

MARCH 2018

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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**IRAQ 2003: For Marine Air,
A War Unlike Any Other**

**Tulifinny Crossroads:
The Corps Versus
Citadel Cadets**

**HMLA-773
"Red Dogs"
With a Bite**



A Publication of the
Marine Corps Association & Foundation



Welcome to *Leatherneck Magazine's* **Digital Edition** March 2013

We hope you are enjoying our digital edition with its added content, and we encourage you to visit us for frequently updated Marine Corps content on our website (www.leatherneckmagazine.com) and in our social media postings.

This year, 2013, the Marine Corps Association marks its centennial of service to Marines and Marine families. Throughout the year we will be republishing articles of enduring value from our archives. Bear in mind that all *Leatherneck* issues back through 1921 are online and searchable. If you want to find an old article, go to www.leatherneckmagazine.com to access the archives.

We thank you for your continuing support.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt Ford".

Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret)
Editor



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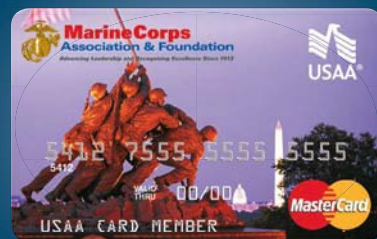
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COVER: On this 10th anniversary of the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, our focus is on the Marine aircraft wing and the Opening Gambit. The cover photo of the Marine AH-1W Super Cobra armed with Hellfire missiles and rockets at a forward arming and refueling point at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, was taken by SSgt Shane Cuomo, USAF, on May 7, 2003. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Leatherneck—On the Web

Delivering more scoop on the Internet. Look for this indication that additional content found online in our digital edition is available to subscribers and MCA&F members.



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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.)

In the fall of 1966, I was on a company-size operation southwest of Da Nang near Hill 22 in the Republic of South Vietnam.

We were ambushed, and one of my grenadiers, Lance Corporal Walter Markham, was killed and another wounded. I had laryngitis so I was shouting orders on the radio in a very high, squeaky voice. The company “gunny” (Master Gunnery Sergeant Edison Allen, now deceased) was “holding down the fort” on Hill 22 while most of the company was “outside the wire.”

He had a grin on his face, when he told me on my return, “Heard you on the radio; you did a good job. Wish I was out there with you.”

My reply: “Gunny, you can go out there anytime you want for me, as I almost s--- my pants!” I was only half kidding.

His response was: “Lieutenant, look at it this way. We get two beers a day, sometimes they are even cold, hot chow once or twice a week, we are not surrounded, not outnumbered 7-to-1, not 75 miles from safety, and it’s not 40 below. Vietnam combat is a piece of cake!”

He was one of the “Chosin Few” who marched from the Chosin Reservoir to the Sea of Japan. He was a member of Company E, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment and was wounded at the Chosin Reservoir and earlier during the landing at Inchon.

When I start feeling sorry for myself, I think of Gunny Allen: a brave and skilled Marine infantry combat leader—and one of the Chosin Few.

Will Glueck
Seattle

Congress Should Overrule Defense Secretaries on Sgt Peralta’s Medal of Honor

A recent edition of *The News Tribune* of Tacoma, Wash., reported that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has decided not to upgrade Marine Sergeant Rafael Peralta’s Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor.

Instead, Secretary Panetta has decided

to stick by the previous decision of former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates that Sgt Peralta “may have been clinically dead” when he used his body to shield his fellow Marines from an enemy grenade’s lethal blast.

Secretaries Gates and Panetta need to read the book “Strong Men Armed” by Robert Leckie, which details how so many of the World War II Marines used their own bodies to protect their fellow Marines from certain death by enemy grenades.

This book should convince both secretaries that Sgt Peralta was keenly aware of the ultimate sacrifice he was making, which is in line with what all Marines have been taught to do throughout the history of the United States Marine Corps. If Gates and Panetta aren’t willing to upgrade Sgt Rafael Peralta’s Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor, then the United States Congress should overrule them.

Jim Curtis
USMC, RVN, 1969-70
Maple Valley, Wash.

• *Jim, the whole thing reeks with hypocrisy and a sense of arrogance toward Sgt Peralta, his family and the Corps. Sergeant Peralta’s Navy Cross citation reads exactly the same as it would if he were awarded the Medal of Honor. By that logic, if he was “clinically dead,” Sgt Peralta should not have received the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross, unless the awards board isn’t telling us something, which means someone is less than truthful or downright lying. It just stinks.—Sound Off Ed.*

Congress to Act on Awards For SEALs Killed in Libya

As a 100 percent disabled Marine Vietnam veteran I thought that the acts of valor by our Navy SEALs killed in Libya should not go unnoticed, so I wrote letters to various editors including you [see “Sound Off” in the January issue] and contacted my senators and congressman and requested that they see to it that these men and their families receive the recognition that they deserve.

Congressman Addison Graves “Joe”

Wilson of South Carolina was the only one to address my request and wrote: “I just got word from Rep. Susan Davis in California where the SEALs lived, that she does intend to introduce the required legislation to award Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods the Congressional Gold Medal.”

Congressman Wilson’s office said he will co-sponsor the effort in an attempt to get the bill passed on a bipartisan basis.

Gregory J. Toplioff
Warrenville, S.C.

Corpsman Saves a Man’s Life While Off Duty on Christmas

On Christmas Day, Mr. Vito, the husband of a pancreatic cancer patient at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore had no idea he was about to meet his guardian angel. His guardian angel is one of our nation’s heroes who serve their country on active duty to protect our freedom as Americans.

His name is Hospital Corpsman Third Class Christopher Wills. Christopher is just one year removed from serving in combat, stationed with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan. He currently is stationed with 2d Medical Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. He continues to be a statesman and ombudsman for his service by volunteering to serve his local community on his off-duty hours as an emergency medical technician at the Swansboro Volunteer Rescue Squad Department in North Carolina.

Christopher was visiting his mother, Cindy Wills, who is a patient at Johns Hopkins.

Mr. Vito and his daughters had made the journey from New York to support their wife and mother, Mrs. Vito, who had undergone successful surgery for pancreatic cancer.

That evening, Christopher and his father were having dinner in the main cafeteria in Johns Hopkins. Suddenly, a clear and distinct cry for help could be heard. One of Mr. Vito’s daughters was crying out, asking if anyone knew CPR or how to perform the Heimlich procedure. There were several people surrounding Mr. Vito,

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*National Safety Council's *Injury Facts*, 2011 Edition.

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but no one was able to assist.

Christopher received permission to assist and sprang to action. He performed the Heimlich procedure three times before dislodging a large obstruction from Mr. Vito's airway. Christopher ensured that Mr. Vito was stable and regaining his vital signs. Mr. Vito, his four daughters and the cafeteria manager all thanked Christopher for his swift actions, which saved Mr. Vito's life.

LtCol Pat Wills, USMC (Ret)

Woodbridge, Va.

• *LtCol Wills is HM3 Christopher Wills' father.—Sound Off Ed.*

"Covers": The Difference Between Regs and Tradition

I was in the Corps from 1963 to 1966 and we wore covers.

In the January issue, you said that Marines wear hats, caps, helmets, etc. You also qualified that by saying that out of tradition, we also call them covers.

I don't know if I was in before you, but we never called them anything but covers.

We were taught at P.I. from DIs that women wore hats, not sure about caps, but whatever was on our heads, besides a helmet, was a cover.

When did the Marine Corps change the distinction?

I love to read the *Leatherneck*. You keep me up to date on all past and present issues.

Sgt Mike Skorich

0331, 1963-66; RVN, 1966

Leesburg, Fla.

• *There was never any distinction, just tradition. All the headgear mentioned, with the possible exception of helmet covers, were and are, by Marine Corps Order P1020.34G, Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, properly referred to as caps. There is no regulation requiring you to call your headgear a "cover." Yet, out of tradition and custom, Marines refer to nearly all headgear as "covers." The terms are not incompatible. Your drill instructors taught you the proper tradition: to call headgear "covers."*

Along those same lines, I doubt you would have, as a recruit, called your drill instructors "DIs."—Sound Off Ed.

Corps Changing (Slightly) Its Policy On Wearing Utility Uniforms

I'm glad I spent my career in the Corps when the uniform of the day, not utilities, was prescribed for award ceremonies, special events and normal nonmaintenance-type duty, not to mention high-profile duties such as gate guards, etc.

I cringe, and frankly feel ashamed, when

I see these events and duties carried out in a uniform that, in comparable civilian attire, would be overalls instead of a suit and tie.

We have become "The Few, The Proud ... the sloppily dressed."

Capt Jesse Sunderland, USMC (Ret)

Jasper, Mo.

• *This month's "We—the Marines" goes into it more, but things are beginning to change, albeit slowly. The Commandant of the Marine Corps directed that service uniforms will be worn as the uniform of the day on Fridays, starting Jan. 4.*

"The wearing of service uniforms is designed to ensure Marines are adhering to uniform regulations as put forward in Marine Corps Order P1020.34G and also provides leaders a way to inspect their Marines for proper military appearance, grooming and weight standards," states a news release from Public Affairs, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, on Okinawa, Japan.

"The utility uniforms have been worn more frequently, and the new policy will give the Marines a chance to maintain proficiency in all uniform regulations, according to First Lieutenant Dale V. Query, the training officer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, Third Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

" 'Many Marines do not wear service uniforms often,' said Query. 'As a result, when it comes time to wear them, they tend to not remember the uniform regulations. This will allow Marines to show the pride they have for their uniforms by displaying their awards.' "

"First Sgt Jacob J. Whitley, the company first sergeant for Company B, Headquarters and Service Battalion, MCB Camp Butler, MCIPAC [Marine Corps Installations Pacific], said, 'I think it is a good way to get Marines into the garrison mindset after we have been in a combat mindset for so long.' "

It seems to me that Fridays have become a perfect time to have awards ceremonies too. It's a start.—Sound Off Ed.

It Is Not Just the Date That's Important, It Is the Birth of Our Corps

I am a proud Marine, class of 1958. I have a question regarding celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday. We have been getting together for a number of years and toasting the Corps and remembering those who have gone before us. This year, the Birthday is on a Sunday, and we have scheduled the celebration for the Friday before.

I do not agree with this decision. I feel the Birthday should always be celebrated

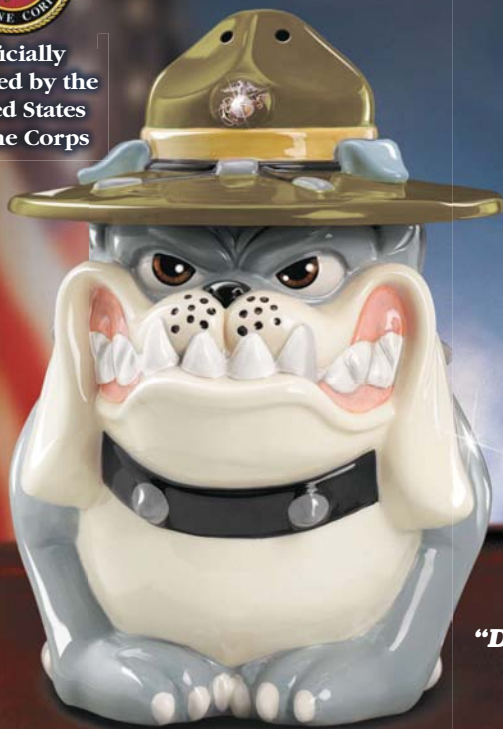
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on 10 November. What is the official position of the Corps (if any) on this?

John Phillips
Tuckerton, N.J.

• You can tell the official position of the Marine Corps by looking at the different dates that commands hold the Birthday celebrations. You know, as well as I do, that getting people together on a specific date, especially Marines who are in every clime and place on various duties, is not always possible, although most try to make it as close to Nov. 10 as possible. Remember, you are celebrating your Corps, not necessarily the date. There is only one hard and fast rule in celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday: Make it a good one!—Sound Off Ed.

Thanks, *Leatherneck*, for the “Merry Christmas”

Thank God for the United States Marine Corps and *Leatherneck* magazine in wishing everyone “Merry Christmas” on the MCA&F and USAA-sponsored cover of the December 2012 issue.

State, local governments, schools and churches should follow this example and stop the “Happy Holidays” junk.

I didn’t fight in the frozen cold of North Korea to have some foul ball group tell me what is historically correct. Hey, it’s Merry Christmas and Happy Easter, not winter or spring break.

Tony Klein
USMC, WW II and Korea
Minden, Nev.

• Glad to please. No offense intended to anyone else.—Sound Off Ed.

Meritorious Masts Are Great Starters For Promotions

While reading the December 2012 issue, I came upon Sergeant Jim Biegger’s “Sound Off” letter involving Meritorious Masts, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. I hold three Meritorious Masts and one Navy Achievement Medal.

The Meritorious Mast I prefer to discuss is the one I received in 1968. It was a Commanding General’s Meritorious Mast, and in the presence of my battalion commander, company commander and platoon leader, I was awarded a Meritorious Mast by Major General Wood B. Kyle. I was a staff sergeant at that time and was selected for gunnery sergeant in 1969. Many people have informed me that the above-stated award influenced my “early” promotion.

Meritorious Masts are official, and they are powerfully resting in one’s file. In 1975, while serving on an Inspector-Instructor

staff, one of our Marines was the subject of a District Director’s Meritorious Mast. He was an outstanding staff sergeant, and shortly thereafter, he was selected for the warrant officer program.

I know many Marines, and they hold a wide array of awards. They range from Meritorious Masts to very high personal combat awards. I, personally, have a great respect for all who have earned awards as prescribed by Marine Corps Order 1650.19J.

I thank Sgt Biegger for his letter, and I appreciate the “Sound Off” editor’s response.

Marvin L. Foster
USMC, 1958-78
Oceanside, Calif.



COURTESY OF BILL OBER

This is not the uniform issued Sgt Tom Burns, but he does represent “Ye Old Corps” very well. The unidentified woman seems happy with Sgt Burns in spite of the age of his uniform.

November *Leatherneck* Cover Brought to Life by Tom Burns

Your choice for the cover of the November 2012 issue of *Leatherneck* had me wondering where I had seen this uniform before. I looked over the photos I had taken at this past Birthday Ball and, lo and behold, there was the Marine uniform from 1812 worn by Sergeant Tom Burns.

Bill Ober
Huntington, N.Y.

Yellow Footprints at San Diego, Little “Empirical Evidence”

With regard to the ongoing quest for the date of the placement of the yellow footprints, the only empirical evidence we have of the date they appeared here in San Diego (1963) is from the platoon graduation books. Simply stated, these

books did not depict yellow footprints at the Receiving Barracks until August 1963. We know from the photos taken during President [John F.] Kennedy's visit [one of which appeared in January's "Sound Off"], that they were already in place in June.

For future reference, any photos obtained from the Command Museum, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, should be credited to the museum, not the name of the staff person who provided the image.

Ellen Guillemette
Historian
Command Museum
MCRD San Diego

• *Thanks, ma'am, for the information. We may never nail down the exact date that the first quaking recruits stepped on freshly painted footprints in San Diego. But we appreciate your efforts and research. And, yes, I mishandled the photo credit on President Kennedy's photo. We did not have a complete caption to go with the photo and would have preferred to give the photographer credit.—Sound Off Ed.*

I was at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in 1963 when President John F. Kennedy wanted to see recruits in various stages of training.

My platoon, Plt 236, had been at MCRD for about three days. We formed on the grinder. There were 10 platoons, one for each week of training, in a big circle. Three platoons were at Camp Matthews [at Camp Pendleton] for the rifle range. My platoon, in yellow sweatshirts and tennis shoes, looked like the mob we were. Directly across from us was a platoon that would graduate that week. What a contrast!

President Kennedy walked around inside the circle talking to recruits. I remember the question to someone in my platoon. "You're in deep s--- now, aren't you?"

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," was the reason I, a bored college senior, was there on the grinder.

Sgt John Stevenson
USMC, 1963-67
Tulsa, Okla.

Col Walter Walsh Was One Impressive G-Man and Shooter

I was halfway through the story about Colonel Walter Walsh (January *Leatherneck*) when a distant memory came to the fore. I was at Quantico, Va., in 1967 (Platoon Leaders Class), when we went to a weapons demonstration at the old Camp Goettge.

A colonel was there to demonstrate

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marksmanship. He sat down and looked into a mirror. Behind him at maybe 20 feet or so was a fixed, vertically mounted hatchet, and behind the hatchet, two balloons on strings, one on either side of the hatchet. The colonel took a .45-caliber pistol, held it pointed backward over his shoulder, and aiming through the mirror, fired. The bullet hit the blade, split in two, and both balloons popped. I was 18 years old and impressed. That shooter almost had to be Walter Walsh.

The FBI continues to bar its agents from Reserve service to this day. I was a federal agent at Immigration and Naturalization Service for some years, and a buddy of mine in our Reserve unit, Marine Aircraft Group 49, was an FBI agent. It was an open secret in his office that he was a drilling reservist, and of course there are a lot of Marine veterans in the FBI. Just before my buddy retired, the FBI suspended him for two weeks for violating the policy. Of course, he had the last laugh, as he retired from both the FBI and the Corps.

I chuckled at the anecdote about Col Walsh hitting a sniper between the eyes, through a bunker aperture, at 90 yards with a government .45. The standard .45 Automatic Colt Pistol ball cartridge has a trajectory like a rainbow. Often, distances

[continued on page 64]

ORIGINAL ISSUE



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CPL RODION ZABOLOTNY

PFC D. S. Vong, center, proudly displays her MCA&F-sponsored “Chesty” Puller Recruit Company Honor Graduate Award after graduating as the honor graduate of “November” Co, 4th Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Dec. 7, 2012. PFC Vong, her family and friends are joined by BGen Loretta E. “Lori” Reynolds, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Eastern Recruiting Region, far left; Vong’s recruiter; and, far right, SgtMaj Gary W. Buck, the depot sergeant major.

By Roxanne Baker

For 100 years, the Marine Corps Association has marched alongside the leathernecks who fight for our flag in the far corners of the world.

Although the idea of a professional organization for Marines was first developed in 1911, it was then-Lieutenant Colonel John A. Lejeune and the officers of the 2d Provisional Marine Brigade who formally launched the MCA with a mission statement, a membership drive and an executive committee in 1913.

Since the creation of the Marine Corps Association on April 25th of that year, we

have worked to support Marines—for a century now.

We reward excellence in today’s Marines but also honor the Corps’ past and its leaders with our namesake awards.

We advance leadership in active-duty Marines with education and events that foster professional development.

We inform the overarching Marine Corps community with stories of yesteryear, features on the present, and articles that help shape the future of the Corps with our flagship publications, *Leatherneck* and the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

Throughout a century of worldwide conflicts, the Marine Corps Association

has supported the men and women who proudly serve as Marines.

We invite you to take a historical look at the MCA through our centennial video on our homepage at www.mca-marines.org.

Join us as we march forward with Marines in the next 100 years.

Editor’s note: Roxanne Baker is the writer and media coordinator for MCA&F. A Marine wife, she is an experienced multimedia journalist with hundreds of published works.





CWO 2 JORGE DIMMER

Col Michael Frazier, Force Fires Coordinator, Regional Command Southwest, presents Cpl Robert Reeves, left, with a *Leatherneck* magazine cover plaque on Jan. 2 in Afghanistan. Reeves, assigned to RC(SW) Combat Camera, shot a photo that was published as the cover of the August 2012 *Leatherneck*.



RON LUNN

Leatherneck magazine's associate editor, MGySgt R. R. Keene, USMC (Ret), presents Cpl Nathan Davenport, the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Marine Musician of the Year 2012, with a crystal plaque during the annual Marine Corps Music Leadership Symposium at the General Alfred M. Gray Research Center, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Dec. 17, 2012.



RON LUNN

The guest speaker at the MCA&F-hosted 2012 Ground Dinner on Nov. 29 in Arlington, Va., was LtGen John M. Paxton Jr., recently promoted to general and now Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.



LCPL JUSTIN A. FISHER

LCpl Mariano Barbosa, center, won the MCA&F-sponsored "Chesty" Puller Recruit Company Honor Graduate Award as the honorman for Co H, 2d RTB, MCRD San Diego. He is pictured with his senior drill instructor, Sgt Bryan J. Craddock, right, and recruiter, SSgt Memora Tan.

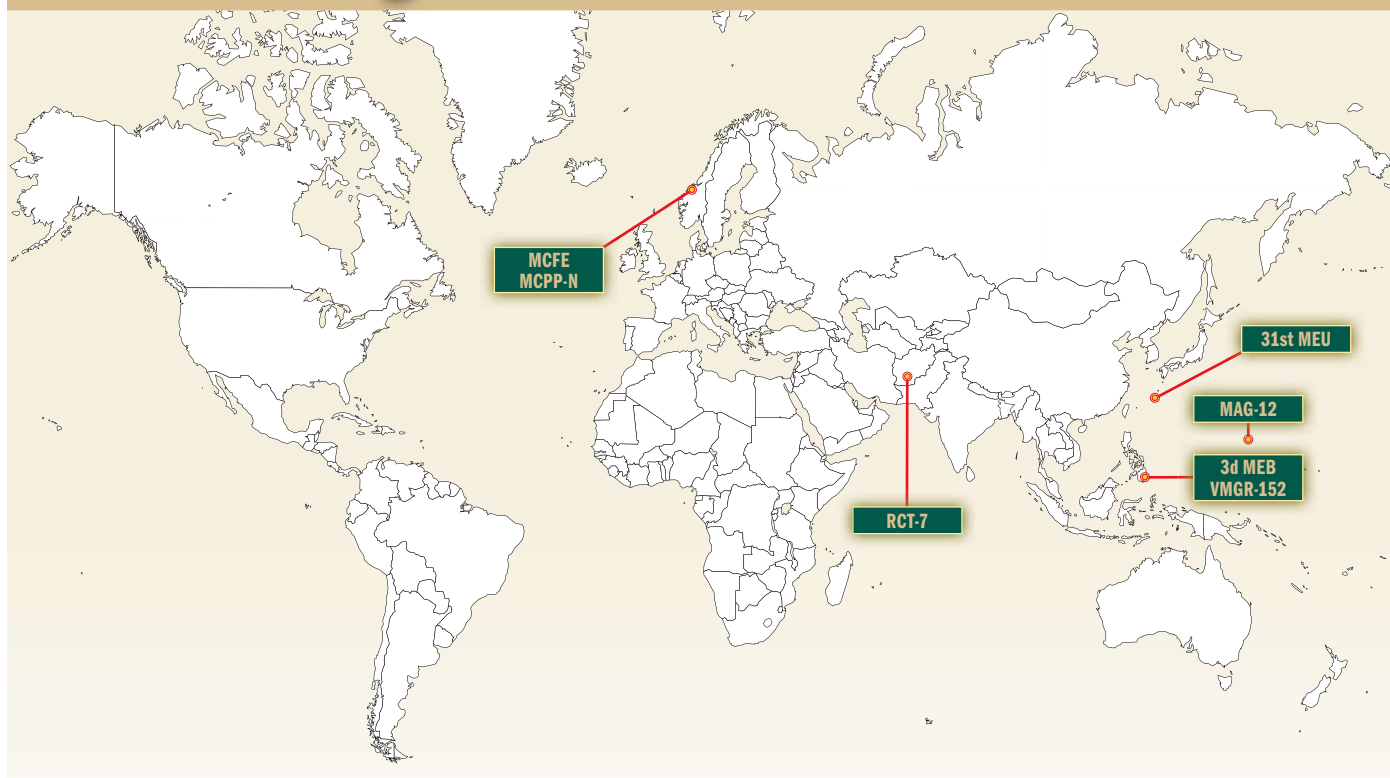


JANE WHITLEY

In November 2012, the MCA&F donated a unit library to the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at Pamlico High School, Bayboro, N.C. Pictured from the left are naval science instructor HMCM Dave Matthews, USN (Ret); Shantelle Nimmo Jr.; Devin Bell; Kelly Truesdale; and MCA&F East Coast representative, SgtMaj Adam Terry, USMC (Ret).

In Every Clime and Place

Edited by
R. R. Keene



■ MINDANAO, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Leathernecks on the Scene, Quickly Providing Disaster Relief

Leathernecks and aircraft with III Marine Expeditionary Force began providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support Dec. 8, 2012, at the request of the government of the Republic of the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Pablo (international name Bopha), which made landfall Dec. 4.

Marines with 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, who were in Manila conducting planning for future bilateral training exercises with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, stood up the III MEF forward command element Dec. 8 to support relief efforts led by the Philippine government.

“The III MEF forward command element [FCE] has established the bilateral coordination center, which is providing command and control for U.S. Marine relief efforts and coordinating requests for support with the government and Armed Forces of the Philippines, U.S. Embassy and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, part of the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID],” said Colonel Mark J. Menotti, the officer in charge of III MEF FCE.

Two KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 arrived in Manila from

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, on Dec. 8 to transport relief supplies to affected areas, according to Lieutenant Colonel Jason W. Julian, the commanding officer of VMGR-152, part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, First Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

“As of December 12, VMGR-152 has flown a total of 11 flights and transported approximately 330,000 pounds of relief supplies, including 14,500 family ration packs, 500 relief aid boxes and 40 gen-

erators,” said Julian. They also transported four water purification specialists and personnel from USAID and the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development to Davao International Airport in Mindanao, the region most affected by the typhoon.

Additionally, the squadron transported 49,000 pounds of rice, 147 bundles of mosquito nets, one water purification unit, approximately 29,000 pounds of blankets, 833 sleeping mats and a United Nations



COURTESY OF U.S. EMBASSY MANILA

Relief goods are unloaded from a Marine KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft with VMGR-152, MAG-36, 1st MAW from Okinawa, Japan, in Davao City, Republic of the Philippines, in December 2012. U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific sent personnel and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief supplies in the wake of Typhoon Pablo.



LPL J. GAGE KARWICK

An F/A-18D Hornet aircraft with VMAF(AW)-225, MAG-12, 1st MAW, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, accelerates down the Tinian runway Dec. 7, 2012, during Exercise Forager Fury 2012. The aircraft was one of six to make 13 arrested landings on the runway within one hour.

World Food Programme relief module and three of their tents.

Marines transported relief supplies to Davao from Villamor Air Base in Manila. From Davao, the supplies were distributed by government and nongovernmental organizations to displaced families as directed by the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Col Menotti said: “We’re seeing a collective response from the international community to support the Philippines. ... The Philippine government began its operations immediately. It’s inspiring to see other nations assist the Philippine government and seek ways to support and reinforce their efforts. The U.S. government—including U.S. Marine forces—is providing robust logistical and aviation support to quickly deliver life-saving supplies in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.”

The U.S. military has partnered and trained with the Armed Forces of the Philippines for many years in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, according to Menotti.

“We frequently prepare for situations like this with our Philippine allies,” Menotti said, “so we are ready. ... Our goal is to help our ally recover from this natural disaster in whatever way we can.”

1stLt Jeanscott Dodd

Combat Correspondent, 3d MEB

■ THE NORTHERN MARIANAS Tinian Ideal Location For Expeditionary Training

While recently training on Tinian, in the Northern Mariana Islands, Marine air units conducted arrested landings and 24-hour surge operations during Exercise Forager Fury 2012.

Forager Fury was a training exercise during December 2012 that integrated Marine air-ground task force functions with an emphasis on tactical aviation and aviation ground support to further develop expeditionary airfield capabilities.

The participating aircraft were with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadrons 224 and 225, assigned under the Unit Deployment Program to Marine Aircraft Group 12, First Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Marines providing the aviation ground support were with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, MAG-12.

“The F/A-18s came in to do a field arrestment exercise to help train our expeditionary airfield Marines on the emplacement and operation of expeditionary equipment,” said Major Matthew Halbert, officer in charge of Marine forces on Tinian and airfield operations company commander with MWSS-171, MAG-12.

MWSS-171 conducted 13 arrested landings in less than an hour, breaking its previous record of 10 set in June during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, also on Tinian.

“We coordinated with the aircraft on

the radio, they came in, let the hook down and took the arrestment,” said Halbert. “Then, the Marines came and got the wire and, as they taxied clear of the runway, the Marines reset the cable and prepared to take the next aircraft.”

Tinian proved to be an ideal expeditionary training location for the Marines as the training seamlessly shifted from arrested landings to 24-hour surge operations.

Surge operations continued for roughly 80 hours and simulated a continuous operational tempo.

“Surge operations are basically Marine Aircraft Group 12 showing in force how they can do continuous flight operations in a simulated hostile environment,” said Master Sergeant Roy L. Clayton Jr., the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Marine forces on Tinian, MWSS-171, MAG-12. “They are training to get the maximum amount of flights, and we are training to provide the best aviation ground support possible.”

During the surge, MWSS-171 provided support for various types of aircraft.

“We are expecting mostly F/A-18s, but we will also get some MH-60s from the Navy and some MV-22B Ospreys during surge operations,” said Clayton. “Surge operations should last for at least three to four days.”

In order to maintain a constant tempo, Marines worked two rotational shifts at 12 hours each.

Safety is the main priority for any Ma-

rine Corps exercise, and this one was no different.

“For the upcoming surge event, our plan is to be within a two-minute standby time to be ready for any possible emergencies that the aircraft might have,” said Staff Sergeant Joaquin Moreno, an expeditionary airfield technician and runway supervisor with the squadron. “A two-minute standby is the time we are allotted during an in-flight emergency to have the arresting gear ready to take an emergency arrestment.”

Six F/A-18s, six MH-60s and two KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft landed on Tinian during the first day of surge training.

LCpl J. Gage Karwick
PAO, Marine Corps Installations Pacific

■ OKINAWA'S CENTRAL TRAINING AREA 31st MEU Marines Conduct Live-Fire Assault Course

Maneuvering under the thunderous echoes emanating from mortar rounds impacting a fortified position ahead, the Marines bring the precision of an organized assault to the chaos of the battlefield.

Leathernecks with Company A, Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 1st Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expedi-

tionary Unit conducted a live-fire and maneuver exercise in a collection of hills and valleys of the Central Training Area in Okinawa, Japan, near Camp Schwab, Jan. 4.

One squad at a time, the Marines set out from their campsite to push their way through thick foliage and deep mud on the way to the target.

“These Marines are switching from warfighting in the desert to fighting in a dense, wet and humid jungle,” said Staff Sergeant Rick J. Meyers, a platoon sergeant with the BLT. “Being out here for a couple of days and doing nonstop training within this environment helps the Marines become more adept in the jungle.”

The objective of the exercise was to assault a simulated enemy fortification, complete with concertina wire barriers and sandbag bunkers. This would be a daunting task for a lone rifle squad, but the Marines in the assault were supported by the combined arms effects of a 60 mm mortar team and an M240B machine-gun team.

“You can never get enough really good training like this,” said Private First Class Deron D. Evans, a rifleman with Co A. “We hardly ever get to break out every piece of the puzzle during training, but here we get to use every asset needed to

take a fortified enemy position.”

Behind a bombardment of mortars, the rifle squads’ engineers set explosive charges on the concertina wire barriers. Upon detonation, the wire separated, leaving a clear path to “enemy” bunkers. With support from the machine-gun team, the Marine rifle squads quickly advanced.

Using live ammunition for the mortars, machine guns and rifles makes the training as realistic as possible for the Marines. Each element must be well-coordinated during the attack to avoid the danger of friendly fire.

“Every Marine must know their target and what is beyond it,” said Captain Adam C. Stiles, Commanding Officer, Co A.

The exercise is a part of the BLT’s pre-deployment training package for the 31st MEU’s spring patrol. The patrol will require the Marines and sailors of BLT 1/5 to execute and teach their capabilities in a foreign environment while learning new techniques and practices from allies during multilateral operations.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps’ force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

LCpl Codey Underwood
Combat Correspondent, 31st MEU



An infantryman with BLT 1/5, 31st MEU throws a grappling hook at a concertina wire barrier during a live-fire jungle training exercise at Okinawa's CTA, Jan. 4. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU in the Asia-Pacific region.

■ TRONDHEIM, NORWAY

Marine Corps Forces Europe Delivers Gear in Republic of Georgia

Leathernecks from Marine Corps Forces Europe led a joint-service team to Norway to assemble, palletize and deliver equipment from Marine Corps Prepositioning Program–Norway at Trondheim to Marines training Georgian Armed Forces, Dec. 10-14, 2012.

The Marines conducting the training in Georgia represent the eighth and ninth rotations of the Georgia Deployment Program–International Security Assistance Force, entrusted with training and ensuring Georgian soldiers have the knowledge and the skills needed to supplement Marines and ISAF personnel in Afghanistan.

The group of engineers, logisticians and subject matter experts unwaveringly withstood the below-freezing temperatures to assemble sustainment gear for the Marines in Georgia. Personnel with Marine Corps Forces Europe, II Marine Expeditionary Force and the U.S. Air Force's 819th Red Horse Squadron worked with the Norwegians to assemble, palletize and load more than 64,000 pounds of equipment.

Each of them lent the operation a specific skill that ensured the Marines in Georgia were getting exactly the right gear.

The Marine Corps preposition facility is made up of eight locations totaling more than 900,000 square feet of storage space. Located inside caves is 471,445 square feet of climate-controlled storage space, regulated to between 45 to 55 percent humidity and a temperature between 45 to 50 degrees. This precise regulation allows tents, vehicle tires and other climate-sensitive equipment to be stored safely and maintain a high level of readiness to be rapidly deployable for almost any contingency.

"There were three 60-kilowatt generators, two six-ton fuel bladders, two shower systems, three 3,000-gallon water bladders, 22 tents, 30 tent heaters, all the necessary electrical equipment to power both the shower systems and tents, 20 fire extinguishers, 95 cots, two maintenance tents and two floodlights," explained Staff Sergeant Joseph Conradi, an embark chief for Marine Corps Forces Europe. "All the equipment combined will support a minimum of 80 Marines at the Vaziani South Training Area [Georgia] base camp."

The need for this logistics operation arose after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a safety inspection of the current base camp. They concluded that the base was unsafe and there was substantial enough risk to coordinate with MFE to source equipment from the prepositioned assets and engineers from the 819th Red Horse Squadron to construct



SSgt Joseph Conradi, an embark specialist, and MSgt Steven Albanese, the facilities chief, Marine Forces Europe, secure the cargo straps on a pallet (above), and MSgt Albanese drags cargo nets to a cluster of pallets (below) during the assemblage of a shipment of sustainment equipment headed to the Republic of Georgia to support the Georgia Deployment Program in December 2012.



a temporary base camp for the U.S. personnel until permanent structures are fixed and deemed safe for habitation.

While the operation took only about three days, there was quite a bit of work and coordination done behind the scenes.

"I initially developed the lay down of the base camp, to include developing the anticipated power requirement and distribution. This was refined by both the engineers from II MEF and those from the Air Force's 819th Red Horse Squadron," said Mike Harvey, prepositioning officer, MFE. "When the order was given to execute the mission, my job was to

deploy with a team of Marines to Norway, withdraw and inspect the equipment, assist in the load out, and deploy to Georgia to deliver these assets."

After all the gear was inspected, palletized and staged, a crew in a C-17 Globemaster III—a cargo/personnel aircraft assigned to the Strategic Airlift Capability and its multinational Heavy Airlift Wing—flew in from Hungary to transport the gear to the Republic of Georgia.

"The Heavy Airlift Wing draws on [what] the best 12 nations have to offer—the best personnel, the best practices, the best cultures, the best ideas," explained U.S. Air Force Colonel Keith Boone, the commander of Heavy Airlift Wing. "Our mission is simply stated—execute C-17 strategic airlift to meet the priorities and requirements of Strategic Airlift Capability member nations."

This operation further goes to prove the value of having Norway prepositioning sustainment and life-support assets in a manner that facilitates a quick sourcing of equipment and supplies needed during a time of crisis.

"Because of the Marine Corps' Prepositioning Program in Norway, not only was MFE able to answer the call for help, but able to do so in a very responsive manner," Harvey concluded.

SSgt Matt Lyman

Combat Correspondent, Marine Forces Europe

■ COMBAT OUTPOST SHAMSHER

Helmand Province Logistical Hub Keeps Marines Equipped

Marines must remain well-equipped to be ready for daily operations in Afghanistan.

Combat Outpost (COP) Shamsher provides Marines who operate in the districts of Now Zad, Sangin, Musa Qal'eh and Kajaki with the logistical capabilities to stay on task and accomplish the mission.



CPL ANTHONY WARD JR.

Leathernecks with the motor transport section of H&S/2/7, RCT-7 return to COP Shamsher after a supply convoy on Dec. 16, 2012.

Without this COP, the Marines wouldn't have a centralized place from which to distribute supplies, according to First Lieutenant Jeffrey Medeiros, assistant logistics officer with Headquarters and Service Company, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7. "We wouldn't be able to sustain as far north as we are in Kajaki and all the way down south to Sabit Qadam."

In addition to Marines with H&S Co, there are many different sections and units

represented at COP Shamsher who work together to ensure supplies are pushed out to the areas in need.

"We've got two platoons of Marines from 'Golf' Company [2/7]," said First Sergeant Joseph R. Griffin, the H&S Co first sergeant.

The COP also has Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2d Combat Engineer Bn, 1st Intelligence Bn and explosive ordnance disposal Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment 15.

COP Shamsher is a centralized location that receives supplies frequently from CLB-2, said Medeiros. Those supplies are then pushed out by the motor transport section to all the companies in the area and support all combat operations in the battalion's battlespace.

In addition to delivering supplies throughout northern Helmand province, Marines at COP Shamsher conduct critical maintenance on tactical vehicles.

"It's also a main logistical hub for maintenance," said Sergeant Michael Kortan, maintenance management specialist with H&S Co. "All your motor transport second echelon maintenance, communications second echelon maintenance and engineering second echelon maintenance is done here." Having the ability to conduct a higher level of maintenance at the COP allows the battalion's equipment to be repaired more quickly.

A constant flow of personnel can be seen at COP Shamsher, with the motor transport section running convoy operations throughout the area or supplies being dropped off via helicopter.

COP Shamsher epitomizes the meaning of teamwork with many different units combining efforts to further the mission and keep the troops supplied.

Cpl Anthony Ward Jr.

Combat Correspondent, Regional Command Southwest



AFGHANISTAN



CPL ALEANDRO PENA

READY TO ROLL—A leatherneck with Company F, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment inspects his vehicle on Forward Operating Base Now Zad, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 17, 2012. The Marines continue combat patrols and convoys in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Marines Experience Ultra-Realistic Chemical Biological Incident Response Force Exercise

Story and photos by Col H. Avery Chenoweth, USMCR (Ret)



In a mock destroyed building, the Marine CBIRF team from Indian Head, Md., undergoes realistic exercises as first responders rescuing trapped casualties.

As the utility van loaded with II Marine Expeditionary Force's Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) Marines and their gear rounded a turn on a stretch of divided highway in a wooded area, Gunnery Sergeant Orlando Cruz, leader of Initial Response Force Bravo's Technical Rescue Platoon, was startled to see a massive, smoking pileup of smashed cars under and around a school bus turned on its side, blocking their lane.

"Startled," but not surprised, his team was prepared for any such eventuality.

As the driver hit the brakes, Sergeant Daniel Bronza shouted to his men to grab their gear and "Go, go, go!"

The team, with safety hard hats and tools hanging on straps and harnesses,



Sgt Daniel Bronza



Maj Timothy Maloney

grabbed stretcher baskets and orange plastic body sleds and ran quickly to the wreckage. They could hear plaintive cries for help from role-playing casualties.

Ordinarily such a scene would be cause for alarm, but this encounter—although unexpected—was a disaster *drill* for emer-

gency first responders and part of their three-day, Dec. 4-7, 2012, evaluation exercise at a new state-of-the-art Guardian Centers facility in Perry, Ga.

The Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md.-based CBIRF christened the new 850-acre specialized disaster-training facility on a former Northrop Grumman factory site 80 miles south of Atlanta.

A key player in the exercise was newly appointed Guardian Centers vice president of operations, Marine Reserve Major Timothy Maloney. Former Marine Sergeant Nathan Cumiskey supervised as the branch lead for Guardian Centers' Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear/Hazardous Material (CBRN/HAZMAT) department.



A staged car-bus pileup simulated on Guardian Centers' mile-long divided highway is appropriately shielded from vision by a copse of trees.

State-of-the-Art Facility

Guardian Centers, the brainchild of CEO Geoff Burkart (a former director of aviation for BellSouth), is a unique concept developed as a result of Burkart's experiences in New Orleans during joint recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

This one-of-a-kind facility was built in 2012 and, besides a divided highway spur, contains a 78-acre "mock city" of three-story concrete buildings. Some are in various states of collapse, simulating storm, earthquake, bomb or any type of destruction; open parking garage floors have collapsed onto crushed cars; and large slab roofs of a three-story, steel-girded building have crashed inwardly, leaving fallen walls and heaps of rubble. Hidden among this scenario, several "casualties" cry for help in hard-to-access nooks and crannies while mannequins serve as bodies. All need to be rescued.

Lintels over doorways have to be strengthened by adjustable joists holding up large timbers to prevent passageways,

walls and debris from falling. Nontoxic smoke machines cloud the area and realistically hinder rescue efforts.

In some of the exercises, local and county search-and-rescue teams mix with the Marines in mutual support, as would happen in real situations. Safety personnel monitor every move. Each participating unit and Guardian Centers staff is identifiable

by the color of their hard hats: blue for medic (corpsmen); green for identification and detection; black for Marine rescue; and red for Marine search and extract.

Unique, Ultra-Realistic Training

The syllabus for the three-day event called for rescue at a vehicle accident; rescue from attics and roofs of houses in

Maximizing the potential air-ground coordination during the training, a Marine Forces Reserve Huey with HMLA-773 from nearby Robins AFB used the Guardian Centers' landing zones for simulated casualty evacuations.



Right: Water rescue is practiced in an area of eight fully furnished small houses flooded up to 8 feet in depth.

Below: The CBIRF Marines' training also included rescuing "victims" and recovering "bodies" from collapsed buildings.



a flooded area; extraction of injured live "casualties" and "bodies" (mannequins) from structure rubble and smashed furniture and automobiles in two collapsed buildings and a parking garage; a civilian medevac chopper landing on a rooftop helipad; and at another five strategically placed field landing zones, UH-1 Hueys from Detachment A, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 773, Marine Aircraft Group 49, Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing stationed at nearby Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to pick up troops and casualties and deposit others at different exercise sites.

Running from the mock city to the main headquarters area is a 1,600-foot simulated subway tunnel with dual tracks and eight subway cars bought from the Washington, D.C., Metro system. Hauled in on 100-foot-long, 40-wheeler trucks, each 40-ton car had to be hoisted by a heavy crane and deposited through an opening in the roof onto the tracks. Four cars are stationary at a simulated station, and four are moveable and will be used to simulate accidents, gas and terrorist attacks—much like the ones that occurred in Tokyo, London and Madrid.

Another tunnel, replicating a mountain



The Mission of CBIRF: "When directed, forward-deploy and/or respond to a credible threat of a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or High Yield explosive (CBRNE) incident in order to assist local, state, or federal agencies and Unified Combat Commanders in the conduct of consequence management operations."

CBIRF accomplishes this mission by providing capabilities for agent detection and identification; casualty search, rescue and personnel decontamination; and emergency medical care and stabilization of contaminated personnel.

To find out more about CBIRF, go to the World Wide Web at www.cbirf.marines.mil.

or under river tunnel, will simulate auto-truck accident rescue operations in such hard-to-reach situations.

Some 100,000-square feet of office space is used for classrooms, with an operational video-monitored command and control center for directors, the press, VIPs, and even governors and other state and federal officials to observe and learn.

CBIRF Master Sergeant Patrick Laverder said that this particular venue was a welcome change from previous regularly used sites. He said it gained his Marines some new techniques, and the different, highly realistic situations sharpened their skills. Varieties of incidents like these, "especially the freedom to choose how and where we want to enter the pile and make our own decisions, [which] was something not encountered before ... proved very beneficial to the CBIRF," said MSgt Lavender.

As director of the exercise, Guardian VP and Reserve Maj Maloney summarized: "Being ready to respond at a moment's notice and make an immediate impact

on preserving life requires realistic, challenging training. Responders must train in as realistic situations as those they will encounter. Guardian Centers' goal is to come as close as possible to that in this unique new training facility."

Editor's note: Col Chenoweth, an infantry officer in the Korean War and a Marine combat artist in the Vietnam and Gulf wars, is the author of "Art of War: Eyewitness U.S. Combat Art From the Revolution Through the Twentieth Century" and, with Col Brooke Nihart, "Semper Fi: The Definitive Illustrated History of the U.S. Marines."



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos of CBIRF Marines undergoing ultra-realistic training in the new state-of-the-art Guardian Centers facility in Perry, Ga., at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/CBIRFex

Since '17



In the past 50 years there have been many changes in the Marine Corps' rank structure, uniforms, weapons and equipment—even in the caliber of men.

By Donald L. Dickson

“For the luv'a Mike, are they robbing the cradle to build up the Marine Corps?”

It was a question undoubtedly asked many times before and it would be asked many times in the future.

This time it was 1917 and new recruits were “flocking to the standard to make the world safe for democracy.”

The “old breed” Marine viewed the newcomers with less than enthusiasm, for it threatened his way of life.

He was, as Colonel John Thomason was later to describe him, “the old breed of American regular, regarding the service as home and war an occupation.”

Stripes were not as common as hashmarks to the old regular. He knew every officer and senior noncommissioned officer (NCO) in the Marine Corps and had served with most of them, in one corner of the world or another. He had his favorites among them and referred to them (behind their backs) as “Hiking Hiram” or “Old Gimlet Eye” or “Terrible Terry.” He had other names for those upon whom his wrath fell.

Within this tight organization he lived, trying to steer clear of “rocks and shoals” (naval disciplinary regulations). And he didn't always succeed. Whether compounded by beer in Boston or tequila in Tampico, he often ran afoul of rules, and when he did, he expected and received quick judgment and quick punishment.

“Lock him up!”

There was no Uniform Code of Military Justice then. He could be awarded anything from office hours through Deck, Summary or General Courts-Martial.

He might get any punishment—from so many hours EPD (extra police duty) through fines, brig time, days of bread and water to “20 and a kick”—and “Portsmouth” (naval prison) was something to be feared.

He was salty and tough physically. He looked down on the “sick-bay soldiers,” and unless he couldn't move, he refused to take advantage of the sick bay for which 20 cents per month was deducted from his meager pay.

He very carefully signed the “no-erasure” payroll once a month for his “30 bucks and a horse blanket.” And then, unless he had the duty, he went on liberty—probably to make a “speed run.” Or the cards and dice came out. Acey-deucey was one of his favorite games.

Sometimes he had a little trouble signing his name exactly as spelled.

America was less distant from the melting pot in those days, and the old Marine Corps echoed to various accents. There were Germans, Irish, Scots, Poles and many other nationalities represented. Most of them were professional soldiers who had

received their initial training in the army of their native country. At one time, it was half seriously believed that you couldn't become a gunnery sergeant unless your name ended in "ski."

But above all, these were fighting men who had drawn a bead along the sights of a Lee straight-pull, a Krag, or a Springfield in any part of the world where American interests were threatened. These were the men behind the almost monotonous announcement that "the Marines have landed and the situation is well in hand."

Now there was a war on—just another war, but a big one.

The "old breed" took the new recruits in hand. They taught the new Marines how to shave, brush teeth, take a bath and swab down the decks—all with a half bucket of water. They taught them the finer points of being a good Marine in salty, seagoing terms, trimmed with exotic words from faraway places. They showed them how to roll "heavies" and adjust pack straps and, above all, they taught them the care and use of weapons. The new men learned how to "hold 'em and squeeze 'em" until they could plug the 20-inch bull at a thousand yards. They learned musketry and fire distribution. They learned to field strip their weapons blindfolded. And, through it all, they continued "squads right-squads left; and right-front-into-line" close order drill until each corporal's eight-man squad was a machine of oiled precision.

The new men were quick learners. They were a cross section of young America. Fighting was not their business, but they intended to make it their business until the war was won. In return for what they learned from the "old breed," they taught the "old breed" a few things. They asked questions which needed to be asked. They brought new efficiencies to the old-timers when, because of the expansion to 30,000, many of them made stripes or bars. When they returned to civilian life at war's end, they left their mark on the Corps.

Many of them didn't return to civilian life but chose to "go for 30," and make the Corps a career.

These men had seen many changes in warfare. They had experienced the introduction of the airplane, poison gas, tanks, artillery preparation and rolling barrages, the automatic rifle, the resurgent use of grenades and the folly of close-packed frontal charges against well-emplaced machine guns.

They knew that new techniques would be required and that a good leader would need more than an iron fist and an iron jaw.

The new "old breed" placed heavier emphasis on a good mind as well as a strong right arm. A good warrior needed brains as well as brawn.

The Marine Corps Institute was formed to teach Marines a wide variety of subjects by mail. The School of Application for officers evolved into the Marine Corps School at Quantico, Va. Education was encouraged. It was no longer uncommon to find a PFC or corporal who could intelligently discuss current events, literature or art.

Despite the rise in educational levels, the Marine was primarily a fighting man and he was employed fully in the Banana Wars and in guarding American interests wherever they might be.

The green uniform, developed during the World War I period as a field uniform, became his winter service, with "blues" reserved for ceremonies and liberty. Khaki was worn most because the Marine so often found himself in the tropics. The old wool shirt was being phased out and the cotton shirt was seen everywhere. The "field scarf" was not yet called by the civilian name of "necktie," and it was of cotton with square ends and required good judgment to "two-block" it, or make

the ends even. The everyday headgear was the campaign, or field, hat, which was worn by the Army, as well. Trousers were long, and all hands were delighted when the Marines were away from the Army supply system in France and its issue of tight knee-pegged breeches with their wrap leggings. The Marine leggings was side laced. A good Marine could slip on a pair of starched khaki trousers, lace up his leggings and never show a wrinkle—for a few minutes, or so.

The Marine of the '20s still wore his Munson-last, high-laced shoes of brown (not cordovan yet). His socks were white, whether of cotton or wool, and, as time went by, he began to wear "low cuts" on liberty.

His weapons had changed too. Now he had the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) and the Tommy gun. But his basic weapon was still the tried-and-true, bolt-operated '03 Springfield with its 18-inch bladed bayonet. He depended on his .30-caliber heavy Browning machine gun and moved it around when not in action on hand-drawn machine-gun carts. His artillery was getting more sophisticated. He still had his 75 mm pack howitzers and his little 37 mm, but he also had French 75s. His transportation improved, too. He now had liberty Quad trucks and some of them lasted into the early '30s.

In the air, he saw a variety of planes carrying the globe and anchor.

All these new weapons required an increase in skills, and, one by one, the "professional privates" began to disappear. It was still not uncommon for a man to be given his first stripe as a come-on to ship over. Promotions were not automatic or even reasonably rapid. It was a small Marine Corps, smaller at times than the police force in New York City. Its detachments, less than a regiment in size, were scattered from China to Nicaragua.

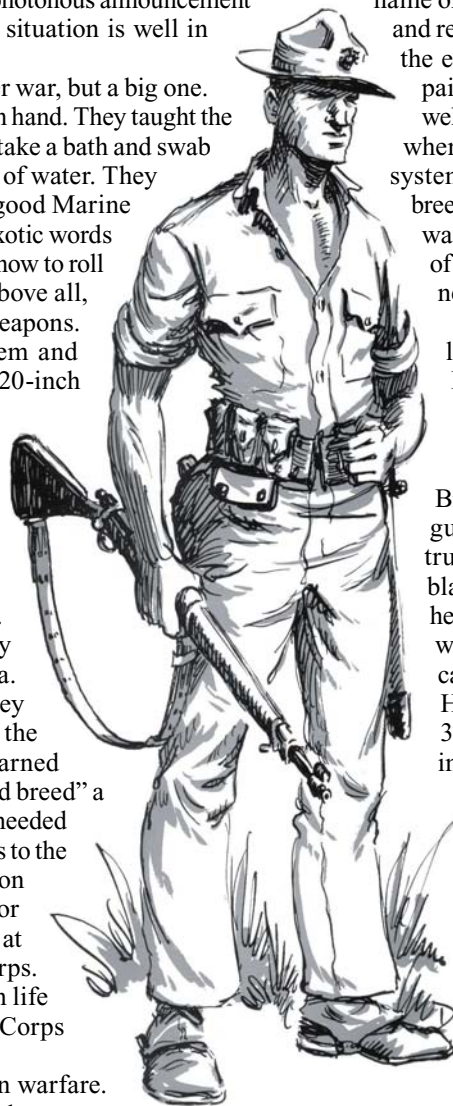
New ideas were being generated topside, and Marines began to practice a great deal more landing exercises.

Amphibious Warfare, they called it.

The Great Depression of the early '30s was becoming history, and finally the detachments assigned to ride the mail trains were returned to the Marine Corps. There was talk of pulling out of Haiti after all the years of helping to stabilize that country.

Almost everyone who had served a cruise in the Corps had pulled duty in Haiti. Sandino was no longer a will-o'-the-wisp in Nicaragua. As a matter of fact, chasing him and his guerrillas had taught the Marines a great deal about laying and avoiding an ambush. It had also taught the Marine a good deal about something that later was called close air support and about something called dive bombing. The Germans were fascinated by the Marines' development of this tactic.

The men of the Fourth Marines learned some things too. They had watched while the Japanese forces took on China in a highly



The new "old breed" placed heavier emphasis on a good mind as well as a strong right arm. A good warrior needed brains as well as brawn.

**The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor didn't overly surprise the Marine.
He had known for some time that trouble was brewing.**



professional manner. Clouds were gathering over Europe, and bomb blasts in Ethiopia stirred men's minds everywhere.

With one eye on the headlines, the Marine of the late '30s redoubled his training. He went over the side more often and in greater numbers into a new craft called a Higgins boat. He sweated over boat tables, boat divisions and new lines of departure. He spent more time on hastily rigged transports. As likely as not, his bunk would be in what was once the ship's swimming pool. And he got a little tired of the old refrain "a clean sweep down fore and aft!"

But he was learning, refining and applying new lessons learned every day.

He was still wearing his campaign hat with an emblem turned green by sea spray. And he wore blue denim overalls and jumper. While he now had field radios with a hand-turned generator, he still used wig wag and semaphore flags for short distance communications or in lieu of still faulty field telephones.

Suddenly, the "old breed" was startled by an influx of new recruits and reservists—battalions of them. A First Division was formed, then another ...

The old-timers again felt themselves threatened. Some of them said the same thing about the new that had been said of them in 1917. It was a time of reorganization and of a proliferation of new weapons and gear. There was this little auto called a Jeep that could go almost everywhere. There was a new rifle being tested called a Garand. It was semiautomatic and its magazine held eight cartridges. The old Marine regarded it with open doubt.

"It'll jam!"

Then the old pack was redesigned and, at Guantanamo, everyone blossomed out in "elephant hats." New field shoes with the rough side of the leather outside were issued. They were called "boondockers" and, with a remembrance of peacetime spit and polish, some old-timers shined them up.

Changes were swift and often.

The old "wash basin" helmet of WW I was withdrawn, and new "coal scuttle" helmets with liners were issued. A new, green, herringbone utility uniform was introduced, but the old-timers didn't take too kindly to it at first, preferring good old khaki—except when it was required in formation.

The new recruits and reservists took to these changes more readily since the older gear had never become a "habit" with them.

But, again, the "old breed" took the new in hand.

This time there was a difference.

The Reserve battalions were integrated into mixed units. Regular and Reserve looked alike, spoke alike and, except for experience, operated alike. As a matter of fact, many of the reservists were former regulars.

After a minimum grinding of gears, it was difficult to tell regular from reservist.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor didn't overly surprise the Marine. He had known for some time that trouble was brewing.

The First Marine Division by now was the "old breed" and, as such, was selected for the first U.S. offensive at Guadalcanal. Many of its blooded veterans provided experience for newly formed divisions, and it speaks highly for the old-timers that no Marine division was ever a failure. The First made all Marines

part of the “old breed” with its professionalism and esprit de corps.

Again, times changed and with them weapons changed.

The basic Marine didn’t change; he just had to study harder to keep up with the new, sophisticated weaponry and gear.

There was no rest for him after the war. He had to consolidate the knowledge he had gained in combat and further refine the new gear and its employment.

He had learned the value of his Reserve, and he knew better how to get the best use out of it.

Nuclear warfare posed a tremendous problem, but the individual Marine learned that he could take cover relatively near a nuclear blast and still survive. It was said by the eggheads that there would never be another amphibious operation.

If the individual Marine climbing the sea wall at Inchon had remembered that prophesy, he must have laughed, however hollowly.

There were still a few, very few, of the old, “old breed”—all very senior NCOs or officers. Again, they had to adjust to new weapons and gear—and fighting in sub-zero cold.

But as always, they did adjust.

Vertical envelopment was the new word.

Helicopters.

After Korea, the boot camps didn’t quite get back to full peacetime operations. Overall strength remained high in comparison to previous “peace” eras. But the boot camps were changing too. Some of the old-timers grumbled that recruit training was getting soft. As a matter of fact, it was getting tougher, but in a different way. Differences of opinion between DI and recruit were settled more judiciously than they had been when the verdict was reached behind the barracks. There was still plenty of “troop and stomp,” but as much strain was placed on a boot’s brains as on his muscles. The boot camps were turning out more fighting Marines and smarter Marines.

Language began to change subtly as “slopchutes” changed to “gedunks,” “field scarfs” to “neckties,” and “flat-hatting” and “gun-decking” became known as “direct disobedience of orders.”

The aura of the tropics and the orient had to make room for Mediterranean expressions, and Marine blues could be seen at our embassies around the world.

There were changes in the blues. The blue cap cover was gone, and the white cover served all year, but with a new, wider grommet. The coat had four pockets, and the old fair leather belt was gone. The old ranks of gunnery sergeant and lance corporal returned, and crossed rifles appeared on nearly all stripes.

Combat gear was refined rather than changed, and World War II boondockers were exchanged for combat boots.

The combat gear was in the unlock position in places like Lebanon, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

Many were new weapons. There were missiles of all sizes. There was an exchange of M1s for M14s and refinements in all the lethal tools of the Marine with the possible exception of the .45-cal. pistol. It was almost the same as the day it was introduced in 1911. There was new electronic gear, and the Marine of the early ’60s had to spend hour on hour schooling himself in its use and maintenance.

When he fanned out from Da Nang, the new Marine, as well as the old one, found himself calling upon historic memory of guerrilla fighting during the Banana Wars, and doing again what he had always done in previous wars. Except now it had a name—Civic Action.

Marines, whether “new breed” or “old breed,” always loved kids.



When he fanned out from Da Nang, the new Marine, as well as the old one, found himself calling upon historic memory of guerrilla fighting during the Banana Wars.

So, here is the Marine of today, 50 years after *Leatherneck* began describing him.

He's in better health; he's better trained and he's a lot smarter than he used to be—and that's saying a lot! Fighting is his business, and there's no one better at it. He has the habit of winning, and he intends to keep the habit.

He's today's *Leatherneck*!



*Editor's note: To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps Association's founding on 25 April 1913 by then-LtCol John A. Lejeune and a group of officers at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, we will be reprinting significant articles from the *Leatherneck* archives in each 2013 issue.*

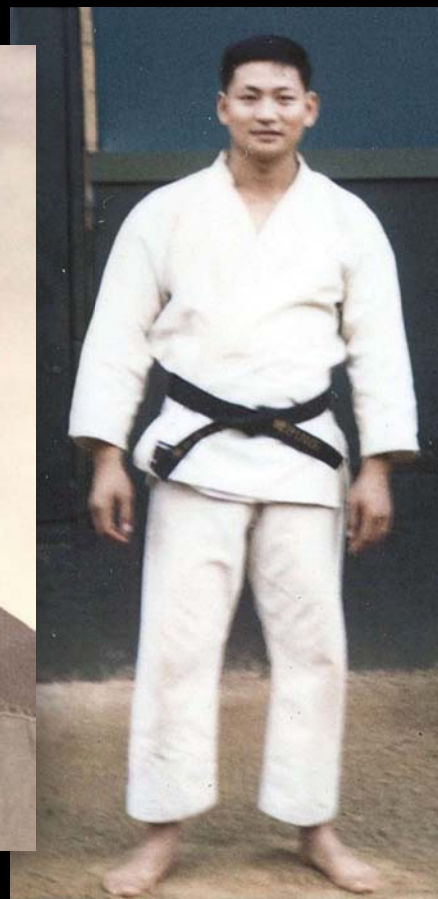
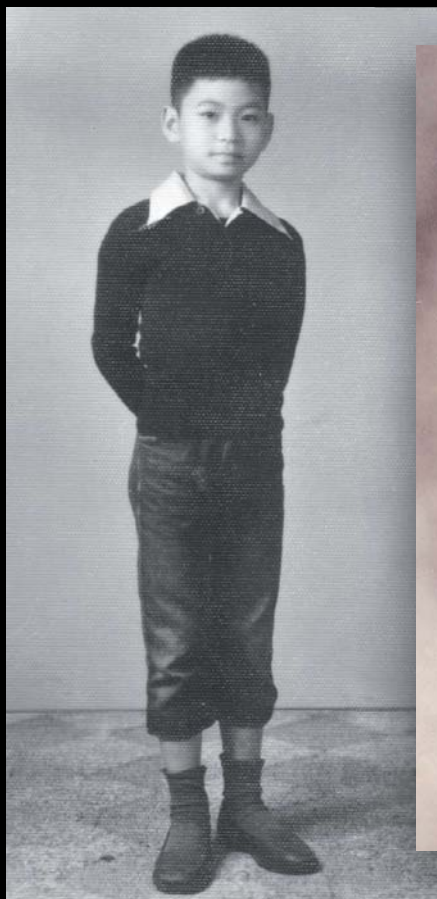
Many of our readers will recognize the name of the author of this article. Donald L. Dickson was a Marine artist and longtime editor of *Leatherneck* magazine. His pencil sketches and oil paintings began to appear in the magazine in the 1920s. While his art and articles were published in *Leatherneck* for decades, he also was the editor for 19 years. Retiring from active duty in 1965, he continued to write and produce art for the magazine. During his career, he rose from private to colonel.

We selected this article for re-publishing because of its enduring historical content and the parallels today's Marine will immediately recognize. Also, to Col Dickson's original line drawings, we've added one of Sgt Jack Carrillo's illustrations, below, depicting a more recent vintage *leatherneck*—"who has the habit of winning and intends to keep the habit."

If you want to read more from our archives, they are digitized and searchable online via our website: www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck.



The Legend of a Long-Shot Marine



By Mike Hoeferlin

Question: How does a Chinese immigrant who came to America alone at 9 years of age not knowing a word of English become a highly successful professional sports agent and one of the best jujitsu practitioners in the world?

Answer: By first becoming a Marine!

Dr. Da-I (dah EEÉ) Ping always was a long shot. Throughout his life he repeatedly defied the odds. Today, as founder of Ping's Professional Sports Agency (PPSA) in Saline, Mich., he helps others defy the odds as they try to make it to the National Football League.

"Doc" Ping is more than a typical sports agent. He specializes in preparing athletes—top draft picks and undrafted free agents alike—for professional football. His methodology combines a rigorous

Da-I Ping is shown as a student in Taiwan in 1956 (left), prior to immigrating to the United States; as a recruit at MCRD San Diego in 1965 (center); and as a sergeant in MP Bn prior to conducting hand-to-hand combat in the Republic of Vietnam in 1968. (Photos courtesy of Da-I Ping)

mental and physical training regimen with a strong underpinning of emotional and psychological toughness, traits he developed in the Marine Corps, where he made staff sergeant during his four-year enlistment.

Ping motivates his clients by replicating his USMC experiences. The same drive and dedication required of Marines exists in his "total immersion concept" of training athletes. "My clients must be totally dedicated, or I won't work with them," he stated.

Robert Lyles, a passionate and punishing NFL linebacker for eight years with the Houston Oilers and Atlanta Falcons, is a PPSA client. "Doc's players definitely know he was a Marine," Lyles said. "He

always had the [Marine Corps] colors on, and he told us about his Marine experiences. ... He got you to believe in yourself, and he definitely used his Marine training to motivate us."

Another PPSA client, Lionel Washington, spent an incredible 15 years as an NFL defensive back with the St. Louis Cardinals, Los Angeles and Oakland Raiders and Denver Broncos. "Doc taught me a lot both mentally and physically. He's the best teacher in the world," said Washington. "We absolutely knew he was a Marine. ... He wouldn't let us forget it either. When you sign on with Doc, you know it's going to be difficult, but you also know you're going to get the best training, representation and effort that there is."

The Beginning

The legend of Doc Ping started in China when he and his family were trying to

Ping motivates his clients by replicating his USMC experiences. The same drive and dedication required of Marines exists in his "total immersion concept" of training athletes.



COURTESY OF DA-I PING

avoid capture by Communist forces who were searching for his father, a three-star general in the retreating Chinese Nationalist Army. They escaped to Thailand when Da-I was about 3. Times were tough. Food was scarce. Disease was widespread, and death was rampant among the Chinese refugees.

While there, Da-I and some other youngsters built a raft and naively floated it in a sewage-filled pond. The raft began sinking, and the others swam ashore. Da-I could not swim; he went under. According to witnesses, some minutes later a small and limp hand was visible just below the surface of the filthy pond.

Ping's lifeless body was dragged ashore, and various onlookers tried to revive him. His lungs and stomach were filled with foul water. There was no pulse, and resuscitation failed. He was dead. But, "something made me come back. ... I wasn't ready to die," he said. This was Ping's first brush with death.

Eventually, Ping's family made it to what is today Taiwan. Da-I led a relatively stable life as the son of a general officer.

When he was about 9, he had one of those pivotal experiences that often change one's life. His father took him to see an American movie about U.S. Marines battling the Japanese in World War II. The

movie, "Battle Cry," made an indelible impression. Although Da-I could not understand a word of the English dialogue, the actors' portrayals of resolute Marines fighting and triumphing impacted and altered him forever. Something had connected inside, and he intuitively believed that someday, somehow, he too would be a U.S. Marine.

Fearing a Communist invasion, Ping's parents arranged for their young son to immigrate to the United States. They reluctantly put their frightened little boy on a dilapidated freighter heading to the

his slight build, however, he was considered to be a long shot to make his varsity high-school teams. "I was skinny, but I didn't let that stop me," he said. "I was [mentally] tough; I had to be." He proved to be an outstanding athlete. More importantly, he became a citizen of the United States.

MCRD San Diego and Beyond

After graduating from high school in 1965, as the war in Vietnam was escalating, Da-I Ping enlisted and embarked on his remarkable Marine Corps journey of the heart and soul. When the short and slender recruit arrived at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, the DIs thought he was a long shot to make it through boot camp. He proved them wrong. He quickly made meritorious private first class and never looked back.

"Ping was the most outstanding recruit I could ever imagine," said Jack Gee, who was with him in Platoon 152 during boot camp. "He's one of a kind. He was probably the best Marine I have ever come across, [and] he was an inspiration to all of us." Gee added: "He was the battalion champion with pugil sticks ... the best I ever saw. He was and is incredibly focused and driven, [and] he helped quite a few of us make it through boot camp."

When the short and slender recruit arrived at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, the DIs thought he was a long shot to make it through boot camp. He proved them wrong.

States. "I remember crying nonstop for about the first two weeks of what was a horrible voyage," he reflected. "Finally, I accepted my fate and looked forward to becoming an American—and a Marine."

He ended up in foster homes in St. Louis, where he went to school, learned English and discovered he loved sports, particularly football and wrestling. Because of

Opposite page: Pvt Da-I Ping is in the third row, seventh from the left, in this 1965 photo of Platoon 152, MCRD San Diego.

Right: Sgt Ping teaches hand-to-hand combat to his fellow Marines in 3d MP Bn, 1968.

Meritorious promotions for the dedicated Marine came in rapid succession. Ping's abbreviated Marine Corps "career" was stellar and laden with dangers and accomplishments. Through it all, however, he could never shake the "long-shot" tag that had dogged him throughout his life.

In 1966, Sergeant Ping began studying jujitsu while stationed at the naval base in Yokosuka, Japan, where he was the Indoctrination noncommissioned officer (NCO) at the brig. One of his roommates in the Marine Barracks, Master Sergeant Joseph Vosine, USMC (Ret), remembered: "He was always working out, playing football, studying or working on his martial arts. He had lots of energy.

"Ping was always 'squared away,' and he and I were, and are, close friends. He's a class act."

Shortly thereafter, Ping began teaching hand-to-hand combat to other Marines and sailors. He was so adept at it that he subsequently was ordered to Camp Pendleton, Calif., to train Vietnam-bound Marines of 28th Regiment, Fifth Marine Division.

Vietnam

Next it was off to Vietnam where Sgt Ping was assigned to Company A, 3d Military Police Battalion, Force Logistics Command, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, located in a remote place inappropriately

called Happy Valley. "It was anything but happy," he recalled. "We ran and guarded the III MAF [Marine Amphibious Force] brig and III MAF Detention Facility, which usually housed about 150 prisoners, plus a classified number of POWs."

The MPs did more than just guard prisoners. They were under constant attack, and they fought back ferociously. The battalion sent out listening posts, ambushes and patrols almost every day and night. Ping said, "As is the case with all Marines, we were riflemen first and foremost." He added, "We were involved in some very fierce fighting and were 'hit' almost every night." Sgt Ping and the other MPs were on constant alert and in perpetual danger.

He often felt that he was a long shot to make it back alive.

From time to time, their perimeter was breached by enemy sappers who cut and/or blew up the rows of concertina wire surrounding the compound. The "Alpha" Co commander, Major Harold E. Dexter, USMC (Ret), then a captain, said: "We could sometimes see the bad guys out by the perimeter. ... Sometimes they came right through us. It was very dangerous, and we lost some good people." Dexter remembered that Ping and his other NCOs were "outstanding Marines," who helped save many lives.

The MPs fought from and essentially lived in trenches and fighting holes in



COURTESY OF DA-I PING



COURTESY OF DA-I PING



COURTESY OF DA-I PING

Capt H. E. Dexter (above), the Co A, 3d MP Bn commander, wearing a soft cover (left), is preceded by Sgt Ping as he inspects the MP unit in Vietnam in the 1968-69 time frame.

Below: The III MAF Detention Facility was hit by 122 mm Russian-made rockets.



order to provide effective and coordinated protective fire. At times, they called in mortars, artillery and airstrikes (including “Puff the Magic Dragon” gunships) to prevent being overrun. Ping said the shrill sirens went off whenever the enemy came through the wire. “It got our attention, and it’s a sound that I will always remember.”

During a night attack, fragments from a Russian-made 122 mm rocket slammed into Sgt Ping’s clothes, flak jacket and boots, briefly knocking him unconscious. “I really don’t know what happened, but I was awakened by a Navy corpsman ripping my bloody big toenail off with pliers.” A somewhat debilitated Ping fought on. He could have been medevacked out, but he opted to stay with his unit.

On one night patrol after Sgt Ping volunteered to “walk the point,” he wondered again if his luck would run out.

Could he continue to defy the odds? Just then an enemy soldier appeared about 15 feet in front of him and fired his AK47 at point-blank range at about the same time Ping unleashed a round from his M79 grenade launcher. That time the long shot was a better shot. He had defied the odds again.

Another time, Sgt Ping accompanied a colonel to observe napalm strikes by F-4

Phantoms. Unfortunately, the bombing run was off target, and he and the colonel almost were cooked. “Another few meters and we’d have been ‘crispy critters,’ ” he admitted. “It got very hot very fast. ... I’ll never forget that smell.”

On still another occasion, Sgt Ping and his driver drove into a classic Viet Cong ambush. They miraculously escaped despite the fact that scores of enemy soldiers were blasting away at them as they traversed the kill zone. Ping’s luck held again, and he once more missed a possible appointment with death.

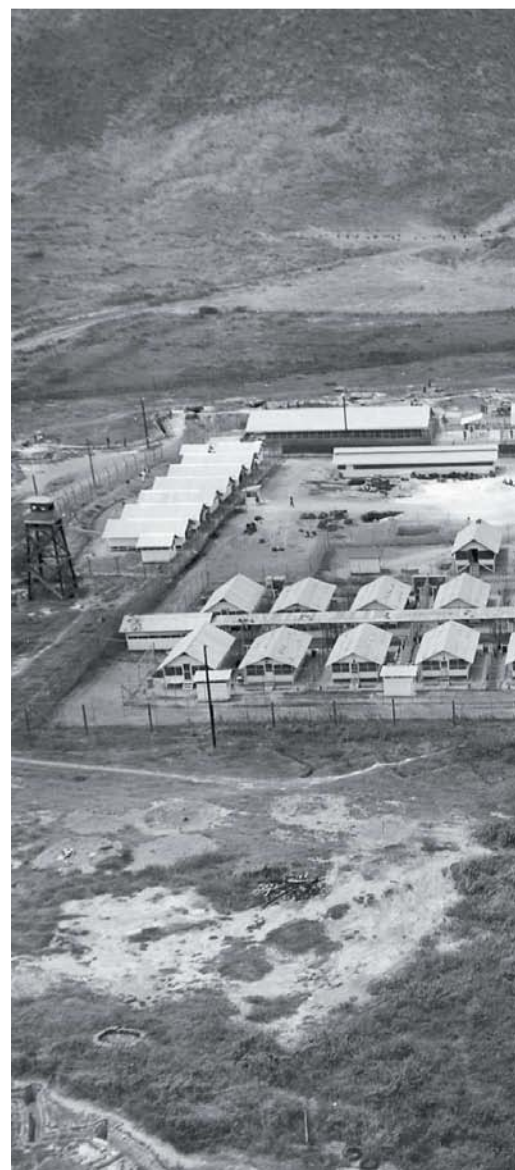
Finally, during the 1969 Tet Offensive, a sniper’s bullet tore through Sgt Ping’s helmet cover. The round passed only a few millimeters from his skull. Throughout his tour he had sustained various injuries for which he could have been medevacked. While others would disagree, Ping described his injuries

as “minor” and not worthy of taking up space on an outbound helicopter. “Besides,” he said, “I always wanted to stay with my Marines.”

CONUS

After his Vietnam tour, Sgt Ping rotated back to Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he made staff sergeant. Shortly thereafter he was granted

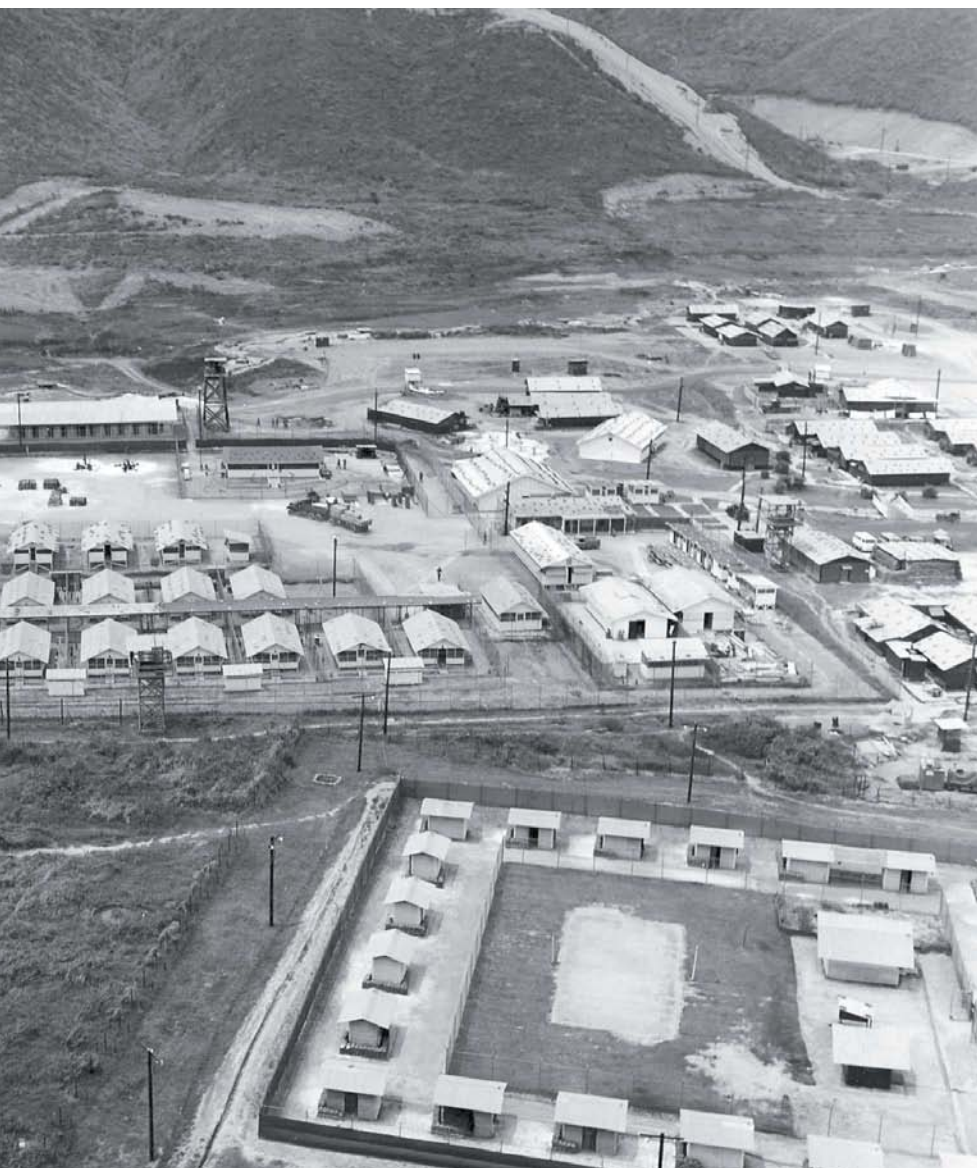
**Fragments
from a Russian-
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rocket slammed
into Sgt Ping’s
clothes, flak
jacket and
boots, briefly
knocking him
unconscious.**



an “early out” to go to college on a football scholarship to Eastern Michigan University, where he also wrestled and taught martial arts and self-defense. In near-record time, he earned bachelor and master of science degrees in physical education. He then opened Ping’s Dojo (a school for martial-arts training). Through it all he never lost his zeal and passion for his USMC training, and he patterned his working philosophy on what he had learned in the Corps.

From 1973 to 1989, Ping traveled to Japan every summer to study under Dr. Soke Sugita, the Grand Master of Jishukan Ryu-Jujitsu. Ping competed internationally and gained his reputation as one of the best in the world. In 1983, as a result of Ping’s mastery of jujitsu, Dr. Sugita awarded him the rank of shihan, which includes a doctorate degree in Asian medicine. There are only four shihans in the world; Ping is the only one in North America.

Also in 1983, Ping started PPSA and was certified by the National Football



In this aerial view of the III MAF Detention Facility, the Vietnam Prisoner of War compound is in the lower right.

League Players Association as a contract adviser. He is, however, much more than that to clients who are immersed in the physical, mental, emotional and psychological aspects of realizing their absolute maximum potential. By adroitly combining Western pragmatism and Eastern philosophy, Ping brings out the best in each of his clients, all of whom refer to him simply as “Doc.”

Ping’s Professional Sports Agency’s impressive list of past and present clients includes many NFL stars plus “can’t miss” and some “long-shot” prospects who were not drafted by NFL teams. “I think back on my life, and I can relate to what is going on in their heads and hearts,” he said. “I was there. ... I faced adversity almost every day of my life, particularly as a Marine, and I survived.

“Some would say I was a long shot and defied the odds. That’s why I work as hard as I can to help other so-called long shots.”

Over the years, many of Ping’s clients have lived with him and his family as he prepared them for the rigors of professional football. He works them very hard. “They have to be just as dedicated as I am,” he said.

Doc awakens early each morning and engages in an extensive two- to three-hour workout six days a week. He requires his players also to be in peak physical condition. He teaches them various martial-arts techniques in order to improve their confidence and to better their abilities on the football field. Doc treats his clients in a firm and loving way that underscores his intensity, generosity and indomitable spirit—traits that he developed in the Marine Corps and still uses to help others today.

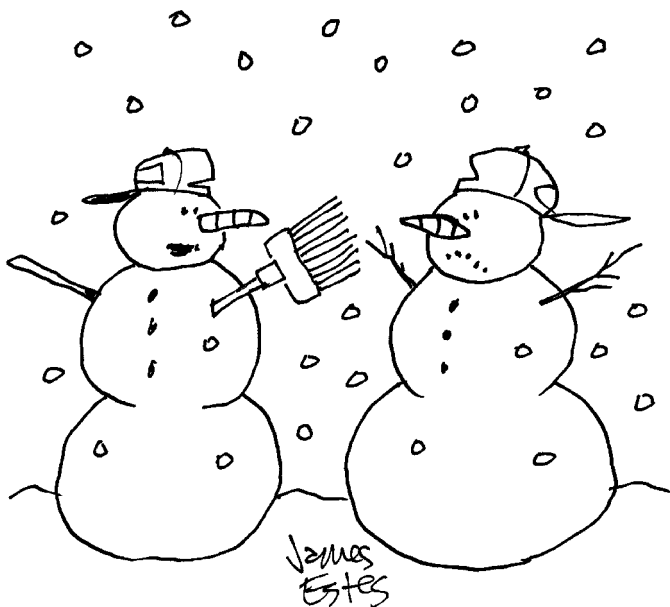
Dr. Da-I Ping, the eternal long shot and former Marine staff sergeant, has come a long way. The frightened little Asian child who arrived in America with no knowledge of English, the clothes on his back and few belongings has blossomed into an iconic figure who continues to help and inspire countless others. And, he said, “I owe it all to the Marine Corps.”

Editor’s note: Da-I Ping and Mike Hoeflerlin were high-school classmates and roommates in St. Louis, where Ping lived with the Hoeflerlin family. Ping persuaded Hoeflerlin, who commanded at the company and platoon levels in the 1stMarDiv and later flew helicopters in the 3dMAW, to become a Marine.



Sgt Da-I Ping is just back from patrol in this 1968 Vietnam photo.

Leatherneck Laffs



"Man, if you intend to join the Marines, you need to work on your upper body strength."

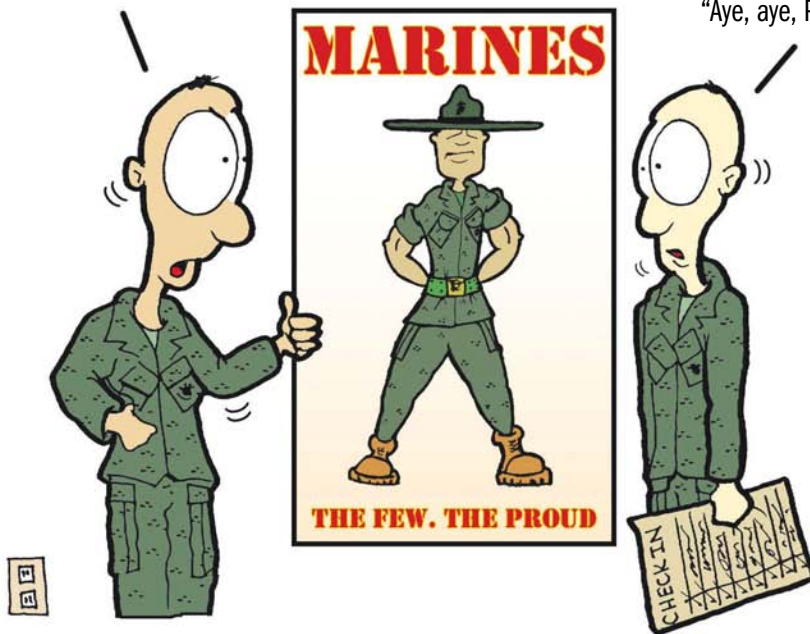


"I feel like a marsupial."

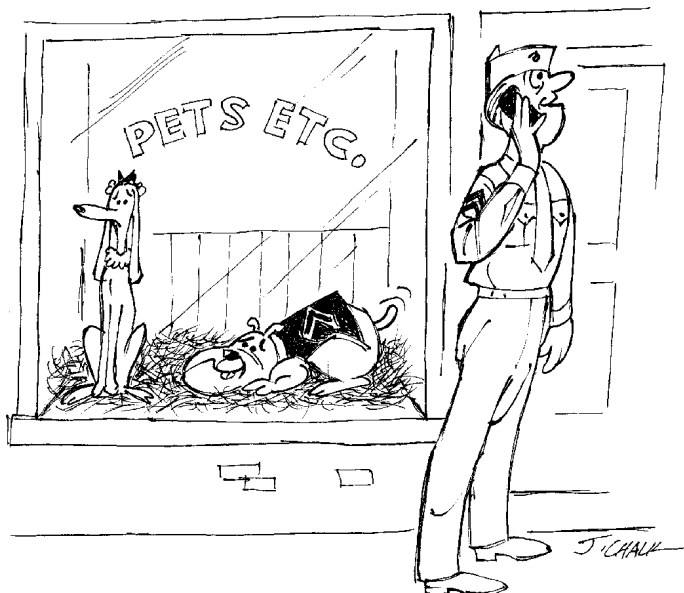


"In 20 years, we'll meet back here and order out."

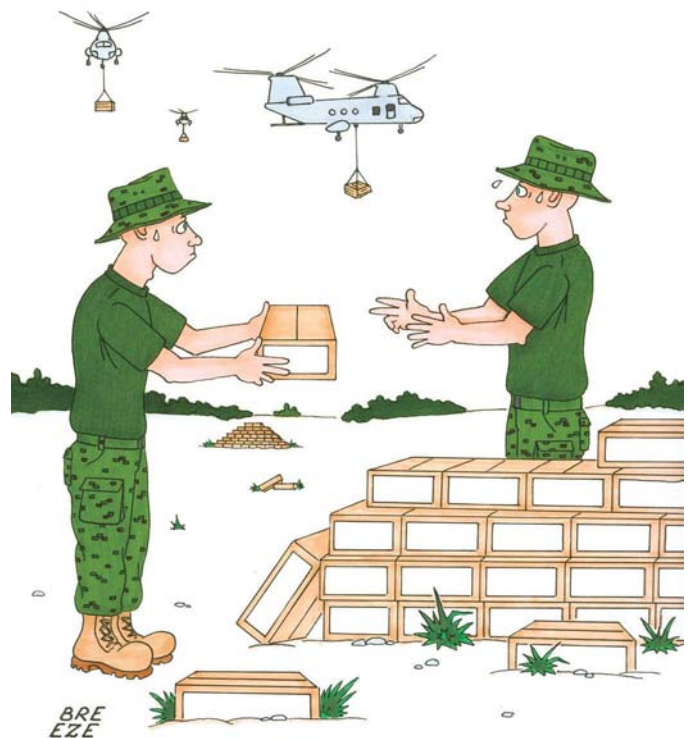
"And lastly, Private ... don't think I haven't been around the block! I'm Old Corps ya' see ... I came in when we were still rolling our sleeves."



"Aye, aye, PFC ... 'Old Corps' ... got it."



"We found him, 'Gunny.' Yeah, same old hangout."



The Original Green Energy



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

“Red Dogs” Are a Rare Breed— **HMLA-773 Is Corps’ Only Reserve Light Attack Helicopter Squadron**

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

The “Red Dogs” are a breed apart, unique among their kind.

In the world of Marine Corps aviation, the leathernecks of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 773 form the one and only Marine Corps Reserve light attack helicopter squadron, flying and maintaining AH-1W Super Cobra attack and UH-1N Huey utility helicopters.

HMLA-773 is the Corps’ largest deployable light attack helicopter squadron in terms of personnel and aircraft, operating in separate detachments at three different East Coast bases, according to squadron officers.

One detachment is at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey, one is at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, and the third is at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia, which is the squadron’s command post. Comparatively, there are a total of eight active-duty HMLA squadrons.

Commanding this uniquely organized, large and decentralized combat aviation unit calls for a singular approach, according to Lieutenant Colonel Kyle Burress,

commanding officer of -773 since May 2012.

“It’s a challenge and calls for a lot of travel,” said the Reserve Marine, who drives the six-hour commute almost weekly from his home in Pace, Fla., near Pensacola, to his command headquarters at Robins in central Georgia.

LtCol Burress was on active duty from 1998 until 2008, including service in

The fact that most of the pilots, aircraft maintenance and support staff come from the active forces to the Reserve makes -773 a highly proficient outfit.

Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as well as humanitarian operations in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Thailand. He stays on the road now about 75 percent of his time between duty at the three Red Dog locations and his civilian job flying twin-prop aircraft overseas for a private contractor.

Part of the challenge is getting the entire squadron together for training, but LtCol

Burress noted that several times during the year they are able to participate in large exercises where the entire squadron is involved.

For example, during a deployment to the Enhanced Mohave Viper exercise at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., nearly the entire squadron supported that exercise.

“We were involved as a squadron in two periods, call it A and B, to give reservists two opportunities to get involved, either at the beginning of the exercise or the end,” said LtCol Burress, demonstrating the flexibility that has to be built into the training syllabus.

Squadron sections deploy on exercises or operations to support the active component as well.

For a recent exercise called “Raven,” the squadron took assets from the three detachments with four Cobras, four Hueys and crews, about 100 Marines, to Edwards AFB in California, where they provided day and night support for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

“This is a recurring MARSOC requirement that we’ve picked up where pre-

viously an active-duty squadron supported it,” said LtCol David Steele, who assumed command of the Marine Inspector-Instructor (I&I) detachment at Robins in July 2012. “This is an example of how we have absorbed an active-duty requirement, which is one of the mission-essential tasks of Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing, to augment the active forces. That is an important aspect of this squadron, to integrate the three detachments successfully in training so we can seamlessly replicate it in war.”

Another challenge is filling the Reserve officer pilot and enlisted maintenance billets needed to keep the squadron combat ready. Beginning in 2012, the Corps began offering significant incentives for experienced active-duty officers and enlisted Marines to transition to the Reserve.

“Right now we can really use Cobra pilots,” said Burress, who mentioned that in 2012, Marine Corps administrative messages had been released offering substantial annual bonuses and other perks for the duration of a three-year contract to Cobra pilots going from active duty to the Reserve component.

Similar offerings, called “direct affiliation” programs, were announced in late 2012 for corporals, sergeants and staff sergeants, granting bonuses, preference of duty stations, extension of benefits and other motivations.

Direct affiliation means that Marines transfer directly from active duty to the Reserve rather than getting out and going to the Reserve after a break in service. Marines benefit by receiving a guaranteed drilling billet with reduced processing time, according to Major Shawn Haney, public affairs officer for the Department of Manpower and Reserve Affairs at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

Maj Haney noted other incentives, including 180 days of transitional TRICARE for the directly affiliating Marines and their families, among additional benefits that vary depending on the specific program. The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act authorized continuation and even upgrades to those packages.

The programs “provide transitioning active-duty component Marines seamless continuation of their careers as reservists and an opportunity to guarantee a Reserve billet prior to reaching EAS [end of active service],” noted one of the messages.

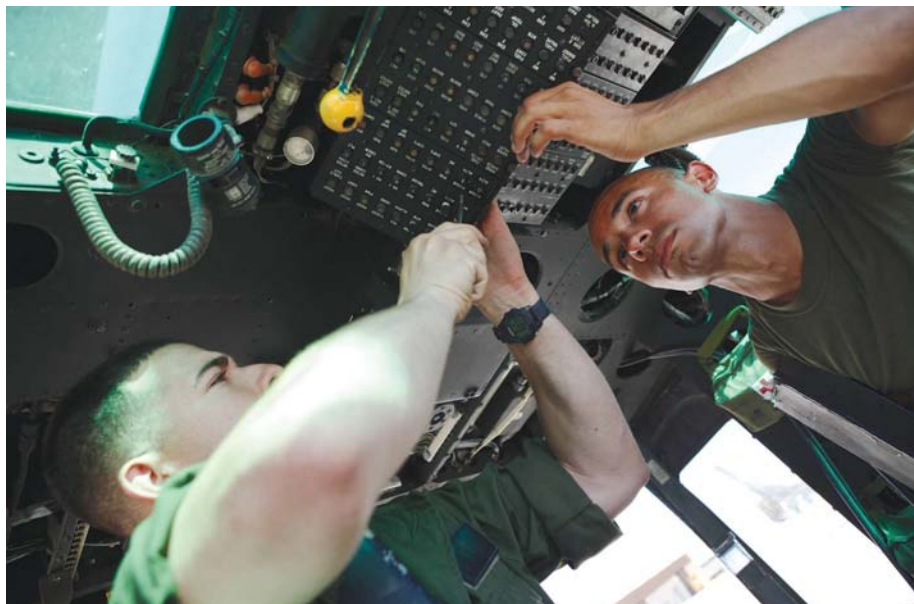
“Quite simply, we are now accepting applications,” summarized LtCol Steele. “With arrival of the [UH-1Y] Yankee in 2014 and sundown of the UH-1N Huey, the Red Dogs are actively seeking aviators with combat experience flying our next generation aircraft. We continue to seek Cobra pilots as well.”

In total, about 500 active-duty Marines



Above: LtCol David Steele, center foreground, prebriefs LtCol Charlie Daniel, left, and Maj Matt Ziegler, right, as two crew chiefs listen prior to a training flight at Robins AFB, Ga.

Below: LCpl Timothy Casallas, left, and Cpl Joshua Butrum change a circuit breaker on an HMLA-773 UH-1N Huey in 111-degree heat during Exercise Javelin Thrust at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., in July 2012.



manage HMLA-773’s facilities and support Reserve operations of at least that many reservists at all three squadron detachment locations. They also routinely fly and maintain the aircraft: 12 Cobras and 12 Hueys.

The fact that most of the pilots, aircraft maintenance and support staff come from the active forces to the Reserve makes -773 a highly proficient outfit.

“We have some of the most senior helicopter pilots and maintainers in the Corps,” said LtCol Steele.

“We have officers today who flew in combat in 2004 in Afghanistan. Some of them have more than 3,000 hours in various aircraft, and they’ve flown at the squadron level for decades,” he asserted. “These officers served on active duty and

decided to join the [Reserve] and have flown here ever since. That kind of experience pays off; it’s a game-changer.”

Steele said that the enlisted maintenance Marines are equally experienced and most are combat tested.

“They all raised their hands in time of war—it takes courage to join the United States Marine Corps in a time of war,” he asserted. “So we reap the benefits associated with that caliber of Marine.

“We’re operational reserve here,” LtCol Steele explained. “During the week, the active-duty pilots are flying, and active-duty Marines are taking care of aircraft. On weekends and during other drill periods, reservists come in and are leading and training with support from active-duty Marines.”



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

Above left: An AH-1W Super Cobra, piloted by LtCol David Steele, launches from Robins AFB for a training flight.



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

Above right: LCpl John B. Venners carries fellow Marine reservist LCpl Benjamin J. Anderson during HMLA-773's combat fitness test on a Reserve unit drill weekend.

He also emphasized that the difference between Reserve and active-duty Marines is on paper only.

"There is only one standard for being a Marine," he affirmed. "Nothing on the uniform identifies them as [Reserve], and as long as you demand that standard, that's what you'll get."

While drawing heavily from active-duty Marines seeking continued service in the Reserve, there still is room for new blood.

"We have different methods to fill slots here—we can take new accessions from recruiters, for those who want to serve in the Marine Corps but choose to do so with the [Reserve]; so we try to match their skills with our needs," said LtCol Steele.

Keeping his eye on Marine Corps standards is a large part of the job for Sergeant Major Christopher L. Edmondson, the senior enlisted Marine in the I & I at Robins. A native of nearby Thomaston, Ga., this was his first experience with Reserve or I & I duty when he transferred in 2010.

"It was all new for me; there was a learning curve," he said. "I've had to learn about the intricacies of the [Reserve], the fact that they all have civilian jobs that we need to consider. My biggest challenge as the site sergeant major has been to ensure that the reservists get their ground training—getting them to the rifle range, their PFT [physical fitness test] and CFT [combat fitness test], getting them their

professional military education schools; ensuring they are afforded the same opportunities as every active-duty Marine is afforded every day here."

There is some use of training amenities at nearby Army base Ft. Benning. For example, they can use shooting ranges but must send Marine instructors and set up their own course, complicating the process. For convenience, much of the training is held at other Marine bases such as Parris Island, S.C., for the rifle range or Albany, Ga., for professional military courses.

The squadron also has three of the newest, cleanest and most high-tech hangars in the Marine Corps rotor-wing inventory.

Hangars at all three detachments are within two years old and all are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-compliant. This means that all

aspects of the buildings' design and construction meet strict "green" standards for air quality, energy efficiency, lighting, ergonomics and other criteria that make them great places to work.

"This is a great place to drill," said aircraft avionics tech Corporal Aaron Wilson as he worked on a Super Cobra while taking his plane captain qualification test on a Saturday in October 2012. He drills at Robins AFB.

"I drive more than four hours, from Rome, to get here, but it's worth it. This hangar is fantastic—it's clean, roomy, high tech," he added. Rome is in northern Georgia, not far from the Tennessee and North Carolina borders. Three lance corporals—Jonathon Hall, Victor Cogo and Stephen Hammond—were taking the plane captain test with Wilson, and they all drove more than two hours to get to their drill site.



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

From right: Cpl Aaron Wilson and LCpls Jonathon Hall, Victor Cogo and Stephen Hammond work on plane captain qualifications during a drill weekend at HMLA-773. Cpl Wilson drives about four hours from Rome in northern Georgia to drill, but justifies the drive because, "It's a great place to drill."

Captain Jake Kenny, the maintenance admin officer in charge, agrees. The aircraft maintenance officer drives from Holly Springs, Ga., almost as far as Cpl Wilson. “This hangar is state of the art, and the support we get from the Air Force is outstanding,” said Kenny. “We have a good system and an impressive facility here to ensure we all maintain proficiency in our MOS [military occupational specialty].”

About one-third of the squadron’s Marines are just getting settled into the new 40,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art hangar at Robins AFB in Warner Robins, Ga. The squadron headquarters moved in July 2010 from its location of 36 years at NAS Atlanta, down the road south about 100 miles to Robins, by order of the 2005 BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Commission.

The construction project included renovation of several nearby buildings on Robins for Marine Corps use. The new hangars at all three detachments include administrative space in addition to materials storage and equipment in maintenance bays and overhead bridge cranes for use in maintenance operations.

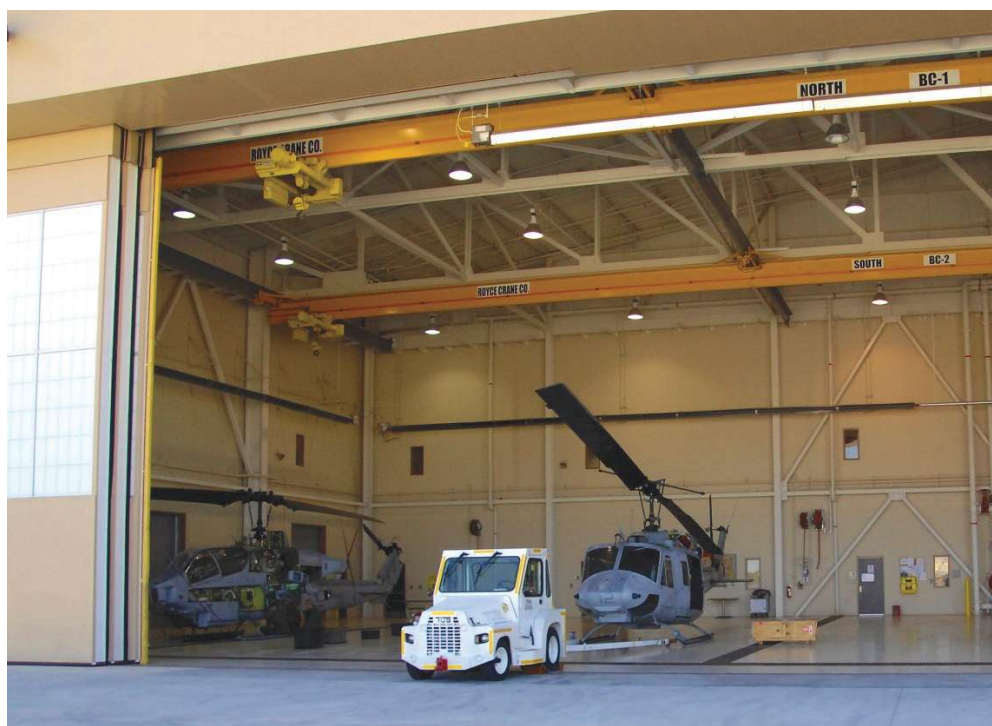
HMLA-773 originated as Michigan-based Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron (HMR) 773 in 1958, assigned to the Marine Air Reserve Training Command. After a series of deactivations, restructuring, redesignations and reactivations, in November 1990, HMA-773 (flying only Cobras at the time) was the first Reserve helicopter squadron activated and deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. There, embarked on the USS *New Orleans* (LPH-11) and *Tripoli* (LPH-10), squadron Marines distinguished themselves in mine sweeping escort and combat missions, earning the Navy Unit Commendation.

In 1993, the squadron began receiving Hueys and personnel from deactivated units and became an HMLA to mirror the total force structure and enable smooth integration into active-duty missions.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, squadron Marines, sailors and support staff have continued to distinguish themselves in the global war on terrorism in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The squadron became the Corps’ only Reserve HMLA when its sister squadron on the West Coast, HMLA-775, was decommissioned in 2008.

The squadron detachments all reap benefits from being on board large, joint-service bases. For example, Robins is home to Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS)—the only one in the U.S. Armed Forces. JSTARS is an airborne battle management and command



The bright, shiny new HMLA-773 hangar at Robins AFB, Ga., is a morale booster for the squadron. (Photo by CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret))

and control platform that conducts surveillance of fixed and moving ground targets to develop an understanding of the enemy situation and to support location, tracking, targeting and attack operations for theater commanders, according to information on the Northrop Grumman website.

“This is a national asset and it’s right here,” said LtCol Steele enthusiastically. “We’ve begun to develop a relationship with them, we’ve briefed with them; camaraderie is beginning to develop be-

The next chapter for the Red Dogs is going to be introduction of the new and vastly improved Huey model, the UH-1 Yankee.

tween the two ready rooms. Doctrinally, our missions are different, but there is a niche and we’ve found a way to work together.”

Despite making relatively small footprints on large multiservice bases—or perhaps because of it—Marines find ways to make their presence known.

“On the 10th of November we run a formation through the mainside base,” said LtCol Steele. “The Air Force knows we’re here, in a good way. For the Marine Corps Ball we invite all the services, all the mayors from all the surrounding cities. We do lots of community outreach.”

The next chapter for the Red Dogs is going to be introduction of the new and

vastly improved Huey model, the UH-1 Yankee, with delivery of four new aircraft at each detachment expected to begin during spring 2014.

The new Huey variant, already in use by the active component, is a completely modernized aircraft with upgrades including avionics, engine performance, rotor configuration and cockpit displays.

In future years, the squadron will receive the Cobra “Zulu” upgrade, which also is essentially a brand-new helicopter now being flown and maintained by active-duty Marines.

With these ongoing changes, the squadron will be looking for active-duty Marines with experience on these two platforms to transition from active to Reserve.

“The Reserve end strength is not being reduced,” LtCol Steele pointed out, contrasting active-duty reductions. “We will continue to seek out Marines thinking about getting out of the active Corps, who have served in combat and are looking to transition into the [Reserve],” he said. “This squadron serves on the leading edge ... when the gray helicopter comes over the horizon with the Red Dog call sign, Marines on the ground can be sure we’ll do a great job for them.”

Editor’s note: The author, CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now is a contributing editor for Leatherneck.





INTO IRAQ, 2003:

Marine Aviation in the Opening Gambit

Story and photos by
Col Michael D. Visconage, USMCR (Ret)

"We had this outfit called the Third Marine Air Wing, and I will tell you, frankly, it's a killing machine."

—LtGen James T. Conway, CG, I MEF, in a
2004 interview broadcast on the History Channel

In 2003, the initial attack into Iraq was a dramatically different fight than the occupation and counterinsurgency that would follow. It was a traditional war, with front lines and an enemy armed with sophisticated weapons. The capability of the Iraqi army was largely unknown. They had been weakened since the Gulf War, but still had teeth. Would they fight? Use chemical weapons? Surrender? Turn against Saddam Hussein?

For Marine aviation it was a war unlike any other. With 435 aircraft and more than 15,000 Marines, the Third Marine Aircraft Wing (3d MAW) represented the largest-standing Marine aviation element to go to war since Vietnam. More importantly, the 2003 invasion represented a turning point in tactics that included widespread use of precision munitions, dramatic changes to close air support (CAS) control doctrine, and the use of attack helicopters

as forward ground reconnaissance.

In addition to the actions of pilots and aircrews, 3d MAW ground elements ultimately would move the aviation fighting capability hundreds of miles inland—farther and faster than ever before.

Rumors of War

With repeated attempts to encourage Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to yield to the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 falling flat, full-scale war emerged as the final option. With the 9/11 attacks fresh in the minds of Americans—and actions already taken against al-Qaida in Afghanistan in late 2001—Marines everywhere already were on a war footing.

For some squadrons, operations over Iraq were not an unfamiliar activity. Patrols had been flying in support of the no-fly zones since the end of the Gulf War. More recently, Operations Southern Watch and Southern Focus had put many aircrews in the sky, allowing them to test tactics and shape the battlespace in the weeks and months before Marines arrived on the ground to begin serious preparations for war.

The Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) was led by I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), with 3d MAW as

its aviation component. By early 2003, 3d MAW Marines began taking up positions in Kuwait at Ali Al Salem and Al Jabar air bases. Some squadrons remained based aboard amphibious ships and at outlying bases in the region. The aircraft in the arsenal included CH-53E, CH-46E, AH-1W, and UH-1N rotary-wing aircraft. The fixed-wing element was made up of the F/A-18C, F/A-18D, AV-8B, KC-130 transport aircraft and the EA-6B aircraft for electronic warfare tasks.

In their first 30 days, Marines positioned munitions, set up maintenance facilities and established forward operating airstrips closer to the Iraqi border, and 3d MAW Marines from "Stinger" anti-air missile platoons and remotely piloted vehicle (RPV) squadrons watched over the forward areas for any sign of Iraqi pre-emptive actions.

Waiting to Go

By mid-March, all units of First Marine Division, I MEF's ground combat element, were in their final attack positions. Hundreds of 3d MAW leathernecks were positioned to cross the line of departure with them. They would move forward with the ground forces to provide liaison, coordinate air strikes and establish for-

Opposite page: Unpredictable sandstorms impacted OIF air operations—UH-1 Hueys and AH-1 Cobras of HMLA-269, the “Gunrunners,” set down near Jalibah, Iraq, on 26 March 2003.

Right: Prior to launching into Iraq, the final rehearsal of concept was held at the Coalition Forces Land Component Command at Doha, Kuwait, on 2 March 2003.

ward operating bases for MAW aircraft. Aviation officers serving on regimental and battalion level staffs as air officers, or as forward air controllers (FACs), already had been attached to their ground combat units.

During the buildup, “habitual relationships” between aviation units and elements of the MEF had established a synergy and a rhythm. Twice daily video-telephone conferences were held between commanding generals of I MEF, 1stMarDiv, 3d MAW and First Force Service Support Group. Staff officers referred to it as, “the synergy of the Jims,” so named for the identical first names of three of the commanding generals (CGs): Lieutenant General James T. Conway (I MEF), Major General James N. Mattis (1stMarDiv), and MajGen James F. Amos (3d MAW).

As options for a peaceful solution faded, MajGen Amos was concerned with the mindset of the Marines as they made final preparations, saying, “Everyone was pulling hard to do the planning, and preparing themselves and their commands for combat, but the sense was that ... we hadn’t made the transition yet in the mindset of everyone that this is not CAX, this is not a MEF EX, this is not JTFX on a carrier. This is the real thing.

“After some very, very serious and pointed meetings at the very senior leadership of this wing, everybody has come around and understands that we now have to build a plan that focuses on the enemy,” MajGen Amos added in a 17 March 2003 interview. “And that’s where we find ourselves today: commanders that are thinking about how they can best defeat the enemy, thinking about how they can best fool the enemy and deceive the enemy, thinking about where the enemy is and how we can kill the enemy.”

He was totally accurate in his estimate of mental readiness of the force. Three days after his comments, on 20 March 2003, the MEF and 3d MAW unleashed a maelstrom of firepower that broke the back of the Iraqi army.

The Attack

Dubbed the “Opening Gambit” by the 1stMarDiv’s commanding general, coalition forces had planned to cross the line of departure at dawn on 21 March. In-



stead, late-breaking intelligence concerns over the position of enemy armored units, the threat of oil production facility sabotage and a precision air strike on Saddam Hussein’s suspected location created an element of confusion as plans were adjusted to a new timeline.

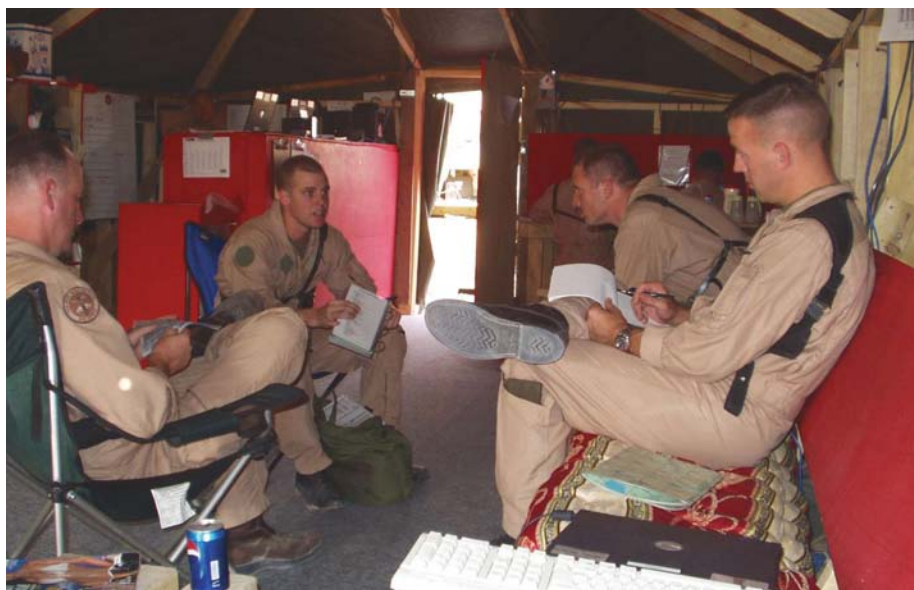
For the aviation element, first actions ranged from effective to tragic. As weather aborted the planned insertion of British Royal Marines to seize oil infrastructure on the Al Faw Peninsula, one CH-46 Sea Knight was lost and the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 268 crew and Royal Marines on board were killed. These were the first casualties suffered by 3d MAW.

Meanwhile, air strikes began in support of the ground attack. Iraqi border observa-

tion posts were destroyed by AH-1 Cobra and UH-1 Huey attacks; fixed-wing strikes destroyed enemy armored vehicles in the path of ground objectives. Other F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8 Harrier strikes hit interdiction and deep battle targets in Baghdad and elsewhere, as well as participating in hunts for Iraqi SCUD missile launchers and key regime leaders.

The Opening Gambit plan of attack hinged on the assumption that at least some—if not the majority of—Iraqi military forces would surrender or put up only token resistance. Air and ground forces were prepared to kill those who chose to fight, but also were focused on minimizing collateral damage; if a change of leadership in Iraq were to happen quickly and cleanly, a functioning Iraqi infrastructure would





From left: LtCol Jeff S. Renier, Capt Derek M. Brannon, Capt Dustin J. Byrum and Maj R. Chad Boyles, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, prep for a Southern Watch mission. Southern Watch, which consisted of flight operations to ensure Iraq complied with UN sanctions against aggressive action, continued up to the beginning of OIF in 2003.

make the transition that much smoother.

But Iraqi forces never surrendered in large numbers. The division's regimental combat teams (RCTs) encountered limited resistance and successfully seized their first-day objectives, including the gas and oil pumping stations that had concerned military planners. Combined arms attacks by air and artillery were successful in suppressing the enemy as the MEF crossed into Iraq.

The ground attack advanced, and the wing opened the first forward arming and refueling point (FARP) at Safwan and later the forward operating base (FOB) at a captured Iraqi airfield named Jalibah

in the southern Iraq desert. This was the first of a chain of FOBs and FARPs set up by MAW ground elements to support an attack that, for now, was moving at a rapid pace (see sidebar).

The enemy's inability to mount an air-to-air fight meant coalition forces would have air superiority. With the Iraqi air force rendered ineffective before the start of the ground war, CAS—a hallmark of Marine aviation—was top priority. When carried out by F/A-18 Hornets and AV-8 Harriers, accuracy had increased significantly in the decade since the Gulf War. The Harriers had received an impressive upgrade with the Litening Pod targeting system, and

Hornets also had seen improvements to their targeting systems.

The tactical advantage of air superiority allowed 3d MAF F/A-18 Hornets to protect the right flank of the 1stMarDiv as they bypassed several Iraqi divisions. The Hornets' forward-looking infrared radar systems were able to monitor enemy positions and report movement that might pose a threat.

Precision guided munitions (PGMs) also proved to be a game changer. Utilizing GPS guidance systems attached to the existing inventory of "dumb" unguided bombs, the majority of bombs dropped could now be precision targeted. Setting target coordinates in the cockpit of fixed-wing aircraft, bombs could "fly" to the designed grid coordinate. The ability to deliver close, accurate and extremely effective fires meant less collateral damage and fewer civilian casualties.

Tactics and Turning Points

A critical turning point in the war came as coalition forces completed their initial advance and moved forward to key highway intersections and the bridges across



An F/A-18 Hornet of VMFA(AW)-121 refuels from a USAF tanker during OIF 2003.

A CH-53E Super Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 offloads supplies at FARP Yankee during OIF.



FOBs and FARPs

The locations of the forward operating bases (FOBs) and the forward arming and refueling points (FARPs) were no accident. In conjunction with the ground attack plan, Marine aircraft wing leaders had identified a series of Iraqi landing strips that could support aviation operations. Code-named after American baseball stadiums, they provided the ability to fly in helicopters, C-130s and AV-8s. The bases also served as staging points for munitions, fuel and maintenance teams to support attack aircraft operating within miles of the front lines.

Among the ground aviation support elements, it was Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG) 37 and Marine Air Control Group (MACG) 38 that supported the ground staging. With a half-dozen Marine wing support squadrons, they executed a herculean leapfrogging operation hundreds of miles from the wing headquarters. “One of the things we had done with the Marine wing support squadrons is put them in trace of the division so we could rearm and refuel those aircraft that went in trace, and we did that all the way to Tikrit,” said Lieutenant General Terry R. Robling, who was the assistant wing commander of 3d MAW during Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

“We knew we needed to do a minimum of eight FARPs,” said Lieutenant Colonel Freddie J. Blish, the MWSG-37 operations officer. “The way we developed the FARP plan is that we wanted to be able to leapfrog FARPs. While one FARP was operational, we would push forward another FARP team, establish that FARP

roughly 40 to 50 kilometers separation in distance, and once that forward FARP was set up and operational, we would pull down the one behind it and leap that one north of the FARP that we had just established.”

Another element that made this unequalled advance a success was Marine Wing Communication Squadron 38. It provided the unique state-of-the-art connectivity to coordinate the air war over great distances using satellite communications.

New digital systems, fielded only months prior to the war, resulted in the communications necessary for the creation of 19 FARPs and two FOBs that provided ordnance and fuel for hundreds of aircraft sorties during the campaign, and stretched across more than 500 miles as the ground forces advanced. The FARPs and FOBs also allowed Marine aircraft to deliver crucial supplies to the division when the speed of the ground attack outstripped the ability of the First Force Service Support Group to provide enough fuel to feed fighting vehicles.

Colonel Jeffrey A. “Jaws” White, the 3d MAW battle captain, explained why the FOBs and FARPs were so popular with ground commanders: “If you can put a FARP ... within 30 to 40 miles behind friendly lines, those Cobras can now make a five-minute flight back, get gas, rearm, reload and be back in the fight within 30 minutes. And this has really proven to be a lifesaver for the ‘grunts.’ ”

—Col Michael D. Visconage, USMCR (Ret)

A Marine KC-130 Hercules resupplies advancing leathernecks at Three Rivers FOB, An Numaniyah, during OIF. The Hercules provided superb flexibility for rapid resupply, landing in very austere locations, emphasizing its assault transport capabilities.

the Euphrates River near An Nasiriyah. Because of its strategic position on the route of advance, Task Force Tarawa (2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade) under Brigadier General Richard F. Natonski was assigned responsibility for securing bridges over the Euphrates and the Saddam Canal that would allow 1stMarDiv to continue the push toward Baghdad without delay.

According to BGen Natonski in a 2004 interview, An Nasiriyah was at “a confluence of all the Army and Marine forces going into Iraq.”

To complicate matters, a U.S. Army maintenance company had become lost in the city, resulting in the death and capture of several soldiers, as well as emboldening the enemy. The Marine counterattack in An Nasiriyah would make maximum use of Marine aircraft, attacking enemy positions with AH-1 Cobras, F/A-18s and AV-8s—and conducting casualty evacuations with CH-46s, often under enemy fire.

The battle for An Nasiriyah unfolded as an unprecedented sandstorm enveloped central Iraq. The weather grounded almost all aircraft, although some CH-46 pilots assigned to support the regimental combat teams flew in trace of combat elements by hovering 15 feet off the ground, barely maintaining sight of the ground.

While the weather complicated the aviation mission, it was the nature of the enemy resistance that signaled a change to the aviation strategy. Up to this point, uniformed Iraqi army units that did engage would often deliver initial fire, then retreat. Some soldiers changed into civilian clothes, threw away their uniforms and returned to their villages and towns. In An Nasiriyah, Iraqis fought in civilian clothes (especially paramilitary regime loyalists like the Saddam Fedayeen), operated among civilians and used taxis and ambulances to transport fighters.

“My whole perspective of how we were going to fight this war changed,” MajGen Amos said just weeks after the battle. “I decided that I was going to try to destroy every single piece of Iraqi military equipment, and I was going to personally kill every single Iraqi soldier that fought back. I was not going to kill any that were willing to turn themselves in, so don’t misread.



... We went after the Iraqi army for vengeance after that.”

As the advance continued toward Baghdad, the Marine RCTs and the wing continued to adapt. While doctrine called for transport helicopters to be escorted by Cobras and Hueys, the demand for ground attack missions quickly changed that mission. Cobras were well-suited for close air support attacks and often worked in sections of two aircraft, as well as teaming with UH-1s. As ambushes against the advancing RCTs increased, AH-1s were called in to provide forward armed reconnais-

soned the effective use of fixed-wing CAS, coordinated by FACs assigned to company-size units and by battalion and regimental air officers within the RCTs. Technology and timing again played to the MEF’s favor. Doctrine changes had only recently been approved which allowed air officers to take full advantage of new technologies like GPS, digital communications and friendly positioning data.

Specifically, “Type III” close air support could be controlled by the battalion or regimental air officer based on their knowledge of the position of friendly forces without visually observing the aircraft they were controlling.

During the night of 3-4 April near Al Aziziyah, an ideal opportunity to leverage the air-ground team and exploit the new CAS doctrine presented itself. While RCT-5 paused to refuel and rearm, intelligence sources reported an enemy convoy nearby. During that night, RCT-5’s air officer, Major Hunter H. “Hamster” Hobson, ran multiple Type III CAS missions in an all-night attack, destroying the convoy and a large enemy compound later sighted in his area.

Hobson skillfully used the initial air strikes to halt the convoy in its tracks. “As a result, we had the entire 20-vehicle convoy stopped and blocked, and what happened after that was awesome,” Hobson said in a May 2003 interview. Coordinating strike after strike through the Direct Air Support Center-Airborne (DASC (A)), Hobson and his assistant ultimately directed F/A-18s, Air Force F-15s and even B-52 bombers onto their targets. The action virtually eliminated the 41st Mechanized Brigade of the Al Nida Division.

Flying thousands of feet higher than in previous wars, the operating altitude for fixed-wing fighters during the invasion



MajGen Jim Mattis, CG, 1stMarDiv, and MajGen Jim Amos, CG, 3d MAW, discuss operations while meeting in the division’s headquarters in Baghdad.

sance of roads along the route of advance.

On numerous occasions this served to draw fire and allowed these enemy positions to be attacked and destroyed with minimal risk to Marines on the ground. Like any tactical innovation, the enemy soon caught on. On at least one occasion, two AH-1s were riddled with enemy small-arms fire and forced down just behind friendly lines.

The advance deeper into Iraq also so-

was 15,000 feet, with a 10,000-foot minimum allowed if needed to identify targets. The incredible leaps in targeting technology and use of PGMs meant more effective CAS than ever while reducing the threat of anti-aircraft fire to Marine aircraft.

In the air, F/A-18Ds often acted as airborne FACs, directing section after section of fixed-wing attack aircraft against enemy mechanized and armored divisions in the path of the advance. Using a “Kill Box” method, they could freely hit any target in their designated box. Dubbed “SCAR” missions (Strike Coordination and Reconnaissance), sections of two F/A-18Ds would cycle back and forth from the refueling tanker to provide for ongoing control of areas, sending other aircraft into designated Kill Boxes located in the Marine Corps’ area of control.

The F/A-18D acted as the scout in a hunter-killer team relationship with other strike aircraft, forming wolf packs that converged on enemy interdiction targets forward of friendly lines.

Final Days

“We flew more than 10,000 sorties and dropped more than 6.5 million pounds of ordnance. In the 28.5 days of missions, we destroyed eight Iraqi divisions, two of which were the elite Republican Guards,” said MajGen Amos.

By 12 April, all Kill Boxes had closed and open attacks on Iraqi targets ceased. On 1 May, the end of major combat was announced. While the occupation in Iraq would become a counterinsurgency fight lasting eight more years, the Marine Corps—and 3d MAW—demonstrated the ability to dominate the enemy in a total combat environment.

Taken as a separate action when considering the entire experience of the Marine Corps in Iraq, the initial assault was a watershed event. Marine aviation had changed. Systems and tactics were put to the test—some were validated, others quickly modified to fit the requirements of this war.

Normal tactical procedures such as escorting transport helicopters with AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters were quickly forgotten as the demand for Cobra support of the ground movement grew. Virtually every squadron flew well above and beyond normal squadron operational parameters. During combat they exceeded normal flight hour performance by more than three times, reaching more than 350 hours per Cobra. Targeting, CAS and PGM innovations aligned to allow strategic planners to rethink their targeting calculations—targets that once required multiple aircraft strikes to achieve destruction now simply required only one or two bombs

from one aircraft to achieve the same result.

Operation Iraqi Freedom I (OIF-I) reinforced the ability of the Marine Corps to fight as a uniquely integrated and effective air-ground team, with Marine aviation providing everything from CAS and casualty evacuation, to fuel, food and ammo to forward ground forces to keep the attack moving forward.

Maj James E. Quinn, the assistant air officer for RCT-7, best summarized the success of the MAGTF: “It was clear to them that we were doing great work; it was the classic example of Marine air and the ground operating together. It was a team. It worked.”

Editor’s note: Then-LtCol Mike Visconage deployed to Iraq during the initial months of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a field historian with the Marine Corps History Division and later served as the officer in charge of the Field History Detachment. He returned to Iraq in 2007-08 as the command historian for the Multi-National Corps–Iraq (MNC-I). He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in June 2012 and works in private industry in San Antonio.



A CH-46 Sea Knight, call sign “Inchon 40,” loads enemy prisoners of war at the Presidential Palace, Baghdad, in April 2003.

We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Marine Security Guard School Takes Only the Best of the Best

■ Only a few have earned the title “Marine,” but even fewer will have the chance to be posted as a Marine security guard (MSG) at one of the 148 U.S. embassies and consulates around the world.

Applying to MSG School differs from other B-billets, or billets not in an individual’s primary military occupational specialty, in that applicants must be able to obtain a “Top Secret” security clearance.

Marines have many reasons for wanting to be an MSG. Some want to travel the world, while others want to play a bigger role in the Corps, as does Sunrise, Fla., native Lance Corporal Angel Cano, a Combat Camera Management combat photographer, who applied for MSG duty.

“I’m trying to go to MSG duty because it is a way for me to support the Marine Corps by serving in an operational field,” Cano said. “Under [Marine Corps] Train-

ing and Education Command, I’m in more of a support role.”

The first application steps include the initial interview, screening checklist and financial worksheet a Marine gets from his career planner.

“We look at all their information, from training to legal actions, just to make sure they are eligible in the first place,” said career planner Corporal Lewis Lucien, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. “MSG is looking for the cream of the crop, and the Marine will want to be as qualified as possible.”

Once the paperwork is complete, the applicant must pass a physical screening test to include wearing the service “C” uniform, because looking the part is also a requirement of the job.

“Integrity is a big thing in the MSG screening process,” Cano said. “You have to show them you have nothing to hide,

but also step up to any faults you may have. I have seen many [applicants] dismissed just because they lied in person or on their application.”

If accepted to MSG School, Marines will go through a rigorous course that will test them mentally and physically. If they are deemed worthy to have the title of MSG and graduate, they can be stationed at an embassy almost anywhere throughout the world.

“You are going to work in a detachment of one to five Marines,” said Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Faragone, the MSG screening chief. “There, you are going to have extra duties besides standing post. But you will be exposed to an interagency environment [and] have the ability to go to school as well as travel and explore different countries.”

Faragone explained that MSG duty can be extremely rewarding. Corporals and lance corporals receive 100 points toward their promotion “cutting” score. Also,



A Marine Corps Embassy Security Group leatherneck performs an arm-bar takedown, April 13, 2012, after being sprayed in the face with Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray as part of the training to prepare MSG Marines for scenarios they may face while on embassy security duty.

MSG has about two dozen meritorious promotions from sergeant to staff sergeant and six meritorious promotions from staff sergeant to gunnery sergeant a year.

"I honestly believe that MSG duty is going to be a life changer that will open my eyes to bigger and better things for my future," Cano said. "I would recommend this duty to anyone who just wants to really experience what the Corps has to offer."

LCpl Antwaun L. Jefferson
PAO, MCB Quantico, Va.

Marine Corps Implements Servicewide Uniform Policy

■ Goodbye casual Fridays, at least for the Marine Corps. Effective Jan. 4, all nondeployed Marines and sailors assigned to Marine units are required to wear the appropriate seasonal service uniform.

Except in cases where commanders allow exceptions based on operational needs, both active and Reserve component Marines will show up for duty every Friday wearing service uniforms.

The change comes from a directive that the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, issued in November 2012. The designated uniform worn from November to March will be the service "B," or "Bravos," and from April to October, the service "C," or "Charlies," will be worn.

"Unlike the utility uniform, the service uniforms are form fitting, and this characteristic provides leaders with an opportunity to frequently evaluate the personal appearance of their Marines without inducing a work stoppage," said Marine Corps Sergeant Major Michael E. Sprague, senior enlisted advisor for Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve.

"Watching Marines square their gig line away and adjust their uniform is indicative of the 'spit and polish' pride we seem to have strayed from," he said.

The new Marine policy came just after the Air Force rescinded its "Blues Monday" policy that had required most airmen to wear the blue uniform every Monday. Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mark A. Welsh III announced in November that he was eliminating the servicewide policy, giving commanders authority to designate uniform wear.

Gen Welsh's decision overturned one that former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen Norton A. Schwartz had instituted in 2008 as a partial return to pre-9/11 uniform practices. Airmen had been wearing camouflage uniforms at the time, but Gen Schwartz said he believed that "part of our image, culture and professionalism is instilled in our blues."

Neither the Army nor Navy have servicewide requirements regarding wear of service uniforms, spokespeople for both services confirmed. Wear of uniform decisions are made by commanders or, in the Navy, by designated uniform-prescribing authorities who issue uniform policy within their geographic regions.

However, Frank Shirer from the Army Center of Military History recalled a day when all soldiers were required to wear their service green uniforms and undergo an inspection when they reported to receive their pay. The so-called "pay-day inspections" were discontinued during the 1970s as the Army began making direct deposits through electronic banking, Shirer said.

Editor's note: Marine Corps Cpl Nana Dannsa-Appiah contributed to this article.

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

Sergeant Major Battaglia Urges Enlisted Leaders to "Bridge the Gap"

■ As the war in Afghanistan winds down, it will be critical for military leaders to bridge the gap in training their troops in order to successfully transition to a garrison environment after experiencing years of combat.

Marine Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia, the senior enlisted advisor to Army General Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with senior enlisted leaders at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Dec. 14, 2012, to emphasize combining traditional, basic



SgtMaj Bryan B. Battaglia, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits military personnel in Manas, Kyrgyzstan, Dec. 14, 2012. (Photo by Myles Cullen)

tenets and innovative thinking to assist personnel in making the transition to a military that serves in evolving times.

When hearing the phrase "back to the basics" as he solicited feedback from the enlisted force, SgtMaj Battaglia said he realized the message was incomplete.

"When I heard it I thought, 'Man, that's a pretty catchy little phrase,' but the concept that I have here is let's be careful. Words mean something, and 'back to the basics' is incomplete. It's only half the solution," SgtMaj Battaglia said.

The sergeant major shared an anecdote



REMEMBERING A WOMAN OF FIRSTS—The 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Louis H. Wilson Jr., and Anne Brewer pin a star on each shoulder of BGen Margaret A. "Maggie" Brewer, May 11, 1978, making her the first female Marine to be promoted to brigadier general. During her time as a colonel and Director of Women Marines, the most controversial of her recommendations pertained to the establishment of a pilot program to assign women to the Fleet Marine Force. BGen Brewer died Jan. 2, on the eve of the recent decision by the Department of Defense to eliminate the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule.



SGT CHRISTOPHER A. GREEN

RELIVING MONTFORD POINT—Officer Candidates School students negotiate the Montford Point Challenge obstacle course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Dec. 11, 2012. The Montford Point Challenge was designed in 2011 to give candidates a sense of history, recognizing the first African-Americans allowed to enlist in the Marine Corps.

with the room of senior enlisted leaders explaining why just saying we're going back to the basics could be counterproductive.

"I used it. I brought it up to a Marine sergeant," SgtMaj Battaglia said. "I said, 'We're going to go back to the basics.' And he said, 'Whose basics? Yours, Sergeant Major?'"

SgtMaj Battaglia said that the sergeant added that he had "no idea" what those basics are. The sergeant was taken aback, SgtMaj Battaglia said, at the suggestion that the way he'd performed his military duties needed to change.

"So those were the implications that [the phrase] ... left," SgtMaj Battaglia said. "And I started to think about it more and more."

As the U.S. military downsizes and returns to a garrison environment, he said, there are some basics that need to be taught to troops.

"It was things like the face-to-face counseling, marching, and drill and ceremony and all those basic tenets that really helped prepare us for combat that we're still in right now," he said. "I really believe that."

"So it's not so much going back to the basics, as it is bridging the basics," SgtMaj Battaglia continued. "By bridging the basics, I mean that we can't simply turn back to times where technology was almost absent. To be quite honest, there [are] some basics that I grew up with that, maybe they worked, but I damn sure won't take them today and use them."

The sergeant major also noted that if the

force went too far back to those basics, it could represent challenges in "keeping pace with our adversaries of today. There's just no doubt about it."

He asked the senior enlisted leaders to develop their own examples of basics that employ innovative thinking and technology.

So while going back to the basics is a catchy phrase that may be gaining momentum, it's only half-complete, he said.

"It's got to be a bridging," SgtMaj Battaglia said. "You can't take this generation out of the equation—they're part of the solution. And if you alienate them, and do that to them, we're going to be regretful and commit some 'fratricide' amongst ourselves with regards to this environment and how to survive."

"We're going to get leaner and smaller,"



SGT SCOTT SCHMIDT

Maj Frank Moore, diversity officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, MCB Quantico, Va., celebrates with the East Coast team moments after the team scored the game-winning touchdown with six seconds left on the clock during the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl, Jan. 4.

he continued. "I don't see the challenges going away. We have to be ready and relevant, and educated and trained for any existing or emerging requirements that the President or the Secretary of Defense calls on us for."

SgtMaj Battaglia quoted Winston Churchill in inspiring the senior leaders to create new and innovative ways to lead troops in a new era.

"There are some good ideas that we can still use from back then," he said. "Winston Churchill [once said], 'Sometimes, the best way to get a new idea is to read an old book.'"

SFC Tyrone C. Marshall Jr., USA
American Forces Press Service

Top Student-Athletes Victorious At Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl

■ More than 100 student-athletes from across the United States now can call themselves Semper Fidelis All-Americans, and a few now claim the title of champions. The team for the East defeated the team for the West in a 17-14 showdown of discipline, talent and teamwork at the second annual Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl in Carson, Calif., Jan. 4.

The Marine Corps' annual football bowl brought together high-school student-athletes from across the United States who had demonstrated success on and off the field.

"It feels good that the nation's top 100 players are here. I like how it's not just about football but the classroom and character too. It's just an honor that I was chosen," said Corey Cooper, a wide receiver for the East team and a student at Millbrook High School in Raleigh, N.C.

After a painstaking selection process and high-intensity training, the players can look back with their heads held high with pride. The bowl is the culmination of a series of youth football camps and a nationwide All-American player selection tour that celebrates academic excel-

lence, proven physical fitness and quality of character. The players, among the most talented in the nation, have achieved academic excellence and are leaders in their communities.

Players began to arrive in Anaheim, Calif., Dec. 29, 2012, and spent the next four days practicing with top college and high school coaches from their respective coasts. Marines added a unique twist to practice by integrating Marine Corps drill instructors and officers as mentors.

Throughout bowl week, Marines and coaches engaged with players to develop skills and values important to both football and having a successful life.

“As Marines, we are here to reinforce our core values of honor, courage and commitment,” said Staff Sergeant Chris MacVarish, a drill instructor with Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. “We demonstrated our values’ relevance to success both on and off the field.”

In keeping with the Marine Corps’ commitment to “return quality citizens,” players volunteered their time with local youth in Carson and Long Beach, Calif. Marine drill instructors and players guided children aged 7 to 13 through football and Marine-inspired games and events like

pass drills, tug-of-war and marching.

Heath Evans, honorary Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl coach and retired NFL player, stressed to players the importance of a commitment beyond the field, saying, “The true leaders are the ones who give back.” He had mentored the players throughout the week.

A commitment to leadership and community does not go without recognition. Major General Joseph L. Osterman, former commanding general for Marine Corps Recruiting Command, presented San Diego native Darren Carrington and Miami resident Ahmad Thomas with awards for Excellence in Leadership during the Semper Fidelis Bowl banquet, Jan. 3.

“Selflessness is the key ingredient, and that’s the one thing these kids have [had] thrown in their faces this week,” said Evans. “Selflessness and the lack of the ‘I’ focus.”

The bowl provided an opportunity for Marines to connect on a personal level with the players and their influencers. In doing so, they reinforced how the Marines’ core values relate to success on and off the field.

“You’re successful anytime you get in front of young men and teach them the

Marine Corps’ core values,” said Evans. “The key ingredient on any team is a sound discipline structure. All those little details of discipline, if those kids take that out of this week, they’re much better young men.”

LCpl David Bessey

PAO, Marine Corps Recruiting Command

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Bases Enforce Breathalyzer Tests

■ LCpl Derrick K. Irions, Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., reports that according to MARADMIN 709/12, Marines and sailors semiannually may receive random breathalyzer tests, similar to the urinalysis screenings conducted as a part of the Marine Corps’ zero tolerance policy on drug use.

As of Jan. 1, Marines and sailors found to have a blood alcohol content of .01 percent or higher during regular working hours will be subject to counsel and treatment, and those with a BAC of .04 percent or higher will undergo a fit-for-duty assessment and further corrective action.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL SARAH DIETZ

“And this is how you hot-wire the M1 Abrams.”

Submitted by
LCpl Nate Sripinyo
Gaithersburg, Md.

This Month's Photo



LCPL LANESEA ARTHUR

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

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



This mural, which hangs in The Citadel library, depicts the events at the Battle of Tulifinny Creek, 9 Dec. 1864. The U.S. Marine battalion came within 50 yards of breaking the Charleston-Savannah Railroad and faced The Citadel Corps of Cadets.

U.S. Marines Face Citadel Cadets At Tulifinny Crossroads

By LtCol Walter McTernan, USMC (Ret) and Lt Col Andrew D. Kullberg, USAF (Ret)

Wooden Ships, Iron Men And Cadets in Gray

Since the U.S. Marine Corps' inception in 1775, Marines have served aboard ships as infantry to board enemy vessels, protect officers from mutiny, provide security and conduct amphibious assaults. The Civil War was a crossroads between the "Old Navy" of "iron men and wooden sailing ships" and the "New Navy" of ironclads and steamships. During the Civil War, the mission of the Corps—mobile, agile and lethal power projection from the sea—was refined. In one of the largest USMC amphibious operations of the Civil War, the Marines faced the Corps of Cadets of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina.

First Shots of the Civil War

On 9 Jan. 1861, cadets from The Citadel fired upon and repulsed U.S. ship *Star of the West*, commanded by Captain John

McGowan of the U.S. Revenue Marine (now the U.S. Coast Guard). That ship, secretly loaded with 200 U.S. Army combat troops, attempted to reinforce Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, S.C.

The cadet artillery fire struck the ship

**In one of the largest
USMC amphibious operations
of the Civil War, the Marines
faced the Corps of Cadets
of The Citadel.**

three times, and the ship's captain wisely took evasive action and returned to New York. One of those young men, Cadet James N. Thurston, class of 1861, was the first Citadel graduate to serve in the Marines. Upon graduation, Second Lieu-

tenant Thurston and selected former U.S. Marines were handpicked as the initial cadre of 22 officers to serve in the Confederate States Marine Corps.

The Civil War officially began in Charleston Harbor on 12 April 1861, at 4:30 a.m., when 2dLt Henry Saxon Farley, Citadel class of 1860, fired the first shot at Union forces in Fort Sumter.

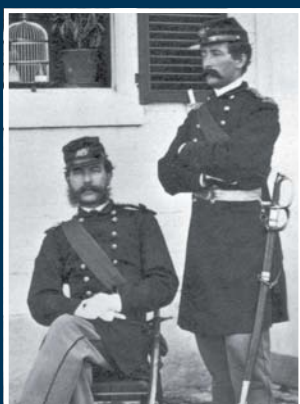
The First Parris Island Marines

Marines have been a part of the Sea Islands and Beaufort, S.C., area since the Union's first major victory at the Battle of Port Royal in November 1861. From November 1861 through the end of the war in 1865, that area of South Carolina remained under Union control. It was home to the U.S. Navy's South Atlantic Blockading Squadron which included several detachments of Marines. Those Marines trained at Port Royal Harbor and the adjacent Sea Islands to include Parris Island.



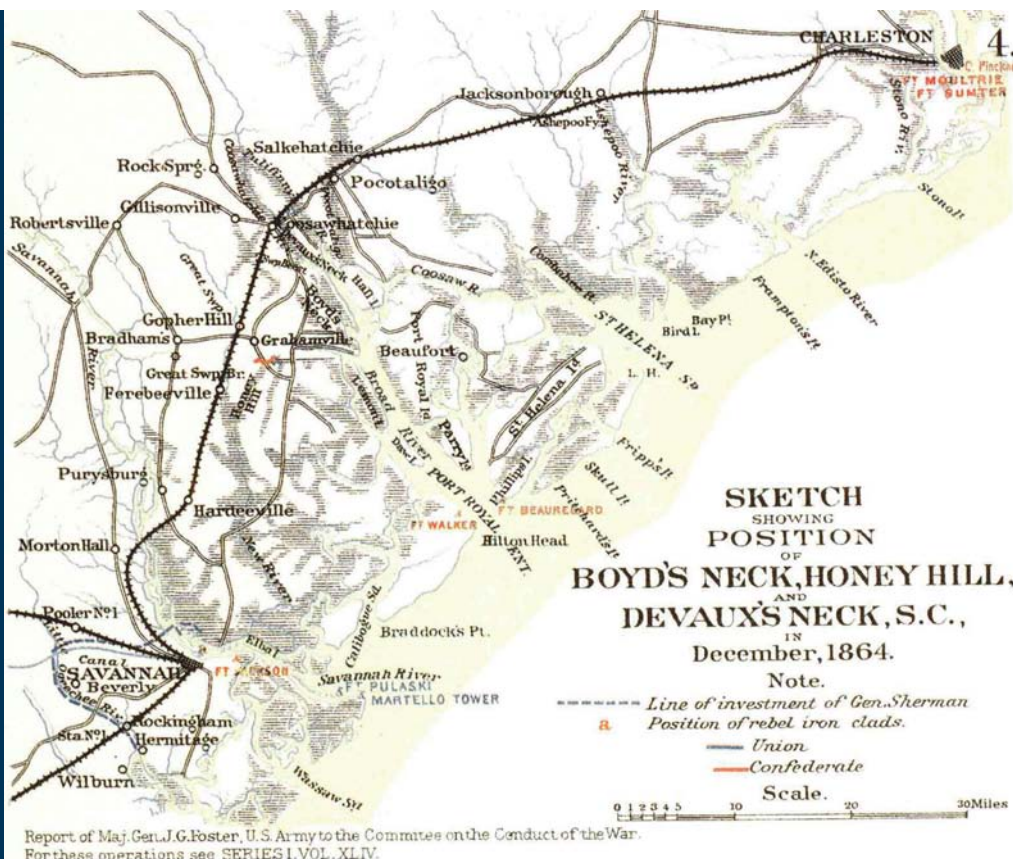
Maj James B. White
Citadel Superintendent

COURTESY OF THE CITADEL ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM



COURTESY OF DAVID M. SULLIVAN

In this 1863 photo, 2dLt George G. Stoddard, USMC, stands alongside Capt Philip R. Fendall. Stoddard, commander of the Marine battalion, received a brevet promotion to captain for "gallant and meritorious services," which was made retroactive to 6 Dec. 1864, the date Marines fired some of the first shots at the Battle of Tulifinny.



COURTESY OF THE CITADEL ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM



Cadet Boinstein

COURTESY OF THE CITADEL ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM



Cadet Thomas

COURTESY OF THE CITADEL ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM



Cadet Thompson

COURTESY OF THE CITADEL ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

General Sherman's March to the Sea And General Lee's Strategy

During the Union invasion of Port Royal and Beaufort in November 1861, General Robert E. Lee, a brilliant military strategist, made his temporary headquarters near the Charleston-Savannah Railroad trestle crossing the Coosawhatchie River. GEN Lee directed the placement and construction of key military fortifications. He accurately predicted the strategic points needed to protect the critical Charleston-Savannah Railroad, including a peninsula of land bounded by the Coosawhatchie and Tulifinny rivers known as Gregorie Point, home for Capt John W. Gregorie, Confederate Corps of Engineers, Citadel class of 1848.

By the summer of 1864, using his "scorched earth" philosophy, Lieutenant General William T. Sherman and his massive army of more than 60,000 men burned

the city of Atlanta. In a secret telegraph to GEN Henry W. Halleck, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, dated 11 Nov. 1864, LTG Sherman said: "I would like to have Foster break the Charleston-Savannah Railroad about Pocotaligo about the 1st of December." Major General John G. Foster and Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren unsuccessfully attempted to "break" the railroad on 30 Nov. 1864 at the Battle of Honey Hill, also known as Boyd's Neck.

To the Shores of Tulifinny

A battalion of U.S. Marines, 157 strong, led by First Lieutenant (acting Captain) George G. Stoddard, USMC, redeployed aboard Navy ships in another attempt to break the railroad. From 2-4 Dec. 1864, the Marines conducted training exercises near Beaufort and Parris Island to prepare for the next battle.

Citadel cadets were training new recruits

at a military encampment in Orangeburg, S.C. The superintendent of The Citadel, Maj James B. White, Citadel class of 1849, directed that all cadets (all four classes), including the new "Plebes" (first-year cadets from the Arsenal Academy, The Citadel's preparatory school in Columbia, S.C.), faculty and staff report to The Citadel in Charleston immediately. From 1 to 3 Dec. 1864, the entire Corps of Cadets prepared for battle on the quadrangle of the barracks and the parade deck in Charleston.

In the early morning hours of 4 Dec. 1864, the Corps of Cadets, 343 strong, consisting of Company A, Citadel cadets (upperclassmen) and Co B, Arsenal cadets (15- to 18-year-old freshmen) awoke to the sound of "Assembly." That was the last night cadets would spend in the relative "luxury" of the Spartanlike barracks during the Civil War. Cadets marched out clad



COURTESY OF THE CITADEL ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

Five cadets who fought at the Battle of Tulfinny, standing from left: Cadets Isham G. Harrison, Peter K. McCully Sr. and John E. Lewis. Seated: Cadet David S. Taylor, left, and an unidentified cadet.

in their gray cotton and wool uniforms, Enfield rifles with bayonets affixed, ammunition and accoutrements. The Citadel's barracks were emptied.

One faculty officer, Dr. William Hume, an elderly professor of physics, chemistry and experimental science, remained at The Citadel. Dr. Hume was the son of a Revolutionary War veteran, John Hume, who fought the British with GEN Francis Marion.

Amphibious Landing and Surprise Attack

At dawn on 6 Dec. 1864, Marines, sailors and soldiers successfully landed on Gregorie Point unopposed. Union troops captured the Gregorie Plantation home, quickly moved toward the Charleston-Savannah Railroad and surprised the 5th Georgia Infantry, capturing its colors.

The Corps of Cadets, located nearly four miles away at Pocotaligo Station, heard the intense fire and marched at the "double quick" (double time, run) to meet the enemy at Gregorie Point. The engagement lasted only about 10 more minutes, and the Union troops moved to their defensive positions before the cadets arrived.

"Major John Jenkins, whom I had sent forward to ascertain the position of the enemy, was conducting the battalion of cadets under Major White into action, and that gallant body of youths was moving at double quick, manifesting an eagerness to encounter the enemy, which they subsequently so handsomely sustained

in action, and would in ten minutes have opened fire on the enemy's right, when our line gave way, and the cadets were withdrawn to the railroad."

—MajGen Samuel Jones, CSA

Charge Them Boys! Charge!

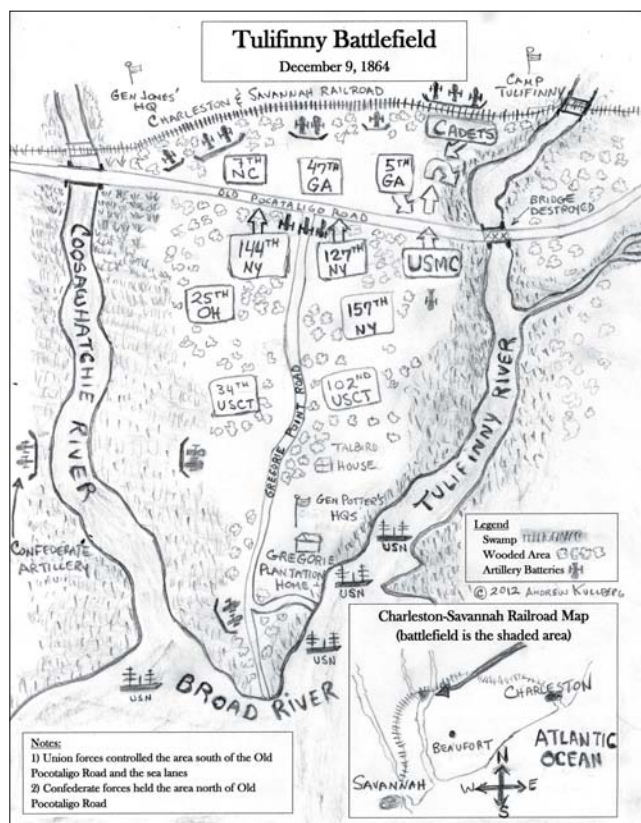
On 7 Dec., before daylight, Colonel A. C. Edwards received his orders from MajGen Samuel Jones, CSA, "Attack the enemy vigorously ... carry out these instructions promptly and with spirit."

At dawn, the entire Corps of Cadets and three companies of the Georgia Infantry formed a skirmish line and mounted a surprise attack on the center of the Union position. The Union forces included the

With a loud and chilling "rebel yell," the cadets quickly returned fire and mounted a spirited bayonet attack.

127th, 144th and 157th Infantry regiments all from New York. Companies A and B of Stoddard's Marines were in the center of the Union line, supporting the Army and Navy field artillery batteries, and Co C was positioned on the far left near the Coosawhatchie River.

According to Maj White, on "December 7, I was directed by Colonel Edwards, 47th of Georgia, to take Company A and



LT COL. WALTER MCETERNAN, USMC (RET) AND LT COL. ANDREW D. KULLBERG, USAF (RET)

Company B of the Battalion, with other troops, and advance upon the enemy in order to ascertain his exact position and determine the propriety of attacking him with the forces at hand."

As the cadets silently moved forward, Union troops hidden behind some bushes fired upon them. Cadet Private Farish C. Furman, Co A, a 19-year-old third classman (sophomore), remembered seeing "a stream of fire shoot out from the bushes in front of me, accompanied by the sharp crack of a rifle. ... The ball fired at me[,] missed my head by a few inches and buried itself in a tree close by."

Furman's classmate, Cadet Allen J. Green, was hit in the jaw and fell to the ground, unconscious. One lucky cadet had a ball penetrate his loose-fitting jacket without wounding him. Cadets Joseph W. Barnwell, Edward C. McCarty, Stephen F. Hollingsworth, Albert R. Heyward and William A. Pringle lay wounded on the battlefield. Cadet William B. Patterson, a junior, was killed in action. Maj White immediately gave the command "Charge!" and with a loud and chilling "rebel yell," the cadets quickly returned fire and mounted a spirited bayonet attack upon the Union troops hidden in the bushes.

Maj White stated that as the cadets advanced, "steadily driving them back upon their entrenchments, Company B relieved Company A (its ammunition having been exhausted) so that the entire Battalion became engaged." The young cadets from Co B, who were lying flat on the swampy

ground to avoid being hit, moved to the front lines, while the cadets from Co A replenished their ammunition.

Cadet Private James H. Boatwright, a Co B fourth classman (freshman), was struck in the chest and fell to the ground. Dazed and gasping for breath, Cadet Boatwright was fortunate that the ball was lodged in his Bible, which was in his breast pocket, saving his life. Two other freshmen, Cadet Jacob C. Lyons (only 16 years old) and Cadet Waddy Thompson Jr., also were wounded.

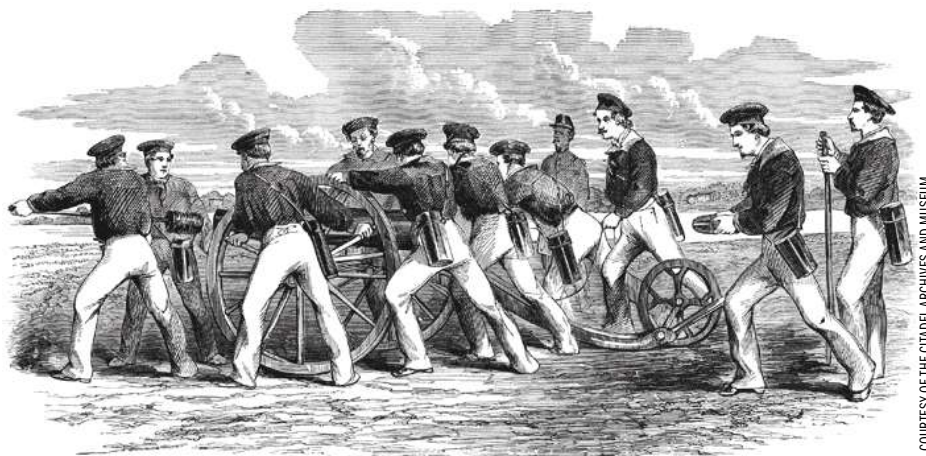
Maj White was close enough to determine that they were outnumbered, and it was clear that he did not have enough troops to dislodge Union forces from their fortified positions. An orderly retreat was directed, and the cadets “fell back in perfect order.”

First Lt Amory Coffin, class of 1862, a professor and cadet veteran of the “first shots” in 1861, realized that several cadets lay wounded on the field. He yelled out, “Don’t let us abandon our boys!”

Seconds later, a sniper’s bullet struck Lt Coffin in the forehead. He fell to the ground and appeared lifeless and unresponsive with blood all over his face. Two young fourth classmen, Cadet Charles E. Coffin, his younger brother, and Cadet Eugene Stone, carried Lt Coffin to safety through a hail of bullets. Lt Coffin regained consciousness on the ambulance wagon and survived.

Union Counterattack

As Union forces prepared to counterattack, Maj White surveyed the open field ahead and ordered his cadets to stay low and concealed behind some fortifications with the 47th Georgia Infantry Regt. First Lt Benjamin S. Williams, adjutant of the 47th Georgia, was quite impressed by “the splendid bearing of the Cadets under fire.” He also could not forget the cadets’ boyish curiosity that day, popping their heads above breastworks to peek at the “Yan-



COURTESY OF THE CITADEL ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

A depiction of “Land practice of sailors with the Dahlgren Howitzer Boat Gun, sponging out the gun” published in 1864 in Frank Leslie’s *Illustrated Newspaper*.

kees” across the open field. The Citadel’s faculty officers repeatedly ordered each cadet by last name, “Down, Mr. Hagood! Down, Mr. Haynie!”

The Georgia infantry veterans behind the embankment had not been called “mister” in almost four years. Amused, one said, “Them Charleston people is the damndest politest officers to their men I ever struck up with in the army.”

Union forces emerged from a swampy and heavily wooded area and began running across the open field toward the cadets. Maj White rode his horse up and down the line of fortifications and warned the cadets to keep their heads down. He said: “Steady, Cadets! Let them come well up!” Once the Union soldiers were within range of their Enfield rifles, Maj White rose in his stirrups and commanded, “Battalion—Attention!” The Corps jumped to their feet, as ordered. The major commanded: “Ready—Aim—Fire!”

More than 300 leveled rifles fired a devastating barrage of lead balls across the field, inflicting several casualties on the attackers with deadly effect.

Robert Heriot, a Confederate artillery-

man at Tulifinny, said: “The Cadets fought as if in Dress Parade. Their firing could be distinguished above the roar of battle by the regularity of their discharges.” A veteran of the battle praised the young cadets, “Dang if they don’t fight like Hood’s Texans!” A reference to the highly disciplined Texas troops under the command of GEN John Bell Hood, the comment was high praise! After suffering many casualties, Union troops withdrew to their trenches.

The Final Union Assault At Tulifinny Crossroads

On 9 Dec. 1864, Union forces made one final assault against the Confederate defenses. The Marine battalion formed on the far right of a 600-man skirmish line. To the right of the Marine battalion was the Tulifinny River. Camp Tulifinny, where the cadets were encamped, was directly ahead of the Marine position.

In his official report, acting Capt Stoddard stated that his Marines came within 50 yards of the railroad tracks near the Tulifinny River. Stoddard’s report mentions that the 127th New York Volunteers on their left began a retreat while the Marines on the extreme right near the banks of the Tulifinny continued forward.

He reported: “I found myself unsupported and nearly cut off. I faced my men about, but having no means of telling proper direction, kept too much to the right and struck the Tulifinny River. This turned out to be fortunate, as the enemy pursued our left and through the river, taking several prisoners.” Cadets pursued the Marines and the other Union forces during their retreat, following them to their position south of the old road to Pocotaligo.

Results and Significance of the Battle

On Christmas Day 1864, LTG Sherman sent a telegraph to President Abraham Lincoln, saying, “I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the City of Savannah, with

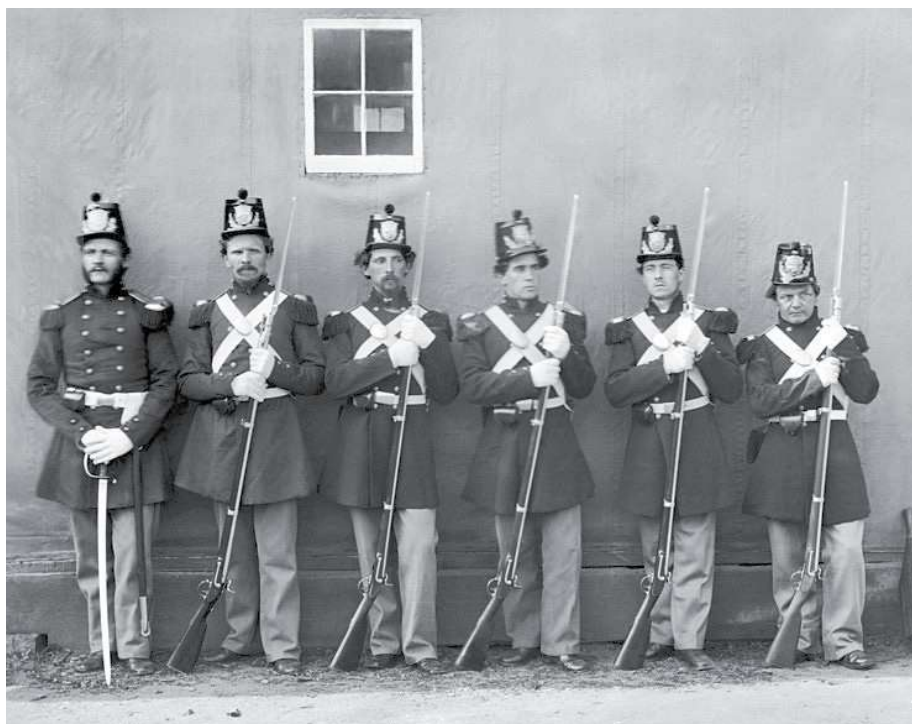
UNION FORCES: 5,500 SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES

Major General John G. Foster, USA	Commander, Department of the South
Major General John P. Hatch, USA	Commander, Coast Division
Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren, USN	Commander, South Atlantic Blockading Squadron
Brigadier General Edward E. Potter, USA	Commander, U.S. Forces at Gregorie Point
Commander George H. Preble, USN	Commander, Naval Brigade Ashore
Lieutenant George G. Stoddard, USMC	Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Battalion

CONFEDERATE FORCES: 1,000 SOLDIERS AND CADETS

Major General Samuel Jones, CSA	Commander, District of South Carolina
Brigadier General Lucius J. Gartrell, CSA	Commander, 2d Georgia Reserves
Colonel Aaron C. Edwards, CSA	Commander, 47th Georgia Infantry
Colonel Charles P. Daniel, CSA	Commander, 5th Georgia Infantry
Major James B. White, CSA	Superintendent, The Citadel, Corps of Cadets
Major John Jenkins, CSA	Commander, Detachment of Cavalry

—LtCol Walter McTernan, USMC (Ret) and Lt Col Andrew D. Kullberg, USAF (Ret)



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

U.S. Marines in dress uniform at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., in 1864.

one hundred and fifty guns and plenty of ammunition, also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton.”

The Battle of Tulifinny Crossroads also represented one of the most successful deployments of Marines as an infantry battalion during the Civil War. The Marine battalion was the closest of all the Union units to “break” the railroad tracks. For The Citadel, it was one of the few times in military history that an entire college, to include the superintendent, faculty, staff and cadets, was engaged in battle as a military unit.

Their “Last Full Measure of Devotion”

“Judging from the unburied dead, the graves, and other evidences found upon the field, the enemy must have suffered a loss of not less than 300.”

—Col A. C. Edwards, CSA

Casualties on the Confederate side were approximately 200. The U.S. Marines suffered 12 casualties. One was killed in action, and one Marine was missing in action and is believed to have drowned in the Tulifinny River. The Corps of Cadets suffered eight casualties with one KIA. Some of the cadets wounded in action at Tulifinny succumbed later to their wounds and battlefield disease.

One veteran of Tulifinny, Cadet Richard F. Nichols, a senior, completed requirements for graduation and died of “disease, hardship of service, and exposure” while serving in the field with the Corps of Cadets on 14 Feb. 1865. Cadet Nichols received his Citadel diploma posthumously.

By the end of the war, 14 cadets died in service, and at least twice as many were wounded in action on the field of honor.

A Legacy of Duty, Honor, Courage

“The noncommissioned officers and privates have all behaved in a most gallant manner and I am sure that by their bravery they have added both with the Navy and Army to the high reputation the Corps already enjoys,” said acting Capt George G. Stoddard, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Battalion, Tulifinny Crossroads.

First Lt Stoddard was promoted to brevet captain, USMC, and the date was made

The Battle of Tulifinny Crossroads also represented one of the most successful deployments of Marines as an infantry battalion during the Civil War.

retroactive to 6 Dec. 1864, the date that the Marines fired some of the first shots of the Battle of Tulifinny.

“Every cadet acted with conspicuous gallantry, and showed that the discipline of his Academy made him a thorough soldier for the battlefield. The privations of the succeeding months proved him as well prepared for the hardships of the march and camp.”

—Maj James B. White
Superintendent of The Citadel

The Corps of Cadets served on the field of honor for more than six months. Cadets fired the last shots east of the Mississippi River at Williamston, S.C., on 1 May 1865. One month after GEN Lee’s surrender on 9 May 1865, the cadets received their final orders from the governor on the front steps of the County Courthouse in Newberry, S.C., and were the last Southern military unit to disband east of the Mississippi River.

On his way home, Cadet William M. Parker encountered a group of Union soldiers who shot and killed him on 9 May 1865. He was the last cadet killed in action. Cadets fired the first and last shots of the war.

Bulldogs, Devil Dogs and Double Dogs

Since that historic meeting on the Tulifinny Battlefield nearly 150 years ago, relations between the two Corps again have become one of shared common values, ideals and the same mascot—the tough, tenacious and loyal bulldog. For more than a century, The Citadel has produced generations of Marine officers, affectionately known as “Double Dogs,” who served with distinction in the Spanish-American War, with the “Devil Dogs” of World War I, “Banana Wars,” WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Beirut, the Gulf War, and the global war on terrorism.

In 1970, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps selected The Citadel to be the first Marine-oriented NROTC unit in history, and it also was the first to establish a Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) in the nation. The Citadel commissions an average of 60 Marine officers per year, second only to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Editor’s note: The authors report that relations between the two Corps (USMC and The Citadel Corps of Cadets) have been much friendlier. Please refer to our January 2011 Leatherneck to see the current state of the kindred relationship of the Marine Corps and The Citadel.

LtCol Walter McTernan, USMC (Ret), a 1972 graduate of The Citadel, retired from active duty in 1994. He currently is serving in Kabul, where, during his off-duty hours, he enjoys researching and writing about military history.

Lt Col Andrew D. Kullberg, USAF (Ret) is a 1983 graduate of The Citadel and also earned a master’s degree from Webster University. A command pilot, he flew the B-52, C-141 and C-5 during his 20-year career in the Air Force. He has written several articles and a book about The Citadel in the Civil War.



In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce

Wounded Warrior: He's Still Leading, Achieving and Living With Honor

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Guillermo Tejada received the George Van Cleave Military Leadership Award at the 51st Annual United Service Organizations Armed Forces Gala and Gold Medal Dinner held in New York City, Dec. 13, 2012. This annual award recognizes one enlisted member of each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces for extraordinary leadership.

"Like any other award that I have received, I always believe that it is not for my merits, but for the Marines I have led," said Tejada, who lost both legs to an improvised explosive device (IED) blast while on a dismounted patrol in Afghanistan in 2010. Since that time, he has been recovering from his wounds and actively serving as a community volunteer and motivational guest speaker.

According to Ray Kennedy, vice president of Programs and Services for the USO, Tejada was selected to receive the Van Cleave award out of a field of highly qualified Marines who were nominated by commands around the globe.

"George Van Cleave created this award to recognize the achievements of enlisted servicemembers who may otherwise be overlooked for their leadership and meritorious service because of their junior rank," said Petty Officer First Class Jason Perry, who received the award for the U.S. Navy alongside Tejada. A mass communications specialist, Perry was recognized for his work with SEAL Team One in Iraq.

The 2011 Marine Corps recipient of the Van Cleave award was Sergeant Dakota Meyer, who was awarded the Medal of Honor in September 2011 for his 2009 actions in Afghanistan.

"It's not often that you get to be the regimental commander for a Marine of [Tejada's] character not once, but twice," said Colonel Willy Buhl, Wounded Warrior Regiment commanding officer, who was on hand to congratulate Tejada.

Buhl previously served as Tejada's regimental commander at Fifth Marine Regiment, where Tejada was assigned as a platoon sergeant with 3d Battalion from



The Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, left, and Lance B. Boxer, right, chairman of the board for the USO of Metropolitan New York, congratulate SSgt Guillermo Tejada on his earning the George Van Cleave Military Leadership Award at the USO gala in New York City, Dec. 13, 2012.

2008 to 2011. Buhl clearly remembers the day that Tejada was wounded in Afghanistan in November 2010.

"As [Tejada] was being carried to the helicopter on the battlefield, he was still giving orders and directions to his platoon; and that was after he lost his legs," said Buhl.

Buhl visited Tejada in the hospital a few weeks after he was wounded, when Tejada was an inpatient at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

"As soon as he was able to get out of his bed in Bethesda, he was in a wheelchair making his way around the ward to check up on the other wounded [Marines]," said Buhl. "He gave consolation and reassurance to both the Marines and their families. Bottom line is, the man always thinks of others before himself. He is always engaged, leading and inspiring. Regardless of whether he's on a combat patrol or making his way around the hospital, he's always looking out for other Marines."

Buhl continued to keep up with Tejada and his family throughout Tejada's recovery. They crossed paths at the Warrior

Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., in May 2012, where Tejada beat out the competition to take the silver medal for the Marine Corps in air pistol marksmanship.

In November 2012, nearly two years to the day from the time of Tejada's severe wounds, Buhl reconnected with Tejada and his family when Buhl conducted a site visit at the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East detachment at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, where Tejada is currently based.

"At the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in San Antonio, [Tejada] was out on the dance floor on his new prosthetic legs with his wife, dancing; I mean, he was dancing with his wife for the first time since the injury. It was one of the most inspiring things I've ever witnessed," said Buhl. "It's rare that he smiles; Staff Sergeant Tejada usually gives you the warrior face. But just seeing him and his wife out there celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday was inspiring for me personally."

More than 50 Marines, most with severe combat-related injuries, currently are going through recovery and transition at the



MAJ PAUL L. GREENBERG

SSgt Tejada and his daughter set off on a tour of the Big Apple prior to the 51st USO Gala in New York City.

WWBN-E detachment at the joint medical center in San Antonio, which is staffed by all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"SAMMC is a great place for recovery," said Tejada. "The facility is awesome, and the staff are really good at what they do."

While in San Antonio, Tejada has been actively involved as a mentor with the Young Marines program and he, his wife and three children have recently volunteered in local Toys for Tots events.

"I believe it's important to mentor and give back to today's youth," said Tejada. "This way we can ensure a good future for everyone. I'm a firm believer that you always get back the same amount that you put into anything in life."

Over the course of the past year, Tejada has reached outside the local area to pass on his lessons learned through recovery to other servicemembers and veterans. He volunteered to serve as a motivational guest speaker for thousands of attendees at the Semper Fi Bowl Dinner, the American Friends of our Armed Forces Rally and other armed forces-related events.

"He is always positive; he never complains or asks for help. He never makes

excuses. I've seen him motivate others who are injured to a lesser extent," said Corporal Sebastian Gallegos, who is recovering alongside Tejada at SAMMC.

Gallegos, who lost his right arm to an IED blast in Afghanistan in October 2010, said that Tejada has been a constant motivating force in his life over the past two years, inspiring him to pursue a bachelor's degree and participate in a grueling 13-mile "Spartan Beast" adventure race.

Tejada earned a silver medal in air pistol marksmanship for the Marine Corps last May at the annual Warrior Games, where wounded, ill and injured Marines face off against other servicemen and women. The Marine Corps team took the coveted Chairman's Cup for the third year in a row.

In addition, Tejada has competed in the hand cycle category at the 2012 Marine Corps Marathon, as well as the Los Angeles and San Diego marathons.

"Staff Sergeant Tejada's daily perseverance and determination are a daily reminder of his strength," said Sgt Nicholas Glidden, who has served on the WWBN-E staff at SAMMC since October 2011. "He inspires me to always remember

that I am capable of anything I put my mind to, no matter how bad things get. I recently witnessed [Tejada] finish an entire triathlon by himself. He is an inspiration to all athletes everywhere."

According to Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Davis, the WWBN-E commanding officer, Tejada's mentorship and example have inspired hundreds of his fellow Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed and San Antonio.

"His can-do attitude and willingness to tackle any challenge motivates other Wounded Warriors and battalion staff members on a daily basis," said Davis.

General James F. Amos, the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, met Tejada at Bethesda in 2010, shortly after Tejada was stabilized and made the transatlantic flight from the U.S. Army Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

"Staff Sergeant Tejada represents the very best qualities of what it means to be a Marine," said Gen Amos. "By word and deed, he exemplifies the best of our core values and personally contributed to our rich legacy of valor. He is a living example of selfless service, dedication and sheer determination."

"I was deeply moved when I learned of his actions on the battlefield, and in recovery after he was injured," said Gen Amos. "He never stopped leading Marines, whether they were in Afghanistan with 3/5 or in the wards of the hospital. There's a saying among people who have been dealt severe injuries that you either get busy living, or you get busy dying. Staff Sergeant Tejada has clearly [gotten] busy living. He faced adversity, overcame his injuries, and has shown others that they, too, can heal and live meaningful, productive lives."

Tejada enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1999 and has served in the infantry with the First Marine Division for most of his career. He also completed a successful tour on recruiting duty in Phoenix. His military awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V," the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Looking to the future, Tejada is weighing his options between remaining in the Marine Corps as an armorer, or transitioning to civilian life and pursuing a career with a federal law enforcement agency.

Asked if he had one piece of advice to offer to others struggling with recovery, Tejada stated, "Don't think about what you can't do. Concentrate on the many things that you still can do, and do them to the best of your ability for the ones who no longer can. Above all, live a life of honor."

Marine Wounded Warrior Regiment

Courtesy Story

Personal Combat Awards

The awards records in the Marine Corps' Award Processing System (APS) and Improved Awards Processing System were used to populate this list, which reflects personal combat awards from the start of the global war on terrorism presented to Marines and sailors serving with U.S. Marine Corps forces only. This list may not reflect certain personal combat awards processed outside of either system and/or approved by another branch of service. Any questions on the content should be submitted in writing to the Personal Awards Section at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, MMMA-2, 2008 Elliott Rd., Quantico, VA 22134.

The following awards were announced in December 2012:



Navy Cross

Sgt William B. Soutra Jr.,
1st Marine Special Operations
Battalion (MSOB), U.S. Marine
Corps Forces Special Operations
Command (MARSOC)



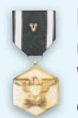
Silver Star

HM1 Patrick B. Quill,
1st MSOB, MARSOC
Capt James T. Rose, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC
SSgt Frankie J. Shinost Jr., 1st MSOB,
MARSOC



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

Capt Aaron M. Awtry, 2d Bn,
Fourth Marine Regiment,
First Marine Division
SSgt Bradley A. Harless,
1st MSOB, MARSOC
GySgt Ryan Jeschke, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC
CWO-3 Frederick T. Keeney, 2/4,
1stMarDiv
SSgt Brandon R. Levine, Combat
Logistics Regt 15, First Marine Logistics
Group
Capt Gary S. Slater, 6th Marines,
2dMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

Capt Peter E. Ankney, 1/7,
1stMarDiv
Sgt James D. Becker, CLR-15, 1st MLG
LCpl Christopher T. Bristol, 3/8,
2dMarDiv
Capt Thomas J. Burke, 2d Air/Naval
Gunfire Liaison Company, II Marine
Expeditionary Force
Sgt John A. Calloway, CLR-15,
1st MLG
Cpl Samuel R. Curry, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
MSgt Robert R. Gupton, 1stMarDiv
(Forward)
SSgt Albert B. Hayes, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

SSgt Pedro Hernandez Jr., CLR-15,
1st MLG

HM2 Walker J. Jamar, 1stMarDiv
(Fwd)

Sgt James E. Kenneally, CLR- 15,
1st MLG

SSgt Kevin J. Knight, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

HM1 Robert G. Leidy, 1stMarDiv
(Fwd)

Sgt Aaron M. McBride, 1st MLG (Fwd)
1stLt James T. Nash, 7th Marines,
1stMarDiv

Sgt James K. O'Neal, 1stMarDiv (Fwd)
Sgt Lucio P. Rodriguez, 3/5, 1stMarDiv

LCpl Frederick J. Roethler III, I MEF
Headquarters Group (Fwd)

SSgt Dusty A. Sampson, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
MSgt Raymond M. Stopinski,
7th Marines, 1stMarDiv

1stLt Ryan T. Strehl, 6th Marines,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Steven B. Winn, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Jamal Yousef, 7th Marines,
1stMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

Cpl Jonpaul F. Abatte, 3/8,
2dMarDiv

SSgt Dustin M. Ardolf, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

LCpl Kevin M. Ashley, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

Sgt Cody M. Bailey, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Joshua S. Bolton, I MHG (Fwd)

Cpl William L. Bullard Jr.,
2d ANGLICO, II MEF

1stLt Joseph E. Bush, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Jose M. Chavez, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

1stLt Devin T. Claridy, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

Capt Ryan D. Colton, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

LCpl Derrick D. Corbin, 3/8,
2dMarDiv

LCpl Andrew D. Cross, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

1stLt Andrew M. Darlington, 1/7,
1stMarDiv

Sgt Guensly Dorisca, 7th Marines,
1stMarDiv

Cpl Spencer K. Griffith, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

HM2 Toran E. Jacobson, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC

LCpl Austin M. Jett, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

LCpl Tucker R. Jones, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Jamie A. Kuehl Jr., 3/8, 2dMarDiv

Sgt Tristan J. Kyzer, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

1stLt Michael A. Loyd, 7th Marines,
1stMarDiv

Cpl Brent M. Martin, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

LCpl Eugene C. Mills III, 1/8,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Joshua P. Ott, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

LCpl Robert M. Owens II, 3/8,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Kevin A. Pryor, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

HM3 Jonathon D. Ratkus, 3/8,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Richard L. Roberts, CLR-15,
1st MLG

LCpl James J. Roche Jr., 1/8, 2dMarDiv

Sgt Benjamin D. Santo, 1/8, 2dMarDiv

LCpl Aaron L. Schwarz, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

Sgt Jacob J. Servantes, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

LCpl Bevin E. Smith, 1/7, 1stMarDiv

Cpl Charles E. Smythe, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

LCpl Andrew Sokol, 1/1, 1stMarDiv

Sgt Jason F. Steel, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Joshua A. Talaverallittle,
7th Marines, 1stMarDiv

SSgt Ahbleza Theobald, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

Sgt Henry M. Thurston, 3/8, 2dMarDiv

Sgt Patrick C. Trujillo, 2/5, 1stMarDiv

1stLt Phillip H. Vanderweit,
1st Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv

Capt Benjamin Y. Victor,
2d ANGLICO, II MEF

Sgt Austin M. Vincent, CLR-15,
1st MLG

Cpl Paul P. Woiciechowski, 1/1,
1stMarDiv

SSgt William R. Ziervogel, CLR-15,
1st MLG

Cpl Zack S. Zinanti, 3/8, 2dMarDiv



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The Marine Who Came to Dinner



By Ed Vasgerdsian

Past or present, the mission of the Marine Security Guard (MSG) detachment is the protection of classified information and the protection of its Foreign Service personnel at American embassies and consulates. The assignment is unlike anything else a Marine will experience. For me, it was a combination of love, travel and adventure rolled into one. Aside from the seriousness of the mission, there were cocktail parties instead of beer busts at the slop chute and meeting people

who were movers and shakers in world politics at a dinner party as opposed to eating chow and hearing a grumpy platoon sergeant yelling out cadence on the drill field.

Our six-week school training was unique and demanding. Among the subjects learned were foreign sabotage, Communism, fingerprinting, ultrasonic alarm systems, changing safe locks, riot control, principles of photography and diplomatic courtesies. It sounds like a plot from a spy

novel, but there you have it: It was during the Cold War. A State Department training instructor said, "Survival in a diplomatic environment sometimes necessitates a sense of humor."

I was posted to the American Embassy in Cairo in 1956. Like many of my fellow MSG graduates, I had little appreciation of international events. Four months after my arrival, the Suez Canal became the centerpiece of discussion and rumor. England, France and Israel were on one side, and



ED VASGERDSIAN



COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, CAIRO

Top: Sgt Edward Vasgerdsian, Post 1, American Embassy, Cairo, December 1956 (Photo courtesy of the American Embassy, Cairo)

Above left: Many embassy buildings during the Cold War period were ornately designed as was the United States Information Service (USIS) Library in Cairo. In 1962, mobs set it on fire and destroyed it.

Above right: Ambassador Raymond A. Hare, in civilian clothes, was the MSG Cairo Marine Corps Birthday guest of honor in 1956.

Egypt was on the other. Discussions, or lack thereof, would eventually lead to “The Suez War,” but meanwhile the United States was in a holding pattern.

While President Dwight D. Eisenhower was trying to walk a middle path, French Mirage jets began to soar over Cairo. Because of that, the Department of State ordered the evacuation of Egypt’s expatriot Americans and the majority of our embassy personnel. A handful of American diplomats and eight Marine guards were left to carry on with embassy affairs. A few Americans I can describe only as either CIA types or American businessmen with political muscle also remained. While conducting their security mission for the embassy, the Marines assisted in evacuating 1,300 Americans.

The embassy’s chancery, once a hustle and bustle of people rushing from office to office amid chattering visitors, now echoed the tap-tap tapping from the heels of a secretary walking across marble flooring. The presence of a Marine guard, although dressed in civilian clothing, offered some credible evidence the embassy was still operational. However, the exterior grounds of the embassy, whose horseshoe-shaped driveway entrance was once lined with colorful petunias in pots, had given way to the sad appearance of a used-car lot. We waited for the other shoe to drop.

Thanksgiving was approaching, but the Marines weren’t planning for a turkey dinner. We knew we’d be busy trying to prepare for the unknown, including a shut-down of the embassy, or a riot, followed by an evacuation of all remaining embassy personnel. If Thanksgiving dinner meant a Spam sandwich or baked beans, so be it. As it turned out, our ambassador announced there would be a Thanksgiving dinner for the remaining Americans, including the Marines.

Along with the announcement came logistical problems. Marines are on duty at an embassy 24/7. A schedule was made so all eight Marines could enjoy dinner wherever it took place. I drew a 3 p.m. (ambassador time) invitation to the residence. Assigned to begin my duty at 1600 (Marine time), I would need to eat and run in order to relieve the Marine on duty who had to be at his host’s home by 4:30 p.m.

The day came. I was a 20-year-old kid standing at the front door of the American Ambassador’s home in Cairo, and I suddenly thought, “Holy smoke! I’m having Thanksgiving dinner with the American Ambassador!” Not bad for a high-school grad with four years in the Marine Corps. I wanted to telephone my Latin teacher who said I’d never amount to much because I couldn’t conjugate Latin verbs.



The Marine Corps Birthday, Cairo, Nov. 10, 1956, from left: MSgt Lawrence Tierney, First Sergeant Region 2, MSG Bn; Sgt Major Douglas; Sgt Edward Vasgerdsian; Canadian LtGen E. L. M. “Tommy” Burns, U.N. Force Commander; Sgt Paul Kelly; Sgt Robert Cayer; Cpl William T. Gillenwater; and GySgt Richard G. Moran, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, MSG Cairo.

Well, I didn’t know who he was having Thanksgiving dinner with, but “Hey, Mr. Scolly, I’m here at the American Ambassador’s house ... *edo, edere, edi* and *esus* that!”

Secretaries Mary Elsworth and Victoria Papagianni (not their real names) also received invitations to the ambassador’s residence. Cairo was a first overseas posting for both, and they were looking for “Mr. Right.” The number of readily available eligible bachelors was not in their favor. I saw them exchanging smiles with two men who wore Brooks Brothers blazers and preppy ties. The girls rendered me a casual one-handed greeting as I entered the room, but quickly returned their attention to the two gentlemen.

A series of chimes announced the dinner seating. Victoria and Mary saw the ambassador get my attention and motion me aside. We shook hands, and he wished me a happy Thanksgiving and thanked me for coming. “Get that, Mr. Scolly. He thanked me for coming to his home.”

“Happy Thanksgiving, sir. The Marines appreciate your thoughtfulness,” I said.

He said, “Sergeant, this may be the fastest Thanksgiving dinner you’ll ever have, and I apologize. I hope we can make

it up to you.” I was a little concerned by what he meant, but I had no idea how that warning was going to materialize.

“What did the ambassador say to you?” asked Victoria. The question caught me off guard, and I thought she was joking. I decided I was being put on. “Oh, he told me not to screw things up this afternoon, you know, because of the important folks here and all. I told him, ‘No sweat, I can handle it.’ ”

“Oh, my God,” Mary said dramatically. “Are you going to be all right?”

I looked at Victoria and then at Mary and realized they were serious. “Sure, I’m fine,” I said. Victoria broke in, still clenching her jaw, “Don’t worry about anything. Just watch us, and you’ll be OK.”

Their remarks made me think of something I had heard a few years earlier about a female movie star’s USO trip to Korea. Asked to comment on her experience, she said, “The Marines are underfed, oversexed, professional maniacs.” True or not, the comment was well publicized.

The truth is Mary and Victoria saw me dining outside my comfort zone, a potential diplomatic disaster in the making. To them, I was inexperienced at the fine art



COURTESY OF DALE DEEM

Capt Forrest J. Hunt, left, the MSG Region 2 commander in 1955, who would later command the MSG Battalion, offers congratulations to Sgt Dale Deem on Deem's promotion.

of dining, a coarse Marine thrust into an arena of appropriate table manners and respectability. The women envisioned Marines using tablecloths for napkins and finding the proper use of knife, fork and spoon mentally challenging. I wickedly said to myself that I would not disappoint them.

The oak dining table was T-shaped, set with fine silver and monogrammed State Department service plates. Each guest sat at a place setting designated by a printed

place card. It was like having my name on a marquee: Sergeant Edward Vasgerdsian, U.S.M.C. "Yes, Mr. Scolly, this is my seat here at the ambassador's Thanksgiving dinner party!"

Victoria and Mary sat opposite me. To my left was a chubby man with large gold cuff links and enough starch in his shirt to stop a Ka-Bar attack. To my right was a man who was well liked by the American community. He once said he was a correspondent for *The New York Times*. On

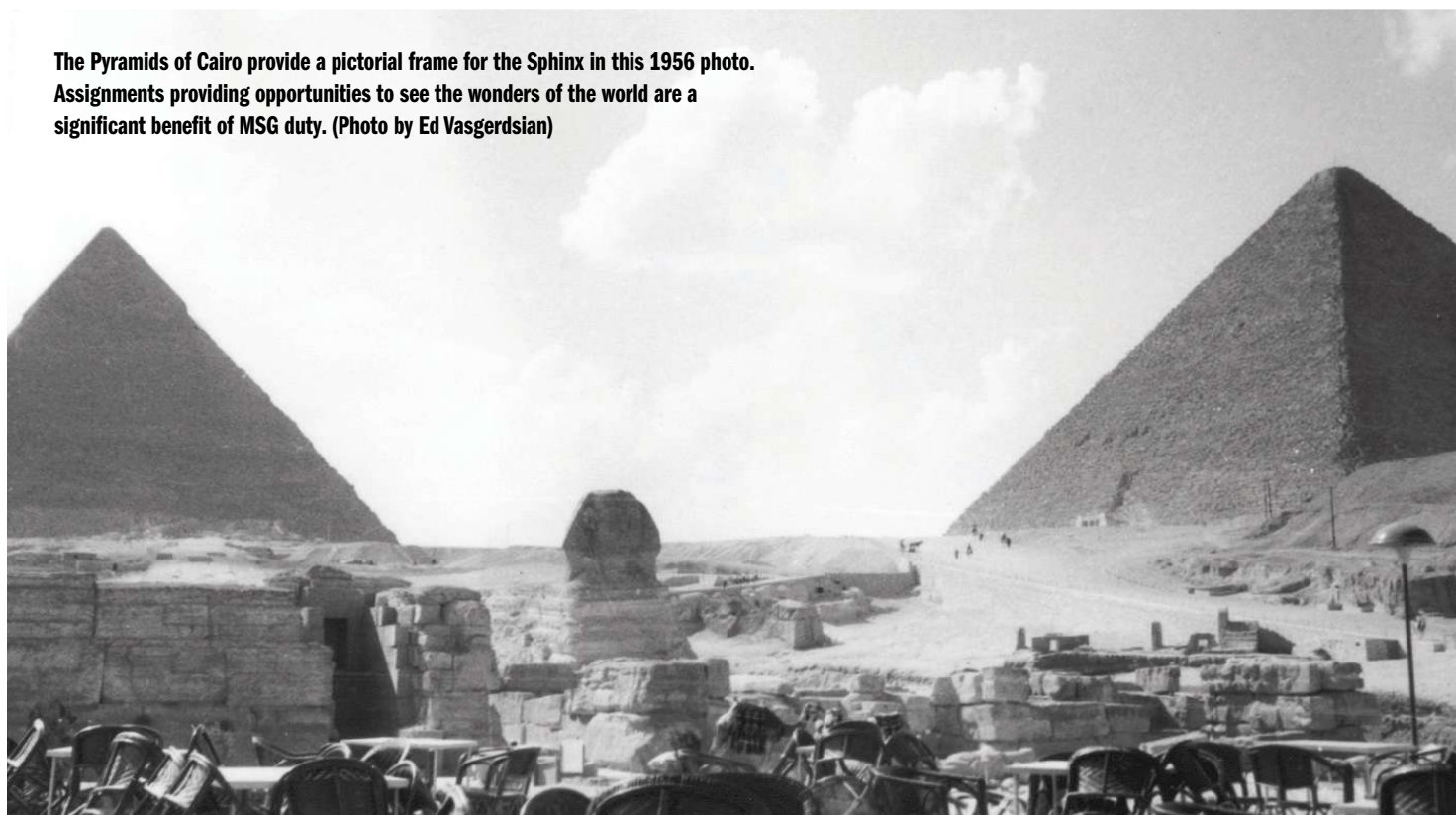
another occasion, he said he worked for the *Chicago Tribune*. Because he was unable to keep his employer straight, I determined he was a covert operative. The young women were disappointed when they realized the two Brooks Brothers guys were seated at the far end of the table.

I unfolded my napkin on a pretense of stuffing it into my shirt collar. Victoria winced, and Mary raised and lowered her napkin a few times like a naval semaphore signalman giving me notice not to land. She indicated the napkin was to be placed across the lap. I smiled and nodded my appreciation for her assistance.

At 1510, with less than an hour to eat and hightail it back to the embassy, we were all served a plate of canapé hors d'oeuvres. Each plate had three shrimp, three Spanish olives and a slice of pâté de foie gras with four crackers, all carefully placed on green leaves. Victoria and Mary spoke in whispers until they saw me spreading the pâté over a shrimp. Again, eyebrows went up and down like signal blinkers from a rescue ship.

I continued my reckless endeavor until my canapé plate was whisked away and replaced with a salad, confirming Mary's and Victoria's concern of social impropriety. I stared into a mixture of lettuce and tomatoes and then slowly reached for

The Pyramids of Cairo provide a pictorial frame for the Sphinx in this 1956 photo. Assignments providing opportunities to see the wonders of the world are a significant benefit of MSG duty. (Photo by Ed Vasgerdsian)



the largest of the three forks while looking up for approval. In perfect unison, Victoria and Mary mouthed, “No.” My hand jerked back as though it had been slapped. Then my fingers moved slowly to the smaller fork, and once again I received smiles of approval. I started to think I was in a silent movie with Mary Pickford and Lillian Gish.

Suddenly, Victoria paled at seeing the ambassador standing behind me. I moved to get up, but he softly placed a hand on my shoulder. He leaned over and in hushed tones apologized again and said his car would take me back to the embassy when the time came. Here was a man dealing with an international crisis, and he was worried about me. “Oh, Mr. Scolly, you don’t know what you’re missing.”

At 1520, my unfinished salad was whisked away and replaced with mashed potatoes, turkey, gravy, peas and carrots. None of that drew much attention from the other guests. They nonchalantly continued carrying on with their own conversations and nibbling on shrimp. The guy with the gold cuff links had both elbows on the table. Therefore, I saw no real issue when I extended an arm on the table. Victoria’s and Mary’s disappointed faces confirmed that you can take the Marine out of the boy, but you can’t take the boy out of the Marine.

I tried eating as quickly as I could without looking foolish, and for a while I thought it was working. I was finally going to get a chance to clean my plate, when my half-eaten Thanksgiving turkey was replaced with a small bowl of fruit, accompanied by a finger bowl. The grapes and slices of orange and watermelon looked like toys. I feigned a look of despair toward Mary and Victoria. The finger bowl with a slice of lemon wafting on warm water seemed to smile and say, “Go ahead; I dare you.” I glanced at my mentors, mentally asking, “We never had anything like this in the Corps. Is it an after-dinner soup? If so, which of the two spoons do I use?”

Without guidance and throwing caution to the wind, I picked up a stem of green grapes and slowly lowered them into the finger bowl. With great confidence I continued the baptism until the guy with the gold cuff links leaned over and said, “Good idea. Last time I ate grapes, I got the runs.” Mary and Victoria, thinking I was being scolded, tried to listen to what they thought was a reprimand from one of the ambassador’s guests.

Everything that was needed was in my performance: pathos, drama and showmanship. With a final scene of the ambassador heading toward me, it was the performance of a lifetime. The time had



COURTESY OF AMERICAN EMBASSY, CAIRO

MSG Detachment Cairo, 1956—Note the MSG uniform of the day: white shirt, tie and modest hairstyle. GySgt Richard G. Moran, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, stands in front of the file, which includes, from the left: Cpl William T. Gillenwater, Sgt Paul Kelly, Sgt Neil R. Huff, Sgt Edward Vasgerdsian, Sgt Robert Cayer and Sgt Major Douglas.

come for me to leave unceremoniously. There would be no curtain calls of “Bravo, Bravo,” no applause, no standing ovation, yet I knew I had given a Tony award-winning performance. Keeping in character, I left the table, unsmiling. I stood at the door with the ambassador, who extended his hand. It was no act when I said, “Mr. Ambassador, thank you, sir. I appreciate it very much. This is one Thanksgiving that’s going be hard to forget.”

We shook hands, and he said, “Sergeant, I think you’ve found a couple of admirers in Miss Elsworth and Miss Papagianni. I’m glad the Marines haven’t lost their touch. Happy Thanksgiving.”

After I relieved the Marine on duty for his dinner invitation, I still hungered for some turkey leftovers, but had to settle for a fried Spam sandwich and a beer. In the days that followed, neither Mary nor Victoria mentioned the ambassador’s dinner. The embassy continued to operate with a skeleton staff, and it took some time for things to return to normal. The Soviets were in better shape with Egypt than ever before, and the Suez Canal was now under Egypt’s control. French, British and Israeli forces clashed against Egypt,

and our diplomatic relations with Egypt were as good as before, since the United States stayed out of the war.

Two more Cairo Thanksgiving dinners would follow, but none would be as memorable as the first. Through it all, I assume Mr. Scolly was hammering away at his students to conjugate Latin verbs.

Through my State Department contacts I learned that Mary left Cairo after completing her first and only Foreign Service post, married a lawyer and had three children. Victoria continued service in the State Department with postings in the Belgian Congo, Mali, Haiti and Poland. It was a memorable time for us all, and I have to believe Mary and Victoria have told this same story over the years to their friends, albeit with a different point of view.

Editor’s note: Ed Vasgerdsian, a retired law-enforcement officer and former Marine security guard who served in the Corps from 1953 to 1959, is a freelance writer, a director of the Marine Embassy Guard Association and a contributing editor to Leatherneck.



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, 2012

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

Lance Corporal Anthony J. Denier, 26, of Mechanicville, N.Y., with 3d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 2, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Michael J. Guillory, 28, of Slidell, La., with 1st Marine Special Operations Bn, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 14, in Helmand province.

"Maggie" Brewer

Brigadier General Margaret A. "Maggie" Brewer, the first woman general officer in the Marine Corps, the seventh and last Director of Women Marines, and Director of the U.S. Marine Corps Public Affairs Division, died after a long illness, Jan. 2, in Springfield, Va. She was 82.

Born in Durand, Mich., she received her primary education in Michigan but graduated from the Catholic High School in Baltimore, Md., prior to entering the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She received a bachelor's degree in geography in January 1952 and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in March.

She was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif., as a communications watch officer until June 1953. She transferred to Brooklyn, N.Y., for two years as the Inspector-Instructor of a Woman Marine Reserve unit.

From 1955 to 1958, then-Captain Brewer served successively as commanding officer of the woman Marine companies at Camp Elmore, Va., and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. During the 18 months following, she was a platoon commander for woman officer candidates in the summer training sessions at MCB Quantico, Va., and for the balance of time, a woman officer selection officer with headquarters in Lexington, Ky.

Ordered to MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., in November 1959, she was promoted to major in September 1961 and,

in April 1963, returned to Quantico to serve as executive officer and later as commanding officer of the Woman Officer School.

From 1966 to 1968, she was the public affairs officer for the 6th Marine Corps District in Atlanta; there she was promoted to lieutenant colonel in December 1966.

She served as Deputy Director of Women Marines, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, from 1968 to 1971. She was promoted to colonel in 1970. Reporting again to Quantico, she was Special Assistant to the Director, Marine Corps Education Center. She became chief of the Support Department, Marine Corps Education Center in 1972, where she was serving when she was selected as the seventh Director of Women Marines in 1973.

In 1977, then-Colonel Brewer assumed duty as Deputy Director of the Division of Information, HQMC, when the Director of Women Marines' office was disbanded because of the strides made in integrating women into an expanded role in the Corps. For meritorious service as the Director of Women Marines, she was presented the Legion of Merit by the Commandant of the Marine Corps on June 30, 1977.

While serving as the Deputy Director of the Division of Information, she was nominated for appointment to the grade of brigadier general in 1978. She was appointed to that grade and assumed duty as Director of Information on May 11, 1978, at which time she became the first woman general officer in the Corps. On

Dec. 1, 1979, the Division of Information was redesignated as the Division of Public Affairs, and BGen Brewer's title was changed to Director of Public Affairs. She served in that capacity until retirement on July 1, 1980, at which time she was awarded a second Legion of Merit.

An efficient and very gracious Marine officer, she was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association and highly respected and regarded in the Marine Corps and civilian communities.

James Walley

Lieutenant Colonel James M. Walley, USMC (Ret), decorated combat fighter pilot and New Orleans lawyer, died Dec. 8 in Dallas. He was 91.

He volunteered to serve the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He became a Marine officer and naval aviator. By 1943, he was flying combat missions over the Pacific and remained there until the war ended. He was a carrier-based F4U Corsair fighter/bomber pilot serving with the Marine Fighting Squadron 213 "Hellhawks" and with the VMF-222 "Flying Deuces" over the Solomon Islands.

Walley was the wingman for fighter ace Captain James N. Cupp. Walley shot down four Japanese Zeros and one Betty bomber, and he sank a 300-foot enemy freighter and 12 barges. He was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses and 14 Air Medals in World War II.

During the Korean War, then-Major Walley flew 120 Marine Corps close air support missions in the Banshee. He earned a third DFC by leading an attack on a North Korean entrenched artillery position and ammunition depot during intense enemy fire. He earned five more Air Medals and the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V."

Before he retired, Lieutenant Colonel Walley was involved in the initial stages of the Vietnam War, flying the F-4 Phantom. He served for more than 26 years and retired in 1968.

He and his wife returned to New Orleans, and he entered Tulane Law School, graduating in 1972 at the age of 51. He practiced law in New Orleans for 30 years.

He was a supporter of the Salvation Army and served as president of the board. He was a 33rd Degree Mason and eventually became Master of Lee E. Thomas Lodge, and in 1984, he served as the Grand Master of Louisiana Free and Accepted Masons. He is a Past Venerable Master of the New Orleans Grand Consistory, past president of the National Sojourners, past Commander of Heroes of 76, and a member of the Knights Templar and Jerusalem Temple Shrine.

He was the father of Rear Admiral James M. Walley Jr. and had several grandchildren, to include Chief Hospital Corpsman James H. Akin.

Peter Johnson Sr.

Peter Johnson Sr., a World War II Marine, New York City police officer, renowned lawyer and philanthropist, died Dec. 3, 2012, after a lengthy battle with pulmonary fibrosis. He was 91.

He became a New York City police officer who enlisted in the Corps during WW II, was seriously wounded at Iwo Jima and spent a year recovering. He returned to the police force and studied law at night to earn his degree from St. John's University School of Law in 1949.

His son, Peter Johnson Jr., a lawyer and FOX News Channel legal analyst, told reporters that his father took on Democratic boss Carmine DeSapio in the early 1950s, and while his battle with the machine ultimately led to electoral reforms, he was blackballed in Manhattan so he re-established his practice in Brooklyn.

The senior Johnson later partnered with former Judge Joseph Leahey to establish the law firm of Leahey & Johnson.

He successfully defended the 42nd Street Development Project from a constitutional attack brought by an adult bookstore, represented Governor Mario Cuomo in personal matters and served on a mayoral blue ribbon commission that investigated

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and reformed the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. He was considered very influential in appointments to the appellate bench.

"He was truly, and throughout his life and career, a larger than life personality, an extraordinary lawyer who utterly owned the courtroom when he was on trial," Betty Weinberg Ellerlin told *New York Law Journal* writer John Caher. "He not only had extraordinary command of the facts and the law but also connected with jurors in a terrific way.

"As a human being, in my book, second to none. If there was an injustice at hand, Peter couldn't tolerate it and would fight it to the nth degree."

A devoted Roman Catholic and longtime Knight of Malta, he was a former trustee of LaSalle Academy and Our Lady of Victory Church in lower Manhattan and a former president of the Brooklyn, Manhattan Trial Lawyers Association.

Leonard A. Benedict, 82, of Fairport, N.Y. He was a veteran of the Korean War. After his discharge, he spent many years working with the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation and an avid *Leatherneck* reader.

Maj Harvey E. Britt, 82, in Ruston,

La. He served in the Navy and Marine Corps for 26 years and was a helicopter pilot and instructor who also flew missions during the Korean and Vietnam wars. His awards include five DFCs, and he was a pilot with HMX-1, flying President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

He later worked 40 years as a tax consultant.

Bradford G. "Brad" Corbett Sr., 75, in Fort Worth, Texas. He served from 1960 to 1963. He worked for Allied Chemical Corporation as vice president before founding Universal Pipe & Plastic Incorporated, which later merged into Robintech Inc., a Fort Worth manufacturer of polyvinyl chloride pipe. Under his leadership as chairman and CEO, Robintech grew into the largest PVC pipe manufacturer in the world.

In 1974, he invested in the group that purchased the Texas Rangers baseball club. He remained actively involved with the team until 1980. He subsequently founded an international manufacturing group and built it into the largest supplier of pipe-sealing systems in the world. He was on the board of one of the leading fundraisers for cancer and leukemia research. His honors and awards include the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and induction

[continued on page 62]

Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero



LCpl Josh Clark, WWBN-W, lunges his mustang, Nevada, on Dec. 11, 2012, during a visit to Sinwood Ranch, as part of the Wounded Warrior Horsemanship Program.

Wounded Marines Train Mustangs During Reconditioning Program

Wounded Warrior Battalion-West's Corporal Steven Kurkwood was doing footwork exercises with his mustang horse, GT, when an old plastic foam Halloween decoration blew against the gate. GT spooked, but Kurkwood kept his cool. The horse acknowledged his master's poise and scrambled around trying to hide behind his protector.

This is the kind of trust Marines build with horses in the Wounded Warrior Horsemanship Program. The program is a part of the Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program, one of eight different activity options given to wounded warriors. The other options include archery, shooting, wheelchair basketball, swimming, cycling, sitting volleyball and track and field.

Marines choosing the equestrian option are taken to a ranch and paired with a wild mustang, which they tame during the course of the following months. The Marines build bonds with the mustangs as they care for and train them.

"Working with the horses, in my opinion, helps the Marines and the horses to relax," Kurkwood said. "It takes their minds off stresses; it's very therapeutic. It teaches you to keep calm, because the horses feed off the emotions you have."

The Marines from the Marine Corps

Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., detachment of Wounded Warrior Battalion-West (WWBN-W) started the program last year and continue to visit their mustangs at Sinwood Ranch. Twice a week, the Marines make the trip to the ranch to help maintain the mustangs' health and aid in the long process of their domestication. They spend their mornings grooming and cleaning them, followed by some lunging and footwork to help get rid of some of the anxiety the horses build from being in the stables.

"The Marines are working to build trust with the mustangs and eventually they'll be rideable, but some of these mustangs aren't even used to having a saddle on them," said Tara Bright, the warrior athlete reconditioning program manager at WWBN-W. "So it takes some time for them to get adjusted to the saddle and have someone lead them around."

Many of these horses have been out of the wild for only a few months, still stubborn and fighting for control. Kurkwood has had a great deal of experience with many different types of horses in his home in Michigan, but working with mustangs was still a great challenge.

"Growing up, I've always had horses," Kurkwood said. "My grandma had 15 horses; then my grandpa had two or three. I've worked with big horses, miniatures,

but never with mustangs, and to see the difference between a domesticated horse and a mustang that's pulled from the wild is a wonder in itself."

How long it takes for a horse to be domesticated is largely dependent on the animal; however, sooner or later they learn that their caretakers are only there to help and that the relationship is mutually beneficial. Many of the horses, described as rowdy upon arrival, become more docile as they follow direction from the Marines.

The relationship the Marines build with their mustangs goes beyond the semi-weekly visits, as some of the Marines talk about visits to see their mustang after separation from active duty.

LCpl Ali Azimi

PAO, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Systems Command Employee Receives Volunteer Service Award

What do you call a 5-foot-6-inch, blonde-haired woman who balances a full-time job as a logistician at Marine Corps Systems Command, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., has a husband and two young children and still dedicates 244 hours a year volunteering in the local community? Some might call her "Superwoman." She also goes by Amy Mersereau-Cooper.

On Dec. 7, 2012, Mersereau-Cooper received her second President's Volunteer



Andrew Dwyer, program manager for Global Combat Support Systems-Marine Corps, presents Amy Mersereau-Cooper with the President's Volunteer Service Award, Dec. 7, 2012. This is Mersereau-Cooper's second award, making her a Bronze-level award recipient.



PAO, UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

CAPITOL PLAYERS—"The President's Own" United States Marine Band rehearses at the U.S. Capitol for its participation in the 57th Inauguration of the President of the United States, which took place on Jan. 21, 2013. This marks the Marine Band's 54th consecutive inaugural appearance, a tradition that dates back to Thomas Jefferson's 1801 Inauguration Day. The band provided music for the swearing-in ceremony, including "Hail to the Chief" and "Semper Fidelis," composed by the Marine Band's legendary John Philip Sousa. At the conclusion of the ceremony, "The President's Own" assumed its position in the parade procession down Pennsylvania Avenue. Later, the Marine Band performed at the Commander in Chief's Inaugural Ball.

Service Award, making her a Bronze-level award recipient. She spends time volunteering, often with her children, at the Dumfries Neighborhood Library and the Action in Community through Service (ACTS) Homeless Shelter, located in Dumfries, Va.

"They love to help out," Mersereau-Cooper said of her children. She added that they are part of the reason she volunteers, as it fosters constructive, family-building time and teaches her children the importance of giving back.

"Places like the library are a lifeline for the community," said Mersereau-Cooper. In addition to being an invaluable resource, the Dumfries Neighborhood Library often is visited by military retirees who want to remain connected with a new generation.

Why is this work so important to her? "There were times when the community gave to me, so this is my way of giving back to them," she said. "I don't do it for the award."

PAO, MARCORSYSCOM, Quantico, Va.

Plan Ahead When Traveling With Pets

Military personnel and Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) personnel traveling to and from Okinawa with pets are unable to use United Airlines' PetSafe program from Okinawa via Guam and Hawaii. The service was discontinued last fall.

United Airlines indefinitely suspended its twice-weekly flight from Okinawa to Guam due to lower than expected demand and high operating costs.

There are other options, however, for individuals to fly their pets to their next destination. One option is the U.S. Air Force's Air Mobility Command Patriot Express, which takes passengers from Okinawa to Seattle, said Glen Downes, Deputy Director, Distribution Management Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, Okinawa.

A full fact sheet for traveling with pets via the Patriot Express can be found by clicking on the "Traveling with pets?" link at www.kadena.af.mil/newcomers/information/index.asp.

Personnel booked on commercial flights need to make travel reservations for pet transportation once their reservation is booked in the passenger travel office system. Personnel should allow three days to receive a travel confirmation from the airline for their pet.

"If you are unable to book your pet through the Patriot Express or a commercial carrier, another option is to use a cargo carrier, like Okinawa Air Cargo Service," said Downes.

Travelers should note that the Okinawa Air Cargo Service only ships animals to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago O'Hare and John F. Kennedy International airports.

Regardless of which transportation method is used, it is important for military and other SOFA personnel to begin planning for transporting their pets as soon as possible, Downes strongly encouraged.

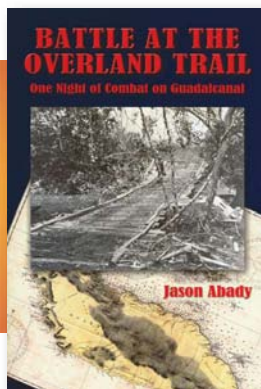
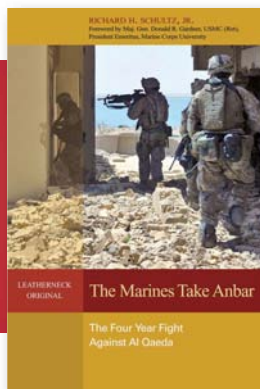
LCpl Brianna Turner

PAO, Marine Corps Installations Pacific



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.



THE MARINES TAKE ANBAR: The Four-Year Fight Against Al Qaeda. By Richard H. Shultz Jr. Published by Naval Institute Press. 288 pages. Stock #1612511406. \$35.96 MCA Members. \$39.95 Regular Price.

Successful campaigns are won by brains. Whether they be wars for terrain or battles for city streets, planned by higher-ups and fought by ordinary soldiers, it's always the same: the mind, first; the heart and soul, second.

This scholarly analysis, "The Marines Take Anbar—The Four-Year Fight Against Al Qaeda," echoes with clarifying detailed explanations for the ancient maxim: "Any force that combines daring initiatives with a maximum of careful planning is unbeatable, even if it is outnumbered three or even five to one by an ill-organized and unimaginative enemy."

During the four-year campaign for Anbar, Iraq's largest providence in the Sunni Triangle, between March 2004 and the summer of 2008, the Corps' legendary I and II Marine Expeditionary forces, suffering bewilderment and battle defeats at first, finally secured and stabilized the al Qaeda stronghold. By considering the essential social and cultural organizational conditions, as well as the psychological core of the enemy and its allies, the MEFs, with supporting units from the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, Iraqi military and other coalition countries, employed impromptu but well-thought-out methods in gaining control of Anbar province.

In his splendid foreword, Major General

Donald R. Gardner, USMC (Ret), President Emeritus, Marine Corps University, writes: "Throughout that campaign, Marines drew upon their long history of fighting small wars and insurrections to adjust and adapt to the province's complex environment and devise novel and effective counterinsurgency strategies ... you could not win that war with kinetic operations."

Page after page of Shultz's anatomy of a classic military campaign suggests, subtly and discerningly, that brains and bravery always win over brawn. Although he cites the sagacity and piercing intellects of such formidable personalities as MajGen John Kelly, Colonel Joe Dunford, General John Allen, MajGen Richard Zilmer, Col Sean McFarland, Gen George Casey and Brigadier General Robert Neller, and a legion of others too numerous to mention in this limited space, the author suggests that a host of anonymous officers were equally involved in achieving Anbar's final permanence.

They were the ones who not only gathered critical information and ensured supplying men and material, but also made a variety of suggestions that top combat leaders took on board to make and carry out decisions.

"The Marines Take Anbar—The Four-Year Fight Against Al Qaeda" is a first-rate, step-by-step account of military adaptation and improvisation under often horrific circumstances that match any campaigns in the annals of Corps history.

The lessons learned from the Anbar story are not only for Marines to study but also for everyone in U.S. military and civilian security institutions.

The author concludes: "Given the persistence of irregular conflict challenges, these lessons will likely have an enduring applicability in the years ahead. They should be assiduously examined, dissected, and, where appropriate, institutionalized into training, organization, and preparation for future irregular challenges."

Certainly a must-read for all military personnel.

Don DeNevi

Editor's note: Don DeNevi is a frequent book reviewer for Leatherneck magazine.

BATTLE AT THE OVERLAND TRAIL: One Night of Combat on Guadalcanal. By Jason Abady. Published by Warwick House Publishers. 251 pages. Stock #1936553260. \$31.50 MCA Members. \$35 Regular Price.

"Battle at the Overland Trail," written by Jason Abady, a descendant of one of the principal participants in the fight, is a dream of military history storytelling. The book traces the larger story of the intense World War II battle for the island of Guadalcanal, but principally, the story of the Marines of Company K, 3d Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division in their decisive fight for access to the Overland Trail on the night of Sept. 13, 1942.

This critical, and often overlooked battle, re-emerged in prominence when William H. Bartsch wrote an article for the September 1997 *Marine Corps Gazette*, titled "Crucial Battle Ignored."

Guadalcanal was the first major U.S. land offensive against Japan. The Battle at the Overland Trail took place at the same time as the more famous fight on Bloody Ridge, also called the Battle for Edson's Ridge. In each case, the Japanese were attempting to break through the Marines' defensive perimeter and recapture the important airstrip, Henderson Field.

While Marine Raider and Parachute

battalions were staving off determined attacks on the ridge, the 3d Bn, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William McKelvy, was set to screen the east approaches to the airfield. “King” Co guarded the battalion’s extreme right flank. Most importantly, it guarded the entrance to the only clear-cut roads pointing like a spear directly at the heart of the airfield. Known as the Overland Trail, it also led directly toward the headquarters of the First Marine Division, commanded by Major General A. A. Vandegrift.

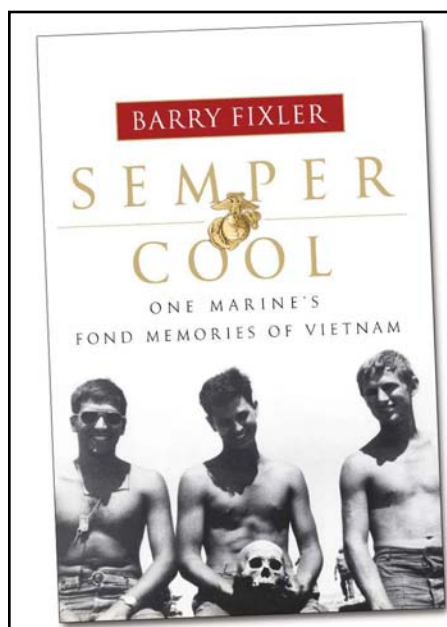
In the battle, the Japanese fiercely and continually assaulted the King Co position. A thin line of Marines was spread out along a company front. The Marines were dug in and were expecting the attack, thanks to a well-positioned listening post. Thinking they had hit the main line of resistance, the Japanese then lost the element of surprise. All through the long night, the King Co leathernecks of 1st Platoon, led by Second Lieutenant William Sager; 2d Plt, led by 2dLt Philip Wilheit; and the 3d Plt, led by 2dLt Herman Abady, fought off savage and repeated bayonet attacks.

Assisted and supported by mortars and pack howitzers, they held and blocked the entrance to the vital Overland Trail. After the battle, Colonel Clifton B. Cates, the commander of 1st Marines and later the 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps, remarked that the slaughter he witnessed was worse than what he had been through at Belleau Wood.

The book’s introduction contains a well-written analysis of our war in the Pacific. One chapter includes an outstanding examination of the island-hopping strategy developed directly from the Guadalcanal campaign experience. Also, Abady presents us with a most interesting chapter focusing on the relationship between how

we fought our WW II Pacific campaign, and our current Middle East war strategy. This fine volume includes many letters written by King Co Marines as well as new and notable information from Japanese survivors.

“Battle at the Overland Trail” is a true prize; it will give the newly interested WW II history buff a fine overview of the importance of the battle for Guadalcanal, and to someone well-versed in Marine Corps lore, the volume will provide a new view of the campaign and the battle. The book is well-salted with photos and some fairly good maps. However, the battle maps fail to indicate the location and route of the key battle feature, that being the rugged Overland Trail. This inclusion would have been a help to us military map junkies. In this fine volume, Abady has done his grandfather and historians a notable service.



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“Fixler seems to have loved every minute of his time in the U.S. Marine Corps, including sustained vicious combat in Vietnam... His blunt recreating of his war-time experiences is well done and evocative.”

—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*

Marines, here’s an intensely new analysis of one of our Marine “touchstone” campaigns. In the following years, K/3/1 would fight at Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa. Sadly, not until 2001, in a long-delayed tribute, was Herman Abady posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his actions and leadership that horrific night at the Overland Trail.

Robert B. Loring

Editor’s note: A prolific reader and Leatherneck contributor, “Red Bob” Loring is dedicated to supporting social programs that improve the lives of citizens in East Pasco County, Fla. He and his team of elves aided U.S. Marine Corps Reserve leathernecks in making last Christmas one of the very best for the Toys for Tots program in his community.



Leatherneck Book Browser

“Welcome to Hell: Three and a Half Months of Marine Corps Boot Camp.” If your Marine Corps experience revolves around your time in recruit training, this is a book for you. It is boot camp: What can you say about the Corps’ initiation that everyone who is a Marine hasn’t in some way experienced? Nothing. It is like chowing down on SOS—after the first serving, you know what to expect. That is unless it is dished up and spiced by a mess cook who thinks like Patrick Turley.

Turley went to boot camp in 2001, a new century, so he’s hardly Old Corps. But because boot camp is each recruit’s own personal gauntlet and crucible, Turley reminds those who went before him that not that much has changed, and to make it more than a stroll down the memory catwalk, he has a unique storytelling style.

With apologies to J. D. Salinger and Holden Caulfield, this one is kind of like “Catcher in the Rye Goes to San Diego.” It is a very good and humorous, albeit somewhat dark, read. I don’t know if that’s what Turley intended, but that’s what happened. Boot camp always seems funny when you look back on it. But when you are there, it is another story entirely, and this is Turley’s. He tells it far better than most.

Turley left the Corps as a sergeant and lives in Jacksonville, Fla., and although he confuses “seabag” with “C-bag,” it is worth the paperback price of \$17.95 via Amazon; \$8.79 via Nook and \$7.69 on Kindle. “Welcome to Hell ...” is a quick read with 224 pages, from yellow footprints to pass in review. It is published by Chronology Books, an imprint of History Publishing Company, Palisades, N.Y. (ISBN: 978-1-933909-21-9 (paperback), ISBN 978-933909-4-0 (e-book))

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IN MEMORIAM

[continued from page 57]

into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

Sgt Carl E. Crouch, 87, in Coconut Creek, Fla. A WW II veteran, he served from 1943 to 1946, participating in the landing on Iwo Jima with 1/26, 5thMarDiv, and in the occupation of Japan. He was later stationed on Peleliu.

After the war, he attended Catawba College in North Carolina, earning a B.S. in commerce, and then worked for the Investigations Division of the U.S. Civil Services Commission.

In 1957, he began working for the Department of Labor where he was an investigator with the Organized Crime Strike Force. He later was promoted to state director for the department's Labor Management Services Administration (now the Office of Labor Management Standards), retiring in 1980. He then worked as a private investigator for the law firm of Holland and Knight in South Florida.

MGySgt Lewis C. Fitts, 79, of Sturgis, Mich. He was a veteran of two wars and began his Marine Corps career as a combat photographer during the Korean War and served as a combat engineer during two tours in Vietnam. He was cited for evacuating 11 of his men before allowing

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his own wounds to be treated. He later was awarded the Purple Heart. He served as logistics chief with the 13th Staff Group in Detroit and retired after 33 years from the Corps while serving with Co B, 6th ESB, South Bend, Ind.

MGySgt Donnie L. Mears, 64, in Fort Worth, Texas. He served 21 years and saw wartime action. In 1983, while stationed at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., the Mears family was honored by the New Bern Chamber of Commerce as the military family of the year.

SSgt Anthony "Tony" Michaels, 91, of Ironwood, Mich. He was a WW II veteran who served with the 3dMarDiv in the Pacific.

He worked for Walter Meyer Sausage Company as a manager of the Ironwood plant. He then entered the motel business and partnered in operating the Cedars Motel in Ironwood and owned the Travelers Motel in Bessemer.

Robert J. Moore, 81, of Irving, Texas. He was a 30-year Marine who fought in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Col Donald E. Wood, 83, of Jacksonville, N.C. He was an infantry platoon, company and battalion commander. During two tours in RVN, he was an operations and training advisor and Brigade Force Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps

and later commanded 3/9 and was XO of 9th Marines.

In his career, he completed six 6-month Mediterranean cruises, and on his last one, he commanded the 34th Marine Amphibious Unit. He also served overseas tours at Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he was an instructor at the Brazilian Naval War College and a n advisor to the Brazilian Marine Corps and Navy. He retired in 1983.

Col Wood taught mathematics and engineering drawing interpretation at Coastal Carolina Community College. He also served as chairman of the Onslow County Public Library System's Board of Trustees and as the Disaster Services committee chairman for the Onslow County Chapter of the American Red Cross. In 1992, he received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Services in recognition of his efforts in support of the state and community.

He also was a founding member of the Camp Lejeune Military Retiree Counsel and was recognized for his years of outstanding and faithful service. He was a member of the Marine Corps Association and Foundation.





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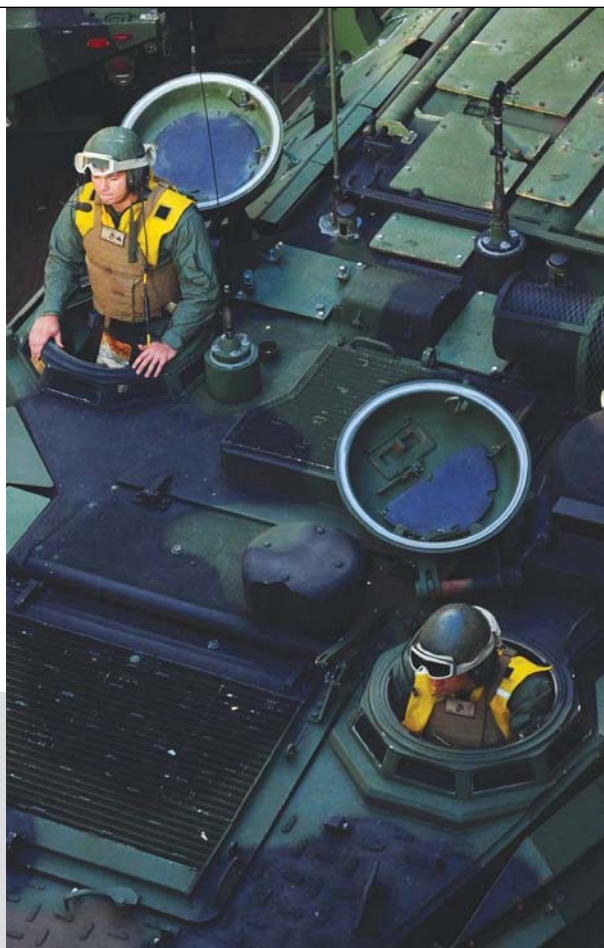
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SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

get longer with the passage of time. Even at 70 yards, that shot would be astonishing.

LtCol Steve Britt, USMCR (Ret)
Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

You left out the bit about Colonel Walter Walsh firing a perfect score on the 1,000-yard range using an '03 Springfield with iron sights. That feat has never been duplicated. Snipers nowadays have computers, spotters and no telling what else to make those long-range shots.

Another bit of trivia is that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover "borrowed" several Texas Rangers for his "Heavy Squad." They were nothing short of a bunch of hired gunmen.

W. R. "Billy Bob" Crim
Kilgore, Texas

Toys for Newtown, Conn., Tots

I am a member of the Ridgefield, Conn., Detachment of the Marine Corps League. Every year, we participate in Toys for Tots, gathering toys from all over Fairfield County and distributing them to needy kids, mainly by way of church groups and shelters and community organizations in disadvantaged areas.

[Last] year, we got a donation of several boxes that contained 120 stuffed bears from a local medical products company.

[In December] we sent the bears—all of them—to kids in Newtown. We knew this was not exactly within the guidelines, but a local Presbyterian church helped us distribute them properly. Today, I have seen several pictures of groups of kids holding these bears.

I guess I'm telling you this because the whole thing really got to me, and I'm so proud of my little Marine Corps unit that found a way to make things softer.

Richard H. Truitt
Norwalk, Conn.

Reader Assistance

"Reader Assistance" entries ("Mail Call," "Wanted," "Sales, Trades and Giveaways" and "Reunions") 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 email to: leatherneck@mca-marines.org, or write to: Reader Assistance Editor, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

Mail Call:

• Marine veteran Tom Nerney, P.O. Box

4021, Forest Hills, NY 11375, (917) 846-7355, sunburst3102@yahoo.com, to hear from anyone who knew or served with **Cpl Robert D. CORRIVEAU** in 3d Bn, 4th Marines, RVN, 1967-68, or from any person who may have had contact with Corriveau while he was at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital from October through December 1968.

• Marine veteran Stephen Norpel, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com, to hear from members of **Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968**.

• Marine veteran John T. Ward, (412) 371-3639, jtwardmarinel@yahoo.com, to hear from Marines who served with **H&S Co, 1st Bn, 7th Marines or 1st Bn, 9th Marines, stationed at Camp Sukiran in Okinawa, April 1960-May 1961**.

• Jim Tobin, 5815 E. La Palma Ave., #36, Anaheim, CA 92807, (714) 970-0119, rivrattjim17@yahoo.com, to hear from anyone who may have known or served with his father, **MSgt Vincent John TOBIN, USMC (Ret)**, who served with **1st MAW, 3d MAW, VMF-221, MAG-21, VMR-152, -252, -253 and -352, 1942-64**.

• Former Sgt Ed Starr, 5112 Sabelle Ln., Haltom City, TX 76117, marineman11@hotmail.com, to hear from anyone who served with him in Vietnam or with **H&S Co, 2d Bn, 5th Marines, 1968-69; I/3/7 and G/2/1, 1969-70**.

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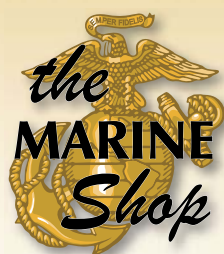


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Wanted:

• Former Cpl Carl R. Withey, 121 North St., P.O. Box 145, Elbridge, NY 13060, (315) 689-3653, (315) 657-0972, crwithey@twcny.rr.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 193, Parris Island, 1966**. The senior drill instructor was SSgt J. D. Perkins; junior DIs were SSgt D. J. Werner and Sgt R. J. Beatty.

• Marine veteran John Riebel, 3218 Onyx Pkwy., Rockford, IL 61102, wants a **recruit graduation book and photos for Plt 240, San Diego, 1961**.

• Jim Tobin, 5815 E. La Palma Ave., #36, Anaheim, CA 92807, [rivratjim17@yahoo.com](mailto:rivrattjim17@yahoo.com), wants **squadron photos of 1st MAW, 3d MAW, VMA-212, -214, VMF-221, MAG-21, VMR-152, -252, -253 and -352, 1942-64**.

• Former Sgt Ed Starr, 5112 Sabelle Ln., Haltom City, TX 76117, marineman11@hotmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3095, San Diego, 1967**.

• Marine veteran Russell G. Comstock, 119 Hawthorne St., Elyria, OH 44035, (440) 420-6012, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 185 or 187, Parris Island, 1971**.

• MGySgt Terry L. Read, USMC (Ret), 4740 N. Mesa St., Apt. 35, El Paso, TX 79912, (915) 999-6834, houseofthe.resurrection@yahoo.com, wants a **recruit**

graduation book for Plt 262, San Diego, 1965. The DIs were Sgt Chase, Sgt Ponders and Sgt Hawkins.

• Marine veteran Bob Edwards, (916) 952-9778, bob.edwards@dot.ca.gov, wants a **drill instructor platoon graduation photo for Class 2-74, San Diego, 1974.**

Sales, Trades and Giveaways:

• Loren Pecore, (507) 645-6073, lwpmjp@q.com, has an **M20B1A1 3.5-inch "Super Bazooka" rocket launcher** for sale. Made by Birtman Electric Company, late 1940s or early '50s.

• Marine veteran Steve Toman, P.O. Box 543, Nashville, MI 49073-0543, (517) 852-0334, has **WW II and Pacific edition Leatherneck magazines** for sale.

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Reunions:

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 14-18, Alexandria, Va. Contact GySgt Don H. Gee, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **Marine Corps Musicians Assn.**, April 23-26, Jacksonville, N.C. Contact Matt Stevenson, 1807 N. Irwin Ave., Green Bay, WI 54302, (920) 676-1260, mmusmceod@gmail.com.

• **8th & I Reunion Assn.**, May 16-19, Arlington, Va. Contact Maj John Marley, USMC (Ret), (703) 473-9818, jm1967a15@verizon.net, www.8thandi.com.

• **11th Marines OIF Reunion**, April 5-7, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact "Bigfoot" Brown, cannoncookers@yahoo.com, or visit www.facebook.com/#!/11thMarineRegiment.

• **11th Engineer Bn (RVN, 1966-69) and Vietnam Veterans of America**, Aug. 13-17, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethemarine@gmail.com.

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn.**, May 2-5, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Ken Miller, (828) 757-0968, usmcpidi@charter.net, www.parrislanddi.org.

• **"Marines of Long Ago,"** All-eras, April 16-20, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Joe "Red" Cullen, (203) 877-0846, aircooledmg7@aol.com.

• **2/4 (All eras)**, June 26-29, Philadelphia. Contact Bill Weise, (703) 866-7657, or Jay Brown, (856) 728-3196, 24reunion2013chairman@gmail.com.

• **3/27 (RVN, 1968)**, April 15-18, Ann Arbor, Mich. Contact Terry Rigney, 53442 Villa Rosa Dr., Macomb, MI 48042, (586) 992-0063, trigney098@comcast.net.

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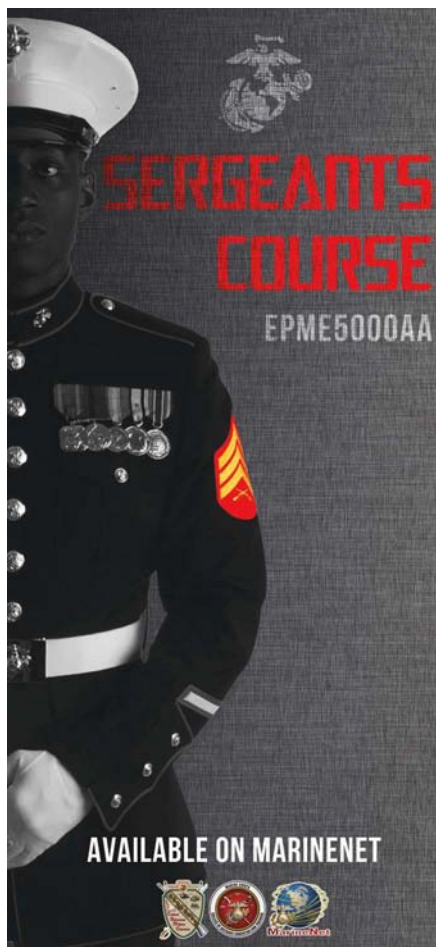
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• **I/3/7**, April 24-27, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **K/3/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 18-23, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact William Rolke, (262) 780-0993, k37usmc@att.net, or Don Tackett, (678) 725-0329, tdontack@net.scape.net.

• **L/3/5 (RVN, 1966-71)**, June 11-16, Arlington, Texas. Contact Dan Nordmann, (314) 291-1725, dmnordmann@att.net.

• **U.S. Navy Site One Holy Loch, Scotland Assn.**, Aug. 27-Sept. 4, Dunoon, Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland. Contact Roland Kitridge, (508) 877-2960, rk01701@yahoo.com, www.holyloch.org.

• **MarDet, USS Juneau (CL-119)**, Aug. 23-30, Alaska cruise. Contact William S. Gerichten, 141 Pinelawn Dr., Kernersville, NC 27284, (336) 993-5415.

• **4th USMC/METOC/Weather Service**, June 2-6, Las Vegas. Contact Lee Halverson, (925) 837-7493, lhazmateer@aol.com, or Don Innis, (321) 724-6600, dinnis@cfl.rr.com.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Oct. 6-11, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact MSgt Harold Wilson, USMC (Ret), 835 N. Wood St., Logan, OH 43138, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne06@gmail.com.

• **Udorn Veterans**, July 12-15, Weatherford, Texas. Contact Jerry C. Long, 118 Mariah Dr., Weatherford, TX 76087, (817) 594-4623, jclhydsr71bafb@gmail.com.

• **Iwo Jima Survivors and Family Members**, March 21-23, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Daniel Zepeda, (951) 201-6251, zepeda012@msn.com.

• **Plt 94, Parris Island, 1955**, April 22-24, Savannah, Ga. Contact Tom Lawrence, (352) 344-1787, semf155@embarqmail.com, or Orville Hubbs, onpahubbs@gmail.com.

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

• **Plts 316-319, Parris Island, 1964**, April 17, 2014, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Alexander J. Nevglowski Sr., (910) 325-9148, (910) 548-5227, gunr88@hotmail.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.

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

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

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• **Plts 4020/4021, Parris Island, 2000**, July 12-14, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Elizabeth Rossi, (914) 315-1728, elizabethannrossi@gmail.com.

• **HMM-363 (RVN)**, May 16-18, Pensacola Beach, Fla. Contact Mike Tripp, (401) 434-7200, mtripp@mwt-cpa.coxatwork.com.

• **VMAT-102 A-4M Skyhawks (and related squadrons from MCAS Yuma, Ariz.)**, March 9, Las Vegas. Contact GiGi Ahlstrom, (513) 544-1016, LTK165@hotmail.com.

Ships and Others:

• **USS Bremerton (CA-130/SSN-698)**, Sept. 8-12, St. Louis. Contact James Jensen, (406) 837-4474, jtbluff@centurytel.net, or R. F. Polanowski, (585) 365-2316, rpolanowski@stny.rr.com.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 24-29, Providence, R.I. Contact Carl and Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Houston (CA-30/CL-81) Assn.**, Aug. 20-24, Chicago. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113, dlr7110@yahoo.com.

• **USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7)**, Oct. 2-6, San Diego. Contact Robert G.

McAnally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack@megalink.net, ussiwjoshimashipmates.cfns.net.

• **USS Portsmouth (CL-102)**, April 25-29, Herndon, Va. Contact Walt Hohner, 448 Hillside Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854, (732) 463-1745, wphohner@aol.com.

• **USS Randolph (CV/CVA/CVS-15)** and **USS Terror (CM-5)**, Sept. 22-29, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla. Contact Sal Rizza, 1720 Sandy Ct., Merritt Island, FL 32952, (321) 454-2344.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)** (all members), Sept. 18-22, St. Louis. Contact George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, uss.ranger@yahoo.com.

• **USS Renville (APA-227)**, April 3-7, Portland, Ore. Contact Lynda Rumble, 187 Lakeshore Dr., Mooresville, NC 28117, (704) 906-7622, lyndahd01@aol.com, ussrenvilleapa227.com.

• **USS Tarawa (CV-40/LHA-1)**, April 25-28, Pensacola, Fla. 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.

• **USS Ticonderoga (CV/CVA/CVA-14/CG-47)**, May 16-20, Colorado Springs, Colo. Contact George Passantino, (720) 929-1844, georgepsr@aol.com.



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John Poole, USMC, 1965-93

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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.

The Leader

Now gather 'round, all thy young leaders,
There's wisdom, which of thee must know.
The first, is that none are immortal,
For all, a time comes, we must go.

Knowledge and experience build wisdom,
These lessons learned by thee,
Just once to be learned of the hard way,
Then they, we should teach to thy men.

Watch over thy men who do follow.
Guard well, their health and their feed,
For there's not a need for a leader
When there are not men left to lead.

Teach thy men to be thinkers,
The doer of deeds to be done.
For the accomplished man of details,
Already, the battle is won.

Be just with men in thy dealings,
Respect all of those in thy pack.
For this is a virtue when given
That most often seeks its way back.

Reflect on thy heart and thy values.
Focus on weakness not might.
In seeking thy own self-improvement,
For leaders, it's doing what's right.

Don't tasketh thy men for sure failure,
For this, thou will be thought unwise.
Thy leader will judge thy act foolish;
Thy men will look with despise.

Know thy task well; be proficient.
And also the jobs of thy men—
Answer correctly their questions,
For all shall trust following then.

Pass with thy men information,
Tell them those things they should know.
Leader's uncovered keeping secrets,
Men's trust is the first thing to go.

In all ye must set the example,
Of standards and physically fit,
For men are not willing to follow
A leader who's willing to quit.

Speak clearly when issuing orders,
Ensure that thy men understand,
Do supervise all that is needed
To finish the job that's at hand.

When working, all must work together,
Each member as part of a team—
Working their part, with grit and heart
Makes tasks much simpler, it seems.

Be quick and sound in decisions,
Not reluctant and someone who waits.
For the man who acts, they will follow,
And thy'll be the leader of late.

If thy men believe and are willing
To follow those things which are right,
Then right they will do with ye with them,
And also when thou's out of sight.

Seek to grow strong as a leader.
Thy actions alone thee must own—
And failure, do not blame on others.
In this, reputation is grown.

The last is the thing of importance.
And this I will tell thee again.
People will serve for a leader,
Such leader who serves for thy men.

SgtMaj Robert D. Thielen, USMC (Ret)

Reality Check

Unrelenting heat
Surrounds us.

Right now,
I'd trade sweet courage
That seemed boundless,
For a cool drink,
And a place in the shade.
"God and country," words of others.
But, hopeful rank of "brothers"
To see me home again.
Back there,
To tilted glasses,
Remembrance of the past is
The boldness of
My brethren
... and that is
Our claim to fame.

John Roberts





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March 2013

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

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OORAH!

Bravo Zulu to MCA on its first hundred years.



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In April, MCA celebrates a century of serving Marines.

Here are some highlights from the first hundred years.

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25 April 1913

Sixty officers of the 2nd Provisional Marine Brigade, serving at Guantanamo Bay, formally organize the Marine Corps Association with LtCol John A. Lejeune appointed as the senior member of the three-man Executive Committee.

15 October 1915

Marine Corps Gazette is established by MCA as a means of fostering professional dialogue in the Corps.

March 1916

The first edition of MCA's *Marine Corps Gazette* is published.

17 November 1917

The first edition of the *Quantico Leatherneck* is published.

1 January 1920

Leatherneck becomes an official Marine Corps Publication. Affiliation with the Marine Corps Association would come in succeeding years.

Early 1946

MCA finds a permanent home at Quantico after residences in New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

MARINE CORPS GAZETTE

No. 1.

1916.

OF ADVANCE BASES MARINE CORPS.

W. Lejeune, U. S. M. C.

ations make it mandatory to estimate
imating the situation, the first thing to
mission of the military force concerned.
us that the correctness of the conclusion
the soundness of the premises. The most
this estimate of the situation is the deter-
mission of the Marine Corps in the event of war.
which the United States may become involved
roughly into two classes. First: great naval
vers weak in naval strength. A war with a na-
class means that the military shore forces
the territory of the two be con-
settled the momen-
take no active
opened



2 May 1947

Membership expands to any member or former member of the armed services of the United States.

27 February 1976

The Marine Corps Association and the Leatherneck Association merge.

January 1989

The MCA building expands to house a number of important tenants including the Marine Corps Aviation Association, Toys for Tots Foundation, the Marine Corps University Foundation, the Marine Corps Historical Foundation and others.

November 2006

The first digital editions of *Marine Corps Gazette* and *Leatherneck* are posted, providing paperless access and expanded content to members.

1 January 2009

The Marine Corps Association Foundation is established as a 501 C(3) charitable organization to provide better support for MCA missions.

September 2011

The Marine Corps Association revises its brand to incorporate the existence of the Foundation and becomes the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.

2013

MCA celebrates its centennial.



Left to right: MCA&F Chairman MajGen Harry W. Jenkins, USMC (Ret.); USAA President and CEO MajGen Josue "Joe" Robles, USA (Ret.); and MCA&F President and CEO MajGen Edward Usher, USMC (Ret.)



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By my dad.**

Adelaide C., future USAA member



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