

SPECIAL INSERT: SENIOR LEADERS OF OUR CORPS

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

NOVEMBER 2012

# Leatherneck

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**Happy 237th Birthday, Marines!**



A Publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation



# Welcome to *Leatherneck Magazine's* **Digital Edition**

Happy 237th Birthday to all Marines and Marine families! Welcome to our November 2012 digital edition of *Leatherneck—Magazine of the Marines*. We hope you are enjoying our digital edition in its upgraded format. Our goal is to make it easier to access and navigate while providing more custom links to additional content such as videos, photo slideshows and related articles.

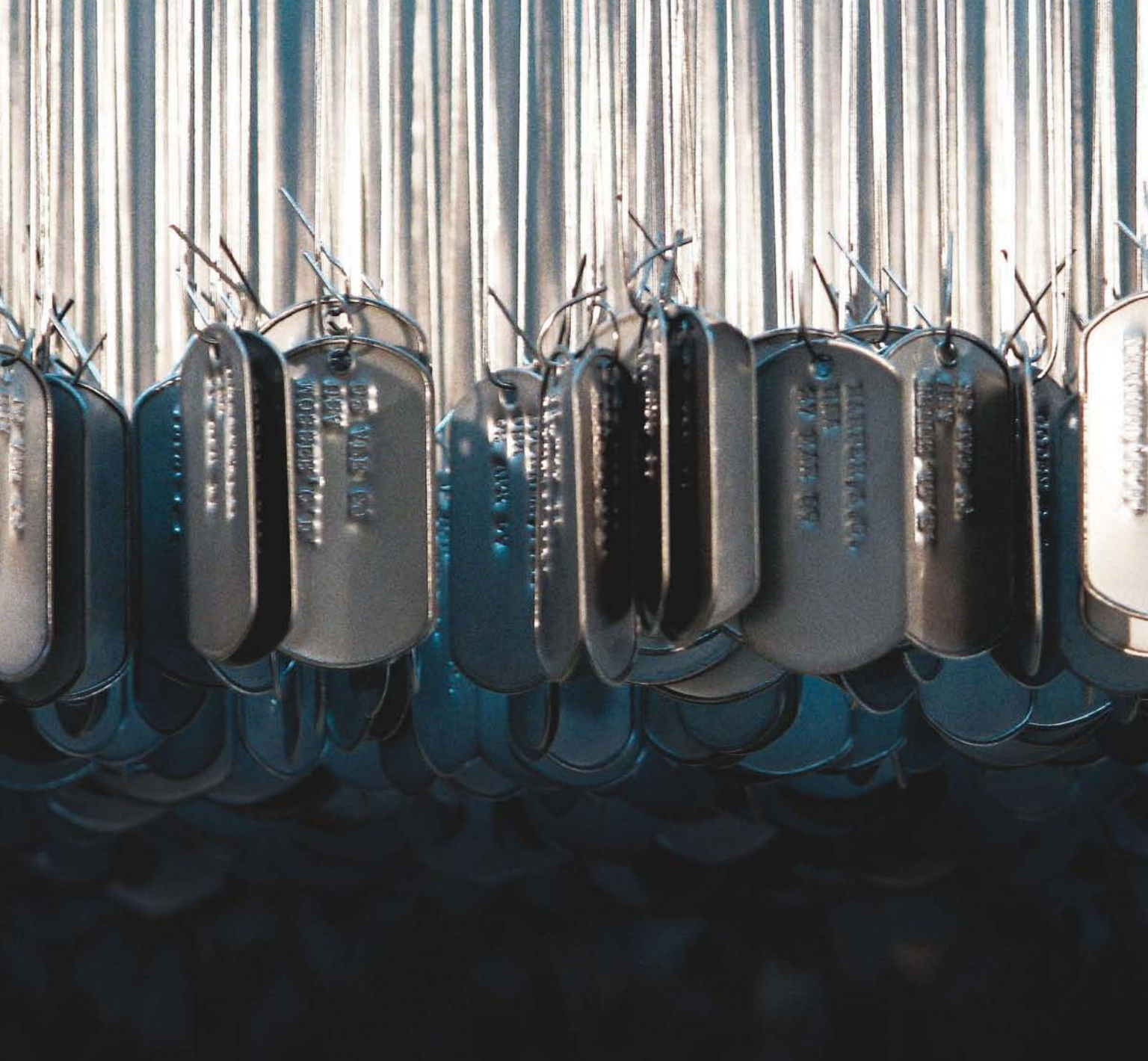
We are always looking for feedback as we continue to look for ways to deliver interesting content. So give us your thoughts via email at [leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org).

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

Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret)



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**COVER:** The cover illustration, "The War of 1812: No More Will We Fight as Enemies, but as Allies," is by LtCol Richard L. "Wild Bill" Cody, USMC (Ret). Read more on Marines in the War of 1812 beginning on page 44. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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



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# Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

## Letter of the Month

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

Friday morning, Sept. 14, 2012, at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., found long-ago graduates of 3d Recruit Training Battalion attending the morning colors and the graduation of “Charlie” and “Oscar” companies of the 1st and 4th RTBs.

Returning after graduating 50 years ago from the 3d RTB, we sat in the stands and marveled at the enormity and organization of this event. It was a splendid morning as the stands filled up with more than 3,000 family members and guests. I sat left of the VIP section, as a little tow-headed boy banged his toy Hess car against the aluminum bleachers. It didn’t matter, because 628 new Marines were lining up across the parade field, and the Marine band marched in front of us playing “Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning. ...”

What a glorious visit after all these years. I wish that every American citizen could experience a Marine graduation. At morning colors, the Depot commander, Brigadier General Loretta E. Reynolds, spoke eloquently in front of her headquarters building. She thanked the parents for entrusting their loved ones to the care of our Marine Corps, and she promised them that our Corps would continue to care for their loved ones by providing them with the best leadership possible.

The 1st RTB commanding officer spoke to the guests about the importance of training, and he thanked the families for allowing their children to enlist during a time of war. He then asked to be excused, and he did a sharp about face to address the two companies of new Marines. This is the tradition and the first time they are spoken to as United States Marines. He yelled out, “Good morning, Marines!” to all eight platoons stretched from one end of the parade field to the other, and they responded as one in a very loud manner, “Good morning, sir!” We were proud of all of them as they passed in review.

I would like to thank retired Gunnery Sergeant Kohn for escorting us and also

thank the men of Co M, 3d RTB for their hospitality. The city of Beaufort has really blossomed, and it is the perfect place to take a vacation.

Take the time to attend a graduation ceremony; it is an experience that you will cherish for the rest of your life. I promise.

LtCol Robert M. Mullins, USMCR (Ret)  
Delaware, Ohio



Former Sgt William Ditto taps out honors at Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery in Maryland.

## He Plays the Drums in Uniform On Veterans Day

For the last 22 years, I have been playing a drum in the Ali Ghan Shrine Band at Cumberland, Md., on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We play at the Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery.

God willing, this 83-year-old Marine will be playing again on Veterans Day, which is the only time I wear my uniform.

I enlisted July 12, 1949, and went to Parris Island, S.C. After boot camp I was sent to Sea School. In 1949, I was assigned to the Marine Detachment, USS *Missouri* (BB-63).

After leaving drydock I went on my first cruise. It was possibly the shortest cruise

any Navy ship ever made. On Jan. 17, 1950, only two hours out of Norfolk, Va., the ship went aground off Old Point Comfort, Va. We were stuck for two weeks. The ship defied every effort by the Navy to free her. On Feb. 1, six Marines from the detachment jumped overboard and pulled her out of the mud. (Oorah!)

On Aug. 19, 1950, USS *Missouri* departed for Korea where we started bombardment operations against North Korea on Sept. 17. We sailed back to Norfolk in March 1951, and I was sent to Camp Lejeune, N.C., to serve with Sixth Marine Regiment. I later served at Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va., as a military policeman and provided security for the Pentagon. I was discharged as a sergeant in 1953.

I have never felt separated from my Marine allegiance. I proudly display my Marine connection in my home, on my car and with my hat. My daughter has been amazed at the reaction that I receive, especially from Marines. I tell her, “Once a Marine, always a Marine.”

Former Sgt William Ditto  
Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

• *You still cut a fine figure of a Marine, but I want to know more about those six Marines pulling USS Missouri out of the mud. This had better be more than a “no \*#%#^.”*—Sound Off Ed.

## Mitchell Paige: More Than the Medal Of Honor, He Was a Man of Honor

While surfing the Internet, I read the 1992 *Leatherneck* article about Colonel Mitchell Paige. It was of considerable interest to me because I took the oath from him at the 12th Marine Corps District Headquarters, located in San Francisco, when I signed up in 1956 for the Platoon Leaders Class program.

He lived in the same San Francisco suburb where I lived, about 10 blocks from my parents’ house, and he invited me over one night to talk about my future. He was a cordial host and showed me some of his World War II battlefield souvenirs as well as his framed Medal of Honor citation signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Col Paige was a good man, and I always

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# Leatherneck

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COURTESY OF WALTER L. SETSER

"Old Corps" Sgt Walter Setser with daughter (left) and "New Corps" SSgt Kevin Nussbaum with son (right).



DAVID NUSSBAUM

held him in high regard, even when he got into trouble for his comments about then-Chief Justice Earl Warren.

I've often thought back about that evening and regret not asking him what I should have expected when I got to Quantico (Camp Barrett), Va., because my pre-arrival ideas of extra physical conditioning were insufficient. The Junior Course, however, took care of that.

Even though having to leave school for a semester caused my discharge from PLC, I still feel a strong tie to the Eagle, Globe and Anchor and, until double knee replacements recently altered my gait, I always felt I could march better than anyone else because of what I learned on that company street at Camp Barrett.

Warren Cereghino  
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

## The "Never-Give-Up" Spirit Of Corporal Todd Love

Thank you, Corporal Todd Love ["Love Is in the Air!" by Colonel John R. Bates, USMC (Ret), in the September issue] for your Marine Corps service and for the continuing extraordinary display of courage and determination to not only function, but to live life to the fullest.

Your example will stand as a beacon for other wounded warriors, and some will undoubtedly have second thoughts about what they currently believe to be the limits of their capabilities.

Of course, there are those who cannot do more, but there are certainly some individuals with the potential to move beyond their current status who will benefit from your marvelous depiction of the "never-give-up" spirit.

William P. Crozier  
W/2/5, Korea, 1951  
Weymouth, Mass.

## Her Father Is a Marine; She Couldn't Ask for Anything More

I am 80 years old and a wounded-in-action survivor of the Chosin Reservoir in 1950. My daughter, Cindy Lou Setser, was 6 weeks old in 1952 when we posed for this picture [above left] at the Marine Corps Supply Center Barstow, Calif.

Former Sgt Walter L. Setser  
Hisperia, Calif.

• Sgt Setser sent us his picture with a page from the May issue showing SSgt Kevin N. Nussbaum in his 2012 dress blues with his 1-month-old son, Anthony, sleeping on his barracks hat. There's a great difference in uniforms, and we couldn't pass on Sgt Setser and daughter.—Sound Off Ed.

## He's Baaack!

There are no words, really, to describe my feelings about this cartoon. [Another cheap shot at the Corps by Arizona Republic political cartoonist Steve Benson, who has trashed the Corps regularly over the years. His latest depicts the Marine Corps emblem dripping with blood from what he calls the "United States Massacre Cover-up."]

A lot of my mates wear the emblem Benson defiles and wear it proudly. Many of my comrades died wearing it.

I doubt very much that any insult directed toward Benson would have any impact, because someone with his intellect can't be insulted.

Terence S. O'Connell  
I/3/9, 3dMarDiv  
RVN, 1966-67  
Morton Grove, Ill.

• Thanks, Terry, for sending your letter to us. You are correct. The guy is not only a knucklehead, but terminally dumb. He'll





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*never know or understand the bonds we share as Marines. His is a wretched life which, to quote the bard Sir Walter Scott, will be lived out "unwept, unhonored, and unsung."—Sound Off Ed.*

## Here's What They Ate and What They Drank in China on the Corps' 148th

Here are some menus [below] from the Marine Corps' 173rd Birthday in 1948 held in Tsingtao, China. One is from the on-base party, and the other is from the Corporals Club off-base, where hard liquor was allowed.

I served in China from 1947 to 1949 and then two tours in Korea. I got out in 1954.

James E. Williams  
Azle, Texas

• *Thanks, James. But, you know, you never really "got out."*—Sound Off Ed.

## The Constitution: You've Sworn To Defend It, Do You Know It?

I'm continually amazed (dismayed) that many of our Marines who are currently serving are unaware of exactly what the U.S. Constitution is and what it means.

This is disturbing, especially when it's in our oaths of enlistment/office to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

While we can't educate all Americans, we can and should try to help educate our Marines.

SgtMaj Frank Pulley, USMC (Ret)  
Murrieta, Calif.

• *I agree. If you're going to support and defend something with your life, you'd best know what it is.*

<i>Roast Turkey</i> <i>Baked Ham</i> <i>Cranberry Sauce</i> <i>Potato Salad</i> <i>Stuffed Celery</i> <i>Olives, Assorted/Sweet Pickles</i> <i>Potato Chips</i> <i>Hot Rolls/Butter</i> <i>Birthday Cake/Coffee</i> <i>Cigarettes/Cigars</i>		<i>Commanding Officer, Aircraft,</i> <i>Fleet Marine Force, Western Pacific</i> <i>Colonel T. H. Lamson-Scribner USMC</i> <hr/> <i>Executive Officer</i> <i>Colonel E. B. Carney USMC</i> <hr/> <i>Mess Officer</i> <i>WO J. R. Nielsen USMC</i> <hr/> <i>Mess Sergeants</i> <i>Jules C. Kilgore</i> <i>H. Buckley</i> <i>G. F. Bohrer</i>	
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MENU		DRINK	
COLD	TURKEY	BEER	
COLD	HAM	RICHARD	
COLD	MEAT	MARTINI	
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Fortunately, there are a number of patriotic organizations that sell or sometimes give away pocket editions of "The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America." I have one that was put out by the Cato Institute, which I keep with me at most times. It's inexpensive and available from our retail store (\$4.95 to non-MCA members and less for members) at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net).

Thanks for the note, Sergeant Major. Good advice.—Sound Off Ed.

### About the Cover Illustration

The War of 1812, also known as America's Second War with Great Britain, was the last major conflict in which American and British forces faced each other in battle. This illustration [*Leatherneck's* November cover] symbolically represents two sergeants, one a Royal Marine and the other a U.S. Marine, toasting each other with a friendly "tot" of Navy grog at the end of the war.

*No more will we fight as enemies ...  
but as allies ...*

The Royal Marine is dressed according to the regulations of 1802. His grade of sergeant is indicated by the three stripes, or chevrons, worn on the right sleeve. Corporals wore two chevrons. The British adopted noncommissioned officer (NCO) chevrons in 1807.

The U.S. Marine uniform is the style adopted in 1804, as modified in 1805 and 1810. The American leatherneck, as a sergeant, wears two yellow shoulder knots similar to epaulets, one on each shoulder. Corporals wore one on the right shoulder. This was the standard method of identifying NCOs at the time. Officers wore large gold epaulets. In addition, officer uniforms were distinctively more elaborate.

Americans did not adopt British-style NCO chevrons until the mid-19th century. The U.S. Army did so in 1847, wearing them point up initially, then before the Civil War, turning them point down. Prior to World War I, the Army turned them back to point up. U.S. Marines followed suit in 1859, but always wore the chevrons point up.

The American sergeant sports a leather cockade and red plume on the left side of his "shako," or cap. This further distinguishes him from corporals and below whose plumes were attached to the front of their shakos. Staff NCOs at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps and the senior sergeant in a ship's detachment also wore red sashes around the waist.

Both sergeants carry swords. The Royal Marine also is armed with a "spontoon."



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*Oh, messmates, pass the bottle 'round,  
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For our grog will stop, and spirits drop,  
On the first day of September ...*

*For tonight we'll merry, merry be,  
For tonight we'll merry, merry be,  
For tonight we'll merry, merry be,  
Tomorrow we'll be sober ...  
(Old American Navy chantey)*

Happy Birthday and Semper Fidelis!  
LtCol Richard "Wild Bill" Cody, USMC (Ret)  
Stafford, Va.

## At High Noon He Faced a Knuckle-Dragging Behemoth And Nothing Could Save Him

To be honest, back in 1960, there was not a lot of entertainment during Boot Camp. After coming back from the rifle range at Camp Matthews and toward the end of training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, the drill instructors decided to remedy that oversight by scheduling some boxing matches with the platoon next to us. I suspect the DIs hated me because I had graduated from high school and spoke English, and they couldn't, without slipping a four-letter expletive as an adjective or interjection into every sentence.

As a way of getting back at me before I escaped to my first duty station, they called me in and told me I had volunteered to fight in the 145-pound class of a contest against a recruit in Platoon 308. I'm pretty sure their plan was to bet against me and double their paychecks. The last time I had boxed was at age 11.

To put it mildly, I did not look forward to the contest, which was supposed to be in a week, on a Sunday at noon. I suspected they had chosen Sunday because the base chapel was already open for church services and they could easily add a funeral to the sermon.

Boot Camp was not like school. When you were given an order, even if it was to get beaten to a pulp, you followed it. Playing sick and staying home and faking a note from your mother was out of the question. After I heard the news, I prepared as best I could for the bout. The first thing I did was to get a little fellow from my platoon by the name of Fritchle to do some reconnaissance. I told him to ask some of the guys in Platoon 308, with whom we shared the mess hall, who their entry was in the 145-pound class.

Bad idea. Fritchle reported back to me during chow and told me he had located

## ORIGINAL ISSUE



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The latter is a traditional symbol of authority carried by sergeants in many European and American units into the early 19th century. It also was a handy weapon in close-quarters combat. The drum major of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Drum and Fife Corps carries a spontoon today in commemoration of this practice.

U.S. Marine officers, sergeants and musicians carried swords. In formation with troops, junior sergeants were armed with muskets, as well as swords. The standard weapon of corporals and below was the musket. When armed with a musket, white cross belts were worn with the cartridge box slung on the right hip and bayonet (and sword for sergeants) on the left.

### The "Spirits" Ration

The spirits ration enjoys a long-standing tradition in many armed forces of the world. It included daily portions of various alcoholic beverages, such as beer, whiskey and wine.

The drink best known to British and American sailors and Marines, however, is grog. The latter is a popular concoction of watered-down rum usually spiced with a little lemon juice that was issued aboard ship once or twice a day. Much to the chagrin of American naval forces, the

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the guy and to check out the kid facing us two tables away, three seats from the far end. Holy crap! I looked and there blocking the sunlight was a huge Marine who was taking up two places on the bench. He must have weighed 215 with no boots on. He made the kids around him look like grade schoolers, and they were all giving him their desserts and anything else he wanted.

I felt sick to my stomach and forgot everything I had learned in my intensive half-hour of hand-to-hand combat three weeks before. That mammoth was about to eat my lunch, and there was nothing I could do to get out of what was about to be the fastest and most brutal knockout in the history of boxing matches at MCRD. In the name of fair play, how could a skinny white kid be paired up against Private Duane "Mad Dog" Washington? He looked over at me and smiled and flipped me part of a peace sign. When he smiled, I caught the glint of a gold tooth.

I wondered if there was enough time to get money from home to bribe some idiot to take my place.

During the next five days, I couldn't eat. I couldn't sleep. I felt an asthma attack coming on, and I didn't even have asthma. I had constant diarrhea, and in four days my weight dropped from 145 to 135.

Saturday night before the fight and after evening chow at the final formation before lights out (the idea of lights out brought another flutter to my lower intestine), drill instructors Howland and Moody introduced the combatants from Plt 307 to the troops. Each time someone's name was called, everyone cheered wildly. Of course they did. Those lucky lollygaggers did not have to fight that behemoth of a man at noon the following day in the makeshift, concrete-floored, outdoor ring surrounded by rusting Quonset huts and 200 screaming maggots.

I woke up Sunday morning (well actually it was 11:30 Saturday night). It felt extremely stuffy and humid. The sheets on my bunk were soaked. I struggled to get back to sleep. At 5:30, Sgt Howland came crashing through the hatch and beat on the trash can lid with a stick. Fifty pairs of bare feet hit the floor in unison, and the last day of my life began.

After morning chow, we were marched to church services. I prayed as hard as I had ever prayed in my life. Although not required during the service, I whispered all three of the prayers I could remember from a hit-and-miss attendance at Episcopal Sunday school a lifetime earlier.

All too soon the service ended, and we were marched back to the barracks. Everyone, but the five contestants, remained in their uniforms. We, the condemned, put

on our black, government-issue high tops, an XXL, one-size-fits-all USMC supporter, red physical training shorts, white T-shirts and a yellow Marine Corps sweatshirt. Then we fell out onto the blacktop ready to march the half mile to the ring. I felt faint. I felt like a trapped rodent. I was screwed.

As we marched toward the ring, I felt something hit the top of my nearly shaved head. Then I felt it again. I thought I felt a rumble in my chest. I figured it was my heart giving out. No! I had heard the distant rumble of thunder. Then there was more rain and more thunder—and then, beautiful lightning streaked through the sky.

With one exception, nothing on earth could have cancelled that boxing match. Somewhere in large, bold letters in the drill instructor's sadistic manual it is written: "All outdoor activity will be cancelled immediately if there is lightning in the area."

The following Wednesday, before the bouts could be rescheduled, I was shipped out to Marine Corps Air Station New River in Jacksonville, N.C., and you'll never convince me that prayer is a waste of time.

LCpl William A. Bascom, USMC (Ret)

St. Louis



### Our Annual Marine Corps Salute From One of Our Favorite Readers

Submitted for your approval for the November 2012 issue of *Leatherneck*. I wish you and our fellow Marines a Happy Birthday.

Robert R. Heim  
Korean War veteran  
Readford, Mich.

• *Thank you, sir! Happy Marine Corps Birthday to you and yours and all leathernecks and their families. "Long live the United States and success to the Marines!"—Sound Off Ed.*



## Personnel Retrieval and Processing During the Korean War

The July story "PRP Marines Ensure No One Is Left Behind," by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), was of great interest, as I served with Graves Registration, Seventh Marine Regiment from April 1952 to April 1953.

I was three months past my 18th birthday and had no previous training for such an assignment.

I can assure you that every "Killed in Action" was treated with the greatest respect. After proper preparation, each KIA Marine was placed in a black zippered body bag and delivered to the Army morgue at Munsan-ni.

There were six to eight of us with the regiment. No one was allowed to have a camera or talk to anybody concerning our service to our brother Marines. It is still a mute subject.

Sgt John T. Truitt  
USMC, 1951-55  
Peoria, Ill.

## Iowa Not the Last Remaining Battleship of WW II

USS *Iowa* (BB-61) is certainly not the "last remaining World War II battleship," as stated in the September "Leatherneck Line." In fact, all four of the *Iowa* class



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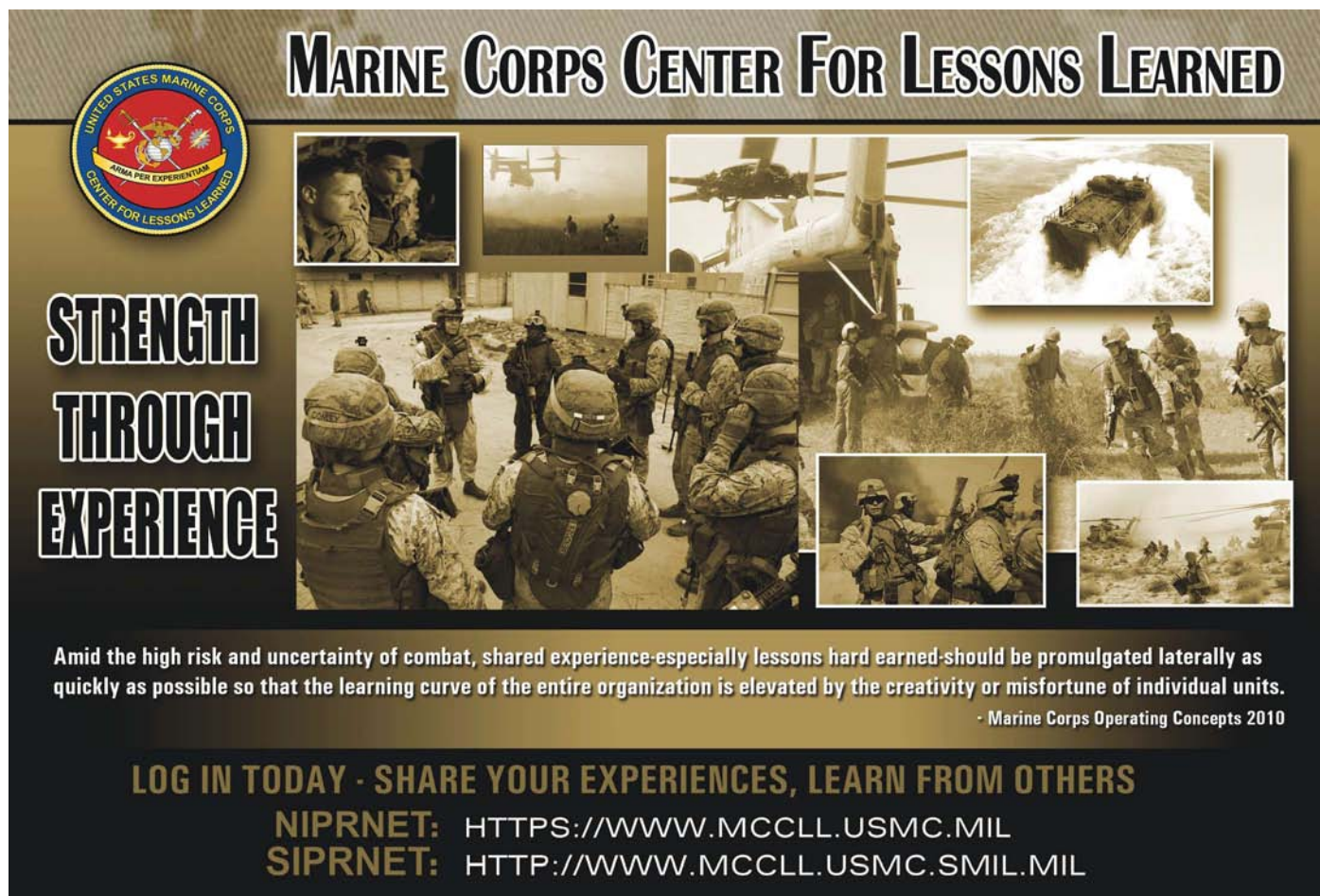
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## NEW IN PAPERBACK

### Forgotten Warriors

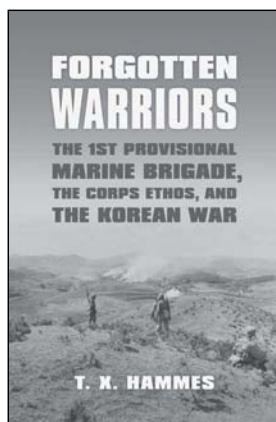
#### The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, the Corps Ethos, and the Korean War

T. X. Hammes

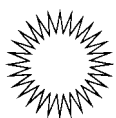
"Hammes shows that, thanks to the critical decisions of the prewar Marine Corps leadership to reconstruct the legendary Marine Corps Air/Ground Team and experiment with its combat formations, and its constant emphasis on cultural attributes of the Corps, the 1st Provisional Brigade overcame nearly all material and personnel shortfalls that it faced. . . . An excellent book and a must-read for all students of Korean War history."—*Marine Corps Gazette*

"Applying original research and rich personal experience in the Marine Corps, Hammes shows how Corps values and focused training counted more than combat experience and unit cohesion."

—Allan R. Millett, author of *The Korean War, 1950–1951: They Came from the North*



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battleships still exist: USS *New Jersey* (BB-62) is at Camden, N.J. USS *Missouri* (BB-63) is anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, near USS *Arizona* (BB-39). USS *Wisconsin* (BB-64) currently is berthed at the Nauticus museum in Norfolk, Va.

Perhaps the author was trying to say *Iowa* was the last WW II battleship to be turned over for use as a floating museum. The article did not say if that is what was intended.

A little more attention to detail is necessary when writing about the legendary *Iowa* class battleships.

I'm sure I'm not the only Marine *Leatherneck* reader to point this out to you.

Art Montegari  
Ridgewood, N.J.

• You were, but you are right in doing so. Also, two battleships, USS *Illinois* (BB-65) and USS *Kentucky* (BB-66), were originally to be Montana and Ohio, the first and second ships of the Montana class of battleships. However, Congress passed emergency ship building legislation in 1940, which resulted in the first two ships of the planned Montana class being ordered as the fifth and sixth Iowa class battleships. Neither ship was completed by war's end. Both were sold for scrap in 1958.—*Sound Off Ed.*

### "Bucket Issue" and Guidebooks

Back in January I enjoyed Staff Sergeant Joe McKeown's letter about the cultural collision between the "Old Corps" and the "New Corps." It reminded me of a time when, at the receiving center at Parris Island, S.C., I watched a young gunnery sergeant explain to a visiting group of old Marines and their wives the "bucket issue" displayed on the bulkhead.

After they left, I asked him if he knew why the initial issue is called the "bucket issue." He had no idea of its origin. I enjoyed telling him of the original bucket issue of basic necessities: razor, toothbrush, shoe polish, etc., in a heavy steel bucket and told him of the bucket's multiple functions including its key role in packing a seabag. He was appreciative and I hope it enriched his future "bucket issue" lectures.

At the risk of sounding nitpicky, SSgt McKeown's memory is faulty about the "Guidebook for Marines." I received one in January 1949. It was the May 1948 edition. In those days, if I am not mistaken, the guidebook was published by *Leatherneck*. I lost it, along with my original receipt for the bucket issue and the shaved head (the "haircut" cost 25 cents) during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The first incarnation of the guidebook was called "The Marine's Handbook" and was published from the early 1930s through World War II. It was called "The Red Book" by the troops because it had a red cover. Beginning in 1946, it became called the "Guidebook for Marines" and has been so designated ever since.

I would appreciate being in touch with SSgt McKeown. We could exchange memories of the "relatively" Old Corps.

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

• There may have been other books. One published in the 1890s called "The Marines' Manual" was the leatherneck bible. It was the Corps' first handbook on military subjects that advised bathing and washing the feet "at least twice a week." It stated that good marksmanship consisted of taking "the best position for holding the rifle. Aim it correctly, hold it steadily, and pull the trigger without deranging the aim."

You are correct that *Leatherneck* magazine published the "Guidebook for Marines" for many years. First advertised in the December 1945 magazine, it was available in early 1946. When *Leatherneck* became part of the Marine Corps Association in 1976, MCA took over publishing. One more tidbit of info: Chuck Beveridge, who worked on an earlier edition of the "Guidebook" when he was a staff sergeant

[continued on page 80]

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



As we pause to celebrate the 237th Birthday of our Corps, we reflect on the rich legacy of service handed down to us, we recommit ourselves to the tasks at hand, and we look forward toward a bright future in service to our country.

Marines exist to fight and win our nation's battles. We are most proud of our well-earned reputation for answering the clarion call first. This was never more evident than at the epic Battle of Guadalcanal 70 years ago. Picked to lead the first Allied counteroffensive of the Pacific War because they "were the most ready," Marines landed on 7 August 1942 in the Solomon Islands. They persevered through months of unrelenting deprivation and bitter combat. By the time the veterans of the Blue Diamond, the Cactus Air Force, our legendary Marine Raiders, and initial elements of the Follow-Me Division gathered together to raise a canteen and toast the Birthday of their beloved Corps some three months later, the battle was no longer an issue. The situation was well in hand ... victory was assured.

We carry that same legacy of resolute commitment and valor today. Over the past year, Marines have stood firm in the toughest of circumstances and on numerous occasions. We've taken the fight to the enemy in Helmand and to the Horn of Africa. We've manned the ramparts of beleaguered embassies in the Middle East and North Africa, fought alongside our Allies throughout the world, while behind the scenes, afloat and ashore, other Marines did the painstakingly hard work required to maintain our high levels of readiness and efficiency.

As we look toward the future, we know that our sentimental place in the hearts of our fellow Americans and critical role in the defense of our way of life are assured. America has always wanted a Marine Corps ... it's always been that way. Now, more than ever, America needs its Marines as we confront a dangerous and unpredictable world. Faced with difficult days ahead, we will continue to draw strength from our rich heritage and the shared values of the Marines to our left and to our right. We know who we are ... we know what we stand for. As ever we will strive to be found worthy of the legendary trust of our fellow Americans.

I salute the enduring faithfulness of those who have gone before, of those who wear our cloth today, and of the families who stand so resolutely at our sides.

Happy Birthday, Marines, and Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James F. Amos".

James F. Amos  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps



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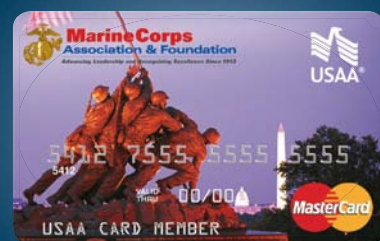


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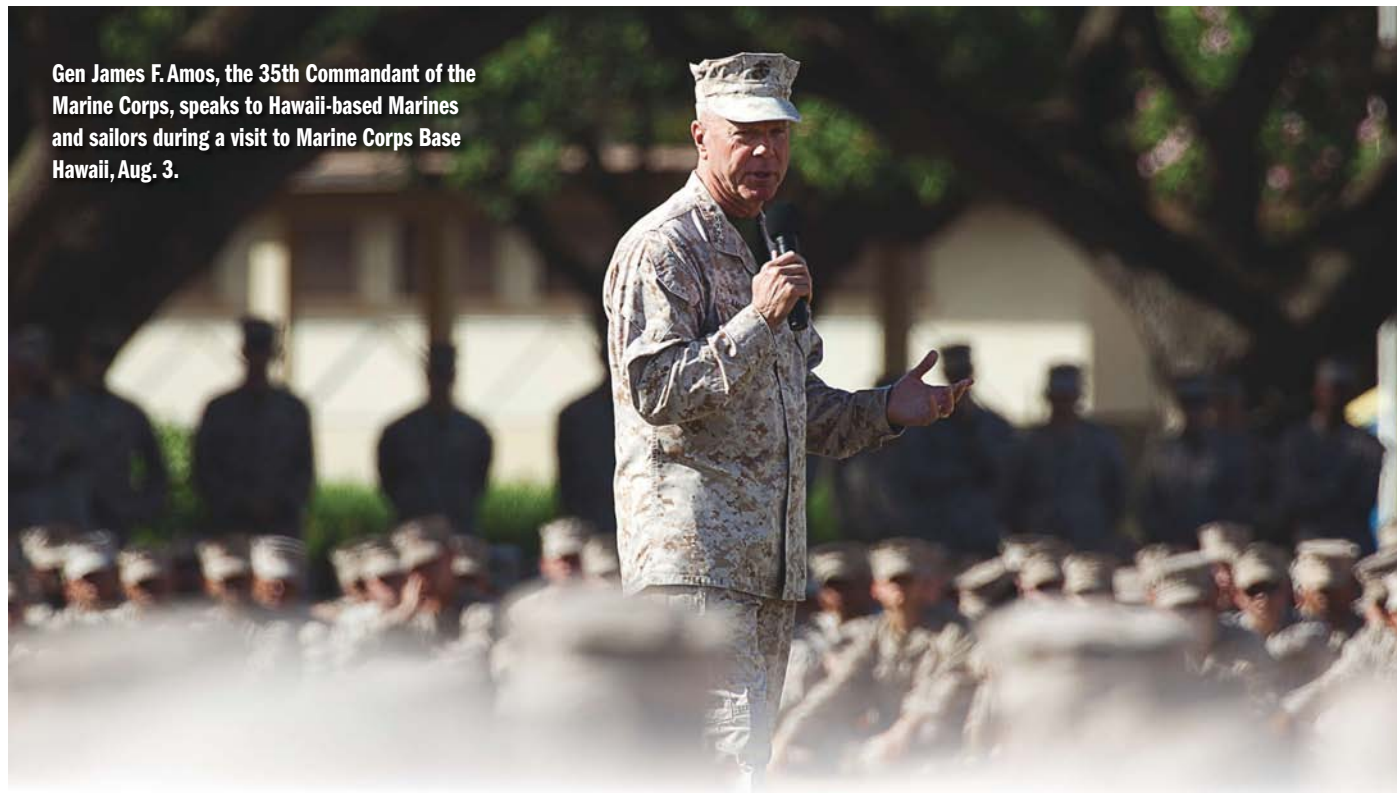
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# The Corps and the Way Ahead:

General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps

Gen James F. Amos, the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, speaks to Hawaii-based Marines and sailors during a visit to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Aug. 3.



CPL REECE LODDER

By Arthur P. Brill Jr.

*Faced with complying with the Commander in Chief's guidance to reduce force structure and withdraw from Afghanistan and Operation Enduring Freedom, seemingly in a world of heightened instability, Leatherneck contributing editor Lieutenant Colonel Art Brill, USMC (Ret) sat down with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, to get an update on today's Corps and what lies ahead in this next year.*

**Leatherneck:** What do your Marines think about serving in the Pacific area after leaving Afghanistan?

**Gen Amos:** When I visit Afghanistan and ask how many Marines have been to the Western Pacific, the only ones who raise their hands are the old master gunnery sergeants, the sergeant major and the battalion commander. It's pretty exciting for the youngsters. It gives them a feel for where we're headed. For us old guys, there is a sense of going home.

**Leatherneck:** In August, you visited Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, a historic Marine World War II Pacific battleground. What was that like?

**Gen Amos:** I flew out there with Sergeant Major Barrett [Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett, 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps] for the 70th anniversary on August 7, 1942. I was honored to represent the U.S. at the commemoration ceremony. It was my first visit and almost a spiritual experience to talk with those folks and tour historic areas like Red Beach, Bloody Ridge and the old Henderson Field site.

**Leatherneck:** The protection of Australia was one of the reasons Marines landed on Guadalcanal. Will Marines return there in the post-Afghanistan era?

**Gen Amos:** Down the road, the U.S. and Australia have agreed to about 2,500 Marines rotating in and out of Darwin. The nations will set the timeline and pace of that. The first contingent of 200 Marines

left Darwin in September after training with the Australians. Because of the rainy season, the next group of Marines won't rotate in until around February.

**Leatherneck:** In the Pacific Strategy, what will the Corps' posture look like?

**Gen Amos:** The President and Secretary [Leon E.] Panetta directed us to have 22,000 Marines west of the International Date Line (IDL). That's the big thing in the strategy for us. Roughly, here's how it will look. I've mentioned the Marines in Australia. Although Hawaii is really west of the IDL, a good size Marine force is there now and we'll probably assign more. We're not sure how many and where they will go yet.

The 14,000 Marines on Okinawa today will decrease to about 10,200. The big chunk of that drawdown will be on naval amphibious ships, so they'll be off Okinawa. The C-130s and some command elements on Okinawa will move to join our tactical aviation at Iwakuni [Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan]. Iwa-

kuni comprises about 3,500 Marines and sailors, and it will grow to also accommodate the Navy's Carrier Wing Five from Atsugi, Japan. Guam is looking at 4,500 right now. Those will be predominantly Marine rotational units that will flow in. A command element will be permanently stationed there with some families.

**Leatherneck:** Will the Unit Deployment Program (UDP) be part of the Pacific Strategy?

**Gen Amos:** To get 22,000 Marines west of the IDL, we want to begin the UDP in earnest. We have one UDP battalion there now, and we hope to bring a second infantry battalion out in February. We're looking for more training opportunities throughout the Pacific. Hopefully, Korea will be one of those places and perhaps the Philippines.

**Leatherneck:** The Pacific area's terrain is much different from Afghanistan. What training changes are you contemplating?

**Gen Amos:** Jungle warfare training is important. I visited our Jungle Warfare Training School in Okinawa's Northern Training Area and that was pretty impressive. I see us training up there. We're dedicating an effort now to reconstitute the school with the right amount of money and command structure.

**Leatherneck:** Why is the Pacific area so important?

**Gen Amos:** America is a Pacific nation. Five of our most important mutual defense treaties are in this region. The Asia Pacific area is home to 61 percent of the world's population, 15 of the world's 28 mega cities and 12 of the top 15 U.S. trading partners. An average of 70,000 people are killed every year by natural disasters in the Asia Pacific area, costing more than \$35 billion. Humanitarian assistance is one of our missions.

**Leatherneck:** As we speak, 12 MV-22s are sitting idle at Iwakuni. Will the Japanese allow the Ospreys to fly over there?

**Gen Amos:** The Japanese government warmly appreciates the Corps' quick response to their devastating tsunami and earthquake disaster. The Osprey gives us added capability, and I feel good about its safety. I've flown often in Japanese airspace, and no one is more interested in



From left, Ashley Ekins, the head of the Australian War Memorial military history section; LTG David L. Morrison, the Australian Chief of Army; and Gen James F. Amos, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, tour the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, Australia, Aug. 8. (Photo by Sgt Mallory S. VanderSchans)

the safety of not only my Marines, but also the Okinawan people. I sense that our governments will work through this, and when the time is right, we'll fly the airplane. [Ospreys arrived in Okinawa in October.]

**Leatherneck:** The "green on blue" incidents in Afghanistan are disheartening. You visit your Marines often over there. How do you see things?

**Gen Amos:** I'm acutely aware of the "green on blue." They are very painful, and even more so when they affect Marines, but they won't deter us from our mission. I've visited Afghanistan for the past four years, and I've watched it steadily progress and turn more favorable each year. In my last visit to Helmand province in August, Sergeant Major Barrett and I tried to hit every Marine combat outpost. As one visit concluded, a regimental commander pulled me aside. He said, "Commandant, I want you to hear this from me. We're going to be OK. The Afghan National Army commanders and their young soldiers have stepped up. It doesn't mean we won't have problems, but things are going quite well."

**Leatherneck:** Are you as optimistic?

**Gen Amos:** There actually is a very capable Afghan National Army in Hel-

mand province. I just don't hang around our Marines. I've known the 215th Corps commander for many years. I visit his Afghan soldiers with him. As we draw our Marines down in the province, the Afghan security forces there have increased by 20,000. There's every reason for optimism in Helmand. Those Afghan forces are well led.

**Leatherneck:** The Marine Corps has opened up some jobs that were previously closed to female Marines recently. How is that going?

**Gen Amos:** Since 9/11, many female Marines have been in combat. So, women in combat is not the issue. We have just opened up artillery, tanks, amphibious tractors, light air defense and combat engineer units to female Marine officers and staff noncommissioned officers [SNCOs] at the battalion level. Those units were previously closed to women. We're not opening up MOSs [military occupational specialties] that are currently closed, just enabling women to serve on the battalion staffs. We're starting that process now. Early indications are that it was the right thing to do. My expectations are pretty high.

**Leatherneck:** What are your plans to test the feasibility of women serving in the infantry?

**"A regimental commander pulled me aside. He said, 'Commandant, I want you to hear this from me.**

**We're going to be OK. The Afghan National Army commanders and their young soldiers have stepped up.'"**



**"I recommended that we avoid a reduction in force [RIF] to the Defense Secretary. The Marine Corps is bred on loyalty and faithfulness. I can't imagine breaking a Marine's contract who is willing after boot camp to fight for the nation."**

**Gen Amos:** We've got several data collection initiatives underway. I need to get past hyperbole and opinion and get down to facts. So we've started a very deliberate, measured and responsible approach to this. There are three main initiatives underway. First, we have received an exception to policy to assign female officers and SNCOs to the battalion staffs at ground combat arms units with the exception of infantry units. We're not opening up closed MOSs at this time, just enabling women to serve in some units that were previously closed to them. My female officers and SNCOs are leading here, and I'll receive their feedback as well as that of the battalion commanders and sergeants major to see how this works out.

We're also taking a look at physical performance standards for men and women, both officer and enlisted. Lastly, we're allowing female lieutenants to attempt the very rigorous 13-week Infantry Officer Course curriculum starting in late September. This is a data collection effort, so there's no plan to award the 0302 MOS [infantry officer military occupational specialty] to women at this time, but the women who volunteer for the challenge will provide us valuable data.

**Leatherneck:** How are your male Marines in combat going to react to having a woman platoon leader?

**Gen Amos:** We're not there yet. That's why we have this research and data collection effort underway. I'm not afraid of the data, so we'll see where this goes.

**Leatherneck:** Will the future shift to the Pacific still enable the Marine Corps to operate in other parts of the world?

**Gen Amos:** The Pacific will have a certain spotlight, but we'll continue to keep our focus on Southwest Asia, Africa, South America and Europe. We're training and exercising in those places right now. We can do our nation's bidding anywhere. We could get on ships or airplanes and go somewhere probably more rapidly and less costly than any other force.

**Leatherneck:** How will you draw the Marine Corps down from 202,000 to 182,200?

**Gen Amos:** We'll do it responsibly and keep faith with our Marines. I recommended that we avoid a reduction in force [RIF] to the Defense Secretary. The Ma-

rine Corps is bred on loyalty and faithfulness. I can't imagine breaking a Marine's contract who is willing after boot camp to fight for the nation. If I send him home after two years, I'm breaking faith. The contracts will stay. However, when they expire, first-term reenlistments will be more competitive. Those young Marines must perform well to stay in. That goes up the line as well. We'll lose some Marines, but at least I haven't broken faith.

**Leatherneck:** How are you handling the officers in this drawdown?

**Gen Amos:** The same way. When I was growing up, most of us got commissions as Reserve officers and some augmented into the career force. That's what happened to me. We're doing exactly the same thing. Our young officers are competing for career designation. At the end of their contracts, some will not be selected.

**Leatherneck:** How will you decrease the Corps, and what do your Marines think about the increased competition?

**Gen Amos:** We'll come down about 5,000 a year over a four-year period. Right now, Congress and the Pentagon leadership support that. I feel good about what we're doing. I think it's resonating through-

out the Corps. Our young Marines know that we've been up front with them. They may have to compete now, but they know that the Marine Corps has their back.

**Leatherneck:** The increased competition for promotions, reenlistments and officer retention means you can retain the best. Will the same apply to recruiting?

**Gen Amos:** We used to recruit about 35,000 Marines per year. That's down to 28,500 now. We're doing very well and our quality is high. Today, we're sitting at 99.8 percent high school graduates, compared to the DOD [Department of Defense] standard of 90 percent. The number of recruiting waivers and our dropout rates at boot camp and follow-on training has plunged by 50 percent or more.

**Leatherneck:** Are you hearing any rumblings that the Marine Corps could be directed to go below 182,200 personnel?

**Gen Amos:** We have a national strategy signed off by the President. All the services are working towards that, and I need 182,000 to do it. There is no plan right now to go below that, and I'm not sensing that in Congress or in this building [the Pentagon].



**Gen James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, center, and SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, far left, award a Purple Heart to a Marine with 3d Bn, 7th Marines, Feb. 5, during a visit with Marines in Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt Charles Mabry)**

**Leatherneck:** What is your reaction to the people who say that the Marine Corps has been a second land army since 9/11?

**Gen Amos:** We've been on the ground shoulder to shoulder with the U.S. Army for almost nine years, first in Anbar province in Iraq and now in Helmand province in Afghanistan with our coalition partners. I make no apologies for that. This is what we were told to do. We fought hard in both places and had success.

**Leatherneck:** Can Marines expect the same kind of sustained ground missions in the future?

**Gen Amos:** This is not the reason America has a Marine Corps. The country funds the Corps to be the nation's "9-1-1" force. Before 9/11, that was our bumper sticker. It implies we are forward deployed and ready to respond to a crisis today. Not 30 days or three months from now after we've brought units together and trained. America needs a force that can get on ships or planes and leave tonight. Marines do that and we bring our stuff with us. We don't need fancy chow halls or air-conditioned "tin cans." We can operate, fight and live in some pretty rough conditions.

**Leatherneck:** How big a problem is sexual assault in the military?

**Gen Amos:** This is one of my most challenging issues, and I'm absolutely determined to turn it around. We're headed to zero. Of 200,000 Marines, we have only 13,700 females. When I travel, I look my male Marines in the eye and tell them that my females are just as important to me as my males. I think they believe me. One thing that must happen up front is our females must be confident in their bosses—the commanding officer and sergeant major—to come forward when something has happened.

**Leatherneck:** How is the Corps trying to get to zero sexual assaults, and will you actually get there?

**Gen Amos:** Last May, we handpicked 20 top officers and senior SNCOs to define the problem of sexual assault in the Marine Corps. Give us the "ground truth," and how do we turn it around? Six weeks later, they came up with a revolutionary campaign plan. To get buy-in from the very top, we brought in our general officers last summer. They are carrying out the campaign plan all over our Corps.

Classes are being held, not by a 21-year-old corporal, but by the general officer, the colonel and the sergeant major. So this is



**Gen James F. Amos poses with a WW II veteran during the 70th Anniversary of the Battle at Guadalcanal ceremony in Honiara, Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands, Aug. 7. The event included the unveiling of the Honor Board for Coast Watchers and Solomon Scouts Memorial. (Photo by Sgt Mallory S. VanderSchans)**

a fight. It won't be won this year or next. Will we get there? We're a part of society. But, we are determined to eradicate sexual assault in the Marine Corps. It's a personal thing with me.

**Leatherneck:** Although you initially opposed the integration of gays into the Marine Corps because it would be a war-time distraction, the Corps got onboard when the law was passed, and it appears to be a nonissue today. Am I reading that right?

**Gen Amos:** I'm not seeing or hearing about any problems. I visit Marines and get in front of them often and I don't even get a question. During my Senate confirmation hearings, Chairman [of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Michigan Senator] Carl Levin asked, "But General Amos, if the law changes, what are you going to do?" I replied, "Well, shoot, Chairman. That's easy. We obey orders better than anybody." And we have. I'm very pleased with how this has turned out and proud of our Marines.

**Leatherneck:** The suicide rate in the military is getting a lot of media attention. What is the Corps doing about it?

**Gen Amos:** Three years ago, we had 52 suicides, the highest number since we started tracking this problem. We put a full court press on the leadership and interestingly enough, our young sergeants and corporals came forward to help. So,

we spent no shortage of effort to produce interactive videos with real Marines using Marine language. The next year the suicide rate dropped to 39 and last year it was 32. We're trying hard to abate this, but unfortunately, I think this year will be a tough one for all the services.

**Leatherneck:** How are your Marines adjusting to our nation's period of austerity?

**Gen Amos:** The two wars have created an environment of "plenty." We've bought not only what we needed, but also what we wanted. There's a difference. This is all some of my young officers know. If they needed something, they got it. Only us old guys can remember the austere times. So, we're educating Marines on asking themselves, "What's good enough?" This mindset change is one of my greatest challenges.

**Leatherneck:** Do you have an example of "what's good enough"?

**Gen Amos:** We planned to replace our fleet of 23,000 humvee vehicles with the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV). We've since concluded that the humvee is "good enough." Instead of 23,000, we're only going to purchase 5,000 JLTVs.

**Leatherneck:** What does the Marine Corps cost the American people?

**Gen Amos:** Actually, we're right at 8 percent of the total Department of Defense



budget. That's everything, including the aviation we get from the Navy. For that 8 percent, America gets 15 percent of the nation's maneuver ground forces, 11 percent of DOD's fixed wing tactical aviation and 18 percent of its rotary wing and tactical helicopters. In addition, the nation gets that "9-1-1" force that is ready to respond 365 days a year.

**Leatherneck:** If sequestration happens, how will that affect the Marine Corps?

**Gen Amos:** Sequestration will disproportionately affect the Corps. Remember, we're only 8 percent of the DOD budget. Sequestration is about 10 to 11 percent of manpower, procurement, operations and maintenance. Though applied proportionally, the effects would be disproportional to us because our numbers and budget is so small. In some cases, it would cause us to cancel programs, stunt modernization and affect our resetting the Marine Corps after 11 straight years of combat.

**Leatherneck:** Will sequestration affect the post-Afghanistan "Pacific Strategy"?

**Gen Amos:** If there is sequestration, I think we'll have to go back and take a look at the strategy.

**Leatherneck:** What keeps you awake at night?

**Gen Amos:** We talked about most of them. Probably 40 percent of the Marine Corps' equipment is in Afghanistan right

now and will have to come back when we withdraw. Most of it came from Iraq. That will be a challenge.

**Leatherneck:** How is the F-35B doing?

**Gen Amos:** I think the airplane is progressing well. I follow the test flights closely, and it's either on or ahead of schedule. Lockheed has delivered 15 F-35Bs—five are at NAS Patuxent River [Maryland] and 10 are at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. We'll stand up our first squadron, VMFA-121, at Yuma [Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona] this coming fall. The two hangars there are almost complete. In addition to our Marine test pilots, regular "street pilots"—guys like me, are also flying it right now.

**Leatherneck:** Will the Marine Corps get the Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV)?

**Gen Amos:** We need a new amphibious tractor. Period! Since we cancelled the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV), for the past 22 months a team has defined the requirements for the ACV. What do we really need? This is a fighting vehicle that will come from ship-to-shore with a squad of Marines. We're looking for a Chevrolet Biscayne, not a Cadillac Escalade. We can't build something with capabilities that we don't need or can't afford. Once we decide, we'll run it through the two Secretaries, and then go out to industry. Our experts are double checking everything now, because I feel we'll get

one opportunity to do this right. We want to propose something that Congress will approve.

**Leatherneck:** The *Wall Street Journal* ran a hilarious story about Chesty XIII, the Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., mascot and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta's golden retriever, Bravo. Can you elaborate?

**Gen Amos:** Secretary Panetta was the guest of honor and requested if Bravo could stay at our house during the evening parade last May. I know Bravo, and invited Secretary Panetta and his wife, Sylvia, to bring him down center walk and watch the parade. When it ended, Bravo walked out on the Secretary's arm, and Chesty almost came out of his blouse. I mean, he was growling big time. Chesty is a bit portly. I was worried he was going to have the big one and I'd have to give him CPR. All ended well, but it's a funny story.

**Leatherneck:** Before, you mentioned the high standards of the young Marines who are serving today. What is the one quality that makes them stand out?

**Gen Amos:** The kids are smarter. I affectionately call them kids because they're my young Marines. Those lower dropout rates I mentioned occur mainly because of their intellect. I truly believe that physically, mentally, morally and I think spiritually, they are probably the finest Marines we've seen in 237 years.

**Leatherneck:** How are you going to spend your third Marine Corps Birthday as Commandant?

**Gen Amos:** As you know, the Birthday season is a joyous period and quite busy for us. We'll be in Washington on November 10th and celebrate at the Ball with 4,000 of my closest friends at the Gaylord Hotel in National Harbor. Like Marine Birthday Balls everywhere, it will be a grand occasion.

*Editor's note: Retired Marine LtCol Arthur P. Brill Jr. has written more than 70 articles about Marines, including the last five Commandants, for defense publications and Leatherneck. He commanded a rifle company in Vietnam and was the Corps' press spokesman. He also was the media spokesman in key positions for the Carter and Reagan administrations.*



Contributing editor Arthur P. Brill Jr., left, meets with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, for an update on the Marine Corps for *Leatherneck's* Marine Corps Birthday issue.

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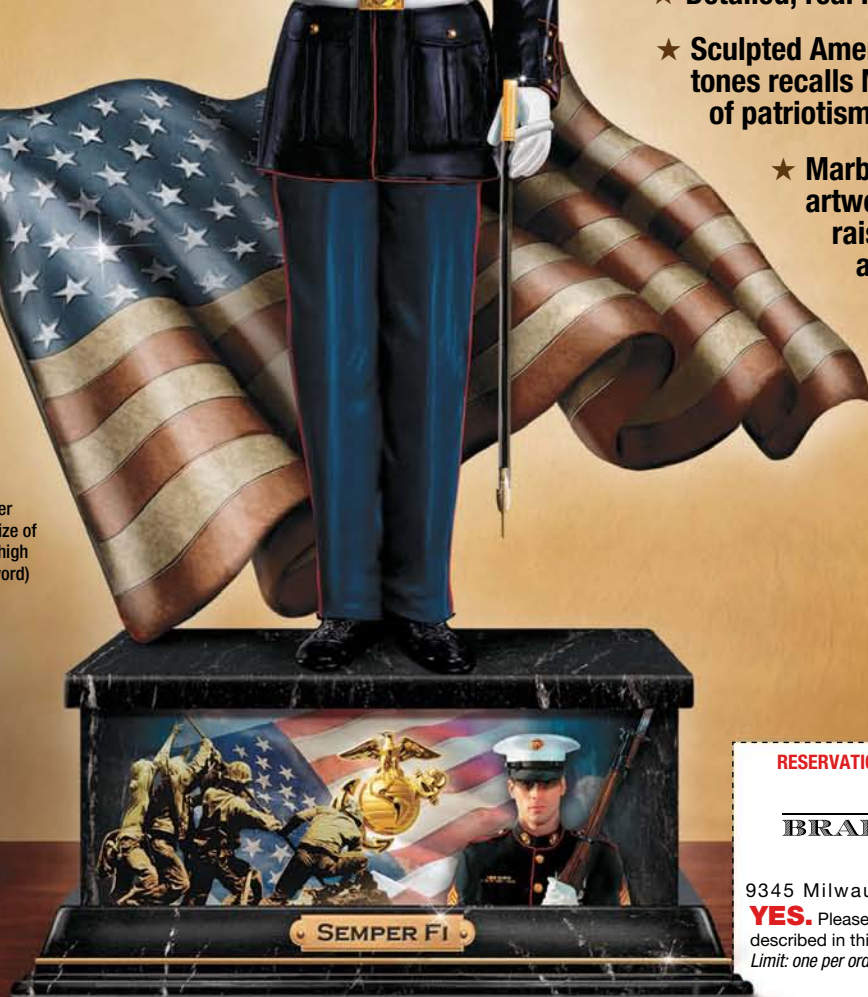
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Above: President Barack Obama speaks as Marines stand at attention around the transfer cases holding the remains of the four Americans killed in a Sept. 11 attack in Benghazi, Libya. The President said, "We will bring to justice those who took them from us. We will stand fast against the violence on our diplomatic missions."

Right: One of the four Marine body bearer teams marches out to receive the transfer cases from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster carrying the remains of the Americans killed while serving their country in Benghazi, Libya.





## President Honors 4 Americans Killed In Attack on U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya

By Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret) · Photos by Isaac D. Pacheco

**J**oint Base Andrews, Md., was the site for a ceremony Sept. 14, 2012, honoring the four Americans killed in an attack, by what was described in news media as a “hardline Muslim mob,” on the American Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, Sept. 11. President of the United States Barack Obama; Vice President Joe Biden; Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice; former Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, USA (Ret); and Senators John Kerry and John McCain were among the many dignitaries present.

In a hangar on the base flight line, family members of the deceased were joined by hundreds of State Department and military personnel who went to honor those who sacrificed their lives for their country and also to witness the dignified transfer of the remains of J. Christopher Stevens, U.S. Ambassador to Libya; Sean Smith, an Air Force veteran working as a State Department information management specialist; and Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods, both former Navy SEALs serving in protective security roles at the consulate.

Marines with the Body Bearer Section, Company B, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., solemnly carried the transfer cases transporting the remains from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft for a brief but dignified ceremony inside the hangar. Military personnel from all branches of the Department of Defense were represented in the Joint Color Guard that provided honors.

Both President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton provided remarks. The President declared the United States “will never retreat from the world,” and he vowed, “Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.”



Marines carry one of four transfer cases, covered by a U.S. flag, during a ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md., transferring the remains of the Americans killed in an attack in Libya.



The VMA-513 team took the Harriers aboard USS *Guam* (LPH-9) for sea trials in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1974. From left: Warrant Officer Jim Reichler (supply officer), Capt Toby Griggs, Capt Jewt Collyar, LT Bud Orr, Maj Bud Iles (Det OIC), Lt Larry Wahl, Lt Joe Graham and Capt John Cox (Wahl, Graham and Cox joined VMA-513 after it became operational). (Photo courtesy of Jewt Collyar)



# VMA-513

## The Corps' First Harrier Squadron

By Mike Hoeflerlin and Gary Bain

### Why the Harrier?

Decreasing the time it takes Marine aviators to put bombs, rounds and rockets on target is critical to the Marine Corps close-air-support mission. According to most reports, in Vietnam it took an average of 27 minutes from the time close air support (CAS) was requested until aircraft arrived on the scene.

To remedy that critical time delay, in the late 1960s the Marine Corps contemplated acquiring the British-built Hawker Siddeley aircraft known as the Harrier. Because its innovative thrust vectoring system allowed it to take off and land vertically, hover like a helicopter and then transition to almost supersonic flight, often it was referred to as a “jump jet.” Having

an airplane that could go ashore ahead of or with the landing force(s) and then operate close to the fighting was appealing because it would decrease CAS response time and thus increase the survivability of ground troops.

■ *“The best part of being in VMA-513 was watching us learn how to fly a V/STOL [vertical/short takeoff and landing] aircraft and develop the tactics and procedures to enable us to get our response time to on-call missions down to 10 minutes.”*

—Harry “Vulture” Blot

The advantages of having an aircraft that could be serviced, armed and fueled

aboard a variety of ships or within close proximity to the front lines were not lost on Marine planners. Launching from and landing on remote or unimproved roads, bombed-out runways, landing platforms or even dirt fields allowed the versatile Harrier to perform a myriad of missions. Having V/STOL (vertical, short takeoff and landing) attack aircraft at the ready seemed like a new solution to an old problem.

Against a backdrop of intrigue and after much political wrangling and soul-searching, a purchase of 114 AV-8A aircraft was authorized. Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 513, Second Marine Aircraft Wing was designated as the Marines’ first V/STOL squadron. On 16 April 1971, the first aircraft were delivered to VMA-513 at Marine



Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., and the era of the Harrier began. Today, the AV-8B Harrier II remains a central element of Marine Corps combat strategy.

### The Test Pilots

Because the unique and sometimes controversial Harrier promised to revolutionize Marine air-ground doctrine, some very talented pilots needed to be selected and quickly ordered to VMA-513, the “Flying Nightmares.” Nine Marine captains and one Navy lieutenant soon reported in.

Already aboard were four Harrier-qualified test pilots, all of whom previously had flown the Harrier with the Royal Air Force (RAF) in England: Lieutenant Colonel Clarence A. “Bud” Baker, the commanding officer; Major William J. “Bill” Scheuren, the executive officer; Maj Jacob E. “Bud” Iles, squadron operations officer; and an RAF exchange pilot, Squadron Leader K. Bruce Latton.

That exceptional group of aviators soon was joined by Captain Harold W. “Harry” Blot, an accomplished test pilot who also had previous RAF Harrier experience. Theirs was not an easy task. They had little time to train and transition the 10 pilots to fly a different and demanding aircraft that had to meet rigorous Marine standards. The Marine Corps wanted the squadron operational as soon as possible. The training was going to be intense and dangerous. It was a “high-visibility” project, and failure was not an option. What transpired over the course of the next few years changed the shape and scope of Marine aviation and still impacts the very nature of Marine Corps warfare.

■ *“We all had to be good [pilots], or we’d be dead ... and we knew it ... in retrospect I would do it over a million times.”*

—Bud “Squid” Orr

### The First 10

Every one of the inaugural 10 transitioning aviators was an extremely competent and confident career pilot, with hundreds, if not thousands, of hours flying tactical jet fighter and/or attack aircraft. Each had at least one combat tour in Vietnam. All had received combat awards. All had been shot at; one had been shot down. They were accustomed to danger and challenges. Some observers thought they were cocky; others opined that they were merely self-assured. They were good “sticks,” and they knew it. Most importantly, they all wanted to fly the Marine Corps’ newest aircraft.

Those 15 risk-taking aviators expected to pioneer and prove the new concept as well as to make Marine Corps history—and they did!



COURTESY OF GARY BAIN

**Above:** LtCol Clarence “Bud” Baker, the CO of the first Marine Harrier squadron, VMA-513, was well chosen. His background as a test pilot, early experience with the British model Harrier and leadership skills proved invaluable.

**Below:** Capt Gary Bain, a former enlisted Marine and one of the first Marine Harrier pilots, is shown prior to taking his Harrier through its paces at an air show in Jacksonville, Fla.



COURTESY OF GARY BAIN

■ *“It seems to make a lot more sense to stop [and hover] and then land, as opposed to landing and then stopping ... the Harrier turned out to be every bit as enjoyable and interesting as I had hoped, and I never tired of flying it.”*

—Larry “Slug” Kennedy

After the customary “welcome aboard” greetings and check-in, LtCol Baker counseled the pilots and informed them that the training would be like nothing else they had experienced. Sacrifices would be necessary.

Although they were professional combat-tested aviators, they were going to need

every ounce of skill that they could muster to prove to the Corps that they could provide timely and accurate CAS. Each had to master visual cues for accelerating and decelerating transitions, as well as hovering cues in a helicopter, before flying a Harrier.

In order to succeed personally and professionally, each pilot needed to become an integral part of a close-knit and highly visible team.

According to retired Lieutenant General Harry Blot, “They were a colorful group, and they did everything that was asked of them. For the 10 of them to sign up for the unknown ... they had to be very con-





COURTESY OF BUD ORR

Demonstrating the flight capabilities, such as vertical landings and hovering with rocket pods, were very frequent requirements and opportunities for the VMA-513 Harrier pilots in 1972.

■ *"I believe that the most significant thing about the '71-'72 era was the fact that -513 lost no aircraft ... [there were] no two-seat [airplanes] to train in prior to flying single seat, [instead] we simply read the manual, received hours of instruction from [Major] Iles and went out and 'kicked the tire and lit the fire' and proceeded on, to what I believe to be, the most challenging journey of our lives."*

—Robert "Diamond" Snyder

fident in their flying abilities, or they were stupid." History has categorically proven the former to be true.

■ *"The AV-8A community was formed by selecting some of the best pilots from the fixed-wing fighter/attack squadrons."*

—Jewt "Moccasin" Collyar

In addition to assembling and training the aviators, LtCol Baker and his staff pulled together and inspired a tenacious, professional and proud cadre of maintenance and other ground personnel who, together with the pilots, ensured the program's success.

In order to keep combat-capable aircraft, particularly new aircraft like the Harrier,

in flying status requires a herculean maintenance effort. The junior enlisted troops, noncommissioned officers and staff noncommissioned officers (as well as nonflying officers and industry "tech reps") worked long and arduous hours, sometimes around-the-clock and under stressful conditions, to keep the aircraft airworthy and the pilots safe.

Throughout the formation and initial operational phases of VMA-513's V/STOL training, not one pilot or aircraft was lost. To many, that incredible feat is one of the most remarkable legacies of the squadron and a fitting tribute to the personnel who made the initial "Harrier experiment" a success.

## New Concepts

Although the Harrier was introduced to the Fleet Marine Force primarily as an attack aircraft that could obliterate enemy resistance, it also had the capability of maintaining control of the skies over the battlefield in air-to-air combat.

Some in the fixed-wing community did not think that a relatively small subsonic aircraft could prevail in an air-to-air environment. That view changed when Harrier pilots in their "little jets" consistently demonstrated superior air combat capabilities in staged duels against various fighter aircraft. In one series of contests against Navy "adversaries," Harrier pilots prevailed in 26 of 28 engagements. Those successful encounters made believers of

**This VMA-513 Harrier over Sigonella, Italy, was part of a six-plane detachment that boarded USS Guam (LPH-9) in September 1974 for a six-month Mediterranean cruise.**



COURTESY OF GARY BAIN

## The First USMC Harrier Pilots

In 1970-71, 10 soon-to-be AV-8A Harrier pilots joined five experienced Harrier test pilots in Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 513 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., to make aviation history. Collectively, that group of extraordinary aviators had flown thousands of combat missions before joining VMA-513.

Together, they had accrued significantly more than 100,000 hours of flight time in more than 50 different types and models of military and civilian airplanes and helicopters. Each had received combat medals and/or various other decorations. They all had incredible instincts and were off the charts in situational awareness.

Nine of the “newbies” were Marine captains; one was a Navy lieutenant. The experienced Harrier pilots included one lieutenant colonel, two majors and one captain (who later became a lieutenant general) plus a British Royal Air Force (RAF) exchange/test pilot. At least nine of the original VMA-513 pilots were former enlisted Marines or sailors; 12 are still alive.

**LtCol Clarence “Bud” Baker**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Lime One,” was the commanding officer. A test pilot who, while on a quasi-clandestine Harrier evaluation mission to England in 1968, became the second Marine to fly a Harrier. The late LtGen Thomas H. Miller Jr., USMC (Ret), recognized as the earliest and strongest proponent of V/STOL (vertical, short takeoff and landing) flight for the Marine Corps, was the first. Baker was a dedicated, approachable and understanding CO as well as a true gentleman, according to those who served under him.

**Col William “Bill” Scheuren**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Panic,” was executive officer and a test/instructor pilot who flew the Harrier as an exchange pilot with the Royal Air Force (RAF) in England. He received his wings and commission through the Naval Aviation Cadet (NAVCAD) Marine Option program. He flew A-4s in Vietnam. To the men of -513, he was an embodiment of a professional and exemplary Marine Corps officer.

**LtCol Jacob “Bud” Iles**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Purple,” was operations officer. A test pilot, he first flew the Harrier with the RAF and was certified as a Harrier instructor pilot in the United Kingdom and the United States. He flew A-4s, A-6s and C-117s in Vietnam. Iles’ flight briefings and lectures were legendary, and many of the original pilots credit him with keeping them alive as they transitioned into a new and potentially unforgiving airplane. In high school, he enlisted in the Navy and later graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

**Air Commodore Bruce Latton**, RAF (Ret), was a skilled and popular instructor/test exchange pilot who was instrumental in transitioning the Harrier program from British to U.S. Marine Corps standards. His rank while at -513 was that of squadron leader.

**LtGen Harold “Harry” Blot**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Vulture,” was a certified Navy and Air Force test pilot who also had RAF Harrier experience. He joined -513 in 1971 and later commanded VMA-231, a Harrier squadron. Throughout his 34-year Marine Corps career, he shepherded and/or man-

aged the Harrier “A” and “B” versions and other significant Marine flight programs, including the Harrier’s designated successor, the F-35 Lightning, and the tilt-rotor V-22 Osprey. He flew F-8 Crusaders in Vietnam.

### The Squadron Pilots

**Capt Gary Bain**, USMC (Ret), -513 call sign “Frito,” flew F-4 Phantoms in Vietnam, was wounded and shot down over Laos where he survived a harrowing rescue (an account of the rescue can be found at [www.videoexplorers.com](http://www.videoexplorers.com)). A former enlisted Marine, he received his commission and wings via the Marine Corps Aviation Cadet (MARCAD) program.

**Maj Newton “Jewt” Collyar**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Moccasin,” flew F-4s in Vietnam. He completed the MARCAD program, later became a Harrier instructor pilot and still is involved in training Harrier pilots.

**LtCol Toby Griggs**, USMCR (Ret), call sign “Mongol,” flew A-4 Skyhawks and US-2 Trackers in Vietnam. The former A-4 instructor pilot is a graduate of Colgate University and entered the Marine Corps via the Platoon Leaders Class program.

**LtCol Jim Hajduk**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Rooster,” flew F-4s in Vietnam and later commanded -513’s “sister” Harrier squadron, VMA-542. In high school, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve and later completed the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program at Purdue University.

**Sydney Holmes** flew A-6s in Vietnam. While in -513, he resigned his commission, flew for a major airline and later was killed in a civilian light-aircraft accident.

**Maj Larry Kennedy**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Slug,” flew A-6 Intruders in Vietnam. He completed the NROTC program at Marquette University and later flew for Continental Airlines.

**Maj Bobby Light**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Flash,” flew A-4s in Vietnam. The former instructor pilot was an enlisted sailor before attending and graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy.

**CAPT William Stewart “Bud” Orr**, USN (Ret), call sign “Squid,” flew A-4s from USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) in Vietnam. While at the University of Oregon, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve and received his commission through the Reserve Officer Candidate program. The Chief of Naval Operations personally selected him to fly the Harrier.

**Maj Robert Snyder**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Diamond,” flew F-4s and the O-1 “Bird Dog” (as an airborne forward [air and artillery] controller) in Vietnam. He completed the MARCAD program.

**Maj Dallas “Del” Weber**, USMC (Ret), call sign “Gray Lead,” flew F-8s, F-4s and A-4s in Vietnam and was recognized widely by his peers as one of the best all-around Harrier pilots. An instructor pilot in various aircraft, he completed the MARCAD program. Considered to be an expert in air-to-air combat, he wrote about one of his duels with a Navy F-14 Tomcat. It can be found at [www.videoexplorers.com](http://www.videoexplorers.com).

—Mike Hoeferlin and Gary Bain





Officially, the squadron was the “Flying Nightmares,” but the VMA-513 area at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., was called “Hoot’s Half-Acre” because the squadron patch featured a fighting hoot owl and the Harrier supply line from the Royal Air Force was known as “Project Hoot Owl.”



COURTESY OF GARY BAIN

former detractors who thought the Harrier would be useful only in a purely ground attack mode.

■ *“If I had it all to do over again, I wouldn’t change anything.”*

—Bobby “Flash” Light

As the 10 pilots in training became increasingly proficient flying what they fondly called “the jet,” their natural aeronautical instincts took over, and they began to master all aspects of V/STOL flight, including utilizing the aircraft’s thrust vectoring capabilities, to gain the advantage in air combat situations. The AV-8A could make tighter turns and accelerate and decelerate faster than a “normal” airplane.

Each of the 10 loved to fly the jet, as did the five instructors. Most admit that flying the Harrier was the highlight of their aviation careers.

■ *“The more I looked at it, the more I got excited about being on the ground floor of this amazing new concept. Each*

*flight became more fascinating and fun beyond belief ... to go from the hover to 600 knots in a minute was wild.”*

—Gary “Frito” Bain

Throughout their careers those first Harrier pilots, individually and collectively, flew just about every type of aircraft in the Marine Corps’ inventory, plus many Navy, Air Force and allied aircraft. They proved that with hard work, skill, endurance, talent, drive and perhaps some luck they could successfully fly a new combat aircraft in ways not envisioned by the British builders of those first Harriers.

## Reflections

Forty-two years after the first Harrier with “Marines” painted on the fuselage took to the skies over Beaufort, S.C., the legacy of the “little jet” and the infatuation that the Marine Corps has for the airplane continues. Those early VMA-513 Harrier “drivers” paved the way for the V/STOL aircraft of the future.

“After 40-plus years we are about to enter the second phase [of V/STOL] with

the F-35B,” said LtGen Blot. “[It’s] an airplane with the same takeoff and landing capability as the Harrier but fully configured with the systems required to operate on the electronic battlefield of tomorrow.”

*Authors’ note: The 100 years of Marine Corps Aviation history is steeped in tradition with hundreds of riveting stories, legends and heroes. This is one such story that started more than 40 years ago as just an idea, an idea that came to fruition and revolutionized the already famous Marine air-ground doctrine. The men and the machine that made this happen were legends in their own time yet seem to have been lost to history. This is part of their story, a story fraught with fears of failure and dreams of the future.*

*Editor’s note: From 1971 until 1973, Mike Hoferlin, a former USMC helicopter pilot, was the public affairs officer at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., while VMA-513 was becoming operational. Capt Gary Bain, USMC (Ret) was one of the original Marine Harrier squadron pilots.*



**Marine Corps Association & Foundation**

# Intelligence Awards Dinner

## CONGRATULATIONS! 2011 INTELLIGENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Major Jason R. Johnston**  
LtCol Michael D. Kuszewski  
Marine Corps Intelligence  
Officer of the Year  
*Sponsored by Engility*



**Master Sergeant William S. Benedict**  
Master Gunnery Sergeant  
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**Corporal Raymond H. Lindsey**  
Master Sergeant  
Charles C. Arndt  
Non-Commissioned  
Officer of the Year  
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**Lance Corporal Lauren A. Kohls**  
Lance Corporal James  
E. Swain Enlisted Marine  
of the Year  
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**Mr. David S. Mercer**  
Mr. John J. Guenther  
Intelligence Civilian  
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**Corporal Benjamin C. Arechiga**  
Director of Intelligence  
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**Marine Corps  
Association & Foundation**  
*Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913*





# The Marine Corps Association & Foundation: **Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence**



Second Lt Stephen Spicher, center, the honor graduate of Company C, The Basic School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., accepts the first 1stLt Baldomero Lopez Honor Graduate Award on Sept. 12, 2012. Joining 2dLt Spicher are the TBS commander, Col Todd S. Desgrosseilliers; 1stLt Lopez's niece, Karen Bunk-Lopez; Lopez's company commander at Inchon, now-LtCol John Stevens, USMC (Ret); and Lopez's nephew, Mike Lopez.

By Roxanne Baker

**A**merica remembers her veterans this month by paying tribute to their service and sacrifice.

Every month of the year, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation recognizes the importance of inspiring today's young leaders with the Corps' past heroes. As members, you help keep those legacies alive with your support of the MCA&F Marine Excellence Awards Program. You fund nearly 11,000 awards each year for enlisted Marines and officers at formal schools throughout the Corps, about 97 percent of all awards distributed outside the Marine Corps awards system.

Most recently, your resources provided

the newly named First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez Honor Graduate Award for The Basic School honor graduate and the Marine Corps Director of Intelligence's Lance Corporal James E. Swain Enlisted Marine of the Year award.

Another key MCA&F mission is to provide active-duty Marines with professional development opportunities. In recent weeks, Marines attended MCA&F-sponsored professional dinners, utilized unit libraries donated by the MCA&F and studied combat lessons at Gettysburg (Pa.) National Military Park on staff rides sponsored by MCA&F. Also, we never forget our veterans who have paved the way, and one example of remembering our Marine veterans is our continued sup-

port of the Wounded Warrior Program.

A hearty thank you to America's veterans, today's active-duty Marines and all MCA&F supporters.

Happy 237th Birthday, you "devil dogs"!

To learn more of MCA&F's mission to advance and recognize Marines, visit [www.mca-marines.org](http://www.mca-marines.org).

*Editor's note: An experienced multimedia journalist with hundreds of published works, Roxanne Baker is the writer and media coordinator for the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Also, she is a Marine wife.*





RON LUNN

Above: At the Gray Research Center auditorium, MCB Quantico, Sept. 21, MCA&F recognized the Marketing and Public Affairs Marines of the Year with Ka-Bar plaques to the top Marine from each of the six regional districts and an NCO sword to the MPA of the Year. Pictured from left are MPA of the Year, SSgt Clinton Firstbrook; SSgt Jeffery Cosola; the MCA&F president and CEO, MajGen Edward Usher, USMC (Ret); Sgt Scott McAdam Jr.; Sgt Aaron Rooks; and Sgt Justin Kronenberg. The other award winner, Sgt Ronald Hendricks, was not present.

Right: LCpl Lauren A. Kohls, a 2d Radio Bn Pashto linguist, is presented the Director of Intelligence's Lance Corporal James E. Swain Enlisted Marine of the Year award at the Second Annual MCA&F Intelligence Awards Dinner in Arlington, Va., Sept. 21. From left: Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett; the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos; LCpl Kohls; and BGen Vincent Stewart.



RON LUNN



SGT HEATHER A. GOLDEN

On Sept. 21, 1stLt Sin Y. Kook, left, presented Cpl Sarah Dietz a check and a plaque on behalf of *Leatherneck* magazine for the best article written by a sergeant or below in grade during 2011. Her winning article, "Bridgeport Keeps Marines in the Fight," was in the September 2011 magazine.



ASHA GURGANUS

In July 2012, MCA&F's East Coast area representative, SgtMaj Adam Terry, USMC (Ret), right, presented a top-of-the-line graphics monitor to Wounded Warrior SSgt Jason "Crash" Jensen, USMC (Ret) at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., for his design work.



# THE WAR ON TERROR

Edited by R. R. Keene

## **OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM**

### **■ The Horn of Africa**

#### **Showing It Off in Djibouti**

Leathernecks with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted an amphibious training raid at Arta Beach in Djibouti, Aug. 15.

The raid, executed by Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, Second Marine Regiment, was similar to several such raids the MEU has undertaken since the beginning of its deployment in late March, but it was the first in Djibouti, a small country located within the Horn of Africa region.

“The Marines are always happy to

train in new environments,” said Captain Alexander George, company executive officer. “These training opportunities show our ability to adapt to any given situation regardless of changes in the mission or location.”

Amphibious assault vehicles carried the mechanized force from amphibious transport dock USS *New York* (LPD-21) and maneuvered through the seas onto the simulated beachhead near “Alpha” Co’s objective.

As soon as the AAVs came to a stop on dry land, the Marines stormed their objective, a concrete building a few hundred meters from the shoreline.

But a surprise awaited them.

The building contained a group of other 24th MEU leathernecks playing the role of aggressor forces. Alpha Co quickly engaged and pushed them out of the objective and into the hills.

“The raid went really fast; the Marines were quick,” said Staff Sergeant Christopher Woodard, a platoon sergeant. “We hit the beach and I quickly posted my Marines. No sooner did we get set to move when I heard the Marines from the ‘restaurant’ [the objective’s code name] yelling that they already cleared the building.”

In fact, Alpha Co reported “objective secure” to higher headquarters just 25



CPL MICHAEL PETERSHEIM

Members of the 24th MEU move over a beach in Djibouti, Aug. 15, during amphibious raid training. The Marines, operating in and around Djibouti, are taking part in and coordinating various unilateral exercises and bilateral events with foreign militaries.

minutes after hitting the beach.

"They were great; the Marines were quick, thorough and professional," Capt George said. "This proved our ability to conduct a mechanized raid. The Marines demonstrated our flexibility on the ground by how they handled this raid."

"It was a great opportunity to exercise all aspects of an amphibious raid—planning, preparation and execution—with a full mission profile and outside observers grading our efforts," said Capt Robert May, Commanding Officer, Co A.

Alpha Co currently is embarked aboard USS *New York*, one of three ships that make up the *Iwo Jima* Amphibious Ready Group, which carries approximately 2,300 Marines of the 24th MEU.

The MEU is deployed with the *Iwo Jima* ARG as a theater reserve and crisis response force in support of U.S. Central Command and the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

2dLt Joshua Larson  
Combat Correspondent, 24th MEU

### ■ Patrol Base Detroit, Afghanistan First Time, First Firefight—Stays Focused

It is the moment of truth for many Marines: the first time they are in combat and put to the test.

When his squad made enemy contact during a recent patrol through Trek Nawa, Private First Class Timothy Workman found his moment.

"I could hear rounds cracking over my head," said Workman, a mortarman with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6. "The adrenaline started pumping right away."

He was in his first firefight. A year before, he was standing on yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.; now, he was crouched in a ditch, his M16 assault rifle ready.

Workman and his fellow Marines fought an estimated six to eight enemy insurgents. The insurgents fired from several different positions, shooting through small holes in walls several hundred meters away. Marines took cover in mud compounds and behind mounds of debris and returned fire.

Workman's squad split into two elements during the firefight, and Workman moved forward to return fire with Staff Sergeant David Simons, his platoon sergeant.

"At one point, I witnessed Workman moving up into position to engage the enemy," recalled Simons. "He fired on the enemy, and when the enemy returned fire, it allowed us to open up with our machine gun."

The morning sounds of birds and farmers were replaced with sudden bursts from



CPL TIMOTHY LENZO

**PFC Timothy Workman, RCT-6, received his baptism of fire during a patrol through Trek Nawa in August. His training paid off, and his noncommissioned officers were impressed with his conduct. He can expect more firefights in the volatile Helmand province.**

rifles and the staccato "rat-ta-tat-tat" of machine-gun fire. An hour later the fight was over, and the Marines returned to their patrol base.

"Since we've been out here, it's pretty common for [the other Marines] to engage in firefights," Workman explained. "These [insurgents] will stick around and [fight] for a while."

Workman's company patrols the volatile Trek Nawa area of Afghanistan. Trek Nawa is an area between the Marjah and Nawa districts of Afghanistan in Helmand province.

The Marines engaged the enemy in firefights ranging from isolated potshots to three-day battles. For Workman, the fighting hit home six months before he left for boot camp. His friend's older brother, Luke, was killed while serving near the same area in Afghanistan.

"I had gone to school with Luke's brother since the sixth grade," said Workman. "At the time [of Luke's death] I had already decided to join, but this motivated me to continue the work that Luke gave his life for."

In addition to Luke, Workman said he's lost other friends to the war in Afghanistan. Despite losing friends to combat, Workman remembered his training and focused on his job during the fight.

"I was trying to get positive identification on the enemy, trying to find where they were firing from, looking for spotters and just covering my brothers," he said.

Now that his first firefight is over, Workman's platoon will monitor his behavior.

"The main thing we look for is a Marine's mindset after their first time in combat," Simons said. "We are a family, so we can tell when one of our brothers is acting differently. We watch for it and take care of each other."

Simons said Workman seemed mentally strong before and after the firefight. He said he is proud of Workman and the discipline he showed on the battlefield.

The Marines have more operations planned through Trek Nawa and expect more firefights.

"I can say there's nothing else like the Marine Corps," Workman said. "I'll continue picking my sergeants' and seniors' brains, trying to be better prepared for the next fight."

Cpl Timothy Lenzo  
Combat Correspondent, RCT-6



JASON MONROE





Cpl Kevin Quigley, a tank crewman with Co B, 2d Tank Bn, RCT-6, has a commanding view from atop the M1A1 main battle tank. Quigley and other tankers say there's nothing else like the M1A1 on the battlefield when it comes to firepower and maneuverability. (Photo by SSgt Brian Buckwalter)

## ■ Patrol Base Shir Ghazay "Big Brother" Is Watching

One of a Marine's best friends in a battle is 67 tons of steel, armor and big firepower.

In Helmand province, Marines with Company B, 2d Tank Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6 are using the M1A1 main battle tank to help tilt the battlefield in favor of infantry Marines.

Corporal Kevin Quigley, a tank crewman, compared the firepower of one tank to an entire infantry platoon. In addition to its 120 mm main gun, the armored behemoth has a .50-caliber machine gun and two M240 mounted machine guns.

"There's nothing else like an M1A1 on the battlefield. It's a little bit of an ego boost," Quigley said. Captain Mike Donlin, the company forward air controller, said all of "Bravo" Co's Marines feel the same way: excited to be deployed and "want to see the infantry ecstatic that 'big brother' is there for them."

Colonel John Shafer, Commanding Officer, RCT-6, recently spoke with Bravo Co's tankers, telling them they arrived in country at a pivotal and transitional

time as Afghan forces take the lead in security operations. While Afghans will focus on maintaining security in safer areas, Marines will operate in less secure areas of Helmand province—places that have had little to no coalition presence.

"You are going to stay busy," Col Shafer told the Marines.

Capt Matt Dowden, the tank company commander, said busy is how his "tougher-than-nails" Marines want to be. He said that prior to deployment his company wasn't sure if tanks were going to be needed in Afghanistan any longer. But when they found out they'd be deploying, the Marines completed more than seven months of predeployment preparations in only four months.

"They almost enjoy breaking their backs to get the job done, and they're happy to be in Afghanistan doing what they trained to do," Dowden said.

"They refuse to fail," Capt Donlin added.

Fourteen tanks make up Bravo Co. It's a tight fit, but a four-Marine crew operates each tank.

"I don't think it would be a good place for someone who is claustrophobic," said

tank crewman Lance Corporal Joshua Felder.

In southern Afghanistan, Bravo Co operates in terrain that varies from fine-powdered sand commonly referred to by Marines as "moon dust," to coarse and rocky landscapes.

"Being over here is like being on a different planet," Quigley said, explaining that the terrain they've experienced so far in Afghanistan is nothing like where they trained.

Even with the ever-changing landscape, "the ride is really smooth, surprisingly," said Felder. The ride has to be smooth. Tanks are designed so Marines can aim in and fire on a target even on the move.

It's a loud ride too. The 1,500-horsepower turbine engine isn't the noisy part, the tracks are. Responsibility for keeping the tanks running falls on the mechanics, and it's no easy task.

LCpl Lucas Walsh said the routine maintenance on a tank that operates for two hours "could be an all-day ordeal."

With a machine as heavy as a tank crossing rough terrain at upward of 40 mph, bolts and hoses can get jostled loose. Be-

neath its armored exoskeleton, a tank is a web of wires, hydraulic lines and gear works.

"Finding a leak is like finding a needle in a haystack," Walsh said.

On missions, mechanics are never far from their assigned tanks. They either drive M88A2 "Hercules" recovery vehicles (tow trucks for tanks) or 7-ton trucks that carry tools and spare parts.

Both the mechanics and the operators don't mind the long hours or the cramped environment in which they work. They all want to make sure the infantry Marines in a fight know the tanks have their back.

"It's easier to replace parts than Marines," Felder said.

SSgt Brian Buckwalter  
Combat Correspondent, RCT-6

## ■ Helmand Province Corpsman: "Sailor of the Sand"

With a deep-rooted family history of service in the Navy, Zachary D. Greenberg chose to continue to follow that tradition.

The 21-year-old Navy hospitalman from Woodenville, Wash., made his decision to join a year ago.

"My brother was in Afghanistan in 2010, and before he came home, I had already been talking to the recruiter," said Greenberg. "I joined because I wanted to serve like my brother, and I thought the military would be a good fit for me."

Greenberg's Navy roots extend deep into his family tree. His grandfather and an uncle were sailors.

"My Grandpa Bob was a telephonic radio communications second class in the 1950s," said Greenberg. "He served on a carrier for a deployment. My Uncle Morris ... was an electrician's mate. He served six to seven years."

Greenberg has yet to serve in a ship, which is a running joke with his grandfather.

"My grandpa was a sailor of the seas and



CPL ANTHONY WARD JR.

**HN Zachary D. Greenberg, a corpsman with 1st Bn, 1st Marines, RCT-6, in Afghanistan, considers himself a "sailor in the sand." His naval roots go back to his great-grandfather, grandfather, uncle and a brother who all served in the U.S. Navy.**



CPL MARK W. STROUD

**LCpl Behzad Razzada, 1st MLG (Fwd), returned to Afghanistan as a Marine 14 years after leaving the country. His background and knowledge of local customs and languages make him a one-man force multiplier for Marines, allied forces and the local population.**

"I'm a sailor of the sand," said Greenberg, laughing. He remembers the first day his grandfather saw him in uniform. "He almost teared up ... when I first came home in my dress blues."

Greenberg made it through the courses and schools he needed to become a hospital corpsman. Finishing as one of the highest graduates in his class, he was offered orders to anywhere in the world and chose to serve with the Marines.

He received orders to First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. He is now deployed with the unit in Helmand province, as part of Regimental Combat Team 6.

"[My parents] weren't too ecstatic about my orders to go to First Marine Division," he said. "I'm a good corpsman, and I just felt Marines deserve good corpsmen."

"I'm not doing it for the glory or anything," said Greenberg. "I just want to make sure I'm there for my guys when they need me because they're my guys. I just want to do my job and know I did it well."

Cpl Anthony Ward Jr.  
Combat Correspondent, RCT-6

## ■ Camp Leatherneck Marine Born in Afghanistan Gives Back to Home Nation

"I remember the day I heard that America was going into Afghanistan," said Lance Corporal Behzad Razzada, a member of the Embedded Partnering Team (EPT), Combat Logistics Battalion 4, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward). "My parents were happy because it was a chance for Afghanistan to unite and fight for freedom. They said it was the only way that injustice in Afghanistan would be finished."

The idea of providing a better future for

the Afghan people resonated with Razzada, a 24-year-old native of Afghanistan. "I was born in Kabul and lived there until I was 10. I went to school there. It was just a normal school like anywhere else before the Taliban came. I studied until the fifth grade ... and then chaos started. Everyone started leaving the country, all heading in one direction and hoping they didn't get killed by the Taliban."

Razzada's family left the country after the Taliban implemented their harsh policies.

"I was pretty young, but I remember [the Taliban] beheading people, making people wear certain type [sic] of clothes and maintain certain hygiene standards," said Razzada. "People who worked for the previous government were all in danger. Anyone who killed [employers of] the previous government would be rewarded, and my father had held a high position."

Traveling to Pakistan with his family, Razzada spent the next three years attending school north of Peshawar City, where he studied math, science and English, while his family applied for permission to immigrate to the United States.

"We didn't know if we were going to come to the United States. People used to say that the chances of successfully making the case to come to the United States were about 10 percent," said Razzada. "When we left Afghanistan, we couldn't stay in Pakistan because they were still killing members of the former [Afghan] government there ... and that's why we were accepted. We came to America with refugee status, so we were part of that 10 percent who got accepted."

Razzada's time in Afghanistan and Pakistan would serve him well both later



in life when he returned to the region as a Marine, and more immediately when he began primary school in St. Louis.

"My English was ... not very strong, but decent ... so I started school right away. The culture was extremely different though."

After graduating from high school and attending Yuba College in Yuba City, Calif., Razzada enlisted. "I joined the Marine Corps after two years in college where I majored in psychology. I am going to finish my school, so the Marine Corps is a good way to pay for college and be part of the military at the same time."

CLB-4 was already training for its deployment to Afghanistan when Razzada joined the battalion.

"I had to talk to my parents and tell them that I was going to get deployed," said Razzada. "They told me it was a good chance for me to go there and be a helping hand because I was from the country. They told me to go there and do my best."

Razzada is in an ideal place to make a difference while assigned to the EPT.

"I speak Dari, a little bit of Pashtun, Hindi and Urdu along with English," said Razzada. "I had the perfect chance to help, especially having the [chain of command] I did, who let me interact with the [Afghan National Army] as much [sic] possible."

The EPT worked as advisors and subject matter experts to assist 2d Battalion, 5th Kandak, 215th Corps in training, as well as planning for and executing operations.

Taking such a hands-on approach to helping build a better future for the Afghan people suited Razzada.

"He is mature beyond his years, and he was always looking forward to helping," said Major Charles E. Parker Jr., Officer in Charge, EPT, CLB-4. "He had a strong bond with our interpreters ... and I would bring him along sometimes to [meetings], and he could help fill me in on ... the perception and mood amongst the ANA."

Razzada brought his journey full circle when he returned to Afghanistan as a Marine and helped in rebuilding the country. "I'm extremely happy that I had this experience. What the EPT has done is make the ANA more confident in themselves and make them more capable when they are out there on their own. We accomplished our mission."

Cpl Mark W. Stroud  
Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)

## ■ Combat Outpost Castle Saturdays, Steak and Lobster: 1 Marine Feeds Entire Company

Whether preparing the ingredients to be used for a meal, preheating ovens or making sure the food doesn't overcook, feeding 300 people can be a difficult task.



**Above: Cpl Nicholas Fredrick, a one-man mess hall, serves up baked lasagna. He is the only cook in the company and comes up with daily meals for 300 chowhounds of "Charlie" Co, 3d LAR Bn, RCT-6 at Combat Outpost Castle. (Photo by Cpl Ed Galo)**

**Below: Lasagna and steamed vegetables are only one of a number of meals Cpl Fredrick prepares. Among other favorites are steak and lobster.**



CPL ED GALO

It can be even harder in a foreign environment and when there's only one Marine tasked with the workload.

Corporal Nicholas Fredrick, the food service specialist with Company C, 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, usually starts his day around 4 a.m. to begin cooking breakfast and to serve food by 7 a.m. from the mess tent at Combat Outpost Castle, Khan Neshin, Afghanistan.

Fredrick said that being the only cook at his combat outpost can be difficult. "The hardest part is just putting all the food out there and keeping up with all the Marines."

Fredrick's favorite meal to cook for the Marines is steak and lobster, which he tries to make every Saturday. "We have a grill in the back, and I'll just get out there and start grilling for the guys."

He is licensed to operate 7-ton trucks, the vehicles Marines use to move supplies throughout Helmand province. Once a week, he will drive a truck as part of a resupply convoy to pick up what he needs to feed his Marines.

Since Fredrick is the only cook in his company, he gets to decide every day what is on the menu.

Fredrick likes to add something extra to the meals he cooks instead of cooking them right out of the packages. "The guys always tell me they like the meatloaf. I like to add a little extra cheese to the top of it and bake it in the oven. ... I try to make things a little better for everyone out here."

Even though cooking for so many Marines can be a demanding task, he said seeing happy Marines makes it worth it. "I like boosting everyone's morale. That's my main purpose out here, keeping the Marines nice and full, and happy. If they're happy, then I'm happy too."

Fredrick takes pride knowing that he is never late to open the doors to his tent when it is time to eat a meal. He said he always tries to open up 15 to 20 minutes early and will sometimes close a little later to ensure that everyone is fed.

Cpl Ed Galo  
Combat Correspondent, RCT-6

## ■ Helmand Province

### Sniffing Out Danger:

#### Man's Best Friend Hunts Explosives

Riding in an armored truck over Afghanistan's rutted dirt roads is hardly a smooth or comfortable experience.

Each bump is felt as leaf springs groan and creak under the weight of the mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicle. The air conditioner circulates dusty air, and unless you're right next to the vents, you're drenched in sweat. Body armor weighs down on shoulders and compounds the pain of sitting in one spot for hours on end.

For Lance Corporal Stephen Mader and his dog, Maxx, this is routine.

Mader is an improvised explosive device detector dog (IDD) handler with 3d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6.

Their MRAP hits a large bump. Maxx's water, in a metal dish near the truck's back entrance, splashes onto the floor. Maxx, who was dozing, stands up, puts his front paws on Mader's lap and nuzzles his head against Mader's body armor.

Mader wraps his arms around Maxx, gives him a pat on the side, a scratch behind the ears and reassures him that everything is all right. Maxx settles back down, his chin across Mader's boots, and closes his eyes again.

"It's basically like having a 3-year-old in Afghanistan," said Mader, who is responsible for every aspect of Maxx's care. Mader feeds him, cleans him and even monitors Maxx's behavior for signs of stress or fatigue.

And like a 3-year-old, Maxx, a yellow Labrador, always wants attention.

"Otherwise, he'll start licking me," Mader said.

As of the end of August, Mader and Maxx had been together for seven months after meeting at the five-week handler school in Southern Pines, S.C. The dogs arrive at the school pre-trained to obey commands and track explosive scents. Human students learn how to handle the dogs.

School instructors interviewed Mader about his demeanor and personality to get an idea of which dog to assign him.

Mader, who joined the Marine Corps in 2009, said the dog needs a good rapport with its handler. If there is a personality clash, the dog won't perform. Maxx is a perfect match for Mader.

"If I want to be playful and active, he will be [too]. But, if I want to relax, he'll lay down next to me," Mader said.

Overall, Maxx, who is 4 years old, is "pretty chill" and will sleep when he's not working. But Maxx does have his wild streaks like when he breaks out of his

kennel. He also likes to swim in the canals in the southern Helmand River Valley.

"He'll try, and I'll have to stop him," said Mader.

Unlike some military working dogs, IDD's are not trained to be aggressive. Because of this, handlers have the discretion to allow other Marines to approach or pet their dogs. Maxx is popular with the Marines and receives a lot of attention. But when it comes time to work, he's ready.

"In the truck, he's like a pet, but whenever we're out there, he's like a tool," said Mader. And "they're a great tool to have if you use them correctly."

The duo spends a lot of time on the road. Maxx can sense where they are.

"It's weird, but he'll know what [forward operating base] we're going to," said Mader. When they're getting close to FOB Geronimo, a larger, more built-up base, Maxx will become excited and start pacing. When they approach a smaller, more desolate place like Combat Outpost Rankle, he'll just lie there, according to his handler.

When Mader and Maxx aren't on the road or working, they're training. After missions, while other Marines are relaxing, Mader is making sure Maxx's tracking skills stay sharp.

Maxx isn't trained with food, but rather with a rubber bouncy toy called a "bumper." The bumper is used as a reward for successfully performing a task, either in training or in a real scenario. When the

bumper comes out, it's a morale boost for the dog, Mader said.

Even with the long hours and the extra responsibilities of being a dog handler, Mader said it's "the best thing to happen to [him] in the Marine Corps."

After this deployment, if there is a need and an opportunity, Mader said he would volunteer to be a handler again. "I love being with the dogs."

As the Afghan National Army continues to assume more of the security responsibilities in Helmand province, officials at Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., said they anticipate the number of dogs currently serving will be reduced in the near future, correlating with the reduction in Marine forces in the region.

If Maxx is no longer needed, Mader said he wants to adopt him.

"I don't want to give him up," Mader said. "I've bonded too much to give him up."

Mader looks down at Maxx, who is still asleep across Mader's boots, unaware of the potential dangers outside of their MRAP. The occasional hard bump in the road is the only thing that stirs him from his nap on the ride.

However, if needed, the pair will be ready to track down the scent of any explosives on the route.

SSgt Brian Buckwalter  
Combat Correspondent, RCT-6



Maxx, an IED detector dog, shows his affection for handler LCpl Stephen Mader as they convoy through southern Helmand province. Mader and Maxx have worked as a team for seven months sniffing out explosives, training and just chilling out together.



# Leatherneck Laffs

## MARINE CORPS BALL



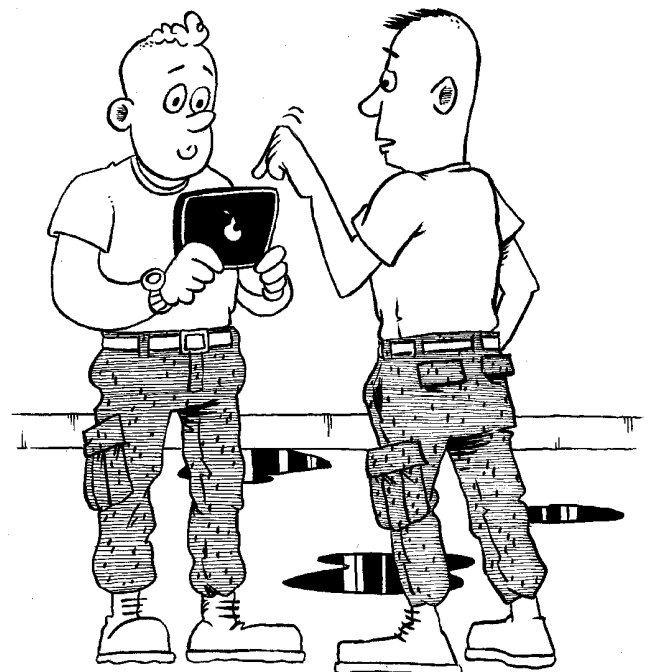
"Corpsmen. You gotta love 'em."



"My great-granddaddy fought all over the Pacific wearing this helmet. How he could see to get from island to island is beyond me."

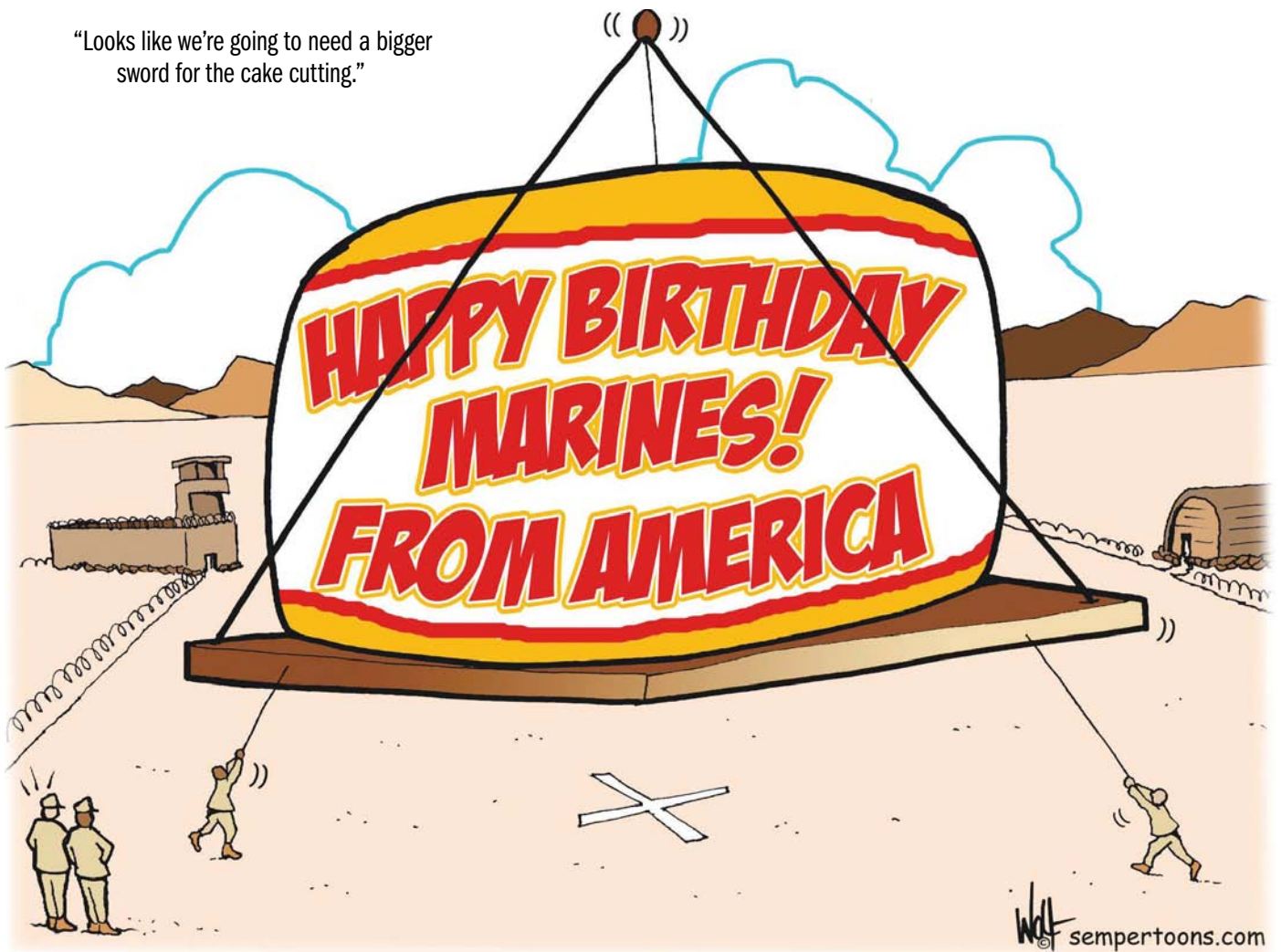


"Battalion keeps calling for Pinocchio-six-actual."



"Does this thing have a field-day app?"

"Looks like we're going to need a bigger sword for the cake cutting."



"Now, when he says he's going to nail our hides to the barn door—that's just a figure of speech. Right?"



"OK, OK. It's a marksman badge. But it still looks like a pizza box."



# We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

## New Mortar System Extends Expeditionary Efforts

■ Leathernecks of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division gained their first live-fire experience with the Corps' new Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS), a 120 mm mortar, at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, Aug. 23.

The EFSS was employed during Exercise Spartan Fury 12.2. With this weapon system, the Corps seeks to improve the overall indirect fire capability in support of Marine expeditionary warfare.

"We purchased this weapon so we have a light enough system to do amphibious operations and expeditionary operations," said Major Philip Stauffacher, the fielding and operations support team leader. "We can transport this system internal with

the MV-22 [Osprey], the CH-53 [Super Stallion], the Army's CH-47 [Chinook], and the AAVP7A1 [amphibious assault vehicle]."

This weapon system completes the short-range and high mobility section of the "Triad of Fires," which also includes the longer-ranged rockets and larger artillery systems, said Stauffacher. These weapons-system classes complement each other to provide a full battlefield capability in artillery that none could do on its own, he added.

Before the EFSS can be employed successfully in future Marine Corps combat situations, Marines must first train to master it. Stauffacher, along with the New Equipment Training Team from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., were on site to assist "Charlie" Btry with the assimila-

tion of this new weapon.

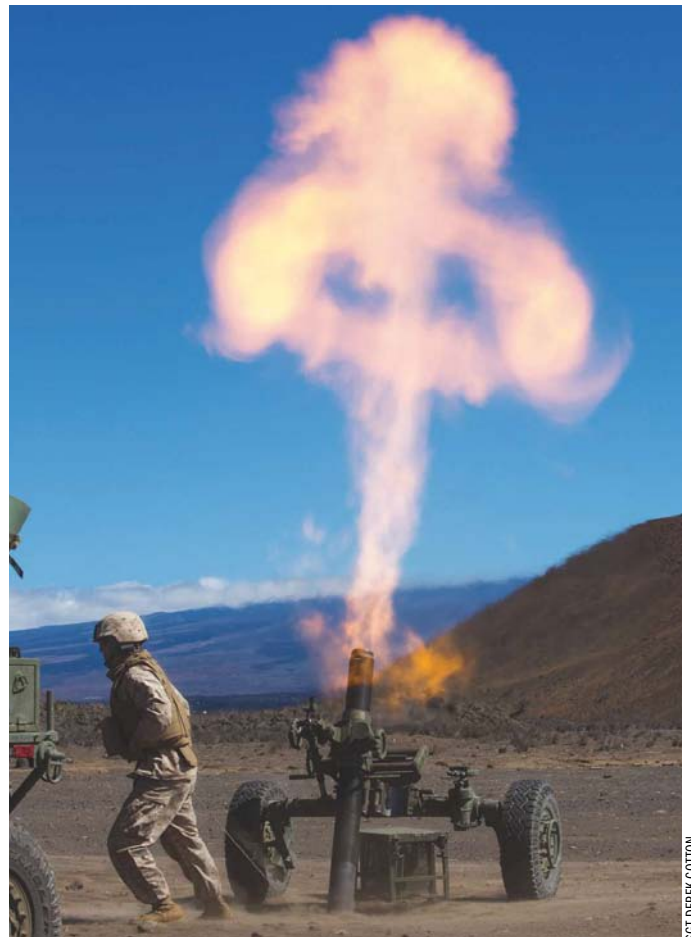
Stauffacher and Captain Jason Grim, the battery commander, both said the new semifixed ammunition, sights and employment style present a situation where the battery Marines have to turn to their "artillery roots" to employ this "slick" new artillery weapon system. The system includes the mortar, a smaller gear load and smaller Internally Transportable Vehicles (ITVs), which are a fraction of the size of a humvee, but retain much of the humvee's capability characteristics for transporting the French-derived EFSS, they said.

The Charlie Btry leathernecks conducted numerous training events in the weeks prior to the live fire. The training included the standard artillery reconnaissance, selection and occupation of position training that took them through a dry-fire



LT JOSHUA R. LEBENSON, USN

PFC Walter Sweet, a cannoneer with "Charlie" Btry, 1st Bn, 12th Marines, loads a 120 mm round into the Expeditionary Fire Support System mortar at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, Aug. 23.



SGT DEREK COTTON

LCpl Cameron McAllister pulls the lanyard sending the round downrange.

regimen of emplacing, prepping and displacing the EFSS numerous times to prepare for the live-fire shoot.

"It's a new system with a lot of unknowns for us, and that's where this training is answering those questions," said Grim. The Marines were excited, and the training was successful in preparing the Marines for "72 hours of shoot, move and communicate," said Grim, referencing the relatively short time frame of the EFSS employment.

The EFSS was well received by the sections that employed it there. In addition to the reduction in the size of the EFSS system hardware, the weapons system requires less manpower to employ it effectively.

"It's lighter and faster in its iron sights, and it takes less men," said Sergeant Albert Camacho, a section chief with Charlie Btry. "It takes a minimum of three Marines to be fire-capable, as [opposed] to seven Marines for the [M]777 [155] mm [howitzer]."

Grim said that the standard for a section on the EFSS is five Marines: one section chief, one gunner and three cannoneers. They are mobile on two ITVs and fit the role of the Marine expeditionary units nicely, he said.

"You don't have to do a six-gun movement," Camacho said. "You can employ a section on its own. ... It gives us the ability to move freely, to get in those tight gaps that we didn't have before."

Sgt Derek Cotton  
PAO, MCB Hawaii

### "Spam-Czar's" Care Packages Bring a Taste of Home to Marines

■ Marine veteran Donald G. Downer Jr. sends Spam to Marines serving overseas, but not the kind you get in your inbox.

As a young Marine stationed in Tsingtao, China, during the 1940s, Downer had to wait more than a month for a care package from his mother. "There was no mail by airplane in those days. When the packages finally arrived, the cookies were in crumbs, but they were still a delight," he said.

Downer added that even back then, receiving a care package from home was a huge morale booster. "We knew that the folks back home were 100 percent in support of our mission," he said.

During the past five years, Downer has sent more than 1,800 care packages, practically one a day, to Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. The packages, known to contain mostly the canned meat, Spam, have earned Donald Downer the title of "Spam-Czar."

Although he bears all the expense of providing the care packages, he doesn't



CPL JOSHUA HINES

**EIFFEL OBSTACLE—U.S. Marines with the ground combat element, Security Cooperation Task Force Africa Partnership Station 2012 (SCTF APS-12), and French Marines complete an obstacle during a training exercise aboard Fort de Penthièvre, Brittany, France, July 22. The Marines and sailors of SCTF APS-12 participated in a series of training events with French Marines in order to strengthen relations between the two countries' militaries.**

limit his gifts. The packages also include other nonperishable items depending on the season, including assorted candies, wet-wipes, foot powder, magazines, puzzle books and hand warmers.

Downer's career started when he dropped out of school in 1946 to join the Corps at age 17. He became a sergeant while serving in Tsingtao, China, and afterward transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

Downer returned to active duty to serve

in the Korean War, and later was commissioned with the 5th Special Basic Class in 1951 and served with the 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Calif., as the battalion communications officer.

After his time in the Marine Corps, Downer completed college in 1956 and worked with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., as a guided missile systems engineer for 33 years.

Downer includes his biographical in-



Leathernecks and sailors with Co E, BLT 2/1 rally in their AAVs in preparation for the assault and seizure of a notional enemy airfield on Tinian, Sept. 12-14, during a three-day training exercise at the beginning of the 31st MEU's combat certification exercise.



LCPL CALEB HOOVER

formation in each package to add a personal touch. "I know how important it is to get a care package from home when deployed overseas," said Downer. "I am now compelled to ensure that I can in some small way make as many of those serving our country and deployed overseas

a little happier when they receive a care package from someone back home who cares."

*Leatherneck*

### Marines Land on Tinian 68 Years After World War II

■ Marines and sailors of Company E, Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, First Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit hit the same soil their Marine forefathers fought on during World War II, the beach of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands, for an amphibious assault exercise, Sept. 12-14.

The training evolution was the first event of the 31st MEU's fall patrol, a refresher exercise for Marine air-ground task force integration before conducting bilateral training throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

With more armor than helicopters and more maneuverability than combat rubber raiding craft, Co E, known as "Mech" Co, was assigned for the Tinian scenario. Mech Co operates with the BLT's amphibious assault vehicles and is able to conduct hard-hitting ship-to-shore operations.

"AAVs are able to provide heavy suppression with the ability to operate in the water as well as in rough terrain," said Corporal James Connell, a field radio operator with the BLT. "Not only that, they can carry enough supplies to last in the field without resupply for a couple of

days. They're self-sustaining, mobile armaments able to go pretty much anywhere to accomplish the mission."

The company was tasked with regaining control of an enemy-held airfield and defending it against counterattacks over the course of three days. The airfield seizure was not only the initial event of the MEU's predeployment evolution, but the exercise held great historical significance as well.

"Not only are the Marines getting good training out of the days-long exercise, but they're on an island with historical significance for the war in the Pacific in WW II," said Second Lieutenant Richard Meldrum, the platoon commander for 3d Platoon, "Echo" Co. "It's been a long time since training of this sort was conducted on Tinian, so the guys are getting a lot more out of this than our usual training."

Following the Battle of Tinian in 1944, the island's airfields were heavily used by B-29 Superfortress bombers to conduct aerial operations. Eventually, the airfields were used to launch the aircraft carrying atomic bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, forcing Japan to surrender to the United States.

"We were able to do a multi-day field op in the jungle, and then later we saw some memorials on the island from WW II," said Lance Corporal Michael Herrera, a squad automatic weapon gunner with 2d Plt, Co E. "It's been a great opportunity all around and something I'll remember



COURTESY OF DONALD G. DOWNER JR.

Marine veteran Donald G. Downer Jr., known as the "Spam-Czar," stuffs care packages for Marines serving overseas. For the past five years, he has sent more than 1,800 care packages to leathernecks serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

for a long time to come.”

Following the exercise on Tinian, Mech Co returned to USS *Denver* (LPD-9) to continue its deployment with the 31st MEU throughout the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

Cpl Jonathan G. Wright  
Combat Correspondent, 31st MEU

## Quick Shots Around the Corps

### Marines Install Tsunami Warning System

■ Second Lieutenant Jeremy Alexander, Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, reports that a mass notification tsunami warning system, designed to alert personnel on all camps and stations to the threat of an imminent destructive wave, recently was installed and soon will be tested in Okinawa, Japan.

The use of this system should significantly improve the safety of personnel who live or work in low-lying coastal areas on Marine Corps camps and stations and improve their ability to safely and expeditiously evacuate those in harm’s way.



COL WALT FORD, USMC (RET)

**MARINE ON A MISSION**—Former Pvt Gary Schoening, third from left, embarked on a journey to find his fellow recruits, drill instructors and series staff from Platoon 382, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, 1964, and successfully located 30 of the 69 recruits and reunited with some of the men 48 years later. From left, the series commander, then-1stLt R. B. “Bob” Starke Sr.; the series gunnery sergeant, then-GySgt J. L. P. “Joe” Villeneuve; and the junior drill instructor, then-Sgt H. L. Cain, at the Globe & Laurel restaurant in Stafford, Va., Aug. 20.

## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



COURTESY OF COL RAY ERWIN, USMC (RET)

“I know, Dad, but the recruiter told me that I had to be 18.”

Submitted by  
Jim O'Donnell  
Ocean City, N.J.

### This Month's Photo



CPL M. C. NEEL

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# First United States Marine Officer Killed in Combat: “Shall I Board Her, Sir?”



Action between USS *Constitution* and HMS *Guerriere*, 19 Aug. 1812.

By Charles P. Neimeyer, Ph.D.

**O**n 1 June 1812, President James Madison solemnly penned a “war message” to the 12th Congress. In his letter, Madison carefully crafted the reasons why hostilities should exist between the United States and Great Britain.

President Madison had grown tired of the highly aggressive Royal Navy who seemed determined to seize American shipping and sailors at will.

In his summation paragraph, President Madison asked whether “the United States shall continue passive under these progressive usurpations and these accumulating wrongs, or, opposing force to force in defense of our national rights, shall commit a just cause into the hands of the Almighty Disposer of Events.”

While the U.S. House of Representatives took only four days to approve his request for a declaration of war, the Senate held more opposition. The Federalist Party senators, primarily from New England, vehemently argued against going to war with Great Britain. They were convinced that any rupture of relations between the two nations would have an immediate and negative effect upon

their region since they were so heavily dependent upon overseas maritime trade. While the Madison administration eventually gained narrow congressional approval for war, not a single Federalist senator voted in its favor.

Soon after hostilities commenced, Secretary of the Navy

Paul Hamilton ordered Commodore John Rodgers in USS *President* and Captain Stephen Decatur in USS *United States* to take two small squadrons out to sea. Other vessels, such as USS *Constitution* commanded by CAPT Isaac Hull, put to sea as single ships. They did so in order to take advantage of the fact that the Royal Navy had not yet been informed that a state of war existed between the two nations.

Those particular American frigates were the famous “Super-44s” authorized at the end of

George Washington’s second term. Called a Super-44 for the larger number of cannon they mounted, a standard British frigate carried slightly less ordnance and considerably fewer personnel. In reality, this 44-gun class of vessel usually carried close to 54 guns and occupied a unique interstice between a normal frigate,

**The British did not  
possess a single frigate  
the equivalent of an  
American Super-44.**

usually rated at 36 or 38 guns, and that of a much larger ship of the line, rated at 64 or 74 guns. However, in 1812 the American Navy did not possess a single ship of the line, while the Royal Navy maintained more than 115 such vessels, including Horatio Nelson's famous 100-gun flagship, HMS *Victory*.

Conversely, the British did not possess a single frigate the equivalent of an American Super-44, although they had more than 125 standard-sized frigates on their active rolls at that time. Nevertheless, during the War of 1812, smaller British frigates regularly would challenge ships such as America's *President*, *United States* and *Constitution* and nearly always found themselves disadvantaged. The big American frigates wisely avoided taking on a British ship of the line.

Marine detachments aboard a Super-44 usually consisted of two officers. The senior officer normally held the grade of first lieutenant or captain, and the junior officer was a more recently commissioned second lieutenant. The senior enlisted grades consisted of three or four noncommissioned officers in the grade of sergeant or corporal. *Constitution's* Marine Detachment muster roll listed several sergeants, at least one corporal and 29 privates present for duty. The Marine Detachment also was responsible for the "ship's music," and the muster roll reported a single fifer and one drummer.

Those "musicians" were not there to provide entertainment for the crew. Rather they were underage males who were assigned that task until they turned 18. Once they reached that minimum age, the Marine "boys" were deemed old enough to shoulder a musket and were given the rank of private. However, their job as ship's music was very important to the combat functioning of the vessel.

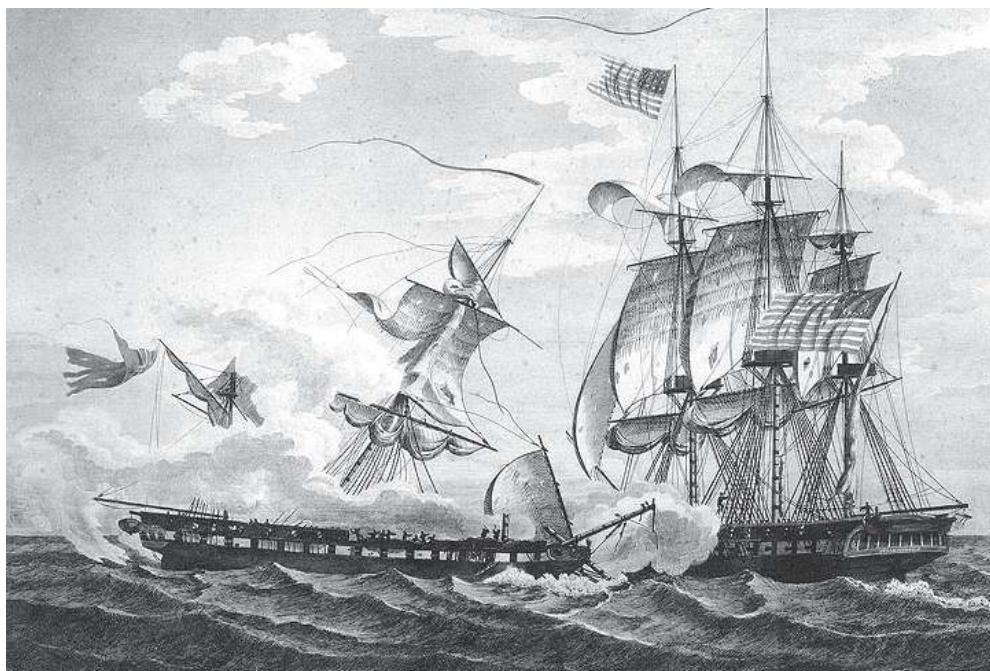
The fife and drum was one way a commander communicated with his crew. For example, if the captain desired to prepare the ship for action, a Marine drummer would be ordered to "beat to quarters," and the young man would commence beating a continuous long roll on his drum as his older fellow Marines took their stations in the fighting tops and sailors cleared the decks for action.

When *Constitution* put to sea in the summer of 1812, the ship's Marine Detachment was commanded by First Lieutenant William S. Bush. Commissioned a second lieutenant on 3 July 1809, and promoted to first lieutenant on 4 March 1811, William Sharp Bush came from a family with deep military roots. His father had served in several Pennsylvania units during the American Revolution and ultimately was promoted to the grade of captain.

Bush's three uncles (his father's brothers) also served during the war. The eldest brother, Lewis, was a major in the 6th Pennsylvania, who died of wounds received at the Battle of Brandywine in 1777. Bush's father, John, survived the war and eventually moved his family from Wilmington, Del., to a small farm in Talbot County, Md. Records do not indicate that William ever married, although he did have a brother, Lewis, named for his long-deceased Revolutionary War hero uncle. By all accounts, William Bush was a popular and competent officer of Marines.

*Constitution*, after some repair time in the Washington Navy Yard, cleared the capes of the Chesapeake Bay on 12 July 1812. Her captain, Isaac Hull, had orders to join with COMO John Rodgers' squadron off Sandy Hook, N.J.

On 17 July, lookouts in *Constitution* spotted what appeared



**CAPT Isaac Hull**

**Above: The British frigate *Guerriere* loses her masts to USS *Constitution*, 19 Aug. 1812. (U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photo of Baugean engraving)**

**Bottom: The dismantled *Guerriere* settles astern of USS *Constitution*.**



USN PHOTO OF G. T. MARGESON PAINTING



to be an enemy squadron on the distant horizon. It was not long before the ships under the command of CAPT Philip Broke of HMS *Shannon* began closing in. Bad luck had caused the wind initially to favor the British, and they had been able to close considerably the distance between themselves and the American frigate. However, it was not long before the winds had completely died and the British ships were still out of cannon range.

Because the water was relatively shallow, CAPT Hull accepted the suggestion of his able lieutenant, Charles Morris, and he employed the tactic of “kedging” to pull away from his British pursuers. Kedging involved taking the ship’s heavy anchors, rowing them several hundred yards ahead of the ship and then hauling on the attached cables which caused the ship to move forward until they reached the position of the anchors. The anchors were then hauled up and rowed forward over and over again. It was backbreaking work for the ship’s crew, and it is likely that Bush’s Marines fully participated in this endeavor for it was truly an all-hands effort.

Unfortunately, the British were quick to catch on to Hull’s trick, and they resorted to kedging themselves. Nevertheless, for 57 hours Hull used a combination of various sails, kedging, dumping his fresh water and outright superior seamanship to elude his British pursuers. By 20 July, with the distance extending between *Constitution* and his British pursuers, Philip Broke gave up the chase. *Constitution* proceeded to Boston to await new orders from the Secretary of the Navy.

Meanwhile, Hull raced to ready *Constitution* for sea again. He feared the longer he remained in port, the greater possibility that Broke might return and blockade his ship in Boston harbor. Confident that once out upon the open sea he could outsail any ship, Hull cleared Boston Light on 2 Aug. 1812, and was soon off the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, hoping to snag British commercial vessels bound for Canada.

On 10 Aug., *Constitution* chased HMS *Avenger*, an 18-gun

sloop, but *Avenger* was a faster vessel and was able to make her escape. On 18 Aug., Hull spotted another sail and chased that vessel as well. The ship turned out to be the Massachusetts privateer *Decatur*, commanded by CAPT William Nichols. Once Nichols realized that the frigate was American, he hove to and was taken on board *Constitution* to confer with Hull. One bit of intelligence provided by Nichols was that he recently had sighted a British frigate in the nearby vicinity. The frigate turned out to be HMS *Guerriere*, commanded by CAPT James Dacres.

While slightly smaller than *Constitution* and mounting fewer guns, 49 to *Constitution*’s 55, HMS *Guerriere* was considered one of the best frigates in the Royal Navy. Dacres himself was from a distinguished Royal Navy family and had a solid reputation as a captain of a British man-of-war. Moreover, at that early date in the war, the British generally held the “Yankees” in great contempt, and despite the size and ordnance differential, they firmly believed that a properly handled British frigate would prevail in any ship-to-ship engagement.

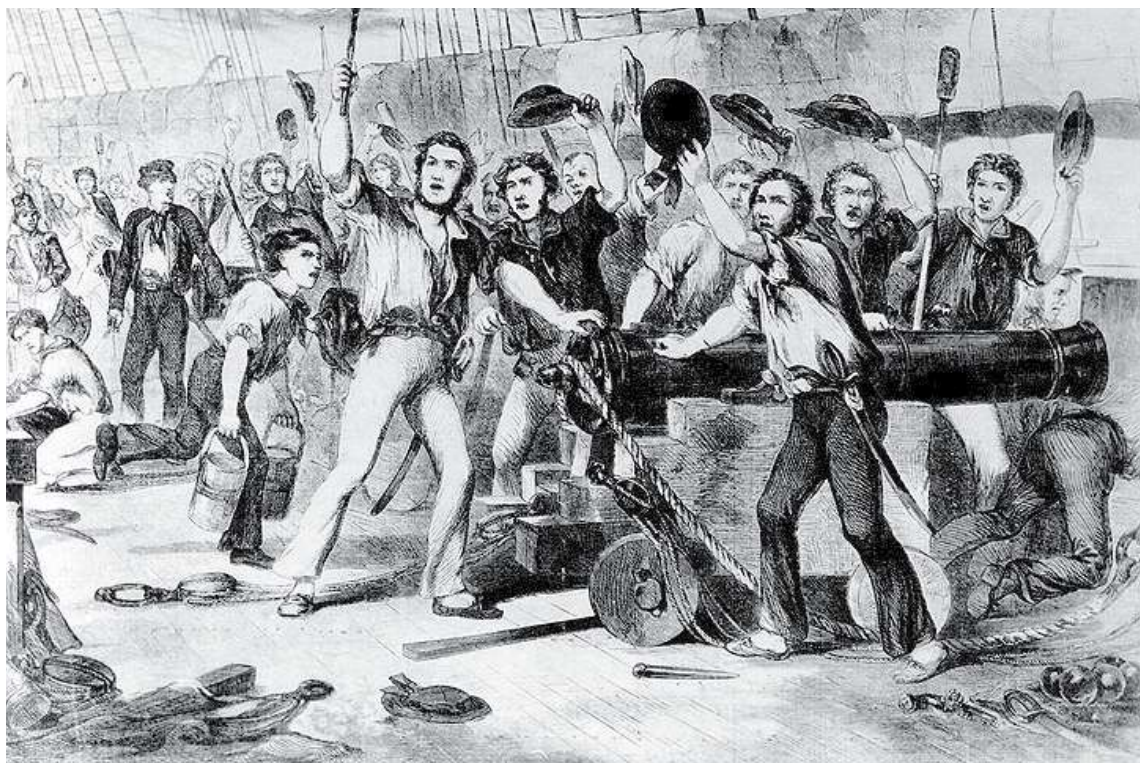
Just a few days before encountering *Constitution*, Dacres had captured an American brig, *John Adams*, but since the vessel had left Liverpool without knowledge that war had commenced, he allowed the vessel to continue on to New York with her personnel under parole.

Before letting *John Adams* proceed, he wrote a curious challenge into the ship’s log: “Captain James Dacres, commander of his Britannic Majesty’s frigate *Guerriere*, of 44 guns, presents his compliments to Commodore Rodgers of the United States frigate *President*, and will be happy to meet him, or any other American frigate of equal force to the *President*, off Sandy Hook for the purpose of having a few minutes *tete-a-tete*.” What he was actually asking for was a gun fight with an American frigate. He soon got his wish.

On 19 Aug. 1812, about 750 miles east of Boston Light around 3 p.m., the two ships spotted each other. Both captains “beat to

Firing at nearly point-blank range, Hull had *Constitution*’s 24-pounder cannon double-shotted, and *Guerriere* literally shuddered from stem to stern.

***Constitution*’s crew cheer the upcoming battle with *Guerriere* as powder is delivered to the guns.**



U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND PHOTO OF LINE ENGRAVING



quarters,” prepared their ships for action and were eager for a direct engagement. *Constitution*’s sailors spread buckets of sand on the orlop deck where the ship’s surgeon usually was located and on the gun decks to give the barefooted men better traction once the battle began. The sand was designed to keep men from slipping in the pools of blood that inevitably formed on the deck from sailors and Marines killed or wounded in battle.

Hull made directly for *Guerriere*. Looking through his glass, Hull noted that Dacres had painted the ship’s name on one of the mainsails. On another sail, however, was a curious statement in bold letters: “NOT THE LITTLE BELT.” This was in reference to a prewar incident between USS *President* and HMS *Little Belt*. *Little Belt* was a captured Danish warship that the British had converted into a sloop of war. Spotted off Chesapeake Bay on 16 May 1811, *Little Belt* was chased down by COMO Rodgers in USS *President*.

In the gathering darkness, each side claimed the other had fired first, but *Little Belt* was decidedly worse off after the unequal encounter and had numerous casualties compared to only one man wounded in *President*. Later, Rodgers claimed that in the growing darkness he believed the smaller sloop was actually the British frigate *Guerriere*, which recently had impressed a sailor from a commercial brig, *Spitfire*. Thus Dacres painted his sails with the slogan so that the Americans would know beyond a shadow of a doubt which ship they were facing.

As *Guerriere* approached *Constitution*, Lt Bush was at his station near the quarterdeck. With bayonets affixed to their muskets, his Marines guarded key hatches (to keep personnel from leaving the gun decks without permission) or climbed the rigging and took their stations in the ship’s fighting tops. Around 5 p.m., with both ships just yards from each other, Dacres got off the first broadside. However, in a rolling sea, most of *Guerriere*’s guns missed their mark. Nonetheless, two of their 18-pounders managed to hit the side of *Constitution*’s hull with solid shot, but the rounds harmlessly bounced off. Allegedly, a sailor on board *Constitution*, seeing this, shouted, “Huzza, her sides are made of iron,” giving rise to *Constitution*’s nickname, “Old Ironsides.”

It was Hull’s turn to fire, and *Constitution*’s heavier ordnance exacted a terrible toll on board *Guerriere*. Firing at nearly point-blank range, Hull had *Constitution*’s 24-pound cannon double-shotted, and *Guerriere* literally shuddered from stem to stern. Dacres attempted to return fire as best he could, but within 15 minutes of such close-quarters fighting, *Guerriere*’s mizzenmast had fallen to starboard, and the crew was unable to cut it away. It acted like a huge sea anchor.

Further, *Guerriere*’s hull had been damaged, and her sails and rigging were in shreds. Since *Guerriere* had lost her ability to steer properly, Hull took advantage of the situation by putting



**Above:** HMS *Guerriere*’s masts go over the side as USS *Constitution* continues to rake her from the front. (U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photo of Anton Otto Fischer painting)

**Below:** This silver urn, by Philadelphia silversmiths Thomas Fletcher and Sidney Gardiner and engraved by W. Hooker, was presented to CAPT Isaac Hull, USN, by the citizens of Philadelphia in honor of his captaining USS *Constitution* to victory over HMS *Guerriere* on 19 Aug. 1812.



U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND PHOTO BY B. L. MASON



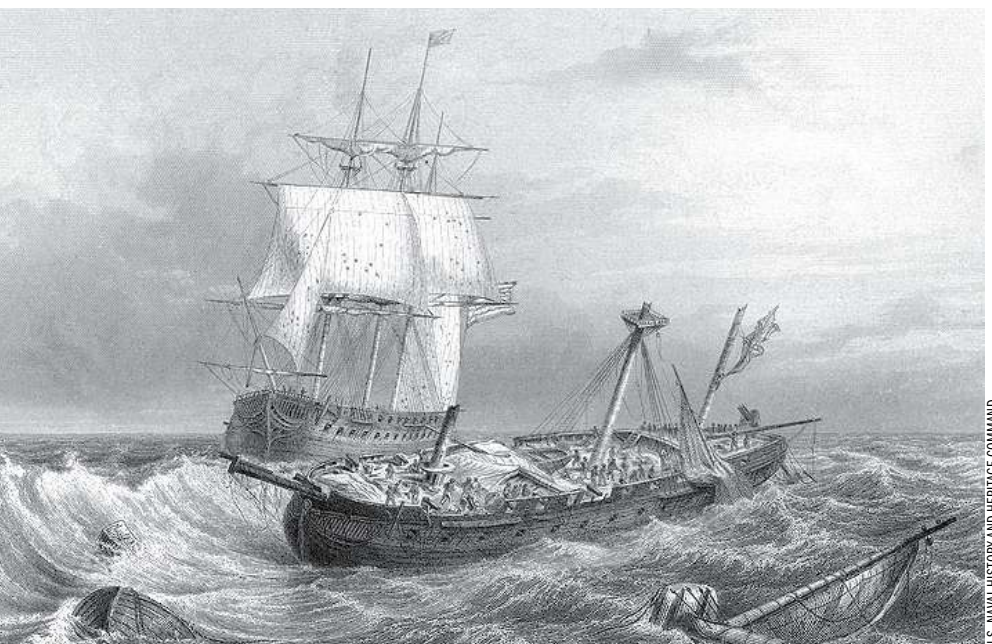
U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND PHOTO BY B. L. MASON

*Constitution* hard to port, thus enabling him to deliver two devastating raking broadsides on *Guerriere*. Meanwhile, Bush’s Marines in the fighting tops tried to pick off the ship’s officers on her quarterdeck. Typically, most fighting-top Marines were usually not all doing the shooting. Instead, most acted as loaders for the few who were accurate shots. At that point in the engagement, the Marines valued accuracy over volume of fire.

During the height of the largely one-sided fight, *Guerriere* had a temporary stroke of luck when her bowsprit became briefly entangled with *Constitution* near the stern of the ship. The point where the ships were entangled together gave CAPT Dacres a brief opportunity to board his opponent. Hull’s second in command, Charles Morris, rushed to the collision point and began lashing *Guerriere*’s bowsprit to *Constitution*.

Morris initially mounted the taffrail and noticed British sailors and Royal Marines massing for a boarding attempt. He informed





**Above:** This line engraving by Rogers after Chapin depicts the dismantled HMS *Guerriere* in the foreground as USS *Constitution* passes.

**Right:** On 29 Jan. 1813, Congress authorized a gold medal for CAPT Isaac Hull, honoring the victory of USS *Constitution* over HMS *Guerriere*. Each of Hull's officers received a silver medal.



Hull what Dacres was up to, but before he could do much about it, he was shot down. Amazingly, Hull noted that despite his grievous wound, Morris remained in action. Hull also called for boarders.

When Morris went down, 1stLt William Bush, at the head of a party of Marines he had just called aft to potentially repel boarders, also mounted the taffrail with his sword in hand and shouted out to Hull, "Shall I board her, sir?" Before Hull could answer, a crash of musketry from Royal Marines on *Guerriere* hit the Americans. Sailing Master John Aylwin, standing behind Bush, was wounded slightly in his shoulder. However, Bush was shot in the face. According to Marine Lt John Contee, the .75-caliber ball entered Bush's left cheekbone and exited out the back of his head. He died instantly.

Not long after Bush was killed, the two ships suddenly wrenched apart. As they did, *Guerriere* lost her two remaining masts and was a riddled hulk in danger of sinking. Hull briefly stood *Constitution* off to assess his own damage, which proved to be remarkably light. Along with Bush, *Constitution* had six other sailors killed in action. Marine Pvt Francis Mullen was wounded slightly.

It was at that point that CAPT Dacres was convinced that the time had come to strike his colors before *Constitution* returned to do more execution. Unfortunately, due to the loss of all his masts, he had nothing left to haul down. Instead he fired a single cannon to leeward, a traditional naval signal that indicated that a ship no longer intended to continue fighting.

In order to confirm this, Hull sent over his Third Lieutenant, who quickly confirmed *Guerriere* indeed had surrendered. Dacres had 15 dead and more than 60 men wounded. At least 24 *Guerriere* sailors were missing (most likely drowned when *Guerriere*'s masts gave way). The entire combat had lasted only 30 minutes.

Hull spent the night and most of the next day transferring the

remaining British sailors and their baggage to *Constitution*. Unable to haul her into Boston as a prize, Hull ordered the shattered *Guerriere* to be destroyed. The loss of the gallant Lt Bush was felt deeply throughout the American naval establishment. CAPT Hull noted, "In him our country has lost a valuable and brave officer."

On 29 Jan. 1813, Congress approved CAPT Hull for a gold medal and silver medals for all officers of *Constitution* and made a special provision for the deceased Lt Bush's relatives to receive his medal.

The defeat of the obnoxious *Guerriere* was significant.

Throughout the Napoleonic era, the Royal Navy rarely, if ever, lost a ship-to-ship engagement. Within months, they would lose two more frigates, HMS *Java* to USS *Constitution* and HMS *Macedonian* to Stephen Decatur's USS *United States*. The Super-44s had broken the British myth of naval invincibility, and it was not long before the Admiralty sent specific instructions to their frigate commanders to avoid, if at all possible, single combat engagements with those particular vessels.

While the gallantry of Lt Bush did much for the reputation of the early Marine Corps, his death in combat was the first time a United States Marine Corps officer had suffered such a fate. Gone but not forgotten, the U.S. Navy later named two destroyers for William Bush.

The first was a World War I-era destroyer, Number 166. The second, DD-529, had a distinguished fighting career in the Pacific during WW II, but similar to the ship's namesake, was fated for death in combat in 1945 when she was repeatedly struck by *kamikaze* aircraft and sank off the island of Okinawa.

*Editor's note: Dr. Neimeyer is a retired Marine artillery officer and head of the Marine Corps' History Division, part of the Marine Corps University.*







# MISSIONS CHANGE. WARRIORS DON'T.

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**MARINE RESERVE**



# A Marine Called Charley

Story by Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret) • Photos courtesy of Susan Strange



**Capt Charley Dunbeck**

**Below:** In late 1918, MajGen John A. Lejeune, the commanding general of 2d Division, AEF, center, facing left, along with other officers, observes a 2d Bn, 5th Marines post-war training exercise at Segendorf, Germany. The exercise was led by Capt Charley Dunbeck.

*"I'm going across that river. I expect you to come with me."*

—Capt Charley Dunbeck, USMC  
CO, 2d Bn, 5th Marines, night of 10 Nov. 1918

**I**t was cold that night, cold and raw and wet, a thoroughly ugly night. It had been cold and raw and wet and thoroughly ugly for a week. For the Marines of the 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, more than a few of them alternately freezing from the cold and burning with fever from influenza, it also had been a hungry time, the advance outpacing the field kitchens.

Now the blackness of the Meuse River confronted them. They shortly would have to cross that river on rickety footbridges, little more than wooden planks laid on makeshift pontoons, taking them to where German machine-gunners waited on the opposite bank. Helluva way to spend the Marine Corps Birthday.

There was going to be an armistice the next day; that was the scuttlebutt. If the Germans had heard, they didn't appear to be impressed by it. All day long they had treated the waiting Marines to a downpour

of incoming artillery fire. The deafening explosions of 77s, 88s, 155s and the big 250 mm Minenwerfer projectiles that the Marines called "Moaning Minnies" rained down in a drumbeat of shock and concussion fit to pound a man's brain to pudding. It could kill a man too.

Some Marines who had crouched in shallow holes already had died. So had Army engineers of the 2d Division's 2d Engineer Regiment, as they emplaced the footbridges the battalion would cross. Farther downstream to the north near the town of Mouzon, where the 6th Marines were to cross, everything had come to a halt. Accurate German artillery had turned the entire supply of bridging materials into kindling.

The job of getting across the Meuse River would fall to 5th Marines with 2d Bn in the lead. The battalion would have the fortune to be led by a commander who had earned the respect and admiration of the Marines he commanded, a leader who never said, "Go on," but always said, "Come on." His name was "Charley" Dunbeck, and his story began back in June not



far from another river, the Marne.

His service records list him as Charles E. Dunbeck, but he preferred Charley. Like more than a few Marine officers, he began as an enlisted Marine. Commissioned on the eve of America's entry into World War I, he was a captain commanding 43d Company in Lieutenant Colonel Frederic M. "Fritz" Wise's 2d Bn, 5th Marines when the Marine Brigade moved to halt the third in a series of German spring offensives that had been rolling up the Allied lines since March.

The first week of June, Marines and Germans were facing off to see which side would own woodland astride the road to Paris only 63 kilometers away. The German high command had committed elements of five divisions to take the wood that was the former hunting preserve of a well-to-do French family.

The owners called the woodlot the *Bois de Belleau* (Wood of Good Water or Belleau Wood) for its natural spring of cold, clear water. It stood as a necessary objective in the German drive to force France and Britain into a negotiated peace before American manpower and industrial might could tilt the table irreversibly against Germany. However, the German high command failed to recognize the obstinacy of Marines with rifles.

It was Marines with rifles, men described in an official German report as "remarkably accurate marksmen," who brought the all-out German offensive to a halt, forcing the *feldgrau* ranks to take up defensive positions in the wood. On 6 June, LtCol Julius S. Turrill's 1st Bn, 5th Marines had wrested the critical terrain feature of Hill 142 from the well-dug-in defenders. That was the opening round in a knockdown, drag-out brawl that would last the entire month. It was almost Charley Dunbeck's last fight.

In the mist-shrouded early light of 11 June, 2d Bn, 5th Marines jumped off in the attack at what was thought to be the exposed flank of the German unit defending the wood, with Dunbeck's 43d Co on the battalion left. The Marines actually were advancing directly into the prepared positions of two German regiments.

Machine guns cut the Marines to ribbons. In short order Dunbeck's company suffered more than 50 percent losses. Somehow, those who were left got in close enough to use bayonets, rifle butts, bare fists and entrenching tools. The Germans of the 40th Fusilier regiment didn't give up easily. If the Marines wanted the line, they would have to take it.

The fight turned into a battle royal, both sides determined to claim ownership of that ripple in the ground. Dunbeck eventually could send a runner back to report

**A leader who never said, "Go on," but always said, "Come on." His name was "Charley" Dunbeck.**



This 4 Nov. 1918 aerial reconnaissance photo of the southwest Villedieu area, the Meuse River and the surrounding terrain was taken by the U.S. Army's 24th Squadron in advance of the planned river crossing. (National Archives photo)



Fully aware that ownership of the ridge meant ownership of the Champagne, the German command had put those years to good use. Trench lines were connected to scores of reinforced concrete bunkers, each one sheltering two or more machine-gun teams, the whole providing carefully plotted interlocking fires that left scarcely

All things considered, the ridge was a pretty good place to take a stand, and it was a tough nut to crack.

and sent sprawling.

When 5th Marines took over the attack at first light on 4 Oct., they saw a

Somehow progress was being made, but it was progress purchased at a frightful cost. Fully half of the company was killed or wounded. Marines who had fought at Belleau Wood and Soissons reckoned the German artillery fire at Blanc Mont dwarfed anything they ever had encountered. Marine veteran Elton Mackin described it: "The men were stunned; lashed down to earth by flailing whips of shrapnel, gas and heavy stuff that came as drumfire, killing them."

Dunbeck, coughing from the effects of



**This hand-drawn Meuse-Argonne map, left, reflects the 2d Division's advance during the last days of WW I, and the caption on the photo above is "Where Marines crossed the Meuse River, France, 1918."**



This Army Signal Corps photo is captioned, "Marines at finish of Meuse-Argonne area, France, World War I."

another encounter with mustard gas, continued to lead the way, poking and probing for chinks in the German defenses, getting small assault teams in among the machine-gunners and rooting them out.

As daylight began to fade into twilight, Marines held half of the hill while the Germans clung defiantly to the other half as the battle continued to roar with no lessening in intensity. Then, Dunbeck was whacked again. Going to the aid of a wounded Marine lying in the open, he was shot in the forehead and sent sprawling by one of the machine-gun rounds lacing the air. Miraculously, he wasn't killed, but he was knocked half goofy and blinded by his own blood.

Constantly wiping blood from his eyes in order to see, the skipper of 43d Co briefed his executive officer, Capt Nathaniel H. Massie. Only then would Dunbeck allow his wound to be treated and take his place among the 1,600 members of 5th Marines who were killed or wounded that expensive day. Costly, yes, but it was Americans, not Germans, who held Blanc Mont at the end.

Dunbeck wasn't cut out for hospitals or aid stations. Within days he was back with

the battalion as the commanding officer. It was unusual, most unusual, for a captain to be commanding a battalion while there were senior officers available, but Major General John A. Lejeune, USMC, the division commander, had made it plain that Dunbeck was the one man he wished to see in command of the 2d Bn, 5th Marines.

MajGen Lejeune's desire reflected the sentiments of the Marines of the battalion. For them, Dunbeck had proven himself to be a standup guy, a man they would follow anywhere. Follow him, yes, but don't get too close to him was the wisdom of the Marines in the ranks; the man drew fire as horse droppings draw big green flies.

The loss of Blanc Mont tore a huge hole in the defenses the German command called the Hindenburg Line. Built using Russian prisoners during the winter of 1916-17, it was a seemingly impregnable system of bunkers, underground troop shelters, barbed-wire belts and hundreds of machine-gun positions, supported by ranked mortar and artillery batteries. It stretched from the British sector near Lens to the Franco-American front.

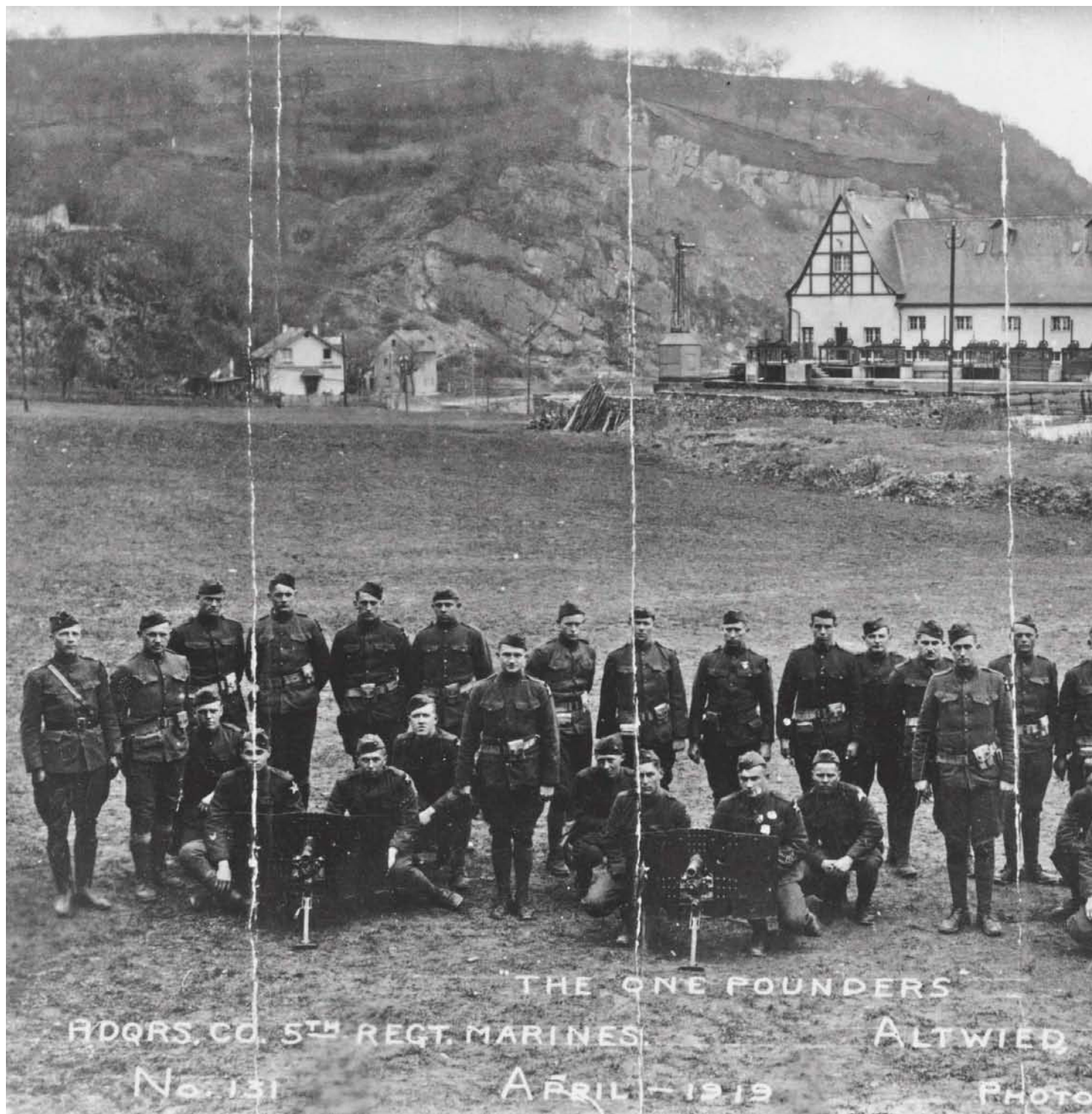
With his key position breached, the

commander of the German V Army, Gen Georg von der Marwitz, had to order a general retreat to better defensive positions along the Meuse River. Beyond lay the vital Metz-Sedan-Mezieres Railroad, the necessary supply line for all German forces in France. If the railroad were lost, the position of the entire German army would be hopeless.

In four years of war, Germany had lost an entire generation of her finest young men. Despite the staggering cost, Germans still were willing to stand and fight in that autumn of 1918. They fell back grudgingly, clinging to every bit of ground until they were pried from it, fighting desperately to buy time for their engineers to construct a new defense line on the east bank of the Meuse. Pounding them around the clock, GEN John J. Pershing sent a half-million men of the American Expeditionary Forces into the great Meuse-Argonne offensive with the goal of landing a knock-out blow that would end the war once and for all.

For Dunbeck and his battalion, the reality of the Meuse-Argonne was one long firefight in constant contact with a tenacious enemy. Throughout the month of





October, there was scarcely a day when the Marines of 2/5 weren't trading shots with truculent Germans who didn't yield a foot of ground until they were ordered or forced to fall back. The battalion would advance more than 50 kilometers during those days, always face to face with a stubbornly resisting foe.

From October into November the weather deteriorated to conditions that would have made simple misery almost desirable by contrast. Leadен skies leaked an around-the-clock drenching rainfall that failed to reach the freezing mark by only a few

degrees of temperature. Mud-caked Marines, shaking with the ravages of influenza, went into the attack through a curtain of ice-cold rain and clinging mud and muck that required all of a man's strength just to put one foot in front of the other.

While the bone-chilling rain continued to fall, the road network disintegrated, and the supply system staggered, lurched and stumbled. By a superhuman effort, ammunition was somehow brought forward. Rations were something else. Food was in abundance, but very little of it reached the line. Most of the food was

stuck in the mud somewhere back in the rear.

Glum Marines, worn down near to the point of exhaustion, burning with fever, crouching in muddy holes half full of water, fantasized about something, anything, to eat. Even a tin can of the despised Argentine beef Marines called "monkey meat" would have been greeted as a bonanza. There was no monkey meat. There was nothing.

As cold, wet and muddied as his Marines, Dunbeck, like those Marines, was going on nerve and willpower. Two en-



Officers and men of Hq Co, 5th Marines pose for a unit photograph with their 37 mm infantry support cannon at Altwied, Germany, in April 1919 during the occupation of Germany.

to show themselves. Someone might have asked, "Why in the hell are we doing this?" "Because Charley asked us to," would have been the answer. At 2130 on the night of 10 Nov. 1918, as a freezing rain continued to fall, the order came down: Go!

The attack was met by a curtain of steel. Incoming artillery, already a constant roaring, rose to an avalanche of sound as hundreds of red flashes tore apart the blackness of the night. The German machine guns, silent until now, sent deadly whiplashes among the Marines who went into the storm hunched forward like men braving wind-driven sleet. Casualties were immediate; their numbers were frightening.

The Marines of 2d Bn, 5th Marines went into it. Men who knew that the war might end tomorrow, who knew that what they were doing could well extinguish their chances of seeing that tomorrow, went into it. Knowing that each step might be their last, that their lives might bleed out there with the end of the war in sight, they went into it. Charley Dunbeck went with them.

Perhaps by sheer willpower, some of them, nowhere near all, got across, got in among the machine-gunners and spared none of them. There was no formation to it, no following a plan of attack, just hard-eyed old men of 18, 19 and 20, working their way from strongpoint to strongpoint in small groups, leaving no living man in their wake.

They had endured the cold, the rain, the hunger, the aches and fevers of the great influenza pandemic, the days upon days of unending close combat. Finally, they were getting some of their own back. Their great-grandsons would have a word for it: payback.

After it was all over, after the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1100 on 11 Nov. 1918, when it all ended, MajGen John A. Lejeune visited some of the wounded in a field hospital. He wanted to thank them for everything they had done. To go into the attack, risking death with the end of the war almost in sight, was to MajGen Lejeune a special form of courage.

A bandaged sergeant put it all in perspective. "Captain Dunbeck told us he was going across and expected us to

come with him. When he put it that way, what man with any shred of self-respect couldn't go?"

The effects of gas on his lungs and heart put Dunbeck on the Temporary Disability Retired List in 1920. That didn't mean that the Marine Corps had no further need for Charley Dunbeck.

In 1942 there was another war, and he was recalled to active duty and advanced to the rank of colonel. One of his first

duties was at the funeral of John A. Lejeune, whose dying wish was that Charley Dunbeck be among his pallbearers.

Col Charley Dunbeck, USMC (Ret) died in 1977 at 92 years of age. At his death he was the oldest and one of the most highly decorated Marine Corps officers on the Retired List, with the Navy Cross (two awards), Distinguished Service Cross (two awards), Silver Star (four awards), Purple Heart (two awards) and the Croix de Guerre 1914-18 with two Palms and one Gold Star.

**German machine-gunners waited for them to show themselves. Someone might have asked, "Why in the hell are we doing this?" "Because Charley asked us to."**

*Author's note: The 2d Division United States Regular (today's 2d Infantry Division) was a hybrid organization, half Army, half Marine Corps, the only one of its kind in GEN John J. Pershing's American Expeditionary Forces. Like all American divisions of the Great War, it was a large formation, twice as big as a British, French or German division. Mustering 28,000 men, the foundation of the division's combat power was its two infantry brigades, each containing two entire regiments, a machine-gun battalion and a heavy mortar company.*

*The ground gaining elements of the division were supported by an artillery brigade of five regiments, an engineer regiment and divisional combat-service and combat-service-support units. Today the 2d Infantry Division, the "Indian Head Division," still counts the 5th and 6th Marines as honorary members.*

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



counters with mustard gas had left him with a chronic wracking cough that the cold and wet did nothing to alleviate. No less than the front-line Marine, the battalion commander was bone weary and wolf hungry. Dunbeck, a man who lived by a strict personal code, was not a man to eat while the Marines to whom he gave orders went without.

Crouched on the west bank of the Meuse River, waiting for the order that would send them across, they were pounded relentlessly by German artillery, and German machine-gunners waited for them



With families cheering them on, BGen Lori Reynolds, Commanding General, MCRD Parris Island/Eastern Recruiting Region, second from left, and her staff lead the recruit motivational run the day prior to the recruit graduation.



## **"We (Find and) Make Marines"**

### **Recruiters and Drill Instructors: Sustaining the Corps' Lifeblood**

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

"We Make Marines."

So proclaims the sign across the main boulevard at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island, S.C.; the same mission is accomplished at MCRD San Diego, Calif. These are the only two United States Marine Corps boot camps, where young men and women learn to be enlisted Marines.

It is a definitive statement—factual and to the point, like the Marines who back it up. Behind those three words is a much more complex and enigmatic story that weaves back 237 years to the Corps' founding in 1775. Those three words are tied together by a warrior culture and ethos that is embodied in the Corps' motto, "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful), faith-

ful to the past, the present and the future.

Central to the weave in the tightly knit Marine Corps fabric are recruiters and drill instructors (DIs); these iconic figures are and always have been the finders and the makers of Marines.

While the duties of the recruiter and drill instructor are distinctly different, there is a symbiotic cord that draws together their missions and directs their efforts to a common goal: to find young men and women with the mettle to be Marines and then infuse them with the "right stuff" to earn the title.

The Marine Corps would not be the enduring American institution that it is without both.

Corps leaders consider the two billets so intertwined that they consolidated the two functions under two generals at the operational level: one each at the East

and West Coast MCRDs. Each brigadier general is responsible for recruiting and recruit training either east or west of the Mississippi.

Above that level, recruiting and recruit training fall under separate higher headquarters. Recruit training answers to the Training and Education Command, and recruiting responds to the Marine Corps Recruiting Command, both in Quantico, Va.

The making of an enlisted Marine is not a simple matter and does not start at boot camp. The process starts with the recruiters who present the Marine Corps image in the cities and countrysides of America.

"Our primary recruiting focus is in high schools during the school year because that's where we know we'll get the quality applicants," said Staff Sergeant Kwami



Williams, 33, from Brooklyn, N.Y., the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Substation (RSS) Duluth, Ga. "But, we also go to malls and community events. We still do it all," said the 14-year Marine veteran heavy-equipment mechanic, who has been on recruiting duty for more than a year.

Today's recruiters go where young men and women hang out: shopping malls, sports competitions, fairs, concerts and other special events. They want to be visible in the community.

"I tell recruiters they need to be the mayor of their individual sector," said 39-year-old Master Sergeant Brian Lancioni, the recruiter instructor at Recruiting Station (RS) Orange County, Calif. As an 8412 career recruiter, he is responsible for technical recruiting training of all RS staff.

"They need to be kissing babies and shaking hands," said the 19-year Marine veteran, only half-joking. "They need to be in constant contact with the influencers in their area of operation. We want to get the face of the Marine Corps out into the community," stressed Lancioni, who started his Corps career in finance and transitioned to recruiting in 1999.

Public Affairs noncommissioned officers (NCOs) are assigned to each recruiting station to help promote recruiting through advertising, billboards, media coverage or coordinating participatory activities at community events, such as the "chin-up challenge" to let people try to max their pull-ups for Marine Corps memorabilia.

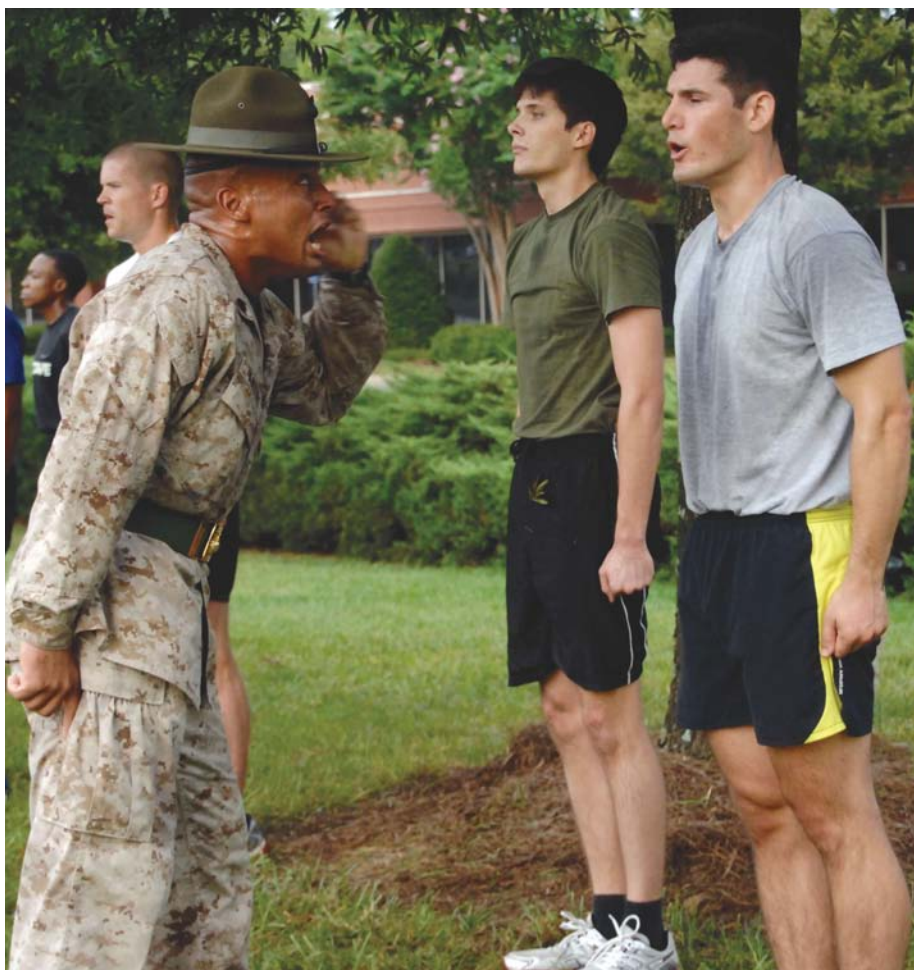
"Our chin-up challenge is always popular, even when we're side by side with the other services," said Lancioni. "They may spend thousands of dollars on their setups, and we just have our pull-up bars, and we're always the most popular one."

In keeping with the times, using social media is also on the menu to find qualified applicants.

"We use social media, such as Facebook, as sort of a prescreening to see if potential applicants meet basic requirements such as height and weight standards," said Williams. "We also use them to make announcements or post pictures. It's a good way to stay in touch with poolees." Poolees are applicants who have signed up in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) and are in the "pool," preparing to ship off to boot camp.

Once young men or women have been deemed grade "A" Marine Corps material, they generally enter the DEP for anywhere from one week to nearly a year. Applicants can sign up as young as age 17 with parental consent. The average time in the "pool" is about seven months.

In the DEP, recruiters prepare poolees



**Above: Drill instructor SSgt Alberto Andino from Puerto Rico motivates a poolee at RS Atlanta during a drill instructor visit from Parris Island.**

**Below: Poolee Trisha Nugent from RSS Stone Mountain, Ga., gives 110 percent on the flexed arm hang during an initial strength test.**



as fully as time permits. One of the most important tasks is getting them ready for the initial strength test (IST) administered in the first week of boot camp.

"Parris Island's mantra is if we can get them to a mile-and-a-half run, they'll get them to three miles on the PFT. So the biggest thing we can do is physically prepare these poolees," said Major Seth MacCutcheon, Recruiting Station Atlanta

commanding officer. They also learn Marine Corps history and traditions; they practice time-honored customs and courtesies, such as saluting or using "sir" and "ma'am." By the time they leave for boot camp, they are generally ready to go.

"Last year we shipped 903 poolees to Parris Island from RS Atlanta, and 900 of them passed the initial strength test," said MacCutcheon, who added that there are recruiting stations with lower shipping missions who actually had a 100 percent passing rate.

It is logical to assume that "quality in" means "quality out"; results appear to bear out that logic. For example, of the 903 who shipped from RS Atlanta, more than 95 percent earned the title Marine, and of those who didn't, it was due mostly to injuries, not attitude. That compares to the Marine Corps' 2011 national MCRD attrition rate of 6.7 percent.

Sergeant Brandon D. Rembert, 27, is a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego. The Rochester, N.Y., native has been in the Corps since 2004, serving in motor transport. He started as a DI in August 2011.

"Since I've only been on the drill field a few months, I can't really say if there's a recent improvement in the quality of recruits coming in, but I can compare them



**A drill instructor gives members of an Educator's Workshop the same introductory "guidance" recruits receive when they step on the yellow footprints at MCRD Parris Island.**

to recruits when I came in," he said. "The recruits coming in now are much more mature. They come in knowing a lot more about the Marine Corps. I don't recall studying any history or traditions while I was in the pool."

Lino Albarran Jr., from Atlanta, a poolee with RSS Duluth, recalled that when he first joined the DEP he was at the low end of the readiness scale.

"I was bad," he said, after completing his last pool IST event. "I could barely get six pull-ups, very few crunches and was over 12 minutes on the run. But my recruiter kept motivating me, and now I'm at 18 pull-ups, 75 crunches and 9:55 on my run," said the 18-year-old, who spent 10 months in the DEP.

Hector Silva Enciso, also 18, spent eight months in the DEP and was scheduled to ship out with Albarran.

"I wasn't really thinking about the military until the Marine recruiter talked with me in school, and I decided maybe I wanted to go talk with him and see what he had to say," the Atlanta native said. "When I started, I failed the IST, couldn't even do one pull-up. Now I can do 12, and 75 crunches and a 10-minute run," he said proudly.

Two or three other about-to-ship poolees echo the same stories, but none are willing to say definitively that they are "ready" for boot camp. The lore that surrounds the legendary Marine Corps drill instructor keeps them from that.

The process they start as poolees continues when they get off the bus as recruits



to begin 13 weeks of intense military training at the recruit depots.

Regardless of how prepared they are, the shock and awe of first contact with drill instructors always comes with concussive force.

"The recruiters told us exactly what was going to happen, but it didn't really hit me until I got off the bus on the yellow footprints, and I realized, wow, these guys aren't playing," recalled Private First Class Kevin Carson, 20, from Lithonia, Ga., who graduated platoon honorman on June 8, 2012, after shipping from RS Atlanta.

"You can watch all the videos on YouTube, but once you're there, you have to live it, sunup to sundown, but you get used to it after a while," said the poster Marine, so motivated that the day after his graduation he was back in Atlanta helping recruiters with a pool event.

Most people don't realize that the recruiters' jobs don't stop when their applicant ships "downrange" to boot camp. If a recruiter's recruit fails boot camp, the quota to refill that position lands right back on the recruiter. It behooves everyone—recruit, recruiter, drill instructor and ultimately the Marine Corps—to ensure the right people are chosen and succeed.

"Drill instructors will give recruits every opportunity to be successful and become a Marine," declared Waycross, Ga., native SSgt Amanda Dunn, 27, a drill instructor with 4th Battalion at Parris Island, the only place where women are trained to be Marines.

"Today's society is very self-centered," said the avionics specialist, who has deployed to Afghanistan, has been in the Corps nine years and on the drill field for two. She observed, "The men and women

**Below left: Drill instructor Sgt Ida Villalba from El Paso, Texas, provides instruction to a poolee at RS Atlanta during a drill instructor visit from Parris Island.**

**Below right: Recruiters closely monitor the progress of poolees during an RS Atlanta delayed entry program initial strength test.**





who commit to the Marine Corps are different; they take pride in developing and transitioning to an environment where teamwork is critical. These are traditions that have been built over generations of Marines, and there is value in that consistency. If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Previous generations of Marines would concur with Dunn.

Russell Cavender is a retired master gunnery sergeant who graduated from boot camp in 1960 and was a drill instructor from 1969 to 1973. Three tours in Vietnam later and after nearly 30 years in the Corps, on a cool November week in 2011, he returned for the first time since then to Parris Island.

His days as a DI saw an eight-week boot camp; they wore herringbone uniforms, the SOP (standard operating procedures) book was a lot thinner, and he remembers firing a flame thrower. It was a different Corps and one would expect him to marvel at the vast changes. However, after three days of observing Parris Island operations and training, talking with recruits, drill instructors and staff, the Woodbridge, Va., resident was impressed, and obviously proud.

"I don't think it's changed all that much," he said, adding that he was impressed with the consistent professionalism of the drill instructors and support staff and the quality of recruits.

"Oh, the physical aspects have changed, the barracks have changed, the layout has changed, but the spirit is still the same. I don't think that will ever change ... and it shouldn't!" he stressed.

For the most part, recruiters (Military Occupational Specialty 8411) and drill instructors (MOS 0911, previously 8511) are Marines who didn't join the Corps for either of those duties. They are men and women who are aircraft mechanics, logisticians, administrators, supply clerks, truck drivers, cooks and infantrymen. They represent almost every occupational field in the Marine Corps.

They come from all ends of the Corps for this duty, known as a "B" billet. Some are volunteers; most aren't. This is a short-term special-duty assignment outside of the Marine's primary occupational field, generally for up to three years. Once they earn the title recruiter or drill instructor, they retain it as secondary MOS for the rest of their career.

"They are both very important missions," said Sgt Bryce E. Torrence, 27, from Caldwell, Ind., on the drill field at MCRD San Diego since 2009 and now a senior drill instructor. He has just been told his three-year tour has been extended for six more months, involuntarily.

"Both of us have to hold up our end of



**Women recruits use teamwork to get themselves and equipment over an obstacle at MCRD Parris Island.**

the deal. Recruiters have to ensure they send us well-rounded civilians, and we have to make sure we do our job and turn them into basically trained Marines. If anyone fails at their mission, it can affect the Marine Corps institution as a whole," said the 0111 admin specialist turned drill instructor.

Drill instructors and recruiters are predominately NCOs, mostly sergeants, some corporals, some staff NCOs. There is indeed a high level of special trust and confidence placed on these relatively junior Marines.

"Two of the most prestigious and demanding special-duty assignments a Ma-

rine can be entrusted with are recruiting duty or service as a drill instructor," said Colonel R. L. Grabowski, chief of staff for the Eastern Recruiting Region and MCRD Parris Island, who had previous recruiting experience as an RS commanding officer.

"Those few who earn that opportunity are thoroughly screened and hand-selected based on their overall performance in the Marine Corps, as well as recommended by their previous commanders and senior enlisted leaders. The inherent responsibilities for both assignments are enormous as they are responsible for sustaining our Corps' lifeblood," the colonel stated.





**Above: GySgt Justin Mingie, a logistics Marine assigned as a recruiter for RS Atlanta, guides poolees filling out administrative documents during an RS Atlanta pooler event.**

**Below: A recruit uses his bayonet during fire and maneuver course training at MCRD Parris Island.**



Once they have been selected for the duty, they must be properly trained.

Newly selected recruiters go to a demanding seven-week course at the Marine Corps Recruiting School aboard MCRD San Diego.

Students receive training in public speaking, quality enlistment procedures, systematic recruiting, Marine Corps product knowledge and communication. There also is an improved physical training course that teaches recruiters correct fitness techniques that help them better teach their poolers.

But their education goes beyond the

basic technical skills.

"We balance that with teaching them the right way to find quality citizens to join the Marine Corps," declared the Recruiting School Sergeant Major John S. Hawes. A logistics Marine by training and experience, he was sergeant major of RS San Diego for three years before assuming his current post a year ago. He was a DI earlier in his career.

"We teach them that we aren't looking for people who just meet the minimum standards; we are looking for the best," he said.

That includes instruction on how to en-

gage in quality prospecting, how to be more visible in their communities and how to go into high schools, learning the needs of teachers, the administrative staff and students.

"We want recruiters to demonstrate that they are someone coming into the school to offer their students a better way of life," said SgtMaj Hawes, who added that recruiters are encouraged to balance their jobs with family and community obligations as well.

An aggressive ethics training package has been added to the curriculum; a 10-hour course developed over the past two years. The new course was rolled out for the recruiter class that graduated on June 14, 2012.

"The course is based on Corps values—honor, courage, commitment," said SgtMaj Hawes, who was directly involved in developing the curriculum. Students are presented with ethical situations in classroom settings and small group discussions about real-life scenarios. "We want to help guide them to the right decisions, to show them the impact of making the right or wrong decision," said the senior enlisted leader. "One of the things we look for in a recruiter is the maturity to handle those ethical situations."

Modern communication has helped tighten the link between recruiters and drill instructors.

"When I was a drill instructor, I had a phone in the duty hut that didn't dial off base, no cell phone, no computer, no effective way to contact a recruiter," SgtMaj Hawes recalled. "Now, if a senior drill instructor has a problem recruit, he can call or email that recruit's recruiter to get his or her insight. Maybe the recruit was from a broken home, maybe he didn't have any strong male role models, information that might help the drill instructor help the recruit to successfully complete boot camp."

Drill instructors attend an intense 11½-week course at either of the MCRDs. The focus of Drill Instructor School is to develop leadership of the NCOs, further their command presence, instructional ability, military knowledge and physical conditioning.

In the midst of all the formal instruction, the experienced staffs at the Drill Instructor schools are teaching something that really can't be printed on a page, can't be shown on a PowerPoint slide. It is the essence of the Marine Corps: Semper Fi, Do or Die, Oorah.

"Always, our focus is to impress on the students that they now belong to something bigger than themselves, something bigger than you and I," stressed Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Weiss, chief instructor at





**Recruiter and DI mission accomplished: A platoon of Marines marches onto the parade deck at MCRD Parris Island for graduation.**

Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego. “They need to understand that when they become a drill instructor, from that point forward any bad judgment on their part reflects badly not just on them or the school, but the entire Marine Corps.”

Weiss, now 30, joined the Corps in 1999 at age 17 and entered the communications field, where he is now a radio chief by occupational specialty. This is his second tour on the drill field, which started in 2011; the first was from 2005 to 2008.

“We focus around the core values: honor, courage, commitment,” said the Austin, Texas, native. “It is important that they maintain high ethical values.”

The experience gained from successfully completing either of these assignments can significantly enhance career development and reap many benefits. These include potential accelerated promotion, extra proficiency pay, retention of selective reenlistment bonuses in primary occupational fields or choice of duty stations.

The intrinsic, less-tangible benefits far outweigh the administrative value. Once Marines earn the title “recruiter” or “drill instructor,” they join a select group of men and women who fill a very prestigious page in Marine Corps history.

They earn it because the duty isn’t easy, and it isn’t for everybody.

Senior Drill Instructor Sgt Torrence said, “My thinking is that both jobs are hard, and I’d welcome anybody who has a different opinion to put on the campaign cover or dress-blue deltas day in and day out and do what we do ... and say that it’s easy.”

*Author’s note: Over the course of several months I talked with and photographed dozens of applicants, poolees, recruits, newly minted enlisted Marines and their families, drill instructors, recruiters and support staff for this article. I have to say that one word comes to mind: consistency.*

*I have been amazed at the consistency in the responses I’ve gotten to questions such as, “What led you to become a Marine?” or, “Do you think your recruiter fully prepared you for boot camp?” or, “Did the drill instructors live up to their reputation?” or, “Why did you become a drill instructor or recruiter?” or, to families, “How did you feel when your son, daughter, sister, brother, cousin, et cetera, told you they were joining the Marine Corps?”*

*The answers—many of which you’ll see in this article and in a follow-on article slated to appear in the December issue of Leatherneck about why recruits enlist and how their families feel about it—have*

*been very uniform. So consistent were the answers that at one point I jokingly asked a senior Marine officer at Parris Island if they handed each and every man, woman and child who came on base a script.*

*Keep in mind, I talked with recruiters and drill instructors from the East Coast to the West Coast, families and applicants, recruits working toward becoming Marines and those who just graduated. I talked with younger brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, grandparents and extended families and friends. Their attitudes and responses were consistent and, if I could be allowed to add a few other descriptive words, positive, professional, motivated, dedicated, honest and sincere.*

*As a Marine in retired status since 1996 awaiting further orders, I’d like to extend an “Oorah,” a “Bravo Zulu,” job well done, to the recruiters and drill instructors and all the other Marines who support them. Keep on doing what you’re doing, it’s working!*

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





# In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce



## Secretary of the Navy Awards 2d MEB The Presidential Unit Citation

Marines and sailors of 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation during a ceremony held in honor of the MEB at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 14.

The 28,000 Marines and sailors who served in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010 earned the unit's second Presidential Unit Citation, the highest award given to a unit in the United States military. The unit earned its first award in 2003 in Iraq.

Honorable guests in attendance included Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus; the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos; and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett.

Mabus presented the battle streamer to 2d MEB during the ceremony, placing the new ribbon on the unit's battle standard.

Major General Lawrence D. Nicholson, who served as the 2d MEB commanding general, and SgtMaj Ernest K. Hoopii, who served as sergeant major for the MEB in Afghanistan from January 2009 to June 2010, accepted the nation's highest unit award on behalf of the Marines and sailors of the MEB.

"The skill, the professionalism, the devotion and the heroics of this unit cannot be overstated, and neither can their accomplishments," said Secretary Mabus. "I'm honored to be here."

According to the Secretary, 2d MEB had great warriors who not only struck at the heart of the Taliban insurgency, but also built schools, helped to train Afghan forces, employed Marine female engagement teams and left not only a safer place, but a place governed by the rule of law.

"I have gone to Helmand province and places like Marjah—you can walk to the market now," Secretary Mabus said. "You see kids playing everywhere, [people] going to the market and buying things. It's a very safe environment, and it's all because of the skill and courage of this unit."

For many Marines in attendance, the

ceremony wasn't about personal recognition. It was a tribute for those who did not return.

"There are a lot of times on a day-to-day basis that my friends aren't recognized," said Corporal Aaron M. San Miguel, a squad leader with Company E, 2d Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, who deployed with 2d MEB. "I'll be able to wear this ribbon because of their sacrifices and the time we shared over there. Granted, they didn't make it home, but they still earned one, and I'll be able to wear it for them. Every time I wear it, other Marines and people will know that we all did it together."

Cpl Daniel Wulz

Combat Correspondent, II MEF

## Silver Stars for Combat Action



Three Marines were awarded Silver Stars in August for separate combat actions in Afghanistan. They are Corporal Jason M. Hassinger, Staff Sergeant Alec Haralovich and Gunnery Sergeant Joseph F. Lurz.

### Cpl Jason M. Hassinger

When a patrol composed of Marines from 2d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division; Afghan National Army soldiers; and Afghan National Civil Order Police patrolmen was ambushed by insurgents March 5, 2011, Cpl Jason M. Hassinger quickly realized that many of his comrades were trapped, unable to maneuver or engage the attacking enemy. Hassinger led his section through the gunfire to rescue his trapped comrades.

Hassinger, a Philadelphia native, was recognized for his actions during a ceremony Aug. 23, 2012, at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Hassinger was shot four times on the patrol for which he was recognized. He continued to fight, despite his wounds, until the enemy finally retreated.

"They were all pinned down," said Hassinger. "My section was under fire, but their faces were in the dirt, so it was up to us to get them out. We suppressed them

and regrouped, and we were going to chase them, but I collapsed and was evacuated."

After being shot, Hassinger relied on his training and combat experience. He calmly silenced the enemy with his rifle and an M203 grenade launcher.

"I'm hit and I need to get back up ... keep going," Hassinger recalled thinking after being shot on patrol. "The dude who shot me is going to get shot back."

Hassinger is no longer on active duty and now works for Disabled American Veterans where he helps guide fellow veterans to utilize the benefits to which they are entitled.

Cpl Tommy Bellegarde

Combat Correspondent, 2dMarDiv

### SSgt Alec Haralovich

"I thought I was going to die," recalled Staff Sergeant Alec Haralovich, who was presented the Silver Star during a ceremony at Camp Atterbury in Indiana, Aug. 26, 2012.

On Oct. 4, 2011, Taliban fighters ambushed his patrol of dismounted Marines with automatic gunfire from a village called Ghorah. The enemy's aim was accurate. Two bullets had struck Haralovich's body armor with such force that he was knocked backward into the dirt.

Haralovich didn't let his fears get the best of him though. He had survived two other combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. A reconnaissance Marine who knows how to treat his own wounds, Haralovich applied pressure to his side while he checked for bleeding. There was no blood.

"I was really angry," he said. "I was angry because it basically was like they had duped us, they had out maneuvered us, outsmarted us."

Haralovich yelled for a Marine to bring him the M72 Light Antiarmor Weapon (LAW), a rocket launcher that can disable a tank. He knew this weapon well. He trained extensively with it on active duty before he became a reconnaissance man in the Marine Corps Reserve.

His team bounded forward through an open field toward the enemy. While two of his Marines were sending rounds steady-

ly at the enemy, Haralovich armed his rocket launcher. He knew he had to hurry because those two Marines were lying prone, shooting with less than one foot of cover.

“Running out with a prepped LAW on your shoulder, you’re definitely a target, I realized like halfway into the field,” Haralovich remembered. “I had to basically hurry up, take the shot.”

Haralovich fired. The explosion blew up the enemy stronghold and caused all the attackers to cease fire and retreat. But Haralovich and the Marines weren’t finished. He wasn’t going to let insurgents attack them.

Since his radio had been ruined by one of the rounds that struck his body armor, Haralovich had to make face-to-face communication with his other patrol element, and both elements moved forward as a unit.

Haralovich said: “We pushed toward that area, ran into a couple more fighters. They were surprised to see us and then they took off.”

With the insurgents nowhere to be seen, Haralovich gathered his men and headed back to the patrol base. His company commander had to convince him to rest after he had returned.

Sgt Ray Lewis  
Combat Correspondent, MARFORRES

#### GySgt Joseph F. Lurz

“I was exactly where I wanted to be, doing exactly what I wanted to do,” Gunnery Sergeant Joseph F. Lurz said.

A native of Baltimore, GySgt Lurz was



**SSgt Alec Haralovich thought he was going to die when he and fellow Marines and Afghans got into a firefight with the Taliban. But, even after being wounded, he kept his cool and laid the LAW down on the enemy.**

presented with the Silver Star during a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Aug. 24, 2012.

Lurz was assigned to 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the July 2010 to April 2011 deployment to Helmand province, Lurz led his team and mentored 7th Afghan Com-

mando Kandak. Throughout the duration of the deployment, Lurz and his team thwarted more than 100 enemy attacks, according to the Silver Star citation. He led his team into the heart of the insurgency, and while under heavy volumes of insurgent machine-gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire, he directed the fires of his men and the Afghan commandos against the enemy’s most lethal positions, neutralizing more than 100 insurgents and countless improvised explosive devices.

Lurz said that the conditions under which he earned the award were not unique. “Anybody on the team could’ve done it. All I did was manage the talent, and they did all the work.”

During an enemy ambush, his team leader was wounded and evacuated. Lurz then took charge and seamlessly led his team into enemy strongholds. Throughout multiple attacks, Lurz remained calm, communicating to higher echelons and simultaneously coordinating supporting fires, effectively suppressing numerous attacks. During a nighttime helicopter assault, his aircraft came under heavy fire, and upon landing, Lurz directed the team and Afghan commandos into a defensible position. He led an assault and attempted to extract the team.

When the enemy maneuvered into ambush positions to prevent the extract, Lurz called for close air support and conducted a counterattack, killing several insurgents and allowing the team to pull out under a heavy volume of fire.

SSgt Robert Storm  
PAO, MARCORSYSCOM



**Above left: Cpl Jason M. Hassinger was presented his Silver Star by MajGen John A. Toolan, Commanding General, 2dMarDiv. Hassinger was shot four times and still led his section through intense enemy fire to rescue fellow Marines.**



**Above right: GySgt Joe Lurz, left, found his last deployment as a time to “neutralize” more than 100 insurgents during more than 100 enemy attacks. Under fire, Lurz was a busy gunnery sergeant, communicating with higher echelons, calling in air support, coordinating the Marines and suppressing numerous attacks. MajGen Paul E. Lefebvre, former MARSOC commander, presented Lurz with his Silver Star.**



## Personal Combat Awards

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

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

The following awards were announced in August:



### Bronze Star With Combat "V"

**Sgt Matthew E. Faircloth**, 2d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division  
**GySgt Jonathan W. Gifford**, 2d Marine Special Operations Bn (MSOB), U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC)  
**Maj Andrew J. Kingsbury**, 5th Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force  
**SSgt Joshua D. McKean**, 9th Engineer Support Bn, Third Marine Logistics Group  
**Sgt Peter M. Melcon**, 3/2, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Nicholas W. O'Brien**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**GySgt Donovan E. Petty**, 2d MSOB, MARSOC  
**1stLt Charles A. Poulton**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**GySgt Nicholas J. Saroka**, 2d MSOB, MARSOC  
**Sgt William C. Stacey**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv



### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

**Sgt Brian J. Alloway**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Jay N. Baldino**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Capt Nicholas A. Benson**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Andrew J. Berryman**, 1st MLG (Forward)  
**Capt Colin P. Boynton**, 3d Reconnaissance Bn, 3dMarDiv  
**HM2 Anthony Bunkley**, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv  
**1stLt Nathanael L. Carlson**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Bartholamew E. Cerny**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Paul G. Chambers Jr.**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**1stLt Joseph M. Chappell**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Justin P. Christ**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Robert J. Condley**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Brian E. Connolly II**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Kevin J. Cook**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv

**1stLt Charlie R. Cordova**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**1stLt Matthew W. Cornachio**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**HM3 Gabriel A. Danet**, Headquarters Bn (Fwd), 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Timothy A. Dauterive**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Timothy M. Davis**, 2/5, 1stMarDiv  
**1stLt Nikolaos B. DeMaria**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Capt Michael J. Donaldson**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Michael J. Durkin**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Adam D. Duvall**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Michael J. Egan**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**GySgt John J. Finney**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**1stLt Jeremy M. Forrer**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt John A. Gaglione**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**GySgt Brian P. Geraghty**, 2d MSOB, MARSOC  
**GySgt Timothy M. Gerlovich**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Ricardo C. Gonzalez**, 3/4, 1stMarDiv  
**1stLt Michael G. Herendeen**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Robert F. Hopkins**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Joshua T. Hurst**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**1stLt William M. Hyatt**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**GySgt Rafael Iturrino**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Jeffrey B. Jensen**, 3/4, 1stMarDiv  
**SSgt Nicholas B. Jones**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Bendjy R. Julsaint**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**1stLt Timothy D. Kucala**, 8th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Robert J. Lamm**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**GySgt Jamie R. Lee**, 1st MLG (Fwd)  
**SSgt Matthew C. Luckey**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**GySgt Efrain Martinez**, 3d Recon Bn, 3dMarDiv  
**Sgt Brian A. Matthews**, 2/9, 2dMarDiv  
**Capt Michael D. McMahon**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Gregory P. Merrill Jr.**, 3/2, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Andrew M. Metelski**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Chad V. Milo**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv

**SSgt Andrew L. Mosier**, 1st MSOB, MARSOC  
**Cpl Steven Moyet**, 3/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Kerry W. Nail**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**HM3 Joseph W. Nemeth**, 5th ANGLICO, III MEF  
**Sgt Jose Nunez**, 2/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Brennan P. O'Boyle**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Capt Patrick B. O'Shea**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Lawrence S. Phelps**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Lee W. Pieper**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**PFC Garrett F. Pool**, 2/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Alexander B. Prasil**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**1stLt Jeffrey E. Price**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Edward E. Pricola**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**SSgt Edgardo Ramirez Jr.**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Anthony A. Raymond**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Matthew D. Reynolds**, 3/2, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Gregory A. Reyst Jr.**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Javier Rivera Jr.**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**SSgt Matthew T. Straub**, 1st MLG (Fwd)  
**Sgt Stephen W. Suever**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Kerry M. Timms**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**GySgt Daniel W. Tremore**, 1st Intelligence Bn, I MEF  
**1stSgt Grady V. Tunnell**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**1stLt Thomas R. Wallin**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Joshua S. Warvel**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**1stLt Michael A. Wood**, 2/6, 2dMarDiv



### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

**LCpl Matthew D. Aldrich**, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Edgardo L. Alvarado**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Jonathan G. Barreda**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**HM1 Randy Borjorquez**, 1st ANGLICO, I MEF  
**HM1 Lee E. Boujie**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv

**LCpl Christopher L. Carson**, 2/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Kenney L. Clark**, 3/3, 3dMarDiv  
**Cpl Charles J. Cooney**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Robert G. Cox II**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt David C. Crask**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Randy L. Cripe**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Joseph B. Day**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Wolf Desroches**, 2/5, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Nicholas A. Detmer**, 1/7, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Matthew M. Flory**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**HM3 Steven J. Foley**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**HN Matthew T. Foreit**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Thomas H. Gifford**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Leonardo G. Gonzalez**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**HM3 Santana Gonzalez**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Efrain Gonzalez Jr.**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Erik M. Griswold**, 5th ANGLICO, III MEF  
**LCpl Jordan P. Ham**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Douglas S. Hank**, 2/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Joshua C. Hemmings**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Jonathan R. Herrick**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Matthew T. Hoover**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Andrew M. Houser**, 3/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Aaron M. Hulett**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Peter K. Hulme**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Bruce A. Jenkins Jr.**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Daryl J. Kasinger**, 1st Intel Bn, I MEF  
**LCpl Matthew A. Kelley**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Justin R. Kelly**, 2/6, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Joshua B. Kennedy**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**1stLt Drexel R. King**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Shane L. Kirk**, Combat Logistics Bn 4, Combat Logistics Regt 3, 3d MLG  
**LCpl Stephen Kirkwood**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Zachary J. Kozisek**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Matthew A. Kurki**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Zachary M. Leach**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Matthew E. Lents**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Casey S. Lester**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Tony K. Lin**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Thorsten C. Linderoth**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Peter Lopez**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**HM2 Brian K. Lundy**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Christopher J. Lynch**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**HM3 Charles Mackey IV**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Cyrus S. Manahan**, 5th ANGLICO, III MEF  
**HM3 Anthony Manning**, 5th ANGLICO, III MEF

**LCpl Justin K. McLemore**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Francis J. Mignoli**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Wade M. Miller**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Zechariah Miller**, I MHG (Fwd)  
**LCpl Dustin A. Minter**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Erick A. Miranda**, 2/5, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Kyle D. Mogonye**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Terrence P. Moran**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Salvador Murillo III**, 2/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Julie N. Nicholson**, 1stMarDiv (Fwd)  
**PFC Steven R. Ochs**, 2/9, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Carl Page IV**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Joshua A. Parrott**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Italo G. Patino**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Joshua C. Pearce**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Charles B. Peltier**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Daniel M. Pereira**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**SSgt Joseph B. Perez**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl William J. Plascencia**, 1/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Joshua J. Prosser**, 1st LAR Bn, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Scott A. Rader**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Randy M. Ranoa**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Michael W. Rector**, 2/9, 2dMarDiv  
**Sgt Brian M. Salter**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Nikolas L. Schnorr**, 5th ANGLICO, III MEF  
**Sgt Calvin J. Seeley**, 1st Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Michael C. Serino**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv  
**HM3 Michael J. Shrum**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Michael W. Sleiman**, 2/6, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Justin K. Smith**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Keith A. Smith**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Matthew K. Smith**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**HM3 William H. Smith**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**2dLt Matthew T. Sommer**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Thomas W. Spencer**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Zachary W. Springer**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Steven J. Stankiewicz Jr.**, 1/8, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Jebediah E. Stevens**, 2d Recon Bn, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Colton M. Stults**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl James R. Sullivan**, 5th ANGLICO, III MEF  
**LCpl Patrick E. Sutton Jr.**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Ian T. Swafford**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Adam W. Sweet**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Aidan N. Tapia**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**1stLt Travis H. Templeton**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Luis M. Torres-Suarez**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Chanh V. Tran**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**HM3 James H. Tranfy**, 1/5, 1stMarDiv



**Sgt Erik H. Triplett Jr.**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Brandon L. Turner**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Deontra G. Tyler**, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Steven J. Ulrich**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Roger M. Usrey**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Michael S. Ussery**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Thanhsang A. Vu**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Robert A. Wellman**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Derrick G. White**, 1/6, 2dMarDiv  
**HN Zachary M. White**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**LCpl Rick J. Williams**, I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, I MEF (Fwd)  
**Sgt Melvin B. Wilson**, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**SSgt Ryan S. Wilson**, 8th Marines, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Thomas F. Wilson III**, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Jeffrey N. Wise**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl John R. Wise**, 1st LAR Bn, 1stMarDiv  
**Cpl Ian C. Wiseman**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**Sgt Derek M. Wolford**, 2/10, 2dMarDiv  
**LCpl Travis A. Wright**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv  
**1stLt Vincent V. Young**, 2/4, 1stMarDiv  
**2dLt Matthew S. Zach**, 2/6, 2dMarDiv  
**Cpl Ruben Zavala Jr.**, 3/7, 1stMarDiv

Compiled by the Personal Awards Section, HQMC





# Pierre “Peter” Ortiz— “To Live a Man’s Life”

By R. R. Keene

**ORTIZ: To Live a Man's Life. By Laura Homan Lacey. Published by Phillips Publications. 200 pages. Stock #0984960511. \$17.96 MCA Members. \$19.95 Regular Price.**

You can't make this stuff up. Historian and author Laura Lacey realized early on that if someone wrote a novel about a daring-do swashbuckler similar to Pierre “Peter” J. Ortiz, nobody would take it seriously.

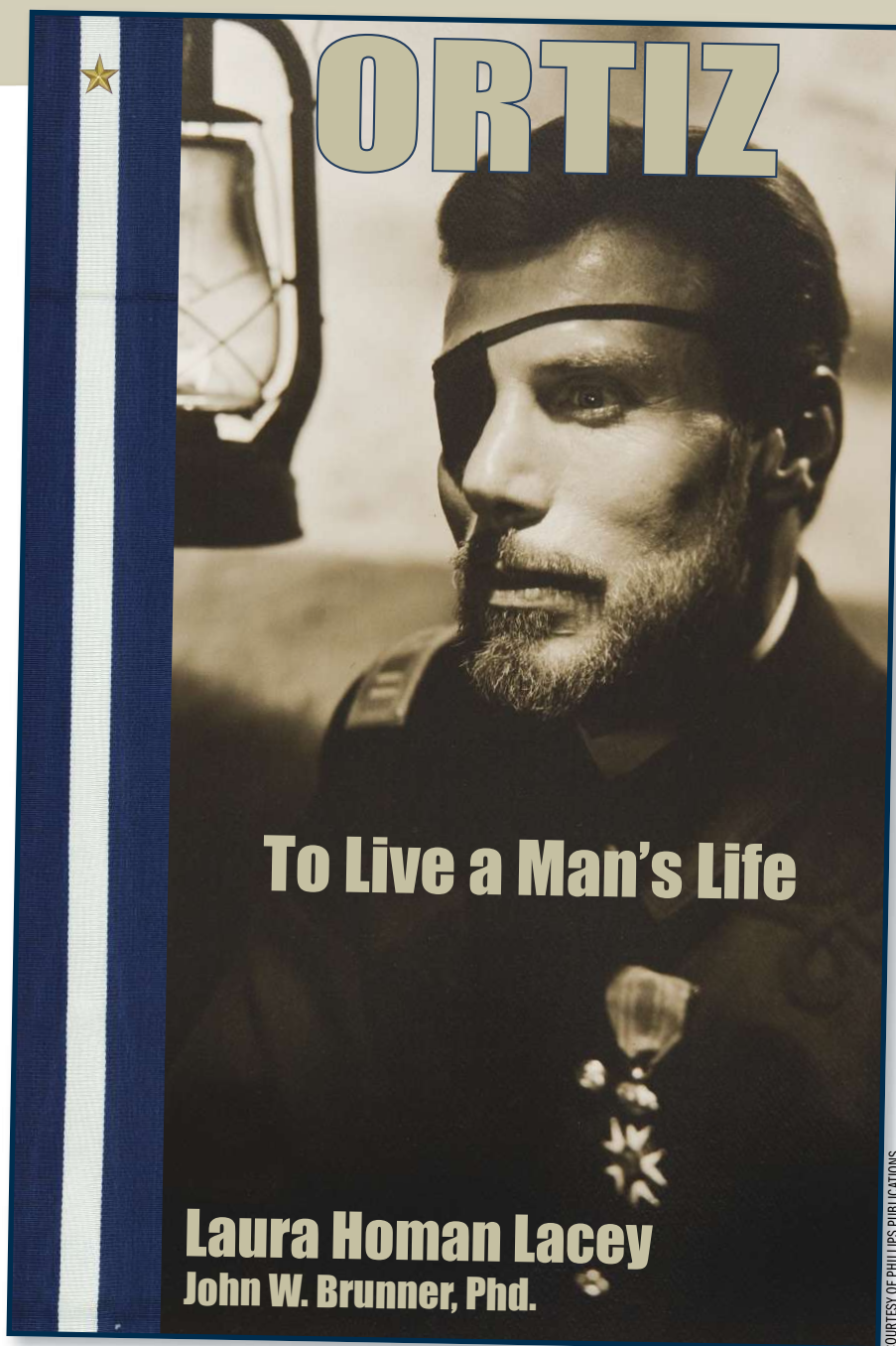
Fortunately for Lacey, Ortiz was one of those rare individuals really bigger than life. Her problem was to give the readers facts, which even when field-stripped, defy credulity. Ortiz's life was a series of rousing adventures that were the basis for several Hollywood screenplays.

He was a handsome adventurer, a decorated French Foreign legionnaire with two awards of the Croix de Guerre, a World War II Marine officer with two Navy Crosses and two Purple Hearts, a member of the covert Office of Strategic Services and captured by the Germans only to escape and three years later be captured again. He spoke five languages including French, German and Arabic. His countless escapades seem like the stuff of dime novels, except that they are all true.

Lacey had her hands full during five years of research trying to separate the man from the myth and still “make him come to life” in her biographical book: “Ortiz—To Live a Man's Life.”

“That's one of the biggest problems about writing that book, because as a historian I feel strongly about documentation, not using poetic license,” she said. “And a lot of the things were very difficult to confirm.”

She discovered that Ortiz was indeed all that his escapades made him out to be. “Here's this phenomenal hero, but [today] you don't hear much about him, yet his is the ultimate sea story.”



Even in a Corps full of legends, Ortiz “certainly was a man for his times,” said Lacey. “I think about that when I look at a lot of the Corps’ heroes. There is that warfighter. That’s where they shine. There are men who are just meant to be there at a certain time. They are often not successful in many ways in the rest of their lives, but in the war venue they do very well.”

Lacey, Stafford County’s 2009 Teacher of the Year, teaches history at Brooke Point High School in Stafford County, Va. She is not without her bonafides, Marine Corps and otherwise: a history degree from Mary Washington College with a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Her husband is retired Major William “Keith” Lacey, who flew KC-130s and whose last tour of duty was as the pilot for the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

“My son Sean is a Marine captain, and my dad, Roy Homan, was a Marine. It was bred into me, and I tell people the first song I learned to play on the piano was ‘The Marines’ Hymn.’”

Yet, she calls herself a “foreign service brat.” After her father left the Corps, he worked for “the agency.” “I was born in Turkey, lived in Thailand, the Philippines,” she said, “but we always came back to Vienna, Virginia, where I met my Marine [and] we went away again.

“I’ve always dabbled at writing articles, but when we were in Okinawa, I started doing professional military education for the Marine Corps. We were there from 1993 to 1996 [which included the 50th anniversary of the battle for Okinawa]. I fell in love with the story of Okinawa,” and particularly the Sixth Marine Division who fought its only battle on that island.

“I eventually became the Sixth Marine Division Association’s historian. I just knew that their story needed to be written.” The result was her first book: “Stay Off the Skyline: The Sixth Marine Division on Okinawa—An Oral History,” published in 2005.

“The thing that made the Sixth Marine Division’s story compelling to me was that I was afraid that it was going to be forgotten. Ortiz’s story is also that way.”

She was encouraged by retired Maj Richard T. “Rick” Spooner, former hash-marked PFC, who rose to be owner and proprietor of Stafford County’s Globe & Laurel restaurant and one of the Corps’ most knowledgeable aficionados.

“He read my first book and said, ‘I’ve got a story that needs to be told.’ He nudged me and then I worked with [Pierre’s] son, retired Lieutenant Colonel Peter Ortiz. Because my expertise is oral history, I agreed to go to Prescott, Arizona, and interview [Pierre’s] widow, Jean Ortiz, and then turn the interview over to the Marine Corps archives. But, the story was so compelling ...”

Compelling it may have been, but it also was arduously time-consuming. Lacey was a full-time teacher. She was able to interview the widow and the son and waited until the next summer to do more research.

A diligent and thorough researcher, she recalled: “I probably spent a year spinning my wheels trying to make this a bigger story than what it ended up being because I wanted to tell of Ortiz’s post-World War II life. It never got anywhere.” She tracked other potential colorful vignettes of Ortiz’s rich life, which were great stories, but unverifiable. Leads proved elusive, fading and eventually vanishing in the mists of time.

“On his Marine Corps application, it says Ortiz had been a race-car driver. I researched the Grand Prix, but I couldn’t make a direct connection.

“Family records say that Ortiz, who was in the Foreign Legion while the Spanish Civil War was going on, took the Queen’s personal jewels out of country by crossing the Pyrenees. That’s a great story, but I couldn’t find the documentation any more than I could find the documentation on the Grand Prix. As a historian, without that documentation, I can’t tell that story.

“I also think he was a covert operative for the CIA after the war, but there has not been enough post-war documents opened to tell.”

Lacey believes that research and facts are enough to tell a good and accurate historical tale, especially with the life of Pierre Ortiz. She cautioned: “There have been so many authors in the last couple years that have crossed that line from being

a historian to novelist. I think I am too new a historian to take those kinds of poetic licenses. As a history teacher, I tell my students: document, document, document. If you don’t know it, you have to prove it.”

Does this mean another well-researched book about one of the lesser known colorful fighting characters of the Corps? Perhaps. “Rick [Spooner] is pushing me to do a story of ‘Shifty’ Shofner. [Austin C. “Shifty” Shofner (1916-1999) was a Marine officer captured at Corregidor in the Philippines during WW II who pulled off a successful escape from a Japanese prisoner of war camp. He joined the Philippine resistance and later commanded Marine units during the Battles of Peleliu and Okinawa. He

“Here’s this phenomenal hero, but [today] you don’t hear much about him, yet his is the ultimate sea story.”



Laura Homan Lacey

retired as a brigadier general.] The Marine Corps has these guys that are characters, the kind of lost characters I like.”

They aren’t the kind of men, she said, who are suited for desk jobs, citing Ortiz as a man, “who was always looking toward the next horizon.”

Why they are that way is what gives life and depth to their stories. Lacey said Ortiz was always looking for a personal challenge. “He considered himself a legionnaire first. Maybe that has to do with being young and impressionable. It was his first indoctrination, his first crucible. He always said that his Legion training was harder than Marine Corps training.

“I think it shaped who he was, and that’s why when interviewed in 1934 by Ward Price, Ortiz said, ‘I could be drinking cocktails in any city in Europe, but instead I want to live a man’s life.’ I thought that kind of says it all about his life.”

*Editor’s note: In case you missed it, Leatherneck published “Peter Ortiz: Not a Good Candidate Ever for a Desk Job,” in the October issue, which provides more insights on the life of this exceptional Marine.*

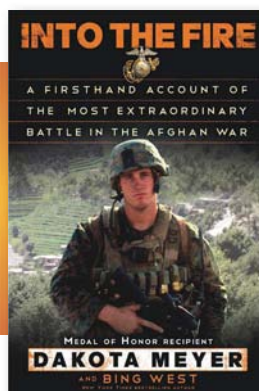
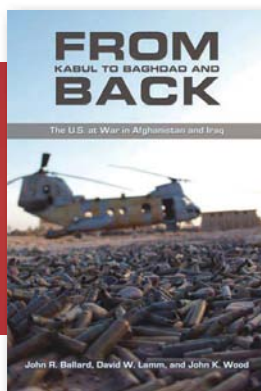
You may order Laura Homan Lacey’s book online at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net), or call toll-free (888) 237-7683.





# Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from The Marine Shop. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 5 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 6.75 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net).



**FROM KABUL TO BAGHDAD AND BACK: The U.S. at War in Afghanistan and Iraq.** By John R. Ballard, David W. Lamm and John K. Wood. Published by Naval Institute Press. 384 pages. Stock #1612510221. \$38.66 MCA Members. \$42.95 Regular Price.

Ballard, Lamm and Wood's book "From Kabul to Baghdad and Back" is a chronological synopsis of the concurrent conflicts that the United States undertook in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their thesis focuses on the challenges faced by the U.S. regarding the effective execution of these operations from both a command and control and a resource perspective.

Initially evaluating the strategic decision-making at the political level, they identify challenges such as the convoluted command and control/decision-making processes that served to limit the effectiveness and timeliness of execution throughout the efforts. Additionally, they expand upon the challenges and successes at both the strategic and operational levels as U.S. Central Command attempted to prosecute concurrently a symmetric war in Iraq (that subsequently became asymmetric) and an asymmetric war in Afghanistan.

The authors highlight the background of ongoing political efforts to maintain both focus and support as the wars progressed. Further exacerbating the efforts were the difficulties in the responsiveness and dynamism of the NATO command system in Afghanistan and the U.S. command system in Iraq. The authors point

out, however, the improvements that were recognized as the decade unfolded. Certainly, they point out lessons learned and applied, and they highlight the progress achieved.

The book concludes with a note of caution relating to future U.S. operations involving multiple theaters of operation. This portion represents a real strength in the narrative as the authors provide a comprehensive synopsis of lessons learned, command challenges, an overall comparison of the phases of the two operations and also a highlight of those aspects of the wars that were and were not a success. They also have provided a recommended road map for the future and where emphasis needs to be placed in order to avoid some of the pitfalls in the future.

The book covers a massive topic in terms of scope, depth and complexity. Given that fact, there is a great deal for the reader to absorb and comprehend. The linear dialogue that the authors utilize to trace the development of the two theaters (including a brief history leading up to the conflicts) is appropriate and effective in that it clearly structures the information for the readers. Of particular benefit is the breakdown of the story into manageable "bites" identified by subtitles within the paragraphs. Nonetheless, it is necessary to pay close attention as the narrative develops in order to maintain awareness of the storyline.

Typical of Government/Military "speak" is the prodigious use of acronyms through-

out the text. The authors do a commendable job in addressing this issue through the use of a "Acronym and Abbreviation" section. (The fact that it is nine pages long gives an indication of what the reader has in store.)

One of the clear lessons derived from the book is the fact that the United States did not fully grasp the difficulties relating to operations within an asymmetric conflict environment. Additionally, there was little initial thought given to the concept of nation building and who would be responsible for it. The authors provide an excellent evaluation of the struggles within the various departments responsible for civilian and military administration within the conflict zones as the scope of the problems unfold before them.

The authors are to be commended for taking on the challenge of evaluating the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and translating the vast store of knowledge surrounding the successes and failures within each into a format that enables readers to begin to grasp the true complexities of the actions undertaken by the United States. The selected bibliography and extensive footnoting are extremely valuable and ensure the reader excellent access to additional sources.

Overall, this is a highly recommended book. The authors' assessments of the conflicts, the method by which they present their findings and the depth of evaluation that they undertake make this a singular work for an understanding of the conflicts thus far.

Maj Chris Buckham

*Editor's note: Major Chris Buckham is a logistics officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He has experience working with all elements, including SOF. A graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, he holds a B.A. in political science and an M.A. in international relations. He presently is a logistics officer with the multinational branch of EUCOM J-4 in Stuttgart, Germany.*

**INTO THE FIRE: A Firsthand Account of the Most Extraordinary Battle in the Afghan War.** By Dakota Meyer and Bing West. Published by Random House. 241 pages. Stock #0812993403. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

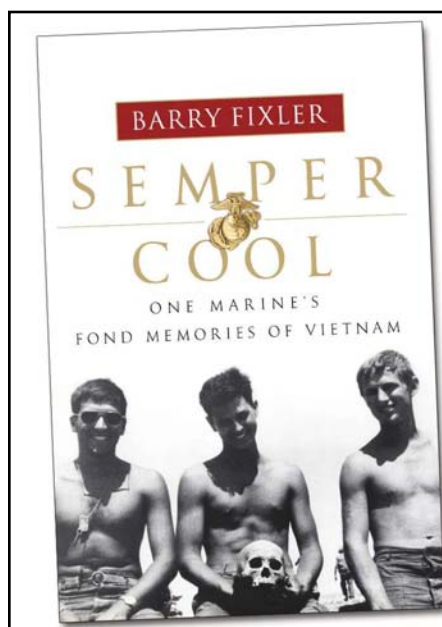
On Sept. 15, 2011, Sergeant Dakota Meyer joined the ranks of those very few Americans who have been awarded the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor. Just two years earlier, Meyer acted with extraordinary bravery and heroism in one of the most ferocious battles of the war in Afghanistan, saving the lives of numerous Americans and Afghans.

Overwhelmed by enemy fighters and unsupported by available American firepower, the events surrounding the Battle of Ganjgal have become a topic of great controversy and scrutiny. With assistance from Bing West, author and fellow Marine, Meyer tells his captivating story, from his childhood in Kentucky to his life as a distinguished combat veteran.

Exploiting Meyer's personal writings and recollections, West weaves an inspiring story about the young Marine's upbringing, training and determination that prepared him to fight repeatedly through almost certain death to save the lives of his comrades and recover his fallen teammates.

In 2009, then-Corporal Dakota Meyer volunteered for a four-man advising team that was responsible for training a company of Afghan soldiers. Three Marines and a Navy corpsman ate, slept and patrolled with Afghan security forces in the mountainous region that borders Pakistan.

As the only infantryman and sniper on his team, Meyer's job was to train the Afghans on tactics and weapons. Yet, his emphasis on infantry discipline raised



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through the eyes of a grunt'**

"Fixler seems to have loved every minute of his time in the U.S. Marine Corps, including sustained vicious combat in Vietnam... His blunt recreating of his war-time experiences is well done and evocative."

—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*

disagreements over the very nature of the advisors' roles. "Were we to act as garrison instructors or combat advisors?" Meyer questioned after receiving a lecture from his superior that they were "not going there to fight ... [but] to train the Afghans." The lingering confusion over the exact type of training and assistance the Afghans required resulted in too few advisors possessing infantry skills and combat experience.

Meyer notes the "makeshift workup" the advisors received and how training for Afghanistan resembled camping out "Boy Scout style." Understanding that his real mission was to be a combat advisor, Meyer often struggled to contain his dissent when he knew planning or execution

of a mission was not thorough. During the planning for Operation *Buri Booza*, in what would become the Battle of Ganjgal, Meyer recognized that too many assumptions left the inexperienced team exposed, outgunned and without a clear chain of command.

On Sept. 8, 2009, 15 advisors and 90 Afghan soldiers walked into a disaster. Within minutes of entering the formidable terrain of Ganjgal, relentless small-arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars overwhelmed the men. Disconnected and in danger of becoming enveloped, the trapped team's only lifeline was prompt and accurate fire support; however, senior military leaders rejected repeated requests

[continued on page 78]

## Leatherneck Book Browser

**"Cammie Up! Memoir of a Recon Marine in Vietnam, 1967-1968."** In March 1998, 35 years after he left, Steven A. Johnson returned and played "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipe atop the Khe Sanh escarpment in the saffron splendor of the day's last rays on Vietnam.

Later, Johnson said he wanted to write a book, and he did. "Cammie Up!" is Johnson's combat memoir and recounts his time with 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, Third Marine Division in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968.

Reconnaissance Marines are stealth warriors. They aren't looking to have shoot-outs with the enemy. They are looking to get in and out with intelligence and other objects that won't require calling in air-delivered ordnance, artillery, naval gunfire and a couple battalions of Marine Corps infantry.

Successful recons are swift, silent and, of course, deadly. Recon Marines observe and become experts in the root, flora and fauna of exotic plant life; they look at dung and know what animal left it and when. They wear the monsoon rain;

soak up the debilitating sun while playing "for keeps" the adult versions of the war games they played as children. And, they are humorous because they are scared. Writes Johnson: "For a place so focused on death, we were never more alive."

"Cammie Up!" is a book about recon patrols into the jungles and also about the squad level. If you want to know what Marines thought about the political, strategic and ethical dimensions, you'll have to ask a pogue. Recon teams were into tactics, geography, equipment and personalities. They were young, far from home and expected to perform professionally in life-and-death situations. They did, and Steve Johnson has taken the time to remember those who patrolled with him, to write and recreate what it was really like.

Published by McFarland Publishers, "Cammie Up" is 280 pages in softcover with photos and maps. It can be purchased through Amazon.com for \$29.95. The downloaded Kindle will run you \$9.99. (ISBN: 987-0-7864-6600-9)



# Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

## Marine Sword Found In Virginia Antique Store Linked to College Football Legend

What do a Marine, a football legend, an officer's sword, an antique store and the National Museum of the Marine Corps have in common? Typically nothing would link all these together except when the Marine is a football-playing officer whose Mameluke sword showed up for sale in a Fredericksburg, Va., antique store. Even that wouldn't usually receive a lot of attention from the weapons curators at the museum except that this sword had a very unique name engraved onto the blade. The Mameluke sword offered for sale was engraved with the name "Frank B. Goettge," a Marine officer who earned notoriety on the battlefield as well as on the football field.

Goettge was raised in Ohio and attended Ohio State University where his prowess on the football field, even as a freshman, was making headlines when the United States entered World War I.

He put his education on hold to serve his country, enlisting in the Marine Corps in May 1917. Goettge was promoted to corporal on Oct. 9, 1917, and then to sergeant on Dec. 19. By March 1918, he was a first sergeant and the senior enlisted man of USS *Vermont's* (BB-20) Marine Detachment.

Goettge was commissioned a second lieutenant in July 1918. He was assigned to the 5th Marines in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and then pulled occupation duty in Germany. There he excelled as a fullback on the 2d Division, American Expeditionary Forces football team. Goettge served in Haiti, San Francisco and Pearl Harbor before being noticed for his football skills again at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where he was enrolled in the Company Officers' Course, Marine Corps Schools. It was during this period that he won gridiron fame as part of the Marine Corps football team at MCB Quantico.

Fans across the region knew him as "The Great Goettge." As a fullback, Goettge dominated the field and was hailed as one of the greatest players of the day. From 1921 to 1924, Goettge helped carry the All-Marine team to 40 victories and two ties.



**Col Frank B. Goettge (KIA, 1942), a legend in the Marine Corps as well as on the football field, earned a Legion of Merit with combat "V" in WW II and also was enshrined in the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2001. His Mameluke sword (below) was found for sale at a Fredericksburg, Va., antique store and purchased by the National Museum of the Marine Corps for eventual display.**



Sports writer Walter Camp said of him, "Today, for today at least, I saw my greatest all-time football player; for today at least greater than Jim Thorpe on a good day. The big fellow's name is Frank Goettge." He was even recruited by the New York Giants, but he turned them down to remain in the Marine Corps.

He did serve with giants of his time, especially when he was detailed as aide

to President Herbert Hoover and later to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General Ben H. Fuller.

Various tours of duty followed, until June of 1942 when Lieutenant Colonel Goettge arrived in the Pacific theater as intelligence officer of the First Marine Division. He was promoted to colonel before landing on Guadalcanal. It was during this tour that Goettge was killed in action leading the ill-fated "Lost Patrol" on Guadalcanal. In addition to the many awards Goettge earned during his 25-year Corps career, including the Legion of Merit with combat "V," Goettge also was enshrined as a member of the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2001.

Based on the provenance of this important Marine, the museum was able to purchase the sword and scabbard. The sword and scabbard will be restored in preparation for display in the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame gallery, which will be included in the museum's final phase scheduled to open in 2017.

Gwenn Adams  
PAO, NMHC

## "Ride for Heroes" Finishes Cross-Country Journey at Pendleton

The "Ride for Heroes" cycling team concluded its 2,800-mile journey from Florida to California at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 10. During the two-month trip along the southern coast of the United States, the four-man team raised more than \$90,000 for the Injured Marine Semper Parvum Fund.

Two Texas business owners who first decided to make the trek were John Gerlaugh, a retired Marine, and his brother-in-law, Dennis McLaughlin.

"For me, this trip is about demonstrating the kind of sacrifice these young Americans made to this nation," McLaughlin said. "They left the security and comfort of their lives to give back to the ever-threatened bank account of freedom."

Later, Troy McLehany and Ben Maenza, both retired Marines, joined the team to help give back to those who wear the uniform. Maenza, formerly a combat engineer with 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, lost both legs due to an explosion of an improvised explosive device during a patrol in Afghanistan and also



**The Ride for Heroes team travels down Adobe Road toward Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., during its cross-country trip, which raised approximately \$90,000 for the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.**

LCPL ALI AZIMI

sustained shrapnel wounds to his face and torso.

Although Maenza is wheelchair-bound, that didn't stop him from taking on and completing the challenge. He used a state-of-the-art cycle, which allows him to use his hands for peddling. Every rider contributed an average of 70 miles per day, even Maenza.

"My goal is to motivate people and let them know that, even when they're faced with tragedies in their lives, determination and a positive attitude can overcome any obstacle," Maenza said.

The team's journey concluded at Del Mar Beach with a celebration. During the celebration, the athletes presented a check for more than \$90,000 to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund representatives.

*Editor's note: Since its inception in 2004, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization ([www.semperfifund.org](http://www.semperfifund.org)), has raised \$63 million in grants for thousands of injured and critically ill members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. The organization directs urgently needed resources to post 9/11 Marines and sailors and members of other military branches that support Marine forces.*

*Battlefield injuries often are severe, and the road to recovery can be long and*

*financially burdensome. The Semper Fi Fund provides both immediate financial relief for needs during hospitalization and continuing assistance for perpetuating needs throughout the full recovery process. Increased levels of severe trauma in servicemembers coming out of Middle East battlefields guarantee a need for assistance long into the future.*

*The Semper Fi Fund has been recognized with the highest ratings of both the American Institute of Philanthropy and Charity Navigator, with 95 percent of donations going directly to grants.*

Cpl Damien Gutierrez  
MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.



**"M" STANDS FOR MARINES—**  
SSgt Michael D. Kelsey, radar staff noncommissioned officer with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, holds his son, Braiden, at the Bob Hope Theater during the Sesame Street United Service Organization Experience for Military Families Tour at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 16. The tour provided a free show for all military families and an opportunity to meet Sesame Street's newest character, Katie.



PFC RAQUEL BARRAZA



# In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

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

## Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, Aug. 1-31, 2012

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

**Hospital Corpsman Third Class Clayton R. Beauchamp**, 21, of Weatherford, Texas, with 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, First Marine Division (Forward), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 7, in Shaban District, Helmand province, Afghanistan.

**Lance Corporal Gregory T. Buckley**, 21, of Oceanside, N.Y., with 3/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF, MCB Hawaii, Aug. 10, in Helmand province.

**Staff Sergeant Gregory T. Copes**, 36, of Lynch Station, Va., with 3d Marine Special Operations Bn (MSOB), U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC), MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 17, in Farah province, Afghanistan.

**SSgt Scott E. Dickinson**, 29, of San Diego, with 3/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF, MCB Hawaii, Aug. 10, in Helmand province.

**LCpl Curtis J. Duarte**, 22, of Covina, Calif., with 1/7, 1stMarDiv,

I MEF, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 1, in Helmand province.

**Hospital Corpsman First Class Darrel L. Enos**, 36, of Colorado Springs, Colo., with 3d MSOB, MARSOC, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 17, in Farah province.

**Gunnery Sergeant Ryan Jeschke**, 31, of Herndon, Va., with 1st MSOB, MARSOC, MCB Camp Pendleton, Aug. 10, in Helmand province.

**Corporal Daniel L. Linnabary II**, 23, of Hubert, N.C., with 2d Tank Bn, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 6, Helmand province.

**Captain Matthew P. Manoukian**, 29, of Los Altos Hills, Calif., with 1st MSOB, MARSOC, MCB Camp Pendleton, Aug. 10, in Helmand province.

**SSgt Sky R. Mote**, 27, of El Dorado, Calif., with 1st MSOB, MARSOC, MCB Camp Pendleton, Aug. 10, in Helmand province.

**Cpl Richard A. Rivera Jr.**, 20, of Ventura, Calif., with 3/3, 3dMarDiv, III MEF, MCB Hawaii, Aug. 10, in Helmand province.

## Henry H. Black

Sergeant Major Henry H. Black, who served as the Seventh Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps from 1975 to 1977 and, along the way, earned the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart, died in Fredericksburg, Va., Aug. 23. He was 83.

Born in Imperial, Pa., he was a 1947 graduate of Findley High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on April 12, 1948, and underwent recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. After boot camp, he served with Company C, 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment and Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Marines, Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He earned his first Bronze Star for heroic action during the Korean War with H/3/1, 1stMarDiv in 1950 while serving as his commanding officer's driver. On Nov. 28, 1950, he earned the Silver Star at Hagaru-ri during the Chosin Reservoir campaign.

He returned to the United States in May 1951 and was assigned to Security Forces, Marine Barracks Dahlgren, Va. He was then the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Recruiting Substation, Allentown, Pa.

SgtMaj Black served as a platoon leader of heavy machine guns with 1/9, 3dMarDiv in the Western Pacific from 1956 to 1957, and from

there he was ordered to MCRD Parris Island to attend Drill Instructor School. He served consecutively as a junior drill instructor, a senior drill instructor and, finally, as a chief drill instructor in the Recruit Training Regiment.

In 1960, he was transferred to Wheeling, W.Va., where he served as NCOIC of the recruiting substation for the next four years. He was back with the infantry as First Sergeant, D/1/8, 2dMarDiv from 1964 to 1965 and landed with the Marines sent to the Dominican Republic during that period.

Ordered to Vietnam in January 1966, he was the first sergeant of A/1/1, 1stMarDiv until February 1967 when he was ordered to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

At Quantico, he was the first sergeant of Casual Co and later the Sergeant Major, Headquarters Bn, Marine Corps Development and Education Command.

He returned to Vietnam in 1969 as the senior enlisted Marine with 2/7, 1stMarDiv and was awarded his second and third Bronze Stars.

In 1970, he became the recruiting station sergeant major for RS Richmond, Va., until 1972 when he became sergeant major of Marine Barracks Bremerton, Wash.

He was sergeant major of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, in 1973, followed by assignment as the Sergeant Major, First Marine

Aircraft Wing until November 1974, when he returned to MCDEC Quantico and later was selected Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, serving as the Corps' top enlisted advisor to General Louis H. Wilson, 26th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

SgtMaj Black's personal decorations include the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars with combat "V," the Purple Heart, the Navy Commendation Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

In John C. Chapin's book "Uncommon Men: The Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps," SgtMaj Black is quoted: "I never asked for anything unless it was a challenge.

"I upset some generals in the Marine Corps. I really did, because I told it like it was."

In later years, he became a friend and adviser to SgtMaj Carlton W. Kent, 16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (2007-11), and the current (17th) Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, who often visited SgtMaj Black at his Fredericksburg home.

**Cpl Thomas J. Adams**, 80, of South Plainfield, N.J. He was a veteran of the Korean War who served from 1952 to 1954 with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, First Marine Division.

He retired after more than 25 years as a machinist with Thul Machine Works, Plainfield.

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**MSgt Jose E. Archuleta**, 65, in Lemon Grove, Calif. He served in the Army for two years and went to Vietnam. He then served four years in the Army Reserve. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and was a field artilleryman and, later, a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego. He was eight times an "Expert" rifleman and three times a pistol "Expert." He served 20 years.

**Wayne E. Burnett**, 87, in University Park, Texas. He was a three-year high school football letterman who captained his Tyler High School team and earned All-State honors in 1942. He enlisted a year later and was a member of the MarDet, USS *Point Cruz* (CVE-119).

In 1946, he returned to football at Southern Methodist University where he was part of the 1947 and 1948 Southwest Conference championship football teams and the 1949 Cotton Bowl champions. He worked in the oil field services sector for HOMCO International, Jess Edwards Inc. and W.R. Grace, where he was vice president.

**1stSgt Ray L. Carter**, 56, of Carthage, Texas. He enlisted in 1974 and served 21 years. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal. In addition to being a first sergeant, his duties included combat infantry rifleman, platoon leader, company gunnery sergeant, recruiter, command career counselor, substance abuse officer, education officer and operations chief. He served at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Okinawa, Japan; Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Lincoln and Omaha, Neb.; and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

After retiring, he graduated in 2006 from Texas State Technical College in Marshall.

**Cpl Robert D. Corriveau**, 20. On Nov. 18, 1968, a Pennsylvania State Trooper on routine turnpike patrol spotted a man in a semi-sitting position on the side of the highway. The trooper stopped to check and found the man deceased. He carried no identification. An autopsy determined that the young man had been stabbed once through the heart.

He remained unidentified for more than four decades. Through the efforts of some Marine veterans who were retired police detectives, the Pennsylvania State Police Cold Case Unit, NCIS, the PA Medical Examiner and the young man's family, he was positively identified in May 2012 as Cpl Robert D. Corriveau.

Just shy of his 21st birthday, he was an active-duty Marine who had been wounded in action on three separate occasions during 1967 in Vietnam. He was at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital recovering from his wounds when he was reported missing on Nov. 18, 1968.

Rest in peace, Cpl Corriveau. Thank you for your service.

**Cpl Robert E. Costen**, 86, in Pacific Grove, Calif. He enlisted in 1943, fought in the Pacific at Guam in 1944 and was a veteran of the Korean War. He went on to teach for 36 years at various California high schools and was a contributor to *Leatherneck's* "Sound Off" column. One of his daughters, Laurel, is a Navy captain.

**Lawrence H. "Tag" Ferguson Jr.**, 92, in Duncanville, Texas. He was a Marine officer

during WW II who served with the 2dMarDiv in the South Pacific at Guadalcanal and Tarawa, among other places. He was awarded two Purple Hearts, spent three months in the hospital and was stationed at Quantico, Va., as an officer instructor. He worked for Austin Building Company for 30 years and co-started Tayson Construction Company where he worked until his retirement in 1984.

**Robert E. German Jr.**, 81, of Dallas. He enlisted in 1949 and served during the Korean War. He proudly claimed that he qualified as a rifle "Expert" and held the range record at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., for a number of days in 1949. He later entered a career in personnel and human resources with the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In 1972, he entered a new career with Wyly Organizations that included Bonanza Steak Houses, USA Cafes, Sterling Software, Five M. Nurseries and Michaels Stores. He later became a substitute teacher in the Richardson Independent School District.

**Cpl Arnold F. Gozora**, 88, of Williamsport, Md. He served with a forward observation team and as a field wireman with 13th Marines, 5thMarDiv on Iwo Jima. His unit assaulted and helped secure Motoyama Airfield No. 1. He participated in the Occupation of Japan and was discharged in 1946.

He retired from Mack Truck Inc. in 1987 after 37 years.

**Cpl Marvin F. "Hank" Greenberg**, 89, in Silver Spring, Md. He was a WW II veteran who served from 1942 to 1945. His platoon landed with the 24th Marine Regiment on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was captured on film that later was included in the "Battle for the Marianas," a Marine Corps film that showed Greenberg carrying a small child abandoned by his mother during the mass suicides at Marpi Point cliffs on Saipan.

At Iwo Jima, he was a member of the honor guard at the dedication of the 4thMarDiv cemetery. He later served in Nagasaki as part of the occupation forces of Japan. He returned home to Hyattsville, Md., and became a career draftsman for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, retiring in 1975 as head of the water and sewer design section.

**LtCol John J. Gutter**, 72, of Ashburn, Va. A football player for the University of Rhode Island, he later played for the Quantico Marines in Virginia. An infantry officer, he served 22 years, which included a tour in Vietnam.

After retiring from the Corps, he was a vice principal at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Va., for more than two decades.

**Capt Peter E. Laux**, 69, of Plano, Texas. He was commissioned in 1965 and, in 1968, flew UH-1E Huey helicopters on more than 600 combat missions to include close air support and medevac missions from Phu Bai, including during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

He left the Corps in 1976 for a career at Texas Instruments Inc. in Dallas. He traveled the world as a helicopter safety engineer and retired in 1996 to run his own independent management consulting practice. He joined the Army Reserve in 1981 so he could continue flying and logged more than 5,000 flight hours before retiring from the USAR in 2003.

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**GySgt John H. Martin Jr.**, 77, of Ridley Park, Pa. He enlisted in 1953 and served until 1973. His duty stations included Norfolk, Va.; Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Philadelphia; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Quantico, Va.; and Okinawa, Japan. After he retired from the Corps, he worked as an administrator for Defense Personnel Support Center, Philadelphia, and later worked in the Army office of Boeing.

**Col Virgil D. Olson**, 93, at Fort Belvoir, Va. He flew dive bomber missions in the Pacific during WW II and volunteered for helicopter training and combat service in Korea. His military awards include, among others, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and seven Air Medals.

During the Korean War, it was said that Olson, on a helicopter search-and-rescue mission, spotted an aircraft floating in a rice paddy. He flew in and picked up the downed pilot who was a fellow Marine and the future Hall of Fame baseball slugger Ted Williams.

The President of the United States began using helicopters as transportation in 1957, and Olson's expertise played a key role. He served as the commanding officer of Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) until 1959. He was the President's official Marine Corps helicopter pilot and flew President Dwight D. Eisenhower on many varied missions.

Col Olson served as the Chief of Staff, First Marine Aircraft Wing in Vietnam and flew numerous combat missions. He retired in 1973 as the Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Development and Education Command Quantico, Va. He returned in 2010 to dedicate HMX-1's

new headquarters facility named in his honor.

**GySgt James A. Peterson**, 90, in Aiken, S.C. He was a WW II Marine who served as the orderly to President Franklin D. Roosevelt in USS *Augusta* (CA-31) during the historic meeting with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the North Atlantic in 1941. Peterson later transferred to Quantico, Va., in 1942 where, as a staff sergeant, he was in charge of a detachment inside Prince William Forest Park, securing the training ground for the OSS school there. He went on to serve in the South Pacific and was a veteran of the Iwo Jima campaign. He was a life member and charter member of the MCL James L. Hammons Det. in Aiken.

**Edward E. Proffitt** in Menlo Park, Calif. He was a WW II veteran. Military burial honors in Virginia were provided by the Hardy Roberts VFW of Saltville. Proffitt and Roberts enlisted in the Marine Corps together, and Hardy Roberts died at the "Ridge" on Guadalcanal.

**SgtMaj Alexander Robinson**, 69, in Orlando, Fla. He enlisted in 1960 and served 30 years. An 0811 field artilleryman, he served with 1/12 on Okinawa. He then served at Marine Barracks, NAS Sanford, Fla., and later with 1st Provisional Rifle Co and A/1/12 in Vietnam. He also served with Hq/1/10 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and as a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., and as a Marine recruiter in New York.

As a sergeant major, he was the senior enlisted Marine with VMFA-312 and sergeant major of the Marine Recruiting Station, Or-

lando. He served at MCLB Albany, Ga., and as Depot Sergeant Major, MCRD San Diego.

His personal decorations include two Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy Achievement Medal and a Combat Action Ribbon.

He worked for the city of Altamonte Springs, Fla., and retired in 2007 as manager in the Waste Management Division.

**LCpl Thomas P. Scheider Jr.**, 69, in Jersey City, N.J. He served from 1959 to 1965 and went on retire from the Jersey City Police Department as a lieutenant, serving from 1967 to 2000.

During his watch, which was entirely in the patrol division, he was commander of the bus detail and the quality of life unit and served as patrol sergeant and desk lieutenant in each of the four districts. He was commander of the motorcycle squad for six years, a member of the MCL Avenel Det. and a member of the MCA&F.

**Capt Vincent E. Strote**, 84, in Lodi, Calif. He served two years in the Navy during WW II. He returned home, finished high school and enlisted in the Marine Corps and took part in the Inchon landing with the 1stMarDiv in Korea. He was with the 1stMarDiv in Vietnam where he earned a field commission. He also served in China, Japan and Hawaii and retired in 1976 after serving 29 years and 11 months.

He and his wife, Joyce, settled in Lodi where he became a "gentleman farmer." His brother is MGySgt Dale M. Strote, USMC (Ret). The two served together in 1950 at the Chosin Reservoir and, later, in Vietnam.



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## BOOKS REVIEWED

[continued from page 69]

for urgent artillery fire that could have saved the embattled advisors.

The rationale was new rules of engagement that required “positive identification of the enemy within a residential compound” in an attempt to minimize Afghan civilian casualties. Defying orders, 21-year-old Meyer and a fellow Marine drove into the “kill zone” a total of five times in order to rescue his beleaguered team who had not been heard from since hours into the firefight. Each time they braved a torrent of enemy gunfire, Meyer managed to rescue soldiers along the way while rallying others to stay in the fight.

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As a veteran and author of multiple books on American wars, West conveys the gritty chaos of a tough fight with the empathy that only a fellow infantryman could. The authors retell a remarkable story of sacrifice, courage, bravery and

determination. Instead of focusing on the strategy, doctrinal and organizational shortcomings that led to the severity of the battle, saved for the epilogue, authors Dakota Meyer and Bing West bring out the tactical details of a valorous fight against long odds.

“Into the Fire” is more than an incredible story of Dakota Meyer’s heroic actions; it reveals the complexities of the war in Afghanistan from the infantryman’s perspective and offers an eye-opening look at the ambitious efforts to advise and train Afghan security forces with traditional U.S. military personnel. A task thought to be the U.S. Special Forces’ primary mission.

“Into the Fire” also is a disheartening account of the “insensibility of senior military leadership” overly committed on a population-centric counterinsurgency doctrine. “The battle resulted in thirteen friendly fatalities, two investigations, two reprimands for dereliction of duty, one Medal of Honor and the ‘loss’ of the recommendation for a second Medal of Honor,” revealing how senior military leaders remain unwilling to admit responsibility for the disastrous events of Sept. 8, 2009.

West presents a convincing narrative that everything leading up to the Battle

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of Ganjgal prepared Meyer to step up as a natural leader and determined warrior. Meyer's recollection also is a story of the bonds forged with his fallen teammates and a plea to both readers and senior military officials to recognize another American hero from that fateful day to whom he attributes his own life, U.S. Army Captain Will Swenson. CPT Swenson was recommended for the Medal of Honor, yet he has received no form of recognition for his heroic actions.

"Into the Fire" is an inspiring story of a young Marine's remarkable actions that saved numerous lives in one of the most ferocious battles of the war in Afghanistan. This book provides a breathtaking look at life on a combat outpost in eastern Afghanistan, the difficult mission of military advisor teams, the complexities of the war in Afghanistan, and the great risk our young men and women take on a daily basis in the name of a population-centric counterinsurgency doctrine.

Dakota Meyer's upbringing, aggressive nature, military training and professionalism allowed him to step up and repeatedly defy death to break the Taliban attack. As a young noncommissioned officer and leader of Marines, Meyer's story is a must-read for anyone aspiring to lead men into battle or wanting to understand

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what the ongoing war in Afghanistan looks like.

R. B. Works

*Editor's note: Rob Works served as a U.S. Marine noncommissioned officer from 2002 to 2008, deploying to Fallujah, Iraq, and Helmand province, Afghanistan. He is a student at the University of North*

*Carolina at Chapel Hill and a research assistant at the National Defense University's Center for Complex Operations. The views expressed herein are those only of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the National Defense University, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.*



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## SOUND OFF

[continued from page 12]

on the *Leatherneck* staff in 1952, handled  
the layout and design of the current 19th  
edition of the "Guidebook," which re-  
mains available at Marine exchanges and  
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SSgt McKeown can contact the "Sound  
Off" editor for your address.—*Sound Off*  
Ed.

## And What About Those Yellow Footprints?

From its beginning in 1915, the recruit  
receiving barracks has been located in a  
number of places on Parris Island, S.C.

The initial receiving barracks was lo-  
cated at the old state of South Carolina  
quarantine station, which stood on Ballast  
Creek where the Depot's club "Traditions"  
is located today. During World War II and  
the Korean War, receiving was conducted  
at Building 145 in the Headquarters and  
Service Battalion barracks complex.

In 1964, the facility was moved to Bldg.  
631, a 2d Battalion barracks on Panama  
Street, and at about the same time yellow  
footprints were painted on the pavement  
upon which newly arrived recruits were  
placed. In 1986, recruit receiving and the

yellow footprints were moved to a new  
facility on Panama Street—Bldg. 6000—  
where recruits today are processed upon  
their arrival at Parris Island.

Dr. Stephen R. Wise  
Museum Curator  
MCRD Parris Island, S.C.

• Well, Dr. Wise solved half the equation.  
But when did the yellow footprints appear  
at San Diego, and were the recruits really  
wearing their dress blues when they fell in  
on the footprints? Inquiring minds want  
to know.—*Sound Off* Ed.

## Editorial Irish Pennants

He didn't send a letter, but he called our  
editor, Colonel Walt Ford, USMC (Ret).

General William L. "Spyder" Nyland,  
Assistant Commandant of the Marine  
Corps, 2002-05, said he still reads his  
*Leatherneck* and said the September issue  
was "great," but ... (there's always a "but"  
after "great") in the feature "Familiar  
Faces: Marine Corps Sticks With Tried-  
and-True Helo Airframes As It Overhauls  
Light Helo Fleet," Hank Perry, who once  
commanded Marine Light Attack Helicopter  
Squadron 267, was noted as working  
for Northrop Grumman. He's with Bell,  
according to Gen Nyland, who knows  
retired Lieutenant Colonel Perry.



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### 8 - 15 Mar - Exclusive 68th Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor

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Guam - Charter Jet to Iwo  
Pre Tour: 5 - 9 Mar Saipan/Tinian  
Post Tours: 15 - 19 Mar Hawaii / 15 - 20 Mar Peleliu / 1 - 10 Mar Yap Dive Adventure



*Commemoration  
on Iwo Jima*

### 19 - 28 Jul - 69th Liberation of Guam & Tinian plus Saipan too! "Marianas Island Campaign 1944"

Pre-Tour 10 - 20 Jul Yap Dive Adventure  
Post Tour: 28 - 31 Jul Honolulu, HI

### 2 - 12 Aug - Guadalcanal "Turning the Tide"

Edson's Ridge - Henderson Field - Iron Bottom Sound  
Pre-tour: 30 Jul - 3 Aug Tarawa Post Tour: 10 - 14 Aug Fiji



*China Marines at Great Wall*

### 14 - 27 Oct - "China Marines" & American Military Forces in China 1835-1949

Beijing - Tientsin - Tsingtao - Xian - Chinwangtao - Peitaho  
Post Tour: 27-30 Oct Shanghai



*Guadalcanal American Memorial*

### 16 - 23 Nov - 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa & Makin Island Raid

Ceremony on D-Day Betio - 20 Nov



*Vickers Gun Tarawa*

## VIETNAM

### 17 Feb - 2 Mar - 45th Anniversary Battle of Hue City & Tet Offensive

Phu Bai - Da Nang - Chu Lai - Khe Sanh  
Hosts: MajGen O.K. Steele, USMC & Col Chuck Meadows, USMC

### 16 - 28 Mar - 45th Anniv Battle of Khe Sanh & The Hill Fights

Khe Sanh - Leatherneck Square - DMZ



*Welcome Back*

### 13 - 26 Apr - 1st Mar Div & 3rd Mar Div I Corps Return "Chu Lai to the DMZ"

The Ques Sons - Chu Lai - Hoi An - Da Nang - Hue City - Leatherneck Square - Khe Sanh  
Con Thien - Quang Tri - Dong Ha - A Shau Valley



### 10 - 24 May - U.S. Army in Vietnam: I, II, III & IV Corps "Saigon to the DMZ"

Saigon - Delta - Pleiku - Hue City - An Khe  
Dak To - Da Nang - Hoi An - Con Thien - Khe Sanh

*Pop up in Vietnam*

### 8 - 21 Jun - I Corps "Chu Lai to the DMZ"

The Ques Sons - Chu Lai - Hoi An - Da Nang - Hue City - Leatherneck Square  
Khe Sanh - Con Thien - Quang Tri - Dong Ha - A Shau Valley

### 24 Aug - 6 Sep - RECON, CAPs, & Combat Engineers Return I Corps

Que Sons - Quang Tri - Hue City - Da Nang - Hanoi - Khe Sanh  
Hoi An - Red Beach - Leatherneck Square

### 24 Aug - 7 Sep - "Delta to the DMZ" I, II, III, & IV Corps & Helicopter Operations

War Zone C - An Loc - Tay Ninh - Bien Hoa - An Khe - Pleiku - Qui Nhon



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*Bring some back*

## EUROPE

### 18 - 27 Apr - Turkey WWI Dardanelles Campaign Istanbul, Gallipoli Battlefields & Troy ANZAC Day Ceremonies - the best way to see Turkey!

### 17 - 27 May - 95th Anniversary of World War I AEF Battlefields & Paris

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Post Tour: 26 May - 1 Jun Battle of the Bulge

### 24 May - 2 Jun - Viking River Cruise Paris & the Heart of Normandy

D-Day Beaches - Giverny - Belleau Wood  
25 May - 2 Jun - Battle of the Bulge  
Bastogne - Gen Patton's Grave Site - Malmedy - "Siegfried Line"

### 1 - 9 Jun - 69th Anniversary of D-Day: "Normandy to Paris"

Omaha Beach - Utah Beach - St. Mere Eglise  
Pegasus Bridge - Bayeux - Paris  
Pre-tour: 25 May - 2 Jun Battle of the Bulge



*WWI - Gen Carl Mundy &  
Col Bill White*



*Airborne Beer in Bastogne*

### 2 - 14 Jul - 70th Anniversary Battle of Kursk

Moscow - Stalingrad - Tank Battle Reenactment  
Post Tour: St. Petersburg

### 24 Sep - 7 Oct - Concentration Camps, VE Day & Oktoberfest

Munich - Berlin - Warsaw - Krakow - Prague - Dresden - Salzburg - Vienna



*D-Day Screaming Eagles  
Re-enactors*



*The Fun Bus France 2012*

### 12 - 20 Oct - Viking River Cruise Portraits of Southern France

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### (TBD) 30th Anniv of "The Root" 1983 Marines & Sailors in Beirut, Lebanon



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Gen Nyland was a naval flight officer and, by the way, the first NFO to become ACMC.

### Reunions

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

- **Moroccan Reunion Assn. Inc.** is planning a reunion for Marines and sailors who served at Port Lyautey/Kenitra, Morocco. Contact Robert Sieborg, Moroccan Reunion Assn. Inc., P.O. Box 13362, Omaha, NE 68113, (402) 496-1498.

- **2/1 (RVN)**, Nov. 8-15, San Diego. Contact Paul Mangan, (515) 360-2600, namgrunt@aol.com, [www.firstmarines.org](http://www.firstmarines.org).

- **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Branson, Mo. Contact Gabe Coronado, (810) 334-0377, member 3107@aol.com.

- **11th Engineer Bn Assn.** is planning a reunion. Contact Charles Luhan Jr., 8451 S. Kilbourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60652, (773) 585-9629, CL1lengrnb@sbcglobal.net.

- **11th Engineer Bn (RVN, 1966-69) and Vietnam Veterans of America**, Aug. 13-17, 2013, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethe marine@gmail.com.

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• **H/2/7 (RVN)**, June 20-23, 2013, San Antonio. Contact Rudy Ramon, (210) 861-9950, h272013@att.net.

• **Combined Action Unit (RVN, 1965-71)**, Nov. 8-12, Treasure Island, Fla. Contact Ken Scoggins, 4856 Lowndes St., St. Louis, MO 63129, (314) 894-3225, scoggins@swbell.net.

• **U.S. Navy Site One Holy Loch, Scotland Assn.**, Aug. 27-Sept. 4, 2013, Dunoon, Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland. Contact Roland Kitridge, (508) 877-2960, rk01701@yahoo.com, www.holyloch.org.

• **MSG Paris** is planning a reunion. Contact Roland C. Beisenstein, 53 Castle Rock Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941, (415) 388-4941.

• **4th USMC/METOC/Weather Service**, June 2-6, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact Lee Halverson, (925) 837-7493, lhazmateer@aol.com, or Don Innis, (321) 724-6600, dinnis@cfl.rr.com.

• **21st Special Basic Class (1953)** is planning a reunion. Contact Shirley Fry, (703) 469-3750, ssfry@juno.com.

• **Scout Sniper Plt, 3d Marines (RVN)**, Feb. 8-10, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact Jim O'Neill, (928) 684-2309, taraniall@gmail.com.

• **Plt 115, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact SgtMaj D. J. Farrell, USMC (Ret), (918) 689-1989, or Steve

Holton, (301) 375-6036.

• **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion for 2014. Contact SgtMaj James Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

• **Plt 339, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Bob Mullins, USMC (Ret), (740) 417-9112, rmullins11@columbus.rr.com.

• **Plt 1089, Parris Island, 1986**, is planning a reunion. Contact Mark Smith, P.O. Box 828, Columbus, MS 39703, (662) 549-7712, msmith@cpi-group.com.

• **Plt 2085, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Simmons, jst1putt@aol.com, mkboyle@myfairpoint.net.

• **Plt 2118, San Diego, 1969**, Nov. 11, Bakersfield, Calif. Contact Dave Betti, (805) 648-3283, davisbetti@aol.com, or Terry Taylor, (661) 364-8438, metrtch@me.com.

• **VMAT-102 A-4M Skyhawks (and related squadrons from MCAS Yuma, Ariz.)**, March 9, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact GiGi Ahrstrom, (513) 544-1016, LTK165@hotmail.com.

• **VMM-263/HMM-263**, Nov. 17, Raleigh, N.C. Contact Capt Gregory Varella, (219) 973-6835, gregory.varella@usmc.mil, SSgt Christopher Novak, (910) 478-8334, christopher.novak@usmc.mil, or



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### Ships and Others

• USS *Bremerton* (CA-130/SSN-698), Sept. 8-12, 2013, St. Louis. Contact James Jensen, (406) 837-4474, [jmbluffcenturytel.net](mailto:jmbluffcenturytel.net), or R. F. Polanowski, (585) 365-2316, [rpolanowski@stny.rr.com](mailto:rpolanowski@stny.rr.com).

• USS *Renville* (APA-227), April 3-7, 2013, Portland, Ore. Contact Lynda Rumble, 187 Lakeshore Dr., Mooresville, NC 28117, (704) 906-7622, [lyndahd01@aol.com](mailto:lyndahd01@aol.com), [ussrenvilleapa227.com](mailto:ussrenvilleapa227.com).

• East Coast Seabees, Feb. 22-24, 2013,

Hampton, Va. Contact Bruce MacDougall, (804) 921-4753, [seabeemacd40@verizon.net](mailto:seabeemacd40@verizon.net).

### Reader Assistance

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### Wanted:

• Greg Deuerlein, (619) 840-1362, [gdeuersh@cox.net](mailto:gdeuersh@cox.net), wants a **recruit graduation photo for Plt 2021, San Diego, 1984.**

• MSgt William Dugan, USMC (Ret), 41 Nesenkeag Dr., Litchfield, NH 03052, (603) 424-9517, [duganb\\_p@comcast.net](mailto:duganb_p@comcast.net), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 27, Parris Island, 1956.**

• Retired Marine Arthur J. Manning, (443) 928-1966, (410) 335-5857, [jmleatherneck@aol.com](mailto:jmleatherneck@aol.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 103, Parris Island, 1955.** The senior drill instructor was **SSgt FOSTER.**

• Marine veteran William Franks, (267) 474-5371, [williamfranks26@yahoo.com](mailto:williamfranks26@yahoo.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3053, Parris Island, 1968-69.**

• Former Cpl David Stewart, 2619 Second St., Westland, MI 48186, (737) 756-3562, [davidlstewartjr@yahoo.com](mailto:davidlstewartjr@yahoo.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1013, San Diego, 1992.**

• Marine veteran Arthur Enos, P.O. Box 174, Burlington, MA 01803, (781) 272-5040, [enosservices@verizon.net](mailto:enosservices@verizon.net), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 189, Parris Island, 1958,** and has an available copy of the platoon photo. Drill instructors were **TSgt GESSNER, Sgt BOULDER and Sgt BAIL.**

• Marine veteran H. R. Barrera, (209) 247-9346, [hrbarrera@yahoo.com](mailto:hrbarrera@yahoo.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1025, San Diego, 1966.**

• Marine veteran Joseph M. "Mike" Babb, (210) 548-5335, [jmichaelbabb@yahoo.com](mailto:jmichaelbabb@yahoo.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2088, San Diego, 1972.**

• Marine veteran John Blazer, 1426 Whitfield Park Cir., Savannah, GA 31406, [hblazer1126@bellsouth.net](mailto:hblazer1126@bellsouth.net), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 193, Parris Island, 1948.**

• Marine veteran Lendell Maddox, (502) 449-0372, or Donnisha Maddox, 4924 Graston Ave., Louisville, KY 40216, (502) 533-4193, [loveliyah092308@gmail.com](mailto:loveliyah092308@gmail.com), wants a **recruit graduation book and photo for Plt 254, Parris Island, 1959.**

• Marine veteran Charles J. "Jim" Williams, 205 Blackburn Ave., Bedford, PA 15522, (814) 623-5378, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 302, Parris Island, 1954.**

• Marine veteran Edmund Ronan, 9913 Shady Slope Ct., Fairfax Station, VA 22039, [etronan@bellsouth.net](mailto:etronan@bellsouth.net), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 341, San Diego, 1965.**

• Marine veteran Anthony "Tony" Noble, (636) 358-8109, [ajnoble@centurytel.net](mailto:ajnoble@centurytel.net), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1015, San Diego, 1968.**

• Former Sgt Thomas M. Dunne, (304) 754-0030, [tmdunne@wave2net.com](mailto:tmdunne@wave2net.com), wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 271, Parris Island, 1967.** Drill instructors were **SSgt David W. SOMMERS** (later, the 11th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps), **Sgt Randy P. ABERNATHY** and **Sgt C. W. BILZ.**

• Marine veteran Mark Sheehan, (703) 400-7770, [markandlaurensheehan@comcast.net](mailto:markandlaurensheehan@comcast.net), wants a **recruit graduation book and photo for Plt 140, Parris Island, 1941.**

### Sales, Trades and Giveaways:

• Marine veteran Howard E. Sweitzer, 1417 N.W. 62nd Way, Margate, FL 33063, (954) 972-0555, has for sale a **color print of his illustration, "My Colt,"** signed, dated (1958) and in an 11"x14" frame. \$75 includes all costs.



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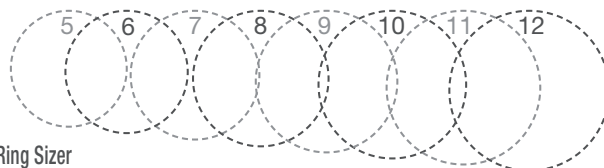
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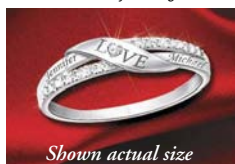
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# Mail Call

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

"Mail Call" entries are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your e-mail to: leatherneck@mca-marines.org, or write to: Mail Call Editor, *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

- Marine veteran William R. "Bill" Ellis, P.O. Box 673, Warrior, AL 35180, (205) 602-2019, wre2455@att.net, to hear from members of **Plt 109, Parris Island, 1963.**

- Former Cpl Bill Cline, 1330 Castle Pines Cir., St. Augustine, FL 32092, (631) 413-3550, to hear from those who served with **Btry G, 3d Bn, 12th Marines, RVN, 1969-70**, and from members of **Plt 129, Parris Island, 1968.** Senior drill instructor was **GySgt Bill AKEY.**

- Former Sgt Henry G. Schnitzer, P.O. Box 288, Mount Dora, FL 32756, (352) 383-2902, to hear from members of **Plt 8, Parris Island, 1946.**

- Marine veteran John C. Chester, P.O. Box 413, Wilbraham, MA 01095, (413) 596-4234, to hear from or about **Maj James RYDER, LCpl Roger T. OCTJEAN**, or others who participated in **Operation Harvest Moon, Dec. 9, 1965.**

- Marine veteran Randy Hegdahl, 3208 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55428, (612) 644-4802, to hear from members of **Plt 1025, San Diego, 1974**, or from the platoon drill instructors, **SSgt J. R. STEWART, SSgt B. L. KEYES, Sgt J. M. NICHOLS** and **Sgt G. L. TALIAN.**



COURTESY OF W. E. HIXON

- W. E. "Buddy" Hixon, 3325 CR 1129, Arlington, KY 42021, (270) 694-4208, to hear from or about **PFC HAYES** (above), who served with **1st Fire Team, 1st Plt, Co C, 1st Bn, 8th Marines, 1948-49.**

- Marine veteran Terry Williamson, (610) 637-0980, terrywl@comcast.net, to hear from those who served with **Graves Registration Plt, H&S Bn, 1st FSR, FLC at Camp Books, Da Nang, 1968-70.**

- Former Sgt Edward Sznaper, 19398 Chuparosa Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92307, (949) 433-5648, to hear from members of

**Plt 141, Parris Island, 1954**, or from any Marines who may remember him.

- Sgt Lincoln "Blinky" Gunton, P.O. Box 431, Laurel, FL 34272, (941) 484-2586, to hear from **Cpl Brian JENSEN**, who served with **Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, RVN, 1967.**

- Capt R. E. Hoover Sr., USMC (Ret), (717) 701-8051, India 6\_1968@yahoo.com, to hear from **SSgt A. J. THIBODEAU Jr.**, who was a drill instructor for **WM Plt 38, Parris Island, 1967.**

- GySgt Marshall E. Hurst, USMC (Ret), 204 Maple Ave., Hamlet, NC 28345, (910) 582-1533, to hear from **William S. "Buddy" CARTER Jr.**, from Midlothian, Va., who was stationed at **MCRD Parris Island, S.C., 1956**, and from **Mozell J. "Bunny" MCGUIRE**, from Newport News, Va., who was stationed at **MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., 1956.**

- Former Cpl Ed Howe, 51 Harvest Wind Pl., The Woodlands, TX 77382, heights nyc68@comcast.net, and former Cpl Andrew Champagne, 123 Antoine Ln., Luling, LA 70070, triciachamp@yahoo.com, to hear from or about **SSgt Ralph E. NICHOLS, Cpl Clemen "Ski" STOLINSKI, Cpl Tom YOSICK** and **Cpl Tommy HAND**, who served with **Marine Support Battalion, U.S. Naval Security Group Activity, NSA, Ft. Meade, Md., 1959-62.**

- Mark Sheehan, (703) 400-7770, mark@sheehaninsurance.com, to hear from or about **Sgt CARSTOFFEN**, drill instructor for **Plt 140, Parris Island, 1941.**

- Marine veteran George B. Clark, 379 Moody Rd., Pike, NH 03780, brasshat@myfairpoint.net, (603) 989-5697, to hear from **relatives of the late BGen Robert Livingston DENIG.**

- Marine veteran Joe "Punchy" Johnson, 261 E. Johnson St., Bergenfield, NJ 07621, (201) 385-6058, johnson261@aol.com, to hear from members of **Plt 56, Parris Island, 1956.**

- Former Capt Ralph Holiman, 510 N.W. Shamrock Ave., #214, Lee's Summit, MO 64081, (816) 600-5416, to hear from members of **Plt 141, San Diego, 1945.**





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# Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Please submit copies of original poems with first publishing rights and author's permission to print granted to *Leatherneck*. Poems may be edited or shortened, as necessary. Due to volume received, submissions will not be acknowledged or returned.

## Lifetime Marine

How can you tell I am a Marine?  
I had the honor to wear the uniform of green.  
Years later when the uniform is not a part of me,  
I'm still the Marine I used to be.

Absent a uniform when you see me today,  
But the spit and polish will never go away.  
I will be a Marine until the day I die;  
To my fellow Marines, I remain "Semper Fi."

Each day of my lifetime I thank the Corps,  
For instilling the values I'll take to death's door.  
Parris Island took a boy and made a man;  
They made me everything today that I am.

As I move through life I will stand erect,  
A picture of confidence a Marine always projects.  
I will always try to do my very best.  
As Marines, we must always stand above the rest.

From boot camp, where I became a Marine,  
To the streets and places I'm now seen,  
I'm now part of a very honorable team,  
Where the few, the proud are called U.S. Marines.

Marine veteran Donald J. McKeon

## Tough-and-Ready

Semper Fi!—We do or die!  
So it is, and that's no lie.  
Tough-and-ready all the time;  
Battle-trained and in our prime.

Rifles aimed in every war:  
This is why we joined the Corps!  
Our country needs us, this we know.  
We don't complain, and off we go.

For country, honor and our flag,  
We'll give our best—no zig, no zag.  
And when the final shot is done,  
We'll march together in the sun.

Former Cpl Chuck Parnell

## Keep Laughing

He extended his right hand, and  
Greeted me with "03."  
Though he knew I was another,  
A strong grip he gave me.

The doctor's room was quiet,  
As we two stood there.  
A few moments of words shared,  
By two men with gray hair.

He said "03" in honor.  
Our last conversation was started.  
We stood alone together talking.  
In a few moments we parted.

I had wished him, "Happy Birthday,"  
For his service to the Corps.  
Fleeting seconds passed,  
Then we walked toward the door.

"Keep laughing."  
My last words to him.  
"Either that or cry."  
His eyes had grown dim.

Two days later,  
The Birthday of the Corps—  
The last of his to see,  
For the colors he once wore.

Vietnam time,  
Come and gone.  
His heart held,  
One more dawn.

A life owed his God,  
His time had come to pay.  
To St. Peter he reported.  
He passed on Veterans Day.

Marine veteran James M. Garrett





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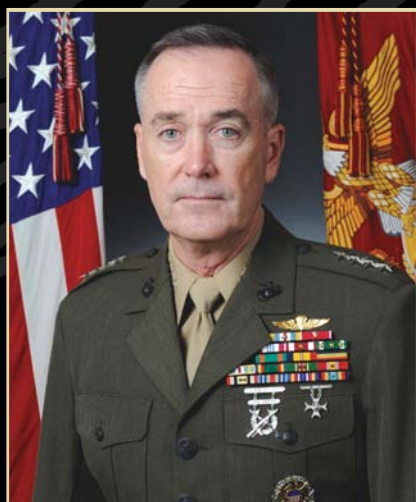


# 2013





**General James F. Amos**  
Thirty-fifth Commandant of the Marine Corps



**General Joseph F. Dunford Jr.**  
Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps  
(Pending confirmation as Commander,  
International Security Force Afghanistan)



**Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett**  
Seventeenth Sergeant Major  
of the Marine Corps

# Commanding Generals and Sergeants Major: Operating Forces

## U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command



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Corps Forces Command/  
Commander, U.S. Marine  
Corps Forces Europe/  
Commanding General,  
Fleet Marine Force Atlantic



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U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Command/Commander, U.S.  
Marine Corps Forces South,  
Miami



**Brigadier General  
Paul W. Brier, USMCR**  
Deputy Commander,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Command (Mobilized)



**James M. McNeal**  
Executive Director,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Command



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Michael F. Jones**  
Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine  
Corps Forces Command



**Major General  
Raymond C. Fox**  
Commanding General,  
II Marine Expeditionary  
Force/Commander,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Africa



**Major General  
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Commanding General,  
II Marine Expeditionary  
Force (Forward)



**Brigadier General  
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General, II Marine  
Expeditionary Force/  
Commanding General,  
2d Marine Expeditionary  
Brigade



**Brigadier General  
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General, II Marine  
Expeditionary Force  
(Mobilization)



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Sergeant Major, II Marine  
Expeditionary Force



**Sergeant Major  
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Sergeant Major, II Marine  
Expeditionary Force  
(Forward)



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Second Marine Division



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Sergeant Major,  
Second Marine Division



**Major General  
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Commanding General,  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing



**Brigadier General  
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Commanding General,  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing  
(Forward)



**Sergeant Major  
Christopher G. Robinson**  
Sergeant Major,  
Second Marine Aircraft Wing



**Brigadier General (Sel)  
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Commanding General,  
Second Marine Logistics  
Group



**Sergeant Major  
George W. Young**  
Sergeant Major,  
Second Marine Logistics  
Group



# U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific



**Lieutenant General  
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Commander, U.S. Marine  
Corps Forces Pacific



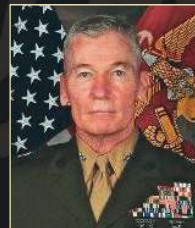
**Brigadier General  
Richard L. Simcock II**  
Deputy Commander,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Pacific



**Craig B. Whelden**  
Executive Director,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Pacific



**Sergeant Major  
William T. Stables**  
Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine  
Corps Forces Pacific



**Lieutenant General  
John A. Toolan Jr.**  
Commanding General,  
I Marine Expeditionary Force



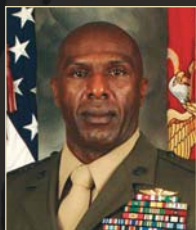
**Major General  
Charles M. Gurganus**  
Commanding General,  
I Marine Expeditionary Force  
(Forward)/Commander,  
Regional Command  
Southwest, Afghanistan



**Major General  
Melvin G. Spiese**  
Deputy Commanding  
General, I Marine  
Expeditionary Force/  
Commanding General,  
1st Marine Expeditionary  
Brigade



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Ronald L. Green**  
Sergeant Major, I Marine  
Expeditionary Force



**Sergeant Major  
Harrison L. Tanksley**  
Sergeant Major, I Marine  
Expeditionary Force  
(Forward)



**Major General  
Ronald L. Bailey**  
Commanding General,  
First Marine Division



**Major General  
David H. Berger**  
Commanding General,  
First Marine Division  
(Forward), Afghanistan



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Michael L. Kufchak**  
Sergeant Major, First Marine  
Division



**Major General  
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Third Marine Aircraft Wing  
(Forward), Afghanistan



**Major General (Sel)  
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Commanding General,  
Third Marine Aircraft Wing



**Sergeant Major  
Anthony A. Spadaro**  
Sergeant Major,  
Third Marine Aircraft Wing



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First Marine Logistics Group  
(Forward)



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Sergeant Major,  
First Marine Logistics Group



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Force/Commander,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Japan



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General, III Marine  
Expeditionary Force/  
Commanding General,  
3d Marine Expeditionary  
Brigade



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Expeditionary Force



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First Marine Aircraft Wing



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Aircraft Wing



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Third Marine Division



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Third Marine Logistics Group



**Sergeant Major  
Tamara L. Fode**  
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Third Marine Logistics Group

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Corps Forces Central  
Command



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U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Central Command



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U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Central Command (Forward)



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Marine Corps Forces North



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Forces Reserve/Marine  
Corps Forces North



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Forces Reserve Force  
Headquarters Group



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Fourth Marine Division



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**Sergeant Major  
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Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing



**Brigadier General  
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Forces Reserve)



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Group

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Operations Command, Camp  
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**Sergeant Major  
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CPT SAMUEL NIEVES

A Marine M1A1 main battle tank gets ready for action after refueling at Combat Outpost Shir Ghazi, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 27, 2012.

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Corps Forces Africa  
(also CG, II Marine  
Expeditionary Force)



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Deputy Commander,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Europe/Deputy Commander,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Africa



**Sergeant Major  
James J. McCook**  
Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine  
Corps Forces Europe/  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Africa

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Corps Forces South, Miami



**Sergeant Major  
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U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
South, Miami



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Integration/Commanding  
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Command, Quantico, Va.



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Command, Quantico, Va.



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USMCR**  
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Commandant, Combat  
Development and  
Integration (Mobilization)



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Director, Capabilities  
Development Directorate,  
Quantico, Va.



**George Akst**  
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Marine Corps Combat  
Development Command,  
Quantico, Va.



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Marine Corps Warfighting  
Laboratory, Quantico, Va.



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Marine Corps Air-Ground  
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Corps Air-Ground Task Force  
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Corps Air-Ground Combat  
Center, Twentynine Palms,  
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Installations Command



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Sergeant Major,  
Marine Corps Installations  
Command



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Commander, Marine Corps  
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Sergeant Major, Marine  
Corps Installations Pacific,  
Okinawa



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Marine Corps Installations  
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Commander, Marine Corps  
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Sergeant Major, Marine  
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East/Marine Corps Base  
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**Sergeant Major  
Ernest K. Hoopii**  
Sergeant Major, Marine  
Corps Installations East/  
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Camp Lejeune, N.C.



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Marine Corps Recruiting  
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Sergeant Major,  
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Marine Corps Recruit Depot  
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General, Western Recruiting  
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Sylvester D. Daniels**  
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Corps Recruit Depot  
San Diego/Western  
Recruiting Region



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Marine Corps Recruit  
Depot Parris Island, S.C./  
Commanding General,  
Eastern Recruiting Region



**Sergeant Major  
Gary Buck**  
Sergeant Major, Marine  
Corps Recruit Depot  
Parris Island, S.C./  
Eastern Recruiting Region





LOPL JASON MORRISON

Leathernecks with 1st Squad, 3d Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6 patrol in Sangin, Helmand province, Sept. 9, 2012.



**Brigadier General  
Francis L. Kelley Jr.**  
Commander, Marine  
Corps Systems Command,  
Quantico, Va.



**Sergeant Major  
James L. Dalgarn Jr.**  
Sergeant Major,  
Marine Corps Systems  
Command, Quantico, Va.



**John D. Burrow**  
Executive Director, Marine  
Corps Systems Command,  
Quantico, Va.



**James H. Smerchansky**  
Deputy Commander,  
Systems Engineering  
Interoperability,  
Architectures and  
Technology, Marine Corps  
Systems Command,  
Quantico, Va.



**William E. Taylor**  
Program Executive Officer  
for Land Systems,  
Marine Corps Systems  
Command, Quantico, Va.



**Sergeant Major  
Robert E. Eriksson \***  
Sergeant Major,  
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

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Willie J. Williams**  
Director, Marine Corps Staff



**Lieutenant General  
Robert E. Schmidle Jr.**  
Deputy Commandant  
for Aviation



**Major General  
John M. Croley, USMCR**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant for Aviation  
(Mobilized)



**Brigadier General (Sel)  
Matthew G. Glavy**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant for Aviation



**Russell B. Howard**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant for Aviation  
(Sustainment)



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John E. Wissler**  
Deputy Commandant for  
Programs and Resources



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Mark A. Brilakis**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant for Programs  
and Resources (Programs)



**Ariane Whittemore**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant for  
Programs and Resources



**Ann-Cecile M. McDermott**  
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Commandant for Programs  
and Resources/Fiscal  
Director of the Marine Corps



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Programs and Resources



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Operations



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Director, Operations Division



**Brigadier General  
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Director, Strategy and  
Plans Division



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Commandant for Plans,  
Policies and Operations  
(Security)



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Operations



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Assistant Deputy  
Commandant for Manpower  
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Quantico, Va.



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Cevet A. Adams**  
Sergeant Major,  
Manpower and Reserve  
Affairs, Quantico, Va.



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Programs Division, Quantico,  
Va.



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Deputy Director, Marine and  
Family Programs Division,  
Quantico, Va.



**William C. Dillon**  
Director, Semper Fit and  
Exchange Services Division,  
Quantico, Va.



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John K. Gilstrap**  
Sergeant Major, Marine and  
Family Programs Division,  
Quantico, Va.





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Angela Salinas**  
Director, Manpower  
Management Division,  
Quantico, Va.



**Sergeant Major  
Lee D. Bonar Jr.**  
Sergeant Major, Manpower  
Management Division,  
Quantico, Va.



**Michael F. Applegate**  
Director, Manpower Plans  
and Policies Division,  
Quantico, Va.



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Rex C. McMillian, USMCR**  
Director, Reserve Affairs  
Division, Quantico, Va.



**Sergeant Major  
George M. Muskiewicz**  
Sergeant Major, Reserve  
Affairs Division, Quantico, Va.



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William M. Faulkner**  
Deputy Commandant,  
Installations and Logistics



**Ronald Davis Jr.**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant, Installations  
and Logistics



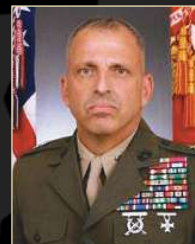
**Frances L. Sullivan**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant, Installations  
and Logistics (Contracts)



**Major General  
James A. Kessler**  
Commander, Marine Corps  
Installations Command/  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant, Installations  
and Logistics (Facilities)



**David R. Clifton**  
Deputy Assistant Deputy  
Commandant, Installations  
and Logistics (Facilities)



**Major General  
Michael G. Dana**  
Assistant Deputy  
Commandant, Installations  
and Logistics (Plans)



**Robert D. Hogue**  
Counsel for the  
Commandant of the  
Marine Corps



**Peter L. Delorier**  
Deputy Counsel for the  
Commandant of the  
Marine Corps



**Major General  
Vaughn A. Ary**  
Staff Judge Advocate  
to the Commandant of the  
Marine Corps, Headquarters,  
U.S. Marine Corps



**Brigadier General  
Vincent R. Stewart**  
Director of Intelligence



**Phillip Chudoba**  
Deputy Director of  
Intelligence



**Karin M. Dolan**  
Assistant Director of  
Intelligence (Support)



**William G. Melton**  
Assistant Director of  
Intelligence (Resources)



**James T. Simpson**  
Information Management  
Officer/Chief Technology  
Officer



**Leila Gardner**  
Senior Intelligence Analyst,  
Marine Corps Intelligence  
Activity



**Brigadier General  
Kevin J. Nally**  
Director, C4/Chief  
Information Officer of the  
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**David Green**  
Chief Technology Advisor, C4



**Brigadier General  
Steven R. Rudder**  
Legislative Assistant to the  
Commandant of the  
Marine Corps



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Director of Health Services/  
Chief Medical Officer of the  
Marine Corps



**Rear Admiral  
Margaret G. Kibben, USN**  
Chaplain of the Marine  
Corps/Deputy Chief of Navy  
Chaplains



**George W. Solhan**  
Deputy Chief of Naval  
Research for Expeditionary  
Maneuver Warfare and  
Combating Terrorism/  
Director, Marine Corps  
Science and Technology



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Juan G. Ayala**  
Inspector General of the  
Marine Corps



**Sergeant Major  
Irene Z. O'Neal**  
Office of the Inspector  
General of the Marine Corps



**Brigadier General  
Paul J. Kennedy**  
Director of Public Affairs

## Joint/Departments of Defense and Navy Assignments



**General James N. Mattis**  
Commander, United States  
Central Command



**General John R. Allen**  
Commander, ISAF  
Afghanistan/Commander,  
U.S. Forces, Afghanistan  
(Pending confirmation as  
Commander, U.S. European  
Command)



**Lieutenant General  
George J. Flynn**  
Director, J-7, Joint Staff,  
Pentagon



**Lieutenant General  
Thomas D. Waldhauser**  
Senior Military Advisor to the  
Secretary of Defense  
(EDA Oct. 30, 2012)



**Lieutenant General  
John F. Kelly**  
Commander, U.S. Southern  
Command (Promotion to  
general upon assumption of  
command. Assignment date  
pending.)



**Lieutenant General  
Walter E. Gaskin Sr.**  
Deputy Chairman, NATO  
Military Committee



**Lieutenant General  
Thomas L. Conant**  
Deputy Commander,  
U.S. Pacific Command



**Lieutenant General  
Jon M. Davis**  
Deputy Commander,  
U.S. Cyber Command



**Major General  
Darrell L. Moore, USMCR**  
Mobilization Assistant to  
Commander, U.S. Pacific  
Command



**Major General  
Michael R. Regner**  
Assistant Chief of Staff,  
C/J-5, UNC/CFC/U.S. Forces  
Korea/Commander,  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Korea



**Sergeant Major  
Jayme F. Winders**  
Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine  
Corps Forces Korea



**Major General  
Richard M. Lake**  
Deputy Director of the  
National Clandestine  
Service for Community  
Human Intelligence,  
Central Intelligence Agency



**SSgt Robert Wise, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469, fires a .50-caliber machine gun from a UH-1Y Venom Huey in Helmand province June 20, 2012.**



CPT. MEGHAN CONZALES



**Major General Timothy C. Hanifen**  
Director, Expeditionary Warfare, OPNAV



**Major General Tracy L. Garrett, USMCR**  
Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Africa Command



**Major General James B. Laster**  
Chief of Staff, U.S. Special Operations Command



**Major General Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr.**  
USMC Representative to the Quadrennial Defense Review



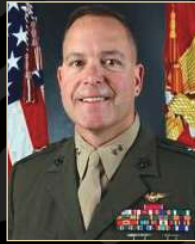
**Major General Lawrence D. Nicholson**  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan



**Major General  
Robert R. Ruark**  
Director, J-4, Logistics and  
Engineering, U.S. Central  
Command



**Major General  
William D. Beydler**  
Director, J-5, Strategy,  
Plans and Policy,  
U.S. Central Command



**Major General  
Andrew W. O'Donnell Jr.**  
Deputy Commander,  
U.S. Forces Japan



**Brigadier General  
John W. Bullard Jr.**  
Deputy Commander,  
Regional Command South,  
CJTF, ISAF, Afghanistan



**Brigadier General  
Lewis A. Craparotta**  
Director of Operations, J-3,  
U.S. Northern Command



**Brigadier General  
Brian D. Beaudreault**  
Assistant Deputy Director,  
Joint Development, J-7,  
Joint Staff



**Brigadier General  
Carl E. Mundy III**  
Executive Officer to the  
Commander, U.S. Central  
Command



**Brigadier General  
Daniel J. O'Donohue**  
Deputy Director for Force  
Management, Application  
and Support, J-8, Joint Staff



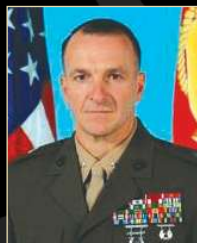
**Brigadier General  
Craig C. Crenshaw**  
Vice Director, J-4, Joint Staff



**Brigadier General  
David W. Coffman**  
Deputy Director for  
Operations, J-3 (NMCC),  
Joint Staff



**Brigadier General  
Joaquin F. Malavet**  
Principal Director (Asia and  
Pacific), Office of the Deputy  
Under Secretary of Defense  
(Asia and Pacific)



**Brigadier General  
Charles G. Chiarotti**  
Deputy Director for Plans  
and Programs, U.S. Africa  
Command



**Brigadier General  
Russell A. Sanborn**  
Deputy Director, ECJ-3,  
U.S. European Command



**Sergeant Major  
Bryan B. Battaglia**  
Senior Enlisted Advisor to  
the Chairman of the Joint  
Chiefs of Staff



**Sergeant Major  
Scott C. Mykoo**  
Sergeant Major, Defense  
Threat Reduction Agency,  
Ft. Belvoir, Va.



**Sergeant Major  
Louis M. Espinal**  
Sergeant Major, U.S.  
Southern Command



**Sergeant Major  
Antonio N. Vizcarrondo**  
Senior Enlisted Advisor,  
Defense Information  
Systems Agency, Ft. George  
G. Meade, Md. (EDA  
February 2013)

\* This sergeant major does not serve in a unit commanded by a general officer/flag officer; however, he fills an HQMC-slanted senior leadership position.

Editor's note: Assignments, ranks and photographs were as current as possible at press time based on the Manpower Management Division's public directory and sergeants major available from command websites. *Leatherneck* appreciates the support of the Manpower Management Division, Senior Leader Management Branch and SgtMaj Lee D. Bonar Jr., Sergeant Major, Manpower Management Division.



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