

MARCH 2016

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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Boulder City:
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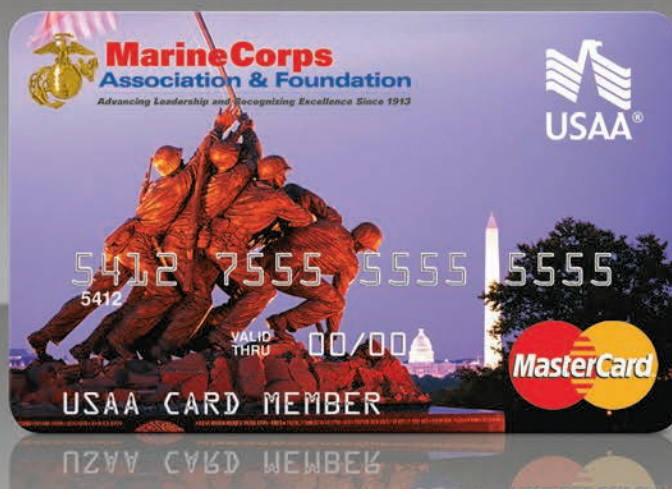
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Behind the scenes at Marine Barracks Washington, "8th and I" Marines work diligently to ensure all visitors have a wonderful experience when attending the Sunset and Evening Parades. From maintaining the grounds to protocol, the leathernecks take great pride in ensuring precision and perfection are the standard at the "Oldest Post of the Corps."

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COVER: A Marine from 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment sets up perimeter security during a fast-rope exercise at Auxiliary Airfield 2, Yuma, Ariz., Oct. 2, 2015. Photo by Cpl Summer Dowding, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.



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Sound Off

Compiled by Patricia Everett

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Editor

Letter of the Month

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

I just finished reading my print edition of the January 2016 issue of *Leatherneck*. The article that set me back on my keester was "AMPHIB EX 2015: Marines Learn Jungle Survival Skills"! The lead photo for the article shows Private First Class Beto Chavarria sucking blood from the head of a python during a jungle survival exercise in Tanduo, Malaysia.

I'll tell you, back in 1973, I participated in a desert survival course out at "29 Stumps," and we had to sample rattlesnake cooked over an open flame and distill our urine using our ponchos to produce clean drinking water. We never ate bugs or drank snake blood, and to be quite honest, I don't think I could have. I take my cover off to today's Marines; when the training is that intense, their resolve is unmeasurable!

Sgt Ron Morse
USMC, 1969-75
Cocoa, Fla.

Between the Wars

I enjoyed Master Sergeant Mallie P. Honeycutt's memories of the years after World War II and prior to the Korean War in the January 2016 "Sound Off" letter: "Between the Wars, It Was Old

Corps Hard." I enlisted on Nov. 15, 1948, and I'm afraid they paid me a lot more money than they did MSgt Honeycutt. As a private with less than four months service, I received the princely sum of \$75 per month, plus an additional five bucks for firing expert.

I was immediately assigned after boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., to Parris Island, S.C., where the Corps tried to convert me into a clerk-typist, military occupational specialty (MOS) 405. While there, I lived in a barracks across from the barracks that housed the first platoon of women Marines accepted into the Corps since the end of WW II. I spent many nights walking post around those barracks while receiving catcalls and whistles from the windows of the women recruits. While at P.I., we lived a leisurely life—straggled to chow, no special inspections, just the weekly field day to clean the barracks and a full day during the week of practicing on the typewriter.

After barely earning my new MOS, the Corps sent me to the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where I joined Combat Service Group. As MSgt Honeycutt said, we were pitifully short-handed. My squadbay had maybe a dozen Marines living in it. Some were salty, two- and three-hash-marked professional privates, recently returned from China duty.

Since I could barely type, I was quick-

ly kicked out of the company office and sent out on a variety of temporary duty assignments. I spent days making wooden crates filled with rocks to a certain weight which would be used in frequent amphibious landing exercises on Aliso Beach. Each crate was stenciled as containing ammunition, spare parts, machine-gun barrels, etc. The real stuff was in short supply, so the fake crates were used in training the ship-loading experts.

Another duty involved setting up bunks and mattresses in the Quonset huts in the tent camps where the reservists would train in the summer months. That's where I was when the North Koreans invaded the South and the war started. By the time I received orders back to my unit, the Brigade had sailed and most of my company went with them. I walked into my old squadbay to find there were only two of us left behind. About a month later I sailed with the rest of the Division and made the eventual landing at Inchon.

The year or so before the outbreak of the war were not Old Corps hard for those of us not in the infantry. We seldom saw an officer. Our staff noncommissioned officers were salty veterans of WW II. We learned a lot from listening to the China Marines tell their stories. We stood the occasional parade, had junk-on-the-bunk inspections, made hikes to Case Springs and back, did the occasional maneuvers where we generally got lost and spent a lot of empty time sitting in foxholes.

Because our ranks were thin, we rotated on mess duty quite frequently. It was not unusual to have to serve three times a year, and that got old, even though we received an extra \$5 while on it. Every Wednesday evening our meal at the mess hall was leftover WW II rations, heated in water and served unopened. Enlisted personnel could have cars aboard base. I had one: a beautiful 1940 Ford "Woody" station wagon. I paid for it by taking Marines to Tijuana on liberty in the evenings and bringing them back for 10 bucks a head.

That the Corps was combat-ready when the Korean War broke out is evident by the success of the Brigade, when it was put

PHOTOS OF MARINE DADS NEEDED

A Marine dad promoting his son or daughter, a father-daughter dance, Dad and the kids at the ballpark or out fishing, or any other favorite photo of you with your children, or your dad spending time with you, the ideas are endless! If you have a special photo of a Marine dad with his kids that you'd like to submit to *Leatherneck*, send it to: *Leatherneck* Magazine, Attn: Nancy Hoffman, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail it to n.hoffman@mca-marines.org.

Submissions should be postmarked or e-mailed by April 10. Include names of those in the photo along with a date, location and a short explanation of the event that will make for a good caption. Please also include an e-mail address or telephone number in case we need to contact you. Those photos selected will appear in the June *Leatherneck*. Photographs will be returned if submitted with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



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into battle after arriving in Korea. They stopped the advance of the North Koreans and destroyed what was thought to be the invincible T-34 Soviet tanks. Later, when the Division landed at Inchon, and on through Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir, those called-up reservists, old WW II vets and the wet-behind-the-ears-new Marines performed extraordinarily well.

When we boarded ships in San Diego on our way to the war, I remember looking at the mass of Marines in ranks waiting to climb the gangplank, knowing I was a carbon copy of them—a Marine in full combat gear, transport pack and helmet, with rifle slung and carrying our seabags. I don't think there's a finer sight in the world.

GySgt John R. Boring, USMC (Ret)

Phoenix, Ariz.



COURTESY OF ALFREDA D. MASTERS

TSgt Alfred Masters

First African-American to Enlist

I am writing to you because there are too many individuals and organizations uninformed as to who actually was the first African-American to enlist in the United States Marine Corps on June 1, 1942. It was Alfred Masters, my father, not James Perry. Perry was the first Marine to arrive at Montford Point, N.C. At the time my father enlisted, he was 26 years old, had attended Langston University for four years, was married to Isabell Arch Masters, had one young daughter, and a second on the way (me). After he enlisted, my father was furloughed in Oklahoma City until the 8th Reserve Unit was called to active duty on Nov. 17, 1942.

My father served his country honorably during World War II as a Montford Point Marine. He rose through the ranks to become a technical sergeant. He received a Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, the American Campaign Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon. While on active

duty from Nov. 17, 1942, to Dec. 23, 1945, he received a nearly perfect professional and conduct record with an average score of 4.8 out of a total of five. He qualified as a sharpshooter with a score of 2.95. He was chosen to attend the coveted Officer's Cooks and Stewards School and rose through the ranks to become chief cook for the 1st Defense Battalion. He served in the 7th Separate Pack Howitzer Battery, the 52d Defense Battalion, the Seacoast Artillery Group, the Heavy Artillery Air Group, Searchlight Battery, etc.

I am humbly asking that you help me preserve my father's legacy as the first African-American to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. I also would appreciate the Montford Point Marine Association and the Marine Corps Association & Foundation to correct their websites and literature to accurately reflect my father's role as a United States Marine and to pass this information on to other college students and historians looking to accurately document Montford Point Marine Corps history.

Alfreda Dean Masters

Los Angeles, Calif.

• *Thank you, Ms. Masters, for setting the record straight.—Editor*

Women in Combat

Our political leaders have decided to allow women into combat units without considering the importance of morale. It cannot be weighed or measured, but that small word can allow a smaller unit to defeat a larger one.

Creditably it was stated that standards would not change; that statement is not to be believed. In time as the numbers of females fall below what our leaders want, standards will be lowered.

There is a bonding process that a male unit can have that a female unit could never match. The introduction of a single female to a combat unit would be damaging. Unfortunately, our political leaders will not suffer any adverse consequences for this social experiment; that price will be paid by our troops in the field when they engage an enemy who has no regard for political correctness.

Kenneth Pankey

Marion, Ill.

Football Classic

I want to thank you for the extremely interesting article, "The Football Classic," in the December 2015 issue. I had never heard that story before, and it was fascinating in every respect. It also was interesting to see the story I had never heard and see the names of Marines I have known, General Shepherd and Colonel Shapley.

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high schools. Placement depended on the willingness of the high school principal as well as the effort of the PANCOS of the day. Several of my principals were former Marines and understood the value of such placement.

Capt Jack T. Paxton, USMC (Ret)
Executive Director
USMCCCA and USMCCCA Foundation
Wildwood, Fla.

I was just reading my January copy of *Leatherneck* and Bill Noe's letter about Marines participating with schools in the 1950s. I graduated from St. James High School, Chester, Pa., in 1952. I joined the Marines in September 1952. A few years ago I happened to go through my high school yearbook and was surprised to spot a photo of our high school band. (The school was only about 10 years old at the time.) There with the band was a Marine in dress blues. I don't know how it took me about 50 years to notice it.

The best I could find out was everyone thinks that the band leader (if I recall, he was Mr. Piscottie) had a friend who was a recruiter in Chester and had him help with the new school band. Apparently, at that time no one considered it unusual. Oh, for the good old days!

John E. McLaughlin
Cape May Court House, N.J.

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One thing I love about *Leatherneck* is that each issue has at least one article about our Marine Corps history, and they are consistently excellent.

There is, incidentally, one small error in the caption for the aerial photo of Henderson Field. Henderson Field was not captured in November 1942. The airfield was seized without resistance immediately after the landing on Aug. 7, 1942.

LtCol Tom C. McKenney, USMC (Ret)
Ocean Springs, Miss.

• "The Football Classic" also was one of our favorites here at *Leatherneck*; Allan Bevilacqua is a masterful storyteller.

Our apologies on the poorly written caption. The November 1942 date was when the picture was taken, not when the airfield was captured. Thank you, LtCol McKenney.—Editor

The Corps in High Schools

Re: "A Recruiting Poster in the 'Blackboard Jungle'" (January *Leatherneck*), I can assure you that Marine Corps posters, many patterned after the "A" signs of the day, did adorn high school auditorium walls. I was a staff sergeant PANCO (public affairs noncommissioned officer) at Recruiting Station Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1954 and was able to place several in area

M16 Rifle in Vietnam

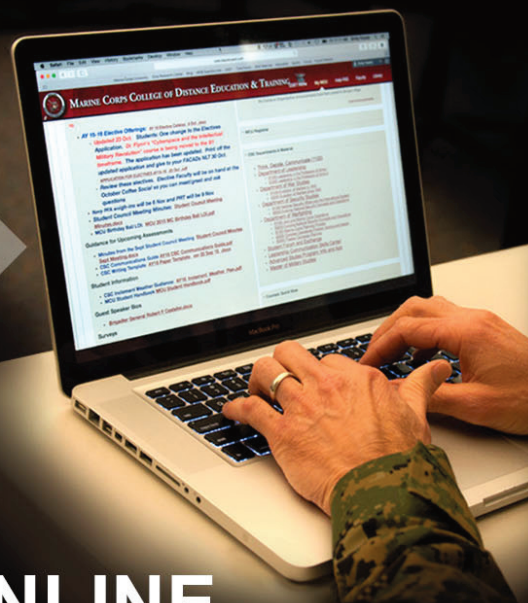
I am a retired lieutenant colonel USMC "03" and proudly served in Vietnam as a private first class-corporal, March 1967-March 1968. I was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment and survived Tet '68, being wounded twice in action.

We first saw the M16 in Camp Pendleton, Calif.'s Staging Battalion prior to deployment to Vietnam, and my training in the care and cleaning of the M16 was comprehensive and adequate in all areas. In Vietnam, I was first issued an M14. A few weeks later, I was issued an M16 and was given instruction on the care and cleaning of the same by noncommissioned officers/staff noncommissioned officers. We always had the materials required to keep the M16 clean and operable.

The problems with the M16 were many, and the care and cleaning of the weapon was significant but paled in comparison with the fact that the M16 was poorly designed and engineered from day one. The author of the January "Sound Off" letter "The M16 Rifle's Performance in Vietnam" states many of the problems, and I will reiterate: failure to extract spent brass, weak extractor, weak buffer; someone/official said the flash suppressor had something to do with all of the above too?

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The bottom line with the M16 in Vietnam was the weapon was poorly engineered and not adequately tested in Vietnam battlefield-type environments. The individual Marine was never able to compensate for that, NEVER. There was trouble with the ammo as well. The ammo came from two different depots, one in California and the other in Utah, if I remember correctly. The ammo from one simply worked better than the ammo from the other. There were similar problems with the M60 and 105 arty ammo as well.

The "Sound Off" editor implies that in 1967 the problems with the M16 were under control and the individual Marine had gained confidence in the weapon. In my time in Vietnam, I was issued numerous M16s, and none of them functioned properly. Every fourth Marine in our company carried an M14 as we could not depend on the M16.

LtCol Duane "Dutch" Van Fleet, USMC (Ret)
Columbia, Miss.

I enlisted in the Marines in September 1960 and was issued an M1 Garand. After graduation I was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment and was issued a BAR (5'4" at 135 pounds, surprise, surprise). In February 1962 I was issued an M14. In April 1963 I went

to Marine Barracks Naples, Italy, and was issued an M1 again. I was discharged from active duty in January 1966 from Quantico, Va., having been issued an M14 there.

During that time I only experienced one malfunction when I had to survey my well-worn BAR for a brand-new one. It jammed during my first live-fire exercise after just firing two rounds. The casing had expanded in the chamber, and I had to use the butt of an M1 to drive the operating rod to the rear to extract the casing. (I made sure the magazine was not in the weapon.)

I enlisted in the Active Reserve as a corporal in November 1975 and was issued an M16 for the first time. In the following 14 years in the Active Reserve I never knew anyone when qualifying annually to have a problem.

I read an article in the NRA magazine, *American Rifleman*, about the problems that occurred with the M16 during the Vietnam War (the year and date escapes me). The article said that with the original propellant, developed for the then-AR15, the rifle performed without problems. It was later changed, and the new propellant was much hotter, which made the rifle not function properly, causing the stoppages and malfunctions. This all comes down

[continued on page 64]

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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

■ GUAM

RUTEX: Realistic Urban Training Prepares 31st MEU for Deployment

Reconnaissance Marines and sailors with Maritime Raid Force (MRF), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted nighttime raid training on Guam, Jan. 11-17, as part of Realistic Urban Training Exercise (RUTEX), in preparation for their upcoming deployment. RUTEX is a high-intensity, close-quarter battle training exercise conducted in an actual urban environment.

“RUTEX is a workup exercise where they’re testing how well the MRF does as a whole,” said Second Lieutenant Jay Parales, the security element platoon commander with Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment, 31st MEU, currently attached to the MRF. “If you imagine a workup being a ‘crawl, walk, run,’ then this is leaning into the walk and slightly into a jog.”

The Maritime Raid Force is made up of three different elements: the Amphibious Reconnaissance Platoon (ARP), the Force Reconnaissance Platoon (FRP) and the security element. Each has a specific role in the MRF, and one cannot function successfully without the others.

“The ARP went out before everyone else and started to survey the area,” said Parales. “With the information that the ARP provides, we use it to create plans and terrain models.”

The Marines began to build the terrain models immediately after arriving in Guam. The models are large, simple maps of the area with a layout of the buildings the MRF will be operating in. The Marines create the models with chalk, cardboard, tape and paint, and they use them to go through rehearsals and to familiarize themselves with their objectives.

“With the three different elements working together—the FRP, ARP and the security element—we all have to internally rehearse our role in the mission,” said Parales. “Then we have to rehearse how we’re all going to sync together and link up and leave together.”

After the Marines completed their final rehearsal, they loaded up their gear and began their mission. The MRF conducted two raids during RUTEX, both to capture simulated high-value targets located in different urban areas. With all of the information the FRP and security element received from the ARP, they began their assaults.

“RUTEX brings everyone together and makes us work together to accomplish the mission,” said Staff Sergeant Nicholas Weber, the special equipment noncommissioned officer for the FRP.

For both raids, the FRP Marines flew to the objective on UH-60 Black Hawks, fast-roping to the ground. Explosive charges were used to make an entrance into the building the targets were located in. Marines then rushed in and engaged any simulated “enemies” they came across while searching for their target.

While the FRP is conducting actions on the objective, the security element is setting up a security cordon around the area. Blocking positions are used to keep anyone from coming in or out, and an extra team of Marines is on hand to act as a reserve if the main effort needs it.

“The security element has a two-part mission—the outer cordon and the inner cordon,” said Parales. “The outer cordon is in charge of the blocking position with the vehicles and the security outside of the objective. The second mission for the security element is they follow the FRP directly into their objective.”

Once the mission is complete, the security element acts as the extraction force. A debrief is then conducted giving everyone a chance to go over what they did well and what they still need to improve on.

“RUTEX really helps us to work together and fine-tune our abilities to successfully complete a mission, no matter what it is,” said Weber. “We’re training on what we could possibly do in real life, and now everyone knows what they need to work on and what they have down.”

Cpl Thor Larson, USMC



CPL THOR LARSON, USMC

SSgt Travis Caron, the FRP communications chief with MRF, 31st MEU, sets up satellite communications for a raid during RUTEX in Guam, Jan. 13. RUTEX is a high-intensity close-quarter battle training exercise conducted in a realistic urban environment.

■ ALMERIA, SPAIN

Combined Training Promotes Bond Between USMC, Spanish Legion

U.S. Marines and Spanish Legionnaires refined urban and mountain warfare tactics together in Almeria, Spain, Dec. 14-18, 2015.

A U.S. platoon with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response-Africa was embedded within the Spanish company during a weeklong exercise, which included company-size attacks, military operations on urban ter-



SSGT VITALIY RUSAVSKIY, USMC

A Spanish Legionnaire, right, shows a U.S. Marine the parts of a machine gun during an exercise, which took place in Almeria, Spain, Dec. 14-18, 2015. The Marines and Legionnaires had the opportunity to combine squads and exchange rifles during MOUT training.

rain (MOUT), squad-level tactics, patrols and live-fire training.

While working together to understand each other's strengths, the Marines and Legionnaires honed their warrior skills by combining squads, exchanging rifles and clearing courtyards, buildings and walkways during MOUT training.

"It has been my first time working with the Spanish Legionnaires, and it's been great," said Sergeant Jacob Parker, a platoon sergeant with SPMAGTF-CR-AF. "They have very similar values to the Marine Corps: their esprit de corps, their training and their ethics."

During the final 24 hours of the training, the Marines and Legionnaires patrolled to their staging area, slept a few hours and moved to their objective before sunrise. As soon as the first mortar impacted the side of a mountain, the silence was broken with overhead machine-gun fire, the signal for the Marines to move into the objective.

"This type of training is very important," said Lieutenant Daniel Prego, a platoon commander with the Spanish Legion. "If we are to deploy abroad, we have a possibility of working together. That's why it's good to learn each other's tactics now, in a training environment."

SPMAGTF-CR-AF is a self-sustaining

crisis response force, prepared for the protection of American personnel and facilities on the African continent, as directed by U.S. Africa Command. The presence of SPMAGTF-CR-AF in Spain has enabled a notable increase in joint training opportunities with more than 80 bilateral joint exercises with Spain in the past two years and numerous other exercises with NATO allies.

SSgt Vitaliy Rusavskiy, USMC

■ CHITOSE AIR BASE, JAPAN "Flying Bengals" and Japanese Pilots Train in Pacific Skies

Leathernecks with Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, home-based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., and currently forward-based at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, conducted dissimilar air combat training (DACT) during the Chitose Aviation Training Relocation (ATR) exercise at Chitose Air Base in Japan, Jan. 12-22.

In order to support Pacific theater security cooperation, the F/A-18D Hornet squadron, known as the "Fighting Bengals," performed DACT with and against Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) counterparts and improved the operational readiness of U.S. and Japanese forces.

"DACT is defined as air-to-air combat against a different aircraft platform that is usually out of sight," said Captain Seth Byrum, a pilot training officer with VMFA(AW)-224. "Due to limitations in Iwakuni, we can typically only train against other F-18s as the aggressor aircraft. DACT gives us the ability to simulate air-to-air combat training against a dissimilar aircraft like the JASDF's F-15J/DJ Eagles."

Because of the diverse aircraft and aviation platforms provided, VMFA(AW)-224 successfully executed basic fighter maneuvers, section engaged maneuvers, aircraft tactical intercepts and offensive/defensive counter air missions in a disparate environment to their home station in South Carolina.

"Basic fighter maneuvers are just 'one-versus-one aircraft' type of fight, starting in a neutral position so no one has a clear advantage from the beginning," said Captain Alexander Blank, an F/A-18D pilot with the squadron. "The goal is to become offensive on the aircraft and deploy simulated weapons."

Offensive and defensive basic fighter maneuvers are performed during air combat maneuvers, also known as "dogfighting." This type of aerial warfare is actually

the art of maneuvering a combat aircraft in order to obtain a positive offensive position on the enemy.

“We aren’t [used] to flying in this cold weather and the snow, but the jets tend to perform much better in this cold weather,” said Blank. “The engines exert more thrust, and we get more response from flight controls. The only downside is Chitose AB is an unfamiliar airfield. ... We are unfamiliar to the area, and here, we have to deal with the language barriers. This definitely brings out some skills that we do not use that often.”

As pilots performed tactical movements and missions in the skies over Northern Japan, aviation engine mechanics, airframers, ordnancemen, avionics and maintenance administrators worked behind the scenes to ensure the Fighting Bengals and JASDF aviators had a solid foundation to execute their maneuvers effectively.

“Without the maintainers, the aircraft can’t fly safely,” said Lance Corporal Zackery Miller, a power-liner plane captain with VMFA(AW)-224. “Pilots probably wouldn’t get the training that they need or many flight hours. Due to the weather change ..., which is much colder than South Carolina, this environment

brings about issues we don’t always deal with. Parts wear out faster and they need to be replaced more often here, and there are different standard operating procedures we follow just to preserve the aircraft as much as we can. We have a good crew out here ... and being able to have the resilience to get the job done helps our mission success too.”

This training better prepared U.S. and Japanese forces to work together in the future, as both allies had the opportunity to practice tactical procedures and techniques, enhance bilateral interoperability and build fundamental relationships.

“Without this ATR exercise, we have less opportunity to train with the U.S., so I believe this training will help us bond and execute our operational capabilities,” said Major Atsuya Shimatani, chief of public relations office, administrative department for JASDF.

Chitose ATR provided a unique opportunity for the East Coast-based squadron members to “dogfight” against their Japanese counterparts in a profoundly different climate, as they continue their tour with the unit deployment program, which sends U.S.-based units on six-month rotations around the Pacific.

Cpl Jessica Quezada, USMC

■ CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. 2/2 Mortars Fire Rounds In Preparation for UDP

More than 40 Marines with 2d Battalion, Second Marine Regiment conducted a live-fire mortar exercise with 81 mm mortar systems at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan 21, in preparation for the unit’s upcoming deployment to Okinawa, Japan, as part of the unit deployment program (UDP).

The Marines began shelling targets at varying ranges with precision and speed, firing volleys of one round per fire mission—up to six shots consecutively. Six different gun crews operated simultaneously, delivering rounds as the commands were given.

“As an 81 mm platoon, our mission is to deliver rounds to a given location in a timely and accurate manner in support of our infantry units,” said Staff Sergeant Aaron Newton, the 81 mm mortars platoon sergeant. “We are training today to solidify the Marines’ muscle memory with the mortars until we become a well-oiled machine, working as one to accomplish the mission.”

Commanding a crew of four, each squad leader directed his Marines to ensure that they completed their fire missions

Two F/A-18D Hornets with VMFA(AW)-224 taxi down the apron at Japan's Chitose Air Base, Jan. 12. Marines with the squadron conducted dissimilar air combat training with and against Japanese fighter pilots. (Photo by Cpl Jessica Quezada, USMC)





LCPL SHANNON KROENING, USMC

PFC Austin Brooks, a mortarman with 2/2, clears the debris from his crew's gun during a live-fire mortar exercise with 81 mm mortar systems at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 21. The exercise was part of the unit's predeployment training.

smoothly and in the fastest manner possible. The assistant gunners loaded and fired the weapons while ensuring that the firing did not move the barrel enough to affect accuracy. The gunners, likewise, calibrated the mortars to launch at the correct coordinates and receive hit confirmations after every round. The fourth crewman prepared each round before use.

"When assigned to a gun, each member of the crew stays with one another, from the time they are assigned until they are relieved," said Lance Corporal Brandon Hopkins, a mortarman and assistant gunner with the platoon. "Mortar platoons do this so that we can work on cohesion to be as efficient as possible to accomplish the commander's goals."

Marines worked with the mortar systems until the late evening, sending more than 350 rounds downrange, and accomplished their goal of having more than 90 percent of their rounds impact on their designated targets.

"I hope that my Marines walk away from this training more confident in themselves and their capabilities," said First Lieutenant Chris Love, the platoon commander. "We do this to be more proficient, to become better than before, and to accomplish the goals of the Marine Corps."

LCpl Shannon Kroening, USMC

urban battles of Fallujah and Ramadi during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Marines have been kicking down doors in every clime and place.

Despite the Marines' experiences, urban combat skills do not materialize out of thin air. While all Marines receive some form of close quarters battle (CQB) train-

ing, more advanced techniques must be learned to ensure success in combat.

The Raid Leaders Course at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., is one of many training programs in the Marine Corps that teach those vital skills. The three-week program is designed to instruct Marines in conducting raids in urban environments. This includes refining combat marksmanship skills, learning advanced military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) and CQB techniques, as well as learning raid planning procedures.

"No matter how many bombs you drop on something, someone is going to have to go in and physically take that space," explained Kevin Harris, a combative marksmanship trainer with Expeditionary Operations Training Group. "That is why we need to understand MOUT movement, so they [the Marines] can safely move around an objective area and clear a room, which is where CQB comes into play."

Despite the fact that it is an advanced course, the skills taught at the Raid Leaders Course are broken down into basic steps.

Harris explained that he likes to teach a mantra of "brilliance in the basics." For this particular tactic to be effective, all those on the team have to understand their individual roles in a given situation and then practice them.

SOUTHWEST ASIA



CPL AXCEL AUSTIN, USMC

ALWAYS READY—Capt Alexander Smith, a forward air controller with "Charlie" Company, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, communicates with local air support during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP) exercise in Southwest Asia, Jan. 25. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is ready to respond to any crisis response mission in theater, to include the employment of a TRAP force.

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.

Raid Leaders Course Teaches Urban Combat Skills

Marines are no strangers to urban combat. From as far back as the Battle of Chapultepec during the Mexican-American War to the Battle of Hue City during the Vietnam War to the more contemporary

Marines and sailors with "Fox" Co, 2d Bn, 4th Marines practice clearing rooms during the Raid Leaders Course at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12.



CPL GARRETT WHITE, USMC

Right: Raid Leaders Course participants practice detaining noncombatants at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12. With the myriad variables involved in urban combat, the course is designed to teach Marines to enter and clear rooms and buildings while quickly and properly identifying threats.

Taking a "crawl, walk, run" approach, Marines in the course start with two-man room clearing and work their way up to four-man clearing. Marines cycle through each position in a team, making sure they understand their role in a particular spot.

"To me, knowledge is power," Harris said. "I want to give everyone the knowledge they need to be successful. If I know there are some certainties in combat, why would I not practice these things over and over again?"

While Raid Leaders Course instructors teach their students the skills they need to be successful, the goal isn't perfection. It's up to the students to take the skills they have learned back to their respective units and not only keep refining them, but also teach their junior Marines what they learned.

Sergeant Aronros Olano, a squad leader with "Fox" Company, 2d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment who attended the course



CPL GARRETT WHITE, USMC

in January, explained that the course should prove beneficial to his unit since a majority of its sergeants, corporals and lance corporals who hold leadership billets were attending the course.

"I'm learning different ways to teach my Marines how to clear rooms and clear

hallways," said Olano. "The course instructors are giving us a bigger spectrum of tools to add to our toolbox that we can then transfer over to our junior Marines."

Cpl Garrett White, USMC



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The Corps One Hundred Years Ago

By Capt Frank E. Evans, USMC (Ret)

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps Gazette, Leatherneck's sister publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, we are reprinting an excerpt from "The Corps One Hundred Years Ago," which first appeared in the March 1916 issue of Gazette.

Through the instrumentality of an Order Book of the old Washington Headquarters that has successfully withstood the ravages of time, it is possible to present to the Corps of today a faithful mirror in which can be seen the life of the Corps in the early years of the nineteenth century. Beginning with an entry of Aug. 22, 1803, in which Lieutenant Colonel W.W. Burrows, Commandant of the Marine Corps, summoned a court-martial to try men for sundry derelictions, it ends with a recital of the execution of a deserter by a firing squad on Jan. 13, 1815. ...

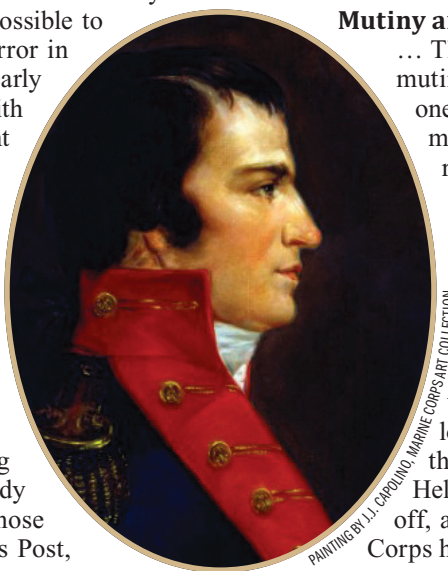
... Such time-honored military offenses as liberty-breaking find their place in its pages, and side by side with such entry is that of an act of violence. From the sum total of them one is apt at first to summon up a picture of the enlisted man of those stirring days as a hard-bitten soldier who was ever ready to scale the pickets in pursuit of liquor; whose favorite outdoor sport was "sleeping on his Post, thereby loosing his Musket;" prone to fight with and cheat the peaceable citizenry; with his heart set against his officers. ... Yet here and there we run across an order prescribing the customary honors for the same officers who fell in battle on land and sea. ... Judged by the standards of these days, there were cruel and unusual punishments awarded by their courts, but there are many entries opposite the findings to the effect that the punishment had been remitted at the intercession of an officer.

Unusual Punishments

Segregating the sentences of unusual character, we find early entries relating to flogging for such offenses as desertion, theft and drunkenness. ... The sentence of James Anderson for desertion from Headquarters on Oct. 25, 1808, is recorded as: "50 Lashes, by the Taps, Hard Labor, Ball and Chain." Flogging, however, was abolished when a Navy Department Order of June 5, 1812, extended to the Marine Corps the repealing of corporal punishment as published by the War Department on May 16, 1812. Its inhibition was followed by a preference of the courts for hard labor. Another entry in which lashes were prescribed

followed the theft by John Bryan of "a tumbler from the Sergt. Major." Opposite that entry is: "Ordered, that William Blackwood receive fifty lashes for being Drunk and losing his Money." ...

... One court, wearying of a wave of inebriety that had caught the Headquarters garrison in its undertow, sentenced Charles Daily and John Dunkinson "to wear the Drunkard's Dress, the former for one week, the latter for a fortnight." Their specific offense, committed on New Year's Day of 1805, was in being drunk and absent from quarters at tattoo. ...



LtCol William Ward Burrows
2nd Commandant of the Marine Corps

Mutiny and Violence

... The majority of the mutineers confined their mutinous conduct to rhetorical displays, while one, a sergeant, treated one of the diminutive midshipmen of those days with scant disrespect rather than in open mutiny.

Michael Duggett gave vent to his feelings in a scathing denunciation of his officers when confined after drunken and riotous conduct in November 1808. To quote his court-martial sentence his offence was:

"Drunk and Riotous, and after being confined using Seditious Language in Damning the Marine Corps, and all the Officers belonging to it & saying that he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing their Souls roasting in Hell, & expressing a wish that the Embargo was off, and that he would be damn'd if the Marine Corps held him long."

For these sulphurous sentiments the condemned officers who were the objects of Michael Duggett's wrath retaliated by sentencing him to 50 lashes and one month's hard labor.

The strong sentiment held against the British before the outbreak of the War of 1812 is mirrored by the specifications of two other cases of mutiny that were recorded in 1810. When Private Bartholomew was arraigned on the charge of mutiny it appeared that he had designated Lieut. Robert D. Wainwright, then in command of the Marines at Charleston, S.C., as "worse than a British

officer," and of endeavoring to impress the command "with a belief that his Comdg. Officer was born an Englishman, thereby undermining his Character & destroying the Confidence of the men under him." ...

... For the offense of striking his superior officer, Lieut. Swift, while that officer was in command of the Navy Yard Guard at New York, and using the following expression: "You Dam'd Rascal, what do you come here for?" a court convened at Headquarters awarded "50 lashes by the Taps, Ball & Chain at hard labor to the expiration of his time," to Michael Blake. ...

**For striking his superior officer
and using the expression:
"You Dam'd Rascal, what do you
come here for?" a court awarded
"50 lashes by the Taps, Ball & Chain
at hard labor to the expiration
of [Michael Blake's] time."**

Franklin Wharton.
Lth. Col^l: Penn^a.
of Massines.

Page reproduced from Order Book.

Colonel Wharton in orders dated Dec. 14, 1814, and Lieutenant Benjamin Richardson, commanding the Marine Barracks. ... A respite was granted that day, but on Friday, Jan. 13, 1815, the sentence was executed. ...

"At the hour of eleven the procession will move. The Execution Party preceded by the Band of Music, will march in front of the prisoner, at ordinary time, the Music playing the Dead March in Saul, and the Guard will march in rear of him followed by the whole detachment to the place of execution aforesaid. The Music ceasing, the Prisoner Joseph Wallis will then be pleased to undergo the sentence of the Court, which is to be by shooting him to death, from a signal to be given by the Actg. Adj. The above performed, the Troops will return to Barracks & be dismissed." ...

An Old Time Pay Day

... One entry is of significance in that it followed the payment of the Headquarters garrison in November 1805. Thomas Gorman, for being drunk on parade and breaking his musket, led off the list of offenders with 50 lashes and the stoppage of \$3 for the repairs of the broken musket. Five others were tried with him for "being Drunk in Dram Shops" or on post. On the following day three were tried for being absent without leave, and on the third five more. The culprits were lashed at evening parade to the taps of the drums.

David Cohen, impatient of restriction, scaled the pickets and offered his clothing for liquor, thereby incurring two months of hard labor. John Stephens hit on the device of smuggling rum into the garrison in a bladder, and when detected, spent the next fortnight in similar disgrace. Fifty lashes was the penalty awarded Miles Mason, who, as a guard, suffered a prisoner condemned to 100 lashes for desertion, to become so intoxicated that the execution of the prisoner's sentence had to be postponed. ...

Officers Court-Martialed

In this space of 12 years appear but five court-martials of the commissioned personnel. The first case was that of Lieutenant John Howard, who, on Oct. 27, 1805, received from Colonel Wharton the following letter:

"Lieut. John Howard.

Sir. The following charges exhibited against you by Capt. John Hall as cause of arrest—you are hereby arrested on the same & will deliver your sword to the Adjutant, viewing yourself as confined to the City of Washington—which you will not depart from unless by Special Order.

Charged—Specification, For being drunk on the evening of the 26th of October, 1805, while Officer of the Day, having charge of the Barracks & Navy Yard Grounds.

F. Wharton,
L. C. C.
M. C."

... A stormy affair is disclosed in the record of the trial of Lieutenant Jeremiah Anderson who assaulted Lieutenant Alfred Grayson while the latter was under arrest. Grayson had been tried for the alleged offense of using insulting and abusive language to Anderson while the latter was officer of the day on Sept. 20, 1811. The court acquitted Grayson and while the publication of the acquittal was being made before the garrison, and Grayson still under arrest, Anderson assaulted him. The court that sat in his case sentenced him to dismissal and the President approved.

A Noteworthy Case

It will be remembered that it was on Aug. 24, 1814, when the British forces, after routing General Winder's hastily organized forces at Bladensburg, entered Washington, and, after burning many public buildings, left for their Patuxent base the next day. One bright spot in the Bladensburg rout was the gallant stand made by the Marines. ... Every historian who has devoted his talents to this period of the War of 1812 has added to the lustre of the Marines at Bladensburg, but it remained for one Corporal Thomas Patterson of the Magazine guard to prove a traitor to the Corps.

The charges brought against Patterson by Captain Thomas Tingey, Commandant of the Washington Navy Yard, recite that Patterson did "wantonly, unnecessarily and unauthorizedly, on or about the 27th and 28th of August 1814, on the whole or either of those days did permit & aid in the destruction of a large quantity of the public Powder which it was there his peculiar duty to have guarded and held in safety, thus acting under a most flagrant neglect & breach of duty." ...

... Captain Alexander Sevier, President, and Captain Samuel Bacon and Lieutenants Wm. Nicoll, Benj. Richardson and Chas. Lord, with John Law, esq., acting as Judge Advocate, found all the allegations true. ... The sentence as duly executed was "1 yr. Hard Labor, with Ball & Chain, 1/2 Pay same time & then Drummed out of the Service with a Rope round his neck." ...

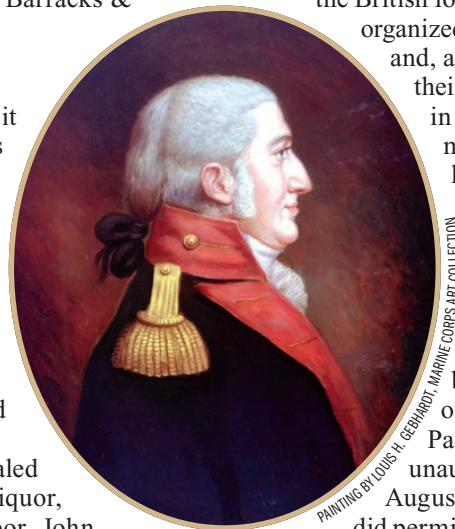
Deaths in Action

"Orders, In testimony of respect to the Memory of the late Captain John Williams, who died at East Florida the 29th of Sept., 1812, from wounds received on the 11th of September in unequal but gallantly conducted contest against a party of Indians & Negroes. It is ordered, that crepe be worn by the Officers of the Corps on the left arm & Hilt of the Sword for one month. Officers at distant commands will execute this Order, as to time, from the receipt of it.

H. Q. of the M. Corps
Washington, Oct. 19th 1812.

F. Wharton
Lt. Col. Com. M. Corps."

The deaths of Lieutenant James Broom, "who gallantly fell in the action with the *Shannon*" on June 1, 1813, and of Lieutenant



LtCol Franklin Wharton
3rd Commandant of the Marine Corps

Corporal Thomas Patterson
"did permit & aid in the
destruction of a large quantity of
the public Powder which it was
there his peculiar duty to have
guarded and held in safety."

John Brooks, “who gallantly fell on board the *Lawrence* in an action with the Enemy on Lake Erie,” on Sept. 23, 1813, are likewise respected by orders of Commandant Wharton. ...

An Issue of Coals

Opposite the marginal note of Coals appears an order from Colonel Wharton “that in future Coals be issued to the Troops instead of Wood, that the same be furnished weekly by the Quarter Master Sergeant in the following proportions 3 Bushels worth for each Soldier, 30 Bushels p Mo. for each room containing 20 Men—that number to be quartered in each room generally. The Qr. M-Sergt will attend to the removal of men to the Hospital from the rooms, & make as correctly as possible, the necessary Stoppage of their Coals for the latter place. The Hospital Guard Room & Kitchen will be supplied from the extra Coals due the rooms.”

Pasted in the front of the Order Book is an extract from the letter of introduction issued to Lieutenant Greenleaf, Pay Master of the Corps, by the Accountants Office of the Navy Department on Feb. 12, 1807. The extract reads:

“You will Be pleased to Observe that it will be expected that you will render your accounts regularly to the end of every Quarter, stated in the form of an Account Current crediting all Receipts and debiting all Expenditures, referring to Abstracts—and you will also debit advances made by you (and not accounted for) Stating in an Abstract to be referred to, the names of the persons and the amount, so that the account exhibited will shew the Actual State of the Public Money in your hands at the time it is made up to.” ...

The Making of Noncommissioned Officers

The promotion from private to the various noncommissioned grades was accomplished by the simple process of an order to the garrison, of which this is a model:

“Ordered that Jedediah Dodge & John Gardner be promoted to the ranks of Sergeants, that Thomas Williams & Jeremiah Duskett be promoted to the Grade of Corporals, & that they be obeyed & respected as such

10th Sept. 1803.

W.W. Burrows,
Lt. C.C.M. Corps.”

This entry invariably followed another in which a court-martial had reduced to the ranks some noncommissioned officer who had proved recreant to his trust. ...

Orders for Young Officers

Under the above caption, published on Sept. 17, 1807, Colonel

Wharton addresses himself to the newly caught shave-tails of the Corps.

“That the Young Officers,” he begins, “may be made familiar with that part of their Duty connected with the Marchings, wheelings, forming and reducing of Divisions, and Such simple Manoeuvry. As the number of men will admit of, it is ordered that the daily men for parade, be under arms three quarters of

an hour every morning before Roll Call, when the Young Officers will repair to be instructed in Such Manoeuvres as the Adjutant may think proper to perform. The Commanding Officer recommends to them to lose no time in perfecting themselves in the Manual Exercises, as it is uncertain how soon they may be ordered on Command.”

His predecessor, Lieutenant Colonel Burrows, on Dec. 7, 1803, addressed himself to the perfecting of the Washington garrison in drill in a lengthy order, from which is selected the following:

“The Officer of the Day will in addition to the Exercise of the morning, attend particularly to the wheeling backward and forward of the men, teaching them to count their steps & halt when they are ordered: so as to have no moving after the Word Halt is given.”

New Year's Day in Washington

That the custom of officers in the service in calling at the White House in a body to pay their respects to the Commander-in-Chief obtained early in that century is evidenced in the following order issued by Colonel Wharton in 1804, on the 29th of December:

“The Officers are requested to be at the [Colors] on Monday, in full Uniform, precisely at 1 o'clock, to go and pay their respects to the President & afterwards to the Secretary of the Navy.”

In conclusion the *Gazette* wishes to acknowledge to Colonel George Richards the appreciation of the officers of the Marine Corps for the fortunate

chance that brought into his keeping the Order Book from which these entries have been taken, and for the care that has preserved it in such condition that the labor of searching through it for this fabric of life at the old Headquarters in the Corps' infancy was materially lightened. It is to be hoped that other records now buried in Order Books and private files may be resuscitated so that their material may be presented to the Marine Corps through the medium of the *Gazette*.

Editor's note: If you'd like to read the article in its entirety, go to Leatherneck's home page, <https://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck>, and look for the box “Search the Archives.” Note that the original article appeared in the Marine Corps Gazette.



Marine Officer, 1819

PHOTO OF LITHOGRAPH BY SGT. N.M. SHAW, USMC

Communications Company Showcases Its Pride and History

Story by Capt Ross A. Hrynewych, USMC
Photos courtesy of the author

While standing officer of the day duty at the White House, First Marine Division's headquarters building, my duties included touring the subordinate units aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The headquarters buildings for each of those units have historical items and a variety of interesting memorabilia hanging on their walls. As you walk their passageways, you share their unit pride and get a feel for their missions. The displays are all fascinating but unique in their own ways.

For example, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion's walls are lined with photographs of Marines in training or on deployments. The Fifth Marine Regiment's headquarters building echoes the stories of some of our most glorious warriors; its trophy case has a vial of sand from Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone's machine-gun pit on Guadalcanal! A large variety of foreign weapon displays to include a Japanese samurai sword from World War II are prominently displayed in the headquarters of 1st Combat Engineer Bn.

With each month, I looked forward to the opportunity to visit the various headquarters within the Division. They stood in stark contrast to my own building's passageways; the only things hanging on Communications Company's paint-chipped walls were the Commander's Policy Letters on an outdated read board. Having seen the intangible sense of unit pride and historical significance of the displays at other headquarters, I approached my company commander, Major Michael T. Hlad. He directed that our efforts begin focusing on our company's origin and history. First steps included the passageways receiving a new coat of paint and adding historical items to hang on the walls. The next step was beginning an investigation of the company's origin and history.

The Headquarters Bn commander, Colonel Paul J. Nugent, was concurrently leading a similar effort to revitalize interest in the battalion's history and in "George's Place," the battalion's unit clubhouse. A local venue within Camp Pendleton's 33 Area, George's Place hosts unit events such as hails and farewells, award ceremonies, meetings and other such professional events.

The renovation of George's Place was accomplished with assistance provided by the city of Mission Viejo, which has "adopted" Headquarters Bn. As a result, today we have a wonderfully decorated venue that displays the rich history of the battalion. We wanted this same ambiance of unit historical value at the company where the Marines can see it on a daily basis to be reminded of who we are, where we came from, and what sacrifices were made along the way.

Research led us to pictures, unit logos and newspaper articles. We found that the National Archives has a website devoted to the Marine Corps command chronologies during Vietnam with scanned documents available for viewing. We came across a copy of the operations order for the Battle of Inchon and framed a picture of the actual radio frequencies that our company used during that campaign. That website also has a database of all the Marines who were casualties from the Korean War. The Marine Corps History Division's website also has a wide assortment of high-quality photographs available for viewing and downloading.

From two unit fan web pages found



GySgt Javier Acfalle salutes the fallen Marine memorial at the Communications Company headquarters.



At the dedication of the memorial to Comm Co's fallen Marines, Maj Michael T. Hlad reads the last letter Sgt Jonathan W. Lambert sent to his family prior to his death in Iraq in 2003.

during our Internet research, we were able to locate company alumni who served in Vietnam. Veteran alumni Mike Coffman, Craig Hullinger and Tom Generelli assisted with piecing together the company's transition from Okinawa to Chu Lai in 1965 and the eventual transition to Da Nang. They sent some excellent photographs of our radio platoon with narratives of their service. We gathered personal accounts to add to the command chronology narratives already found online.

After scouring the Unit Awards Manual, we contacted the History Division to see if they could assist in locating the actual certificates. In addition to unit awards, the History Division creates Command Lineage and Unit Award Certificates that usually hang in command decks. The helpful staff at the History Division conducts research on the origin and unit lineage using MARADMINs, rosters and other official reports.

While TAD [temporary additional duty] to MCB Quantico, Va., I had the opportunity to visit the History Division. They have binders full of unit award certificates dating back to 1940. Bookshelves of unit files, personal and locational photographs, rosters, casualty cards from Vietnam and a host of other items suitable for any unit historical project are among the many fascinating pieces of Marine Corps history housed in their environs.

I was able to make copies of every unit award from the Battle of Guadalcanal to the march to Baghdad in 2003. One special find was a folder named "Communi-



The memorial to the company's fallen Marines was a key element of the historical display recently established by Comm Co.

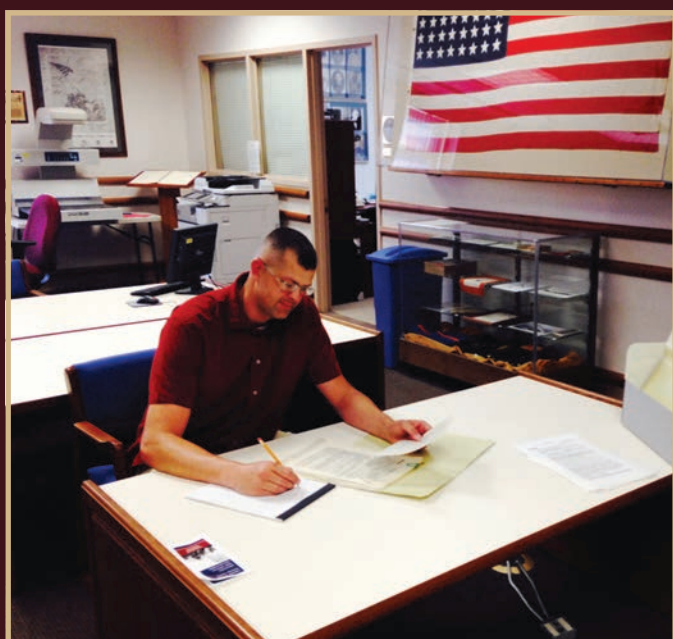
cations" which had an unpublished work on the history of Marine Corps communications from the 1880s until WW II by retired Col Robert Hull. We discovered that a detachment of signalmen were dis-

patched from Co E to the 1st Advanced Brigade headquarters during the Battle of Vera Cruz in 1914; this was the origin of Communications Co.

Also, while at Quantico, I conducted research in the Special Collections section of the General Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center. They allowed us to make copies of the original command chronologies from the period when the 1stMarDiv was conducting operations in Somalia for Operation Restore Hope, Saudi Arabia in 1990-91 and in Iraq in 2003.

Requests for pictures, papers or other artifacts also were made to a variety of other sources including friends, colleagues and alumni who had been stationed within the Division. LtCol Paul Richard, a former company commander, donated a disc full of pictures from Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and of the company area during 2007-08. Our administrative section conducted extensive research in order to contact the prior leaders mentioned in our command chronologies.

We were able to piece together a historical narrative of our company from 1914 until today and used the Division's Combat Camera section to enlarge and print many of the historical photos. One of the company's noncommissioned officers, Sergeant Deonte Lang, purchased about 50 photo frames and hung our collection of photos, diagrams, newspaper clippings, unit awards, maps and company photos throughout the passageways of the company compound. As you walk around the



Capt Ross Hrynewych was the driving force behind Comm Co's efforts to showcase the company's history and heritage.



Communication Marines take a moment to learn more about their fellow Marines who gave their lives during the company's combat operations over the years.

halls of our workspaces, you are taken on a journey from 1914 to the present; the rich history of the Division's communications is presented, and human-interest stories also are told.

In addition to our passageway project, we conducted research on some of the fallen Marines in our company who gave their life during periods of combat operations. Our company gunnery sergeant, GySgt Javier Acfalle, donated a pair of boots, a helmet and a bayonet for the fallen Marine memorial we made. First Sergeant Rosalia Scifo coordinated and conducted a moving ceremony to dedicate the memorial and to inform our Marines about those brave men. Maj Hlad read a letter that Sergeant Jonathan W. Lambert wrote to his family before he died from a tragic vehicle accident in Iraq in 2003. Our fallen Marine memorial proudly stands post at the company headquarters today.

Additionally, we incorporated a place for the Marines to leave their own mark. At the entrance to the building, we attached several wood strips to the wall that are painted scarlet and gold. The Marines are encouraged to hammer in one of their nametapes with their grade insignia. Their contributions to Communications Co matter, they are a part of the family, and their service combined with the contributions of all Marines and sailors of years



The company's Marines are encouraged to add their nametapes to a display at the entrance to the company headquarters.

past is something of which this unit is very proud.

The total cost of our history invigoration project was about \$1,000. We bought picture frames, screws and concrete drill bits in addition to some paint brushes, wood strips, primer, paint and some nicer wood to make the Marine memorial and nametape projects.

There are so many resources available today from the History Division, the Internet, the National Archives, the people mentioned in your unit's command chronology and books in base libraries. Those resources are waiting for you to assemble, frame and hang a narrative of your unit's history in your passageways. The endeavor will require some vision, creativity and some elbow grease, but the results may quite possibly yield additional unit pride, comradeship and increased ownership in your mission.

Editor's note: The Marine Corps Association & Foundation archives also can assist in providing historical information on units throughout the Corps.

Author's bio: Capt Ross A. Hrynewych is an electronics maintenance officer who currently is serving as the executive officer of 1st Maintenance Bn's Repairable Management Co.

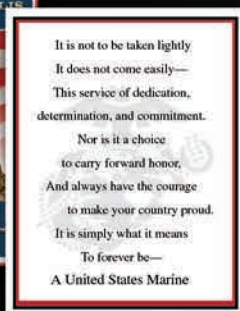


The display in the passageway of Comm Co is a daily reminder of the achievements and sacrifices of the Marines who have gone before.

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Marines with 2d Intelligence Bn study an interactive 3-D map during a professional military education event at the Bannockburn battlefield, Stirling, Scotland, Oct. 29, 2015.

Marines Study Medieval Battle

Story by Roxanne Baker
Photos by Cpl Lucas Hopkins, USMC

The Battle of Bannockburn is the story of the Scottish underdog victory against an invasion by the formidable English army. The battle is hailed as a source of Scottish independence and patriotism. The Scots' cries of "Lay on! Lay on! They fail!" rallied more men to join the fight and now is engrained in Scottish history.

The battle was part of the medieval Wars of Independence. King Edward II led the English army to Scotland to seize the Stirling Castle stronghold in June 1314. His 16,000 infantry soldiers and 2,000 knights outnumbered the Scottish forces roughly 3-to-1. Robert the Bruce, the Scottish king, led his army to meet the English in a field just outside Stirling Castle and was armed with only a battle

axe. When an English knight charged, Bruce famously avoided the lance and swung his axe to split the knight's skull in two.

On the second day of battle, the Scots pushed the massive and slow English army across a river, and King Edward fled on horseback to his ship. His retreat caused panic, and the entire English army quickly disintegrated, with the Scots pursuing the English as they retreated across Scotland.

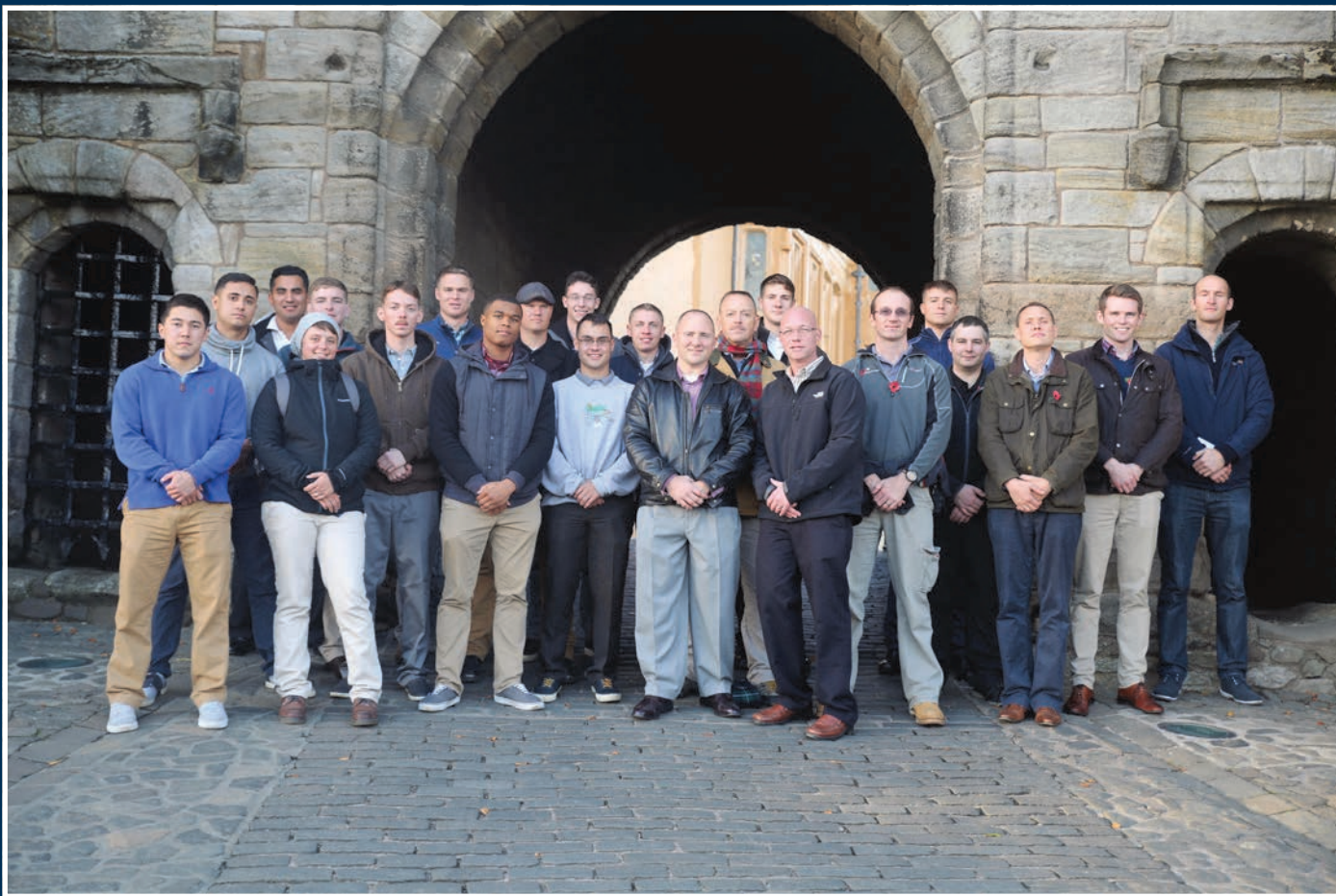
In October 2015, more than 70 Marines from 2d Intelligence Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., visited the Bannockburn battlefield's visitor center and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum at Stirling Castle. They separated into groups to tour the facilities over the course of four days. The Marine Corps Association & Foundation funded the professional military education (PME)

trip to the Battle of Bannockburn visitor center and Stirling Castle.

The Marines were training in Edinburgh, Scotland, with the British Army's 5 Military Intelligence Battalion as part of Exercise Phoenix Odyssey II, which focused on enhancing combined intelligence operations between the United States and the United Kingdom. The two-week exercise emphasized an intelligence exercise, a military skills phase and cultural experiences.

The British soldiers joined the Marines from 2d Intelligence Bn on the PME to the Bannockburn battlefield and Stirling Castle. At the Bannockburn visitor center, they learned about the time period and the leaders from a life-size 3-D video.

"It puts you in the perspective of being in the camps with archers shooting at you and cavalry riding at you," said First Lieutenant Conn Wiseman, USMC.



British soldiers gather with U.S. Marines from 2d Intelligence Bn at Stirling Castle in Stirling, Scotland, Oct. 29, 2015, after Exercise Phoenix Odyssey II, a two-week exercise that focused on enhancing combined intelligence operations.

in Scotland

A historian led a demonstration on medieval weaponry and armor, and the Marines were able to try on chainmail and handle long bows and swords. They also participated in an interactive, virtual battle game with a 3-D topographical map. They played against each other in a mock battle, with each decision played out in real-time on the map. Afterward, they watched how the actual battle developed and were debriefed on the various tactical decisions implemented in the battle.

“Going through the actual battle made me realize how lucky we are to have the technology to look at the battlefield before we fight,” said Gunnery Sergeant Barrett Dille, USMC. “I can’t imagine going into a battle and not knowing what’s there. We’re lucky enough now to have the technology to view the battlefield ahead of time and plan accordingly.”

The group also toured nearby Stirling Castle, a military fortress and center of art and royalty during the 16th century. Stirling Castle is also home to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum,

“Going through the actual battle made me realize how lucky we are to have the technology to look at the battlefield before we fight.”

—GySgt Barrett Dille

which showcases the regiment’s history from 1794 to present day. On display are uniforms, weapons, paintings, silver, instruments, medals and photographs.

“It was admirable to see how the units’ history and legacy was so diligently preserved,” Wiseman said. “It was a

great opportunity for the Marines and soldiers to collaborate. We walked aside one another and shared our respective military history with one another.”

The tour of the Battle of Bannockburn and Stirling Castle was funded through the Marine Corps Association Foundation’s Commanders’ Forum Program, which provides battle studies and guest speakers in order for Marines to learn about tactical decisions and Corps history. To learn more about the foundation’s programs for Marines, or if you’d like to support Marines with a tax-deductible donation, call toll-free (877) 4MY-MCAF (1-877-469-6223), or visit mcafdn.org.

Author’s bio: Roxanne Baker is a writer for MCA&F. A Marine wife, she is an experienced multimedia journalist with hundreds of published works.



THE LAST BATTLE

By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)

"Do I remember July of '53? Yeah, I remember it. I remember a helluva lot of rain, and I remember a helluva lot of Chinese. Damn right I remember it."

—Marine veteran Anthony "Tony" Stasiak

With the arrival of spring 1953, North Korea's Chinese rescuers were looking for a way out of the Korean War. Since the introduction of the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) into the war during the winter of 1950, Chinese casualties had soared to nearly 1,000,000 dead and wounded. Enough was enough.

Still, while the Chinese wanted out of Korea, they wanted to do it in such a way as to make them seem the victors. At the nondescript village of Panmunjom, the charade of truce talks that had dragged on for two years continued. The North Koreans, full of bluff and bluster, were the front men for those parleys, but it was the Chinese who were calling the plays. And it was the Chinese, betting on one final decisive thrust, who sought to use the truce talks to solidify a commanding communist position at Panmunjom.

What was decided upon by the CCF high command was one overwhelming attack that would open the vital Uijong-bu Corridor to a flood of Chinese. The Uijong-bu Corridor was the key terrain of the entire Korean War, the traditional pathway to invasion of the southern regions of Korea, the route followed by the Mongol invasions of 1231-1259 and North Korean communist leader Kim Il Sung's forces two years prior to the Korean War. While the roads and trails in the eastern regions of South Korea led to nowhere in particular, the Uijong-bu Corridor led directly to the South Korean capital of Seoul.

The Chinese attack would have to be overwhelming since it would run up against a pair of formidable obstacles. One year earlier the supreme commander of the Eighth United States Army in Korea (EUSAK or 8th Army) and all Allied forces in Korea, General James A. Van Fleet, USA, had assigned the western section of the Korean front to what he termed "the two most powerful divisions in Korea," the First Marine Division and the British Commonwealth Division.



First Marine Regiment machine-gunners fire on enemy forces in July 1953. (Photo by TSgt Jack A. Slockbower, USMC)

Foremost among the missions of both divisions was denying the Uijong-bu Corridor to any attack from the north.

Knowing what they would face, the Chinese planned their offensive to strike the junction of 1stMarDiv and the Commonwealth Division, opening a breach there, allowing them access to the all-important Uijong-bu Corridor. The main

"He had shrapnel wounds all over his upper legs and looked like a hamburger patty that had been dropped in the mud."

—Sgt Vernon Schmidt

attack would fall upon 1stMarDiv positions on a hill numbered 119, a hill the Marines called "Boulder City" for the massive rock outcropping that distinguished it. First, though, there would have to be attacks on 1stMarDiv's combat outpost line, leaving the main line of resistance (MLR) on Boulder City open to direct assault.

The Chinese offensive began deliberately. The Chinese plan called for attacks upon a pair of combat outposts dubbed

Berlin and East Berlin by Marines as an opening move. Both Berlin and East Berlin were ideally sited to support each other and deny the CCF a direct axis of attack against Boulder City, where the CCF hoped to open the gap through which an avalanche of Chinese would pour. The Berlin outposts had to be eliminated before the main CCF attack could go forward.

While geography favored the Berlin outposts in one respect (mutual support), it imposed a serious constraint in another. Ideally sited though they were, neither Berlin nor East Berlin was large enough to hold more than a platoon of defenders. The CCF, willing to expend lives to take ground, could attack both outposts with battalion-size elements. The CCF plan of attack was simple: inundate the Berlin outposts in an avalanche of supporting arms fires and massed infantry attacks.

At approximately 7 a.m. on July 7, both Berlin outposts came under massed artillery and mortar fires that made each of the Berlins appear as erupting volcanoes. Explosion after explosion rocked the hillsides in a classic "drumfire," in which no single detonation could be distinguished in the continuous overlapping roar that shook the

ground as a terrier shakes a rat. For the two platoons of Marines from Lieutenant Colonel Alexander D. Cereghino's 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment manning the outposts, it was a firestorm. Fires from CCF 122 mm field pieces and 120 mm mortars impacted like hailstones shattering automobile windows. Adding their voices to the ear-shattering roar, self-propelled Russian-made direct-fire pieces blasted away with high-velocity 76 mm shells as fast as CCF gunners could feed them.

Advancing through their own barrage, taking frightful casualties as they came on, two entire battalions of the CCF 407th Regiment hurled themselves at the Berlin outposts in waves. Falling dead and wounded in the torrent of their own shells that blanketed the Marine positions, the attackers pressed forward regardless of losses. As an incoming tide sweeps over a beach, the massed CCF infantry swept over the two Berlins. In a hand-to-hand, face-to-face knock-down, drag-out melee that lasted throughout the day, East Berlin fell to the CCF. Berlin, defended by only 18 able-bodied Marines, managed to hold out a while longer before it fell, shortly before 10 p.m.

Watching from his bunker on the MLR, Sergeant Vernon Schmidt, a Company I, 3/7 rifle platoon sergeant, was anything but safe and sound. Even as an avalanche of incoming fire blanketed the Berlin outposts, CCF artillery pummeled Marine front-line positions in an effort to suppress any supporting fires. In a rocking roar of explosion upon explosion, entire lengths of trench line were collapsed, bunkers blown into gaping craters. In two particular bunkers, victims of multiple direct hits, there was not enough left of the occupants to identify; to this day they remain listed as missing in action.

"[Private First Class] 'Moose' Moran, who had tried to take a supply train to East Berlin, was caught in it," said Sgt Schmidt. "He had shrapnel wounds all over his upper legs and looked like a hamburger patty that had been dropped in the mud. One eye was hanging on his cheek. When they came to carry him away, he growled, 'I'm going back to New York if I have to crawl.' He was some Irishman."

It could have been worse. It would have been worse had 1stMarDiv been deployed in a linear defense, but the Division had long since adopted the defense in depth favored by the Commonwealth Division. While forward strongpoints bore the brunt of the CCF fire, those in the second or third echelon were relatively unaffected.

What did make it worse for everyone was the torrent of rain that fell in sheets, turning inconsequential streams into raging floods, raising rivers out of their banks

and turning the entire battlefield into a foot-sucking morass. Marines crouched up to their waists in flooded trenches and bunkers that had become mud wallows, taking what nourishment there was to be had from cold canned C-rations, chewing stolidly on ham and lima beans and rock-hard ration crackers, about as appetizing as petrified mulch.

All of the artillery fire wasn't coming from the Chinese side. Every gun of 1stMarDiv's artillery regiment, Colonel Manly L. Curry's 11th Marines, unleashed 105 mm and 155 mm volleys in return, some directed at the Chinese assailing the

Berlins, some pounding away in counter-battery missions. Lending weight to the Marine response, the 1st 4.5-inch Rocket Battery slammed nearly 600 rounds of 43.5-pound high explosive projectiles into Chinese support positions. Two platoons from Co B, 1st Tank Bn blasted away at the Chinese with more than 800 rounds of 90 mm high-velocity, high explosives.

With such support and through sheer determination, counterattacks by a pair of reinforced platoons from 3/7 in regimental reserve began dislodging the Chinese from the ground they had gained. After a three-day back-and-forth contest



MSGT JAMES F. GALLOWAY, USMC

Marines wait in the chow line for a hot breakfast near the front lines.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

After the cease fire goes into effect on July 27, Marines take a break before moving out.

Much-needed supplies are brought up to the Marines at Boulder City in July 1953. (DOD photo)

of absolute savagery in what was the heaviest artillery duel of the Korean War, the outposts again were in Marine control. It would be only a temporary control. Individually or together, the outposts could not hold enough defenders to stem the tidal wave of humanity thrown at them.

Hanging doggedly to their positions in a bloodbath that left the rain-drenched mire covered with the bodies of hundreds of Chinese dead, the Berlin outposts held out for nearly two weeks. The effort was to no avail if the CCF commanders were willing to continue to spend the lives of their men. They were. On the night of July 19-20, the two platoons of Marines defending the Berlin outposts were overrun by a multi-battalion attack that left a carpet of Chinese dead behind it. At a terrible price the Chinese now were able to mount a major attack on the MLR and attempt to create a rupture between 1stMarDiv and the Commonwealth Division.

"I noticed my St. Christopher medal hanging outside my flak jacket and remembered the words from Mass, 'Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.' I felt old and so very tired," said Sgt Robert Kreid, D/2/7.

As the Chinese consolidated their holdings on the Berlin outposts, the torrential rain never ceased its assault. Ground activity confined itself to patrol clashes throughout the middle weeks of July. Rain



that falls in sheets, rain that never ceases can bring even the most determined human activity to a grinding halt. Marines and Chinese alike were bogged into a mud-caked battle with the elements, one in which simply pulling one foot after another from the glue-like landscape is a triumph of will.

"Go out into your backyard and dig a deep hole. Then fill it with water and crouch in it for a week," said Charles Parkman, a veteran of the battle. "Have your neighbor douse you constantly with a stream of cold water from a garden hose. Limit your

meals to cold beans from a tin can. Do you need a head call? Do it in an empty ration can, then throw the can as far as you're able. Let your neighbor loose a shotgun blast at you any time you raise your head. That would be a small taste of what we had that summer."

Eventually, as July inched toward its final days, the rain finally ceased and the sun reappeared. With the sun came scorching heat and the suffocating, stomach-turning stench of hundreds of unburied, putrefying bodies of dead Chinese that carpeted the field all around the Berlin outposts. Then came the flies, big green blowflies in the millions, feeding upon the dead, crawling over the dead and the living alike, one of the ugliest of the many ugly realities of combat that never find their way into after action reports. Marines tried every tactic they could devise to keep the filth-encrusted flies from contaminating the food they ate. None succeeded.

Marines manning the MLR knew without being told that when the ground dried out, the Chinese would make their move. Some things are self-evident.

On Thursday, July 23, the North Korean delegates to the Panmunjom truce talks abruptly stalked away from the table, fuming and snarling in a fine display of temper. It was all a show, a show orchestrated by the Chinese to buy a bit of time. If all went according to plan and the Chinese succeeded in breaching the MLR, opening the road to Seoul, the communists could return to the negotiations in the driver's seat and dictate the terms of settlement.

That was the intent. What the communist action was accurately seen as on the Allied side of the table was a telltale indication that the main Chinese attack



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A wounded 3/1 Marine is looked after by a fellow Marine while being transported to an aid station.

on Boulder City would take place within days, if not hours. The Chinese, too clever by half, had unwittingly tipped their hand.

Even as Col Walter F. Layer's 1st Marines began relieving the Marines along the MLR, First Lieutenant Oral R. Swigart Jr. knew that his G/3/1 had drawn the short straw; they would be defending Boulder City, the one piece of ground the Chinese absolutely had to have if they were to realize their dream of a decisive breakthrough. In briefing his officers and noncommissioned officers, 1stLt Swigart was brutally frank in laying out what was expected of them.

In detailing the situation and the mission, Swigart pulled no punches. The position the company would be defending would almost certainly be the point of the main Chinese attack; it must be held at all costs. The lieutenant went on to say, "If worse comes to worse, and we cannot kill them fast enough, and if it appears that we will be overrun, a prearranged signal will call in all the firepower we have to blow up the hill. We will be right under it, but we will stand."

The Chinese wasted no time in validating Swigart's words. At 9 a.m. on July 24, only hours after G/3/1 had relieved its opposite numbers of G/3/7 on Boulder

City, enemy fire began pounding the Marine lines. Incoming 120 mm mortar rounds were soon joined by artillery bursts until both were impacting Boulder City at the rate of five or more rounds per minute. Before noon, wire communications between G/3/1 and the battalion command post (CP) were out, and the Chinese were actively jamming radio communications.

The position the company would be defending would almost certainly be the point of the main Chinese attack; it must be held at all costs.

"By midday we knew something big was going to happen soon," said Corporal Harvey Dethloff, a G/3/1 machine-gun squad leader, who was awarded the Silver Star. "PFC Timothy Gilmore, my gunner, decided he wanted some hot C-rations, so he made a dash for our other gun because he knew they had a stove. As he backed out of their bunker, a '76' round landed not more than a few feet behind him. We carried him out in a poncho."

The fire from Chinese supporting arms increased to a deafening roar, explosion

coming upon explosion, not only pounding defensive emplacements but tearing away at G/3/1's protective wire, opening a gap for an assault that was soon to follow. Knowing the Chinese willingness to trade lives for ground by throwing their infantry through their own artillery fires, LtCol Paul M. Jones, commanding 3/1, made it clear that despite the risk, the Marines on Boulder City must leave their protective shelters, even as the shells rained down, to take the attackers under direct fire. To do otherwise would be fatal.

True to form, late in the afternoon the Chinese threw a multi-battalion attack against Boulder City, taking casualties from their own fire, those killed falling atop those already killed, the "lucky" ones doggedly pressing forward. As darkness fell, the Chinese assault never let up. With G/3/1's protective wire now blown completely apart, the Chinese were clawing at the foremost Marine positions.

"We were firing our weapons as fast as we could. I remember one who came right up to us before I let him have it. I was afraid of hitting a Marine, so I kept yelling at him, asking if he was a Marine," said PFC Leland "Lee" Snell, G/3/1. "Suddenly, a flare went off and I saw that he had sneakers on; at that point, I let him have it."



Reinforcements from 3/1 arrive at the front lines during the Battle of Boulder City.



The Korean Armistice Agreement is signed by GEN Mark W. Clark, Commander, United Nations forces.

Leland Snell's experience was repeated countless times all along the line with Marines and Chinese locked in face-to-face bloodletting, even as the Chinese fire continued to rain down upon both. With all communications to the forward platoons knocked out, Swigart left the company CP in order to directly coordinate the defense. He was immediately knocked flat by a fragment from a mortar round that ripped a long gash in his forehead and knocked him senseless. Finally regaining consciousness, he waved off medical attention and continued to direct the defense, blood streaming down his face.

By the weight of a sheer mass of numbers, the Chinese attackers had reached the MLR. There, Marines and Chinese bludgeoned, battered, slashed and shot each other at such close range as to drench themselves with each other's blood. The MLR became a charnel house, the living locked in a deadly struggle among the dead and wounded.

"The trench line was blocked by the bodies of Lt John Leonhard and PFC Patrick Edmunds. They had been killed about 20 feet from me, and I never knew they were there," said Cpl Richard Champagne, a G/3/1 rifle squad leader. "We crawled over their bodies to an unoccupied bunker and knocked out a sandbag to have a field of fire down the trench line. There were Chinese all over the place."

The Marines of G/3/1 weren't giving an inch, but the mass of attackers being thrown at them was slowly pushing them back an inch at a time. Even in the darkness there was no lessening of the savage combat taking place on Boulder City. At 9:30 p.m., with the fight now raging about

the company CP, Swigart, still dripping blood from his wound despite the battle dressing wrapped about his head, called in artillery fire on the forward slopes of Boulder City in an effort to stop the human tide. It did, but only for a few minutes. The Chinese poured more and more men into the assault.

By midnight, G/3/1 had been reduced to 25 percent effective. With no one to evacuate them in the unending bitter struggle, the wounded did the best they could to aid one another. In the entire com-

By nightfall the entire Boulder City position was firmly under Marine control. The one position that had to be held was held.

pany there was not a single corpsman still on his feet. Sgt James Everson was one of the walking wounded who "seemed to be everywhere at once," doing his best to treat those less fortunate. For his actions that night he would receive the Silver Star.

The situation was desperate, but not hopeless. As the clock inched its way into July 25, Lt Swigart was alerted that Captain Louis J. Sartor's I/3/1, in reserve, was moving forward to help restore the situation. Although the Marines of G/3/1 were fiercely battling the Chinese attack, there were now far too few of them to stem the tide and throw the attackers from the foothold they had gained. They were a tough lot, though, those Marines of G/3/1. They took their grit and determination from their bloodied company commander, Oral Swigart, who would receive the Navy

Cross for his unswerving pursuit of duty at Boulder City.

It wasn't a one-sided affair. Even as the Chinese plastered Boulder City with mortar and artillery fire, all the guns of the 11th Marines treated the Chinese to a hellfire of their own. The guns of the Commonwealth Division threw their weight into the contest as well, pounding Chinese troop positions and throwing counterbattery fire at the Chinese gunners. Between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., July 24-25, Marine and British artillery loosed nearly 24,000 rounds of mixed high explosives on the Chinese.

Daylight and a clear sky brought more assistance in the form of Grumman F9F Panther jets from Marine Fighter Squadrons 115 and 311. Between 6 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., the two squadrons combined to batter Chinese positions with 32 tons of aerial ordnance.

Even the Chinese could not continue to withstand such punishment. The Chinese tidal wave began to give way and recede. Slowly, one bunker at a time, one bit of trench line after another, a determined tank-infantry counterattack cleared the forward slopes of all living Chinese. By nightfall the entire Boulder City position was firmly under Marine control. The one position that had to be held was held.

The Chinese attempt to win the Korean War by one decisive thrust had failed, broken on a solid rock of firepower by a relative handful of Marines who held off an entire CCF division thrown at them in waves. At 10 a.m., Monday, July 27, China's North Korean front men signed the cease-fire agreement that would end hostilities at 10 that night. The war that had lasted three years was over.

Author's note: From its beginning in the summer of 1950 to its end at Boulder City in the summer of 1953, more than 100,000 Marines served in Korea. Of those who served there, 4,262 died there. This attempt to tell one small part of that story is for them.

"I have eaten your bread and salt.

"I have drunk your water and wine.

"The deaths ye died I have watched beside,

"And the lives ye led were mine."

—Excerpt from "Prelude" by Rudyard Kipling

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



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Sea Stories

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

The Best Rank in the Corps

In 1998, I was stationed with Fourth Marine Division in New Orleans, La. At that time, the offices were on the east bank of the river and the hospital was on the west bank. When we had a dental appointment or were just seeing a doctor, we took a boat to and from.

On this particular day, I was in my “Charlies,” checking out as I finished my retirement physical. While I was waiting on the shuttle going across the Mississippi River, a Marine captain came to wait with me. The sky was getting very black, and I thought to myself, “Dummy, you should have brought your raincoat.” The shuttle finally came and we boarded. About halfway across, the rain came in a real downpour. The captain opened his briefcase and removed his coat, and said, “Gunny, you’re going to get soaked.”

I looked at him and very seriously said, “Sir, it wouldn’t dare rain on a gunny without his raincoat in uniform.” We came up to the dock and the rain stopped, and we walked the quarter-mile to the overhang. Once we were under it, it started raining again. The captain just looked at me.

“Wouldn’t you rather be a gunnery sergeant in the Marines instead of just a captain?” I said. With that, I went in the door and went back to my desk.

MSgt Peter Garber Jr., USMC (Ret)
Columbiaville, Mich.

Boot Camp Water Show

It was July 1958 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. It was standard practice after morning chow to “square

away” the barracks and get ready for whatever the drill instructors (DIs) had in store for us that day. Four of us were told to get our buckets and go outside to “police” the area—pick up paper, cigarette butts, etc. So, out we went.

After about 10 minutes, we decided there was nothing to pick up, so we went behind a building and turned over our buckets to take a break. Then one of the guys realized the platoon section leader was looking at us. The section leader was a boot just like us, but he was boot No. 1. In other words, he was the DI’s eyes and ears, if you know what I mean. We knew we were in trouble. He told us to get back to the barracks.

Yes, he told the DI what we were doing, and we

time—and, the four of us never got to police the outside area again.

PFC John Phillips
USMC, 1958-60
Little Egg Harbor, N.J.

The Grinning Deer

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, there were changes in rank and squad structure. One of these was the addition of the grenadier to the Marine rifle squad.

I had just returned from Third Marine Division and been ordered to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Of course, stateside is notorious for inspections, so there I was standing tall with my friend Steinlicht. (I don’t recall his first name, but we had served together before.)

Now, apparently, the knowledge of the new addition to the rifle squad

you in my office after the inspection,” the first sergeant said to Steinlicht.

Afterward, I asked Steinlicht what he had been laughing about. He said he thought the captain asked about the grinning deer.

“Grenadier, not grinning deer!” I told Steinlicht.

“Yes, I know that now. The first sergeant made it clear,” he said.

Sgt Darwinn B. “Dutch” Rutz
USMC, 1957-64
Greeley, Colo.

To Save the Drill Instructor

In 1987, I was a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. I was assigned to a practical application station for third-phase testing, the “grenades” station. I would show the recruits different types of grenades, and they would identify them. I would then drop a practice grenade on the ground, and the recruits would perform immediate action for the grenade, which was to yell, “GRENADE!” and drop on their stomachs with their feet toward the blast, legs together. Then, if the recruit completed the portion correctly, I would initial the “grenade” section, and they would go off to the next station.

We were just beginning, and I had a recruit from 2d Battalion come in. He did well on the identification portion. Then, when I dropped the grenade, he yelled, “GRENADE!” and dropped on it!

I was surprised by what the recruit just did, so I got him up and asked him if he knew what the immediate action for a grenade was. The recruit stated, “Yes.”

“What are you doing?” I then said.

“Saving the drill

The DI told us to sit on the deck with our backs to the wall in the hallway. Then he took a fire hose from the wall and slowly turned it on us.

were told to report to the DI’s quarters ASAP. When we got there, the DI told us to sit on the deck with our backs to the wall in the hallway. Then he took a fire hose from the wall and slowly turned it on us. After we were soaked, he increased the force, and before you knew it, we were slipping and sliding up and down the hallway. It must have been funny because DIs from the other platoons in our section came out to enjoy the “show.”

After the show was over, we had to get our buckets, mops and squeegees and get the area cleaned and dry before we could change into dry clothing. Needless to say, it was done in record

time, and he was not aware of the change. So there we were as the captain was coming down the line asking questions, with the first sergeant, knuckles dragging, right behind him. As the skipper approached Steinlicht, he asked a couple of questions about the rifle squad, ending with, “What about the grenadier?” At which point, Steinlicht stifled a laugh. The skipper asked what was funny. Of course, Steinlicht said, “Nothing.” At that point the first sergeant brought his knuckles up off the ground and started writing and saying some very unkind things.

“Sergeant, I want to see

instructor!” the recruit responded without hesitation.

I looked at him, grabbed his paperwork and passed him. As a matter of fact, I signed off on all the other stations. A little bit later, the 2d Bn sergeant major came in and asked if I was the one who signed off on all the practical application stations for the recruit. I stated I had and explained what the recruit had done. The sergeant major said, “We need that in the fleet,” and left.

I never did find out what became of that recruit.

GySgt Luis J. Alers, USMC (Ret)
Jacksonville, N.C.

A Real Marine

While working as a rifle instructor on the range at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 1955 to 1957, I came to know an old master sergeant who ran the pistol range. He already had more than 30 years in the Corps and was as crusty as they came. His last name was Duncavage. Sometimes on the weekends, he would come into the slop chute and regale us with stories about the “Banana Wars” where he had served with Lewis B. “Chester” Puller. He ran the pistol range with an iron hand, and whenever he gave a demonstration on how to shoot the .45, he would blast out the 10 ring every time.

One Monday, a new group of shooters came in, among whom was a bushy-tailed second lieutenant, probably fresh out of Quantico. When Duncavage walked by the lieutenant without saluting him (we “old hands” knew that on the ranges, you didn’t have to salute any officer below field grade, but this young lieutenant apparently didn’t know that), the lieutenant called MSgt Duncavage back and asked why he hadn’t saluted him. Duncavage snapped to attention and rendered the appropriate highball. The lieutenant began to

walk away triumphant, but Duncavage called after him: “Now go home and tell your mother you met a real Marine!”

You couldn’t make up a story like that.

SSgt Paul E. Gill
USMC, 1954-66
Shippensburg, Pa.

Give Me Liberty

In the summer of 1956, our incoming class of naval aviation cadets was in formation for the regular 0530 muster on the grinder in front of the indoctrination battalion barracks at the end of the second and final week of incoming training. The senior drill instructor, Staff Sergeant Sterling, was reinforcing one more time that the Friday personnel inspection scheduled for that afternoon was serious. Only a pass with flying colors would assure that we would get off the base on Sunday for our first liberty.

“Do you hear me?” SSgt Sterling said to us.

“Yes, sir,” we responded loud and clear as a group. Then a low voice, just barely loud enough for all to hear, stated, “Give me liberty or give me death.”

“Who said that?” SSgt Sterling immediately demanded.

“Patrick Henry, sir,” came the just-as-quick reply.

All remained tensely quiet until the DI asked again, with unquestionable directness, “I want to know who said that here, NOW, or there will be no liberty.”

After another hesitant pause, a hand in the rear rank raised.

“Was that you, Mr. Childs?” our DI asked the lean, lank classmate from

Macon, Ga. His Southern drawl came forth with, “No, sir, it was the man in front of me.”

That resulted in the culprit and Mr. Childs being called out of ranks for each to give the staff sergeant 20 push-ups before we marched off to morning chow at 0600. The personnel inspection went without a hitch at 1300

ago. I then inquired as to why he needed the money. He quickly stated that he needed the money to pay a bill in “Twentyeight Palms.” I countered with: “You mean Twentynine Palms?”

“No, Twentyeight Palms,” he repeated earnestly. “You know that furniture store at the edge of town with the four palm trees in front

**Then a low voice, just barely loud enough
for all to hear, stated, “Give me liberty or
give me death.”**

as we earned our first look at downtown Pensacola on Sunday afternoon.

LtCol C.G. “Jug” Gerard, USMC (Ret)
Williamsburg, Va.

“Twentyeight” Palms

It was late 1969 and the Vietnam War was raging. Marines were leaving Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms, Calif., every day in large numbers, heading to the war. As the Twentynine Palms admin chief, those leaving were lined up outside my office every morning for a final check before they departed. They were eager to leave and in a hurry, but rank had its privileges, and you had to wait in line accordingly.

I noticed a young Marine sergeant looking somewhat distraught, who did not come in when it was his turn. I called him in and asked if there was a problem. He sort of mumbled and finally asked if it were possible to be paid early.

I informed him that it was normally against regulation to pay early and that payday had just been a few days

all lit up? Last night I was speeding returning to base, accidentally ran up on the grass and knocked one of those trees in Twentynine Palms down. Now the owner of the store out there in Twentynine Palms wants me to pay for the tree.”

He was taken to the disbursing office with the proper paperwork.

MSgt Clinton C. Hall Jr., USMC (Ret)
Fairfax, Va.

Editor’s note: Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it’s a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches? We would love to hear your stories. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Sara W. Bock, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.bock@mca-marines.org. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA&F membership for the “Sea Story of the Month.” Spread the word!



SPECIAL EDITION

There’s something about Marines that makes people want to go out of their way to thank them for their service. For a special edition of “Sea Stories,” we want to hear stories of times when someone heard you were a Marine and helped you out of a sticky situation or gave you some sort of special privilege. You never know when your service in the Corps will come in handy down the road!

TASK UNIT RAIDER

Unit Proves the Value of Marine Corps Special Ops

Part I
By Dick Camp

Task Unit Raider, Marine Corps Special Operations Command Detachment One (MCSOCOM Det One) deployed to Iraq in April 2004 and established its headquarters at the Joint Special Operations Task Force compound near Baghdad International Airport. Major Wade M. Priddy, fires support element commander, explained, "The first flight got there on the 6th; I got there on the 7th, the next the 10th; and the final flight did not get there until the 18th because of aircraft mechanical problems and runway repair."

MCSOCOM Det One was a pilot program initiated to assess the value of assigning Marine Corps special operations forces to the U.S. Special Operations Command. The unit was activated in June 2003 and consisted of approximately 90 Marines and corpsmen organized into four sections: a reconnaissance element (30 men), an intelligence element (29 men), a fires element (seven men), and a headquarters element. It was employed in direct-action missions, pursuing high-value targets in Baghdad, coalition support and battlefield-shaping operations. The detachment also provided sniper support, fires coordination, command and

control and intelligence support to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit during the battle for An-Najaf.

Task Unit Raider named its portion of the compound Camp Myler in honor of Sergeant Christian W. Myler, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in 2003. The commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Craig S. Kozeniesky, recalled, "The Det established our base and operations center at the cabana annex of a hotel adjacent to the Radwanayah Palace." Master Sergeant Terry M. Wyrick grouched, "Of course, we had to field day the crap out of it." Gunnery Sergeant Chadwick D. Baker said the building was a hardened structure which was fortunate because "we got hit on a regular basis with rockets and mortars, so it kept us on edge. One round hit our command post and blew up the CO's truck."

LtCol Kozeniesky explained, "Our base was specifically targeted by insurgents firing rockets and mortars that were fairly accurate. A lot of the data they [insurgents] were being fed on us was from some of the civilian workers that came in during the day to conduct various odd jobs." Task Unit Raider ran a direct-action operation which rolled up two cell leaders. "From that point on, it pretty much cleaned up the indirect fire threat to the base for quite some time," Kozeniesky said.

Designated Task Unit Raider, the detachment was assigned to Naval Special Warfare Task Group-Arabian Peninsula (NSWTG-AP) under Commander William W. Wilson. "The first couple of weeks were spent establishing an operation center [and] our living facilities," Maj Priddy recalled. The detachment also had to adjust to the joint special operations environment. The 2d Battalion, 5th Special Forces (Forward Operating Base 52) was located adjacent to the detachment for four months of the deployment, after which it was replaced by 3d Bn (FOB 53), Naval Special Warfare Squadron One (later NSWTG-AP) and a unit from the Polish special operations force, known as the *Grupa Reagowania Operacyjno Mobilnego* (GROM).

LtCol John P. Piedmont wrote in "Det One, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Special Operations Command Detachment, 2003-2006": "The first order of business for Task Unit Raider was to get settled in its own compound, sort out the logistics situation, then leap into the targeting cycle and begin hitting targets."

Direct Action

According to Joint Publication 3-05, in the context of special operations, direct action consists of: "Short-duration strikes and other small-scale offensive actions conducted as a special operation in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive environments and which employ specialized military capabilities to seize, destroy, capture, exploit, recover or damage designated targets. Direct action differs from conventional offensive actions in the level of physical and political risk, operational techniques, and the degree of discriminate and precise use of force to achieve specific objectives."

Maj Priddy said, "We ended up doing 23 direct-action assaults. The first mission was actually one that was kind of anticlimactic. The target was an individual who was believed to be leaking information about Iraqis working for the United States to the anticoalition force so that



GYSgt RYAN KEELER, USMC

GySgt Ryan P. Keeler, left, and HM1 Michael D. Tyrell at Det One's headquarters at Camp Myler, Baghdad, Iraq. The camp was named after Sgt Christian W. Myler, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in 2003.



GYSGT RYAN KEELER, USMC

Above: Det One “suited up” for Objective Racket, one of their many direct-action missions in Baghdad.

Left: Maj Wade M. Priddy, fires officer and operations officer for Det One during their deployment to Iraq in April 2004, was one of the first members of the unit to arrive at the Joint Special Operations Task Force Compound near Baghdad International Airport.



LT COL JOHN PIEDMONT, USMC

they could go after them.” MSgt Keith E. Oakes said, “We ended up cutting loose Gunnery Sergeant [John A.] Dailey and Gunnery Sergeant [Jack A.] Kelly to do a snatch mission on a female.” GySgt Dailey recounted that “15 or 16 of our interpreters had been executed, so obviously there was a leak somewhere.” FBI agents in Baghdad had a source that identified the insurgent sympathizer as a female Iraqi who worked for a U.S. contractor. The staff analyzed the mission and devised a plan of action. “We had good intelligence on her, so we went into detailed planning,” MSgt Oakes said.

Objective Rachel

GySgt Dailey was chosen to lead a four-member team, including a member of the counterintelligence team, a Navy SEAL and a female from the *GROM*, who was “one of the best snipers they had, an incredible talent,” Dailey said. The team thought that the sympathizer worked in a certain location in the green zone and that it could go in and grab her. “So here we go, a couple of SUVs just cruising down through Baghdad in civvies,” Dailey said. “Not your everyday sort of mission.”

The team found that the sympathizer recently had quit her job as an interpreter for a U.S. Army lawyer, but fortunately had not picked up her last paycheck. “We convinced the lawyer to call her up to pick it up. She agreed and said she would be there in 20 minutes.” Dailey positioned two team members inside the door of the office, while he and the SEAL remained outside to handle whomever she might have with her. “Eventually she rolled in, and they took care of her,” he said. “The male that had driven her, we just grabbed and flex-cuffed him, tossed him in the

SUV and headed back to the base.” The encounter was over in an instant, and not a shot was fired. “That was really our first little mission to get things going,” Oakes said.

The two detainees were interrogated, and it was determined that they were not insurgents and that the woman had inadvertently given the anti-coalition force information through ill-considered chatter. Her driver was another matter. While he was not an insurgent, “he actually knew quite a bit and was happy to talk with us,” Dailey recalled. “He gave us information that led to our first true direct-action mission.”

Objective Racket

LtCol Piedmont wrote, “Rachel’s escort provided details about a man who ... was involved in the ‘translator’ murders as well as in the construction of rocket launchers ... and in the car-bomb trade.” The staff and assault force devised a plan to capture or kill the insurgent. At 1 a.m. on May 4, a blacked-out vehicle convoy left the compound at a high rate of speed. The

drivers were using night vision goggles and global-positioning-system technology and imagery to navigate.

"The amount of firepower we had with us and the air cover, it was almost embarrassing," Oakes said. "We had an A-6 [Northrop Grumman EA-6B Prowler] throwing ECM [electronic countermeasures] as we drove, Spectre [Lockheed AC-130 gunships] shadowing us, and we had SH-60s [Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk Navy helicopter gunships] right over top of us checking the road out in front of us. We were just a traveling fight ready to happen."

MSgt Charles H. Padilla was in breach team one. "We got to the breach point and started climbing over the wall when somebody came to the first-floor window. Our EOD [explosive ordnance disposal] guy grabbed him through the steel grate on the window and held on as [GySgt] Baker set the charge on the door." The explosives blew the wooden door, and the assaulters flooded the small house, clearing it in "like 10 seconds," Padilla said. Breach team two came in the back and found a little steel door. "It looked funny, so they breached it and found another door that led upstairs," he explained. "The guy we were looking for was on his knees, hands behind his head, just waiting for us."

Padilla described what he felt during the assault. "When you get off the vehicle, you know exactly where you're going. ... Everything is moving. Sometimes you think you're making a lot of noise, but you're not. ... You start off nice and easy, like you've been rehearsing. At the breach point, you slow down a little bit—then once the breach goes, the fastest man in the house wins."

MSgt Oakes emphasized, "Speed was everything. ... That's how we avoided a lot of fights. We rode the shockwave of the breach charge so fast that you'd be on them in their bed before they even got their senses. Once we get in the house, we're going to win the fight."

The house was searched for intelligence information, and by 0321, the raid force was back at Camp Myler. The Det One daily report on May 6 noted, "Successful execution of Racket was the fruition of many months of hard work by every member of the detachment. More pointedly, it was the culmination of the intelligence cycle started with Objective Rachel, which produced the actionable intelligence for this follow-on operation."

Objective Ricochet

On May 26, a raid was conducted on a former Iraqi secret service officer believed to be involved in a ring of former regime officials. MSgt Wyrick led the primary

breach team on the six-room, two-story house. He set the scene: "This guy is a pretty bad character and expected to be armed. It's pitch-black. My guys move up. The breacher [Staff Sergeant Andrew T. Kingdon] places the charge on the door and moves back. It's game on."

"Breaching, breaching, breaching," he yelled over the radio and detonated the charge. It explodes, but the heavy door is still intact. "Our guy [SSgt Kingdon] is lying on the ground screaming!" Wyrick exclaimed. "I don't know what happened to him." The clock is ticking. "Everybody in the house is awake," SSgt Glen S. Cederholm said. "I looked back at the door, and I see the charge was still on. I called for the mechanical breach." The team attacked the door with sledgehammers and a wrecking tool. "They realized it's a tough door, and I called for another explosive breach," Wyrick explained. "The explosion blew the door off the wall."

The assault team flooded inside. "It was hard to see what was going on because of the smoke from the charge," SSgt Cederholm said. Wyrick cautiously moved down a hallway. "I've got my gun up, and I've got the light [bright white light attached to his M4 rifle] in the room to assess it and to take shots on anything that I see." He didn't see the armed target concealed in the shadows. Cederholm was two or three men back in the stack when "we

heard shooting, not like an AK, but a smaller caliber. One of the assaulters shouted, 'He's shooting through the door!' " The target fired three times. "Two [rounds] went into a curio cabinet, and a third one skipped off the deck and hit our corpsman [Hospital Corpsman First Class (HM1) Michael D. Tyrell] in the ankle," Wyrick said. "I threw a flash-bang into the room and entered the space."

"The individual was standing in the corner of the room with a pistol," Cederholm said. "I shot him until he fell down."

Wyrick explained, "We cleared the rest of the building ... and from that point on it was a standard hit ... except that we had two wounded and a downed 'tango' [target]." Despite being wounded, HM1 Tyrell continued to assist in clearing the house. Cederholm recounted, "Tyrell came up to me, saying, 'Dude, the tango shot me in the leg!' " Oakes said that it was a ricochet that hit him. "The bullet rested right up against the bone, making a slight dimple. It didn't cut his tendon, but caused him to hobble around for a month."

Of the two, SSgt Kingdon was the more seriously wounded. "He ended up just about blowing his right arm off," Oakes said. "Somehow, in putting the charge on the door, he ended up hooking his weapon on a piece of the [explosive] charge and dragging it back with him to the [assault] stack. When he blew the charge, he ended up basically blowing himself up." The



Det One members rehearse for a direct-action mission using one of their specially designed special operations mobility vehicles. (Photo by Capt Daniel Sheehan, USMC)

The commanding officer of Det One, LtCol Craig S. Kozeniesky, is shown outside the detachment's headquarters in October 2004. Kozeniesky currently is serving as the deputy commander for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

blast laid his arm open, damaging the bone and knocking down the two men close to him.

LtCol Piedmont later interviewed SSgt Kingdon at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on March 24, 2005. When the blast happened, Kingdon thought he had blown off his arm. Two things immediately worried him. Displaying admirable cool-headedness and a keen sense of priorities, he assessed his own condition. "I had 'Doc' [HM1 Robert T.] Bryan check to see that my 'privates' were OK"—they were—"and then I took my own pulse just to make sure I had one." The wry humor belied what were very serious, life-threatening injuries: "a nearly severed arm, a broken artery, a four-inch chest compromise, and burns to the chest and groin area." At the time of interview, Kingdon had been promoted to gunnery sergeant, was back on full duty with Det One, and his arm was working at "98 percent."

HM1 Bryan immediately started treating the wounded man. "He put a tourniquet on his arm and stayed with him during the evacuation," Oakes explained. GySgt Ryan P. Keeler was notified there were casualties. "I was down at a road intersection, and I didn't know the extent of the injuries. So I contacted the aircraft and tried to fit him in the primary zone." By that time Oakes had loaded the casualties on vehicles. "We moved to our HLZ [helicopter landing zone], and it just so happened that the first one we went to had wires running from building to building, so it couldn't be used, and the helos waved off." Keeler told the pilot to stand by while they tried to find another LZ. "The whole time we were driving through the streets," he said.

Keeler found a site next to a small village, and the helicopter landed. "We got up to the rear of the helicopter and loaded SSgt Kingdon," he said. "At this time the helicopter had been in the zone for four to five minutes, and I was very concerned about it taking an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade]." Fortunately, the aircraft lifted out of the zone without incident, and the team safely returned to base.

Faulty Communications

LtCol Kozeniesky noted, "During this raid, we had terrible problems with communication. Up to this point in the deployment, we had not been able to solve the problem created by the installation of steel plating on our HMMWVs [humvees]



LT COL JOHN PIEDMONT, USMC

that we pulled from DRMO [Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office] in Barstow, Calif.

"Our original intended mode of mobility was the Mercedes Benz 'G Wagons,' the Marine Corps called IFAVs [Improved Fast Attack Vehicles]. While a good vehicle, it did not meet the requirements as 'gun trucks,' and the mobile ground assault force [GAF] standard for SOF [special operations forces] at that time was the 'GMV' ground mobility vehicle. These have integrated communication systems, counter-IED countermeasures and purpose-built weapons mounts and armor plating. The 'Beverly Hillbilly' gun trucks that our Marines put together were adequate, but incoming communications from SATCOM, VHF, HF was not satisfactory.

"So, during this raid, while the gunfight was going, Andy Kingdon's treatment continued, and detainees were processed, along with one EKIA [enemy killed in action] being bagged, we had some heroics being done by Sergeant Erik E. Houseman to get comm back to Commander Wilson's JOC [Joint Operations Center]. I also used an Iridium SAT phone as a final backup for reporting, which was the normal

routine until we got the SEALs' GMVs after they took the PSD [personal security detachment] mission in June."

According to LtCol Piedmont, "Objective Ricochet was the only direct-action operation in which a Det One Marine was wounded, and, moreover, the only raid in which any shots were fired during the actual assault."

The detachment received an order to stop temporarily all direct-action raids shortly after Ricochet.

Author's notes: That part of the story and the subsequent continuation of the raids will be covered in Part II in the April issue of Leatherneck.

All Task Unit Raider missions had code names beginning with the letter "R."

Author's bio: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of the Marine Corps History Division and a prolific author. His latest e-book, "The Killing Ground: A Novel of Marines in the Vietnam War," is available online at Amazon.com. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.



SHARING THE ADVENTURE

Retired Marine and Salvage Diver Strikes Gold After the Corps

Story by Sara W. Bock
Photos courtesy of
Maj Michael E. Brown, USMC (Ret)

While diving in the dark waters off Florida's east coast, fighting low visibility while painstakingly searching each nook and cranny of the wreckage of a long-lost Spanish fleet, Major Michael E. "Mike" Brown, USMC (Ret) watched a thin beam of sunlight spiral through the water and illuminate a little pile of sand. He cautiously fanned the area with his hand, then took his scuba regulator out of his mouth, enabling him to exhale a breath of air that cleared the sand away—and in one spectacular instant, the phantom sunbeam illuminated a treasure cross on a gold coin.

He calls it his "Indiana Jones" moment. "It was the most beautiful gold coin I'd ever seen, and I just froze and just looked at it. I couldn't believe what I was looking at," Brown said of his find, which took place on July 31, 2010.

It was the second Spanish gold escudo coin Brown brought to the surface of the Atlantic that day: both turned out to be extraordinarily rare and valuable.

What's even more astonishing? Brown's discoveries came on the 295th anniversary, to the day, of the 1715 hurricane that destroyed 11 Spanish galleons (out of a fleet of 12), each laden with treasure from the New World. The gold and silver on board, worth a staggering amount even by today's standards, were intended to bail out the Spanish monarchy, which was quickly going bankrupt after the decade-long War of the Spanish Succession. The galleons had departed Havana Harbor, Cuba, and were en route to Spain when they met their demise just off the Florida coast.

Brown had been diving every day for the week prior, logging a staggering 30 or more dives daily, and hadn't uncovered



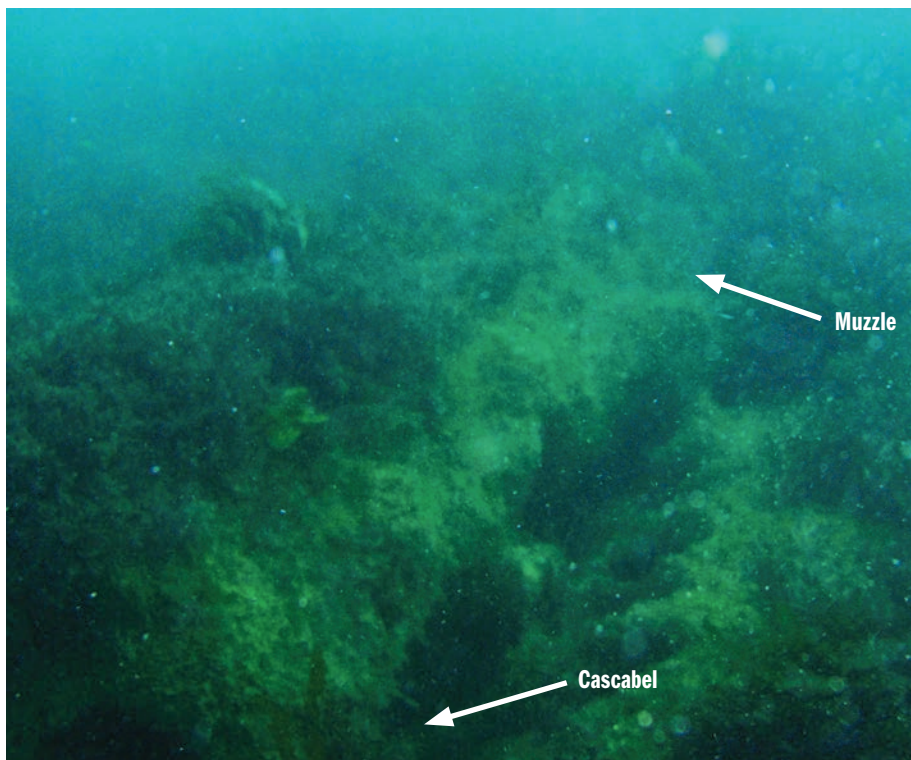
Salvage diver Mike Brown surfaces from the wreckage of the 1715 fleet and holds up his third gold coin find for the Gold Hound, L.L.C. crew to see, June 18, 2011.



Brown's "Indiana Jones" moment was the discovery of this extremely rare 1698 Cuzco Mint doubloon on July 31, 2010.

In between dives, Mike Brown rests on the side of a boat in the waters off Florida's east coast. In his hand is the Aquapulse underwater metal detector, which includes both a detector loop and a cylindrical unit he wears on his hip.





On the floor of the Atlantic, Brown found this encrusted iron cannon on July 1, 2009. According to him, it is possibly a “12-pounder” and would have been one of the ship’s main guns. Labeled are the cascabel, a knob on the breech end of the cannon, and on the opposite side, the muzzle.

his active-duty years.

“The experiences I had diving in the Marine Corps were definitely the foundation, because I got to experience a lot of different conditions and climates and work with a lot of different people,” said Brown.

Brown, a Florida native and avid historian, always had an interest in diving, and the Corps gave him his first opportunity, he said. The son of a Marine, he enlisted at age 17 in 1981. Although he and his family lived in Seattle, Wash., at the time, he had the opportunity to attend boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., as a member of the same company and battalion his father had trained in 20 years prior.

After selecting the military occupational specialty 2111, small arms repairman, and receiving the accompanying training at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, Brown was sent to Third Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan, where, after a few months, he ended up attached to 3d Reconnaissance Battalion. It was with 3d Recon that he began scuba training, while concurrently earning a commercial dive certification through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors.

“In my first year in Okinawa, I probably logged somewhere between 300 and 400 dives,” said Brown. “So that really laid the foundation for my diving.”

anything more than typical, low-value finds like musket balls, olive jar sherds and encrusted objects (or “EOs”) from the wreckage. In fact, he had spent numerous weeks of his spare time during the previous two years diving amidst the wreckage of the 1715 fleet, working with a licensed subcontractor, and not finding much to speak of.

But it all changed in an instant.

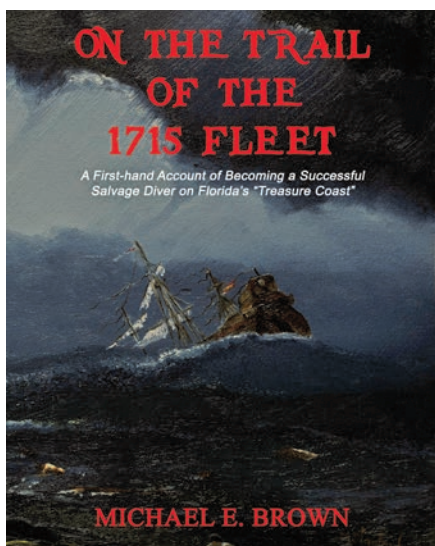
Many years of dive training, networking and historical research led up to that Indiana Jones moment, and for Brown, things took off from there. With the upcoming spring

release of his book, “On the Trail of the 1715 Fleet: A Firsthand Account of Becoming a Successful Salvage Diver on Florida’s ‘Treasure Coast,’” available on Amazon.com; regular speaking engagements; and a 2015 induction into the 1715 Fleet Society Honor Roll, life after retirement from the Corps has been rewarding for Brown, to say the least.

A record-holding treasure salvage diver with remarkable finds including numerous rare Spanish gold coins and significant artifacts, he gives a lot of credit for his successes to the skills he learned during

Below left: Brown has recorded his experiences in a book, “On the Trail of the 1715 Fleet: A First-hand Account of Becoming a Successful Salvage Diver on Florida’s ‘Treasure Coast,’” available this spring on Amazon.com. The cover artwork depicts a galleon from the 1715 fleet succumbing to the rough waters off the Florida coast.

Below right: Then-LCpl Mike Brown is pictured here at Dingalan Bay, Philippines, where he served with 3d Recon Bn in 1983.





Ten silver eight reale coins, also known as “pieces of eight,” are pictured here after cleaning and restoration. These were the principal “treasure” of the fleet, according to Brown.



Brown's collection from the wreckage of the 1715 fleet includes this fully conserved hand grenade with the original wood fuse plug still intact.



Brown recovered this silver buckle—which originally was part of either a shoe or a boot—on July 2, 2012. It has been restored and is fully functional today.

His career in the Corps took him to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and then to Hawaii. At both duty stations, he was given the opportunity to continue his dive training. He progressed from advanced open water diver to rescue diver in California, and in Hawaii, he logged thousands of dives, becoming a dive master and an assistant instructor. As part of the Unit Deployment Program, he had the opportunity to return to Japan twice, where he logged more dives off Okinawa and the Philippines. While serving with Marine Wing Support Squadron 173 in Hawaii, he was recommended for the warrant officer program by then-Lieutenant Colonel James F. Amos, who later became the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

He completed The Basic School at MCB Quantico, Va., was designated an ordnance officer, and from there reported to 3d Tank Bn at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. While stationed in the desert, Brown made as many trips as he could to the coast to dive.

He completed a combat deployment to

the Persian Gulf with 3d Tanks during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and while assigned to 2dMarDiv, he was selected for limited duty officer. He subsequently was promoted to captain and served as the Division ordnance officer, before receiving orders to Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., where he remained for several years before retiring as a major after working in Infantry Weapons Systems, Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM). No matter where he was stationed or what his Marine Corps “day job” entailed, he always made it a priority to dive whenever and wherever he could.

At some point, between 3,000 and 4,000 dives, Brown said he stopped “logging” them.

After his retirement in 2002, Brown took about eight months off and then returned to MCLB Albany as a contractor. Two years later, he was selected for a government position in the same office and today supervises five product management teams in Infantry Weapons Systems, MARCORSYSCOM.

Those eight months between his retirement and the start of his second career allowed him to entertain the idea of salvage diving, he said. His childhood interest in the history of Florida was renewed as he began reading magazines and articles about treasure hunting off the coast of his home state. He took a few trips from Georgia to Florida, where he scoured the beaches with a metal detector. After a few years, he began to attend salvage diving seminars and conferences, and through those opportunities, he began to network and make connections with noted treasure divers.

Before he knew it, it was 2008, and he was out on a boat with the salvage company Gold Hound, L.L.C. He was invited by the company's owner, Captain Greg Bounds, whom he had connected with during a seminar in West Palm Beach, Fla. That opportunity was the breakthrough Brown had been looking for.

“It's a very tight-knit group, and unless you get to really know somebody, it's pretty much a closed door,” Brown said of Florida's salvage diving community.



From the left, SSgt Anthony F. Retterer; Mrs. Virginia Puller, widow of LtGen Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, USMC (Ret); and then-CWO Mike Brown came together for a reenlistment ceremony at the Puller home in Saluda, Va., in 1993. Brown had the opportunity to reenlist Retterer, a friend from his enlisted days.

Over the next two years, Brown frequently traveled to Florida to join the Gold Hound divers as they combed the wreckage of the 1715 fleet. He didn’t personally unearth any significant finds during those first couple of years, but on July 31, 2010, his luck turned around. The two coins he found that day “broke the ice,” he said. He’s had many successful salvage dives since.

That morning, a fellow 1715 fleet historian called him and told him, “You’re going to find something today.”

“I’ve been down here for a week, and this is making three years now, and I haven’t really found much,” Brown recalls saying in response.

“No, Mike, just think—what’s today?” his friend said.

It dawned on Brown that it was the anniversary of the shipwrecks. Little did he know at the time: his friend was right. Once he and the Gold Hound arrived at the wreck site, he knew that everyone was really pulling for him to find something.

He remembers plunging into the uncomfortably cold water and feeling somewhat

discouraged. Visibility was low, and on his first dive of the day, he came up with nothing of value.

According to Brown, the process for modern-day salvage diving is a methodical operation involving the use of a virtual grid. In earlier days, an actual PVC-pipe grid would be used to assist divers in making sure each area of the wreck was searched and finds properly cataloged.

The crew slipped the boat over to the next section of the grid, and Brown went down into yet another hole blown into the bedrock. (The holes are created by “blowers,” which are 90-degree tubular elbows lowered over the salvage vessel’s props to divert the prop blast straight down. This blows the sand off of the limestone or coral bedrock so that the divers can get down to what’s actually on the bottom of the ocean, he explained.)

“The hole looks a lot like a bomb crater when you’re in sand because it’s blown straight down ... you work the entire diameter of the hole, the bottom to the top, with a metal detector,” he said.

Armed with a metal detector known

as an Aquapulse, made specifically for underwater diving, Brown went down into the second hole of the day, still feeling deflated, as he was scheduled to return to Georgia the next day. Searching around in the darkness, he got a loud “hit” on his metal detector. Using the loop attached to the Aquapulse, he began to try to pinpoint whatever it was. He kept feeling the area with his hand, fanned away the sand and felt a depression develop. He stuck his finger in it, made a scooping motion, and in an instant, something flipped out of the little hole right into the palm of his hand, he recalls.

“I knew exactly what it was. I knew it from the weight and the feel,” Brown said, adding that some salvage divers will search for 30 or 40 years, find a lot of silver and artifacts but never a gold coin. It’s a rare moment and one that he will never forget.

Still unable to see his hand in front of his face, Brown surfaced as quickly as he possibly could. So quickly, in fact, that he hit his head on the bottom of the boat. Even that couldn’t dampen his enthusiasm, he said with a laugh.

“I shot my hand out of the water and reached up and just yelled, ‘Gold!’ ” he recalls. He was greeted with resounding cheers from the crew.

The second coin he found that day turned out to be particularly rare. It was minted at the Cuzco, Peru, colonial mint in 1698—a mint that only operated for four months, producing a very small number of 1 escudo and 2 escudos gold coins. Those coins had been shipwrecked once before, en route to Ecuador, after which the Spaniards used Inca Indians as divers and recovered what they could, Brown said. After some of the coins were salvaged, they were carried by burros across South America to Panama and in 1715 were loaded onto the galleons of the 1715 fleet, only to end up on the ocean floor yet again.

Coin experts, known professionally as numismatists, have deemed the coin Brown found in 2010 to be the best known example 1698 Cuzco Mint escudo coins with characteristics that match no others known today.

“It has turned out to be, arguably, a world record,” Brown said humbly.

He has been told that given the ratio of days he’s spent diving to what he’s found, he was considered the No. 1 treasure finder in Florida’s modern history.

The first coin he found was minted in Bogota, Colombia, during the 1690s, and he since has salvaged a 2 escudos coin from the Mexico City Mint dated 1714.

Aside from coinage, Brown really enjoys bringing items from daily life to the sur-



The front and back of three gold doubloons (the 2 escudos coins recovered by Brown) are shown here. On the left is the first gold coin he recovered, a 1690s Santa Fe de Bogota Mint; in the center is his third gold coin, a 1714 Mexico City Mint; and on the right, the second doubloon he brought to the surface—the rare 1698 Cuzco Mint.



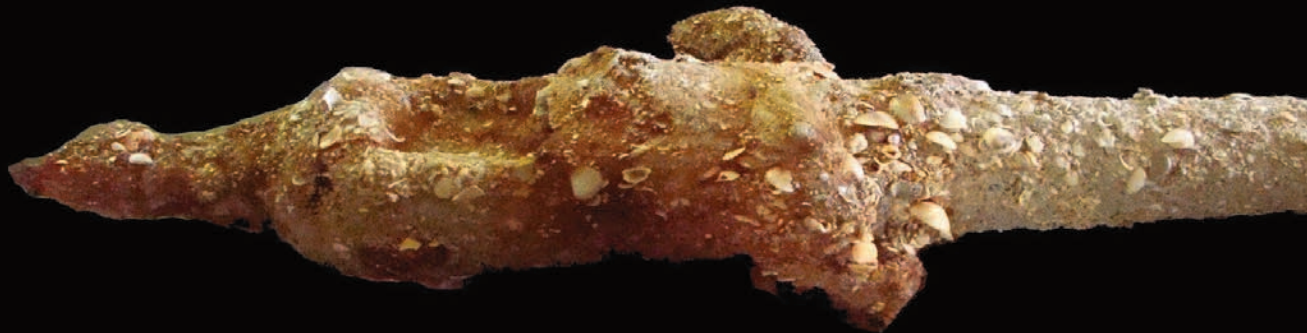
These before-and-after photos show the restoration of a ship's crowbar, which was found on July 6, 2012. Conservators work diligently to restore the items that are recovered from the 1715 fleet.



On the left, the silver rapier pommel, grip and guard assembly is pictured in the condition in which Brown recovered it on June 18, 2011. On the right, Brown holds it after full restoration.



Brown found this silver thimble with a uniquely carved flower design on July 6, 2012. Personal items like this thimble, Brown said, tell the story of what life was like for those on board the ships of the 1715 fleet.



Above: The bronze swivel gun found by the Gold Hound crew on July 11, 2010, is pictured here prior to restoration.

Below: During restoration, a conservator found approximately 66 gold and silver coins hidden in the breach area of the swivel gun, pictured here after being fully restored.



face. Some of his favorite finds are a silver rapier (minus blade), a small silver sewing thimble with flowers carved into it; an alabaster inkwell, which is the only one like it known to exist; and a silver spoon that would have been housed on the officers' deck.

And while it might seem that Brown has been forming quite the personal collection, it's not exactly that simple. Because the shipwrecks are in state waters, Florida legally owns them. The state has a lease agreement with a company called 1715 Fleet-Queen's Jewels, L.L.C., the "lease owner," which has the rights to excavate and salvage the wrecks. In turn, Fleet-Queen's Jewels subcontracts to salvors

like Gold Hound, the company Brown was diving with when he made those first big finds.

Each item found is plotted using coordinates, recorded in detail on a log sheet, tagged and identified with a tracking number. A conservator works to preserve and restore the artifacts, and everything is maintained at the lab there until the end of the calendar year.

At a coordinated date, the state's archeologists visit, and all the finds are inventoried, validated and assigned point values, rather than dollar values. Per the contract, the state of Florida is entitled to up to 20 percent of the total point value, Brown said. The state will select certain things

to have in its collection in Tallahassee, and then the lease owner divides up the remaining 80 percent among his subcontractors and investors. This process is called a "division," and salvage divers like Brown never know what they will end up with out of the items they found.

"When you're working doing this, you are actually paid with a percentage of the treasure that you find, if you find anything," Brown said. "There are many times that, you know, finding the musket balls and olive jar sherds—it's not enough to make ends meet. So you can have some really tough years, really 'in the red,' and then you have one good day in the black, and it makes up for everything."



A dozen musket balls and one pistol ball, pictured here, were found in the same hole on July 30, 2010. According to Brown, musket balls like these are some of the most common artifacts recovered from the shipwrecks.



Much to Brown's surprise, at the end of 2010, the lease owner and the subcontractor told him he could keep both the Cuzco coin and the Bogota coin in the division.

Some of his finds are part of the state of Florida's collection, and to Brown, that knowledge brings with it an extremely rewarding feeling. Sharing the history of what life was like back in those days, he said, is the biggest thrill of all.

The items he and other salvage divers have found, he says, tell a story. In his book, he calls it "sharing the adventure," and the idea of having the artifacts he salvaged appear in museums and exhibits is, he says, the ultimate accomplishment

Then-CWO Mike Brown with 3d Tank Bn, Task Force Ripper, stands next to a destroyed Iraqi tank on "G-Day," Feb. 24, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm.



for him and the other divers with whom he works. While he was ecstatic to keep the gold coins, and some of the other artifacts he's found since then, to him, that's really not what it's all about.

The stories and historical discoveries that come to surface with these finds are remarkable, which is what he enjoys most about this "hobby." According to Brown, Gold Hound divers found a bronze swivel gun in July 2010, the same month before he found his first two gold coins. Underneath it, they found 22 gold coins. Later, when a conservator, who also happened to be a former Marine staff sergeant, was working on the restoration of the cannon, he found approximately 66 more gold and silver coins hidden in the breach area.

That discovery validated rumors of coins being hidden in cannons at the time in order to avoid paying taxes on them. Smuggling was common at the time, Brown said, and there were a variety of clever ways people would evade taxation, such as making personal care items out of their gold or replacing bronze or iron spikes in the ship's hull with disguised gold ones.

In 2011, Brown found a silver rapier sword grip, pommel and guard assembly. The entire assembly was intact, although the iron blade had long disintegrated in the ocean water, and it was in what he described as perfect condition. It would have belonged to nobility, he said, and actually showed some signs of battle damage. A stud in the guard concretion revealed that the sword was on the owner's belt when the ship went down.

For Brown, it's all about discoveries

and stories like these.

"People ask, 'Why do you do this, if you don't get to keep much and you get beat up and a lot of times you are actually in the red?' " Brown said. "Really, the neatest thing is to be able to recover something that has been lost, and would be lost permanently if we didn't do this. And sharing it—after all, it all belongs to the people," he added.

Aside from writing a book about his experiences, he has penned several magazine articles and regularly gives lectures at numismatics conventions and coin shows and speaks to a variety of other groups, like fraternities and schools. It really has turned out to be a lucrative hobby for Brown, in more ways than one.

Despite his successes, he is quick to credit the Marine Corps for providing him with his first opportunities to dive.

He compares a day of salvage diving to a day at boot camp. At the end of the day, he said, all you want to do is eat, get a shower and go to sleep. It's definitely not glamorous, and there are explicit dangers involved. He had one of his fins yanked off violently by a bull shark—luckily that's all the shark took from him that day—but it's all worth it to him.

Research and networking are what made his dreams of salvage diving a reality. He says a simple lesson he learned from his Marine father, and again in boot camp, gave him the mentality required to get him where he is today: "You can do anything you want to do, you just have to figure out how you're going to do it," Brown said.



Leatherneck Laffs



"There goes the resale value on that place."



"Me? I started out writing attack ads,
and one thing led to another."





"He's right behind me, isn't he?"



"... And your nose is so special it has to be underlined?"



"Fred! Look this way!"

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

New Corporals Course Facility Dedicated at Camp Lejeune

■ Marines and guests gathered at Second Marine Logistics Group's newly renovated Corporals Course building for a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 6.

Brigadier General Charles G. Chiarotti, Commanding General, 2d MLG, spoke to the audience on the importance of investing in the education and training of the Corps' noncommissioned officers, who often are referred to as the "backbone of the Marine Corps."

BGen Chiarotti credited 2d MLG Sergeant Major Darryl A. Cherry for building on his predecessor's work and bringing the leadership's vision to life.

"This is our investment in the future of our 'backbone,'" BGen Chiarotti said in reference to the better training facilities for the resident Corporals Course. "That's what separates us—that's what makes us different. We're all great Americans; we all want the end result of winning battles for our nation and doing great things. But when it comes time to do the really hard

jobs, when it comes time to make those decisions, our young NCOs do that. I believe the investment we make in them and our future sets us up for that."

The buildings were slated for demolition, but instead were restored and renovated by Marines from 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2d MLG.

The course is open to all units across II Marine Expeditionary Force, and at the time of the ceremony, one class of corporals already had graduated from the course.

"We have to empower our young men and women who wear the rank with all the same tools that our commanders have," BGen Chiarotti said. "We have to give them those tools, [and] we have to expand their vision, because I know that they're capable of absorbing it and making the right decisions."

The Corporals Course, part of the Enlisted Professional Military Education branch of Marine Corps University, is designed to equip its graduates to serve as ethical leaders, professional warfighters and sound decision makers.

Cpl Fatmeh Saad, USMC

"War Dogs" Celebrate 75 Years

■ "Ready for anything, counting on nothing."

Unwavering from their motto, the "War Dogs" of 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment commemorated their renowned legacy during the battalion's 75th anniversary celebration at Lance Corporal Torrey L. Gray Field, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 8.

The battalion held a battle color rededication ceremony during which the unit's awards were cited. Streamers representing each award were attached to the battalion guidon.

"What we are doing today is paying our respects to the men who gave us the legacy that we have now," said Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Steele, 2/7 battalion commander. "In 75 years, not once has this battalion failed to seize the terrain it was tasked with seizing—not once has it given an inch when it was tasked to defend."

Former members of 2/7 filled the seats, and for many in attendance, it brought back memories of what it was like to serve with the battalion.

"It makes me feel proud to come back and see 2/7 again," said Master Gunnery Sergeant Brian Riddle, USMC (Ret). "There were a lot of units that I served with in my 30 years before I retired, but this was one of my favorite units, and there is a legacy that I really enjoyed being a part of."

Once the last streamer was secured to the guidon, LtCol Steele delivered a speech about the significance of the ceremony and the unit's history, directing his final comments at the former battalion members in attendance.

"While I may not know each one of you by name, I feel I do, because I know these Marines," Steele said. "If you think back to your last days with 2/7, the last thing you did was train a private or private first class and taught him what you knew. You taught him things like brotherhood, tactical knowledge and an absolutely unstoppable will to succeed regardless of circumstance. While I might not know you, I can tell you are still here in your legacy."



CAPT Bill Muhm, USN, foreground right, the chaplain for 2d MLG, salutes as the colors are presented during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly renovated 2d MLG Corporals Course building at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 6. Leathernecks from various MLG units gathered for the unveiling of the new training center, which is now open for use.

CPL MIRANDA FAUGHN, USMC



LCPL LEVI SCHULTZ, USMC

Above left: Former 2/7 “War Dogs” test their skills in the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer during the battalion’s 75th anniversary celebration at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 8.



LCPL LEVI SCHULTZ, USMC

Above right: SSgt Charles Sandoval, left, a career planner with 2/7, and Tom Cobb, a veteran of 2/7, had the opportunity to discuss their experiences during the unit’s anniversary gathering.

The Marines, sailors and former 2/7 “War Dogs” broke bread together at Building 1707 after the ceremony. The unit set up various static displays of vehicles, including high mobility, multipurpose, wheeled vehicles and amphibious assault vehicles.

Meanwhile, Marines performed Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) demonstrations and offered the opportunity for guests to practice their aim at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer.

“I think everything stems [from] our history,” said Sergeant Major Gabriel E. Macias, the battalion sergeant major of 2/7. “Our legacy has a big bearing on the Marines. It’s very deep in their hearts and their spirits as we look at our past and we build upon it. My goal for 2/7 is for them to continue to be able to lead from the front.”

LCpl Levi Schultz, USMC

Camp Pendleton Showcases Energy Production Facilities

■ Christine Harada, the chief sustainability officer for the President’s Council on Environmental Quality, toured Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to review on-base energy production facilities Dec. 29, 2015.

In order to provide Harada with first-hand knowledge of Camp Pendleton’s energy initiatives, representatives from the base energy department led her through a hydrogen refueling station and a pro-

Christine Harada, right, the chief sustainability officer for the President’s Council on Environmental Quality, receives a brief from Charles Howell during her visit to MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 29, 2015.

posed photovoltaic site at Box Canyon, which will convert sunlight into energy.

“As the chief sustainability officer, I’m responsible for overseeing the sustainability initiatives within all federal agencies,” said Harada. “One of the things I wanted to do upon taking the role was to see what the federal government was doing candidly outside of Washington, D.C.”

“Energy security is a main goal of MCI–West [Marine Corps Installations–West] due to its importance to training, operations and national security,” said Bob Gilleskie, the regional energy manager at MCB Camp Pendleton. “It’s important that we have a reliable and continuous source of energy,” he added.

The 2.4-megawatt photovoltaic system at Box Canyon will replace the energy previously supplied to the base by San

Diego Gas & Electric, which is a mix of fossil and renewable energy generated locally or from outside the state.

The hydrogen refueling station is in line with the California Energy Commission’s effort to establish a hydrogen infrastructure throughout the state. The station will be on Camp Pendleton property but will be outside the main gate and available for civilian use.

“Development of the hydrogen infrastructure will promote the growth of fuel cell electric vehicles and the reduction of greenhouse gases, in accordance with both state and federal mandates,” said Gilleskie.

After the tour, Harada met with Brigadier General Edward D. Banta, Commanding General, MCI–West, and was briefed on other MCI–West resource and sustainability projects.



GTSGT EVAN AHLIN, USMC

“Smart energy management and smart environmental stewardship are crucial,” said Harada. “Especially for the Department of Defense, how we manage our energy effectively and efficiently is key for mitigating risk for our troops out there.”

Cpl Shaltiel Dominguez, USMC

Quantico's Marine Raider Museum Receives Memorable Donation

■ On Nov. 6, 1942, 2d Marine Raider Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson, embarked on what became known as the “Long Patrol,” a 29-day, 151-mile slog across the island of Guadalcanal in pursuit of the Japanese forces during World War II. It was a successful mission, although 16 Raiders were killed.

According to Marine veteran W. Kemp Norman Jr., stepson of the late Major General Oscar F. Peatross—one of Carlson’s Raiders who participated in the Long Patrol as a captain—then-LtCol Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, who commanded 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment on Guadalcanal, didn’t think Carlson would be able to pull it off.

“Puller told Carlson, ‘If you send the Marines up there, they’ll never come back,’” said Norman. “My stepfather was always proud of having done something Puller said was impossible.”

On Jan. 7, 2016, Norman donated two original copies of his stepfather’s firsthand account of the 2d Marine Raiders (a book titled “Bless ’Em All,” which he wrote after his retirement) to the Marine Raider Museum at The Basic School (TBS), Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

MajGen Peatross was a decorated Marine officer who retired in 1971 and passed

away in 1993. He earned the Navy Cross for his heroic actions during the Makin Island raid in August 1942 and a Bronze Star for action on Iwo Jima in 1945. He was awarded two Legions of Merit with combat “V” for service in Korea and Vietnam as well as the Silver Star for his actions during Operation Starlite during the latter war.

The Marine Raiders were elite units established in 1942 to conduct guerrilla warfare, landing in rubber boats and operating behind enemy lines. All four Raider Battalions were disbanded in 1944 when the Marine Corps decided they had outlived their mission.

In 2015, the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Joseph F. Dunford, announced that the principal combat arm of Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC) would be renamed the Marine Raider Regiment to highlight their lineage to the original Raiders.

Norman said he was looking for a repository for his stepfather’s Raiders memorabilia, which also includes letters and photographs. He didn’t know the Marine Raider Museum, which is housed in Raider Hall, the Martial Arts Center for Excellence, at TBS, existed until a friend told him about it.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph C. Shusko, USMC (Ret), director of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, escorted Norman on a tour of Raider Hall, Jan. 7. Raider artifacts—including letters home, flags, patches, shoes, mess kits, weapons and uniforms—fill display cases in the hallways and the conference room.

“The Raiders were the first martial artists of the Marine Corps,” Shusko said. “They were also the first to use dogs in

combat, wear camo uniforms and develop fire-team tactics. They were mavericks in so many ways.”

Prior to serving as commander of 2d Raider Bn during WW II, LtCol Carlson had spent time in China and was inspired by the idea that all military personnel, regardless of grade, should have the confidence and initiative to make decisions. He borrowed the Chinese term “gung-ho,” which loosely translates to “work together,” to encourage camaraderie and teamwork among his troops.

Shusko showed Norman a display that lists the names of all the Marines who served in the four Raider Battalions during WW II. They located his stepfather’s name among the 8,004 recorded there.

According to Shusko, there are more than 200 Raiders still living, ranging in age from 90 to 103. Some visit Raider Hall often and tell stories that bring the past to life, such as how they used to wear Chuck Taylor basketball shoes aboard ship because they found the Marine Corps-issued boots too slippery, and how they spray-painted camouflage patterns on their utility uniforms.

Norman said he has vivid memories of sitting at the dinner table listening to his stepfather’s Raider stories.

“He told me how the men used to complain about Carlson ordering them to sing Methodist hymns while marching,” Norman recalled. “There was one story about a warrant officer who looked into the porthole of a Japanese ship only to be met by the end of a Japanese gun, but it misfired and he survived. When you’re a teenaged boy, you pay attention to that kind of story.”

Norman said his stepfather inspired him to join the Marine Corps in 1950.

“I think everyone who joins the Marines is inspired by someone like him.”

Norman was “tremendously impressed” by the museum at Raider Hall and happy to have found a safe repository for his stepfather’s artifacts.

“It’s incredible what you’ve put together here,” Norman told Shusko. “I could not be more proud.”

“Everything here is taken care of by Marines,” Shusko said. “That’s what Marines do. We love our legacy.”

Adele Uphaus-Conner, *Quantico Sentry*



Marine veteran Kemp Norman, right, stepson of the late MajGen Oscar F. Peatross, presents two original copies of his stepfather’s book, “Bless ’Em All,” to Joseph Shusko, director of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, who accepted them on behalf of the Marine Raider Museum at TBS, MCB Quantico, Va., Jan. 7.

Futenma Land Return Project Beneficial to Community, Marines

■ Preparations began Dec. 28, 2015, for the return of 10 acres of land on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, part of what is known as the Habu Trail, to the local Ginowan community.

The project is part of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa agreement, which



CPL DANIEL JEAN-PAUL, USMC

Portions of the Habu Trail were cleared and ready for future construction at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, Dec. 7, 2015. The area pictured is a portion of the 10 acres of land that the air station will be returning to the local Ginowan community.

a commercial route, which will benefit the Marines and the Ginowan residents by reducing off-base traffic congestion on the southeast side of the air station.

The project is a small part of a bigger partnership, said Colonel Peter Lee, Commanding Officer, MCAS Futenma.

“It’s great to see the agreement finally come to fruition,” said Lee. “This demonstrates the Marine Corps’ good faith when it comes to reducing our impact on the island and continuing to develop beneficial working partnerships with the local community.”

While Marine Corps Installations–Pacific (MCIPAC) continues to reduce its impact on Okinawa, it will continue to be the strength behind America’s ability to respond quickly to crises in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Cpl Daniel Jean-Paul, USMC



was signed in 1995. The purpose of the agreement is to reduce the impact of the U.S. military presence on the people of Okinawa by strategically realigning, consolidating and reducing U.S. facilities and adjusting operational procedures.

Land returns on Okinawa have been progressing steadily for decades, including the most recent return of the West Futenma Housing area to the local community in April 2015. Although it took a while for this particular project to get started,

the Marines of the air station went right to work once the ball started rolling, according to Patrick Adams, the director of installation protection at MCAS Futenma.

“We really hit the ground running once we got started,” said Adams. “The amount of work done in such a short time is incredible. It really shows our commitment to the partnership between the Marine Corps and Okinawa.”

The land, formerly used as a running trail and access road, will be used to build

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL KATHY NUNEZ, USMC

“Did you see the size of that spider!”

Submitted by
Bob Molski
 Staten Island, N.Y.

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

This Month’s Photo



LCPL KASEY PEACOCK, USMC

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

The Architects of Parade Excellence

By Mary D. Karcher



SGT DENGRIER M. BAEZ, USMC

SSgt Dean M. Edwards, a hoster with Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., shows a young guest a noncommissioned officer's sword prior to a Friday Evening Parade, May 17, 2013.

Perhaps it starts with the eagerness of crowds gathered at gates spaced along 8th Street Southeast in Washington, D.C., awaiting entrance to the “Oldest Post of the Corps.” Perhaps it starts with an enthusiastic salutation: “Good evening, ma’am. Welcome to the Barracks!” from a confident Marine impeccably dressed in the blue-white dress uniform. Perhaps it is obvious from the attention to detail displayed in the pristine flower beds and the expertly manicured parade deck. No matter the origin, there is no denying that there is something special about parade night. There is something special about Marines.

The precision and perfection displayed at the Evening Parade at Marine Barracks Washington (MBW) and at the Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., entertains—and mesmerizes—tens of thousands of people each summer. At the Oldest Post of the Corps, however, there is rarely a time when Marines are *not* preparing for the four months of parade season, according to Colonel Benjamin T. Watson, Commanding Officer, MBW.

The parades require consummate planning, repetitive practice and pinpoint coordination, making them a key focus all year long. While the music, marchers and the unified movements of the Silent Drill Platoon are widely recognized as the finest in traditional military ceremonial marching, there are many Marines behind the scenes who perform lesser-known yet critical roles, including operations, training, protocol/reservations, grounds beautification and crowd educators. The spotlight may never shine on their work, but their diligence contributes to the excellence.

Ceremonial Drill: “Military Efficiency and Soldierly Virtue”

The Barracks’ mission, Col Watson explained, is to be a “strategic communication tool for the Commandant, [helping] to tell the Marine Corps story and to keep the faith with Marines—past and present—and their families.” Through the parades, he said, “we represent the history of the Marine Corps, the character of the Marine Corps, and the Marines therein, so the pride and professionalism, the esprit de



As the sun rose over the Marine Corps War Memorial, Grounds Combat Element Platoon Marines arranged chairs for the Sunset Parade, Aug. 4, 2015. At the parade's end, the chairs are folded and stowed, a process repeated every week from late May through mid-August. (Photo by Mary D. Karcher)



CAPT DIANN ROSENFELD, USMC



SGT DENGRIER M. BAEZ, USMC

Above: Leathernecks from Marine Barracks Washington march to their positions during a Tuesday Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial on July 10, 2012.

Left: The smallest details matter to Grounds Combat Element Platoon Marines LCpl McKenzie Riggs, left, and LCpl Matthew Long as they ready the Marine and Family Garden for the pre-parade reception for invited guests at the Home of the Commandants.

corps, the discipline, the values that we have as Marines.” Every Marine at the Evening and Sunset Parades strives to embody this message, whether he or she is marching, playing an instrument, greeting, preparing the grounds, running the lights, providing security, escorting, educating the crowd, or driving a bus. Every ... Single ... Marine.

The Barracks Marines participate in many ceremonial appearances: funerals at Arlington National Cemetery—the Barracks’ most important mission; appearances at the White House and other governmental agencies in our nation’s capital; and myriad events at the Home of the Commandants. At every event, there is no room for error since these Marines are representing the entire Corps.

“Marines really believe that we are not just representative of Marines today, but a fundamental part of our identity is that we carry on a legacy of Marines dating back to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Belleau Wood, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Chosin and Hue City,” said Col Watson. Representing such high-caliber Marines requires unique training that is intense, highly competitive and often repetitive. Supporting this effort is equally arduous and vital to producing the results showcased in the summer parades.

As soon as the parade season ends, a new cycle begins. In late September, key leaders from the Barracks, the United States Marine Band and the United States

Marine Drum & Bugle Corps meet to assess the past season and plan for the next. The Barracks has little time to waste in preparing new Marines for the following summer. This is primarily because each year 50 percent of the marchers turn over between September and December. The perfection displayed on the parade deck results from vigorous training, especially for the newly arrived Marines, who have little time to become proficient with an end-of-April performance target.

That is why the Barracks has a dedicated drill master, Gunnery Sergeant Cedric L. Smith. In late September, GySgt Smith helps select officers, staff noncommissioned officers and noncommissioned officers from the previous season to be trained as instructors in ceremonial drill.

Every Marine at the Barracks attends Ceremonial Drill School, which includes fundamentals of marching, uniform preparation and other instruction necessitated by grade, such as sword manual. Training on all levels continues from October to December, with a key focus to select those Marines who qualify for the Silent Drill Platoon. Competition is fierce in February when final tryouts for the parade marching staffs occur and GySgt Smith begins to put together “small pieces of the parade puzzle.”

Getting Marines prepared for parade season isn’t GySgt Smith’s greatest challenge, however. Training is what he does and high standards are what he expects.

As the parades progress, however, GySgt Smith’s challenge is to prevent the repetition from causing complacency in the mindset of his Marines; he said his challenge is “conveying to [the Marines] that every time they perform, they are performing for someone who’s watching for the first time. ... This mission, their mission, is no different from any mission they would be issued in the Fleet Marine Force. ... It requires the right mindset to stay productive.”

Operations: Coordinating Parade’s Many Parts

For the many pieces of GySgt Smith’s “parade puzzle” to come together seamlessly requires a well-designed schedule and strict coordination. At MBW, the responsibility for coordinating all ceremonial events, including funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, parades, and appearances of Barracks Marines throughout the National Capital Region falls to the Barracks’ Operations section, according to the operations chief, Master Sergeant Craig Harris. As the parade director, MSgt Harris, along with the drill master and the operations officer, coordinates the plan for the entire parade season.

It’s hard to find an area of the parades that Operations does not affect in some way. They plan the schedule, including rehearsals, clearing any conflicts on parade days, Tuesdays and Fridays. They coordinate with the Protocol Office,



GySgt Cedric L. Smith, the Barracks’ drill master, assesses Marines during the Phase I rehearsal, held the morning of the Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial. (Photo by Mary D. Karcher)

tracking VIPs. They are responsible for the training and oversight of the lighting crew and the crew that delineates placement marks on the parade deck. They verify that hosting assignments are made and vehicles for shuttling are in place. They monitor the information for the recorded narration, which might—and often does—change at the last minute. The mascot, Chesty XIV, comes under Operations’ purview too.

The Operations’ pre-parade checklist has no fewer than 60 items to verify before the first drum sounds.

Parade days begin with two morning rehearsals, called Phase I and Phase II rehearsals. In the Phase I rehearsal, the marching companies practice with stops and starts to allow for corrections and observations. The Phase II rehearsal includes the musical components and is run straight through without interruption, like a dress rehearsal.

After rehearsals, the operations officer leads a confirmation brief to verify to the commanding officer that all elements are ready to execute their jobs or deal with any issues that might still need attention. Issues such as a cannon not firing during a rehearsal of the Drum & Bugle Corps’ rendition of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” might require Marines to adjust the firing sequence using only two cannons instead of three.

Following the brief, Marines have preparatory time where they tend to personal issues: uniform details, hydration, anything that must be ready for the parade.

The final preparation occurs on Friday nights starting at 1801 in Center House, a cherished building that served as bachelor officers’ quarters. This hosting brief is attended by senior officers and SNCOs to review the final particulars about that evening’s parade: the hosting official, the guest of honor, seating details, and a reminder to prepare guests for the cannon fire when “Ode to Joy” is played. The guard officer provides a hypothetical scenario of a problem so Marines can discuss potential actions to ensure the public’s safety and restore calm. The chaplain, Navy Lieutenant Keith Lightner, offers an inspirational prayer for those who are called “among people in this nation to hold the gate, to protect this country from those who might seek to hurt us and our citizens.”

While the meeting addresses details, its purpose seems deeper: to rekindle the bond of Marines as they continue the tradition of parades at the Barracks, representing Marines past and present.

As the time approaches for the start of the parade, MSgt Harris assumes his vantage point at a spot known as the



CAPT DIANN ROSENFELD, USMC

SgtMaj Joseph Gray, Barracks Sergeant Major, addressed Marines at a hosting brief to inform them about the guest of honor and special groups in attendance, including military veterans from World War II to Operation Enduring Freedom.



CPL SIXTE DAVIS, USMC

In a tower high above the parade deck, LCpl Keller Anderson readies the spotlight for the dramatic lighting that illuminates marchers, instruments, bayonets and spinning rifles.

“ceremonial tree,” which is not a tree at all, but a tall stalk of lights at Center Walk. From his podium, he tracks all the key elements to ensure readiness. Once the parade begins, he keeps to a strict timeline, issuing cues for lighting, the bell ringing, the mascot and the Marine Corps Color Guard. All the while, he keeps a sharp eye out for problems, like a dropped bayonet, a cover falling off a Marine’s head, or a marcher suffering from heat exposure. Each potential irregularity—even the unavoidable ones, such as a blown fuse or bad weather—have a contingency plan. In short, the Marines are prepared for anomalies MSgt Harris hasn’t even anticipated. All of this coordination and planning contributes to a successful parade.

Protocol: Reservations Accepted

The Protocol Office manages the ticket reservations for Evening Parades, usually available to the general public online in early March. Those without reservations may line up in the “General Admission” queue for a chance to fill any unclaimed seats, which are given on a first-come, first-served basis. After four parade seasons, Sergeant Eric Burchfield has become a master at making room for more guests, which can number more than 4,000 people. “My job,” he said, “is basically to make sure seating and coordinating across the parade deck is completed, and we always hate to leave individuals who want to come into the parade out on the streets. It’s always fun to find spots.”

Want to Go? Here's What You Need to Know!

The most up-to-date parade information, including when ticket requests will be accepted, is at www.barracks.marines.mil/Parades/GeneralInformation.aspx. Evening Parades are conducted every Friday at 8:45 p.m. beginning in early May and continuing through the end of August. Seating for the Evening Parade generally requires a reservation, which can be requested online by accessing www.mbw.usmc.mil/RequestReservation.aspx. Guests with reservations are admitted beginning at 7 p.m. and should arrive no later than 8 p.m.

There is also a general admissions line at each Friday Evening Parade. If there are any unclaimed seats, those are filled on a first-come, first-served basis from the general admission line at 8 p.m.

The Sunset Parades at the Marine Corps War Memorial are conducted every Tuesday beginning in early June and continuing through the second Tuesday in August. Parades begin at 7 p.m. until early August when they begin at 6:30 p.m. Sunset parades are "open seating," and reservations are not required.

For questions or concerns not addressed on the website, e-mail the Protocol Office at M_MBW_PROTOCOL@usmc.mil.

For the Evening Parade: Parking/Metro

There are no public parking spaces available at the Barracks. Guests may park at Maritime Plaza where a free shuttle service is provided to and from the Barracks. Maritime Plaza is located at 1201 M St. SE, Washington, DC 20003.

The nearest Metro station is the Eastern Market stop on the Blue/Orange lines. See Metro's Trip Planner, www.wmata.com/rider_tools/tripplanner/tripplanner_form_solo.cfm.

For the Sunset Parade: Parking/Metro

There are no public parking spaces available at the Memorial grounds on parade evenings. Guests may park at Arlington National Cemetery for a small fee. Marine Barracks provides a free shuttle bus service from the cemetery to the Marine Corps War Memorial grounds from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. before the parade and from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. following the parade.

The nearest Metro stations are either the Rosslyn stop on the Blue/Orange lines or the Arlington National Cemetery stop on the Blue line. See Metro's Trip Planner, www.wmata.com/rider_tools/tripplanner/tripplanner_form_solo.cfm.

Every parade has a hosting official and a guest of honor who participate in a pre-parade reception. It is the Protocol Office's responsibility to be sure hosting officials and guests receive the social proprieties commensurate with their stature. Captain Desiree Sanchez, the protocol officer for MBW, attended a course to learn about precedence lists, the proper way to address people with titles, and such protocol manners necessary to entertain guests who may hold certain rank or title in Washington, D.C. The commanding officer and Barracks Marines look to Capt Sanchez for guidance in social protocol matters.

There is a pre-parade reception for invited guests of the hosting official and the guest of honor. This is held at the Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery prior to the Tuesday night Sunset Parades and at the Marine and Family Garden at the Home of the Commandants prior to the Friday night Evening Parades. It is the Protocol Office's responsibility to provide a VIP list to the CO, along with biographical fact sheets.

At a hosting brief just prior to the parade, Capt Sanchez informs the officers and SNCOs of the Barracks of that evening's hosting official and guest of honor, names any general officers who will be

attending, and notifies the Marines of any special groups that may be in the audience.

For example, on July 31, 2015, the hosting official was General Joseph F. Dunford, then-Commandant of the Marine Corps and soon-to-be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the guest of honor was Gen Martin E. Dempsey, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the Barracks was welcoming a reunion of the Silent Drill Platoon. While this is an honorable and notable attendance list, without exception, every Marine interviewed described the importance of treating each guest with respect.

As Major Matthew McKinney, the senior host, explained, "Our goal, and the colonel's guidance, is to make every guest feel like a VIP. Every guest rates a salute, which some people will see as strange. But really I think the public appreciates it."

Before parade season begins, the Protocol Office meets with a parade coordinator from the staff of each hosting official to coordinate the invitation process. Once reservations arrive, Capt Sanchez oversees the seating chart for VIPs and their guests, as well as parking permits, which must be arranged with D.C. parking enforcement officials every week. Rosters for seating



SSgt Teresia Kamal, the protocol chief, welcomes guests as they arrive for the pre-parade reception at the Marine and Family Garden. She is responsible for updating the attendance roster to facilitate seating for invited guests at the parade.

charts and parking are updated continually as RSVPs come in or change, even on the day of the parade. The Protocol Office also provides the proper flag to be flown on the south side of the parade deck for the hosting official and another for the guest of honor, if appropriate.

Hosters and Crowd Educators: Welcome to the Parade

Every Marine at MBW shares an unexpected truth. While there is no doubt that the Marine Band, the Drum & Bugle Corps, the ceremonial marchers, the Color Guard and the Silent Drill Platoon are impeccable, truly talented and the epitome of Marine Corps values, there is one group of Marines that earns the hearts of the parade guests. These Marines make guests a true part of the parade experience by assisting and entertaining them before the parade begins.

Hosters may be the first Marines guests encounter through a warm greeting on the street outside the Barracks or on the grounds of the Marine Corps War Memorial. They welcome guests and stand ready to assist. They may answer questions, resolve issues, ensure safe crossing of streets, guide guests to the proper gate, and direct or escort guests to seats. While they may not march in the parade, according to MSgt Harris, "They are hugely important because they give that overall feeling of regalia, and we treat everyone like they're an A-plus celebrity."

Marines initially may not find it easy to address guests, but they receive training that teaches "ceremonial hosting." Ceremonial Hosting School focuses on some nuts and bolts, like wearing the uniform properly and basic drill movements, but it also introduces etiquette, such as how to address guests, how to escort guests and how to converse with guests. Hosters learn about the history and traditions of MBW, as well as the background of the marching and musical units. The hosters can then draw from their knowledge to engage the audience and promote the traditions and stories of the Corps.

Maj McKinney describes the change that Marines experience as they become accustomed to hosting at the Barracks: "They realize it's just talking. They realize, 'Last year I was in high school; this year I'm the rock star standing on the ACMC's [Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps'] porch, giving 80 people a brief about where they're going to sit and when they can take pictures.' ... First, second parade, they're a little tentative; the volume is a little low. By the third parade, they are bulldogs and they've got it."

The Marines who are the most articu-



Sgt Elizabeth Alcantara interacts with a school group during a Tuesday Sunset Parade. Hosters educate guests about the history of the Corps, elements of the parades and other aspects of being a Marine, such as uniforms, swords and rifles. (Photo by Cpl Skye Davis, USMC)

late and charismatic will be asked to be crowd educators. These Marines volunteer to address sections of the audience, entertaining them with history and humor before the start of the parade. Each educator decides how to engage the crowd. One may rely heavily on the historic buildings and the people who have served in them. Another may preview the format of the parade and the traditions behind it. Some Marines divide their group into sections, which compete to see how enthusiastically they can shout. Most encourage the crowd to support either "Alpha" Company or "Bravo" Co as they perform. Through this interaction, the crowd becomes an active part of the parade.

Grounds Combat Element: Creating Picture-Perfect Grounds

The first to arrive and the last to leave every parade, the Marines of the Grounds Combat Element Platoon work outside of the spotlight, yet their hard work contributes to the first impression guests receive when they set foot upon the grounds of MBW. "And the first thing people notice if something is wrong," reminded Capt Andrew Burger, grounds officer in charge. These industrious Marines maintain and beautify the grounds not just on parade day, but every day, in every season. During parade season, they perform many tasks that provide for the welfare of guests. And nearly every task they do needs to



LCpl Akerie Beasley, left, and LCpl Joshua Ermentinger set up water stations and refill them as needed to keep guests hydrated throughout the parade.



LCPL DAN HOSACK, USMC

Rodolfo Hernandez, recipient of the Medal of Honor during the Korean War, is escorted to his seat at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., July 25, 2013, prior to the start of a parade in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

be undone at night's end.

Their days begin early during growing season, with a watering squad arriving at 0500 to water plants. The rest of the platoon arrives at 0700, for formation, PT, and then to divide into squads that beautify designated areas of responsibility: the Marine and Family Garden at the Home of the Commandants; inside the MBW wall; and outside the wall, including the barracks the Marines live in just across I Street. But on parade days, the schedule requires much more.

"We are responsible for providing the public or whoever comes in to see the parades, or even just walks by the Barracks, ceremonial excellence. ... The marchers, the Marines go out there in their dress blues and they look fantastic and they throw rifles around flawlessly and they look amazing, and it's everything every little kid wants to be, but we're responsible for adding to that and providing that atmosphere," explained GySgt Jeffrey Vogel.

The grounds Marines set up folding

chairs, signage, boundary chains for lines at gates, water stations, trash cans and, depending on the location, additional fence-line boundaries (the Sunset Parade) and blackout curtains in the brick archways (the Evening Parade). They clean off the bleachers, remove errant leaves, dispose of any trash and ensure that everything is in order. They are prepared to provide umbrellas or wheelchairs for guests. On parade days, they must pass a parade inspection at 1630 described by GySgt Vogel: "We walk the entire grounds and we have a pretty good system—we touch, look at and inspect every square inch of this Barracks, and everything has to be perfect." Any discrepancies must be corrected by 1800.

During the parade, the Marines remove anything they have set up outside the Barracks wall: signage and chains, trash cans, water stations. They also resupply inside water stations, remove trash, add more chairs if needed, clean up areas as necessary and fix anything requiring attention. After the parade, the chairs,



CAPT DIAN W ROSENFELD, USMC

Nothing is overlooked—even the window trim gets scrubbed as LCpl David Smith from Grounds Combat Element Platoon prepares the Barracks for inspection prior to an Evening Parade.

tables, trash cans, blackout curtains, poles and chains, any remaining signage all gets collected, accounted for, stored and readied for the next parade. A few weeks into the season, they shave their end time down to 2130 on Tuesday nights and by 2300 on Friday nights.

The Grounds Combat Element Platoon fights battles every day, although their foe changes frequently: squirrels, fungus, mold, too much rain, too little rain, earthworms, bird droppings, irrigation challenges, snow, ice, fiscal limitations, and any unexpected plant disease that appears. This past year, the roses suffered from a fungus from the oak trees. These are foes that no Marine training addresses, so the Marines quickly become horticultural problem solvers on the job. Regardless of what natural or manmade elements challenge them, the Grounds Combat Element keeps the Barracks in a state of ceremonial excellence by creating and maintaining a pristine environment worthy of the disciplined, high standards of the Marine Corps.

Walking Into Heaven for 30 Years Running

Cenon Naval II remembers the first time he learned about Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. (MBW). He had seen a story on one of the local news channels that showed Marines getting ready for the parade. The rifle companies were dipping their hands in buckets of water, and the grounds Marines were preparing the parade deck. Naval's father and uncles served in the Army, and he had visited other military installations, so he thought he might like the Evening Parade at MBW.

"When I visited for the first time, I walked through Gate 4, and it was like walking into heaven. Everything was so polished!" he recalled. That first visit was in May 1985, and he has attended all the Sunset Parades and the Evening Parades ever since. The Barracks even honored Naval for his dedication at their Friends and Family Evening Parade in April 2015.

There are so many reasons why Naval is attracted to the parades. He loves the order and simplicity: "In my own life, in my house, I try to make everything perfect, everything clean and polished, but in the real world, it's not like that. And I don't have a platoon of grounds Marines that are cleaning up my mulch beds and polishing the brightwork around my house."

A key reason, though, is the Marines themselves: "I love meeting the Marines here; they are very inspiring—the work ethic, the attention to detail." Even on his first visit he "was in awe to see how squared-away the uniforms are, how polite the Marines are."

He has a special relationship with "Alpha" Company Marines, which started in 1991. From the seat he favored on the top row of the bleachers, he could see a platoon assembling in the garden of the colonel's residence just behind the bleachers. The Marines started saluting Naval and giving him the "thumbs-up" sign. Over the years, this interaction with Marines became a special tradition, evolving to a pretend gun battle with Naval and Marines shooting imaginary machine guns and pantomiming throwing bombs back and forth.

And that special seat, which gives him a high-ground advantage over the Marines? It bears a plaque with "Cenon Naval II" engraved below the Marine Corps seal. He recalled that he started sitting there in 1989, when then-Col Peter Pace

was the commanding officer. He added, "It was actually dedicated in 1993 when Col [John B.] 'Jay' Sollis was the commanding officer of the Barracks."

As illustrated by the history of his seat, Naval's memory and perception of details is notable. He watches each parade very carefully and notices tiny discrepancies here and there. "I have a pretty good memory and eyesight to see little mistakes—like a cheat step or a little facing movement that's a little bit off or a rifle carriage or an arm angle—things that are off," he noted, but was quick to add, "It's still the most beautiful ceremony in the universe."

After so many years and so many parades, he has many memories. He recalled earlier days when "The President's Own" United States Marine Band gave a 20-minute concert before the parade instead of the two selections they now play. He remembered individual Marines and marveled at their work ethic. He told of a Marine who served in Afghanistan before being stationed at the Barracks who was pursuing his master's degree in business all while marching in ceremonies and juggling a family. Naval said, "Seeing these Marines gives me an appreciation of their efforts and how they're able to function under a lot of pressure."

Naval, a certified public accountant, plans his work schedule around the parade. From

April to September he does not work on Tuesdays or Fridays. "Attending these parades and meeting these wonderful Marines is what it's about," he said.

Just like the Marines in their flawless uniforms, Naval's dressing procedure is meticulous and precise. He even refuses to sit down, just like the Marines, so he doesn't wrinkle his suit; he stands up for nine hours on Friday. "I have to be dressed by about 5:47 p.m. I check everything I'm wearing four times. I have a computer list of 23 items," he explained. "I go through the same ritual every Friday. I love every minute of it. The only part I don't like is when the parade is over and I have to go home."

For his dedication and loyalty to the Marines, he now holds a special place in the history of the parades that he so admires.

—Mary D. Karcher



Cenon Naval II

MARY D. KARCHER

Parade Success

The Barracks is a venerable spot to Marines. It is where the Corps put down roots in 1801 when Thomas Jefferson and Lieutenant Colonel William Ward Burrows selected the land for the Marine Corps. Through the parades, Marines provide the public with a view of Marine Corps discipline, training, dedication and commitment. Every Marine at the Barracks supports this mission.

Col Watson believes a successful parade is defined by what people take away from it. "If they leave understanding a bit more than they did of the Marine Corps story and they leave with the impression that today's Marines are just as good or better;

that these are the same Marines that landed at Saipan and Tinian, that fought at the Pusan Perimeter, that fought in Khe Sanh; if they believe that these Marines are just as good, just as disciplined, have the same esprit de corps; if we reinforce in the mind of every guest why America wants a United States Marine Corps, why America loves their United States Marines, then we've succeeded."

It is to this end that all who serve at Marine Barracks Washington dedicate their work. For every Marine sentry standing watch in the pouring rain, for every Marine who leaves family and home to serve on foreign shores, and for every Marine who trains each day to prepare for duty—

Barracks Marines, both those in the spotlight and behind the scenes, stand for such service to country. That is what is special about parade night.

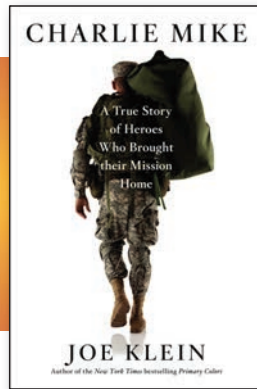
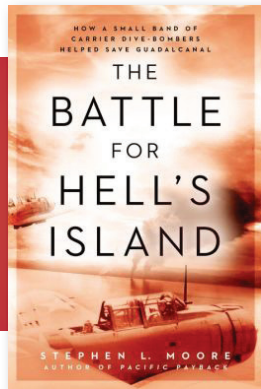
Editor's note: Leatherneck would like to express its gratitude to Col Watson; Capt Diann Rosenfeld, the public affairs officer; and the Marines at MBW for providing generous access to the Barracks during the researching of this article.

Author's bio: Mary Karcher is a former Leatherneck staff writer and editor of various segments of the magazine. She currently works as a freelance writer.



Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from *The MARINE Shop*. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 6 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 7 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at www.marineshop.net.



THE BATTLE FOR HELL'S ISLAND: How a Small Band of Carrier Dive-Bombers Helped Save Guadalcanal. By Stephen L. Moore. Published by NAL. 512 pages. Stock #0451473752. \$25.16 MCA Members. \$27.95 Regular Price.

To many of the 10,000 Marines awaiting disembarkation from troopships for America's initial World War II amphibious assault on that sunny dawn of Aug. 7, 1942, Guadalcanal appeared to glisten as a travel poster's color advertisement.

Within a week, those Marines were muttering every expletive known to man.

Onshore, Japanese soldiers and Korean laborers rushed to complete a sizable airstrip for attacks on Allied supply lines to Australia while suffering jungle rains, suffocating humid heat, 10-inch rats, agonies of malaria parasites and the gripping pains of dysentery. They referred to Guadalcanal, the most southeastern island of the Solomon archipelago, as "Jigoku no Shima"—"Hell's Island."

Six months later, in February 1943, with organized resistance over and the last enemy sniper silenced, more than 24,000 Japanese lay dead. American Marines and Army personnel who died numbered 1,752.

Drawing upon a number of personally conducted interviews, listening to oral battlefield accounts, and evaluating an amazing number of primary source reference materials such as correspondence between veterans, official war records and documents, diaries written immediately after battle, family recorded memoirs, including those translated from the Japa-

nese participants, author Stephen L. Moore offers what will soon be ranked a major military classic among the past half century's torrent of books on the Pacific War.

Not only does "The Battle for Hell's Island: How a Small Band of Carrier Dive-Bombers Helped Save Guadalcanal" highlight new information and examine eyewitness accounts, vignettes and reminiscences hitherto unavailable, the text is a tome of fresh insights and re-evaluated interpretations of the role played by the so-called "Cactus Air Force" and its potpourri of pilots and planes, credited for determining the fate of the Guadalcanal campaign during the 180 teeter-tottering days of vicious fighting.

With Allied victory hanging in the balance between early August and mid-November, the Battle of Guadalcanal occurred over three days, Nov. 13-15, during the most mishmashed medley of continuous sea fighting in world history. It resulted in an unprecedented slaughter of Japanese soldiers and sailors.

The scale was tipped when a powerful Japanese task force of 11 transports crammed with troops, munitions and equipment, as well as two battleships and two destroyers, were hit and sunk by everything we could throw at them—Marine, Navy and Army dive bombers, scout bombers, torpedo bombers, even B-17s.

Called the Cactus Air Force because Guadalcanal had been code-named "Cactus," aviators began flying from the

island's battle-worn, pockmarked, graveled Henderson airstrip. This quickly scraped together aggregation was joined by a small group of Navy dive-bombers off the recently torpedoed USS *Lexington* (CV-2), USS *Yorktown* (CV-5) and battle-damaged USS *Enterprise* (CV-6). Attacking in swarms and relays, shuttling from refueling and reloading back to diving and releasing, they bombed and sunk everything and anything that floated in the Japanese convoy, especially the transports delivering the reinforcements.

Three factors mark "The Battle for Hell's Island," a major, first-rate, authoritative contribution to the literature of WW II: fulfilling the long-recognized need to document, from the aviators' perspectives, the role of the carrier dive bomber squadrons in saving Guadalcanal; illuminating and elucidating in human terms the character and temper of those who flew, fought bravely and died; and the unique, eminent qualifications of writer Stephen Moore, who has provided a wonderfully relevant history.

Don DeNevi

Author's bio: Don DeNevi, a scriptwriter and author of more than 30 books, frequently reviews World War II books for Leatherneck. He recently retired as supervisor of recreation at San Quentin State Prison in California. He now lives in Pebble Beach, Calif.

CHARLIE MIKE: A True Story of Heroes Who Brought Their Mission Home. By Joe Klein. Published by Simon & Schuster. 320 pages. Stock #1451677308. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

"Charlie Mike," by noted columnist and author Joe Klein, tells the fascinating story of two extraordinary veterans who, after returning from the Middle East wars, applied their hard-won military training skills to create opportunities for returning veterans who wish to continue to serve their fellow citizens and their country. Klein's eloquently written book traces the veterans' story of hope and commitment.

In response to the 2010 massive earthquakes in Haiti, a veteran Marine scout sniper, Jake Wood, rapidly pulled together a disaster response team of veterans and assorted civilian supporters to assist the hard-hit country. Advised that they'd be facing a chaotic situation, Wood simply said: "I'm a ... Marine, I can do danger."

With his team of Marines, soldiers and medical personnel, Wood headed south. They picked up medical supplies and other needed materials and flew to the Dominican Republic. From there, they ventured into the heart of the Haitian disaster. They named their eight-man operational team, Team Rubicon. Interestingly, the team encountered none of the criminal activity that they expected. The Haitian people seemed to fully understand and appreciate their efforts as the team worked closely with other crisis-relief personnel.

Something about the nature of excitement (read adrenaline) coupled with the need to help others produced relief for these veterans, many of whom were exhibiting symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Later, in response to disasters elsewhere, Team Rubicon re-formed and provided additional disaster assistance. Returning home, Wood's partner, Clay Hunt, another Marine veteran looking for a sense of purpose, noticed a magazine article featuring a former Navy SEAL, Eric Greitens.

Greitens had formed an organization called The Mission Continues. The program provides fellowships for veterans willing to use their hard-earned skills to support their communities. "I think people end up benefiting from serving as much as those they aim to serve," Greitens noted. Team Rubicon was one of the first programs that The Mission Continues funded.

A Rhodes Scholar, Greitens became a naval officer after earning his Ph.D. and graduated from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training in 2002. Greitens served in Iraq, and when he returned to the States, he often visited wounded vets in military hospitals. While speaking with the recovering vets, he noticed they seemed to have one common goal: to return to

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their units. But what if this was not an option? What then? Many wanted to continue to work in public service. Greitens' response was, "Great. We still need you."

The notion of setting up a system of fellowships for discharged veterans was formed. A powerful charitable organization, The Mission Continues, was established; Greitens then looked for ways to help former military personnel find outlets for their skills on the home front.

Klein's extraordinary book provides a fair-minded glimpse of the far-reaching difficulties faced by our returning veterans. Both Greitens' and Wood's ideas of engaging and utilizing the energy and vast skills of our adrenaline-soaked combat warriors has great merit. But even at the best of times, complications must be expected. One wretched example featured in the book involved Wood's friend and first ardent supporter, Clay Hunt. Active, engaged and always ready for a call from Wood, Hunt would experience a massive letdown after returning from a Team Rubicon mission. His story ended tragically when he took his own life.

Wood and Greitens helped lead the way toward a better understanding of our veterans and what it will take to assist

them to return and adapt to a civilian lifestyle. Their military skills, unit discipline and mission orientation may certainly provide a path for many military personnel seeking some serenity by redirecting their energy toward assisting our country in need of their vast potential and skills. And our grateful nation owes them, nothing less than, our support, prayers and active encouragement.

In 2013, *Time* magazine awarded Eric Greitens the No. 12 spot on its list of the 100 most influential people in the world; currently, he is running for governor in the state of Missouri. Jake Wood is the co-founder and president of Team Rubicon.

For more information, visit the two organizations' websites: missioncontinues.org and teamrubiconusa.org.

Robert B. Loring

Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine. He recently stepped down from a 17-year run as head elf of a very successful Toys for Tots program in east and central Pasco County, Fla.



Looking for Back Issues?

Volumes of *Leatherneck* for the years 1945-2013 are available for sale. Cost is \$20 per volume (to cover shipping expenses).

Also available are individual issues from 1944 to present.

Cost is \$5 per issue. E-mail your request to:

leatherneck@mca-marines.org,

or call toll-free: (800) 336-0291, ext. 115.



In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman and Savannah Norton

"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.

12 Marines Die in CH-53 Incident While Training in Hawaii

Twelve Marines died when their two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters were involved in an incident off the coast of Oahu's Waimea Bay, Jan. 14, while conducting routine training in Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

"We all know that what we do as Marines is dangerous. The men and women in our ranks today, much like all generations of Marines before, are absolutely committed to each other, to our Corps, our country and our mission. They are courageous, determined and focused on success. These 12 Marines embodied those same qualities and traits. We will miss them, but we will never forget them," said General Robert B. Neller, the 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The deceased are:

Major Shawn M. Campbell, 41, from College Station, Texas, joined the Marine Corps in 1999. He served as a CH-53E Super Stallion pilot with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Aircraft Group 24, First Marine Aircraft Wing, stationed on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. His awards include the Air Medal with strike/flight device, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with two bronze campaign stars.

Corporal Matthew R. Drown, 23, from Spring, Texas, joined the Marine Corps in 2011. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii.

Lance Corporal Ty L. Hart, 21, from Aumsville, Ore., joined the Marine Corps in 2012. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii.

Cpl Thomas J. Jardas, 22, from Fort Myers, Fla., joined the Marine Corps in 2011. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii.

Captain Brian T. Kennedy, 31, from Philadelphia, Pa., joined the Marine Corps

in 2003. He served as a CH-53E Super Stallion pilot with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, stationed at MCB Hawaii. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Cpl Christopher J. Orlando, 23, from Hingham, Mass., joined the Marine Corps in 2012. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii.

Capt Kevin T. Roche, 30, from St. Louis, Mo., joined the Marine Corps in 2005. He served as a CH-53E Super Stallion pilot with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Sergeant Adam C. Schoeller, 25, from Gardners, Pa., joined the Marine Corps in 2008. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii. His awards include the Air Medal with one individual action device and five strike/flight devices, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Sgt Dillon J. Semolina, 24, from Chaska, Minn., joined the Marine Corps in 2011. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii.

Sgt Jeffrey A. Sempler, 22, from Woodruff, S.C., joined the Marine Corps in 2010. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii.

Capt Steven R. Torbert, 29, from Florence, Ala., joined the Marine Corps in 2004. He served as a CH-53E pilot with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii.

Sgt William J. Turner, 25, from Floral, Ala., joined the Marine Corps in 2008. He served as a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-463, MAG-24, 1st MAW, MCB Hawaii. His awards include the Air Medal with four strike/flight devices and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Compiled from MCB Hawaii media releases

LCpl Larry W. "Digger" Alexander, 65, of Quilcene, Wash. He was a Marine who saw action in Vietnam with "Alpha" Co, 5th Amtracs in 1967. He left the Corps in 1971.

Sgt Neville L. Anderson, 87, of Inverness, Fla. Before joining the Marine Corps, he served in the Navy. He was a member of the Marine Corps League Archambault Det. #819, where he served on the honor guard.

Sgt Edward A. Balliet, 87, of Lehigh-ton, Pa. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War.

William J. "Bill" Barber, 87, of Dallas, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He later had a banking career that spanned 38 years.

Max L. Berg, 90, of San Clemente, Calif. He joined the Marine Corps in 1943 and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in the 5thMarDiv. He served with Special Services and toured the South Pacific entertaining the troops.

GySgt Robert K. Berg, 89, of Hermitage, Tenn. He joined the Marine Corps in 1944 and served during WW II and Korea. He retired in 1966. He was a survivor of the Chosin Reservoir.

E. Louise Brooks, 96, of Mountville, Pa. She was a Marine during WW II. She was a member of Reese-Hall VFW Post 8757. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels for 43 years.

TSgt Robert J. Buchanan, 95, of Woodbury, N.J. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942, serving in the South Pacific during WW II.

Vaughn M. Craig, 89, of Harlingen, Texas. He joined the Marine Corps at age 17 in 1943. He fought on Okinawa.

Edwin G. Deane, 87, of Citrus Heights, Calif. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War.

Lawrence "Larry" Dikeman, 81, of Grand Haven, Mich. He served in the Marine Corps from 1955 to 1958, where he learned the art of photography. He later built a commercial/industrial photography business.

Henry Dybowski, 90, of Fall River,

Mass. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II, seeing action in the South Pacific, including Guadalcanal and Okinawa. He also served for 30 years in the Fall River Police Department.

Raymond Foster, 94, of Ansonia, Conn. He was a Marine veteran of WW II and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Leonard "Pat" R. Gromis, 91, of Lower Alsace Township, Pa. He was a Marine veteran of WW II. He served in the Battle of Peleliu and was awarded a Purple Heart in 2005.

Col H. Scott Harrison, 75, of Scarborough, Maine. He was an A-4 Skyhawk pilot who flew 193 combat missions in Vietnam and also was a forward air controller for 3dMarDiv. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross and multiple awards of the Air Medal.

SSgt Alfred J. Hatzmann, 92, of Ossining, N.Y. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II in the Pacific as a member of Marine Bombing Squadron 423 from 1942 to 1945.

Sgt Margaret Hornecker, 93, of Short Hills, N.J. She was a Marine who served during WW II.

James R. "Jimmy" Hurst, 90, of New Orleans, La. He was a Marine who served with the 2dMarDiv in the Pacific during WW II.

1stSgt James R. Kelley, 92, of Stoughton, Mass. He was a Marine veteran who saw action during WW II. He later was a captain in the Stoughton Police Department.

MGySgt John Kiraly, 91, of Havelock, N.C. He was a Marine who served for 30 years during WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Michael Kot, 94, of Easton, Conn. He was a Marine veteran of WW II who fought on Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester and Peleliu where he earned a Purple Heart.

Sgt Joe Lambert, 69, of Mullin, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1965. His awards include the Purple Heart.

MSgt Holland Mabes Jr., 69, of Winston-Salem, N.C. He was a Marine who joined in 1966 and served two tours in Vietnam, retiring in 1989.

Phillip "Bud" Mandell, 92, of Cincinnati, Ohio. He joined the Marine Corps during WW II and was a tank driver in the 4thMarDiv. He saw action in the Pacific theater on Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Clyde E. Messer, 89, of Oshkosh, Wis. During WW II he served in the Marine Corps and fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Sgt Kenneth R. Moore, 89, of Spencer, Ind. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II who fought on Iwo Jima with 5thMarDiv.

Lorin D. Myring, 90, of Bend, Ore. He

left high school to join the Marine Corps and served during WW II and the Korean War. During WW II, he saw action in the Battle of Iwo Jima and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Alphonse A. "Al" "Foo" Pelosi, 90, of Waterbury, Conn. He joined the Marine Corps and saw action on Guam and Iwo Jima. He was wounded in action at Iwo Jima and was awarded the Purple Heart.

PFC Bernard R. Pfaff, 93, of Mauston, Wis. He was a Marine who served during WW II and later was an MP at Camp Pendleton, Calif. After the war he was a deputy sheriff for 22 years and a volunteer firefighter for 30 years.

Capt Ralph K. Robinson, 83, of Clifton, Texas. After serving in the Marine Corps at duty stations in California, Virginia, Hawaii and Okinawa, he worked in the oil industry.

MGySgt Russell W. Savatt Jr., 87, of Poway, Calif. He was a graduate of the New York Institute of Photography who served a 32-year career in the Marine Corps. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served two tours in Vietnam. He was a photographer for *Leatherneck*, and among his many assignments, he covered the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. He later ran the photo lab at MCRD San Diego, Calif.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he went to work for the police department in Oceanside, Calif., where he trained officers to photograph crime scenes.

His awards include the Bronze Star, the Air Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Sgt Robin A. "Bob" Sherlock, 89, of Westminster, Colo. He was a rifleman on Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He was a second-generation Marine Corps combat veteran. His father served in WW I.

Joseph C. Shesky, 89, of Columbus, Ohio. He was awarded the Silver Star for actions he performed when serving with Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, 5thMarDiv on Okinawa in May 1945. According to his award citation, when "the platoon adjoining his section was pinned down by intense hostile machine-gun and mortar fire while advancing against an enemy-held hill, Corporal Shesky unhesitatingly advanced to an exposed position in order to draw the enemy fire and thereby discover their location. Then, returning fire, he kept his gun in action, although seriously wounded, until his company reached a more advantageous position."

Cpl Patrick R. Sledd, 89, of Louisburg, Kan. He was a Marine who saw action on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

Alvin H. "Hap" Stevens, 94, in Edison, N.J. He was a Marine who fought on Guadalcanal with the 1stMarDiv during WW II.

GySgt Frederick M. Stevens, 63, of Carrollton, Texas. His 20 years in the Marine Corps included numerous assignments to the Mediterranean and Far East, including Vietnam.

SSgt Florence Sundquist, 95, of Walpole, Mass. After earning a bachelor's degree in education in 1941, she enlisted in the Marine Corps and served until the end of WW II.

SSgt Laurence M. "Larry" Taylor, 84, of Harbeson, Del. He was an aviation electronics operator who served during the Korean War. He later made a career in mechanical and quality assurance engineering with the U.S. Navy, the FAA and the Department of Energy.

Capt Melvin L. Thompson, 84, of Oceanside, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps before the outbreak of the Korean War. He served in I/3/1 and saw action at Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1966 and served as a platoon leader during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Silver Star for action in the Korean War.

According to the award citation, while serving as a rifleman of I/3/1, 1stMarDiv, he "risked his life under direct enemy fire to run to the supply dump and obtain critically needed ammunition for his squad. On two occasions while carrying out his voluntary mission, he assisted in evacuating wounded Marines across fire-swept terrain to the company aid station."

1stSgt Leo E. Tierney Jr., 86, of Cape Cod, Mass. He was a decorated Marine Corps veteran of three wars: WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Robert L. Timmons, 91, in Lawrence, Kan. He served during WW II and saw action in the South Pacific. Later on he coached high school and collegiate track and cross-country teams and served in the House of Representatives from 1996 to 2007.

GySgt Samuel Trizza, 92, of Dallas, Texas. After graduating from high school in 1941, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He saw action in the South Pacific during WW II and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he received in the Gilbert Islands. After retiring, he worked for 17 years for the U.S. Postal Service.

Shirley M. Wert, 92, of Wyoming, Mich. She served in the Marine Corps during WW II.

Henry C. Wohltmann Jr., 91, of Bryan, Ohio. He was a Marine veteran of WW II.



Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Veteran Burial Honors: DOD Urges Families to Learn Options

Planning funerals for military veterans and retirees can be overwhelming for their families. Deborah S. Skillman, the Defense Department's director of casualty and mortuary affairs, wants family members to familiarize themselves in advance, when possible, so they know what to expect with military funeral honors.

Skillman recommends that family members ensure they have access to the veteran's discharge papers, also known as DD Form 214, to prove eligibility.

It's also critical for family members who want military funeral honors to tell their funeral director who can make the request for them, she said. The honors are not automatic and must be requested through the veteran's branch of service, she noted.

"Families [also] need to know DOD is going to be there when the honors are requested," Skillman added.

The law mandates that the Department of Defense provide, at a minimum, a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, at least one of whom must represent the veteran's branch of service, she said. The core elements include the playing of "Taps," the folding of the American flag and presentation to the family.

Burials with military funeral honors can be conducted at national, veterans or private cemeteries, she said.

"While DOD is required to provide a [two servicemember] detail, policy encourages each service secretary to provide additional elements, such as the firing team and pallbearers, if resources permit. However, full honors are always provided for active-duty deaths," Skillman said.

"Military honors may consist of three rifle volleys by a firing team," she said, adding that veterans service organizations often participate in burials with military honors to serve as pallbearers and to provide a firing team.

The Department of Veterans Affairs also offers other benefits, such as headstones.

"We want to honor every eligible servicemember," Skillman said, "and make sure [the services] are there to render honors."

Terri Moon Cronk, DOD News

San Diego Nice Guys Carries on Christmas Fund Tradition

Members of the San Diego Nice Guys charity gathered at First Marine Division headquarters for a quiet ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 16, 2015.

During the ceremony, the group presented its annual contribution from its Marine Family Christmas Fund (MFCF) to assist local military families in their holiday grocery shopping. Since 1997, MFCF has supported thousands of 1stMarDiv families, primarily those who have forward-deployed Marines and sailors, with generous donations for the holiday season.

For the first 10 years, the group packaged and prepared food baskets containing staple items necessary for a traditional holiday dinner for those families, but then the organization found a way to expand its outreach to more families. Its focus now is on raising funds for the purchase of gift cards from local grocery stores so that families can buy their own groceries. The transition to gift cards allowed for more efficient grocery shopping, as each

family could select its own food.

Since its small beginning 18 years ago, the San Diego Nice Guys has been able to cast a larger net, hoping to support more families than ever.

The goal in 2015 was to raise enough money to support grocery store gifts to 750 families—a grand total of \$75,000 worth.

"It's just breathtaking," said Joe Botkin, one of the original founders and lead organizer of MFCF. "The response from the community has allowed us to reach our previously established goal."

Volunteers from the San Diego Nice Guys charity presented their gift donation to Major General Daniel J. O'Donohue, Commanding General, 1stMarDiv, and Sergeant Major William T. Sowers, 1stMarDiv sergeant major, to distribute amongst the "Blue Diamond" Division families.

"We are all very well aware that we are home safe and secure in our own homes and looking forward to Christmas, and we know that because we have the First Marine Division as our first line of defense



SgtMaj William T. Sowers, far right, and MajGen Daniel J. O'Donohue accept an annual Marine Family Christmas Fund contribution from members of the San Diego Nice Guys charity at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 16, 2015. The group has assisted local military families with their holiday grocery shopping since 1997.

COURTESY OF 1ST MAR DIV



SGT REBECCA ELLER, USMC

AN EARLY START— SSgt Carlos Taveras, a senior drill instructor from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., instructs children in Carson, Calif., as they do push-ups during a mentorship activity at Veterans Sports Complex, Dec. 31, 2015. Held in conjunction with the 2016 Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl, which took place Jan. 3, the event allowed the Marines and football players to teach local children the importance of good sportsmanship and leadership as well as health and wellness.

... we're very grateful for it and hope our little gesture will convey our thanks to the troops," said Botkin.

Following the presentation, MajGen O'Donohue expressed his gratitude for the charity's dedication to the Marines, sailors and their families.

"The fact that we have a community with us means ever so much for the Marines," he stated. "I can't thank you enough on their behalf."

The feedback received from the families who were directly impacted by those gifts was the most touching of all, according to a few of the members.

"It's hard to talk about even; we've received volumes of thank-you notes," said Botkin. "It is a joy to be able to work with this program. The reason we continue doing this is that it is a pure pleasure to be involved."

1stLt Colleen McFadden, USMC

Pentagon Announces Changes To Military Decorations and Awards

The Pentagon has made a number of changes to the military decorations and awards program to ensure that military personnel receive appropriate recognition for their actions, according to a statement released Jan. 7.

The changes come after a long and deliberate review, a defense official said during a Jan. 6 background briefing.

Then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel

initiated the review in 2014 to improve the military awards program by harnessing lessons learned from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the official said. "He wanted to ensure that we're appropriately recognizing our servicemembers for their services, actions and sacrifices."

The Pentagon statement points out the following key changes to the decorations and awards program:

- Implementation of new goals and processes to improve timeliness of the Medal of Honor and other valor awards;
- Standardization of the meaning and use of the Combat Distinguishing Device, or "V" device, as a valor-only device to ensure unambiguous and distinctive recognition for pre-eminent acts of combat valor;
- Creation of a new combat device, to be represented by a "C" worn on the relevant decoration, to distinctly recognize those servicemembers performing meritoriously under the most arduous combat conditions;
- Introduction of a "remote impacts" device, signified by an "R" to be worn on the relevant decoration, to recognize servicemembers who use remote technology to directly impact combat operations; and
- Adoption of a common definition of Meritorious Service Under Combat Conditions to determine eligibility for personal combat awards.

To "ensure that those servicemembers

who performed valorously were recognized at the appropriate level," Defense Secretary Ash Carter has directed the military departments to review Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross and Silver Star recommendations since Sept. 11, 2001, for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are approximately 1,000 Silver Star and 100 Service Cross recommendations under review, the official said. While there is a possibility a medal could get upgraded, no military personnel will have an award downgraded, he said.

The official noted that "unusual Medal of Honor awards trends" were one reason for the review.

The first seven Medal of Honor awards for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan were posthumous, he said, adding that there may have been a perception that only a fallen servicemember could receive the nation's highest military award for valor.

After the Department of Defense clarified the "risk of life" portion for the Medal of Honor's criteria in 2010, all of the last 10 recipients have been living, he noted. The review is to ensure that no one deserving of a higher honor has been overlooked.

The results of the reviews are due to the secretary of defense by Sept. 30, 2017.

Lisa Ferdinando, DOD News



to the cycle rate of fire with this hotter round not being in tune with the original development.

I am sure that you can obtain from the NRA *American Rifleman* this article. Hope this adds some clarity to this ongoing debate.

GySgt Michael A. Piserchia, USMC (Ret)
Past President, 2dMarDiv Association
Bayville, N.J.

I read the article in the October 2015 *Leatherneck* where the author claimed the M16's early problem was caused by the riflemen's lack of care. I thought at the time this man was never with an infantry unit in combat and doesn't know what he's writing about. Having read Rowland Creitz's very informative rebuttal in the January "Sound Off," I decided to add my 2-cents worth.

In 1966, I was the ordnance maintenance officer at the Force Logistics Command (FLC) in the Republic of Vietnam. I flew to Okinawa to attend an ordnance conference where the newly issued M16 rifle was the primary topic of discussion. We were shown pictures of dead Marines

clutching their M16s with their cleaning rods sticking out of the barrel and heard stories of Marines throwing down their jammed M16 and grabbing an AK47 off a dead Vietnamese. All the myriad of things causing the M16 to malfunction in combat were discussed at the conference.

In 1967, I was commanding officer of Ammunitions Company, FLC in Da Nang. One morning I saw a bunch of helicopters landing on my helipad without warning, so I jumped into my Mighty Mite (jeep) and went to see what was going on. Standing on the helo pad was General Lewis W. Walt, III Marine Amphibious Force; Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson Jr., First Marine Division; and Brigadier General James E. Herbold Jr., FLC, and their aides. I dutifully saluted, and before I could imagine what was going on, another helicopter touched down and out stepped a gentleman in utilities with no rank insignia. The general saluted, so I did. The gentleman came up to me and said, "Maj Olf, I'm told you're the expert on the M16 rifle problems. I'm Congressman [Richard W.] Bolling from Missouri, chairman of the subcommittee investigating the M16 rifle for the House Armed Services Committee."

I hardly considered myself an expert on the M16 rifle, never having even fired

one. I did remember what I'd heard and seen at the conference in Okinawa, and as the CO of Ammunition Co, I was involved with suspending issuing M16 ammunition we got from the Twin Cities and Lake Cities Arsenal because the gunpowder they used clogged the breeches. I told Congressman Bolling, as a combat weapon, the M16 was a piece of junk and the arsenals' bullets were garbage. Apparently, Congressman Bolling liked direct talk because he smiled and thanked me for my "candid observations" and got back on his helicopter and I saluted.

None of the generals gave me a dirty look before they departed, so I guess I didn't "step on my crank" and embarrass the Corps with my comments.

LtCol Nelson Olf, USMC (Ret)
Forest Grove, Ore.

Marines Take Care of Their Own

Marines do indeed take care of their own. Over the recent holidays I placed an order over the Internet for five USMC flags, which were going to be gifts. These gifts did not arrive on time as noted on the order confirmation. Consequently, I contacted the company with my complaint and disappointment. The response received was from a Marine who wrote that he took this personally and would resolve



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the issue, plus send me a gift. Three days later, Priority Mail came with six Marine Corps flags. When action is required, call on a Marine. Semper Fi and Oorah!

2ndLt Jack Rine, USMC (Ret)
Ocean View, Del.

• *We're glad a fellow Marine took care of the problem, but I'd recommend using www.marineshop.net in the future. In addition to your money going to support Marines through our programs, we pride ourselves on our customer service to include ensuring our customers' orders arrive on time!*—Editor

Col John Keenan

The January issue tells of the retirement from the MCA&F of Colonel John Keenan, former editor of *Marine Corps Gazette* and publisher of the *Gazette* and *Leatherneck*.

From time to time I telephoned his

number and he always answered and listened to my request. He then obtained the information I needed and called me back with answers.

Col Keenan is a credit to the Marine Corps and the MCA&F as well. A class man.

Peter M. Walker
Welches, Ore.

Reunions

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

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn. (Parris Island Chapter)**, April 21-24, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, www.parrislandddi.org.

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

• **USMC Bulk Fuel Assn.**, April 28-May 1, Charleston, S.C. Contact Howard Huston, (609) 432-4027, (609) 927-3857, hhust61@aol.com.

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

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

• **MCAS Nam Phong, Thailand ("The Rose Garden")**, May 12-15, San Diego, Calif. Contact Richard Koehnen, (619) 840-2335, richkoe@cox.net.

• **3d and 4th Defense Bns (Solomon Islands, WW II)**, Sept. 14-17, Billings, Mont. Contact Charles Buckley, (510)

589-5380, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, (512) 638-2075, sharon_heideman@yahoo.com.

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

• **1/5 (1986-92)**, May 6-8, Macomb, Ill. Contact Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com, or see Facebook page: 1/5 USMC Reunion.

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **1/3/7 (all eras)**, April 27-30, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **Btry A, 1/11 (RVN)**, April 15-19, Herndon, Va. Contact Peter Van Ryzin, (540) 347-3267, vanryzin1@hughes.net, www.all1reunion.com.

• **Btry K, 4/13 (RVN)**, May 18-22, Quantico, Va. Contact Tom Gafford, (434) 546-0774, tomgafford@gmail.com.

• **"Bravo" Co, 4th CEB, 4thMarDiv (Desert Storm, 25th Anniversary)**, May 13-14, Roanoke, Va. Contact Steve Garman, P.O. Box 748, Salem, VA 24153, stevegarman7@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

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

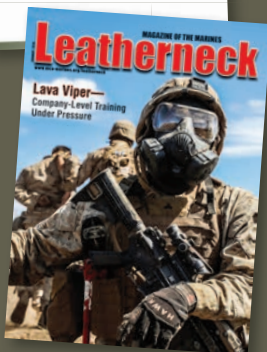
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• **Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.

• **Plt 340, Parris Island, 1963**, is planning a reunion. Contact Garrett W. Silva,

(508) 992-7392, gwsil@comcast.net.

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

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

• **Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707) 527-8319, wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com.

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

• **VMA(AW)-242 (RVN), May 1-4, Gettysburg, Pa.** Contact Bill Mellors, 4000 Emmitsburg Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320, 242reunion@gmail.com.

• **VMFA-212 (1975-81), March 18-20, San Diego, Calif.** Contact J.D. Loucks, P.O. Box 1, East Jewett, NY 12424, vmfa212reunion@aol.com.

Ships and Others

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

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12), May 15-19, Warwick, R.I.** Contact David F. Fix, 131 Waypoint Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com, www.ussinchon.com.

• **USS Ticonderoga (CV/CVA/ CVS-14/CG-47), May 19-23, Las Vegas, Nev.** Contact Floyd Frank, (702) 361-6660, papacva14@aol.com.



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Edited by Sara W. Bock

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Mail Call

- Cpl John E. Schmidt, P.O. Box 354, Drums, PA 18222-0354, gfy1963@yahoo.com, to hear from **Marines who were friends with or served with Sgt Jordan ZINIEWICZ**, who was assigned to **9th Communications Bn** and passed away on Dec. 15, 2015.

- Robert Boellner, (518) 239-4560, prospectorspan@netzero.net, to hear from members of **Plt 356, Parris Island, 1960, also known as the "Floyd Patterson" platoon**.

- Cpl Richard Hayes, (631) 587-4727, rhayes413@optonline.net, to hear from members of **Plt 303, Parris Island, 1956**. The senior drill instructor was **GySgt COTTON**.

- Jeff Brown, (407) 739-1227, jeffsbrown76@yahoo.com, to hear from Marines who knew his late brother, **LCpl Steven A. BROWN**, who served with **F/2/3, RVN**.

- Sgt Rob Walker, USMC (Ret), 1257 Rosemary St., Denver, CO 80220, rw5605@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who was at the **MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., brig, 1968-69**.

- CWO-3 David Strong, USMC (Ret), (760) 947-8417, dpsasso@gmail.com, to hear from members of **Plt 385, Parris Island, 1961-62**, for a possible reunion. The drill instructors were **SSgt R.J. BURGETT, Sgt J.D. NICHOLS and Sgt E. STRAUSSER**.

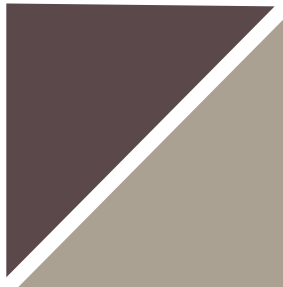
Wanted

Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered.

- R. Balcerski, (201) 317-2144, rbalcerski@yahoo.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 225, Parris Island, 1951**.

- Marine veteran Odell Young, 1 York Cir., Eastampton, NJ 08060, (609) 332-3561, young267@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 295, Parris Island, 1960-61**.

- Tony Montes Jr., (805) 732-3969, fury.dad555@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book and platoon photo for Plt 3111, San Diego, 1974**.



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Saved Round

Compiled by Nancy Lee White Hoffman



GYSGT JEREMY YOUGHT, USMC

ADVANCING LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE THROUGH PROFESSIONAL WRITING—Maj Jeffrey L. Seavy, center, is joined by his family and LtGen Lawrence D. Nicholson, Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Sept. 21, 2015, on Okinawa, Japan, after the Marine Corps Association & Foundation selected Maj Seavy's essay, "A Free Lunch—Cohesion Increases Readiness and Capability," as the winner of the 2015 MajGen Harold W. Chase Essay Contest. Maj Seavy's award-winning essay was published in the December 2015 issue of the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

After the Marine Corps Association was formed in 1913 at Guantanamo, Cuba, arrangements were being made for "the issuance of a publication devoted to the interests of the Association and of the Marine Corps," and thus, the *Marine Corps Gazette* was born.

On Oct. 27, 1915, retired Marine Capt Frank E. Evans, secretary-treasurer of the Board of Control of the MCA and soon-to-be editor of the new publication, wrote: "The *Gazette* will endeavor to stimulate by original articles and by reprints of especial worth, interest in such professional subjects as are of real value to the Corps, to present in permanent and authoritative form historical phases of the Corps' history that have hitherto been neglected, to stimulate discussions along profitable lines, offer to the Corps a medium through which the problems and betterment of the Corps may be presented and advanced," and to keep those serving in the Corps "in touch with developments that intimately affect them and from which they are separated while on foreign or sea service."

As the *Gazette* celebrates its 100th anniversary in March, those ideas are as relevant today as they were in 1915. Happy anniversary to the *Marine Corps Gazette*. We hope you're around for another 100!

