

MARCH 2014

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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Combat Talk—

“It Was Like
Shooting At
Little Dots.”

Rest Camp on Pavuvu,
What a Dump! But At
Least We Had “Hope”

Riding Lightning
Over Beaufort



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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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.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 provide a one-year courtesy subscription to the non-MCA&F member whose letter is selected as the "Sound Off Letter of the Month." Leatherneck will continue to pay \$25 for a "Sound Off Letter of the Month" submitted by a member.)

I always look forward to receiving my *Leatherneck* magazine, and I do read it cover to cover.

The Marine Corps, and history bears it out, is the best combat military force ever. The Marines have fought and died all around the globe. My war experience happened 46 years ago in the jungles of Vietnam. I was trusted by the Marines to be a combat sergeant and entrusted with the lives of young Marines. That was quite a burden to bear, as when you lose any of your men, you do take it personally. I honestly think of those guys often and wonder what they would have accomplished had they survived.

Those of you who have served in combat know what I am talking about. It is forever etched in our memories. We know personally the heroes, for we witnessed their sacrifices and have shed many a tear for those who upheld the highest traditions of our Corps.

I am 72 years old, and where have the years gone? I am a loner and don't socialize much. My time is coming to a close and I look forward to reporting to my next duty station. To young Marines serving proudly today, thank you and always wear your uniforms proudly. God bless the United States Marine Corps.

Lawrence A. Mould
Port Charlotte, Fla.

"The Reawakening" Letter Receives Responses

I'm a "Mustang" officer. My active duty military occupational specialty was 0331 [machine-gunner] and 0802 [field artillery officer]. "The Reawakening" letter [published on page 10 in the January issue] to our corporals and sergeants is alarming, to say the least.

As I read through the lines, the quote,

"Through your presence ..." is written to the wrong people. The corporals and sergeants don't need it. They know that they are the backbone of the Corps. They knew it when they earned their "blood stripe." Who's backing them up?

In 1969-70, while I was at The Basic School in Quantico, Va., General Lewis W. Walt, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, spoke to us. He emphasized that, as platoon leaders, it was imperative that we speak up. He implied that we were responsible to do this throughout our career.

My first awareness of the political changes within the Corps was in 1970. As the executive officer of an artillery battery, the "gunny" told me that I had to go to the squadbay and "rap" with the troops. I did not know what he was talking about. (Must be the semantics.)

It's now 2014, and we are in the "battle against the insurgency of wrongdoing." In addition, we are "strategic Corporals and Sergeants." What the heck does that mean?

To my superiors, get specific! What do you want me to do? How far are you willing to go to back me up! I will give of myself, my life, if need be. That's our code of honor. It still is. Where were those in positions of authority when those soiling our honor were running rampant? I remember a day when those actions would not have been tolerated!

As General Clifton B. Cates, 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps, said: "Leadership is intangible, hard to measure, and difficult to describe. Its quality would seem to stem from many factors. But certainly they must include a measure of inherent ability to control and direct, self-confidence based on expert knowledge, initiative, loyalty, pride and sense of responsibility. Inherent ability cannot be instilled, but that which is latent or dormant can be developed. Other ingredients can be acquired. They are not easily learned. But leaders can be and are made."

To those of us who were trained by World War II and Korean War veterans, the solution was very apparent. Get rid of

all the malcontents and direct all of your efforts to those Marines who exhibit the leadership traits and principles to which we all aspire.

It's time to stand up and be counted!

Maj David J. Hawkins, USMC (Ret)
Mount Shasta, Calif.

The letter "The Reawakening" from General [James F.] Amos and Sergeant Major [Micheal P.] Barrett struck a very deep emotion in me. I only served with the Corps from 1963 to 1967, but I learned two things. The enlisted Marine is the backbone of the Corps, and the noncommissioned officer is his leader and model, which all of us follow. The lessons I learned from my NCOs have lasted a lifetime. By falling back on what they taught me, I was able to overcome every obstacle that life presented.

Thank you, Gen Amos and SgtMaj Barrett. You reminded me of the importance I felt when I served.

Russell K. Carter
Fredericksburg, Va.

What Really Happened At Yuletide in 1776

In the December 2013 article, "From the Archives, December 1947: Yuletide Invasions," by Sergeant Vernon Langille, I noticed the author had taken creative liberties rather than factual points for his article. I have been a reenactor of the Washington Crossing the Delaware event on Christmas Day for more than 25 years.

The facts are that 2,400 soldiers, 200 horses and 18 cannon crossed that night in 1776 into New Jersey under the direction of Major General Henry Knox. No boats or rafts capsized that night and no horses or soldiers drowned. It is true that the regimental group known as the Marblehead fishermen were the men General George Washington used to row the boats. He had used them before for his escape from Manhattan to New Jersey where they provided outstanding results.

The Durham boats used to ferry the troops on Christmas night did not previously haul fish as surmised by the



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author. They were 40 feet long and 8 feet wide and could carry 15 tons. Most important was that they had a shallow draft that proved excellent for their use to carry iron ore and grain to Philadelphia. The entire crossing took nine hours.

During the Battle of Trenton, there were 30 Hessian soldiers killed including Colonel Johann G. Rall (also spelled Rahl), their commander. His coat, with the musket ball hole, is on display at the Washington Crossing Museum, Washington Crossing Park, Titusville, N.J. There were only two Continental soldiers who lost their lives during this campaign. Both froze to death on the march. None of the Continental soldiers died in this battle or in the crossings to New Jersey and back to Pennsylvania after the battle.

This was the first successful battle of the Revolutionary War. Two weeks later GEN Washington and the Continental soldiers crossed again, achieving a second consecutive victory at the Battle of Princeton. This also was the first recorded battle in which the Marines participated. There is a marker at the Princeton Battle Monument indicating this.

These two battles were significant in providing an impetus for achieving our ultimate freedom and independence from England as referenced in the book "Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution" by A. J. Langguth.

Capt Tom Blair, USMCR (Ret)

Sun City West, Ariz.

The Combat Cartoonist Who Landed on Tarawa

I read the November 2013 Tarawa story "The Bloodiest Beachhead Ever." This is related to a different invasion perspective. Following boot camp at San Diego, I was sent to Camp Elliott where the Headquarters and Service Battalion, 19th Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division was being formed.

After specialized training, we were deployed to Auckland, New Zealand. Eventually, our battalion was deployed to Guadalcanal—several weeks ahead of the 3dMarDiv. I was assigned to the III Amphibious Corps Production Mapping Unit with a complement of 43. This is where I met one of my best Marine buddies, Bob "Punchy" Donovan. We were both into cartooning on the face of envelopes.

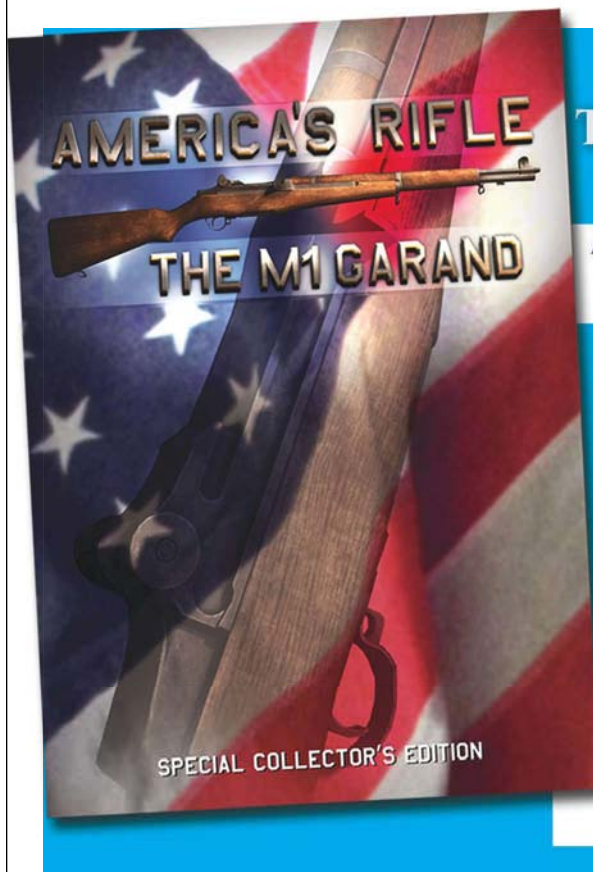
Then-Major General Roy S. Geiger wanted to form a topographical relief mapping unit, the first in Marine Corps history, and he picked a captain to form and organize the unit.

The captain handpicked 11 out of 43, including Donovan and me. Our first invasion relief map was Tarawa. We were highly censored because we were given flight sorties for future island invasions. After the Tarawa relief map was picked by the commanding brass, our captain informed us that Punchy Donovan was assigned to the Tarawa invasion as a combat cartoonist (another first). Donovan was with a news media group. When shrapnel



Relief maps were the small unit's specialty. Here, from left, MajGen Roy S. Geiger, Commanding General, III Amphibious Corps; his chief of staff, Col M. H. Silverthorn; and BGen Pedro A. del Valle, CG, III Corps Artillery, III Amphibious Corps, study the relief map of Guam.

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began flying, a small shrapnel fragment hit one of Donovan's fingers between a nail. The next day it fell out. They gave him a Purple Heart.

Upon returning from overseas in 1945, Sergeant Donovan was assigned to *Leatherneck* magazine as a cartoonist, on the staff with Fred Lasswell, creator of Snuffy Smith and Barney Google.

As Marines, we were proud of our achievements during World War II—the first Relief Mapping Unit in Marine Corps history.

Sgt Earl Chloupek
 USMC, 1942-45
 Lake Wales, Fla.

Who Says American Children Aren't Patriotic?

As a Marine veteran of the Korean War, I attended a Veterans Day celebration luncheon sponsored by the Council on Aging Center in West Bridgewater, Mass.

The center's director, Mary Graf, had invited students of the Howard Elementary School to attend and sing patriotic songs to the veterans. The student chorus was excellent in their performance. Upon completion, the students requested the veterans to stand and be recognized for their branch of service and their commitment to their country and devotion to duty.

The students, each holding a beautiful carnation flower, then proceeded to hand each and every veteran a carnation. It was the students' way of saying, "We will not forget your service to the American people and country."

If these young children are a fine example of our future young Americans in this country, then the United States is sure to be in excellent hands. On behalf of all the attending veterans—we were so honored by these children. May God bless them all and their school.

Cpl John D. Messia Jr., USMC (Ret)
 2dMarDiv, 1950-54
 Brockton, Mass.

Mongolian Ponies Such as Reckless Were Not So Easy to Ride

In June 1951, our platoon was clearing mines on the main supply route in and around Inje, South Korea.

We came upon four French soldiers who had captured a Mongolian pony. It was about the height of Staff Sergeant Reckless as pictured in the October 2013 issue. The soldiers were trying their best to ride the horse. It was not having anything to do with something on its back and would buck the rider off as soon as he mounted.

We watched this show for some time and then continued with our mine detail. If

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Reckless was a Mongolian pony ["Sound Off," January 2014], someone must have spent a considerable amount of time training her. You see some odd things in a war zone, but watching those French soldiers was a fun-filled day I will always remember.

SSgt Donald F. MacDermott

USMC, 1945-52

"Able" Co, 1st Engineering Bn, 1stMarDiv
Murrieta, Calif.

And Then We Stole the Army Mule ...

I ran across a news clipping of my dad, Marcel J. Caussin, and his buddies stealing the Army mule at a football game. He's the one riding the mule. He stayed in the Corps until the mid-1920s and then joined the Reserve until the late '30s. He was a field music and became a drum sergeant major.

A photographer caught the picture and it was in the paper, kind of faded now.

Can you imagine what would happen if some Marines pulled a prank like that now? They'd be buried so deep under the brig that you'd have to pipe sunlight to them.

Capt Jack Caussin, USMC (Ret)

Springfield, Va.

• Or perhaps basking on the pages of *Leatherneck* magazine.—*Sound Off* Ed.

Beware of "Tony the Scammer" And Others Like Him

I have just read my January issue and was saddened to read the letter from Marine veteran Tim Ball. It appears that he has been scammed by the same person, or persons, who attempted to do the same to me.

I had submitted the letter below to *Leatherneck*, but requested it not be printed since in it I had stated "Tony's" full name. At that time I was suspicious, but not certain, that Tony was a dishonest person, so I did not want to create a possible libel action. Now I realize this person is a dishonest low-life preying on my former brothers. Although I was not scammed, I am looking into possible legal remedies. If it will be of any help, please use any part of my letter as an additional warning to other Marine vets:

I received a telephone call from a person who identified himself simply as "Tony." He told me he had a graduation book for Platoon 188, Parris Island, 1956. He said his grandfather had been in that platoon and upon his grandfather's death, he had contacted the Marine Corps museum and asked if anyone there would like to have the book. He was told the museum had no room for such items, but my name was given to him since I had placed an ad in *Leatherneck* requesting such a book. He said he had left a telephone message for me during the week, but had not heard from me. He was leaving on Sunday for college in Arizona, had very little time, and wanted to know if I was interested in the book. There would be no charge, shipping or otherwise. I gave him my mailing address.

There followed a number of telephone calls between us. My calls always went to voice mail, and he would call back within about 20 minutes. He stated he lived high in the southwestern California mountains, and the closest mailing location was a post office annex in Newberry Springs. He said the town had no official post office. He told me he made two trips down to the town that Saturday morning and afternoon and left the book there. He said the annex would not accept his credit card and suggested I go to Walmart and wire him the amount necessary (\$39) to have the book shipped.

I asked for the annex telephone number, but he did not have it. He said the person in charge of the annex was an Asian man who didn't speak English very well. I said I would try to find the annex number and call this man to deal with him directly, therefore making less work for him (Tony) since he needed to leave for college the next day. When I mentioned that, he said, "Oh, no, I can leave on Monday morning

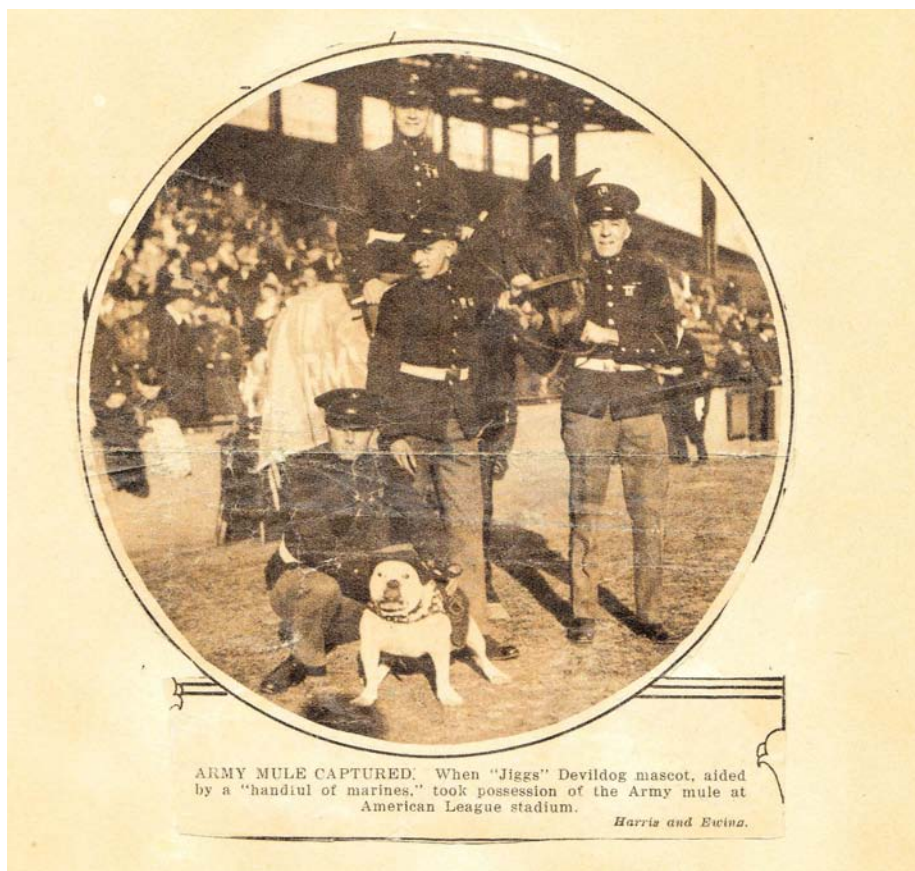
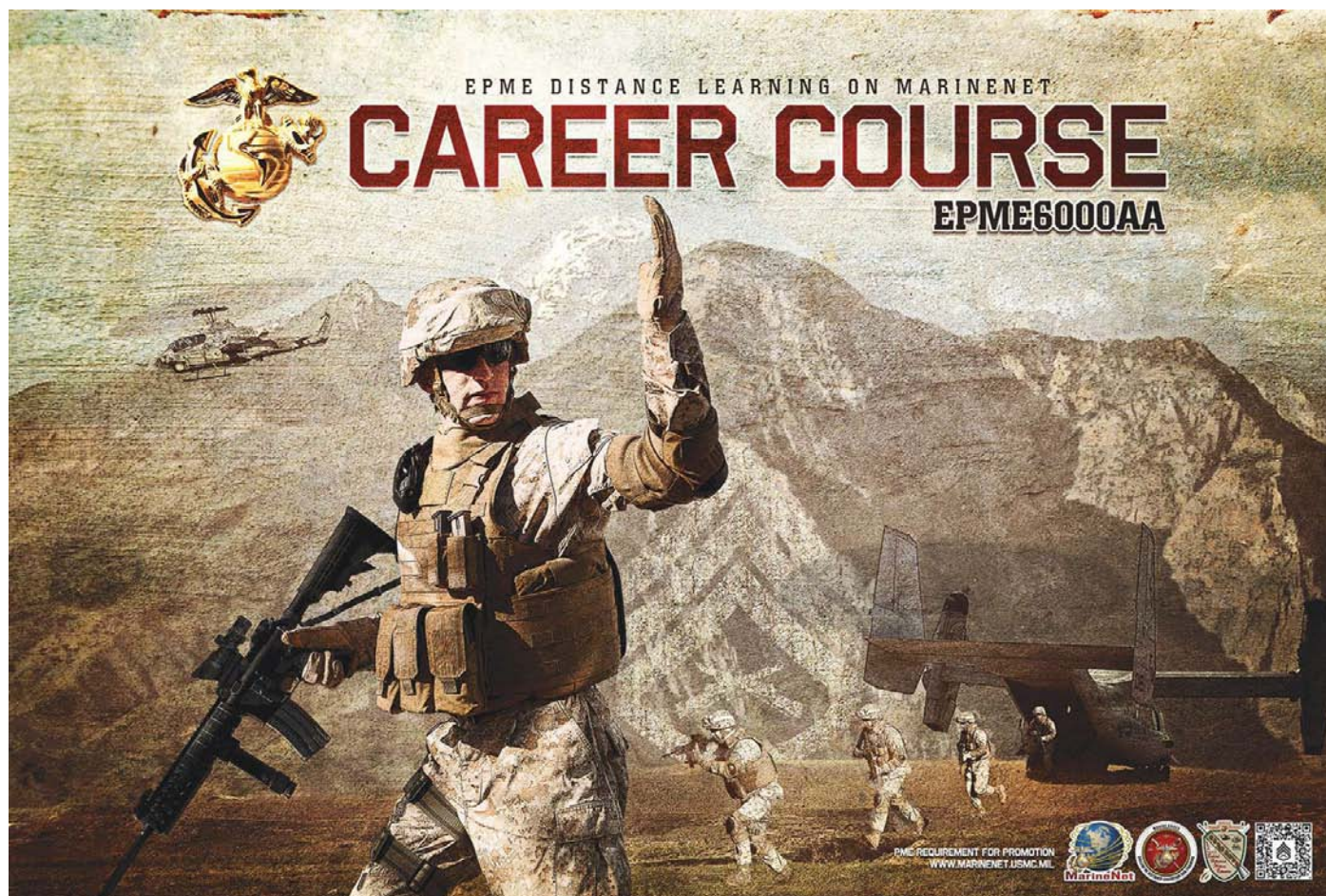


PHOTO BY HARRIS AND EWING COURTESY OF CAPT JACK CAUSSIN

The caption off this old news clipping reads: "ARMY MULE CAPTURED: When 'Jiggs' Devildog mascot, aided by a 'handful of marines,' took possession of the Army mule at American League stadium."



so I'd have plenty of time to take care of it myself."

When I insisted that I would rather contact the annex myself, I could tell he was very disappointed and once again suggested I wire him the money directly and he would be certain the book was shipped. I thanked him and said I would try to find the annex number.

After a great deal of online searching and telephone calls, I found that Newberry Springs does have a small post office. I telephoned and was told there had been no such package left there. The person in charge told me there was a service station in town that accepted after-hours mail. I found that number, called, and was told there was no such package and no Asian worker there. I called Tony one more time and confirmed his last name and told him what I had learned. He said I must have contacted a wrong number. I wished him the best with his "college" plans.

I suspect this was an attempted scam because my telephone voice mail works fine, and I had never received an earlier call from Tony. I had placed an ad in *Leatherneck* looking for a graduation book for Platoon 188, 1956, but that had been at least two, and maybe three, years ago. I doubt the Marine Corps museum would have had that information to give Tony. The need for immediate action on a

weekend was highly suspicious. The lack of a post office in Newberry Springs and the information regarding the "annex" and its owner was incorrect, and the change from no cost to me for the book to a money gram to be sent directly to Tony screamed "Caution!"

Although the charge to me may have been only \$39, I wonder how many other vets he may have contacted with this or other enticements, asking for money grams from each. I hope all *Leatherneck* readers will continue to be alert to potential schemes such as the one offered to me.

George Collias
Venice, Fla.

More on the Flag Raising Over Hue City

I am writing to you in response to your two articles in *Leatherneck*, "Golf Company at Hue" (June 2013) and "The Terrible Carnage of Hue" (July 2013). My father is retired Sergeant Major Frank A. Thomas Jr. (Gunnery Sergeant Frank A. Thomas as referred to in the July article).

He was assigned to "Hotel" Co, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment. He was positioned at the Troi River Bridge on the night the Tet offensive started. As stated in the article, he was one of the Marines who raised the American flag at the provincial headquarters in Hue. In speaking with my father, I have learned some ad-

ditional details about that flag and how it got to the site that day and the journey of the flag since that brief high-flying moment over Hue.

It is believed they finally found a flag at the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam compound. My father kept the flag inside his flak jacket. Then, as his company stormed onto the grounds of the provincial headquarters, he, with Privates First Class Walter R. Kaczmarek and Alan V. McDonald, ran through gunfire to the flagstaff, tore down the North Vietnamese flag and raised Old Glory, signaling the recapture of the building.

He recounted to me that after the "ceremony" he stepped away from the excitement and walked across the courtyard to collect his thoughts and "have a quiet moment." This was how he discovered the North Vietnamese soldier in the spider hole which led to his command that others "Check the holes!" This led to discovering nine or 10 more NVA in their holes.

According to my father, the flag flew for approximately 45 minutes and was brought back down. My father recalls that it ended up in his possession, although he was not sure why, but he was able to save the flag and keep it safely until later. He was able to mail it back in a package from Vietnam to my mother, Bernadette, at home in Niles, Ohio.



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After my father returned from the war, the local newspaper wrote an article on the event and ran a picture of my family displaying the flag in our home. Although Dad has flown an American flag outside his home every day of his life since returning from Vietnam, we safely stored this special flag, and it moved from place to place as Dad received his transfer orders.

The flag moved from Ohio to Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo.; Tampa Bay, Fla.; Parris Island-Beaufort, S.C.; and Philadelphia. My father was able to dedicate the flag to the guided missile cruiser USS *Hue City* (CG-66) during her commissioning in 1991. Mr. Kaczmarek and Mr. McDonald, and my father, were reunited to raise the flag on the main mast of the cruiser. As the article states, the flag now is encased on display on the quarterdeck. I had the blessing of being able to visit USS *Hue City* with my parents and siblings a couple years ago. The displayed flag is a remarkable reminder of the brave men and a job "well done."

My father also is very appreciative of the effort and time that you have taken to honor the brave men of the Vietnam War during the "Carnage of Hue City." My father and mother presently are retired in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Additionally, I enjoyed reading the

article about Captain Dale Dye in the June 2013 issue. Capt Dye was serving with my father during that time in Vietnam, and they, on occasion, have kept in touch through the years.

Jan Monaghan
Palmetto, Fla.

First Lieutenants Gillespie, Greene And Their Swords

Congratulations on the excellent and fascinating two-part article on First Lieutenant Archibald Gillespie and his secret mission to California and Oregon, published in the November and December 2013 issues. I have never heard of the man or the story.

The cover of the November issue is one of the best *Leatherneck* covers I have ever seen, and I have been seeing them since 1943. We, and our Corps, owe a great debt of gratitude to the late artist Colonel Charles Waterhouse; that painting tells a story and immediately makes me anxious to read the story. It is superb!

I noticed one thing about the cover: First Lt Gillespie appears to be wearing his Marine officer's Mameluke-hilt sword. It is a beautiful sword, but as we know, it is a ceremonial sword and wouldn't be much help in a fight. First Lt Israel Greene discovered this in the recapture of Harpers

Ferry in 1859, when he came down with his [sword] in a vertical stroke on abolitionist John Brown's head. It split Brown's scalp and stunned him, but it also ended the sword's career. I have seen that sword, when the Marine Corps Museum was in the old headquarters building at Quantico, Va., with the blade bent, more or less in the shape of John Brown's head.

The sword is a really nice touch in the painting, but I think a savvy spy like Gillespie would have carried a heavy, sharp saber.

LtCol Tom C. McKenney, USMC (Ret)
Marion, Ky.

• *Lieutenant Colonel McKenney sent us a letter just prior to press time, saying, "I came across Lieutenant Israel Greene's first person account of the incident and discovered that I have been perpetuating an inaccuracy about the sword." Over the years that LtCol McKenney has written us, he has been right far more than wrong and always a stand-up Marine. Thanks, sir!*

Here is what we came up with for our answer to LtCol McKenney's original letter: The Mameluke-hilt sword during that time was not a ceremonial sword. The Mameluke grip was fitted to a saber or fighting blade. Col Waterhouse was an artist noted for his research and authenticity in his paintings. If he had Lt Gillespie with a Mameluke-hilt sword, it is because Col Waterhouse researched it and deemed it likely that Gillespie carried such a sword.

According to "The Sword of the Corps," an article by Captain Frank E. Evans, USMC (Ret), in the September 1916 Marine Corps Gazette, "All officers when on duty, either in full or undress uniform, shall wear a plain brass scabbard sword or saber, with a Mameluke hilt of white ivory and gold tassels; extreme length of the sword three feet, one inch and half, curve of the blade half an inch only to serve as a cut and thrust; the hilt in length (which is included in the extreme length of the sword) four inches and three-quarters; width of scabbard, one inch and three-quarters; width of blade, one inch.

"The same specifications are contained in the regulations of April 3, 1833, signed by John Boyle as Acting Secretary of the Navy, and issued to the Corps by Commandant Henderson. No change is to be found in the Uniform Regulations of July 1, 1839, and the sword was worn without change from the orders of April 26, 1825, until a board was convened in 1859."

So, when Gillespie was on his mission, the Mameluke grip was the official grip. "Bravo Zulu" to Col Waterhouse for his accuracy.

[continued on page 66]

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New Memorial Documents Marines' Sacrifices



World War II Marines, from left, Coy Shue, Hank Grathwohl, Wally Duncan and Jim Hunter of the Marine Corps League Det. 750 were among the MCL members celebrating the dedication of the Marine monument in Charlotte, N.C.'s Freedom Park on 10 Nov. 2013.

By David Perlmutter

The monument stands 6 feet tall in Freedom Park. It's made of solid granite, inscribed with the story of the U.S. Marine Corps and the names of overseas battlegrounds that resonate in American history.

Iconic names such as Tripoli, Belleau Wood, Peleliu and Iwo Jima.

The last two are islands that Charlotte, N.C., residents Hank Grathwohl, Coy Shue, Wally Duncan and Jim Hunter know well. All but Duncan are in their 90s; he's 88. All are retired Marines, all grateful to have lived long lives when so many of their buddies never got that chance.

On the Corps' 238th birthday and the eve of Veterans Day, the Marine Corps League Detachment 750 of Charlotte dedicated the \$5,500 monument it installed weeks earlier. It is a proper setting: In 1949, four years after the war ended, the Charlotte Lions Club donated the 98-acre park to the city to honor those who served in war and on the homefront.

The men made plans to be there, health willing, honoring their friends who didn't walk off those islands—who in fading memories are forever young, forever missed.

"We will all think about our personal wars, and the guys we knew," said Hunter,

92, a retired real estate executive who was wounded at Peleliu on the third day of the three-month-long battle. "I could name a dozen guys who didn't make it home. These were the guys watching your back, guys you could depend on. My experiences and these guys became a part of me.

"They shaped who I became."

As much as the monument does, the war stories of Grathwohl, Shue, Duncan and Hunter portray the courage of Marines, and the sacrifices made in war.

From Start to Finish

Hank Grathwohl grew up in Hiawatha, Kan., and was 18 when he became the 270,212th (his serial number) Marine in 1939.

After training in California, he was assigned to a Marine guard detachment at Pearl Harbor. Dressing to go to church services on 7 Dec. 1941, he watched as airplanes suddenly dove from the sky toward the base.

"They were dropping stuff, and the sergeants sleeping in late were grousing about all the noise," said Grathwohl, now 93. "There was nothing to do but get everyone up and out of the barracks."

The sudden attack by Japan had drawn America into the war. Grathwohl and

others went to the harbor to help with the rescue.

His unit was assigned a host of duties: securing Johnston Atoll, southwest of Hawaii, and guarding a new naval air station on Maui. At the end of 1943, Grathwohl became an "Alligator Marine" as part of the 5th Amphibious Tractor Battalion.

In mid-June, his battalion carried troops and supplies into the invasion of the Mariana Islands of Saipan, then Tinian. They rode amtracs, or LVTs (landing vehicles tracked), ship-to-shore metal raft-like vessels with tracks that carried troops and supplies on amphibious invasions.

The losses were huge. As Grathwohl prepared to go into Saipan on an amtrac, a friend asked him for a \$5 loan to pay a debt from a poker game.

"He put it in his billfold and got on an amtrac to head into the invasion," Grathwohl said. "A half-hour later, a boat brought back a dead Marine missing his head. I reached into his pockets to get some identification. It was Lieutenant Simmons.

"That still weighs pretty heavy on me," he said.

They buried the lieutenant at sea—then continued into the invasion.

"Deliver Us From Evil"

After Saipan and Tinian were seized, losing thousands of Marines along the way, Grathwohl and his unit were sent back to Saipan to train with the Second Marine Division. On 10 Feb. 1945, they got orders for Iwo Jima.

Nine days later, Grathwohl was in the eighth wave to help set up a command post on shore. The volcanic island was a third the size of Manhattan, but vital to the Americans in their island-hopping campaign; it would provide an emergency landing strip for B-29s bombing Japan from the distant Marianas. But the Japanese were ready, having bored a maze of tunnels in the coral to conceal 800 guns.

"The Japanese let the first waves get on shore, then they let us have it."

Grathwohl's unit's 125 amtracs were "all shot up." The battle was supposed to be won in five days. It took five weeks; 5,931 Marines were lost taking the island.

Also in the battle were Coy Shue and Wally Duncan.

Shue, 92, had already survived three amphibious invasions with the Fourth Marine Division: Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands; Saipan, where he was

MARK HAMMES

wounded and awarded a Purple Heart; and Tinian.

Now on Iwo, he was certain he wouldn't make it off. He wanted to pray, but didn't know how. Suddenly, he remembered the Lord's Prayer he'd learned as a boy in Charlotte's North Davidson Street mill village.

Shue said it before inching any farther on the beach. Not a day has passed since then that he has not recited the prayer, asking God to: "Deliver us from evil."

On Iwo, 760 miles south of Tokyo, Shue witnessed constant evil and said the prayer twice daily. "It was just hell," he said. "Every day of it."

It took hours that first day to move a few inches. By nightfall, 550 Marines were dead. Late afternoon, his platoon hollered to get off the beach, so they made a run for the edge of a runway. The next morning, Shue shot his first Japanese soldier.

Wally Duncan couldn't wait to graduate from high school and get in the fight. "I was afraid I was going to miss the war."

He did make it, joining the fight on Saipan, where he was wounded and sent to Maui to recuperate. The Marines sent him back to his unit, just in time for Iwo.

On the fourth day, Duncan and Shue looked up and saw the American flag flying above Suribachi—its hoisting an iconic image of the war.

By the time the Japanese surrendered 31 days later, 5,931 Marines were dead and 17,000 wounded. Among them were several of Duncan's and Shue's buddies.

"The only way to understand what happened was to be there," Shue said. "The smell and all the dead around you. I've tried unsuccessfully over the years to shut it out of my mind."



Above: Wally Duncan, a WW II Marine Corps veteran and a member of MCL Det. 750, gives the new Marine memorial in Freedom Park a detailed inspection.

Right: The WW II assault on Peleliu was lived by some of the members of MCL Det. 750. The horrors of war experienced by Marines prompted action to erect a monument to all Marines, from 1775 on into history.



The monument in Charlotte's Freedom Park honoring the service of all Marines was sponsored by Marine Corps League Det. 750 and dedicated on the Corps' 238th birthday.

"Million-Dollar Wound"

Jim Hunter grew up in Charlotte and became a Marine while he was a student at UNC Chapel Hill. The day he graduated in June 1943, Hunter was on active duty.

He was sent to Quantico, Va., for officer training and made second lieutenant by January 1944.

After a "quickie education in handling gas [chemical warfare]," he was assigned to the First Marine Division at an abandoned coconut plantation on the Russell Islands in the Pacific.

There, Hunter reported to legendary Marine Colonel Lewis "Chesty" Puller.

By the time Hunter arrived, the division

was headed for Peleliu, a volcanic island held by more than 10,000 Japanese troops. The island had an airfield that General Douglas MacArthur was concerned would allow Japanese fliers to threaten the Allied retaking of the Philippines. He wanted it captured.

The division left on 5 Sept. and took 10 days to get to Peleliu. Hunter's platoon loaded onto two amtracs and headed for the beach. Days of bombing from Allied planes to soften defenses "hadn't made a dent," he said.

It took the entire first day to crawl off the beach onto the edge of the airfield they needed to capture. On the third day, running across the airfield, Hunter was badly wounded by shrapnel. "I thought that was it for me," he said.

Instead, a corporal, William Salmond, gave him a shot of morphine, and his friend, Dom DiLuglio, forced an amtrac driver to cart Hunter to safety.

He'd received a "million dollar wound" that sent him to a hospital Stateside never to return to combat. He was awarded the Navy Cross.

"It takes a whole bunch of guys to do a job right," Hunter said. "You can't decorate 40 guys for one thing, so they gave it to me."

Editor's note: This article was previously published in The Charlotte [N.C.] Observer, Sunday, 10 Nov. 2013. We thank June E. Lancaster, David Perlmutter and Mark Hames of The Charlotte Observer for their support and Jack Brienza of MCL Detachment 750 Charlotte for bringing the article and memorial dedication to our attention.



In Every Clime and Place

Edited by
R. R. Keene



■ JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN Marines Evacuate US Embassy In South Sudan

Marines assisted in the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Juba, South Sudan, Jan. 3. According to a Department of State announcement, the deteriorating security situation in South Sudan was the reason for reducing the staff.

The Department of Defense, at the request of the Department of State, assisted

in the transportation of U.S. Embassy personnel, as well as several personnel from other nations, to Entebbe, Uganda.

Two KC-130J turboprop Hercules aircraft assigned to the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response element prepositioned at Entebbe were used to evacuate the personnel.

Soldiers from the East Africa Response Force, assigned to U.S. Africa Command, and under the command and control of

Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, continue to provide security reinforcement to the U.S. Embassy in Juba.

The Department of Defense, supporting the Department of State, is working to ensure the safety and security of American citizens in South Sudan and will continue to monitor the security situation in South Sudan in order to be postured to respond to any additional requests from the Department of State.

MARFOREUR and Africa



SSGT ROBERT L. FISHER III

Leathernecks with SPMAGTF Crisis Response, in coordination with the East Africa Response Force, help U.S. citizens into a Marine Corps KC-130J Super Hercules at Juba, South Sudan, during an evacuation of personnel from the U.S. Embassy there, Jan. 3.

■ OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO Marines, Burkinabé Gendarmerie Compare Non-Lethal Weapons Techniques

Leathernecks with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13 recently completed a weeklong non-lethal weapons capabilities demonstration with the Burkinabé Gendarmerie, Nov. 11-15, 2013, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The Marines and approximately 40 Gendarmerie spent the week demonstrating and comparing the various non-lethal weapons tactics used by their respective forces. These comparisons occurred both in the classroom and in live technique demonstrations.

“The first couple of days were spent in the classroom establishing a baseline,” said Captain Reno Bamford, the non-lethal weapons training team leader.

In the classroom, the two forces dis-

cussed historical crowd-control scenarios from a tactical perspective. After the classes, the Marines and Gendarmerie demonstrated many different crowd-control formations utilizing riot gear, including shields, shin guards, helmets and batons.

“Once we began the demonstration portion, the Gendarmerie became tremendously engaged and enjoyed the hands-on application of the techniques,” said Capt Bamford.

Although the techniques and formations of the two forces varied, they learned from each other.

“It was interesting to see [the Gendarmerie’s] crowd-control tactics and techniques,” said Sergeant Eric Edwards, a non-lethal weapons instructor. “I developed a new respect for what can be done despite limited equipment.”

1stLt Peter Koerner

Combat Correspondent, MARFOREUR and Africa

■ SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN

I MEF (Forward) Deploys To Afghanistan for the Last Time

Leathernecks and sailors of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) command element began their deployment to Afghanistan as approximately half of the unit said goodbye to their families and friends Jan. 4. A second group departed Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12.

The I MEF (Fwd) command element is made up of approximately 300 Marines and sailors and is operating out of Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion. The unit is commanded by Brigadier General Daniel D. Yoo.



SGT JESSICA L. OSTROSKA

A I MEF (Fwd) Marine says goodbye to his family as he waits to depart MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., to deploy to Afghanistan, Jan. 4. He is one of approximately 300 Marines and sailors of the I MEF (Fwd) command element deploying to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.



Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st MEU approach a surrendering combatant role player during a night raid at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Jan. 9. The raid was the first event of the Realistic Urban Training Exercise, which is part of the predeployment training. (Photo by LCpl Andrew Koppers)

Upon arrival in Afghanistan, I MEF (Fwd) will assume command of Regional Command Southwest, which comprises Helmand and Nimroz provinces. I MEF is replacing the Marines and sailors of II MEF (Fwd) from MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. I MEF (Fwd) is scheduled to be the last major Marine Corps command to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and is slated to redeploy to the United States at the end of this year.

I MEF (Fwd) includes elements of First Marine Division, First Marine Logistics Group and Third Marine Aircraft Wing and has more than 4,000 Marines and sailors.

Sgt Jessica L. Ostroska

Combat Correspondent, I MEF (Fwd)

■ OKINAWA, JAPAN

31st MEU Raids Camp Courtney at Night

Cutting through the night, a CH-53E Super Stallion descends to an insertion point and holds its position more than 30 feet above the ground. Ropes fly out of its opened ramp, and the churning wind from the rotors pelts the Marines as they glide to the ground and swiftly set up a close-in security perimeter. The assault force closes on its target as the helicopter departs.

Leathernecks with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit executed a night raid at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Jan. 9, as part of the MEU’s Realistic Urban Training Exercise (RUTEX). Following their insertion by aircraft from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU, within an outer security perimeter provided by riflemen

from the MEU’s Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment, members of the MRF’s force reconnaissance platoon advanced on the targeted facility. Waiting inside was an armed force ready and prepared to resist the MRF advance. A reactive opposing force provided a realistic combat environment.

“To refine our skills, we have to do these realistic hits with live role players,” said Corporal Dru R. Turner. “You’re going to act differently if you know there are actual people inside and they are going to shoot back at you. A live enemy [role player] is going to react to what we’re doing, and that enhances the training.”

The complex raid required the small force to clear and search 27 separate areas while engaging the enemy, managing casualties, securing captured combatants and searching for intelligence.

The training is designed and evaluated by Special Operations Training Group (SOTG), III Marine Expeditionary Force, in order to challenge the full spectrum of MRF capabilities. Realism combined with complexity is the common theme for SOTG’s predeployment training package.

“One of our biggest goals, balanced with safety, is to make the training as realistic as possible,” said Captain Kevin P. Jones, the assistant officer in charge of the Expeditionary Warfare Branch, SOTG. “It is called Realistic Urban Training Exercise, after all.”

After successfully neutralizing the enemy force and gathering valuable intelligence for future operations, the Marines again loaded a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter to extract. Reflecting on their recent actions, both the MRF and their SOTG observers

came away with a feeling of satisfaction from the raid.

“There are always things to work on, but they performed to the high level expected of a maritime raid force,” said Capt Jones.

This raid was the first in a series of scenarios for RUTEX and is part of the 31st MEU’s predeployment training in preparation for its regularly scheduled Spring Patrol.

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

Cpl Henry Antenor
Combat Correspondent, 31st MEU

■ MCAS FUTENMA, OKINAWA Super Stallion Crews Learn to Fit into Tight Landing Zones

CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters and crews executed confined area landing training Jan. 3 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, in preparation for future deployments.

They are with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, currently assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the Unit Deployment Program.

Confined area landing is a technique used by helicopter squadrons when runways or formal landing zones are unavailable, according to Corporal James J. Eck, a CH-53E crew chief.

“These landings are made for dropping off Marines and gear in tactical environments,” said Eck. “Helicopters don’t

require a runway to land and are capable of landing in limited areas, which makes it perfect for tactical missions.”

Captain Brian P. Spillane, a CH-53E pilot and the squadron training officer, noted the training was part of the squadron’s preparation for deployments with the 31st MEU, to include training in Korea.

“This training helps us by sharpening the skills of our more experienced Marines and developing new skills in our junior Marines,” said Capt Spillane. “This way they’ll be better prepared for real-life scenarios.”

Capt Devin F. Kelly, CH-53E pilot, said this landing technique is useful for maneuver warfare and disaster relief operations as well.

“The [Super] Stallions can carry a max weight of 36,000 pounds of personnel and equipment and can land in confined areas,” said Kelly, making the aircraft “critical for tactical insertions on the battlefield as well as being capable of delivering humanitarian aid, such as food, water and other essentials, to remote villages or [affected] areas.”

The CH-53E’s tactical capabilities were used in previous humanitarian and disaster relief operations such as the aid provided after a devastating typhoon in the Philippines and earthquakes in Indonesia, according to Kelly.

Two helicopters departed from MCAS Futenma during the training and flew north to the Central Training Area on the island’s Pacific Ocean coast side.

“During any operation, the smallest unit we move in is two helicopters,” said Eck.

“This way we are capable of supporting each other in case of an emergency. It’s like having a battle buddy; you look out for each other and make sure everyone gets back safely.”

The pilots of the aircraft then landed in several confined landing zones before returning to MCAS Futenma, successfully completing the training.

LCpl David Hersey
Combat Correspondent, 3d LEB, III MEF

■ OKINAWA’S CENTRAL TRAINING AREA Marines Gain Realistic Training During Exercise Chromite

The Marines concentrated on the distant tree line. As the mock enemy approached, some Marines became more intense behind their cover and others made last-minute gear adjustments.

One thing was certain: The quiet, calm atmosphere of the Combat Town facility on Camp Hansen was about to shatter into a cacophony of simulated machine-gun fire, shouted orders and a sense of chaos resembling combat.

Leathernecks with 3d Battalion, First Marine Regiment defended Combat Town against an attacking force of Marines with 2/6 during Exercise Chromite. Both battalions currently are assigned to 4th Marines, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the Unit Deployment Program.

The exercise offers rotating UDP infantry battalions a chance to hone tactical and operational planning skills, according to Second Lieutenant Chet Shaffer, an infantry officer with 2/6. Exercise Chromite is just another way the Marine Corps perfects its warfighting capabilities.

As part of the training scenario, the attacking Marines’ mission was to clear and secure a mock chemical weapons facility.

“This was a really good training event,” said First Lieutenant Michael Davidson, a platoon commander with 3/1. “Many times in training there isn’t an opposing force, so this made it more real and we received some good feedback on what we can improve on with both our offensive and defensive tactics.”

Throughout the Combat Town facility, skirmishes could be heard as the two forces continued to clash until the defending Marines were effectively subdued and the chemical weapon facility was secured.

“You’re definitely getting training and experience out of this,” said Lance Corporal Tyrone Watkins, a machine-gunner with 3/1. “This really gives you an idea of what it would be like to be in a real [combat engagement].”

The Combat Town scenario was one



LCpl David N. Hersey

A CH-53E Super Stallion touches down at LZ Falcon, Jan. 3, during confined area landing training at Okinawa’s Central Training Area. The helicopter and crew are with HMM-463, currently assigned to VMM-265 (Rein), 31st MEU, III MEF, under the Unit Deployment Program.



LCPL MATT MYERS

Above: Marines secure “enemy casualties” at Combat Town on Camp Hansen, Dec. 5, 2013, during Exercise Chromite. The exercise consisted of Marines assaulting and securing the Combat Town facilities and searching for “chemical weapons.”

component. The exercise itself consisted of various missions to include tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, chemical weapon search and seizure, amphibious assaults and improvised explosive device recognition techniques.

“This has been a huge exercise,” said Shaffer. “It allowed [Marines] to get used to dealing with different units and assets, and it lets a platoon commander reach out and see all the assets he has available when the actual mission comes into play.”

LCpl Matt Myers

Combat Correspondent, III MEF

■ THE MOJAVE DESERT Supporting Ground Units During Exercise Steel Knight

Helicopter Support Team (HST) Marines with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, First Marine Logistics Group inspected the heavy equipment transport lines of an inbound CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter during operations at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The unit was assisting in the lift of M777 155 mm howitzers for 2d Battalion, 11th



LCPL MATT MYERS

They also clear the basement of a building simulating a chemical weapons facility. The Marines are with F/2/6, assigned to 4th Marines under the Unit Deployment Program.

Marine Regiment during Exercise Steel Knight 2014, an annual exercise designed to prepare the First Marine Division for deployment as the ground combat element of a Marine air-ground task force with the support of 1st MLG and Third Marine Aircraft Wing. These units combine to create an expeditionary task force able to deploy and respond to any situation.

According to Private First Class Titus Gietzen, an HST Marine, turbulent wind

conditions, heavy sand from the helicopter backwash and frigid temperatures were just a few of the challenges the Marines faced during their training in December 2013. The leathernecks overcame those challenges and used the opportunity to gain experience operating in an environment similar to Afghanistan.

“This is what we do,” said Gietzen. “No matter what, we provide supplies to the front lines so that they can continue their



HST leathernecks with LS Co, CLR-17, 1st MLG prepare to attach an M777 155 mm howitzer to the inbound CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Dec. 6, 2013. The M777 howitzers were to be used for live-fire training during Exercise Steel Knight.

MAG-14 units met to plan and brief all pilots and instructors involved in the exercise.

"Instead of each individual unit planning in their own spaces, we bring them all in to plan together," he said. "We fight as a unit. If you haven't planned or practiced, it then becomes a very difficult function."

Maj William Steinke, the assistant operations officer with 2d MAW's Aviation Training System, participated in the exercise as an EA-6B Prowler flight leadership instructor.

"One section of the Prowlers' mission was to evaluate the others," said Steinke. "This exercise was mostly to train the younger aircrew."

Razor Talon helps pilots and aircrew train for possible operations, focusing on aerial offense, counter-aerial offense and armed reconnaissance in a joint service environment, Steinke said.

"This is basically the single biggest thing that is available for us to train in," he said.

Joint service exercises expand a Marine aircraft squadron's ability to support a variety of possible real-world scenarios, according to Maj Ward. "We have limited opportunities to train with other services. They each present their own challenges and benefits you can't simulate on your own, so this is great."

LCpl Victor A. Arriaga
PAO, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.



operations without having to wait too long for the equipment they need to complete the mission."

The Marines work to operate with maximum efficiency in operational environments, and air support is one of the tools they use to achieve this goal.

"Using air support to provide Marines with the equipment they need eliminates several of the risks involved in doing the same task with a convoy operation," said Sergeant Christopher Gentz, a platoon sergeant with LS Co. "The resupplies are significantly quicker when done by air. A three-hour convoy could take 10 minutes travel time with a helicopter."

The Marines of LS Co use those training operations to ensure they are proficient in completing the tasks that would be expected of them in a real-life situation.

"We like to use these operations specifically to train up our junior Marines," said Gentz, reiterating the importance of realistic training. "If my Marines know what they are doing [here], it could easily make the difference in saving lives in country."

LCpl Keenan Zelazoski
Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG

■ NORTH CAROLINA

MAG-14 Marines Support Exercise Razor Talon

Several Marine Aircraft Group 14 squadrons based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., participated in Exercise Razor Talon in December 2013, a U.S. Air Force-led joint exercise at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

The quarterly exercise simulates a conflict involving numerous aircraft from

Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force attack and training squadrons from across the Eastern Seaboard. The Second Marine Aircraft Wing's MAG-14 provided support with AV-8B Harriers of Marine Attack Squadron 231 and Marine EA-6B Prowlers from a Cherry Point-based Marine tactical electronic warfare squadron for the exercise.

"This is a unique opportunity for us to train in a major theater war conflict mindset with dozens of aircraft airborne at one time," said Major Ryan Ward, the officer in charge of 2d MAW's Cherry Point-based Marine Aviation Training System site. "At the same time, this is very difficult to simulate and perform airborne, because this takes weeks of planning and coordination to do."

Prior to the exercise, all participating



AV-8B Harriers with VMA-231 sit on the MCAS Cherry Point flight line Dec. 13, 2013, during Exercise Razor Talon, an Air Force-led joint exercise. The quarterly exercise is a mock conflict involving numerous aircraft of the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force from across the Eastern Seaboard.

LCpl Victor A. Arriaga

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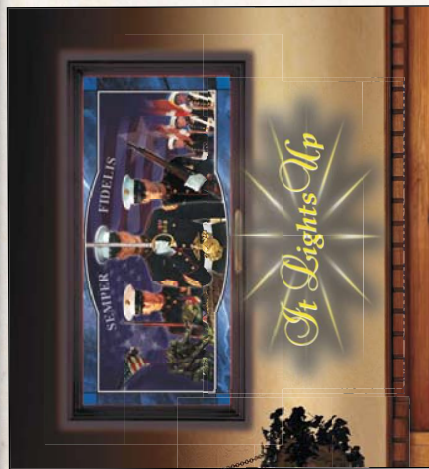
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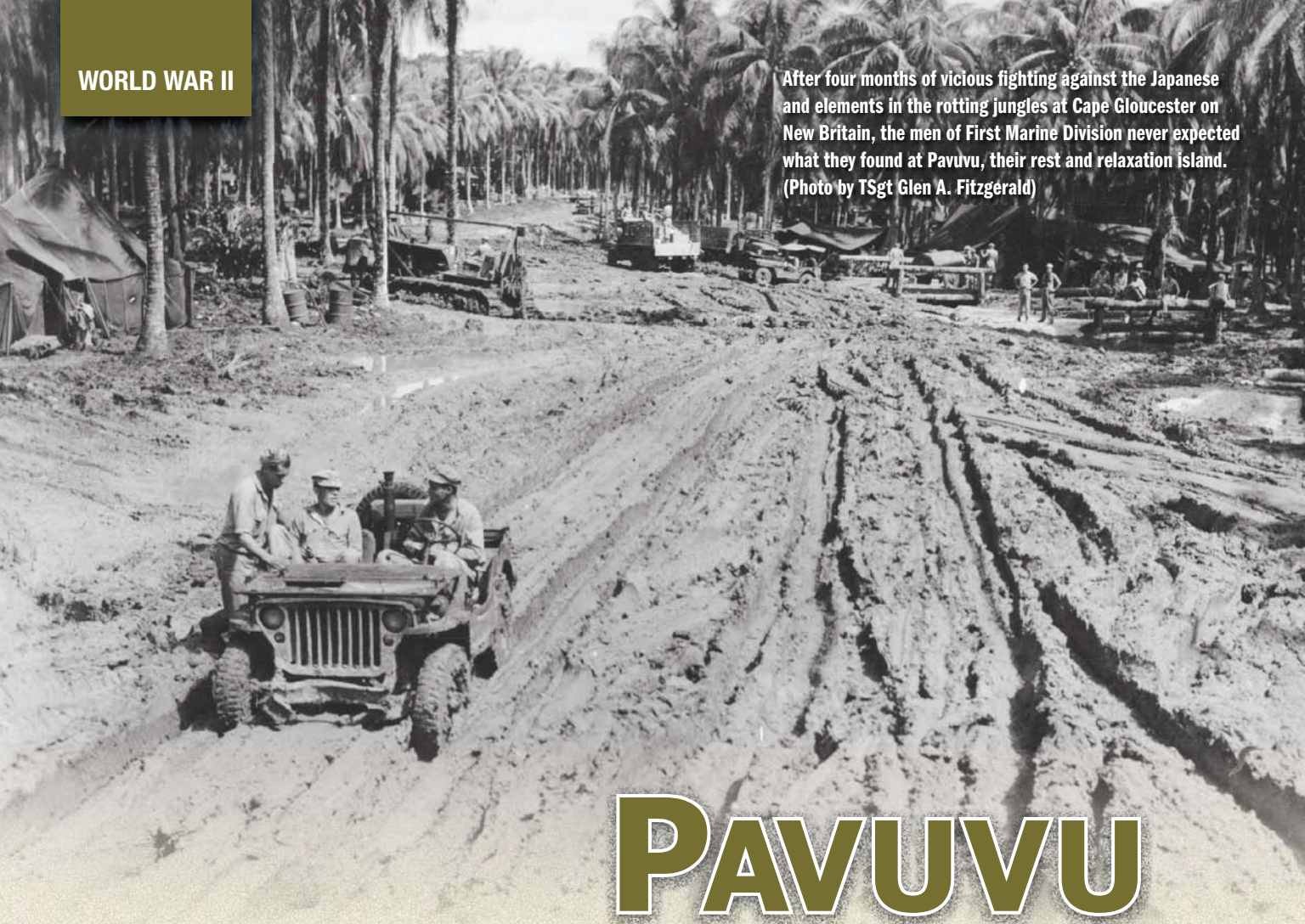
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After four months of vicious fighting against the Japanese and elements in the rotting jungles at Cape Gloucester on New Britain, the men of First Marine Division never expected what they found at Pavuvu, their rest and relaxation island. (Photo by TSgt Glen A. Fitzgerald)



PAVUVU

Story by Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua
USMC (Ret)

USMC photos courtesy of Susan Strange

"Sure, I still remember Pavuvu, and I still can't stand the sight, the smell or the taste of coconuts."

—GySgt Irvin R. "Dick" Stone
MCRD San Diego, 1961

Pavuvu. Say it slowly: PahVOO-VOO. Doesn't it bring a mental image of a tropical paradise, palm trees swaying in a gentle breeze, the soft scent of hibiscus blossoms filling the evening air, the sinuous figures of graceful dancing girls outlined against the setting sun? Aren't the romantic syllables enough to make you almost taste the cool delight of an iced drink in a tall glass, inhale the aroma of tantalizing taste treats prepared for your dining enjoyment? The picture is idyllic, isn't it?

If you were a member of the First Marine Division in May 1944, the picture of Pavuvu was something completely different—a picture that had nothing at all to do with swaying palm trees, graceful dancing girls or tall, cool drinks. Pavuvu

in the spring of 1944 was enough to make a profane and blasphemous man run out of four-letter words.

The Division had emerged from a grueling campaign that lasted four months in the Cape Gloucester region of western New Britain Island, where nature itself was as hostile as the die-hard Japanese. Even the appetites of the most determined masochist would have been satisfied. The campaign had been fought through the worst of the northwest monsoon, deluged with constant torrential rain. Slogging through chest-deep swamps, beset by hordes of bloodthirsty, disease-bearing insects, ravaged by malaria, dengue fever, fungal infections, dysentery and tropical skin ulcers, the Division had left New Britain dog tired and ready for a break.

It was the fervent hope of all hands that the longed-for break would take the form of a return to Australia, where the Division had rested and refitted at Melbourne after the campaign on Guadalcanal the year before. To Marines leaving behind the jungles of Guadalcanal, Melbourne had been a dream come true. The people of Melbourne had taken the Marines to their hearts. In return, the 1stMarDiv had fallen in love with Melbourne, and it was to

Melbourne that everyone hoped to return.

It wasn't to be. What was to be was Pavuvu.

Located barely south of the equator, searing hot Pavuvu was the largest of the Russell Islands, the outermost of the Solomon Islands chain. Before World War II, Pavuvu had been the site of extensive coconut plantations operated by the Lever Brothers Company, makers of a variety of popular bath soaps that incorporated coconut palm oil.

When the area was overrun by the Japanese in late 1941 and early 1942, the site had been abandoned, the workers and managerial staff departing for less hazardous shores. In turn, a small Japanese garrison on the adjacent island of Banika was evacuated after the loss of nearby Guadalcanal. In February 1943, the 3d Marine Raider Battalion landed on Pavuvu, only to depart shortly after finding no sign of Japanese or any other human activity. Left to its own, with no human hand to keep things under control, nature, as it usually does in tropic climes, exploded. Plant and animal life alike ran riot, in no time at all returning Pavuvu to a state not far removed from pre-man.

That was the "rest camp" that greeted

the worn-down, worn-out 1stMarDiv. First, though, the Division would have to build its rest camp. A picture begins to take shape, doesn't it?

For the first arrivals crowding the rails of USS *Aquarius* (AKA-16) and USS *Titania* (AKA-13) as the pair nosed their way toward the old Lever Brothers pier in Macquitti Bay, the picture didn't look all that bad. A long, wide beach glistened with white sand, looking almost like snow in the morning sunlight. Palm trees, thousands of palm trees, were spaced meticulously in geometrically precise rows. The palm trees really were swaying gently in a mild breeze. At first glance, Pavuvu looked like a setting for one of those popular South Sea Island movies with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour.

In the ranks of Battery L, 4th Bn, 11th Marine Regiment, Chicago-born Private First Class Milton "Milt" Royko thought Pavuvu looked "pretty neat." Such personally identifying materials as journals and diaries were frowned upon by officialdom, yet many young Marines, who for the most part had never been much more than 50 miles from home, kept such records of their travels in the Pacific. Milt Royko carefully recorded his first impression of Pavuvu. "When the island came into sight it looked like a nice tropical island." Idyllic? Maybe it well and truly was.

Unfortunately, ashore the idyllic image ended at the tree line. Where the glistening white sand ended, the shin-deep, foot-sucking mud began. The entire island of Pavuvu once may have been a genuine coconut plantation, but for more than two years it had been an abandoned coconut plantation.

No one had bothered to tell the palm trees about the change in routine. Those thousands of palm trees kept right on producing coconuts. With no human hand to



CPL ALLAN WOTI

The 3d Marine Raider Bn landed on Pavuvu, in the Russell Islands, in February 1943 to find the Japanese gone. In the leathernecks' stay on the island, the biggest issues were logistics and the environment. Similar issues faced 1stMarDiv one year later.

harvest them, the coconuts ripened, over-ripened and fell to the ground, in some places collecting to a depth of 2 or 3 feet.

Then they rotted, their putrid contents mixing with the daily afternoon rain to turn the ground into a throat-gagging glue. Idyllic Pavuvu stank to high heaven.

Years afterward, during the war in Korea, William "Barney" Baxter, by then a staff sergeant, told a young 5th Marines machine-gunner of life on Pavuvu. If he had to choose between the stench of a corpse that had lain three days beneath a hot sun or the stomach-turning stink of thousands upon thousands of rotten coconuts, he would have to think long and hard on the matter.

While Pavuvu had a superabundance of rotten coconuts, the island offered absolutely nothing in the line of amenities, not so much as a palm-thatch hut for a Marine to put between himself and the sky above. "In the beginning there, a caveman

had it better than we did," remembered 1st Marines rifleman Salvatore "Sal" Gambardella. "At least the caveman had a cave to sleep in. All we had was a poncho or a shelter half, and you didn't want to bed down under a palm tree where you could get brained by a falling coconut."

It wasn't that bad. No Marine had to settle down for the night in a festering ooze of rotten coconuts. The Division had an adequate supply of that old Marine Corps standby, the six-man pyramidal tent. Most Marines in the Pacific viewed sleeping in an actual tent, a rare and treasured experience, as a luxury straight out of "The Arabian Nights." A tent? For a Marine who rarely slept under anything more substantial than the stars overhead, that was living the good life.

The Division had plenty of tents. Too bad that after several years of sitting in open storage in the tropics most of those tents were dry-rotted. In some places the



CPL JOHN F. SAFFORD



USMC

Above left: Two 1stMarDiv handsmen set aside their regular duties as cornetist and French horn player to do their laundry on Pavuvu in May 1944.

Above right: Cpl George W. Breslin takes time to apply a brush and some soap to his clothes on Pavuvu in May 1944.



Chow call on Pavuvu in May 1944 for the leather-necks of 1stMarDiv—Pavuvu, the site selected for the Division's rest and refit. The photographer wrote, "This picture was taken before coral and sand had been used to fill in the mud holes."

tents kept out water, while in others they didn't. A Marine could cover the gaps with what was available, a few palm fronds, a poncho or a shelter half and turn in on his cot.

A cot? Yes, another old Marine Corps standby, the folding canvas cot. There was no shortage of those, but like the tents themselves, most of the cots were dry-rotted. Maybe it was on Pavuvu that some unknown Marine started the hoary theory that the Marine Corps motto *Semper Fidelis* was actually a Roman army term that meant "Improvise and Simulate." Sling your jungle hammock in the wooden frame of the cot, and drape your poncho over it. Try to find a piece of wood to put beside your cot in order to keep your feet out of the mud. The tents had no decks. In the words of the popular catchphrase of the day, "Things are tough all over."

Along with the tents and the cots there was another old Marine Corps standby that became used widely on Pavuvu: working parties. If campsites were to be made fit for human habitation, all those rotten coconuts had to be picked up one by one and disposed of in the swamp at the north end of the island. All too often, a coconut would burst in the hands of the Marine picking it up, drenching his dungarees in a shower of rotten fluid that would have caused a skunk to back off.

Wearing helmets while picking up rotten coconuts was not required, but it was wise. There were still more coconuts up in the trees waiting to fall, something which could get a Marine awarded an unofficial "Pavuvu Purple Heart" and more good-natured reminders that "things are tough all over."

If helmets were not required for "harvesting" coconuts, they were a necessity for carrying coral. The best and about the only remedy for all that foul-smelling mud was to pave the company areas with coral. As soon as the Division's engineers came ashore, a quarry was begun. Transporting crushed coral to the billeting areas was a matter of bucket brigades: long lines of Marines carrying coral from the quarry to individual company areas by hand.

There were no buckets to carry the coral, but there were helmets. Pick up a helmet full of crushed coral at the quarry and carry it to the designated site and empty it. Then go back to the quarry for another helmet full of crushed coral. Those long lines of Marines did that all day every day.

The Marines in the bucket brigades and the coconut harvesters were not healthy men by any stretch of the imagination. Few among them were without the burning and freezing ravages of malaria or without their feet, armpits and groins

rubbed raw by fungal infections. They were sick men by any definition of the term. During the nightmare campaign on New Britain, most of them had lost an average of 15 to 20 pounds. But all those rotten coconuts had to be picked up and all that crushed coral had to be carried, and there was no one else to do it, so the 1stMarDiv turned to and did it.

The seemingly endless supply of rotten coconuts and crushed coral was contrasted by the near absence of other things that usually are taken for granted. Those dry-rotted tents were devoid of electric lights, and there were no candles. The Marine who wanted to read or write letters by candlelight found an empty bottle, filled it with cumshawed gasoline and fashioned a wick from a bit of rope.

For sanitary facilities Pavuvu offered nothing beyond "Stinky Davis" four-holers and P-Tubes. Personal hygiene, at least until the engineers got wells dug, was a matter of stripping naked, grabbing a bar of soap and dashing out into the daily afternoon downpour. Some Marines usually were covered with soap when the rain, as it always did, stopped abruptly.

Gourmet delicacies were not offered by Pavuvu mess halls. For that matter, there were no mess halls. The mess sergeant and his acolytes simply plied their trade in the open on field ranges.

The chow line was an *al fresco* affair as well, serving trays set up on tree stumps or empty crates. The daily fare was drearily routine. Fresh meat occasionally was sent over from Guadalcanal, but there were no refers (refrigerators) to preserve it. Dehydrated and powdered everything was the daily standard. Powdered eggs, soggy dry cereal, powdered potatoes, canned dehydrated vegetables and a thoroughly detestable canned processed meat that came under various names, but was universally cursed as Spam, were served day after day.

In pre-war days the Lever Brothers Company had maintained a small herd of cattle on Pavuvu. The herd was rounded up quickly and slaughtered, but a few dozen head of stringy beef cattle didn't go far among more than 20,000 hungry Marines. (That didn't prevent the Lever Brothers Company from presenting the Marine Corps with a hefty bill at war's end.) No, there was what there was, so a Marine sat down in the open wherever he could with his mess gear full of dehydrated this and powdered that, hoping he could choke it

Eugene V. Sledge Comments on Pavuvu

A conversation overheard:

"I think the Marine Corps has forgotten where Pavuvu is," one man said.

"I think God has forgotten where Pavuvu is," came a reply.

"God couldn't forget because He made everything."

"Then I bet He wishes He could forget that He made Pavuvu."

Thanks for that one, "Sledgehammer."

—Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)

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Right: While Pavuvu may have seemed more like hell than a garden of Eden, there was entertainment. Marine 2dLt Bob Crosby sings to the 1stMarDiv leathernecks in this December 1944 show.

Below: And Bob Hope found Pavuvu. When Bob Hope, center, and Jerry Colonna, right, took their USO show to Pavuvu in August 1944, Hope found time to express his mock disdain for Marine enlisted pilot Sgt Woodrow Witherspoon's moustache.



SSGT ARNOLD M. JOHNSON



all down before the sky started to leak and turn his meal into slop.

Everything taken together, life on Pavuvu could bring out some odd quirks of character. The ranks of the 7th Marines had one such, an otherwise well-balanced personality who commenced each day by pummeling a palm tree with his bare fists while shouting, "I hate you, damn you! I hate you!" With that out of his system, he turned to and went about the day's business.

What may have seemed demented in the civilian world was pretty much shrugged off by onlookers. As Corporal Vincent Desarmeau explained it, "You know yourself that after the Canal and Cape Gloucester we were all a little weird by then." When odd behavior was put that way, it all seemed completely logical.

While odd and eccentric outbursts could be taken as a matter of course, Pavuvu's wildlife couldn't. The most thoroughly unacceptable forms of wildlife on Pavuvu were palm-tree rats and land crabs. It didn't take the Division long at all to discover that those vermin existed in numbers beyond counting. In pre-war days the plantation staff more than likely had methods for keeping the island's rat and crab populations under control. By the time the Division arrived, Pavuvu literally was crawling with the disgusting creatures.

The rats, most of them about the size of common house cats or larger, lived in the tops of palm trees by day. At night they descended to the ground to forage for anything edible. Given that there were thousands of palm trees on Pavuvu and



SSGT ARNOLD M. JOHNSON

Bob Hope's USO tour groups were noted for their beautiful ladies. In this August 1944 visit to Pavuvu, Patty Thomas gives a dancing tip to a lucky 1stMarDiv leatherneck during a dance contest skit.

practically each palm tree harbored its nest of rats, the rats existed in mind-boggling numbers. Rats scurried about atop tents and inside tents. They were covered with fleas. They ate anything and everything. A discarded ration box or a sleeping Marine, it was all the same to the rat.

If the rats weren't bad enough, the land crabs were even worse. A newly arrived replacement in "King" Co, 3d Bn, 5th Marines, Private Eugene "Sledgehammer" Sledge, who was many years from becoming a professor of biology and prize-winning author, described the repulsive creatures: "The most loathsome vermin on Pavuvu were the land crabs. Their blue-black bodies were about the size of a man's hand, and bristles and spines covered their legs. These ugly creatures

hid by day and roamed by night." More than one Marine was jolted awake to the nauseating sensation of a land crab scuttling across his face.

Marines battled rats and land crabs by every means available: rifle butts, bayonets, entrenching tools, wooden clubs and pick handles.

It was all in vain.

No matter the numbers of rats and land crabs killed, there were always many, many more, and their mortal remains had to be disposed of. In one company, hundreds of dead rats and land crabs were shoveled into 55-gallon gasoline drums and burned. The resulting stench would have stopped a charging rhinoceros dead in its tracks. Eventually, medical authorities decided that live rats and land



TSST B. F. FERNETHOUGH

crabs were less of a health hazard than dead rats and land crabs.

Perhaps the worst thing about life on Pavuvu was its next-door neighbor, Banika.

While Banika was separated from Pavuvu by only a narrow channel, in the matter of creature comforts the difference was one of light years. The 93rd Seabees (93rd Naval Construction Bn) had built a comparative metropolis on Banika, one complete with barracks, mess halls, maintenance facilities and all the amenities of civilization. There was even a hospital on Banika, a hospital replete with genuine U.S. Navy nurses. It all could be seen clearly without the need of any optical instrument. For all the chance a Marine on Pavuvu had of actually getting to Banika, that island, so close geographically, may as well have been on another planet.

However, there were movies. Some thoughtful soul on Banika eventually began sending over 35-mm films on a daily basis. Even in a pouring rain, the evening movie soon became the high point of each day. Seated on makeshift coconut-log benches, Marines watched Hollywood flicker across an equally makeshift screen.

The nightly movies became interactive affairs, as members of the audience shouted action-enhancing advice to the characters

on the screen. Any film offering that included romantic interludes invariably triggered advice that realistically couldn't be expected to be seen. Still, even if it was the image of T. Texas Tyler or Lana Turner that filled the screen, watching a movie for a few hours, even perched atop a tree stump in a pouring rain, was better than listening to rats scurry across a tent top.

Amid the rotten coconuts, the rats and land crabs, the monotonous chow, the working parties and the daily business of bringing a division of sick Marines back to health and getting ready for the next "blitz," there was one genuine ray of sunshine. That one ray of sunshine was a man named Bob Hope.

Bob Hope, the star of radio and motion pictures who gave so freely of himself to take a bit of home to Americans serving far from home, didn't hesitate to change his itinerary to include a stop on Pavuvu. With his comic sidekick Jerry Colonna, songstress Frances Langford and dancer Patti Thomas, Hope insisted on adding Pavuvu to his schedule. Years later, middle-aged men who once had been young Marines remembered with affection and appreciation an afternoon on a faraway island with the star whom Sledgehammer Sledge called "this most gracious man."

But what in Hades was it all about any-

way? Why was a worn-out, sick-on-its-feet 1stMarDiv dumped on an island different from the island it just had fought on only by the absence of an armed enemy? The answer lay in the experience of the 3dMarDiv in its preparations for the campaign of Bougainville. That training, or the attempt at training, had taken place during the summer of 1943 on Guadalcanal, by then a backwater of the war. There the island commander, the Senior Officer Present Ashore, had levied a daily requirement for 1,000-man working parties on the Division. Training suffered accordingly.

It was to avoid a handicap like that which befell the 3dMarDiv that the 1stMarDiv was sent to Pavuvu. On Pavuvu, miserable as it was, the Division got back on its feet, purged the malaria from its system, ironed the wrinkles out of its belly and made itself ready for its next contest with the Japanese.

That contest would take place on another island, one not much bigger than Pavuvu. That would be an island named Peleliu in the Palau Group, where every infantry regiment in the Division would suffer at least 50-percent casualties.

There would be a return to Pavuvu, where life was improved significantly. Another campaign would follow, an even more blood-soaked battle on Okinawa, and occupation duty in North China. Finally, in 1946, the 1stMarDiv packed up its seabags and returned home.

The 1stMarDiv never returned to the home of its heart, Australia, so it did the next best thing. The Division took Australia home with it. Go to Camp Pendleton today and attend a parade or review of the First Marine Division. As the last notes of "The Marines' Hymn" echo off the surrounding hills, you will hear the band swing into the strains of the official regimental march of the 1stMarDiv, that all-time, all-Australia favorite "Waltzing Matilda." Old loves never really die.

Editor's note: Leatherneck appreciates the difficult, but successful, efforts of Susan Strange, an independent researcher at the National Archives, in the search for photos of Marines on Pavuvu making the island more inhabitable.

Author's bio: Maj Bevilacqua, a Leatherneck contributing editor, is a former enlisted Marine who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Later in his career, he was an instructor at Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos of Marines on Pavuvu at
www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/pavuvu

Early Electronic Warfare in Vietnam Marine EF-10B Operations

By Warren E. Thompson

When the war in Vietnam was heating up, a new threat appeared in the form of surface-to-air missiles (SAMs). There had to be a solution immediately, and it came in the form of the Marines' Douglas EF-10B.

Its airframe already had achieved noted success in the Korean War as "Willie the Whale," the F3D, Skyknight, night fighter. Fortunately, Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron (VMCJ) 1 was in the Far East already, which made for a rapid deployment into South Vietnam.

On 17 April 1965, Lieutenant Colonel Otis W. Corman took in six EF-10Bs. The EF-10B was a descendant of the F3D-2, fitted with electronics that would enable it to detect and jam enemy acquisition

and fire control and guidance radars and to record their electronic signatures for detailed analysis by technical intelligence ground personnel. The EF-10B retained the old Willie the Whale moniker, but also picked up a new one: "Drut." The Marine squadron set up operations at Da

Nang Air Base and became the sole means of electronic countermeasures support for air operations by any U.S. aircraft north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Captain Charles A. "Chuck" Housman, one of the veteran reconnaissance pilots who came in with the initial deployment, said, "To begin with, we

had six pilots and four or five electronic countermeasures officers, or ECMOs, in the squadron, and we were spread out all over the Far East. When we started jamming the major SAM sites north of the

DMZ, we had to borrow three right-seaters from other squadrons such as VMF [Marine Fighter Squadron] -513 and -531 to fill the slots.

"At first, we weren't sure how effective we were against their radar because the air was usually full of hard steel, and we could only hope for creating an error factor sufficient for the bombers and us to survive the missions. Accordingly, we were usually filling the air with chaff and spreading ECM energy across the relevant frequency spectrum, and it seemed to be working. The attack aircraft were in the early stages of getting the 'Shoehorn' gear installed, which provided a form of warning only. Naturally, because of the increasing threat of multiple SA-2 sites, nothing flew up north without our meager EF-10Bs in direct support."

While initially most of the SAM sites were in the north around Hanoi and Haiphong, it didn't take long for mobile sites



An EF-10B "Drut" takes off on a mission out of Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam, in early 1967. All of the squadron's missions called for the large external fuel tanks.

First Lt H. Wayne Young, an experienced VMCJ-1 pilot, climbs into the cockpit of an RF-4 for a photo mission north of the DMZ. He earlier had been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission in the RF-8 off USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34).

to crop up in numerous positions that had been considered to be safe flight areas. On 24 July 1965, the potential threat of the SAMs was realized when a U.S. Air Force F-4C Phantom II was shot down by one of those missiles south of Hanoi.

The primary mission of VMCJ-1 was to use its jammers to identify and block fire-control radar that made the Soviet-built surface-to-air missiles so effective. During the first few weeks, the EF-10Bs would orbit a distance from the actual bomber targets, drawing some anti-aircraft fire. The enemy gunners initially assumed that the EF-10Bs were bombers, but once the gunners realized they carried no ordnance, ground fire steadily decreased.

The Marine jammers' schedule was demanding as they escorted bombing strikes for both the USAF and Navy bombers twice a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Several EF-10Bs provided the required coverage. Navy strikes were launched from carriers off-shore while the Air Force strikes usually came from Udorn Air Base in Thailand.

Every mission was very dangerous, but for an EF-10B over Haiphong Harbor photographing Russian ships unloading missiles, the danger was off the charts. That was not the priority mission of the day as the ECM aircraft were required to finish their mission and let the strike force safely exit the area before heading for Haiphong Harbor.

On one mission, First Lieutenant H. Wayne Young was flying as #2 while Capt Chuck Housman flew lead. Young later would fly tours with the squadron in the RF-8 Crusader and RF-4 Phantom. He recalled: "Our EF-10s were definitely a guarded asset because if we lost one, we could not ask for an immediate replacement as they were in very short supply. Each of these aircraft was equipped with a K-10 camera, which was a huge box camera that was one of the best to take aerial shots. Also, the fact that we flew so slow enhanced the quality of each frame.

"Seeing the quality of the images, the Air Force radioed us one time when we were up in the high-route packs working against the SAM sites, stating, 'Hey, while you are up in that area, why don't you swing over Haiphong Harbor and get us some good pictures?' On these deep missions, we were always escorted by a



COURTESY OF LT. WAYNE YOUNG



COURTESY OF GEORGE GLAUSER

VMCJ-1, one of the most versatile squadrons in the Vietnam War, flew the EF-10B, RF-8, EA-6A and the RF-4. An RF-4 and EF-10B sit clearly visible on Da Nang AB's flight line in this 1968 photograph.

A pair of EF-10Bs returns from an ECM mission along the coast of Vietnam en route to Da Nang AB. Many of the missions called for at least four jammers on station to provide adequate protection for the strike force.



COURTESY OF JOHN DODSON



COURTESY OF H. WAYNE YOUNG

Some of VMCJ-1's dedicated support personnel stand by as an EF-10B prepares for a mission.



COURTESY OF JERRY WESTPHAL

An unsuspecting F-105D Thunderchief pilot parked on the VMCJ-1 flight line at Da Nang for a short period. When he returned, his aircraft's tail code had been changed over to the "RM" used by the Marine ECM squadron.

couple of Marine F-4 Phantoms, and that was the only time they came this far north because they were always working CAS [close air support] with our ground troops. My lead, Captain Housman, liked the idea.

"Lead told me to slide about 100 yards off his right wing in trail, so we could get both of our cameras working a wide area. After which, we would go ahead and finish our ELINT [electronic intelligence] mission and then head back to Da Nang.

"As our cameras started taking pictures, the sky opened up! We were catching everything they had and I was yelling, 'flak,' and Captain Housman, who was up ahead of me, did not see any of it because I was trailing far behind him. I'm watching all this lead [rounds] walk right up to me, and I'm stuck in a slow, straight wing Drut that is flying 230 miles per hour instead of being in an RF-8 doing Mach-2. Lead's only answer was 'Hold it steady as she goes!'

"Well, we made the run and got out without any major damage, and when we returned to base, our CO [commanding officer] was upset that we had been asked to take the photos. He called the Air Force and said that if they needed any more missions like that, he would send his RF-8s and would not risk losing such a valuable asset as his EF-10s. That was the last time we were ever close to Haiphong with one of our aircraft."

In Vietnam, the squadron went by the nickname of "The Cottonpickers." While the action was intense, there were often humorous incidents that somewhat decreased the stress.

One pilot told of the time they were on station, waiting for the strike force to pass through. While en route to their target,



COURTESY OF JERRY WESTPHAL



COURTESY OF RICHARD KUCI

Above left: A large sign over the VMCJ-1 operations shack at Da Nang AB proudly announced it as the "Home of the Exalted Whale Drivers."

Above right: A VMCJ-1 ECM bird moves out to the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, runway for the flight to the Republic of Vietnam.

they heard radio transmissions from some F-105 pilots that they had noticed a strange-looking aircraft. It was none other than an EF-10B. The jammer aircrews were flying in a 15-year-old jet aircraft over enemy territory with no guns and with no parts to fix them. They also had no ejection seats and a top airspeed of 365 mph!

The MiGs also knew about them, but when the ECM "birds" started getting escorted by F-4s, the MiGs never came close. On several occasions, since the MiGs would not enter a thunderstorm, the Skyknights would duck into them and be relatively safe. This tactic required shutting down one engine in order to make it back to base because it greatly increased the airborne time and fuel consumption.

The versatile Drut was engaged in three types of missions, and one of the most hazardous and intense was the nighttime road recce (reconnaissance) missions at very low altitude. Those usually consisted of one EF-10, one C-130 Hercules that was equipped with ground-searching radar and two USAF B-57 Canberra bombers. The mission was to catch any enemy convoys moving supplies on the roads at night.

First Lt Jerry Westphal, one of the VMCJ-1 pilots who flew several of those missions, explained, "We would launch from Da Nang well after dark and rendezvous with the C-130 somewhere south of the DMZ.

"Over the numerous trails and roads, we would tuck in under the starboard wing of the C-130, just aft of and between the engines. The B-57s would join us in trail and above the C-130. On crossing the DMZ, running lights on all of the aircraft would be turned off except for a row of green lights atop the wing of the C-130. In our EF, the Hercules exhausts then became our attitude gyro and relative position indicator for flying close-in

formation on the 'Herk.' Somehow, the B-57 pilots took their position cues from the green lights on the upper surface of the -130."

The C-130 would fly along at low altitude, using ground-search radar to seek out truck convoys and trains. Once a potential target was located, the Herk would start dropping flares out the rear for the B-57s while the group stayed in close formation. The bombers, using the light from the flares, would bomb the targets. If necessary, they would all work in a racetrack pattern for a second pass over the target. When the ordnance had been expended, they would return to their bases. If the weather was bad, the EF's radar was a great asset in keeping the formation out of bad weather.

In August and September 1966, the number of SAM sites north of the DMZ increased and moved closer to that neutral area. During that same period, the North Vietnamese placed a "Cross Slot" radar site just north of the DMZ and inland a few miles. Normally, that type of radar was used for coastal surface search. For some reason, it was only active at night and only for very brief periods. Marine intel quickly realized that the radar was operating in an area where their F-4s had to operate during CAS missions. The enemy radar had to be pinpointed and destroyed. Two Druts were fragged with the mission to locate where the site was, so the F-4s could put them out of business.

The two EF-10Bs found the enemy radar on the air. Both aircrews worked hard to



The sensitive electronic countermeasures equipment on the EF-10 required constant attention before and after missions. (Photo courtesy of Norm Charboneau)



COURTESY OF JERRY WESTPHAL

These VMCJ-1 squadron members were part of the first deployment into South Vietnam in April 1965.

keep accurate aircraft positions as they worked from several different angles. They were able to give the best coordinates they had to an Air Force Phantom flight that was working the same area. The Phantoms dropped a string of CBU's [cluster bomb units], and the radar went off the air.

The ECMO on one of the jammers, 1stLt H. W. "Flash" Whitten, recalled that mission: "Two nights later, it was back up and running. This was a serious threat to any aircraft flying right above the DMZ, and this area had a lot of traffic because of the CAS missions. A good photograph of the site was needed. The good news was we had a full flight line of RF-8As, and the bad news was this was Vietnam and turf battles came into play and that kept our RF-8s from flying north of the DMZ. It was decided to send a lone EF-10B to do the job, unbeknownst to 7th Air Force.

"Late that night, a frag order was issued for an early morning ELINT mission [26 Aug. 1966]. Our instructions were to make only one photo pass at about 8,000 feet over the suspect area. My pilot was 1stLt Dale Sublett. Since it was a clear day, we decided to make a low-level visual run before coming back over it with the camera

rolling. We saw the site, and it was loaded with Triple-A guns, and on our photo run we took a hit, but then headed straight back to base to deliver the film.

"It turned out slightly blurry but clear enough to frag our RF-8s to make a photo run. The film clearly showed the radar site and many lucrative targets around it. Soon after our mission, First Marine Aircraft Wing ordered a mini-Alpha strike [2 Sept.] that took out the site and everything else around it. It took nearly a month for it to get back into operation."

According to the official Vietnam air loss records, a total of five EF-10s were lost during the war, one each in 1965, 1966 and 1967, with two going down in 1968. Two were lost over South Vietnam and three over North Vietnam.

The 1966 loss later received considerable international media coverage when the crash site of EF-10B, Bureau Number (BuNo) 127041 was discovered, and the remains of the ECMO, 1stLt Brent Davis, were recovered in May 1997. His aircraft had been shot down by an SA-2 on a mission flown on 18 March 1966. He later was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors in December 1997 (31 years after the mission). The

remains of pilot 1stLt Everett "Mac" McPherson were never located. All of the two-man EF-10 aircrews who were shot down in Vietnam were listed as KIA.

The EF-10B and later the Grumman EA-6A had the attention of every branch of the U.S. military as they proved a major "force multiplier," giving scores of aircraft and crew the opportunity to return safely to base and fly again and again. According to the historian of the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Association, the final combat mission flown by an EF-10B, BuNo 124645, was on 2 Oct. 1969, more than four years after the first Druts arrived at Da Nang.

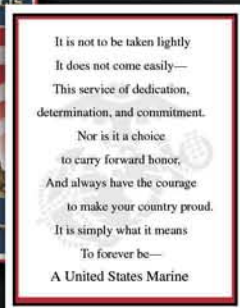
Author's bio: Warren Thompson has written about military aviation history for more than 40 years, leading to numerous published magazine articles and books. A frequent Leatherneck contributor, you see his byline regularly in the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Yellow Sheet and other aviation-related magazines. Check out Amazon.com to find his book "American Nightfighter Aces of World War 2," which covers Marine, Navy and USAF aces.



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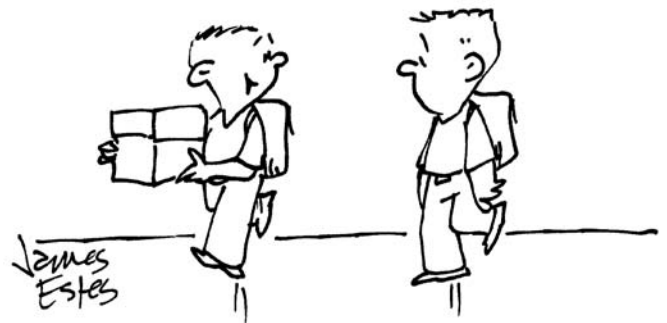
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The Only One in the Corps

MCAS Beaufort F-35 Pilot Training Center Gearing Up

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

The new F-35 Pilot Training Center at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., is gearing up for full operations. “Right now, we are basically in pre-deployment training,” explained Lieutenant Colonel Luis E. Villalobos, the state-of-the-art facility’s officer in charge (OIC). “We have all the gear here, and we’re exercising our training system with the Lockheed staff,” he added. Lockheed-Martin is the prime contractor for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter program and will provide full-time staff to assist with training.

The training center is the location for all academic and simulator pilot training for F-35B STOVL (short takeoff and vertical landing) Marines and foreign partners who have bought into the program, which includes Great Britain and Italy.

“This will be the center for STOVL training,” Villalobos asserted. “It is the only facility like it in the Marine Corps and the only location where we will have the fleet replacement squadron when VMFAT [Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron] 501 gets here.” A fleet replacement squadron is responsible for preparing pilots for service in the operating forces. Beaufort is slated to eventually receive at least two training squadrons and two operational squadrons.

The Marine Corps F-35B variant eventually will replace and perform the roles of three “legacy” aircraft: the F/A-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier II and EA-6B Prowler. The F-35B is the only Joint Strike Fighter



CPLR. J. DRIVER

Marines gather around the F-35B Lightning II simulator during a familiarization event aboard MCAS Beaufort, S.C., Aug. 20, 2013. Community leaders, elected officials and air station personnel were on hand to receive an update on the status of the F-35B and experience firsthand, with a simulator, the most advanced fighter jet.

variant that features STOVL capabilities. The Air Force will fly the “A” variant, and the “C” model is for the Navy and Marine Corps.

Marine Corps pilots currently flying the three legacy aircraft have begun transition training to the F-35, and the only place inside the Corps for this training will be Beaufort. “Between June and September we’ll have all the VMFAT-501 aircraft and squadron personnel relocating, and in October we’ll start training,” said Villalobos, who is a Harrier pilot.

VMFAT-501 pilots, maintainers and support Marines have been stationed at

Eglin Air Force Base in Florida developing the flight and maintenance operational doctrine for the F-35B. (See January 2013 *Leatherneck* for a complete article about their groundbreaking work at Eglin.) Later this year the squadron will complete its relocation to Beaufort.

The squadron formed in April 2010, assuming the lineage of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 451, originally known as the “Blue Devils” in World War II, then the “Warlords” in the mid-’50s and on to Operation Desert Storm. VMFA-451 was decommissioned in January 1997.

F-35B aircraft maintainers will continue



PAO, MCAS BEAUFORT, S.C.



PAO, MCAS BEAUFORT, S.C.

The new MCAS Beaufort Pilot Training Center provides a state-of-the-art facility for the training in the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter.

to receive their training at Eglin's Integrated Training Center along with Air Force and Navy personnel, Villalobos noted, since the training infrastructure already is established there.

Pilots transitioning from legacy aircraft will be the first to channel through Beaufort for training. New accession pilots are projected to begin training in mid- to late 2015.

"We have three milestones we've been tracking to," Villalobos said, explaining that the first milestone was met in July 2013 when the training facility was completed and the second in January when the facility was deemed "RFO," or ready for operations.

"Once we have relocated -501 here, and we have a full complement of training resources, we'll be ready to start our first training class on October 6," said LtCol Villalobos, punctuating the start of the third phase.

The methods by which pilots will receive their training probably would have been considered science fiction at the turn of the century when the X-35, the experimental aircraft that would lead to the F-35, was just a schematic on paper.

"Eventually this facility will have eight full-mission simulators and top-of-the-line technology capable of training to the fullest extent of the aircraft, using actual aircraft software," explained Villalobos. While the majority of training will be for the "B" STOVL model, pilots can be trained on any of the F-35 variants by changing a simulator switch and possibly loading different software into the system.

Villalobos explained that training to the jet's full capabilities in actual aircraft is difficult due to the vastness of the aircraft capabilities as compared to the limited airspace and ranges. "The benefit of flying the simulator is that we can train pilots for everything that this aircraft is capable of doing," he said. The simulators are so advanced that pilots will feel just like they're flying training or combat missions.

The F-35 is a fifth-generation fighter aircraft, and the "B" model uses a new idea of a STOVL-lift system that is vastly different from the AV-8 system.

The F-35, in all its variants, offers cutting-edge stealth capability, high-performance airframes, advanced avionics features and highly integrated computer systems. As a package, those advancements



The F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter performs a flyover during a debut to the Beaufort, S.C., community aboard MCAS Beaufort, Aug. 20. The air station is expected to receive the aircraft in 2014 along with VMFAT-501, the Marine Corps' first F-35B training squadron.

SGT MARCY SANCHEZ

enable pilots to network with other elements in the operational, training or combat theater to achieve a dominating advantage in situational awareness.

The Marines' "B" variant is the only F-35 model capable of short takeoff and vertical landing; what sets it apart from the previous Harrier-generation STOVL technology is that the F-35B also can fly at supersonic speeds, horizontally.

For the Marines or other military personnel in combat on the ground, this means the "B" model will get there fast from a nearby austere land base or a carrier to provide air superiority, combat situational awareness to the Marine air-ground task force commander and close air support on time and on target.

"The training system, which encompasses academic lectures, interactive courseware and high-fidelity mission system trainers, enable the pilot to quickly and safely adapt to the F-35B," said Major Adam Levine, -501 operations officer, in an earlier *Leatherneck* interview. "The unique nature of teaching and learning a

new airplane without a two-seat variant represents a departure from the AV-8B and F/A-18 pilot training. The overwhelmingly positive response from our initial transition pilots has been the affirmation of the training system."

Initially, there only will be two simulators in Beaufort, but eventually there will be eight that can fly solo or be linked together so that pilots will get the virtual equivalent of flying in formation with other F-35s or legacy aircraft.

The Corps' first operational F-35 squadron, VMFA-121, was formed in 2012 at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., and is in the build-up stage with a projection for initial operational capability by July 2015.

"As we start producing pilots here, and aircraft are being delivered either to Yuma or here to Beaufort, we'll begin sending trained, qualified pilots to the squadrons," asserted Villalobos, adding that the goal is for the final product emerging from the training center to be operational-ready pilots.

"That is very real to us, so we want to



Distinguished guests of the South Carolina community listen as MajGen Robert F. Hedelund, the commanding general of Second Marine Aircraft Wing, debuts the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter to the community during a showcase of the aircraft aboard MCAS Beaufort in August 2013.

ensure that pilots have all the tools to take on any missions they are assigned when they leave here," he emphasized.

Villalobos has combat experience from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as well as service with the F-35 Joint Program Office in Washington, D.C. He was the training lead for all F-35 acquisition, implementation and other areas related to the training system. His primary mission now is providing leadership at the training center.

"I am here to directly support the MAG-31 commanding officer with everything

he requires this training center to do," he said, specifying that the center falls under the operational control of Marine Aircraft Group 31.

The training syllabus will evolve as time goes on. "At first, the training evolution will be shorter," the OIC explained. "The syllabus will evolve as additional software packages are delivered, and pilots will train to these new capabilities."

Staffing the facility will be an evolving process as well.

"As the Marine Corps downsizes, we are not looking to place a high demand on the Marine Corps footprint to this training center," said Villalobos, adding that initially Lockheed-Martin staff will be operating the training system under Marine Corps standards, similar to what has been done in the past with legacy aircraft. "As -501 receives more aircraft,

they will eventually be outfitted to the T/O [table of organization] they need."

The training center is intended as a self-contained immersion environment where everything they need is there, from classrooms and research centers to simulators. "Everything associated with this facility is designed to be an extension of a squadron, a ready-room environment where they can hang their hat, sit down and study," said Villalobos. "For the most part they won't take anything home at night. We have all the resources here that will make them better aviators."

The OIF veteran brings his combat experience to the classroom and recognizes the significance of merging legacy communities into a single aircraft. "When we were in the ready rooms in Al Jaber [Air Base, Kuwait] just before OIF started, we saw it all coming together with Hornet



SGT MARCY SANCHEZ

and Harrier squadrons,” he recalled. “It was varsity; it was game time, the Super Bowl. We took all the things we learned there as an attack community, we’ve brought it to a new platform, and now we’re actually evolving.”

As training-center staff prepares for full operations, work elsewhere on base continues with the F-35 activation plan.

Retired Marine LtCol Troy Ward has been at the Beaufort air station since 2007, developing the F-35 site-activation task force there, coordinating efforts by military and community resources.

“This is a standardized concept for site activation anywhere the F-35 will be flown,” he said. “Once the first squadron arrives, the task force will stay active for another year or so to help coordinate operations. The task force at Yuma, for example, has run its course,” he said,



LOPL PATRICK J. MCMAHON

LtCol David R. Berke, right, Commanding Officer, VMFAT-501, talks with Scott Dudley, a former CO of the squadron, about the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter capabilities, aboard MCAS Beaufort, Aug. 20, 2013.



SGT ANGELA M. MADDOX

Col Brian Murtha, CO, MCAS Beaufort, left, speaks with the Honorable Mark Sanford, U.S. House of Representatives, 1st Congressional District, South Carolina, at the showcase of the F-35B Lightning II aboard MCAS Beaufort last August.

reiterating that the operational squadron at Yuma was established in September 2012.

The task force at MCAS Beaufort was the first established in the Marine Corps. The process used base department heads as leads in functional areas such as logistics, public works, environmental safety and health.

“The task force conducted strategic planning, anticipating requirements and organizing the staff so that when the F-35 Joint Program Office conducted its site survey in August 2008, we were ready to begin the transition to the F-35,” explained Ward.

He further explained that the 103,000-square-foot pilot training center was accepted for occupancy in July 2013 and was undergoing final interior work, preparing it for the first class in October 2014. The first squadron hangar was accepted in November 2013, a step required to begin detailed, internal work such as electrical and computer wiring, utilities, furniture and other work needed for the arrival of VMFAT-501 this summer. The plan calls for a new hangar per squadron as they activate; the second hangar for the first

operational squadron was pending contract award at the end of last year with work due to start sometime during FY 2014.

Other construction was needed to prepare for the F-35B. The aircraft parking ramp in front of the new hangar doubled in size. There also were reinforced landing pads needed for vertical takeoffs and landings. In total thus far, cost of construction is about \$70.3 million, with more expected as the program develops. But Ward emphasized it’s not about buildings.

“It’s about providing capability to the Marine Corps to train our warfighters to go out and defend our country,” he asserted. “We’re proud of the contributions we’ve made, but the 50-year life cycle of this program is a capability for our nation and one that Marine aviation will enjoy for decades.”

Author’s bio: 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.



This Is My Life:

Marines in Afghanistan



CPL AUSTIN LONG

Sgt Bryan Early, a squad leader with 1st Bn, 9th Marines, Regional Command Southwest, directs a Marine where to provide security while on patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2013.

By Cpl Austin Long and Cpl Paul Peterson

The war in Afghanistan is the longest sustained conflict in American history. For more than 12 years, Marines have cycled in and out of the country. Most Marines today have never known a time when deployments didn't loom on the horizon. It's become a facet of their lifestyles, and it's shaped the people who lived through it.

Now, as the war in Afghanistan comes to an end, four Marines with 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, operating in Helmand province, share a little bit about who they are as members of that select community. Their attitudes, leadership styles, experiences and reasons for serving are different. They're honest and hopeful, rancorous and rash, proud and blunt. Three are combat veterans. One is serving his first tour overseas.

A squad leader, team leader, grenadier and scout leader—they've all weathered enemy fire during this deployment. For the most part they are where they want to be, somewhere between loving their jobs and simply enduring the miseries of deployment.

Sergeant Bryan Early **Squad Leader**

At 25 years old, this is Sgt Early's third deployment. He uses his past experiences to lead his Marines today. A Libby, Mont., native, the Marines know Early by his natural, happy mood. He tries to think of his men as little brothers to remind him he is responsible for the lives of other people's sons. He has a wife and a 2-year-old son.

Q: What thoughts run through your head when planning patrols?

A: The other squad leaders and I sit down and focus mostly on the safety of our Marines. When we make our plans, we look at all the intelligence we have and plan around that while also keeping the commander's intent in mind.

Q: When you're going through a firefight, what kind of squad leader are you?

A: I try to be as aggressive as possible. I know that's hard for some people to wrap

their heads around, but as an infantryman our mission is to locate, close with and destroy the enemy with fire and maneuver. So I try to instill that as much as possible in my Marines. If I show them that I'm scared, then they're not going to be willing to follow me into that gunfire, but if I'm aggressive and happy and I'm the man to step out into the fire, then that shows the Marines that [leading from the front] concept and makes them more willing to follow me.

Q: Do you approach everything with that aggressive mentality?

A: Yeah, especially in the Marine Corps. I try to be as aggressive as possible, but life outside of the Marine Corps, you've got to step back and not be as aggressive. I've tried the aggressive approach, and it normally doesn't go over well (laughing).

Q: Why are you the first one through the door and in front of all the other Marines?

A: I'd rather be the first one through the door, so that if anyone has to take a round,

I'd rather it be me. You put so much hard work in training these guys; you want to give them the opportunities to not only succeed in the Marine Corps, but in life. If anyone has to take the bullet, I'd rather it be me. This is my third deployment, and I have six plus years in the Marine Corps. I've already had my time.

Q: How does it feel watching your Marines operate on patrol?

A: I saw it when we took our first contact [with the enemy] that it was muscle memory for these guys. They never hesitated or choked, and that's the best feeling to have.

Q: Do you regret coming into the Marine Corps right after high school?

A: Absolutely not.

Q: Why is that?

A: Being a Marine was one of my dreams as a small child. My mom has pictures of me when I was 4 or 5 walking around in old Marine Corps tri-colors [utilities] with a pellet gun at shoulder arms (laughing).

Q: What kind of camaraderie do you have with your junior Marines?

A: One of the big things I learned as a junior Marine is that you train your Marines like they're your little brothers. Always keep in the back of your mind that's someone's son. Treat your Marines accordingly, and they'll give you the respect that you deserve. If I get hit, I don't want them running out there to get me just because I'm another Marine. I want them running out there to save me because I'm Bryan Early.

Corporal Charles Kristel **Team Leader**

He's blunt and authoritative but also respected. Cpl Kristel, a Schenectady, N.Y., native was wounded during his previous deployment to Afghanistan. A stocky, deep-voiced man of few words, many unrepeatable in print, Kristel joined the military at the age of 20. After only 3½ years in the Marine Corps, he's elevated himself to a position of leadership through strength of will, demonstrated competence and unbending character.

Q: What were some of the traits you saw in your leaders coming up in the Marine Corps that made them successful?

A: I would say doing whatever's necessary. They made a point to do their job in the best manner possible and just succeed, as opposed to being mediocre because mediocre usually fails.

Q: You hold a pretty senior position. How did you get to that point?

A: Being awesome at my job.

Q: Did you ever picture you'd be who you are now?

A: Yeah, this is pretty much who I was before I joined.

Q: What were conditions like during your first deployment?

A: It was a good time. It was considerably more miserable than this. Week one, we [moved into] a compound and lived in there for four months in north Helmand. It rained a lot and was very uncomfortable.

Q: Why do you like working with the infantry?

A: Well, the infantry is the backbone of the Marine Corps. It's what defines it.

Q: There's a lot of trust placed in you

and other noncommissioned officers on patrol. How do you earn that trust?

A: Through my conduct it should be pretty evident that I know what's going on. I make a point to make it obvious I'm not an idiot.

Q: Would you say that you're a confident person?

There's a lot of trust placed in you and other noncommissioned officers on patrol. How do you earn that trust?

A: Confidence lets me know I'm making the right choice.

Q: How do you delegate responsibility?

A: You delegate accordingly. [New Marines] only listen to you if they have some modicum of respect for you. So you need to distinguish yourself as either someone who knows what's going on, or somebody who doesn't.



Cpl Charles Kristel, a team leader with 1/9, uses his radio to coordinate with another section of Marines during an interdiction and clearing operation in Helmand province Dec. 19, 2013.

Q: How do you share leadership and break up responsibility?

A: We just converse. It's a matter of what needs to be done and who can get it done the best.

Q: How often do you lead people?

A: Every day.

Q: How do you encourage leadership in others?

A: It's always said, make them into leaders. People who obviously distinguish themselves as being competent, they will naturally grow into leaders. It's not about the people above them.

Q: If you recognize you've got somebody who's a strong leader, what do you do?

A: Let them do their thing.

Q: What's more important, your rank or your personal authority?

A: Your authority. I'm filling a sergeant's billet.

Q: How did you become versed in all those things that just seem second nature today?

A: Well, when I was [new], I just made an effort to learn as much as I could so I would be efficient as I picked up rank.

Q: Is there satisfaction for you in leading?

A: When things go well.

Lance Corporal Patrick Tomassi **Grenadier**

An Odessa, N.Y., native, LCpl Tomassi can't seem to stop smiling, even when told to. He's been in the Marine Corps for two years, and this is his first deployment to Afghanistan. Being the new guy, he's often called on to complete miscellaneous projects. His goofy smile fades from time to time, but Tomassi's go-to-it attitude and optimism carry him.

Q: What do you think about being so young in the infantry on your first deployment?

A: I'm 20 years old, I'm in the Marine Corps, and my job is very important. I have a bunch of responsibilities on my

shoulders. I've always been told just because you're younger you can't do this. But out here we're proving them all wrong. I've got 17- and 18-year-old friends here holding [rifles], running towards gunfire. I'd rather have those guys protecting my back than anybody else.

Q: When you're going on a patrol, what are some of the thoughts going through your mind?

A: The safety of the guys around me and doing my best to assure we return with the same guys uninjured.

Q: What kind of connection do you have with the guys you work with?

A: I definitely have a strong connection with all the guys. I've known these guys since January [2013] when I came to 1/9. We've been through [extensive] training and all the ups and downs of the Marine Corps.

Q: Do you self-criticize or take critique from others and apply that to the next patrol?



A: I try to learn from my mistakes and the mistakes of others just so nothing bad happens the next time, and I try to use that to better myself and the other Marines I'm with.

Q: What have been your favorite parts on this deployment?

A: Hanging out with the guys and all the experiences we've gone through. Even if it's a bad time, it's an experience I'm able to share with the guys. I wouldn't



While on patrol in Helmand province in late December 2013, LCpl Patrick Tomassi, a grenadier with 1/9, sees firsthand the challenges of fighting an insurgency. One minute he is on alert (inset), and then (above) he finds himself moving alongside and talking with Afghan children.

have it any other way. These guys are my family. I couldn't see myself doing anything without them.

Q: What thoughts run through your head when you guys get fired at by the enemy?

A: The first thing is get down (smiling) and then try to find out where the fire is coming from. Hopefully we get through this, take down the enemy and get home safe.

What's unique about your job that sets you apart from other people?



CPL JUSTIN LONG

Q: What type of camaraderie do you have with the Marines?

A: Going through the worst times possible has brought us close. We were [training in] Bridgeport, California, and it was from -15 to 15 degrees, and we went through that together. Having to rely on each other to survive brought us close.

Q: Would you take a bullet for these guys?

A: I'd definitely take a bullet for these guys, in a heartbeat.

Q: Why?

A: They come before me. Most of these guys have a wife and kids. And that's why I signed up, to protect them.

Q: Could you imagine doing anything else?

A: I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I'm protecting and serving my country. I'm doing what I like to do, and just knowing everyone's back home safe and that I'm here just makes me feel a lot better.

**Corporal Dennis Cox
Scout Sniper**

This is Cpl Cox's third deployment and his second to Afghanistan. The New York City native enlisted at the age of 18, inspired in part by the events of 9/11. He left for his first deployment as a rifleman. Now, at the age of 24, he's returned to Afghanistan as a sniper supporting Marines conducting foot patrols in Helmand province. Cox is both serious and relaxed but fun-loving at the same time. He wants to continue his line of work after the military.

Q: Why did you come into the Marine Corps?

A: I've always wanted to do it. I always wanted to do something as far as serving my country.

Q: Did you ever think of doing anything else?

A: Not really.

Q: What's unique about your job that sets you apart from other people?

A: I have the long gun, and I can see a lot further. I remember when I did my first deployment to Afghanistan I was a [rifleman]. I was like, "I can barely see these people. It was like shooting at little dots."

Q: What about your job do you like most?

A: Operating. I love being out there. I don't know. It sucks that your boys are out there with you, but it's like brotherhood through misery. It definitely helps. You don't want to go through that experience alone. Not only out here, but even in garrison, you have a lot of stuff you have to deal with. You just deal with it together.

Q: Have you seen yourself grow over the last several years?

A: Oh yeah, I've definitely got thicker skin. I never really changed, just got thicker skin.

Q: Have you seen how you fit into the bigger picture?

A: [We] definitely instill some fear in the enemy. When you can get that close shot to them, and they watch [their guy] go down, it's like, "We got to back off because these guys can reach out and touch me."

Q: Could you imagine doing anything else other than what you do now?

A: Not really.

Q: Have you found the Marine Corps a place you really fit into?

What's it like to go out into the field and perform your mission?

A: I definitely think I was like this before the Marine Corps. I've kind of grown, as far as dealing with things. You can't just complain about everything. You just have to truck on and roll with the punches. It kind of helps you in life, too.

Q: Have you had people who inspired you along the way?

A: I've had [them] all throughout my Marine Corps career. You always take the good things from people and just try and instill them in yourself. If you see the bad things, you're just like, "Hey, I'm never going to be like that."

Q: What are some of the traits you've seen in successful leaders?

A: [They're] kind of like one of the guys, but [they're] firm too. You don't want to upset them because you feel like you let them down, and that hurts you more than anything.

Q: What characteristics make you good at what you do?

A: I don't know. I'm just me. I'm competent (laughing).

Q: What's it like to go out into the field and perform your mission?

A: I love operating. Not all [missions] are home runs, and you do have some snoozers. It happens. But whenever things do go down, I love it. You get that adrenaline pumping.

Q: How do you cope with the unpleasant things?

A: We just have to vent to each other. ... We'll just talk to each other. That's it because our peers are all we've got out here.

Q: What kinds of people succeed in the Marine Corps?



Cpl Dennis Cox, a scout sniper with 1/9 on his third combat deployment, uses his rifle scope to scan distant buildings during an interdiction operation in Helmand province Dec. 19.

CPL PAUL PETERSON

A: Like I said, you don't want to do anything to upset them if you're under them. It's hard to explain. They have to be guys who stand their ground.

Q: How does the training and experience help you distinguish leaders?

A: We're going to find out if you're worthy or not. It's kind of like the Spartans. You need that experience because we're going to find out. Either you're going to go into baby mode or you're going to become a man.

Q: Have you found fulfillment in your job?

A: This is what I always wanted to do. It's definitely like a life-achievement goal. It's one of those things where I don't want to have to think, "I wish I did this," or something. I can grow old and happy knowing I made it.

Authors' note: The Marines selected for these interviews were chosen for their varied experience and leadership roles within their unit. None were in the military when the war in Afghanistan began, but they will be some of the last Marines to see combat in Afghanistan.

Authors' bio: Corporals Long and Peterson are Marine Corps combat correspondents currently assigned to Regional Command Southwest, Helmand province, Afghanistan.



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos of 1st Bn, 9th Marines in Afghanistan at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/mylife

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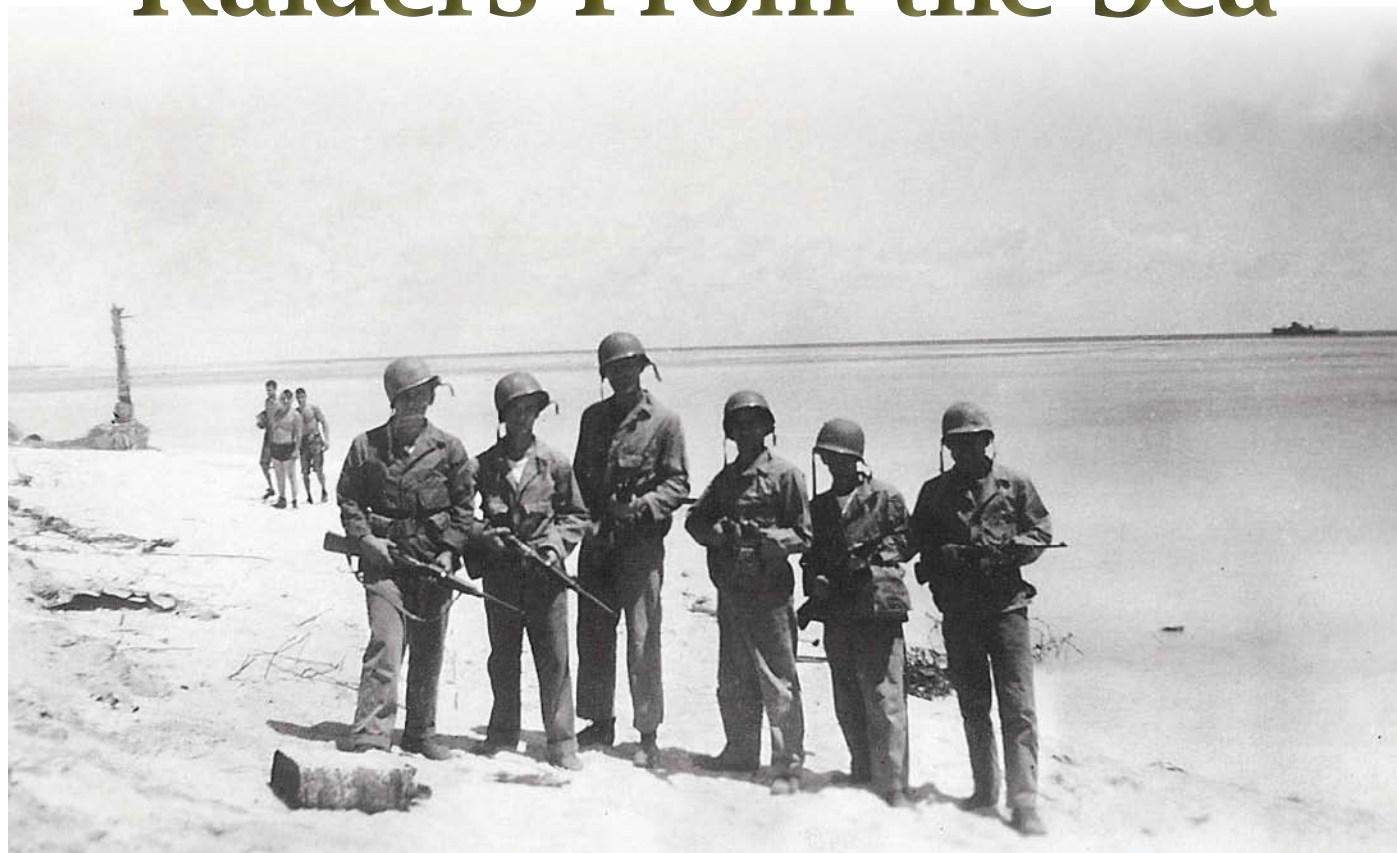
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Raiders From the Sea



Amphibious Recon Co leathernecks on the beach at Apamama, November 1943.

Story by Dick Camp
Photos courtesy of Chris Baiche

Prologue

The black hull of the half-submerged submarine was all but invisible against the night sky as she lay off the Japanese-held atoll of Apamama. Shadowy figures emerged from access hatches and scurried along her wooden deck to a hatch on the after section of the superstructure, where they removed six 10-man deflated rubber boats.

They lined the boats up in two rows on the fantail and used air hoses to inflate them. Dozens of more figures emerged on deck, climbed into the boats and waited to be launched, paddles in hand. A thunderous “whoosh” of compressed air being released replaced the muffled rumble of the diesel engines as the submarine slipped under the water, leaving the rubber boats floating on the surface. The experienced Marines understood the risks and challenges of a nighttime insertion on an enemy-held island—this would be no “milk run.”

The men dipped their paddles into the water and headed toward shore. Trouble developed almost immediately. Rough water and rain squalls swamped all but two of the outboard motors, forcing the leathernecks to paddle against a nasty, three-knot cross-current sea and frequent rain squalls.

Within minutes, their shoulder muscles ached from the strain of propelling the 320-pound rubber boats through the rough water. After four hours of desperate paddling, they neared the coral reef line where the water was even rougher. A series of large rollers caught them, and for a moment the boats were at their mercy. The crews strained to keep them from broaching. The paddlers dug in, struggling to stay on the forward edge of the waves. Swirling white water marked their progress. With a final effort, they propelled the boats over the treacherous reef and into quieter water only a few meters from the beach.

The raiders splashed ashore in the first Amphibious Reconnaissance Company operation of World War II.

Amphibious Reconnaissance Company

The Amphibious Recon Co was formed at Camp Elliott, Calif., in January 1943, under the command of Captain James L. Jones. The company consisted of a headquarters and service platoon and four reconnaissance platoons, totaling six officers and 92 enlisted men. In August 1943, the company was redesignated Amphibious Reconnaissance Company, V Amphibious Corps (VAC), Pacific Fleet and deployed to Camp Catlin, Hawaii. It trained there for three months before being assigned to conduct its first wartime mission, code-named Operation Boxcloth: the reconnaissance of Apamama Atoll (also known as Abemama and Afemama).

Apamama is an oval-shaped atoll in the Gilbert Islands, approximately 12 miles long by five miles wide. Abatiku Island in the southwest is bordered on either side by a passage into a lagoon, the largest expanse of smooth water in the Gilberts, perfect for a fleet anchorage. Entrance Island lies just beyond the South Passage, then an expanse of reef and finally Apa-

mama Atoll, which curved to the north-west then swung southward toward the Western Passage and Abatiku. The atoll is divided into six segments, which the planners code-named Joe, John, Orson, Otto, Oscar and Steve.

Operation Boxcloth

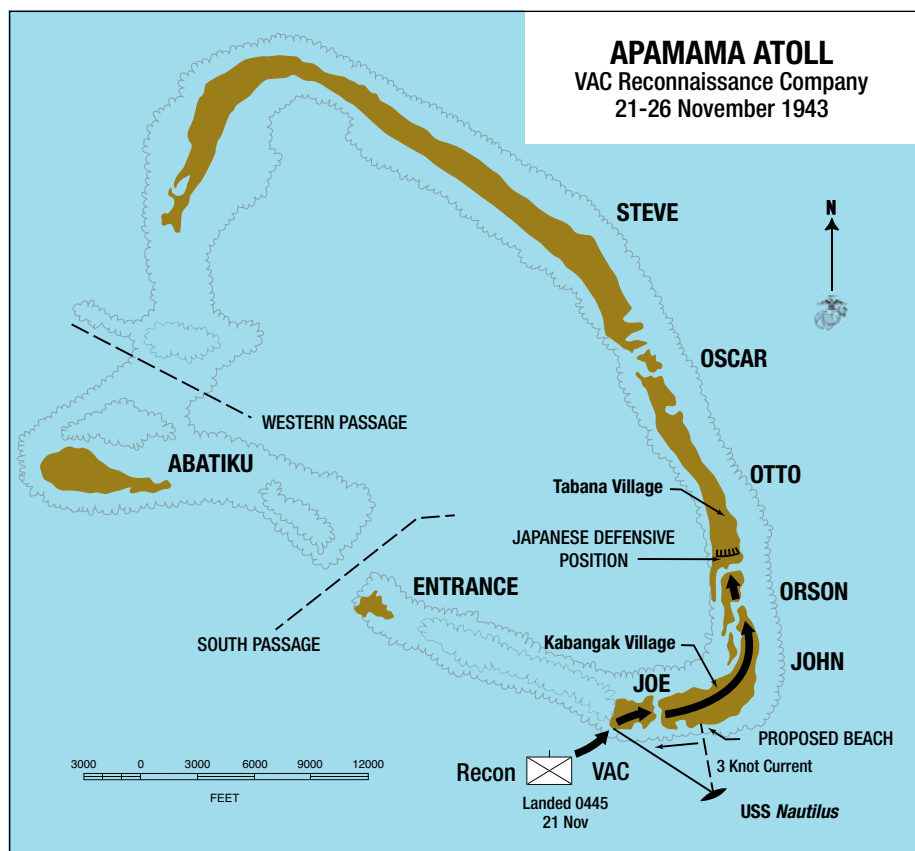
"Apamama was a brilliant sideshow on a small scale."

—MajGen Holland M. Smith

Operation Boxcloth (Apamama) was one of three objectives assigned to VAC in Operation Galvanic, the conquest of the Gilbert Islands. The other two objectives included Tarawa (Second Marine Division) and Makin Island (U.S. Army's 27th Infantry Division). The plans called for the Amphibious Recon Co (less the 4th Plt employed on Makin) to land on Apamama during the night of 19 Nov. 1943 and reconnoiter the atoll to determine whether there was any sizable Japanese force ashore and to select and mark suitable beaches and channels for use by follow-on forces.

Embarkation

Under cover of darkness on the morning of 8 Nov. 1943, the company (68 Marines, 10 enlisted men from the 102nd Combat Engineers and three attached officers: Language Interpreter Lieutenant George Hard, Australian Ocean Island Defense Force; Major Wilson Hunt, USMC, 8th Base Defense Battalion; and LT E. F. "Bing" Crosby, USNR, 95th Mobile Construction Bn) boarded USS *Nautilus* (SS-168) at the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.



The enlisted men were billeted in the torpedo rooms, while the officers were accommodated amidships with the submarine's officers. The submarine's commander briefed the boat's company and embarked troops on the mission, and by midafternoon *Nautilus* was underway.

Nautilus, originally commissioned in 1930 as *V-6*, a *Narwhal*-class cruiser submarine, carried 24 torpedoes and mounted

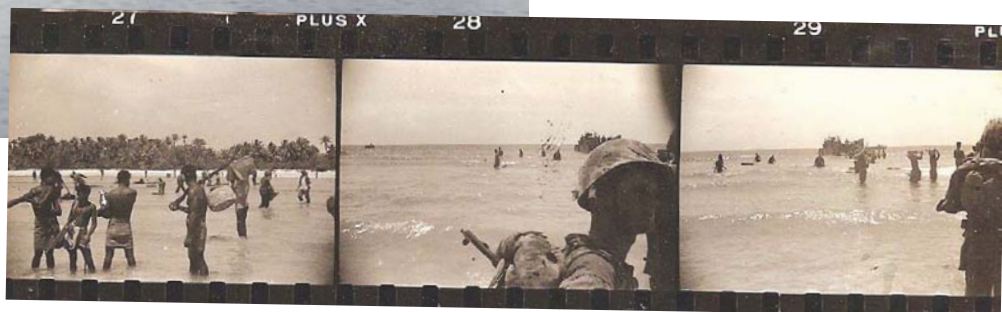
two 6-inch deck guns. *Nautilus* was 371 feet long, and because of her size, she was useful for carrying troops and cargo on covert missions. Boxcloth was not her first mission. She had been at Midway, and, together with USS *Argonaut* (SM-1), she transported Lieutenant Colonel Evans Carlson's 2d Raider Bn on the Makin Atoll raid in August 1942.

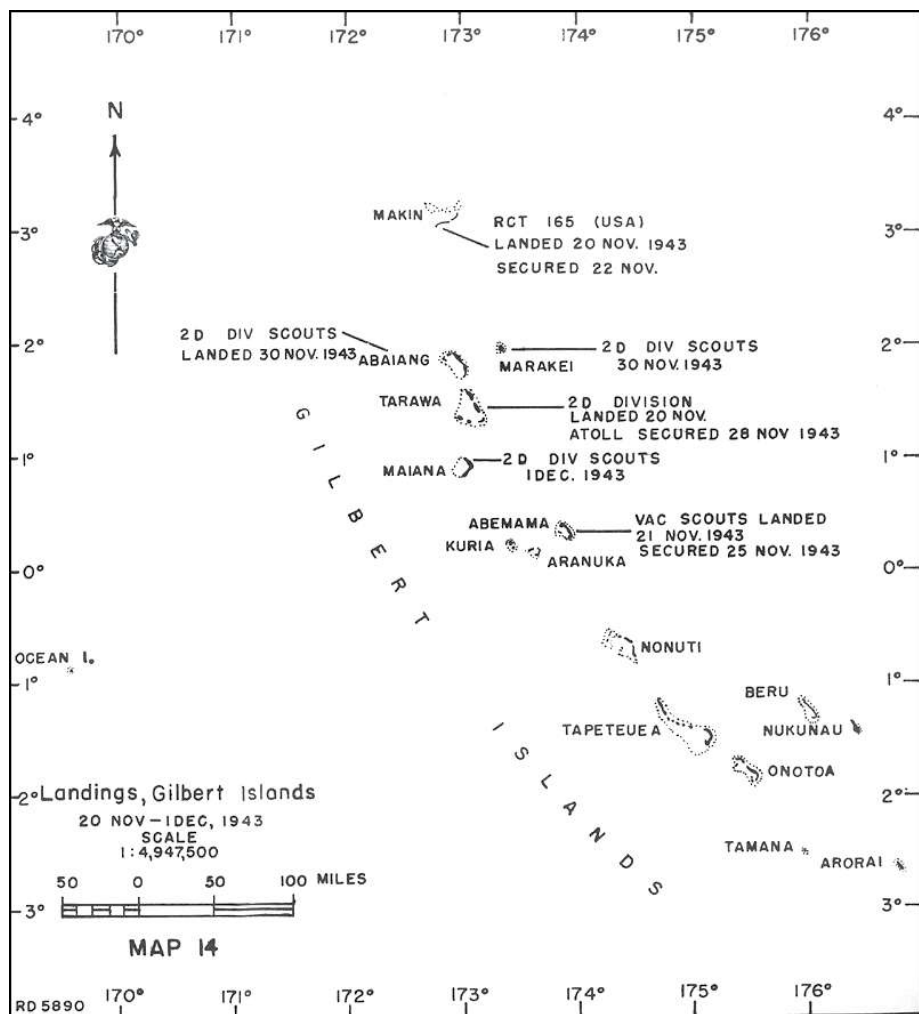
The embarked troops quickly adjusted to the submarine's routine, although the lack of exercise was particularly grating on the physically active men. The only exercise they had was when *Nautilus* pulled into Johnston Island for emergency repairs. The men were allowed 45 minutes of physical exercise on the deck. Jones tried to lessen the impact of confinement by supplementing the bridge lookouts when the submarine was on the surface. That arrangement allowed the men topside

Left: USS *Nautilus* was used to insert the small joint force of mostly amphibious recon Marines on Apamama during Operation Boxcloth, 20-21 Nov. 1943.



Right: Negatives from the estate of LT E. F. "Bing" Crosby, USNR, a Seabee on the Apamama operation, provide some insight on the Apamama shoreline and people.





approximately once every 36 hours. The practice had to be discontinued when the submarine neared the objective.

In an effort to combat boredom, Jones assigned the troops to help prepare food and clean the compartments and had Lt Hard conduct classes on simple words and expressions used by the Gilbert Islanders. The officers stood night decoding watches to assist the communications officer. And, finally, four movies were shown during the voyage to supplement the dog-eared books and magazines that were making the rounds.

On 16 Nov., Capt Jones distributed the operation plan and maps, which the platoon leaders used to brief their men. Two days later *Nautilus* arrived off Tarawa (code-named Helen) to conduct rescue operations for airmen forced down in the aerial reconnaissance and bombardment of the island. Jones was told that a separate aerial reconnaissance of Apamama did not spot any enemy activity.

Friendly Fire

"All things being considered, my Marines and I would rather be in a rubber boat."
—Capt James L. Jones

At 2130 on the 19th, while steaming on the surface toward Apamama, *Nautilus* received a radar contact believed to be from a friendly ship. Fifteen minutes later, the ship headed toward the submarine "acting very belligerent," according to a *Nautilus* operations report. Before the submarine could launch a recognition signal, the unknown ship opened fire. "Perfect shooting," *Nautilus* reported. "One projectile hit ... just as the hatch was closed." Torrents of water poured in through a ruptured tube in the conning tower, and the submarine started for the bottom, seriously damaged.

Gunnery Sergeant Sam Lanford, sitting on the deck in the forward torpedo room, noted in a post-operation interview with now-retired Colonel Bruce F. Meyers as published in Meyers' book "Swift, Silent, and Deadly: Marine Amphibious Reconnaissance in the Pacific, 1942-45," "The air began to get stale and the water began to rise. ... At first just an inch or so, then deeper and eventually over my thigh with my leg stretched out. I admit saying a prayer or two." The crew was able to stop the dive at 300 feet and make emergency repairs that permitted the boat to continue the mission.

Jones reported, "During the entire emergency, the troops remained calm." However, he told the sub's commander, "All things being considered, my Marines and I would rather be in a rubber boat. ... Torpedo rooms are not satisfactory fox-holes." It turned out that *Nautilus* had been hit by a dud 6-inch shell from the light cruiser USS *Santa Fe* (CL-60), which had not been told that the submarine was in the area.

Apamama

Shortly before midnight on the 20th, *Nautilus* broke the surface 3,000 yards off John Island. The rubber boats were launched a few minutes past midnight and proceeded to a position approximately 600 yards off the shoreline. Jones sent Lts Harry C. Minnier and Leo B. Shinn in two boats with 18 men to reconnoiter the beach. Minnier reported, "Two men were sent 500 to 600 yards to the east, and two men 500 to 600 yards to the west, while the remainder of the men set up a beach defense system."

The patrol discovered they had actually landed on the southwest corner of Joe Island, and that "there was no visible [enemy] activity." The "all clear" was signaled, and the rest of the company went ashore. After reorganizing, the company, minus headquarters and the engineers (who remained to protect the beachhead), advanced to the northeast corner of Joe, where they discovered a camouflaged sea-going Japanese barge.

Private Homer J. Powers of Lt Russell Corey's 3d Plt spotted three Japanese near the barge and took them under fire with his Browning Automatic Rifle, killing one. Shortly afterward several natives appeared. Lt Hard hailed one in Gilbertese. The islander replied in perfect English, "Why, Mr. Hard. My word! I'm glad to see you."

The natives told Hard that the Japanese coast-watching garrison consisted of 25 men armed with one heavy and two light machine guns, rifles, pistols, hand grenades and enough ammunition for "many days' fighting." The locals stated that the Japanese were aware of the Marine landing and had dug in on the southern tip of Otto Island. Their positions consisted of coconut-log-revetted entrenchments on the seaward and lagoon sides of the island, as well as defenses to their rear.

Armed with that intelligence, the company saddled up, crossed the reef passage to John, and advanced toward Orson. As the lead elements reached the tip of Orson and started up the spit of land on Otto, they came under light machine-gun fire. With only one hour of daylight left, Jones decided to withdraw his exhausted com-



The rough beach area is clearly defined in this personal photograph kept by Navy Construction Battalion officer, LT E. F. "Bing" Crosby.

mand (the men had not slept for 48 hours) and return to the beachhead for the night.

The company spent the 22nd and 23rd bringing in supplies from the submarine, strengthening the beachhead defenses and conducting local security patrols. Maj Hunt and LT Crosby, with the 3d Plt as security, conducted a survey of the channels and beaches at the southern end of Steve. At 0330 on the 24th, the company moved out to attack the Japanese on Otto. Jones placed the 3d Plt and two machine guns approximately 200 yards from the enemy's position. The 1st and 2d platoons were positioned on the northeast corner of Orson.

At 0800, the submarine bombarded the Japanese with 70 to 75 rounds from her two 6-inch deck guns. The Japanese immediately responded with small-arms and machine-gun fire. Lt Minnier reported, "[A]ll hell broke loose ... [and] pinned down the crew of our left flank machine

gun ... the crew had their canteens and hip pockets torn by enemy fire." Private First Class William D. Miller was mortally wounded, and Pvt Bert E. Zumberge was seriously wounded while attempting to rescue Miller. Zumberge was awarded the Silver Star for his action. Miller was buried that afternoon near the native cemetery.

Jones decided to break contact rather than risk any more of his men. The Japanese force had brought heavy fire across the Marines' entire front. He left the 1st Plt to "assist the withdrawal of the 3d Platoon and took the rest of the company to the beachhead." Jones arranged for *Nautilus* and a destroyer to shell the Japanese position during the night.

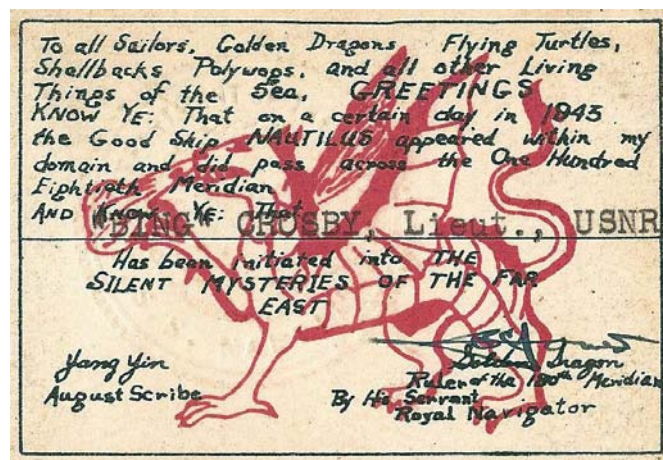
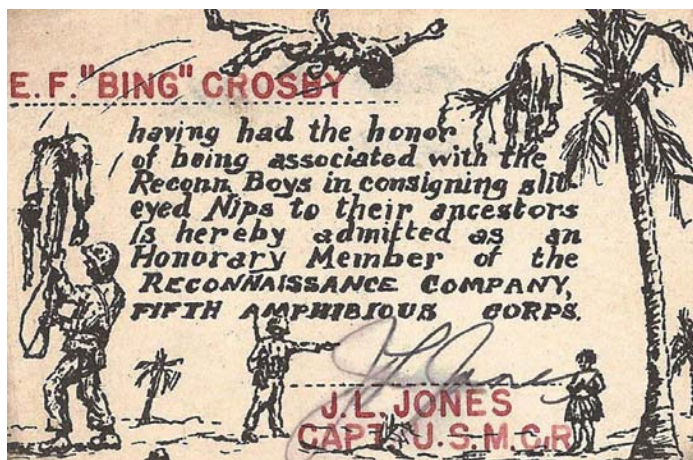
At 1400 the next afternoon, a native approached the beachhead with the startling news that "The Saps are all dead" (the natives pronounce a "J" like an "S"). Lt Corey reported that the native was carrying "a Jap sword, binoculars, and

other small pieces of Jap equipment."

According to Sergeant Frank X. Tolbert in "Apamama: A Model Operation in Miniature," *Leatherneck*, February 1945, the Japanese commander gathered his men to give them a pep talk. "We shall kill all the American devils," he screamed, brandishing a pistol. "Then the officer's pistol exploded, apparently accidentally, and he received a fatal wound in the belly." The commander's sudden death left the soldiers leaderless and uncertain. They chose to follow his unintentional example and commit suicide.

Lt Shinn described the grisly scene. The Marines counted 23 bodies. "Most of the Japs were lying in a group along the trench. They had white cloths tied uniformly around their heads and had apparently killed themselves with pistols. Most of them had a neat round bullet hole in the throat just under the chin. Of these, there were four or five who were lying

LT Crosby was named an honorary member of the Recon Co, V Amphibious Corps, by the company commander, Capt James L. Jones. Crosby earned his Golden Dragon designation when he crossed the 180th meridian (international dateline). Note that due to operational security, only the year he crossed the dateline is included in his card.





Above: Japanese soldiers lie dead in the trench where most committed suicide rather than surrender, be captured or killed.

Right: This series of negatives shows the austerity of one of the Japanese encampments. Note the small kitten in the first frame.



PFC William D. Miller was killed in an early morning attack on Japanese positions on "Otto" and buried that same day near the village cemetery.

at various locations away from the main group." Jones believed they had been killed by Marine small-arms fire and the submarine bombardment on the 24th. A working party, assisted by natives, buried the remains.

Lt Shinn also noted, "Near each individual firing position were several hundred rounds of ammunition, and from ten to forty hand grenades ... a dozen rifles, ten pistols, two light and one heavy

machine gun." The mass suicide ended all enemy resistance on the island. The next day, "Item" Co, 3d Bn, 6th Marines landed and assumed responsibility for Apamama.

The Amphibious Recon Co boarded USS *Harris* (APA-2) and returned to Pearl Harbor, arriving on 11 Dec. 1943. Jones' summary of the operation noted that "the company suffered five casualties, one killed in action, one wounded in action,

two wounded by accidental discharges and one injured." For his leadership of the company on Apamama, Jones was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Maj Frank O. Hough, in "The Island War: The United States Marine Corps in the Pacific," stated, "The Apamama mission, so capably handled, was to be the first of a number of such exploits which were to make the V Amphibious Corps Reconnaissance Company famous across the wide Pacific."

The company participated in reconnaissance operations in the Majuro Atoll and Eniwetok. On 14 April 1944, the company was expanded and reorganized into the VAC Amphibious Reconnaissance Bn and, as such, participated in the capture

of Tinian, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. On 24 Sept. 1945, the company was disbanded, but its illustrious history lives on in the form of modern-day reconnaissance units and the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

Editor's note: In addition to Col Bruce F. Meyers' exceptional book "Swift, Silent, and Deadly: Marine Amphibious Reconnaissance in the Pacific," you can find more on Apamama in the online archives at www.leatherneckmagazine.com.

Chris Baiche, a Navy veteran, served in TACRON ONE at the end of the Vietnam War (1975) and spent most of his time in WestPac on the amphibious command and control ship USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19). He was a forward air controller and spent a great deal of time with 3d Bn, 3d Marines and is an ardent student of WW II Marine Corps history.

Author's bio: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of Marine Corps History and a prolific author. His latest e-book, "The Killing Ground: A Novel of Marines in the Vietnam War," is available online at Amazon.com, and he has two new nonfiction books, "Shadow Warriors" and "Assault From the Sky," available from The MARINE Shop. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.



Medal of Honor Marine Passes Away

Captain John J. McGinty III Honored At Beaufort National Cemetery

Story and photos by
CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

The unpretentious, plain pine casket looked small but belied the valor and magnitude of the man who lay within.

Medal of Honor Marine John J. McGinty III, a retired Marine “Mustang” captain who started his Marine career as an enlisted man, passed away on Jan. 17, 2014, at age 73 after a battle with bone cancer. He earned the Medal of Honor when he was a staff sergeant in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam, during Operation Hastings.

McGinty didn’t want a big funeral, but fellow Marines had other ideas about that.

“If John was here, he’d probably be saying, ‘What the hell are you doing?’ ” fellow Medal of Honor (MOH) Marine and close friend Jay R. Vargas told Capt McGinty’s family, friends and fellow veterans gathered at his funeral Jan. 23 at the Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, S.C.

Vargas, a retired Marine colonel, had traveled from sunny San Diego to brisk mid-30 temperatures in Beaufort for the tribute.

“He’d say, ‘You left 80-degree weather in San Diego ... but I know why you came here, it’s for the bottle,’ ” Vargas said, standing near the plain, unadorned pine wood casket draped with the American flag.

Vargas then told the crowd of nearly 300 how he, along with McGinty; MOH Marine Col Robert J. Modrzejewski, USMC (Ret); and retired Brigadier General Peter J. “Pete” Rowe, had bought a bottle of Irish whiskey years ago during Happy Hour and said the last one remaining would toast the rest.

“We gave the bottle to John because he was the youngest, and we figured he’d outlast us all,” Vargas said in a phone interview after the funeral. He confided that when he got to Beaufort, he talked with locals who knew John and found out that “John and a bunch of Irishmen got together and finished off that bottle. The whiskey is gone, and John probably enjoyed every bit of it,” joked Vargas. “I can’t blame him; if I’d had the bottle, I



Capt Nathan Clark, Series Commander, Co L, 3d Recruit Training Bn, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., salutes during a burial ceremony for Medal of Honor Marine Capt John J. McGinty III, USMC (Ret) at the Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, S.C., Jan. 23, 2014.

probably would have taken a few nips myself.”

McGinty was born in Boston, raised in Connecticut and, as a teenager, moved with his family to Kentucky, where he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1957 just after high school.

He graduated from boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

“My drill instructor was an 0311 [infantryman] and he said nobody was a real Marine unless they’re an 03,” McGinty recalled in a 2011 video interview associated with the book, “Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty” by Nick Del Calzo and Peter Collier.

“So when I went in for my MOS [military occupational specialty] interview, the lady said, ‘Well, all the tests say you should be in the clerical field,’ and I said, ‘Well, if I

can’t be an 03 I don’t want to be a Marine,’ so she reluctantly put me down for 03,” McGinty said in the interview.

He went back to his recruit platoon and, “When my DI asked what MOS I got, and I told him 03, he looked at me and said, ‘You dumb-ass,’ ” he quipped in the video, laughing at the memory. McGinty would eventually return to Parris Island as a drill instructor in 1962.

Four years later, in the summer of 1966, then-SSgt McGinty was an acting platoon leader with Company K, 3d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. On July 15, the battalion was sent into an area along the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam to investigate reconnaissance reports of enemy activity there.

Modrzejewski and McGinty earned

their Medals of Honor during Operation Hastings, and Vargas during the Battle of Dai Do, April 30-May 2, 1968. Vargas was commanding “Golf” Co, with the “Magnificent Bastards” of 2d Bn, 4th Marines at that time.

Operation Hastings was launched in order to push enemy forces, primarily well-trained North Vietnamese Army forces, back across the DMZ. It was a large operation involving several other Marine infantry battalions, artillery units and air support as well as South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam forces.

“We got in there to find that what intelligence said was about a battalion of Viet Cong turned out to be the NVA,” McGinty recounted. “We had taken a small hill that had a hospital on it. We stayed three nights on that hill, and we got attacked every night.”

The battalion was transported by CH-46 helicopters to an area as a blocking force. In the small landing zone, tragically, two helicopters collided while landing, and another hit a tree trying to avoid the collision, killing several Marines and injuring others.

“My company was assigned as the rear security for the battalion,” McGinty said, adding that his platoon of 32 Marines and corpsmen already had taken heavy casualties. “Our job was to destroy three helicopters that had been shot down in the landing zone. We thought it was going to be a pretty easy deal—we’d wait for the engineers, blow up the helicopters and leave,” he asserted in the video. The fog of war blew in to complicate the mission, however.

His platoon had been resupplied with ample ammunition the day before. “The other two platoons had taken off in front of me, and they’d left a lot of ammo there, but being Mister Drill Instructor, I made them [his platoon’s Marines] pick up the ammo because I wasn’t going to leave it behind for the NVA,” he insisted. “Everybody bitched at me all the way back to the LZ about having to carry it, but if we hadn’t had all that ammo, I don’t know whether we would have made it or not.”

The platoon was assaulted by what McGinty recalled was a regiment of NVA troops. “They got on line in front of us about 400 yards away ... blew bugles, waved flags and whistled and charged at us, and I thought I was in a John Wayne movie or something,” McGinty said, describing the surreal scene. “It was amazing, they never stopped, they made three assaults. We broke the first wave, and I think we broke up the second pretty well.”

A lone Marine at his assigned post rests a hand on a portrait of Capt McGinty.



During the four-hour battle, McGinty is cited as rallying the beleaguered platoon time and again against concentrated small arms, automatic weapons and mortar attacks.

As the battle raged on, two of the squads were cut off from the rest of the platoon. The Medal of Honor citation notes that McGinty charged through intense automatic weapons and mortar fire to their position, where he found 20 Marines wounded and the corpsman dead.

“He quickly reloaded ammunition magazines and weapons for the wounded men and directed their fire upon the enemy,” the citation reads. “Although he was painfully wounded as he moved to care for the disabled men, he continued to shout encouragement to his troops and to direct their fire so effectively that the attacking hordes were beaten off.”

Never giving up, when the NVA troops

tried to outflank his position, “he killed five of them at point-blank range with his pistol.” When their position was again overrun, “he skillfully adjusted artillery and air strikes within 50 yards of his position,” routing the enemy forces and killing an estimated 500.

“I got a call over the radio from a colonel in a helo above us, and he said, ‘Do you need air support,’ and I said, ‘Oh, do we need air support!’” McGinty reiterated in the video. “I never got his name, but I’d like to know because he was one of the guys that saved our lives. He read off the ordnance the aircraft had and asked me what I wanted first and I asked for napalm. Those Navy and Marine pilots put that napalm right on the button.”

McGinty and Modrzejewski were awarded their Medals of Honor together in the White House by President Lyndon B. Johnson—the first time two Marines



Some 300 active-duty Marines, combat veterans of the Vietnam War, friends and family and others attended the funeral to show their respect to Capt McGinty's life of service to country and Corps.



had been presented their medals together since the Korean War.

"I don't think I'm a hero—I thought a hero is someone who saved lives—we killed 'em, we did what we were supposed to do," McGinty noted. "I'm proud of the platoon. We all thought we were going to die that day for sure and ... if you talk to them, they all thought that was judgment day; if it was me alone, I probably wouldn't give a damn, but I wear this thing for that platoon," he said in the video as he fingered the blue ribbon with a square panel of white stars and bronze medal.

The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General John M. Paxton Jr., spoke at the funeral and told the family

and others assembled there, "I represent 193,000 Marines, and it is our solemn duty to be here with you to bring our thoughts, prayers and condolences and our abiding respect for who he was and what he brought to our Corps."

Gen Paxton said that he personally knew McGinty and what he did for the Corps, "not only for 'Kilo' Company, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines for four days in July 1966, but for 20 years in uniform and for the rest of his life. The last two times I saw him, [we] were in Iraq when he was there to talk with servicemembers because of who he was, what he did and what he represents."

Col Vargas summarized the feeling

most had that day: "As I left the reception after the funeral, I went up to his son, Michael, and gave him a big hug and told him, 'You know, we lost a great man.' "

McGinty was preceded in death in 1991 by his wife of 30 years, Elaine, and is survived by two sons.

Author's bio: 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.



We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

IOC Students Conduct Long-Range Training Raid

■ Students from the Infantry Officer Course (IOC) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., completed a “Proof-of-Concept” 1,100-mile, long-range raid exercise from Twentynine Palms, Calif., to Fort Hood, Texas, using MV-22 Ospreys, on Dec. 15, 2013.

The Marines fast-roped into a mock city to secure the “embassy” and rescue key U.S. personnel. The IOC staff wanted to demonstrate to the students the Marine Corps’ capability to complete missions of that magnitude, whether for humanitarian, rescue, combat operations or other special-forces type missions.

“What’s different about this mission and where the Marine Corps stands today is, primarily, in the past we would receive the mission and six hours later the first aircraft lifts or the first action is taken to go ashore,” said Major Scott Cuomo, director of IOC. “Now, the moment the warning order is dropped or any type of

indication that there is a significant threat, we can lift these aircraft and be two hours closer to our objective area.”

Cuomo said many new technologies contribute to the Marine Corps’ expedient deployment capability, including a tablet that receives images and video from nearby aircraft to update Marines in the air, and the long-range capability of the MV-22 Osprey.

The Marine Corps recently used the Osprey’s capabilities in humanitarian and disaster-relief missions in the Philippines after the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan, which struck in early November 2013.

It’s these rapid-response type missions that Cuomo said are the Marine Corps’ primary role as a force in readiness. Since being exposed to their first mission of that sort, the students under his charge are confident in the Marine Corps’ ability to take on those operations.

“If this class is any indication of what Marines can do with Ospreys, then there’s no reason that the Marine Corps at large

couldn’t train to this standard and execute these missions,” said Second Lieutenant Ben Hooker, an IOC student. “The Marine air-ground task force is part of the naval service and is ready to be America’s crisis response force,” Cuomo added.

Cuomo said that America will see the fruits of the Marine Corps’ labor in advancing the technologies, reach and capabilities required to complete missions like the 1,100-mile “raid” in Texas and the relief in the Philippines.

“What we have now and what we’ll have going forward is a force that’s more lethal, that can go further, that can get there faster and that can be more precise than it’s ever been before to provide whatever the American people need us to provide.”

Sgt Tyler Main

PAO, Defense Media Activity-Marines

New Facilities at NWS Yorktown Could Mean Faster FAST Marines

■ A groundbreaking ceremony was held Dec. 18, 2013, to begin the first phase of a military construction project to build new facilities for Marine Corps Security Force Regiment (MCSFR) at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Va.

Phase one will see the completion of a regimental headquarters building, bachelor enlisted quarters (BEQ), supply facility, motor transportation facility and an armory. Phase one is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2015.

According to Colonel James M. Bright, the commanding officer of MCSFR, II Marine Expeditionary Force, consolidating the security force regiment at one facility will increase the regiment’s efficiency by bringing all the commanders and their staffs together—unity of effort.

“The consolidation of their facilities here aboard Naval Weapons Station Yorktown will have many benefits, including reducing the geographic dispersal of the unit, improving command and control, enhancing quality of training, mitigation of safety risks and efficiency gains in energy usage,” said Lieutenant General Richard T. Tryon, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM).

Phase two will see to the renovation of the current regimental headquarters build-

Inset: An IOC student, Class 1-14, swings a “buzz-saw” (three chemical lights tethered together by 550 cord), signaling a safe landing zone for an MV-22 Osprey (below), during a 1,100-mile, long-range raid from Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., to Fort Hood, Texas, Dec. 15, 2013.



SGT TYLER MAIN



SGT TYLER MAIN



A \$100-million project will bring new facilities, in three phases, to support 1,000 additional MCSFR Marines at NWS Yorktown, Va. LtGen Richard T. Tryon, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command (third from left), and others ceremoniously break ground at the phase one site, Dec. 18, 2013.

Civil Affairs Group Activates in South Florida

■ As part of the Commandant-directed Force Structure Review (FSR), the 4th Civil Affairs Group (CAG) was reactivated during a ceremony in Hialeah, Fla., Dec. 15, 2013.

“Today we are born as a civil affairs group, as a unit and as a family,” said Colonel Augustin Bolanio, the commanding officer of 4th CAG. “Every one of you will do well, because you have already proven, right from the beginning, that you can perform in all civil affairs matters.”

The 4th CAG is not a brand-new unit, but was reactivated after the FSR prompted changes in the force. The unit that was previously dubbed 4th CAG, based in Washington, D.C., is now the 2d CAG. The new structure provides the Marine Corps with four CAGs, doubling its pre-FSR numbers. Each of the four CAGs is a part of Marine Forces Reserve, making civil affairs operations a capability unique to the Marine Corps Reserve.

The 4th CAG’s mission, when deployed,

ing for use by Companies A, B and C, a fleet antiterrorism security team (FAST) training facility and classroom, and the construction of a second BEQ. The third and final phase will consist of the completion of another BEQ and a fitness center.

The total cost for the consolidation project is estimated at \$100 million.

The Marine Corps Security Force Reg-

iment provides antiterrorism and security forces for the protection of naval and strategic assets around the world.

“I can think of no better location to house and support the security force regiment, whose units deploy around the world in support of our nation’s national military strategy,” said LtGen Tryon.

Sgt Scott McAdam

PAO, MARFORCOM, Norfolk, Va.

STEVE NOTECKI



The 4th CAG was reactivated during a ceremony in Hialeah, Fla., Dec. 15, 2013. From left: SgtMaj Mark Davis; Col Augustin Bolanio, CO, 4th CAG; and LtCol Jeremy Chio stand at attention after uncasing the unit’s battle colors.

SSGT EARNEST J. BARNES



COURTESY OF BEN L. LONG

Then-2dLt Ben L. Long, who served in Khe Sanh, RVN, with 1/26, 1967-68, returned a Randall Model 14 "Attack" knife to Robert A. Taylor, 46 years later.



KEN GODFREY

Robert Taylor (holding the knife) was a corporal in 1967, when he gave the Randall 14 to Long to put to good use during Long's deployment.

is to act as the conduit between U.S. military forces and the local population, civilian authorities and nongovernmental organizations.

Civil affairs Marines, on many occasions, have distinguished themselves in Iraq and Afghanistan by working together with local citizens and soldiers and Marines operating near citizens' homes and businesses to improve relations and understanding between them.

Sgt Michael Ito
PAO, MARFORRES, New Orleans

Rare Knife Returned to Owner 46 Years After Deployment

■ In 1966, it cost about \$40 to buy a Randall Model 14 "Attack" knife with a 7½-inch blade. That was about one week's salary for a Marine corporal, on top of a 13-month waiting list. But that didn't stop Robert A. Taylor, who requested expedited shipping of this high-quality handmade knife for his upcoming second deployment to Vietnam.

But Taylor was stopped short. On his way to Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam, with

the Third Marine Division in 1967, his aircraft landed for refueling on Okinawa. Taylor was ordered to disembark and was reassigned to the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. Taylor was stuck in Okinawa for his overseas tour.

A couple of months later, Taylor met Second Lieutenant Ben Long at a Christian group meeting that was hosted at the house of some friends. Long had orders for Vietnam. Taylor, thinking that he would not be able to make use of his new Randall knife, decided to give the knife to Long,



CLARA GUERRERO

COMMEMORATING "CO VAN MY"—From 1954 to 1973, a small but key unit of United States Marine and Navy advisors trained, lived, fought and died next to the South Vietnamese Marines. The unit was titled "Co-vans," after the South Vietnamese Marines' affectionate nickname for them, "Co Van My," which means "Trusted American Friend." A plaque was unveiled in their honor, Sept. 20, 2013, at the National Museum of the Marine Corps' Semper Fidelis Memorial Park, Triangle, Va. Senior Marine Co-vans Gen Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret), left, and MajGen Ray Smith, USMC (Ret) were among those Co-vans participating in the memorial dedication.

hoping it would help the young lieutenant. Taylor didn't know if Long made it back from Vietnam alive; in fact, he didn't hear from him for nearly half a century.

Older models of Randall knives are rare and valuable, but that wasn't a consideration for Ben Long. It only served to promote a sense of urgency in returning the knife to its original owner. On Oct. 20, 2013, Long finally made contact with Taylor after seeking help from a friend, who had experience tracing people.

Long told Taylor that unfortunately the knife was not in its original condition, but Taylor said it had gained some "character" during Long's tour in Vietnam. Long stated that he had carried the Randall with him every day he was in country and that it had been well used—for a multitude of tasks. As for Long, he survived the war without being injured.

Impressed by Long's efforts to return his Randall knife, Taylor said he would not change a thing about the knife. "It returned to me after a journey of thousands of miles and 46 years," he said. "What a miracle."

Clare A. Guerrero
Staff writer, *Leatherneck*

Quick Shots Around the Corps

DOD to Begin Testing For Synthetic Marijuana

■ Sergeant 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr., USA, with American Forces Press Service, reports that the Department of Defense has expanded its zero tolerance for the use of illicit drugs to include synthetic marijuana, also known as "spice."

In addition to testing for synthetic marijuana, the military conducts random tests on all personnel for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and other drugs in the amphetamine class, including methamphetamines and the drug known as "ecstasy."

The test also looks for codeine and morphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, Vicodin, and different diazepam, such as Valium and Xanax.

If a random drug testing detects the presence of illegal drugs, troops are subject to punishment under military law guidelines.

The addition of synthetic marijuana to an already stringent drug-testing policy drives home DOD's commitment to zero tolerance for the abuse of illicit drugs.

Marine Corps Receives Positive Audit

■ Lance Corporal Chelsea Flowers Anderson, Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, reports that the Marine Corps received an "unqualified," or favorable, opinion on a recently completed independent audit of its FY 2012 Statement of Budgetary Activity. The Department of Defense's inspector general rendered the opinion Dec. 20, 2013, as part of the mandate by Congress for the Department of Defense to produce fully audited financial statements by 2017.

Marines, their weapons and equipment account for only 8.2 percent of the total Department of Defense FY 2012 budget, but that still delivers the ability to respond to crises—from humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief efforts to noncombatant evacuation operations to counter-piracy operations, as well as full-scale combat.

"We are the first service to have successfully completed this congressionally mandated audit. I could not be more proud of our entire team ... Bravo Zulu!" said the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



"And then he says to me, 'If you ship over, I can guarantee you 8th & I.'"

Submitted by
Thomas J. Elbert
Grafton, Ohio

This Month's Photo



(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.

In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce



Cpl Ethan Nagel is congratulated by BGen James S. Hartsell, CG, 4thMarDiv, during Cpl Nagel's Silver Star award ceremony Dec. 17, 2013, in Minneapolis.

Marine Advisor to Afghan Army Awarded Silver Star



Corporal Ethan Nagel was awarded the Silver Star, Dec. 17, 2013, during a ceremony in Minneapolis for his actions in Afghanistan.

The native of Prior Lake, Minn., was presented his medal for opposing armed forces in Afghanistan in July 2009.

"It's an honor to be nominated for the Silver Star and, even more so, to receive it," said Nagel. "Honestly, the men who were there fighting [alongside] me deserve this just as much as I do. They did an amazing job."

At the time, Nagel, a member of the Third Marine Division, was deployed and serving as a military advisor to the Afghan National Army. During a humanitarian mission, Nagel, along with U.S. Special Forces and trained Afghan soldiers, was ambushed by a superior enemy force.

During a prolonged firefight where

Nagel was wounded by shrapnel and a U.S. Army Special Forces officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas M. Vose III, was shot in the chest, Nagel gave up his position to initially provide aid to Vose and then defended him from Taliban fighters trying to capture him.

At one point in the fighting, Nagel was seen applying pressure to Vose's chest while simultaneously defending him with his pistol.

When the medical evacuation took place, Nagel helped protect the helicopter during its descent and takeoff. Vose was airlifted out of the battlefield, but later died of his wounds.

"You don't strive to receive the Silver Star, because it is due to such harsh circumstances," said Nagel. "I would trade it all in for the friends that I've lost."

Brigadier General James S. Hartsell, commanding general of the Fourth Marine Division, presented the award to Nagel.

"He [Nagel] was not going to let the

Taliban capture Vose," said BGen Hartsell. "And that's exactly what they were trying to do."

Nagel was discharged from the Marine Corps in November 2009 and has since joined the Minnesota National Guard.

Cpl Martin Egnash
PAO, 9th MCD

Marine Veteran Awarded Bronze Star After More Than 46 Years



On Dec. 13, 2013, former Corporal Tim Padgett was awarded the Bronze Star medal with combat "V" in front of his friends, family and fellow Marines from Company L, 3d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment at the Marine Corps Reserve Center, Columbus, Ohio, for his actions during the Vietnam War.

According to his citation, Cpl Padgett, then a 22-year-old squad leader with D/1/7, was leading his rifle squad on a patrol April 26, 1967, when they were ambushed by a superior enemy force.

The initial volley of fire wounded the point man. The squad corpsman, Theodore Knox, attempted to render aid to the point man and was then also wounded by enemy fire.

"We got overrun that night, lost a lot of guys," said Padgett, describing the battle. "Sometimes you think of [combat] as just another day at the office. They shoot at us, we shoot at them, and you call it [a] day. This was not a 'call it a day.'"

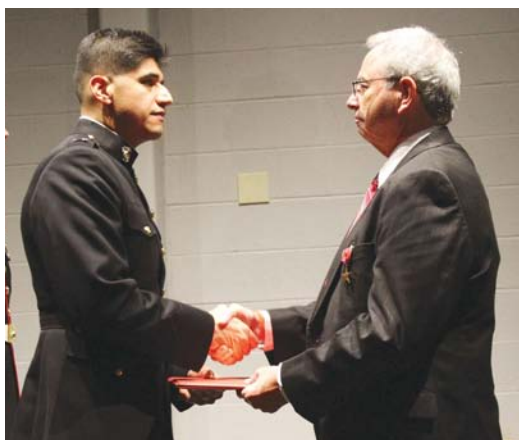
After deploying his squad to engage the enemy, Padgett, while under enemy fire, ran forward to retrieve the wounded Knox. With the assistance of another Marine, Padgett was able to carry Knox to a waiting helicopter, where Knox then received lifesaving medical treatment. Afterward, Padgett's squad managed to resist the enemy long enough for reinforcements to arrive.

Padgett's heroic actions on that day were never recognized—no award received. He never thought about it.

"No one in Vietnam ... the last thing they thought about was medals," said Padgett. "You did not even think about



SGT TYLER HLAVAC



SGT TYLER HLAVAC

Left: Capt Daniel Campos, Commanding Officer, L/3/25, presents the Bronze Star with combat "V" to former Cpl Tim Padgett, a Vietnam War veteran, during a ceremony at the Marine Reserve Center in Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 13, 2013.

Far left: Former corpsman Theodore Knox recalls Cpl Padgett's actions during the 1967 battle. "Doc" Knox was wounded during the battle and carried to safety by Padgett. The action saved Knox's life.

that kind of stuff. The fact that none were given out did not mean anything to us."

The subject of an award never came up again until 2003 when the company had its first reunion. At that point, Padgett and Knox had not seen one another since 1967; in fact, Padgett did not even know that Knox had survived that day.

Knox found out that Padgett never received an award for his actions and took it upon himself to rectify the mistake.

Knox began gathering witnesses and

documentation needed to make a case for an award. Over the course of four years, the award package eventually made its way to the Secretary of the Navy, who approved the award for Padgett on Oct. 1, 2013.

After the ceremony, the 67-year-old Padgett expressed his feelings on receiving the award.

"It's a hard thing," said Padgett. "It is an emotional thing. I was very nervous about getting the award. When you stand

up there and listen to someone read the citation, you are almost embarrassed."

Knox ensured Padgett was properly awarded and was glad his efforts paid off.

"I would be dead if it was not for those two men," said Knox. "That is an absolute fact. I honestly am so relieved. That is the only term I can use. I thank God it's over, and it is giving back for what they have given me ... life."

Sgt Tyler Hlavac
PAO, 4th MCD

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 2013:



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

MSgt Kristofer K. Sit,
1st Marine Special Operations
Battalion (MSOB), U.S.
Marine Corps Forces Special
Operations Command (MARSOC)
SSgt Tyler Wickum, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

SSgt Luis Acosta, 2d
Law Enforcement Bn, II Marine
Expeditionary Force Headquarters
Group
SSgt David H. Behrendsen,
1st MSOB, MARSOC
GySgt Samuel B. Castanza, MHG,
II MEF
Capt Thomas W. Daggett, MHG,
II MEF
1stLt Kyle J. Faherty, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF

LCpl Dekota J. Frear, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
LCpl Matthew J. Grashen Jr.,
2d LEB, MHG, II MEF
Capt Kevin R. Hanratty, MHG,
II MEF
1stLt Eric J. McCrery, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Sgt Luis A. Salguero Jr., 1st MSOB,
MARSOC



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

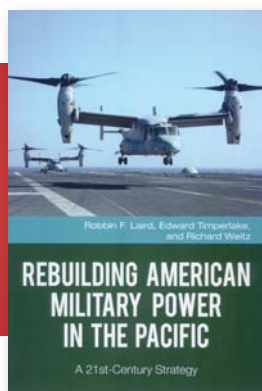
Sgt Evan T. Baschnagel,
2d LEB, MHG, II MEF
Sgt Mathew R. Butler, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Cpl St. Julien W. Cannon, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Cpl Charles W. Effinger IV, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Cpl Steven E. Genthner, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF

Cpl Joshua C. Green, MHG, II MEF
SSgt Bill H. Gross II, MHG, II MEF
Cpl Matthew G. Herman, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Cpl James R. Hickey, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
**LCpl Bradford R. Hollingsworth
Jr.**, 2d LEB, MHG, II MEF
Cpl Kyle R. Kobierski, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Sgt Keith J. Losordo, Combat
Logistics Regiment 2, Second Marine
Logistics Group
Cpl Nicholas A. Pirko, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
LCpl Brian P. Plunkett, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Sgt Douglas L. Smith, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Cpl Ernest Thomas Jr., 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF
Cpl Nicholas R. Turner, 2d LEB,
MHG, II MEF



Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from *The MARINE Shop*. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 6 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 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.



REBUILDING AMERICAN MILITARY POWER IN THE PACIFIC: A 21st-Century Strategy. By Robbin F. Laird, Edward Timperlake and Richard Weitz. Published by Praeger. 401 pages. Stock #1440830452. \$56.70 MCA Members. \$63 Regular Price.

As early as 1924, a handful of quick-thinking, perceptive military-minded men in the War Department argued that the United States faced three immediate dangers: the world was already fumbling the opportunity to build a sensible, durable peace after World War I; the American people honestly believed geography, i.e., the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, would protect them forever; and that Japan would become an aggressive, unpredictable colossus.

No one listened, no one cared—especially cabinet-level advisers to the President.

Seventeen years later, on Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor surprised and shocked the nation to her very core. Nonetheless, America flattened Japan and her Axis, clearly demonstrating our amazing ability to expand swiftly and efficiently to meet any need or threat.

That dastardly attack had changed overnight our trend of thought: a recrudescence of active isolationism would be an irreparable disaster, and the traditional national “I” had to be changed to an international “We,” especially among the nations in and around the rims of the mighty Pacific, the largest, deepest ocean in the world, covering 69,375,000 square miles from the Arctic Circle to Antarctica.

With half the world’s population, it was so vast it had been divided into the North Pacific and South Pacific.

Now, almost three-quarters of a century after the signing of the surrender document on Sept. 2, 1945, by Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu for the Emperor of Japan and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as Supreme Allied Commander, arrives “Rebuilding American Military Power in the Pacific: A 21st-Century Strategy” by co-authors Robbin F. Laird, Edward Timperlake and Richard Weitz, three highly regarded, heavy-hitting defense analysts whose reputations for clear-cut, persuasive judgments, opinions and analyses are well-established via a variety of defense books, journals, reports and conference lectures.

Providing a comprehensive understanding of what our maritime defensive strategies have been in the past century, and what they must be for the rest of this one, the 400-page text emphasizes in an easy narrative style the “key drivers” of change, especially in the wake of our recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most important of them are anticipating what China is going to do now and in the future; isolating and reducing North Korea’s nuclear threat; ensuring Pacific trade routes, services and commerce remain free and open; and assisting the blossoming (who would have thought?) of the Arctic.

Especially noteworthy are the authors’ assessments of America’s new generation of fighting technologies; i.e., the Osprey,

the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, the Aegis Combat Systems and the fledgling European defensive and offensive systems that bind us to our allies. “It makes no sense,” they conclude, “to take 20th century thinking forward to deal with 21st century challenges and to operate within the mental furniture of the past.”

Laird, Timperlake and Weitz have contributed a significant service to the cause of rebuilding American military power in the Pacific. Their latest effort provides both insight and meaning to today’s headlines at a time when most of us are overwhelmed with world affairs. With cogency, they advance convincing reasons for our need to be superior in the Pacific.

Hopefully, today’s cabinet-level advisers, especially those in the Departments of State and Defense, will read this book and discuss the arguments with the current President, or those honorable men and women of high integrity and courage who will serve in that capacity in the future. Their first priority will undoubtedly be the safety and security of our country and her people.

Don DeNevi

Author’s bio: Don DeNevi is a frequent book reviewer for Leatherneck magazine.

THEY CALLED HER RECKLESS: A True Story of War, Love and One Extraordinary Horse. By Janet Barrett. Published by Tall Cedar Books. 200 pages. Softcover. Stock #0989804003. \$14.36 MCA Members. \$15.95 Regular Price.

In early October 1952, during the Korean War, Marines of a 75 mm recoilless rifle platoon serving with the Fifth Marine Regiment purchased a tiny chestnut-colored Mongolian filly for \$250 at a Korean race track. They named their new horse “Reckless,” after the platoon’s moniker: “The Reckless Rifles.”

Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Latham started putting Reckless through what he called “hoof camp.” It was noted that Reckless quickly learned needed combat skills—ducking under barbed wire, lying

flat when caught under fire, and running for her bunker when artillery or mortar rounds came crashing into the area.

Reckless made herself at home in the camp. She slept in a tent next to an oil stove and shared the leathernecks' chow. She'd eat most anything, surviving Marines recall. She liked bacon and buttered toast with her scrambled eggs, hard candy from the C-rations, shredded wheat, peanut butter sandwiches, pancakes and mashed potatoes. Being no teetotaler, Reckless was known to enjoy an occasional beer.

On March 26, 1953, she earned her spurs in the desperate battle to regain lost territories along the main line of resistance (MLR). Reckless made an estimated 51 trips up and down the jagged mountain terrain during the three-day battle to regain the Vegas outpost. She transported the heavy recoilless rifle ammunition, and occasionally she carried dead or badly wounded Marines to the rear. In some cases, Reckless made the trip alone, without her Marine guide. Enemy fire lit up the outpost on the MLR like a Christmas tree.

Marines became accustomed to seeing the silhouette of the heavily laden horse as she came in and out of view along the ridgeline, under constant enemy fire.

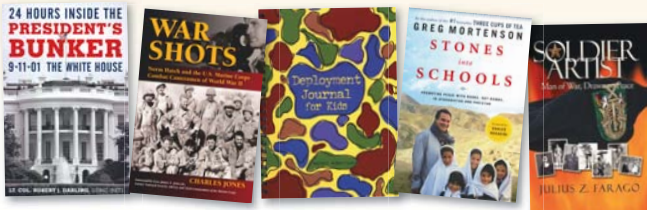
Corporal Joe Stearns recalls: "She saved a heck of a lot of human labor, and it saved lives. That was one heroic job, carrying that ammunition, constantly going back and forth." With all that shot and shell whizzing around, surely an angel must have ridden with her. She loved her leatherneck family, and it was noted that she seemed eager to get back to her Marines, for by then, she wasn't really a horse; she was a Marine!

Reckless survived the war and gained legendary fame throughout the Corps. Marines went to great lengths to see that she was returned safely to the regiment's home at Camp Pendleton, Calif. There, and for years, she was seen hiking with her beloved Marines and also when the regiment marched in local parades and pageants. In her "luxurious" later life, she gave birth to three colts named Fearless, Dauntless and Chesty.

In 1959, Reckless was promoted to the grade of staff sergeant. She received her "rocker" from her old commanding officer, now the 21st Commandant, General Randolph M. Pate. In 1960, she retired from the Corps with full military honors on the Marine Corps Birthday. Her numerous decorations include two Purple Hearts, a Good Conduct Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation with a star, a National Defense Service Medal, a Korean Service Medal, a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and the French fourragere, all

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of which were proudly displayed on her scarlet and gold blanket.

Reckless lived out her natural life under the watchful eyes of the leathernecks serving in the 5th Marines. She died May 13, 1968, and was buried with military honors at the Stepp Stables on the Marine base at Camp Pendleton.

Janet Barrett's new book, "They Called Her Reckless," is a joy to read. The author has done her research and has documented the surprising legend of this marvelous Marine warhorse. Barrett's noteworthy knowledge and love of horses graces the pages of this first-rate biography. Aside from once mistakenly spelling Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller's name "Fuller," Barrett has hit the "V" ring with this charming tale of this intelligent and heroic steed. With a host of personal interviews by Marines who prized this small gritty horse, the author has captured the life and legend of both this gallant warhorse and the Marines who loved her.

Marines make a stalwart commitment toward honoring their glory-filled history, and we venerate our Corps' legendary heroes. As far as anyone remembers, Reckless was the only warhorse to have gained fame during the Korean War. Fittingly, this past July, on the 60th anniversary of the cease-fire that ended the

Korean War, a life-size bronze statue of SSgt Reckless was unveiled in a shady wooded glen in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps near Quantico, Va.

Her monument will forever stand tall as testimony to her struggles to surmount all adversity while returning to her beloved Marines. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, noted at the unveiling of the statue: "People call this [the Korean War] the forgotten war. We have not forgotten it in the Marine Corps; it's our legacy and heritage."

Within the pages of this amazingly uplifting book, Marines of every era may now pause and reflect on the courageous little horse that will now, and forever, be lovingly remembered as SSgt Reckless.

Robert B. Loring

Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer, having had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine. A tireless worker for the Marine Corps and his local community, he volunteers for various charities, including helping to run a very successful Toys for Tots program in Pasco County, Fla.



Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Marines Instruct, Inspire Students During STEM Week at Kadena School

Students carefully place a textbook atop a rectangular structure made of toothpicks and gumballs. If the structure can withstand the weight, then the students' hard work and commitment will pay off.

The structure holds, and the students erupt into cheers and applause. Then, one end slowly starts to weaken, tilting to the side before the books slide off, crumpling the fragile walls.

Picking up the jumble of toothpicks and gumballs, the students start talking of new ideas for a bigger and better structure.

Their curiosity was inspired by Marines who collaborated with teachers of Stearley Heights Elementary School, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, to mentor students during science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) week, an annual program developed to spur interest in learning modern-day science and mathematics.

Among other things, the children learned how maps are configured, weather's effects on the environment, and how to build a radio antenna.

"Our mission at Stearley Heights Elementary School is to provide our students with learning opportunities that stimulate their curiosity, motivate their creative thinking, and to relate to their individual strengths and weaknesses," said Manny Rodriguez, a special education teacher at the school. "STEM emphasizes a hands-on approach to using science, technology, engineering and mathematics in real-world scenarios, lessons and experiments."

To help the school with the program, Marines volunteered to show the students how the different subjects will apply to jobs they may have in the future.

"What we were trying to do is show them what we do in our day-to-day jobs [applies] to the things they're trying to learn in school," said Gunnery Sergeant Shane L.

Channel, a meteorology and oceanography chief with the G-2, intelligence section, Headquarters Battalion, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "So basically, we're just giving the children an overall, big-picture view of how these military jobs tie into the things that they're learning in school."

The interactive activities offered during STEM helped inspire children who may not have found the subjects creative or exciting.

"[Some] children who are not motivated to read, do math or science, don't realize they're actually doing it right now," said Rhoda Cruz, a second-grade teacher at the school. "We talked about why it's important to design and plan your building before you build it. The children were excited to build, but we explained that you have to make the design, plan it out, and then actually build the design."

With the collaboration of the teachers and Marines building upon what the students already learned and paving the way toward future educational opportunities, the students have a better grasp on these complex subjects, according to Rodriguez.

"STEM education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy and enables the next generation of innovators," said Rodriguez. "The hope is that students will walk away with an excitement for these subjects and a greater knowledge on what the future holds for them with these skills."

LCpl Diamond Peden
PAO, MCIPAC



LCPL DIAMOND PEDEN

Grace Cardenas, a third-grade student at Stearley Heights Elementary School at Kadena Air Base, asks LCpl Justin D. Miller, a class mentor, a question during a cartography class, Dec. 13, 2013. Miller is a geographic intelligence specialist with the G-2, intelligence section, Hq, 3dMarDiv, III MEF.

MCAS Iwakuni Offers Placement Tests To Military, Free of Charge

Marines interested in attending college or becoming commissioned officers can take a placement test, one time, free of charge, at the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Education Office.

Placement tests allow colleges and universities to see how applicants rank on a level playing field.

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) are two of the most common exams used by institutions today.

"The ACT measures general educational development and the performance of intellectual tasks required of a college

student,” said Amelia C. Chappell, the personal and professional development instructor with the MCAS Iwakuni Education Office.

“There are four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science, plus an optional writing section. A score of 1 to 36 is calculated for each of the four sections and is then averaged together to give a composite score.

Chappell went on to say that the ACT is more of a big-picture test.

“The SAT is more of an aptitude test, measuring students’ critical thinking skills needed for academic success in college, based on knowledge and skills acquired in high school,” said Chappell.

Chappell said that the SAT tests critical reading, mathematics and writing.

The exam is scored by section, with a maximum score of 800 per section and a maximum of 2,400 overall. When considering applicants, the score of each section for the SAT is as important as the overall score.

“There is no scientific data indicating that one exam is easier than the other,” said Chappell. “For admission purposes, one test is not superior to the other. Which test you take depends on the requirements for the school or program you wish to attend. If both tests are accepted, your decision should be based on your strengths.”

The Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) requires both tests. The Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP) accepts both tests, but only requires one, according to www.marineofficer.com.

“Active-duty personnel are allowed to take either the SAT or ACT one time free of charge,” said Chappell. “All other personnel and active-duty members taking or retaking the tests would pay a fee the day of the exam. The SAT is \$50 and the ACT is \$35.”

Marines interested in taking those tests can stop by their base or station education office and sign up for those key tools to determine qualification for higher education. Test dates for 2014 are set, and



SGT DWIGHT A. HENDERSON

COMMANDING THE CROWD—MajGen Mark A. Brilakis, the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruiting Command, speaks to fans attending the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl at the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., Jan. 5. Local Marines from the Reserve center and recruiting district organized an event for the game’s attendees to learn more about the Marine Corps and be entertained before kickoff. The Semper Fidelis Football Program brought together more than 90 of the best high school football players in an East versus West game and is an opportunity for the Marine Corps to connect with players and influencers; demonstrate commitment to developing quality citizens; and reinforce how core values of honor, courage and commitment relate to success on and off the field.

seating is limited. Study guides and practice tests are available in their library.

Cpl Brian A. Stevens
PAO, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan

TRICARE: No More Admin Services For Walk-ins at US Facilities

Pentagon officials announced on Jan. 13 that TRICARE military health plan service centers will discontinue administrative walk-in services in the United States on April 1.

While the 189 facilities will stop taking walk-ins, beneficiaries can accomplish any administrative task online or by phone, said Pentagon spokesman Colonel Steve Warren, USA.

TRICARE service centers overseas are not affected, Warren said.

“The change will not—let me repeat

that—will not affect any TRICARE medical benefit or health care service,” he said. “What it will do is allow the department to save \$250 million over the next five years, allowing TRICARE to invest in more important services.”

Fifty percent of the visits to the centers are used for in-and-out processing and requests to change primary care providers, and the rest involve billing-related questions, officials said. The Department of Defense spends roughly \$50 million a year on those services, and that type of customer service can be handled more efficiently by phone or online, officials added.

TRICARE receives about 38,000 hits per day on its website. Officials have run tests to ensure that the website and call center can handle the expected increase in volume.

The service centers have been around since the 1990s, and contractors staff them, Warren said. “This is being driven by the fact that technology has gotten so much better,” he added. Customers who need the type of assistance that was being done in those walk-in service centers can quickly and efficiently receive help online or by phone, he said.

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service



CPL BRIAN A. STEVENS

Marine base and station education offices are committed to promoting educational advancement and sponsor active-duty personnel in taking either the ACT or SAT, one time, free of charge. MECEP requires both tests; however, the ECP requires only one.

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, 2013

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

Lance Corporal Matthew R. Rodriguez, 19, of Fairhaven, Mass., with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps

Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 11, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Daniel M. Vasselian, 27, of Abington, Mass., with 1st Bn, Ninth Marine Regiment, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 23, in Helmand province.

Jerry Coleman

Lieutenant Colonel Gerald F. "Jerry" Coleman, veteran pilot of World War II and Korea, former New York Yankees second baseman and Hall of Fame broadcaster, died Jan. 5 in San Diego after a brief illness. He was 89.

For more than four decades, Coleman was the voice of the San Diego Padres and also served as the team manager in 1980. All totaled, he had more than 70 years in baseball, including four World Series titles with the Yankees. Among the many things that made him special is combat service in both World War II and the Korean War as a Marine Corps pilot.

According to Dennis Carpenter in his book "Anyone Here a Marine?," "Coleman signed with the Yankee organization in 1942, played a full season in the Pony League and then joined the Marine Corps during World War II, and served again during the Korean War. Overall, Jerry flew 120 missions, receiving two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 13 Air Medals and three Navy citations."

Coleman arrived on Guadalcanal in August 1944 as a member of Marine Scout Bombing Squadron (VMSB) 341, "The Torrid Turtles." His 57 combat missions were among the first Marine close air support missions of the war. In mid-summer 1945, his squadron became one of many Marine squadrons becoming carrier-based squadrons to prepare for the invasion of Japan. When the war ended, he was reassigned to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., and then in January 1946, he became a member of the

inactive Marine Corps Reserve, returning to his baseball career.

In October 1951, Coleman was recalled to 18 months of active duty for the Korean War and took his physical along with another famous baseball player, Ted Williams, a Marine reservist who had served in WW II, but did not see combat in that war. Coleman missed the bulk of two more baseball seasons.

For flight refresher training, Coleman was assigned to MCAS El Toro, Calif., and then was ordered to Marine Fighter Squadron 323, the "Death Rattlers." Coleman flew close air support, interdiction and strike missions in the Corsair and also served as a forward air controller. Carpenter wrote, "While flying a Corsair in Korea, Coleman crash-landed with a full bomb load. The plane flipped over, and he was nearly strangled by his helmet straps."

He returned to the United States in August 1953, was again transferred to the Reserve and rejoined the New York Yankees, playing second base. Coleman remained in the Marine Corps Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1964.

According to a Fox News report, while speaking of his military service interrupting an emerging stellar baseball career, Coleman said: "Your country is bigger than baseball."

Phil Everly

Phil Everly, who, with his brother Don, created music that influenced such international greats as the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Byrds, other younger rock 'n'

roll and country musicians, and who also enlisted as a duo in the Corps, died Jan. 3 in Burbank, Calif., from pulmonary disease. He was 74.

The Everly Brothers (born Isaac Donald Everly, in 1937, and Phillip Everly, in 1939) grew up in Shenandoah, Iowa, and sang at an early age on the radio program of their father, Ike. They were country-influenced rock 'n' roll performers, known for steel-string guitar playing and close harmony singing. Their enlistment in the Corps in November 1961 temporarily took them out of the spotlight. One of their few performances during their Marine stint was in 1962 when they made an on-leave appearance in dress blues on "The Ed Sullivan Show," performing "Jezebel" and "Crying in the Rain," which hit No. 6 on the U.S. pop charts.

After the Marine Corps, the brothers resumed their music careers, but U.S. chart success was limited.

The Washington Post noted that "During the height of their popularity in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Everly Brothers had nearly three dozen hits on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart, among them 'Cathy's Clown,' 'Wake Up Little Susie,' 'Bye Bye Love,' 'When Will I Be Loved' and 'All I Have to Do Is Dream.' They were among the first 10 performers inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame when it opened in 1986.

" 'They had that sibling sound,' said Linda Ronstadt, who scored one of the biggest hits of her career in 1975 with her recording of 'When Will I Be Loved,' which Phil Everly wrote. 'The information of your DNA is carried in your voice, and

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you can get a sound [with family] that you never get with someone who's not blood-related to you. And they were both such good singers. They were one of the foundations, one of the cornerstones of the new rock-and-roll sound."

(Readers can see the Everly Brothers perform "Crying in the Rain" as Marines in dress blues on "The Master Guns' Playlist," www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/corps-songs#top.)

Bum Phillips

Oail Andrew "Bum" Phillips Jr., a World War II Marine of 4th Raider Battalion who turned to coaching football after the war, a true people person and a real Texan, died Oct. 18, 2013, at his ranch in Goliad, Texas. He was 90.

Phillips was given his nickname because his little sister pronounced "brother" as "bumble," and that became "Bum." Bum took to the nickname, as it was a far cry from whom he really was, and it actually served as a disarming name.

As a Marine, he served on Guadalcanal after the island had been secured. He left Lamar College near Houston as a freshman to enlist and returned to complete college at Lamar and Stephen F. Austin State University on the GI Bill.

He began his coaching career in 1950, coaching at several high schools before breaking into the college and university ranks where he honed his coaching skills under such greats as Paul "Bear" Bryant, Bill Yeoman and Hayden Fry.

Phillips became an assistant coach with the San Diego Chargers in 1967 and then became head coach and general manager of the Houston Oilers in 1975. He coached the team to three consecutive play-offs and, along the way, won the hearts of Houstonians and most of Texas. He later coached the New Orleans Saints to a level allowing the team to contend for a play-off spot.

Bum's son Wade Phillips is the defensive coordinator of Houston's current pro football team, the Texans.

According to David Barron of the *Houston Chronicle*, when Bum died, Wade Phillips tweeted, "Bum is gone to Heaven—loved and will be missed by all—great dad, coach, and Christian." Barron went on to write: "Bum Phillips was a product of a family that traced its roots to Texas' frontier past, and he did his job dressed in boots, jeans and a white Stetson—except at the Astrodome, since his mama told him it was impolite to wear a hat indoors."

Barron added, "It was his relationship with his players—and theirs to him—and

his ability to relate to fans that cemented his place among the legends of Texas football coaches with the likes of Darrell Royal, Tom Landry and Gordon Wood.

"Twice Phillips' Oilers battled the Pittsburgh Steelers for a berth in the Super Bowl, and both times they came up short. After each loss, they were welcomed home by more than 40,000 cheering fans at the Astrodome, inspiring one of the most famous quotations in the history of Texas sports. 'One year ago we knocked on the door. This year we beat on the door,' Phillips said after the 1980 title-game loss. 'Next year we're gonna kick the sumbitch in.'"

Phillips would never win the Super Bowl, but he was a true winner in life. He was fired by the Oilers in December 1980, and the Oilers would never again challenge for a championship.

Phillips is a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and a Houston sports legend.

Sgt Francis B. Blanc, 90, in Perry, N.Y. He served from 1942 to 1945 as a crash crewman with MAG-61 in the Pacific during WW II.

He later worked with the local electric company installing high-powered cables.

GySgt Thomas N. "Tom" Bland Jr., 77, in Huntingtown, Md. He was a Marine

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photographer who served at MCAS El Toro, Calif., in the early 1960s and 6th Marine Corps District, Atlanta, in 1969, among numerous other assignments.

In addition to being considered a good photographer, he also was remembered as a dedicated Marine who served in burial details as a rifleman in rifle salutes and as a pall bearer for KIA Marines returning from Vietnam. One Marine remembers a funeral where, "I asked for volunteers, and Tom was the first to step up."

He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association's Jim G. Lucas Chapter, Washington, D.C., and the Marine Corps Association.

He also was a good friend of *Leatherneck* magazine and this editor.

Thomas V. Cassis, 83, in Spokane, Wash. He enlisted in 1948 and was a machine-gun section leader with D/2/7, 1stMarDiv in the Korean War.

After the war, he graduated from Gonzaga Law School, starting his own law firm where he practiced for more than 40 years.

Curtis W. Castleberry, 91, in Dallas. He served 34 months in the Pacific during WW II, rising to the grade of sergeant. He was sent to Nagasaki, Japan, after the war ended and was discharged in late 1945.

He graduated from Texas A&M University as a distinguished student and was commissioned in the U.S. Army. After his military service, he began his teaching career in East Texas and then taught at Bryan Adams High School in Dallas for 25 years.

Edward B. Critchley, 86, of West Islip, N.Y. He served as a Marine during WW II and retired from the Naval Sea Systems Command as a naval architect after 35 years.

Patrick Dolce, 86, in Mineola, N.Y. He was a WW II Marine.

Stefan V. "Steve" Gapinski, 88, of Huntington, Mass. He served during WW II and was employed by the Grumman

Corporation, where he worked on the lunar module and F-14 Tomcat, among other projects.

He was a Eucharistic minister for 30 years at St. Hugh of Lincoln Roman Catholic Church and a member of St. Vincent de Paul Society as a religious education teacher.

MGySgt Joseph G. Hensley Jr., 95, in San Diego. He enlisted in 1940 and served on active duty for 28 years, retiring in 1968. He was a combat photographer and Marine Corps combat correspondent who became chief of the Marine Corps' Hollywood Motion Picture & TV Liaison Office. He made a cameo appearance in Jack Webb's "The D.I." in 1957.

Bruce H. Hooper, 82, of Newtown Square, Pa. He was designated a naval aviator in 1953 and served at NAS Willow Grove, Pa., as a reservist for 11 years. He then joined Interstate Oil Transport, his family's tug and barge business in Philadelphia.

A philanthropist, he was a past president of the Marine Corps University Foundation in Quantico, Va.; vice chairman and trustee of the Foreign Policy Research Institute; vice president of the Thornton D. and Elizabeth S. Hooper Foundation named for his parents; and a supporter of the National Museum of the Marine

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Corps, the General Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center and the Bryn Mawr Hospital continuing education nursing program. He funded 10 local high school students to attend lectures by the World Affairs Council of Greater Valley Forge and was a board member of the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia.

In 1983, he donated a building on 21st Street in Philadelphia to the Please Touch Museum and dedicated the site to the servicemen who died during the Vietnam War and those missing in action. Also, he and his wife funded a mobile mammogram van that traveled to 11 Philadelphia health clinics.

Allen G. McCarter, 84, of Harwich, Mass. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1945 and served during the Korean War. He was a member of the MCL.

GySgt Brandon E. McGraw, 33, in Euroa, Australia. He was killed while skydiving with his wife, Cherilyn, in Australia—a trip she'd won on TV's "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" in January 2013. GySgt McGraw was stationed at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., and had recently returned to Camp Lejeune from Afghanistan.

Elizabeth A. "Pidge" (Pidgeon) Murphy, 90, of Dominican Village, Amityville, N.Y. She was a WW II Marine

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and member of the MCL, Sunrise Det. She was the mother of deceased Marine Cpl Patrick Murphy, deceased Army PFC Kevin Murphy, Dennis, Michael, James, Thomas, Brian and Maryann, as well as a grandmother and great-grandmother.

Col James M. Perryman Jr., 80, of Washington, D.C. He was a 1955 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis,

Md., and served three tours in Vietnam as a Marine helicopter pilot, including being executive officer of HMM-262's "Ugly Angels," flying UH-34s out of Soc Trang, RVN, during Shuffly in 1962.

Col Perryman served as commanding officer of HMX-1, flying for President Richard M. Nixon from 1972 to 1974. His awards include, among others, the

Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1979 and was employed as a project manager for Advanced Technology Inc. and Northrup-Grumman Corporation.

MSgt Michael Shay of Riverside, Calif. He served in China after the end of WW II and with various Marine aviation squadrons until he retired in 1970.

He went into long-haul trucking and eventually owned several companies.

Russell "Smitty" Smith Jr., 87, of Easton, Md. He quit school to enlist in early 1945 and served with the 2dMarDiv in the South Pacific. He finished his tour in 1948 and returned to school, earning his high school diploma.

He retired from the Talbot County Sheriff's Department as chief deputy. He was a member of the MCL.

Edward Ternove, 90, in Glen Mills, Pa. He was with the 4thMarDiv during WW II at Iwo Jima and later was employed by Westinghouse for more than 45 years.

He and his wife, Helen, were married for more than 64 years, and they were longtime readers of *Leatherneck*.



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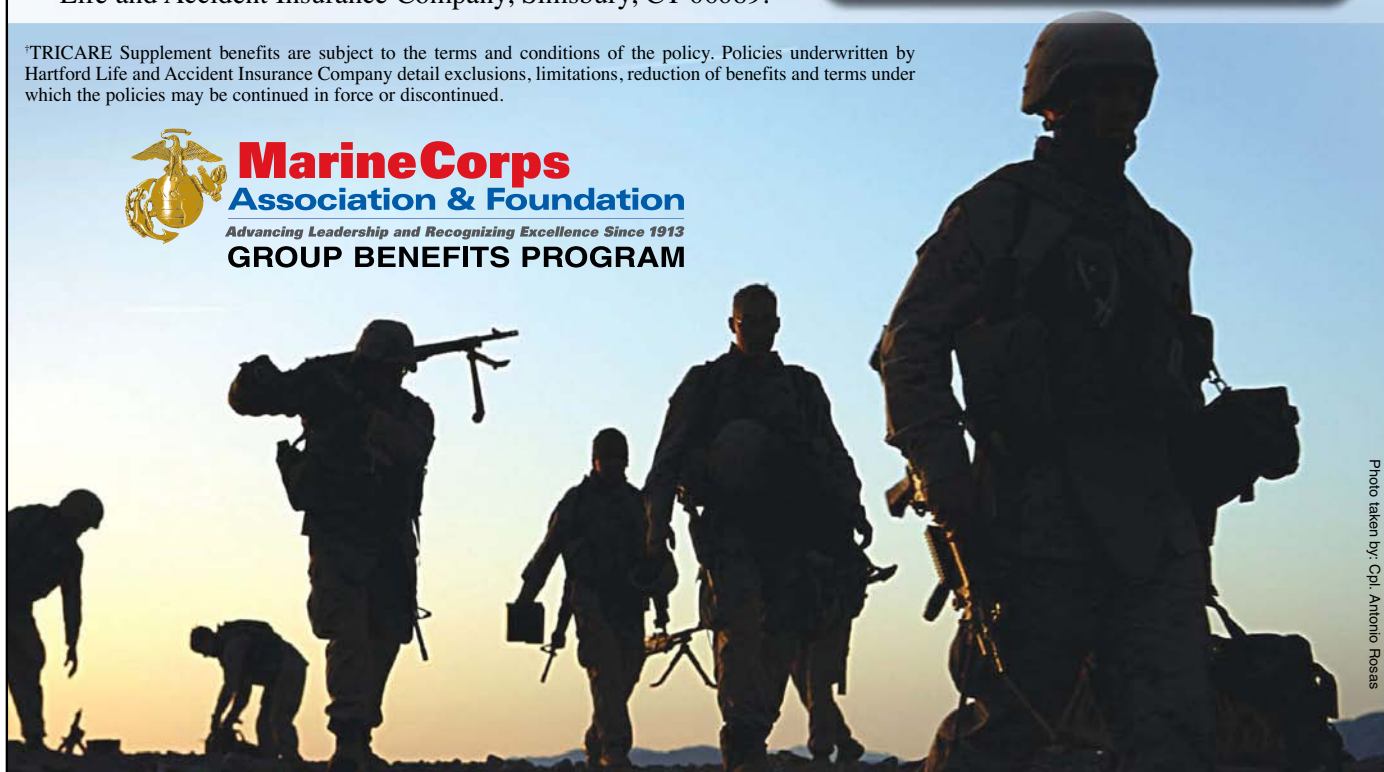


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SOUND OFF
 [continued from page 8]

As for 1stLt Israel Greene: According to author David M. Sullivan in his book, "The United States Marine Corps in the Civil War: The First Year," on page 20, you will find, "The [first] blow struck Brown on the back of his neck. ... Had Greene been carrying his regulation sword, Brown would have been killed on the spot. However, in his haste to form his detachment back at the barracks, Greene had buckled on his 'light dress sword.' The blade was not intended for this sort of work, and, as Greene made his lunge, bent double when it struck the breast plate of Brown's cartridge box belt."

Lastly, according to the Supervisory Curator for Ordnance at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, "Neither the Israel Greene, nor the Archibald Gillespie sword are in the Museum's collection."—Sound Off Ed.

SOS Calling for SOS

I was on active duty from 1969 to 1971 and stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., assigned to 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division.

I came to love a dish that was served weekly for breakfast. We Marines called it \$#!t on a shingle, or SOS. However, typically, it was a creamed beef on toast.

I have been trying to find the recipe for this tasty breakfast dish, but I have not been able to find it. Could you please help me with this? Thank you.

After leaving active duty in 1971, I goofed around for a couple of years, and in 1975, I joined the Marine Corps Reserve and served until retiring in 1992. I have always loved the Corps, and my ex-wife always told me I loved the Corps more than her.

SSgt Charles E. Hooper, USMCR (Ret)
 Butler, Ga.

Just for you! Charles, we are giving you our secret "Leatherneck World-Famous SOS Recipe":

1½ pounds extra-lean hamburger or ground chuck
 2 tbsp. oleo or butter
 1 cup chopped onion
 3 tbsp. flour
 2 tsp. granulated garlic
 2 tbsp. soy sauce (or less to taste)
 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
 2 cups milk
 salt and pepper to taste
 sliced bread

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the Writing Contest Winner of the 2013 Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Writing Award



In recognition of the best article written by an enlisted Marine
 and published in *Marine Corps Gazette*

MGySgt Charles A. Walker

"Post Combat Residue" Published in the December 2013 Edition of *Marine Corps Gazette*

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Brown the meat, then drain. Add oleo. Stir in the onions and cook until you can see through them. Add flour, stir and cook two to three minutes. Add garlic, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce and mix thoroughly. Add milk and stir until it thickens. Serve over bread.

And as a bonus, we're throwing in our "Camp Lejeune SOS Recipe for Manly Men":

- 1 lb. lean hamburger
- 3 tsp. beef stock powder
- 3 tbsp. plain flour
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- ½ tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 pint whole milk

Brown the hamburger. Add beef stock powder, flour, salt, pepper and then cook. Add Worcestershire sauce. Add milk and stir over low heat until thickened. Serve on burnt toast.

This also can be found on our Leatherneck website at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/leatherneck-faq#SOS. Also, there is a great Leatherneck story, "The Definitive Guide to Great SOS" on pages 72-74 in the November 2007 issue. It has everything you ever wanted to know about SOS and a number of great recipes.—Sound Off Ed.

Reunions

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 13-17, Reno, Nev. Contact GySgt Don H. Gee, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Sept. 8-11, Oceanside, Calif. Contact Jack T. Paxton, 110 Fox Ct., Wildwood, FL 34785, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com, www.usmccca.org.

• **Marine Corps Aviation Assn. ("Gray Ghost" Squadron 531)**, April 24-27, Quantico, Va. Contact Ralph Delisantie, (585) 426-4091.

• **Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Assn.**, May 1-5, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Paul Melcher, (803) 359-9338, melch12@msn.com.

• **Marine Corps Musicians Assn.**, May 5-9, Honolulu. Contact Matt Stevenson, (920) 676-1260, mmusmceod@gmail.com.

• **USMC Hawk Assn.**, May 19-22, New Bern, N.C. Contact Stan Buliszyn, 1 Cherry Drive Ln., Ocala, FL 34472, www.usmchawkassociation.com.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn.**, Sept. 4-7, San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or SgtMaj Bobby Woods, USMC (Ret), (760) 215-9564, www.westcoastdi.org.

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rines (Nam Phong, Thailand, 1972-73), May 23-26, Kansas City, Kan. Contact John Tabarinni, (951) 880-3634, jpwwoody51@gmail.com, rosegardenmarinesreunion.com.

• **26th Marines Scout Snipers (1968-69)** is planning a reunion for 2014 in Omaha, Neb. Contact Cleveland Mason, (209) 358-1646, clevm@sbcglobal.net, or Tom Phillips, (402) 672-1271, tomandwoo@swvawcreek.net.

• **3d Recon Assn.**, Sept. 16-21, Reno, Nev. Contact Doug Heath, (770) 684-7668; Bob Hoover, (843) 302-2151; or Cyndie Leigh, (702) 271-0365.

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• **3d, 4th and other Defense Bns**, May 21-23, San Diego. Contact Charles Buckley, 35925 Ashton Pl., Fremont, CA 94356, (510) 794-7280, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, 140 Grist Mill Rd., Uhlard, TX 78640, (512) 738-2075, sharon_heideman@yahoo.com.

• **A/1/12 (3dMarDiv, RVN)**, Sept. 17-21, San Diego. Contact Bob Schoenleber, (425) 822-7474, bobschoenleber@comcast.net.

• **D/2/7 (1stMarDiv, Korea)**, April 30-May 4, Branson, Mo. Contact Charles W. Curley, 412 3rd Ave., Olean, NY 14760, (716) 372-4216.

• **I/3/7**, April 30-May 3, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **K/3/7 (and attached units, RVN)**, Sept. 9-15, San Diego. Contact William Rolke, (262) 780-0993, k37usmc@att.net, or Jerry Walker, (951) 203-2280, jwalkercdr@verizon.net.

• **American Embassy Saigon (pre-1975, RVN)**, April 27-30, Galveston, Texas. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

• **Recruiters School Class 3-69 (1968)** is planning a reunion. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **TBS Co C, 3-69**, May 1-4, Quantico, Va. Contact Jim Bowen, (423) 413-2859, jimbowen@gocarta.org.

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

• **Plt 291, Parris Island, 1964**, is planning a reunion. Contact Sgt Ernest Bennett, (304) 269-3294, sfceb@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, Nov. 7-10, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Jim Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

• **Plts 316-319, Parris Island, 1964**, are planning a reunion for April 24-26. Contact Alex Nevglowski, (910) 325-9148, (910) 548-5227, gunr88@hotmail.com.

• **Plt 331, Parris Island, 1959**, is planning a reunion. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com, or Bob Wood, (205) 903-7220, bwood@bellsouth.net.

• **Plt 358, San Diego, 1959**, Aug. 7-10, San Diego. Contact MSgt John Newport, USMC (Ret), (770) 926-4752, mrnmrs41@aol.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 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island,**

2000, is planning a reunion for 2015. Contact Tammy [Manyik] Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **HMR(L)-261**, April 30-May 4, Quantico, Va. Contact Bill Wells, 14 Flicker Dr., Greenville, SC 29609, wewii@bellsouth.net.

Ships and Others

• **USS Hornet (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 9-14, San Antonio. Contact Carl or Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Houston (CL-81)**, Oct. 20-25, Norfolk, Va. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113, dlr7110@yahoo.com.

• **USS Tarawa (CV-40/LHA-1)**, April 24-27, Branson, Mo. 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.

• **USCGC Courier (WAGR-410)** and VOA Memorial Foundation, June 16-21, New London, Conn. Contact Robert "Bob" Hickman, 108 Gordon Rd., North Syracuse, NY 13212, (315) 458-5995, (315) 378-7443, robert.hickman1@verizon.net.



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Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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Mail Call

• Former Sgt Alberto Mena, P.O. Box 1280, 6401 Donna Dr., Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-7345, to hear from any medics or corpsmen stationed at the **Naval Ammunition Depot, Lualualei, Oahu, T.H., March to May 1952, to assist him in a VA claim.**

• Marine veteran Doug Walker, 617 N. Rodeo Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210, (818) 915-0818, or Andrea Braver, andrea@taperfamilyoffice.com, to hear from or

about **SSgt HUNSINGER**, who was the senior drill instructor of **Plt 157, San Diego, 1960 (below).**

• GySgt Vincent Killbride, USMC (Ret), (909) 874-2248, usmc3480@att.net, to hear from or about **MGySgt J. J. JOHNSTON**, who was the dining facility manager at **Edson Range, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., 1978-80.**

• Marine veteran Dan Robertson, 4328 Canada Pl. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87114, danieljrobertson@ymail.com, to hear

from Marines assigned to **1/4 from post-WW II to present about major unit postings, activities, exercises, operations, deployments, UDPs, MEU floats, unit citations, etc., and approximate dates of the aforementioned items, for a history of the battalion.**

• Marine veteran Robert Jacks, 8608 Lanier Ln., Knoxville, TN 37923, mustang13@knology.net, to hear from Marines who served with **Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment Atlanta, 1964-65.**



Marine veteran Doug Walker would like to hear from SSgt Hunsinger, seated, first row, second from right.

• Marine veteran Patrick Fay, P.O. Box 274, Cadyville, NY 12918, to hear from anyone who knew, or has photos of, his cousin **PFC Thomas Joseph FITZGERALD, from Pittsburgh**, who was **KIA Nov. 30, 1950, on Fox Hill, Toktong Pass, Korea**, while serving with **Co F, 2d Bn, 7th Marines**.

• Marine veteran Jack Riley, 3525 McVile Rd., Boaz, AL 35957, grunti39@charter.net, to hear from those who served in **3d Plt, Co I, 3d Bn, 9th Marines**, who may be able to identify Marines in a photograph (right) that was taken of the unit on **Okinawa in early 1967**.

Wanted

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

• Larry Cartwright, 1291 Oak Terrace Dr., Traverse City, MI 49686, mgunr@yahoo.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 346, San Diego, 1961**.

• Marine veteran Luis A. Montes, 416 Rio Estancia, El Paso, TX 89932, (915) 256-0434, lamrmb@att.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1042, San Diego, 1977**.

• Marine veteran Chris Rackham, 406



Marine veteran Jack Riley needs help identifying the members of Co I, 3d Bn, 9th Marines in this photo taken on Okinawa in 1967.

N. Locust St., Whitewater, KS 67154, (316) 799-2937, cjunk20@sbcglobal.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 321, San Diego, 1961**.

• Robert Wyndham, 672 Ayers Dr.,

Charleston, SC 29412, robertwyndham690@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 193, Parris Island, 1957**.



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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.

Welcome, Heroes

"Welcome to your Memorial":
It represents history that you made,
It represents the freedom we enjoy,
And the price you and the fallen paid.

You have no battles to win today,
No flags you need to raise,
But do believe that you are our heroes
And accept your country's praise.

We appreciate your sacrifices,
In the many battles that you won.
Your country speaks through this memorial—
It is saying, "Well done, young man, well done."

CDR Richard A. "Dick" Boyce, USN (Ret)

*Inspired by Honor Flight veterans visiting the World War II Memorial
in Washington, D.C., and written in honor of veterans of all wars.*

Remembering Iwo Jima—Lest We Forget (Sung to the tune of "The Marines' Hymn")

Across the wide Pacific,
To make an island free,
As a haven for our bombers
Against the Japanese.
Though we fought a bloody battle
With an enemy unseen,
We raised our flag on D-plus-four
On Mount Suribachi.

But the battle wasn't over;
It took five more weeks of grief,
As our troops lay dead or bleeding
With no sign of relief.
Then one day hills were conquered
And the enemy took heed;
We saw God's rainbow in the north
That assured our victory.

On the day a bomber landed
And then planes for evacuees,
We smiled with pride because we'd won
The bloodiest battle on land or sea—
With the Army and the Navy
And all the brave Seabees,
And the hand of God directing us,
The United States Marines.

MSgt Edward E. Noble, USAF (Ret)

Marine veteran and Iwo Jima survivor (Feb. 17, 1925–Feb. 18, 2013)

Beach Blue Two Briefing

Fourteen June 1944,
Mariana Islands: Saipan.
On the island are only two cities,
Charan-Kanoa and Garapan.
The rest is all cane plantations,
Small farms and countryside.
It's only a mere twelve miles long
And five and a half miles wide.

Mount Tapotchau's in the center,
Mount Fina Susu to the south;
There may be Chamorro villages
At Lake Susupe's mouth.
It's only twelve hundred miles from Tokyo,
About four hours by air.
We're assaulting Saipan in the morning,
So let the Japanese beware!

There's a village called Aslito,
An airstrip by its side,
That's our prime objective,
One we must not be denied.
Just everybody fight like hell,
And we'll all see the day
When we'll have traversed the atoll
East to Magicienne Bay.

There'll be reinforced Marine divisions—
Second and the Fourth;
Four will land on Beach Blue Two,
The Second on Red to the north.
Twenty days from tomorrow,
Victory should be within our reach.
Good luck and may God keep you—
Tomorrow morning we hit the beach.

Former SSgt Robert K. Austin





ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.



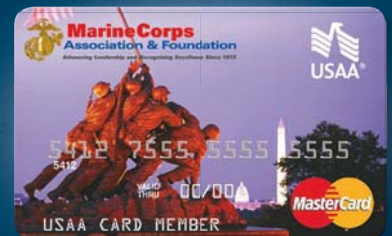
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J.J. MONTANARO

**USAA CERTIFIED
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PRACTITIONER**

Take control of your financial future with a TSP.

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is the military's version of a civilian 401(k), and it's an easy, tax-advantaged way to save for the future. Whether you're days or decades from separating from service, it's never too early to understand your options with the TSP when you shed the uniform.

Review Your Savings Options

Pretax contributions and tax-deferred earnings of the traditional TSP can help you save on taxes and add to your nest egg. The Roth TSP requires after-tax contributions but withdrawals of contributions and earnings are tax-free. Either way, your contributions to the TSP are a convenient way to save. Too often servicemembers don't realize that they have a lot of flexibility and control of the funds they save in the TSP when they leave the military. And that becomes a misguided reason to take a pass on this valuable plan.

Don't Cash Out

In most cases, any of the actions featured in the chart on the following page (inside back cover) will be better than withdrawing your TSP funds. Cashing out before age 59½ won't just rob you of the money you'll need for retirement. You'll also have to pay taxes on the withdrawal and typically have to hand over a 10% penalty.

With the Roth TSP, upon separation you're allowed to withdraw contributions without taxes or penalties. However, Roth earnings withdrawn before age 59½ are generally subject to taxes and a 10% penalty.

Roll the Right Way

When you request a rollover distribution from the TSP, don't have the TSP funds sent directly to you. Instead, have the funds transferred to the IRA or 401(k) custodian through what is called a direct rollover. It's possible to do a rollover yourself, but with mandatory withholding and deadlines, it could be a move you'll regret.

Special Rules for Combat Pay

If some of your TSP contributions included tax-free combat pay, stop to consider how to make the most of these funds. You would almost certainly want to roll your tax-free contributions into a Roth IRA. A traditional IRA or 401(k) would require you to pay taxes on the future earnings.

Tax-free combat pay could be an exception to the rule against early withdrawals. You can withdraw tax-exempt combat pay contributions without triggering taxes or penalties. Ideally, you should roll over that money into a Roth IRA and keep it growing for retirement. However, if you really need the money now, it's nice to know it's there.

Keep Contributing

After you've left the military, chances are you'll need to keep building your savings to ensure a comfortable retirement. So, before you fall out of the habit, start contributing to your new civilian retirement plan and make monthly contributions to your IRA. It's important to keep your retirement savings momentum.



**Talk to an advisor about your TSP options.
Call 877-651-6272 or visit usaa.com/mca today.**



**A convenient guide to your TSP choices from USAA
Certified Financial Planner™ practitioner J.J. Montanaro:**

Option	Pros	Cons
Leave your money in the TSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low investment expenses • Easy — no action required • With separation at 55 or older, penalty-free access to funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited investment selections • Can't contribute after separation • Inflexible withdrawal options compared to an IRA
Roll over the funds to a traditional IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More investment choices • Can use as a consolidation tool • Greater flexibility when withdrawing money • No income tax on rollover • Ability to add future contributions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially higher expenses than TSP • May require new IRA application and rollover paperwork • More work building and managing investment portfolio
Roll over the funds to a Roth IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for tax-free income in retirement • Great place for tax-exempt combat-pay contributions, which can grow tax-free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay income tax on taxable balance, which could significantly increase immediate tax liability • Requires new application and investment decisions
Roll over the funds to your new employer's retirement plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenience of all retirement investments in one account • Attractive investment options (depending on plan) • Potential to access funds via loan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan may have limited or expensive investment choices • Not all employers offer plans

**Talk to an advisor about your TSP options.
Call 877-651-6272 or visit usaa.com/mca today.**



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