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Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

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

I read with dismay the media reports about the four U.S. Marines accused of inappropriate battlefield behavior in Afghanistan. While their alleged actions, if verified, are deplorable, it should not diminish our admiration and support for Marines, past and present, who have put themselves in harm's way.

I served in the Marine Corps in the early 1970s, and I have a son who currently is a U.S. Marine serving in Okinawa, Japan. The training my son has received is far superior to what I experienced during my military service. In fact, our Marines today are the best trained and equipped military force in the world.

Many are quick to condemn the actions of our military when such incidents are reported. It is easy for us to sit back, safe and secure, and pass judgment on those we rely on to protect our freedom. Society tends to view war in a sanitized way, and the instant access to information via the Internet and cell phone technology has put Marines under the microscope. They are expected—some who are still teenagers—to make instant life-and-death decisions on the battlefield without error and while under the scrutiny of modern technology. In addition to fears of combat, they must also deal with the distinct possibility that a single error in judgment could end their military career or result in criminal prosecution.

War is not a reality TV show. It is a dirty, nasty business, and bad things happen despite our best efforts. It also is a fact that our enemies have committed atrocities during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The key difference between us and them is that we hold our people accountable—they don't.

Our society teaches us to respect and protect human life. We create a moral dilemma for our military when they are trained to take the life of another human being. This is no different than in past wars. There are numerous examples of American propaganda during World War II which dehumanized the Japanese soldier

in order to assist our Marines in dealing with the realities of war. We are asking Marines to kill the enemy in battle and then immediately revert back to civilized behavior once the battle is over. That is an extraordinary burden.

The Marine Corps has gone to great lengths to minimize battlefield atrocities and limit civilian casualties during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; perhaps at the cost of additional American lives. Marines receive extensive training on the rules of engagement and conduct on the battlefield. It is my firm belief that the rate of inappropriate behavior on the battlefield has decreased dramatically in comparison to past wars. Yes, those who do wrong should be held accountable, but they, too, are casualties of war.

Bill Sullivan
USMC, 1972-74
Williamsville, N.Y.

Psychology of the Combat Warrior

Recently published events in Afghanistan, a current war zone, need to be better understood by the general public and by those in political offices as well. By no means am I condoning the desecration of bodies, but the situation must be understood.

War is not civilized. War is not clean. War is not polite. Therefore, good warriors are none of those things. Good warriors are thoroughly trained, completely molded and carefully instilled with a very necessary, inflicted, acquired psychopathology.

Our fighters are paid to go and fight our battles. This is an easy statement, because it doesn't elaborate on the word "fight." So, let me elaborate that. "Fight our battles" means "kill our enemies." Even that seems to sugarcoat it. We pay these men to kill people when it is deemed necessary by our government.

Place yourself in a foreign land. Your job is to follow orders. Specifically, you are to eliminate enemies when ordered to do so. If you come face to face with a man, you see his eyes, you hear his voice, you sense his life—and you are told to kill him. Could you? Without the military training, very likely you could not. You can empathize with the humanity of the

other person, the "enemy."

The enemy's humanity is a problem for the warrior who must follow orders to kill. How is he supposed to kill a person he sees and feels empathy for? The military must remove that empathy. Therefore, the target person is deemed an "enemy." The enemy is not a person—he becomes an "it," something less than human. Removing the enemy's humanity allows the warrior to kill.

The elimination of humanity in the enemy is not a new idea. In all prior wars, purposely degrading, derogatory names were given to the enemy to allow our warriors to kill them. The names removed the humanity.

Would it be a problem if the carcasses of nonhuman threats were desecrated? Would we be as upset if the warriors had been urinating on dead sharks or wolves? No. To further the point, in the warrior's mind, the enemy is even more dangerous and predatory, so that killing them is a true survival victory. A group of men, with ample testosterone, will celebrate the elimination of a nonhuman threat to survival. Why did the cavemen wear the bones and teeth of the cave bear?

An additional point that must be made is that the enemy is not only dehumanized in the minds of the warriors, but also vilified. These warriors are trained and drilled into hatred for the enemy—to fear what the enemy may do to their fellow warriors, or those they protect, if allowed to. How better to get them to respond quickly to eliminate the target?

Again, I do not condone the desecration of the bodies. I merely ask you to understand it. It is the result of a necessary, inflicted, acquired psychopathology. The effects generally are not lifelong, and although we train these men, and pay them to do as ordered, they alone have to live with the ghosts. We should understand that these men will someday remember what happened in the photographs and regret it.

I am the wife of a decorated Marine combat veteran of four combat tours. The reactions to the reports in the news about the actions of the Marines from Camp

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Lejeune, N.C., while in Afghanistan, concern me greatly. Although my husband was not one of those involved, I feel that those men need to be better understood.

Sara McCloskey

Las Cruces, N.M.

Question of Oversized Flags? Now, a Very Good Answer

This is in reference to the "Sound Off" reply in the January issue, given to First Lieutenant Rudy Heyse, USMC (Ret), "A Question About Oversized Flags Used at Ceremonies and Events."

Although the Flag Code is found in Title 4 of the U.S. Code as you stated, the two sections you referenced within it are incorrect. Sections 176 and 178 are from the "old" Flag Code when it was codified under Title 36. Several years ago, the 105th Congress removed the Flag Code from Title 36 and placed it under Title 4. Keep in mind that it was only a recodification. The law itself was not changed. So although you misquoted the section, you did quote the law correctly.

Section 10 (or 178 as you quoted) is actually practiced by the President more often than people think. Most of it involves presidential proclamations to half-mast the flag against the occasions listed in the Flag Code. Among the many examples include: the passing of Army Corporal Frank Buckles in February 2011; the weeklong half-masting to honor the victims of the Tucson shootings in January 2011; the five-day half-mast for the victims of the Fort Hood shootings in November 2009; and the five-day half-mast to honor the Indian Ocean tsunami victims in January 2005.

The Flag Code was written to provide a uniform guideline for proper displaying of the flag, because prior to it becoming a law, there was confusion as to what was "proper." Although the Flag Code implies how to respect the flag, true personal respect for the flag does not translate into following the Flag Code, because no law can dictate a person's feelings or emotions. What following the Flag Code does, however, is prevent one person's respect from becoming another person's disrespect, because although many people will disagree on what respecting the flag consists of, one thing we can all agree on is that our laws are the final rule.

The National Football League or any other civilian organization is not bound to following the Flag Code (Section 5). On the other hand, government agencies are (Section 6.e). The Flag Code does not provide penalties or enforcement provisions for either civilians or government employees who violate it. We would hope and expect that government agencies would act according to the law when displaying

the flag on public institutions and property (unfortunately that's not always the case), and only veer from the code outside of public institutions, such as at a football stadium, as long as it is done in good faith in respect toward how that civilian organization chooses to follow the Flag Code.

With all that said, I think to answer 1stLt Heyse's question, "Why do they [the military] participate in events where the flag is carried flat to the ground," the answer is because the public views those civilian-led ceremonies as respectful and patriotic displays of the flag, so in respect toward that, the military must participate when they are invited. If they don't, the public will discredit them with being un-American for refusing such an invitation. Our servicemen and women serve our nation's citizens more honorably than that.

The easiest way to make reason of Flag Code violations is to put it through this test: If it's a civilian-led event, the display would probably be acceptable as long as there is no intent whatsoever to disrespect the flag, and the majority of the attendees felt patriotic and not offended. But if it is a government-agency-led event, the display would be acceptable only if it follows the Flag Code, thus remaining unbiased to all Americans attending or not.

Enjoy American football while resting assured that you will not see those same types of flag ceremonies at Marine Corps public events such as Evening Parades at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

1stSgt Frank J. Furtado, USMC (Ret)

Port Orchard, Wash.

Air Ops in Korea

The January article titled "Marine Helicopter Operations in Korea—The Early Days," by Warren E. Thompson, brought me back to my days there. The HO3S-1 is dear to my heart, as I spent many hours maintaining, and flying in, one. My assignment was crew chief for the HO3S-1 based at K-6 (Pyongtaek). We had our share of pilot recoveries.

I also had a couple of opportunities to visit Marine Observation Squadron 6, helping with maintenance. My best post-Korean War friend was with VMO-6, and we enjoy sharing stories.

Sgt Lew Bradley

USMC, 1950-54

Chandler, Ariz.

The January 2012 issue had a great story about helo ops. We ground-pounders certainly owe them our gratitude for their dedication and heroism.

I served with 2d Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division and wish to add some personal observations.

During one of our battalion reunions



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there was a reunion of naval aviators in the same hotel. I struck up a conversation with one of them, and to my surprise he was Thomas Hudner, Medal of Honor recipient from the Chosin Reservoir.

In December 1950 then-Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Hudner and his fellow squadron member Ensign Jesse Brown (the first African-American naval aviator) were flying their F4U-4 Corsairs in support of the Marines at the Reservoir. ENS Brown's aircraft was hit by ground fire, and he had to crash-land behind the Chinese Communist lines. LTJG Hudner could see Brown moving in the cockpit of his downed aircraft, but not getting out.

Hudner belly-landed his plane and went to Brown's aid while other Corsairs kept the Chinese at bay. He found that Brown's legs were hopelessly trapped in the crushed cockpit, and there was smoke coming from the engine compartment. Hudner packed snow to keep the fire from spreading.

Marine Lieutenant Blatt of Marine Observation Squadron 6 arrived with his HO3S-1 helicopter, and both he and Hudner tried to extricate Brown without success. Brown died while they were trying to free him. Night was approaching, and the helicopters of that era had no night navigational equipment, so they had to leave. They made it as far as Koto-ri, which our

battalion and other units were defending, and spent the night. The next day, they continued back to the carrier USS *Leyte* (CV-32).

LTJG Hudner was awarded the Medal of Honor, and Lt Blatt, the Navy Cross.

Months later, while our battalion was fighting in the rugged mountains of north-eastern Korea during September 1951, VMO-6 was there when we needed them.

After completing the capture of Hill 749, Company F, 2/7 was hit by the 91st Regiment of the 45th North Korean Division in a night counterattack. The nearest road was seven miles with only primitive mountain trails. We had a badly injured Marine who would not survive without immediate medical help.

Our battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Franklin Brooke Nihart, contacted the commanding officer of VMO-6, Major David McFarland, and requested a night evacuation. The helicopters still had no night navigational equipment. Maj McFarland asked his pilots for a volunteer and they all volunteered. McFarland decided to fly the mission himself. He flew unarmed, without lights, on a dark night over seven rugged miles and landed to the rear of a contested hill. Guided by flashlights held by Marines on the ground, he evacuated the wounded Marine and was

awarded the Silver Star.

Helicopters added greatly to our sea, air and land Marine team, and this was enhanced when the greater-lift HRS-1 helicopters arrived in Korea in August 1951.

Cpl Stephen Lacki
Lockport, N.Y.

Ahh, The "Old Corps"!

The "Old Corps" [as explained in the November issue] exists whenever two Marines from different eras come together, and I believe the term was probably used since the very beginning in 1775.

Why do I maintain this belief? Here's what an old Marine "gunner" told me in 1959, when I worked for him at Quantico, Va.

Gunner Ferguson said: "The United States Marine Corps was born on 10 November 1775 at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. At the time, the tavern was a popular gathering place and watering hole for seafaring men, so it made sense to set up the first Marine recruiting station in the barroom."

According to the Gunner, who swore he had it on good authority, "The first Marine recruit was shortly signed up, paid a few shillings and given a tankard of rum. He had barely finished his drink and was given a second tankard when another



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recruit with a tankard of rum joined him."

"This is great," said the second recruit. "They paid me right away, and even bought me a drink."

"Ha, that's nothing," sneered the first recruit, "in the Old Corps they bought us two drinks."

LCpl John Strumsky
 USMC, 1958-62
 Catonsville, Md.

• *The first time I heard that story was right after getting my liberty card pulled for having dinosaur dung on my shield. It still makes me smile.—Sound Off Ed.*

Thanks for the Boot Camp Memories, Dave

David Hugel's January article, "Joining the Marines: The Beginning of a Lifelong Adventure," is spot-on. Where he went through Parris Island in 1960, I followed him in August of 1964. His thoughts before departing for P.I., and his descriptions of the famous bus ride and "official welcoming" by drill instructors, the white clapboard barracks, 782 gear issue, chrome domes and cartridge belts, graduation and the Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Geiger, were the same as my recollections and probably everyone else's.

Where David Hugel arrived at P.I., via

air, I arrived by train via Yemassee. My very first exposure to grits was on the train with the waiter in the dining car pointing to my plate, telling me in his booming baritone voice: "Them is hominy grits." I thought it was Cream of Wheat! What did I know about grits? I'm from the North.

During 2009, I made a long overdue trip to revisit Parris Island with a good friend of mine, a retired gunnery sergeant. After 40-plus years, as one might expect, Parris Island had changed. My "gunny" friend went through recruit training in the 1950s, and neither of us could really get our bearings except recalling a few landmarks like the chapel and the parade deck.

Let's face it, when you're a recruit, your eyes were usually locked onto the back of the head of the guy in front of you. Woe be unto him who is caught eyeballing the area. "Gunny" went through 1st Battalion, and I went through the 2d. The photo on page 48 of David Hugel's piece really opened the door and flooded my memories of life on P.I. I swear the barracks on the extreme left in the photo was Platoon 289's. I can still recall marching down the street to and from the mess hall.

As I continue my life's journey, I still reflect on my years as a young recruit, successfully earning the coveted title of United States Marine. While I put in only four years, it's as if I spent a lifetime in the Corps. You see, although I am not in the Corps now, by God, the Marine Corps is still in me. I feel the same pride I felt on graduation day. Thank you, David Hugel, for making my memories more vivid.

Ed Barewich
 USMC, 1964-68
 North Reading, Mass.

It is always amazing how one's time in boot camp parallels another's time there.

At some point during 1961, after arriving at the rifle range at Camp Matthews from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, we [Platoon 209] were taken to an area to pick up our shooting jackets.

I spied a jacket that had a name tag which read "P. Everly." Scuttlebutt had it that the Everly Brothers, who were popular singers, were in the series ahead of us. And here, I had a chance for "Everly Brother" memorabilia. My girlfriend back in Odessa, Texas, would be impressed.

It was not to be as one of my drill instructors shouted: "Private, what are you doing with my Phil Everly name tag?"

"Sir," I responded. My answer came on the quick. "The private was acquiring it for the drill instructor, sir!"

Kenneth Paynter
 San Antonio

Major General John A. Lejeune (Luh-jern),

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Amid the high risk and uncertainty of combat, shared experience—especially lessons hard earned—should be promulgated laterally as quickly as possible so that the learning curve of the entire organization is elevated by the creativity or misfortune of individual units.

— Marine Corps Operating Concepts 2010

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would have been proud of Private Dave Hugel and his well-written story of Parris Island in the early 1960s. It was a great trip down memory lane.

Is Parris Island the Corps' "only" boot camp?

P.T. Brent
Hawaii Marine Veteran
Honolulu

• *No, P.T., old friend, but Parris Island is the only one where women are trained. What battalion did you go through?—Sound Off Ed.*

About "Old Gimlet Eye"

The following is excerpted from "The Forging of the American Empire" by Sidney Lens in 1971: In November 1935, Major General Smedley D. Butler, in an article for *Common Sense* magazine, explained the purpose of these [American] interventions. "I spent thirty-three years and four months," wrote Butler, "in active service as a member of our country's most agile military force—the Marine Corps. ... And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism. ...

"Thus I helped make Mexico and es-

pecially Tampico safe for American oil interest in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. ... I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras "right" for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927, I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested."

I read the article about MajGen Butler in the January issue, and I know his most famous feelings, thoughts and words are never given proper light. I think the above should have been part of the article, and to let people know what a tough, no-nonsense Marine he was.

Joe Drago
West Roxbury, Mass.

It's hard to choose who would fill the title "Greatest Marine/Greatest American." For me, MajGen Butler wins hands down. Did he get propositioned to be "king" by villains on Wall Street upon a successful coup of the government of Franklin D. Roosevelt? I believe so, and I also believe those individuals should have been tried for treason.

It shocked me when I asked my mother,

who was old enough to know about such things, if she had ever heard of that coup attempt. She said, "Yes, of course, I know about that. It was no secret."

MajGen Smedley Darlington Butler is my choice for greatest American. Period.

Richard B. Ellenberger
Normandy Park, Wash.

A Mix-Up of Navy Ship Hulls

In the December 2011 issue, it was stated in "Sound Off" that USS *Langley* (CV-1) was built on an existing cruiser hull of USS *Jupiter* (AC-3).

This is incorrect. *Langley* was converted from a coal ship, commonly known as a collier, into an aircraft carrier and later used as a seaplane tender. She was lost on Feb. 27, 1942.

USS *Lexington* (CV-2) and USS *Saratoga* (CV-3) were built on cruiser hulls.

Hello and "thank you" to any Marines from "Lady Lex" who might remember my uncle, Private First Class Richard Troy Anderson, USMC, whom we lost on May 8, 1944.

Gary Anderson
Long Beach, Calif.

• *Good catch. Langley was converted from the collier USS Jupiter.—Sound Off Ed.*

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ORIGINAL ISSUE



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He Stepped Up for His Grandfathers

There was a mix-up in getting the U.S. Army Honor Guard to the cemetery, and Marine Private First Class Dalton Welsh, with 24th Marine Regiment, Kansas City, Mo., stepped up at the last minute and did

the flag presentation to his great-grandfather Homer Welsh. Having never done anything like this before, PFC Welsh did it without missing a beat, or blinking an eye.

The funeral was for Lonnie Welsh, PFC Welsh's grandfather, a Vietnam-era U.S. Army veteran who died in December 2011. Lonnie is the son of Homer Welsh, a World War II veteran of the Army.

Derek Welsh
Father of PFC Welsh
Lawrence, Kan.

How To Get Your Vietnam Knife Back *Pro Bono*

While in Vietnam, I ordered a Randall fighting knife from Randall Knives in Orlando, Fla. I knew nothing about the knife other than it was touted as one of the finest attack knives in the world. There were several Marines in our company who ordered them during our tour. The company gives order priority to our military, and we received them in a matter of months.

At the time, these knives were approximately \$165. I carried the Randall only a month or so and lost it. Shortly thereafter, on June 6, 1966, I was badly wounded and, for obvious reasons, put the knife issue out of my mind.

I received a phone call in March 2010 from an acquaintance who had been surfing eBay and saw one Randall Attack Knife that had etched on the blade: "George Sesto 2047686 USMC 4-15-66." With that information, I contacted eBay and was able to stop the sale. The final bid closed at \$2,475.

So began the real saga of retrieving my Randall from the collector, who had purchased it at an auction in California. Because of the stall tactics involved in turning over the knife, I had to retain an attorney here in Ontario, Canada. I then had to obtain four notarized documents from my fellow Marines who served with me at the time to prove who I am. My platoon leader then, is today General Charles E. Wilhelm, USMC (Ret). My former sergeant (now retired Sergeant Major Charles Hayman), retired Sergeant Wesley Stark and retired Sgt Charles Wilson all helped. After involving two police departments, along with an expensive attorney, the trail went dead. I then was advised to retain the services of a U.S. attorney.

Then followed several months of legal haggling, and after paying out a collectors' fee, delivery costs, brokerage fees, government service taxes and provincial sales taxes, the knife arrived at my residence three days before Christmas.

I then contacted both of my attorneys. My Canadian lawyer, whose son is serving with the Canadian army in Afghanistan, thanked me for my service and said his legal services were *pro bono* (no charge). My U.S. attorney, to my total surprise, did the same. Had it not been for my Marine brothers, two very patriotic attorneys and a patriotic chief of police in Pennsylvania, this would not have come to fruition. I have to admit, opening that courier package containing my knife was extremely emotional, as it brought back the memories of a time long ago.

Sgt George "Juca" Sesto, USMC (Ret)
Amherstburg, Ontario, Canada



PFC Dalton Welsh presents the U.S. flag to his great-grandfather Homer Welsh at the funeral of Lonnie Welsh, the Marine's grandfather and a Vietnam-era veteran.

Marines Still Are Helping in Vietnam

The January *Leatherneck* article about "Mike" Company, 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment veterans who returned to Vietnam's Que Son Valley and later funded the cleft lip and palate surgery for the young Vietnamese boy was great.

Many readers may not be aware of the generosity of Marine and Navy Vietnam veterans who have created living memorials in the form of schools and medical clinics in Vietnam.

One of the first was the Lewis B. Puller Jr. School in Dong Ha that First Lieutenant Puller arranged to have built through the Vietnam Children's Fund prior to his death in 1994. Since then, the VCF has quietly built more than 44 schools in Vietnam including three funded by Federal Express Corporation. Two of the FedEx schools are in memory of Army Second Lieutenant Richard W. Pershing, who attended Yale with FedEx founder Fred Smith, and Father Vincent Capodanno, who served

[continued on page 72]

Montford Point Marines To Be Awarded Congressional Gold Medal

Marines Assist in the Search for Original Montford Point Marines

By Capt Kendra Hardesty

The Marine Corps is assisting the Montford Point Marine Association in the search for and documentation of the original Montford Point Marines so they may be among those recognized with bronze replica medals when the Montford Point Marines are awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

The bill to award the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal was signed by President Barack Obama on Nov. 23, 2011, and an award ceremony is tentatively planned for this spring.

In order to be counted as an original Montford Point Marine, documentation of the individual's DD Form 214 or discharge paperwork verifying completion

of training at the Montford Point Camp in North Carolina, between 1942 and 1949, must be submitted to the Montford Point Marine Association. When submitting the documentation, the requestor must specify whether the Montford Point Marine is living or deceased and provide the current contact information, to include name, address, phone number and e-mail address for the Montford Point Marine or the next of kin.

This documentation must be provided to:

MPMA Inc.
National Legislative Officer
Mr. Joseph H. Geeter III
27 Red Tail Ct.
Limerick, PA 19468

Information about the Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony will be released when it becomes available.

Those with questions regarding Montford Point Marine Association chapters or documenting a Montford Point Marine, contact Joe Geeter at geeterj@yahoo.com, or (610) 495-3619.

Editor's note: Because of what might be short notice on the announcement of the presentation, Leatherneck will post the information on our website, so check us out at www.leatherneckmagazine.com.

Capt Hardesty is a public affairs officer assigned to the Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.



The 51st Defense Battalion arrived on Eniwetok and assumed responsibility for the West Pacific atoll's defense in September 1944. (USMC photo)



THE WAR ON TERROR

Edited by R. R. Keene



CPL BRYAN WYGARD

Above: Cpl James Hernandez, a combat engineer with “Alpha” Co, 9th ESB, uses an electric saw to dismantle a HESCO barrier at FB Saenz, the first of several operating bases demolished in December 2011.

Below: LCpl Jennifer Herman, a combat engineer with Alpha Co, moves pieces of what’s left of Camp Saenz.



CPL BRYAN WYGARD

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

■ Fire Base Saenz

Engineers Tear Down Patrol Bases, Paving Way for Pullout

Fire Base Saenz has been destroyed. Its defenses have been torn down, and its walls have been completely leveled courtesy of leathernecks from the 9th En-

gineer Support Battalion, Second Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

With the recent reduction and reorganization of troops, FB Saenz is the first of several forward operating bases in Afghanistan’s Helmand province that are being demilitarized.

The fire base, which covered a little

more than 11 acres of Afghan desert, was built more than a year ago and named after Sergeant Jose Saenz III, who was killed in action Aug. 9, 2010. During its existence, FB Saenz housed Marine artillery units armed with M777 lightweight howitzers that provided indirect fires in support of coalition ground forces operating in the northern half of Helmand province.

After convoying north from Camp Leatherneck, 9th ESB worked diligently Dec. 13-15, 2011, to properly dismantle the base and ensure that there was little, if any, footprint from the Marines.

“Even though it can be difficult [demilitarizing the base], you kind of just want to wreck the place, you know, have some fun with it,” said First Lieutenant Andrew Fassett, commander of 1st Platoon, Company A, 9th ESB. “But [the Marines] have been doing a good job taking everything down and making sure to keep it neat so it fits on the truck. We did the right job in terms of cleaning up after ourselves here in Afghanistan.”

Doing the right job included emptying sandbags, pushing down berms and coiling up hundreds of yards of razor wire surrounding Saenz.

One of the more challenging tasks was dismantling the numerous HESCO barriers that made up the guard posts at each corner of the base. HESCO barriers are military fortification barriers that have seen extensive use in Iraq and Afghanistan. A typical HESCO is 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide and made of a collapsible wire-mesh container with a heavy-duty fabric liner that is usually filled with sand.

The Marines used tractors, forklifts, electric saws, shovels, pickaxes, bolt cutters, knives and their hands to rip apart the HESCO barriers that once protected the Marines at Saenz from explosive blasts and small-arms fire.

Lance Corporal Zachary Couch said it was “pretty tedious work” for him and the other Marines. “Using all the power tools, especially the bolt cutters ... after at least two or three 7-foot HESCOs, chopping them down from top to bottom—it gets pretty tough.”

Marines appreciate the fact that sometimes it's fun to tear things down. LCpl Paul Flores, a combat engineer with Co A, 9th ESB, helps empty the sand from a barrier at FB Saenz in December 2011.



CPL BRYAN NYGAARD

The Marines who were equipped with the electric saws were able to cut through the wire mesh with relative ease. The sparks they produced lit up the evening sky and resembled fireworks.

As darkness fell, the Marines used the headlights from the tractors to aid them in their disassembly of the HESCOs. As they continued working deep into the night, the temperature dropped below 20 degrees, forcing them to put on more layers of clothing.

A little before midnight they called it a day. There were no tents to house them, so they slept inside the armored vehicles that brought them to Saenz. Several Marines would cram into one vehicle and sleep on top of their packs and body armor.

The next morning they grabbed their tools and began where they had left off.

During the night, the leathernecks had used bulldozers to flatten the berms that made up the walls of the base, thereby removing protection from any insurgent fire. From then on, the Marines had to wear their helmets and body armor.

Corporal James Hernandez, a fire team leader, said: "I hate the cold. It just gets to you after a while. That's when all the

morale starts going down—when it starts getting cold or in the morning, trying to get everyone out of the racks or out of the vehicles, which are a little bit warmer than outside."

LCpl Tameka Demps finds her motivation in the work that she does.

"I just like to work; I like to be busy,"

she said. "If I stop, I feel like I'm not doing anything. I like doing this. It's exhausting, but it's fun."

Once 9th ESB finished dismantling Saenz, the unit headed toward the next patrol base.

Cpl Bryan Nygaard

Combat Correspondent, 9th ESB, 2d MLG (Fwd)



JASON MONROE



CPL MICHAEL AUGUSTO

“Waste not, want not” isn’t just an axiom for Marines. Traditionally frugal, Marines, in just a few days, salvaged \$2.3 million in equipment, such as parts of this storage container being cleaned at Camp Leatherneck.

■ **Camp Leatherneck** Millions of Dollars in Gear, Equipment Accounted for in Clean Sweep

During the last three months, leathernecks of Second Marine Logistics Group (Forward) have accounted for, sorted, cleaned and processed several million dollars’ worth of gear and equipment in support of Operation Clean Sweep aboard Camp Leatherneck and Camp Dwyer.

This operation is part of Regional Command Southwest’s plan for redeployment and retrograde in support of reset and reconstitution (R4), which is a four-part term commonly used to refer to the concept of how the Marine Corps will most efficiently and effectively leave Afghanistan—redeployment, retrograde, reset and reconstitution.

Planning for the departure of forces has

become a primary focus of operations, along with the continued training of Afghan National Security Forces.

Not only is the plan facilitating the process of leaving Afghanistan, but it is saving the Corps money by identifying excess gear and reallocating it to the units deployed, rather than ordering new equipment.

According to statistics compiled by Major Ken Karcher, officer in charge of redeployment and retrograde operations, supply management units have recovered roughly \$30 million worth of excess supplies.

These items currently are being shipped to Marine commands in the United States or reallocated to units fighting in support of International Security Assistance Force operations.

2dLt James F. Stenger

Combat Correspondent, 2d MLG (Fwd)

■ **Camp Dwyer** Unmanned Helicopter Makes First Delivery to Marines in Afghanistan

Leathernecks from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron (VMU) 1 in Afghanistan added aerial resupply to the list of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capabilities when squadron members completed the first unmanned aerial system cargo delivery in a combat zone via a K-MAX unmanned helicopter on Dec. 17, 2011.

Unmanned systems—with surveillance and close air support—have revolutionized combat aviation, providing a colossal advantage in the fight against terrorism.

“We delivered cargo today that was supposed to be delivered by convoy. Now that convoy has three pallets that it does not have to carry,” explained Major Kyle O’Connor, officer in charge of the cargo resupply detachment.

The unmanned helicopter lifted about 3,500 pounds of food and supplies to troops at Combat Outpost Payne. The aircraft, an unmanned variant of a K-MAX, completed the delivery in about an hour and a half.

“It is a milestone, certainly. We have delivered a lot of loads in the States during training, testing and evaluation,” said Steven Athanas, a representative from Lockheed Martin. “Now that we have integrated it into the battlespace, we have gone from what you think can happen, to what can happen.”

A human-piloted variant of this particular K-MAX helicopter first was developed in the 1990s. The manned version is used for heavy lifting in private industry, including logging.

“This is a demonstration phase to test the true capabilities of this aircraft and how well it can perform its job in a combat environment,” said Maj O’Connor. “With every flight in theater we are collecting data, and at the end of the day we are going to look at all of that data and decide whether or not to make it a program of record.”

“During this phase, we will be making some adjustments to make it easier to use, but mostly I think the biggest adjustments will be seeing how many different ways we can use the unmanned aerial system,” said Athanas.

Cpl Justin M. Boling

Combat Correspondent, 2d MAW (Fwd)

■ **Camp Bastion** Teamwork Fits New Blade On Huey in Afghanistan

The “Gunfighters” of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 consistently use a proven method to get their aircraft back in the fight—teamwork.



CPL JUSTIN M. BOLING



CPL JUSTIN M. BOLING

Above left: A detachment of VMU-1 leathernecks pose on Dec. 17, 2011, with 3,500 pounds of food and supplies destined for COP Payne. It was the first aerial system cargo delivery in a combat zone for the UAV.

Above right: The Marines are banking that the K-MAX unmanned chopper has a busy future in the Corps.



Small-unit leadership, small-unit team work and pretty good-sized muscles are what it takes to fit a main rotor blade into a UH-1Y Super Huey rotor head during repairs at Camp Bastion. Leathernecks of HMLA-369 have it all, including quality assurance, in the environs of Afghanistan. (Photo by GySgt Aaron Jameson)

Marines of HMLA-369 came together Jan. 8 to manually lift a rotor blade into a UH-1Y Super Huey helicopter that was undergoing repairs.

“We don’t have an overhead hoist in the hangar, so that’s how we [as a team] have to do it,” said Gunnery Sergeant Aaron Jameson, the squadron’s quality assurance chief. “Everyone out here is putting everything they have into our mission.”

The squadron, deployed from Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., flies the only Marine Corps attack helicopters in Afghanistan. The Gunfighters employ a lethal tandem of UH-1Y Super Huey and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters.

“Maintaining the aircraft is a constant thing out here because of the operational tempo that we maintain,” said Jameson. “The Marines are always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Through teamwork comes mission accomplishment, and we will keep that going and keep together throughout our deployment.”

Cpl Brian Adam Jones
Combat Correspondent, 2d MAW (Fwd)

■ **Camp Leatherneck** **Marines Control Air** **In Southwestern Afghanistan**

It takes fewer than 100 Marines to control nearly 100,000 square miles of airspace in southwestern Afghanistan.

Sergeant Travis Bryant is one of those Marines. Bryant, a tactical air traffic controller, spends his days in the back of

a modified humvee. He puts in up to 12 hours every day watching blips on a radar scope, each one a helicopter or jet flown by a coalition pilot. He speaks through a headset to the pilots, advising them of other traffic and keeping them all out of harm’s way.

“There is no training evolution that will fully prepare somebody for the job they are going to do out here,” said Gunnery Sergeant Richard White, a Marine Corps tactical air traffic controller. “Despite the great training we do in the States, it is not nearly as complex with as many aircraft and nations all participating in operations.”

The airspace is used by allied aircraft that are a part of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force to provide aviation support troops on the ground. Every day in the air above southwestern Afghanistan, there are literally hundreds of aircraft operating in close proximity to one another.

White, Bryant and leathernecks of Marine Air Control Squadron 2 man the Tactical Air Operations Center at Camp Leatherneck. These Marines operate and maintain radar arrays, communicate with pilots and ensure the Afghan skies are safe.

“We stay in contact with the aircraft and observe our radar to control the airspace,” explained Bryant.

U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and British helicopters and jets provide close-air support as well as troop and cargo transport. U.S. Army helicopters

conduct medical evacuations. French, Belgian, Italian and Australian aircraft also routinely operate in southwestern Afghanistan.

Cpl Justin M. Boling
Combat Correspondent, 2d MAW (Fwd)

■ **Helmand Province** **Open for Travel: 9th ESB Builds Road,** **Bringing Growth to Helmand**

The leathernecks with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, Second Marine Logistics Group (Forward) currently are constructing a route in an area that otherwise has nothing like it.

The development of this main supply route is vital because it will ensure that the local nationals have a safe way to transport their goods throughout Helmand province, said Corporal Mark E. Mattiaccio, a heavy equipment operator.

“There really are no other [established] roads out here that can be proclaimed as safe for the locals to drive on,” Mattiaccio continued.

The ongoing project in the Shir Ghazay area of northern Helmand province is important to coalition forces as well as to the locals for a number of reasons.

Mattiaccio pointed out that not only will the road be beneficial in the immediate future, but it also has the potential to help people for years to come.

“I think road construction such as [this] will help Afghan independence in the future,” he explained. “The road should give the local nationals a strong sense of security. They will know that the road is

Marines of 9th ESB break new ground for a road in a remote Shir Ghazay area of northern Helmand province in late 2011.

safe and easy to travel.”

Lance Corporal Mike Q. Vu, a fellow 9th ESB heavy equipment operator, agreed that the route would be beneficial to the Afghans, but he highlighted different reasons.

“I think a road like this will provide a model for them to build their own domestic transportation system,” Vu explained. “By establishing their own system, the local nationals will in turn be able to improve their own processes of communication. With the enhancements in communication and transportation of goods and trade, the Afghan people will essentially be able to establish their own domestic government, which has been proven to be the cornerstone in establishing a self-sufficient country.”

While both Marines said they were proud of the work they had done on the road, Vu elaborated on his sense of accomplishment.

“I can say I was part of an operation in Afghanistan that not only improved the proficiency of all military operations in the area, but also helped in humanitarian



CPL KATHERINE M. SOLANO

operation to aid the locals in establishing a foundation for their own self-sufficiency.”

Both locals and the coalition forces are grateful for the opportunity to travel and conduct business on a safer route.

Vu told of one instance when a local Afghan showed his appreciation. He said there were many encounters with the locals, but in this particular case, the elderly male paused in his work on his irrigation ditch and approached the engineers, shaking the engineers’ hands and thanking them.

“The man was very excited, because he explained how much easier it would be on him and his sons to travel with all of their crops to sell and trade,” Vu stated.

The mission is important, according to Vu, because it provides a means to travel between mission objectives, while deterring insurgent activities.

Cpl Katherine M. Solano
Combat Correspondent, 2d MLG (Fwd)



GARMSIR DISTRICT



CPL REECE LODDER

FOR OLE BLUE, IT'S A TWO-MARINE NIGHT—LCpl Matthew Scofield, sleeping on the left, and LCpl Jarrett Hatley, in Redskin-wrapped slumber alongside Hatley's IED detection dog Blue, get some shut-eye after clearing compounds with Afghan National Security Forces' soldiers during Operation Tajeer Shamal (Shifting Winds), Jan. 4, in the central Helmand River Valley. The trio are members of 3d Platoon, Company L, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment.

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The Lang Vei Rescue Attempt

By Dick Camp

Prologue

Late in the afternoon on 30 Jan. 1968, North Vietnamese Army Private Luong Dinh Du, a rifleman assigned to the 8th Battalion, 66th Regiment, 304th Division, carefully studied the dozing Montagnard guard at the main gate of the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei and decided that it was time to act.

Du stood up from his concealed position and, without being challenged, walked straight into the camp and headed for the Special Forces team house. Without so much as a “by your leave,” he stepped through the door and surveyed the unsuspecting inhabitants.

The Americans did a double take, taken aback by the sight of the green-uniformed, rifle-toting enemy soldier, and scrambled to grab their weapons. Before they could shoot, Du raised his hands in surrender. He was interrogated immediately, and during the course of the questioning, he startled his inquisitors by claiming that Lang Vei was going to be attacked within the next two weeks by infantry and “tanks.”

“Tanks in the Wire!”

Just past midnight on 7 Feb. 1968, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Peter Tiroch woke with a start. “Tanks in the wire!” someone had shouted, sending him sprinting to Lang Vei’s 4.2-inch mortar pit. The mortar was fully manned, so he dashed over to a recoilless-rifle position. Under the flickering light of a mortar illumination round he was startled to see two burning tanks and a third churning through the outer perimeter’s barbed-wire entanglements toward the inner compound. The armor was identified later as Soviet-made PT-76 amphibious tanks of the 3d and 9th companies of the 198th Armored Bn, of which 11 participated in the attack.

Army Captain Frank Willoughby, the Special Forces team commander, radioed the 1st Bn, 13th Marines (call sign “Jacksonville”) at the Khe Sanh Combat Base for artillery support. “Are you sure about the armor?” an incredulous Marine operator asked Willoughby. “Roger, roger; that is affirm,” he heatedly responded. “We have tanks in the perimeter!”

At the time of the request, Khe Sanh was under heavy North Vietnamese Army

indirect fire designed to suppress the Marine artillery, preventing support for the embattled Special Forces unit at Lang Vei. John Prados and Ray Stubbe in their book, “Valley of Decision: The Siege of Khe Sanh,” estimated that incoming mortar and rockets were exploding “at an average rate of six per minute and by morning the total stood at about 100 rockets and 450 rounds of mortar fire.”

Lang Vei Special Forces Camp

Lang Vei Special Forces Camp, call sign “Spunky Hanson,” was established in 1966 near the village of Lang Vei in the north-western corner of Quang Tri Province, Republic of South Vietnam. In May 1967, North Vietnamese regulars (NVA), aided by confederates inside the camp, penetrated its defenses, killed or wounded four Special Forces soldiers and destroyed much of the compound. Since the original camp lacked good observation and fields of fire, it was moved 1,000 meters west along Route 9, which placed it 1½ kilometers east of the Laotian border and eight kilometers southwest of the Marine base at Khe Sanh.



South Vietnamese CIDG strike force soldiers and U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment A-101, 5th Special Forces Group gather at Lang Vei, near the Laotian border in August 1967.

RAY STUBBE

In September, Naval Mobile Construction Bn 11 constructed a new camp. It was manned by Bru Montagnards and a local Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) strike force, a South Vietnamese Special Forces Team, and a 24-man Special Forces Operational Detachment “A” Team (SFOD-A 101) of the 5th Special Forces Group, a total garrison of approximately 500 men. Their mission was to conduct surveillance of the Laotian border and the Demilitarized Zone, as well as to interdict enemy-infiltration routes.

The camp, which was in the shape of a dog bone, consisted of an inner and outer perimeter and corner strongpoints, each protected by barbed wire, trip flares and claymore mines. A special underground concrete-reinforced tactical operations center (TOC) was constructed in the inner compound. The camp’s internal fire support consisted of one 4.2-in. mortar, seven 81 mm mortars and 19 60 mm mortars dispersed throughout the perimeter. Lang Vei’s antitank defenses consisted of two 106 mm and four 57 mm recoilless rifles and 100 M72 LAAWs (Light Anti-Armor Weapon).

The camp also was supported by the 1st Bn, 13th Marines at Khe Sanh: three batteries of 105 mm howitzers, a battery of 4.2-in. mortars and a battery of 155 mm howitzers.

Fire Support

Willoughby’s emergency request for artillery support was relayed through 1/13’s Fire Direction Center (FDC) and passed to Battery B. First Lieutenant Fred McGrath, the battery executive officer, remembered, “We had Lang Vei on the radio and were providing fire support, based upon the Special Forces personnel adjusting the rounds: ‘Repeat fire for effect on number eight [preregistered target number], left 200 [meters] and right 200 [meters]. We have tanks coming up the road; request fire number five. Keep it working up and down the road.’”

Willoughby called also for air support. A series of airborne U.S. Air Force forward air controllers (FACs), call sign “Covey,” reported in to help, establishing communications with Willoughby. Covey 232 found that “the ground fire was very heavy, extensive, making it almost impossible to stay in one position, because the minute you did, they had you under fire.”

“I have one tank on top of my TOC [tactical operations center] at this time,” the Special Forces officer exclaimed. “There’s another tank trying to enter the gate, coming into the compound, and another one coming down the road.”

Covey 232 marked the target with rock-



ets, and, according to a declassified report, “Yellow Bird 59 [a U.S. Air Force B-57] dropped its ordnance, destroying two tanks and obtaining 15 secondary explosions.” It was not enough. “Tanks and a lot of infantry are coming into the camp,” Willoughby radioed. He then requested Jacksonville to “fire the preplanned fires right on [Lang Vei’s] position.”

Covey described the situation: “Our advisors [Special Forces] were trapped in the TOC bunker in the middle of the camp, and the NVA were swarming all over it, throwing satchel charges and smoke bombs down through the [air] vents.”

McGrath noted, “The last transmission was to the effect, ‘Oh hell, they have tanks. They’re right on top of us.’ We didn’t hear anything else.”

Army SSG Harve Saal, a Special Forces liaison at Khe Sanh Combat Base, said, “There was a rushing sound, and the Lang Vei radio went silent.”

Eight American Special Forces soldiers, including Willoughby, and more than a dozen Vietnamese were trapped in the

TOC. They could not break out and the NVA could not get in, although they were trying their best by using satchel charges and hand grenades.

Rescue Attempt

Marine Observation Squadron (VMO) 6, call sign “Seaworthy,” maintained a section (two aircraft) of Bell UH-1E helicopter gunships at Khe Sanh to provide medical (medevac) and resupply escort for a section of CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 262, call sign “Chatterbox.” The flight would work the day out of Khe Sanh, remain overnight and work the next morning before returning to Quang Tri. The aircraft were laagered in specially constructed revetments on the northern side of the runway, directly across from the logistics support area. The crews stayed in the 26th Marines’ underground command post.

On the morning of 8 Feb., Capt Edward Kufeldt, VMO-6, recalled, “I was in the bunker [26th Marines] around 0600 and

Two destroyed Soviet-made PT-76 tanks (left), like the one in the close-up photo below, are visible in the area near the Lang Vei camp. (Photos courtesy of Dick Camp)





This overhead photo of the Lang Vei camp was taken in July 1967. A new camp was built a kilometer to the southwest in late September 1967.

USMC

told to stand by for the evacuation of Lang Vei. We didn't know much, except that the Special Forces camp had been overrun."

First Lt Charlie Crookall, a Chatterbox copilot, remembered, "At one point we could hear the rumble of tanks over the radio transmission from the camp." Kufeldt noted that "the weather was crappy, fog and low clouds, which kept us from launching."

However, in preparation for the launch, Kufeldt sent his crew chief, Corporal Robert Crutcher, to check on the gunship. Crutcher made his way across the fog-shrouded matting. "I had walked across the runway many times under rocket attack," he said. "Anytime we landed we got rocketed and mortared; it was just part of going into Khe Sanh." The noncommissioned officer reported that the aircraft was OK despite the night shelling.

"We continued to stand by throughout the day," Kufeldt said. "By late afternoon the sky had cleared, and we got approval to evacuate the Special Forces." The four aircraft launched after a quick preflight briefing. Kufeldt's gunship, call sign "Seaworthy 4-21," was flying as the number two (Dash-2) in the section led by Major Curt McRaney, the VMO-6 maintenance officer.

"We received little information on the situation, except that some of the Special Forces had been evacuated by truck and that Army Hueys might help with the remainder of the evacuation," Kufeldt said. "We were never told how bad it was. For us it was just another day, just another mission."

The flight established contact with the

Air Force airborne FAC, who directed them toward the landing zone, an elongated runway close to old Lang Vei. "The 46s went in," Kufeldt explained, "and received ground fire, which we tried to suppress."

First Lt Crookall said, "It was like a flying circus. I had an A-4 [ground-attack aircraft] roll in below me and drop napalm—scared the crap out of me—and left a big wall of fire. There was a lot of fire; everybody got hit."

Kufeldt watched the transports go in. "They landed quite a distance from each other," he recalled, "and were immediately

inundated by hundreds and hundreds of Laotians and Vietnamese." The helicopter crewmen attempted to establish order, but were overwhelmed by the press of humanity trying to escape the NVA forces.

"I remember seeing hysterical Laotian and Vietnamese troops hanging off of anything they could get a hold of. The aircraft were so overloaded that they couldn't get off the ground," Special Forces SSG Dennis Thompson recalled. "There were people hanging on to the ramp, the wheels, even the VHF antenna. They were grabbing anything they could get a hold of."

Kufeldt watched in astonishment. "I

Controversy

Controversy surrounded the Marine decision not to attempt a rescue of the forces at Lang Vei. The decision was based on tactical considerations.

William R. Phillips wrote in his book, "Night of the Silver Stars: The Battle of Lang Vei," that "a careful study of the battle reports from Lang Vei of the tactical and strategic situations, and of the terrain ... leads to the inevitable conclusion that any attempt to relieve Lang Vei ... would have been an exercise in futility. The rescuers would have suffered an unacceptable level of casualties."

Major Jim Stanton, in the 26th Marine Regiment Fire Support Coordination Center at Khe Sanh, said, "We were sure that the attack on Lang Vei was a ploy to get the Marine relief force outside the combat base wire, that they [North Vietnamese Army] had set an ambush."

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Wilkinson, commanding 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment at the Khe Sanh Combat Base, had tasked one of his rifle companies to determine possible routes to Lang Vei. "[The] company, avoiding well-used trails to preclude ambush, could move by foot from KSCB [Khe Sanh Combat Base] to Lang Vei in approximately nineteen hours."

Colonel David Lownds, Commanding Officer, 26th Marines, defending Khe Sanh, said, "If I thought there was a chance they could get there [relief force], I would have tried it, but I don't think there was."

—Dick Camp

heard one of the pilots exclaim, ‘This is not working. We’re taking off.’ I saw people falling off the ramp, off the wheels as the aircraft pulled out of the zone. They took some light hits from the right side of the runway. I could see the tracers, so we went in to suppress with our machine guns.”

First Lt Crookall recalled, “We took a hit in a hydraulic line, a pinhole leak in the forward rotor area over the cockpit. It was not enough to bleed the system, but we lost some power, and the gauges fell off. We got down low, in case we had to set it down.”

The flight headed back to Khe Sanh. “The -46s were on their final approach, and we were about half a mile behind them when we got a call from Covey,” Capt Kufeldt recalled. “There is an American in the zone. Will someone go back and pick him up?” Kufeldt “called Dash-1 [Major McRaney]. ‘Can you pick him up?’ McRaney replied that he didn’t have the fuel, and the CH-46 pilots said they were not going back because of aircraft damage, so I requested to go in.” Kufeldt asked his crew if they were up for it. “My copilot [Second Lieutenant George Rosental] said, ‘Let’s do it,’ and the rest of the crew said, ‘OK.’ ”

As Kufeldt’s Huey headed back to Lang Vei, the transport aircraft landed at Khe Sanh. “After we dropped off the passengers,” 1stLt Crookall recalled, “our crew chief inspected the troop compartment and found an incendiary grenade with the pin pulled lodged between the troop seat and the bulkhead, which he carefully deactivated with a piece of wire.”

While getting into position for the rescue, Kufeldt worked out a strategy with the airborne FACs. “I circled around to the south and asked Covey to use the fixed wing on station to hit both sides of the runway with bombs to suppress NVA fire. I intended to make a high-speed run, flare to bleed off airspeed and get in quick.”

The bombers pulled off the target, and Kufeldt started his run in the Huey. “As we rolled out on final approach,” 2dLt Rosental said, “I saw a file of NVA—10 or 12—in a gully ... at least a quarter mile away, far enough I thought that we could get in and out before they were a threat.”

Kufeldt alerted the crew. “I said, ‘Here we go,’ and crossed a tree line at maximum airspeed. As we approached the zone, I pulled back on the stick and started to flare. Suddenly, the whole world lit up!”

Rosental recalled, “As Ed [Kufeldt] flared to land from a high hover, I looked through the chin bubble and saw an NVA directly below me on one knee. He opened fire and stitched us with his AK47! I was hit with three rounds, one in each leg and one in the arm, which cut an artery. The

The reinforced tactical operations center built by the Seabees of NMCB-11 for the Lang Vei camp was credited with saving the lives of the Army Special Forces advisors when the camp was overrun by NVA forces in February 1968.



bullets in the legs felt like someone had hit me with a sledgehammer.”

Rosental slumped in his seat, semiconscious. Several other enemy soldiers were mere yards from the Huey, blazing away with rifles and automatic weapons. “I could hear their weapons even through the flight helmet, and I could feel us take hits,” Kufeldt explained.

Cpl Crutcher said, “I felt like my head was in a popcorn popper as the bullets cracked by my head.”

Kufeldt remembered that “the instrument panel lit up like a Christmas tree. Almost all the caution lights were solid yellow. The engine red fire light came on, and the engine coughed. I struggled to gain control and abort the landing. I caught a glimpse of my copilot. He was slumped in his seat, and I thought he was dead.”

Crutcher also was wounded. “I was sitting on my steel pot when the round came up through the helmet into my leg.”

Kufeldt managed to keep the helicopter airborne and headed for Khe Sanh. “The aircraft vibrated badly, but stayed in the air. Thank God it stayed together,” he remarked with relief. He contacted the Khe Sanh control tower and declared an emergency and confirmed that he had wounded on board.

Crutcher tried to help Kufeldt’s copilot. “He was bleeding heavily and in pain, but the armored seats kept me from getting to him.” A crash crew and several corpsmen met the aircraft as it settled onto the runway. Rosental was hauled out of his seat by his arm and rushed to the aid station for initial treatment. “It hurt like hell,” he exclaimed.

“While they were doing that,” Cpl Crutcher said, “one of the doctors told

me, ‘Son, you better sit down. You’ve been hit.’ Up to that time I didn’t realize I had been wounded.”

Rosental was stabilized and evacuated to the United States for further treatment and rehabilitation. Capt Kufeldt and the crew chief were treated and returned to duty. Their helicopter looked like a sieve (Cpl Crutcher counted more than 80 hits) and not in flying condition. It was evacuated by a CH-53 heavy-lift helicopter. Unfortunately, something went wrong with the lift, and the aircraft was jettisoned into the jungle and never recovered.

Postscript

Cpl Crutcher was awarded a single-mission Air Medal for his role in the mission. SSG Dennis Thompson, the Special Forces soldier they had tried to rescue, was captured and escaped, only to be recaptured. He was repatriated during Operation Homecoming in 1973. Of the 24 Special Forces soldiers in Lang Vei, 14 (all but one wounded) survived to be evacuated, three were captured and later repatriated, and seven were killed in action. Capt Kufeldt was later awarded a Silver Star.

It is estimated that 250 North Vietnamese were killed and seven tanks destroyed. Two more tanks were listed “as probable.”

Editor’s note: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va. He’s a frequent contributor for Leatherneck readers.



VMM-261—Doing the Heavy Lifting For 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit

By Andrew Lubin

From rescuing a downed pilot recently in Libya, to conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in Haiti, Japan and northern Pakistan, or halting the Qaddafi forces on the outskirts of Benghazi, Libya, the aviation combat element (ACE) of a Marine expeditionary unit (MEU) forms an integral part of the Marine Corps' ability to quickly project a presence worldwide.

An ACE for the expeditionary unit is a reinforced squadron of fixed and rotary wing aircraft, plus all the command and control, aviation supply and maintenance resources that provide a Marine expeditionary unit with a variety of options. Through its blend of AH-1 Super Cobra gunships, UH-1 Hueys, CH-53E Super Stallion heavy-lift helicopters, MV-22 Ospreys and the AV-8B Harriers, the MEU commander has the ability to provide close air support (CAS), a heavy-lift capacity to move Marines and supplies, plus assault support.

These capabilities were on display in

December when the 24th MEU embarked in Navy shipping to participate in a major predeployment certification exercise called Composite Training Unit Exercise 2011. The MEU's reinforced squadron is Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261,

"We have our own weaponry, maintenance and supply capabilities that enable us to support any operation."

—LtCol Brian E. Smith

home-based at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Brian E. Smith, VMM-261 consists of about 500 Marines ranging from pilots to mechanics to logisticians. The ACE is a self-contained unit. A "MEU needs to be able to fight for two weeks without

resupply," explained Smith. "We have our own weaponry, maintenance and supply capabilities that enable us to support any operation from forcible entry to evacuating an embassy, to HA/DR [humanitarian assistance and disaster relief]."

But it all starts with Marines like Corporal Roman Quiroz, a UH-1 helicopter mechanic. Trained on both the Huey and Cobra airframes, Quiroz ensures that the helicopter is airworthy before a flight. "I conduct an overall visual maintenance check of the power plant, drive and rotors," he said. "I'm looking for leaking hydraulics, corrosion, loose wires, basically anything that might come loose and cause a problem."

While he and his fellow mechanics are trained to repair some maintenance items, Quiroz has engine and electronic specialists to call on for more substantive issues. "We're ready to fix or replace anything necessary to keep flying. We've got tools and common-usage parts [on board USS *New York* (LPD-21)] and more specialized

Cpl Philip Lovvorn and Cpl Jessica Livingston (below left) attach a dummy bomb to the pylon of an AV-8B Harrier as PFC David Ehle (below right) readies another dummy bomb for the aircraft.





items like engines available to us on USS *Iwo Jima* (LHD-7).” The initial responsibility for every one of VMM-261’s Huey and Cobra flights lies with Marines like Quiroz, who said, “Before every flight I certify the ‘bird’ I inspected is safe for flying, and I’m not going to put my Marines at risk.”

“The mix of rotary- and fixed-wing gives us options on how to best complete the mission,” Colonel Francis L. Donovan, the 24th MEU commander, explained. “And the addition of the MV-22 Osprey gives us even more flexibility.”

The newest addition to the Marine Corps air arm, the Osprey is a medium-lift (12,500 pounds) assault support platform initially designed to carry Marines into combat. But in December’s Comptuex 2011 exercise, Donovan and Smith gave their Osprey contingent new tasks.

One of the Osprey pilots, Captain Christopher A. “Sausage” Forman, explained how the aircraft is being used. “Although it takes off and lands like a helicopter,” he said, “it’s not, and that’s a critical strategic and tactical difference. The Osprey is a medium-lift airplane that performs a multitude of both helicopter and airplane-like tasks.”

An important difference is the range it offers; with the temporary shipboard

addition of an auxiliary fuel tank, the Osprey is capable of reaching long-range destinations while still carrying Marines. During Comptuex 2011, Smith’s Ospreys were flying round-trip from North Carolina to Florida—a huge improvement in distance over the CH-46 and CH-53

Carrying mannequins on stretchers, members of Combat Logistics Battalion 24, 24th MEU hustle to a VMM-261 MV-22 Osprey. All were participating in a “casualty” evacuation during a December 2011 predeployment exercise aboard MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. (Photo by Sgt Richard Blumenstein)



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Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261



- Reinforced tiltrotor squadron that is task organized to provide assault support, fixed wing and rotary wing close air support, airborne command and control, and low-level close-in air defense
 - (10) MV-22 Ospreys
 - (03) UH-1N Hueys
 - (04) AH-1W Super Cobras
 - (04) CH-53E Super Stallions
 - (06) AV-8B Harriers
 - (02) KC-130J Hercules (CONUS tethered)

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LCPL MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

Above: Marines and sailors with the 24th MEU's Force Reconnaissance Platoon and Security Element, Headquarters and Service Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, Second Marine Regiment fast-rope from a CH-53E Super Stallion while conducting a simulated Expanded, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure aboard USNS *Arctic* (T-AOE-8), Dec. 7, 2011.

Below: Ospreys of VMM-261 (Rein) bring in 24th MEU leathernecks during a simulated airfield seizure at Farmville, Va., on Jan. 14, 2012.



LCPL MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

“We provide close air support, but within that simple task is an assortment of armaments.”

—WO Eric McCoy

helicopters. “That’s like flying from Basra to Baghdad,” Forman mused. “Imagine how that might have affected the march to Baghdad in 2003.”

Initially trained as a CH-46 pilot, Forman spoke enthusiastically about the Osprey’s burgeoning capabilities. “In addition to providing aerial reconnaissance, we put the mission commander on board in order to control the action from up close. We can act as a radio relay in mountainous terrain, and with the addition of the MATS [mission auxiliary tanks system] and the 7.62 millimeter belly gun’s 360 radius, we can bring Marines into the fight safely from a long distance.”

An important facet of the MEU’s ability to project power is its offensive capacity, and for VMM-261, this falls on Warrant Officer Eric McCoy, the ordnance officer. With the Harriers, Ospreys and helicopters using a variety of weapons systems, McCoy’s Marines are based on each ship in the Navy’s *Iwo Jima* Amphibious Ready Group in order to support the rotary- or fixed-wing asset aboard.

“We provide close air support,” McCoy said, “but within that simple task is an assortment of armaments—there’s 2.75-inch and 5-inch rockets, 500- and 1,000-pound bombs, Sidewinder missiles, 25 millimeter guns and .50-cal. machine guns. We provide a lot of options.”

It’s with these sorts of options that VMM-261 (Rein) provides the 24th MEU the ability to best complete its missions. With deployable air assets based on both *Iwo Jima* and *New York*, Col Donovan can plan using the most appropriate platform for the mission regardless of the ship on which it’s based. From CH-53s flying meals, ready to eat into shattered Haiti, to Ospreys rescuing a downed Air Force pilot in Libya, the aviation combat element of a MEU is ready for any challenge.

Editor’s note: Andrew Lubin is a frequent Leatherneck contributor and regularly blogs for us at www.mca-marines.org/blog/authors/Andrew%20Lubin. He has embedded with Marine units in Iraq and Afghanistan numerous times. He returned from his most recent embed with Marines in Afghanistan in October 2011.



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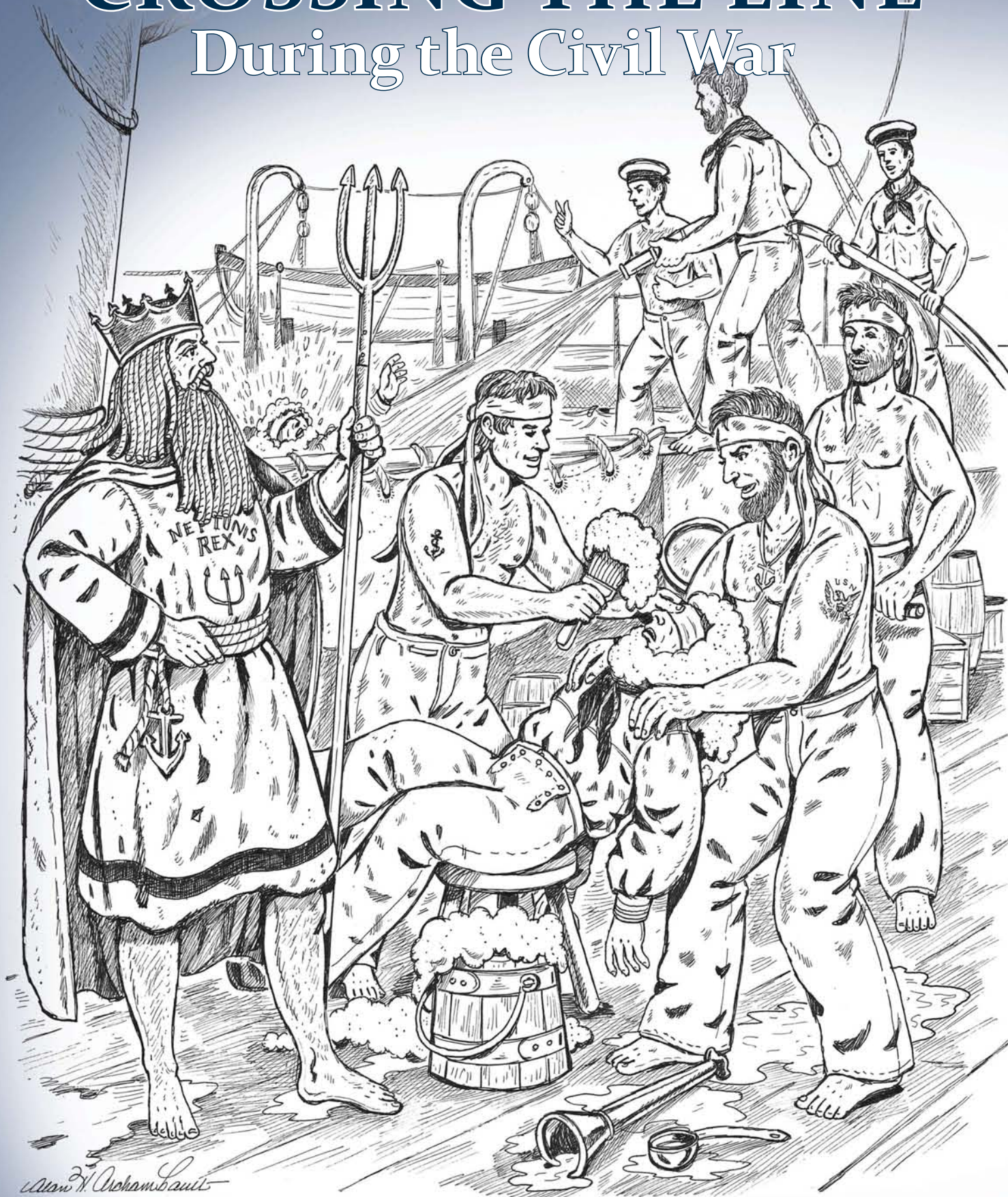
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CROSSING THE LINE

During the Civil War



King Neptune oversees the crossing-the-line ceremony aboard USS *Vanderbilt* in 1863.

Shipboard life during the Civil War was an altogether different world for Marines fresh from the barracks. So learned Marine Privates John K. Murdock and William G. Johnson, two of the guard attached to USS *Vanderbilt* in early November 1862. To begin with, the iron bed and straw-filled mattress to which they had been accustomed were replaced by a hammock. It usually took several days before the novices were able to acclimate themselves to this new sleeping apparatus and several more before they learned how to remain inside it when the ship was rolling in heavy seas.

Aboard ship, there was no left or right, but only port and starboard; no front or back, but bow and stern. The time of day was no longer told in terms of hours and minutes, but by the number of bells. This confusing situation was one of many subjects in a letter written by Pvt Murdock after he joined the Marine guard aboard *Vanderbilt*.

"The time is divided and is spoken of as so many bells, beginning at 12:30, 4:30 and 8:30 with one bell, and each succeeding half hour adding one until the limit of 8 is reached. The ship's bell is struck to announce the times, thus 5 bells would be 2:30, 6:30 and 10:30. To tell a sailor that it was 25 minutes to 8 would put him out of reckonings at once. Say to him, past 7 bells, and he would know just where he was. The odd minutes of the half hour are of but little account to him."

Equally strange were the names that officers and certain members of the crew were called. The captain of the ship was "the Old Man." His executive officer was referred to as "the first Luff." The ship's chaplain was called "Holy Joe," and the purser was "Satinette Jack." The petty officers also had their own names. The master-at-arms was always "Jimmy Legs." The ship's carpenter was known as "Chips." The cooper answered to "Bungs," the sailmaker to "Sails" and the quarter gunners, for their aggressive protection of their guns, "quarter growlers." The petty officers always were referred to and called out at muster by these sobriquets. In fact, Pvt Johnson confided to his journal that he was serving in *Vanderbilt* a year before he learned the full name of the master-at-arms.

Among the oldest and most venerable traditions of the Navy was the ceremony of crossing the line, whereby those among the crew and Marines who had never crossed the equator—called pollywogs in naval parlance—would be initiated into the realm of King Neptune and become shellbacks.

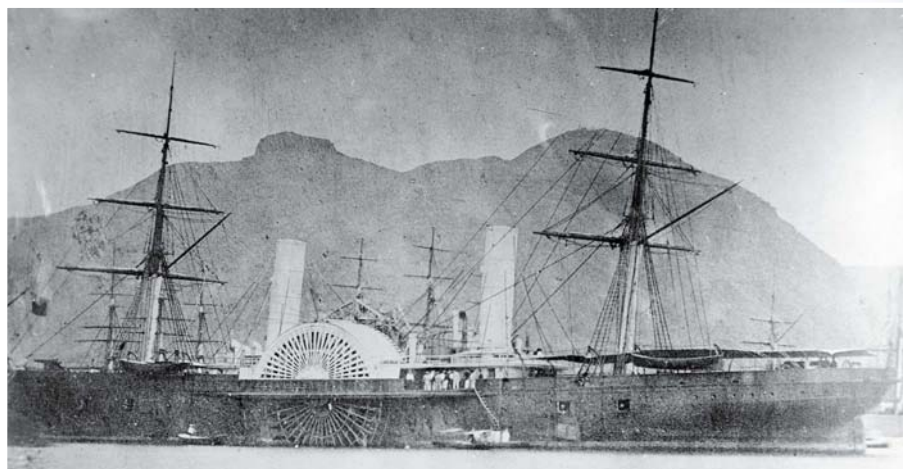
USS *Vanderbilt* approached the equator on 1 July 1863. Since it was wartime, the ceremony could not take place without the

permission of *Vanderbilt*'s commanding officer, Commander Charles H. Baldwin, USN. The ship was under orders to locate the commerce raider CSS *Alabama*, and it would have been extremely embarrassing to have the Confederate cruiser make an appearance in the middle of the festivities. Nevertheless, Baldwin gave his assent to the program, and the fun began.

At 0100, 2 July, a voice boomed out from the water: "Ship ahoy!" The watch gathered at the rail, with those in on the game encouraging the uninitiated to believe that

A large, watertight sail was draped over four spars and supported about four feet off the deck by sturdy barrels and boxes. A hose was rigged to a donkey pump, and seawater sprayed into the 12-by-15-foot artificial pool. Atop a 4-foot stepladder, a sopping wet swab was placed as a cushion for the initiates. On either side of the ladder was a bucket containing a foul-smelling and even more sinister-looking concoction of tar, whitewash and pork fat. This mixture was called "Neptune's lather."

Murdock continued his narrative.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

USS *Vanderbilt*, commissioned in September 1862, spent the last two months of 1862 and all of 1863 searching for the Confederate cruiser *Alabama* in the Atlantic Ocean and West Indies.

King Neptune was hailing the ship. Murdock was among the onlookers and recorded the conversation between Father Neptune and one of the crew.

"'What ship is that?' 'It is the steamer *Vanderbilt*. 'Where from and where bound?' 'From New York to Rio de Janeiro.' 'Have you any of my children aboard who have never before visited my domain?' 'Yes, sir. A great many.' 'All right. I am pleased to hear it. Say to them that I will come aboard tomorrow and see them.'"

Of course, there were many who were unwilling to suspend reality and who scoffed at the idea that Neptune actually had made an appearance. These doubters were ushered to the rail and shown what was purported to be the light from Neptune's boat receding into the blackness of the night. Of course, the boat was nothing more than a wooden barrel with a candle attached and dropped over the stern.

During the course of the next morning, the anticipated visit from Neptune was the topic of conversation among the greenhorns who were to be welcomed into the realm of the Lord of the Sea. Old hands said nothing about the coming initiation, but a sly smile and a wink gave rise to a feeling of apprehension among the novices, which only increased as they saw preparations underway for Neptune's court.

"At about 1 o'clock, all preparations were completed. Neptune and his two secretaries, and two barbers made their appearance from the forward hold, each in masquerade, Neptune conforming to a sailor's idea of what a god of the sea should look [like]. A howitzer had been dismounted and a seat placed thereon to which Neptune was escorted, trident in hand. He was then shown about the deck and to the Captain's companionway where his arrival was formally announced and he, with his aides, invited for the first and only time into the cabin. The Captain's groceries were sampled in honor of the occasion. Taking leave of the Captain, the party proceeded at once to the all important business of the day, viz, the shaving of the greenhorns."

Orderly Sergeant Patrick Morgan told his men, all of them new to the sea, what was to take place and gave them the traditional initiation options. The Marines would have the choice of being shaved by Neptune's barbers or pay an "exemption tax" of \$1. If they chose the latter, they were assured that the money collected would be spent on a turkey dinner at the first port they made. Johnson, who had a rather long, full beard, considered the suffering he would endure under the kindly ministrations of Neptune's barbers and immediately opted for paying the tax. However, the guard took a vote on the subject, and all agreed that no Marine

would be shaved or pay the dollar. That settled, they went to the half deck and, as Murdock related, watched the revelry.

"The first man on the list was the ship's corporal, who admitted that he had never crossed the line, and was duly blindfolded, given a seat on the wet swab, trumpet placed to his mouth, and told to hail Neptune. He commenced to ask, 'What shall I say?' but a dipper of salt water, thrown down the trumpet met the sentence more than half way and was drowned, as was nearly the victim.

"At the time he recovered, a barber stood by with the whitewash brush full of the lather which was applied without stint on his face regardless of his whiskers or his ability to remove it afterwards. With a hoop iron, the bulk of the mixture was removed and thrown back into the bucket but leaving the delicate little coating of tar with which the victim could amuse himself with for several hours afterwards at his leisure, especially if he had whiskers and many a one of them were compelled to shave off the beard to get rid of the tar.

"The shaving completed, the victim was grasped by the heels and before he was aware of it, was thrown backward into the 2 or 3 feet of water in the tank. Being still blindfolded, his efforts to get out of the tank were made unavailing by a guard of old salts surrounding the tank, who would push him back at each attempt. All of this time, the hose was kept turned on him and by the time he was released, he entertained as poor an opinion of salt water as is possible for any man to have. So on through the ship's company, every man who had not crossed the line was then and there made to undergo the process, amusing to everybody but the victim."

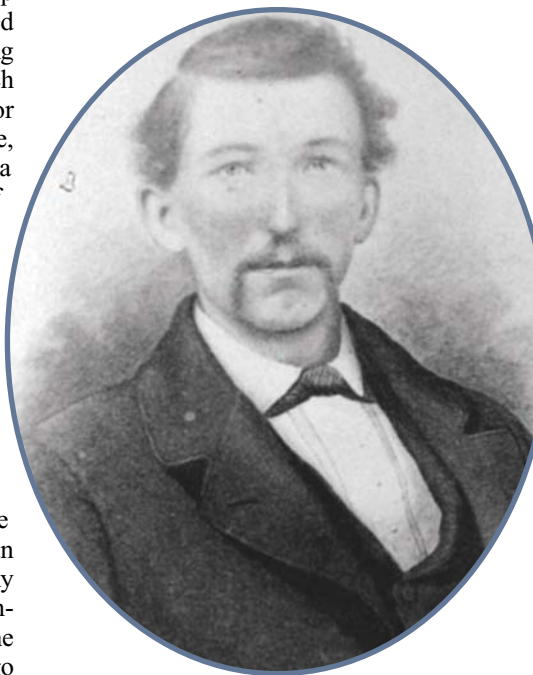
Landsman Warren Griswald was last on the list. Having seen what had happened to his comrades, he bolted to the protection of the Marines when Neptune's escort came for him. Johnson wrote: "When Griswald stayed with us, they came after him and dragged him away and we could not interfere without getting them down on us. It was awful to hear the poor boy yell and beg as they carried him away."

Special care was taken with those, like Griswald, who resisted or attempted to bluff their way out of their turn at the barber's chair. They were allowed only to emerge from the tank when drowning appeared imminent.

Then it was time for the ship's guard. The sailors looked upon this as a fine opportunity to settle some old scores with the Marines, whose duties as sentinels usually interfered with what the salts considered to be their pleasures. A delegation of tars, with Neptune at the head, steered a course for

the half deck. Neptune wasted no time in formalities. He plainly announced the object of the sailors and asked what the Marines intended to do about it.

Sgt Morgan acted as spokesman for the guard and reported their vote not to submit to the shaving or to paying the dollar exemption. This was not what Father Neptune wanted to hear. The day's festivities would not be complete without subjecting the Marines to the barber's services. The news that the Marines were defying tradition quickly filtered back to the crew, and the carnival atmosphere suddenly took on an edge. Murdock described the resulting confrontation.



Among Vanderbilt's Marine Detachment was Miles M. Oviatt, who was on his first sea duty. He later was awarded the Medal of Honor while serving in USS *Brooklyn* at the Battle of Mobile Bay. (Courtesy of Mary P. Livingston)

"The crew assembled on and filled the opposite side of the deck from where we were stationed. There was an explosion in the eyes of every man of them which we well understood and did not stand in fear of. Soon the cry went up from dozens of throats, 'Shave 'em! Shave 'em! Shave the graybeards!'

"Then for a minute it was quiet again. It was only a minute but it seemed very much longer for us for we fully realized, if pressed to it, there was soon to be work for the surgeons, and that, like as not, we would be among the victims. In the guard there were only 26 privates, three of whom were on post, and 4 non-commissioned officers, or 27 available men. With the crew, including the firemen and coal heavers,

there were upwards of 300. Hence you can see that as far as numbers were concerned, there was a good prospect of another Bull Run.

"The 27 men, the good stock of American grit, with a loaded Springfield and bayonet within easy reach and a good knowledge of the proper way of handling the same, were not to be easily frightened by any number of bluejackets. Someone cried out from among the sailors, 'Who is your first man?' and another answered, 'Acting Corporal Loomis.' We answered, 'Acting Corporal Loomis is here. Come and take him!' Two burly sailors volunteered the escort, walked over and were about to lay hands on Loomis, but just at that moment something changed their plans and appearance and they set about giving a close inspection of the seams of the deck, their course having been changed by a couple of well directed blows fired from the shoulders of two equally burly Marines.

"If you ever saw an astonished crowd, you can readily imagine the appearance of that one but the look of surprise was changed to one of anger and desire for satisfaction. The cry of 'Shave 'em!' was louder than ever and was interspersed with threats of anything but pleasant to hear, much less to undergo.

"Sailors in the rear of the crowd moved to the guns and began taking up handspikes. Marines countered with their bayonets in one hand and their waist belts in the other. The two groups menaced each other, waiting for someone to make the first move toward what was surely to become a very bloody encounter. At that moment, the executive officer dashed between the contenders, shouting for both sides to get back. Turning to the Marines, he shouted: 'What are you men acting in this manner for? Why don't you go on deck? You act like a parcel of double damned fools to stand like this against a time honored custom! I ought to let these men shave you anyway!'

"A voice from the rear of the Marines replied, 'Let 'em come!' The man was in a towering rage. He and the Captain, too, had committed themselves in permitting that which was liable to lead to trouble. He thought a plan, and turning on us said, 'Go on deck, every one of you.' But we did not go. He was politely informed that we were in our own quarters attending to our own things and proposed to remain there. Such defiance in the presence of sailors was unbearable."

The sailors went back on deck, and the Marines thought they had seen the end of the drama. They were mistaken in their assessment of the sailors' tenacity. They



The seagoing leathernecks of Vanderbilt's MarDet did not take kindly to excesses by Neptune's court.

came up with a second plan and, with a nod of the head from the executive officer, who wanted to see the Marines taken down a peg, dragged up the ship's hose. If the sailors could not shave the Marines, then they would give them a bath. Murdock concluded his narrative.

"Soon the pipe made its appearance from the front rank of the crowd and word was passed back to let it come, and it did come, too. Nearly the same force as from a water works back home. With it came a cheer from the exultant party on the other side but we hung together. They supposed we was meekly submitting to the drenching process, when, emboldened by their

success, the hose men advanced some 10 or 15 feet from the crowd.

"This is what we were waiting for. A signal was given and in less time than it takes to tell it, two more sailors were marked for a black eye and the pipe was in the possession of the Marines, who rallied as one man about the same, turned it on the crew and soon every man of them, officers and all on deck, was running up the gangway with the Marines following them up with the stream until they cut it off at the engine room. We then discussed the propriety of opening a little barber shop of our own but finally concluded we had glory enough for one day."

Editor's note: David Sullivan is the editor of "Military Collector & Historian," which is the journal of the Company of Military Historians. He also is the author of the four-volume set, "The U.S. Marine Corps in the Civil War."

Miles Oviatt, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for the Battle of Mobile Bay, was among the Marines who fought the sailors in Vanderbilt. The journal of Private Johnson is in the collections of the DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County, Ithaca, N.Y., as are the letters of Pvt Murdock.



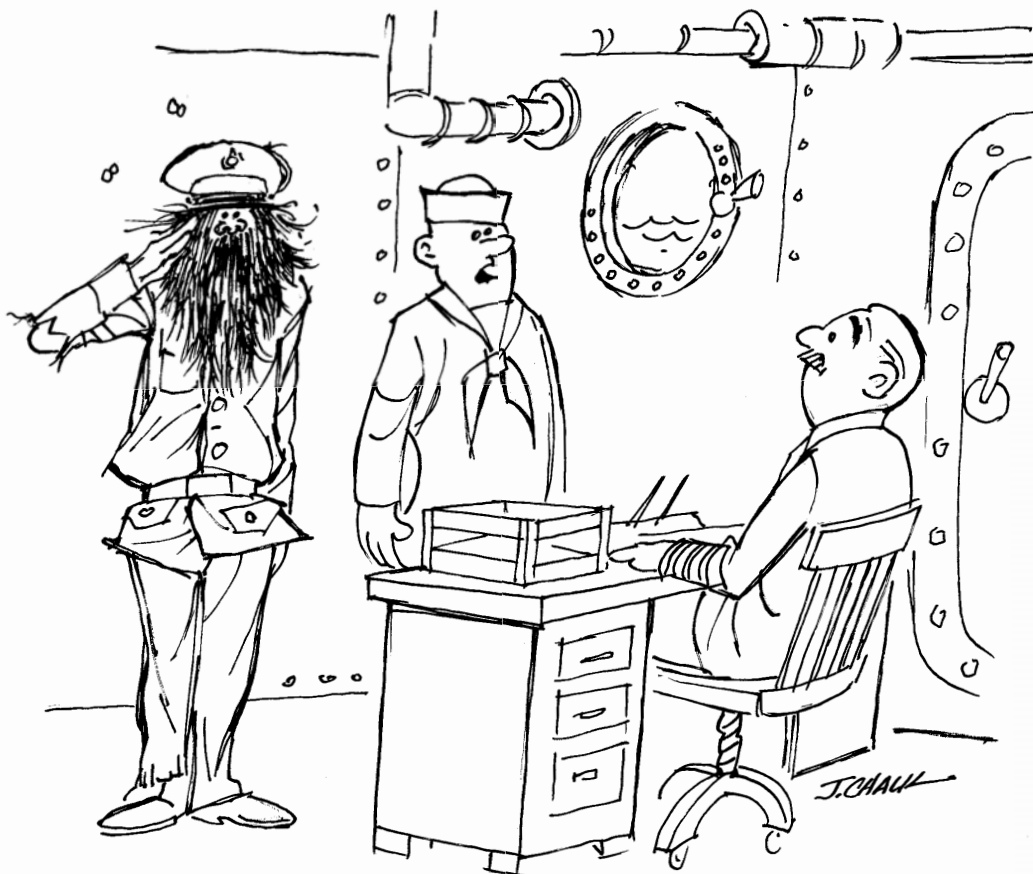
Leatherneck Laffs



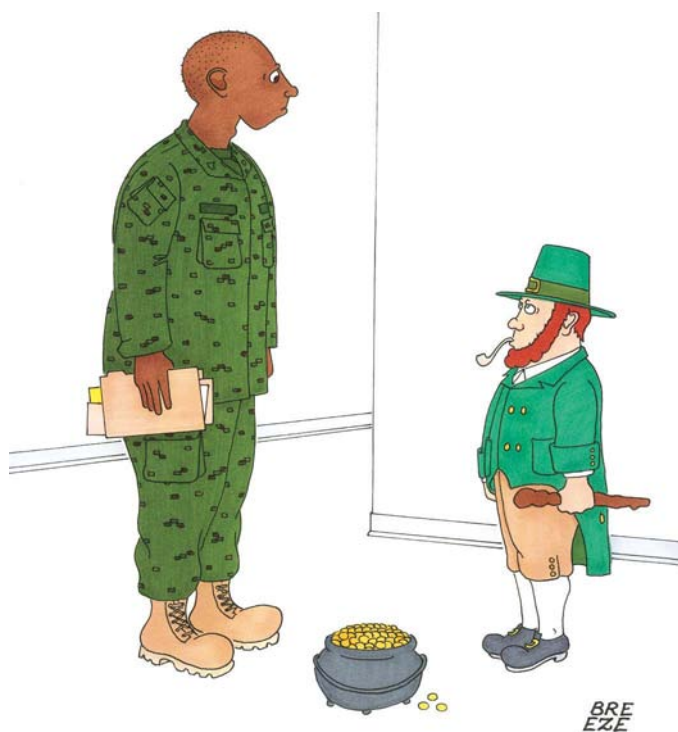
"All right, all right. You take the L.P. and I'll take the O.P."



"How can you make so many mistakes when there's only two options: left or right?"



"He was in the number nine bilge, sir, singing 'proud to claim the title of last seagoing Marine.' "



"As of 17 March, all issues pertaining to pay and allowances will be addressed by the new disbursing contractor."



"So when I said someone's head should roll this is what came to mind?"

Regimental Combat Team 6:

"India" Company, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines Builds Relations in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Cpl Ed Galo

The Marines of Company I, 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment maintain a great relationship with the locals in the village outside their patrol base near Sangin, Afghanistan.

They do this through daily security patrols throughout the area and by communicating with the people.

"The big thing with today's patrol [January 19, 2012] was talking with the people about their farms and animals," said Corporal Jacob Marler, a squad leader from St. Louis. "We asked them about what they grow, what type of fertilizer they use, what their most important crops are, what their most important animals are and about how they get their water for their crops."

While Marler and part of his squad were talking to the villagers, other squad members continued to patrol throughout the village.

"We started going through the city looking for other possible crossing points or choke points to watch out for," said Cpl Mark Yenlavitch, assistant patrol leader, from Victorville, Calif.

When the Marines conduct patrols, they usually are accompanied by soldiers from the Afghan National Army as part of the turnover process from American to Afghan security forces.

"You can see the transfer from the Marines to the ANA," Marler said. "That's definitely the most rewarding part of this deployment. They are definitely showing an improvement from when we first got here. They're working harder, getting better and taking it more seriously. This shows that they'll be able to handle things when we leave."

Editor's note: Cpl Galo is a Marine combat correspondent currently deployed to Afghanistan.



Right: An India Co leatherneck pauses briefly to talk with village children while patrolling near Sangin.



Being highly visible on security patrols around a small village near Sangin (top photo), and sitting down to discuss issues with villagers as India Co squad leader Cpl Jacob Marler (center, opposite page) is doing, has gained the confidence of locals.







The Marine Corps Reserve

At 95 Years Old, More Relevant Than Ever

By CW0-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

“Our newest generation of Marines will swell your head with pride,” said Marine Corps Major General Darrell L. Moore, Director of Reserve Affairs. He talked in terms of the Corps’ Total Force when commenting on the Marine Corps Reserve, marking 95 years of service in August 2011.

The general was guest speaker at the Marine Corps Association of Georgia

Lawyers’ annual Marine Corps Birthday event Nov. 10, 2011, in Atlanta, where he emphasized that individual Marines and their families remain the Corps’ top priority.

“Our most precious resource is the individual Marine and his or her family,” he told the group of more than 100 lawyers, judges and associates, all who, at some point in their lives, had been in the Marine Corps as far back as during World War II. “I am constantly amazed at the quality of Marines as I travel around the world to

talk with the troops of this new ‘Greatest Generation,’ ” he said. “They are smarter, stronger and so are their families. They are coming to the Marine Corps for all the right reasons, the same reasons many of you here today came for 20, 30, 40 or more years ago.”

The Total Force concept, Reserve and regular components working as one, is ingrained in the Marine Corps’ current and future plans and has not been so important to the effectiveness of the Marine



Below: First Lt Ryan Tahbo, commander of Mobile Assault Platoon 4, Weapons Co, 1st Bn, 25th Marine Regiment, Fourth Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, points out the direction of advance for his platoon while patrolling in the southern portion of Helmand province, Afghanistan, in October 2011.



CPL BRYAN INGARD

Just as the active-duty and Reserve forces compose the Total Force Marine Corps, the Selected Marine Corps Reserve (SMCR) and the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) make up the Ready Reserve total force.

The IRR category consists of former active-duty or Reserve Marines who are completing their eight years of total obligated service. They are considered inactive reservists and are not paid, nor are they required to drill or to participate in annual training, but they are accounted for in periodic musters and may be called to serve.

The SMCR authorized end strength is 39,600 and consists of Marines in Reserve units, in the Active Reserve program, Individual Mobilization Augmentees and those in initial training.

“Our authorized end strength of 39,600 is appropriate for providing us with the Marines we require to support the Total Force while achieving the Commandant’s goal of a 1:5 deployment-to-dwell ratio for SMCR units,” MajGen Moore told the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations’ Subcommittee on Defense in May 2011.

The general, who earned a law degree from the University of Oklahoma, told the Georgia lawyers association that Congress is a proponent for the Reserve and provides strong support to help sustain the high level of need for reservists with today’s operational tempo.

“As of January 31, 2011, more than 58,000 Reserve Marines have mobilized in support of overseas contingency operations, previously the Global War on Terror, since September 11, 2001,” the general

noted. “The vast majority of these Marines deployed to the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility, which includes Iraq, Afghanistan and previously the Horn of Africa. One hundred percent of Marine Corps Reserve units at the battalion and squadron level have either been activated in their entirety or activated in task-oriented detachments.”

He also pointed out that the Marine Corps, including reservists, remains a young force, with 20 percent 20 years old or younger, 63 percent 25 or younger and 82 percent younger than 35. The enlisted force is rank-young as well, with 70 percent sergeant or below.

“When you talk about the value of Reserves, you have to think like a venture capitalist and ask yourself, ‘What is my return on this investment?’ ” MajGen Moore said. “In the case of Reserves, it’s very good and I make that case on a daily basis.”

As the role of reservists has increased over the past decade, the Marine Corps has taken steps to leverage more effectively the inherent capabilities of reservists, while assisting reservists and their families to plan their futures better, using a planning tool called the Force Generation Model.

This model was developed and implemented in 2006. It is a relatively simple management tool based on one-year activations (deployments) followed by at least four years in a nonactivated status (dwell). It provides Reserve Marines, their families and their employers the capability to plan their lives five or more years out.

“This makes continued programmed utilization of the Marine Corps Reserve

Leathernecks of 6th Communications Bn, Fourth Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve represent the Marine Corps in the November 2011 New York City Veterans Day Parade.

Corps since the Korean War. The strategic-planning document “Marine Corps Vision and Strategy 2025” emphasizes that “We will employ a Total Force approach to meet the Marine Corps’ force generation requirements. We will pursue policies and operational practices to better develop and assess the skill, knowledge and expertise of Marines in the Reserve Component and optimize the use of the Reserve Component as an operational as well as a strategic force provider.”

SGT RANDALL CLINTON

NORTHERN EDGE is an exercise where 6,000 active duty, National Guard and Reservists from the Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy sharpen their skills through exercise scenarios. This exercise focuses on strategic capabilities in detection and tracking in air, land and sea spaces.

PERSONNEL TEMPORARY AUGMENTEE PROGRAM (PTAP) NORWAY is a Norwegian armed forces-sponsored multinational invitational exercise focused on cold weather maritime/amphibious operations. Participants include forces from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Austria and other NATO partners.

AFRICAN LION is a joint and bi-lateral exercise between the Kingdom of Morocco and more than 2,000 U.S. service members, mostly Marine Reservists and approximately 900 members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. Task Force African Lion deployed to Morocco as a Marine Air Ground Task Force with the command element, 14th Marines, leading aviation, ground and logistics units.

RESERVE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD

From warm tropical Caribbean islands to the cold snowy mountains of Norway, Marines are participating in exercises to prepare them for real-world conflicts and support operations.

NORTHERN EDGE

JAVELIN THRUST

JAVELIN THRUST is a stateside exercise in the mountains of California and the badlands of Nevada that unites more than 5,000 Marines from across the U.S. to include air, ground and support units.

TRADEWINDS

NH SURINAME

SOUTHCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

TRADEWINDS is an interagency exercise involving U.S. personnel from the Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army, Navy, Air Force, National Guard, Joint-interagency Task Force South, Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation along with forces from: Antigua and Barbuda (host nation), Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad-Tobago.

NEW HORIZON SURINAME U.S. Military personnel deploy to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti and Suriname to conduct humanitarian civic assistance exercises from February through September. Troops specializing in engineering, construction and health care provide much needed services to communities in need while receiving valuable deployment training and building important relationships with partner nations.

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

BSRF is a Marine Forces Europe sponsored security cooperation task force in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Georgia, conducting various security cooperation events from April through August.

PTAP NORWAY

AGILE SPIRIT is a joint operation exercise between approximately 350 Marines, from the Black Sea Rotational Force, and the Georgian Armed Forces to increase interoperability, exchange and enhance each others capacity in counter insurgency and peacekeeping operations.

BSRF

AGILE SPIRIT

MEDCEUR

AFRICAN LION

MEDICAL CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN EXERCISE

MEDCEUR is an annual regional and multilateral exercise designed to provide medical training and operational experience in a deployed environment for U.S. and partner nations. The countries who participated in MEDCEUR 2011 are Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovenia and Norway.

SOUTHERN ACCORD

AFRICOM

OEF

LF CARAT

LANDING FORCE CARAT

LF CARAT mobilized Marines to form an infantry company and assault amphibian vehicle platoon from 23rd Marine Regiment and 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion to conduct theater security cooperation and amphibious training with various partner nations.

TALISMAN SABER

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

1,614 Marine Reservists are currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

CENTCOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

Marine Reservists conduct security cooperation events throughout the Central Command area of responsibility.

TALISMAN SABER is a biennial joint exercise with the Australian Defence Force. U.S. Navy assets provide support for amphibious assault training and various U.S. Marine Corps fixed-wing and support squadrons. The exercise is designed to practice close air support with the Australian Army in preparation for future joint combat operations.

AFRICOM SECURITY COOPERATION TEAM

Marines conduct security cooperation events throughout the African Command area of responsibility.

LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS DETACHMENT

Marines from 4th Marine Logistics Group provide a rotational communications detachment in support of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa in Djibouti.

In the past decade, the Marine Corps Reserve has been redefined. Every Reserve unit was activated in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom. This layout depicting Marine Reserve forces deployed around the world in 2011 is reprinted from *Continental Marines* magazine, Fall 2011. Cpls Daniel Castillo and Fenton Reese created this record.



Sgt Megan Angel

In October 2011, leathernecks with Engineer Operations Co, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, First Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force unload bricks in Chittagong, Bangladesh, to complete a school rebuilding project begun by Reserve Marines of MWSS-472, MWSSG-47, 4th MAW, based in Chicopee, Mass.

sustainable at the 1:5 deployment-to-dwell over the long term,” MajGen Moore told the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. “Furthermore, projecting predictable activation dates, mission assignments and geographical destinations years in advance allows my units to orient training on core mission requirements early in the dwell period, then transition the training focus to specific mission tasks as soon as the unit is 12 to 18 months from activation.”

This planning will be critical as Reserve forces look forward to deployments in South America, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and various Pacific Island nations in upcoming years.

The Corps seeks to leverage reservists’ expertise gained in their civilian occupations during their “dwell” periods at home.

“Our recent successes in Iraq were hastened by the types and quality of individuals we have in our ranks, who often utilized civilian skills in ways not necessarily anticipated, but ultimately proving

pivotal to the success in Al Anbar province,” the general explained.

A good example to demonstrate that leveraging is the conceptual plan to form a Reserve law-enforcement unit. The concept is based on a successful program in 2003 when the Corps brought in civilian law-enforcement investigators to help stem the flow of components used to make improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq.

Recognizing that many among the 39,600 reservists were police investigators in their civilian career led the Corps to the concept of that special unit, which is still in its infancy and has yet to be fleshed out.

Other niche ideas are being considered in areas such as explosive-ordnance disposal and language skills.

As the Reserve planners work to build an accession plan to fill the 39,600 positions, prior-service Marines remain a significant staffing source of the plan.

“About 30 percent of our accessions are prior service,” said MajGen Moore, noting that the percentage works out to about 1,500 to 1,600 reservists annually. “With about 2,500 active-duty Marines leaving the service each month we have a healthy pool to draw from. We continue to

enjoy strong accessions and an increase in retention over the historical norm.”

Officer recruiting, especially in the company grades, remains the most challenging area for the Reserve. Historically, active-duty officers have been the exclusive source for Reserve senior lieutenants and captains. It is critically important to educate and inform active-duty officers preparing to transition out of service.

“Through our transition assistance and educational outreach programs, we continue to ensure that each transitioning active component Marine is educated on continued service opportunities in the Marine Corps Reserve,” MajGen Moore told senators.

To augment the active-to-Reserve company-grade accessions, three recently implemented Reserve commissioning initiatives focus on filling billets with quality company-grade officers from the enlisted ranks.

The Reserve Enlisted Commissioning Program has been expanded to offer qualified active-duty enlisted Marines the opportunity to become a Reserve officer. The program also is for qualified Reserve enlisted Marines.

The Meritorious Commissioning Program—Reserve is open to active and Re-

Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos of Marine reservists in action at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/marforres

serve enlisted Marines who have earned an associate's degree or equivalent in semester hours and are interested in staying Marine in the officer ranks.

The most successful of the three programs has been the Officer Candidate Course-Reserve, which focuses on ground billets with an emphasis on ground combat and combat service support within specific Reserve units that are scheduled for mobilization. Since 2004, this has led to 296 of the 330 Reserve lieutenants whom all three programs produced.

MajGen Moore told Congress that these programs, combined with prior-service recruiting efforts, are projected to provide at least 90 percent of critical combat arms and engineer company-grade officer billets by the end of September 2015.

While individual Marines and their families are the Corps' top priority, properly arming, equipping and training Marines runs a close second in the hierarchy of needs.

MajGen Moore's direction to his staff is to make certain that every member of Marine Forces Reserve deploys fully equipped with the most current authorized combat equipment and personal protective equipment.

With that basic premise in mind, the general told senators, "We continue to equip individuals and units during their dwell periods with the best available equipment tailored specifically to their next mission in accordance with the Force Generation Model."

Individual Marines receive 100 percent of the necessary warfighting equipment, while Reserve units are equipped to a level identified as a training allowance, which is the amount of equipment needed by each unit to conduct home-station training effectively. In keeping with the Total Force concept, Reserve units use the same equipment as the active force, but in quantities tailored to fit Reserve training-center capabilities.

In spite of being engaged in combat operations for nearly a decade, MajGen Moore reported that Reserve equipment readiness levels remain at 97 percent.

"To maintain this level of readiness, we have relied heavily on supplemental funding in the Overseas Contingency Operational fund," he said to members of the Senate subcommittee, emphasizing that their continued support in that category was a prime contributor to the high readiness level.

The basis for the Marine Forces Reserve approach to maintenance is a combination of several components, starting with routine preventive and corrective maintenance performed by the individual Marine and unit maintenance personnel. This ground-



Above: MajGen Darrell L. Moore, Director, Reserve Affairs Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, visits with Reserve leathernecks during field training.

Below: Marines with Headquarters Bn, 4thMarDiv fire the M9 pistol during predeployment training at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., in December 2011.



level approach is augmented by increasing reliance on highly effective contracted services and depot-level capabilities provided by Marine Corps Logistics Command Albany, Ga.

Another contributing factor over the past year has been the Logistics Command's mobile maintenance teams that have provided on-site support to all 183 Reserve sites across the United States. The general said that this service directly improved equipment readiness and provided valuable hands-on experience to individual Marines and unit maintenance staffs.

Additionally, the Logistics Command's Enterprise Lifecycle Maintenance Program extends the useful life of Reserve equipment by rebuilding and modifying

an array of platforms, including the light armored vehicle, the amphibious assault vehicle and the entire motor-transport fleet.

The Marine Corps Corrosion Prevention and Control Program also has reaped significant benefits in extending the useful life of Reserve equipment and has been effective in the abatement and prevention of corrosion in the Corps' inventory.

Training is another critical area for the Reserve and one that MajGen Moore emphasized in his address to the Senate subcommittee. Using contemporary training platforms is a key to maintaining high training levels.

For example, language and culture training is available to reservists via live instruction or Web-based tutorials. "These

courses can be accessed by any computer and have the added functionality of being iPod-compatible to download for transportability and accessibility by our Marines,” he said. Webinars also are being utilized to bring geographically separated Marines and instructors to an interactive virtual classroom together.

MajGen Moore said, “One of the most exciting areas where we continue to transform ... training remains the cutting-edge arena of training simulation,” using several immersive complex digital-training systems. These video-based systems are complete with sights, sounds and chaos of today’s battlefield environments.

The systems are used to train in diverse areas including marksmanship, convoy operations, emergency egress from vehicles and command and control.

Additional funding also is being planned to upgrade aircraft such as the KC-130T, the F/A-18 and the UH-1. Ground vehicles such as the light armored vehicle and the logistics vehicle system are being enhanced through either upgrades or new purchases.

The Marine Corps Reserve entered its 95th year of existence in 2011, being established when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Naval Appropriations Act of 1916. From then to now, the Reserve

forces have ebbed and flowed as the needs of the United States and Marine Corps dictated.

Today’s reservists are decidedly not the “weekend warriors” of the past.

“The Marines themselves, most of whom came to our nation’s colors after 9/11 and have deployed deep into harm’s way, prefer this model and do not desire to assume lives as so-called ‘weekend warriors,’” the general told senators. “This high level of flexibility, responsiveness and élan is only possible by the ever-deepening bench of combat-tested and uniquely qualified citizen ‘Soldiers of the Sea.’ ”

Today, the Marine Forces Reserve comprises the largest command in the Marine Corps. The modern resurgence of the Marine Reserve occurred after Sept. 11, 2001, and set the tone for the robust operational pace today.

“In the previous decade, this great nation required its Marine Corps Reserve to be continuously engaged in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as in regional security cooperation and crisis prevention activities in support of the various geographical commanders,” MajGen Moore told senators.

“Your Marine Corps Reserve is more highly trained, capable and battle-tested than at any time since the Korean War,”

he emphasized.

“Understanding that we are fighting a transnational enemy and that partner nations will continue to seek our training and mentoring capabilities, I expect our Marine reservists to be in great demand during the coming years.

“The way they balance their family responsibilities, civilian lives and occupations—and still stay Marine—continues to amaze me,” MajGen Moore told subcommittee members. “They do it with humility, without fanfare and with a sense of pride and dedication that is consistent with the great sacrifices of Marines of every generation.”

Editor’s note: Some of the quotes or comments attributed to MajGen Moore in this article, such as those made in May 2011 to the Senate Appropriations Committee, were made during a period when he was dual-hatted, serving both as Commanding General, Marine Forces Reserve, and as Director of Reserve Affairs. He relinquished the former duties in August 2011.

The author, CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, retired from active duty in 1996.



CPL KATHERINE KELEHER

Marine reservists, Sgts Jessica Lugo (background) and Autumn Sekely of Female Engagement Team 6, visit a village leader’s compound in Sangin District, Helmand province. Sekely of Pittsburgh and Lugo of San Pedro, Calif., are assigned to support 3d Bn, 7th Marines, engaging the local women and children and building trust and rapport between residents and the Afghan National Security Forces and coalition forces.

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“CRUSADING FOR RIGHT”: The Story



French sculptor Charles Raphael Peyre poses alongside the 2-foot version of his “Crusading for Right,” commissioned by General of the Armies John J. Pershing at the end of WW I. (USMC photo)

In front of the Marine Corps Training and Education Command headquarters at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., stands a statue often incorrectly identified as “Iron Mike.” Marines and civilians who have been around for a while know the statue by its proper name “Crusading for Right.”

The history of this statue is one of controversy and fraught with interservice rivalry. The real “Iron Mike” stands proudly at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and the dedication, dated 25 July 1924, is “in memory of the men of Parris Island who gave their lives in the World War.”

If asked in November 2011 to relate the story of “Crusading for Right,” it would have begun with General of the Armies John J. Pershing, USA commissioning the statue following the end of World War I. It was to commemorate the sacrifice of the American Expeditionary Forces.

The sculptor Charles Raphael Peyre of Paris was chosen, and 100 military personnel, including several Marines, were sent to Peyre’s studio for him to select the man to immortalize in bronze. Peyre chose a Marine, presumably, not knowing the distinction between the services and incorporated the insignia of the United States Marine Corps on the sculpture.

According to an article published in *The New York World* circa 1920 (the exact date is unavailable), U.S. Army Colonel James Moss stated the sculptor mistakenly placed the Marine eagle, globe and anchor on the statue’s helmet and Peyre informed COL Moss of this fact during Peyre’s stay in New York City in 1920.

In the same article, COL Moss also claimed that Peyre only included the insignia at the suggestion of the Marine modeling for the statue, thinking it was a divisional insignia. Peyre removed the insignia upon the request of U.S. Army Brigadier General William W. Harts, commanding general of the American District of Paris. Nevertheless, when the statue was purchased by the Marine Corps and brought to the United States, it still retained the Marine emblem and thus began the controversy.

However in December 2011, the reference branch of the Marine Corps History Division learned there was much more to the story. A discovery shed new light on this controversial issue and finally may set the record straight on where and how “Crusading for Right” originated. According to a translated copy of a letter written



Peyre’s “Crusading for Right” statue, with the Marine eagle, globe and anchor on the helmet, was dedicated in December 1921. It is located in front of the building that now houses the headquarters of Marine Corps Training and Education Command, MCB Quantico, Va. The statue frequently is erroneously referred to as “Iron Mike.” There are three bronze tablets on the base, each one dedicated to a Marine unit in the 4th Brigade: 5th Regiment (below), 6th Regiment and 6th Machine Gun Bn. (Photos by Ron Lunn)



by Peyre on 10 April 1920, during his stay in New York City:

“In June, 1918, immediately after the memorable and decisive battle of Chateau-Thierry, when the American soldier revealed to the world his invincible energy, I conceived the idea of immortalizing these heroes through a statue.

“Deeply moved by the intrepid courage displayed, and which largely contributed to stopping the German advance on Paris, my idea was spontaneous.

“Myself, a soldier in the French Army, I obtained from the military governor of

Paris, the necessary authority to turn out the first model.

“This officer placed at my disposal a room in the “Palais des Invalides,” and made it possible for me to communicate with General Harts, commanding general of the American District of Paris.

“General Harts then allowed me to choose a model from approximately 150 American soldiers who had seen service on the firing line. Carl Millard of Chicago, a member of the Marine Corps who had been twice wounded at Chateau-Thierry was chosen by me. The next morning,

The history of this statue is one of controversy and fraught with interservice rivalry.



this man presented himself at my studio in heavy marching order.

"It is then I created my 2-foot statue with the Marine Corps device on the helmet, and which was officially inspected by General Harts."

Peyre wrote that by December 1918 he finished the 2-foot version of the statue, and it was placed on display in one of the offices of BG Harts' staff for all service-members to view. It was during this time Peyre wrote that he was contacted by an enlisted Marine from the office of the chief paymaster in Paris, George Robert of unconfirmed rank, sent by Major D. B. Wills, USMC, by orders of Major General George Barnett, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Robert, from New Orleans and fluent in French, was sent to learn what Peyre intended to do with the statue. Peyre re-

sponded that he planned to create an 8-foot statue, and the Marine Corps began negotiations to purchase the larger statue.

During the negotiations, as the Marine Corps raised money from all officers and enlisted personnel, BG Harts' aide "and several other officers asked [Peyre] to remove the Marine Corps insignia from the 2-foot statuette displayed in General Harts' office, claiming this device was incorrect. This [he] did through courtesy to General Harts."

Although he removed the insignia from that statue, Peyre retained the emblem on the larger 8-foot version and included additional Marine Corps buttons and collar ornaments. The finished statue then was displayed from May to June 1919 in the palace of the Champs-Élysées. By August of 1919, negotiations were finished, and the contract to purchase was signed

by Maj Wills. Peyre's letter of 10 April 1920 to Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Davis, in charge of the Recruiting Publicity Bureau in New York City, outlined the sculptor's history of "Crusading for Right."

Letters written by Maj Wills and George Robert also confirm Peyre's story. Both men wrote to LtCol Davis about *The New York World* article. Wills' letter confirms that he only contacted Peyre about the statue after first seeing it in BG Hart's office. As for the controversy over the Marine Corps insignia, Maj Wills responded:

"While I have no direct personal knowledge of what happened, I learned that strenuous objection had been raised, I think by General Harts himself, to the Marine Corps device and M. Peyre was requested to remove it. Unless I am extremely at fault in my memory, M. Peyre himself informed me of this fact and



Peyre pauses for a photograph in his Paris studio, adjacent to his displayed 2-foot version of "Crusading for Right."

stated that both he and all France knew the Marines and what they had done for France and solely for that reason, he apparently resented the effort to have him forego this opportunity to serve the Marines and thereupon carved in the statue presented to me (now in General Barnett's office) the words: Honor, Glory, Belleau-Wood, Chateau-Thierry, and one other name I have forgotten."

Maj Wills concluded that Peyre began the larger statue with the understanding the Marine Corps would purchase it and, therefore, left the insignia intact. Wills also stated that although he did not know who removed the insignia from the original 2-foot statue, he assumed it was Peyre

"I learned that strenuous objection had been raised, I think by General Harts himself, to the Marine Corps device and M. Peyre was requested to remove it."—Maj D. B. Wills

out of respect for BG Harts. Maj Wills then explained that he also forwarded a copy of the article to Robert to verify his story.

Robert's letter is similar to, if not as detailed as, Maj Wills' letter. Robert was adamant "that Col. James Moss's statement appearing therein [*The New York World* in 1920] is entirely false and unless Colonel Moss was misinformed the statement is not worthy of a gentleman and a soldier." Robert continued with:

"... Mr. Peyre told me that he had molded the statue for a commercial purpose if it was popular (being of very moderate means) but principally as a modest effort prompted by his admiration for the achievements of the Marines in France. Mr. Peyre told me (I speak French fluently) that he had made the statue to represent a MARINE and that he was very sorry that he had been obliged to remove the Marine Corps device from the original statue in General Hart's Office in Paris—he removed the device himself, I happened to speak to him [Peyre] the same day."

Robert further wrote that he was with Peyre while he worked on the 8-foot statue and furnished the sculptor with buttons and collar insignia. Robert described Peyre as a friend and noted their regular correspondence in which Peyre wrote Robert he would leave Paris on 21 Feb. 1920 on board SS *La Touraine* and would be staying in New York City. Robert gave Peyre's address in the hopes LtCol Davis would contact Peyre also to verify the story. In a handwritten note at the bottom of the typed letter, Robert wrote, "I am interested in the results."

The New York World was not the only paper to print an inflammatory version of the events and to receive criticism. The 24 April 1920 issue of the *Army and Navy Register* published an article written by "Pas de Camouflage" that criticized the Marine Corps and resulted in two letters to the editor, one from a sergeant major and the second from Mrs. Lelia Montague Barnett, the wife of the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The unidentified "ex-regimental Sergeant Major, (Personnel) 5th Regiment, U.S. Marine" took exception with the writer's attitude toward the Marines. It appears that Pas de Camouflage claimed the Marines took a statue meant to be a "doughboy" and that Peyre did not know that a Marine was different from a soldier. The sergeant major cited the many articles

in magazines and newspapers complimenting the work of the Marine Corps at Belleau Wood, indicating that as an intelligent man, Peyre knew the difference and chose to make his statue a Marine.

Mrs. Barnett began her letter to the editor with criticism that the author wrote anonymously and asserted that anyone willing to criticize the Marines should be willing to do so openly and honestly. One of her main points was that if Peyre added the insignia thinking it a divisional insignia, "Would this have been any fairer to the other divisions not so honored by the sculptor?" She further asked, "Why shouldn't a [M]arine have been a Crusader for the Right?"

Perhaps her finest moments was writing, "There is glory enough to go around, and ours is a country big and appreciative enough to honor and reward them all. ... The camouflage scribe in Paris would do better to help along the morale of the united service and to take a lesson from the well-known [M]arine esprit de corps ... and if you want a divisional emblem on a doughboy statue do what the [M]arines have done—buy and pay for that statue yourself."

While perhaps Mrs. Barnett's letter to the editor does not clarify any of the details involving the construction of the sculpture, it does clarify the feeling in the Corps and raises excellent points to argue against the controversy.

One final debate that may be laid to rest is the subject of which Marine served as the model for Peyre. The issue was first raised after an article in the August 1969 issue of *Leatherneck*.

The "We—the Marines" article gave this brief history of Carl Millard: He enlisted on 20 April 1917 and eventually was transferred to the frontlines in France where he was wounded twice. During his recovery, he joined a voluntary military-police unit and was sent to Paris. During that time he was one of the group BG Harts sent to Peyre. Millard posed for three months for Peyre and was immortalized as "Crusading for Right." In 1920, he was discharged, returned to Chicago and worked as a printer.

After that article appeared in *Leatherneck*, another Marine's son claimed it was, in fact, his father who was the model. The son was Mr. Ken Robert, and his father was Marine veteran George Robert. He is the same Robert who, on 7 May 1920, wrote to LtCol Davis, explaining his as-

Enlisted Marine George Robert stands beside Peyre's 2-foot "Crusading for Right" in Paris.



sociation with Peyre and the purchase of "Crusading for Right."

In his letter, Robert never claimed to be the model, simply a go-between negotiating the purchase of the statue. Robert's son supported his allegation by his father's account to him and photos from a scrapbook: One photo is Robert alongside the 2-foot statue. A previously unidentified Marine is in a photo next to the 2-foot sculpture in Peyre's biographical file and now is believed to be the same photo that Mr. Robert referenced. However, the letter written by Peyre himself with the name of his model, Millard, is corroborating evidence to prove it was Carl Millard who modeled for Peyre, not Robert.

With the discovery of Peyre's letter and photos in the files of the History Division, a clear and honest picture of events has emerged. "Crusading for Right" was the idea of the French sculptor Charles Raphael Peyre in June 1918 after the American servicemen proved their bravery at the Battle of Chateau-Thierry. Peyre then chose his model from approximately 100 military personnel sent by BG Harts. From that group, he chose a Marine, Carl Millard.

When Peyre presented the 2-foot statue to Harts, it included the Marine Corps em-

blem that he graciously removed following BG Harts' request. However, before he removed the insignia, Maj Wills, USMC saw the statue in the general's office. Maj Wills, under orders from Commandant Barnett, sent Robert to ask about the sculptor's intentions for the statue.

Peyre told Robert he meant to sculpt

**With the discovery of
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an 8-foot statue, and the Marine Corps organized and raised \$11,000 to purchase the statue. After it was completed, Peyre arrived in the United States, and the statue came later. "Crusading for Right" was dedicated during a ceremony on 8 Dec. 1921 at Quantico, Va.

"Crusading for Right" is a statue to honor all brave Americans who served in France during WWI. However, because it happens to depict a Marine, some assert it cannot represent all military personnel. Echoing Mrs. Barnett's previous question,

why can a soldier symbolize all of the American military, but a Marine cannot?

Perhaps a better question is if the Army meant it to be a statue of a doughboy, why did BG Harts send a group that included Marines? Despite the controversy raised after the small sculpture arrived in BG Harts' office and then finally when the larger statue arrived in the United States, the answers are best left to Peyre himself. His letter on 10 April 1920 to LtCol Davis outlined his motives for creating the statue and the reasons he added the Marine insignia. If we cannot trust the sculptor's word, whom can we trust?

Editor's note: Emily Martin was the 2011 "Shaw Fellow" in Marine Corps history at the Marine Corps History Division (HD). She began working there as an intern and has been asked to return each year due to her excellent skills. She received her B.A. in history from Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Va., and her M.A. in history in 2010. Ms. Martin continues to work in the Historical Reference Branch at HD, inventorying and processing the more than 1,200 linear feet of branch holdings.



New LtCol Earl “Pete” Ellis Annual Essay Contest!

Help Stimulate Strategic Thinking and
Advance the Marine Corps Into the Future

- Both civilian & military writers eligible
- 2,000 – 3,000 words maximum length
- Entries due between 1 May – 30 June with entries judged in July 2012 and winners announced shortly after.
- All entries eligible for publication in *Marine Corps Gazette*

Inaugural Theme: Operational focus on role of Navy-Marine Team as crisis response force in the uncertain security environment of 2015 – 24 with articles addressing the broadening of littoral maneuver and amphibious capacity through:

- New operational concepts
- Force composition
- Material solutions



First Prize - \$5,000

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Got Some Visionary Ideas Like “Pete” Ellis Had?
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Read more about contest details and submission requirements in the LtGen Richard Mills article in the February edition of Marine Corps Gazette and here:

www.mca-marines.org/gazette

We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Marine Corps Welcomes First F-35B Aircraft to the Corps

■ The Marine Corps received its first F-35B Lightning II, the USMC variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., on Jan. 11.

Marine test pilot Major Joseph T. Bachmann delivered the aircraft to the Second Marine Aircraft Wing's F-35B training squadron, Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 501. The aircraft will be used for pilot and maintainer training at the F-35B Integrated Training Center at Eglin AFB.

"The Marine Corps has to be ready to fight across the spectrum of war; a force that is most ready when the nation is least ready. The F-35B gives us the capability to do just that," said Major General Jon M. Davis, the commanding general of 2d MAW.

The F-35B is slated to replace the F/A-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier and the EA-6B Prowler. It will provide multirole, fifth-generation capabilities in the form of one common tactical fixed-wing aircraft that

will reduce maintenance costs while ensuring the Marine Corps maintains the aircraft dominance required to deter potential adversaries.

Thanks to its short takeoff and vertical landing capabilities, the F-35B serves the Corps' expeditionary purposes, operating from airfields with shorter runways in remote, nonpermissive environments.

"The STOVL capability of the F-35B will enable us to deploy with the Marine air-ground task force and ensure these fifth-generation capabilities are available when needed," said Lieutenant Colonel James B. Wellons, Commanding Officer, VMFAT-501.

"Our mission is to conduct F-35B operations in coordination with our joint and coalition partners at Eglin Air Force Base in order to attain our annual pilot training requirement."

This year the F-35B surpassed 250 vertical landings, including 72 short takeoffs and vertical landings on USS *Wasp* (LHD-1) in October 2011.

PAO, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

11th MEU Recon Marines Conduct Casualty Evacuation Drills

■ Reconnaissance Marines and a Navy corpsman with Battalion Landing Team, 3d Bn, First Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced) participated in a casualty evacuation drill on board USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8), Jan. 5.

The drill built confidence and prepared team members to care for casualties and return them safely to the ship, said the platoon sergeant, Gunnery Sergeant Lawrence T. O'Connor.

"Rehearsing as a team is important because we want everyone to come back alive," said Corporal Ryan Finn. "We operate in small teams, and knowing the corpsman's job allows us to take care of each other and provide aid when needed."

Groups with simulated casualties had 30 minutes to assess the patient, provide buddy aid, call in air support for an evacuation and provide extended care while being transported in a CH-46E Sea Knight

The first F-35B Joint Strike Fighter for the Marine Corps arrives at Eglin AFB, Fla., on Jan. 11. The aircraft currently is being utilized by VMFAT-501 for pilot and maintainer training at the F-35 Integrated Training Center.
(Courtesy of PAO, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.)





BLT 3/1 Recon Marines carry a simulated casualty from an HMM-268 (Rein) CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during training aboard USS Makin Island (LHD-8).

SGT ELYSSA QUESADA

before landing on board *Makin Island*.

"It was a good opportunity for [team members] to train under a stressful environment," said O'Connor. "It opened up their eyes to realities they could face on a battlefield."

The 11th MEU, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., deployed from San Diego, Nov. 14, 2011, as part of *Makin Island* Amphibious Ready Group, aboard *Makin Island*, USS *New Orleans* (LPD-18) and USS *Pearl Harbor* (LSD-52), for a regularly scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and Middle East regions.

Sgt Elyssa Quesada
Combat Correspondent, 11th MEU

Civilians Receive Taste of Corps Ethics

■ Thirteen executives from industries that included national security, telecommunications and an international beverage conglomerate participated in ethics training at The Basic School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Jan. 5. The participants were at TBS to learn how the Marine Corps implements ethics into everything that it does, using honor, courage and commitment as the pillars to its foundation of decision making.

The group twice previously visited Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., to see how ethics and values are taught to Marine recruits. The visitors are from the master of business administration program and are executive members of the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University.

Dr. Steven D. Olson, director of the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility, said that the visit was recom-

mended by Colonel Eric M. Mellinger, commanding the recruit training regiment at MCRD Parris Island. Mellinger suggested the visit to TBS to see how the same principles are taught to lieutenants as a leadership function.

During the training, the participants were split into three fire teams to hike along a marked trail. Each fire team was to accomplish different missions along the trail. With every mission faced, an ethical challenge was thrown into the mix.

In one simulation, participants had to secure a water point where they were confronted with a mother whose daughter had been injured by an improvised explosive device (IED). The group had to make a decision about how to help the daughter



LCPL TABITHA BARTLEY

Civilian corporate executives joined Marines during TBS Ethics Training at MCB Quantico, Va., on Jan. 5. TBS lieutenants played the roles of "tribe members" and acted out scenarios Marines might face, requiring participants to make ethical decisions in a high-stress environment.

without offending the customs of the local tribe.

"We accomplished our mission of securing the water point, but when it came to the courage of helping the girl, we didn't do so well," said Major Dan M. Dowd, the command section head of warfighting at TBS.

After the exercise was completed, the group discussed what they did and didn't do, and how they could have done things differently. Many of the participants agreed that even though they met their goal of securing the water point, they didn't accomplish the overall goal of building good connections with the tribe.

Dowd asserted that inaction is also a form of action, and that the leader is not the only person who can take action. "We all have morals and values; we all know the right thing to do, so why wouldn't you say something? Are you going to just take orders and have no real responsibilities, or are you going to say something when the right thing isn't being done," Dowd said.

"It's difficult to figure out how to go about doing the right thing," he continued. "But that's why we do the training."

After the discussion, the group was split in half and sent on separate missions where participants encountered a simulated genocide and an IED explosion that injured one of their own. With each mission, the groups were faced with opportunities to ask important questions and adhere to the ethos of the Marine Corps—honor, courage and commitment.

"One of the things we want people to take away from this is a duty and obligation," said Olson. "We want them to have responsibility that pulls them forward to a higher ethical structure rather than, 'What's the minimum I can do to get the advantage?' We knew we couldn't teach it and that it would have to come from experience, so that's why we came here."

"Ethics is essential to mission accomplishment," Olson continued. "The Marine Corps has been showing that for years. Now it's time for the corporate world and business students to see and appreciate that."

LCpl Tabitha Bartley
PAO, MCB Quantico, Va.

MCRD San Diego Opens New Exhibit

■ The Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Museum Historical Society held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 3, 2011, for its new Sponsors and Donors Wall exhibit at the MCRD San Diego Command Museum.

The MCRD Museum Historical Society established the Sponsors and Donors Wall to recognize supporters of the United States Marine Corps and those who dedicate themselves to the preservation of its



GYSGT J. L. WRIGHT JR.

ISLAND MEMORIAL—Leathernecks with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, First Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force hike from Mount Suribachi after conducting a study of the Battle of Iwo Jima as part of the unit's professional military education program Dec. 16, 2011. During the visit, more than 120 Marines hiked the sacred ground and paid respects to their fallen brothers.

illustrious history. The wall is located at the east entrance of the museum's visitor reception center where more than 300,000 visitors pass annually.

Names can be added to the wall with any qualifying donation, and also can be displayed in honor or memory of a family member or loved one.

For details on how to place a name in perpetuity on the Sponsors and Donors Wall, contact the MCRD Museum Historical Society at (619) 524-4426, or visit the website at www.mcrdmhs.org.

Col Lynn A. Stuart, USMC (Ret)
MCRD San Diego Museum Historical Society

Wine Country Marines' Birthday Ball Dazzles Attendees

■ The Wine Country Marines' Birthday Ball in Sonoma, Calif., on Nov. 3, 2011, drew a record 227 attendees and raised more than \$20,000 in pledges to benefit the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

The guest of honor, 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General P. X. Kelley, USMC (Ret), gave an inspirational speech amidst the stunning setting of the Jacuzzi Family Vineyards, owned by Fred and Nancy Cline.

Among the men and women in attendance were former Central Command com-

mander, Gen Joseph P. Hoar, USMC (Ret); former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Richard D. Hearney, USMC (Ret); former Deputy Commander in Chief U.S. European Command, Gen George J. Eade, USAF (Ret); president and CEO of the Marines' Memorial Club of San Francisco, Major General Mike Myatt, USMC (Ret); former Marine major and Pro Bowl quarterback, Eddie LeBaron; and the city of Sonoma mayor, Laurie Gallian, whose son currently serves in the Marine Corps Reserve.

The first Wine Country Marines' Birthday Ball was in 1985 under the leadership of its founder, Colonel Warren I. Jaycox, USMCR (Ret). One of the early chief supporters of the event was the late Private First Class Bruno Benziger, an Iwo Jima veteran and the patriarch of the Benziger Family Winery in nearby Glen Ellen, Calif.

The event has grown in both size and sophistication every year. Along the way, it became a serious fundraiser for the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund. On Nov. 3, 2011, the event celebrated its 26th anniversary and doubled the amount of pledges raised in its history.

During his address, Gen Kelley reminded his spirited audience that President Ronald Reagan said, "Most people go through



COURTESY OF THE MCRD SAN DIEGO MUSEUM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Col Jim Guerin, USMC (Ret) (left), board president of the MCRD San Diego Museum Historical Society, congratulates Col Vic Bianchini, USMCR (Ret), on initiating the museum's Sponsors and Donors Wall at the depot's Command Museum. Col Lynn Stuart, USMC (Ret) (right) is the executive director of the MCRD San Diego Museum Historical Society.



COURTESY OF COL WILLIAM E. PEACOCK, USMCR (RET)

The president of Wine Country Marines, Col William E. Peacock, USMCR (Ret), cuts the Marine Corps Birthday cake for the guest of honor, the 28th Commandant, Gen P. X. Kelley, USMC (Ret) (to Col Peacock's right), and the oldest Marine present, Col Harry Pratt, USMC (Ret) (far right), at the Wine Country Marines' Birthday Ball.

life wondering if they have made a difference. Marines don't have that problem."

The Wine Country Marines have been making a difference since 1985 and expect to continue the tradition into 2012 and beyond.

For more information about the Wine Country Marines and the annual Birthday Ball, visit www.WineCountryMarines.org.

Col William E. Peacock, USMCR (Ret)

Quick Shots Around the Corps

24th MEU: Spotted at a Town Near You

■ Captain Robert Shuford, Public Affairs Office, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, reports that leathernecks with the 24th MEU, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., conducted training near the towns of Farmville and Creeds, Va., Jan. 12-20, as part of their Realistic Urban Training (RUT), the sec-

ond-to-last exercise before the 24th MEU completed its at-sea training scheduled for February.

RUT allows Marines to train in areas unique from the standard training facilities on bases. Much of the training implements situational training exercises in predesignated locations that were coordinated with community officials and law enforcement.

Maintenance Depots Consolidated Under Single Command

■ The Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, reports that the Secretary of the Navy approved the recommendation of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, to consolidate maintenance centers in Albany, Ga., and Barstow, Calif., under one command with two operating plant locations.

The new Marine Depot Maintenance Command, commanded by Colonel Stephen Medeiros, will be headquartered at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany and will reduce overhead functions associated with two separate commands as well as standardize processes between the industrial plants and increase efficiency.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



SGT JESSE STENCE

"This is gonna make the best tire swing ever!"

Submitted by
Dee Adams
Southampton, Pa.

This Month's Photo



CPL SAMUEL NASSO

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

“It’s Presidential”

Marine Forces Reserve’s New Headquarters Anchors Corps’ Largest Command

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

The new Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North headquarters opened in June 2011—an event long awaited by hundreds of Marines, sailors, civilian staff who work there and the city of New Orleans.

The opening was the inaugural event for a much larger effort by the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans to create “Federal City.” This new, master-planned development is intended to ultimately retain 1,600 existing jobs, create 400 new jobs in the short term and attract thousands more in the future.

“The new Marine headquarters is just the beginning of a Federal City that will become the hub of development for other federal agencies looking to locate here and bring even more jobs,” said Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal at the building’s dedication. “This project is vital to growing the state’s economy, but more importantly, it continues Louisiana’s strong tradition of supporting our brave men and



MajGen David M. Mize, USMC (Ret) (above), former commander of Marine Forces Reserve, speaks at the dedication of the Joseph J. McCarthy Building (below) June 27, 2011. (Below photo: Jeff Johnston Photography provided courtesy of Woodward Design & Build)

women as they defend our freedom.”

The massive building is named in honor of the late Lieutenant Colonel Joseph J. McCarthy, a World War II Marine who earned the Medal of Honor for heroic actions while serving as a Reserve captain on Iwo Jima in 1945. The four-story, 411,000-square-foot headquarters is the anchor tenant of the Federal City development. It is located within the newly commissioned 29-acre Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans.

“It’s presidential,” remarked Lance Corporal Rodney Henry, a security clerk stationed at the headquarters. “It’s clean, it smells good and it’s really nice. I like it.”

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission directed that the Naval Reserve Forces Command relocate from New Orleans to Norfolk, Va., and in May 2005 recommended closing the Naval Support Activity New Orleans. This included the Marine Reserve headquarters, a WW I-era facility used by Marines since the 1960s on the East Bank of the Mississippi in the Bywater District.

The massive building is named in honor of the late Lieutenant Colonel Joseph J. McCarthy, a World War II Marine who earned the Medal of Honor.



Prior to the announcement of the recommended closure, state and city officials already had developed the idea of forming a public-private partnership to redevelop the former Navy site into Federal City.

They enlisted the assistance of retired Marine Corps Major General David M. Mize to assist them in coming up with an innovative solution.

MajGen Mize was commander of Marine Forces Reserve from 1998 to 2001, retired from the Marine Corps in 2003 and moved back to New Orleans. He became point man for the Federal City project as the president and CEO of the New Orleans Federal Alliance, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization chartered in 2004 to oversee creation, development and operation of Federal City.

In August 2005, then-Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco wrote to the BRAC chairman as the commission was finalizing its closure recommendations. Blanco wrote, "We want to make sure you are fully aware of the sincerity and strength of Louisiana's commitment to build and finance a long-planned, new, state-of-the-art complex called Federal City."

In her letter, Blanco also stated that approval of the plan would save the Department of Defense \$230 million compared to what it would have cost to close the Navy facility. She committed \$100 million of state funding to the project.

MajGen Mize told attendees at the building's dedication, "We found out in late August 2005 that our concept had carried the day, and we were spared from the closure list."

Then, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.

On Aug. 25, 2005, as the general and other state and local officials were at a dinner celebrating adoption of their proposal, Katrina was gaining strength and drawing a bead on New Orleans.

"In the end, we lost a year of work on the project, and the total development cost of Federal City had risen by 50 percent," said MajGen Mize. "We were given no release on the mandatory requirement to break ground on September 30, 2008, or default back to closure of the base. We met that deadline on the very last day."

Bobby Jindal took office as Louisiana's governor in January 2008 and helped ensure commitment of an additional \$50 million in state funding for a total of \$150 million to secure the site; \$110 million of that funded the Marine headquarters building. The Marine Corps invested about \$56 million in furnishing and equipping the facility.

The site of the former Navy activity consists of about 200 acres between the West



Above: The use of tilt-up construction not only saved millions of dollars, but shaved time off the project schedule. (Jeff Johnston Photography provided courtesy of Woodward Design & Build)

Below: Bob Lipscomb (left) of Woodward Design & Build outlines progress on the construction of the planned new headquarters for MARFORRES in May 2011.



MC1 MARK O'DONALD, USN



Above: Col Harvey C. “Barney” Barnum Jr., who earned the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, provides remarks as the new MARFORRES headquarters is dedicated in honor of LtCol Joseph J. McCarthy, USMCR (Ret), who was awarded the Medal of Honor while commanding a rifle company in the Fourth Marine Division in the 1945 Battle of Iwo Jima. (Photo by Capt Keith A. Stevenson)



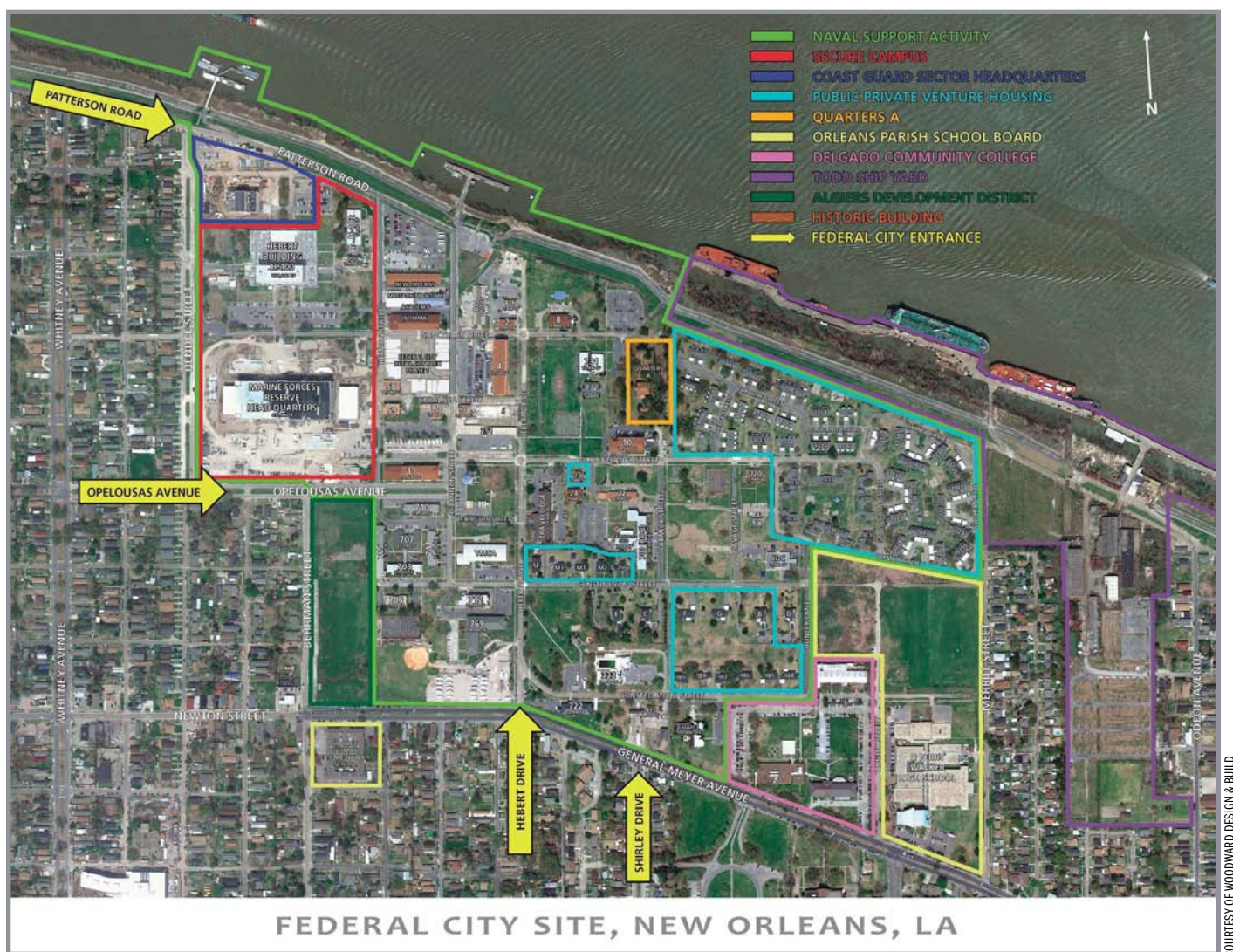
CPL ALVIN J. PARSON

Above left: (From the left) Col Harvey C. Barnum Jr., Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., cut the ribbon, opening the Joseph J. McCarthy Building.



LCPL AUDREY GRAHAM

Above right: LtGen Jack W. Bergman, USMCR (Ret), a former commander of MARFORRES, attended the dedication of the new Reserve headquarters.



FEDERAL CITY SITE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

COURTESY OF WOODWARD DESIGN & BUILD

Bank of the Mississippi River and General Meyer Avenue in Algiers, one of the oldest neighborhoods in New Orleans. It was the first major section of New Orleans reopened after Hurricane Katrina, having suffered wind damage but escaping major flooding that affected most of the East Bank.

Federal City will occupy about 200 acres and also will leverage partnerships with surrounding properties, such as a community college and two charter schools. About 29 acres are slated to remain secure under direct Marine control. Marines will be involved in decisions about who locates within their area.

The remaining acreage will be redeveloped into a town center, mixed-use environment, including office buildings, public parking, a YMCA fitness center, a military maritime-themed charter high school, a 400-seat auditorium, a grocery store and other retail stores, hotels, restaurants and 1,400 new homes. The three-phase project completion goal is slated for September 2023.

The Federal City concept is intended to be a model for small military bases around the country, according to information on

the “Federal City at Naval Support Activity New Orleans” website. The intent is not to follow traditional base organization plans but to minimize costs and direct services provided by the military while integrating the facility into the surrounding community.

The Marines’ move from New Orleans’ East Bank, across the Mississippi River to the West Bank, was relatively short in

The Federal City concept is intended to be a model for small military bases around the country.

distance but as challenging as any move.

“It’s like any time you move from one house to another, there are challenges, but overall it went pretty smoothly,” commented Master Sergeant Christopher Cox, public affairs chief of Marine Forces Reserve, who noted that a contracted moving company trucked all the heavier materials.

“Of course, we had to keep operations going at both sites for a period of time, which made communication a challenge,”

he said. “But once we got established in the new building, we just needed to deal with the details like learning new phone numbers and getting our e-mails up and running.”

Marines began their relocation on June 6, 2011, moving Marines at a rate of 40 to 100 per day. They also had to retrieve weapons, equipment and supplies from leased warehouses to the new access-controlled, hurricane-resilient building. By June 22, the move was complete.

The Marines moved from three separate buildings on the East Bank to one on the West Bank. The consolidation supports more efficient work flow and communications.

“This significantly improves our ability to communicate and coordinate operations,” according to MSgt Cox. He noted that face-to-face meetings had often meant time-consuming, crosstown drives. Now it is a matter of going down the hall or up the stairs.

The new Reserve headquarters enables integration of information and operations that will lend itself to routine work and crisis management.

“The new headquarters building provides enhanced command and control capabilities that support the commander’s intent to remain operationally oriented and ready to respond to all manner of crises and contingencies.”

—LtCol Fran Piccoli

“The command operations center is equipped with the latest technology and configured to provide a common operational picture for commanders and their staffs,” said Lieutenant Colonel Fran Piccoli, Marine Forces Reserve public affairs officer. “Overall, the new headquarters building provides enhanced command and control capabilities that support the commander’s intent to remain operationally oriented and ready to respond to all manner of crises and contingencies.”

According to officials at the project’s design firm, Woodward Design & Build of New Orleans, the use of “tilt-up” construction saved about \$2 million and shaved three months off the schedule.

Tilt-up is a construction method to fabricate concrete wall panels on-site by casting them horizontally, adjacent to their final positions, then, after the concrete has cured, tilting them into vertical positions using cranes. According to information provided by Woodward, more than 190 such panels were poured, including some 72 feet tall and weighing more than 130,000 pounds each.

The building is considered an impressive feat in the construction world. MajGen Mize noted, “The MarForRes project is the largest DOD project ever completed using tilt-up construction for military end

use as well as the largest tilt-up building in the Gulf Coast region. This construction technique allows for faster, less expensive construction and delivers a building that is particularly well suited to handle hurricane-force winds.”

The new access-controlled building features a mass notification system, consolidated protection of classified materials, centralized building monitoring system and a dedicated back-up generator, among many other contemporary elements.

The building also includes a barber shop, gymnasium, indoor laser firing range, auditorium, cafeteria, courtroom, family meeting rooms and conference rooms.

The secure compound includes a parade field large enough to accommodate two CH-53 helicopters or MV-22 Ospreys. The field, surrounded by a rubberized track, also serves as a physical training area. There is a separate but connected two-story band annex and a detached warehouse.

At full capacity, the building can accommodate about 2,000 people including active-duty and Reserve staff, DOD civilian employees and drilling reservists. It was built to federal blast standards as well as hurricane-protection criteria and emergency readiness standards.

The Marines’ newest headquarters is already an award winner. It was named

Right: Inside the MARFORRES headquarters is the “Hall of Ultimate Sacrifice.” On the walls are photos of 229 Reserve and active-duty Marines who, while assigned to Reserve units, made the ultimate sacrifice in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Jeff Johnston Photography provided courtesy of Woodward Design & Build)

Below: The Joseph J. McCarthy Building



JEFF JOHNSTON PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED COURTESY OF WOODWARD DESIGN & BUILD



as Consteel's Building of the Year in Technical Innovation, in part due to the tilt-up design.

It also has been submitted for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. LEED is a national 100-point rating system that evaluates buildings in terms of their sustainability, water efficiency, energy efficiency and atmosphere quality, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality. The Coast Guard also has a new 45,000-square-foot headquarters for its Sector New Orleans Command, designed to accommodate 300 staff. The facility is adjacent to the Marines' secure site but separated by security fencing and gates.

The retention of Marines in New Orleans continues a long relationship that started when the first company of the fledgling

Marine Corps arrived there in 1778.

Marine Forces Reserve, now commanded by Lieutenant General Steven A. Hummer, is the largest command in the Marine Corps, with 183 training centers located in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The command organizes, equips, trains and sustains more than 40,000 Selected Marine Corps Reserve drilling Marines who support exercises and operations worldwide. Command staff also keeps tabs on about 60,000 Marines in the Individual Ready Reserve, former active-duty or Reserve Marines completing their eight years of total obligated service and still eligible to be called back to service during that time frame.

Marine Forces North, the other command of LtGen Hummer and supported

by his staff in New Orleans, implements antiterrorism and force protection measures in homeland defense operations and provides defense support to civil authorities. That responsibility requires planning for the use of Marine forces and advising on the proper employment of those forces and coordinating with and supporting Marines when attached to U.S. Northern Command.

Editor's note: The author, CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, retired from active duty in 1996 and is a frequent Leatherneck contributor. As a staff sergeant, he was with 24th Marine Amphibious Unit in Beirut, Lebanon, in October 1983 when the Marine Barracks was destroyed by a terrorist truck bomb.



The Journey Continues

The College Years and Adventures Beyond

By David H. Hugel
Conclusion of a three-part series

When I left active duty in the Marine Corps and returned home to Maryland from California in early June 1964, I learned that I had missed the enrollment deadline for starting classes at the local state college that fall. Disappointed, I began to look for other options.

I remembered a friend was enrolled in a University of Baltimore program that allowed him to get a law degree in just six years. The private college allowed students to attain undergraduate and law degrees by attending evening classes, while working during the day. It sounded like a great opportunity for me, and I still had time to enroll for fall classes. My application was accepted, and I registered for the fall semester.

After several weekends at the beach in Ocean City, I was ready to become a col-

lege freshman. When classes began, I discovered that while younger students, some fresh from high school, were in my night classes, they were outnumbered by students my age or older who were holding down full-time jobs during the day.

***Marine-learned
perseverance paid off
and the station offered me
the job, and I began my
career in broadcasting.***

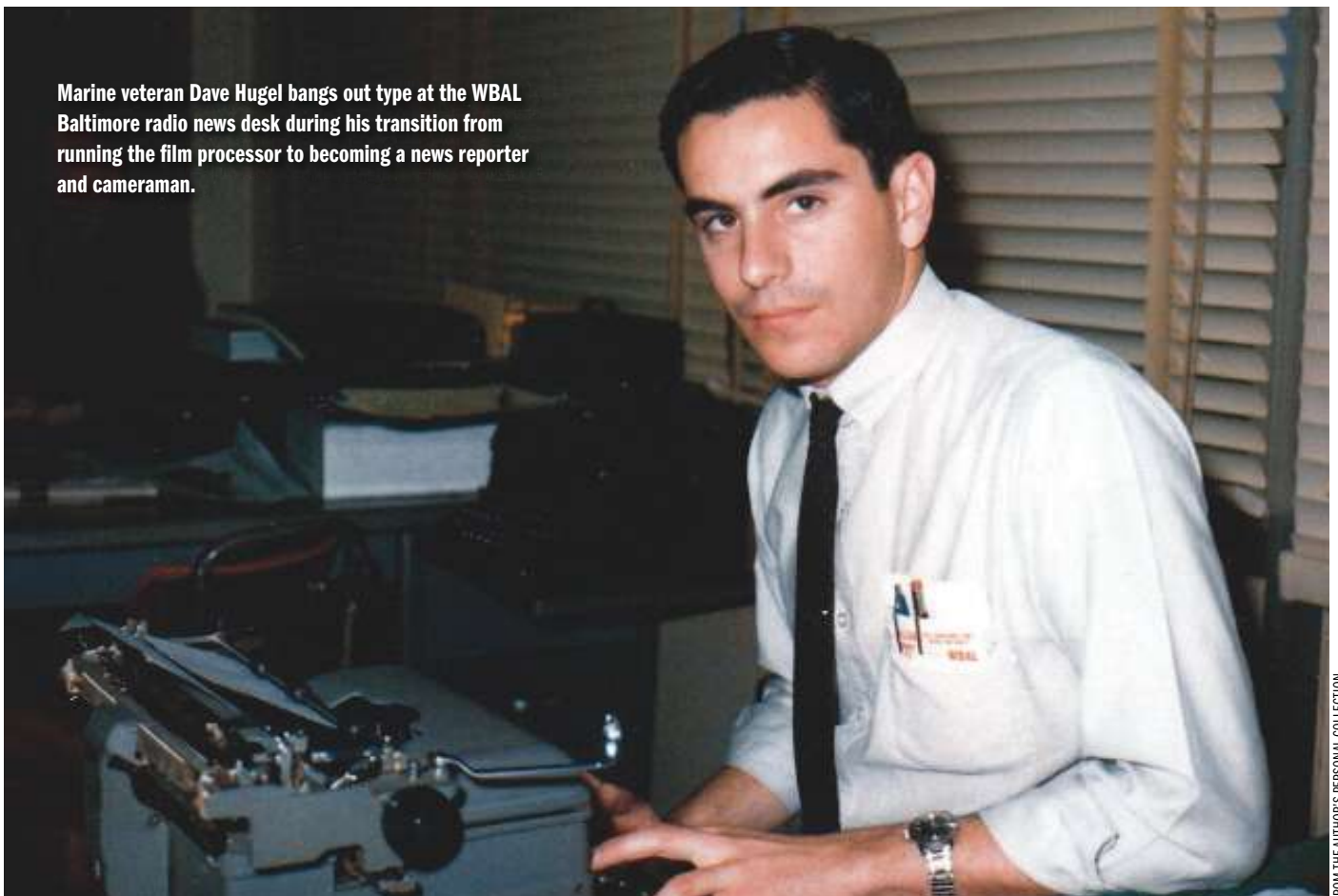
Although I was living with my folks, I needed a job to pay for my tuition, books and other necessities. I looked for jobs that would utilize my photography skills and applied to Baltimore's two major newspapers, but there were no vacancies. During a conversation with a Marine buddy

sometime during the fall, I learned about a job at a local TV station. I called the station's news director, learned the job still was available and scheduled an interview. The interview went well, but the decision to fill the position was delayed for months.

Finally, in late January 1965, Marine-learned perseverance paid off and the station offered me the job, and I began my career in broadcasting. During that period, all the local stations used 16 mm black-and-white motion-picture film that, once processed and edited, was broadcast to viewers, accompanied by a newscaster's details of the story. My new job wasn't the most glamorous, but it was essential to the news operation and put food on the table. It was processing the film and keeping the processing machine ready for use on a moment's notice to develop film of late-breaking news.

Between processing runs and maintenance of the machine, I practiced shooting news film and learned to edit it. With

Marine veteran Dave Hugel bangs out type at the WBAL Baltimore radio news desk during his transition from running the film processor to becoming a news reporter and cameraman.



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

those new skills under my belt, I was ready to become a television news cameraman, but the news director reminded me that I wouldn't be just a cameraman; I also needed to be a reporter. That meant that I'd have to write and occasionally deliver stories on camera or phone them in to the news desk. To qualify for those responsibilities, I needed to polish my writing skills, which to be honest needed a great deal of improvement.

I began an intensive month of on-the-job training, working the radio news desk. A radio newsroom is a busy and, at times, hectic place. Amid the constantly clattering wire-service teletype machines; screeching police, fire and emergency services radio scanners; two-way radio calls from the station's mobile news units; and phone calls from reporters and the public, the person working the news desk had to identify the top stories each hour, gather the latest facts and write news scripts for the station's broadcasting staff.

The radio network with which the station was affiliated provided international and national news broadcasts at the top of each hour, so the news desk had to write only state and local news stories for those broadcasts. The news desk, however, had to provide all the news stories for the five-minute updates at half past the hour.

A large clock, about a foot in diameter, was mounted on the wall above the news desk. It reminded me of clocks depicted in cartoons with its hands spinning around at a rapid pace. A news script was handed to one of the station's newscasters, a sigh of relief was breathed, and that clock again told me that the next deadline was just minutes away. It was a demanding pace, but a great training ground. The lessons I learned during that month on the news desk have stuck with me. The ability to take in, analyze and make decisions based

on available information is an invaluable skill that helped me pass the bar exam many years later and has served me well throughout my professional career.

Having sharpened my writing skills on the news desk, I joined the news team covering events on the streets of Baltimore and beyond. That included run-of-the-mill stories, like robberies, car wrecks, fires



FROM THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL COLLECTION

Dave Hugel is reunited with Gen Wallace M. Greene Jr. at a 1967 news conference in Baltimore. While on active duty, he had photographed Gen Greene in Vietnam.

and similar but often tragic events that dominated local news coverage, as well as the talking heads of elected officials at city hall and the state house.

The mid-1960s were important years for the civil-rights movement that brought many prominent civil-rights leaders to Baltimore. It also was a period when the public was beginning to question the wisdom of the Vietnam War. There were street protests, and national leaders including President Lyndon Johnson, Vice President

Hubert Humphrey, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and Ambassador (retired U.S. Army General) Maxwell Taylor went to Baltimore to defend Johnson administration policies.

One assignment reunited me with the Marine Corps Commandant, Gen Wallace M. Greene Jr., who delivered an address before the Junior Chamber of Commerce's National Conference. I also witnessed firsthand the rise of Spiro T. Agnew. In 1966, the relatively unknown Baltimore County executive was elected Maryland's governor. As a news cameraman, I covered Agnew when he was county executive, his campaign for governor and many of his weekly news conferences as governor. He was a tall, dapper man with a commanding presence and tone of self-assurance, but no one guessed that he would be elected Vice President in 1968.

I felt that some of the reporters I worked with were destined for greater things. Sam Donaldson, then working for WTOP-TV in Washington, and Jed Duvall at WBAL-TV did very well. Donaldson went on to a long, successful career with ABC News, while Duvall covered Vietnam and the White House for CBS and later anchored the news on "Good Morning America" for ABC.

In April 1968, the nation was shocked and saddened by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an event that ignited civil disturbances in Baltimore and other cities across the country. The unrest started slowly, but built. I was off duty for the weekend when I received a phone call to report to work early Sunday morning. It was to be a long week as I worked 72 hours, covering incidents of looting, vandalism and arson that devastated many businesses across the city.

Knowing that I would be beginning law school at the University of Baltimore that



DAVID H. HUGEL

Above left: Vice President Hubert Humphrey reads a brief statement at Andrews AFB, Md., prior to a 1967 official visit to Africa.



DAVID H. HUGEL

Above right: Maryland's Governor Spiro T. Agnew takes reporters' questions during a weekly news conference in April 1967.

fall and couldn't continue the long, unpredictable hours required working in television news, I began looking for a job in public relations. I soon settled into a job with more regular hours at the local chapter of the American Red Cross, followed by one as press secretary for the Republican candidate for governor of Maryland and later as public information officer for the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. Throughout those years, I attended law school in the evenings. It was a long haul, but commitment to goals—something I had learned almost a decade earlier in the Corps—paid off, and in June 1973 I made it.

Nine years after leaving active duty, I graduated from the University of Balti-

more with a Juris Doctor degree. I skipped graduation ceremonies because they conflicted with the first session of a bar-review course for the state bar exam being held that summer. Having attended law school for five years, I was anxious to brush up on subjects, many of which I had studied several years before. Prior planning paid off just as it had in the Corps. I passed the bar exam on my first try and was admitted to the Maryland Bar that November.

All I wanted to be was a prosecuting attorney, and after searching several months for an opportunity, I found a position as an Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore County. Assigned to the circuit-court trial schedule, I began trying drug cases, armed robberies, sexual assaults and other fel-

onies. When I wasn't trying cases, I watched other cases, learning which lawyers were effective and which were not. Occasionally, one of the judges would call me aside during a recess to comment on the tactics or techniques used by prosecutors and defense lawyers alike. I filed those comments away and later used them in appropriate cases.

After more than three years of trying criminal cases, I was ready for a change of pace and accepted a position developing curricula and teaching criminal-law-related subjects to law-enforcement officials. I enjoyed teaching and working with my students; however, when an opportunity arose the following year in the Maryland Attorney General's office developing training programs and publications, I applied and received the appointment.

While attending school or during the early years of my legal career, I never had the time to become active in civic or veteran organizations, but when I heard about the Marine Corps Historical Foundation (MCHF) in 1985, I immediately joined. My wife and I were living in Baltimore with our two small children at the time, which made it difficult to do more than attend the annual awards dinner held at the Washington Navy Yard. That changed a few years later when I joined the staff of a national association of state highway safety officials, and we moved to Northern Virginia.

Living near Washington, D.C., gave me the opportunity to play a more active role in the MCHF and give back a bit to the Marine Corps. I was asked to serve as MCHF secretary, and then the following year when the foundation's long time counsel retired, I agreed to fill that position. As counsel, I served as a member of the board of directors.

While serving with retired Sergeant Major Mack McKinney, the board created and approved a new award to recognize articles focusing on some aspect of Marine Corps history written by enlisted Marines for base newspapers. The award was named the Master Sergeant Tom Bartlett Award, in honor of the longtime *Leatherneck* magazine editor and former MCHF board member who recently had passed away.

Although much of the business that came before the board was routine, during the late 1990s an idea to consolidate and expand the limited Marine Corps museum facilities, then located at the Washington Navy Yard in the District of Columbia and Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico, Va., began to emerge. A committee, chaired by retired Colonel Gerald Turley, explored the issue and made recommendations to the board. Eager to see a new facility built



Above: As administrator of Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration, Hugel stands behind Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich at a teen driver safety rally held at a Maryland high school in January 2005.

Below: With a tractor trailer as a backdrop, and surrounded by state law-enforcement officials, Hugel launches a truck safety enforcement program in Georgia in February 2008 while serving as the Deputy Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.



At Andrews AFB, Md., President George W. Bush and wife, Laura, bid farewell on Jan. 20, 2009, to many who served in his administration.



DAVID H. HUGEL

to showcase the service of Marines during the Vietnam War, I jumped at the chance to serve on the committee, in addition to serving as counsel. The committee met several times to discuss concepts for the museum before I resigned because of career commitments.

In 2003, I returned to Maryland when Governor Robert Ehrlich appointed me administrator of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, an agency known in many states as the DMV. The position was challenging since MVA was a large agency that touched nearly every citizen in the state. A few years later when I received a call from the White House asking me to serve in the U.S. Department of Transportation, I couldn't refuse.

With Governor Ehrlich's blessing, I accepted the offer and soon found myself deputy administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The agency was responsible for developing regulations and enforcing federal laws to ensure the safety of commercial trucks and buses operating on our nation's highways. Like the executive officer in a Marine unit, when the administrator's position was vacant, I stepped up and for a few months was acting administrator of FMCSA. Day-to-day responsibilities involved working with the trucking industry and state law-enforcement agencies on truck- and bus-safety efforts across the country.

As a presidential appointee, the position

also provided opportunities to attend programs at the White House. During those years, my wife and I attended official White House welcomes for Queen Elizabeth II, Pope Benedict XVI and the Italian Prime Minister, in addition to the annual tours of White House holiday decorations.

The final perk was an invitation to say goodbye to President and Mrs. George Bush at Andrews Air Force Base on Inauguration Day 2009. It was a bitterly cold day in Washington as we watched the

I enjoy researching and telling the stories of Marines, many not well known to the general public.

inauguration ceremony on large-screen TVs in a hangar and waited for President Bush to arrive on Marine One from the Capitol. Following an introduction by Vice President Dick Cheney and brief remarks by the departing President, he and his family boarded Air Force One for the trip home to Texas.

Soon after leaving the Bush administration, I began to focus on writing. Several of my articles have been published in *Leatherneck*. The first article profiled the accomplishments of MacArthur Foster, a

Marine who served two tours in Vietnam and went on to a successful professional boxing career climaxed by a fight with Muhammad Ali.

Other articles followed. I enjoy researching and telling the stories of Marines, many not well known to the general public, but who made contributions toward the Marine Corps' legacy while on active duty and to their communities and our country since then.

I have done many things that I never could have imagined doing when I joined the Marine Corps more than 50 years ago. I attribute much of what I accomplished to the training and "can-do" attitude instilled in me during those 12 weeks at Parris Island, S.C. I hope my stories will inspire other young men and women and fellow Marines to make the most of opportunities and pursue their dreams.

Editor's note: David Hugel has been a longtime contributor to Leatherneck magazine. He enlisted in the Marine Corps following graduation from high school in 1960 and later served with the 1st MAF as a photographer covering early Marine Corps operations in Vietnam while stationed in Da Nang as part of Shufly. This is the conclusion of a series based on his service in the Marine Corps and his career spanning the following 50 years. This series is excerpted from his memoir.



In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Lawralynn Diehl

Secretary of the Navy Presents Navy Cross to Fallen Marine's Family



On Aug. 26, 2009, Lance Corporal Donald J. Hogan sacrificed his life to save fellow Marines and earned the Navy Cross, the Department of the Navy's second highest award for valor.

On Jan. 17, 2012, the San Clemente, Calif., native's family traveled to nearby Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to receive the award from Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

The same day, Marines with 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment began moving into the Lance Corporal Donald J. Hogan Bachelor Enlisted Quarters, a newly constructed \$124 million barracks complex. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the barracks took place following the Navy Cross award presentation.

Hogan's father and mother commented on their son's achievement, noting his

reluctance to accept personal recognition.

"He was given an opportunity that very few of us get: to prove our mettle," said his mother, Carla. "But I don't want the guys who he was with to feel that, in some way, he was a superior [to them]."

Actually, LCpl Hogan's Navy Cross citation certainly sets him apart. It describes how, as an infantryman with 1/5, he leapt into the blast zone of an improvised explosive device to protect a fellow Marine—deliberately orienting himself toward the device and shouting warnings to the other Marines as it detonated.

"Mortally wounded by the explosion, Lance Corporal Hogan's extreme act of selflessness saved a Marine's life and allowed the rest of the squad to avoid the full brunt of the fragmentation from the improvised explosive device," his citation reads.

The incident, which lasted only seconds, showed the mental discipline that Hogan

developed over time, said Corporal Lucas Gebbo, who deployed with Hogan in 2009.

According to Hogan's father, Jim, LCpl Hogan wanted to be a Marine since reading his grandfather's copies of *Leatherneck* as a boy. The magazines contained stories about war and pictures of combat and weapons. His grandfather was a Marine veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Hogan enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2007. He completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. He deployed to Afghanistan in the winter of 2009.

Hogan's moment of valor, however, will be remembered for years to come.

"One of the things you worry about when you lose a child ... is that we'll forget ... and this is a way of knowing that he won't ever disappear," said Carla Hogan. "People will remember him always."

Sgt Jesse Stence

Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv

Below left: Jim Hogan holds his son's Navy Cross after it was presented by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Jan. 17. LCpl Donald J. Hogan gave his life to save fellow Marines of 1/5 on Aug. 26, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Below right: Secretary of the Navy Mabus, the Hogan family and Marines cut the ribbon to officially open the \$124 million Lance Corporal Donald J. Hogan BEQ complex at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.



SGT JESSE STENCE



SGT JESSE STENCE

Leatherneck—On the Web See the video story of the presentation of the Navy Cross and the naming of the Camp Pendleton Marine barracks in honor of LCpl Donald J. Hogan at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/hogannavycross

Personal Combat Awards

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

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

The following awards were announced in December 2011:



Silver Star

Sgt William E. Burch,
2d Marine Special Operations
Battalion (MSOB), U.S.
Marine Corps Forces Special
Operations Command (MARSOC)
Cpl William J. Witowicz, 2d
MSOB, MARSOC



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

Sgt Joshua D. Addison,
Marine Special Operations
Regiment (MSOR),
MARSOC
Sgt George J. Callum, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC
1stSgt Darrell L. Carver, 2d Bn,
Third Marine Regiment, Third
Marine Division
Sgt Kyle J. Costanzo, 2/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Travis L. Day, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
HM2 William Fairall, MSOR,
MARSOC
SSgt Ysidro R. Gonzalez Jr., 1/8,
2dMarDiv
SSgt Steven E. Goodnight, 2d
MSOB, MARSOC
Sgt Thomas B. Humphrey III, 3/5,
1stMarDiv
Capt James G. King, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC
SSgt Leon H. Lucas Jr., 3/4,
1stMarDiv
SSgt Richard J. O'Neal Jr., MSOR,
MARSOC
SSgt Maurice Scott IV, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC
SSgt Jeremy D. Smith, 8th Marines,
2dMarDiv
Maj Brian J. Von Herbulis, 1st
MSOB, MARSOC



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

Sgt William P. Anderson,
1/9, 2dMarDiv
1stLt Daniel D. Barbeau, 3/5,
1stMarDiv
1stLt Charles E. Broun, 3/5,
1stMarDiv
LCpl Brian T. Brown, 3/6,
2dMarDiv

Sgt John R. Browning, 3/5,
1stMarDiv
HM3 Daniel A. Cady, 1/2, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Joseph W. Chamblin, 3/2,
2dMarDiv
Cpl Cody A. Collis, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Melquicede Crespoborges, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
Sgt Christopher P. Dare, 3/4,
1stMarDiv
LCpl Cody J. Elliott, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Kevin J. Flynn, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Jeric M. Fry, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
GySgt Bradley W. Gill, 1st Combat
Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Anthony W. Hufford, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
SSgt Kyle Lewis, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Alonso Nevarez, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
GySgt Tanner A. Nystrom,
2d Intelligence Bn, II Marine
Expeditionary Force
SSgt Harold R. Rivera, 1/9,
2dMarDiv
Capt Scott M. Silva, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Noah D. Southworth, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
LCpl Kristopher W. Weckler, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
HA Michael C. Winberry, 1/5,
1stMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

Capt Daniel J. Alldridge,
1st Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison
Company, I MEF
1stLt Tyler J. Anthony, 3/4,
1stMarDiv
Sgt Jared D. Barnard, 3d
Reconnaissance Bn, 3dMarDiv
Cpl Brandon A. Barrone, 3/4,
1stMarDiv
Cpl Bryant L. Beam, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Maxime M. Berteaux, 3/6,
2dMarDiv
LCpl Michael W. Blaszczyk, 3/2,
2dMarDiv
Cpl Daniel P. Bothwell, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
Cpl Gavin N. Browne, 1/5,
1stMarDiv

Cpl Steven A. Brush, 3d Recon Bn,
3dMarDiv
Sgt Machel N. Burke, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Daniel R. Carr, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Ivan R. Cherry Jr., 3d Recon Bn,
3dMarDiv
LCpl Dennis E. Cox, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Cody A. Cunningham, 3d Recon
Bn, 3dMarDiv
HM3 John Deleon, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Jesse T. Desiderio, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
LCpl Michael R. Draeger, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
Cpl Michael J. Dutcher, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
HM3 Thomas Emmerling, 3/4,
1stMarDiv
Cpl Derek J. Erickson, 2d CEB,
2dMarDiv
HM3 Christopher R. Fisk, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
HM2 Steven Flemming, 8th
Marines, 2dMarDiv
1stLt Mateo M. Flores, 3/4,
1stMarDiv
Cpl William E. Fluitt II, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
1stLt Dhruv Fotadar, 3d Recon Bn,
3dMarDiv
Sgt Chad D. Frokjer, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Bret T. Fugate, 3d Recon Bn,
3dMarDiv
Sgt David J. Garcia, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Joshua A. Ghering, 1/5,
1stMarDiv
Cpl Marcos A. Gonzalez, 1/9,
2dMarDiv
Sgt Dominic J. Hall, 3d Recon Bn,
3dMarDiv
LCpl Adam S. Harmon, 1/9,
2dMarDiv
Sgt Reginald A. Harrison Jr., 3/6,
2dMarDiv
1stLt Cody S. Hoffman, 3/4,
1stMarDiv
LCpl James R. Holbrook, 1/9,
2dMarDiv
1stLt Robert R. Innerst, 1/9,
2dMarDiv
SSgt Nathan L. Jones, 1/8,
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1stLt William A. Laverty, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Zachary D. Lawrence, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Nicholas Lenahan, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Jeremy S. Lewis, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
HN Owen D. Ligas, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Jeffrey S. Lopez, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt James L. Luttrell Jr., 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, 2dMarDiv
HN Ryan D. Macut, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
PFC Cory A. Malone, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
HN Thomas P. Malone, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
1stLt Richard A. Marcantonio, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
1stLt James P. Marek, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Jack A. Marino, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Troy J. Martin, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
HM1 John Martinez, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv
LCpl Peter W. Martuneac, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Michael D. Mathiowetz, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Cullen B. Mauritzen, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Manuel Mendoza, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Patrick J. Miller Jr., 3/2, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Anthony J. Minasi, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Merritt T. Mitchell, 2/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt David Montiel, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Juan Montoya, 8th Marines, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Luis A. Moreno, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Curtis L. Morgan Jr., 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Joshua S. Morrison, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
1stLt Benjamin J. Mullaney, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Nathaniel W. Mullet, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Ryan D. Mulrooney, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv
1stLt Luis E. Murillo Jr., 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Calvin R. Nash IV, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Charles R. Neutz Jr., 1/5, 1stMarDiv
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Cpl Ryan J. O'Hearn, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
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Cpl Juan G. Ortiz, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
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LCpl Nathan S. Rojas, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
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Sgt Cory M. Schild, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Scott J. Schmick, 3/4, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Benjamin W. Schmidt, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Nicholas G. Schorr, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Christopher P. Schroth, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Sage T. Shabazz, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Jordan C. Smith, 3/6, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Paul M. Smith, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Benjamin M. Steadman, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Luke M. Stensgard, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Dustin M. Swick, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Johnathan C. Tecmire, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl David A. Thomas, 2d CEB, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Brent J. Traskie, 1/9, 2dMarDiv
HM3 Kalebb S. Van Fossen, 3/6, 2dMarDiv
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Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero



Wide receiver Jaydon Mickens lifts his MVP trophy, presented by Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett, after the high school Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl at Chase Field in Phoenix, Jan. 3. Mickens played on the team for the West, which beat the East, 17-14.

All-American Bowl a Huge Success

After a year of preparation and anticipation, the week leading up to the inaugural Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl represented a successful foray into high school football for the Marine Corps and Junior Rank.

Junior Rank was founded in 2008 by youth football coach and former University of Pittsburgh running back Shaon Berry. The goal of the program is to develop the next generation of student-athletes through education, evaluation and instruction.

In 2011, Junior Rank and Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) partnered during 21 Diamond Flight football camps and the nationwide Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl selection tour.

"We believe this is an opportunity to really impact America and return better citizens in the form of student-athletes," said Berry, Junior Rank CEO. "We were excited to partner with the Marines because they represent everything we want our student-athletes to be."

Football players from middle school age to high school seniors were eligible to attend the Diamond Flight camps. During the camps, players had the unique opportunity to learn from former National Football League players and some of the best

football coaches in the country.

Marine Corps drill instructors assisted the coaching staff during the camps to instill discipline and teach leadership skills to the student-athletes.

According to Brigadier General Joseph L. Osterman, the MCRC commanding general, the partnership between the Marine Corps and Junior Rank was one based on the shared values of both organizations.

"The reason we decided to partner with Junior Rank was because the program is very concentrated on the character of the student-athletes," said BGen Osterman. "They share our Marine Corps core values of honor, courage and commitment."

Unlike other high school All-American bowls, where the selection criteria is often limited to performance on the field, student-athletes who were chosen to play in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl were required to demonstrate outstanding character, leadership and academic excellence.

The qualifying student-athletes arrived in Phoenix on Dec. 29, 2011, and for the next four days practiced with their assigned teams.

The team representing the East practiced at Arcadia High School in Phoenix while the team for the West practiced at Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Also practicing with the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl players were seventh- and eighth-grade Junior Academic All-Americans.

These young student-athletes, like their high school senior counterparts, were required to display more than football skill. The Junior Academic All-Americans were required to have a 3.0 grade point average and a character recommendation in order to be invited.

The Chase Field in Phoenix was brought to life on Jan. 2. Starting the day off was the USMC Proving Ground Combine, a football skills competition modeled after the NFL's annual college combine.

Three hundred high school juniors participated in the combine for a competitive assessment and ranking as well as a chance to play in next year's Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.

On game day, Jan. 3, an estimated 4,000 fans attended the nationally televised Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl. The viewers witnessed a tough defensive battle as the West edged out the East, 17-14.

"We've exceeded our own expectations, based on feedback from parents, coaches and the people who joined us in Phoenix this week," said Berry. "My only hope is that the product we put on the field is representative of the men and women we have serving our country."

LCpl David Flynn
PAO, MCRC

Smithsonian Institution Celebrates Marine Corps Aviation Centennial

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., has joined with the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., in opening a temporary Marine Corps aviation exhibition to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Marine Corps aviation.

General John R. "Jack" Dailey, USMC (Ret), director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, said that with the centennial anniversary of Marine Corps aviation in 2012, it is time to switch sights to the Marine Corps and its own proud tradition of flight.

To celebrate this historic event, the National Air and Space Museum is displaying 91 works of art from the Marine Corps Combat Art Program, now through



CPL TYLER J. BOKEN

REFUELING SQUADRON RETURNS—Maj Ed Fergus, officer in charge of the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 Detachment, attached to the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit, receives a patriotic greeting from his children who sport camouflage tops and wave U.S. flags in honor of their father's homecoming at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Jan. 9. The Det. returned from an eight-month deployment to Sicily, Italy, and Djibouti. Fergus said that the VMGR-252 Det. operated over three different geographic commands and conducted a lot of fixed-wing refueling, helicopter refueling and aerial deliveries.

early January 2013, coinciding with the national observance of the centennial.

The Marine Corps Combat Art Program began in 1942 to keep the country informed about what her Marines were doing at home and abroad. The art program has since collected more than 8,000 pieces.

The art in the Marine Corps aviation exhibition, "Fly Marines! The Centennial of Marine Corps Aviation: 1912-2012," which went on display Jan. 14, includes

scenes from World War I to Operation Enduring Freedom. The exhibit also provides pieces of human and historical context, such as uniforms and memorabilia from aviation.

Cpl Jacob D. Osborne
DivPA, HQMC

VITA Offers Free Tax Services

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at Marine Corps Base

Camp Pendleton, Calif., is providing extra volunteers through April 18 to accommodate servicemembers with free tax advice and preparation.

The VITA program, a partnership between the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Armed Forces, provides free individual income tax preparation for active-duty personnel, reservists or retired veterans and qualifying dependents for both federal and state income taxes, including preparation for itemization as well as reporting rental properties, Social Security and investment income.

Although staffed by fewer volunteers, the VITA program at Camp Pendleton remains open year-round for servicemembers who may have questions or for those returning from deployment.

For more information about VITA at Pendleton, or to make an appointment with the travel team, contact the Mainside office at Camp Pendleton at (760) 763-2518. For more information about the VITA program or to locate a VITA site nationwide, visit www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=107626,00.html, or call toll-free (800) 906-9887.

Cpl Jovane M. Henry
PAO, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.



CPL JACOB D. OSBORNE

Former Cpl James Butcher, a Vietnam-era Marine combat artist, provides background information on one of his paintings that is showcased in the "Fly Marines! The Centennial of Marine Corps Aviation: 1912-2012" exhibit in Washington, D.C.'s, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, Dec. 1-31, 2011

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

Major Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., with 4th Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Marine Forces Reserve, West Palm Beach, Fla., Dec. 14, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Christopher P. J. Levy, 21, of Ramseur, N.C., with 1st Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 10, of wounds sustained Dec. 7 in Helmand province.

Frank Cabiness and Lamar Crawford Sr.

Privates First Class Frank R. Cabiness and Lamar S. Crawford Sr., members of the Marine Detachment, USS *Arizona* (BB-39), who survived the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, were laid to rest recently in separate ceremonies.

PFC Cabiness was returned to the battleship when divers placed an urn holding his remains inside the hull sunk by the Japanese 70 years ago. He died in Lewisville, Texas. He was 86. PFC Crawford died in Tyler, Texas. He was 91.

According to Associated Press reports, when the Japanese attacked, Cabiness narrowly avoided being hit by strafing machine-gun fire. His only injury was from friction burns suffered when he slid down a ladder to abandon ship. The family has Cabiness' watch that stopped at 8:15, the moment that Sunday morning when he hit the water after jumping from *Arizona*.

Leathernecks of the Third Marine Regiment, based in Hawaii, provided the military honors some nine years after Cabiness' death. He is the second Marine to be interred in *Arizona*.

"He said it was because that's where he belonged," said his son Jerry Cabiness after the Dec. 23, 2011, ceremony. "He lost all of his friends there, and he wanted to be with them." PFC Cabiness died in 2002. His son explained that his family took some time to fulfill his father's wish because of financial problems and the expense of traveling to Hawaii.

Arizona lost 1,177 sailors and Marines. Most of the men who died are still entombed in the ship, which rests next to Ford Island where she sank nine minutes after being hit by a Japanese bomb.

Only 337 crewmembers survived *Arizona*. Those who survived may choose to have their ashes interred in the battleship. Survivors who served in USS *Utah* (BB-31), which also sank in the attack and still rests in the harbor, may

do the same. Other U.S. ships that sank or were beached 70 years ago were repaired and returned to service.

After the war, Cabiness worked for an oil pipeline company in Texas that later became Amoco Pipeline. His son said his father never missed a day of work in 30 years.

Crawford's story started in 1940, according to the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* report, when he accompanied a friend to New Orleans who wanted to enlist in the Corps. Crawford had no plans to enlist, but he passed the physical. His friend did not. The friend went back to Arkansas, and Crawford boarded a train bound for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Three months later, he reported for duty aboard USS *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor. He was 19 years old.

Duty with the Marine Detachment saw Crawford as a gun-director pointer in the aft (rear) tower, secondary control.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, he woke at 6 a.m. and ate breakfast in the Marines' main deck living and sleeping quarters and prepared for a church service scheduled for 9 a.m., according to his written memories. While waiting, he checked and cleaned his 1903 Springfield rifle.

When the first wave of Japanese planes flew overheard, Crawford was standing outside the Marine compartment on the port-side quarterdeck. "As I came into the bright light, I heard the sound of airplane motors, several of them," he later wrote.

"Looking up I saw a Japanese dive bomber coming directly toward the *Arizona*. About that time, machine-gun bullets from the plane started bouncing off the tub-type gun mount immediately to my right.

"Realizing that we were being attacked, and that the bullets from the diving warplane were addressed 'to whomever it may concern,' I did a quick dash back into the Marine compartment!"

When the call to general quarters was sounded, everyone moved to their assigned battle stations, which for Crawford meant manning a position just below the crow's nest on the rear tower.

"Explosions and fires were raging uncontrolled throughout the ship," Crawford wrote. "Suddenly the forward magazines exploded with a deafening roar. The ship raised several feet in the harbor waters, and then slowly began to sink to the bottom of the shallow harbor, a total loss.

"Major [Alan] Shapley, as senior officer present, told us: 'Well, men, this is it. Abandon ship. It's every man for himself. Good luck and God bless you all.'"

Crawford left the ship on the mooring lines between *Arizona* and the concrete platform to which she was tied. He dove into the water off Ford Island, and two sailors in a motor whaleboat picked him up.

The three men continued through the area pulling as many men from the water as they could fit into the boat, then headed to Ford Island, where the survivors were unloaded.

Crawford was discharged in 1946. He went on to work as a commissioned postal inspector for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for 20 years, retiring in 1976. He was the last known survivor of the Marine Detachment.

Keith Little

Keith M. Little, who became one of the Navajo Code Talkers with the Fourth Marine Division in the Pacific, died Jan. 3 at a hospital in Fort Defiance, Ariz. He was 87.

Little was one of hundreds of Navajos recruited by the Marines to use the Navajo language to confound the Japanese during World War II.

He tried to enlist at age 15 in 1942, but was turned down. He finally succeeded in 1943 at age 17. He trained as a Code Talker and was

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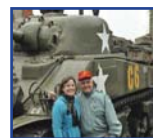
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sent to the South Pacific, where the Code Talkers served in all six Marine divisions and took part in major assaults.

The Code Talkers used a unique cipher based on the Navajo language to encrypt messages sent by field telephones and radios throughout the Pacific theater.

It was regarded as secure from Japanese code breakers, as the consonant-rich language was spoken only in the U.S. Southwest, was known by fewer than 30 non-Navajo people, and had no written form.

In his later years as president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, Little took responsibility for safeguarding the memory of the 420 Navajo Code Talkers. He was a driving force behind the National Navajo Code Talkers Museum & Veterans Center, a project still in development that will help tell the Code Talkers' stories and preserve Navajo tradition, culture and the language.

Col Orlando "Lanny" DeAcutis, 90, of Dallas. The son of Italian immigrants, he was a veteran of three wars who served from 1942 to 1975. He went on to work at Proctor & Gamble as an industrial engineer and at Dallas County as a data processing analyst and taught computer sciences at Dallas community colleges.

MSgt Endre O. Farkas, 76, of East Hampton, Conn. He emigrated from Hungary at a young age and served a total of 30 years in the Corps, which included 21 years of active service with Marine aviation in the Korean

and the Vietnam wars and nine years in the Reserve.

He was retired from Pratt & Whitney where he worked as an inspector. MSgt Farkas was a longtime reader of *Leatherneck*. He died Dec. 18, 2011, and unfortunately did not see his last letter to this magazine, "Emblem in Foreign Places," published in the January issue of "Sound Off."

Cpl Francis J. Grottole, 77, of Windsor, Conn., passed away surrounded by his loving family. Grottole grew up in East Hartford, Conn., and eventually settled in Windsor. An active parishioner of St. Gertrude Church, he served as a Eucharistic minister and lector. He served during the Korean War and in the Connecticut Army National Guard.

LtCol Roland B. "Rolo" Heilman, 87, in Stuart, Fla. He enlisted in 1941 and was commissioned and designated a naval aviator in 1943. He flew missions over the South Pacific with the "Flying Deuces" of VMF-222 and shot down a Japanese Zero when he was 20.

LtCol Heilman flew F4U Corsairs off carriers during the Korean War. His awards include four Distinguished Flying Crosses and 17 Air Medals. He retired in 1961 with 20 years of service.

He was the brother of former Marine sergeant, Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, currently the chancellor of the University of Richmond in Virginia.

Capt Leroy Hicks, 76, of Jackson, Tenn. He enlisted in 1953 and remained on active duty for 23 years. He served in Naval Station

Millington, Tenn.; Minneapolis; Fargo, N.D.; MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Vietnam; Okinawa; MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; Texarkana, Texas; MCRD Parris Island, S.C.; and HQMC. He later worked at AAA Plumbing and Electrical Company as office manager. He was a deacon and Sunday school teacher at North Jackson Baptist Church.

Sgt Stanley Remen, 86, of Memphis, Tenn. He served in WW II and Korea.

Byron L. Reppert, 89, of Mechanicsburg, Pa. He enlisted in 1942 and saw action with the 4thMarDiv on Roi-Namur and Saipan, where he was awarded the Purple Heart. Later, he graduated Cum Laude from Lehigh University and worked for the Atlantic Richfield Company as a wholesale salesperson until he retired in 1978.

He also was borough councilman and mayor of Mechanicsburg. He played the town Santa Claus from 1978 to 1982 and recently wrote a book on Mechanicsburg in the Postcard History Series. He was a member of the 4thMarDiv Association.

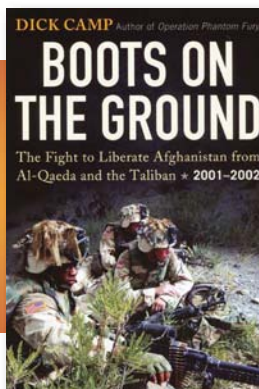
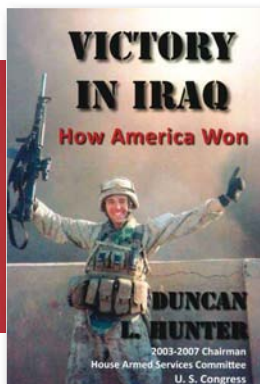
Sgt James F. Ryan, 74, of Lincoln Park, N.C. He served from 1955 to 1959 as a jet engine mechanic for VMA-533, the "Red Devils." He later worked as an installer/repairman for NY Telephone, NJ Bell, AT&T and Lucent Technologies before retiring in 2000.

MSgt James P. "Jim" Steenson, 80, in Philadelphia. He enlisted in 1949 and retired in 1972, having served three tours in Vietnam: 1963, 1966 and 1969.



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 5 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 6.75 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at www.marineshop.net.



VICTORY IN IRAQ: How America Won. By Hon. Duncan L. Hunter. Published by Duncan L. Hunter. 393 pages. Stock #0615437958. Softcover. \$17.96 MCA Members. \$19.95 Regular Price.

I suspect that most military readers will feel a bit unsettled, as I did, when they start reading "Victory in Iraq." Then the reason hits you: This guy is on our side! The author believes in America and America's cause, and reveres the men and women who serve our republic in uniform. He feels no need, in the modern "journalist's ethic," to be neutral between the child and the virus that is trying to kill it. For someone who spends a lot of hours keeping up with news, commentary and reports on current events, it's exhilarating.

"Victory in Iraq" focuses heavily on the struggle that developed after the fall of Baghdad, which is good, as the initial invasion has been well chronicled by other writers. This is history on four levels. It deals with the strategic and tactical levels, but also has a strong focus on the guys stacked outside a Fallujah door, ready to kick it in and deal with what follows.

Military readers and their families will appreciate how often and reverently the author focuses on the individual heroism of our combat troops and their deeds. These are stories military readers will appreciate, but they are stories that civilian readers, fed a steady diet of negativity by a media determined to downplay American success and magnify American setbacks, need desperately to hear. This book

should help overshadow the few, highly magnified alleged misdeeds of our troops in the public's mind.

The fourth level of "Victory in Iraq" is the political war at home, where (what in the 1860s would have been called) "copperhead" politicians and their media supporters were willing to undermine victory and denigrate the troops to score political points. So make no mistake, this is as much a political history of the war as a military history by a writer who was in the thick of the political action.

A World War II buff once told me that he was interested "in the warfighting, not the politics" of that conflict. I replied that all wars are political, and you cannot separate the two. The author, then-Representative Hunter, as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee from 2003 to 2007, and with a son who was serving as a Marine officer in Iraq, had both a strong, pro-military point of view and unique access to leaders and to information about the struggle there and in Washington.

There are lessons to be learned in Hunter's book, especially about the successful Task Force Odin to eliminate improvised explosive devices, which "saw roadside bombs diminished by 90%." And which "killed an astonishing 3,000 insurgents, most caught in the act of emplacing roadside bombs." Hunter reports that as of his writing, it had not been replicated in Afghanistan.

The inclusion of numerous pictures adds greatly to the book. Marines will find poignant the photo of Karen Kelly, wife of Lieutenant General John Kelly, along with her son, Marine Captain John Kelly, pinning second lieutenant's bars on her other son, Robert. First Lt Robert Kelly was KIA in Afghanistan about the time this book went to press.

Military readers may find a bit tedious both the explanations of common military terms and the iteration of key points as the focus shifts between levels and tactical areas. But they are necessary for clarity for the civilian reader who is familiar with Iraq and the military only from the news-as-entertainment industry.

One note of caution: I recommend this book, especially for your interested-but-less-aware civilian friends, but I hope that politics will not make the title a bitter joke. As a Vietnam veteran, I'm keenly aware that a book titled "Victory in Vietnam: How America Won" might have been justifiably published in 1972, had there been potential readers. Let us hope that Congressman Hunter's book title will endure, and the sacrifices of our troops will not be made moot for short-term political advantage, to the detriment of the nation.

I've heard from people in the know that, had Senator John McCain prevailed in 2008, Duncan Hunter would have been on the short list for Secretary of Defense. I hope this book is not his last service to the republic.

Robert A. Hall

Editor's note: Former SSgt Robert A. Hall served with Hq, 26th Marines at Khe Sanh in 1967, noting that, "It was quiet when I left—I don't know what happened." Immediately after earning a B.A. in government from UMass in 1972, he served five terms in the Massachusetts state senate, as well as another six years in the USMCR. In 1980, he earned a master's degree in history from Fitchburg State

University. Since 1982, Hall has been an association executive.

He's a frequent contributor of poetry to Leatherneck. In 2011, he published two books: "The Coming Collapse of the American Republic" and "Old Jarhead Poems." He donates all royalties from both books to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

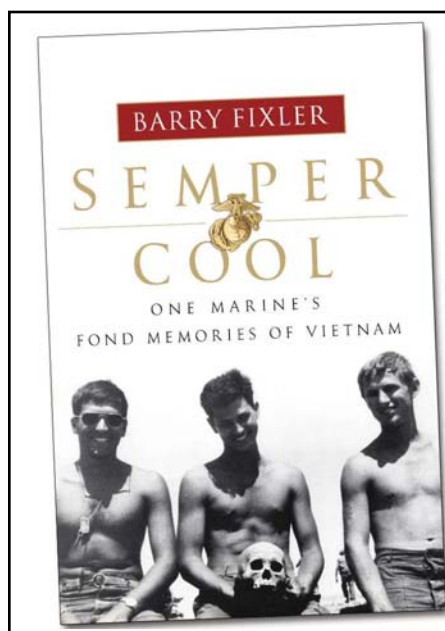
BOOTS ON THE GROUND: The Fight To Liberate Afghanistan From Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, 2001-2002. By Dick Camp. Published by Zenith Press. 320 pages. Stock #0760341117. \$27 MCA Members. \$30 Regular Price.

Even before the smoke cleared from the devastating Sept. 11, 2001, attacks upon our country, President George W. Bush activated the levers of government to determine the identity of the perpetrators. Osama bin Laden and his terrorist group al-Qaida were correctly identified as the dastardly perpetrators.

In the years before the attacks, the Taliban, led by Mullah Mohammed Omar, sheltered Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida followers in Afghanistan. As a response to Sept. 11, 2001, the United States acted and deployed CIA operatives coupled with small Special Forces teams. These specialized teams provided direct support to the local anti-Taliban warlords. Known as the Northern Alliance, these hard-bitten tribal warriors long resisted the Taliban rule since the Soviet Union had, ingloriously, withdrawn from that war-torn country in 1989. At first it was assumed that these Northern tribal forces would hold the key to quickly finding and eliminating America's new No. 1 enemy, Osama bin Laden, and his terror-bent forces.

CIA Director George Tenet and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld were tasked to carry out the mission, code-named Jawbreaker. These formidable agents represented America's first boots on the ground in Afghanistan. During the next two years, a series of Special Operation Groups were deployed to make contact and support the Northern Alliance leaders. They, assisted by the Northern Alliance popular forces, evicted the Taliban forces and their foreign fighters from their strongholds located in Mazar-e Sharif and Kabul.

This lethal partnership then ventured into the heart of the Taliban-controlled Kandahar area and pushed the enemy back to their Tora Bora sanctuary on the Pakistani border. American Special Ops teams skillfully utilized massive close air support strikes to smash the enemy's defenses. Northern Alliance fighters promptly followed up the air strikes and assaulted the enemy's defensive positions. These early successes set the stage for the



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—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*

establishment of forward air bases and secured supply routes in anticipation of the future arrival of conventional Marine, Ranger and other supporting units.

"Boots on the Ground" author Dick Camp has done another remarkable job in both his research and reporting. The book begins by revealing the extraordinary tale of the Soviet Union's disastrous military experiment in what many historians have come to call the "graveyard of empires"—Afghanistan.

Camp is a superb military historian and author. His writing style sweeps the reader along with vivid descriptions of unusual battles. Fights depicting the successful use of our 20th-century airpower were supported by 18th-century Afghan cavalry charges. One can almost taste the swirling dust as the bullets whiz past the rider. During a prisoner uprising at Mazar-e Sharif there is the peculiar story of two very different kinds of Americans: the American Taliban John Walker Lindh and his CIA interrogator, Marine veteran Johnny Micheal Spann. Sadly, Spann was among the first Americans killed in Operation Enduring Freedom.

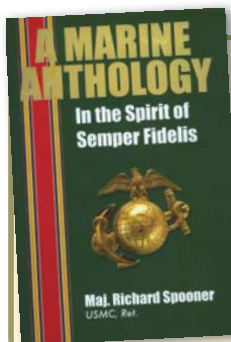
Dick Camp has combined his flowing narrative and supporting photos with the first-person oral testimony of its participants to create this historical masterwork. Ever seeking to go the extra mile, Camp includes a first-rate set of supporting maps. To this illustrious purpose, Camp teamed with artist, now mapmaker, Lieutenant Colonel Richard "Wild Bill" Cody, USMC (Ret) with masterful effect.

Alas, after our first two successful years fighting in Afghanistan, our country redirected its attention and resources toward the invasion of Iraq. And so in Afghanistan, and at this critical time, we forfeited the

initiative we had so successfully achieved. With much more of the Afghan story left to be told, we can imagine that Dick Camp is toiling away to bring us the next segment of this complex, and often baffling, war.

Robert B. Loring

Editor's note: Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring is a frequent reviewer for Leatherneck and a tireless worker to better the lives of those less fortunate in East Pasco County, Fla. He reports that for Christmas and the December holidays, he and fellow Toys for Tots workers "provided toys, skivvies and a food allotment for 1,200 East Pasco families, and something like 4,000 tots."



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meet me to make a toast to individuals serving, those who had served and individuals who may serve in the future. This is our toast:

“November 10, 2011.

Today is the United States Marine Corps’ Birthday.

Tomorrow is Veterans Day.

This is a toast to all our Armed Forces and others.

To all who have.

To all who are.

To all who will serve with honor and dignity.

Thank you. Semper Fi.”

SSgt Steven M. Pettengill
Boston

• *There are many ways to toast the Corps. One of the more traditional is “God Bless the United States and success to the Marines!” It is usually followed by “To the Corps!”—Sound Off Ed.*

Poet’s Corner

As a “poet” who has seen a few of his own works appear in your magazine, I thought Sergeant Joe Hardiman’s poem, “The Decal,” in the January issue was spot-on. I had to compliment him.

GySgt G. Henry, USMC (Ret)
Pen Valley, Calif.

Editorial Irish Pennant

False IDs in the January *Leatherneck*

On page 42 of our January issue, we published a short article, “Retired Aviators: “We’re Still Marines.” It included a



COURTESY OF BOB LUTZ

To correct our bad gouge, on the left is LtCol Kingman Lambert, USMC (Ret), and on the right is former Capt Bob Lutz.



SOUND OFF

[continued from page 10]

with Fred Smith in Vietnam.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164 funded a school in Cam Lo built by the Dove Fund that was dedicated in March 2004. The first school funded by a Marine Corps infantry rifle company (India, 3d Bn, 9th Marines), near Da Nang, was dedicated in April 2011.

Marine Officers Basic Class 6-67 funded a primary school and library in 2006, near Thang Binh, in the former Quang Tin Province, not many miles away from battles where several Marines and a chaplain, Navy Lieutenant Vincent Capodanno, were awarded Medals of Honor for their heroic actions.

LtCol Jack Wells, USMC (Ret)
Cupertino, Calif.

• *Stand by as we have a feature article about the Vietnam Children’s Fund already in the works for the near future.—Sound Off Ed.*

“To the Corps!”

On Nov. 10, 2011, my co-workers—who were either in the active military Reserves, or were military veterans—and I got together after work. I had asked them to

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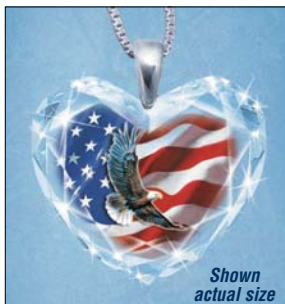


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photo of LtCol Kingman Lambert, USMC (Ret) and former Capt Bob Lutz, and we reversed the names of these seasoned aviators. We stand corrected and humbled.
—Sound Off Ed.

Reunions

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

• **3d Recon Bn Assn.**, Sept. 25-30, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Doug or Aggie Heath, (770) 684-7558, dnaheath@aol.com, or Bob or Sandy Hoover, (843) 302-2151, 2826rjh@gmail.com, www.3rdrecon.org.

• **Marine A-4 Skyhawk Assn.**, May 17-20, Oxon Hill, Md. Contact Mark Williams, 400 Howell Way, #102, Edmonds, WA 98020, (425) 771-2030, roger.wilco@comcast.net.

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

• **USMC Bulk Fuel Assn.**, May 4-6, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Howard W. Huston, 328 Pine Ave., Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234, (609) 432-4027, (609) 927-3857,



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hhust61@aol.com, usmcseabee@hotmail.com.

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

• **East Coast Drill Instructors**, May 3-6, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 757-0968, usmcpidi@charter.net, www.parrisislanddi.org.

• **TF Delta, MCAS Rose Garden, Nam Phong, Thailand**, May 25-28, Quantico, Va. Contact Harold Delamater, 169 Ketchamtown Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590, (845) 297-8865, hgd1025@aol.com.

• **3dMarDiv (Texas Chapter)**, April 12-15, Kerrville, Texas. Contact Mike Sohn, (210) 654-3310, jumient2@hotmail.com.

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

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

• **7th Comm Bn, 1stMarDiv (RVN)**,

June 21-23, Las Vegas. Contact Keith Christensen, (530) 333-1916, K9notails@aol.com.

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

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

• **H/3/5 (and attached units, 1950-53)**, May 2-7, Kansas City, Mo. Contact James Skidmore, (316) 721-2876, jsbs1@cox.net.

• **C/1/6 (Desert Shield/Desert Storm)** is planning a reunion. Contact Michael Kilbride, (516) 375-5691, mkiller0311@aol.com.

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

• **H/3/7 (Korea, 1950-55)**, May 8-13, Lisle, Ill. Contact MSgt Ed Parungo, USMC (Ret), (919) 414-7468, parun3@aol.com, or Bob Nichols, (727) 392-2886, jarheadh37@tampabay.rr.com.

• **I/3/7**, April 25-29, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis E. Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

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



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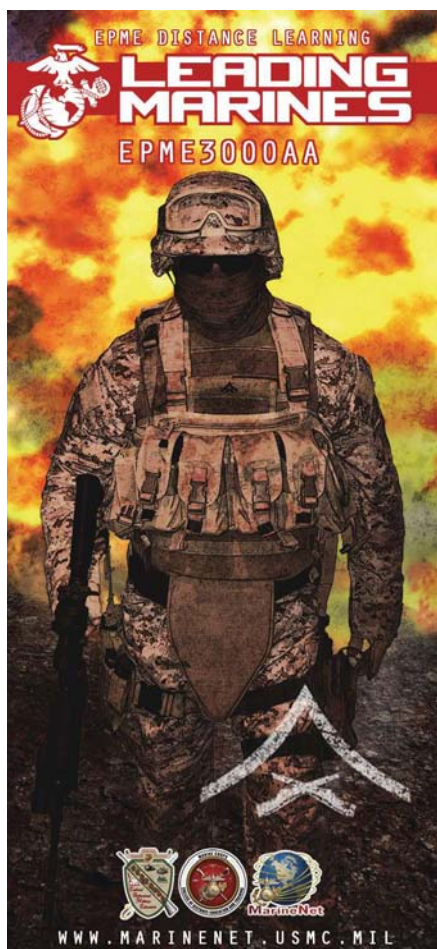
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• **L/3/9 (RVN, 1967-69)**, Sept. 6-9, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact Robert Citron, 16365 Crescent Dr., Southfield, MI 48076, (248) 569-4771.

• **"Kilo" Btry, 4/13 (RVN)**, May 2-7, Wilmington, N.C. Contact Tom Gafford, (434) 369-8032, tag30@me.com, or Joseph Pizzi, (973) 300-9896, joseph.pizzi@gmail.com, www.kilo413.com.

• **Co B, 1st Tanks, 1stMarDiv (RVN, 1966-68)**, May 16-20, St. Charles, Mo. Contact Ron "Snoopy" Davidson, 65 Beasley Dr., Lexington, TN 38351, (815) 764-0124, bravo34@charter.net.

• **Marine Ammo Co (all units, all eras)**, May 2-5, San Antonio. Contact Tom Crotty, (513) 451-4694, tomandcar@fuse.net.

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

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

• **American Embassy Saigon (RVN)**, Sept. 26-29, Chesapeake, Va. Contact MSgt Gus F. Tomuschat, USMC (Ret),

(804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

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

• **TBS 5-62**, May 10-13, Washington, D.C. Contact Hal Gibbs, (252) 756-8817, lghtng1@live.com, or Harvey Ross, (269) 782-3601, harvey_ross@hotmail.com.

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

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

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

• **VMFA-212 (1977-80)**, April 21-22, Pensacola Beach, Fla. Contact J. D. Loucks, P.O. Box 1, East Jewett, NY 12424, vmfa212reunion@aol.com.

• **VMO-6 Reunion and Memorial Dedication**, May 16-18, National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va. Contact Ed Kufeldt, (703) 250-1514, edkufeldt@gmail.com.

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

• USS *Portsmouth* (CL-102), April 26-30, Herndon, Va. Contact Walt Hohner, 448 Hillside Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854, (732) 463-1745, wphohner@aol.com.

• USS *Providence* (CL-82, CLG-6, SSN-719), May 2-6, Washington, D.C. Contact Jim Chryst, (717) 284-6996, jchryst@embarqmail.com, ussprovidence.org.

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

• USS *Smalley* (DD-565), May 15-19, Savannah, Ga. Contact Sid Gilbreath, 110 Breen Ln., Cookeville, TN 38506, (931) 526-7283, sgilbreath@tntech.edu.

• USS *Tarawa* (CV-40/LHA-1), April 19-22, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Ken Underdown, 31 Islet Rd., Levittown, PA 19057, (215) 547-0245, or Walter Tothoro, 106 N. Tranquil Trl., Crawfordsville, IN 47933, (765) 362-6937, walsue@accelplus.net.

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

Reader Assistance

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

Wanted:

• Marine veteran Jerry Palmer or Tonya Krejci, 919 Grant St., Holdrege, NE 68949, (308) 995-8008, tonyapalmer@hotmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3018, San Diego, 1966.**

• Marine veteran Enrique Cantu, 6403 Porter St., Austin, TX 78745, (512) 223-9120, rique57@yahoo.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2072, San Diego, 1974.**

• Former Sgt Mel Ward, 833 Goldenrod Dr., Houghton Lake, MI 48629, mward013@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 128, San Diego, 1955, and a 1955 "Guidebook for Marines."**

• Former GySgt H. C. Bertschy, 1434

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Dents Run Rd., Mannington, WV 26582, hcb26559@hrea.coop, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 60 and Plt 102, Parris Island, 1957.**

• MGySgt Louis Hearrell, USMC (Ret), 41 Cannon Ridge Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22405, (703) 963-8103, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 218, Parris Island, 1965.**

• Dean R. Bakken, (763) 482-7114, db4lazyt@gmail.com, wants **1953 issues of Leatherneck.**

• Marine veteran Kevin Gilbert, (631) 730-6627, noveltask@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3014, Parris Island, 1967.**

• Maj Ralph Stoney Bates, USMC (Ret), 209 Brown Farm Way, Taylors, SC 29687, ralynbat@bellsouth.net, or Amanda Capps, (864) 363-1528, wants **Marine Corps story submissions for a pay-to-enter contest. Selected authors will be published in an anthology called "Short Rations for Marines."** For more information, visit www.shortrations.com.

• Marine veteran Steve Toman, P.O. Box 543, Nashville, MI 49073, (517) 852-0334, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2056, San Diego, 1982.**

• Former Pvt Donald Douglas, 2163 W. 33 St., Cleveland, OH 44113, ddoug7619531@yahoo.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 241, Parris Island, 1972.**

Sales, Trades and Giveaways:

• Marine veteran Steve Toman, P.O. Box 543, Nashville, MI 49073, (517) 852-0334, has **copies of Leatherneck, WW II Pacific Edition Leathernecks, books and other Marine Corps-related items for sale.** Send three First-Class stamps for a list of available items.

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Mail Call

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

"Mail Call" entries are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your e-mail to: leatherneck@mca-marines.org, or write to: Mail Call Editor, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

- Former Sgt Otis F. Ford, 307 1st Ave., Bennettsville, SC 29512, (843) 479-7235, wizard1219@att.net, to hear from or about **SgtMaj GRANT**, who served as the sergeant major of **2d Bn, 9th Marines, RVN, 1967**.

- LtCol Richard D. "Salty" Lynch, USMC (Ret), 101 Bradford Ln., Madison, WI 53714, (608) 249-1280, to hear from members of **Plt 252, Parris Island, 1941**, and those who served with **2d Bn, 22d Marines, 1942-45**.

- 2dLt George Neil Barnes II, 1738 Blackbird Cir., Carlsbad, CA 92011, georgebarns87@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who may have known his father, **Capt George Neil BARNES (now deceased), or uncle, Capt John Ward BARNES. Both served in Vietnam.**

- Burton A. Sternberg, 1033 California Creek Dr., Oviedo, FL 32765, burt6516@aol.com, to hear from **LtCol David A.**

GROVES, USMCR, who served with **MTACS-48, 1994**.

- Cpl Edward Burke, USMC (Ret), 559 Fallbrook Dr., Venice, FL 34292, alaska burkes@yahoo.com, to hear from **Bobby RIEHLE from Staten Island**, who served with **1st Bn, 4th Marines, RVN**, or anyone who has information about the events of **Oct. 27, 1967, regarding FO 2/12, attached to "Bravo," 1/4, when Lt John DAWSON was killed in action.**

- Former Cpl Seth Phelps, 9200 Bay Point Dr., Elberta, AL 36530, (251) 979-9911, chief@gulftel.com, to hear from former **Lt Dick HOLLIDAY**, who served with **VMA-324 at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., in August 1962.**

- Marine veteran Hugh Clubfoot, P.O. Box 851, Lame Deer, MT 59043, (406) 984-6220, to hear from members of **Plt 172, San Diego, 1964**, as well as **Sgt Leon PRIEST and Sgt Judy SANDERS** who

served at the **Intermountain Recruit Center, Fort Douglas, Utah, 1967-68.**

- Navy veteran Bruce Barron, (828) 757-9174, (207) 624-4775, to hear from anyone who may remember his brother, **Capt Brian P. BARRON, USMC**, who served from 1966 to 1969, with **2d Plt, Co D, 1st Bn, 1st Marines, 1stMarDiv, RVN**, and with the **2dMarDiv in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.**

- Joy Elizabeth Atkinson, 20 Stonewall Way, Greenwood Park Village, Welcome Bay, Tauranga, 3112, New Zealand, 011-64-7-5449577, techiemum@xtra.co.nz, to hear from **PFC Leo FESLER (or FESSLER, pictured below)**, possibly with the **3dMarDiv, 1942-43**, who was based at a camp near **Auckland, New Zealand**, possibly **Camp Puanui (Pauanui?) or Camp Papakura**, while on R&R during WW II.



PFC Leo Fesler and a group of Marines are pictured with their Maori guides at the Thermal Area of Whakarewarewa, Rotorua, New Zealand, 1942-43. Fesler is standing second in from the Maori guide on the right.

COURTESY OF JOY ELIZABETH ATKINSON

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Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Please submit copies of original poems with first publishing rights and author's permission to print granted to *Leatherneck*. Poems may be edited or shortened, as necessary. Due to volume received, submissions will not be acknowledged or returned.

Live the Dream

Welcome to the Corps!
Like your brother did before.
We're happy you are here.
Let's train and give a cheer!

We know you'll make the grade
When your dues are paid.
And so much is ahead,
At first you will be led.

Later, after boot camp,
You will be a real champ!
We're an uncommon breed,
That's why we take the lead.

You're now among the best,
Marines alive with zest!
You're on the greatest team,
Now you will live the dream.
Former Cpl Chuck Parnell

The Legend Left Behind

Watch him as he walks by you,
The man you want to be—
With a uniform both gold and blue
And a cover like ivory.
Listen to the steps he takes—
The legend left behind;
Once you see what he can do
It's bound to blow your mind.
He comes from Parris Island,
A place close, but far away,
The weather changes all the time,
But the sun never gives way.
Should you face him on the battlefield
Your heart will sink with dread,
For you have seen the stuff of nightmares,
A beast with eyes blood red.
He is the epitome of honor,
The outstanding strength of heart—
What it means to be courageous,
And willpower mastered to an art.
So don't take this man for granted,
This protector of the right,
Because his rifle is the reason
Your mom can tuck you in at night.
LCpl Jonathan Quinones

Dreams and Battles

It used to be when I was young
I'd dream of battles fought and won.
I was with Washington at Valley Forge,
And finally at Yorktown too.
It was here that General Cornwallis
Finally met "his Waterloo."
Many wars and battles were within our land,
And then in 1861 the Civil War was at hand.
When the War Between the States was finished,
A half a century would then go by—
Then it was the Great War as Europe was aflame,
And American doughboys,
Would then be called upon once again.
It was here at Belleau Wood,
U.S. Marines would take a stand,
And once again I fought this battle
To help save a war-torn land.
I fought again during WW II,
On far-off Pacific isles,
And when this war was over,
We encountered other trials.
War broke out on Asian soil,
As North Korea invaded
Their neighbors to the South,
And the entire peninsula would boil.
Later on Marines would muster,
In a place called Vietnam,
And once more I fought this battle,
And to this day still believe we won.
Then came battles in the desert,
In places called Iraq and Afghanistan,
Where we try to establish democracy,
In this ancient and bitter land.
Now as I grow older,
I recall my boyish dream,
Of fighting my country's battles,
As part of my Marine Corps team.
There comes a time to say farewell,
To our dreams and battles won.
Knowing full well that my life,
Is now forever serene—
As I served my God and country as a
United States Marine!

Marine veteran Boyce Clark



2011



Marine Corps
Association & Foundation

Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913

ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

MCA&F

The Professional Association for ALL Marines and their Dedicated Supporters

*T*he Marine Corps Association Board of Governors, the Board of Directors of the Marine Corps Association Foundation, and the MCA&F management team are pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report to the membership.

The Marine Corps Association & Foundation continues to build on the success of the past few years. In 2011, we focused our message of supporting Marines through both the Association & Foundation. Our mission continues to be the preeminent association and foundation for ALL Marines and Friends of the Corps dedicated to development and recognition of professional excellence and expanding awareness of the rich traditions, history, and esprit of the United States Marine Corps. We take pride in our role of supporting today's Marines and appreciate the support of our members as we work together to advance leadership and recognize excellence.

We continue to expand our overall audience through our print publications as well as our electronic offerings. We launched 12 blogs featuring stories on USMC families to operations, increased our Facebook friends to more than 50,000 combined, and increased our exposure on Twitter and other social media. Our retail operations experienced another year of fiscal growth through improved merchandising, inventory controls,

targeted marketing, and a number of other efficiencies. Despite decreasing Marine numbers, we increased our market share in uniform sales in a direct reflection of superior materials and tailoring. Membership has stabilized and we are growing our Foundation "Friends of the Corps" rolls as more Marine parents and supporters join the MCA&F. We have reached out to more veteran organizations in an effort to expand membership. Please invite your fellow Marines and "Friends of the Corps" to join us. Attendance at our events and professional dinners continues to grow and in January of 2011 we held our first West Coast Dinner. We have expanded our Commander's Forums, and our trip to Gettysburg with the Wounded Warrior Regiment was the pinnacle moment for forums this year. (<http://www.mcafdn.org/news/11/7/watch-mca-takes-wounded-warriors-gettysburg>) Our sponsors have been very loyal in their support, but uncertainty in defense budgets may have an impact this year.

Again, thank you for your membership. The work we accomplish at the Association and Foundation is attributable to your unwavering support and the devotion of the MCA&F staff to our Marines.

Semper FI,



Edward Usher, Major General, USMC (Ret)
President & Chief Executive Officer,
MCA&F

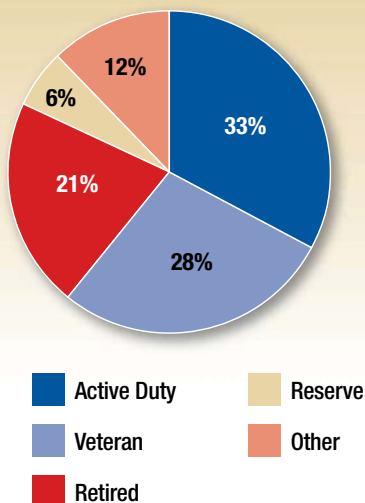


Harry Jenkins, Major General, USMC (Ret)
Chairman, Board of Governors, MCA and
Chairman, Board of Directors, MCAF

MEMBERSHIP



MCA Member Status



CA&F combined membership dipped slightly year over year. Several campaigns were launched to reach a broader membership audience with modest success, and the trends were positive during the fourth quarter of the year. Continue to do your part to support Marines and ensure a healthy MCA&F by:

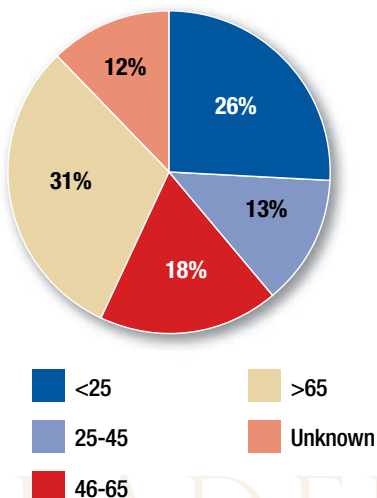
- Renewing your membership in a timely fashion
- Renew for multiple years to save money for you and MCA&F
- Invite friends and family to join MCA&F and advance leadership and recognize excellence
- Give a gift membership

On behalf of the MCA&F Board of Governors and Directors – Thank you for your continued membership in and support of MCA&F.

Member Benefits Include

- Print and/or Online Only access to MCA&F publications – *Leatherneck*, Magazine of the Marines, and *Marine Corps Gazette*, Professional Journal of U.S. Marines
- **Member Value Pricing** at *The MARINE Shops* at Quantico and Camp Lejeune and ONLINE at marineshop.net
- Exclusive discounts through our affinity partners including USAA, Apple, Dell, Hertz, Avis, Grantham University, Flynt Savings and others
- Exclusive member discounts for MCA&F professional events, dinners and luncheons
- Marine Corps Association & Foundation Group Benefits Program

MCA Members by Age



MCA ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS	
Officers	4,597
Enlisted	20,510

MCA MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE	
Regular	66,533
Life	5,465
Insured	5,312
Total	77,310



MARINE CORPS Gazette

Professional Journal of U.S. Marines

Leatherneck

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Gazette continues to be the professional journal for all Marines, including veteran Marines who want to stay current on operational art. *Gazette* has retained and enhanced its status as the forum for debate about issues affecting our Corps. This year, a large portion of the debate has moved to the Web and the *Gazette* blog. Go to our website at www.mca-marines.org/gazette or go directly to the blog at <http://mcgazette.blogspot.com>.

Leatherneck, "Magazine of the Marines," has been in print continuously since 1917, delivering quality content while telling the Marine Corps story yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Leatherneck features articles on the rich history and traditions of the Corps and those legendary Marines who made our Corps what it is today. *Leatherneck* also looks at the lighter side of life in the Corps through humorous anecdotes, poetry and cartoons.

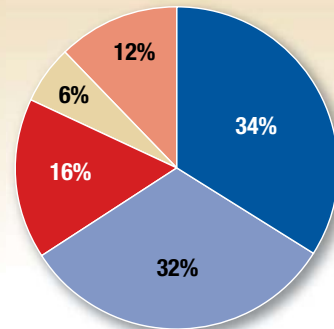
Check us out at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck.

We recognize there has been a transformation in content delivery over the past decade. Publishing is not limited to print. The print edition of your *Marine Corps Gazette* and *Leatherneck* remains the preferred medium for most, but more and more MCA&F members visit our websites, read our digital editions, and check out our social media offerings on Facebook, Twitter, and our blogs.

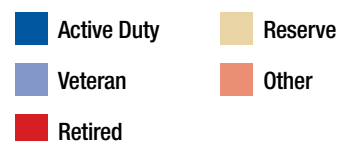
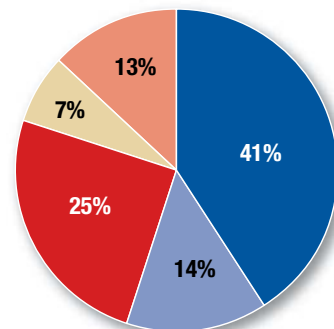
Harnessing the power of the Internet, we enhance articles in the digital editions with multimedia, including video, audio and photo slideshows, plus custom links that take the reader to previous content of a similar nature.

Looking ahead, you soon will have the opportunity to download a smartphone and tablet application that will provide easy and direct access to your professional publications. It's all about telling the Marine Corps story, and we're reaching out for even more opportunities.

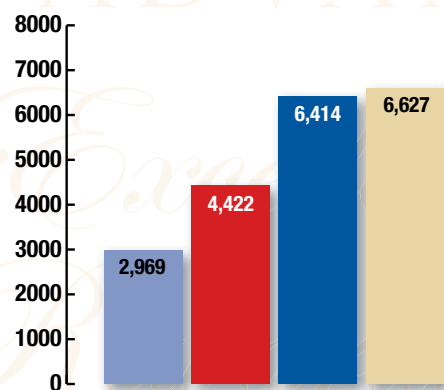
Leatherneck Readership



Marine Corps Gazette Readership



Online Only Magazine Readership



Average Online Only Readership Per Year



MCA&F RETAIL



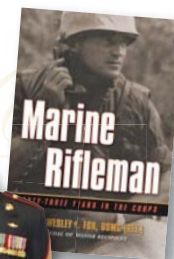
*M*embers receive **Member Value Pricing** at **The MARINE Shop** in Quantico and at our store at Camp Lejeune as well as online at www.marineshop.net.

RETAIL OPERATION'S PROFITS SUPPORT MARINES THROUGH MCA&F PROGRAMS INCLUDING:

The Marine Excellence Awards Program
Commanders' Unit Library Program
Commanders' Forum Program
MCA&F Professional Events

2011 *Highlights*

Annual sales	7,106,069	last year 6,811,459	up 4%
E-Commerce sales	1,171,330	last year 718,262	up 39%
Online customers	22,406	last year 14,245	up 36%
Overall customers	85,003	last year 76,878	up 9%





MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

2011 saw the Marine Corps Association Foundation making steady progress in evolving both our fundraising strategy and growing professional development programs. These core programs are: The Marine Excellence Program, the Commanders' Forum Program, the Commanders' Professional Library Program, the Wounded Marine Support Program, and *Leatherneck* for Recruits Program. MCAF was accepted into the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and we'll see the results of that support by April of this year. Our CFC number is 19821 for those of you participating in 2012.

WE HAD 17,795 DONORS WHO PROVIDED 36,828 TOTAL DONATIONS WITH MANY OF OUR DONORS MAKING MORE THAN ONE DONATION. OUR DONATIONS TOTALED \$853,937 FOR AN AVERAGE GIFT OF \$23.19 PER DONATION.

2011 saw MCAF continuing to host the C4 Awards, Ground Awards, Ground Logistics Awards, and the Ammo Tech Awards Dinners as well as the introduction of the first Marine Corps Intelligence Awards Dinner on 15 September. Five Marines and one Civilian were recognized for their performance along with the Unit of the Year - 1st Intelligence Battalion at Camp Pendleton which received the DIRINT's Cup. Mark Byrd sculpted bronze likenesses of MGySgt Samuel C. Plott for the Outstanding Marine Corps Intelligence Staff Noncommissioned Officer and of LtCol Michael D. Kuszewski for Outstanding Marine Corps Intelligence Officer. Over 400 people joined us for this inaugural awards presentation. Your membership and donations along with the help of corporate sponsors help make these and all our other Excellence Awards possible.



In 2011 MCAF began sponsoring numerous battlefield staff rides that enabled commanders to apply universal lessons learned in warfare from the past to the present. Units conducted rides at Gettysburg, Antietam, the Peninsula, the Cowpens, and Okinawa. In addition, the Foundation sponsored guest speakers to provide unique perspectives and information to advance the professional knowledge of the Marines in the command.



Wounded Warrior Battle Study at Gettysburg.

2011 Highlights

Number of Professional Libraries Provided in 2011: **269**

Number of Awards Provided in 2011: **10,613** with 9,362 Marines Receiving Awards

We thank you for your continued support of our programs for Marines.

WEB DEVELOPMENT



In 2011 we had our third straight year of substantial growth on all of our web properties – from the basic websites to ecommerce and our digital magazines. In total, our overall reach increased from 940,000 users in 2010 to over 1.3 million in 2011!

In our second calendar year of engaging our members and future members through social networking – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. - we've gone from 22,000 'friends' in 2010 to well over 50,000 in 2011!



With our continued efforts at providing relevant content, reaching out to people through various social networks and continuing to enhance our overall Web reach, we are able to extend the MCA&F brand to an ever-growing number of people. And the more we are able to extend our reach, the more successful we are in accomplishing our goals of helping Marines and supporting the Esprit de Corps!



2011 Highlights

We **doubled** the amount of **views** of our videos from 2010.

Increased online registrations for our events **by 9%**, for 58% of total Event registrations.

Increased our online membership registrations by **134 per month**.

Grew unique users to our ecommerce site by **over 160,000 people!**



FINANCIAL REPORT

The MCA&F built upon the financial success of the previous two years. Through the implementation of economic efficiencies, targeted efforts, and cost controls through various business units, MCA&F was able to generate the needed revenue to support the programs that support Marines.

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2011 (Preliminary Results) and 2010

	2011	2010
Current Assets		
Cash	\$1,340,986	\$1,348,713
Accounts Receivable	293,186	335,392
Inventory	1,841,005	1,875,694
Prepaid Expenses	153,032	94,720
Total Current Assets	3,628,209	3,654,519
Investments	7,907,640	8,123,532
Property and Equipment	4,406,405	4,619,075
Total Assets	\$15,942,254	\$16,397,126
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$444,314	\$807,562
Employee Taxes and Benefits	319,966	337,900
Total Current Liabilities	764,280	1,145,462
Long-Term Payables		
Loans Payable	70,359	99,912
Deferred Revenue	2,881,169	2,510,910
Total Long-Term Liabilities	2,951,528	2,610,822
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	11,843,121	12,246,739
Temporarily Restricted	328,225	339,003
Permanently Restricted	55,100	55,100
Total Net Assets	12,226,446	12,640,842
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$15,942,254	\$16,397,126

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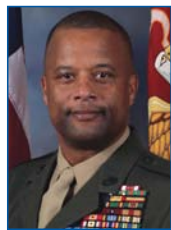
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