awareness until it was directed to remain off the coast," said McAleer.

In spite of harassment fire, Marines and SEALs exercised consummate discipline and held their fire the entire time they were on the ground. Ambassador Bishop insisted

on that, fearing that it would make a bad situation even worse.

The decision to transport evacuees in the CH-53s was not in the original plan. With conditions becoming more dangerous by the minute and the two ships still not in range to launch the CH-46s, at the request of the ambassador, they loaded 60 passengers onto the two CH-53s and took off for the 350-mile flight back to *Guam*. This included another in-flight refueling.

"So we're flying out and everybody on the ground is waking up and coming out to see if they can shoot the helicopters," said Schultz. Then, just when he thought it couldn't get any worse, "My crew chief came up and told me the Omani ambassador's wife was on board and having a baby." Luckily, that didn't happen until after they landed on *Guam*.

Col Doyle said that at one point during the evacuation, a Somali major, grenade in hand, showed up with two truckloads of troops and demanded the evacuation stop. The ambassador placated



**The view from a side hatch of a CH-53E as Marines take up defensive positions after landing inside the embassy compound in Mogadishu, Somalia, in January 1991.**

name—Hunter Maxx—due to his current employment's private security concerns. The infantry Marine explained that he and a fellow sniper took a position on the water tower in order to gain effective observation and reporting position.

"We had originally planned for two two-man sniper teams to accompany the GCE [ground combat element], but we were later told that the teams were being dropped from the mission due to the limits on the size of the GCE," Maxx said. "For several years prior to my deployment for the Gulf War, I had served as a sniper and as a sniper team leader. Knowing the capabilities of the sniper teams and their importance to a regular infantry unit, I argued forcefully to have this decision overturned. I was able to talk my company commander into allowing me to serve as one sniper of a two-man team, and I handpicked the other sniper. This resulted in the commander reducing his force, while retaining the capabilities of a sniper team."



**Retired Marine Scott Dathe poses in front of the Operation Eastern Exit display at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. Dathe was a crew chief on board a CH-53E helicopter involved in Operation Eastern Exit in January 1991.**

the major with several thousand dollars and the keys to a number of embassy cars.

Doyle also noted that they were concerned with the track of Russian SA-2 radar, linked to a surface-to-air missile system; this caused the AC-130 covering the evacuation to move offshore for a time. "When the '53s took off with the first evacuees and then the AC-130 had to go off station, it felt pretty lonely down there," said Col McAleer.

Doyle recalled that as the ships were closing on the Somali coast, he held a meeting with the commanders and pilots of the two CH-46 squadrons regarding the extraction. He said, "My concern was not so much about loading the evacuees, but rather the withdrawal of the Marines and SEALs from a dark, dusty LZ. Accountability, accountability, accountability was stressed."

Their attention to detail paid off. "Sure enough, the last CH-46 spent what seemed like a lifetime in the LZ because two Marines were unaccounted for," Doyle explained. "Fortunately, an enlisted crewman saw people in the shadows that he thought were Marines. He walked across the LZ and retrieved two Marine communicators who were engrossed with a balky radio—comms were spotty during the extraction."

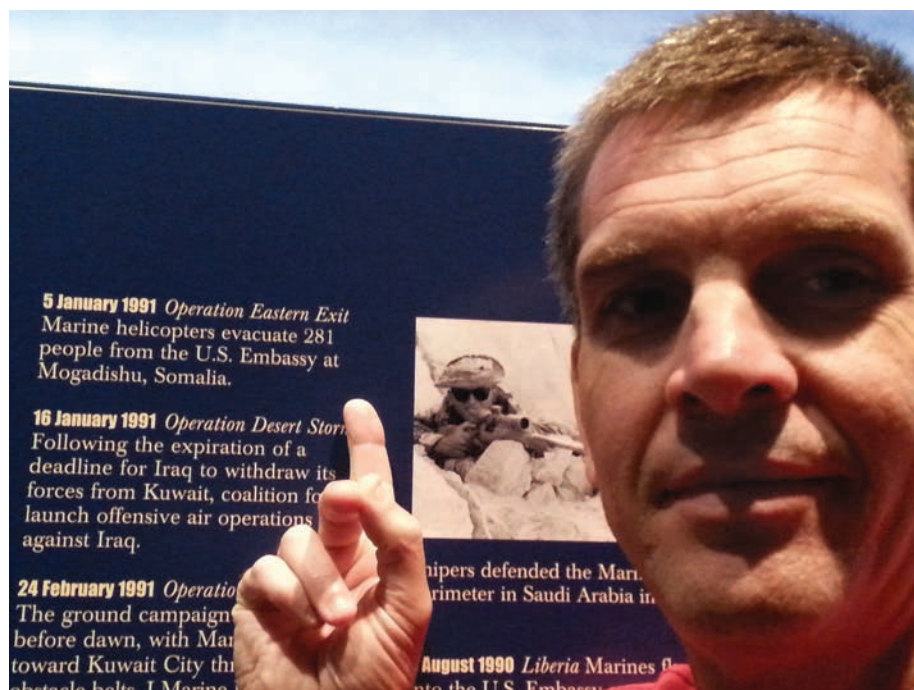
*Guam* and *Trenton* reached the area about midnight, Jan. 5, and began launching CH-46 Sea Knights from about 30 miles offshore for the final evacuation in a rare and tense all-night-vision-goggle evacuation. The crews on 10 Sea Knights operated in four waves of five helicopters each. The first three waves evacuated civilians, and the last wave was for the security force and the ambassador.

The CNA report stated that all lights in the compound were extinguished and chemical lights were laid out in the NATO "Y" pattern to mark a helicopter landing zone. "Evacuees were organized into groups ('sticks') of 15 each," Siegel wrote. "Between evacuees and the security forces there were 280 people to be extracted from the Embassy."

Finally, everyone was evacuated except the ambassador, a member of his staff, the SEALs and the Marines. "There were two helicopters on the ground waiting for us," said Ambassador Bishop, adding that he headed for the last one. "We took a seat in the back, and a Marine officer came in and squeezed in. He looked at me and said, 'My God, sir, you are the ambassador; you can't sit back here.' I told him I was quite comfortable, but that didn't dissuade him. So I had to leave the helicopter, re-board and sit behind the waist gunner ... but I did get a chance to watch our lift-off and see where we were flying. That was Jan. 6, 1991."

Once all evacuees were safely on board, the ships steamed for Oman. "We landed on the ship about 3 a.m. and were sort of tired," said Ambassador Bishop. "[General Norman] Schwarzkopf did not want the ships to go to Mombasa. He insisted they return to Oman because he wanted them back in the combat zone as soon as possible. So instead of a quick trip to Mombasa, we were on board for five days en route to Oman."

Looking back on the operation, the Marines involved have mixed emotions.



"When we discuss this operation, we spend a lot of time talking about how it was done, who was rescued, etc., and that's all good," said Maxx. "One of my life's most interesting memories was when a mother handed me her toddler daughter to carry to a CH-46 for extraction. I remember thinking how bad their recent experience must have been for her to trust a complete stranger like that.

"However, nobody talks about the people that we had to leave behind," he added. "We were prohibited, by both international law and by operational necessity, from evacuating Somali nationals. There were many Somalis, primarily Foreign Service Nationals, or FSNs, working for the American Embassy, who had sought refuge inside the embassy compound in the final days, with their families. They had been loyal employees and many had become friends of embassy staff. Yet, now that they needed help, we were forced to abandon them."

Maxx recalled that as the Marines collapsed their perimeter to board the final flight out, some of the Somalis followed them to the aircraft.

"We walked backwards carefully, with weapons pointed outwards," he said. "I remember thinking that if any of them had rushed us, I may have to shoot them, to keep them from interfering with the rescue operation. As we boarded the aircraft, they stopped, stood in place, and waved to us. It wasn't a friendly, see-you-later kind of wave. It was a haunting, final-goodbye wave. We all knew what awaited them."

Reporting on the ground later confirmed that some of the FSNs were killed.

Painful as that memory is, McAleer puts it into perspective, saying, "In the end, this was an incredible show of Marines being Marines, the way they pulled this off, and regardless of whatever has happened to them in life since then, they can look back on that day in history and know they did the right thing, and did it well."

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





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# Full Circle

## From Flying CH-53s to Running the Company That

Story by CWO Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)  
Photos courtesy of Dan Schultz

**R**ecently, veteran Marine Dan Schultz was going through old boxes and came across one of his grade school report cards; it read that he was a good student, but he needed to stop spending so much time drawing pictures of airplanes.

As it turned out, those pictures were harbingers of his future life, although, not quite accurate.

"I always drew fixed-wing airplanes, never helicopters," recalled the retired Marine colonel and president of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation who flew Sikorsky CH-53 helicopters in the Corps. He also

flew a CH-53 on one of the most harrowing and epic operational flights ever demanded of a helicopter and her crew.

The son of a career Navy man, Schultz is hard-pressed to pin down a hometown, having spent his childhood moving to Navy bases in Illinois, New Jersey, Florida, Louisiana and Virginia. Virginia comes as close as it gets; Schultz graduated from Bayside High School in Virginia Beach and spent his college years at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington.

VMI, founded in 1839, is the oldest state-supported military college in the United States. Like the Marine Corps, it is steeped in history and tradition. The VMI exper-

ience, as defined on its website, is "framed by relevant education within a military environment. It's an education that develops character, fosters a lifelong appreciation of physical fitness, engenders a sense of responsibility to others, and cultivates the ability to master adversity."

That sounds a lot like the Marine Corps.

"VMI is all about core values, respecting others, ethics, honor. We still drum people out for lying, cheating or stealing—actually line up, drum them out, take their uniform," Schultz said. "It helped me form core values that are very similar to the Marine Corps'."

His childhood visualization of fixed-wing aircraft changed during his sopho-





Sikorsky president Dan Schultz (opposite page) with one of the company's commercial helicopters, the S-76D, has had a lifelong passion for aviation. During his career as a Marine Corps aviator (below), he was the project manager of the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft program. Even before he began flight school (bottom), he knew he wanted to fly helicopters.



## Builds Them

more year at VMI while on a familiarization visit to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.

"A CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter landed in a nearby field, and the pilot opened the window and I could actually see him," Schultz vividly recalled. "It was probably the first time I ever saw a pilot, and right then, I said that is the aircraft I want to fly someday. I always knew I wanted to fly, but that's what triggered me wanting to fly helicopters."

The allure of rotary aircraft for Schultz was seeing Marines running in and out of the aircraft. "That's what I wanted to be part of," he said. "The '53 is so massive, and it looked like the business end of what the Marine Corps does."



After graduating from VMI with a bachelor's degree in science, Schultz joined the Corps in 1975.

He credits his time in VMI with preparing him for the challenges of Officer Candidates School (OCS), the Marine officer screening program designed to select only the best officers, and The Basic School (TBS), where officers learn the art of war.

"When I got to OCS, I remember being in the Quonset huts late at night after the first day where gunnery sergeants are yelling at you all day and you hear that lonesome whistle of the Quantico train. Some of the Ivy League guys were saying, 'Oh, my God, what have I gotten myself into?' and I'm thinking, 'Hey, they can't hit you, so what's the problem?'"

He said he liked OCS, although he did qualify that statement by admitting the passage of time made it easier to characterize it as a likeable experience. "It challenged me mentally, physically and emotionally, and since I did well, I can look back and say I liked it," he said.

The day after he graduated from TBS, he got married to his college sweetheart, Laura.

"We've been married now for 40 years, and it's been wonderful."

He did well at OCS and TBS, finishing with honors in both. He said, "I got into the ground side of it, the tactics, being a grunt. I actually considered giving up my air contract—for at least about a day. But then I saw another Marine in a flight jacket and said, no, I'll stick with aviation." He did his primary flight training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla.



**The CH-53K is the next generation of heavy-lift helicopters for the Marine Corps. The King Stallion combines power and versatility to fly a wide variety of missions on land or at sea.**



He flew the T-28 Trojan, a 12-cylinder, piston-driven powerhouse similar to the Grumman F4 Wildcat. “It was 12 feet off the ground, you had to climb up into it, and it was very powerful,” he said.

He did very well in flight school and had his choice between fixed-wing and helicopters, two very different types of aircraft, but rotary flight was Schultz’s hands-down favorite.

“Helicopter guys have a saying that it’s easy flying jets; pull the stick back and the houses get smaller, push it forward and the houses get bigger,” he joked. “But in helicopters you are using your hands, feet, arms ... every part of your body to fly.”

When he graduated from primary flight school, he was assigned to a Navy squadron flying the Bell TH-57 Sea Ranger helicopter, a derivative of the Bell Jet Ranger 206. “It was a handful,” he recalled, with a single rotor and a turboprop

jet engine. “The instructors said if you could take it up and manage to keep it in the state of Florida, you got an up-check.”

From flying that small 4,000-pound helicopter, he went to Replacement Air Group (RAG) 301 to train on the helicopter he’d come to fly, the twin-engine, 35,000-pound CH-53D. He graduated from the RAG and deployed as part of a four-helicopter ’53 detachment with the “Raging Bulls” of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261.

At the same time, Schultz was part of a fleet project team developing full-motion training simulators for the CH-53D. “This was the first simulator for the CH-53, and many feared that they would take away flight time,” he recalled. “But I looked at it as a way to become better at processes and procedures.” So he would fly during the day to get all his qualifications, and in the afternoon and evenings, he worked

with the simulator teams to ensure that all the flying qualities and specifications were realistic.

The Marine Corps was developing a three-engine aircraft at Sikorsky, the CH-53E Super Stallion, during that same time. As the “Echo” was coming to final configuration, there was a need for a simulator for it, and Schultz started going through all the ground training and specifications to build the “E” simulator.

“As a result, when the Marine Corps started selecting pilots, I was the first,” he said. “I actually held the flag for the first squadron for a day or so—the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 “Condors” out of Marine Corps Air Station New River.”

It was during his training to fly the “E” that Schultz said he learned things about the aircraft that served him well in the future. “I got the chance to go up





to Sikorsky to train with the test pilots there,” said Schultz, who was a captain at that time. “That was a turning point in my career because these test pilots are truly some of the most remarkable pilots in the world. They were able to teach me the aircraft limits and what it was truly capable of. This paid dividends for me later on in being able to fly that aircraft to its limits.”

A series of operations starting with Hurricane Hugo in September 1989 would test his knowledge and flying skills in the CH-53E. Hugo was a massive Category 4 storm that caused widespread damage and loss of life from the Leeward Islands through Puerto Rico and the southeastern U.S. Schultz led a detachment of four '53Es to help in Puerto Rico. “We were lifting sunken boats, boats out of the middle of the streets. We helped put the roof back on the Bacardi factory, we carried radar stations off mountain tops, brought water to people. ... It was an incredible deployment,” he said. The crews and the aircraft were worked hard.

His detachment returned to the U.S. and was immediately assigned to USS *Trenton* (LPD-14) headed to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Shield. Also on board was SEAL Team 6 and a brigade service support group. “We were the first Marines to show up with helicopters, so we were providing the lift support for all these different units. We were fast-roping SEALs to do maritime interdiction missions and supporting all the stuff going on out there,” Schultz said.

To complicate matters, his detachment

was split up with two aircraft and crews on *Trenton* and two on USS *Raleigh* (LPD-1), which had operational problems, so those two aircraft were not available. In addition, although they had brought their maintenance crews with them, neither ship had equipment or parts for the '53s.

Validating Murphy's Law, USS *Iwo Jima* (LPH-2), which had the rest of the squadron's '53s on board, blew a boiler and was stuck in Bahrain. So, there were only two '53s available on Jan. 1, 1991, for Operation Eastern Exit when the American ambassador in Somalia requested military assistance to evacuate hundreds of U.S. and foreign embassy staff from the American Embassy in Mogadishu.

Years of bloody civil war led to a government breakdown and chaos that threatened the lives of embassy staff. USS *Guam* (LPH-9) and USS *Trenton*, with Schultz's two '53s on board, were dispatched to cover 1,500 miles of sea. When it was determined the ships would not make it in time to save people, even at flank speed, the two '53s were ordered to fly ahead, launching at 1:47 a.m. on Jan. 5 from *Guam* with a security force of 51 Marines and nine SEALs.

With only hours of planning and preparation time, the crews faced a 1,000-mile flight when they normally didn't go beyond 25 miles from the ship. Schultz said they were overloaded with men and gear and barely got off the deck, took off in a storm and did two unprecedented night, in-air refuelings to get there and one in-flight refueling on the way back.

They flew into the embassy compound in the nick of time, just as rebels were setting up ladders to scale the perimeter walls. They were able to establish a secure perimeter that enabled the evacuation of 281 men, women and children. The crews immediately went to fight in Desert Storm. Operation Eastern Exit was largely unnoticed by the world media because of the larger war effort. However, the two helicopter crews were later awarded the Frederick L. Feinberg Award for Courage in Aviation from the American Helicopter Society, all four CH-53 pilots were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and many members of the crews received individual awards for exemplary performance under extreme conditions.

This would be one of the defining events in Schultz's 27-year Marine Corps career, which placed him in a variety of positions such as commanding the HMM-461 “Iron Horses” and two ground tours that included assignments to SRIG (surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence group)



During a recent meeting with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert B. Neller, Schultz was again reminded of the role Sikorsky helicopters have played in support of the Marine Corps for more than 30 years.





**The S-97 RAIDER is one of Sikorsky's newest projects. The helicopter has a coaxial rotor design and is capable of being developed into a unique multimission configuration. It is expected to reach cruise speeds of up to 240 knots (276 mph).**

and LAV (light armored vehicle) units. "I got exceptional experience in leading large numbers of people outside of the aviation community," he said.

He served in acquisition at the Naval Air Systems Command after he had taken advantage of an offer to attend the Defense Systems Management College. "I struggled with that because I loved flying, but I realized that there are many ways to help the Marine Corps, and one is through acquisition," he said. He later worked in acquisition in J8 (Force Structure, Resource and Assessment) at the Pentagon.

Schultz advises Marines to take jobs in the Corps that are outside their normal experience. "It is important to understand the entire industrial complex that helps develop the weapons and equipment that Marines need," he said.

In 2000, as Schultz was retiring after 24 years of service, he received an offer he couldn't refuse from two Marines to whom he couldn't say no.

The troubled V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft program was in need of new leadership, and when the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Aviation both asked him to do

the job, "How could I say no to them?" he said. "I agreed to stay to see it through the operational evaluation."

He organized the government and contractor staffs into a cohesive team and split the project into three main functional areas: fix the mechanical issues, develop the operational deployment capability and incorporate weapons systems.

**"W**e brought the government and contractor staffs together in one office and organized so that we merged all three components together," he said. "The teams started trusting each other because they worked together on the same issues." Before he retired, the V-22 completed a successful operational evaluation.

After retiring in 2003, he worked with different firms, including Raytheon where he ran the neutral buoyancy lab in Houston and built a coal fire plant in Siberia. In 2006, he began working in various executive positions for Lockheed Martin which later acquired Sikorsky in 2015 when he was asked to lead the company.

"For me it was coming full circle," he said. "Sikorsky has a saying that we pioneer light solutions that bring people home

everywhere, every time, and I don't think anything could equate better to my feelings about Sikorsky than that saying. I've flown a Sikorsky product over thousands of miles, over water, in combat conditions, and I never, ever felt any fear about the aircraft bringing me back home."

He now leads the effort to bring the Corps' next-generation heavy-lift helicopter, the CH-53K King Stallion, to the fleet. It took its first flight in October last year.

"When I was with the Commandant of the Marine Corps and it [the King Stallion] flew over our heads, I couldn't help but think that for the next 30 years, Sikorsky helicopters will be flying just like that first helicopter I saw in that field in Virginia."

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





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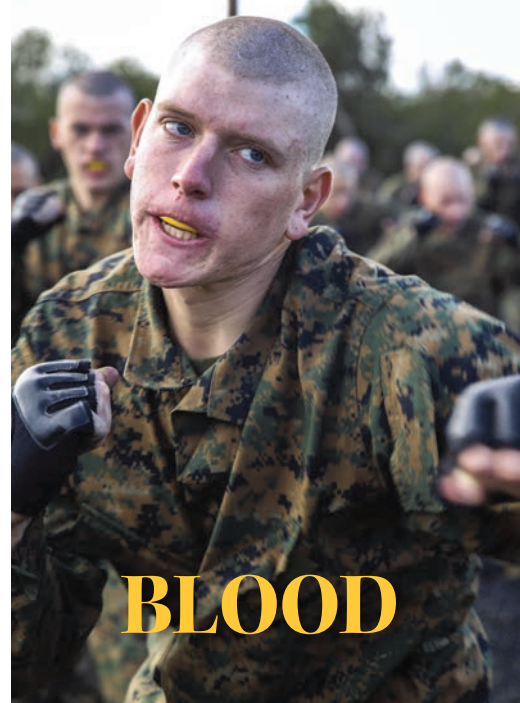
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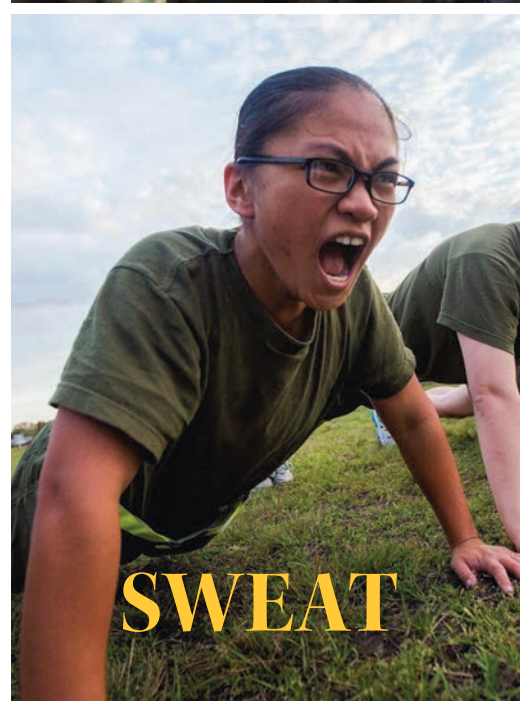
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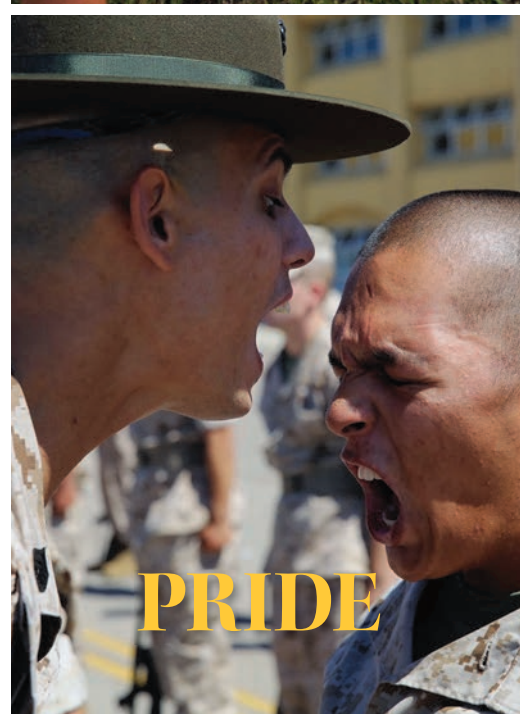
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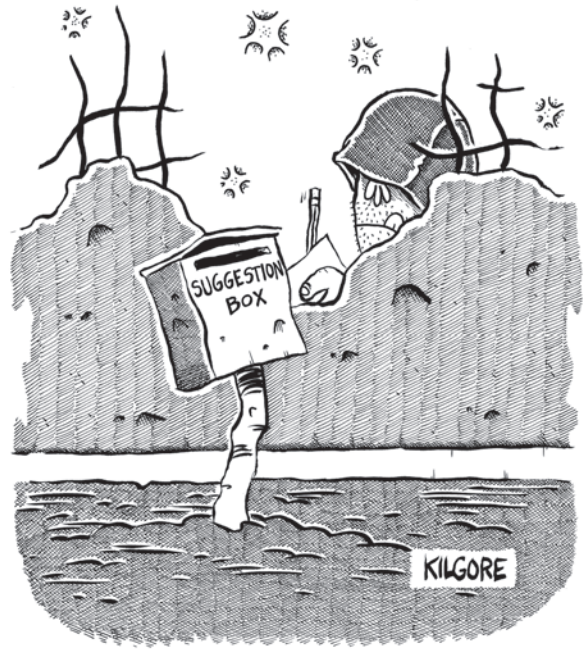
**PRIDE**



# Leatherneck Laffs



"Yeah, I know it's Flag Day."



"You may salute the bride."



# BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout



"It could be any number of causes for his condition.  
Perhaps he lost his voice or broke a mirror  
or a recruit spilled his salt."



"Wipe your feet."



"Well, if that's the way it was,  
why did they need all those other guys?"





# BELLEAU WOOD: 6 DAYS IN JUNE

Story by Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)  
Photos courtesy of the Marine Corps History Division Archives

*"This bitter struggle for a bit of ground smaller than Central Park marked the turning point of this whole war."*

—Col Albertus W. Catlin  
Commanding Officer, 6th Marines  
WIA June 6, 1918

## Moving Up, May 31, 1918

It had been a long, dusty, miserable ride for the 4th Marine Brigade of the 2d Division United States Regular (today's 2d Infantry Division). From an assembly area near Meaux, France, the 5th and 6th Regiments of Marines and their fellows of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion had bounced and rattled along indifferently maintained French country roads for three spine-jolting days in springless *camions*. Their drivers, rather small men from France's colonies in Tonkin and Annam in Indochina, had piloted their transportation as though they were in a hurry to keep their dates with eternity.

Where in the hell were they going? No one seemed to know. What little word coming down from above told only of a massive

German offensive that was pushing the French and British up ahead relentlessly back, threatening to drive a wedge into the Allied line and open the road to Paris.

Where in the hell were the field kitchens, and when was there going to be some chow? No one seemed to know the answer to either of those questions. The few who still had something in their packs used a bayonet or a trench knife to pry open a can of the detested Argentine beef that Marines had long since tagged with the lasting name of "monkey meat" and chewed grimly. Few, if any, cast covetous glances their way; monkey meat was that bad.

## June 2, 1918, The Paris-Metz Road, 30 Miles From Paris

They were butt sprung, dog tired and wolf hungry, and everyone else seemed to be going the other way, French civilians and disorganized batches of French soldiers, now and again casting apprehensive looks over their shoulders. "*Beaucoup Boches la*," some soldiers attempted to communicate what was coming hard on their heels. Others, men completely out on their feet, simply mumbled, "*La guerre est fini*."

The situation was at best confused. No one knew exactly what was up ahead, and with but a bare handful of maps available,





**Left: They were victorious over the Germans, and here the members of the 5th Marines present arms while in formation in France, 1919.**



**Capt Berton W. Sibley**



**Three Marine riflemen rest amid the vegetation of Belleau Wood, France.**

no one had much of an understanding of the layout of the terrain beyond what could be seen. Incoming reports of large numbers of Germans somewhere out in front continued to arrive in abundance. In point of fact, there were elements of five German divisions up there. Despite furious resistance by the exhausted and outnumbered French, they had occupied the towns of Lucy-le-Bocage and Boursches and were using a wooded area shown on the few available French maps as *Bois de Belleau*.

In better days, the *Bois de Belleau* (Wood of Good Water or Belleau Wood) had been the private hunting preserve of a well-to-do French family. In addition to a spring of clear cold water in front of Belleau Wood that gave the woods their name, there was a handsome chateau from which the occupants had long since departed for healthier climes. From the spotty accounts coming in, the Germans were putting the woods to good use as a concealed assembly area from which to reorganize and continue the thrust at Paris.

### **June 3-4, 1918, Les Mares Farm, 2 Miles From Lucy-le-Bocage**

As fast as they arrived, the Marines of Captain Lloyd Williams' 51st Company, 2d Bn, 5th Marines were fed into the line in expectation of just such a German attack. Less than an hour after arriving, Capt Williams received a message from the commander of the French XXI Corps in overall command of that sector, directing all French and American forces to fall back.

Williams, reporting the order to Lieutenant Colonel Frederic





“Fritz” Wise, commanding 2/5, messaged that he had countermanded the order, adding: “Retreat, hell! We just got here!” Lloyd Williams was killed in action less than a week later, but his words have lived as a battle cry. Odd how just a few words can make a man a legend.

All along the line, Marines were scratching out individual positions, positions that would be called foxholes. It was fortunate that they dug in. At daylight, German artillery began pounding the Marine line in preparation for an attack by German infantry that had known nothing but success.

When the barrage lifted, *solid feldgrau* ranks emerged from the woods out in front and began moving forward. They were wary and alert, but they were experienced and confident. For weeks they had driven before them every enemy they had faced.

They were confronted head-on by something that shocked them: aimed, accurate and deadly rifle fire that could kill a man at 500 yards. The Marines along the firing line opposite the German advance were superbly trained in one respect, a skill that has been a Marine Corps trademark over the decades—rifle marksmanship. Long hours on rifle ranges back in America had made them a formidable foe for which the German ranks were totally unprepared.

As more and more among those oncoming ranks fell, the attackers staggered, stumbled and then fell back to regroup and try again. The result was the same deadly rifle fire that sent ever greater numbers of Germans sprawled in the dirt. Masters of

their craft, the Marines employed the Springfield Model 1903 rifle murderously. Sustained, deadly rifle fire that killed men in windrows shook and rattled the confidence of the advancing ranks. Each German attempt to move forward was beaten back. The march on Paris was faltering in a blizzard of well-aimed, concentrated rifle fire.

For two days the Germans threw themselves at that line. Each time, they were shattered by well-aimed rifle fire thrown at them by what a captured German report later would describe as “remarkable marksmen.” Exhausted, the Germans withdrew into the woods to reorganize.

The German thrust at Paris had been stopped in its tracks, but only for the moment. If they were not interfered with, the Germans would use Belleau Wood as a rallying point to reorganize, refit, absorb replacements and reinforcements, then come on again. To permit that would be to disregard one of war’s basic rules: Never allow a beaten enemy to recover. If the success of the past two days was to have any permanent meaning, Belleau Wood would have to be cleared.

#### June 6, 1918, Hill 142 in Front of Belleau Wood

Hill 142 was not a towering Mount Everest, soaring into the clouds. On the handful of French maps that were available, the hill’s elevation showed as 142 meters (465 feet). While that was the hill’s elevation above sea level, in relation to the surrounding





**Above: The open wheat field presents a serene view in marked contrast to the devastation that was to come after the 5th Marines attacked the German lines on June 6, 1918.**

**Left: Maj F.D. Garrett and other officers of the 5th Marines at the head of the convoy en route to the rest camp after the Battle of Belleau Wood.**

north-south. The attack would first have to move down the north slope of Hill 176, cross a wide swale covered with waist-high wheat, then assault Hill 142 with the 49th Co advancing along the east side of the hill, while the 67th attacked in a like manner along the west slope. Daylight came early in those latitudes, and dawn was already beginning to lighten the eastern horizon as the Marines of 1/5 made their final preparations. They would be ready to go at H-hour, 3:45 a.m. All too many of them would not see the sun set on that incredibly confused, scorching hot day.

### **3:45 a.m., June 6, 1918, Hill 142**

In the ranks of the 67th Co, First Sergeant Daniel A. "Pop" Hunter checked the alignment of the company waiting in open order in four ranks, looked at his watch and gave the order to move out. Advancing at a walk, the 67th Co rolled down the north slope of Hill 176 and into the wheat field. Once there the Marine ranks were met by a barrage of machine-gun fire that swept across the forest green lines like wind-driven hail.

Casualties were immediate. Among the first was Pop Hunter. Hard hit, the old veteran of 30 years of service went down, struggled to his feet and started forward once more, only to be hit and knocked down a second time. He fought to his feet again, was hit a third time, fell and lay still.

Pop Hunter was but one among many as the whiplash streams of machine-gun fire flayed the green ranks. Their attack formation, four widely spaced waves, was precisely what they had been taught, and they executed it perfectly. It also was the worst possible way to go up against a dug-in enemy armed with abundant automatic weapons.

Even before reaching the objective of Hill 142, one-third of the 67th Co was down. Half of the company's officers and non-commissioned officers were wounded or dead. The wheat field that had been so serene and peaceful the day before was liberally sprinkled with the still figures of Marines who had answered their last morning roll call.

Marines are quick to adapt, though. After the first vicious raking, those still on their feet quickly went flat on the ground below the hemstitching lines of fire that continued to rip above them, neatly trimming the tops of the almost-ripe wheat. The Marines of the 67th Co hit the deck, but they didn't simply lie there motionless. They were in a foul humor and of a mind to take it out on their tormentors.

Put a Marine through three days of a rump-battering ride in

terrain, the hill rose little more than 60 feet above the wheat fields in front and the woods behind.

That was enough to make Hill 142 a formidable obstacle to any attack into the woods themselves. Attacks into the woods from either side of Hill 142 could be cut to pieces by flanking fire from the hill's eastern and western slopes. Knowing that the Germans had fortified the hill accordingly, meticulously planned interlocking fields of machine-gun fire made venturing out into the open in front of or to either side of Hill 142 a perilous undertaking. Perilous or not, the German defenses on Hill 142 had to be overcome before any attack into Belleau Wood could go forward.

### **3:15 a.m., June 6, 1918, Hill 176**

The mission of eliminating the German defenses on Hill 142 fell to Major Julius Turrill's 1/5. Initially, Maj Turrill would have only two of his companies, Capt George W. Hamilton's 49th and First Lieutenant Orlando C. Crowther's 67th, available. The battalion's other two companies, 17th and 66th, would not arrive until that afternoon. Even though the rifle companies of the Great War were 250-strong, Maj Turrill's diminished battalion would be going up against more than twice its number of veteran German infantry from the 460th Infantry Regiment.

From their position on Hill 176, the Marines of 1/5 could clearly see their objective. Hill 142, slightly lower and directly to the front, was elongated, longer than it was wide, its long axis oriented



a rattletrap truck with a lead-footed driver. Deprive him of practically anything to eat and no more water than the steadily depleting drops in his canteen. Cook him beneath a scorching hot sun each and every day until his tongue feels like a block of wood. Make him measure his sleep in minutes, not hours. What you arrive at is a very unpleasant man, a man it isn't smart to antagonize. You have a man who has had all he intends to put up with, a man looking for someone to take it all out on. If you are that someone, you would be better off locked in a closet with a Rottweiler.

Without any actual order to do so, the Marines of the 67th Co—those who were left—began moving forward. In ones and twos, in the remnants of squads, crawling flat out in order to stay beneath the streams of machine-gun fire only inches above them, they kept moving doggedly forward. Fear, as it sometimes does, had given way to a murderous rage and a single-minded resolve to even the score. A later generation would call this payback.

It was nothing they had learned in training; they had never been trained to fight in such a fashion, but combat has a way of teaching in a hurry. Keep low, hug the ground, work your way forward, close in on each enemy position, then use hand grenades, rifle butts and bayonets to blast, slash and batter, treat the machine-gunners mercilessly.

Slowly at first, then increasingly faster as they became more proficient in the technique, the thinned ranks of the 67th Co began their own thinning of the gray-clad *sturmruppen* who had been having things their own way. One of those *sturmruppen*, Gefreiter (Private First Class) Gunther Hebel, 460th Infantry Regiment, would later write his parents that "My company has been reduced from 120 to only 30 men." Gunther Hebel and his comrades who weren't killed were relentlessly rooted out and driven back.

The attack of the 67th Co was gaining momentum, but there still was a price to be paid. By mid-morning every company officer had been killed or wounded. The 67th Co was led by a handful of corporals and sergeants, along with ordinary privates who rose to the occasion. It's always that way with Marines, isn't it?

On the east slope of Hill 142, things were going much the same way for Capt Hamilton's 49th Co. Tall, broad-shouldered, rugged George Hamilton was fast gaining a reputation as one of the bravest of the brave, a leader who led from in front. It was from the front that he led now, armed with a rifle and bayonet. Before the day was over, George Hamilton would employ that rifle and bayonet fatally four times and collect a Navy Cross for his courageous leadership.

As with the 67th Co, working its way along the west slope, the advance of the 49th Co came with a price tag. Even before reaching Hill 142, all of Capt Hamilton's platoon leaders except 1stLt John W. Thomason, who one day would be heralded as "The Kipling of the Marine Corps," were casualties. A prolific writer in the years after the war, on that scalding June day, Thomason would prove a redoubtable fighter in evicting the Germans from that piece of critical real estate.

Capt Hamilton also benefitted from the presence of Gunnery Sergeant Charles F. Hoffman (an assumed name used by Ernest A. Janson). Spotting a light machine-gun squad working up a shallow ravine to a point where the 49th Co could be taken under flanking fire, Hoffman (Janson), despite being painfully wounded himself, killed two of the squad and sent the remainder running. For his actions, he received the Army Medal of Honor, the first awarded to a member of the American Expeditionary Forces.

By late morning, Hill 142 had been neutralized, but the 49th and 67th companies had been decimated, cut down to less than 50 percent effective. Only two officers, Capt Hamilton and 1stLt



One of the many casualties from Belleau Wood is assisted by his fellow leathernecks. More than 1,000 Marines were killed or wounded on June 6, 1918.



**Marines gather around a German trench mortar captured by 2d Bn, 5th Marines during the Battle of Belleau Wood.**

Thomason, were still on their feet. Hamilton reorganized the remnants of both units into a single provisional company and set up a hasty defense on the north slope of Hill 142. Throughout the afternoon three German counterattacks were driven off. Hill 142, the obstacle to any attack into Belleau Wood, had been eliminated.

**5 p.m., June 6, 1918,  
In Front of Belleau Wood**

With twilight not coming on until 8:30 p.m., it was thought that there would be ample daylight for the seizure of the day's next objectives, Belleau Wood itself and the town of Bouresches on the woods' southeast corner. Events would prove this to be a greatly optimistic assessment. No one knew, but all hands soon would find out, that Belleau Wood was not the neatly tended French wood lot they had seen so many of before. Years of wartime neglect had reverted the woods to a near jungle state, filled with second-growth trees and choked with underbrush that held more than 1,200 veteran troops of Major Gerhard Bischoff's 461st Infantry Regiment who intended to stay there.

Promptly at 5 p.m., the waiting lines of Marines moved out in the attack. The leading assault elements, Maj Benjamin S. Berry's 3/5 and Maj Berton W. Sibley's 3/6, under Col Albertus W. Catlin, commanding 6th Marines, were raked by machine-gun fire that caused one Marine to remember that "the air seemed full of red hot nails." One of the first of many casualties was Col Catlin, struck in the chest by one of those red hot nails that "felt like I had been struck by a sledgehammer." Colonel Catlin survived, but for him, the war was over.

Soon enough, something that had been absent during the morning attack, German mortars and artillery, joined in, splattering the Marine ranks with the cracking explosions of 77 mm "whiz-bangs" and the distinctive "plop" of gas shells. From that point anything that could go wrong did go wrong; the neatly spaced attacking ranks shredded and minced, with units increasingly intermingled, all tangled into a mob, but a mob that was pressing forward. If the morning attack had been confused, the afternoon action became chaotic, and the fight for Belleau Wood devolved into a bare-knuckle brawl, one that even today is all but impossible to untangle.

Only flashing images of that fight come through. There is a quick flash of Marines almost instinctively lunging ahead in squad rushes to deal with the machine-gunners, all but suffocating in gas masks on yet another blistering day. In one of those actions, 6th Marines' Private Martin "Gus" Gulberg never forgot the manner in which "machine-guns were everywhere. ... We had to rush each gun crew in turn. ... It was a furious dash from one to another."

Out of the fog and jumble of that day, there is the brief, clear image of a smallish gunnery sergeant. Daniel Joseph "Dan" Daly was already a two-time recipient of the Medal of Honor. Now he urged the 73d Machine Gun Co, 6th Marines forward with a challenge that has lasted through the ages: "Come on, you sons-of-bitches! Do you want to live forever?"

In the 5th Marines, English-born Marine Gunner Henry Lewis Hulbert, the first Marine to hold that grade, stabbed, shot and blasted his way into the ranks of Gerhard Bischoff's machine-



gunners. He was 51 years old, yet his stamina and endurance were the envy of men young enough to be his sons. He led them now in a rampage that machine-guns, high explosives and gas couldn't stop. For his actions, he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Georgia-born 1stLt Laurence Stallings, a 3/5 platoon leader, hadn't advanced more than 20 yards when a shell fragment ripped open his right leg. Seconds later a hand grenade detonation tore away the knee cap on that same leg. Crawling onward, he used a pistol and grenades to kill every member of a machine-gun crew. Laurence Stallings would lose his leg. He would become a critically acclaimed Broadway playwright and Hollywood scriptwriter whose play and subsequent motion picture "What Price Glory?" are still Marine Corps classics.

In the thickest part of the savage struggle there was a civilian. That was war correspondent Floyd Gibbons of the *Chicago Tribune* who went forward with 3/5. As were fully half of the battalion, Floyd Gibbons was wounded, losing his left eye. His feature article that proclaimed "MARINES TAKE BELLEAU WOOD" was more than a bit premature, but it sent thousands of young men to Marine Corps recruiting stations.

Belleau Wood had not been taken. It had been reached, but it would require nearly the entire month of June to roust the Germans from their defenses in that tangle of trees and undergrowth. On that one day, June 6, 1918, however, more Marines were killed and wounded than in the combined total of all the combat engagements in Marine Corps history to that date.

The 6th of June 1918 marked the beginning of the Marine Corps transformation from a semicolonial constabulary to a vital element of America's armed services, one that can strike anywhere at any time. Can it be said that the Marine Corps of today was born amid "red hot nails," exploding mortar and artillery shells and clouds of poison gas on a June day almost 100 years ago? Yes, it can and it was.

*Author's bio: Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, a Leatherneck contributing editor, is a former enlisted Marine who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars as well as on an exchange tour with the French Foreign Legion. Later in his career, he was an instructor at Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.*







COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

# A Foundation for Success

## Tim Day's Support of the Corps Stems From His Pivotal Marine Experience

By Sara W. Bock

*Marine veteran Timothy T. Day, whose foundation generously supports not only the Marine Corps Association & Foundation's Commanders' Forum Program, but also a wide variety of other programs and organizations that positively impact the Corps, spoke with Leatherneck's Sara W. Bock for an exclusive interview, during which he shared how his experiences as a Marine officer set him up for success and why it's important to him to give back to Marines.*

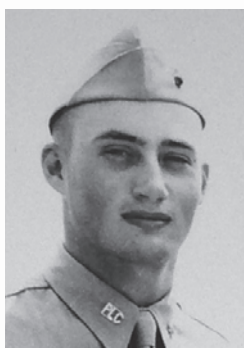
When Captain Tim Day separated from active duty in 1962, he may have thought that his service to the Marine Corps had come to an end.

In a way it had, but while that chapter of his life was over and he would no longer don the uniform, his unwavering dedication to supporting his fellow Marines had only just begun.

For Day, whose three years as a Marine officer propelled him toward an MBA from Harvard Business School and an extraordinarily successful career as an entrepreneur, giving back to the Corps is an integral part of his identity. After all, he says, that's where it all began.

"The Marine Corps had an enormous impact on my core values, my personal traits and my character," said Day, the founder and former CEO of Bar-S Foods Co., a Phoenix, Ariz.-based meat processing company, where he today remains involved as chairman of the board. "That influence still guides my actions even to this day."

From that influence stems an exemplary level of loyalty to the Corps, and the Timothy T. Day Foundation, run by Day and his wife, Sandy, is primarily dedicated to Marines and to programs and organizations that directly support Marines—particularly through education. As one of the Corps' most generous benefactors, he has received recognitions



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

Timothy T. Day, PLC



**There was something about Marines that made him aspire to join their ranks. Every Marine he knew during his adolescent years was sharp, squared-away, physically and mentally fit, decisive and action-oriented.**



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

that include the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's John A. Lejeune Award for Exemplary Leadership; the Semper Fidelis Award from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation; and the Marine Corps Association Foundation's Chesty Puller Award.

After only a few minutes of chatting with Day, it's more than evident that he doesn't provide monetary support in a quest for social prestige or recognition, but because he truly believes in the transformative power of the Marine Corps experience.

For as long as he can remember, Day felt drawn to the Marine Corps. Maybe it was the uniforms or the recruiting posters, he said—or perhaps the long history of valor. There was something about Marines that made him aspire to join their ranks. Every Marine he knew during his adolescent years was sharp, squared-away, physically and mentally fit, decisive and action-oriented.

"They stood tall. They were self-confident. They were fiercely proud, and I wanted to possess those qualities," Day said.

Midway through his freshman year at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., Day returned to his family's home in Brooklyn, N.Y., for Christmas. Having reached the age of 18, he was now eligible to attend a Yuletide Ball, which he described as the premier social event in Brooklyn at the time. Decked out in evening clothes and acting as an escort for a young debutante, Day was feeling pretty distinguished and proud of himself until a young Marine lieutenant entered the room



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

in his dress blues and a hush fell over the crowd.

"He stood out from all of the other people—hundreds of other men in that room. He was someone with a clear and serious purpose—a leader and a warrior. That made a huge impression on me, and I had a self-deflating moment when I looked at him and I realized that I was still just a kid. ... While I had always wanted to be a Marine, that evening sort of crystallized my determination—now I knew for sure that I wanted to be a Marine officer," Day said.

**Above: From the left, BGen (sel) Frank Donovan; BGen George Smith; BGen Steve Sklenka; Tim Day; Ranjay Gulati, chair of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School; BGen Kevin Killea; Col William Bowers; and BGen (sel) Robert Sofge together at the Evening Parade at Marine Barracks Washington, Aug. 22, 2014. All six active-duty officers are past recipients of the Day Foundation's Executive Education Fellowship.**

**Left: Pictured here in 1960, Day wears his dress blues proudly. His experiences as an artillery officer in the Marine Corps taught him valuable lessons that he continues to carry with him today.**





COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

**Above: In 1975, Day was named president of Cudahy Company, a subsidiary of General Host. He later would lead a buyout of Cudahy and become the founder of Bar-S Foods.**

His ambition and determination paid off.

Several months later, in 1956, Day signed up to attend the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) at Marine Corps Officer Candidates School. By 1959, he had completed two summers at OCS; graduated from Wesleyan, where he had majored in mathematics; was commissioned as a second lieutenant; and found himself at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to attend The Basic School. There, he was strongly encouraged to become an artillery officer, because in those days, all calculations were done by hand, making a mathematician like him perfect for the job. Besides, he liked the idea of having lots of opportunities to fire live rounds. After completing artillery school, he was assigned to MCB Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he became the commander of 1st Gun Platoon, "Charlie" Battery, a 155 mm howitzer battery.

He recalled spending nearly 24 hours a day with his Marines, and that type of "close-quarters leadership" had a significant impact on him. After about a year, he was assigned as the executive officer of the battery, a billet above his rank, based on his platoon's high performance. The battery's commander, Major Charles A. Webster, proved to be an important mentor in then-First Lieutenant Day's life, and the opportunity to help the major run the battery gave Day a glimpse of his future.

"That was a great experience in building up my self-confidence and belief that I had a bright future, not only in the Marine Corps, but whatever path I chose to pursue," Day said of his tour at Twentynine Palms.

The path he eventually took led him away from the Corps and into the civilian sector in 1962. He was ready to face his next challenge: Harvard Business School, where he earned his MBA in 1964.

"My Marine Corps training really helped prepare me to take on Harvard Business School," said Day. He entered the highly esteemed MBA program with confidence and a commitment to excellence, and relied on the hard work and perseverance the Corps had inculcated in him. Those traits were the cornerstone of his eventual success.

Day began his professional career in New York, working in finance for Trans World Airlines, and in 1968, he joined General Host, where he eventually was named executive vice president, as well as president of the corporation's largest subsidiary, Cudahy Co., in Phoenix.

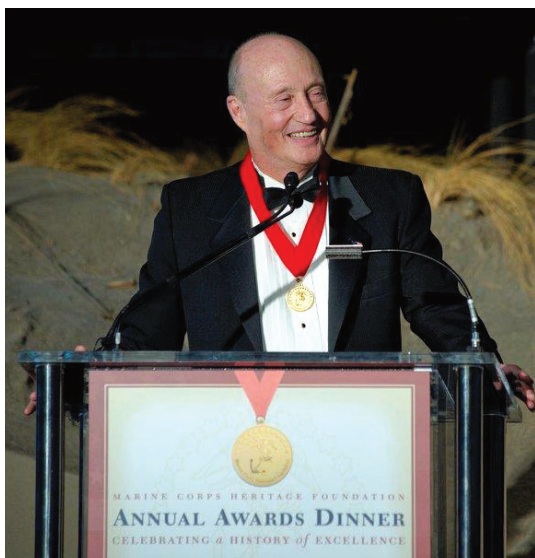
In 1981, Day led a "management-leveraged buy-out" of General Host's processed meat operations and founded Bar-S Foods Co., a new company in which he was able to establish his own style of leadership and organizational culture. The endeavor of building a new entity from the "ground up" was arduous, but again, Day credits the Marine Corps

**The Timothy T. Day Overlook, located in the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park on the grounds of the Marine Corps Heritage Center in Triangle, Va., was formally dedicated on March 27, 2015. The overlook allows visitors to view the beauty of the museum and chapel from an elevated location.**



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY





COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

with setting him up for success and giving him a level of leadership training that he considers to be unparalleled in the civilian world.

“I think the training that Marines have, the mental and physical toughness, the willingness to persevere in the face of great adversity ... and the commitment to excel are vital to the entrepreneurial process,” Day said.

Not only did his Marine Corps training prepare him for the difficulties he initially faced in leading a “start-up” like Bar-S, but it also gave Day an understanding of the importance of esprit de corps. He worked hard, he said, to build a strong culture within the company that would endure even the most challenging of times.

In 2010, after nearly three decades of successful leadership during which time Bar-S developed into a premier company and value leader in the meat processing industry, Day sold his company to a major international food corporation, but agreed to stay on for two years as CEO. He wanted to protect his legacy and those who had worked for him and, at the same time, help the newly formed enterprise continue down a path of prosperity. As a result, he was able to effectively integrate the two organizations and ensure that the merger wouldn’t destroy the great business he had built. Today, he continues to serve as chairman of the board of what now is known as Bar-S Foods—a Sigma company.

The sale of Bar-S allowed Day and Sandy to devote their time and energy to growing the Timothy T. Day Foundation, which they had established as a conduit to share their success. They quickly decided that they wanted their foundation to have a very narrow focus and support the two groups that are most meaningful to them. First, the Marine Corps, and secondly, the animal rescue community.

All four of Day’s adult children, Eric Gleason, Leslie Pellillo, Timothy T. Day Jr. and Bryan Day,



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

serve on the foundation’s board of directors.

Day became a founder of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation in 2002. He was drawn to the conceptualization of the Marine Corps Heritage Center, which would be made up of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. At the time, it was just a vision. He knew it was an important endeavor, he said, but it turned out to be far more significant than even he could have imagined. As he watched the vision unfold, he said, his foundation increased its contributions.

Today, the Timothy T. Day Foundation is the largest financial backer of the museum, having funded the Tarawa exhibit in the main gallery and the construction of the Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel. He committed \$12 million to create the Timothy T. Day Overlook at the Heritage Center, as well as help fund the museum’s current expansion project. It’s something Day is intensely proud to have aligned himself with, for more reasons than one.

“It’s a great museum, and it clearly has an enormous impact on Marines—and celebrates our long history and heritage in a very professional and world-class manner. Perhaps equally important, I think it also presents to the young people who may be considering service, an impressive visualization of the contributions the Marine Corps has made to this nation,” Day said.

But his charitable disposition toward the Corps has not been limited to the museum. In 2005, Day devised a way to support Marines and to help his alma mater, Harvard Business School, at the same time. He set up the Timothy T. Day Marine Corps Entrepreneur Fellowship, which provides financial support to highly qualified Marine officers, particularly those who have served in combat zones, who have left active-duty service to pursue an MBA at Harvard.

“Entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of the U.S.

**Above left: Tim Day addresses the crowd at the 2012 Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Awards ceremony after being presented with the John A. Lejeune Award for Exemplary Leadership. The opportunity to speak to Marines is something that he particularly enjoys.**

**Above right: During the Dec. 6, 2014, private dedication ceremony for the Timothy T. Day Overlook, Day shared some inspirational words with the attendees inside the Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.**

**“I think the training that Marines have, the mental and physical toughness, the willingness to persevere in the face of great adversity ... and the commitment to excel are vital to the entrepreneurial process.”**



**Day decided early on that he didn't want to merely provide the funds for their education. He also wanted to offer his guidance and mentorship to each of them individually.**



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY T. DAY

**Tim Day, center, reunites with some of the Harvard Business School Entrepreneur Fellowship recipients at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Phoenix, Ariz., in November 2011.**

economy,” Day said, adding that he believes that Marines have a propensity for the qualities that are crucial for success in business.

During the first year of his fellowship program, Captain Sarah Ford was selected as the recipient followed the next year by Capt Nathaniel Fick, author of “One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer.” Day decided early on that he didn’t want to merely provide the funds for their education. He also wanted to offer his guidance and mentorship to each of them individually.

And it was during a brainstorming session with Marine entrepreneur fellows that a new idea was developed: to create another fellowship at Harvard Business School, one that would send active-duty Marine officers to attend the Advanced Management Program, an intensive eight-week course designed for senior executives.

He convinced Harvard Business School to hold one seat per class, which is made up of about 180 students, for a senior Marine officer—a colonel or brigadier general—who could meet the level of intellect and experience of the other executives in attendance.

Next, Day went to see General James F. Amos, then-Commandant of the Marine Corps, and asked him if he would be interested in sending officers to take part in the program.

“He came back very quickly and said, ‘We’re in,’ ” recalled Day of Gen Amos’ enthusiastic response.

The Timothy T. Day Executive Education Fellowship was born in 2011, and Lieutenant Colonel

Robert Sofge was selected as its first recipient.

“Initially I was worried, the Marine Corps was worried, and Harvard was worried—how were these Marine officers going to perform at this school? They obviously would not be experienced in reading P&Ls [profit and loss reports] and balance sheets, or preparing marketing plans,” Day said. “How are they going to function in this environment, which was really designed to build global leaders?” he recalled thinking to himself.

“Our concerns were unwarranted,” Day said, because the Marines who have received the fellowship and graduated from the Advanced Management Program have done exceptionally well. Several of them have been selected as the honor student and have given the graduation speech at the end of the program.

By 2013, Gen Amos and his wife, Bonnie, had been invited to go speak at the program—not once, but twice. The 35th Commandant developed such a positive relationship with Harvard Business School that they approached him about sending two Marines rather than one per eight-week class, which are held twice annually.

Without hesitation, Day stepped in and offered to provide the funds to make it happen. And his MBA fellowship program also has expanded to two recipients per year. To date there have been 15 Entrepreneur Fellowship recipients and 16 Executive Education Fellowship recipients, and they regularly reunite and spend time with Tim and Sandy at their homes in Arizona, California and Wyoming.



"We're very, very humbled and proud to be associated with these Marines," Day said of the fellowship program and of its recipients, who over the years have become like family to him and to each other. In fact, as the fellowship group has expanded, both current and former recipients have affectionately nicknamed themselves "the Tribe."

In 2012, the Day Foundation established the Day Scholars Program in partnership with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. The program not only provides its recipients—high-potential high school students who are children of Marines and have a military interest—with financial aid, but also with mentorship, which is a practice that Day clearly values.

He also has supported the Marine Corps University Foundation for a number of years and, most recently, worked with one of his Executive Education Fellowship recipients, Colonel Frank Donovan, the director of Expeditionary Warfare School, to implement the case method of instruction, pioneered by Harvard Business School, into the curriculum of the 40-week resident course for company-grade Marine Air-Ground Task Force officers. The concept is to present students with a case study of actual events and allow them to make decisions, exchange ideas and devise a course of action as a sound method to teach leadership. The case method has been so successful at EWS, Day said, that it now is being considered for other Marine Corps educational programs as well.

With a passion for helping provide education for active-duty Marines, Day began supporting the Marine Corps Association Foundation's Commanders' Forum Program in 2015. Based on the belief that studying the Corps' heritage and history helps Marines grow as tactical decision makers and leaders, the program funds battlefield studies and guest speakers for Marine units.

Another Marine Corps-related organization that Day's foundation is involved in is the Semper Fi Fund.

"Marines were just starting to come back from Iraq and it was heartbreaking," Day said, recalling the early 2000s when he first partnered with the fund. "We felt we had to find a way to help."

He and Sandy came up with the perfect idea—one that would combine their passion for both Marines and animals. The Tim and Sandy Day Canine Companion Program was born, and it provides service dogs for those servicemembers whose lives have been forever changed due to combat wounds.

"We believe having a loving dog, a dog that will give you unconditional love and will be with you at all times, is part of the healing process," Day said.

Whether he's supporting wounded warriors or funding vital educational opportunities, one thing is clear: he genuinely cares about the well-being of the individual Marine. And for those who serve for a few years and then move on to other things, just as he did, he has a few words of advice.

The first is to take advantage of benefits like the GI Bill that will help them further their education



**MajGen Edward G. Usher III, USMC (Ret), left, the president and CEO of MCA&F, presents Tim Day with the Chesty Puller Award in recognition of his foundation's support of initiatives like the Commanders' Forum Program. The presentation took place during MCA&F's Marine Week Phoenix Luncheon at the Arizona Country Club, Sept. 11, 2015.**

and meet their career goals. He advises them to have a written plan with clear objectives and a list of "action steps" that will help them meet those objectives. Then, they should look for Marines who have some sort of experience in the field that they're interested in and take advantage of the power of networking.

"Marines are always willing to support each other," he said, adding that with that support, one should move forward with commitment and determination which he believes is built into the Marine personality.

It was during his time in the Marine Corps that Tim Day learned the importance of what he calls "visible leadership." Leading from the front, leading by example, he says, and gaining people's confidence, trust, respect and commitment can have an enormous impact on any organization's performance.

From platoon commander to CEO to philanthropist, Tim Day is living proof that you don't have to be a "career Marine" to leave a lasting legacy. Once a Marine, always a Marine.

**From the left, Gen James F. Amos, the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Bonnie Amos, Sandy Day and Tim Day visit with each other during the 2012 Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Awards Ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps where Day was presented with the John A. Lejeune Award for Exemplary Leadership.**





# We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



SGT ERIC KEENAN, USMC

Col Ossen J. D'Haiti, CO, MCCYWG, speaks to the audience during the new cyberspace warfare unit's activation of command ceremony at Fort George G. Meade, Md., March 25.

## Corps Enters New Realm of Warfare With Activation of Cyberspace Unit

■ A new unit will help bring the Marine Corps into the realm of cyberspace warfare, which is crucial for the defense of its networks and communications. The Marine Corps Cyberspace Warfare Group (MCCYWG) held an activation of command ceremony at Fort George G. Meade, Md., March 25.

MCCYWG's mission is to man, train and equip Marine cyberspace mission teams to perform both defensive and offensive cyber operations in support of United States Cyber Command and Marine Forces Cyberspace Command.

"We've always had the means to communicate and the means to protect that communication, but today we're in an environment where those methods are more and more reliant on a system of transmissions, routers and networks," said Colonel Ossen J. D'Haiti, the commanding officer of MCCYWG. "So the ability to protect that, the ability to control that and deny an adversary to interdict that is crucial to command and control."

Cyberspace is defined as the notional

environment in which communication over computer networks occurs. In current years, everything from e-mail to information storage and banking is online and a target for hackers. MCCYWG will act as the Marine Corps' firewall to prevent this from happening.

"[Cyberspace operations] ensure that our systems are secure to stop hackers from getting into our systems where our personal identifiable information and everything else is stored, while the offensive side is what we can do to hinder an enemy," said Sergeant Brian Mueller, a digital network exploitation analyst with MCCYWG.

While MCCYWG is now active, only a few Marine cyberspace mission teams are currently up and running. The unit is expected to be fully operational in fiscal year 2017.

"We're still evolving, but I think five years from now, as the Marine Corps comes online and understands more and more what is happening in this space, the Cyberspace Warfare Group will look much different than it does today," said D'Haiti.

Sgt Eric Keenan, USMC

## Maintenance Battalion Explores 3-D Printing Capabilities

■ The Marines of 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, First Marine Logistics Group demonstrated the potential of 3-D printing capabilities to the commanding generals and staffs of I Marine Expeditionary Force and 1st MLG at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 6.

The battalion's Marines are still in the "testing phase" with the printers but have already discovered endless possibilities as to how they can integrate the technology into their mission.

"The expeditionary manufacturing facility is capable of taking a broken item, generating a 3-D scan into a computer-animated design, and sending that to a 3-D printer to print out a replica part," said Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Pace, the commanding officer of 1st Maint Bn. "The program is designed to be able to take a manufacturing capability and place it as far forward on the battlefield as possible."

All the tools, computers, software and printers necessary to examine a part, create a computer-animated design and construct a plastic replica are contained in a small shipping container-like space called the expeditionary manufacturing facility.

"In some cases the components we are trying to replace are plastic, so we can go right from the 3-D printer to a test for fit, form and function, then right into application," said Pace.

These plastic parts don't have the strength to replace certain metal parts, but will be able to serve as an example for the Marines in the metal shop to fabricate the part, explained Pace.

"There are a lot of different ways the Marine Corps could use a 3-D printer and the software to save money and time," said Corporal Samuel Stonestreet, a ground radio repairman. "Once you input the measurements, it only takes a few hours for the machine to fabricate the part."

Stonestreet is one of several Marines exploring the possibilities of 3-D printing in military applications. Replacement parts sometimes take several weeks or months to be received, and 3-D printing may hold the key to keeping fragile gear running.

"It's the instantaneous nature of being





CPL CARSON GRAMLEY, USMC

able to print things on your premises,” said Pace. “If we can reduce a 100-day lead time down to one day because we have the capacity to print the replacement part, I think we are doing a significant increase to MEF readiness.”

Although this technology may still be in the testing stages, the tests have proven that 3-D printing could be a useful asset for the Marine Corps both in garrison and deployed environments.

“I think it’s very important for the Marine Corps and the Department of Defense as a whole to look into this and see how we can implement it into missions and the big picture of things,” said Stonestreet.

Pace explained that if 3-D printing is determined to be effective and cost efficient, units throughout the Marine Corps could expect to see more of this technology in their daily operations.

Cpl Carson Gramley, USMC

**LtGen David H. Berger, the commanding general of I MEF, and other senior leaders receive a capabilities demonstration on 3-D printing technology at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 6.**

## Iraq, Afghanistan Vets Reunite, Honor the Fallen

■ Veterans from 1st Battalion, Second Marine Regiment honored the unit’s fallen Marines from its 2007 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and its 2010 Operation Enduring Freedom deployment during a memorial service held at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 9.

The ceremony, held at the battalion’s headquarters building, also served as a reunion for 1/2 Marines.

“We’ve lost close to 20 Marines from the battalion to suicide after the deployment, so we thought it was long overdue to get together to reach out to each other and put a lifeline out to all of us to say, ‘Hey, you’re not forgotten. There’s always somebody here that you can reach out to,’” said Colonel Michael A. Manning, former commanding officer of 1/2.

Approximately 80 veterans attended the memorial service and a dinner that was held afterward at the Camp Lejeune Officers’ Club. For most of the Marines, it had been years since seeing their brothers.

“Looking at the crowd, there are people shedding tears. There’s also people who are happy to see their brothers, to reach out to some old faces that many haven’t seen in six years,” Manning said.

“Once they started planning the reunion, there haven’t really been any more issues with suicides,” said Melanie Piedra,



CPL CARSON GRAMLEY, USMC

**Replacement parts that were created using 3-D printing technology are displayed next to original parts to show their accuracy during a 3-D printing demonstration conducted by Marines from 1st Maint Bn, CLR-15, 1st MLG, April 6.**





CPL MELODIE SNARR, USMC

**From the left: David Hudson, Lance Ronevich and Matthew Strong, veterans of 1/2, along with their families and other unit veterans, tour the Helmand conference room in the 1/2 headquarters building at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 9.**

a military and veteran program coordinator for Hope for the Warriors, the non-profit organization that planned the event.

“Being here on Camp Lejeune was the perfect opportunity to just step in, take over the planning process, provide liaison in the area, and coordinate with the families to get them here,” Piedra said. “As a non-profit, we also have a lot of connections with other nonprofits. We were able to reach out and see who would be able to

offer support for these families and the servicemembers coming in.”

The “Helmand” conference room in the 1/2 headquarters building was dedicated in honor of the unit’s 2010 and 2014 deployments to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant George Eberdt, Sergeant Jordan Malone and Corporal Christopher Pineault worked to put together the rooms in time for the event.

“I’ve been here since 2009. ... I knew

everybody in the pictures,” said Malone. “It’s something I think is very important.”

The veterans toured the conference room after the ceremony to reflect on their deployments and remember fallen comrades.

“One of the biggest things to me is your senior leadership. If something that I teach doesn’t get taught, it dies there. I think it’s the same thing with history. If no one is aware of the Iraq deployment, the 2010 deployment or any of our deployments, that history just ends there. I thought having a room dedicated to those warfighters is something that’s going to go in the record books,” Malone said.

Besides being a day of remembrance for the veterans in attendance, it was a day for old wounds to heal and new connections to be made.

“For Marines who are physically wounded, it’s very hard to see the emotional scars that every one of us carries,” Col Manning said. “When we’re in a group that we know, that we served together, it’s much easier to open up. It’s easier to talk.”

Cpl Melodie Snarr, USMC

## **Aircraft Rescue Firefighters Train to Keep MCAS Futenma Safe**

■ “Bunker drill!” In response to the alert, four Marines spring into action, donning their flame-retardant uniforms. They race to put their helmets on as a Marine yells, “20 seconds,” amidst the chaos. One by one, they climb aboard a



CPL JANELSA PON, USMC

**ARFF Marines extinguish a fuel fire in a training pit at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, March 24, a week prior to their flightline firefighting training. The unit’s realistic training provides an opportunity to improve vital teamwork and communication skills.**



fire truck and they each slap their hands on the dashboard, signaling that they are ready to go.

Readiness is paramount for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Marines with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan. And being ready requires constant practice, which is the reason for the flight line firefighting training they conducted at the air station April 1.

“An aircraft can become fully engulfed in less than a minute, so every second we take to get ready is another second that someone else might lose,” said Lance Corporal Rodrigo Cruzvera, an ARFF Marine with H&HS. “So, it is important to respond as quickly as possible to ensure that we can get as many people out as possible.”

Gunnery Sergeant Uriah J. Gruber, the ARFF training chief with H&HS, is one of the primary senior leaders who ensure that ARFF H&HS is “ready to roll.” Throughout the training, he drilled his Marines about different aircraft parts, firefighting tools, and how to respond to various emergency situations.

Because the threat of fire never goes away, teams of Marines must rotate in 24- and 48-hour shifts to ensure someone always is on call. The teams become close-knit because they spend so much time together.

“It’s a family,” said Gruber, a native of San Jose, Calif. “When you see [us] off duty, we don’t split to the winds. We do everything together.”

The Marines share Gruber’s perspective.

“I love the camaraderie you feel—not only as Marines, but as firefighters,” said Cruzvera. “You build a whole different level of camaraderie amongst your fellow Marines and firefighters that you just don’t see in many other units and many other shops.”

For this unit, continuous training helps build camaraderie. At 0600, as soon as shifts rotate and new ARFF Marines arrive at work, they inspect their building and fire trucks. The inspection assures the water pumps engage, the trucks’ water and air pressure level is correct, and all rescue tools are in working order. Soon after, the Marines move on to more training exercises, such as the flight line fire drill.

“Training is a big part of our job,”

Cruzvera said. “It is important that we train every day to be the best possible firefighters and Marines that we can be because, in the event of an emergency, we are the thin line between life and death.”

Besides the obvious danger of fire, they face exposure to harmful chemicals when rescuing people from aircraft. Okinawa also experiences a large amount of rainfall, which can cause difficulty with dry gear contributing to steam burns.

Before earning ARFF certification, Marines have to go through medical screenings to ensure they are physically able to perform their duties. Their health, particularly the condition of their hearts and lungs, along with previous medical history, are taken into account. After gaining medical clearance, they take their first step toward becoming ARFF Marines by attending a formal ARFF school where they learn firefighting techniques and basic life-saving skills. Once they reach the operating forces, they continue training hard to achieve common goals.

LCpl Kelsey Dornfeld, USMC



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



CPL LUNIQUE B. ROBERTS, USMC

**“The itty-bitsy spider came out the water spout.  
Out came my M1 Power Washer and drowned the spider out!”**

**Submitted by  
Capt David Morell, USMC  
Oceanside, Calif.**

### This Month's Photo



CPL KHALIL ROSS, USMC

(Caption) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Marine Dads

Compiled by Nancy Lee White Hoffman

In the March issue of *Leatherneck*, we asked readers to send in their photos of Marine dads for a photo spread in our June issue in honor of Father's Day. The response was great! Due to space constraints, we regret that we are unable to publish all the photos we received; however, additional photos may be viewed on *Leatherneck's* Facebook page, Facebook.com/MarineCorpsAssociation. Thank you to those who submitted their special photos, and Happy Father's Day to all Marine dads.



SHAWNAN SEELMANN

**Maj William Seelmann Jr. and his newly graduated "devil pup," PFC William Seelmann III, MCRD San Diego, Calif., Nov. 22, 2014.**



PHOTO BY MARY WHEATON COURTESY OF CAPT RALPH L. WHEATON, USMC (RET)

**Promoted from gunnery sergeant to second lieutenant earlier in the field, June 4, 1974, Ralph L. "Buck" Wheaton later has his children, Michelle and Ralph Jr., "pin on" his "butter bars."**



COURTESY OF PATRICK J. SENFT

**Cpl Patrick J. Senft (USMCR, 1998-2002) and his father, Cpl Robert J. Senft (USMCR, 1959-63), have their photo taken with Gen Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., 1999.**



JACKIE DIXON

**Maj David Dixon said his 1-month-old daughter, Juliette, "was captivated" as he described how the Marines raised the two flags on Iwo Jima.**



CHASING DRAGONEYES PHOTOGRAPHY

**Maj Rob Shearer greets his daughters after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014.**





REBEKAH LOGAN

Maj John Logan and his daughter, Emmalyn, celebrate her second birthday with a tea party in their Hampstead, N.C., backyard.



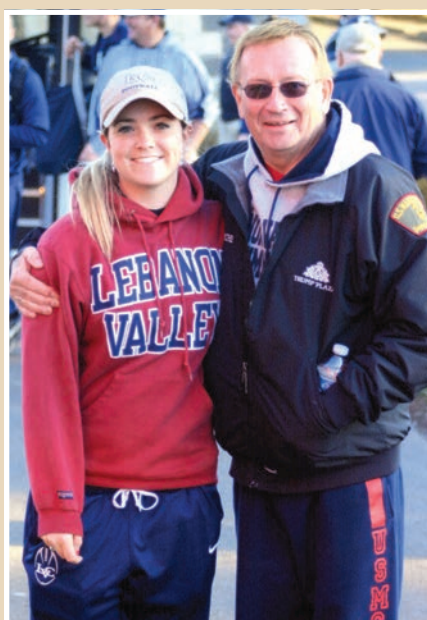
COURTESY OF CHRISTINA NOLL TUJASOSPO

1stSgt Myron Noll and daughter, Christina, at a Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Primm, Nev., 1999.



SANDRA OHLEGER

Maj Michael Ohleger and son, Jake, at the Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Va., May 2010.



COURTESY OF HERSCHEL ROBINSON

Herschel Robinson (USMC, 1969-71) is his daughter Charlie's "biggest fan."



MONICA TURNER

Ten-year-old Morgan McWilliams is elated to see her father, LtCol Michael E. McWilliams, in 2011 after his fourth deployment since her birth.



Above left: MSgt Michael W. "Mike" Best with 8-year-old son Tony at a 2002 Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Above right: Father and son attend Tony's first Birthday Ball as a Marine private 10 years later. Today, Mike is retired and Tony is a corporal. (Photos by Cindy Best)





CHRISTINA GREGSON

**Capt Nicholas Gregson and daughter MacKenzie practice their dance steps before leaving for the father-daughter dance at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 7, 2015.**



COURTESY OF CAPT E.A. MANTHEY, USMC (RET)

**Pvt Hunter Manthey is flanked by his grandfather, Capt E.A. "Slim" Manthey, USMC (Ret), left, and his father, former Sgt Erlynn A. "Cisco" Manthey, after recently graduating from Parris Island.**



COURTESY OF NAOMI KAZMAR

**GySgt Jonathon McClary with 5-year-old daughter Madison and 1stSgt Dustin Kazmar with 6-year-old daughter Ayla at a father-daughter dance, Camp Lejeune, 2012.**



**Above left: Sgt Luis Alers, a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, and daughter Delillah on the parade deck after Platoon 1016 graduated in 1988. Above right: LCpl D.M. Alers and retired GySgt Alers at Camp Lejeune, 20 years later. (Photos courtesy of GySgt Luis J. Alers-Dejesus, USMC (Ret))**

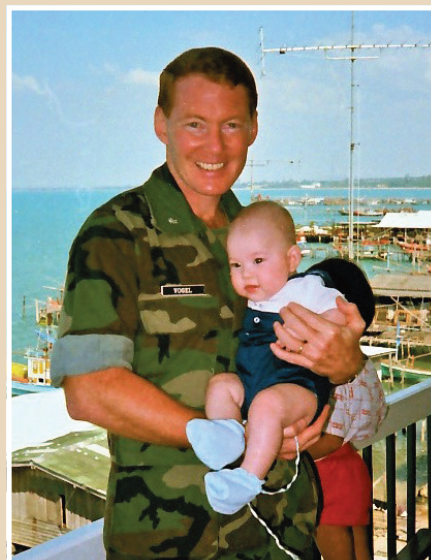


PHOTO BY DONSIRI VOGEL COURTESY OF COL FREDERICK J. "FRED" VOGEL, USMCR (RET)

**LtCol Fred Vogel and his daughter, "Gift," in BaanChang, Thailand, mid-1980s. He was the JUSMAGTHAI liaison officer.**





COURTESY OF CHRISTINA HERSCHELMAN

LtCol Philip Herschelman and children, Caroline, Owen, Hudson and Flynn, at Reagan National Airport before his one-year unaccompanied tour to Korea in 2015.



COURTESY OF THE JACKSON FAMILY

Pvt Chris Jackson and his dad, Lucius "Lu" Jackson III, on graduation day at MCRD San Diego, Sept. 22, 2015.



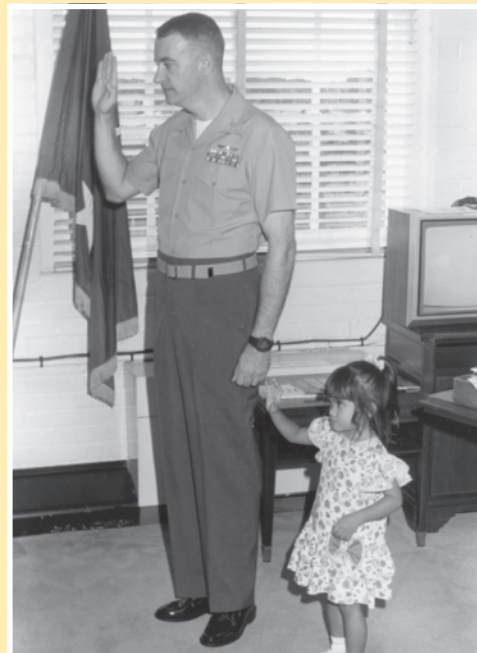
COURTESY OF MGySgt ANDREW J. RIGGLE SR., USMC (RET)

MGySgt Andrew J. Riggle Sr., USMC (Ret) and grandsons, Andrew III and Nolan, at a Veterans Day program, Hawthorn Elementary School, St. Peters, Mo., 2015.



HELEN KRUDWIG

Larry Krudwig, (USMC, 1961-65), far left, and his oldest son, David, far right, at David's 1992 graduation from MCRD San Diego. David was in the same company, battalion and series as his dad and graduated 31 years to the day after his dad. They are each standing next to their senior DIs, MSgt Charles N. Soltysiak, USMC (Ret) and Sgt O.H. Arbelaez.



COURTESY OF LTCOL RICHARD K. REAGER, USMC (RET)

LtCol Richard K. "Rich" Reager is joined by 2½-year-old daughter Jenny at his promotion ceremony, HQMC, Arlington, Va., May 1990.



1SGT TRAVIS HOWARD, USMC

Retired 1stSgt LeRoy Strong pins on son Seth Strong's corporal chevrons, Dec. 1, 2015, at 2d Radio Battalion, Camp Lejeune. Another member of the family, 1stSgt Strong's stepson, Aaron Yates (not pictured), is a lance corporal stationed at 1st Radio Bn, Camp Pendleton, Calif.



COURTESY OF CHARLES M. METZGER

Sgt Charles M. Metzger, a Vietnam veteran from Taunton, Mass., right, attends the promotion ceremony of his son, 1stSgt Michael B. Metzger, at 2d MEB Headquarters, Camp Lejeune, Jan. 8, 2016.



Marines from 1st Bn, 4th Marines, and soldiers from 1st Bn, 5th Cavalry and 2d Bn, 7th Cavalry had to fight their way through Wadi al-Salaam cemetery, the largest Muslim burial ground in the world.



# TASK UNIT RAIDER

## In the Battle for the City of the Dead

Part I  
By Dick Camp

In late July 2004, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable (MEU (SOC)), composed of 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment; Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 167 and MEU Service Support Group (MSSG) 11, assumed responsibility for An-Najaf, located 100 miles due south of Baghdad. The city was the center of Shia political power in Iraq and the site of the Imam Ali Mosque, one of the most holy Shiite shrines in the Middle East.

Within days after assuming control

of the area, the MEU was involved in a no-holds-barred slugfest with the Mahdi Militia, fanatical supporters of the anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. The three-week battle started in the Wadi al-Salaam (Valley of Peace) cemetery, the largest Muslim burial ground in the world, which was described by one Marine as “a New Orleans cemetery on steroids.”

The fighting intensified as thousands of Mahdi Militia infiltrated the cemetery and poured into the city. Multi-National Force Iraq, the military higher headquarters for the country, ordered reinforcements to assist the embattled Marines: two U.S. Army mechanized battalions, 1st Bn, 5th

Cavalry (1-5th Cav) and 2-7th Cav; 1st Bn, 227th Aviation Regiment (1-227th AV); sniper contingents from the 1st Bn, 5th Special Forces Group, Naval Special Warfare SEAL Team Two, Polish *Grupa Reagowania Operacyjno Mobilnego* (GROM); and Marine Corps Special Operations Command Detachment One (MCSOCOM Det One).

### Marine Corps Special Operations Command Detachment One

MCSOCOM Det One was a pilot program initiated to assess the value of assigning Marine Corps special operations forces to the United States Special Opera-





COURTESY OF DICK CAMP

Snipers making “mouse holes” in the upper floors of the schoolhouse.



GYSGT RYAN KEELER, USMC



GYSGT RYAN KEELER, USMC

The sniper position on the roof of the schoolhouse.



LTCOL JOHN P. PIEDMONT, USMC

**GySgt John A. Dailey**

tions Command. The unit was activated in June 2003. Deployed to Iraq in April 2004, Det One consisted of approximately 90 Marines and corpsmen organized into four sections: a reconnaissance element (30 men), an intelligence element (29 men), a fires element (seven men) and a headquarters element.

It was employed in direct-action mis-

sions including pursuing high-value targets in Baghdad, providing coalition support and conducting battlefield-shaping operations. The detachment also provided sniper support, fires coordination, command and control and intelligence support to the 11th MEU during the battle for Najaf. Det One completed its seven-month deployment in late September and returned to the United States.

The unit was disbanded in March 2006, and its “proof of concept” success led to the establishment of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

### Task Unit Raider

On Aug. 17, the Marines under Master Sergeant Terry M. Wyrick mounted up in two “hunekers,” specially designed armored vehicles, and linked up with an Army Special Forces convoy. “We got the word to go to Najaf and support the Army,” Gunnery Sergeant John A. Dailey explained. Wyrick said, “We weren’t happy about having to go during the day because ... we tried to move exclusively at night. We never ‘ate’ an IED [improvised explosive device] because of that.”

Just before shoving off, Dailey’s snipers zeroed in weapons that they had secured



from a team who had just returned from a fierce battle in the city of Al-Kut. Wyrick said, “We were now beefed up. We got night-vision thermal scopes [and] all the premium sniper weapons.”

### Det One Snipers, Najaf

The mission of the Det One snipers was to kill Mahdi Militia fighters, deny the enemy the ability to place effective fire on friendly forces and attrite enemy forces. Det One snipers and other sniper contingents supported 2-7th Cav: SEAL Team 2 to Team Apache, the *GROM* to Team Comanche and Det One, known as Task Unit Raider, to Team Cougar.

MSgt Wyrick initially reported to Navy Lieutenant W. Douglas Moorhead, SEAL Team 2, whose six-man detachment was the first Special Operations Forces sniper team into the city. The two then met with Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rainey, 2-7th Cav’s commanding officer.

“We want to play,” Captain Christopher Brooks, the battalion’s assistant S-3, recalled them saying. “I have a bunch of snipers here looking for work.” Rainey replied, “Great, I’ve got work for you to do.” Wyrick worked with the 2-7th staff. “We came up with a game plan of how the snipers would support the battalion ... and by 0600 the following morning we had a mission, we had an operating area, [and] we had a location to base out of. ... All we had to do was get in place.”

The Army provided transportation to Team Cougar’s command post in an old schoolhouse.

### Team Cougar

CPT Peter Glass’s Team Cougar consisted of 1st and 2nd platoons (Red and White), “Charlie” Company, 3rd Bn, 8th Cav (eight M1A2 SEPs); 1st Plt, “Alpha” Co, 2nd Bn, 162nd Infantry Oregon National Guard (six humvees); 2nd Plt, “Alpha” Co, 153rd Engineer Bn, South Dakota National Guard (three M113s); and a headquarters section (two M1A2 SEPs, two M113s), a total of 80 to 90 soldiers.

The trip into the city on Aug. 18 was a real education. “It was the wild, wild west,” Wyrick recalled. “Rocket-propelled grenades [RPGs] and gunfire were constant, and this was just on the outskirts of town.”

Wyrick found the company commander “in the middle of the street, literally pulling out maps and ducking in the houses because there are gunshots and explosions going off ... and I’m thinking, ‘I’m going to put my guys who are stealthy-type snipers into this s---?’” At the same time, he decided, “There’s a fight going on, and there’s young guys getting hurt out there left and right. ... We need to get in the fight and contribute!”

Wyrick and CPT Glass worked out a plan to support the unit’s push north toward the Imam Ali Mosque, the headquarters of the Mahdi Militia. Dailey’s snipers occupied two observation posts near 2-7th Cav’s forward platoons. “We received accurate but ineffective small-arms fire,” Dailey said. They did not engage any targets, but used the time to gain situational awareness. During the night of Aug. 19, the snipers displaced to a hotel, the largest building in the city. “The company commander gave us a fire team as security and threw us in the back of a Bradley [infantry fighting vehicle], which dropped us off several blocks from a 10-story hotel.”

The team made it to the hotel without incident. Dailey and Sergeant Michael C. Mulvihill climbed up an outside ladder to the roof while the rest of the team chipped “mouse holes” in the walls of the lower floors from which to shoot. “I was manning the M11 sniper rifle [system] as the sun came up,” Dailey said. “Mulvihill was observing. As soon as it got bright enough to see, I spotted a man walking

down the road with an RPK [Russian light-machine gun] over his shoulder. My original intent was to observe, but I couldn’t allow the target of opportunity to pass, so I took the shot. I hit him in the upper torso, and he dropped like a stone.”

### M11 Sniper System

The Mk 11 sniper rifle system includes an SR-25 rifle chambered for the 7.62 mm NATO match-grade 7.62x51 mm munition. The rifle has a 20-round magazine, quick detachable Leupold Mark 4 Mil-dot scope, Harris swivel-base bipod, flip-up back-up iron sight and a quick detachable sound suppressor. Task Unit Raider had four SR-25 sniper rifles, a semi-automatic special-application rifle. Dailey said his snipers “determined that it was accurate up to 800 meters in realistic in-combat conditions. Most of our targets were in the 300- to 500-meter range. That’s the nature of urban-type warfare.”

Dailey shot another fighter before the militia reacted. The shot scattered the remaining fighters, but they quickly figured out where the two snipers were



Marines take cover inside the schoolhouse during a mortar attack. Temperatures in the building soared over 100 degrees in the Iraqi summer.

GYSGT RYAN KEELER, USMC



located. “We started getting hammered, automatic fire from one side and AK fire from the other,” Dailey recalled. “We jumped up and ran ... and waited for the firing to die down.” When there was only an occasional shot, Mulvihill made a run for the outside ladder and quickly descended. “My teammate was spotted, and the fire picked up again, forcing me to lie low,” Dailey explained. “When it died down, I picked up the sniper rifle and dropped down the ladder. It was a long drop!”

The rest of the team provided covering fire. “We were shooting with our sniper rifles ... as they were getting off the top of the building,” Staff Sergeant Alex N. Conrad said, “and then Travis Clark found one of the guys who was shooting at us ... and imagine this, he was shooting from a loophole.” The militia sniper proved difficult to eliminate. “The fellow pulled out loose bricks from the wall of the building and shot at us,” Dailey said. “Then he’d put them back in and move to another room. ... He definitely had some sniper training.”

Dailey finally had enough. “We had a .50-caliber sniper rifle, and the Army sniper team across the street had one as well.” The two guns were set up in adjacent rooms. “We saw the fellow pull the bricks out ... [and] the two machine guns went through two magazines each—40 rounds—and dropped a 10 foot by 10 foot section of the wall where he was—I mean he was no more! It went from a loophole to where you could drive a truck through.”

GySgt Ryan P. Keeler, fires support element, said that the incident “did two things: Anybody who was in that room was dead and it pissed people off because we took probably another 45 minutes of nothing but mortar rounds on top of the building. So we all dropped down to the center hall on the second and third floor and just weathered it out.” Keeler said he “supported the sniper by day and then ran Spectre (Basher 74 and 75) [Lockheed AC-130 gunship] by night. The sniper and other operators would identify targets during the day, and then at night I would run Basher all night. I would go down my target-list worksheet and have Basher engage target after target.”

The sniper team made use of the mouse holes in the upper floors for the rest of the day. Militia countersnipers continued intermittent fire. Their bullets struck the walls, but failed to penetrate the bricks. Dailey and Mulvihill scored four confirmed and six probable kills. After the first day, a Marine sniper said, “The bad guys started out on top of the roofs with binoculars and radios ... and by the time



**SSgt Chadwick D. Baker mans a suppressed SR-25 7.62 mm sniper rifle. Spotting for him is Navy HM1 Matthew S. Pranka as SSgt Jack A. Kelly observes and Sergeants Miguel A. Cervantes and David D. Marnell watch from the door. Although not apparent from this view, this sniper hide is covered and concealed, allowing the Marines to wear only soft body armor in the extreme heat.**



**Bullets passed through windows and struck interior walls. Fortunately, Det One did not suffer any casualties.**

the day ended, you never saw anyone on top of the buildings again! We dominated the rooftops.”

The fight was not all one-sided. The militia targeted the hotel with mortar rounds. SSgt Kevin Neal, a Det One sniper, said, “[I was] manning a radio when a mortar round landed on top of the ledge of the building, 12 feet from me and another Marine. It blew the window glass out, and I got some debris blown into my right hand. I was lucky because a blouse on my shoulder took most of it, although I lost my hearing for about an hour.”

GySgt Keeler took some glass to his head and face. “The explosion threw me

across the roof and rocked my world! I remember being drug into the hallway, and ‘Doc’ [Hospital Corpsman First Class Robert T.] Bryan checking me out to ensure I was all in one piece.” SSgt Conrad said, “[We] had a lot of direct hits on our building. They rocked it pretty good, but it never collapsed—thank God for that!”

## Anticoalition Snipers

An assessment from the U.S. Department of Defense’s National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) noted, “The prewar Iraqi Army had approximately 3,000 ‘trained’ snipers; however, the prewar



training these designated snipers received is questionable, since the incidents of insurgent sniper attack reported generally exhibit a poor shot-to-hit ratio.” The assessment cited a report from Najaf that “a sniper fired more than 80 rounds over the course of 8 hours at U.S. forces, but this sniper’s firing did not result in any casualties.”

The NGIC summarized its report by noting, “There is evidence of some true snipers operating in some insurgent groups, which is exhibited by spikes in single shots to the head and torso. A possible source of these true snipers might be the influx of experienced veterans from the Iran-Iraq war.”

Dailey’s snipers displaced to an old four-story schoolhouse closer to the Imam Ali Mosque. “The first period of daylight in that position was a shooting gallery,” he explained, “because they [Mahdi Militia] were used to freedom of movement. ... We were getting a lot of shots, and we did a lot of good.” “It’s hunting season,” SSgt Conrad said offhandedly. “People are trying to get away, running with RPGs and AKs.” A Special Forces officer reported, “In Najaf we ran into some very good enemy snipers. We got into some pretty intense sniper/counter-sniper fights. It’s like a little war within itself.”

Dailey’s snipers were in the upper floors of the schoolhouse when “we started

taking fire from a 12.7 mm antiaircraft gun that penetrated the eight-inch block wall. It got our attention!”

Another incident involved a cagey militia sniper who seemed to live a charmed life. Conrad said, “I got on the SR-25 and started taking shots at him. ... It wasn’t working so I pulled out the SASR [Barrett .50-cal. Special Applications Scoped Rifle]. I shot 10 rounds through the walls—right, left and in the middle, and I figure if he’s not there, he must be going down the stairs and hiding in the stairwell ... so I started putting rounds through there.” GySgt Keeler contacted an Apache attack helicopter that was on station. “They shot the Hellfire [missile] at the top of the building,” Conrad explained. “BOOM! It blew out the windows in our building. His wingman hit the bottom of the building which collapsed it, burying the enemy sniper.”

GySgt Keeler worked another Apache with quite different results. The pilot “put six rounds into the side of the building right where we were. I looked downstairs in the hallway, and all I saw was dust and people dragging each other up the stairs.” Fortunately, no one was injured, “but the rounds were definitely an eye-opener!” Keeler dusted himself off and ran the “bird” in again. “There was a big banner of [Muqtada al] Sadr on the building, and they were engaging us from firing holes in the walls ... so we got the Apache lined back up, and he put a Hellfire into the building and lit it on fire. We didn’t take any more fire from it again.”

By the end of the day on Aug. 20, the snipers were having an impact on the enemy. Reports began to come in that the militia’s greatest fear was the American snipers. MSgt Wyrick said the snipers “were making a serious impact. The Special Forces guys who had sources inside the mosque were saying that the snipers were just knocking the s--- out of them and that morale was going down the tubes. ... There were piles of bodies inside ... because of sniper shots.”

On Aug. 21, a cease-fire was declared in the city, and the snipers withdrew to the vicinity of the Team Cougar command post to refit and await orders.

*Editor’s note: Part II will run in the July issue of Leatherneck.*

*Author’s bio: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of the Marine Corps History Division and a prolific author. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.*



CAPT DANIEL SHEEHAN, USMC

Det One Marines prepare to depart Najaf after the conclusion of operations. SSgt Chadwick D. Baker mans a .50-cal. M2 machine gun while Capt Daniel B. Sheehan mans a 7.62 mm M240G machine gun.



GYSGT RYAN KEELER, USMC

GySgt Ryan Keeler called in an Apache gunship on this militia strongpoint; mission complete.





# In the Highest Tradition

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

## Marine Awarded Silver Star For Heroic Actions in Afghanistan



Sergeant Matthew S. Parker, USMC (Ret) received a Silver Star on March 18, 2016, at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The Silver Star, the third-highest military combat decoration, was awarded to Parker for his bravery and composure during an attack in Afghanistan on May 21, 2011, while he was deployed as a rifleman with 3d Battalion, Second Marine Regiment during Operation Enduring Freedom. After several leaders had been wounded, Parker assumed control as the ground force commander, called in fire support and evacuated casualties.

The award was presented by Major General Brian D. Beaudreault, commanding general of Second Marine Division, who expressed his appreciation for what Parker did that day.

“You represented everything we want

to teach in honor, courage, commitment and the warrior’s ethos ... and for that I’m greatly indebted to you,” MajGen Beaudreault said. “You did everything we would want and hope for every Marine NCO [noncommissioned officer] leading a formation to do.”

MajGen Beaudreault said that much of the success of that day was due to Parker being able to apply his training when he needed to most.

“He knew how to coordinate air support, he knew how to coordinate high arms support, he knew how to maneuver forces, he knew how to employ heavy machine guns, and he knew how to employ the organic weapons systems relative to his squads and we won,” MajGen Beaudreault said. “We won on that day.”

Parker was not the only one to step up that day. He noted that several lance corporals took charge of higher positions, including his own, while he led the platoon.



SGT KIRSTIN MERRIMAH AJARA, USMC

**Sgt Matthew Parker, USMC (Ret) speaks to a group of leathernecks from 3d Bn, 2d Marines after he was presented with the Silver Star at MCB Camp Lejeune on March 18.**



SGT KIRSTIN MERRIMAH AJARA, USMC

**MajGen Brian D. Beaudreault, CG of 2dMarDiv, pins a Silver Star on Sgt Matthew Parker on March 18. Parker was awarded the medal for his courageous actions in 2011 during Operation Enduring Freedom when he assumed control of his platoon during a firefight after several of the platoon's leaders were wounded.**



“They led their Marines the way they were supposed to,” Parker said, directing his remarks to the junior Marines who were in formation for the ceremony. “I just want you to know I appreciate you. I didn’t do anything special; I just did what I was supposed to do, and I’m lucky that I had good Marines who were backing me up.”

Parker enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2002 and was deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Sgt Parker was medically retired in 2015. His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with one Gold Star, and Good Conduct Medal with two Bronze Stars.

Sgt Kirstin Merrimarahajara, USMC

#### 4 Purple Heart Medals Awarded at Fire Base Bell



In a quiet, low-key ceremony, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff awarded Purple Heart medals to four Marines who were wounded during the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant attack on Fire Base Bell in March.

General Joseph F. Dunford, the chairman of the JCS, visited the 200-man unit on April 22, 2016, during a trip to Iraq to consult with Kurdish and Iraqi leaders.



SSG PETER J. BERARDI, USA

**Gen Joseph F. Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presents a Purple Heart to LCpl Javier A. Suarezmontalvo during a ceremony at Kara Soar Base, Makhmur, Iraq, on April 22. Suarezmontalvo, a field artillery cannon crewman assigned to the 26th MEU, was wounded there, March 19.**

Gen Dunford presented the awards to the Marines at the howitzer where they were wounded and where their section chief—Staff Sergeant Louis F. Cardin—was killed. The men are part of “Echo” Battery of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

“In all the years, I have not awarded anybody a Purple Heart on the ground where they received the Purple Heart,” Gen Dunford said during an interview with the reporters who were traveling with him.

The base is isolated and there is still



SSG PETER J. BERARDI, USA

**Gen Joseph F. Dunford listens as citations are read during the presentation of Purple Hearts to Cpl Adam J. Seanor, Cpl William Crisostomosfelipe, LCpl Eli Cisco and LCpl Javier A. Suarezmontalvo during a ceremony at Kara Soar Base, Makhmur, Iraq, April 22. The Marines, all field artillery cannon crewmen assigned to the 26th MEU, were awarded the medals at the site where they were wounded, and where their gun chief, SSgt Louis F. Cardin, was killed.**



some danger, so there wasn't a large ceremony to recognize the Marines. Instead, the chairman walked to each gun position and spoke with the crews.

"I just talked to them about what they were doing, what their mission was, and frankly just thanked them," he said.

Gen Dunford spoke to the sergeant who had to step up when Cardin was killed.

"When I spoke about SSgt Cardin, his eyes were welling up," Gen Dunford said. "I told him, 'I really appreciate you taking care of these guys; they are counting on you, and I know SSgt Cardin is kind of looking down. He would be doing what you are doing, which is merely tightening his chin strap and getting on with it, and I appreciate you doing that.'"

The young sergeant told the chairman there is nothing else he would rather be doing and promised to take care of his Marines.

Jim Garamone, DOD News

## Animal Victoria Cross Awarded to Heroic U.S. Marine War Dog

A retired U.S. Marine Corps military working dog who protected the lives of allied troops in Iraq and Afghanistan has been honored with the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) Dickin Medal—the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross. The 12-year-old Belgian Malinois, named Lucca, who lost a leg while on duty, successfully completed more than 400 separate missions during six years of active service.

Her heroic actions were recognized by PDSA, the United Kingdom's leading veterinary charity, at an April 5 ceremony at Wellington Barracks, London, England. Lucca and her owner, Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Willingham, attended the ceremony.

The medal was instituted by PDSA's founder, Maria Dickin, in 1943. Lucca is the first U.S. Marine Corps war dog to receive the honor.

Lucca, who was trained to sniff out munitions and explosives, protected the lives of thousands of allied troops. Her success was such that there were no human casualties during any of her patrols.

After training together, Lucca and GySgt Chris Willingham served together for two tours in Iraq. In 2007, they conducted clearing operations along the Tigris River, south of Baghdad. In 2008, they conducted counterinsurgency operations around Diwaniyah. Lucca made a number of finds including weapons caches, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and bombs. In November 2011, Lucca and her new handler, Cpl Juan Rodriguez, deployed to Afghanistan where they participated in 75 patrols in Helmand Province.



GySgt Chris Willingham, left, and Lucca traveled to London, England, where Lucca was presented with the Dickin Medal by Jan McLoughlin, right, the director general of the PDSA, a veterinary charity.

On March 7, 2012, Lucca and Cpl Rodriguez were leading a foot patrol when Lucca gave an indication which Cpl Rodriguez quickly recognized, and he called the patrol to a halt. A 30-pound pressure-plate IED had been placed directly in the patrol's line of travel. Once the IED was rendered clear, Lucca and Cpl Rodriguez led the patrol safely back to their base.

On March 23, 2012, Lucca and Cpl Rodriguez were ahead of a foot patrol when she signaled on a haystack in a poppy field where a weapons cache was discovered. Resuming the patrol, Lucca alerted the patrol to another 30-pound pressure-plate IED, which was successfully located and cleared.

Resuming their patrol, Rodriguez sent Lucca to clear a path when a 30-pound pressure plate IED detonated underneath her, causing the immediate loss of her front left leg and severe burns to her chest, neck and head. Rodriguez applied a tourniquet to Lucca's leg and bandaged her burns, while a fellow patrol member called in a medical evacuation team.

Miraculously, none of the members of the patrol were injured in the blast which injured Lucca.

Lucca was evacuated from Afghanistan to Germany and then to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to complete her recovery. Cpl Rodriguez stayed at her side throughout each move—even choosing to sleep next to Lucca as she recovered.

Within 10 days of her injury, Lucca was up and walking. "Through all of her treatment and despite the pain she was

in, her temperament never changed. Her fighting spirit was plain to see and I was so proud of how quickly she recovered," Cpl Rodriguez said. While she was rehabilitating, her adoption paperwork was submitted to retire her officially from active service and live with GySgt Willingham and his family.

Lucca's PDSA Dickin Medal was presented by the charity's director general, Jan McLoughlin, who said: "Lucca's conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty makes her a hugely deserving recipient of the PDSA Dickin Medal. Her ability and determination to seek out arms and explosives preserved human life amid some of the world's fiercest military conflicts."

"Lucca is very intelligent, loyal and had an amazing drive for work as a search dog," said GySgt Willingham. "She is the only reason I made it home to my family, and I am fortunate to have served with her. In addition to her incredible detection capabilities, Lucca was instrumental in increasing morale for the troops we supported. In between missions, I took the searching harness off and let her play and interact with the troops. Due to her personality, demeanor and proficiency as a search dog, Lucca made friends wherever she went. Today, I do my best to keep her spoiled in her well-deserved retirement."

From media releases

*Editor's note: Lucca and GySgt Willingham were featured in the July 2013 Leatherneck cover story.*





# Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## Marine Corps' Military Child of the Year Recognized for Fundraising Efforts

Nine-year-old Christian Fagala, son of Captain Justin Fagala and Diana Fagala, was recognized as the 2016 Marine Corps Military Child of the Year during a ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Arlington, Va., April 14.

"I am receiving an award for being the Military Child of the Year for the Marine Corps for all the things I have done [like] helping the homeless and cancer walks to donate for research," Christian said.

Christian faced many challenges at a young age—the biggest of which was being diagnosed with cancer at the age of 2. This also affected other aspects of his life, due to the effects of chemotherapy on his ability to learn.

These challenges did not deter Christian, who faced them head-on and made it his mission to make a difference for those who are dealing with similar struggles.

Some of his accomplishments include speaking on behalf of childhood cancer programs and raising more than \$20,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and CureSearch, an organization that raises funds to help find a cure for cancer through walks and other charity events.

In addition to contributions to cancer-fighting efforts, Christian has dedicated more than 100 hours to helping the homeless.

For these and other selfless acts, Christian joined five other children from the various military services as the recipients of the Military Child of the Year Award, presented by Operation Homefront.

Christian said he felt honored and excited to be chosen out of a group of 500 exceptional nominees.

Operation Homefront was established in 2002 to help military families stay strong and stable despite the often unpredictable nature of their lifestyle. The Military Child of the Year Award is just one of the many ways the organization helps and honors military families.

The recipients of the award had the opportunity to tour the National Museum of American History and other Washington, D.C., sites before attending the awards ceremony. General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMC, 19th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs



Brig Gen John I. Pray Jr., USAF (Ret) and Catherine Blades of Operation Homefront, along with MajGen James W. Lukeman, Commanding General, Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va., and Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, present 9-year-old Christian Fagala with the 2016 Marine Corps Military Child of the Year Award in Arlington, Va., April 14.

of Staff, along with other senior military representatives attended the ceremony to present the awards.

"They don't help families get through the sacrifices or deal with the challenges of military lifestyles—they help families thrive in that environment," said Gen Dunford of the six children recognized. "When we see this evening's award recipients, we won't see people who have survived the military lifestyle, we'll see people who have challenges in their own lives that actually go far beyond the challenges they are confronted with in a military lifestyle, and we're going to see young people that have thrived. You can't put a price tag on what that means to us."

Christian is setting his sights on raising \$30,000 for cancer research and aspires to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a Marine someday and giving back to the community that helped him in his time of need.

"When you start thinking about Christian, he is a perfect representative," said Brigadier General John I. Pray Jr., USAF (Ret), CEO of Operation Homefront. "Marines are expeditionary and he has that expeditionary spirit, and he is a true Marine at heart. His parents have a marvelous impact on him and guided his life, and he reflects all those values that we hold dear in this nation."

Sgt Terence Brady, USMC



## Extended Childcare Hours Allow Marine Families Additional Flexibility

Finding quality child care can be a challenge for some parents. The accessibility, availability and affordability of the government's Child Development Programs (CDPs) provide key components to meeting the needs of Marine Corps families.

CDPs are nationally accredited child care services for children of Department of Defense personnel from 6 weeks through 12 years of age at Child Development Centers (CDCs) and School-Age Care (SAC) programs.

CDCs include full-day, part-day and hourly care services. All CDCs use state of the art teaching strategies and assessments based on the latest research. These methods are fully aligned with state standards to ensure young children are equipped with the skills necessary to enter kindergarten.

SAC offers child care services for children ages 6 through 12 or those who are attending kindergarten through sixth grade.

A pilot initiative began in October 2015 in response to All Navy (ALNAV) 050/15, the Department of the Navy's Talent Management Initiative requirement to extend child care by two hours, one at the beginning and one at the end of the day. As a result, CDPs on Marine Corps bases and stations extended operations to 14 hours per day, Monday through Friday.

Amy Banks, Family Care Branch manager at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., said, "We have two CDCs. We received positive feedback from parents with the hour extension in the afternoon and additional late afternoon snack."

"I work late," said Lance Corporal Andres Avila, stationed at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. "I am very grateful to have the extended hours because I am never worried about my daughter's safety."

Extending hours improves family morale for busy working families by allowing parents to complete their tasks while knowing their children are in a safe place.

Several families have said that the extended hours have helped ease their commutes to work and allowed them more time to run errands and spend time doing physical training.

"I have saved three to four hours and I do not have to come in to work on the weekend," said Sergeant Lorena Castillo, stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Would extended child care hours benefit your family? Visit [www.militarychildcare.com](http://www.militarychildcare.com) to research child care options in your

area. This single online gateway provides access to military-operated and military-approved child care options across all military services. It enables families to search for and request care, manage child care requests and update profiles online, making it easier for families to find the child care they need.

Heather J. Hagan

Marine and Family Programs Division, HQMC

## Education and Career Fair Gives Marines, Sailors Tools for Future

The Career Resource Office and Education Office at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., joined together to host an Education and Career Fair at the combat center's West Gym, March 23.

More than 46 employers and 27 educators provided Marines and sailors with information on their respective organizations and schools to help prepare them for their transition out of the Armed Forces and into the civilian workforce.

"Whether someone does four years or 20, every servicemember will eventually get out of their respective branch of service," said Virginia Sulick, program manager, Career Resource Office. "They should be preparing for that transition. They would not go to war unprepared and in the same sense, they should not go into the rest of their lives unprepared."

In accordance with Marine Corps Order 1700.31, Marines are required to attend the one-week Transition Readiness Seminar 12 to 14 months before their end of active service (EAS) or 12 to 24 months prior to retirement, but no later than 180 days prior to EAS or retirement. The seminar provides

information about transition, career and employment assistance to active-duty and reserve component personnel as well as to eligible family members.

During the fair, educators, companies and law enforcement agencies like Mayfield College, California Highway Patrol, Texas Department of Public Safety and Airstreams Renewables provided servicemembers with an opportunity for networking.

"An event like this is good because it's tailored to the military and gives us an opportunity to broaden our scope of what is out there," said Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Adrian Garcia with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. "It's completely unbiased and you get a lot of open information with opportunities to ask as many questions as you want."

According to Sulick, the average job search takes more than 26 weeks to complete, and the Career Resource Office offers a federal employment workshop, resumé class and individual career counseling for any aspect of transition that a servicemember is concerned about.

"It's a big lifestyle change to go from military life back to civilian life," Sulick said. "Our job here is to provide tools that make transition easier for servicemembers through seminars that make them well-rounded and help their professional development."

For more information on the transition programs offered at your base or station, contact your local career resource office or education office.

Cpl Julio McGraw, USMC

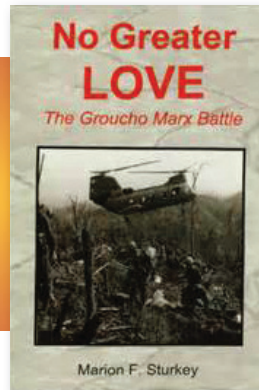


Adrian Cervantes, left, regional admissions representative with Airstreams Renewables, and SgtMaj Frank E. Pulley, USMC (Ret), MCA&F West Coast membership representative, talk to Sgt Adrian Johnson, a motor vehicle operator with MWSS-374, during the Education and Career Fair at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., March 23.



# Books Reviewed

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 6 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 7 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net).



**BLOOD, SWEAT & HONOR: Memoirs of a "Walking Dead Marine" in Vietnam.** By Derl Horn. Published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. 208 pages. Softcover. Stock #1511419458. \$14.40 MCA Members. \$16 Regular Price.

"Blood, Sweat & Honor" is a classically styled war memoir written by a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War. Derl Horn was drafted into the Marine Corps in 1966. It's edifying to note that this marked the second time the Corps was compelled to draft new recruits. The first time, of course, was during World War II.

In Horn's case, he arrived at the draft induction center and was presented with two options by a crafty Marine recruiting sergeant. He was told that he could elect to become a two-year Marine or be enlisted into the Army for three. So Derl Horn, along with other draftees, did in fact volunteer. Selected for special attention by his Marine drill instructor, Horn quickly found that he had three strikes against him: he was older than most recruits in his platoon, he was married, and of course, he would never be allowed to forget that he had come to the Corps through the draft. During his "boot" training Horn had two recurring thoughts: "These DIs are truly nuts" and "What have I done?"

After boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., and Infantry Training Regiment, the new Marine "brown bagger" was sent to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., for training in his military occupational specialty, 81 mm mortars. After six weeks, he received

orders for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Letters from his wife, Marilyn, would become his lifeline to home, wife and family. His most interesting war memoir is also a great love story. Throughout the text, Horn includes letters written to him by his wife. During his 1967-68 Vietnam tour, Horn's two beautiful and healthy twin girls, Cindy and Cathy, were born.

Before boarding his C-130 for the trip to Vietnam, he watched as black body bags containing the remains of dead were offloaded. He prayed to God to remove his fears and give him courage. Passing through Da Nang, he and his cohorts headed north to Dong Ha located off Highway 1 and just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The battle-weary veterans at the base were in constant rocket range of the North Vietnamese. The camp received incoming on a daily basis. Horn's bright new uniform pegged him as one of the new kids on the base as he became a replacement in 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment. During the war, the battalion earned its luckless name, "The Walking Dead," for enduring the longest sustained combat while suffering the highest killed rate of any Marine battalion of that war.

As a young lance corporal, Horn joined "Bravo" Company and was assigned as a 60 mm mortarman. The mortar squads traveled with the rifle companies; a mortar section in Vietnam consisted of two mortars served by four men, plus a section leader.

Besides his weapon and kit, every man toted six to eight rounds of ammo. Fully

loaded, each Marine lugged between 75 to 80 pounds of arms and equipment. Horn writes, "I had only been in the field for 10 days, but with all the battles I had already faced, I felt like a seasoned combat Marine." The worst, however, was to come.

Their next assignment was at the combat base at Con Thien. The base had several well-deserved names: "The Hill of Angels," "The Target," or sometimes, "The Meat Grinder." The hill received relentless incoming mortar and rocket attacks. The pounding created constant unbelievable stress for the Marines and their corpsman. LCpl Horn writes: "We were all about to go nuts, and some of the men did experience nervous breakdowns."

In July 1967, 1/9 took part in Operation Buffalo. In a sweep around the base, the company was trapped in a well-executed U-shaped ambush. The 3d Bn of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) nearly destroyed Bravo's 2d and 3d platoons. Having been cut off from the other mortar squad and having used up their mortar ammo, Horn and his team almost were overrun. By some act of mercy, Horn and a lucky few Bravo men managed to escape the trap. Horn did receive shrapnel in three places in his arm.

By the end of Operation Buffalo, on July 14, 159 Marines had been killed and 345 were wounded. The NVA losses were estimated at 1,290 with only two captured. LCpl Horn reported that most of the survivors exhibited the famous "thousand-yard stare." His company would receive the Presidential Unit Citation.

(Interestingly, a newsman from *Leatherneck* magazine took an iconic photo of LCpl Horn's men at Con Thien; it appeared in the January 1968 issue.)

On Nov. 10, 1967, the Marines of 1/9 were "treated" (interesting word) to a Marine Birthday feast. The shrimp, however, was spoiled, and 90 percent of the men were affected severely. Horn writes that the leathernecks were "barfing up our heels." As a result, he noted, he would be unable to eat shrimp for the rest of his days.



Derl Horn served out his tour, including participating in Operation Kingfisher. He finally became a squad leader and section leader.

On Feb. 14, 1968, he returned home to his wife and his new twins. Sadly, adjusting to life after battle proved difficult. For years he experienced post-traumatic stress disorder, and like many Vietnam veterans, he suffered from survivor guilt. For many years he refrained from speaking about the war. After 35 years of avoiding the subject of the war, however, he finally attended a reunion of 1/9.

Welcome home, Marine, and we thank all of you guys of that era for your "Always Faithful" and heroic service!

Robert B. Loring

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

**NO GREATER LOVE: The Groucho Marx Battle.** By Marion F. Sturkey. Published by Heritage Press International. 291 pages. Softcover. Stock #09913011110. \$13.50 MCA Members. \$15 Regular Price.

*"Combat leaves an indelible mark on those who are forced to endure it. The only redeeming factors were my comrades' incredible bravery and their devotion to each other. Marine Corps training taught us to kill effectively. But it also taught us loyalty to each other—and love."*

—Eugene B. Sledge

Author of "With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa"

"No Greater Love" is a detailed account of a Marine battle in Vietnam during Aug. 8-9, 1966. Excuse me if I blow the ending for you, but hooray, the Marines won.

Marion Sturkey is a Marine Corps veteran who has been a prolific writer, including three editions of "Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines."

Sturkey relates the main thrust of his latest book in the following synopsis: "On 6 August 1966 the Marine Corps 'Groucho Marx' reconnaissance team left Dong Ha combat base in South Vietnam. Via helicopter, this clandestine four-man team was dropped into a valley. That afternoon after half of the platoon had been extracted, the enemy attacked in force. Marines set up a defensive perimeter atop a tiny knoll. Throughout the night of 8-9 August they battled soldiers of the 324-BN North Vietnamese Army Division. Helicopters flew throughout the long night to resupply and reinforce surrounded Marines on the little hill. North Vietnamese troops withdrew at dawn on 9 August 1966."

The Marines won this battle, facing the incredible odds of a staggering 10-to-1 outnumbering them.

"Groucho Marx" was the radio call sign of four recon Marines who would infiltrate enemy positions and radio back information. The ensuing two-day battle would come to be known as "The Groucho Marx Battle."

As always, life is stranger than fiction. Some obscure wartime verities mentioned in the book will stun as well as illuminate. For example, Sturkey relates the fact that North Vietnamese officers actually told their troops that Marines ate small children. Now, who came up with that one? Joseph Goebbels would be proud.

Sturkey throws cold water on the belief of wartime glory: "There is no glory in close combat. Those who claim otherwise have seen too many action-adventure movies, read too many fanciful novels, overdosed on video games, or believed contrived tales from combat wannabes who were far from the flak. ...

"Close-combat is a vile form of reality wherein a combatant can look into the eyes of men who are trying to kill him. There is no glory. The experience generates emotions that include terror, rage, horror and madness. Yet, the greatest emotion is brotherly love for one's comrades-in-arms. This love transcends time. This undying love, this loyalty and bond, makes men willing to suffer, sacrifice, and die for each other. There is no greater love." All told, the Marines suffered 36 casualties during this battle. Thirty more were wounded.

Another interesting fact mentioned in the book is how there were "evil eyes" painted on the helicopters of a particular squadron. This came to be because one of the pilots, who had previously flown for Air America in Laos, Thailand and Cambodia, knew that in Asian culture there was a fear of evil spirits and being watched. These "evil eyes" would become famous all over Vietnam. "Evil eyes" are still painted on Ospreys deployed in the Middle East.

The Marines on the knoll would not only have to face regular ordnance, but also Chinese stick grenades, booby traps and, of course, hand-to-hand combat.

At one point in the battle, an astounding half of the Marines were wounded, ammunition was running low, and the North Vietnamese had the area surrounded. "Any approach [and landing on] that hill by a resupply helicopter would have been tantamount to a suicide mission." I won't spoil what develops in this situation, but you're in for an edge-of-seat experience.

Sturkey maintains that in this kind of reportage, there is probably no chance of a definitive account: "This project is not all-inclusive. It does not attempt to detail every action, by every person, on every day. ... This project is neither perfect nor totally comprehensive, for no mortal endeavor can be."

The flow of the book is arranged episodically with dates in a kind of diary form to keep matters neatly arranged and in perspective. The book is copiously illustrated, and interesting outside quotes give an illuminating perspective on the narrative. The author does not suppose the reader has a working knowledge of the history of the war, and important historical information is provided for the novice, including a brief overview of the situation prior to the battle. Sturkey's writing style is as inviting as it is cogent. He has the unique skill of making a visual component come alive for the reader. The entire affair brings to mind the tension and suspense of a James Webb novel.

At the close of the book, Sturkey explains the ramifications of such activity. "Such close combat evokes emotions including terror, horror, rage, confusion, desperation, madness and ecstasy. They are temporary. But there is an overriding emotion that lasts long after the cacophony of battle has faded away. For those who have experienced close combat, the greatest emotion is love—true brotherly love."

Joseph D'Alessandris

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



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# In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

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

## WW II Marine Raider Is Returned Home for Burial

After 73 years, Sergeant John C. Holladay, a Marine Raider killed in action during World War II, was brought home and laid to rest with military honors in his hometown of Florence, S.C., April 4, at Florence National Cemetery.

During WW II, Holladay was assigned to Company B, 1st Marine Raider Battalion, 1st Marine Raider Regiment. The Raiders fought alongside U.S. Army troops in a battle against Japanese positions in Bairoko as part of the invasion of New Georgia Island, British Solomon Islands, near the present-day village of Mbaeroko.

Thirty-four U.S. servicemembers, including Holladay, were killed in the fighting. In the days following the battle, U.S. patrols returned to the battlefield to recover their dead. Several Marines were buried in graves in the area, but there was no record of Holladay's remains being recovered, even after an intensive search in 1947.

In 2015, a team from the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) took custody of remains that were turned over by a local resident. The resident took the team to the location where the material was discovered and additional remains and evidence also were recovered.

Holladay's nephew, Jack, said it was "an overwhelming feeling" to be able to have his uncle's remains buried in the United States. "I get tears of joy if I think about it for too long," he said.

The Marines of Co F, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, based out of Eastover, S.C., provided the funeral detail, and current Marine Raiders attended the funeral.

"Sgt Holladay's return provides closure for both his family and the Raider community, demonstrating that although he was missing for 73 years, he was never forgotten," said a Raider currently assigned to Marine Special Operations Co B, 1st Marine Raider Bn.

Compiled from reports by Sgt Donovan Lee, USMC and DPAA PAO

**John F. "Jack" Adams**, 94, of Ewing, N.J. He served with the 4thMarDiv during WW II. He saw action on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Sgt Rayford W. "Ray" Addington**, 69, of Boerne, Texas. He was a Marine who served during the Vietnam War. He was a veteran of the fighting on Hill 881 South during the Battle of Khe Sanh.

**Sgt Carl E. Adolphson**, 88, of Columbia, S.C. In 1946, he joined the Marine Corps and served until 1950. He later worked as a structural steel draftsman.

**Earle N. Ahlquist**, 89, of Yarmouth, Maine. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1944. He saw action with 4thMarDiv on Iwo Jima and was wounded on the ninth day of the battle.

**Ronald C. Andreas**, 81, of Yuma, Ariz. He was a Marine Corps aviator who served for more than 30 years. He was the commanding officer of MCAS Yuma from 1980 to 1983. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 10 Strike/Flight awards.

**MGySgt Robert W. "Bobby" Atkinson**, 73, of Robinson, Texas. He served for more than 30 years in the Marine Corps Reserve.

**Maj Raymond R. Bickel III**, 73, of Kimmell, Ind. He was a Marine who served for 26 years. He was assigned to 1st Recon Bn during the Vietnam War and was the adjutant for 1st Bn, 4th Marines, 3dMarDiv. His awards include two Purple Hearts and three Navy Commendation Medals, one with combat "V."

He was active with the Boy Scouts of America program and was the recipient of the Silver Beaver award for outstanding volunteers.

**William L. "Billy" Bonds**, 65, of Dallas, Texas. He served in Vietnam. His awards include the Purple Heart and the Navy Achievement Medal with combat "V."

**Scott D. Bruggeman**, 45, of Middletown, Ohio. He served in the Marine

Corps during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. He was a firefighter for 20 years.

**SSgt Dale L. Bumpers**, 90, of Little Rock, Ark. He was the governor of Arkansas from 1971 to 1975 and was elected as a U.S. senator from that state for four terms.

After he graduated from high school in 1943, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served until the end of WW II.

**Chester C. Burnett**, 94, of Belton, Texas. He served with Co B, 1st Bn, 20th Marines (Engineer), 4thMarDiv, FMFPac during WW II. He made landings at Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

**Sgt Richard R. Burns**, 85, of Greeley, Colo. He served in the Marine Corps from 1949 to 1955. He was a veteran of the Korean War and a life member of the Union Colony Marines, Det. #1093, Marine Corps League.

**Sgt James S. Conn**, 92, of Greeley, Colo. He was a Marine with the 5th Joint Assault Signal Co during WW II. He later worked in the railway industry. He was a member of the Union Colony Det. #1093, MCL.

**Sgt Joseph A. "Joe" Cordero**, 86, of Chicago, Ill. He served with Aircraft Engineering Squadron 46, 2d MAW at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. He later retired as a captain from the Chicago Fire Department.

**Sgt Averitte W. Corley**, 88, of Indianapolis, Ind. He was a Montford Point Marine who served on Saipan and Guam in 1944 and, along with other Montford Point Marines, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011. According to his daughter, he often told people, "When I joined the Marines, I had no idea I would become a part of history. I am proud to be a Montford Point Marine. These were men of strength, pride and character who overcame segregation and bigotry while working for a common goal."

In a letter to *Leatherneck* in December 2014, he wrote, "I am proud of my WW II service as a U.S. Marine from Montford



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**John Perron, Sgt**

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Point and honored to be among my comrades who were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal as original Montford Pointers from Congress in 2012." (See "Saved Round" on page 72 for more about Montford Point Marines.)

After WW II, he attended Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and graduated with a degree in agriculture. He later earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling.

**Cpl Dorothy R. "Dottie" Crawford**, 81, of Umatilla, Fla. She served in the Marine Corps from 1954 to 1955. Following her graduation from boot camp, she was trained as a weather forecaster. She later became a teacher in Eustice, Fla., and was selected as Teacher of the Year.

**Ronald E. Crouch**, 79, of Tyler, Texas. He was a Marine who served from 1954 to 1956.

**SSgt Jonathan "Jack" Dedrick**, 86, of Peabody, Mass. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1948. He saw action with 3d Battalion, 1st Marines at the Inchon landing, Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

He was a member of the Capt J.J. Harris Det. #871, MCL.

**Edward A. Earl**, 79, of Toledo, Ohio. His 20 years in the Marine Corps included three tours in Vietnam.

**Sgt Dayton D. Eden**, 87, of Dallas, Texas. He joined the Marine Corps in 1946 and served for two years. He later attended the University of Minnesota at Duluth and then earned a master's degree and a doctorate in physics from Brown University. He had a distinguished career as a research physicist.

**Sgt Grover F. Estep**, 81, of Moultrie, Ga. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War. He was a member of the MCL and the VFW.

**LtGen William H. Fitch**, 86, of McLean, Va. He began flight training at NAS Pensacola, Fla., in 1950 as a Naval Aviation Cadet and was designated a naval aviator and commissioned a second lieutenant on April 1, 1952. During his career, he had nearly 7,000 flying hours in fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft and made more than 300 carrier landings.

A 1958 graduate of U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, he conceived the idea for multiple carriage of high-explosive bombs on the bomb-rack-limited A-4C Skyhawk and flew the first test flight with the A-4 carrying a load of 16 MK-81 inert bombs. He received a U.S. patent for the development of the Multiple Carriage Bomb Rack.

During the Vietnam War, he flew 310 combat missions in the A-6 Intruder and the A-4—127 of those were against targets

in North Vietnam. He was awarded the Silver Star for a night mission against a target in Hanoi.

According to his award citation, "While serving as the Commanding Officer, Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533 ... on the night of 21 February 1968, Colonel Fitch launched as the Aircraft Commander of an A-6 Intruder aircraft assigned a bombing mission against a communication installation near Hanoi in North Vietnam, an area known to be defended by heavy concentrations of automatic weapons, surface-to-air missiles, and enemy interceptor aircraft. ... Colonel Fitch dauntlessly attacked the target, delivering all ordnance with unerring accuracy."

He was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation at HQMC from 1982 to 1984. In addition to the Silver Star, his other awards include the Legion of Merit with combat "V" and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**Mario J. Foster**, 82, of San Diego, Calif. He was a talented musician and, at age 17, was accepted into the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. In 1952, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and became a Marine bandsman. He also performed with the Dorsey Brothers and Les Brown bands.

**1stSgt Maurice H. Freitas**, 86, of



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was impeding the advance of the attack, fearlessly entered the position to kill the two occupants with his carbine," according to his Silver Star citation.

His other awards include the Purple Heart.

**MajGen Joseph Koler Jr.**, 90, of Hayden, Idaho. He joined the Marine Corps in 1943 and was assigned to the College of the Pacific and later the University of California. In February 1946, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. Upon completion of The Basic School, he was assigned as an infantry platoon leader in Tientsin, China.

He was assigned to Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Va., and then was transferred to the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1stMarDiv, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. He deployed with the Division to Korea and participated in the Inchon landing, the Chosin Reservoir campaign and three other major campaigns.

He later went to flight training and became a naval aviator. He commanded Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 in Vietnam and was CO of Marine Helicopter Training Group 30 stateside. He later assumed duty as CG of 1st MAW. His last assignment was command of Marine Corps Bases, Western Area/CG, MCAS El Toro, Calif.

**Sgt Joseph H. Leonard**, 85, of Warwick, N.Y. He served in the Korean War and was a veteran of the Chosin Reservoir campaign. His awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He was a police firearms instructor for 33 years.

**GySgt Bernard R. "Bernie" Melter**, 77, of Cannon Falls, Minn. He was an Eagle Scout who enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1955 and then entered active duty in 1956, retiring 20 years later. He said the high point of his career was with M/4/11 at Chu Lai, RVN, in 1965-66. His awards include the Navy Achievement Medal with combat "V." In 1987, he was selected as the Minnesota Department, Marine Corps League Marine of the Year.

**Capt Robert J. Mott**, 79, of Charles Town, W.Va. He served in the Marine Corps from 1954 to 1973, including two tours in Vietnam. He served in a variety of assignments at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Quantico, Va.

**Cpl Albert B. Watson**, 95, of Montpelier, Ohio. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II who saw action on Peleliu, Pavuvu, Guadalcanal and Okinawa. His awards include the Purple Heart. He helped establish a Young Marines unit in Dearborn, Mich. He received the Michigan Department, MCL Marine of the Year award in 1966-67.



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Sparks, Nev. He altered his baptism record so he could enlist in the Marine Corps when he was 15. He was trained as a Para-Marine and was assigned to the 5thMarDiv where he participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima. After the war, he returned to high school, but when he turned 18, he reenlisted in the Marine Corps. He saw action during the Korean War at Pusan, Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir, where he was wounded.

He later served in combat in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and the Purple Heart.

**W.L. "Bill" Gunn**, 100, of Lufkin, Texas. He was a Marine who saw action on Guam and Iwo Jima during WW II.

**Capt William G. Hawkins**, 86, in Stuart, Fla. As a second lieutenant, he was a platoon leader for Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv in the Korean War.

He was awarded the Silver Star for action on Feb. 3, 1953. "When his platoon was subjected to intense hostile small-arms and mortar fire ... Second Lieutenant Hawkins exposed himself to the heavy fire to shout words of encouragement to his men while employing the left portion of his unit in an enveloping maneuver and, personally hurling an explosive charge into an enemy-occupied bunker which



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# Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Entries for "Reader Assistance," which include "Reunions," "Mail Call," "Wanted" and "Sales, Trades and Giveaways," are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your e-mail to [s.boock@mca-marines.org](mailto:s.boock@mca-marines.org), or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

## Reunions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Marine Corps Cryptologic Assn.**, Sept. 6-10, San Diego, Calif. Contact Clifton Mitchell, (805) 482-1936, [cmitch1\\_1@msn.com](mailto:cmitch1_1@msn.com).

• **2d Bn, 4th Marines Assn. (all eras)**, July 27-31, Wisconsin Dells, Wis. Contact Donald Greengrass, (608) 784-1549, [donald.greengrass@ho-chunk.com](mailto:donald.greengrass@ho-chunk.com), [www.2-4Association.org](http://www.2-4Association.org).

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

• **Aviation Logistics Marines**, Oct. 6-9, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Don Davis, (321)

978-5147, [greyegl@dec.rr.com](mailto:greyegl@dec.rr.com), [www.avlogmarines.org](http://www.avlogmarines.org).

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

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

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

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

• **BLT 2/4 and BLT 2/26 Amtrac Plts (RVN, 1967-69)**, June 2-5, Quantico, Va. Contact Gene Cox, 5802 N. 30th St., Phoenix, AZ 85016, (602) 840-6262, [capteecox@aol.com](mailto:capteecox@aol.com).

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Aug. 23-28, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, [dbumc13usmc@verizon.net](mailto:dbumc13usmc@verizon.net).

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

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

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

• **3/26 (RVN, 1966-70)**, Aug. 24-28, San Diego, Calif. Contact Tony Anthony, (619) 286-3648, [ltcoltony@aol.com](mailto:ltcoltony@aol.com), [www.326marines.org](http://www.326marines.org).

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

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

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim

Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, [bertojotol@gmail.com](mailto:bertojotol@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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

• **"Bravo" Co, 7th Motor Transport Bn (RVN, all eras invited)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Philadelphia, Pa. Contact Tim Weddington, (816) 808-2357, [timweddington@comcast.net](mailto:timweddington@comcast.net), or Walter Schley, (816) 377-9438, [walterschley1966@aol.com](mailto:walterschley1966@aol.com).

• **"Delta" Co, 3d Recon and 2d Force Recon (1970s)**, June 15-19, Missoula, Mont. Contact Butch Waddill, (406) 544-1082, [crittersrme46@gmail.com](mailto:crittersrme46@gmail.com).

• **1st 8-Inch Howitzer Btry**, Sept. 7-11, San Diego, Calif. Contact Greg Ladesich, 25382 Via de Anza, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, (949) 249-3525, [GPL0812@att.net](mailto:GPL0812@att.net), [www.rpdsquared.com](http://www.rpdsquared.com).

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

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

• **Marine Barracks/Marine Corps Security Force Co, NWS Concord, Calif. (1941-95)**, June 23-25, 2017, Concord, Calif. Contact Mike Feddersen, (925) 682-5734, [mikefed1@att.net](mailto:mikefed1@att.net).



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

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

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

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

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Connors, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, [tconnors3@yahoo.com](mailto:tconnors3@yahoo.com).

• **TBS, Co E, 5-86**, June 16-19, Quantico, Va. Contact Pete Gill, (423) 502-8963, [peteandjonigill@hotmail.com](mailto:peteandjonigill@hotmail.com), or Kevin Ainsworth, (212) 692-6745, [kainsworth@mintz.com](mailto:kainsworth@mintz.com).

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

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707)

527-8319, [wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com](mailto:wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com).

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

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

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

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

## Ships and Others

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2, 1943-71)**, Oct. 12-16, Portland, Maine. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH

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

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 13-18, Portland, Ore. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

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

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

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

#### Mail Call

• Capt George B. Meegan, USMC (Ret), (480) 897-8835, gbmeegan@cox.net, to hear from or about Marine veteran **Andrew LASKOWSKI**, who was a Ma-

**rine Security Guard at the American Embassies in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Beirut, Lebanon, 1960-61.**

• Col George A. Jonic Jr., USMCR (Ret), 506 Cedarwood Ln., Venice, FL 34293, (941) 497-7235, georgej27@verizon.net, to hear from or about the following members of **2d Plt, Co B, TBS 1-66: Owen H. DOWD, Lynn W. FARMER, James E. FLANAGAN, Senovio FLORES, Charles W. EASTMAN, Edward T. EGAN, Thomas J. GIBBONS, Stephen H. GIMBER, Donald J. HAGER, Norman D. HAMILTON, Richard L. HARSHMAN, J.C. HARWOOD, Richard D. HESS, J.P. HIGGINS, Donald D. HUBBARD, Joseph R. HULO, William G. JOHANNSEN, Raymond E. JOHNSON, Dixon W. KELLEY and William E. KELLEY.**

• Greg Davis, 735 Canterbury Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546, (804) 448-9741, to hear from **members of Plt 81, Parris Island, 1956.**

#### Wanted

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

• Greg Davis, 735 Canterbury Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546, (804) 448-9741,

wants a **recruit graduation book and platoon photo for Plt 81, Parris Island, 1956.**

• Marine veteran David Ventura, (401) 624-1896, dmventura1@ccri.edu, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 315, Parris Island, 1964.**

• Larry Johnson, (410) 786-6462, larry.johnson@cms.hhs.gov, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3032, San Diego, 1973.** Drill instructors were SSgt MUNEZ and Sgt SCHULZ.

#### Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Marine veteran David Burke, d.mburke@hotmail.com, has **recruit graduation books for Plt 169, San Diego, 1962, and Platoons 1093, 1094 and 1095, San Diego, 2004**, which he will give away free to any platoon member, drill instructor or family member.

• Marine veteran Mike Lischko, 212 Fox Meadow Ln., Beaufort, MO 63013, mlischko@yahoo.com, has a collection of Marine Corps items he would like to give to a fellow Marine veteran, including a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2055, San Diego, 1966**, a set of **winter greens**, and **photos from RVN**.



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### SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

a scrawny kid weighing 142 pounds. Today I still weigh 142. There is a lot to be said about the Corps, but the big thing to me is that if you make it through the wars, it's a good bet that the active-duty life of a Marine will pay off in added years afterward. Just look at the 80- and 90-year-old Marines guarding the streets of heaven's scene.

LtCol P.T. Arman, USMC (Ret)  
Carson City, Nev.

### M16 Rifle in Vietnam

If one wants to know the truth about the M16 in Vietnam, all one need do is check out these links, [http://jouster.com/saga\\_of\\_M16/saga\\_of\\_the\\_m16\\_part\\_1.pdf](http://jouster.com/saga_of_M16/saga_of_the_m16_part_1.pdf), and [http://jouster.com/saga\\_of\\_M16/saga\\_of\\_the\\_m16\\_part\\_2.pdf](http://jouster.com/saga_of_M16/saga_of_the_m16_part_2.pdf), to read "The Saga of the M16 in Vietnam." The author is Major Richard O. "Dick" Culver Jr., USMC. Everything he mentions, that I know of firsthand, is true. He also knew a lot more than I about problems with the M16. (Maj Culver, holder of the Silver Star, died on Feb. 24, 2014.)

In 1967, several of us armorers were flown from Okinawa to Vietnam to inspect M16s because of serious problems the



M16s exhibited during the Battle of Hill 881 North and other battles. Spoiler alert: The problems were the powder, extractor and the unchromed chamber—mainly the unchromed chamber. In 1968, the M16s were retrofitted with chromed chambers.

On a lighter note, five of us were left behind in Vietnam. For the return flight to Okinawa, we lined up in rank order to board the plane. The major (not Culver), the gunnery sergeant and the sergeant boarded the plane. As I, the corporal, was about to board the plane, the crew chief put his hand on my chest, looked in the plane, directed me and the other four Marines to step away from the plane, closed the hatch and the plane departed for Okinawa. There we were, on our own in Vietnam. I was the senior Marine and our unit was in Okinawa about 1,400 miles away.

There is a lot of outstanding info in “The Saga of the M16 in Vietnam.” It is a fascinating read about denial, avoiding responsibility, saving face while others are losing their ass, the unnecessary loss of Marine lives, rifle technology, politics and the dedication of those who solved the problem. The teaching that “The Saga of the M16 in Vietnam” offers can improve our Corps and us if we will embrace its teaching.

Sgt R.M. Canini  
USMC, 1966-70  
Santa Rosa, Calif.

At the risk of beating a dead horse, would you please accept one more letter on the M16? I served from 1969 to 1981, in both the regulars and the reserve. I carried and fired the M14 and the M16. I also carried an M1 in military school and have fam-fired the M2 in a civilian setting. As I was on the riot squad while stationed at Quantico, Va., I preferred the heft of the M14. In a civil disturbance situation, the butt end of the weapon is more important than the muzzle end. Had I been sent to Vietnam, I probably would have changed my mind.

I strongly recommend that *all* Marines read the book, “Misfire: The History of How America’s Small Arms Have Failed Our Military,” by William H. Hallahan. Hallahan’s work is a compendium of the sordid history of the Army ordnance department; you know, the people who decide what weapons Marines will carry. The last 90 pages cover the development of the M14 and the attempt to sabotage the M16. In the end, Hallahan flatly accuses the department of negligent homicide, which is about as serious as you can get.

From everything I have read, including this book, the M16 that came off Eugene Stoner’s workbench was as close to perfect as possible in an imperfect world. It was



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equal to, or better than, Kalashnikov’s AK47, which is still the armament standard of the world. However, it suddenly became the major competitor to the M14, which ordnance had just spent 12 years and millions of taxpayer dollars to develop. Ordnance reacted like any entrenched bureaucracy. They circled the wagons around their own baby and tried to fight off the intruder.

At first they tried to ignore it. Then they falsified test results. Then they defied orders to produce it. Then they developed new standards that the weapon could not meet. Then, when they were forced to accept it, they decided it had to be militarized, which meant they took out most of the features that Stoner incorporated and added their own touches, thus adding

to the cost, delaying the introduction and failing to add any real improvement. Then they sent the weapon to Alaska for sub-zero testing, but failed to send it to Panama for tropical testing. And the weapon was desperately needed in Vietnam.

Finally, after the Army demanded and got the M16 and it was in use in ‘Nam, they changed the formulation of the propellant so that it would not work in that weapon! This is where the charge of negligent homicide comes in. How many troops lost their lives because some technician or manager made a stupid decision?

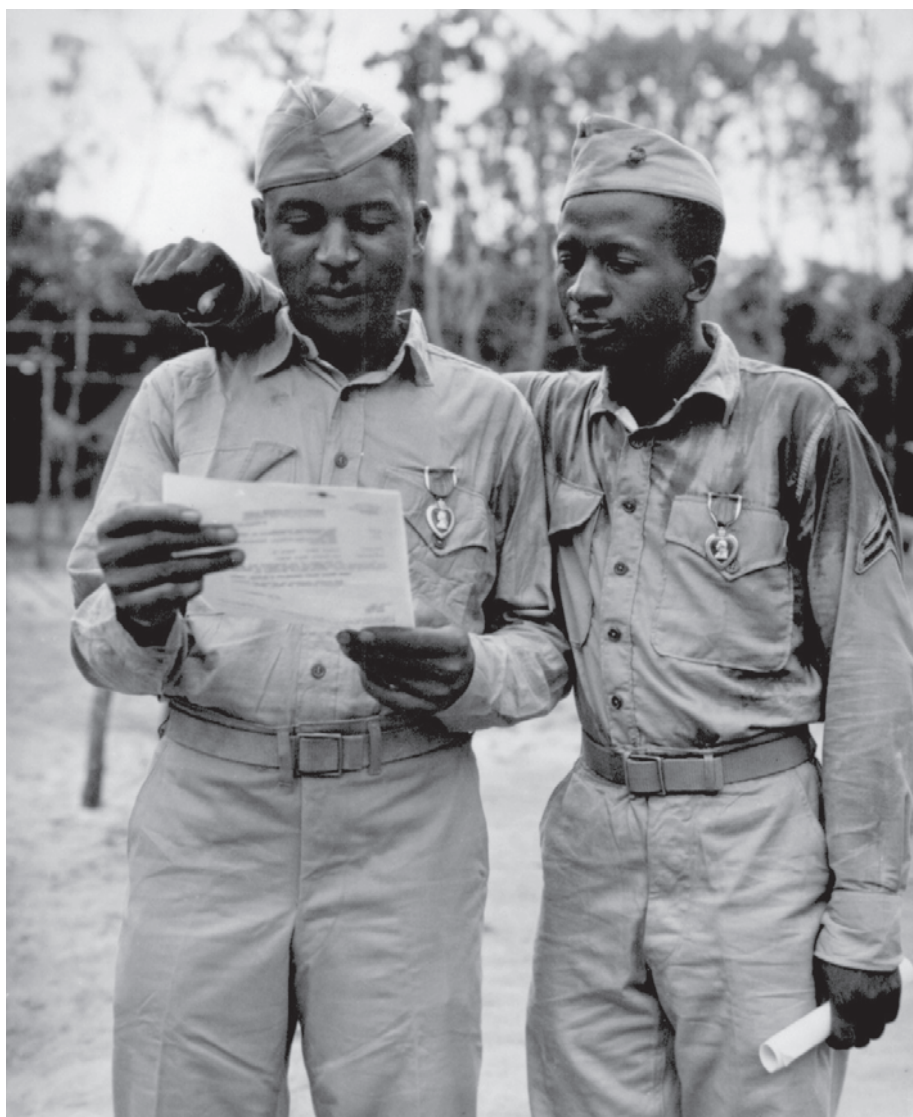
SSgt Robert H. Scott Jr.  
USMC, 1969-81  
Salisbury, Md.





# Saved Round

Compiled by Nancy Lee White Hoffman



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

**PURPLE HEARTS RECEIVED ON SAIPAN**—The recruiting of African-Americans into the Marine Corps began on June 1, 1942. Training would take place at Montford Point, N.C., and the first recruits would start arriving there in August.

Two years later, these Montford Point Marines, Cook 3d Class Timerlate E. Kirven, left, and Steward's Assistant 2d Class Samuel J. Love, were on the island of Saipan in the South Pacific. According to the Marine Corps History Division's "Blacks in the Marine Corps," by Henry I. Shaw Jr. and Ralph W. Donnelly, "The action [during the World War II Battle of Saipan, June 15-July 9, 1944] was such that areas normally considered 'safe' and 'behind the lines' were subjected to enemy fire." During the Japanese shelling of the headquarters compound of the Second Marine Division on June 20, 1944, Kirven and Love "both received leg wounds, thus earning the unwanted distinction of being the first Stewards' Branch combat casualties of the war." They each received the Purple Heart.





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