

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

OCTOBER 2012

Leatherneck

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1st MEB's Javelin Thrust: Template for Future Operations

Dashing Major Ortiz—
Adventurer, Marine

The A-4 Skyhawk:
Once the “Hot Rod”
of Marine Aviation

A Publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation



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

Welcome to the October 2012 digital edition of *Leatherneck*-Magazine of the Marines. This month marks the first of our digital editions 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 and photo slide-shows, and related articles.

We hope you enjoy this new digital edition. Let us know what you think by emailing us at Leatherneck@mca-marines.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style and has a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret)
Editor



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Uses a Patent Pending "Sliding-Cam" Adjustment	✗NO	☑YES
Allows rapid adjustment of the entire front length	✗NO	☑YES
Uses ALL metal hardware	✗NO	☑YES
Easily and ambidextrously Fits to both the M4 and M16	✗NO	☑YES
Training Course provided to any unit that orders	✗NO	☑YES



*Made For Marines
by Marines*





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COVER: Cpl Sam Mincey, a squad leader with Co G, 2d Bn, 25th Marines, moves through a trench in a squad assault drill July 7 during Exercise Javelin Thrust 2012 at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Read more on Javelin Thrust beginning on page 38. Photo by Sgt John M. Odette. 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.)

I have to share this bit of news so that you may never give up hope for a reunion with your fellow Marines.

I went into the Corps in 1969 with a bunch of guys from Kern County, Bakersfield, Calif. A lot of us were drafted, or joined. It didn't matter; we were on our way!

In boot camp I caught pneumonia and was held back while my "brothers" went ahead and graduated. I was picked up by a new platoon.

I eventually graduated, but with Marines of Platoon 2169. My original platoon was 2118. We all went to Vietnam. Some came home, some did not.

This was 43 years ago this past June. In April I wanted to find my brothers from Platoon 2118 and thank them for their service and for assisting me while I was in boot camp up to the time I was dropped due to illness.

I sent an article to the *Bakersfield Californian* newspaper and was shocked about a week later when I got a phone call from one of the Marines I was in boot camp with named Terry Taylor. I called him back and set up an appointment to meet him and some of our fellow Marines in Bakersfield.

I drove from Ventura County where I live to my old hometown of Bakersfield. We met at this little restaurant called Camino Real. There were about five of the guys whom I had not seen since June 26, 1969, nor been in contact with since our boot camp days.

I was so teary-eyed and proud. We weren't rich. We were local boys—farmers, laborers, welders or just plain bums in our days, but we were brothers.

We had been reminiscing since we all got together that day, and now, 43 years later, we are having a Platoon 2118 reunion on Nov. 11.

The greatest thing I took away from being in the United States Marine Corps is that respect for our brothers never goes unforgotten, nor do we ever forget. Here

we were, the six of us; some of us got drafted and some had joined the Marine Corps, but we all remembered.

Dave Betti
H&S/1/7, 1stMarDiv
RVN, 1970-71
Ventura, Calif.

Listen Up! One More Time on Tattoos

I wrote an article some years ago about tattoos. I feel I have to bring this up again. I am hurt and frustrated when I see so many young men ruining their lives with these scarring tattoos. Recently, I read in the local paper about a Marine who wanted to reenlist but was rejected for having tattoos on his arms. Is the Corps being two-faced? A Marine wanted to be a career Marine, and they cast him off.

Hey, Marine Corps, wake up. This problem is your fault. Make it a court-martial offense to get tattoos. I was a Marine for four years and was at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea. The spirit of the Corps is great. We are special and should be proud to be Marines, but it makes me sick and embarrassed to see our young men with tattoos and nowadays with large ones.

The Marine Corps can help these young men. Let's ban tattoos. My suggestion is that the Marine Corps make it a court-martial offense and a possible discharge. Let's clean up our image. Not every Marine will make a career of the Corps. Prepare these men for civilian life.

James R. Hellmann
O'Fallon, Mo.

• *You don't like tattoos. OK, we get that. But many people today do. They are not considered socially unacceptable or stigmatized with "the mark of Cain" as they once were. Military, civilians, men and women of nearly all segments of society everywhere boast "body art." There's so much that it is hardly noticed anymore, and lives are not being ruined.*

Keep in mind that Medal of Honor Marine Smedley Butler wore a giant tattoo of the eagle, globe and anchor on his chest, and MOH Marine Henry Lewis Hulbert was tattooed on practically all of his body.

It apparently did not affect their careers and certainly did not hinder their ability to fight.

In the Marine Corps, tattoos always have been allowed and will, in all probability, continue to be allowed, however (as it often is in the Corps), with certain caveats. We've talked about this before. You need to pay attention, as do other Marines thinking of getting tattoos.

The following is excerpted from MARADMIN 029/10 to provide clarity and additional guidance for the Marine Corps tattoo policy, and one should go there to receive all the details not covered here: "The policy's overall intent is to ensure Marines can be assigned whenever and wherever they are needed and to maintain our professional demeanor and the high standards expected of the Marine Corps. ...

"Tattoos/brands continue to be subject to review ... to determine if any are prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale, or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the Marine Corps. ... Tattoos/brands that are sexist (express nudity), racist, eccentric or offensive in nature, express an association with conduct or substances prohibited by the Marine Corps drug policy and the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), to include tattoos associated with illegal drugs, drug usage, or paraphernalia, are prohibited.

"Tattoos/brands that depict vulgar or anti-American content, bring possible discredit to the Marine Corps, or associate the applicant/Marine with any extremist group or organization are prohibited.

"Tattoos/brands on the head and neck are prohibited. ...

"Half-sleeve or quarter-sleeve tattoos that are visible to the eye when wearing standard physical training (PT) gear are likewise prohibited."

The ALMAR goes on to declare: "Tattoos/brands on the hands, fingers, and wrists are prohibited. Tattoos/brands in the mouth are prohibited."

The ALMAR limits officers to not more than four tattoos/brands while band tattoos cannot exceed a width of two inches.



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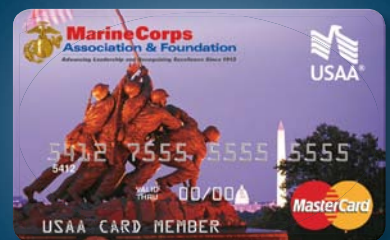


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Enlisted Marines with previously grandfathered sleeve tattoos have no restrictions for reenlistment or promotion as an enlisted Marine, but are not eligible for a Marine Corps commissioning or warrant officer program or any enlisted-to-officer program.

The Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs is the final authority for any decisions on retention, special duty assignments and tattoo content.—Sound Off Ed.

A Time When Every Leatherneck Wanted to Be a China Marine

A few days ago, I stopped at my VFW post while wearing a China Marine Association ball cap. One of my acquaintances asked what the dragon symbol and text represented. I explained that there were probably lots of hats around, but few China Marine heads left to hold them.

I was a 17-year-old private first class and probably among the last Marines to arrive in Tientsin, China, to join the 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment. The First Marine Division was drawing down in April 1947, when 20 other Marines and I arrived, having sailed from Guam aboard the Navy cargo ship USS *Skagit* (AKA-105). I had extended my two-year enlistment to leave Camp Lejeune, N.C., where I was a scout swimmer with 2d Reconnaissance Company. Some of the others were World War II combat veterans, and some were youngsters like me.

Having come from Recon, I was sent to the S-2 (intelligence) section of the battalion, but learned that I was still considered a "basic Marine," not an intel guy. While briefly in the S-2 office, I noted a map on the bulkhead with an overlay showing communist troops around Tientsin. I was assigned to the Battalion Assault Platoon and trained to use flamethrowers, bazookas and demolitions.

Later while standing guard around the officers' quarters near the racetrack, I saw Nationalist troops heading out of Tientsin, supposedly to battle the commies or "Bal-lou." I lived first at the "Caserna Romana" barracks, then moved to the "English Compound" and then a Japanese girls' school on the Pei Ho River.

The Seventh Service Regiment also was in Tientsin when I arrived, and the "Diamond 7" Club was our great place to eat, get massages and libations while on liberty.

By late summer of 1947, most of our troops had moved out of China with only 200 of us remaining. One hundred of us stood posts on property already ceded to the Chinese Nationalists while the other 100, from a truck company, had other duties, including hauling materiel to two

LSTs (landing ship, tank), which would take us to Guam, leaving Sept. 1, 1947, to join the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade.

I recall that the platoon sergeant of the battalion M-7 (tracked vehicle with 105 or 155 mm cannon) dropped thermite grenades down the barrels of the three weapons that were to be left in Tientsin. Most of our reserves of ammunition and explosives were expended in training before we left, since we were told there would not be enough space on the two LSTs (846 and 1141) to take it with us.

The question I pose to readers is, Is the China Marine Association still in existence? The last Marines to serve there, other than perhaps Marine security guards at the embassy and consulates, left Tsingtao in May 1949.

I have many great memories of those few months in China, as well as seeing the horrors of starving and crippled people. The only Chinese truck I recall had no cab and was powered by four men pulling ropes. Returning as a tourist in 2005, I saw traffic rivaling that of Manhattan.

1stLt Robert G. McEwen, USMC (Ret)
1946-67

Indian Shores, Fla.

• *There certainly is a China Marine Association; check out <http://chinamarine.org/contact.aspx>.*

They are a great group of gentlemen, who would welcome and enjoy your company.—Sound Off Ed.

A Cluster on the Air Medal

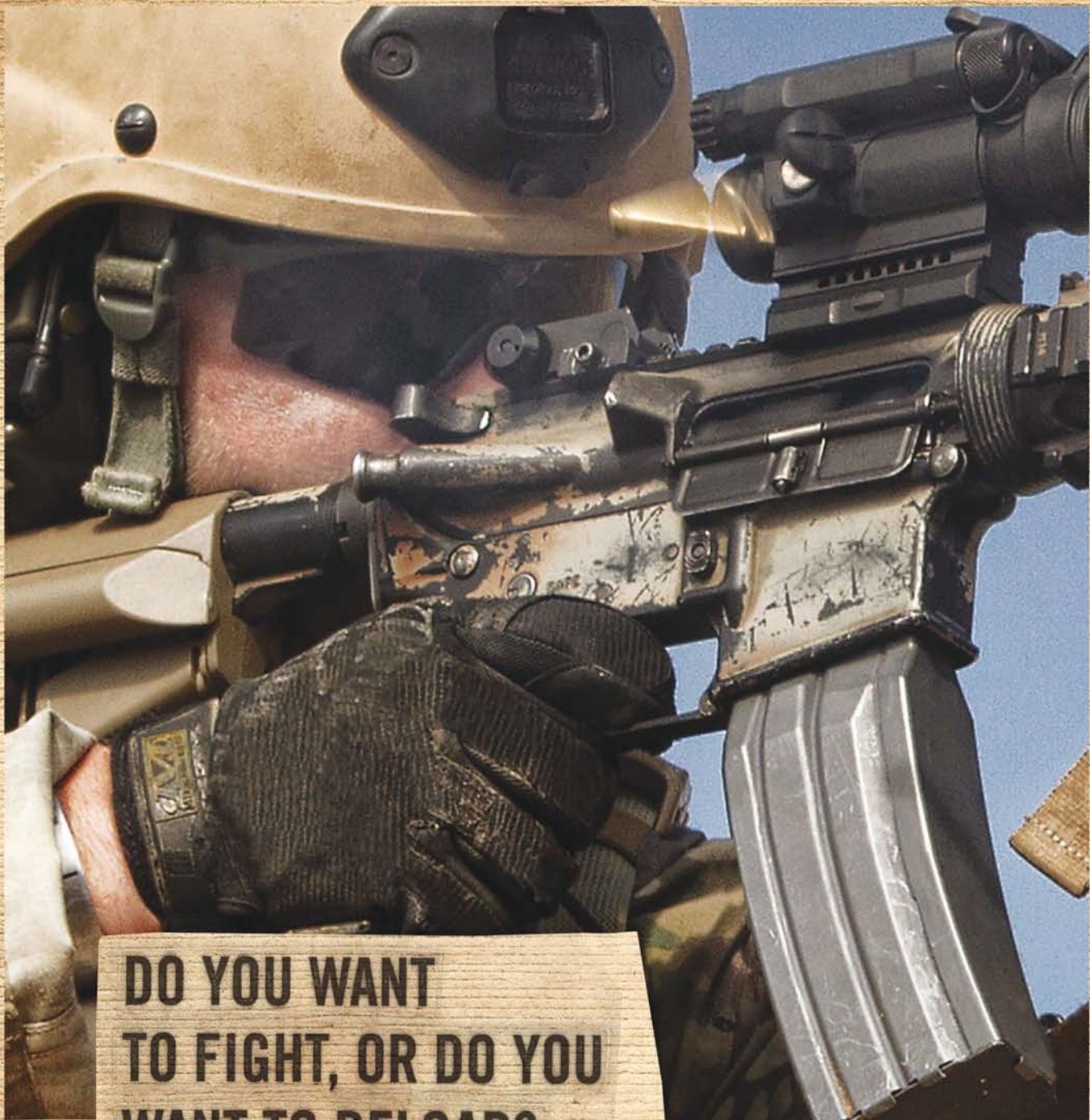
I am a volunteer working with the website marines.togetherweserved.com on the profiles of my brother Marines who were killed in action during the Vietnam War.

I have come across a reference stating that a Marine pilot killed in 1966 was awarded the Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters. Nowhere in my research about the Marine Corps awarding the Air Medal, pre-1968, is there anything about the use and awarding of Oak Leaf Clusters.

I am hoping that you have contact with some veterans who served pre-1968 in Marine aviation who could give me some information regarding the use of the Oak Leaf Cluster on the Air Medal.

GySgt Keith Brownmiller, USMC (Ret)
Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

• *I went to our resident duty expert, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 James R. "Crash" Casey, Deputy Executive Director, Marine Corps Aviation Association, who wrote: "Well, there could be a couple of answers. If our intrepid Marine aviator was prior Army, he may have been awarded Air Medals and Oak Leaf Clusters from the Army. Marines only wear the Oak Leaf*



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Cluster if it's a Department of Defense/Joint award, and the Air Medal doesn't meet that requirement.

"Prior to and during the early phase of Vietnam, second and succeeding Strike/Flight awards of the Air Medal were recognized by gold stars. When helicopter crews started flying hundreds of missions, the ribbon wasn't large enough to accommodate all the stars, so they began using bronze Roman numerals. I remember seeing Marine aviators back from Vietnam in the mid-'60s wearing gold and silver stars on their Air Medal ribbon, but never saw one with an Oak Leaf Cluster. Some of them later replaced the stars with numerals."

And, "Gunny," thanks for volunteering to work with "Together We Served."—*Sound Off Ed.*

Pit 261, 1946, No Yellow Footprints, But Boot Camp Was Still Boot Camp

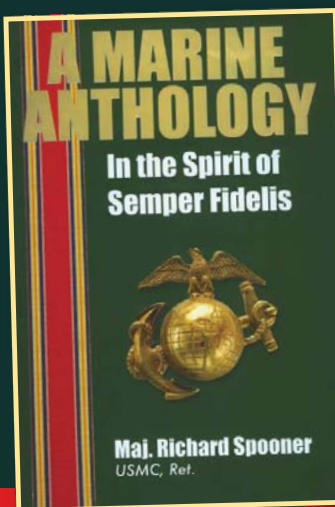
I was at Parris Island, S.C., with Platoon 261 in 1946. My recollection is that there were no yellow footprints to step onto when we got off the cattle truck (not a bus). That summer, the Corps was trying to rebuild after all the World War II vets had been discharged. I was offered a two-year regular enlistment, with no Reserve duty. Also, I could choose infantry or aviation duty.

There was the full G.I. Bill to consider. The recruiters tried to enlist enough "boots" to fill a platoon that would stay together in boot camp. Ours was named the "Rochester Platoon." We had about 40 from Rochester, N.Y., and the rest were from all over. Every couple of weeks a photographer would show up to take pictures of whatever we were doing and send them to the hometown newspaper.

Our platoon was housed in Quonset huts. One incident pertained to the head, which was a Quonset hut with a sluice box running the length on both sides of the hut. There was a 4-inch pipe with a forceful flow of cold water at one end of the sluice and a drain at the other end. The cover of the sluice had 20 holes (if I recall correctly).

This is when the "fire bomber" showed up. Picture 20 sleepy boots sitting on the head at 0430; the boot at the end with the water inlet gets up and leaves; a mysterious hand comes around the hatch and drops a balled-up flaming wad of paper into the vacant hole; then as the burning ball floats down the sluice, the boots start jumping up as the fireball floats past their posteriors.

After this rude awakening, things settle back down—but not for long. The fireball is extinguished by the water flow, but the remains clog the outlet and the cold



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water rises and the boots' bottoms are subjected to the cold water—again everyone is jumping up.

The head emptied pretty fast after that because nobody wanted to be around to clean up the mess. I don't remember if the bomber was ever caught.

And so it went—it really was a great time to be in the Corps.

Cpl Harvey Limbeck
USMC, 1946-48
Victor, N.Y.

"V" on the Barracks Hat: We Have a Hunch It Wasn't a Combat "V"

In case you have not already identified the "V" on the barracks hat of William S. Trero ("Sound Off," August), I have only a hunch.

My guess is that the photo was taken in 1945, perhaps when he was discharged. My hunch is that he might have added the "V" (unauthorized) in honor of the victory over the Japanese, and victory in the war. In 1945, all types of "V" (Victory) jewelry and other "V" items were worn by civilians and displayed everywhere. I would not be surprised if a recently discharged Marine, soldier or sailor would wear such an item, at least on V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day), and perhaps until they changed into civilian clothes.

If this was not the case for William Trero, and he actually was authorized a "V" on his barracks hat for some other reason and meaning, then I apologize.

Leon Basile
Woburn, Mass.

• *Tom Bischof of Elizabethville, Pa., also wrote in.—Sound Off Ed.*

Even "Master Gunnies" Fall From Trees

There's an illustration on page 10 of the August issue with a caption that reads: "Basic Badge With Expert Pistol Bar." However, the Q-bar in the illustration reads, "SS-Pistol."

This shows that some of us carefully read every word in *Leatherneck* each month.

John Strumsky
Catonsville, Md.

Attention to detail test. The illustration indicates the ladder bar is that of a "sharpshooter" and not "expert" as indicated.

MGySgt Ron Loy, USMCR (Ret)
Newport, N.C.

• *Yes, I realized it when it came off the press and my hash-marked PFC barkeep buddy called to say, "Ya missed it that time!" To quote an old Asian adage: "Even monkeys fall from trees."—Sound Off Ed.*



COURTESY OF G/SGT RICHARD L. RAY, USMC (RET)

A young Richard Ray is congratulated by SgtMaj Jack Jaunal on his 1965 enlistment.

Sergeant Major Jack Jaunal Set the Direction for New Marines

In the July issue I noticed with sadness the passing of Sergeant Major Jack W. Jaunal. While I saw him only a couple of times, it was enough to leave an indelible mark in my memory.

In the photo (above), he is congratulating me on Oct. 11, 1965, the day I was sworn in the Marine Corps in Seattle and left for recruit training in San Diego. To me, he was the picture-perfect Marine seen on recruiting posters. First impressions are lasting. The way he carried himself in his uniform, his deportment and his directness in talking to prospective recruits made him who he was.

While I was never to see him again, I did over the years wonder where he was and how he was doing. Had I known he lived so close to where I was brought up, I would have visited him when I made my pilgrimages home.

Rest in peace, Sergeant Major. You have earned a peaceful ending to a life dedicated to our Corps and our country.

GySgt Richard L. Ray, USMC (Ret)
Jacksonville, N.C.

More on the Corps' Various Enlistments

Apparently, the Marine Corps had a number of enlistment options in the late 1940s. I enlisted in the Reserve for two years in 1949. At that time, there was no requirement for active duty and/or boot camp, and one could opt out of the enlistment at any time, for any reason.

My unit received an activation notice on July 21, 1950, and we were told that it would be our last chance to terminate our enlistment. To my knowledge, no one opted out. My enlistment would have ended while I was in Korea, but it was extended 18 months at the convenience of the

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government. I was released from active duty in 1952. My initial enlistment was terminated. I reenlisted in the active Reserve twice for periods of two and three years and took my final discharge in 1957. I received three actual discharge papers—one for each enlistment.

I was one of the few Marines who never went to boot camp. Having enlisted in 1949, activated in 1950 and sent overseas on Oct. 1, 1950, I landed in North Korea on Nov. 6, 1950, and left Korea on Nov. 26, 1951.

Former SSgt Len Martin, USMCR
Beverly Hills, Fla.

A Challenge Coin That Reminds Him Of Staff Sergeant Andy Ciriaco

Marine Oliver Barner's August "Letter of the Month" regarding the challenge coin tradition compelled me to tell my own story. I presently own challenge coins given to me by our 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James T. Conway, and the Marine Corps League Commandant, Vic Voltaggio.

But the one that shines most bright was presented to me years ago by Staff Sergeant Andy Ciriaco. When he presented it to me he told me that it saved his life many times over, just as I had, he said, by encouraging him to enlist in the Marine Corps. Surviving more than 100 jumps in Force Recon, Andy succumbed to a heart attack this past summer.

When I first met Andy, he was a student of mine headed for trouble, and I encouraged him to join the Corps, as I had. He took my advice and made a career out of it, which included stints as a drill instructor and a member of the famed Silent Drill Platoon. "Gunny" Derek Evans and Sgt Victor Fosse, who were mentioned in the "Letter of the Month," are correct. It means the world to me.

Bill Ober
Huntington, N.Y.

Young Marines May Not Remember "Hanoi Jane," but RVN Vets Have Never Forgotten Her

I just got back from Pittsburgh after visiting Mrs. Anna Mary Newman. Her only child, Charles D. Newman, was killed in action Dec. 18, 1969, in Vietnam. I found her after 40 years and have visited her three times. I was with her son when he was killed, so when I met her she took me in as an adopted son.

She gave me all of her son's old Marine stuff. Some were issues of *Leatherneck*. I was surprised to see in the July 1968 issue a pinup photo of Jane Fonda. Was this before she was sitting on the North Vietnamese antiaircraft gun? I am sure it was, or you never would have printed it.



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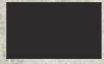


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I read that some politicians and news pundits have said she is one of the most influential women of the 20th century. She is a traitor, and the veterans of the global war on terrorism should know about her disgusting acts. Many of the people I talk to do not know, and you need to let them know, even if it is old news to Vietnam veterans.

Joseph A. Nichols
Co A, 9th Engineer Bn
RVN, 1969-70
Summit Hill, Pa.

• She was a young woman and appearing in the movie "Barbarella" when Leatherneck published her pinup. That was before her escapades into North Vietnam with her commie buddies. It is unlikely most of us will ever forgive her. Too bad, I really liked her father, Henry.—
Sound Off Ed.

Unsung Marine Combat Artist/Sculptor

After a five-year enlistment, a husky 6-foot-4-inch, 27-year-old Austin Deuel reenlisted as a Marine Reserve private first class in 1967 on the promise of getting into combat.

He was sent out from Division of Information, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps to the Combat Information Bureau in Da

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Deuel lost no time in covering a combined action platoon during Operation Union 1 and the winding down of the battles of Hills 881 South and North above Khe Sanh, as well as Operation Hickory.

After three months, Deuel returned to HQMC—only to have his work rejected.

In researching my 2002 book, “Art of War,” I came across his work and was astounded that it had been rejected. I contacted him for the full story and, from my personal point of view, judged his work—although self-taught—brilliant and certainly worthy of inclusion in the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection.

The puzzling lack of appreciation of his art is possibly due to his unique, untutored style, that in its straightforward simplicity lacks a degree of sophistication, but is nevertheless honest and exactly what a combat artist is tasked to do.

As to the magnificent San Antonio sculpture by Deuel in the August *Leatherneck* article “881 South and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of San Antonio,” written by Albert J. Nahas, Deuel told me he had never sculpted before—this was his first. Consequently, it is all the more creditable that it is also the only known American firsthand sculpture of a combat scene

done by an eyewitness (Marine sculptor Colonel John Rogers, notwithstanding)—and one that elicits tears from many upon seeing it.

Austin Deuel went on to become a well-known Western artist and writer. His book, “Vietnam: Even God Is Against Us,” was based on the dramatic painting of Hill 881 that was also rejected by the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection.

Former PFC Austin Deuel certainly deserves proper recognition and inclusion in the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection at the National Museum of the Marine Corps for his overlooked works.

Col H. Avery Chenoweth, USMCR (Ret)
Perry, Ga.



• *And thank you, Col Chenoweth, for using your artist's brush to dab a little light on an overlooked Marine and his artwork. We are sending you our non-combat, artist-made MCA&F challenge coin.—Sound Off Ed.*

Brothers Don and Phil, Doo-wop and “The Essex”

In the summer of 1963, the Everly Brothers were stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., with the Sixth Marine Regiment. I was assigned to Headquarters Battalion,

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Second Marine Division, located next to 6th Marines, and one Sunday heard some singing coming from a barracks. I went over and the Everly Brothers were sitting in the ladder well singing hymns in harmony. They were great! Also at that time, there was a small group of Marines in 2dMarDiv who had formed a group called "The Essex," and they had a Top-10 hit called "Easier Said Than Done."

When the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred in the fall of 1962, I deployed in USS *Boxer* (LPH-4) and was quartered in the parachute loft between the flight and hangar decks just aft of a twin 5-inch gun mount. The night before shooting was to begin, I was assigned to help the 2d Force Recon Pathfinders board HUS-1 Seahorse helicopters of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, "The Flying Tigers," stationed on our sister ship USS *Iwo Jima* (LPH-2), for a night insertion into Cuba. They had pioneered the first jumps from Seahorses in 1960.

It was last light, and with their heavy loads of weapons, ammo, radios, marker panels, parachutes and other gear, they could barely walk, let alone mount the wooden steps. I spoke to one member at some length while we waited on the flight deck. He was a singer from a well-known

[continued on page 75]

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THE WAR ON TERROR

Edited by R. R. Keene



SGT APRIL CAMPBELL, USA

U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker and unidentified leathernecks hold the framed certificate designating the ambassador an Honorary Marine at International Security Assistance Force Headquarters, July 22. Ambassador Crocker, only the 75th person to become an “Honorary Marine,” accepted the honor as he was departing Afghanistan and retiring from the U.S. Foreign Service.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

■ Kabul

Ambassador to Afghanistan Promoted to Honorary Marine

In recognition of his service alongside U.S. Marines throughout a highly distinguished 41-year diplomatic career, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker received the title of Honorary Marine at the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters, July 22, in Kabul.

“I am deeply, deeply touched,” said Ambassador Crocker following the surprise announcement, which came during a farewell dinner in his honor as he prepared to conclude his tour in Afghanistan and retire from the U.S. Foreign Service. “Those of you who know me, know how deeply attached I am to the Marine Corps. There has always been—my whole career—a special bond between me and the United States Marine Corps.”

General John R. Allen, the commander of the 50-nation ISAF coalition, presided over the ceremony. He was flanked by a phalanx of leathernecks, including the Marines who guard the U.S. Embassy in

Kabul and who nominated the ambassador for the title. They presented Ambassador Crocker with his Honorary Marine certificate and pinned a solid-gold eagle, globe and anchor to his lapel.

“We are honored to have you with us, in our Corps,” Gen Allen said. “For we Marines, we take very, very seriously the legacy of our Corps and what it means to wear the eagle, globe and anchor. [This pin] is only given to Honorary Marines.”

Approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the honor recognizes individuals in the civilian community who have made extraordinary contributions to the Corps. Ambassador Crocker is the 75th person to receive the title.

The ambassador, who was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut during the bombing of the Marine Barracks in 1983, has taken a personal interest in the Marines serving with the security detachments at U.S. embassies. During the 1990s, Ambassador Crocker continued to work alongside Marines while variously serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Kuwait and Syria.

“There is a special relationship between the United States Foreign Service and the Marines,” Ambassador Crocker said. “You have guarded our embassies since the end of World War II. We have celebrated together; we have sacrificed together.”

In January 2002, when he went to Afghanistan to reopen the American Embassy in Kabul as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, the ambassador was defended by the Marines of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. From there, he went on to serve alongside Marines in Baghdad and Pakistan before returning to Kabul in July 2011.

“Thank you. Thank you for thinking of me,” the ambassador said. “Thank you for knowing what the most important thing there could possibly be to me would be. I knew about Honorary Marines, but I never dreamed I would be one.”

SGT April Campbell, USA
PA, ISAF

■ Kajaki District

One Team, One Fight: Afghan Forces Work Against Insurgents

As Afghan National Security Forces take over for Marines operating in Helmand province, they coordinate their efforts through an Operational Control Center-District in the Kajaki District.

The OCCD, advised by Marines with Police Advisor Team 4, Regimental Combat Team 6, ensures all the operations of the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Civil Order Police and Afghan Uniformed Police are well coordinated.

“The OCCD is like a [command operations center] for the ANSF,” said Corporal Franklyn L. Plummer, an assistant advisor with Police Advisor Team 4. “It’s a partnership . . . It’s so they can communicate together and help each other out.”

“Let’s say that ANCOP [Afghan National Civil Order Police] is in a firefight . . . near an ANA [Afghan National Army] post. The [ANCOP] would let the [ANA] know they’re . . . taking enemy contact. The ANA nearby can move to help.”

Kajaki’s Operational Control Center-



SGT MICHELE WATSON

In Afghanistan, another Marine unit cases its colors and heads home. Members of CLB-5, 1st MLG (Fwd) have been deployed to Camp Dwyer since April. Doing the honors on July 30 are the unit commander, LtCol Robert Meade, right, and the battalion sergeant major, SgtMaj Troy Black.

District is a new effort, and the advisors help the different services work together.

“This concept is something that may be unfamiliar to the [Afghan] forces, and with each force having distinct roles, a lot of coordination needs to take place,” said First Lieutenant Bryant Yee, officer in charge, Kajaki District Police Advisor Team.

The Marines said they look forward to helping the Afghans coordinate their efforts and help them fight as one.

“They work together well,” said Plummer. “There can be a little friction between each group, but they do work well together.”

“The OCCD has definitely made the ANSF more effective,” said Yee.

Cpl Kenneth Jasik
Combat Correspondent, RCT-6

■ Camp Dwyer CLB-5 Cases Colors, Heads Home

Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward) stood proudly as their colors were cased, after a tour in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Meade, CLB-5 commanding officer, and Sergeant Major Troy Black folded the colors at Camp Dwyer, July 30, marking the end of a successful albeit shortened stay in Helmand province.

Brigadier General John J. Broadmeadow, Commanding General, 1st MLG (Fwd), spoke to the Marines and sailors at the ceremony about their accomplishments over the past few months.

“You have been incredibly successful in what you’ve done out here,” BGen Broadmeadow told battalion members. “You have helped to off-ramp three infantry battalions and a regimental headquarters. You have reset the battlespace out here,

and you have done all of that on top of continuing to support those units in combat.”

About the shortened deployment, BGen Broadmeadow said, “We don’t measure success by the length of time that we’re out here.”

During their time forward deployed, Marines and sailors with CLB-5 conducted daily combat logistics patrols to multiple forward operating bases, patrol bases and combat outposts. In addition to supporting



JASON MONROE

the retrograde throughout the area, the battalion also provided direct support to infantry units by delivering food, mail and needed supplies to remote locations.

LtCol Meade said: “We’re not leaving early; we’re leaving because our mission has been completed, and we have done it in fine fashion.”

Sgt Michele Watson
Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)

■ Patrol Base Eredvi Engineers Complete Construction Job; Expand Size, Capabilities of PB

More than 100 leathernecks from Engineer Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward) completed their largest mission to date in Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 15.

Patrol Base Eredvi, manned primarily by troops from the Republic of Georgia, underwent multiple construction projects that included moving the helicopter landing zone and adding a firing point for a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

“We’ve expanded the base by 1,000 feet to the north, 400 to the south and 450 to the west,” said Captain Anthony Rowley, company commander of Engineer Co. “We added a new 120 mm mortar site and an area for HIMARS.”

Additionally, the Marines added six guard towers for security and a location for the Persistent Threat Detection System. This system is a blimp that provides additional surveillance for coalition forces by using cameras to track movement in outlying areas. Together, all of these projects became a major task for the Marine engineers.

“This is the biggest mission I’ve done out of four combat deployments,” said Sergeant Darrell Elisaia, squad leader of 1st Platoon, Engineer Co. “There was so much [heavy equipment] work just to get the force protection for the [barriers] and the berms.”

The Marines worked during the long, hot day and into the darkest hours of the night to complete the new projects and push out the perimeter.

“We were doing 24-hour operations to

help the job go faster,” said Elisaia. “The hardest parts about this mission were the landing zone and the HIMARS because they required so much heavy equipment support.”

During the mission, Marines experienced various challenges. Some of the machinery had mechanical problems, which slowed down the operation. Also, the timeline for completion was cut by five days. Despite these obstacles, the group overcame adversity.

“Even though our deadline moved closer, I knew we would still get the mission accomplished,” said Elisaia.

When the equipment was up and running, the Marines were quick to get back on track.

“As a sergeant, I am supposed to task my corporals and make sure we have enough people out there getting the job done,” said Elisaia. “The platoon works really well together, and my team did a great job accomplishing their mission.”

First Plt started the mission and later was joined by 2d Plt to help increase the rate of progress during the large operation.

HELMAND PROVINCE



SECURITY FOR CG—Marines with the Personal Security Detachment, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward) escort their commanding general, BGen John J. Broadmeadow, July 17. The detachment is responsible for security of the CG when he travels.



SGT MICHELE WATSON



SGT MICHELE WATSON

Above left: LCpl Eric Lesemann, left, and Cpl Emily Warfield, combat engineers with 8th ESB, set up concertina wire around the expanded perimeter of PB Eredvi on July 3.

Above right: The Marine combat engineers used their heavy equipment and hand tools to push the perimeter of PB Eredvi out several hundred feet in all directions.

“We came out here to assist 1st Platoon and provide security,” said Sgt Travis Moser, 2d Plt. “We helped with whatever they needed, like building latrines [heads] and hygiene tables. Most of the operation was [done with] heavy equipment, but we helped with everything else.”

In a little more than two weeks, the group completed its mission, met its deadline and remained ready for its next project. The group spent more than 18,000 man-hours to finish its biggest mission so far.

Sgt Michele Watson

Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)

■ Patrol Base Eredvi

No Beans or Bandages—This Marine Supplies the Bullets and the Rockets

For Battery S, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, the responsibility of tracking almost \$6 million worth of ammunition rests in the hands of 21-year-old Lance Corporal Ryan Chandrapaul. As the ammunition chief and armory chief, he orders, tracks and secures everything from rockets to machine guns.

“Before I deployed, I did support for [Exercise] Mojave Viper and I learned more about ammo in those six months than most do in years,” said Chandrapaul. “So now, I know a lot about the weapons systems and the ammunition fired from them so I can better support any unit I’m with.”

Before Chandrapaul became a Marine, he was interested in becoming a healthcare administrator, but changed his mind. “I wanted a challenge, and so I went for the biggest one I could find. I’ve always been naturally competitive even with the little things, and the Marine Corps offered an actual challenge, so I took it.”

No stranger to hard work, Chandrapaul has worked odd jobs since he was young

and has taken the same mentality of hard work to every job.

“I’ve been working since I was 12—from everything from my aunt’s clothing store to web designer for a rental car company,” Chandrapaul said. “Each place I’ve worked at had a mentor that told me hard work pays off in the end. It still does, especially here.”

Staff Sergeant Samuel Avila, Platoon Sergeant, 2d Plt, “Sierra” Btry, is Chandrapaul’s direct supervisor, and has seen how he has taken on the responsibility normally placed on a more senior Marine.

“Even though [Chandrapaul] is just a lance corporal, he is in charge of keeping track of all weapons and ammunition we have here,” said Avila. “It’s his skillset and work ethic that make him such an asset and the go-to guy for all things ammo.”

“The rounds and rockets he’s responsible

for end up as artillery fire in our [area of operations], and I know that’s something he’s proud of,” Avila added.

Chandrapaul plans on making a career in the Marine Corps and has his sights set on a more challenging profession as a Marine.

“When I reenlist, I plan on being an explosive ordnance disposal technician,” Chandrapaul said.

“It’s cool that you mix your job with the thrill of doing it. If I can help save lives by doing my job, then it was all worth it,” Chandrapaul added.

Sgt James Mercure

Combat Correspondent, Regional Command Southwest

■ Camp Dwyer Marine Advisor Builds Relations And Mentors ANA Soldiers

In 2001, a surge of applicants lined up at the doors of recruiting offices, eager to enlist. For Staff Sergeant Harry Petit-Homme, his choice to join the Marine Corps already had been made.

“I had already joined the Delayed Entry Program, and when 9/11 happened, my shipping date got pushed back a couple weeks,” said Petit-Homme. “Going through boot camp, there was a lot of talk of going to war.”

Petit-Homme was born in Nassau, Bahamas, and lived there until 1997, when his mother moved their family to the United States. Originally from Haiti, his parents had a negative view of the military.

“The military was basically the president’s gangsters in Haiti, so my family’s perception about the military isn’t what it’s like in the U.S.,” said Petit-Homme. “My family thought I was crazy for signing up.”

After six years in service, Petit-Homme finally obtained his U.S. citizenship.



SGT JAMES MERCURE

LCpl Ryan Chandrapaul, the S/5/11 ammunition and armory chief, orders, tracks and secures everything from rockets to machine guns as he supports the firing battery in its multiple missions in Afghanistan.

HELMAND PROVINCE



CPL ISAAC LAMBERTH

60 YEARS OF SERVICE—Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, known as the “Ugly Angels,” completed a memorial flight over Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 9. The flight marked the last combat mission for the Ugly Angels (the squadron will be deactivated later this year) and the end of service for the CH-53D Sea Stallion model of the Sikorsky-made helicopter. In 1952, when HMH-362 stood up as a squadron, it was a Marine medium helicopter squadron, and later, while flying UH-34 Seahorses, it was the first Marine helicopter squadron in Vietnam.

“It was an accomplishment for me, but also something I did for my mom,” said Petit-Homme. “She was the one who got our family our green cards, and she had always been the one who wanted to become a citizen.”

In 2004, Petit-Homme deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and currently is serving on a second combat deployment in Afghanistan as an advisor to the Afghan National Army (ANA). As part of the Embedded Partnering Team, he works as the transportation advisor to the 5th Kandak, 1st Brigade at Camp Garmsir, Afghanistan.

“Right now, we’re helping the Afghan people stand on their own two feet,” said Petit-Homme. “This is a country that has been at war for 30 to 40 years. Being here and giving them guidance is very important.”

Petit-Homme said his previous experience working with foreign militaries in Europe helps him in his current billet.

“Basically, we were strengthening relationships with partner nations, and here I am, four years later, trying to develop that relationship with Afghanistan,” he said.



SGT MICHELE WATSON

SSgt Harry Petit-Homme is Bahamas-born, but since becoming a Marine, has traveled the world working with multiple foreign militaries.

“Partnering has been around the Marine Corps for a long time, but it’s kind of like we’re making history here.”

Having grown up in the Bahamas, Petit-Homme said he believes he can relate better to the ANA soldiers he works with.

“Because I grew up in a different country, I am better able to understand the shortfalls of a different culture,” said Petit-Homme. “I treat the soldiers like I would want to be treated and try to help them figure out their shortfalls. If you tell them to do something but don’t explain the purpose ... they don’t understand it.”

Petit-Homme said he is thankful for the opportunity to work as a part of the EPT and have the chance to make a difference in someone else’s life.

“Doing this type of work is the kind of thing that keeps me in the Corps,” said Petit-Homme. “The experience has been outstanding, and I’m grateful to have this job. It’s not just me teaching [the ANA] but learning from them as well.”

Sgt Michele Watson

Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)





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MARINE RESERVE

PETER ORTIZ

Not a Good Candidate *Ever* for a Desk Job

Story by Laura Homan Lacey · Photos courtesy of the author

In the summer of 1945, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander R. A. Coen summed up his interview with then-Major Peter Ortiz who had just returned from Europe where he had been a prisoner of war by explaining that Ortiz was “an aggressive, alert, energetic and highly competent field officer who has led a life of romantic adventure for the past 14 years. Coming from a privileged but broken home, he never acquired the conventional standards of this culture. A childhood spent in travel both in the United States and Europe accustomed him to change and excitement. Six years in the Foreign Legion whetted his thirst for adventure which 6 years of service in war have not quenched.

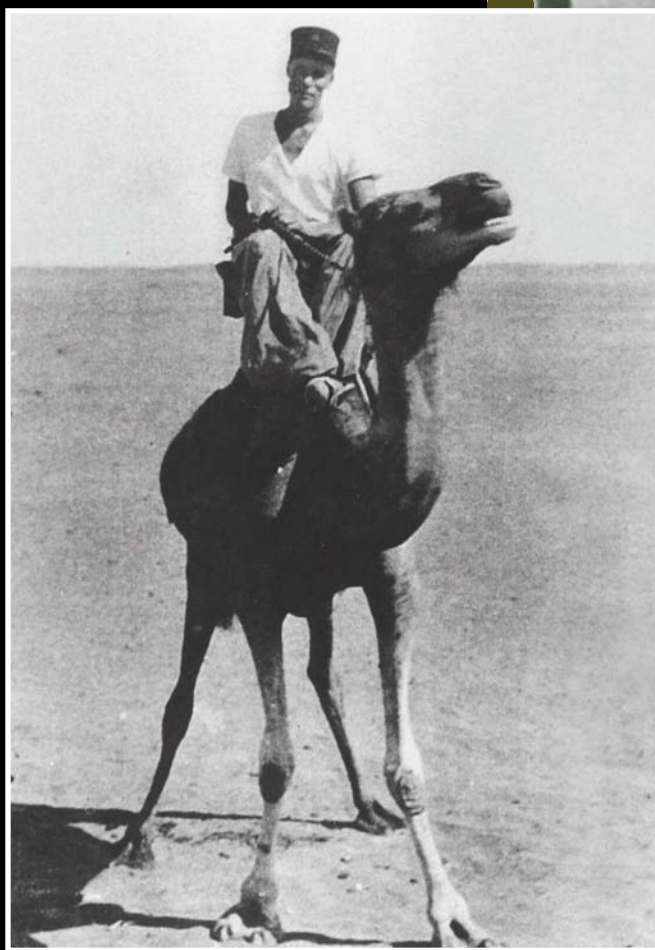
“He already holds the Navy Cross and minor decorations and is the type who will win more. He views difficulties as a challenge which adds spice to his job. He is dynamic and an excellent field leader. He is highly recommended for an SO (Special Operations) field mission, but is not regarded as a good candidate ever for a desk assignment.”

At the time of this interview, the 32-year-old Ortiz already had lived a life worthy of the movies. He was handsome, well connected and restless. He had run away from college in France with his beautiful Polish girlfriend and then joined the French Foreign Legion.

When he enlisted in the Marine Corps and showed up at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., for recruit training in 1942, he already had fought in North Africa, parachuted out of airplanes, driven race cars, been wounded, been a POW and escaped and had a chest full of medals. In a letter to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps from Parris Island, the camp commander, Colonel L. R. Jones, wrote the Commandant, Lieutenant General Thomas

Holcolmb, about a “unique new recruit,” who had been brought to his attention and should be considered for commission.

One can just imagine the reaction to Ortiz on the drill fields of Parris Island. During the first full inspection, Ortiz appeared with his numerous medals and proper “Oxford” accent and was chewed out properly. However, it soon was proved that he rated the medals, and as his “Top” Sergeant Steven Marcus said later, “He



Legionnaire “Pierre” Ortiz sits astride a camel, a common conveyance in North Africa, circa 1932-33.



Legionnaire Ortiz (here in greatcoat) left North Africa and transferred to Europe to help stop the German advance. He was wounded in action between the Legion and Germans in 1940 and then imprisoned in a concentration camp in Austria.

was the perfect recruit, followed every order and did it all to perfection.” Ortiz quickly was commissioned a second lieutenant.

Despite having completed 154 parachute jumps with the French Foreign Legion, Ortiz was sent to New River, N.C., to the parachute school. Ortiz quipped, “The Legion had *its* way and the Marine Corps had the *right* way; I never minded jumping. Airplane travel made me sick so I was happy to jump out.” However, Ortiz was not meant to be there long.

In 1942, on the eve of Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa, someone with his background and expertise could serve the Marine Corps in a valuable manner. Ortiz arrived in North Africa in the winter of 1943 and reported to another unique Marine, Colonel William Eddy, a hero of World War I and the Marine who was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services

(the precursor of the CIA), to be the conduit of information in North Africa.

That winter was a series of adventures for Ortiz. He moved easily amongst French and British units and continually was running into boarding school and ski chums from before the war, which allowed him access to almost anything in ways which today seem hard to imagine. For example, at one point he linked up with a British light-armored reconnaissance unit where he knew the commander, borrowed a tank or two and engaged in a skirmish. Ortiz was wounded in March 1944, and despite doctor’s orders and dire predictions about his wounds, he talked another old friend

into flying him away from the field hospital and back to Algiers.

Eddy and his young assistant, Captain F. P. Holcomb, son of the Marine Commandant, LtGen Thomas Holcomb, were impressed with Ortiz and wanted him to work with them in North Africa, but not under the circumstances at the time.

Eddy was a bit uneasy about Ortiz’s status and thought it best for Ortiz to return to the States. As Ortiz explained in a letter to William Donovan, director of the OSS, his designation as an assistant naval attaché

“placed him and me in a rather awkward position as it is not in accordance with the ‘rule’ for a diplomatic representative

“The Legion
had *its* way
and the
Marine Corps
had the
right way.”

to participate in action.” Ortiz was returned Stateside and to Donovan.

In the spring of 1943, discreet, although expedited, inquiries were being made about Ortiz to facilitate his transfer to the OSS. In his recommendation of Ortiz, Capt Holcomb wrote: “During the period in North Africa that I had known Captain Peter Ortiz it has been apparent to me that by his loyalty, courage and military training he represents what the Marine Corps expects of its officers.

“His voluntary participation in Tunisia in a highly dangerous and successful combat mission is evidence of his ability. In this report it is highly certain that Captain Ortiz is most highly qualified for the work and that his experience recommends him particularly for any operations embracing France-American cooperation against the Germany Army and its organizations.”

Ortiz was transferred to the OSS and, in particular, to the section known as SO (Special Operations). However, rather than returning to North Africa, Donovan had a new adventure in mind for him. Ortiz was going back to Europe. His assignment, Operation Union, would serve as the prototype for a new type of operation that would be known as the Jedburgh Operations. The Jedburghs, or Jeds, as they were eventually known (named after the area in Scotland where they were trained), were joint teams of British, French and Americans who were inserted behind enemy lines.

Those Jed teams were one of the most successful OSS operations during World War II. Union I was a multifaceted operation designed to help the Allies begin the process of retaking Fortress Europe. Ortiz was to be inserted into southeastern France

where he was to link up with the local French Résistance, the Maquis. He and his team were to assess their capabilities and loyalties and prepare them for the upcoming invasion. Additionally, he was to work alongside those French fighters and create havoc behind enemy lines.

On that team were British Col H. H. A. Thackwaite; a Frenchman who was their radioman, Andre Foucault; and Ortiz.

Over time, the circle began tightening around Ortiz and his team. The Germans were outraged by this Marine officer who was becoming such a rallying point for the French.

They were not spies; they were military men. They parachuted in civilian attire, but the men carried with them their military uniforms. Once on the ground, they changed into them, complete with ribbons, to meet the French. One only can imagine how the Maquis must have felt seeing Ortiz, an American, resplendent in his Marine Corps uniform, but also displaying the Medaille Militaire and the Croix de Guerre with palm and stars and other French medals! Additionally, they were the first free Allied officers in uniform in France since 1940.

Between January and May 1944, the team would demoralize the Germans and help the French in southern France develop into a cohesive and organized fighting force. The team would realize quickly

that one of the most pressing needs for the French was supplies. They had the will, believed Ortiz, but not the material capabilities. The French wanted the Germans out of their country, but they needed help. When not working directly with the French fighters, Ortiz was gathering information. He made it clear from the beginning that he planned “to mix with the Germans and to get information.”

Ortiz spoke five languages, including French, like a native, and enough German to be able to wander around with impunity. That did not prevent him from standing out. Not only was he handsome, he was more than 6 feet 2 inches tall and easily recognizable. He needed a cover, and his background again served him well. His father had been the editor of the French *Vogue*, so he claimed to be a French fashion designer who was out of work and hanging out in the southeastern region for the winter sports.

Ortiz wore many hats while in France. One night while in his Marine Corps uniform, he blew up railroads, which bolstered the French morale immensely. The following night, he was the slightly effete fashion designer, who often drank the night away with German officers. One identity that seemed to make Thackwaite particularly nervous was that of car thief.

On several occasions, Ortiz relieved the Gestapo of their vehicles, and one night he procured 10 Gestapo cars and passes to help rescue downed British airmen. He took several airmen to the border of Spain and later received the Order of the British Empire for his services to the RAF. In all of those roles, he strode into any room with such confidence that no one doubted him. One downed airman,



The Maquis greet Maj Pete Ortiz (third from right) and the OSS members of Union II.



Maj Ortiz relaxes in uniform back in the States after the war.

Ernest Bell, wrote, “I remember sitting in the car, going we knew not where, but feeling this chap knows what he is doing and we’ll be all right.”

By operating in plain view, Ortiz also was able to recruit people. He needed people of all sorts and seemed, perhaps obviously, to be very successful in recruiting young women to the cause. Women were used in many capacities in the Résistance and often were less suspected than men were. The team gathered and passed information by radio, and that meant the men were always on the move because radios could also be tracked.

Likewise, information was passed to the team in seemingly innocent messages on the BBC. As time passed, the network became more sophisticated. The supplies that Ortiz had requested to be dropped in helped the fighting men, and the information that they gathered helped the French prepare for the upcoming Allied invasion.

Not all of Capt Ortiz’s exploits went as planned, and he was always in danger. Many of the people with whom he worked while conducting Union I would not live long enough to see the liberation of France. Over time, the circle began tightening around Ortiz and his team. The Germans were outraged by this Marine officer who was becoming such a rallying point for the French. His impudence was demoralizing. There was a bounty on his head, and it became difficult for him to move around easily to gather information.

Before he left France, however, he would pull off an exploit that would become legendary. One night while Ortiz was carousing with his German-officer “friends,” who loved having him around because of his propensity to buy them expensive champagne, he grew tired of their complaints. They complained about the damn Marine who was causing them grief. They bragged about the recent killing of some local Maquis and made various disparaging remarks about President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife.

Ortiz excused himself, left the bar and returned to his safe house where he dressed in his uniform and government-issue trench coat. He returned to the bar, removed his trench coat, and there stood the Marine Corps officer, in all his glory, with his gun leveled at the shocked German soldiers. “A toast to the President of the United States,” he ordered. His sidearm helped assure the emptying of glasses. “A toast, to the Marine Corps.” Again, glasses were drained as Ortiz disappeared into the night, putting his race-car driving skills to good use as he sped away. Ortiz left the French and the Germans with a taste of Marine Corps audacity.



For action from 8 Jan. to 20 May 1944, Ortiz (above) was awarded his first Navy Cross in London, presented by ADM Harold Stark, the author of the United States’ Europe-first strategy and the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe. The awards display (below) hangs in the Ortiz home. Note that Ortiz was confirmed to the grade of colonel upon retirement.





The six-man OSS Union II force (from left) of Sgt John Bodnar, Maj Pete Ortiz, GySgt Robert LaSalle, Sgt Fred "Fritz" Brunner, CPT Frank Coolidge (U.S. Army Air Corps) and Sgt Jack Risler survived "The Great Parachute Drop" and are pictured near Savoie, France, in August 1944.

Ortiz was ordered back to England in May. The Union team left the Maquis cohesive and better supplied and set the stage for a productive partnership. The Union operation also gave the Allies a much better assessment of the material assets needed by the French. Supply drops would become a vital part of preparation for the future Allied landing. The Germans also had been put on notice: The Allies were coming.

Once back in London, Ortiz was promoted to major and was awarded the first of two Navy Crosses. The citation states: "For extraordinary heroism while attached to the United States Naval Command, Office of Strategic Services, London, England in connection with the military operations against an armed enemy, in enemy-occupied territory, from 8 January to 20 May 1944.

"Operating in civilian clothes and aware that he would be subject to execution in the event of his capture, Major Ortiz parachuted from an airplane with two other officers of an Inter-Allied mission to reorganize existing Maquis groups and organize additional groups in the region of Rhone. By his tact, resourcefulness and leadership he was largely instrumental in effecting the acceptance of the mission by local resistance leaders and also in organizing the parachute operations for the delivery of arms, ammunition and equipment for use by the Maquis in his region. Although his identity had become known to the Gestapo with the resultant increase in personal hazard, he voluntarily conducted to the Spanish border four Royal Air Force officers who had been shot down in his region and later returned to resume his duties.

"Repeatedly leading successful raids during the period of this assignment, Major Ortiz inflicted heavy casualties on enemy forces greatly superior in number, with small losses to his forces. By his heroic leadership and astuteness in planning and executing these hazardous forays, Major Ortiz served as an inspiration to his subordinates and upheld the highest traditions of the Naval Services."

Union I would be just the beginning of Ortiz's adventures. He would not be in London long. After recruiting and training with two Marines he had known at New River, Sergeants Jack Risler and John Bodner, he would be inserted into France again. This mission would be known as Union II, and the team's insertion is known in France as "La Grande Parachute." The

Union I would be just the beginning of Ortiz's adventures. He would not be in London long.

adventures of Union II were even more dramatic and would take the men from France to Italy to Germany and find them in Paris on the day that it was liberated. Ortiz had many more stories to create before the war came to an end and he sat with LCDR Coen being interviewed for the next job.

Peter Ortiz's life continued to have a movielike quality after the war. For a while he lived in Hollywood, appeared in television and movies with the likes of John Wayne and had movies made about him. He helped with the early efforts of Toys for Tots and lived for a while in

Mexico. He married a beautiful California girl and has a son who also became a Marine and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

The Marine Corps has had many men like Ortiz who were a bit larger than life—among them are Presley O'Bannon, Dan Daly, Hiram Bearss, Lou Diamond, Carlos Hathcock, Lewis Puller and Al Gray. In most cases, these men help define the era of "their" Corps. Most of these "legends" also would have fit the disclaimer during their careers as not being "a good candidate *ever* for a desk job." Their stories give Marines the feeling of being special.

Although not as well-known as the aforementioned Marines, Ortiz is arguably worthy of legendary status. He was a Marine who certainly defines the motto "any clime, any place, adapt and overcome."

Editor's note: Laura Lacey earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in liberal studies and history from the University of Mary Washington and the University of Texas at Arlington, respectively. She is the author of "Stay Off the Skyline," the history of the Sixth Marine Division, and serves as the historian for the division. She is the daughter, wife and mother of Marines and is an adjunct professor and high-school teacher in Virginia.

Lacey's new book, "Pierre Ortiz: To Live a Man's Life," will be released this fall by Phillips Publications, reviewed in Leatherneck and available in our book section in The Marine Shop, or online at www.marineshop.net. Preorder it now.



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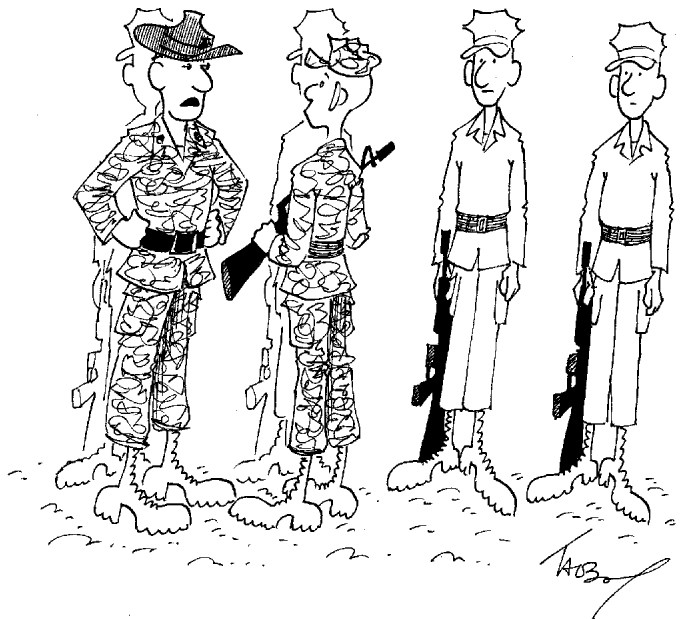
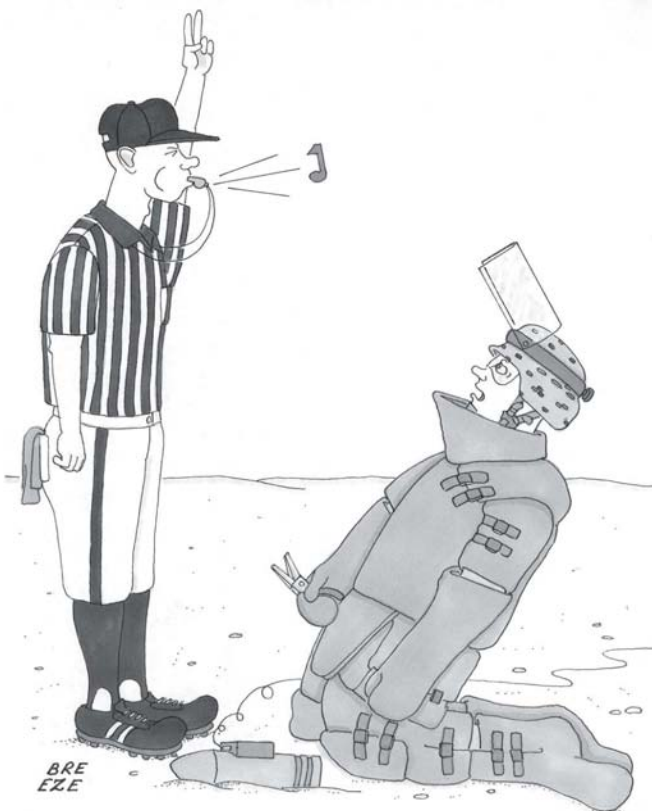
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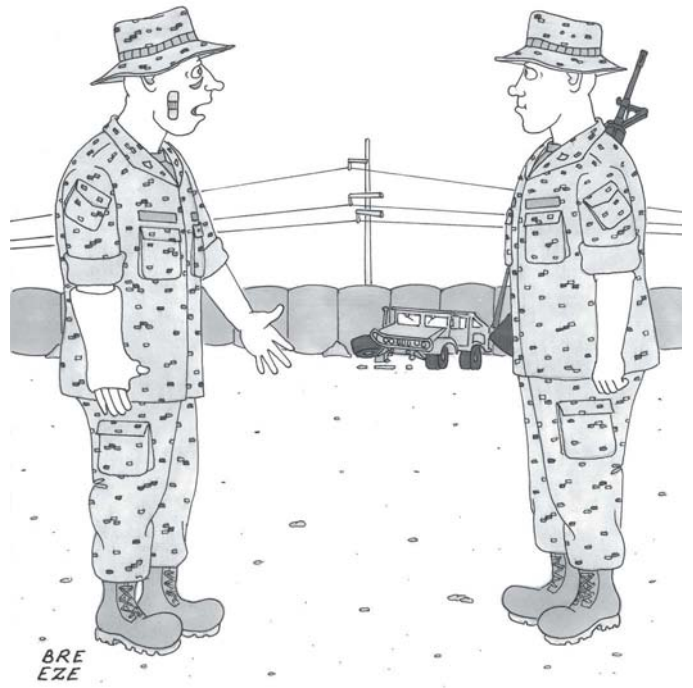


“Recruit, only my wife calls me a control freak.”

“Look, Ed, the two-minute warning gag is getting kind of old.”

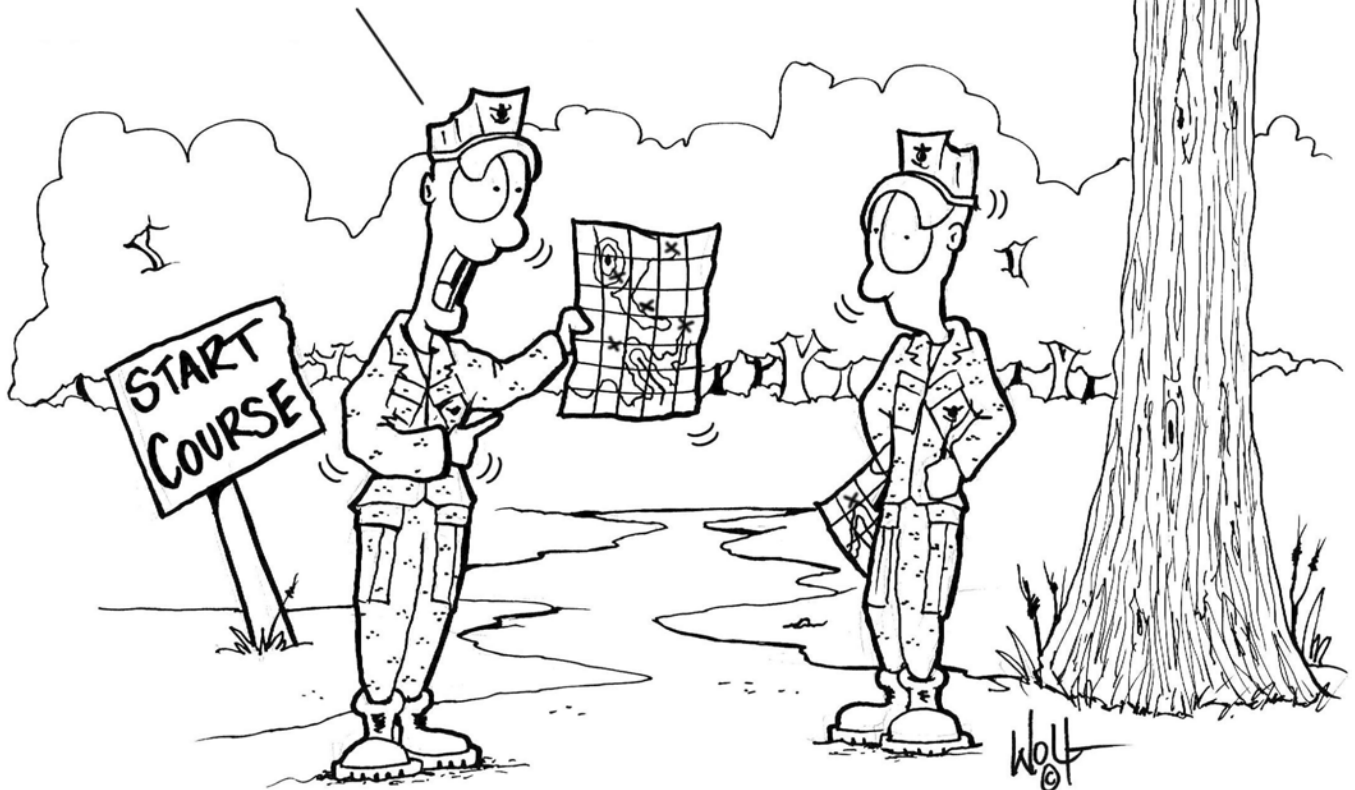


"It's not a real 'tat', Mom. It's a decal. Mom? Mom?"



"Dude, I didn't even know humvees had air bags."

"I don't know what they're talking about. This 'land nav' stuff is a piece of cake. I used a ruler and figured out all my points are only about two inches apart."



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The Last Hill

By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)

“[T]he Corps Commander [will] firm up his line by 20 September and ... plan no further offensives after that date.”

—LTG James A. Van Fleet, USA
Commanding Eighth United States Army in Korea (EUSAK)
to Commander X Corps, 16 Sept. 1951

The hill did not have a name. Throughout American history there have been hills with famous names: Bunker Hill, where the patriots waited until they saw “the whites of their eyes” before unleashing a devastating volley; Little Round Top at Gettysburg, the hill on which Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the 20th Maine stood off attack after Confederate attack and saved the day; San Juan Hill, where the Rough Riders and the Buffalo Soldiers charged into the enemy guns; Mount Suribachi, that needs no introduction to Marines. The hill in North Korea had no name, only a number: 812. Marines who fought there in September 1951 would never need anything more to remember it.

First, though, they would have to get there. Getting there began in April 1951 when the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) launched what their high command termed the “Fifth Phase Offensive.” The offensive was to be an all-out push with the goal of driving friendly forces to the sea and imposing communist rule over the entire Korean peninsula. The CCF high command was fully confident that its forces would be victorious. What they got was a disaster.

Initially successful, the CCF attack all too soon ran into serious opposition. Fighting bitterly, friendly forces, under the overall command of Lieutenant General James A. Van Fleet, USA, traded space for time, all the while inflicting ruinous casualties on the attacking Chinese. Rather than

pursuing a defeated enemy, the Chinese more and more were confronted by what became a controlled delaying action that was chewing them up. By late May the air was out of the CCF balloon, and the Fifth Phase Offensive had run out of steam, stopped dead in its tracks by a solid wall of friendly firepower.

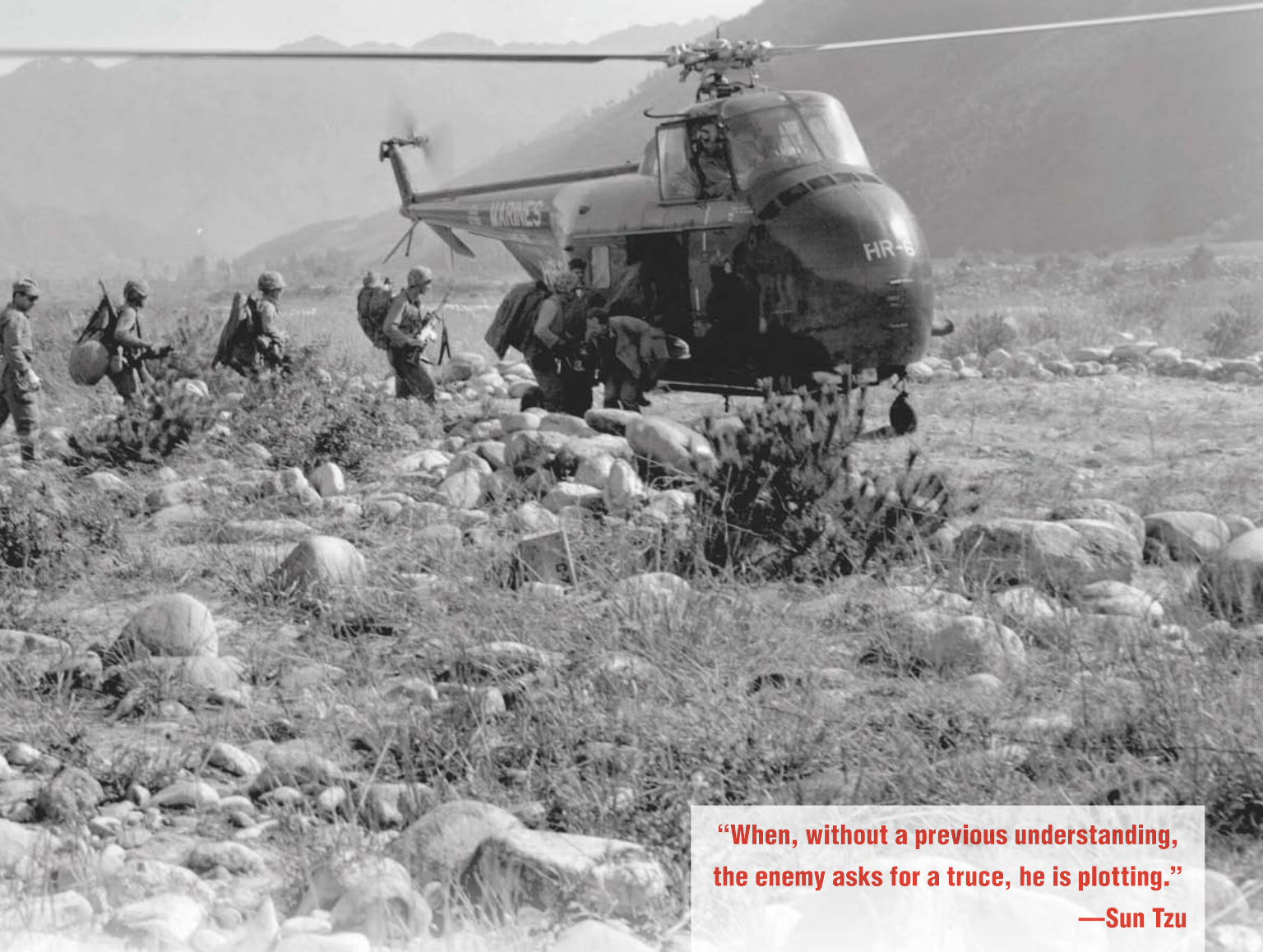
With his enemy gasping for breath, LTG Van Fleet unleashed a series of attacks across Korea with the primary objective of destroying the CCF. Gaining ground and rolling back the CCF were secondary considerations. The first priority was killing enemy soldiers. Bluntly put, ground taken today can be lost tomorrow, but an enemy soldier killed today will not fight tomorrow.

By late June the CCF had been wrecked. More than 100,000 Chinese soldiers were dead, wounded or missing. Another 10,000 had been herded into prisoner-of-war camps. With its army in shreds and tatters, the CCF high command shifted gears and fell back on Plan B. On 23 June, Jacob Malik, foreign minister of the USSR and delegate to the United Nations, proposed



Helicopters, like the Sikorsky HRS-1 in Operation Summit, September 1951, brought new capabilities for lifting Marines and supplies up on the hills. These two First Marine Division machine-gunners, Cpl C. Papake, foreground, left, and Cpl J. J. Raftery, right, were among the leathernecks who took part in Operation Summit, the first helicopter vertical envelopment in a combat zone.

Marines board an HRS-1 at airfield X-77 for lift to Hill 702 during Operation Bumblebee in October 1951. (Photo by Cpl A. B. Smith)



“When, without a previous understanding, the enemy asks for a truce, he is plotting.”

—Sun Tzu

that truce talks be undertaken to end the Korean War. Not entirely by coincidence, the Chinese Communist government “unofficially” endorsed Malik’s proposal on 25 June.

With its army beaten bloody and on the ropes, the CCF high command desperately needed time to get that army back on its feet. A long, drawn-out charade of truce talks would buy that time. By continuing to fight by other means, the communists could use that time to reconstitute the CCF and create a system of defensive works. The truce talks themselves could serve as useful propaganda.

Held at the Korean village of Kaesong in western Korea, immediately the truce talks were seen by many for what they

were. French newspaper correspondent Raymond Cartier dismissed the talks for a sham, writing that they were “just a crafty trick devised by the Communists to gain time and build up again the badly mauled Chinese armies.” The truce talks at Kaesong were exactly that: a back-door ploy that might save the CCF by dragging things out and perhaps convince the American public that the fight in Korea simply wasn’t worth the bother.

It might have been an ideal time for friendly heads to consider the words of another Chinese, Sun Tzu, who wrote, “When, without a previous understanding, the enemy asks for a truce, he is plotting.”

Plotting was exactly what the Chinese communists and their North Korean front

men were doing. While the communist emissaries at Kaesong used the travesty of the truce talks to play for time, other communists were working feverishly to breathe life back into the shattered CCF. In addition, a large-scale construction project was underway.

North Korea in the summer of 1951 was being transformed into the Western Front in France of 1916. All across that front, a system of fortified defenses in depth theretofore not encountered in the Korean War was being thrown up. Fighting trenches, communications trenches, reinforced bunkers, shielded mortar positions, camouflaged observation posts and protected command positions were being built around the clock.

Coming in for its own share of all this digging and building was the hill without a name, the hill with only a number: 812. It was a natural defensive position. Not a hill as that word generally is understood, Hill 812 was the eastern end of a long east-west ridge. Running from that ridge was another north-south ridge, both landforms creating a distinct "T" form that presented any attack from the south with decided tactical problems.

Even to reach the approaches to the hill, an attacker first would have to neutralize hills 673 and 749, a pair of smaller hills to the south. From there the approach to Hill 812 itself would be faced with crossing entirely open ground that had been surveyed and registered for supporting fires and was under constant observation from Hill 812 and two even higher hills to the north, Hill 980 and Hill 1052.

These last two heights and the T-shape of Hill 812 itself presented the friendly commander with nothing but bad choices. No matter from which direction an assault on Hill 812 was launched, the attacker would be faced with cross fires from either arm of the T and the north-south ridge that formed the upright. Adding to the problem

would be observed direct fires from Hill 980 and Hill 1052. All in all, an assault on Hill 812 was not a pleasant prospect.

Thrown into the mix as well was a new element, or perhaps it was a refurbished old element. The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) that had been thoroughly smashed and routed one year ago was back on the scene. Far to the north, shielded behind its Chinese rescuers, the NKPA had been resurrected, reorganized, re-equipped and retrained. As late summer gave way to early autumn, elements of three North Korean regiments were settled comfortably into a carefully sited system of mutually supporting positions on and around Hill 812, waiting to see what developed.

What the North Koreans, elements of the 3d, 14th and 45th regiments, saw was a vicious four-day fight for control of Hill 749 that took the lives of a confirmed 771 defenders. Even so, for Colonel Thomas A. Wornham's 1st Marines, taking Hill 749 had not been a walk in the sun. When the dust settled, 90 Marines had been killed and 714 wounded, most of those in Lieutenant Colonel Franklin B. "Brooke" Nihart's 2/1. Watching it all, the defenders

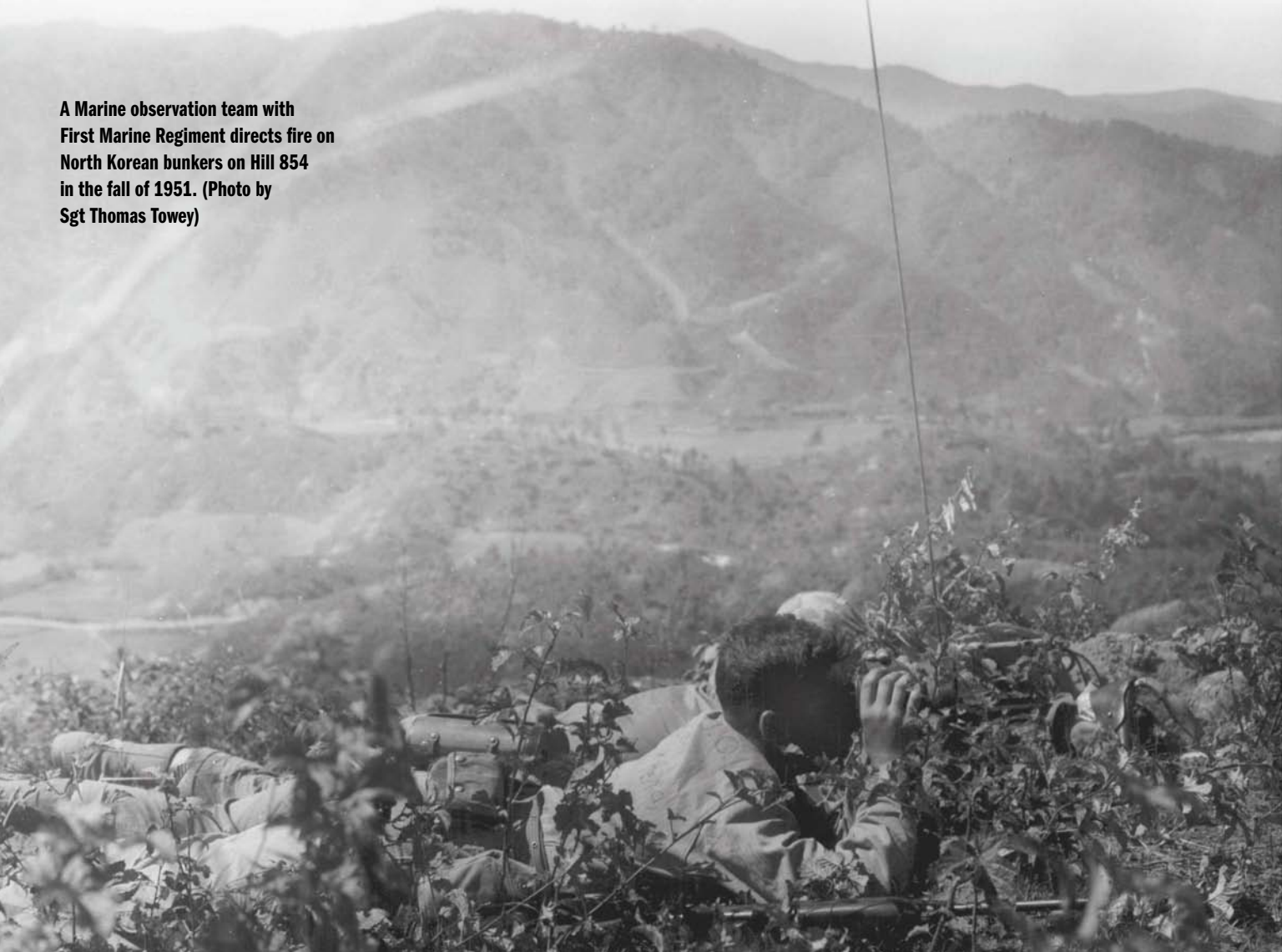
of Hill 812 enjoyed a live-fire primer in Marine infantry tactics and supporting-arms coordination. It was an education they would put to good use.

The North Koreans on Hill 812 began using that education in the early afternoon of 16 Sept., as soon as LtCol Houston Stiff's 2/5 moved up to attack Hill 812. The attack had been scheduled for early morning, but unforeseen delays in the 5th Marines relief of the 1st Marines had cost valuable time. Those delays also left 2/5 completely in the open and under enemy observation.

Before even crossing their start lines, Captain Ray N. Joens' "Dog" Co, 2/5 and Capt William E. "Bill" Melby's Fox/2/5 were subjected to a withering hail of 82 mm and 120 mm mortar fire, the red and black bursts of 76 mm mountain guns and crisscrossing streams of fire from a score of machine guns. Fox Co caught the worst of it, two platoon leaders falling in the first volley, to be joined quickly by more than two dozen other dead and wounded.

Fighting their way every inch of the way, the assault waves struggled forward, raked by fire as they fought step by step across the open ground and onto the lower

A Marine observation team with First Marine Regiment directs fire on North Korean bunkers on Hill 854 in the fall of 1951. (Photo by Sgt Thomas Towey)





A Marine HRS-1 helicopter lands reinforcements for Republic of Korea troops on the front lines in September 1951.

slopes of Hill 812. Every Marine learns the sheer physical strain of hill climbing. Doing that with burning legs and gasping lungs, while at the same time being the central target in a shooting gallery, is a special form of agony.

“Hold in place and dig in” was the order. The Marines of Fox Co needed no prodding to comply with that word. In no time at all there was a flurry of burrowing that would have done credit to a prairie dog colony. The North Koreans undoubtedly would launch a counterattack that night. Unprotected and in the open was no place to be. Holes, holes and more holes were dug, and Marines settled down under a 50 percent alert to obtain what rest they could, one man in each hole awake at all times.

There was no counterattack. A cloudless sky and a big, round full moon lit up the slopes of Hill 812 like a Hollywood romance movie. The North Koreans may have been communists, but they weren’t idiots. Why get out in the open in what wasn’t much less than broad daylight? They would hunker down in their bunkers and trenches and wait for the Marines to come on again.

When dawn broke on Monday, 17 Sept., the Marines of Fox Co, very few of whom had slept the previous night and even fewer who had eaten anything other than several spoonfuls of cold C-rations, clambered from their holes. They were met by a storm of fire that dwarfed the hurricane of the previous day. Raked by fire in a situation that common sense would tell a man was not a good place to be, they battered and bludgeoned their way to a point just short of the crest of the ridge.

There, Capt William L. Wallace’s Easy Co passed through to continue the attack.

The attack may have all but taken the ridge, but the North Koreans were not about to concede the issue. Easy Co was met with the same dogged resistance that greeted Fox Co. While the hill was honeycombed with earth and log bunkers, one was posing a particular problem. There seemed to be no safe way to approach it. Platoon Sergeant Frank Bilski and squad leader Sgt Jim Pella asked if anyone in Pella’s squad would take a crack at it. Two Marines, Ray Hernandez and John “Duke” Alston, stepped forward.

Marine veteran Gene Sledge, in his magnificent personal account of combat “With The Old Breed,” wrote of ordinary men who “routinely perform incredible acts of bravery.” Few such acts receive any form of official recognition; most simply are seen, even by the men who perform them, as only what is needed to meet the needs of the moment.

Meeting the needs of the moment, Ray Hernandez and Duke Alston worked their way carefully forward as the rest of the squad poured in covering fire. Crawling into a barely discernible dead zone, Alston thrust the muzzle of his Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) into a firing port and emptied a full magazine into the interior of the bunker. Hernandez armed a grenade, held it until the last second and then dropped it inside. The bunker fell silent, and the advance clawed

Alston thrust the muzzle of his Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) into a firing port and emptied a full magazine into the interior of the bunker.

its way toward the crest. “Incredible acts of bravery” performed in the course of a day filled with such acts.

The North Koreans continued to resist viciously, clinging to their hold on the crest of the ridge through a morning of intense combat, denying the Marines the summit. Throwing everything into the assault, supporting artillery and all the organic and attached weapons of 2/5 laid a blanket of fire on the North Koreans. Close on the heels of those fires, Easy Co drove straight for the crest. At the same time, 2d Plt of Fox Co, that had become separated from its parent unit, edged in close and attacked the defenders from the left. Fierce close-in fighting with rifles, automatic weapons and grenades finally wrenched Hill 812 and the eastern portions of the ridge from the grip of the North Koreans.

Stubbornly, the North Koreans clung leechlike to the western portions. Separating friend and enemy was a massive granite outcropping that quickly became known as “The Rock.” Directly athwart the ridge line about 700 yards west of Hill 812 itself, The Rock bulged some 12 feet into the air. In one of those rare and unusual tactical oddities that sometimes pop up in battle, Easy Co outposted the eastern side of The Rock while the North Koreans outposted the western side. Close enough to the North Koreans on the other side of The Rock to hear them, Easy Co turned to the job of setting up a hasty defense in preparation for the inevitable counterattack.

Two such counterattacks were repulsed early on 18 Sept., but the position of 2/5 was anything but secure. The battalion was under constant observation from Hill 980 and Hill 1052. Anyone who moved during the day was a target. The objective had been taken by 2d Bn, but keeping it wasn’t a given. The North Koreans could be counted on to have another try at taking it back. They didn’t give up easily.

Sometimes, battles are a matter of the right man in the right place at the right time. Major Gerald P. “Gerry” Averill, the battalion S-3 (Operations) officer, was that man for 2d Bn, 5th Marines. Averill enlisted in the Marine Corps early in 1941 and following boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., volunteered for parachute training at Lakehurst, N.J. Commissioned in late 1942, he saw combat with LtCol Victor H. Krulak’s 2d Parachute Bn at Choiseul in the autumn of 1943. Later, at Iwo Jima,

Marine 1stLt Robert L. Kletzker interrogates a Chinese Communist prisoner while Cpl Douglas Stephens, rear, looks on.

he served as a company commander in the 26th Marines.

Assigned to exercise on-scene operational control of the battalion's forward elements on Hill 812, Averill lost no time preparing for what every front-line Marine knew was coming. After a relatively quiet night of 18 Sept., the entire day of 19 Sept. was a day of near constant incoming fire for the Marines of Easy Co and the attached 2d Plt of Fox Co. As it turned out, that was just the preliminary. The main bout began just after 0200 on 20 Sept., when, as Gerry Averill would remember it, "The sky fell in."

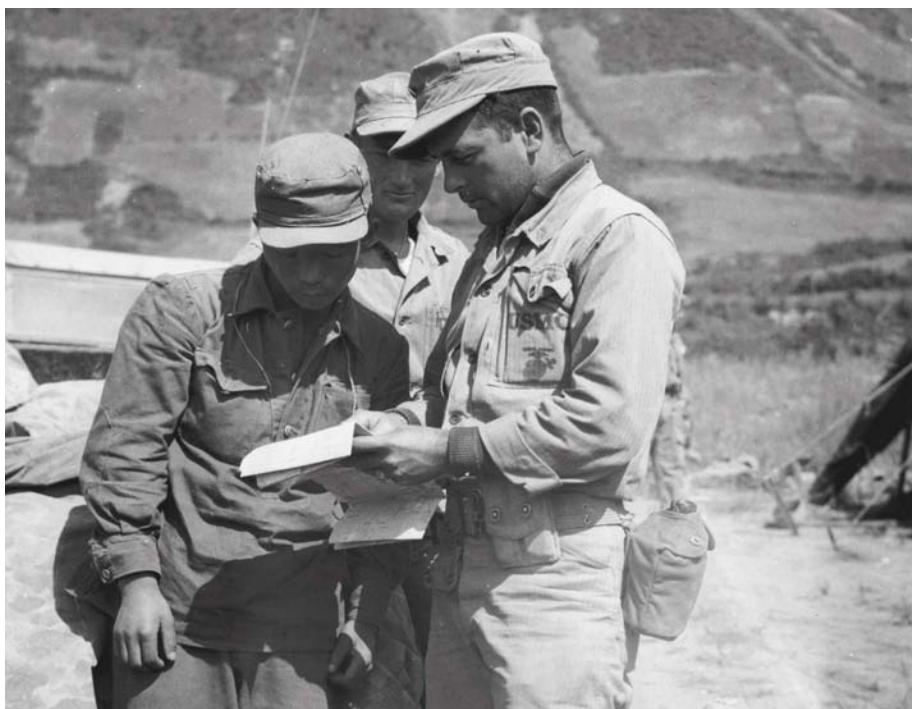
For a solid 30 minutes, a downpour of 120 mm mortar rounds that literally shook the hill under the feet of the Marines holding it gave evidence that this was the North Koreans' all-out effort to retake the hill without a name. Hill 812 and the ridge line west to The Rock erupted, ripping the night apart with overlapping explosions.

Hugging its own barrage and getting in close, the North Korean infantry, too many of them to count, surged toward the Marine line as soon as the fire lifted. The fighting was immediately at point-blank range, as attackers and defenders lit up the darkness with the explosions of grenades and the muzzle flashes of scores of rifles and machine guns. If the North Koreans wanted Hill 812, and they certainly did, they were willing to die to take it. As fast as one fell, another took his place.

In the end, as badly as the North Koreans wanted to reclaim ownership of Hill 812, they were met by Marines equally determined to stop them. Along that torn ridge line between Hill 812 and The Rock there were other right men in the right place at the right time. Laying .30-caliber BAR rounds down a draw leading directly to his fighting hole, many thoughts flashed through Duke Alston's head. Packing up and running weren't included.

Dribbling blood from a half-dozen fragmentation wounds, Cpl Peter "Rip" Meletis laid into the attackers with grenades, clip after clip from his M1 rifle and finally the butt of that rifle. Staff Sergeant Stanley "Stan" Wawrzyniak led his 2d Plt of Fox Co into a countercharge that tore into the North Koreans where they were most vulnerable, earning a Navy Cross in the process. And there was Gerry Averill, who seemed to be everywhere at once, living his dictum: "Rank gets paid to be seen." The right men were in the right place at the right time.

Dawn on 20 Sept. 1951 marked the end



TSGT FRANK W. SEWELL

of the fighting for Hill 812. It also marked the single-most significant change in the entire course of the Korean War. From that point, the war of movement in Korea ended. There would be almost two more years of fighting ahead, but the war in Korea would become a war of position.

What brought about that change? Had it been LTG Van Fleet's order that no further offensive actions be undertaken after 20 Sept.? No. In publishing the order, LTG Van Fleet was making directive to his subordinate commanders a decision that had been made at the highest national level, a decision drawn from the first Principle of War: the Principle of the Objective.

Prior to late summer 1951, the objective of the war in Korea had been to inflict a military defeat upon North Korea. That would no longer be the case. The objective would become preserving the territorial integrity of the Republic of Korea, South Korea.

Was that the right decision? That question has been argued pro and con for decades. Little would be served by arguing it again here. One thing that cannot be argued, though, is that the national objective of the Korean War, preserving the territorial integrity of the Republic of Korea, was realized.

South Korea, a tiny country less than half the size of Alaska, today is a thriving, vibrant society, an economic powerhouse that ranks among the top six manufacturing

countries in the world.

Someone watching a DVD on a Samsung DVD player/recorder might be surprised to learn that the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, was built by the Samsung C&T industrial conglomerate. More than half of all the merchant-shipping tonnage built today is built by South Korean-owned shipyards. The Inchon (it's pronounced "Incheon" today) International Airport

consistently has been rated the best airport in the world by the Airports Council International. Citizens of South Korea, a country once ground under the harsh heel of war, today enjoy one of the highest standards of living anywhere.

Perhaps the Marines who fought on Hill 812 and all the Marines who fought on all the hills of Korea, those who are still with us, can look back 60 years

and contemplate what they accomplished. Perhaps they can justifiably say: "Yes, we did do something good. We did do something worthwhile, as the song goes 'Yesterday when we were young.'" They can say that because they did.

In the end, as badly as the North Koreans wanted to reclaim ownership of Hill 812, they were met by Marines equally determined to stop them.

Editor's note: Maj Bevilacqua 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.



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We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

City of Jacksonville, N.C., Marines Remember Beirut Barracks Attack

■ Marines and their families in Jacksonville, N.C., have not forgotten that the year 2012 marks another anniversary of what many regard as the first shot fired in the global war on terrorism; the Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorist truck bombing of the barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed 220 Marines, 18 sailors and three soldiers on Oct. 23, 1983.

Since 1984, the city of Jacksonville and supporting organizations have held the torch high for the 270 military personnel who died during the U.S. involvement in a multinational U.N. peacekeeping force that served in Beirut between 1982 and 1984.

Each year hundreds of surviving families, now including grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the fallen, make a pilgrimage to the shrine outside the gate of Camp Gilbert H. Johnson—the Beirut Memorial, a granite wall chiseled with all the names of the fallen military men in Lebanon.

On Oct. 23, at 6 a.m., the pilgrims gather for a candlelight vigil at the memorial. In the predawn darkness, family members and veterans read aloud each name on the wall.

The Beirut Veterans of America (BVA) was formed by veterans in 1992 with a simple motto that they have tenaciously clung to: “The First Duty Is to Remember.” The BVA helps keep the torch burning through a newsletter, a website, annual meetings and other activities.

Every fifth year, the BVA hosts a mega-event, drawing many Beirut veterans and families for a more expansive remembrance. One of the featured events is a dinner planned and sponsored by the BVA, with speakers such as the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred M. Gray, who was a guest speaker at the dinner in 2008.

That same year, Gen James T. Conway, then-Commandant and a Beirut veteran, used the Beirut Memorial as the opening backdrop for the annual Marine Corps Birthday message and told the story of Beirut Marines during his opening remarks.

Next year will mark the 30th Remembrance, and BVA leadership has begun to prepare for it.

“The 25th Remembrance will be a hard act to follow, but we hope to make the 30th Remembrance the best ever by starting to plan for it now,” said BVA President Craig Renshaw, a machine-gunner with 1st Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment

in Beirut. In a letter on the BVA website, Renshaw encouraged people to submit ideas for events or funding for the 30th Remembrance, as the BVA’s only sources of funding are dues and contributions.

For more information about the BVA and upcoming remembrances, visit www.beirutveterans.org.

CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

One Marine’s 42-Year Run Honored

■ Bruce Judge still can recall the roar of drill instructors rushing into his barracks in the dead of night. The blaring whistle of trains passing at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., served as a stark reminder to Judge and his fellow officer candidates of failure’s consequence.

“They used to wake us up in the middle of the night to listen to the trains going by, because if they dropped you out of Officer Candidates School [OCS], you [then] started [again] at Parris Island as a private,” Judge said.

The most difficult moment in Judge’s life became his most defining. Judge not only completed OCS but went on to devote 42 years of service to the Marine Corps. To commemorate his extensive service and sacrifice, nearly 50 runners and supporters and representatives from the Marine Corps

Every Oct. 23rd, Marines and families honor the memory of the fallen in Beirut at the Beirut Memorial outside the gate of Camp Gilbert H. Johnson in Jacksonville, N.C. (Photo by Maj Robert T. Jordan, USMC (Ret))



Marathon joined him for a 4.2-mile victory lap on Wednesday, July 11, that ended at Butler Stadium at MCB Quantico.

Becoming a Marine

The University of Maryland graduate joined the Corps in 1971. Despite growing antimilitary sentiment throughout that time, Judge's choice was clear: he wanted to be a Marine.

His father was a Navy chief in World War II, and his older brother, a Marine, so a uniform lifestyle seemed natural. Yet, the grueling initiation of OCS proved to be a turning point for the young college grad.

"I thought I'd come in and just breeze through this, and that was not the case at all," said Judge, smirking. "It was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life, and I didn't know if I was going to make it."

The heavily decorated Marine has built a following during his career, not merely because of accomplishments but rather his humor.

"He has a big personality, and he really puts a lot of emphasis on relationships," said Alex Hetherington, assessment team leader at the Training and Education Command (TECOM) at MCB Quantico.

Hetherington, who was a recruit when Judge was a battalion commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, said Judge used humor to build relationships and leadership. The commander often would select one of his recruits for a one-on-one challenge during the final physical fitness test.

"I was the guy that he picked," said Hetherington, a Virginia native, laughing. "We squared off to do the final PFT, and he totally crushed me, and then after the fact he gave me a nice certificate to signify his victory."

Lead by Example

"He got in there with us; he always led by example," Hetherington added.

Judge's character touched the lives of many Marines, including his younger brother.

"He's one of the finest officers I've ever known," said Dennis Judge. "He influenced me to join the Marine Corps and has helped me throughout my career."

Bruce Judge has traveled the world and fought in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm. He credits his strength to Cathy, his wife of 41 years.

"She's the only reason I'm here," said the Massachusetts native. "She has supported me in everything."

He retired from the Corps in March of 1998 as a lieutenant colonel, only to start the next day as a federal employee at TECOM.

"I don't have one day of broken time,"



LtCol Bruce Judge, USMC (Ret) passes through the Marine Corps Marathon arch July 11, marking the end of his 4.2-mile victory run celebrating his 42 years of service to the Marine Corps.

said Judge. "The Marine Corps has been my steady employer since the day I walked in."

After four decades of dedicated service to the Marine Corps, he relinquished his role as director of TECOM, Manpower Division, on Aug. 31, at age 63.

"The Bold, The Bald and The Beautiful"

He may have retired recently, but there's one fraction of the Corps that the veteran of 17 Marine Corps Marathons will continue to lead—a Marine Corps Marathon running team that provides the unique flavors of camaraderie and comic relief. Judge is an avid runner and jokester, and the combination yielded what he calls "the most decorated team" in the marathon, "The Bold, The Bald and The Beautiful (BBB)."

"I'm bald and my wife says I'm beautiful," Judge said, laughing, as he rubbed his shiny, hairless scalp. "Then we got someone who was bold," he added.

Initially, the three-man team, created 10 years ago, was built out of sheer fun. However, its popularity grew, and today there are six subgroups with 36 runners.

Throughout the years, he has collected friends, colleagues and acquaintances to run on the BBB team. In character with his witty personality, each member is adorned with a call sign and funny story.

Judge's personality and character have struck a chord among many at Quantico, particularly his longtime friend, Marine Corps Marathon Race Director Rick Nealis.

Nelis formally recognized Judge, honoring his endurance and leadership.

Anybody who runs 17 marathons is incredible; to be able to do all that and build the camaraderie that he builds is amazing," he said.

New Chapter

As Judge reflected on his career and challenges, the word "endurance" came to mind.

"I don't give up very easily on anything," he asserted. "Like a lot of people in the Marine Corps, I've had a lot of ups and downs, but I just stayed with it, which has made me able to go 42 years."

The retiree isn't sure what his next venture will be, but he said one thing is for sure: "I won't get up at 4:30 in the morning and then be fighting to [get home to see] the 6:30 p.m. news, because that's been my life for years," Judge added.

So, go cheer on Judge and his team, The Bold, The Bald and The Beautiful, as they run one more Marine Marathon in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012.

Ameesha Felton
PAO, MCB Quantico, Va.

Marines Teach Riot Control To West African Nations

■ Leathernecks with 3d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment trained with forces from various West African nations to exchange their shared experiences of non-lethal weapons and crowd-control tactics as part of Exercise Western Accord 2012 (WA-12), July 11, in Thies, Senegal.

"[These nations] came forward and requested us to train them in this," said Major William T. Jacobs, company commander with Co L, 3d Bn, 25th Marines.

Assistant crowd control instructors with the 3d Bn, 25th Marines simulate a riot while training Burkina Faso military personnel during Exercise Western Accord 2012 in July at Thiés, Senegal.

All the nations participating in WA-12 belong to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)—a united front of African nations that have banded together for common economic benefit.

“You can clearly see how this fits into their ECOWAS goals,” said Jacobs.

“The best way for unity and peace is to train to be able to put down civil unrest without taking lives,” said the Cincinnati native.

The crowd control training will teach the basics of baton work, use of shields, forming a shield line, keeping rhythm in the line and the deployment of “snatch teams” that are used to acquire and detain high-value individuals, such as a riot leader.

“First thing we did was find out what kind of experiences they had because it’s a possibility they have more real-world experience in these kinds of scenarios than us,” said Sergeant Jonah L. Salyers, an instructor for non-lethal weapons and



SGT TATUM WATAVANANDA

crowd control techniques from “Lima” Co.

“We also want to know what they can teach us. We’re very open to learning new techniques,” added the Morrow, Ohio, native.

The various West African nations participating in the exercise—Burkina Faso, Senegal, Gambia and Guinea—will parti-

cipate in more training operations, to include: combat marksmanship; cordon, search and seizure; limited disaster-response capabilities; military operations in urban environments; demolition training; convoy operations; and intelligence capabilities seminars.

“Of all the training, this might be one of the more valuable ones that they will



SSGT JOHNNY GUNN, USMC

FREE-FALL FAREWELL—Marine Corps military free-fall instructors assigned to Marine Detachment, Fort Bragg, N.C., release the ashes of Sgt Brett Jaffe (1971-2012), a Marine rigger, above Phillips Drop Zone at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., on July 26. “It was an honor and privilege to take this Marine on his last jump and give him a proper hail and farewell,” said SSgt Marty Rhett. The Marines are (clockwise, starting with the flag) GySgt Brian Boger, GySgt Mike Latham, GySgt Jimmy Smith, SSgt Lennie Castro, SSgt Seth Wright and SSgt Marty Rhett.

be using in a real-world environment when they go back to their countries,” said Salyers.

Despite a language barrier, the Marines are able to conduct the training successfully by using key French words and a common understanding of the mission at hand.

“We have interpreters out here, and we are also learning some basic words in French like ‘strike’ and ‘push,’ ” said Salyers. “The Marines are picking up the key words. The message is definitely getting across, and they are doing great.”

The whole evolution was put to practice with a riot scenario at the end of the training day that included Marines simulating rioters and members of the West African forces forming a shield line, marching to suppress the civil unrest and detain the riot leader.

“It’s been a really great experience being able to share and work with our African partners,” said Lance Corporal Ryan M. Logan, an assistant gunner with Lima Co, 3/25. Exercise Western Accord 2012 is a multilateral training exercise with West African nations to increase understanding and interoperability, prevent conflict by enabling Africans to pro-

vide for their security and stability, strengthen relationships with partner nations, and promote and support U.S. national security priorities.

Sgt Tatum Vayavananda
PAO, MARFORAF

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Corps Encourages Voting Responsibly

■ Lance Corporal Paul Peterson, Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., reports that when Marines first don their uniforms and pick up their rifles, they do not set aside their citizenship. They reaffirm it, vow to guard it and assume the responsibility to maintain the professionalism of their station.

Guidance for appropriate political activities for military and DOD personnel can be found in DOD Directive 1344.10. In general, military personnel may not actively participate in partisan political activities, to include fundraising, serving as an officer for a political club, speaking at partisan gatherings, appearing in uniform for political events, seeking nomination for civil office or attending political events as a representative for the military.

So, as you get ready to vote, visit fvap

.gov to receive more details about DOD Directive 1344.10, regulations guiding appropriate political activities for DOD personnel and voter registration.

Corps Approves Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program

■ The Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps reports that Marines now can exit the Corps with an honorable discharge a year earlier than their original end of active service (EAS) date.

According to Marine Administrative Message 371/12, the Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program (VEERP) has been approved to give certain Marines with an EAS within fiscal year 2013, the option of electing an early discharge. The MARADMIN is effective immediately and continues until September 2013.

The VEERP is being implemented as a cost-saving initiative, permitting the shaping and sustainment of the force within the approved budget constraints, according to MARADMIN 371/12. It will aid in the Corps’ upcoming drawdown effort, scheduled to begin this month.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL MARK W. STROUD

“I have got to catch that ice cream truck!”

Submitted by
Stephen J. Terstenyak
Pine Plains, N.Y.

This Month's Photo



CPL JOHN ROBERT III

(Caption) _____

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

These Marine Corps Reserve leathernecks of Co G, 2d Bn, 25th Marine Regiment assault through a trench in a squad drill during large-scale Exercise Javelin Thrust at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., in late July 2012.



SGT JOHN M. ODETT

Javelin Thrust 2012

Large Scale Exercise-1 Tests 1st MEB's Crisis Response Force Capabilities

By 1stLt Garth M. Langley

As temperatures soared well over 120 degrees in July, more than 5,000 Marines and sailors from 38 states, joined by Canadian forces, converged on Twentynine Palms, Calif., for the largest annual Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) exercise with the active-duty Marines from 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Large Scale Exercise-1/Javelin Thrust 2012, conducted from June 29 to July 12, served as an "aid to construct" for developing the Large Scale Exercise (LSE) concept set forth by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos.

The setting was the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center in the Mojave Desert, a site familiar to Marines who have attended training in support of com-

bat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during the last decade of war. The exercise served as the foundation for future large-scale exercises designed to prepare brigade-level forces for potential crisis-response contingencies.

Reserve and Active-Duty Integration

LSE-1/JT-12 provided a unique opportunity for Reserve and active-duty Marines to seamlessly integrate in a series of scenario-driven combined arms and live-fire exercises.

For MARFORRES, the fourth iteration of the exercise tested Reserve Marines in their individual military occupational and tactical-level skills to meet annual training requirements. Simultaneously, Marines from 1st MEB headquarters element were

given a rare chance to exercise command and control over a complete Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) in a complex and austere environment.

The deputy commanding general of 1st MEB, Brigadier General James S. Hartsell, took command of the integrated Reserve and active-duty forces.

"The training and the integration of our total force in the Marine Corps between our active-duty component and our Reserve component is something that I professionally and personally take a lot of pride in," said BGen Hartsell, who is a Reserve general officer. "I couldn't be more proud on how we've taken an active-duty command element, an active-duty tank battalion, a Reserve regiment, Reserve infantry regiment, Reserve logistics

regiment and a Reserve Marine air group and brought them in seamlessly.”

The 1st MEB set its sights on Exercise Javelin Thrust in 2011 as a means to mature brigade-level tactical decision making and training requirements while testing the ability to adjust to changing battle rhythms and command major subordinate units.

“This is a bit of an interesting exercise in that we’re working with MARFORRES again, rather than those units that are assigned to 1st MEB,” said Major General Melvin G. Spiese, the MEB commanding general. “Javelin Thrust completes the package for us. Albeit with forces not assigned to the MEB, it will give the staff the ability to really function at that higher end.”

The 1st MEB served as the command element during the concluding portion of the exercise with major elements of MARFORRES providing the air, ground and logistics combat element.

Marines from the 1st MEB command element led 2d Tank Battalion, Second Marine Division; 9th Communication Bn; and the newly activated 1st Law Enforcement Bn, I Marine Expeditionary Force. Adjacent units operated at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., along with coalition partners from the 33 Canadian Brigade Group from Ottawa, Canada, serving as a higher headquarters based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

For MajGen Spiese, balancing opportunities to participate in exercises like LSE-1/JT-12 and the ability to maintain readiness are some of the inherent challenges posed to 1st MEB.

“It’s been a long time coming because our opportunities to train are very sporadic throughout the year,” he said.

Maintaining readiness as a relevant crisis response force remains the focus of 1st MEB.

New Focuses

For the first time since being activated in June, elements of 1st MEB’s 1st Law Enforcement Bn dove headfirst into brigade training, determined to train to their capabilities and to showcase the battalion’s expertise to Marine commanders.

“By integrating the battalion’s capabilities, we hope to be able to refine our concept of operations to better support the MEB now and in the future,” said Captain Gunnar Spafford, assistant operations officer for 1st LE Bn.

A company-size element of military policemen took to the desert to support 1st MEB with law-enforcement-trained Marines on specific missions tailor-made to the battalion’s mission essential tasks to provide the MAGTF security, policing, law enforcement and other operations.



Above: During Exercise Javelin Thrust 2012, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772, a CH-53E Super Stallion Reserve squadron, conducted rapid ground refueling of AH-1W Super Cobras in addition to its lift mission. (Photo by Sgt Kevin M. Okamura)

Below: Javelin Thrust provided 1st MEB the opportunity to integrate the capabilities of the newly activated 1st Law Enforcement Bn, shown preparing for .50-caliber heavy machine-gun training. (Photo by Cpl Joshua Young)



The training included access to live-fire ranges, including heavy guns, military working dog training, tactical site exploitation, detainee handling, main supply route reconnaissance and personnel security details.

“We’ll be able to conduct realistic training in a real environment, and we hope to take that real training and test out our new concept of operations and how it fits in with the exercise,” Spafford said. “We’re looking to be able to put on display all the

abilities that 1st Law Enforcement Battalion brings and educate the MEB and the leadership on what we can and will bring to the fight.”

Bringing the Heat

Large Scale Exercise-1/Javelin Thrust 2012 brought the heat for all Marines.

BGen Hartsell said the most important training value is that everyone from the private to the general is learning from this exercise. “The individual skills that each



After conducting squad assault tactics training during Javelin Thrust, leathernecks with Co F, 2/25 hike from Range 107 back to Camp Wilson aboard MCAGCC Twentynine Palms. (Photo by Sgt John M. Odette)



During Exercise Javelin Thrust 2012, 1st MEB staff coordinated and integrated Reserve Marines from 38 states and active-duty leathernecks from both coasts, including these Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., leathernecks of 2d Tank Bn. (Photo by Sgt Michael Cifuentes)



Marine gets in an exercise like this, in this desert environment, combined arms and live-fire scenario, is what every Marine needs.”

As heat waves rippled across the desert floor, M1A1 main battle tanks with Marines from 2d Tank Bn out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., showcased the heavy armor assets of the exercise and a shift in types of training scenarios future exercises could highlight.

“We have 2d Tank Battalion here that’s actually maneuvering across the desert, something we haven’t done here in over 10 years,” said BGen Hartsell. “With our focus on security and stability operations, we haven’t had the opportunity to train like we’re doing here. That is some of the skills that people are learning here.”

Lieutenant Colonel John Schaar, the battalion commander of 2d Tanks, said it was the best time for the Marine Corps to return to tank-infantry coordination in training, and Javelin Thrust at the Combat Center was the perfect venue for it.

“Tanks are a big part of the MEB, and

we’re always here to be a part of that infantry team,” said Schaar, who’s from Rochester, Minn. “We’re capable of operating on a number of different levels.”

Canadian Partners

While other Marine brigades responded to crisis contingencies across the globe in recent years, the 1st MEB command ele-

ment remains focused on partnering with other nations to meet mission requirements to respond to a crisis if called upon.

Successful integration of coalition forces is vital to the future of brigade-level exercises. More than 60 members of the 33 Canadian Brigade Group based out of Ottawa served as a coalition force during LSE-1/JT-12.



Javelin Thrust provided multiple live-fire opportunities for Marines like Cpl Daniel Russo, a rifleman with Headquarters Co, 25th Marines, headquartered at Ft. Devens, Mass., who learned the capabilities of the M32 multiple grenade launcher.

“We’ve worked with a coalition setting now with the Canadians,” BGen Hartsell said. “We’ve worked all of our communications, both on a classified and unclassified system. No other MEB command element has had the opportunity to do that—and we’ve done it. That’s why I believe that we would be the most prepared, most ready if called upon today for today’s crisis.”

The commander of the 33 CBG, Colonel Howard G. Coombs, saw the importance of interoperability and coalition partnerships working primarily as a higher headquarters at Camp Pendleton.

“Learning to interoperate with American forces allows us to practice things that we would be responsible for in terms of homeland defense along the border region in cooperation with the National Guard, Army Reserve or active-duty forces,” said Coombs.

Readiness

As the future of crisis response training is being developed, exercises like LSE-1/JT-12 are tangible proving grounds and remain a focus of 1st MEB’s ability to maintain readiness as a crisis response force.

As outlined in the 2012 Report to Congress on the Posture of the Marine Corps by the CMC, “Future training will focus on the MAGTF Training Program ... and ... [we] will continue conducting large scale exercises that integrate training and assessment of the MAGTF as a whole.”

Exercises like LSE-1/JT-12 are anticipated to grow as more forces return from overseas contingencies. The exercise is limited to 14 days due to reservists’ availability. Future plans include a 29-day training evolution with a 10-day final exercise and a higher scale of interaction with other services and coalition forces.

Despite pending land expansion and territorial concerns for MEB-sized training at Twentynine Palms, MCAGCC is best suited to support the future of MEB training and is the natural choice for 1st MEB.

“We are moving toward the large-scale exercises. ... What we are doing this year is getting us to that point. It’s an intermediate spiral step,” said MajGen Spiese.

Assessment

In the coming months, 1st MEB will apply the lessons learned from LSE-1/JT-12 toward eventual certification as a crisis response force through a comprehensive after-action review.

Observation was key for the MAGTF Training Command and subordinate elements like the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, who closely monitored training to ensure the command and con-



Above: Infantrymen with 2/25, a Marine Reserve unit, go into the attack from an amphibious assault vehicle during Javelin Thrust 2012 at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms. (Photo by Sgt Deanne Hagstrom)

Right: Large-scale Exercise Javelin Thrust provided Marines like LCpl Robert Gayewski, an MP with 1st LE Bn, and their leaders an opportunity for individual and unit improvement plus setting the stage for future large-scale exercises focusing on amphibious and expeditionary training.



CPL JOSHUA YOUNG

trol architecture remained intact throughout the exercise. For the members of the MAGTF Staff Training Program based out of Quantico, Va., observing key staff functions within the command element was a primary mission in the broader development of the 1st MEB staff for future training and exercises.

“The 1st MEB will focus on a building-block approach,” BGen Hartsell said. “We’re learning things here that we haven’t had the opportunity to do before. For Javelin Thrust, we’ve trained, prepared for and are executing now. We’ll bring that to next year into an actual amphibious large-scale exercise called Dawn Blitz. That’s going to exercise the MEB and the command element and bring in all the pieces that we have now and add more complexity and emphasize the necessity to conduct expeditionary and amphibious operations.”

Javelin Thrust, Pacific Horizon and ultimately Dawn Blitz 2013 will highlight the Navy and Marine Corps effort to focus on amphibious and expeditionary training as critical players in crisis response. Dawn

Blitz 2013 is set to take place across Southern California throughout June 2013.

Author’s note: Special thanks to the team of Marines who are shaping the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade narrative and continuing to tell the Marine Corps story.

Editor’s note: First Lt Garth Langley is the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade PAO. He was commissioned via the Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) program in July 2010.



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos from Javelin Thrust at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/javelinthrust2012

Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Marines Take Charge at Boys State

The American Legion of New York recently welcomed Marines from the 1st Marine Corps District to advise and mentor young men participating in the annual weeklong Boys State conference.

The Marines traveled to the State University of New York in Morrisville, N.Y., to teach basic Marine Corps subjects, such as close order drill and military appearance, to some of New York's brightest young leaders as they learned how to positively impact society and involve themselves in public service, June 24-28.

The primary objective of Boys State is to broaden the understanding of American governance and to instill a sense of patriotism in participants through ways such as interaction with peers and active-duty Marines. As an added benefit, the Marines bring to Boys State a sense of urgency, discipline and pride that helps the participants develop as a team, said Captain Jordan P. Then. Then is the recruiting support officer of Recruiting Station Buffalo, N.Y., and the officer in charge of the

Marines at Boys State New York.

"What I saw when I got here was a thousand individuals. Now, what I see are 10 cohesive counties, 30 cohesive cities and one cohesive state of citizens. The discipline and teamwork that these kids have developed with each other in such a short time is directly attributable to the great work the Marines have done."

The leathernecks have a very pointed and direct influence on the environment at Boys State. Their primary mission, aside from leading their groups to each event in formation, is to give the boys manageable challenges to overcome as a team, according to Then.

"Although the Marines here are not drill instructors, they are drilling these young men and they are putting a little more stress in their lives than they might feel at home with their parents," he said. "Here, [the boys] are responsible for their living areas, their barracks, and they're responsible for taking care of each other and pushing each other during [physical training]. So, they have these shared situations and shared

difficult circumstances that the Marines put them through, and I think that really helps build their teamwork and cohesion."

The Marines are assigned to teach the basics of marching and military bearing to a group of young men who are going into their senior year in high school. The Marines also answer questions about life in the Corps and emphasize the importance of teamwork, dedication and respect.

With more than 1,000 attendees in 2012, Boys State was a large event with many moving parts and a tight schedule. The boys were placed in groups, also known as counties, with about 100 other young men, led by one Marine. Each county was broken down into cities, and each boy was responsible for taking part in group and individual events throughout the week.

Each of the Boys State attendees was nominated by a high school guidance counselor and sponsored by his local American Legion post. Each of the boys exceeded expectations both academically and in his community and demonstrated a desire to learn more about civic service



Capt Jordan P. Then, recruiting support officer of RS Buffalo, N.Y., commands the parade during the 75th annual American Legion Boys State in Morrisville, N.Y., June 28.

or, possibly, a career in the military. Through interaction with their Marines, the boys improved on deficiencies and encouraged each other to be better, according to Shaheem E. Smith, an 18-year-old student at Albany High School.

“At the beginning of the week, I was giving up on myself during PT,” Smith said. “I went from giving up on Monday to coming here on Friday and doing the whole workout. Today I feel strong. The Marines made me a better man.”

The Marines helped give the boys a sense of direction during the week. Their accomplishments during drill, physical training and team events were directly tied to the motivation the Marines provided.

“We get a role model and someone to look up to, and when people have someone to look up to, they know they have a reason and a place in the world. This is a great program, and I definitely needed it to help people in my community and other communities become better people,” Smith said.

Sgt Timothy Parish
PAO, 1st MCD

Naval Hospital Opens Door to Students

Students at the AmerAsian School of Okinawa and Kubasaki High School visited the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Lester, Okinawa, Japan, to participate in the science, service, medicine and mentoring program, July 23-27.

The program provides learning opportunities to high school students who are interested in pursuing a career in science or medicine.

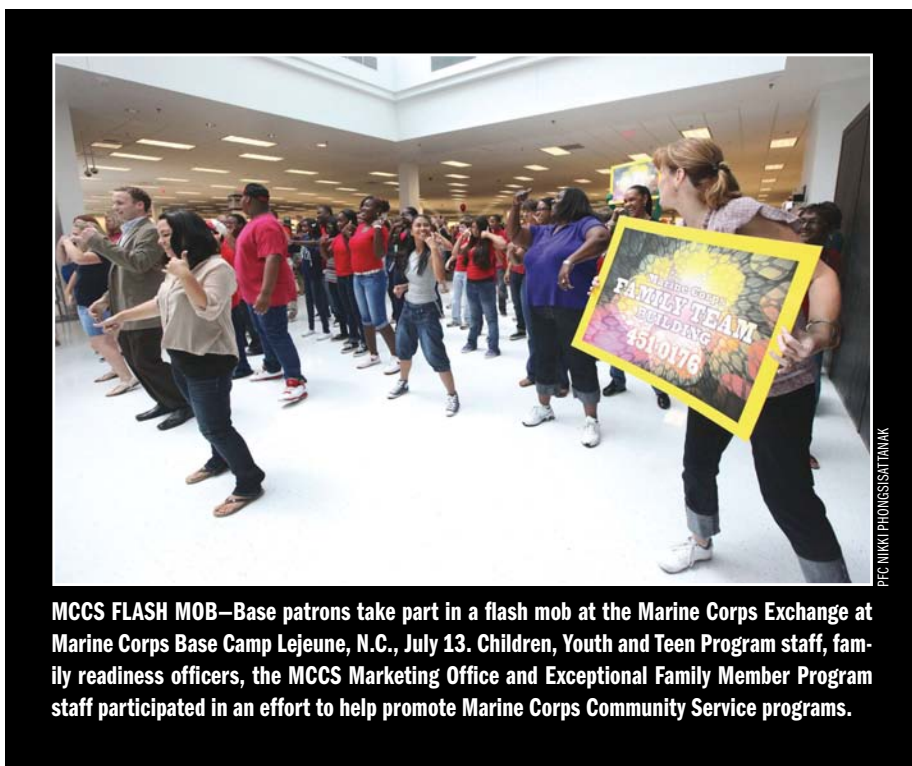
“This program has been in the U.S. since 2007, but this is the first time we have done it here,” said Navy Lieutenant So Y. Newton, the head of staff education and training at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

During the weeklong summer program, the students toured the operating room, cast room and research lab. They also learned about the pharmacy, preventive medicine and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

“I think this program is fantastic,” said Lieutenant Commander Emeka Ofobike, the head of the orthopedics department at the hospital. “The students get to come into the hospital, see what the medical field entails and experience a lot of hands-on training.”

During a visit to the cast room, they were able to experience firsthand what it’s like to have a cast.

“We actually sent the children home with a cast on their arm,” said LT Newton. “Many of the students were excited to play with the casts, but they don’t realize how tedious it really is to have a broken bone. We placed a cast on each one of the



MCCS FLASH MOB—Base patrons take part in a flash mob at the Marine Corps Exchange at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 13. Children, Youth and Teen Program staff, family readiness officers, the MCCS Marketing Office and Exceptional Family Member Program staff participated in an effort to help promote Marine Corps Community Service programs.

PFC NIKKI PHONGSANTANAK

children’s dominant arm, so they could experience what it is like when something as simple as combing their hair or brushing their teeth becomes difficult.”

Orthopedic technicians removed the casts from the children’s arms the next day.

This is the first time the program has been brought to this hospital, but likely will not be the last.

“If everything goes well, we hope to have more training during winter break,”



LCPL BRIANNA TURNER

HM3 Marco Brown puts a cast on Erica Jones during the science, service, medicine and mentoring program at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Lester, July 23. Jones is a student of AmerAsian School of Okinawa, and Brown is an orthopedic technician with the hospital.

said Newton. “Hopefully, we can expand it to [other] schools.”

LCpl Brianna Turner
Combat Correspondent, III MEF

National Park Service Offers Free Pass to Active-Duty Military

As part of the Joining Forces initiative, active-duty military personnel can obtain the new military version of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands annual pass. The pass will be accepted at National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

Where there are entrance fees, the pass covers the owner and accompanying passengers in a single private, noncommercial vehicle at recreation sites that charge per vehicle. At sites where per-person entrance fees are charged, it covers the pass owner and three accompanying adults age 16 and older. There is no entry fee for children age 15 and under.

While the pass is not available to veterans and retirees, many of these individuals are eligible for other discounted passes, such as the Senior Pass and the Access Pass, granting free lifetime access for permanently disabled U.S. citizens.

For more information on the pass, visit <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>.

PAO, National Park Service



Bill Toledo keyed the handset ... performed a brief radio check and then re-enacted a coded message.
He simulated calling for fire on a Japanese-held hill before the awestruck Marines.



World War II Marine Code Talkers Bill Toledo, standing, and Sidney Bedoni, seated at the head of the table, tell the Marines of MWCS-48 about the classified communication procedures during the war.

Voices of Our Ancestors

The Navajo Code Talkers' Story

Story and photos by LCpl William Waterstreet

A few Marines fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time witnessed an amazing piece of history come alive. On July 2, for the first time in more than 60 years, the Marine Corps' Navajo code from World War II again was transmitted via radio.

Former Private First Class Bill Toledo, who served as a Navajo Code Talker with 3d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, sent the code. A native of Laguna, N.M., Toledo was visiting the men and women of Marine Wing Communications Squadron (MWCS) 48, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., during Exercise Javelin Thrust (see page 38) to commemorate 70 years

since the Code-Talker program was founded in 1942.

In spite of triple-digit temperatures, gusting winds and clouds of dust at the Air Station, Bill Toledo and fellow Code Talker Sidney Bedoni insisted on visiting Marines out in the field to see how modern radio Marines live and work. A native of White Cone, Ariz., Bedoni served as a private first class with Second, Fourth and Fifth Marine divisions.

After reviewing a static display of modern radio communications equipment, Toledo discussed his experiences as a Code Talker in the Second World War. During his story, Toledo keyed the handset of a

nearby PRC-150, the advanced military HF radio available today, performed a brief radio check and then re-enacted a coded message. He simulated calling for fire on a Japanese-held hill before the awestruck Marines.

"We are in the presence of greatness and true American heroes," stated Master Sergeant John Roberts, the MWCS-48 communications chief and a native of Cleveland, who was assigned as an honorary Code-Talker liaison for the duration of the event.

Toledo and Bedoni visited the Marines and told the story they lived almost 70 years ago. Their visit began with video interviews

conducted by the Marine Corps History Division for the sake of posterity, including a recording of “The Marines’ Hymn” in Navajo. Following those interviews, the Code Talkers ate chow with several junior Marines and noncommissioned officers.

Later, active and Reserve Marines, Marine Corps League members and local civilians gathered in the chapel to hear their tale firsthand. The day ended with a banquet in their honor.

The Code Talkers’ storied history began in early 1942, when Philip Johnston, a white Protestant missionary’s son, presented the idea of using the Navajo language to create a code the Japanese couldn’t break. Johnston recruited 29 young Navajos to become Marines, not informing them about the plan for the code. Once the Navajo Marines graduated from boot camp and combat training, they were instructed to create a code based on their native language.

The code was tested first on Guadalcanal by six Marine Code Talkers who landed with 1stMarDiv. Four weeks after the landing, then-Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, the division commander, reported back to headquarters in Washington, D.C.: “The enemy doesn’t know what they’re saying. We don’t know what they’re saying, but it works.”

The code was based on the language of the Navajo people, but not everyone could understand it. Each Navajo Marine had to go through a school to learn how to speak the code. The code was based on words which were familiar to the Navajo people. For example, the word for “potato” meant “hand grenade” and the word for “turtle” meant “tank.”

In order to test the code, the government had Navajo elders try to decipher it. When they couldn’t, the government knew they found something special.

Another code was used by the Marine Corps at that time, but it was extremely complicated and could take 10 times longer to send a message than with the Navajo code. Because of this, the Navajo code began to grow larger and more widespread, ultimately being used in every major offensive of the war in the Pacific. Throughout the course of the war, there were 420 Navajos who served as Code Talkers. Thirteen didn’t return.

“Today, we have thousands of dollars of cryptologic equipment to encode messages,” said Sergeant Karl Lipovsek, an MWCS-48 electronic maintenance technician and a native of Elm Grove, Wis. “The Code Talkers did it by themselves with almost nothing and won a war.”

Bill Toledo enlisted in the Marine Corps after finishing eighth grade at the age of 18. He was convinced to join because of another young Navajo Marine who re-

turned to the reservation and spoke about the Corps. Toledo then traveled 50 miles to see a recruiter.

Before leaving for boot camp, the Navajo Marines were not told what they would be doing in the war. They were all signing up to be Marines, not knowing the Code Talkers existed.

When Toledo reached his unit, the other Marines at first thought he was the Japanese interpreter.

“Once the other Marines found out what I was doing in the war, they turned around and had a lot of respect for me,” said Toledo.

He then traveled throughout the Pacific,

seeing combat on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima while transmitting messages in the code he had memorized. Writing anything down was not allowed because of the risk of capture.

Each Code Talker had a white bodyguard. The bodyguards were necessary to keep the Code Talkers safe, not only from the enemy but also from Americans, as they were commonly mistaken for Japanese soldiers masquerading as Marines. Toledo still corresponds with the man who fought by his side.

Many Code Talkers were right behind front-line troops and were constantly in danger. The Japanese would use the radio



Above: MSgt John Roberts, the MWCS-48 communications chief, introduces WW II Code Talkers Bill Toledo, left, and Sidney Bedoni to his communications section at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., during their July visit.



Above left: Bill Toledo, a WW II Marine Code Talker, explains each device on his cover to PFC Rachel Wagner, an administration clerk in VMU-4, during lunch at the MCAS Yuma chow hall on July 2.



Above right: Sidney Bedoni, a WW II Code Talker, signs a Navajo Code Talker action figure for a Marine at MCAS Yuma on July 2.



World War II Marine Code Talker Bill Toledo, with the microphone, who served as a Code Talker with 3d Bn, 9th Marines, and Sidney Bedoni, who was a Code Talker with 2d, 4th and 5th Marine divisions, speak about their time as Code Talkers to the MCAS Yuma Marines.

signal used by the Code Talker to find the range for their mortars and begin shelling the Code Talker's position.

"Through a barrage or an air attack or naval gunfire, you still have to get the message off," said Toledo. "We were taught to ignore the world around us and focus on the message. We saved a lot of lives using the code."

Even when the war was done, the Code Talkers were sworn to secrecy.

"I was told, 'When you go home, keep your mouth shut,'" Toledo added. "We couldn't let anyone know what we did in case [America] needed to use the code again. So we never talked about the war, and our families never asked questions."

In 1968, the code finally was declassified. The Code Talkers then held a large reunion and shortly thereafter established the Navajo Code Talkers Association.

Today, there are fewer than 50 Code Talkers still alive and only one of the original 29 who built the code. They travel the country, spreading the tale of the Code Talkers and raising money for a \$43 million museum being built to commemorate the actions of these brave Marines. The museum is scheduled to be completed by 2014.

"We get a lot of questions about the code, and we try to speak to everyone," Toledo said. "People always want to hear the story of the code."

In addition to the positive effect the Code Talkers have had on the Corps, their actions have enriched the Navajo culture and have been a positive influence on the society.

"We try to tell young Navajos to be kind to all, pray for everyone and stay away from alcohol," said Toledo. "I tell the school kids to carry on our language to the future. We don't want to lose it."

The Code Talkers and even Navajo Marines of today come from a world very different from the one most Marines grew up in.

"Sheep were our lives," Toledo stated. "I started taking care of some of the sheep when I was 6. When it was time for me to start school, I went to one 70 miles away. When I went into the Marine Corps, I saw a lot of change. It was hard to catch on to some things."

"Growing up, we didn't have running water or electricity," said half-Navajo and half-Apache Staff Sergeant Derran Yazzie, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 power-line staff noncommissioned officer and a native of Lupton, Ariz. "This was very common. We didn't get electricity until 1983 and running water until 2000. Many places still don't have running water. Everything is so spread out; your closest neighbor is three miles away."

For many Native Americans, jobs are

difficult to find on the reservation, and with the history of the Code Talkers, some Navajos have turned to the military.

"The Code Talkers were one of the reasons I joined," added Yazzie. "Why live in your ancestors' legends? Why not become a legend of your own? If they can do what they did at the age of 16, why can't I? Being a Marine amplifies our culture and our purpose in life."

Among the Navajo today, the Code Talkers are given the utmost respect and are a cherished part of their culture.

"It's very hard to find role models and mentors on the reservation like the Code Talkers," said Yazzie. "There's a lot of respect for those who go off and join the service. In our culture, you can be proud if you choose to take the warrior's path. To see what they did, it motivates you to get up and do something with your life."

"When I was young, my father told me stories about what my great-grandfather did," said PFC Rachel Wagner, a Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 4 administration clerk. A native of Chinle, Ariz., she is a descendant of one of the original 29 Code Talkers. "When we see them in parades and public events, everybody claps. They symbolize a lot for us. They left home and sacrificed everything. They did all of this for us."

The saga of the Code Talkers is a timeless epic, one which is unique. It will stand the test of time and continue as a testament to the honor, courage and commitment of a people. What the Navajo Code Talkers accomplished has become part of Marine Corps legacy. By saving the lives of countless Marines, the Navajo have shaped the lives of every man and woman wearing the uniform today.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan declared Aug. 14 National Navajo Code Talker Day, and all Marines are encouraged to observe the holiday by taking the time to learn more about their brother Marines, the legendary Navajo Code Talkers, and the sacrifices they made for all of us. It falls to us to remember and carry on our history.

Author's note: More information about the Code Talkers and their association can be found at their website, www.navajocodetalkers.org.

Editor's note: LCpl Waterstreet is a Marine combat correspondent currently assigned to MCAS Yuma, Ariz.



"In our culture, you can be proud if you choose to take the warrior's path. To see what they did, it motivates you to get up and do something with your life."— SSgt Derran Yazzie

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STEPHEN MIHOCH

The Skyhawk's *Last Hurrah*

By Warren E. Thompson

In military aviation folklore, only a limited number of fighter types are considered to be legends, with most of these evolving during World War II. However, the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk has to be included as one of that elite group.

Its first flight was less than a year after the Korean War ended, and when all the various models of the A-4 had come off the assembly line, close to 3,000 had been built. The U.S. Marine Corps and Navy were the Skyhawk's main users, and it saw heavy action in the Vietnam War with naval aviators. After a long service life in the United States, the Marine Corps retired it from front-line service in 1998, but Reserve squadrons continued to use the last production A-4M models until Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 131 retired it in 1994.

The Skyhawk had several nicknames; "Scooter" was one, but the nickname of "Heinemann's Hot Rod" was an apt description of what its pilots thought about flying it. The public became enamored of

it when the Blue Angels began flying the A-4 in air shows between 1974 and 1986.

The production run on the "M" models was 160 airframes (including two A-4Fs that were reconfigured to M status). It was one of the longest production runs of any American fighter type, with all models, at 27 years. The "Mike" was powered by a new version of the J52 engine, which gave it about 20 percent more power than previous ones. That gave the Marine Reserve squadrons the advantage of being able to operate from much shorter airfields, if called upon. Combined with its blinding speed and a large canopy to improve the pilot's vision, that helped gain its advantage against any adversary at the lower altitudes.

One of the last Marine Reserve squadrons to operate the A-4M felt it was always a front-line threat to any adversary. VMA-124, based out of Naval Air Station Memphis, Tenn., until its deactivation, flew the Mike model of the Skyhawk. The squadron had a great history, dating back to 1942 in the Guadalcanal campaign while flying the F4U Corsair. The A-4M

began coming off the assembly line in October 1970, and it was retired in the fall of 1994. All of the regular squadrons had transitioned into newer fighters such as the F/A-18 Hornet and the AV-8B Harrier.

The Reserve squadrons that completed the Skyhawk's long career flew the aircraft as if it was the most formidable fighter in the world. They trained as if they were going to war the next day, and the aircraft always held its own over the various ranges.

The commanding officer of the Marine Aircraft Group 42 unit at NAS Memphis (VMA-124) in the early 1990s was Lieutenant Colonel Charles L. Dockery. He had flown many aircraft types with the Marines and began his career flying helicopters in the Vietnam War. During Operation Desert Shield, Dockery said that he called in every favor he could to have his squadron shipped to the Middle East to fight in the war against Iraq. His pleas fell on deaf ears because so many newer aircraft types were being pressed into the buildup. Nevertheless, his view of the A-4M was echoed by his pilots and maintenance personnel.

The A-4 had established a tremendous reputation with the Marines during its tenure in Vietnam as a very effective close-air-support (CAS) platform.



LEE WINTERS

Opposite page: The last Marine Reserve squadron to fly the Skyhawk was VMA-131, the “Diamondbacks.” “Double Nuts,” the last production A-4M of VMA-124 (below), was retired at NAS Memphis. The squadron (above) was moved to NAS Joint Reserve Base-Ft. Worth in 1994 and deactivated in 1997.



WARREN E. THOMPSON

The A-4 had established a tremendous reputation with the Marines during its tenure in Vietnam as a very effective close-air-support (CAS) platform. By the time Desert Shield began, the Skyhawk was nearly 20 years past Vietnam, and yet its skills never had diminished. The Marine Reserve units carried on the CAS tradition while also excelling in the interdiction mission.

On some of the combat exercises that VMA-124 participated in over ranges in Southern California and Arizona, the Marine ground troops stated that the Skyhawks were on them at tree-top level before they could react. The Marines added that they were thankful that the Skyhawks were not armed with live ordnance!

On frequent clashes with Hornets and Harriers at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., the A-4 held its own while staying low.

One of the pilots from -124 was quoted as saying, “We still fly an effective aircraft even if it is among the oldest in the Corps. The Mike is very capable in the air-to-air arena, and its biggest weakness would be in the radar environment. There are ways to get around this by working in scenarios where we stick close to the types that are equipped with the best radar [known as the T-bone tactic]. In order for us to survive in a very hostile environment, we have to use this tactic. Radar versus radar can turn into a real dogfight that is beyond visual range. We are capable of knowing when an adversary is ‘locking on us,’ and we have tactics to defeat that to a certain degree of effectiveness.”

The A-4Ms flown by all of the Marine Reserve squadrons had no problem deploying to other bases with their external 400-gallon centerline fuel tank. Then-LtCol Dockery expanded on his squadron’s participation in combat exercises after a particular deployment to MCAS Yuma: “We flew every day and maintained a 94 percent daily in-service average. This was very good because we were flying the oldest aircraft in the exercise. The T-bone tactics made us a much more effective fighter against the newer types.

“We used the F-4 Phantoms to help get us safely to the merge, which put us in visual contact with the opposing aircraft, and at that point the A-4 was a very dangerous threat. For instance, when we were fighting with the Air Force on our side, they would split up into two sections each. We would marry up with them putting one A-4 with each Eagle [F-15 Eagle]. This made us effective because the radars of both do the work, and that is the threat the ‘bad guys’ have to honor.

“When they know they are being zeroed in on radar, an adversary can’t be worried that a nonradar type is out there. This

leaves us free to maneuver, and our ability to see beyond visual range comes from our constant communications with our radar wingman, and they are giving us ongoing situational awareness. Before you realize it, we are able to pick up the 'enemy' visually at three to four miles, and we are turning on them. Usually, they are caught up with fighting the radar ship, and the first time they see us is when we are rolling in on them. This tactic works for us just about every time."

The A-4M cannot carry radar-guided weapon capabilities, such as the Sparrow missile. But it can carry laser weapons, which can be released and guided in to a target by an aircraft that is equipped to handle it. Forward air controllers (FACs), in the air or on the ground, can direct the weapon into the target.

The Skyhawk also could fire the Maverick missile. The original Skyhawk series had 1950s technology, while the later models' avionics still had older 1970s technology. Of the four aircraft types that the Skyhawks flew against over various ranges, the F-16 Fighting Falcon was the smallest and most difficult on which to get a quick visual. If it was spotted in time, it still was hard to get an angle on. Because it could turn as quickly as the A-4M could, it was always a toss-up when dueling against it at close range and low altitudes.

However, if the two types were dueling at extremely low levels, even though they were on equal terms as far as turning and burning, the A-4 could outlast the F-16 by making it egress out of the area because of low fuel. However, it would take a very experienced Skyhawk pilot to do this.

The F-14 Tomcat and F-15 Eagle were



LEE WINTERS

Above right: These NAS Memphis Skyhawks make a formation pass over their Mississippi bombing range before lining up for a bombing run.

Right: Maintenance on the aging A-4Ms of VMA-124 at NAS Memphis was excellent, and the "in service" rate remained high. (Photo by Warren E. Thompson)



Occasionally, aircraft from other Marine squadrons, like these Harriers from squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., would work with the A-4Ms of VMA-124 at NAS Memphis.



WARREN E. THOMPSON

much bigger and faster, but neither was capable of turning with the Skyhawk. One of the pilots in -124 stated, “We have to stay down low and slow to survive, but with the current set of rules and advanced technology, slow is really not the way to go anymore.”

If you had to pick a word that best described the late-model Skyhawks, it would be “versatile.”

Then-LtCol Dockery explained his A-4M’s capabilities: “We carry and accurately deliver a wide array of weapons that give us an edge in close air support. We have the Mark series of bombs [-81s, -82s, -83s and -84s], all the Rockeyes, AIM-9s and 300 rounds of ammo for our 20 mm cannons. Probably our most effective piece of ordnance would be the Mark-82 [500 pound], and we can haul six of them! Our speed is crucial to the success of the CAS mission. We come into a hot area where the FACs have put down smoke markers or laser on the target. We make one pass and exit, and that is our key to survival. Also, it explains why it is so important to put our bombs squarely on target with the first try.”

During the late 1980s and before the problems with Iraq, VMA-124 was concentrating on low-level deliveries with a variety of ordnance types. Those scenarios were obvious not only at MCAS Yuma, but also at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where Red Flag and Green Flag were the focal point of all Air Force exercises. During that period, the theme that seemed to be emphasized in all of the war games was survival on a Warsaw Pact battlefield.

The aircraft participating in the training,

like the A-4M, were concentrating on quick, low-level attacks where there was only one pass to take out the target and exit as fast as possible. That scenario was perfect for the Skyhawk. In the hostile environment they would have faced in Eastern Europe, that would have been the best tactic for survival. One of the keys to making the Skyhawk more effective was its ability to work closely with a forward air controller (ground or air) to hit the target and exit, while staying very low.

Back in the 1960s, a few A-4Ds were fitted with spray tanks. That test was conducted in and around the area sur-

If you had to pick a word that best described the late-model Skyhawks, it would be “versatile.”

rounding NAS Jacksonville, Fla. It proved to be very successful, and, in turn, it added another dimension to the capabilities of the Skyhawk. Up until that time, all of the aerial spraying had been done with slower prop types. The Skyhawk could get the job done at 500 mph at altitudes as low as 150 feet. That translated to about 300 gallons per minute.

Going low and fast gave the A-4Ms the best chance of being a vital part of Desert Storm. The air offensive against Iraq had taken a heavy toll on the enemy, but there was no way to know exactly how effective it had been when the ground troops had to cross into enemy territory. With their aerial-spraying potential, the Marine

Skyhawks could have laid down a dense smoke screen to conceal movements of friendly troops as they advanced. However, due to the availability of newer aircraft, the Marine A-4Ms were not allowed to enter the war.

By the late 1980s, there were only five Marine Reserve squadrons that were flying the Mike version of the Skyhawk. In the early 1990s, they were down to only three squadrons: VMA-122’s “Werewolves” based at South Weymouth, Mass., VMA-124 at NAS Memphis and VMA-131’s “Diamondbacks” at NAS Willow Grove, Pa. Records show that the last Skyhawk from VMA-124 was flown out on June 21, 1994, and a short time later, VMA-131 retired its last four. It was the end of a great career in the U.S. military.

The Skyhawks still have a presence in the Far East (Pacific Rim) with some smaller air forces. It was a valuable front-line asset to the Israeli Air Force for many years in some of its most crucial conflicts. It is gone from the U.S. air arsenal, but will never be forgotten.

Editor’s note: Warren Thompson has written about military aviation history for more than 40 years, leading to numerous published magazine articles and books. He contributes regularly to the Marine Corps Aviation Association’s Yellow Sheet and eight other aviation-related magazines. Check out Amazon.com to find his book “American Nightfighter Aces of World War 2,” which covers Marine, Navy and USAAF aces.



Dr. Chocolate and the Marine Paratroopers

By Col Dave E. Severance, USMC (Ret)

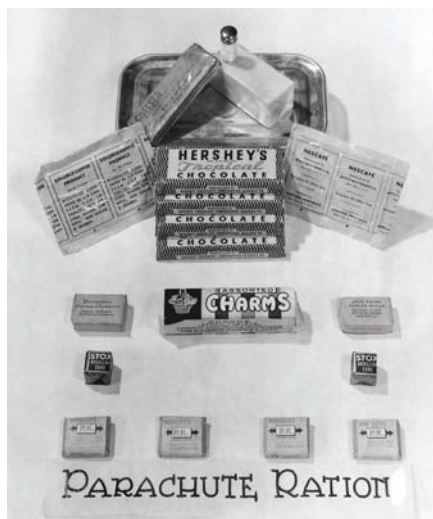
The Ph.D. scientist from Cal Tech in California had a name, but I have forgotten it as he always was called and referred to as “Dr. Chocolate.” He visited the Marine paratrooper unit at Camp Elliott, San Diego, three times during the period between August 1941 and March 1943. His nickname resulted from his first visit in 1941 during a research effort to determine the quality of the D-bar ration, a waxy chocolate bar.

The D-bar was one of the three field rations issued to troops. Breakfast normally was a canned ration called C-ration. Lunch could be either a small ration boxed in a Cracker Jack box (K-ration) or a D-bar. Supper, again, was a C-ration. Our primary mission was to be dropped behind enemy lines and operate until the amphibious infantry units reached our location. It was imperative that we carry sufficient rations, but not to be burdened with too much bulk or weight. If the D-bar could be qualified as the sole ration for a day’s calories, it could cut down on the number of canned rations carried. Dr. Chocolate’s plan was to have a unit eat nothing but D-bar rations for days on end and watch the results.

One platoon from the 2d Marine Parachute Battalion was chosen for the test. Morning, noon and night the leathernecks’ only food was the D-bar. They could devour it in any manner they wished so long as only that ration and water were consumed. Men ate it by biting pieces off, cutting it into small pieces to dissolve in their mouths or slicing it in thin shreds and melting it in hot water as cocoa. No other nourishment was permitted. When their unit went to chow, the test platoon sat in the barracks eating their chocolate bars.

That went on for 36 to 48 hours at which time the men in the test platoon began to break out in hives, and some became sick to their stomachs. In view of those results, the experiment was terminated.

I don’t know what Dr. Chocolate did with his findings, but I do recall that by December 1943 the D-bar ration became more tolerable. In fact, it became more like a Hershey’s chocolate bar. Gone was the waxy consistency, and the flavor indicated more chocolate was added to the formula. Although I do not know it for a fact, I give Dr. Chocolate credit for the improvement.



COURTESY OF SUSAN STRANGE

Above: The special WW II Parachute Ration was lightweight, but a one-item, high-energy option like the D-bar would be even lighter and more convenient, so Paramarines were charged with testing an improved D-bar for Dr. Chocolate.

Below: First Lt Dave Severance, adjutant, 3d Parachute Bn, holds a one-of-a-kind Johnson 30.06 that was presented to Maj Harry Torgerson by its designer, Melvin Johnson. Torgerson, a Paramarine, earned the Silver Star on Gavutu in August 1942.



COURTESY OF COL DAVE E. SEVERANCE, USMC (RET)

Sometime before May 1942, Dr. Chocolate was again at our unit with another experiment. He was testing us for night blindness. Depending on how we fared in his experiment, he would prescribe vitamin A to improve our eyesight.

His test equipment was a four-sided box

closed at each end, six feet in length and about 20 inches square. At one end were two eyepieces similar to binoculars. The first foot of the interior was blocked off by a curtain, and the one-foot enclosure had only a large electric light bulb. Beyond the curtain were four small pillars positioned about one foot apart in depth. Mounted on each was a small toy military vehicle: a tank, a truck, a jeep and a motorcycle.

The subject being tested peered into the blank one-foot interior, and Dr. Chocolate flashed the bright light in his eyes. Immediately, the doctor raised the curtain exposing the four toys on their pedestals. The doctor then measured the period of time to determine when the subject could identify all four of the toys. The doctor then noted the recovery time of his subjects, charted them in some manner and determined the dosage of vitamin A based on the subject’s recovery time.

Unfortunately, my recovery time was flawed. I was a sergeant at the time, and the experiment was conducted on a Monday morning. I had been on a weekend-long party, returned to the base about 2 a.m. and slept until reveille at 6 a.m. I was in no condition to take a night-blindness test! Once the doctor flashed the bright light in my eyes and pulled up the curtain exposing the military toys, I saw nothing but a dark blank space. After a prolonged wait, the doctor terminated my test. I had to admit to him that I had a terrific hangover. He said he would test me again later, but that never happened.

Years later my daughter ran the same experiment at a school science fair with a similar test box she manufactured. In addition to Dr. Chocolate’s experiment, she tested smokers to gauge the impact of cigarettes on night vision. To do that, she tested smokers who had not smoked a cigarette for at least two hours and then had them smoke a cigarette before testing them again. She discovered that the cigarette smoking had a detrimental impact on one’s sight at night.

Dr. Chocolate’s final experiment on us was with Benzedrine tablets, a commercial version of amphetamine. He wanted to find out if providing troops with Benzedrine could offer them a more effective stimulant than caffeine tablets. That was a requirement in view of our possible long and sustained action behind enemy lines. The experiment took place shortly before

Leathernecks with 3d Parachute Bn jump over Kearney Mesa, San Diego in early 1943. Mt. Soledad is in the background. (Photo courtesy of Col Dave E. Severance, USMC (Ret))



Below: The all-Marine 7th Parachute Platoon, including then-Cpl Dave Severance, received parachute training from 10 July-19 Aug. 1941 at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, N.J. (Photo courtesy of Col Dave E. Severance, USMC (Ret))



March 1943, when the 3d Marine Corps Parachute Bn was scheduled to go overseas.

The plan was to have an entire company carry out a 36-to-48-hour schedule, with no sleep and to utilize the Benzedrine tablets to overcome fatigue. That action went on for almost 48 hours. As the company was returning to camp after a long night hike, I saw them as they were taking a break at the camp entrance. Two of the men fell asleep standing up and pitched into the ditch beside the road. When they arrived at our barracks, the experiment was terminated. The findings were that the “proper use” of Benzedrine would be beneficial to the individual’s performance. Each man in the battalion was provided with Benzedrine tablets to be carried in his first-aid pouch when he went overseas.

An example of the improper use of Benzedrine was evident while we were in combat on Bougainville Island, December 1943. A lieutenant, who had been a staff noncommissioned officer with the paratroops on Gavutu and Guadalcanal, was in his foxhole with his platoon runner. No enemy action had been observed.

Suddenly, in the middle of the night, the lieutenant stood up in his foxhole and started yelling, “Japs! Japs!” He pulled the pin on a grenade and in his frenzy



PVT D. WHITE

Above: Cpl Glenn Riggs, left, adjusts the straps for Cpl Jerry Cargill, who is preparing to make a controlled jump in December 1942 at Camp Gillespie, the Marine parachute training center near San Diego.

Below: Maj Robert T. Vance, Commanding Officer, 3d Parachute Bn, center front, and his battalion staff in early 1943. First Lt Dave Severance stands second from the right in the back row. Note the different boot styles.

dropped the grenade into the foxhole, killing his runner and himself. It was determined that he had been taking Benzedrine tablets before the accident. The battalion commander had all troops cautioned, again, on the proper use of Benzedrine, but he did not order the stimulant removed from our first-aid pouches.

After we left Bougainville, we passed through Guadalcanal en route to the States. There, 5,000 cases of beer caught up to us, and none remained when we departed the island. The Parachute Bn and the Marine Raiders were disbanded in early 1944. I’ve often wondered what happened to Dr. Chocolate. We never heard from him again.

Editor’s note: Col Severance was a Marine paratrooper in 3d Parachute Bn on Bougainville. In February 1944, he became CO of Co E, 2/28, 5thMarDiv and led the company on Iwo Jima. His “Easy” Co leathernecks, reinforced by other 2/28 members, raised the first flag atop Mt. Suribachi on 23 Feb. 1945.

Later, he became a Marine pilot, flying the F7F-3N Tigercat and F3D-2 Skynight in combat during the Korean War. He retired from active duty in 1968.



COURTESY OF COL DAVE E. SEVERANCE, USMC (RET)

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Gitmo and the Cuban Missile

Story by Doug C. Horstman
Photos courtesy of the author

The bluish-black mushroom cloud spiraled high into the sky, an awesome sight against the clear blue Caribbean Sea and the lush green mountains of Oriente Province. Another U.S. Marine and I stood transfixed at the scene, both of us filled with foreboding of a nuclear attack on “Gitmo,” the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, that we were defending in October 1962.

A few days earlier on 22 Oct., we were glued to the radio as U.S. President John F. Kennedy revealed that Soviet missiles and bombers in Cuba were armed with nuclear warheads that could reach Washington, D.C. His concluding words still ring: “The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we will never choose, and that is the path of surrender or submission.” Within hours, more than 3,000 dependents were evacuated, leaving an eerie, deserted look to Gitmo where laundry flapped in the wind and lights burned in empty houses.

We had no doubt that we were going to war. On the day of President Kennedy’s speech, our battery commander, Lieutenant Jack Brennan, was summoned to a roadside meeting with his boss, who excitedly told him he had learned that the President would speak that night and we would “go

“Everywhere troops are digging into the ridges and hills while military dependents, civilians and Cuban workers have been evacuated.”

over the fence tomorrow.”

Recently, those vivid images flooded my mind as I perused a stack of letters I wrote to my parents as a young enlisted Marine at Gitmo some 50 years ago this month. One of them described my “moment of truth” reaction that Gitmo was

about to be wiped off the map. But in fact, the thunderous explosion I did hear was the result of an ammunition-laden aircraft crashing as it landed at Leeward Point Field.

“Rescuers couldn’t get near the Boeing 707 as the explosion sent up a mushroom cloud that looked like an atomic bomb,” I wrote, noting that the seven-man crew had perished.

My letters home, along with information only recently made public, tell of the tension-filled days facing Navy and Marine Corps personnel at Gitmo during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a now-historic confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union that brought the world to the edge of nuclear catastrophe.

The job of defending the sprawling 45-square-mile base at the southern tip of Cuba was entrusted to Marines and the U.S. Navy. Periodic threats by Cuban President Fidel Castro to seize the base were taken seriously, especially since an estimated 10,000 Cuban militiamen were dug into the surrounding mountains.

I arrived at Gitmo with the 10th Marine Regiment, an artillery unit from Marine



The 155 mm, nuclear-capable M114 howitzers of Battery K, 4th Battalion, 10th Marines were laid and ready for action during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. Marines slept by their howitzers.

Crisis of 1962

Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., in USS *Thuban* (AKA-19), a troopship, in September 1962. At first look, the base seemed more like a Caribbean resort than a remote Navy post. “Right within my barracks area there’s a swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, a movie, a gym, a library, free fishing and boat rentals,” I wrote in my first letter home.

But there was little chance to enjoy those niceties. Another Marine and I were appointed forward observers and assigned to one of the observation posts manned by Marines along the 15-mile land border with Cuba. “Our outpost is up in the hills directly overlooking Cuban territory in Oriente Province,” I explained. “There’s a fence line that divides us from Castro. Our side of the fence is mined with barbed wire entanglements to hold them off. ... On the other side of the fence there’s a road patrolled by Cuban sentries.”

We were assigned to one of the many concrete bunkers built in record time by Seabees with the help of some fearless Marines who operated our two TD-18s (bulldozers). Our task was to identify Cuban fortifications and radio their coordi-

nates to the operations center for targeting by our 155 mm howitzers. Navy and Marine jets screamed over our position on simulated bombing runs: “They came in straight down the fence line,” I wrote, “kicking in their after-burners and climbing straight up.”

Cuban workers kept the base running. More than 3,000 of them were employed by the U.S. Navy in machine shops, on the docks, and as gardeners, cooks, maids and shop clerks. All but a few hundred left the base at nightfall to return to a grim existence in nearby villages. Most of them openly criticized their bearded dictator, although some were known to be Castro’s spies. On the whole, I wrote, “they are really fanatics about getting their country back from Castro.”

Because access to information was limited, it was difficult to separate facts from the rumors that were spreading. Scuttlebutt had it that Castro was about to cut off the fresh water supply to the base (he didn’t).



LCpl Doug Horstman had been an 0311, infantryman, on sea duty, but his reassignment orders changed his occupational specialty to fire direction controlman, 0844. When deployed to Gitmo, he became a forward observer, living in a bunker overlooking the fence line separating Gitmo from Cuba.

Hearsay also had it that Russian ships carrying missiles were approaching the island (they were). Our only connection to the outside world was the base radio station (WGBY) and newspaper, the *Gitmo Gazette*.

By 22 Oct., it was clear that something big was in the works. Aircraft carrying Marines in full combat gear were landing at the airfield. A Marine amphibious force arrived, boosting ground forces to more than 5,000 Marines. My letter describes



**As it turns out, there was plenty to be worried about.
Yet it wasn't until 2002 that a Soviet/Cuban plan to annihilate
Gitmo was revealed for the first time.**



Above: While cannoners and assigned corpsmen slept with the guns, other K/4/10 leathernecks and corpsmen lived in this luxury.

Right: It's true that wherever Marines are on 10 Nov., the Marine Birthday is acknowledged. In 1962, K/4/10 cut its Birthday cake during a never-to-be-forgotten ceremony at Gitmo during a real-world crisis.

Below: These K/4/10 Marines proudly point to the Marine Barracks Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, colors during Marine Corps Birthday celebrations in November 1962.



the turbulent scene: "Everywhere troops are digging into the ridges and hills while military dependents, civilians and Cuban workers have been evacuated. All the base houses were evacuated within two hours."

There was no time to reflect on Soviet missiles striking cities on the East Coast where many of us had family and friends. Marines were focused on the job at hand, which was to defend the base or to launch an offensive. Lt Brennan had split our battery in half, taking three howitzers to a position that covered the leeward side and the airfield. We knew that moving out into the well-fortified mountains would result in many casualties.

"Things are happening so fast our heads are spinning," I scrawled on 24 Oct., after being recalled from the bunker to our gun positions. "We sleep on the ground next to the guns when we're not working



... it looks like we will be going to them [the Cubans] instead of them coming to us. ... We each have been issued ammo, bulletproof vests, and gas masks. Last night, we loaded our trucks with 400 rounds of ammo, powder and fuses." I proceeded to add a line that in hindsight seems absurd: "P.S. Don't worry about me."

As it turns out, there was plenty to be worried about. Yet it wasn't until 2002 that a Soviet/Cuban plan to annihilate Gitmo was revealed for the first time. Citing Russian and Cuban sources, author Michael Dobbs disclosed in his book "One Minute to Midnight" that Soviet cruise missiles and camouflaged nuclear warheads were positioned in Filipinas, a village just 15 miles inland from the base.

According to Dobbs, there, on 26 Oct., a Russian commander awaited orders from Moscow to launch a missile targeting Git-

mo. It was to be armed with a 14-kiloton nuclear charge, about the strength of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. Programmed to explode a few hundred feet above ground for maximum destruction, it would reach its target in two minutes.

Providentially, the order to launch never came. On 28 Oct., First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikita Khrushchev signaled to President Kennedy, in a message broadcast by Radio Moscow, and in a formal letter, that he would accept the President's assurances not to invade the island, and the U.S.S.R. would dismantle and withdraw its missiles. Gitmo, and indeed the world, had avoided nuclear destruction.

Two weeks later, I posed with fellow Marines at our hilltop bunker as a United Press International photographer snapped

photos of us eating cake to celebrate the 187th Birthday of the Marine Corps. There was a lot to celebrate, more than we could ever absorb from our tenuous outpost in the Caribbean.

Editor's note: The author served in the Marine Corps during 1960-64, first with the Marine Detachment aboard USS Randolph (CVS-15) and later with an artillery unit at Camp Lejeune, N.C., that was deployed to Gitmo in September 1962. Now retired from a business career, he serves on the board of directors of the Families of the Wounded Fund Inc. in Richmond and Fredericksburg, Va. To learn more about the Families of the Wounded Fund Inc., visit the website: <http://fotwf.org/>.



In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce

Through Bullets, IEDs and Mines, Sergeant Abbate Led the Way

Sergeant Matthew Abbate posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross, the naval service's second highest combat award, during a ceremony Aug. 10 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

On Oct. 14, 2010, Abbate's Quick Reaction Force team came under fire during a dismounted patrol through Sangin, Afghanistan's northern green zone. His patrol was ambushed in a minefield by insurgents from several well-prepared positions.

When Abbate's team received fire, patrol members moved to cover two Marines and a corpsman struck by improvised explosive devices. With the patrol leader incapacitated and three severe casualties, Sgt Abbate took charge and then sprinted through the minefield to rally the dazed team members.

He directed the remaining squad members' fire until they effectively suppressed the enemy and could give life-saving aid to the casualties. After coordinating the medical evacuation, he swept the landing zone with a mine detector for additional explosives, clearing it for the medical evacuation aircraft, before the patrol was again

forced to take cover from enemy fire.

Knowing that the casualties' survival depended upon the speed of their evacuation by helicopter, he rallied the patrol's able men and led a counterattack to clear enemy fighters from the landing zone.

Abbate was later killed in action on Dec. 2, 2010, in Helmand province.

Sgt Abbate was well known throughout his unit, the Scout Sniper Section in Company K, 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, and as an inspiration to his peers.

"Sergeant Matthew Abbate wasn't just our section leader; he was our mentor, our friend and our brother," said Sgt Royce R. Hughie, also a scout sniper with 3/5. "He excelled at everything he did from being a man, a father and a warrior. Matt was a man among men; he was always there in times of trouble. He would do anything in his power and usually more to provide for his friends and family. Matt brought out the best of every situation, especially in hard times. As a warrior, Matt was courageous, inspiring and dedicated."

Major General Ronald L. Bailey, Commanding General, 1stMarDiv, I Marine Expeditionary Force, presented the Navy

Cross to Sgt Abbate's family in August.

"Today we are here to honor and recognize an American hero," said MajGen Bailey. "The Navy Cross is given for great gallantry and valor. Sergeant Abbate's actions were truly and extraordinarily heroic, and I'm proud that his actions are honored today."

All those who knew and served alongside Sgt Abbate never failed to mention his leadership ability.

"He instilled a sense of confidence and safety with everyone on patrol simply because he was there," added Sgt Hughie. "Matt led by example, always from the front, and was always the last one out. He never expected anything from someone that he wouldn't do himself. Matt changed the lives of everyone who had the privilege of knowing him and will always be remembered."

Sgt Abbate's awards also include the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and the U.S. Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

LCpl Timothy Childers
Combat Correspondent, 15th MEU

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 July:



Silver Star

SSgt Alexander V. Haralovich,
3d Reconnaissance Battalion,
Third Marine Division

GySgt Joseph F. Lurz, 1st Marine Special Operations Bn, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC)



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

GySgt William B. Dunfee, Marine Corps Augmentation & Transition Support Unit

LtCol Travis L. Homiak, Eighth Marine Regiment, 2dMarDiv
Capt Ryan M. Hunt, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Robert G. Kightlinger, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Patrick N. McCafferty, 9th Engi-

neer Support Bn, Third Marine Logistics Group

Cpl Gurpreet Singh, 1/5, 1stMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

LCpl Brian M. Basho, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Nicholas E. Blasi, 2d MSOB, MARSOC

Sgt Kyle J. Boundy, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Joseph A. Bowden, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
Capt Marc L. Bullock, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Eric W. Carr, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Kyle J. Cartheuser, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
SSgt Jeffrey T. Christian, 3/3, 3dMarDiv
Capt Michael P. Cicchi, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
LCpl Elliott M. Fritsch, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Juan A. Garcia, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Kyle L. Garcia, 1st MSOB, MARSOC
Cpl Samuel H. Gipson, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Sean R. Grady, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Justin P. Graves, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Kyle P. Hannon, 2/6, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Kyle J. Haydel, 2d Combat Engineer Bn, 2dMarDiv
HM1 Fitzwater D. Jeffrey, 2/11, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Eric C. Johnson, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Capt Gregory W. Kosh, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt David A. Leon, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Reginald J. Lovato, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv
HMCS Albert J. Marcucci, 1st MSOB, MARSOC
Sgt Ernesto R. Martinez, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Jesus M. Medina, 3/9, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Jorge F. Montano Jr., 1st LAR Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Kyle R. O'Brien, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Joshua T. Oman, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Greg M. Palmere, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
GySgt Larry S. Patrick, 2d MSOB, MARSOC
Sgt David R. Pedroza, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Capt Graham J. Pulliam, 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Rafael A. Ramirez, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl John P. Reid, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
1stSgt Ricky E. Roseberry, 3d CEB, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Jason M. Ross, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Marvin W. Sanders III, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Walton L. Satcher Jr., 2/4, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Jacob S. Shoemate, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Brandon M. Simmet, Headquarters Bn (Forward), 2dMarDiv
SSgt Ricardo Sosa Jr., 1st MSOB, MARSOC
SSgt David B. Southerland, 9th ESB, 3d MLG
HN Randall A. Wickersham, 1st LAR Bn, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Thomas L. Williams, 9th ESB, 3d MLG

 **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"**
Sgt Dwayne Adams, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt James M. Amos, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Ciaran M. Andrews, 1st Radio Bn, I Marine Expeditionary Force
Cpl Brian A. Archer, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Brandon M. Baia, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Joshua D. Bailes, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Zachary J. Bailey, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Benjamin M. Barnett, 2/9, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Garrett O. Barrera, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
2dLt Adam R. Barrett, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
HN Nicholas Bellflower, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
2dLt Maxwell F. Bernstein, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
HM2 Jonathan G. Booten, 8th Marines, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Clay D. Bornowski, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Ibrahim Bosch, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt William C. Boulton, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Adam D. Bradley, 2/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Ronald M. Brewer, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Ryan M. Brown, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Justin T. Burbank, 2/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Nata D. Coelho, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Nicholas B. Crandall, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Andrew M. Cullen, 2/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Joshua C. Czerepka, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Robert E. Davis, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Dustin P. Decou, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Joshua W. Doyle, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Joshua L. Earhart, 1/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Kelvin J. Eldridge, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Christopher Ennis, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Dominic A. Escuela, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Carlos A. Espinosa-Vanegas, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Brian K. Farrell, 1st MSOB, MARSOC
HM3 Hussein E. Fattahy, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Luke A. Forelle, 3/3, 3dMarDiv
Cpl Michael J. Franko, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
GySgt Jairo A. Fredonis, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Carson T. Friedrich, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Colin A. Fruehbrodt, 5th Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III MEF

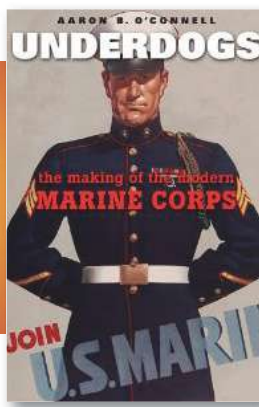
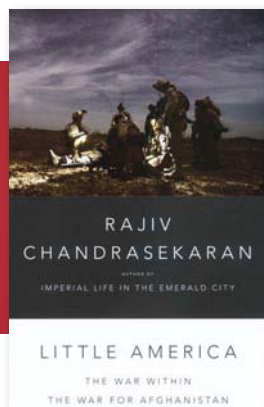
Sgt Stephen D. Fryer II, 3/5, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Jose A. Galvan, 1st CEB, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Caleb J. Geiger, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Duriel C. Golden, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
HN Cory Green, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Michael B. Greenleaf, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Justin A. Grove, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Tylor J. Halstengard, 2/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Casey L. Hansen, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Timothy D. Harrington, 1/25, 4thMarDiv
Cpl Collin C. Hinson, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Alexander J. Hohl, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
HN Winston B. Holland, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
HN Adam Ingram, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Russell P. Injerd, 3/3, 3dMarDiv
Sgt Miles F. Jones-France, 1st MSOB, MARSOC
HM2 Joshua R. Keffer, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Zane A. Kutch, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Shields C. Lee, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Spencer S. Lindsay, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
HN James L. Louck, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Christian D. Magnacca, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Patrick H. Maloney, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Steven Marcucci, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl James R. Martinez, 2/9, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Michael J. Maxwell, 2/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Terry B. McAninch, 2d Radio Bn, II MEF
Capt Eric M. McElvenny, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Aaron D. Mitzlaff, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Brian P. Murphy, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl William F. Naus IV, 2/6, 2dMarDiv
HN Cody R. Ornbaun, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Michael F. Owen, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Emilio Ponce, 2/6, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Robert A. Price, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Matthew T. Pritchard, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
HM2 Brandon L. Reck, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
2dLt John E. Rehberg, 2/4, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Derek J. Rogers, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Hiram V. Ruiz, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Thomas A. Runyan, 1st LAR Bn, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Jovi L. Skinner, 3/7, 1stMarDiv
2dLt Roland D. Swanson III, 2/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Jonathon R. Whisenhunt, 2/6, 2dMarDiv

Compiled by the Personal Awards Section, HQMC



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.



LITTLE AMERICA: The War Within the War for Afghanistan. By Rajiv Chandrasekaran. Published by Alfred A. Knopf. 384 pages. Stock #0307957144. \$25.16 MCA Members. \$27.95 Regular Price.

In the dark and murky world of contemporary Afghanistan, America finds itself entrapped in another war that is going badly. In “Little America,” author Rajiv Chandrasekaran takes readers back to America’s involvement with Afghanistan in the early days of the Cold War, right after World War II and then up to the present time with insights from the lance corporal level to the highest policy levels.

The title is anchored in America’s attempt to woo the Afghan government away from the Soviet influence. With the grand dream of harnessing hydraulic power combined with massive irrigation schemes, American engineers sought to turn the arid regions bordering the Helmand River Valley into a harvest of plenty for a supposed grateful Afghan population. A vast complex of modern living quarters named “Little America” was developed for the American and European engineers and their families.

When it became clear that the lofty

plans were deeply flawed, America pulled out and Afghanistan was left adrift, later to be invaded by the Soviets.

Chandrasekaran writes about today, taking a hard, but fair, look at President Barack Obama’s war, including the troop surge. As a senior correspondent and associate editor for *The Washington Post*, Chandrasekaran made more than a dozen trips to Afghanistan, becoming an adroit eyewitness to America’s involvement.

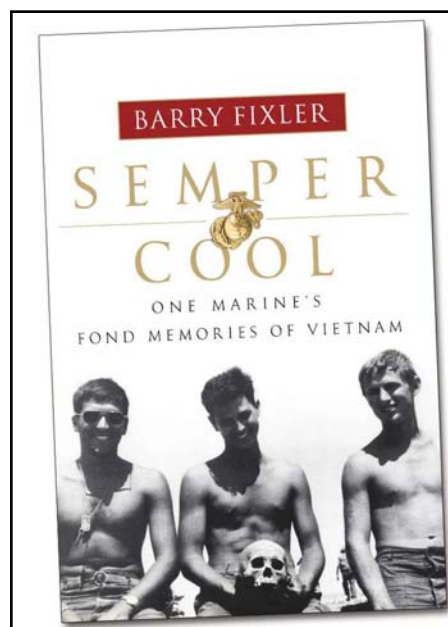
When President Obama took office, he looked to surge U.S. forces in Afghanistan to bring the war to a close. When called upon for a surge commitment, General James T. Conway, then-Commandant of the Marine Corps, offered the President thousands of troops, but he had some important strings attached. He wanted his Marines to replace the British troops serving in Helmand province, and the Marines would serve as one force, fully supported by Marine air assets.

Gen Conway chose then-Brigadier General Lawrence D. “Larry” Nicholson to lead the Corps’ surge effort. Marines fully embraced the counterinsurgency (COIN) operations that BGen Nicholson had employed to help pacify Anbar province in Iraq. Combining the ethos of “No better friend; no worse enemy,” Marines first created a large combat base called Camp Leatherneck in northern Helmand province, then started aggressive patrolling aimed at expanding control of the territories and towns throughout the province.

In Helmand, it might be said, the surge worked locally, but this was not to be the case in other important parts of the rest of the country.

Chandrasekaran also defines the numerous lingering problems. He gives some detail to the challenges of developing a cooperative partnership between the U.S. military, State Department and civilian agencies.

He points out that Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, seemed concerned about maintaining control of the major cities,



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“Fixler seems to have loved every minute of his time in the U.S. Marine Corps, including sustained vicious combat in Vietnam... His blunt recreating of his war-time experiences is well done and evocative.”

—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*

Leatherneck Book Browser

“Counting the Days: POWs, Internees, and Stragglers of World War II in the Pacific.”

Prisoner of war stories hold a morbid fascination for many of us. With the Marines, it is exemplified in accounts of those who languished and were tortured by the Vietnamese communists, barbarous Chinese and Koreans or as guests of the Emperor.

Craig B. Smith, president of a global engineering firm, traveled in the Western Pacific and asked himself the question that all POWs, and all of us who could possibly become POWs, hope we never have to answer: “Would I be a survivor?”

He started by recording stories of internment survivors in the Pacific during World War II. He found himself not content just to record the stories. “I wanted to relive them,” he writes. “To physically see and immerse myself in the settings where they experienced the struggle to stay alive.”

The results are harrowingly true vignettes of six resourceful, determinedly tough, and, in the end, very lucky individuals. Leathernecks will closely empathize with Marine Private First Class Garth Dunn captured on Guam in 1941.

Smith vividly retells how American prisoners were subject to inhumane treatment at the hands of their captors. Some have speculated if one is meant to become a prisoner of war, it is best by far to be a prisoner of the Americans. In an interesting approach, Smith also relates how Japanese soldiers imprisoned by Americans were tormented by their own sense of dishonor, a feeling that remained long after they returned to Japan.

“Counting the Days” is an inspirational narrative that goes well beyond repatriation. The main characters exhibited impressive strength not only during their incarceration, but later on when they needed to rebuild their lives and prosper.

Thoroughly researched, the 260 pages transition seamlessly into compelling reading supported by pictures, maps and

illustrations. It is an exceptional read, which can be ordered through Amazon.com: \$18.95 for the hardcover volume or downloaded to your Kindle for \$15.37. Barnes & Noble requires a payment of \$18.50 for the hard copy, and the Nook Book is \$15.37.

“Counting the Days” is published by Smithsonian Books, P.O. Box 37012, MRC 513, Washington, DC 20013. (ISBN: 978-1-58834-355-0)

“**Shall Never See So Much.**” The fact that author Gerald Gillis was a Marine artillery officer during the Vietnam War gives his novel great credibility. His main male character, Lieutenant Tom Flanagan, personifies the Marines, particularly the young combat officers of that era. Set in the terrible and cataclysmic 1968 Tet Offensive at Hue, Gillis brings home vicious building-to-building firefights.

The main female character is Flanagan’s sister Kate. Impressions of the war viewed from across the ocean in the land of the big PX differ greatly. She enlists on the staff of Senator Robert F. Kennedy’s campaign for the presidency.

“Shall Never See So Much” is a touching outline of those tumultuous times. It resurrects old wounds and bitterness perhaps best forgotten, but always just below the surface. It is nonetheless all that a good novel should be: a story of triumph and tragedy capsulated into a tale of brother and sister who are passionate in their beliefs. Once in a great while we all need to be reminded of those times, but not too often, for the volatility is still powerful and the deep, dark divisions are still there.

“Shall Never See So Much” is an easy read, but thought-provoking: 318 pages in a softcover, published by, and available from, BookLocker.com Inc. The paperback goes for \$17.95, and the eBook can be downloaded for \$8.99. (ISBN: 978-1-60910-131-2)

but showed little interest in the lives of the people living in the vast Afghan hinterland. The Afghan population was torn between paying taxes and graft to government officials and having to pay tribute to the Taliban. And the planners never found a reliable cash crop to take the place of the lucrative poppy trade. Generally, the Afghan people were not receiving what they wanted: i.e., stability, security and a reliable electric power source.

According to the book, President Obama triggered more problems by insisting on defining drawdown dates and a date for bringing our troops home. Now, there would be little chance of a negotiated settlement with the Taliban. Even had the Taliban denounced al-Qaida, they knew just how long to hang on before our scheduled troop pullout. With the drawdown, many Afghans no longer saw America as a trusted ally. The strategy bet its soul on the questionable premise that we could quickly and effectively train the Afghan army, police, and government security

forces to take over after our departure.

Considering that we Americans are now experiencing the greatest economic stagnation since the Depression, it must be remembered that it costs \$1 million to keep one single American soldier in Afghanistan for one year. But this economic folly may be better understood by the following: the price of this war is now topping \$100 billion annually.

In an address to the nation, President Obama put on a brave face and announced that the surge had yielded profound changes. Then he added, “America, it is time to focus on nation-building here at home.”

The 60-year-old dream of raising a “Little America” in Afghanistan is surely coming to its sad conclusion.

Chandrasekaran writes in a clear and graceful style. As you might expect, it is no easy task to capture the complexities of Afghan/U.S. wartime politics and policy. His access to senior policymakers and his ability to grasp and outline the key issues make “Little America” an

invaluable resource if you wish to comprehend the recent interworking and interplay between our two diametrically incongruent countries. I recommend you start your studies by reading this highly illuminating volume.

Robert B. Loring

Editor’s note: A prolific reader and Leatherneck contributor, “Red Bob” Loring is dedicated to supporting social programs that improve the lives of citizens in East Pasco County, Fla. Right now, he and his team of elves are gearing up to make this the best ever U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots season.

UNDERDOGS: The Making of the Modern Marine Corps. By Aaron B. O’Connell. Published by Harvard University Press. 400 pages. Stock # 0674058275. \$26.96 MCA Members. \$29.95 Regular Price.

Although not an official history, “Underdogs: The Making of the Modern Ma-

[continued on page 72]

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, July 1-31, 2012

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

Corporal Joshua R. Ashley, 23, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., with 2d Law Enforcement Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 19, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Gunnery Sergeant Jonathan W. Gifford, 34, of Palm Bay, Fla., with 2d Marine Special Operations Bn, U.S. Marine Corps

Special Operations Command, MCB Camp Lejeune, July 29, in Badghis province.

Sergeant Justin M. Hansen, 26, of Traverse City, Mich., with 2d MSOB, MARSOC, MCB Camp Lejeune, July 24, in Badghis province.

GySgt Daniel J. Price, 27, of Holland, Mich., with 1st MSOB, MARSOC, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 29, in Badghis province.

Frank W. Celentano

Frank Celentano, who as a private first class won the Navy Cross on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands during World War II, died June 12 in Rocky Point, N.C. He was 90.

He earned the naval service's second-highest award for valor while he was serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Fourth Marine Division in action against Japanese forces during the invasion of Namur on Kwajalein Atoll, Feb. 1, 1944.

His citation states: "Occupying a section of a Japanese fire trench with five other men when an enemy hand grenade was thrown into the trench, [PFC] Celentano unhesitatingly took the initiative and, heroically disregarding all personal danger, seized the weapon and threw it from the trench, saving the lives of his men but losing his own hand when the deadly missile exploded as he released it. Concerned only for the safety of his comrades in their precarious positions, he remained as he was, unattended throughout the night, making no outcry and refusing to yield to his pain lest he endanger them."

After he returned home, he married Eileen Gilmartin. Together, they raised a family of nine children.

Although Celentano was missing a hand, his children hardly considered him handicapped.

According to the Long Island *Newsday*, Celentano's son Jack said: "You could never say to my father you can't do something. He'd say, 'Improvise, and adapt.' That was a Marine Corps slogan."

William P. "Bill" Banning

Bill Banning was an infantry platoon leader during World War II with the Second Marine

Division, who fought on Saipan. He was an unapologetic patriot, and according to those who knew him, he waved the flag "30 hours a day." He died July 20 in Doylestown, Pa. He was 89.

He devoted his life to fraternal military organizations such as the Navy League and the Second Marine Division Association. He edited a book: "The Heritage Years: Second Marine Division," which documents the role played by the division during WW II.

He was past president of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the 2dMarDiv Assn. and wrote and edited a monthly newsletter called *The Bugle*. He also coordinated reunions and tours for the 2dMarDiv. He was a stalwart supporter of *Leatherneck* magazine. His friendship and regular visits to the office will be sorely missed.

Grady W. Agee, 87, in Memphis, Tenn. He was a World War II veteran who earned a Purple Heart at Guam. He started his law practice in 1950 with Nelson Norville. He later was a founding partner with the Rickey, Shankman, Agee & Harpster law firm. He also practiced law with his son Mike.

Tom Boyle, 62, of Chicago. He was a two-tour Marine Vietnam veteran and a retired Chicago police officer who was killed while training police in Afghanistan. He had previously worked as a private investigator and trained police in Kosovo and Iraq.

Roland Dale, 84, of Magee, Miss. He served from 1945 to 1947.

He was a starting tackle at The University of Mississippi ("Ole Miss") in 1948 and 1949. He went on to become the assistant coach at Ole Miss in 1960 and remained on the staff for 11 years, including during the school's 1962 undefeated season. He was head coach

at Southeastern Louisiana University and athletics director at The University of Southern Mississippi in 1974. He is a member of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Southern Miss M-Club Hall of Fame and Ole Miss Sports Hall of Fame.

1stSgt Thomas J. Dockery, 82, in Deltona, Fla.

Stanley A. Drew, 87, of Columbia, Wash. He was a WW II veteran of the South Pacific.

He later became an electrical engineer. He also was a volunteer for hospice for many years.

Cpl Thomas L. Duncan, 82, in Twin Falls, Idaho. He enlisted in 1948 and was at the Inchon landing in South Korea and Wonsan Harbor, North Korea, for the evacuation of Marines returning from the Chosin Reservoir.

He went on to graduate from the University of Montana and then taught English at the University of Barcelona in Spain, where he met and married Juli Marie Rubio de Iturre. He later earned his master's degree in Spanish. Duncan raised his family in Twin Falls and taught English at the College of Southern Idaho.

He also served 23 years in the National Guard. Although he spent a lifetime in education, he did not have a high school diploma or a GED equivalent.

Maj Zane B. Fisher, 74, of Sparta, N.C. A Marine pilot and air combat veteran, he was commissioned in 1958. He flew A-4 Skyhawk ground-attack jets, UH-34 Seahorse helicopters and KC-130 Hercules aircraft. He was on standby as a pilot during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

He served two combat tours in Vietnam as a pilot with HMM-261, 1965-66, participating in Operation Starlite and, prior to that, in the first Marine Corps night strike attack against

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Post Tours: 15-19 Mar '13 - Hawaii/15 - 20 Mar '13 - Peleliu /15 - 21 Mar '13 - Yap Dive

16 - 23 Jul '13 - Liberation of Guam

Post Tour: 23 - 27 Jul '13 - Saipan & Tinian



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AEF Battlefields & Paris**

Post Tour: 26 May - 1 Jun '13 - Battle of the Bulge

24 May - 2 Jun '13 - Viking River Cruise

Paris & the Heart of Normandy

1 - 9 Jun '13 - 69th Anniversary of D-Day:

"Normandy to Paris"

Pre-tour: 25 May - 2 Jun '13 - Battle of the Bulge

2 - 14 Jul '13 - 70th Anniversary Battle of Kursk

Moscow - Stalingrad - Tank Battle Reenactment

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the Viet Cong: Operation Midnight. Piloting helicopters with HMM-261 from Marble Mountain and, later, Chu Lai in almost every Marine Corps offensive operation during 1965 and early 1966, his squadron was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation.

After leaving the Corps, he owned several successful businesses in North Carolina and was a member of the MCL Walter F. Osborne Jr. Det. #1298, Sparta, N.C.

1stSgt William F. Gilbrook, 89, in Daytona Beach, Fla. He enlisted in 1940 and served for 20 years. He was a veteran who fought on Iwo Jima as a demolition expert. He also served in the Korean War in 1952.

Later, he was assigned to the Naval Air Station Port Lyautey (now Kenitra), Morocco, and was the senior NCO of the MarDet in USS *Saratoga* (CV-60).

He retired and became a commercial artist, security guard and military contractor with Martin-Marietta. He then worked as the sextant of cemeteries for the city of Winter Park and made a number of improvements to the neglected African-American cemetery.

He later was appointed the city's superintendent of sanitation and modernized and improved the city's solid waste program and reduced costs and injuries to employees.

He was a pistol "Expert" in the Corps and maintained his shooting skills, routinely winning pistol competitions. His two brothers were Marines and his two nephews also were in the Corps.

Paul L. Gorsuch, 91, of San Antonio. He

graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1944 and served as a U.S. Navy surgeon. His troop transport arrived at Iwo Jima the night before the invasion. Throughout the next 19 days, his ship's medical team operated on more than 600 Marines and lost only six.

GySgt Mark G. Groby Jr., 86, in Dublin, Ga. He enlisted in 1943 and saw action on Eniwetok, Guam and Okinawa and, later, in North China and in the Korean War at the Chosin Reservoir. His awards include the Purple Heart.

He retired from the Corps in 1967 and later retired from Boiler Makers Union Local 26, Savannah. One of his sons, Mark G. Groby III, is a retired master gunnery sergeant as is his daughter, Joanne E. Ocasio.

Joseph D. Helman, 91, of Carson City, Mich. A member of the class of 1939, he captained the baseball, football and basketball teams at Carson City High School. He enlisted in 1942 and served in the South Pacific with the Third Marine Division.

He returned home in 1945 to work on the family farm and other farms and at the Dairyland Creamery. He eventually worked alongside his father as a third-generation auctioneer with Helman Auctioneering. He was a Carson City Citizen of the Year.

SSgt Robert E. Mylett, 87, in North Canton, Ohio. During WW II, he served in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945 with VMSB-341, -342 and -243 in the Solomon Islands, on Admiralty Island, in the Lingayen Gulf, and on Luzon and Zamboanga in the Philippine Islands.

After the war, he studied pre-law at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. He graduated from William McKinley School of Law and began practicing law in 1952. He was the first general counsel of the Stark County Legal Aid Society and law director for the village and city of North Canton. He was associated with the law firm of Seiple, Hinton, Zink and Klide until he was appointed judge of the Canton Municipal Court.

In 1983, he was appointed to the Stark County Family Court. He retired from service in 1988. He was a member of the MCA&F.

Keith H. Neilson, 86, in Tucson, Ariz. He enlisted in 1943 and earned the Purple Heart for wounds on Iwo Jima. He was a printer and photographer who spent his career in Oregon.

Capt William R. Parks, 90, of San Jose, Calif. During WW II, he flew bombers and fighter aircraft over the South Pacific—including the PBJ (B-25) bomber as well as the F4U Corsair.

He returned home and attended North Carolina State, majoring in mechanical engineering with a specialty in furniture design. He retired from Lockheed Missiles and Space Company and, with his wife, Betsy, wrote articles for the RV industry magazines. He later was a photographer for RV club events.

TSgt Rudolph H. "Rudy" Piña, 94, in Magdalena, N.M. He served from 1939 to 1945. He was a member of the 1st and 2d Marine divisions, who served in China, Iceland and Hawaii. His Pacific campaigns included Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Saipan, Tin-



ian and Okinawa. He was part of the occupation of Japan and was stationed at Nagasaki.

After the war, he became head mechanic for Conklin's Bakery truck fleet, San Diego; deputy sheriff and maintenance superintendent Dunsmuir, Calif.; and chief expeditor for Davy McKee Construction Company on numerous projects in Venezuela and throughout the United States.

MGySgt Nicholas J. "Nick" Retza Jr., 84, of Albany, Ga. He enlisted in 1944 and served for 24 years. As part of a replacement draft, he was headed to Iwo Jima when the island was declared secure. He joined Recon Plt, 28th Marines at Camp Tarawa, Hawaii,

and served later in Sasebo, Japan, with the 5thMarDiv during the occupation.

He was with the 1stMarDiv at the Inchon landing and at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950. His later duty stations included MCLB Albany, Ga.; HQMC; Okinawa; and MCLB Philadelphia.

He retired in 1968 and worked with the Nashua Corporation, Nashua, N.H. He was past president of the Georgia Chapter of the Chosin Few and was frequently invited to speak to active-duty Marines about the "Frozen Chosin."

MGySgt Retza was very proud that his father fought at Belleau Wood, and in 2000, he toured the Belleau Wood battlefield where his father had fought. He was a friend of *Leatherneck*.

SSgt Leon "Jack" Robbins, 80, of Murrells Inlet, S.C. He served from 1948 to 1952 and was a member of Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Co (ANGLICO). During the Korean War, he was attached to the Army's 7th Infantry Division at Inchon, South Korea.

Col Richard Rothwell, 99, in Catonsville, Md. Upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1936, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Early in his career he served in Shanghai helping to protect American citizens and property from the fighting between Chinese and Japanese forces in the city. After returning to San Diego with his regiment, he met and married Phyllis Elizabeth Bowlby. Shortly after his marriage, they sailed for Marine Barracks, Olongapo, Philippine Islands.

In WW II, Maj Rothwell served as executive officer of 2d Bn, 24th Marines during the capture of Roi-Namur. Later as a lieutenant colonel, Rothwell commanded that battalion during assaults on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit with combat "V."

In the mid-1950s, Col Rothwell served as chief of staff of the 1stMarDiv and commanding officer of 5th Marines at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. When he retired from the Corps in 1961, he was serving on the National Security Council staff, Washington, D.C.

His son, Richard B. Rothwell, retired from the Marine Corps as a colonel.

Riley Salley, 90, of Schenectady, N.Y. During WW II, he served with the 52d Defense Bn in the Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands and Guam.

He worked 41 years as a welder for GE and retired in 1982.

Orin F. "Bill" Schwanke, 87, of Leonard, Mo. He was a WW II veteran who fought on Iwo Jima in 1945.

Col Joseph "Joe" Sleger Jr., 84, of Pica-yune, Miss. He enlisted at the end of WW II, subsequently serving as a China Marine in 1947, a tank platoon sergeant in Korea and, as a Mustang, served in combat as a tank officer in Vietnam.

He retired from the Marine Corps in 1978 after 33 years of service. His awards include two Bronze Stars with combat "V."

Warren Smith, 92, of Eugene, Ore. He served in the South Pacific during WW II and

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went on to earn his Ph.D. at Stanford University and was a professor of health and physical education at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Ore.

He later was appointed dean of men, a position he held until 1964 when he became chair of the health department at the University of Oregon.

Cpl William D. Sports, 83, in Effingham, S.C. He served from 1947 to 1951, including time as a China Marine in Tsingtao. He was a machine-gunner with H/3/7, 1stMarDiv in 1950 to 1951 at Inchon, Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir.

Capt Hugh W. Stanton Jr., 83, in Memphis, Tenn. He served from 1946 to 1948 and again in 1952 to 1953. He worked with heavy equipment in 2d Engineer Bn and also while with 1st Engineer Bn during the Korean War.

After the Corps, he worked as a lawyer in private practice for 18 years.

From 1962 to 1966, he served in the Tennessee House of Representatives, and then from 1966 to 1968 and 1970 to 1972, he served in the Tennessee State Senate. In 1974, he was appointed District Attorney General of the 30th Judicial District of Tennessee.

In 1978 and 1979, he also served as president of the Tennessee District Attorney General's Conference.

Sgt Ted V. "Ed" Wannenwetsch, 84, of Rochester, N.Y. He served from 1946 to 1950 and was a member of the MarDet, USS *North Carolina* (BB-55) and later was a China Marine. A photograph of him on patrol in Tsingtao appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine.

Cpl John R. Watts, 68, of Vallejo, Calif. A Vietnam veteran, he was a radio operator with 5th Comm Bn, 3dMarDiv, 1965-66.

He went on to retire as a California Highway Patrol officer.

Frank Chee Willetto, 87, in Pueblo Pin-tado, N.M. Willetto joined the Corps in 1943 as one of a number of young Navajo men who were recruited to be Code Talkers, using their language to develop an unbreakable code. He served with the 6thMarDiv on Saipan and Okinawa.

He and his fellow surviving Navajo Code Talkers were awarded the Congressional Silver Medal in 2001. Willetto returned to the Navajo Nation and served as a public servant. He was appointed as a judge to the Navajo Supreme Judicial Council and also served as vice president of the Navajo Nation.

Ray E. Young, 85, in Memphis, Tenn. During WW II, he manned a flame thrower with 2/8 at Saipan and Tinian and in the Okinawa campaign. He was part of the occupation of Japan at Nagasaki.

Discharged in 1946, he began a career as a civil engineer at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, Calif., and was considered a "Master Craftsman." He was recognized and awarded for his work in designing and building the packaging for the U.S. missile program during the Cuban missile crisis.

He was a church leader, Boy Scout leader, Indian guide leader and 33rd degree Mason.



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BOOKS REVIEWED

[continued from page 65]

rine Corps” may serve one day as either a scholarly preface or a commanding conclusion for a much-needed, definitive 50,000-page, 50-volume set on the “breed apart” that begs to be fully documented, written and prepared for publication.

And the perfect person to research and narrate the real contributions of the Corps to America’s wars, while appraising that Marines were always far more deadly than the proverbial thorn in the side of the enemy, is “Underdogs” author Aaron B. O’Connell, an assistant professor of history at the U.S. Naval Academy and a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve.

O’Connell’s depth offers military professionals, serious history enthusiasts and ordinary armchair buffs enlightening insights via easy-to-understand explanations of why the Corps always has considered itself unique and superior to the other U.S. Armed Forces. As his initial major writing effort, “Underdogs” is a disciplined “cultural history” of the Marines between 1941 and 1965. Anyone know what a “cultural history” is? Neither did I until the book arrived.

According to O’Connell, it’s a study of

the stories, assumptions and habits of mind of a particular group—in this case, the United States Marine Corps, the smallest of America’s four fighting branches. He writes: “Over a period of 25 years, the Marines created a set of narratives for and about themselves that attained wide legitimacy within the organization and without. The Corps’ stories strengthened its solidarity, binding Marines together in a community as strong as any in the world. Stories helped them expand their alliances with politicians, journalists and other civilians who rallied to their defense in time of need.”

Thus, stories energized and focused the Corps’ members, albeit often against civilians and other inappropriate targets. “The Marines’ ideology even shaped their preparations for Cold War defense,” O’Connell continues, “making their organization one of the sharpest and swiftest tools of American power. Ultimately, the Corps’ culture has been its greatest asset, supporting both its internal cohesion and its institutional expansion.”

Because of the Marines’ skillful manipulation of their own image, the author chose to title his convincing analysis “Underdogs,” an adaption of the Corps’ *nom de guerre* “Devil Dogs,” which was borrowed from a 1918 German newspaper grieving

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This bag is also a hard working, multifunctional travel essential. Designed with traditional double handles with comfort wrap, this go-anywhere duffel includes an adjustable shoulder strap that can be easily removed. Plus, to keep your belongings organized and protected, the generously-sized bag has a zippered main compartment and an additional zippered pocket on the front.

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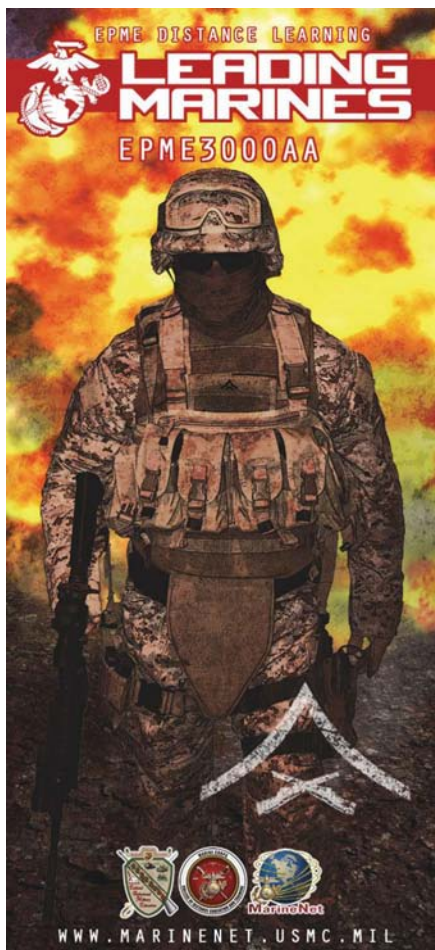
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defeat at the hands of American “Teufel Hunden,” or “hounds from hell.” Says O’Connell, “This study seeks to probe under the Devil Dog mythology, to separate its truths from its fictions, and to understand the things that gave the culture such force in Marines’ lives.”

In six narrowly defined, carefully worked chapters that only a first-rate scholar could have organized and developed, O’Connell patiently cuts through the origins of the USMC’s cultural power, delineating its maneuvers, contradictions and effects on mid-20th-century American life.

Chapter one offers the Corps’ best accounts about itself and the rules and conditions operating within its own cultural universe. Chapter two charts the extension of the Marine culture into civilian society from the beginning of World War II through the Korean War, while the third chapter traces the USMC expansion into Congress, explaining how the Marines transformed their wartime cultural capital into political power.

Chapters four and five focus upon the aftermath of World War II and the propensity of the Corps to use violence, indeed, aggression when faced with uncertainty or stress. Chapter six concludes with how Marine culture affected its strategic assumption, its role in national defense and

America’s role in the world today.

Emanating from O’Connell’s Yale University Ph.D. dissertation, “Underdogs: The Making of the Modern Marine Corps” deserves high honor and distinction, having already earned exceptional respect from scholarly communities in both higher education and military circles across the nation. Near the conclusion of that 50-volume official history set that hopefully O’Connell will write will be the words of virtually all Marine warriors: “Since its founding in 1775 as the Continental Marines to fight ship-to-ship, the USMC has experienced hardship and triumph. It will see more of both. But when history remembers us, it will be said that we stood fast, giving freely what little we had, and what little it was, never doubting that we spent ourselves for the American good.”

Don DeNevi

Editor’s note: To view Aaron B. O’Connell’s comments on his book, go to www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/making-corps.

Don DeNevi, an author himself, is a frequent reviewer for Leatherneck magazine.



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SOUND OFF

[continued from page 13]

"doo-wop" group in the 1950s in the New York area.

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• **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.

• **1st Bn, 4th Marines Assn.**, Oct. 10-14, Laughlin, Nev. Contact Brad Bennett, (218) 722-4589, bradbennett@hotmail.com, or Richard Camacho, (805) 384-9138, camacho4@roadrunner.com, www.1stbn4thmarines.com.

• **2/1 (RVN)**, Nov. 8-15, San Diego. Contact Paul Mangan, (515) 360-2600, namgrunt@aol.com, 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, CL11engrnb@sbcglobal.net.

• **A/1/12 (RVN)**, Oct. 18-21, Charlotte, N.C. Contact Dale Punch, 131 Boulder Dr., Lincolnton, NC 28092, (704) 477-8829, dalepunch@charter.net.

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• **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.

• **MarDet/Marine Barracks, NAS Bermuda**, Oct. 10-14, San Diego. Contact Charles Ault, 885 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron, OH 44310, (800) 344-6683.

• **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.

• **"Alpha" Btry, 1/11 (1965-66)**, Oct. 14-17, Las Vegas. Contact Kathy Carter, (702) 951-5942, for reservations, or Gordon Hansen, (928) 757-4882, for information.

• **Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program**, Nov. 2-3, Washington, D.C. Contact Marcia Landau, burkland@nexet.net, or Skip Smith, (770) 335-4896, ssgolf1@bellsouth.net.

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• **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.

• **TBS 4-67**, Oct. 10-13, Quantico, Va. Contact G. T. Smith, (203) 273-2076, www.usmc-thebasicschool-april1967.com.

• **21st Special Basic Class (1953)** is planning a reunion for 2012. 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, taraniiall@gmail.com.

• **Plt 115, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion for 2012. Contact SgtMaj D. J. Farrell, USMC (Ret), (918) 689-1989, or Steve Holton, (301) 375-6036.

• **Plt 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 for 2012. Contact LtCol Bob Mullins, USMC (Ret), (740) 417-9112, rmullins11@columbus.rr.com.

• **Plt 1089, Parris Island, 1986**, is planning a reunion. Contact Mark Smith, P.O. Box 828, Columbus, MS 39703, (662) 549-7712, msmith@cpi-group.com.

• **Plt 2085, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Simmons, jstlputt@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, metrtech@me.com.

• **Marine Air Groups (WW II-present)**, Oct. 17-21, Branson, Mo. Contact James Jordan, (417) 535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net, or MSgt Bob Miller, USAF (Ret), (636) 327-5854, mbobsue13@yahoo.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.

• **Marine F-4 Phantom Reunion**, Nov. 1-4, San Diego. Contact AFRI (Attn: F-4 Phantom), 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510, f4phantom@afri.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS Cabot (CVL-28)**, Oct. 21-25, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Marie Saraceni, (484) 494-5533, msaraceni@comcast.net.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 10-14, Warwick, R.I. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Renville (APA-227)**, April 3-7,

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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.

- MGySgt Ray Cowley Jr., USMC (Ret), 1110 Coleman Ln., Beaufort, SC 29902, (843) 793-4930, to hear from **Col Robert NUNNALLY, LtCol John BUSBY and Maj David BECK**, who led him in physical fitness.

- Former PFC Albert Taylor, #1094891, 2665 Prison Rd. #1, Lovelady, TX 75851, to hear from “**Gunny**” **COOK**, who served in the **supply warehouse, H&MS-26, MAG-26** at **MCAS New River, N.C., 1970.**

- Marine veteran N. Harvey Wasserman, 106 Van Buren Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666, (201) 637-2209, nwasserman4@optimum.net, to hear from **KarlSCHMITT, Danny CLANCY, Charles N. “Corky” FOSTER and Clay J. ADDISON**, who served with him at **Marine Barracks Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 1958-59.**



Vance Carrie, W/2/5, Korea, 1951

- Marine veteran William P. Crozier, 65 Brae Rd., N. Weymouth, MA 02191, (781) 335-2826, to hear from or about **Vance**

CARRIE (left), who served with him in **2d Bn, 5th Marines in Korea, 1951.**

- Former Capt Dave Nazarian, USMCR, (540) 364-9798, dk.naz@aol.com, to hear from or about **John “JJ” FILAK**, who completed a **PLC course** with him during the **summer of 1964** and attended **flight school in 1965.**

- Simon Park, 7/420 Barker Rd., Subiaco, WA, Australia 6008, (61) 437-2888-99, to hear from **Marines or other members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were stationed in or visited New Zealand during WW II.**

- Mark Sheehan, (703) 400-7770, mark andlaurensheehan@comcast.net, to hear from anyone who served with **William J. SHEEHAN in 3d Bn, 24th Marines, 4thMarDiv, 1943-45.**



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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.

A Marine's Eulogy

*And when they gaze on Heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded
by United States Marines.*

Dear God, 200 men reported for duty today
Straight from Beirut and harm's way.
A nation mourns in shocked disbelief.
Mothers cry while fathers silently weep.

A young wife stares by the mantelside
Through a veil of tears at her Marine who died.
Yes, we're hurt, and they made us bleed;
This Satanic act; this insidious deed.

And a great nation will bow its head,
And with prideful dignity, bid farewell to its dead.
But Americans won't cry defeat,
Knowing their Marines never retreat.

Dear God, these Marines were strong and true,
And they'll render a sharp salute to You.
And as they take up positions along Heaven's way,
Please give them our love every day.

One day we too will stand alongside You
On the parade deck as they pass in review.
Until then, cherish, as we know You will,
Our gallant Marines in close order drill.

We can't help but question why
You sent them orders to report on High.
Parents and wives could feel hatred and rancor,
But that's not the way of the Globe and Anchor.

These were our sons, a precious gift,
And their love gave us a spiritual lift.
We watched them grow and held them on our knee.
Now, in the prime of manhood, we entrust them to Thee.

Guard these young souls whose flame was so brief,
Help us too, to bear our grief.
Parents and wives don't wear olive greens,
But our loved ones taught us to be good Marines.

We know You'll be there to help us carry on,
And we'll draw solace from days bygone.
There will be tears and pain at every curve,
But in this strife we'll not lose our nerve.

Dear God, we beg with fervent refrain,
Don't let our men die in this way again.
Sent as peacekeepers abroad, not intended to fight,
Cut down by a murderous assassin in the dead of night.

If others must go forth under the banner of the Corps,
Let them fight for the mission they trained for.
Shield us from conflict if You can,
But if needed, we thank Thee for these fighting men.

Marine veteran Donald J. Buzney
(Originally printed in *Leatherneck*, January 1984)

When Trouble Comes

When trouble comes as trouble does,
I never stand alone,
Behind me stands a long green line—
The Corps that is my own.

When trouble comes with grief and tears
And evil does its worst,
I know Marines are at my back—
For I am not the first ...

To face the sorrow trouble brings,
Or stand within that breach.
The Corps has forged the heart of me
That trouble cannot reach.

And when I go to join the line
Of brothers passed from sight,
I know tomorrow's new Marines
Will carry on the fight.

And I will live within their hearts
As live Marines in mine,
For trouble cannot touch our core—
The Corps—that Long Green Line.

Former SSgt Robert A. Hall





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