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And then there were two. Retired reserve colonels Alfred "Al" Richmond and Will Brown are the only competitors who have run every Marine Corps Marathon since its inception. The "Groundpounders" will once again be at the starting line of this year's marathon.

48 Col James L. Fowler: Marathon Marine By John Bandler A veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, Col James L. Fowler is best remembered for establishing the Marine Corps Marathon. As the "People's Marathon" approaches, Leatherneck honors the man who made it a reality.



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COVER: Col Alfred "Al" Richmond, USMCR (Ret), is one of only two "Groundpounders," the runners who have finished every Marine Corps Marathon since 1976. Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Marathon. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Sound Off

Letter of the Month

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

Every Marine, past or present knows about those three words, Honor, Courage and Commitment.

In April 1967, I was a 20-year-old sergeant serving as the admin chief of Headquarters Company, 3d Amtrac Battalion on Hill 35 just a little southwest of Da Nang. I had yet to find someone from Florida with whom I could share stories

On April 27, 1967, Sergeant Kenneth Bryan Morris came up to the counter and announced he was reporting for duty. I was elated to learn he was from New Smyrna Beach, Fla., 50 miles from Orlando.

We chatted for a few minutes and the company gunnery sergeant interrupted us. He informed me that I was to take out that night's listening post patrol. I said OK but told him he needed to advise the company first sergeant. The first sergeant said I could not go. He needed me that night and the next morning for an administrative assignment.

Sgt Morris spoke up and said he had extended his overseas tour to get in country and volunteered to take out the patrol. A quick check of his SRB showed he had been to several schools on Okinawa which certainly qualified him for the assignment. We agreed to meet for breakfast the next

Around 0300 I was awakened by a helicopter leaving our compound. This was a most unusual event at that time of day.

The next morning I went looking for Sgt Morris. That's when I learned the patrol had taken small arms fire, and after being carried back to the compound, the chopper had taken the sergeant to the Da Nang naval hospital. Sadly, he did not survive his wounds. On April 28, 1967, I made a commitment that someday I would visit his grave.

When I returned to the States, I tried to find out where he was buried. I was certain it was in a national cemetery but I could not find a record of him.

On the first Memorial Day after Desert Storm, the Orlando Sentinel had a column titled "Who Do You Remember Every Memorial Day?" I told his story, and it was published.

As the years passed and memories faded, I never forgot him. With the advent of computers, I began Googling his name every Memorial Day. This year, after many years of trying, there was a new entry. It said he was buried at the Edgewater Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Edgewater, Fla., just south of New Smyrna Beach.

A few weeks later, I needed to travel from my home in Beaufort, S.C., to Orlando to visit a grandson who was in the hospital. As I approached Daytona Beach on I-95. I realized I had over two hours to kill so I continued south to the cemetery. I told the two ladies working there what is related above. They had to get out dusty, decades-old handwritten logbooks, but they found the site and took

Honor—the fact that I was finally there. Courage—it took all I had to walk up to that headstone. Commitment—fulfilling one I made 49 years ago on Hill 35 SW of Da Nang.

The ladies then took me to a new memorial wall that had been completed just before Memorial Day 2016. Sgt Morris' name was the last Marine listed on the USMC panel. The family had requested his name be added. I swallowed hard and gave the ladies my card.

I went over to Orlando where I learned I could not see my grandson because he was heavily sedated so I headed up on I-4, back to I-95 and S.C.

Just north of Orlando my cell phone rang. I answered. It was Sgt Morris' sister Polly calling to speak with me.

Since her brother had been with our unit less than 48 hours, he had not even unpacked.

There was no one to tell them how he died and the circumstances. No one knew him so there were no friends from the unit to speak for him.

I told her all I knew and answered questions the family had wondered about for 49 years.

We talked all the way to St. Augustine on I-95, and it was cleansing for both of us. I have since mailed her the article about her brother that I wrote decades ago, and she has thanked me for keeping his memory alive. We have agreed to meet sometime in the hopefully not too distant future on one of my quarterly trips to Orlando.

Honor. Courage. Commitment. As I said in my newspaper article "Sergeant Morris will never be forgotten, especially by this old Marine."

As I approach 70 years of age, I can cross that one off my bucket list.

Richard C. Klawe USMC, 1964-70 Beaufort, S.C.

• Marine-You truly embodied "Semper Fidelis" in your efforts to honor your fellow Marine. Thank you.-Editor

Boot Camp Mess Duty

Recently I was among a group of Marines talking of the old Corps. The conversation turned to boot camp mess duty which one jarhead proclaimed was actually tougher than boot camp itself. I begged to differ, as our platoon did not serve on mess duty.

Platoon 212 at MCRD San Diego, Calif., commenced training on Feb. 9, 1965, and graduated on April 21, 1965. Senior DI was Staff Sergeant C.E. Johnson along with junior DIs Sergeant C.G. Schleusner and Sgt P.I. Silva. God bless 'em!

We were well along at the rifle range with just days to go until qualification. The 1st Marine Division was conducting maneuvers in the hills of Camp Pendleton, Calif., behind the range. Our live firing was completed for the day and our series continued with the daily fun and games we became accustomed to such as running the hills of Pendleton which always seemed to have no downside!

Sometime during the evening free time we were informed our stay at the range would be extended one week. Seems some recruit on the line missed the entire impact area and sent a round through a tent that was rumored to be Lieutenant General Victor Krulak's.

I have no proof of that, but it was what we were told. So we got one more week of "snapping-in" while some platoon back at the depot got one more week on mess duty.

I didn't serve on mess duty until "Delta" 1/5 was at "K-Bay, Hawaii" and yes IT IS worse than boot camp.

> Jon Johnson Sidney, Ohio

A Pleasant Surprise

On a recent two-week genealogy and historical road trip to eastern Tennessee and Kentucky to visit old ancestors' birthplaces and graves, my wife and I were visiting as many historical sites along the way as we could.

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Lt Presley O'Bannon's grave marker is located in Frankfort, Ky., where Daniel Boone's grave also lies.

One site that we had planned to visit was Daniel Boone's grave.

My fourth great-grandfather, Shadrach Inman, and his brothers Meshach and Abednego were with Daniel Boone while exploring the Cumberland Mountain Range. They were camped in a cave when attacked by Indians. My great-grandfather was wounded in his side by a spear, Abednego was wounded in the head by a tomahawk and Meshach was killed along with most of the party.

One of the most beautiful cemeteries I have ever seen is the Frankfort Cemetery in Frankfort, Ky., where Daniel Boone's grave lies. To start our search, we stopped at a prominent area where a historical marker stood by a grave of an important person. Our GPS said that we had arrived at Daniel Boone's grave. To my total surprise it was the grave of Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon. My wife asked why I was so excited so I explained his place in Marine Corps history. After that she understood.

Yes, we found Daniel Boone's grave on a bluff overlooking a beautiful view of Frankfort, but what a pleasant surprise it was to find Lt O'Bannon's grave!

LCpl Donald S. Wilcox, USMC 1960-63 Mulberry, Ark.

My Marine Journey

In April of this past spring I marked the 50th year of my Marine journey that began at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif. My friend, Kenneth Carl Johnson and I enlisted on the buddy plan. Our paths never crossed after basic. His name is on "The Wall" (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) and mine is on this letter. I'm writing to say that my youthful time then was take each day as they came, and I looked forward to completing my short-timer's calendar and fulfilling my military obligation.

Now, all these years and experiences later, it strikes me that three college degrees, four years in social service and 38 years as an educator lack a comparable sense of accomplishment appropriate to the time and tenure involved in those achievements.

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Cpl Ken Goodwin USMC, 1966-68 Bradley, Ill.

Flag Raising Controversy

It's great to finally see this correction and acknowledgement.

Gene T. Spranos Parkridge, Ill.

Have Respect for Our Veterans

About nine or 10 years ago, my wife and I went with my daughter and her family to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. My daughter wrote this letter after we got home. She was upset by what a "gentleman" had said.

"Today we drove to Virginia and went to the Marine Corps Museum. It was absolutely beautiful. The architecture alone was cool and the displays were amazing! There was one where you walked through the back of a helicopter and when you came out it was all the things that you would have seen in Vietnam. The heat and the sounds were outstanding!

"As you can imagine there were a lot

of people there that got very emotional. To the younger generation, yes, we have respect for these brave people who put their lives on the line. Some of them held their friend's head as he breathed his last breath. Others still have trouble sleeping at night because of nightmares that still haunt them. These people didn't learn of the wars in their history books, they lived it. Many of us will never know the kind of hell that the brave men and women of our fighting forces have known. We have never seen the things that they have seen, things that belong in horror novels, not in the memory of a kid that volunteered his life to our great nation.

"While standing in line waiting to get a drink, there was a man (and I use the term loosely), who was taking great entertainment in the fact that a Vietnam veteran got very emotional and began to cry and vomit. I felt ill standing within 10 feet of him because never have I heard that level of disrespect. How dare this guy make a comment about something he probably knew nothing about. I was angry.

"I fully believe everyone has the right to their opinion. I think you should do it tastefully and you should keep your mouth shut when the time isn't appropriate. Today, in a place that honors heroes, that

[continued on page 66]



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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

NORTHERN TERRITORY AUSTRALIA

"Sumos" Provide Aerial Refueling During Exercise Pitch Black

As a KC-130J Super Hercules prepared for takeoff, Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 152 finished last-minute preflight checks and secured the aircraft at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Tindal, Australia, Aug. 9.

For more than 70 years, Marines with the VMGR-152 "Sumos," based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, have successfully carried out support missions by providing aerial refueling and assault support during expeditionary, joint and combined operations like Exercise Pitch Black 2016.

Aerial refueling is the process of transferring aviation fuel from a tanker aircraft to another aircraft in midair.

After soaring high over the Outback, Captain Colton Sizemore, a KC-130J pilot with VMGR-152, positioned the tanker, waiting for the first group of RAAF and U.S. Marine F/A-18 Hornets to detect the tanker on radar and arrive for refueling.

"Our main job for Pitch Black is to provide aerial refueling to our own aircraft and international aircraft as well," said Sizemore. "It's important that we support these missions because by providing fuel midair, we enable the pilots to continue training uninterrupted and extend the time spent in the air."

As the jets approached, crewmasters situated in the rear of the aircraft relayed the jets' positions to the pilots.

"During refueling, crewmasters are the eyes for the pilots," said Corporal Chris Lawler, a crewmaster with VMGR-152. "Crewmasters relay positions of the incoming jets relative to the refueling hose and basket, and monitor the whole refueling process."

Capt Jarred Cox, an F/A-18 pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 122, explained the process of refueling. The jets line up parallel to the wing of the tanker until cleared by the tanker pilot, then maneuver to a position about 10 to 15 feet behind the hose, then to a precontact position 3 feet behind the basket until cleared for contact. At contact, the pilots "plug in" until refueled.

According to Cox, aerial refueling extends the F/A-18's flying time and range, helping to successfully carry out the Pitch Black mission. Without the aerial refueling capability, the aircraft would have to land, refuel and take off again, eliminating valuable training time.

Although the Hornet pilots make catching the basket, maintaining parallel speeds and direction while refueling look easy, it takes great skill and concentration. In a real-world combat situation, aerial refueling is vital to tactical mission accomplishment. The Sumos' contribution during Pitch Black allowed both the Super Hercules and Hornet pilots to hone their



From a KC-130J Super Hercules above Northern Territory Australia, Cpl Chris Lawler, a crewmaster with VMGR-152, observes as an F/A-18C Hornet with VMFA-122 approaches for a refuel, Aug. 9. VMGR-152 provided aerial refueling and assault support during Exercise Pitch Black at RAAF Tindal, Australia.

CALINICOLE

aerial refueling skills, preparing them for possible combat support.

"Not only does midair refueling improve exercise training time and quality, but in combat conditions, aerial refueling is an essential component of operation and the pilots need to be confident of their ability to complete the process," said Sizemore.

Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial, threeweek, multinational, large-force training exercise hosted by RAAF Tindal. The allied squadrons executed day and night flights from Tindal to Darwin, Australia, while performing large-force offensive counter-air support operations throughout the exercise.

Cpl Nicole Zurbrugg, USMC

TWENTYNINE PALMS. CALIF. **Small-Unit Leaders** Put to the Test During TSULC

As Marines advanced on the range, the night was silent. Breaking the serenity, an instructor's shout incited a fire team to lay suppressive fire on a notional "enemy" and then locate the nearest protective cover. As the Marines found their bearings, they began to advance, conducting fire and maneuver tactics in pairs.

This buddy-rushing exercise was only a fraction of what Marines from 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, Seventh Marine Regiment, nicknamed "Darkside," executed during the Tactical Small-Unit Leadership Course (TSULC) at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 7-22.

"The purpose of TSULC is to train fireteam leaders [and squad leaders] within 'Darkside' as well as to standardize certain small-unit leadership practices across the battalion," said Second Lieutenant Michael H. Levine, platoon commander, 1st Platoon, Company L, 3/4.

The course began with classroom-based instruction where Marines learned about different weapons and optics systems, fire team skills and other tactics, techniques and procedures.

After that, students went to Forward Operating Base 1 in the combat center's training area. There, the Marines conducted military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) exercises and practiced leadership skills in a simulated urban environment.

"MOUT can be a true test to any team leader's tactical proficiency and ability to communicate under quick scenarios," said Corporal Shane Martin, team leader, Co L, 3/4. "The more we practice this now, the better prepared we will be when situations arise in the future."

After MOUT training, instructors took the squads on patrolling exercises where they practiced the cycle of the





infantryman and squad patrolling in the offense and defense.

"Patrolling is one of the many foundations of an infantryman," said Cpl Reid Ohala, team leader, Co K, 3/4. "Learning to practice patrolling not only through the eyes of a rifleman, but a team leader, is definitely something that TSULC showed me."

The final portion of the course took place in the Prospect training area, where Marines conducted exercises such as fire

Above: LCpl Skyler Schopf, a team leader with 3/4, fires an M136 AT4 antitank weapon during a live-fire training exercise as part of TSULC at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 18.

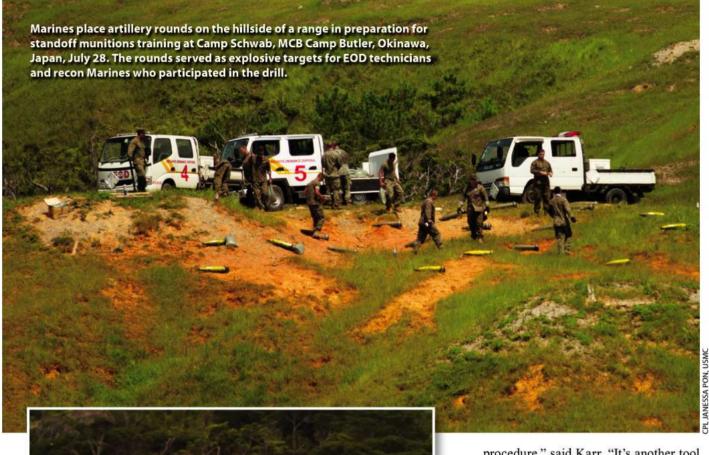
Left: Cpl Reid Ohala, a team leader with 3/4, advances during a live-fire exercise at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 18. The exercise was part of TSULC, a course designed to teach small-unit leadership skills.

and maneuver, buddy rushing and unknown distance shooting during different times of the day. The culminating event of TSULC was an internally supported squad attack during which the squad leader was put in charge, with three other team leaders taking charge of the other Marines.

"The training is very important when you're thinking about small-unit leadership," said Sergeant Major Charles F. McDew, the 3/4 battalion sergeant major. "We are building the cohesion and confidence needed to perform the tasks assigned to them without someone of a higher rank controlling their every movement."

This training benefitted not only the Marines who participated in the course, but also the Marines they lead on a daily basis—altogether contributing to a more effective "Darkside."

LCpl Dave Flores, USMC



OKINAWA, JAPAN **EOD. Recon Marines Practice** Long-Distance Detonation

"Fire when ready!" shouted a Marine behind a blast shield, atop a sniper tower. Shots resonated across a hilly range as 50 mm rounds impacted targets dowrange and blossomed into irate red fireballs.

Explosive ordnance disposal technicians with Headquarters & Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations Pacific-Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan; Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, First Marine Aircraft Wing; and reconnaissance snipers with 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, Third Marine Division rehearsed standoff munitions disruption at Camp Schwab, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, July 28.

The training ensured that EOD technicians were proficient in the safe longdistance detonation of explosives, using the M107 SASR (Special Application Scoped Rifle) sniper rifle.

This method of detonation is one of the most preferable, especially when forward deployed, as it minimizes the possibility of casualties while performing essential clearing of explosives, according to Captain David P. Karr, an EOD officer with H&S Bn.

"When disposing of explosive ordnance, the remote procedure is usually the best procedure," said Karr. "It's another tool in the bag of many techniques we use to safely dispose of ordnance, preserve order and save lives."

EOD technicians placed 155 mm rounds on the hillside of the range to serve as targets. After placing the rounds, the Marines made their way back to the sniper tower and began familiarizing themselves with the weapon system.

"As a reconnaissance Marine, I wasn't familiar with the idea of detonating explosives from a distance using the M107," said Corporal Seth M. Richardson, a scout sniper with 3d Recon Bn. "This training provided a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge with the EOD technicians who weren't as familiar with the weapons system. We practiced the basic shooting fundamentals and we learned about what they do in their own military occupational specialty."

The EOD technicians loaded their weapons and sighted in on their targets. Once their targets were specified, they were given the command to fire.

"We train with our sister unit, Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, quite a bit," said Karr. "The 3d Reconnaissance scout snipers were the subject matter experts with the precision weapons and were able to provide guidance to the EOD technicians to help them sharpen their skills on the weapons system."

After the detonations were complete,

the Marines climbed down from the tower to perform weapons maintenance and discuss the training.

"One of my favorite parts of my job is how much we learn from each other," said Richardson. "There are so many different jobs within the infantry field, let alone throughout the Marine Corps. The Marines here today are from different units and have different experiences and areas of expertise, and today we are all walking away more confident in our abilities to train and execute our mission."

Cpl Janessa Pon, USMC

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

Reserve and Active-Duty Tankers Train Together, Build Cohesion

Reserve Marines with "Fox" Company, 4th Tank Battalion conducted integrated training with elements of 2d Tank Battalion at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 22.

Members of the reserve and activeduty units spent three days conducting multiple field exercises in order to develop cohesion, which will be vital if they are ever called to deploy together.

The exercises ranged from offensive and defensive strategic planning, improvised explosive device patrols and breaching and clearing obstacles.

"What we're trying to do is improve our relationship with 2d Tanks," said Sergeant Kyle Rehder, a tank commander with Fox



Reserve Marines with Fox Co, 4th Tank Bn drive an M88A2 Hercules recovery vehicle to a landing zone during a field exercise with elements of 2d Tank Bn at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. The M88A2 has the ability to tow tanks that weigh up to 70 tons.

Co, 4th Tank Bn. "We're trying to spin ourselves up, and they're trying to spin us up to an operational speed to allow us to support their mission should we actually get called up together."

The Fox Co Marines planned offensive and defensive tactics under the supervision

of Marines with 2d Tanks on the first day. One platoon simulated an attack on the defensive position established by the second tank platoon. The platoons then switched roles later in the day.

On day two, 4th Tanks integrated with infantry Marines, conducting patrols and

CAMP BROCHE, NEW CALEDONIA



WORKING TOGETHER— U.S. Marines with Marine Rotational Force-Darwin watch intently as Sergeant Hlemu Jean, a paratrooper with French Armed Forces New Caledonia, 3d Marine Infantry Regiment, demonstrates how to get up off the floor while holding a rifle during Exercise AmeriCal at Camp Broche, New Caledonia, a French territory in the South Pacific, Aug. 8. AmeriCal is a bilateral training exercise designed to enhance interoperability, mutual combat capabilities and improve relations among partner nations.



Marines with VMFA-121 perform preflight checks on F-35B Lightning II aircraft during Red Flag 16-3 at Nellis AFB, Nev., July 12. The multiservice exercise was the first of its kind during which the F-35B has participated.

improvised explosive device detection drills. During the exercise, the tanks provided cover and security for the Marines on the ground while they maneuvered on a dirt road.

"It's good for [the reserve tankers] to understand what the infantry is looking for, so in the future they know what needs to be done," said Corporal Thomas Malloy Jr., a squad leader with 1st Platoon, "Echo" Co, 2d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment. "Relationships are pretty important, which is why we are conducting this type of exercise."

While the tanks provided physical security, patrolling Marines were able to act as a second set of eyes for enhancement of close-range vision of the tank platoon.

"It worked out very well," said Malloy.
"At the end of the day it's nerve-wracking to go against Marine Corps tanks and infantry working together. We work well, we get the job done."

On the last day, 4th Tanks performed a combined-arms breaching operation during which they plowed through a 20-foot sand berm with the support of combat engineers.

"Our primary mission is to support the infantry," Rehder said. "We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to come here and sharpen our skills."

Sgt Matthew Callahan, USMC

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, NEV. F-35B Joins Exercise Red Flag

Six F-35B Lightning II aircraft with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 participated in Exercise Red Flag 16-3, marking the first time in history that the fifth-generation fighter has taken part in the U.S. Air Force's three-week long exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., July 11-29.

Red Flag is a multiservice air-to-air combat training exercise that brings the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps together and provides aircrews with intense air combat sorties in a controlled environment.

According to Lieutenant Colonel J.T. Bardo, the commanding officer of VMFA-121, Red Flag 16-3 was the first exercise of this magnitude that the F-35B had participated in and served as a valuable training opportunity for the Marines of his squadron.

During the training, VMFA-121 Marines conducted defensive and offensive counter air exercises, strategic attacks, targeting and combat search and rescue training.

"We're really working on showcasing our surface-to-air capabilities," said Major Brendan Walsh, operations officer, VMFA-121. "The F-35 is integrating by doing various roles in air-to-air and air-to-ground training."

The F-35 is equipped with an integrated sensor package more powerful than any fighter aircraft, also combining radar-evading stealth with speed and fighter agility.

"With the stealth capability, the biggest thing that this aircraft brings that others do not is situational awareness," said Walsh. "The sensor sweep capability that the F-35B brings to the fight not only builds those pictures for me, but for the other platforms as well. We're able to share our knowledge of the battlespace with the rest of the participants in order to make everyone more effective."

Red Flag 16-3 involved the participation of roughly 3,500 servicemembers. The training scenarios require all the participating branches of service to come together, which is extremely common in real-life battle scenarios.

"These opportunities to operate in a joint environment with our partner services are rare," said Bardo. "We're excited to be here, to bring the F-35 to the exercise and capitalize on all its strengths and integrate with the other players out there."

LCpl Harley Robinson, USMC



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Confirming the First Flag Raisers

The Huly Panel Reconvenes

Story by Col Mary H. Reinwald USMC (Ret) Photos by SSgt Louis R. Lowery USMC

fter confirming the identity of the Marines who raised the second flag on Mount Suribachi, General Robert B. Neller, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, ordered a similar review of the first flag raising in order to confirm the identities of and honor those who embodied the tenacity and bravery of all of the Marines who fought on Iwo Jima.

"Our history is important, and we owe it to our Marines and their families to ensure it is as accurate as possible. After we reviewed the second flag raising and found inconsistencies, we wanted to take another look at the first flag raising to make sure we had it correct," said Gen Neller.

Previously, the official Marine Corps record listed First Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, Platoon Sergeant Ernest I. Thomas Jr., Sgt Henry O. Hansen, Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, Private First Class Louis C. Charlo and PFC James R. Michels as the Marines who raised the first flag.

On July 5, 2016, the Huly Panel—previously tasked with determining the identities of those photographed raising the second flag—reconvened and began investigating the lesser known, but in many ways more important, initial flag raising on Feb. 23, 1945. The panel re-

viewed photographs, historical documents and eyewitness statements. Numerous claims have been made over the years as to the identities of the Marines raising the first flag, but in many cases, individual claims were in direct conflict with official records. The panel benefitted from knowledge gained in its previous sessions and the efforts of historians, authors and other experts over the years.

Raising the Flag

Early in the morning of Feb. 23, 1945, Lieutenant Colonel Chandler W. Johnson, the commanding officer of Second Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment, ordered that a route reconnaissance be conducted up Mount Suribachi in order to determine the presence of enemy forces. Marines from Company F were chosen for the task, and Sergeant Sherman B. Watson, Corporal George Mercer, Private First Class Theodore White and PFC Louis C. Charlo set out. They reported the absence of enemy forces, so LtCol Johnson ordered the executive officer of Co E, Lt Schrier, to lead a patrol to secure the top of Mount Suribachi and



From left: Cpl Charles W. Lindberg, Sgt Howard M. Snyder, PhM2c John H. Bradley, Pvt Philip L. Ward, PltSgt Ernest I. Thomas, Sgt Henry O. Hansen, PFC Raymond E. Jacobs and, kneeling with his back to the photographer, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier, after the first flag was raised atop Mount Suribachi. Jacobs operated the radio, and Snyder provided security during the flag raising.

raise the American flag. A flag was provided by First Lieutenant G. Greeley Wells, the battalion adjutant.

Marines from 3d Platoon, E/2/28 made up the majority of Schrier's patrol, but other 2/28 Marines also participated. Staff Sergeant Louis R. Lowery, a Leatherneck photographer assigned to the 5th Marine Division, accompanied the patrol. His photographs of the flag raising provided critical evidence as to the identity of the flag raisers and others present on Mount Suribachi. As Schrier's patrol made its way up the mountain, they passed the initial reconnaissance team returning to the beach. Upon reaching the summit, Marines from Schrier's patrol dispersed to provide security while others scouted the area for an appropriate place to put the flag. Two Marines-LCpl Robert A. Leader and PFC Leo J. Rozek—found a piece of pipe which served as the flagstaff. Lt Schrier and four other Marines (PltSgt Thomas, Sgt Hansen, Cpl Lindberg and Private Philip L. Ward) worked to attach the flag to the makeshift pole while SSgt Lowery photographed their efforts.

After firmly securing the flag to the pipe, the Marines selected



Members of the patrol work to secure the flag to a pipe, which served as the flagpoles prior to moving the flag to a location from which it would be more visible.



In addition to the Marines and corpsman made famous in both flag raisings, numerous other Marines and Sailors made their way to the summit of Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

a high-visibility location and carried the flag to the designated site. Photographic evidence shows the same five Marines were either touching the flagpole or within its reach. And there was one more person with them-Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John H. "Doc" Bradley.

The flag was raised at approximately 1030. However, no photographs exist of the actual flag raising. SSgt Lowery was present, but he was in the process of reloading his camera when the flag went up. And unlike the second flag raising a few hours later, no one filmed the first flag's elevation over the bloody mountain. Sgt William H. Genaust, who captured most of the second flag raising on film, had not made it up the mountain at that time.

After reloading his camera, Lowery was able to capture photos immediately after the flag was raised, showing PltSgt Thomas, Sgt Hansen, PhM2c Bradley and Pvt Ward in direct contact with

the flagpole. Other Marines in the immediate vicinity, as shown in the photos, were Cpl Raymond E. Jacobs, the radio operator, Sgt Howard M. Snyder, PFC Michels, PFC Harold H. Schultz and PFC James A. Robeson, all of whom provided security throughout the flag raising.

Who Else Was on Suribachi?

The commander of Co F. 2/28, Capt Arthur H. Naylor Jr., also brought a patrol up to the summit in order to reinforce the Marines already there. His patrol arrived after the first flag raising but before the second one. Official records do not identify the members of Capt Naylor's patrol.

A chaplain also made the climb up the mountain between the flag raisings. Navy Lieutenant Charles F.

Suver, and his assistant, Sgt James E. Fisk, are seen in photos at the summit prior to the second flag raising. Evidence exists that LT Suver even celebrated Mass at the time.

Additional evidence confirms that even more Marines and at least one civilian made the ascent after the first flag raising. In addition to the group who raised the second flag (Sgt Michael Strank, Cpl Harlon H. Block, PFC Rene A. Gagnon, PFC Ira H. Hayes and PFC Franklin R. Sousley-the sixth flag raiser, PFC Harold Schultz, was a member of Lt Schrier's patrol and had been on the summit since before the first flag raising) and Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press photographer, evidence shows that Sgt Genaust, Sgt Sherman B. Watson, PFC Louis R. Burmeister, PFC George Burns, PFC Louis C. Charlo, PFC John R. Thurman, PFC Theodore White, and Pvt Robert R. Campbell also were present.

Correcting the Official Record

Originally, the official Headquarters Marine Corps records included PFC Charlo and PFC Michels as flag raisers. While both were present on Mount Suribachi, no evidence exists to

of the initial reconnaissance team who left the summit before anyone else arrived, and while he later returned between the flag raisings and provided security, he was not present for the first event. Similarly, PFC Michels also provided security, and despite his close proximity to the flag in a Lowery photo, no evidence exists that shows him touching the flag at any time during the raising.

Based on the Huly panel's conclusion, the official Marine Corps historical record will now reflect that the following Marines and Sailor raised the first flag on Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945: 1stLt Harold G. Schrier, PltSgt Ernest I. Thomas, Jr., Sgt Henry O. Hansen, PhM2c John H. Bradley, Cpl Charles W. Lindberg and Pvt Philip L. Ward. It is somehow

fitting that Sgt Hansen and Doc Bradley, whose names were removed from the list of second flag raisers, helped raise what those fighting on Iwo Jima considered to be the more important flag.

still engaged in combat,

raised a spotaneous yell when

they saw the flag.

Screaming and cheering

so loud and prolonged that we

could hear it quite clearly

on top of Suribachi."

—Cpl Raymond E. Jacobs

indicate that they raised the flag. PFC Charlo was a member "Marines on the ground,

OCTOBER 2016 / LEATHERNECK

Gallipoli? Where's That?

Part I By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua USMC (Ret)

"Gallipoli? That was a bloomin' balls up, wasn't it?"

—Trooper Jack Hawthorne 1st Australian Light Horse

n April 25, 1915, British, Australian and New Zealand forces landed on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. From that point, everything went downhill, and the operation born amid high hopes ended as an unmitigated disaster that cost more than 100,000 British and Commonwealth casualties with nothing to show for their sacrifice.

But what does a firefight that took place

100 years ago, one in which the Marine Corps played no role, have to do with today's Marine Corps?

Plenty.

As with most things, the best place to start is at the beginning. That beginning was in early 1915, when the Western Front of World War I in France devolved into a stalemate. Neither side—the British and French Allies, nor their German counterparts—could break out of the fortified lines that stretched from Belgium to the Swiss frontier. Battle after battle accomplished nothing beyond an everexpanding roll call of the dead.

It was then that Winston Churchill, Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty, (a position comparable to that of Secretary of the Navy) proposed a plan that was highly promising. What Churchill's plan envisioned was an attack on Germany's ally Turkey through "the back door." Put a landing force ashore on the Gallipoli peninsula, the northern boundary of the Strait of the Dardanelles, the waterway that connects the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea. With the passage of the Dardanelles now open, attack Turkey from the seaward side. Draw off German troops from the Western Front to come to Turkey's aid and create an opportunity for a decisive Allied offensive in the West.

Churchill's plan was inspired. The execution of that plan, however, was a catastrophe. Why? The success of the Gallipoli campaign rested upon the success of an amphibious operation. In 1915, no one had the foggiest idea of how to





Above: An illustrated map of the Dardanelles, drawn by G.F. Morrell in 1915. The map shows the location and landings of troops during the Gallipoli campaign.

Left: Marines crowded together in a Higgins boat headed toward the island of Tarawa in November 1943. (USMC photo)

conduct such an operation. In the military thinking of the day, an amphibious operation was nothing more than a simple ferrying exercise; put men aboard ship here, let them off there.

The foremost result of the failure of the Gallipoli campaign was the unanimous conclusion that amphibious operations were impossible. Later events, however, would create an entirely new international situation, one that never before had existed; a situation which would require serious study. When WW I ended with Germany's defeat in November 1918, Germany's Pacific Island possessions were mandated to Japan by the League of Nations. The strategic implications of this transfer of territories were not long in making themselves known. Eventually, they would confront America with the need to conduct a form of warfare that was without precedent in all of history: amphibious warfare.

The former German territories of the Carolines, the Marshalls, and the Palaus covered vast expanses of the western Pacific, the largest body of water on earth. Early in the 1920s, it became apparent that the new overseer of those island chains, Japan, was fast taking steps to transform them into advanced naval bases. Bases of

that nature would be invaluable should the Japanese choose to further project their presence into the southern and central regions of the Pacific. A barrier of fortified island defenses could transform much of the Pacific into a Japanese lake.

This potential was quickly recognized by Major General John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, who, as early as 1920, began to focus his staff on preliminary planning for a possible war in the Pacific. Foremost among the officers involved was Lieutenant Colonel Earl Hancock "Pete" Ellis, who produced Operation Plan 712 "Advanced Base Operations in Micronesia," which was eerily prophetic of events that would take place 20 years later.

An officer with a distinguished combat record in France, Pete Ellis had the complete trust of MajGen Lejeune, who in 1921 consented to allow Ellis to undertake a clandestine mission to the Japanese-mandated island territories. All of Ellis' official records were removed from normal storage and kept in MajGen Lejeune's personal safe along with Ellis' pre-dated letter of resignation. For all intents and purposes, Ellis the Marine ceased to exist.

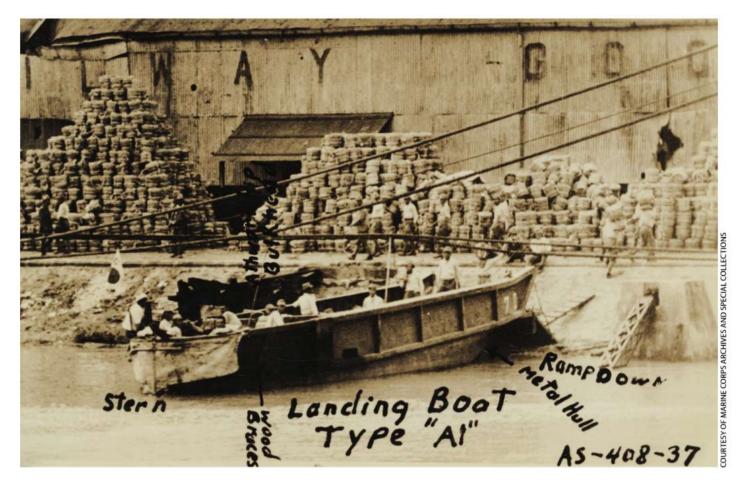
The Earl Hancock Ellis who did exist



LtCol Earl H. Ellis

was a civilian employee of Hughes Trading Company, whose vice president, John Arthur Hughes, known casually among Marines as "Johnny the Hard," had been a fellow officer before being medically retired due to wounds received in France. As a representative of Hughes Trading Company, Ellis conducted clandestine information collection before dying under mysterious circumstances on the Japanese-held island of Angaur in the Palau Islands.

These events, coupled with Japan's increasingly belligerent and aggressive actions in Asia, caused far-seeing minds



in the Marine Corps and Navy to consider the disturbing possibility of a clash between America and Japan in the Pacific. Such a conflict, should it come to pass, would in no way resemble previous wars at sea that had been comparatively limited in scale, fought between ships and quickly concluded.

A war in the Pacific would be entirely different; a war unlike anything in all of history. From pre-history onward, wars had been fought on land masses. A war across the Pacific would require America to project forces over thousands of miles of open ocean and overcome prepared defenses on countless islands. By its very nature, success in a war in the Pacific would rest upon the ability to conduct amphibious operations, yet the failure at Gallipoli had caused military thinkers around the world to conclude that such undertakings were impossible.

Whether or not America wanted it, the impossible would be what would confront America should war come to the Pacific. The question then became how could the impossible be overcome? The immediate answer was that there would have to be an entirely new doctrine, one that would solve the problem of introducing forces from the sea on a hostile shore. With nothing in all of history to draw upon, the development of that doctrine would have to start from zero.

OURTESY OF MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

That wasn't an entirely correct conclusion, though. Actually, there was a positive starting point. That starting point was the Gallipoli campaign itself. Unfortunately, the Marine Corps was in no position to start. Starved for cash and strained almost to the breaking point by

While stationed in China in 1937, Victor Krulak, left, sent a photographer to observe Japanese troops and their landing vehicles. Evidence of Krulak's surveillance included handwritten notes on photos labeling definitive parts of the boat as seen above.

expeditionary duties throughout decade of the 1920s, there was neither money nor personnel for anything other than the essentials.

That situation began to ease by the early 1930s, when Congress, under the forceful prodding of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, always a believer in a strong Navy, made increased funding available. In 1933, with additional money on hand, but no gain in Marine Corps strength, the 15th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General Ben H. Fuller, directed that a special board be convened at Quantico to produce a "Tentative Landing Operations Manual."

The personnel to produce such a manual would be drawn from an unusual source, the staff and students at Quantico's officer professional education institutions. All classes for Academic Year 1933-34 at the Senior School (today's Command and Staff College) and the Junior School (today's Expeditionary Warfare School) would be suspended. Instead of academic study, the entire body of staff and students

would spend the full year producing the Commandant's desired manual.

The work began with a detailed study of every aspect of the failure at Gallipoli. One particular element of that failure, the lack of any suitable means to put men ashore on a hostile beach, was not long in being identified. War in the Pacific against a modern enemy would call for more than ships' landing parties in whale boats as at Samoa in 1899. Neither could such a war be fought by loading soldiers aboard an antiquated freighter, then running the old rust bucket aground while the soldiers disembarked via makeshift ramps, only to be massacred in the process—exactly what happened at Gallipoli.

To avoid repeating the mistakes of Gallipoli, there would have to be a better manner of bridging the all-important shipto-shore gap. There would have to be an entirely new type of landing craft, nothing the likes of which existed at the time. That challenge would be overcome by the timely arrival of three men, two of whom, Andrew J. Higgins and Donald Roebling, were civilians. The third was an obscure lieutenant of Marines, Victor H. Krulak, who was stationed in China. Individually and collectively, they would produce the means of conducting an entirely new form of warfare, that of putting large numbers of men ashore in the face of a prepared adversary.

From his company headquarters in New Orleans, hard-driving Andrew Jackson Higgins, a self-made man if ever there was one, made boats. In particular, Higgins made shallow-draft small craft specifically designed for use by oil drillers and trappers working along the Gulf Coast and lower Mississippi River. With their momentum provided by a propeller mounted in a recessed hull, Higgins' water vessels were ideally suited for use in relatively shallow waters where the propeller couldn't be entangled by underwater obstacles.

In addition, the boats featured a "spoonbill" bow that allowed the vessel to be run up onto a riverbank and easily be retracted. Continual refinement and redesign had resulted in a boat capable of high speeds that was able to turn on its own length. (In addition to oil men and trappers, Higgins' boats were much sought after by bootleggers and rum runners during those years of Prohibition. "If you have a Higgins boat, you have the best" was an accepted wisdom among those who trafficked in illegal alcohol.)

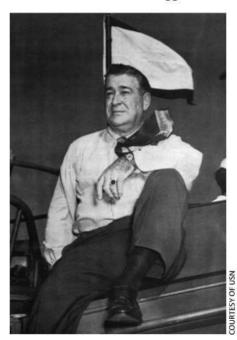
In 1926, hearing of the Navy's possible interest in a new type of landing craft, Andrew Higgins built a 36-foot version of his popular craft that he called a "Eureka" boat. At 36-feet, the Eureka was 6 feet longer than Higgins' original design, but a



Two of Andrew Higgins' Eureka landing boats, with a tank-carrying adaptor mounted between them, carry a 7-ton Caterpillar tractor during a demonstration near New Orleans in May 1941.

more powerful engine allowed the Eureka to outperform its predecessor.

The Navy wasn't interested. With assault transports still years in the future and the concept of amphibious operations still confined to landing parties from warships, the Eureka boat was 6 feet too long to be handled by davits aboard warships which were standardized at 30-feet throughout the Navy. While the Marine Corps was enthusiastic about the Eureka boat, there was the problem of assault troops being able to disembark only by clambering over the sides while cargo had to be manhandled ashore. Andrew Higgins went



Andrew Higgins built his own legacy by creating the very efficient Higgins boat, making him a household name. Higgins, above, on July 23, 1944 at a celebration for his factory's 10,000th boat.

back to building boats for oil drillers, trappers and rum runners.

A decade later in 1937, First Lieutenant Victor H. Krulak was the assistant intelligence officer for the 4th Marine Regiment in Shanghai, China. The Chinese and Japanese had been at war for six years. Now, the war had come next door to Shanghai. Learning of an upcoming Japanese amphibious assault on Chinese defenses in the Liuho area near the mouth of the Yangtze River, Krulak requested permission to be present as an observer. After receiving approval from the Marines, the Navy and, astonishingly, the Japanese, Krulak set out on a Navy tug accompanied by a Navy photographer. What Victor Krulak saw and recorded would prove to be the key piece of the amphibious doctrine puzzle.

Japanese troops were put ashore from an entirely new type of landing craft capable of being run ashore and easily retracted, one from which troops could disembark by way of a unique bow ramp. With reels of film, still photographs and his own drawings, Krulak produced a meticulous report of the operation that featured extensive details of the Japanese landing craft's features and capabilities. The report was forwarded up through the chain of command to Headquarters, Marine Corps, where it was neatly filed and forgotten.

If Andrew Higgins was a self-made man, Donald Roebling was a man who had everything from the day he drew his first breath. Donald Roebling's immigrant great-grandfather Johann (John) Roebling, educated at Germany's finest engineering schools, began erecting bridges almost as soon as he settled in America. Donald Roebling's grandfather, Washington Roebling, built the Brooklyn Bridge



A Florida man, Donald Roebling designed the Alligator so that it could easily traverse the swampy Everglades, and manage to climb back onto shore. Above is one of Roebling's early 1936 versions, while below, a 1937 prototype is being tested.



and created the immense wealth of the Roebling Wire Rope Company, whose braided steel cable held up most of the suspension bridges in America from New York's East River to San Francisco's Golden Gate. Young Donald Roebling never had to get down in the dirt and struggle for anything; whatever he wanted was his for the asking.

It wouldn't be right, however, to picture Donald Roebling as a spoiled ne'er-dowell rich boy. It was just that nothing much interested him, nothing, that is, except anything mechanical. If something had moving parts, Donald Roebling couldn't rest until he had taken it completely apart, studied the components and put them back together.

With all the time in the world and a hefty share of the world's money, Donald Roebling had a lavishly equipped machine shop built on his estate at Clearwater, Fla. It was there, after learning of the terrible loss of life during the Lake Okeechobee Hurricane of 1928 that claimed more than 2,000 victims, that Donald Roebling began tinkering with an idea. Many of those thousands who died in 1928 actually died of untreated injuries after the hurricane had passed for no other reason than that there was no means of reaching them.

Couldn't there be some means of overcoming that situation? That question set Donald Roebling to thinking of some new form of rescue vehicle. It would have to be something that could make its way through the bewildering terrain of the Everglades, move through water too thick to swim in, too thin to walk on, function in over-your-head water or on

the countless hummocks of dry land in that vast swampland. It would have to be something that didn't exist at the time. It would have to be an amphibious vehicle.

Donald Roebling began experimenting, discarding design after design after each proved impractical. With a single-minded determination not usually associated with a man who had everything life could offer, Roebling set himself to pursuing the idea of a rescue vehicle that could function on both land and water. He began spending hours and days in his machine shop. What all that time spent on model after model eventually produced was a true amphibian, one that had a boat-like hull that would keep it affoat on water, and cleated caterpillar tracks to move it on water and land alike. He called his unusual vehicle an "Alligator."

After many attempts and disappointments, Donald Roebling had his Alligator. What he didn't have was a means to produce it in sufficient numbers to make it commercially successful. He would need more than his sole hand-produced prototype. Although his machine shop was more than likely the most superbly equipped and expensive privately owned facility anywhere in America, it was nowhere near large enough to mass produce. If he was going to turn out Alligators in assemblyline fashion, Donald Roebling would need a business partner; he would need a fullfledged factory and he would need those assets soon.

As the decade of the 1930s gave way to the 1940s, world events were racing at an ever faster pace. Europe was at war. Germany's blitzkrieg had rolled over Poland in less than two weeks in September 1939. France, which had fought valiantly for four years in WW I, quickly fell before the German onslaught in the spring of 1940. The situation in the Pacific was growing more ominous with each passing day. The entire world was becoming a more dangerous place. Even for America, safe behind its two oceans, time was growing short.

Editor's note: Read Part II of "Gallipoli? Where's That?" in the November issue of Leatherneck to find out more about how the WW I battle had a long-term impact on the Marine Corps' amphibious doctrine.

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



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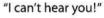
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"OK—so when he said, 'Get out,' did he mean get out of his office, get out of the building, get out of the Marine Corps ... what?"

Washington, D.C.

Vietnam Veterans Honor

On April 18, 37 Marine veterans of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines gathered with their families at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to commemorate seven of their fellow Marines who were killed in Vietnam.

In conjunction with A/1/11's five-day reunion, the Marines also conducted a wreath-laying ceremony to honor the memory of Private First Class Michael Beringer and PFC John Campbell, who both perished in 1965. They also paid tribute to PFC Robert Arnold, Lance Corporal Danny Bolin, LCpl Frederick Homeyer, PFC Ralph Lind and PFC William Main who were killed in action during a predawn attack in 1966.

Submitted by Col Peter Van Ryzin, USMC (Ret)





Serving Throughout Each Generation

A father and his two sons, who all served at different times in the Marine Corps, attended a dedication ceremony for the Nevada State Veterans Memorial this past spring. Their time in the Corps included deployments to Vietnam, Somalia and Iraq.

On May 27, Edward Contreras, center, and his two sons, Edward A. Contreras, left, and Michael E. Contreras, right, were able to see their names embossed on bricks upon entering the memorial. They each had purchased a brick to help fund the memorial's construction.

According to Sgt Edward Contreras, "Our service began with each of us being assigned to 3d Recruit Training Battalion on board MCRD San Diego ... [and] ended with all of us obtaining the rank of sergeant."

Submitted by Sgt Edward Contreras, USMC (Ret)



Future Navy Destroyer Named After Medal of Honor Winner

Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Harvey C. Barnum Jr., was honored by the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, as well as everyone in attendance at a ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., on July 28. An *Arleigh Burke-class* destroyer, DDG-124 will be named USS *Harvey C. Barnum, Jr.*, and will be built by Bath Iron Works in Maine. The ship is scheduled to enter the Navy fleet in the year 2024.

Barnum was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Dec. 18, 1965, while serving with Company H, Second Battalion, 9th Marines, Third Marine Division, in Qang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

Submitted by David Hugel



Former Miss America Hosts Marine Corps League Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Marine Corps League Kentuckiana Detachment #729 opened their detachment's Marine House with a ribboncutting ceremony on May 15. The guest speaker at the ceremony was Kentucky native and former Miss America, Heather French Henry, who also helped cut the ribbon at the event. Henry, who was Miss America in 2000, is pictured at right with Detachment Commandant John Froehlich on the left.

Submitted by Art Geahr

Fredericksburg, Va.

Foundation Hosts Benefit Gala

The Vets on Track Foundation hosted their Inaugural "Connect America's Heroes Gala" at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House in Fredericksburg, Va. on May 21. Among those in attendance were, from left, Sergeant Adimonika N. Qiokata; Sgt Quincy L. Alexander; Staff Sergeant Cesar A. Tamayo; Colonel T.V. Johnson, USMC (Ret); SSgt Jessica A. Martin; Sgt Karen A. Pajaro; and Tamara Norris.

The Vets on Track Foundation's mission is to provide support to those who have served and those who continue to serve.

Submitted by Kyle Olson



"Corps Connections," highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks.

We welcome submissions of photos from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.bock@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos.

CORPSMEN DEEP

Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsmen Are Highly Trained Recon "Docs"

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)



n the Marine Corps, the "doc" has elevated status—and rightly so. The Navy corpsmen who go "greenside" are every bit as tough as the Marines they serve with. And the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) corpsmen assigned to support special operations Marines are exceptional.

Officially known as the FMF reconnaissance corpsmen, they are more commonly referred to as the Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsman (SARC). FMF corpsmen are elite, but the tactical and medical training that SARCs undergo to earn the additional title puts them in a class by themselves.

"We shoot, move and communicate with the best of them," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Justin Wilson, who admits that as an SARC, he's a bit biased. "On top of that, we are also subject matter experts in trauma medicine."

HMCS Wilson is the Enlisted Technical Leader at Reconnaissance Training Company, School of Infantry-West, Marine Corps Base Camp

Pendleton, Calif. He also is the Enlisted Technical Leader of the SARC community and FMF Recon Independent Duty Corpsmen (IDC), more commonly known as SOIDC (Special Operations IDC), which requires even higher qualifications.

When a SARC becomes an SOIDC, "they are in an even higher level of medicine, almost equal to that of a first-year medical student," Wilson explained. "They are authorized to do surgery and myriad other high-level medical care to prolong the combat wounded's life. As an enlisted medical provider, there are no higher functioning medical providers in the fleet."

The prerequisite qualification standards to become a SARC are stringent, the screening process is arduous and the entrance physical fitness screening test is extremely challenging. But all that pales in comparison to the physical, mental and medical training that a successful applicant will receive for nearly two years at Navy, Marine Corps and Army schools.

It may come as no surprise that more of these corpsmen are needed. According to Wilson, the field currently is just under 70 percent total manning and the reason for that is simple. "It isn't easy or anyone would do it," he said.

While exact numbers are not releasable, Wilson confirmed that of the Navy's

Inset: HM3 Elliot Wyall, a SARC with the 24th MEU's Maritime Raid Force, provides treatment to a simulated casualty during an exercise aboard the USNS *Carl Brashear* (T-AKE-7) in the Gulf of Aden, May 24, 2015. (Photo by Cpl Joey Mendez, USMC)



HMC Eric S. Gilmet, standing, a SARC and Inspector-Instructor medical staff with 4th Marine Raider Bn, 4thMarDiv, MARFORRES, speaks to Sailors during a water confidence exercise at an FMF reconnaissance corpsman screening in San Antonio, April 19, 2016. The screening was hosted by 4th Marine Raider Bn for Reserve Sailors to become familiar with the high demands of the FMF SARC pipeline.

approximately 26,000 corpsmen, SARCs constitute a miniscule number.

The Basic Reconnaissance Prep Course has a 70 percent attrition rate. And water is the primary reason.

"It has been said that water is the great equalizer and it proves itself time and time again," Wilson said. "The majority of DORs [drop on request] happen in the Basic Reconnaissance Prep Course during deep-end confidence training. If they are going to quit, this is where they will do it. Water really takes it out of you physically and mentally. Everyone is afraid of drowning, and when you are stressed in the water, weaker minds quit and the same can be said for combat ... we don't want quitters."

The SARC field is high-demand, low-density. SARCs are fully capable of performing all of their skills when they enter the fleet. When SARCs are assigned to a unit, they go out alone and unafraid—they are the only doc and are located far from doctors, medical facilities or other corpsmen. When their services are needed, there's no time for on-the-job training.

The path to becoming a SARC is arduous. Candidates must be E-5 or below and no older than 30. The program is open to all Navy corpsmen and dental technicians but potential SARCs must have a

clean record, outstanding evaluation marks, meet basic dive/Naval Special Warfare medical requirements, and pass a hyperbaric pressure chamber test as well as a physical strength test. They also must make it through an interview process and be recommended by their commanding officers and a SARC.

The entrance physical fitness screening test is the same standard used for Navy

"Everyone is afraid of drowning, and when you are stressed in the water, weaker minds quit and the same can be said for combat ... we don't want quitters."

—HMCS Justin Wilson, USN

SEAL training and consists of a 500-meter swim in 12 minutes, 30 seconds or less; a minimum of 50 curl-ups and 50 pushups in two minutes; 10 pull-ups in two minutes; and a 1.5-mile run in 10 minutes, 30 seconds or less.

By design, these requirements narrow the applicant field considerably. "We are looking for the best of the best, not only physical machines but we want the higher cognitively functioning Sailors too," emphasized Wilson, who was awarded a Navy Cross for his actions in Afghanistan in 2011. Major General Joseph Osterman, commander of Marine Special Operations Command, said of Wilson, "Chief Wilson today epitomizes that heroism and true selflessness that we all depend on as Marines to save our lives."

"The highly demanding job requires you to operate independently, and, most of the time, we have to act quickly while lives are at stake. This takes an enormous amount of maturity and responsibility, and commanders instill a lot of trust and confidence in their recon corpsmen."

If an applicant can successfully run the gamut of entrance requirements, they face more than 18 months of intensive training. The training typically consists of: eight weeks of Navy Field Medical Training School (if they aren't yet a greenside corpsman); a five-week Basic Reconnaissance Primer Course; 13 weeks of Marine Corps Basic Reconnaissance Course; three weeks of Army Basic Airborne School; eight weeks of Marine Combatant Diver Course; five weeks of Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsman Course (Dive Medicine); eight months of Army Special Operations Combat Medic

Course; and, eventually, four months of Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsman school.

With such a rigorous training path, it is easy to understand why not everyone makes it to the end. The Army Combat Medic Course, held at the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center at Fort Bragg, N.C., is especially challenging. The drop-out rate is approximately 30 percent. The course consists of fast-paced medical training. Students are in class or studying more than 14 hours per day, Wilson said.

The intensity of training is only one reason for the SARC/SOIDC fields being undermanned. Sailors must commit only three years of service after earning their SARC qualifications. Between attrition rates in training, the long training pipeline

"Chances are most Marines
and Sailors have never heard of
a SARC, but if they've ever
met one or served with one, I
can guarantee they'll
never forget them."
—HMCS Justin Wilson, USN

and the relatively short service commitment, "we are making SARCs almost as fast as they are getting out," Wilson said.

This level of detail in a training program "means that our elite Marine forces are going out the door sometimes without the full number of SARCs they need. Moreover, this impacts the Sailor by doing

HM2 Thomas O. Dugan, left, a corpsman with Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Engineer Support Bn, 4th MLG, and HM2 Adam C. Wild, right, an instructor for the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program, Medical Education and Training Campus, check a map during a land navigation exercise during an FMF reconnaissance corpsman screening in San Antonio, April 21, 2016.

back-to-back deployments with little time to rest and re-fit, which puts an enormous strain on them and their families."

One limiting factor to filling the billets is a lack of awareness about the program. "Chances are most Marines and Sailors have never heard of a SARC, but if they've ever met one or served with one, I can guarantee they'll never forget them," Wilson said. "We as a community are making a full-court press on getting the word out through social media, command career counselors and wherever else we can recruit."

They have even extended their recruiting to other services. "Currently we have a couple of Army medics crossing over to become SARCs and a few prior Recon Marines doing the same thing," said Wilson.

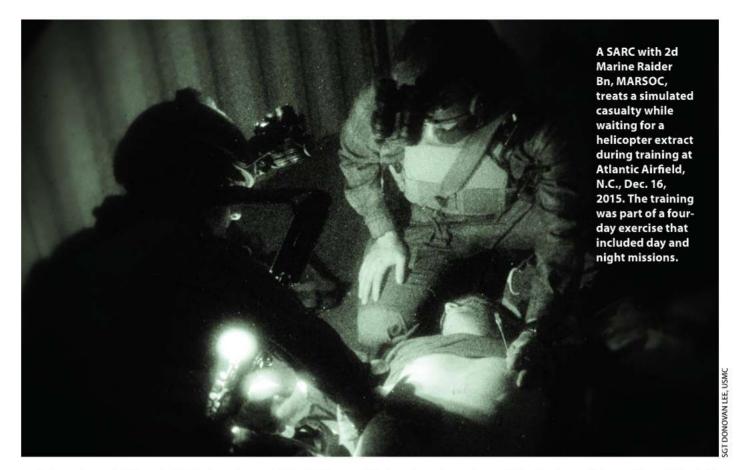
The SARC field is not without benefits. Aside from the pride in earning a place among elite medical professionals, there is monetary value. There are special pays for basic airborne, military free fall, combatant diver and others. To sweeten the deal, a selective reenlistment bonus is offered.

There also is value in terms of qualifications for a post-military career. Wilson said government agencies are looking for their skill sets, which also easily transfer to firefighting, emergency medical services and law enforcement careers. "Many SARCs and SOIDCs have gotten out and pursued programs to become physician's assistants or gone on to medical school to become doctors. Many have become PAs or doctors through Navy programs."

Monetary and career benefits aside, special operations and reconnaissance Marines and their corpsmen carry on a unique heritage. Subordinate units of MARSOC were redesignated as Marine Raider units in June, linking them with the historic Marine Raider battalions originally formed in World War II. Their SARCs have their own heritage as they carry on the mission of the corpsmen who served with the original Raider battalions.

Hospital Corpsman Second Class John Allen is one of the newer SARCs, having successfully emerged from the pipeline about two years ago. Now, he is with one of the Marine Raider battalions currently working up for deployment. He first heard about the SARC program in 2010 when he was 21 years old and going through the Field Medical Training Battalion.

"At that time I wasn't ready to commit to something like SARC, nor did I have the slightest idea what it truly entailed," said Allen. "It wasn't until two deployments with First Marine Division that I was exposed to some of the things a SARC does. I met a SARC on my second deployment, and he basically mentored me



and showed me what I needed to do to get into the pipeline."

Getting into the pipeline—the term the military uses to describe the qualification and training period for occupational fields—is not for the faint of heart. "If you want to be a SARC, you will seek it out for yourself. People will be there to guide you, but if you truly want to be a SARC, you will find your way in the pipeline on your own terms with the mind and body to get through it."

Allen had the good fortune to go through three weeks of Marines Awaiting Reconnaissance Training (MART) before he started down the pipeline. "This exposes you to the things you will be doing in the Basic Reconnaissance Course and it shows you what you need to be made of to make it through BRC," he said. He noted that the schools after BRC are pretty self-explanatory. "You dive, you jump, you do medicine, but the Army Special Operations Combat Medic course is a test of your

dedication to medicine and the will to study and manage you time to make the grades."

Like Allen, most SARCs are drawn to the field by the challenge to test mind and body in order to get a higher level of training and education. Allen suggests that age and maturity are keys to success. "I was 24 when I went through the pipeline," he recalled. "If I'd have gone though at 18, I would not have made it. My mind was not ready at that time. The average age of an operator is 25 to 30—nobody on my team is younger than 25."

In spite of the comprehensive and realistic training a SARC receives, Allen said, "Nothing can train you for some of the situations you will face when you are with a unit. Dedication and a sound mind will guide you through all of those. The pipeline will prepare you for that as long as you are willing to let it."

Author's bio: CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now operates his own writingbased business, RGCommunications, and is a freelance photojournalist.



During a company collective exercise at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., a SARC with 1st Marine Raider Bn treats a simulated trauma casualty.



By the staffs of the USMC Expeditionary Energy Office and MCICOM Facility Operations and Energy

he equipment that powers Marines in the field—generators, environmental control units (ECUs), radios, medium tactical vehicle replacements (MTVRs)—is critical to the mission. It also all has one thing in common: a reliance on a stable supply of energy. If the supply of fuel or electricity is compromised, individual parts of the kill chain (the structure of an attack) can be interrupted, delaying or halting the mission and putting Marines, in critical danger. For some Marines, especially bulk fuel specialists, utilities chiefs and the basic utilities tech-

nicians, energy is always top-of-mind. For others, it is just assumed that energy will be available when and where it is needed.

The Marine Corps works to secure its energy supply on the battlefield and in garrison. A primary goal of the expeditionary energy program, led by the Expeditionary Energy Office, is increasing the operational reach of Marine forces so they can go farther and stay out longer using the same amount of energy. Achieving this requires advancements in equipment efficiency and use of all available energy, including solar, wind and energy scavenged on the battlefield. It also requires changes to the way Marines think about and consume energy. The need to reduce energy waste is what drove the creation of the "Energy Ethos"—the shared vision that

the efficient use of energy resources is a critical component of mission readiness.

Energy is not only directly critical to the mission, but also makes up a large part of the budgets. In the battlefields of Afghanistan, for example, estimates of the fully burdened cost of fuel (the price when considering transportation, manpower and more) were hundreds of dollars per gallon. On base, energy is paid for with money that competes with funds for barracks repairs and the maintenance of training ranges, making it increasingly difficult to create balanced budgets.

The Unit Energy Manager (UEM) Program was launched in October 2014 by Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) to help in part with the burden of energy costs on base; the program has



Left: On April 7, 2013, a procession of trucks from 307th Engineer Battalion line up at a fueling point manned by MWSS-271 bulk fuel specialists on Forward Operating Base Delaram, Afghanistan.



Marines from MARFORRES and 2d Tank Bn learn to set up and operate the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy Network System (GREENS) and the Solar Portable Alternative Communications Energy System (SPACES) during a training session on June 28, 2012.

Energy as a Mission-Critical Element

Staff Sergeant Darien McCarthy, Operations Utilities Chief Engineer Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion

As a utilities chief, I come up with power distribution plans for my battalion. I determine our power needs, secure the proper generators—it might sound simple, but not all Marines consider the logistics behind operational power supply.

For instance, a single generator can weigh 5,000–10,000 pounds. They are the heart behind our operations, and we have to account for not only the fuel that powers them, but also the fuel to transport them, the spare parts and the back-up generators. Simply put, our forward-deployed power needs have an enormous logistical footprint.

Then there are the power needs of our communications equipment—our eyes and ears during operations. The systems today require more energy and data link connectivity than ever before, and our very ability to communicate while deployed is directly tied to energy.

Think about it this way—when your smart phone dies, you probably feel disconnected from the digital world, or at the very least limited in your ability to communicate. Now, imagine you are a Marine in a hostile environment. You need real-time intelligence, you need to be able to signal for help and eventually will need more ammunition—in short, your life might depend on your ability to communicate, which depends on the power stored in your batteries, which depend on electricity from the generators or vehicles, which depend on the availability of fuel. It is all connected, and it shows how much we rely on energy.

We have become power-addicted and power-reliant—not just in the Corps, but in society. Luckily, we're innovating and working toward a future where we have supplies of power that are highly mobile and removed from the fuel convoy, like solar. I'm looking forward to that future.

already seen success. The noncommissioned officer UEMs and Marines at 2d Tank Battalion implemented the Energy Ethos in their unit and, through their efforts, managed to reduce their energy consumption by 17 percent compared to the previous year. Energy initiatives on base and in the battlefield will help reduce energy waste and make deployed forces more effective in training and in combat, and every Marine has a role to play.

Energy cannot be taken for granted by anyone, regardless of grade, military occupational specialty, or mission. October is Energy Action Month, and in observance of that, five Marines shared their experiences with energy use across the Corps to encourage a new way of looking at our power resources.

Below: Maj Sean Sadlier, a materials requirements analyst and energy officer for Headquarters Marine Corps, demonstrates GREENS equipment at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division. (Photo by Nicolas Malay)



Energy and the Base Budget

Colonel Robert Rice, USMC (Ret) Former Commanding Officer Marine Corps Base Hawaii

When I assumed the role of commanding officer at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, one of the first things I did was review the budget briefs, and the energy cost floored me. The electric bill was \$24 million and accounted for over 20 percent of the base's operating budget.

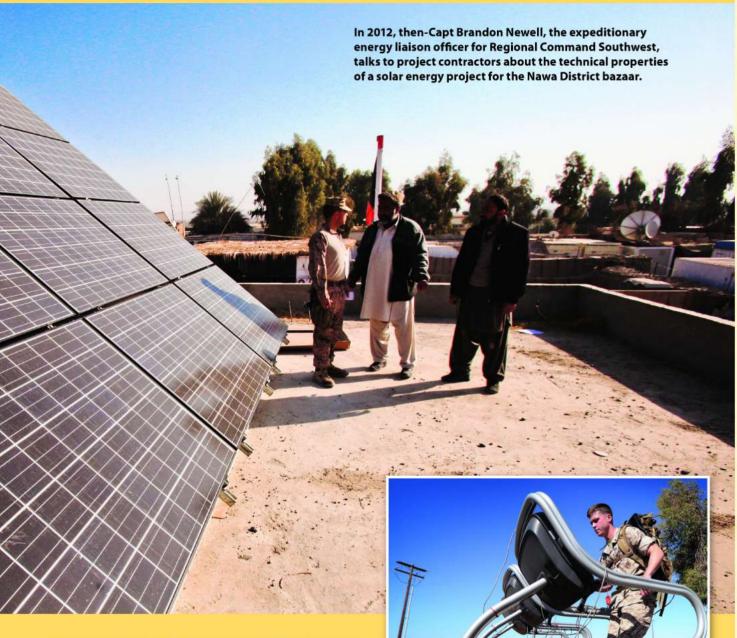
The thing to understand about the budget is that the base has to pay for all of the energy it consumes, so any energy that we waste in buildings that aren't occupied or on equipment we aren't using is just money that flies out the window. And it may not come directly out of a Marine's pocket, but it's money we can't spend on vital infrastructure, like roads, runways and training facilities.

I made it a priority to reduce that bill. I worked with leaders on base, created policy and reviewed energy data. I'm proud to say that, over my time there, we were able to cut energy spending by \$6 million. That's money I'd rather spend equipping ranges to train Marines than waste it on the electric bill.



ATHAN L. HANKS JR.

On Oct. 19, 2015, civilian and military leaders at MCLB Albany, Ga., mark the installation of America's first Borehole Thermal Energy Storage system. From left to right Chuck W. Hammock, principal engineer of Andrews, Hammock & Powell, Inc.; MajGen Craig C. Crenshaw, CG, Marine Corps Logistics Command; Col James C. Carrol III, CO, MCLB Albany; and LT Jose Centenorosado, director of facilities, MCLB Albany.



Energy and the Logistics Challenge

Major Brandon Newell, Military Fellow National Renewable Energy Laboratory

As a communications officer with a secondary MOS as an electrical engineer, the Marine Corps' codependent relationship with energy has always stood out to me. Using our energy efficiently isn't about meeting some mandate or political objective—it's about maximizing Marines' abilities to complete their mission successfully and safely.

I remember during our march from Kuwait to Baghdad in 2003, we were moving faster than any Marine unit had moved that distance before. But our speed, which is usually the strength that sets us apart from every other service, was a real stress to logistics units—so much so that the leading units, some of which weren't heavily armed and didn't have infantry, began to outpace the supply chain. Eventually, we had to take a four-day pause on the push forward because we had completely outrun our own supplies—not just our water

Cpl Brandon O'Connell with 1st Recon Bn, 1stMarDiv, tests the Lightning Pack on a treadmill during the Experimental Forward Operating Base '14 on May 15, 2014, at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. The pack uses a generator to convert the walking movement of the person wearing it into electrical power.

and our ammunition, but our batteries and our fuel. Waiting to replenish all of this energy compromised our tempo because we were too dependent on fuel sources that couldn't keep pace. That experience in Baghdad just highlighted to me how much of an impact the availability of our energy resources has on the way we fight and how we need to be self-sustaining and efficient.

A solar-powered energy distribution system is tested near MCAS Yuma Oct. 1, 2012. According to SSgt Casey Bazor of "Bravo" Battery, 1st Bn, 10th Marines, the system could be used to power everything from radios and laptops to truck batteries and howitzers.



Energy and Field Technology

Staff Sergeant Brian Baez, Utilities Chief, 1st Radio Battalion

Early on in Iraq and Afghanistan, I was deployed as an engineer equipment electrical systems technician with 9th Communication Battalion. We took over for a unit that didn't have the equipment to set up their power grid, and they had to keep the generators running 24/7, wasting a lot of fuel.

Power conservation is a big thing for us. Fuel is crucial and expensive, especially when you're deployed. If we have a generator up and running that isn't being utilized to its full potential, we're just wasting our resources. The good thing is that the energy program office is coming up with great products to help us.

At our last field operation at Command Post Exercise 3,

we saved fuel by deploying a system called a microgrid that lets us program generators and remotely control their usage. We had four, 60,000-watt (60 kW) generators hooked up to the system, but unlike in a typical exercise, we only had to keep one or two on at a time. It worked like this—we started with one generator, and if the amount of electricity needed ran above 60 kW, a second generator turned on. If it went above 120 kW, the third turned on, and if it went back below 60 kW, extra generators automatically turned off. Going from three generators down to one could save over 100 gallons of fuel a day, and I'm looking forward to using the microgrid again at Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise.

Energy and the Operating Environment

First Lieutenant Yosef Adiputra, Executive Officer, Headquarters and Service Battery, 2d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion



As the executive officer, my job is to maintain operational readiness, training standards, and administrative needs for 60 to 70 Marines. One of the first considerations I must make as a LAAD officer is to plan for Marines' energy use. How many batteries do I need to sustain all of my Marines in their training or operational environments? It's a constant question and a constant concern. "Will we have enough to last an entire day of operations?"

A big part of the answer to that depends on the deployed environment, and sometimes, that environment presents huge logistical challenges. When I was attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in the mountains of South Korea, the requirement to use only the energy we absolutely needed was amplified. In

that remote environment, we had limited charging resources and had to pack lightly with as few batteries as possible so we could maintain our agility in the rough terrain. How far I was able to push my Marines depended directly on the amount of power we had.

Another time the environment affected our energy use was during my first large-scale exercise at Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-15. I was serving as platoon commander when a few of my LAAD teams had to come back to the command post for a resupply of radio batteries. Our batteries did not fare well in the high desert heat, so Marines were struggling to conserve the energy they needed to accomplish their mission. We solved the problem by co-locating teams and sharing resources, but if we were in the battlefield and lost our radio capabilities, it could have been a crippling challenge.

Above: LCpl Corey Champagne with 3d Bn, 12th Marines, 1st MarDiv, tries out Bionic Power's PowerWalk during ExFOB'14 at Camp Pendleton. The PowerWalk generates power as the wearer moves their legs and possibly could be used by the Marine Corps in the future.



Conclusion

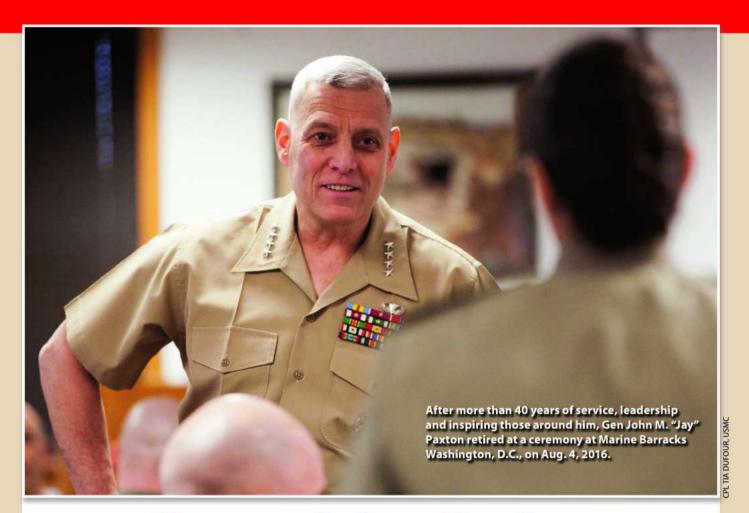
Following the drawdowns in the Middle East, the Marine Corps is focused on getting back to its roots-a true flexible expeditionary force. Success as a lean and lethal Corps will require all Marines to pay close attention to how they are using energy in MTVRs, tanks, and planes, and with radios, ECUs and lights. Doing so will reduce dependence on the logistics tail and free up resources in money and manpower. The Energy Ethos can help lead the Corps toward energy independence, which is a level of technical or operational proficiency where energy requirements are no longer a significant recurring requirement that adversaries can exploit.

Likewise, at home, defense budget constraints are reducing the funds available to support our bases and training. Every nonessential kilowatt saved is money that could be better allotted toward support of the mission and Marine families. Additionally, living this efficient mentality on base will also help shape strategic use of energy resources in the battlefield because Marines train how they fight.

The programs, offices, and Marines supporting Marine Corps energy demonstrate how critical these resources are. The Energy Ethos is a part of the Warrior Ethos because it contributes to overall mission readiness and effectiveness. This ethos must be integrated into the mindset of the Marine Corps and institutionalized in the way we execute our mission—from bases to battlefields.

Editor's note: The USMC Expeditionary Energy Office was created to analyze, develop, and direct the Marine Corps' energy strategy in order to optimize expeditionary capabilities across all warfighting functions. It works closely with the combat and technology development communities and serves as the proponent for expeditionary energy in the force development process.

The MCICOM Facility Operations and Energy (GF-1) mission is to provide policy, conduct programming, and oversee the execution of programs and functions relating to Energy, Utilities, and Facility Operations/Services across the Marine Corps in order to fully and cost-effectively support Marine Corps readiness and quality of life.



General Jay Paxton

Dedicated Leader Spent His Career Motivating Marines

CAA champion. Ivy League graduate. Four-star general of Marines. An incredible résumé by any standard but combine those accomplishments with a sincere dedication to and genuine love for country and Corps, and you have General John M. "Jay" Paxton, the 33rd Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (ACMC).

He is "the officer and Marine that Gen Lejeune had in mind when he talked about Marine leaders as teachers, parents and coaches to those in their charge. Just a good man in every sense of the word," said General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps. High praise indeed and echoed by countless Marines who have had the privilege of serving with Gen Paxton, who retired from the Marine Corps in August.

A native of Philadelphia, John "Jay" Paxton didn't necessarily grow up intending to be a Marine. He wanted to By Col Mary Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

serve and while he felt he should, he was service agnostic. His father had served in the Army in World War II. Four uncles and an aunt had also served including an uncle who served in the Marines and participated in the Battle of Okinawa. His 42-year career in the Corps, which he spent deploying to locations worldwide, including Iraq. Somalia, Bosnia and Afghanistan, also could be traced back to a collegiate physical education requirement. Upon enrolling at Cornell University to study engineering, Paxton was required to take four semesters of physical education. His time on the football team only fulfilled half the requirement. Joining the lacrosse team, despite no previous experience in the sport, solved the problem and had the added benefit of introducing Paxton to Coach Richie Moran, a veteran Marine. Moran led Paxton and his teammates to the 1971 lacrosse national championship and, as importantly, encouraged him to join the Corps.

Gen Paxton's time playing for the "Big Red" laid the groundwork for his future leadership style and his constant emphasis on the team. "When you go into every game as the underdog, and you have to work to stay, it kind of colors your outlook, so the idea of team before self and the idea of perseverance—those were two of the big lessons learned up there at Cornell. It was about teamwork; there was no vertical pronoun there. It was about 'suck it up' and persevere and go on a little bit longer. It was about expanding yourself. All the things that we practiced on the field and all the things that we tried to embody in the locker room certainly carried over to the Marine Corps."

Service as an infantry officer has taken Gen Paxton all over the Corps as he commanded Marines at all grades including assignments as the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines and 1st Marine Regiment and as the commanding general for Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego/Western Recruiting Region, 1st Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Forces Command. And his staff tours were equally impressive. As a general officer, he was assigned to the Programs and Resources Department at Headquarters Marine Corps and for almost three years as the Director for Operations, J-3, of the Joint Staff. His last assignment as the Corps' "Executive Officer" has proven to be one of the most challenging but where his impact will be felt for years to come.

Gen Paxton began his tour as Assistant Commandant under Gen James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, who called Paxton a "Sherpa with big shoulders" and a "Warren Buffet with finances." Recommending Paxton, said Gen Amos, was an easy decision. "The ACMC, of necessity, must have considerable credibility throughout the Corps. He will be called upon often to rely on relationships to work the seemingly impossible. Jay Paxton doesn't have an enemy in the world."

And he got the job done. "He anticipated every move, and seemed to always be one step ahead of the problem," Gen Amos added.

Duties and Responsibilities Of the ACMC

As the 33rd Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Paxton has played a critical although often unheralded role in ensuring that Marines are provided with the best equipment and gear. Through his efforts in leading the Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC), he has identified, advocated for, and recommended priorities for Marine Corps capabilities and deficiencies. The MROC is responsible for instilling rigor and responsible planning in the procurement process and programs. According to Gen Paxton, "It's an opportunity for the six deputy commandants and the three MEFs [Marine Expeditionary Forces] and all the MarFors [Marine Force Commands] to Below: Gen Paxton testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on March 25, 2015, with the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. (Photo by Scott M. Ash)





During a March 18, 2013, flight line tour of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, Gen Paxton discusses the importance of the Marine Corps' presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The ACMC must be a wizard with budgets and monies

He must be a clairvoyant soothsayer in all aspects of manpower. He must be a gifted orator ACMCs must have the strength and physical endurance of a pack mule, as he will work 20 hours a day, seven days a week."

-Gen James F. Amos 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps



Getting away from his office at the Pentagon was not easy, but Gen Paxton took advantage of an opportunity to travel to Afghanistan in 2013.

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps is the second highest ranking officer in the United States Marine Corps and serves as the second-in-command for the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The official title "Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps" was adopted in 1946, and since then, 33 Marines have held the position of ACMC.

Before 1918, the billet was referred to only as "Duty in the Office of the Commandant." Few records exist detailing the specific duties of this billet prior to the outbreak of World War I because the Commandant of the Marine Corps did not have a deputy, only an administrative staff.

As with the CMC, the ACMC is appointed by the President of the United States and must be confirmed by the Senate. In the event the CMC is absent or unable to perform his duties, the ACMC assumes the duties and responsibilities of the CMC and, with the approval of the Secretary of the Navy, may delegate or prescribe for him. Orders issued by the ACMC while performing such duties have the same weight as those issued by the CMC. For this reason, the ACMC is promoted to a grade equal to that of the sitting CMC, a four-star general.

The first "Assistant to the Commandant" was Lieutenant General Eli K. Cole who assumed the position on April 29, 1911. From this date until the adoption of the current position, 19 men were assigned to assist the CMC in the performance of his duties. The first Marine designated as the ACMC, Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., held the billet from Oct. 17, 1946, to April 14, 1948. Since the position's inception in 1946, seven ACMCs have moved on to become CMC: MajGen Shepherd, Lieutenant General Randolph M. Pate, LtGen Leonard F. Chapman Jr., Gen Robert H. Barrow, Gen Paul X. Kelley, and Gen James Amos. Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr. also served as both ACMC and CMC; he is now serving as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen Paxton holds the distinction of being the longest serving ACMC ((December 2012-August 2016) and also the only ACMC to serve under three Commandants (Generals Amos, Dunford and Neller)).

HQMC

sit at the table, and say, 'well look, this is where the best bang for the buck is. This is where the next additional dollar should go or this is how we can adjust this program because it's not delivering on time and on schedule.'

The ACMC also serves as the Corps' principal representative to the Deputy of Defense's Management Action Group

(DMAG) and the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC). "Unfortunately at the DMAG's and JROC's, there are a lot of emerging requirements. You're always talking about where we should put investment dollars so I spend a pretty substantial amount of time there with all the undersecretaries of defense and the four services vices."

Paxton continued, "We can't lose the fight we're in, and we're living on the marginal dollars. There are a lot of folks that would have us look out over the horizon, and say, 'hey, we need to start adjusting here, here, and here.' I'm ready to do that if you put more dollars in the pot. The minute you put that in, you're going to stress an already smaller force and already aging equipment. You really need to focus, not just on today's fight and not excessively on the way out fight, but always on tomorrow's fight because we have to get the same units we have today ready to go again tomorrow."

Gen Paxton knows the challenges the Corps faces. "You have to win the fight you're in, whether it's Afghanistan or Iraq, whether it's radical Islam or other fundamentalist ideologies. We've been focused for 15 years on the fight we're in, but you can't do that at the expense of what could happen tomorrow. You have to look out and say do we have the right equipment? Do we have the right technologies? Are we studying the right things? How do we adjust our schoolhouses to teach those things? How do we adjust our exercise programs to incorporate those things?" And not just in the Marine Corps but also in a joint and coalition environment. "It's the balance between the current and next generation. We have to keep looking at it."

Joint Environment

In General Paxton's opinion, the Corps' relationships with the other services is the best he's ever seen. "I think we have good partners in the Navy, and at the same time, we have 15 years of jointness working with Army and Air Force." The increasingly restrained fiscal environment, however, is a large concern for Gen Paxton in the upcoming years and could impact relations between the services. "Unfortunately we're in a retrenchment mode in this fiscally constrained environment, and the real risk is that when the dollars get tight, you shoot on each other's target." Paxton fears that there could be increased fighting over more and more limited resources. "You forget that you're all in the same fight together. How we articulate the need for sufficient national resources for defense is pretty important."

Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter has appreciated Gen Paxton's contributions for years. The two co-chaired the Pentagon's Counter IED (Improvised Explosive Devise) Senior Integration Group in 2009-10 with the mission of addressing the threat that IEDs continued to pose to forces in Iraq and particularly Afghanistan. According to Carter, Paxton focused on identifying solutions, assigning responsi





Gen Paxton leads a procession of Marines from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., through Arlington National Cemetery during a funeral for retired Gen Earl E. Anderson, a former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, March 31, 2016.

sibilities and generating answers.

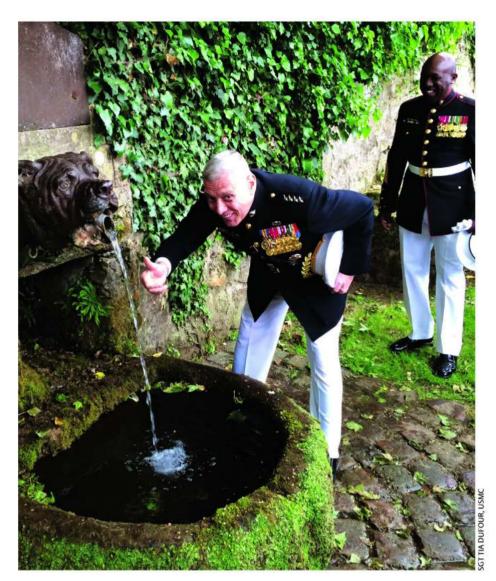
"Jay helped turn the old Pentagon process of "Require, then Acquire" into "Acquire and then Require" instead, so our troops would have access to what they needed when they needed it without having to wait for the acquisition system to catch up to what they needed." Throughout their travels together, Carter said Paxton was always striving to support the Marines. "What do you need? How can we help?" were his constant queries. Despite his seniority and ever-increasing responsibilities, Gen Paxton continues to live the ethos of taking care of Marines and other junior servicemembers.

Above: BGen Gary L. Thomas, commanding general of 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, left, and Gen Paxton, center left, and other senior leaders serve dinner to Marines at Camp Bastion, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Nov. 28, 2013. (Photo by Sgt Gabriela Garcia, USMC)

"Jay took every opportunity to speak individually to every Marine, every soldier, every American servicemember he could. He'd shake their hands, he'd look in their eyes, and he'd let them know that they mattered, "Carter said admiringly at Paxton's retirement ceremony on Aug. 4, at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. "He made sure the troops understood they were important, heard, valued, and that he was there for them."

A Marine's Marine

Gen Paxton understands the value of staying in touch with the Marines in the operating forces—as difficult as that can be when working in the Pentagon. "You understand that because as the XO, you're the stay-at-home guy. The Commandant of the Marine Corps has to get out; the Commandant and the Sergeant Major—they need to get the pulse of the MEFs and the MarFors. The XO needs to be out enough that he understands the merit and the relevance of the issues." But like all XOs, Paxton didn't get out as much



as he would have liked. "If there is ever a draw between you going out and the Commandant going out, the Commandant always wins!" Paxton remarked with a laugh.

When asked who his biggest influences have been, Paxton said that there have been many, from senior leaders, officer and enlisted, to junior Marines. As a younger officer, he keenly observed more senior Marines and watched how they conducted themselves. "How do they send the right message either by what they say or what they do?" A few Marines have made a special impact. "I always think of Phil Monahan and O.K. Steele, retired generals who I had the pleasure to work for as colonels." And a senior Air Force leader, his father-in-law, has had a special impact on Paxton. "Debbie's [his wife] dad was the 6th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. And he's been a great influence and role model too."

Retired Sergeant Major Frank Pulley, Marine Corps Association & Foundation West Coast Representative, served with Gen Paxton at Marine Corps Recruit



Gen and Mrs. Paxton, with the oldest of their three children, John Jr.

Gen Paxton takes a drink from the Devil Dog Fountain at Belleau Wood, France as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Ronald M. Green, awaits his turn May 31, 2015.

Depot San Diego and later at 1st Marine Division. As Paxton's senior enlisted advisor, Pulley was the beneficiary of Gen Paxton's exceptional leadership and keen understanding of the command team's relationship. "In most everything, he would not act/decide unless he knew that I was in the loop. And he always ensured there was a seat at the table, in the vehicle, etc., for the sergeant major. He saw the billet of sergeant major as the 'enlisted Marines' general.' He wanted to ensure that the rank and billet were always respected. At the same time, he was also about accountability; there were no free passes. I looked forward to seeing him and serving with him every single day—and never wanted to disappoint or fail him on anything."

"This Day in History"

The retiring ACMC is well-known for his fondness for "This Day in History." His engineering degrees don't necessarily reflect his love of history, but like many Marines, Paxton has an affection for the stories of past battles and the individuals who have made the Corps what it is today. He attributes his time at the Army's Infantry Officer Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Ga., for his fondness of "today in history." The Army stressed historical facts and anecdotes as a technique of military instruction, and a seed was planted.

"I thought there were some really interesting things to learn about, either a specific individual or specific battle that you didn't read or know. It was an interesting way to remind people about who we are and what we're all about." His Marines have also enjoyed it, and weekly Pentagon staff meetings became a competition as staff members researched relatively unknown aspects of military history to one-up one another.

"All of a sudden, it became a point of pride that they knew more about the institution, they knew more about this individual or this battle. That was keeping the legacy and the tradition; you care about 'do you know your history and do you believe in it'."

Shoveling the Snow

One of the best examples of the kind of man and the kind of Marine that Jay Paxton is was demonstrated in February 2014 when Washington, D.C., was hit with a snowstorm. The grounds and sidewalks

Two for the Price of One

General John M. "Jay" Paxton isn't the only member of the Paxton family who has made a significant contribution to the Corps; Mrs. Debbie Paxton is the mental health advisor with the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

A family nurse practitioner, Mrs. Paxton has worked in the nursing field in a variety of specialties including labor and delivery and acute care, and she even served as the clinic nurse at the British Embassy during her husband's assignment to Combined Forces Command Korea. But it was a little over 10 years ago while volunteering in Southern California that Mrs. Paxton found her true calling. She was an early and frequent volunteer with the newly established Semper Fi Fund and often visited Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran

Marines at Balboa Naval Hospital during Gen Paxton's tour as the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and later as Commanding General, 1st Marine Division.

When the Wounded Warrior Regiment was established in 2007, she was hired as the mental health advisor for Wounded Warrior Battalion West when her husband deployed to Iraq as Chief of Staff, Multinational Force-Iraq. Mrs. Paxton later transferred to the Wounded Warrior Regiment at Marine Corps Base Quantico to serve in the same position. Even as the general served tours as the J-3 and later at Camp Lejeune and Norfolk, Mrs. Paxton somehow balanced the demands of her job with her exceptional support to the Marines and families of



Mrs. Debbie Paxton receives the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., during the retirement ceremony for her husband, Gen Paxton, Aug. 4, 2016.

II Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Forces Command. "She was involved with all the spouses, support and deployment programs and all the other stuff down there [Camp Lejeune]. When I went to II MEF, Gen Amos was Commandant and he thought through this, and said 'we're getting more bang for the buck from her than with you'!" Gen Paxton said, only half joking. The Paxtons worked out a challenging but effective system to see each other despite their mutual responsibilities. "There are four weekends a month so two weekends, she goes south, one I would go north and on the fourth weekend, we'd go to neutral corners." And while the ACMC may be retiring, Mrs. Paxton will continue to serve Marines at the Wounded Warrior Regiment.

of Marine Barracks Washington (better known as "8th and I"), where the ACMC's quarters are located, were covered in snow. Someone took a photo of the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps shoveling the sidewalk near his quarters. The picture went viral on social media, and thousands praised the fourstar general who wasn't afraid to get his hands dirty. Gen Paxton is still a bit embarrassed by all the attention his simple act received. In his mind, "you do what you know has to be done; what's right; it doesn't matter if anyone is looking." Gen Paxton recognized how busy the "8th and I" Marines were and decided to help. "You're not going to ask, "Hey, can you send them back down?" You just get out there and do it. I was more worried that some sergeant major would yell at me for having jeans on at the Barracks," Gen Paxton said.

He continued to hear about the incident months afterwards. At a formal dinner the following spring, 82-year-old Gen Alfred M. Gray approached Gen Paxton. He ignored the ACMC's outstretched hand and hit him in the chest! The still toughas-nails 29th Commandant then barked, "Son of a bitch! I shovel my snow every day, and no one ever takes my picture!"

Retirement

With a career that began in 1974, Gen Paxton has served with Marines for more than four decades and believes that today's Marines and the Marines from 40 years ago are similar in many ways. According to Gen Paxton, the spirit, camaraderie, and drive are still outstanding. "Everybody wants to accomplish the mission and contribute to something bigger than themselves. That is unchanged." He is a bit in awe of the capabilities of our

youngest leathernecks. "When you watch what Marines do today, you watch a lance corporal doing multi-tasking and multi-screen management in some of those COCs, and my head hurts just thinking about it. And they all fight and move to the sound of the guns too. I remember Gen Conway saying when the balloon went up after 9/11 that many had misgivings about this generation—that they are softer and they're all into computer stuff. They turned out to be just as hard and just as brave as ever."

As expected, when asked what he will miss the most, Gen Paxton provides a simple one-word answer: Marines. "Just being around Marines—the camaraderie, the spirit, the sense of mission first. Gen Dunford and I say, we strip away the personal pronoun, it's always us and we."

*

40 Years and Counting

The Marine Corps Marathon's "Groundpounders" Remember the Past and Look Toward the Future

By Sara W. Bock

hey're known affectionately as the "Groundpounders." The two Marines have run every single Marine Corps Marathon since the first in 1976—a total of 1,048 miles through the streets in and around the nation's capital—and they don't have plans to hang up their running shoes anytime soon. They've watched the iconic race grow in unimaginable ways over the past four decades, but some things remain unchanged. The Marine Corps spirit, they say, is just as palpable on race day now as it was then.

Alfred "Al" Richmond played football in college, but he wasn't a long-distance runner, nor had he ever given much thought to the idea of participating in a marathon. But that all changed in the summer of 1976. A lieutenant colonel with a contagious amount of enthusiasm showed up in Richmond's office in the Reserve division of Headquarters Marine Corps after a 10-mile training run. He was preparing for the first-ever Marine Corps Reserve Marathon, which Richmond hadn't even considered taking part in.

But Richmond's competitive nature got the best of him—in a good way.

"Well I'll be damned if he can do it and I can't," Richmond, then a captain, recalls thinking about the older, "saltier" officer. So he signed up to run the marathon too. "The rest is history." he said.

"The rest is history," he said.

Richmond didn't have much time to train, and the 3-mile timed run portion of the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Test (PFT) was really the extent of his running experience. The Nov. 7, 1976, marathon was quickly approaching, and his billet as an automated data processing officer was keeping him busy. At the same time, he was assisting with logistical preparations for the race, spearheaded by founders Colonel Jim Fowler and Major General Michael P. Ryan, the director of the Marine Corps Reserve.

But somehow—"I was a lot younger and in pretty good shape," he said with a chuckle—he made it through all 26.2 miles to the finish line.



Col Will Brown, USMCR (Ret), left, celebrates with Col Joseph M. Murray, right, Commanding Officer, MCB Quantico, after crossing the finish line at the 40th Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 25, 2015. Brown is one of two "Groundpounders" who have run the 26.2-mile race every year since its inception in 1976.



Somewhere in the crowd of 1,018 marathon finishers that day was Will Brown, another young Marine Reserve officer. Like Richmond, Brown had made the decision to run his first marathon on somewhat of a whim. When he heard that the Marine Corps Reserve was putting on a marathon, he thought it sounded like the perfect first marathon for him, so he signed up. It was as simple as that.

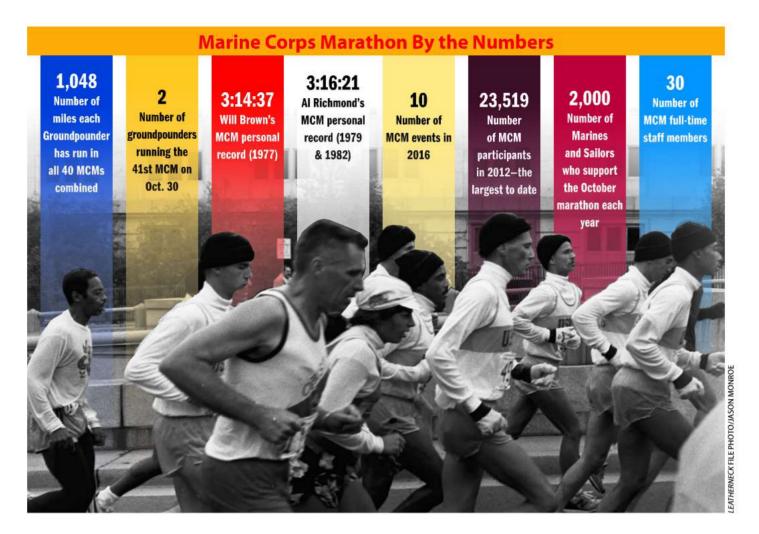
A finisher of the 1992
Marine Corps Marathon
expresses relief following
the 17th annual race. A
year prior, in 1991, runners
began registering using a
computer-generated form
rather than a printed form
that had to be completed
with a No. 2 pencil.





With a level of organization and attention to detail that only Marines can pro-

1997 Marine Corps Marathon. (Leatherneck file photo)



Right: SPC Samuel Kosgei, USA, captures the win at the 39th Marine Corps Marathon as he passes through the marathon banner held by Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, left, and Gen John M. Paxton Jr., Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, right, on Oct. 26, 2014.

vide, the marathon has flourished from the beginning. After the first two years, the Marine Corps Reserve turned over responsibility for the marathon to activeduty Marines, and the race headquarters was established at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Even though they were running the same race year after year, the two gentlemen wouldn't meet until years later when race officials began recognizing a small group of individuals. Nicknamed the "Groundpounders," these were the runners who had completed every Marine Corps Marathon to date. It became somewhat of an elite "club," and no one wanted to be the first to quit.

In fact, Richmond almost skipped the 1990 marathon until he opened his Saturday newspaper a week or so before the race. An article among its pages featured Brown, a reserve colonel who had run



every Marine Corps Marathon, just like he had. It was the push Richmond needed after an unbelievably difficult year. Months earlier, he had visited New Orleans with his wife, where he was mugged and shot three times while walking through the "dark side" of the French Quarter. He had endured multiple operations, and still was feeling weak, but was determined not to give up. It may not have been his best time, but he finished.

In 2010, Brown and Richmond, along with then-fellow Groundpounder Matt Jaffe, were inducted into the Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame. It's a high honor, reserved only for those few individuals who have made a significant impact on the success of the race.



Participants run past the U.S. Capitol Building during the 1997 Marine Corps Marathon.

Over the decades, the group dwindled in size, and by 2014, Richmond and Brown—incidentally the two Marines of the group—were the only ones able to maintain their perfect streak. The other two Groundpounders, Jaffe and Mel Williams, didn't complete the 2014 race. In May 2016, Williams—the oldest and fastest among the group—passed away.

Last year, at the 40th Marine Corps Marathon, a previously undiagnosed medical condition threatened to keep Brown from continuing, but he was able to make it through to the finish line. He underwent surgery shortly afterwards and is back to normal, he said.

On Oct. 30, the duo will attempt their 41st Marine Corps Marathon finishes. Richmond calls the race his "rite of fall."

And while the modern-day version of the race may seem far removed from the simplicity of its early days, Richmond says that the Marine Corps spirit is the common thread that has remained unchanged over the past four decades.

For Brown, the opportunity to shake hands with the young Marine second lieutenants at the finish line is one of the small, yet significant touches that set the Marine Corps Marathon apart.

Remarkably, the 30 civilian staff members of the Marine Corps Marathon organization have succeeded at keeping the race as true to its roots as possible—a challenge considering the advancements in technology, the advent of charity partnerships and corporate sponsorships and a slew of new races.

The Marine Corps Marathon now hosts an "event series," providing numerous opportunities to race throughout the year. The MCM 10K and MCM Kids Run take place during the marathon weekend in October. On MCB Quantico, the marathon organization puts on the "Run Amuck" mud run, the Quantico Triathlon and 12K, and a November Turkey Trot each year. In May, the Historic Half and Semper 5ive are held in Fredericksburg, Va. The MCM 17.75K, an 11.03-mile run through Prince William Forest Park, adjacent to MCB Quantico, is an unusual distance chosen specifically as a nod to the birth year of the Marine Corps. Finishers of the 17.75K are offered a guaranteed entry into the Marine Corps Marathon.

Gone are the days of registering for the marathon at the last minute. Due to overwhelming interest, a random lottery system in March of each year determines who will be granted a spot in the October race. Once a runner has finished five Marine Corps Marathons, they become part of the exclusive "Runners Club," guaranteeing them annual access to the race. Maximum capacity for the MCM 10K and the Marine Corps Marathon combined is 30,000 runners.

Even though the Marine Corps Marathon of today is vastly different from the first marathon Brown and Richmond ran on Nov. 7, 1976, they feel nothing but pride when they reflect on how far it's come.

"It's an incredible effort—the logistics," said Richmond. "Having been involved in the first couple, knowing that small amount what was involved ... it's just unbelievable. Absolutely unbelievable," he added.

At the first Marine Corps Marathon, runners were handed a wooden stick-a tongue depressor like the ones commonly found in a doctor's office—as they crossed the finish line. A number written on the tongue depressor would signify the order in which they finished the race. They would walk to a race official who would record the number with the runner's bib number on a list. In fact, Richmond was the one tasked with organizing the data and producing a final report of race results. It took him three weeks, he said. because as soon as the marathon was over, MajGen Ryan told everyone in his office to get back to their "real" jobs, not their marathon jobs. Some nights, Richmond would stay in the office until midnight trying to compile the official results in his free time.

Today, the official results are delivered instantly. A chip called a "B-tag" is attached to the back of the runner's "race bib" and records their exact time across both the start and finish lines, and transmits it to the marathon database. The marathon also provides a "Track A Runner" service that allows anyone to follow a specific runner's progress along the course and delivers updates via e-mail, text message or social media accounts.

"To think nowadays that not only do they know what you've done the second you cross the line, they know where you are as you're running the course. Your loved one can be sitting at home on the computer and say, 'OK, he just passed 13 miles, he's doing such and such pace,' "Richmond said, sharing his near disbelief at how far technology has come since the days he pulled late nights at the office trying to assemble the race results.

But the tremendous growth of what's known around the world as "The People's Marathon" has to do with a lot more than the adoption of new race technology.

According to Major Rick Nealis, USMC (Ret), director of the Marine Corps Marathon for more than 20 years, it all comes down to striking a balance between embracing change and managing to stay true to the roots of the race.

"I love change! I thrive on change," Nealis said, but he also makes it clear that even in pursuit of change, he refuses to compromise the mission of the marathon: to showcase the organizational skills of the Marines; promote goodwill between the Marine Corps and the civilian community; and to encourage healthy lifestyles.

It's the largest marathon that doesn't offer prize money, and though it's tempt-



Maj Rick Nealis, USMC (Ret), sits in his office in Fowler Hall, MCB Quantico, Aug. 18. Since he took the helm of the race in 1993, Nealis has overseen the addition of corporate sponsors and charity partners as well as exponential growth in the number of runners who participate each year.

ing to offer prizes like cars and cash that would attract the world's fastest runners, Nealis remains resolute. It's about the people and about providing the Marine Corps with a unique opportunity to interact with the general public and expose its participants to the traditions of the Corps—not about breaking course records.

So how has the race grown to be such a massive event, touted by many as the best marathon for beginners? Nealis has a few explanations to offer. It all started in the 1990s, he said.

In 1994, one notable marathon "begin-

ner," television personality Oprah Winfrey, ran her first and only 26.2 mile race: the Marine Corps Marathon.

"She was turning 40 and was telling women out there, 'I can do it.' She's telling women, 'It's on my bucket list. I'm not a runner,' "Nealis said, crediting Winfrey for helping the marathon gain popularity among self-proclaimed "non-runners" during the 1990s.

In those days, he said, a lot of marathons didn't necessarily embrace the idea of people running 26.2 miles simply to finish, not to clock a personal record or attain a Boston Marathon-qualifying time. The Marine Corps Marathon has a 7-hour time limit, and anyone who finishes within those parameters gets the same finisher's medal, whether their time is 2 hours and 30 minutes or 7 hours.

"There's nothing in the book that says, 'You must run,' "Nealis said. In the 1990s, this was somewhat of an unconventional idea in the running world.

Nealis, a supply officer, initially spent two years as director of the Marine Corps Marathon from 1993-95 while on active duty.

The Oprah Winfrey experience opened up a door for Nealis on a personal level. The security company Winfrey had hired to provide a motorcycle detail for her during the marathon offered him a position in "running security" after his retirement from the Corps. It allowed him the opportunity to travel to Olympia, Greece, take custody of the Olympic flame, and even serve as one of the torchbearers en route to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

In Atlanta, where he was tasked with providing security during the Olympics,



James Rice, a participant from Boston, pushes through the last stretch of the 39th Marine Corps Marathon on Oct. 26, 2014. Each year, thousands of spectators line the course, which spans Washington, D.C., and parts of northern Virginia.



Sgt Robert Jones, USMC (Ret), a double amputee, runs across the Francis Scott Key Bridge over the Potomac River during the 40th Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 25, 2015.

he was exposed to the idea of corporate sponsorship—and in Atlanta, that was primarily Coca-Cola.

"At that point, in 1996, the Marine Corps [Marathon] was doing zero sponsorship," said Nealis. And then an opportunity was presented to him, one that he couldn't pass up.

Shortly after the Olympics, he got a call from MCB Quantico. He was asked if he would be interested in returning as director of the Marine Corps Marathon, this time in a civilian capacity. He accepted, and brought with him the sponsorship concept that had become a spark in his mind during the Atlanta Olympics.

Fast-forward to today, exactly 20 years later, and the marathon has garnered sponsorships from dozens of national brands that provide manpower, resources and services in support of the race. Many of the brands have a presence at the lively "Finish Festival" that fills the streets of Rosslyn, Va., on marathon day.

Another important type of partner the Marine Corps Marathon organization began to embrace during the 1990s was charity organizations.

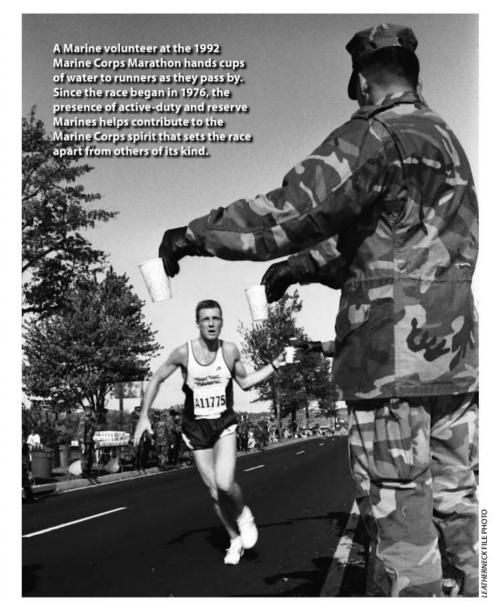
"A lot of races didn't embrace that movement. It was foreign," said Nealis of the idea that runners would raise money and awareness for different charities by running the marathon for a "cause." The marathon's charity partners are many, including Semper Fi Fund, Team Fisher House, and as of this year, the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Runners can receive a guaranteed bib for the marathon by raising a designated amount of funds for the charity and running the marathon on the charity's "team."

The involvement of sponsors and charity partners led to a steady increase in participation into the early 2000s. And then the Pentagon—where the marathon traditionally started and finished—was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, the month before the 26th race.

Other area events were canceling, but Nealis and his staff pushed forward. The Pentagon was a crime scene up until a few hours before the marathon that year, he said, and by the next year, they were given more restrictions regarding running around the building.

"Well, if we can't run to the Pentagon, let's run to Rosslyn. Let's turn this thing around and face the other direction," Nealis remembers saying. By facing the other direction, runners could use both sides of Highway 110. It was essentially a "green light" to double the number of runners, Nealis said. The ability to expand was the unintended result of the restrictions brought about by the 9/11 attacks.

The diversity of marathon participants



grew as Marines and servicemembers with missing limbs and other combat injuries began to return home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, marathon participants in wheelchairs and hand cycles lead the way with a start time 10 minutes prior to the runners.

It's important to Nealis and his staff that each event brings Marine Corps history—both in ways subtle and not so subtle—to its runners. But perhaps the most impactful piece of history runners encounter during the Marine Corps Marathon is at the finish line. And it also happens to be a permanent fixture in Arlington: the Marine Corps War Memorial.

It's a sight that never gets old for Will Brown, even after decades of running past the enormous bronze statue depicting the iconic image of Marines raising a flag atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

To Brown, the memorial holds special meaning—and not just because he's a Marine. Brown's father was a World War

II Marine who fought in that storied battle, and is distantly related to Private First Class Rene Gagnon, one of the flag raisers depicted in the iconic Joe Rosenthal photo that inspired the memorial's design.

This year, running past the memorial will mean more to him than ever, he said. In March, he was given the opportunity of a lifetime: to travel to Iwo Jima and stand on the spot where that flag was raised. It was an emotional experience for him, both as a Marine and as a descendant of the men who fought to capture the island in 1945. Before he left the island, Brown filled six vials with the black sand that has become legendary in the Corps.

This month, Brown will take one of the vials of Iwo Jima sand with him from his Raleigh, N.C., home to Washington, D.C. He hopes it will bring good luck to the runners of the 41st Marine Corps Marathon; and among them, the only two who have been there since the beginning.

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MARATHON MARINE

Col James L. Fowler

By John Bandler

Introduction

On Oct. 30, 2016, tens of thousands of runners will descend upon Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia for the 41st annual Marine Corps Marathon. Created in 1976, with 1,175 runners at the starting line, the marathon has grown exponentially to include registering the maximum capacity of 30,000 runners and being administrated by a full-time organization dedicated solely to sponsoring racing events. The race is a steady symbol of the Marine Corps ethos and continues to foster military-civilian relationships. It took the leadership of one man-Col James L. Fowler-to see his dream become a reality.

Col Fowler lived his entire life as if it were a marathon. As a Marine, business-

man, mentor, and lifelong learner, he took on physical and mental challenges and left a legacy not only for the Marine Corps, but for those around him as well. This fall marks the one-year anniversary of his burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and the rededication of Fowler Hall, the Marine Corps Marathon Headquarters building aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Distinguished Marine

Fowler enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1947 at the age of 16 and served in a reserve infantry battalion in New Rochelle, N.Y., for a year until he went to Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. Upon graduation from college in 1952, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and completed The Basic School at Quantico. During the Korean War he was an infantry platoon leader, serving in combat



Col James L. Fowler

on the western Korean front from 1953-54.

Upon completion of his service in Korea, Fowler returned to civilian life while remaining in the Marine Corps Reserve. Fowler made a decision that would have a long-lasting impact on his personal and professional life shortly after returning home—he joined the CIA. While working for the CIA, every two weeks he would collect his paycheck from a fellow employee, Betsy Blackwell. Fowler left the



Runners line up to register for the 1977 Marine Corps Marathon. More than 1,000 runners ran the first Marine Corps Marathon; this year's marathon will have 30,000 registered runners.

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CIA three years later and married Betsy in 1961.

Marriage, however, was not the only exciting thing Fowler pursued in 1961. Longing for comradery of the Corps, then-Captain Fowler and then-Major Jacques Istel established the Corps' Reserve Volunteer Training Unit 1-11. Fowler was the executive officer, and Istel was the commander.

Istel was famous for leading the U.S. parachuting team, and is credited with being the father of American skydiving and military HALO jumping. VTU 1-11 was the first authorized Marine Corps free fall parachuting unit, a notable distinction for a reserve unit, but skydiving was but one facet of this "intelligence unit with a panoramic mission, including airborne, scuba, and mountain training ..." as described in the September 1965 issue of *Leatherneck*. As executive officer, Fowler attended Airborne, Ranger, HALO (High Altitude Low Opening), scuba, and mountain schools, as well as language training.

In 1966, Fowler volunteered for active duty service in the Vietnam War and served in country for nearly two years, first as an infantry battalion executive officer, then as regimental intelligence officer, then as executive officer of a reconnaissance battalion and finally as commander of an infantry battalion. His Vietnam service earned him two Bronze Stars, a Joint Service Commendation Medal and two Purple Hearts. The first combat wound occurred during an enemy assault on Fire Base Winchester when his bunker took a direct hit and he received a shrapnel wound on his head. He later received an AK47 gunshot wound during a firefight near the Ben Hai River. The wound was significant and required nearly a year of recovery at the naval hospital in Portsmouth, Va.

The Purple Heart he earned for this wound would be the basis for the United States Postal Service's Purple Heart stamp, which was issued in May 2003 to great fanfare. The Purple Heart stamp was enormously popular and was even reissued several times when the postage rates increased.

While recovering, Fowler attended the Armed Forces Staff College, where he later was a faculty member. When his wounds had healed in 1970, he left active



Trophies on display at the first marathon near the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. As they crossed the finish line, each runner received a numbered tongue depressor to designate the order of finish.



Col Tom Redden, left, and Col Jim Fowler, along with Ken Clifford (standing behind Redden), after finishing the third Marine Corps Marathon in 1978. Redden and Fowler plotted the race's original course and also ran the first three marathons.

duty to return to civilian life. For the next dozen years, civilian life and reserve duty were interspersed with periods of active duty. Promoted to colonel in 1974, he returned to active duty as head of the Marine Corps Reserve Personnel Branch, working directly under Major General Michael P. Ryan, the Director of the Marine Corps Reserve.

Creator of the Marine Corps Marathon

By this time, Fowler was a highly decorated Marine who had served in combat in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The latter conflict had proven to be highly unpopular, and civilians often misdirected their anger at the government to those serving in the military. Simul-



Jim and Betsy
Fowler, shown
here in 1958, met
during Fowler's
time with the CIA
where Betsy also
worked. They
married in 1961.

taneously, Americans were falling in love with long-distance running, inspired in part by Frank Shorter's victory in the 1972 Olympic marathon.

Fowler had the initial idea for a Marine Corps marathon and formally proposed its establishment in October 1975 in a memorandum to MajGen Ryan. He noted that the proposed marathon would accomplish three main things: it would bridge the divide between the military and civilians, it would be a public relations achievement for the Corps, and it would assist Marines attemting to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

The marathon concept was rooted in the legend of the Battle of Marathon in Greece in 490 B.C., and the military messenger who died after running the 26.2 miles from Marathon to Athens to deliver the news of the battle. As Fowler noted, it is especially fitting for the Marine Corps to organize such a race.

MajGen Ryan approved the idea, and all that remained to be done was to plan and organize a marathon in less than a year. Not surprisingly, Fowler was appointed race director, and preparation for the first Marine Corps Reserve Marathon began.

Among the many Marines and civilians involved in planning and organizing this endeavor, Fowler drew upon friend and former VTU 1-11 unit member Tom Redden. Organizing this first race in the days before Google maps and handheld global positioning systems was a logistics feat. Fowler and Redden plotted the course with bicycles, paper maps, and notepads. In the sweltering July heat, they biked the course and measured it with a

Betsy Fowler with Col Joseph Murray, the commanding officer of MCB Quantico, Va., and one of the guests at the rededication of Fowler Hall, the Marine Corps Marathon headquarters on Sept. 14, 2015.

bicycle wheel counter, an odometer-type device which requires calibration through painstaking mathematical calculations.

The first marathon was held on Nov. 7, 1976, and was the largest first-time marathon ever, with more than 1,000 finishers. By contrast, the first running of the New York City Marathon in 1970 had slightly more than 100 runners. Unlike the New York marathon, which offered purses for elite runners, none of the Marine Corps Marathon runners were paid to run it, a principle that continues to this day. Because of this, and because of its openness to all, regardless of fitness level, disability, or military affiliation, it is known as "The People's Marathon." There were numerous volunteers for the inaugural marathon. including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, high school bands and hundreds of Marines.

The race technology of the day did not

include laptop computers, spreadsheets, race software, or radio frequency emitting chips. As each runner finished the race, they were given a tongue depressor with a number on it which they soon handed back to race personnel to be cross referenced with bib number and finish time. In another location, each runner's age, gender, military affiliation (if any), and other information was stored. The Marine Corps Reserve Automated Data Processing branch was tasked with assembling and sorting all of this data to provide race results for each category; it did so using punch card computers. This task fell to Capt Alfred "Al" Richmond, who not only served on the organizing team, but also participated in the inaugural race. He received his own tongue depressor when he crossed the finish line and went on to work many late nights to compile and print the race results. (Richmond has since run every Marine Corps Marathon, a feat he shares with just one other runner, fellow Marine Col Will Brown.)

Fowler directed the second marathon in 1977 as well, and race participation more than doubled. By 1978, the marathon had grown so much that it was transferred from the Marine Corps Reserve and renamed the Marine Corps Marathon in order to reflect its representation from the entire Corps.

Fowler took an assignment at the Landing Force Training Command in Little Creek, Va. and as the third marathon



GT MELISSA KARNAT



Runners gather for a look at the course map during one of the early Marine Corps Marathons in the 1970s.

approached, Fowler contacted Redden and said, "Tom, we organized and ran the first two Marathons, now we have to come full circle and run the third one." And so they both did. At the age of 47 and despite the effects of his Vietnam bullet wound, Fowler ran and finished the Marathon.

Legacy

Fowler was a lifelong teacher and mentor who influenced many individuals, including Bob Hugin, who served with Fowler in the late 1970s as a young Marine officer at the Landing Force Training Command. Emphasizing the importance of self-improvement and education, Fowler encouraged Hugin to attend the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. Hugin did so and went on to great success, and now is Executive Chairman of a global biotechnology company. In 2009, in appreciation for Fowler's mentorship, Hugin donated a million dollars to create the Col James L. Fowler, USMC Scholarship at the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. The scholarship provides full tuition and a stipend for a student with military experience, with preference for those applicants with Marine military service. Fowler's legacy of service and selflessness lives on through this new path for Marines to both better themselves and to further serve the

country through responsible actions in the business sector.

While he may not have run the marathon after the 1978 race, Col Fowler was a presence at each marathon. He cheered for the runners and remained on the marathon's ad hoc publicity committee until his death.

He was an inaugural inductee to the



Fowler and Redden served together in VTU 1-11 in the early 1960s. When tasked with organizing the first Marine Corps Marathon, Fowler called upon his friend for assistance.

Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame in 2000.

Today, the Marine Corps Marathon is one of the largest and most influential marathon organizations in the world. The organization has grown to include other races such as the Historic Half Marathon, the Semper 5ive Mile Run, a the MCM10K, the MCM Kids Run, the Quantico Tri & 12K, and more.

Col Fowler died on Jan. 20, 2015, at the age of 84. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in a beautiful location overlooking the Marine Corps Marathon course.

Whether we run, volunteer or cheer during the Marine Corps Marathon, remember this marathon Marine and all he contributed to the marathon, the Marine Corps, our country and his friends.

Author's bio: John Bandler is an attorney and consultant who practices in the areas such as cybersecurity and cybercrime investigations. He has served as a prosecutor in the New York County District Attorney's Office, a trooper in the New York State Police, and in the Army Reserve. John is the grandson of Paul H. Douglas, who, like Col Fowler, earned two Purple Hearts while serving in the Marine Corps.

We—the Marines

Memorial Pays Tribute To Montford Point Marines

Montford Point, on what is now known as Camp Johnson, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., served as the segregated training ground for the nation's first African-American Marines from 1942 to 1949. Now, a new memorial stands outside the gates of Camp Johnson to commemorate the historic achievements of the Montford Point Marines in the face of racial segregation.

Montford Point Marines, family members, active-duty servicemembers and supporters gathered for the official dedication of the National Montford Point Marine Memorial at MCB Camp Lejeune, July 29.

"This inspiring memorial takes its rightful place among the other silent testimonials to the courage, dedication and sacrifice of our men and women who have worn the cloth of this nation," said Brigadier General Thomas D. Weidley, Commanding General, Marine Corps

Installations East-MCB Camp Lejeune.

At the center of the grounds, a bronze 15-foot statue represents those African-American Marines who left behind combat support duties in the Marine Corps to pick up a rifle and be a part of the main effort during World War II.

Behind the statue stands a 90 mm M1A1 antiaircraft gun, the primary antiaircraft weapon used by the Montford Point Marines with the 51st and 52d Defense Battalions

To the left of the statue is a marble wall with 20,000 stars to honor the approximate number of African-American Marines who trained there before integration.

"This is something that I never thought would be possible," said Ivor Griffin, a Montford Point Marine who served for more than 23 years. "I heard about it being in the making, and I thought it couldn't be true—I thought we were the forgotten 20,000."

Smiles and tears were seen on the faces of the Marines each time a new speaker

came to the podium and recounted the history of what they had done. On more than one occasion, motivated shouts of encouragement rang out. It was their day.

"I'm very thrilled to be here and very thrilled knowing that we will be remembered," said Griffin. "[There are] only about 400 of us living, but those of us who are able to be here, we are grateful for what has happened here today, and what has happened in the past."

LCpl Sean Berry, USMC

Reserve Marines Take On The Battle of the Big Easy

Marine Forces Reserve Legion, the new martial arts team at Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans, La., competed in the Battle of the Big Easy American Grappling Federation tournament at the Alario Center in Westwego, La., Aug. 6.

Marines of all experience levels competed in Brazilian jiu-jitsu in front of a crowd of more than 600 spectators to show off the dedication and hard work



The Rev. James E. Moore, national chaplain of the Montford Point Marine Association, delivers the invocation during the Montford Point Marine Memorial dedication ceremony at MCB Camp Lejeune, July 29.



Members of the MFR Legion martial arts team coach two teammates as they compete against each other for a spot in the winner's circle during the Battle of the Big Easy American Grappling Federation tournament in Westwego, La., Aug. 6.

they had invested during more than two months of training and preparation. With a training schedule that spanned nearly two hours each day, the leathernecks of MFR Legion demonstrated mastery of the fundamentals of grappling and jiu-jitsu.

"The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program is designed to give warriors a good, quick, confident understanding of martial arts and prepare them for combat," said Gunnery Sergeant Justino Vasquez, G-3/5 operations chief, Marine Forces Reserve. "Brazilian jiu-jitsu is a way of life; it gives you a way to challenge yourself and it takes something to get on the mat, give 100 percent and put it all out there and then tap out. It's very humbling."

On multiple occasions throughout the tournament, reservists with MFR Legion competed against their teammates as they eliminated each other from the competition and established the final podium hierarchy.

In almost every weight and rank division, MFR Legion took down its opponents and ended up with a team total of 22 medals—10 gold, nine silver and three bronze for an overall third-place finish for the team.

MFR Legion is scheduled to participate in multiple competitions beginning in early October.

LCpl Dallas Johnson, USMCR

1/7 Leatherneck Uses Training To Save Drowning Sailor's Life

Standing well above 6 feet tall, with a clean haircut, fresh shave and an air of confidence, Lance Corporal Troy Yakin is a typical Marine. And like his fellow

Marines, he has a thread of heroism woven within. Whether he is at home or on the battlefield, answering the call of duty is instinctive.

"Do I think I'm a hero? No," said Yakin. "I didn't think twice about it. I didn't think he was dying, I just thought I was helping somebody out."

On the morning of June 29, Yakin, a landing support specialist with 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, was visiting Del Mar Beach, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., with two other Marines from his unit. In the days leading up to that morning, they had conducted a joint inspection for 11th Marine Regiment. With their tasks completed earlier than expected, Yakin and his coworkers decided to go to the beach.

"When we were at the beach, everybody was having a good time," Yakin said. "People were surfing, body boarding—all that fun stuff. There was a swimmer who had wandered out too far so the lifeguard went to get him. It was around that time that someone started screaming for help."

The person in need was Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Ralph Duron, from the Area Branch Clinic, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. Like his fellow beachgoers, Duron was enjoying his time in the ocean as he spent his time surfing. The nearly 9-foot waves crashing above him didn't faze him until he was unexpectedly thrown from his board.

"I was pummeled by a wave and tossed," Duron said. "In the process, my left shoulder was dislocated and the leash of my surfboard snapped. At the same time, I'd gotten caught in a rip current far from shore. I was in a very bad spot."

He swam sidestroke for as long as he could with one arm, to little avail. Realizing his imminent danger, he began to call for help.

"He flew in out of nowhere and put his life at risk by going into this rip current to swim us both to safety," Duron said of Yakin. "Throughout his rescue, he reassured me and pulled us both out of the situation."



LCpl Troy Yakin, a landing support specialist with 1/7, is credited with saving the life of HMCS Ralph Duron, who was caught in a rip current off Del Mar Beach, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 29. Yakin credited his Marine Corps training for his quick response and ability to swim Duron to safety.

By the time they got back to shore, Duron was in a great amount of pain and on the verge of blacking out from lack of air. Still, he managed to obtain Yakin's first name and unit before his rescuer left him.

According to Duron, Yakin's actions saved his life.

For Yakin, he acknowledges his actions were due, in part, to being a part of 1/7, known as "First Team."

"I definitely have to credit the 'no hesitation' toward my chain of command," Yakin said. "Everybody in 1/7 is an aggressor; it's not like us to blend in. My leadership taught me it's about getting the mission done."

From his perspective, he did nothing extraordinary, but in the eyes of his leadership and the Sailor he helped, his actions that day far surpassed the call of duty.

"As a seasoned Navy corpsman with multiple deployments, saving lives is my job," Duron said. "Troy went out of his way to save mine as well as place his life in harm's way without hesitation. I believe his actions reflect honor on himself, his unit and the Marine Corps as a whole. I am honored to call Marines like Troy 'brother.'

Cpl Medina Ayalo-Lo, USMC

"Chef of the Month" Event Encourages Healthy Competition

Entrées sizzled and dishes clattered as Marines in white chef hats scurried to plate food and present it to judges who waited eagerly behind ornately decorated tables.

Food service specialists at the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, competed in the "Chef of the Month" competition, July 22.

The monthly competition is an honor reserved for food service Marines who are performing well in the workplace and are seeking opportunities to better themselves through merit boards and other events.

According to Master Sergeant Anthony Gonzales, the manager of the MCAS Futenma mess hall, the selection process for contestants is a strenuous one during which Marines must demonstrate the "whole-Marine" concept. This includes completion of all annual training courses, as well as professional military education and physical fitness tests.

"Once we are confident they can perform well in the kitchen on a day-to-day basis, we hold this competition for the top three scorers," said Gonzales. "We use this to evaluate possible nominees for Marine of the Month and Marine of the Ouarter boards."

The chefs designed a meal plan, delegated tasks and gathered the necessary supplies.

"This competition is a huge confidence booster because there's more individuality and you have to take care of your own product without anyone telling you what to do," said Private First Class Moises Plascencia, a food service specialist at the MCAS Futenma mess hall. "From start to finish, the product is yours. You have to delegate tasks and work with the Marine on your team to make sure he or she is doing what they are supposed to be doing. It really helps prepare us for leadership roles in the future."

As the final event of the competition began, two teams of Marines presented competing meals of mouthwatering courses to a panel of judges made up of senior enlisted Marines from commands across Okinawa.

"This is my first time judging this competition," said Sergeant Major Misitupa Tueichi, the sergeant major of Marine Aircraft Control Group 18, First Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary



50,000 HOURS—Civilian contractors with Oshkosh Defense received awards from the Marine Corps for dedicating nearly 50,000 man-hours to a project that upgraded more than 500 Marine Corps tactical vehicles belonging to units at Marine Corps bases and stations in both Okinawa and Iwakuni, Japan. They are pictured alongside senior leaders from G-4 Maintenance Readiness Branch, III Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Hansen, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, June 8. According to GySgt James V. Turano, motor transport maintenance chief, the vital upgrades improve the reliability and survivability of armored vehicles.

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Force. "Especially considering how young they are, their presentation of everything was outstanding. I love the pride they took in everything they made. They support their fellow warriors here on Okinawa well, and even though sometimes what they do is overlooked by some, everyone stands to benefit from their hard work and dedication."

As the judges dug into each course, the competing Marines explained the process of preparing each dish, what made it original, and why they chose to present each item. The judges listened intently and jotted down notes for scoring based on taste, appearance, originality and the Marines' oral presentations.

"My Marines' work ethic was deeply reflected in the meals they prepared," said Gonzales. "This competition is instrumental in building their confidence and professionalism and we look forward to seeing it take them places."

According to Gonzales, mess hall managers across Okinawa plan to host these competitions throughout Marine Corps Installations Pacific (MCIPAC) and nominate Marines to compete at a higher level-possibly at an international level, with not only Marine Corps counterparts,



PFC Moises Plascencia, a food service specialist, prepares to serve a crepe cake during the "Chef of the Month" competition at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, July 22. During the competition, contestants planned, cooked and served a multicourse meal to a panel of judges.

but also Army, Air Force and Navy food service specialists across the globe.

"This serves as a great potential stepping stone for many Marines' careers," said Gonzales. "With continued hard work and dedication, they could very well cook for generals or other high-level Marine Corps leadership. There are a lot of growth opportunities with this competition, and we hope to see it take our Marines to the next level with the support of MCIPAC."

"The Marines worked very hard to prepare these meals and present them with confidence and professionalism," said Tueichi.

"Today's competition went well," said PFC Plascencia, a native of Modesto, Calif., and a member of the winning team. "I used some ideas for the meal we prepared from food I remember from home. I'm happy I got to bring something to the table that reminds me of where I come from and share it with everyone. It's not very often I get to personally share something so close to my heart ... to serve up a little bit of home."

Cpl Janessa Pon, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



"Come here often?"

Submitted by Rod Faxon Oswego, III.

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

This Month's Photo



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Passing the Word

DOD Reminds Servicemembers To Follow Political Guidance

As the 2016 presidential election swiftly approaches, Department of Defense personnel are reminded of their restrictions and rights as voters to ensure a thorough, professional and well-coordinated transition to a new Commander in Chief.

On Nov. 8, voters will elect the next president of the United States, members of Congress, state and territorial governors and various other state representatives.

"This fall, our nation again exercises one of our greatest freedoms—electing our next president," wrote Secretary of Defense, Ashton B. Carter, to all service-members and DOD personnel in a memorandum entitled "Preparation for Orderly Transition."

"With the leadership and support of each of you, we will provide the next administration with the most effective and seamless transition possible."

While it is the right of all American citizens to cast their votes, DOD personnel must remain aware of specific responsibilities and expectations they are required to abide by—before, during and after the election.

Servicemembers and DOD civilian employees are encouraged to exercise their right to vote in the election, but should be aware of limitations on participation in partisan political activity, which are outlined in the Hatch Act, departmental policies and DOD Directive 1344.10.

According to the Hatch Act, political activity is defined as an activity directed toward the success or failure of a political candidate or party for partisan political office or political group.

All DOD employees are prohibited from engaging in political activity while on duty or in a federal building. This includes, but is not limited to, sending emails or engaging on social media even if the employee is on a personal electronic device.

DOD Directive 1344.10 provides guidance for military personnel and states active-duty personnel may not participate in partisan political activities and may not campaign for a partisan candidate, engage in partisan fundraising activities, serve as an officer of a partisan club or speak before a partisan gathering.

Active-duty servicemembers may, however, express their personal opinions on political candidates and issues, make monetary contributions to a campaign or organization and attend political events as a spectator while not in uniform.

Social media is a rapidly growing platform that allows opinions, facts, information and visual content to be broadcast anywhere in the world in a matter of seconds. DOD Directive 1344.10 states that civilian and military personnel employing the use of social media sites are permitted to express their personal views on public issues or political candidates; however, the posts must clearly and explicitly state that the views expressed in the posts are those of the individual and not the DOD as a whole.

Active-duty servicemembers are permitted to "follow," "like" and "friend" political candidates or parties on social media platforms, but are not permitted to "share" or "re-tweet" comments or posts from those running for office.

Servicemembers must be mindful that their posts, comments and links fall within the guidelines set forth by the Uniform Code of Military Justice as well as the regulations of their particular branch of service.

For more information and guidance regarding the Hatch Act and the upcoming election, visit www.osc.gov.

Sgt Grace L. Waladkewics, USMC

MCCS Program Teaches Financial Management

Servicemembers looking to take control of their finances, increase their savings

or eliminate debt are encouraged to take advantage of Marine Corps Community Services' personal financial management program.

"The importance of financial management for servicemembers is to ensure that we're living within our income and not accumulating debt," said David Kendall, personal financial management specialist at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.

The program allows servicemembers to meet with a financial program team member for counseling or assistance.

The personal financial management program assists military personnel to achieve and sustain personal financial readiness, according to Maribel Lee, a personal financial manager with MCCS. "We do this by providing training, education, counseling and coaching and providing financial information and referral for military members or their families," she said.

While the program primarily focuses on assisting military members and their families, personnel with base access can take advantage of services when staff is available.

"Finances permeate all aspects of life," said Lee. "An unstable financial foundation can lead to debt issues that can affect a servicemember's career, personal life and wallet. We are here to assist not only with the budgeting aspect of personal finance but with consumer awareness as well. The



Servicemembers discuss course material during a personal financial management class at Camp Foster, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, June 7. Sponsored by MCCS at bases and stations worldwide, the program covers topics like military pay, consumer awareness and debt management.

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best way to avoid financial difficulties is to be educated."

In addition to one-on-one guidance, the program consists of a variety of workshops with topics like taking control of personal finances, money "habitudes," credit and debt management, car buying, investment basics, understanding the thrift savings plan and home buying and selling.

The program also provides unit briefs for predeployment and post-deployment workshops. Commanders and unit leaders can request support for professional military education finance briefs and command financial specialist courses.

For more information, call or visit the MCCS office at your local base or station.

Cpl Mark Watola, USMC

Workshop Allows College Coaches To Experience the Corps

The Marine Corps Coaches Workshop, spearheaded by Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC), brings collegiate athletic coaches from around the nation to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., for a three-day program that showcases different aspects of the Corps. This year's workshop was held Aug. 3-5.

"The purpose of the Marine Corps Coaches Workshop is to bring national coaches from across the country and give them an immersive experience into the Marine Corps' culture," said Lieutenant Colonel Brian Proctor, diversity officer, MCRC. "They can take what the Corps does as far as tactics, techniques and procedures back to their schools to help improve their teams."

Throughout the week, coaches participated in the leadership reaction course, obstacle course, leadership discussions, Marine Corps martial arts training, and combat patrols and attended an Evening Parade at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. The workshop gave the coaches in attendance an accurate depiction of the Corps and showed them that the Marine Corps is a viable career option for the young people they interact with daily.

"On all ... levels I was thoroughly impressed with how prepared Marines are, both in the classroom and on the field. The preparation to lead our country is phenomenal. The level that Marines go to to ensure that they're America's finest has been very impressive," said Doshia Woods, assistant women's basketball coach at Tulane University in New Orleans.

By exposing coaches to Marine Corps traits and values through the workshop, Marine leaders intend to build mutually beneficial relationships with top coaches from around the nation while instilling some of the Corps' leadership traits into the coaches themselves.



Colleen Powers, head softball coach at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minn., navigates the obstacle course at OCS, MCB Quantico, Va., Aug. 8. Powers and other coaches had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Marine Corps culture during a three-day workshop sponsored by MCRC.



Stephanie Gehlausen, assistant basketball coach at Western Colorado State University, Gunnison, Colo., concentrates on the obstacle course at OCS, Aug. 8.

The workshop included a scenario exercise in making decisions under stress, similar to those a Marine lieutenant attending The Basic School might face.

"What I was hoping to gain from this workshop was a validation of whether or not we were running our program the correct way, or are there additional traits we can bring to help make our program stronger?" said Joe Some, the men's head volleyball coach at Ohio State University,

Columbus, Ohio. "This week I learned different ways to affect our players in a positive way and make them better student-athletes."

Coaches interested in attending should contact MCRC Office of Diversity at MCRCDiversity@marines.usmc.mil.

Sgt Francisco Martinez, USMC



Books Reviewed

NEVER LEAVE YOUR DEAD: A True Story of War Trauma, Murder, and Madness. By Diane Cameron. Published by CRP. 182 pages. \$15.26 MCA Members. \$16.95 Regular Price.

A true tale of trauma, murder, and madness: what could possibly be more interesting? Diane Cameron, an award-winning columnist, recalls the captivating and tragic story of her stepfather and his uniquely personal fight for his sanity and honor.

In the late 1930s, Donald Watkins was a China Marine. The Marine mission in

prewar China was to provide a visual presence of the American military but they were also assigned to monitor and report on Japanese troop movements. The Marines became witnesses to many atrocities committed by the Japanese, who killed and brutalized the civilian population. Prohibited from interfering, the Marines had to perform the duty of assisting in the collection of bodies and body parts of

murdered civilians. It's not surprising that such a horrific event would psychologically impact some Marines

impact some Marines.

One day after playing handball, Watkins went "off his rocker." He was restrained by his fellow Marines in the barracks, and after being shipped home, Watkins was sent to St. Elizabeths Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Washington, D.C. Watkins managed to survive and even improve in such a tragic place and he was discharged from St. Elizabeths at the end of the war.

By 1953, Watkins was married, but his psychological problems returned, and in an insane moment, he murdered his wife and mother-in-law. He was committed to Fairview State Hospital near Scranton, Pa. A scathing internal investigation later revealed that between 1940 and 1970 patient abuse and mismanagement were common at Fairview. Sexual abuse of patients for the guards' entertainment was widespread. According to the author, constant criminal activity was prevalent at every level of the staff. Watkins remained there for 22 years before being released.

Fast-forward to the 1970s. After six months of dating, the author's mother, then in her 70s, married Watkins. As one might expect, Cameron and her siblings were

disturbed after they learned of Watkins' troubled past which was in conflict with the man they knew. He seemed mild-mannered enough and importantly, he made their mother happy.

Years later, after both Watkins and the author's mother passed away, and seeking to understand more of the Marine's experience and background, the author attended a China Marine reunion in 2003. She met and spoke with men who served in China before the war, and some remembered their time with Watkins.

According to the Marines she met,

Watkins served in Company G, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines; he likely went with the 4th Marines to Tientsin after December 1937. She learned that Watkins had received a serious concussion from a rifle butt during a marching drill during his China service. Cameron also sought to understand the psychology involved in her stepfather's case and what happened during his treatment. Acquiring Watkins' medical and mil-

itary records, she found that Watkins had carried on extensive correspondences with Dr. Thomas Szasz, a doctor from the antipsychiatry movement of his discipline. He had written the celebrated volume, "The Myth of Mental Illness" and was instrumental in Watkins' release from Fairview.

Cameron learned much about posttraumatic stress disorder during her research, including something known as the plight of the body handlers. A field of trauma research has been dedicated to the effects on those who handle dead or mutilated bodies as related to natural disasters, accidents, mass murders, terrorism and war. She recalled the stories

the China Marines told her about their daily task of picking up and disposing of bodies, arms and legs including those of mutilated small children.

The light went on: it appeared that Donald was likely misdiagnosed as having schizophrenia, but was more likely a victim of PTSD.

Cameron's book is both a swan song to her misunder-

stood Marine stepfather and a vivid testimonial on the varying and erratic symptoms of PTSD. She includes a short listing of the symptoms of PTSD and a suggested list of resources for veterans and their families in the hope of helping others.

This enthralling little book reads like a well-conceived detective novel. Diane Cameron has produced an interesting and thought-provoking tale of war trauma, murder and madness but the unimaginable and tragic tale of Donald Watkins is told with the greatest care and heartfelt compassion.

Robert B. Loring

Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran Bob Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine.

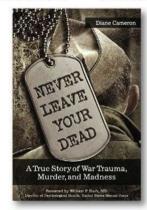
WHEN TIGERS RULED THE SKY: The Flying Tigers: American Outlaw Pilots Over China in World War II. By Bill Yenne. Published by Berkley. 368 pages. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$27 Regular Price.

During the darkest days of World War II in the Pacific, when Americans yearned for good news and stoic, courageous commanders to lead them against an implacable enemy, action-oriented Hollywood studios such as Republic Pictures responded with hastily produced feature-length movies like "Flying Tigers."

Such influential motion pictures had their place even in our previously isolationist nation. They promoted national spirit, inspired emotional patriotism, revealed the cruelties of the enemy, while also nurturing quiet bravery and unflinching resolve.

Unfortunately, they also bred ridiculous fiction, exaggerated myths, and fabricated legends.

In the splendidly researched and smoothly written, "When Tigers Ruled the Sky—The Flying Tigers and Their American Outlaw Pilots Over China in World War II" internationally respected historian Bill Yenne, has explained, and dispelled, the hyperbole, high-flying puffery, and downright false popularly believed romantically heroic exploits and stories.





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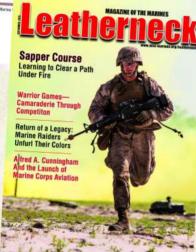
Gazette Magazines to Convalescing

Marines and Other Service Members

at Veterans Hospitals All Over the

World Throughout the Year.





Visit the Marine Corps Veterans Association Website to learn about their mission and support programs:

www.marinevets.org





Yenne is acknowledged as one of this nation's foremost military aviation writers, exemplified by his recent books, "Hit the Target" and "Aces High." In his latest, "When Tigers Ruled the Sky," he truthfully answers the question, "Who really were those Flying Tigers?"

Local laborers manicuring the airfields of southwest China may have been the first to dub both pilots and planes "flying tigers," due to the Curtiss P-40 Warhawks' colorful paint jobs. The name stuck.

Colonel Claire Lee Chennault and his small band of veteran U.S. Army, Navy and Marine pilots had been hired by the Chinese and paid \$600 a month (plus \$500 for every Japanese aircraft shot down), to fly with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's virtually non-existent air force. From mid-December 1941 through mid-July, 1942, 299 Japanese aircraft were destroyed with an additional 153 "probables" by Flying Tigers during an "undefeated season" of 50 major aerial battles against hugely lopsided odds—Japan had more than 3,000 assorted airplanes in the vicinity.

From the beginning, aviation experts predicted the Flying Tigers would be wiped out within days of facing the vaunted Japanese air force. Less than 36 of the AVG's 99 Warhawks were in flyable condition most of the time, and fewer than a

dozen were in the air at any given moment.

The American Volunteer Group (AVG) boasted 19 aces.

The author refers to the AVG pilots as outlaws because: "To call them outlaws would come close to the truth, as their very existence teetered on the edge of noncompliance with existing neutrality laws. They came into being because President Franklin Delano Roosevelt anxiously wanted to help save China from the Japanese war machine that had ravaged China's capital in the infamous 'Rape of Nanking,' had captured most of China's major cities, and had killed millions of innocent people."

With his usual scholarly thoroughness, Bill Yenne not only records the entire AVG history, adding where appropriate fascinating facts and minutiae, lively anecdotes and vignettes, but also captures, and relates in his acclaimed narrative style, the temper, mood and sense of adventure of a motley group of unique aviators in the skies over China—some of the bravest men in all the Second World War. If one listens closely while reading the 34 chapters, sounds of exploding Japanese bombs, as well as the roar of Warhawk engines can be heard in the distance—the writing is that good.

Don DeNevi

Author's bio: Don DeNevi has written more than 30 books, among them "The West Coast Goes to War, 1941-1942"; "The Military Railway Service: America's Soldier-Railroaders in WW II"; and "They Came to Destroy America: The FBI Goes to War Against Nazi Spies & Saboteurs Before and During World War II." Don lives in Pebble Beach, Calif., where he writes book reviews for Leatherneck.

THE MARINE CORPS WAY TO WIN ON WALL STREET: 11 Key Principles From Battlefield to Boardroom. By Ken Marlin. Published by St. Martin's Press. 256 pages. \$24.30 MCA Members. \$26.99 Regular Price.

Wall Street, a place of complicated economics and business ethics, is an institution viewed as greedy, corrupt, and untrustworthy by many. In contrast, the Marine Corps has a reputation as an organization with exemplary discipline, toughness, grit, and, of course, integrity. The contrasts are striking and would lead one to believe that there is little commonality or relation between the two entities. Author Ken Marlin has experience in both worlds, however, and in his book, "The Marine Corps Way to Win on Wall Street," is able to break down the complex industry of Wall Street into 11



basic points that he learned through his own experiences in the Corps as well as in Marine Corps history.

Marlin enlisted in the Marines during the war in Vietnam and later was selected to attend the Marine Corps' Officer Candidates School. His service of more than 10 years provided him with experiences that would influence him for the rest of his life. While still in the Corps, he was able to obtain a Master of Business Administration from UCLA, and after he left the Corps, he moved to Manhattan, N.Y., to start a career in finance. He has worked on Wall Street for 20 years including 14 years as a corporate executive.

The Battle of Khe Sanh is used to illustrate Marlin's first principle called, "Take the Long View." The battle raged for more than 77 days in 1968 and was a long, deadly and controversial battle during the Vietnam War. Marlin's instructor from The Basic School had told him, "We had 'won' the battle and yet we achieved nothing." Marlin explains that the lack of more vigorous debate over "long-term" goals in Vietnam as well as strategy and tactics to achieve those goals led to the controversy and criticism. He compares this historical event to his experience while at the Dun and Bradstreet firm. While at the firm, he noted that the top management had at one time no basis of the direction they were going or what purchases or deals to make. After a lot of discussion on the long-term goal, the direction they were heading, and how they would get there, the firm decided to become sector focused. This allowed them to make better informed business decisions.

In a later chapter, Marlin focuses on

the point, "Knowing What the Objective is Worth." He explains that in battle, there was always the question of "was it worth it?" Was the war in Vietnam worth the price paid in the casualty counts of Marines and other servicemembers? He breaks this thought down into four ideas using the battle of Guadalcanal as an example. First was finding the strategic objective. For Guadalcanal, the objective was to advance

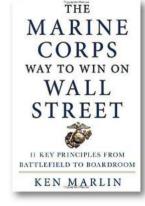
the American goal of ultimately defeating Japan. Second, is the timing right? He describes how the Americans "waited to assault Guadalcanal until they had sufficient resources in place and had decided where and when to attack." Third, is the cost of (equipment, money and lives)

"affordable" and "reasonable"? Fourth, is the risk reward trade-off in case of failure considered acceptable for both sides? These points were taken into consideration during the planning phase of for operations on Guadalcanal, In contrast, Marlin uses the merger of AOL with Time Warner Cable in 2000 as an example of how not taking the time to figure out what the objective is worth led to failure as the

value of stocks in both companies dropped.

Several similar concepts and ideas fill this book as Marlin breaks down a complicated industry into key elements taught in the Marine Corps. The principles taught in this book along with Marine Corps ethos of honor, courage and commitment can lead to success not only on Wall Street or the military but in achieving any goal or objective.

Matthew R. Vance Author's bio: Matthew R. Vance is a writing major at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He is the grandson and son of Marines.





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In Memoriam

Hornet Crash Results in Pilot's Death

A Third Marine Aircraft Wing pilot, **Major Richard Norton**, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., died as the result of an F/A-18C Hornet crash during a training mission in the vicinity of Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., on July 28.

Maj Norton was a pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 232, Marine Aircraft Group 11. The crash occurred after Maj Norton's aircraft departed MCAS Miramar to perform a close air support mission as a part of Integrated Training Exercise 5-16, a predeployment training exercise.

"My heart goes out to our Marine's family as we support them through this difficult time, said Major General Mark Wise, the 3d MAW commanding general.

Maj Norton, 36, a native of Arcadia, Calif., was commissioned a second lieutenant in 2005. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Losing Maj Norton is a tremendous loss to the MAG-11 team," said Colonel William Swan, the commanding officer of MAG-11. "He was one of the best and brightest Hornet pilots our nation had to offer—our thoughts and prayers go out to his family," Col Swan added.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Compiled from 3d MAW media releases

Cpl Howard E. Alexander, 90, of Kilgore, Texas. He left high school in 1943 to enlist in the Marine Corps. He was a sharpshooter who saw action on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima with the 2d Armored Amphibian Bn.

Sgt Roy E. Allbright, 86, of Boonville, N.Y. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1948, and fought at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1952. After the war, he worked as a machinist at Griffiss AFB in Rome, N.Y.

Mark W. Bailey, 65, of Chicago, Ill. He was a Marine who served in the Vietnam War

Russel E. "Chuck" Barnett, 81, of Shinnston, W.Va. He served 20 years in three branches of the military: the Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy. He was a veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Donald F. Bradfield, 95, of Newport, N.C. He served for more than 27 years and retired in 1969. He later had a career as a dog breeder.

Lt Harry Briggs, 95, of Leesville, La. He was a recon Marine who was an advance scout in the Pacific in WW II. He saw action on Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. After the war he taught political science at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. He was a long-distance swimmer and was a member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame. In 1957 he was the first person to swim across Lake Erie.

Col John H. Broujos, 87, of Pittsburgh, Pa. He served on both active duty and in the reserve for 37 years. He was a combat veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

He was awarded the Silver Star for action during the Korean War, when he was a rifle platoon commander in D/2/1. According to his citation, he was "leading a night combat patrol far forward of the main line of resistance when a numerically superior enemy force was encountered and a fierce, close range fire fight ensued, Second Lieutenant Broujos courageously directed the formation of a perimeter defense and brought deadly fire to bear on the hostile unit, despite painful wounds sustained during the initial phase of the action He later volunteered to lead a patrol far into hostile territory to search for a group of Marines who were missing in action."

Irma H. Brown, 96, of Orange, Calif. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942.

L. Nickolas "Nick" Chronis, 92, of Ione, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942, and was assigned to Co E/2/22 as a sniper. He was wounded on Feb. 22, 1944, in the Eniwetok Atoll, and was honorably discharged in 1945. After the war, he became the president of a commercial construction company.

James S. Collins, 94, of San Antonio, Texas. Enlisted in the Marines in 1941 and saw action in four amphibious invasions in the Pacific, including the battle of Okinawa. After his retirement, he became the vice president of Tenneco Oil Company.

William Denton, 90, of Forest Hills, N.Y. He was a Marine veteran of WW II who served on board USS *Missouri* (BB-63).

Arthur C. Falla, 96, of West Roxbury, Mass. He was a Marine who served during WW II and fought in the battles of Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester, New Britain. He was awarded a Silver Star and a Purple Heart for actions on Jan. 25, 1944. According to his award citation, while he was cut off from friendly troops on a strip of the beach, he "fearlessly exposed himself to a direct line of hostile fire and signaled by semaphore to the main body for orders. When a half-track landed on the beach, ... [he] boldly advanced under fire with his squad, silencing two enemy machine guns and, despite serious wounds received during the action, led his men to safety."

GySgt Kurt M. Hittinger, 56, of Northampton, Pa. He was a Marine who served for 21 years. He was a member of Det. #284, Marine Corps League, and also was an avid supporter of the Toys for Tots program.

G. Robert "Bob" Huff, 70, of Port Huron, Mich. He was a Marine who served during the Vietnam War. After his service, he was employed as a supervisor with Acheson Colloids.

GySgt Ronny L. Jennings, 64, of Bullhead City, Ariz. He was as a Marine who served for more than 20 years, including seven years as a drill instructor.

Daniel Krysa, 91, of Pompano Beach, Fla. He enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II and served with Marine Fighting Squadron 217 in the South Pacific. He later was called back to active duty during the Korean War, and was commissioned a second lieutenant. After the war, he had a career as a teacher.

Gerald L. Kyes, 90, in Torrington, Conn. He was a WW II veteran of South Pacific battles, including Iwo Jima.

MSgt Gerald A. "Jerry" Lavelle, 73, in Fredericksburg, Va. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired in 1979 and went to work for the U.S. Postal Service. He was an avid baseball fan and collected baseball cards, particularly signed rookie cards.

James E. Lykins, 79, of Perrysburg, Ohio. He served in the Marine Corps. He was a member of the Marine Corps



League, the MCA&F, the Marine Corps Night Fighters, and the American League. He later became a sheriff's deputy and a bail bondsman.

Capt Hugh D. Mahonev Sr., 75, of Venice, Fla. He served for four years. After leaving the Marine Corps, he worked for several companies, and retired from M&M Mars in 2004 after 25 years.

Sgt Russell E. Matlock, 63, of Portage, Mich. He was an air wing Marine who served during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Marine Corps League in Kalamazoo.

Joseph J. Mazzeo, 91, of Perth Amboy, N.J. He was a combat veteran who served in the South Pacific and North China during WW II and in Korea from 1950-51. Later, he worked as a surveyor for Carr Engineering.

Sgt Donald W. Miller Sr., 86, of Bridgeton, N.J. He was a machine-gun unit leader who served for four years. He later became a firefighter and served as chief and assistant chief for 12 years and fire commissioner for more than 10 years.

Sgt Joseph P. Murphy, of Brooklyn, N.Y. He was a Force Recon Marine. He later had a career as a firefighter in New York City and was Pipe Major of the Leatherneck Pipes and Drums band.

Sgt Richard F. "Nick" Nicholas, 71, of

Molalla, Ore. He was a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. After the war, he had a career in insurance and in sales, working for various computer and tech companies.

LCpl John Payne, 69, of Folsom, La. He joined the Marine Corps in 1968 and fought in the Vietnam War, where he was wounded. His awards include the Purple

B. Calvin Phipps, 91, of Deale, Md. He served in the Marine Corps and was a combat veteran of WW II. After the war he spent many years working as a waterman, proprietor of Phipps Marine Railway and as a Marine surveyor.

Capt Robert E. Rain, 96, of Dallas, Texas. He joined the Marine Corps before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was severely wounded in the recapture of Guam, and earned a Bronze Star with combat "V" and a Purple Heart.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps, he completed law school and later joined the Thompson and Knight Law firm.

Maj John Theodore "Ted" Reilly, 94, of Springfield, Mass. He was a Marine aviator during WW II and the Korean War.

Donald C. Rice, 92, of Kalamazoo, Mich. He joined the Marine Corps during WW II and served three years in the South Pacific. He fought in the battles of Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Saipan and Tinian. After the war, he established Rice Advertising Agency, and for many years was the photographer for Encore Magazine.

George C. "Hap" Rugg Jr., 77, of Jamestown, Kan. He served in the Marine Corps for 30 years. He was a member of American Legion Post #76.

Edgar R. Sanchez Sr., 85, of Waterbury, Conn. He was a Marine who landed at Pusan, South Korea on Aug. 2, 1950. After the defense of Pusan, he was part of the landing at Inchon and recaptured Kimbo Air Field and Seoul. After taking Seoul, his unit advanced toward the Chosin Reservoir. He suffered serious frostbite and gangrene and was evacuated from Korea and discharged on Aug.1, 1952.

Cpl Arcenio Smiley, 90, of Phoenix, Ariz. He was a Navajo Code Talker who served in the Marine Corps from 1944 to 1946.

"I am proud that I was a Marine," he said in a Leatherneck article in June 1980. He later worked in public health and environmental health and also worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

His awards include the Congressional Silver Medal.

Hansel "Pete" Smith, 74, of Sale Creek, Tenn. He was a Marine Corps veteran, who served two tours in the Vietnam War.

PFC Joseph Staatsburg, 90, of Maplewood, N.J. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 at age 17. He was wounded twice while serving with G/2/22 in the Marshall and Solomon Islands, Guam and Okinawa. After the military he was employed by Lockheed-Martin.

BGen Francis W. Tief, 87, of Seattle, Wash. He served as a platoon commander and a company commander with the 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv during the Korean War. He was awarded the Silver Star for action in Uijongbu in October 1950. According to his citation, "while directing the fire of his two leading tanks to cover the withdrawal of a company which was pinned down by a hostile barrage. Second Lieutenant Tief braved heavy enemy small-arms fire to dismount from his tank and go to the aid of some wounded Marines who could not be rescued by the infantry. Completing four separate trips, he carried the casualties one-by-one to the safety of the tank, thereby undoubtedly saving their lives."

Returning to the U.S., he served as Secretary to the Marine Corps Liaison Officer, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

In November 1957, he served as an

instructor at TBS. He commanded the first warrant officer company to attend TBS. Afterward he was transferred to Rome, Italy for duty as Assistant Naval Attaché and Naval Attaché for Air. In September 1964 he was ordered to Vietnam as Personnel Staff Officer, U.S. Military Assistance Command. In 1967, he was transferred to Marine Barracks Brooklyn, N.Y., as commanding officer.

In June 1969 he began his second tour in Vietnam as the senior Marine Advisor to the North Vietnamese Task Group. After returning to the U.S. he was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., as Deputy Director of Information, and in April 1974 became the Director of Information. On March 13, 1975 he was assigned duty as Assistant Division Commander 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune and remained there until his retirement on July 1, 1978.

In addition to the Silver Star, his awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and Combat Action Ribbon.

Robert M. Tollman, 94, of Dunwoody, Ga. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1941. He was a tail gunner in Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers in the South Pacific. After the war, he completed college and earned an MBA at Tulane University in New Orleans.

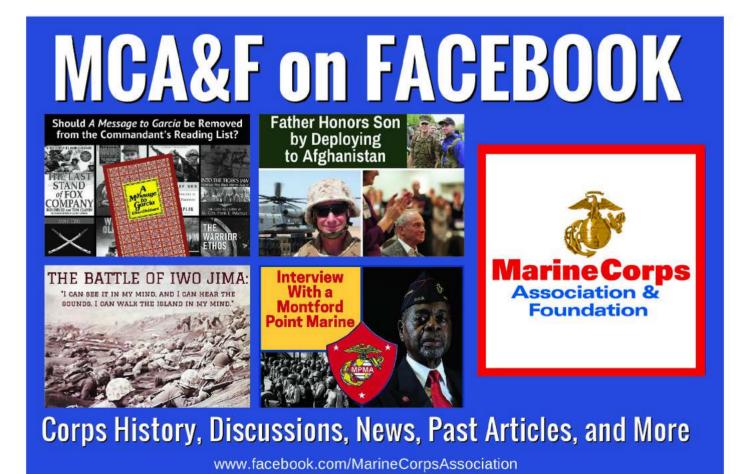
Sam Ward, 91, of Sand Springs, Okla. He joined the Marines in 1942, and fought in the battles of Saipan and Okinawa. At Okinawa he was part of the fight for Sugar Loaf Hill, which spanned several days.

William R. Weber, 88, of Philadelphia, Pa. He was a Marine who served in WW II. After the war he was in the banking industry for 42 years.

Percy T. Whitney Jr., 97, of New Castle, N.H. During WW II he joined the Marine Corps and was assigned to the 6thMarDiv. He saw action during the invasion of Okinawa. After the war he returned to his work in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Robert E. Lee Whitten Jr., 90, of Dallas, TX. He joined the Marine Corps and served as a machine gunner and sharpshooter. He was wounded in action on Okinawa and received a Purple Heart. After the war he graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked for several companies, including Telsco Industries.

GySgt Edward George Wilkinson, 69, of Virginia Beach, Va. He joined the Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He later joined the Navy Reserve, eventually retiring as a chief petty officer.



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Donald Whitton, USMC, 1968-1971

SOUND OFF [continued from page 6]

man should have had the class to shut up. Thank you, Dad, Randy, Les, Rich, Caleb and the countless others who put their lives on the line to defend us without complaint; without asking for anything back. You are my heroes."

> Harry L. Watkins Greencastle, Pa.

Thank You Sergeant Doyle

Could you please forward my thanks to Sergeant Joe Doyle, USMC, for his June letter published in *Leatherneck* which noted my letter of February? I very much appreciated his writing to recognize our Staff Sergeant Jim Little's rule for moving forward from the losses in wartime.

Sgt Doyle adapted Jim's rule, "...When you witness the death of your brother, you take on an obligation of honor to live your life better ..." into a mantra of all veterans to overcome our time in war and honor our service and those who served with us, and by so doing, move past our demons and into our new life as civilians.

Thank you for giving us the mantra, "I live my life to the fullest because I have taken on an obligation to honor those who sacrificed their lives so that I may do so."

You honor us all, Sgt Doyle. Welcome home. Thank you for your service to our country.

Sgt Tom Isenburg USMC, 1965-66 Livermore, Calif.

Another Fine Marine Has Passed

I met Private Hector A. Cafferata Jr., in 1952 while on duty as a main gate sentry at Marine Barracks, U.S. Naval Air Rocket Test Station, Lake Denmark, Dover, N.J.

I had received a call from Captain Richter, commanding officer, Marine barracks, that Pvt Cafferata was coming aboard to be issued a new uniform in order to go before the President to be presented the Medal of Honor. Of course, I was to verify his identity and issue a boarding pass accordingly.

Pvt Cafferata was no longer on active duty and had been recovering from wounds. He arrived in his Studebaker car with fishing poles attached on top and dressed in his fishing clothes. He was friendly to talk to, and we chatted for a short time regarding his experiences as I was then under orders for Korea myself. We also had a quick conversation when he departed the main gate; he seemed a cheerful and interesting character.

He has been mentioned in a number of



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articles over many years to include his name in some books, a more recent book "Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship, and Sacrifice," by Adam Makos, a very interesting read dedicated to the veterans of the forgotten victory in Korea. Certainly worth checking out.

Capt Murry C. Pinnell, USMC (Ret) Paraparaumu Beach, New Zealand

A Cherished Encounter

On May 13, 2016, while leaving a restaurant with my wife in the town of Stoughton, Mass., a construction worker approached us in the parking lot. He had noticed the Marine decal on my car and wanted to acknowledge my service. He said that at one time he attempted to enlist in the Marines but was rejected for health reasons but every time he comes across a former or active military servicemember, he makes it his point to acknowledge and thank them for their service.

He further remarked when he comes across a former Marine, he cherishes the opportunity to shake their hand and thank them, remembering how much he always wanted to be a Marine. I thanked him for the acknowledgement, shook his hand and stated on behalf of all my brother Marines "Semper Fi," and told him how much he made a nice day for both my wife and me. We will cherish this encounter always.

Cpl John Messia Jr., USMC (Ret) 1952-54

Eagle, Globe and Anchor On Shirt Collar

After 56 years of association with the Marine Corps, 20 years active duty, 36 years reading and saving *Leatherneck*, the letter on page 6 in the August issue has finally given me a reason to consider myself a "salty" old Marine. The letter about the eagle, globe and anchor hit home with me.

In 1960, the basic clothing issue had no short sleeve shirts, only two tan-colored Summer Service "Alpha" tropical worsted long-sleeved shirts and matching trousers.

We also were issued tan khaki shirts and trousers that had to be heavily starched and ironed as a Class "B" uniform. Winter Service "A" and "B" were basically the same as it is today.

On July 19, 1960, my drill instructor, Staff Sergeant Fullerton, was teaching us "maggots" how to assemble a Summer Service "Alpha" uniform for graduation if we lived that long. Each of us was issued a set of three eagle, globe and anchor emblems. One large one for the barracks cover, and one for each collar. If memory serves me, the collar emblems were to be placed 1-inch from the bottom of the collar and 1-inch aft of the leading edge of the collar. The next day was the proudest day of my life when I was referred to as a Marine.

MSgt David L. Magee, USMC (Ret) 1960-80 Ogden, Utah

Regarding the Sound Off letter from Sergeant Armstrong in the August issue, it looks as though the pictured mannequin



David Magee wearing the eagle, globe and anchor on his Summer Service "Alpha" uniform.

may be wearing an old tropical shirt. When I joined the Marine Corps in 1956, the eagle, globe and anchor was worn on both collars of our tropicals. I believe the same was true when I was discharged in 1962. Those were also the days of the swagger stick.

George N. Collias Venice, Fla.

I joined the Marines in July 1955. In boot camp, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., we wore the eagle, globe and anchor on our tropical or "Ike" jackets and also on our covers.

Still no yellow footprints at MCRD in 1955.

Sgt Peter P. Joulious South San Francisco, Calif.

We wore the eagle, globe and anchor on our shirt collar with our summer uniform as pictured on page 6 in the August *Leatherneck*. We did not have a summer blouse or battle jacket. We removed the emblems from our collar when we changed to our winter green uniforms.

Howie Hilton USMC, 1958-61 Richfield, Minn.

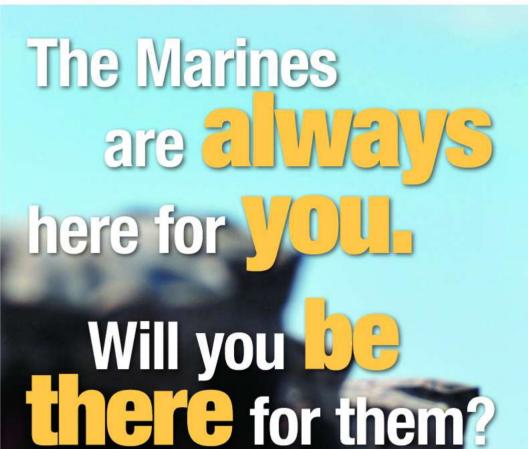
I'm sure you are buried in responses, but here is mine. Prior to the adoption of green as the uniform year-round, we had seasonal uniforms. During the warmer months the Class "A" uniform was tropical worsted wool khaki, trousers, shirt, field scarf and cover. The emblems were worn as shown in the picture.

We also had wash khakis but they were restricted to on-base wear. The uniform shown on page 6 would have been approved for liberty.

Cpl Glenn Bass USMC, 1958-63 Sonora, Calif.

 Cpl Bass—We were flooded with responses. We always enjoy hearing from our readers especially when they relate stories about the "Old Corps."—Editor

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



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Reader Assistance

Reunions

- · 5thMarDiv Assn., Oct. 6-8, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Ivan Hammond, P.O. Box 2312, Texas City, TX 77592-2312, (409) 770-4249, sgthambone@ verizon.net.
- · Iwo Jima Survivors (Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, Army Air Corps), Feb. 16-18, 2017, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Dan Zepeda, (951) 201-6251, zepeda012@ msn.com.
- Marine Corps Air Transport Assn. (VMGR/VMR), Oct. 5-9, San Antonio. Contact Rich Driscoll, (817) 657-7768, president@mcata.com, www.mcata.com.
- Marine Corps Engineer Assn., Oct. 17-19, Pala, Calif. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.
- · Early Vietnam Veterans, Oct. 20-23, Washington, D.C. Contact Bill Pratt, 661 N. Big Oak Rd. N.W., Malta, OH 43758, (740) 962-2666, maag16-411@ embarqmail.com, www.mlrsinc.com/evv.
- · Aviation Logistics Marines, Oct. 6-9, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Don Davis, (321) 978-5147, greyegl@dec.rr.com, www .avlogmarines.org.
- · Marine Sentry Dog Handlers (all Marine dog handlers welcome), Oct. 14-16, Branson, Mo. Contact John Sciascia, 100 Red Dirt Rd., Enterprise, AL 36330, jsciascia@centurytel.net.
- · 11th Motor Transport Bn (RVN, 1967-70), Oct. 6-9, Las Vegas. Contact Mike "Large Al" Alford, (503) 680-6505, alfordmtd@frontier.com.
- 2/9, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 667-4762, ditson 35@verizon.net, www.2ndbattalion9th marines.org.
- A/1/8 (August 1994-July 2000), Oct. 21-22, Stafford, Va. Contact CWO-3 Jim Clark, (910) 381-1871, jimclark@strategic log.com.
- B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67) are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.
- H/2/26, Sept. 10-16, 2017, Branson, Mo. Contact Bill Hancock, 2748 Moeller Dr., Hamilton, OH 45014, (513) 738-5446, hancockw@roadrunner.com.
- · I/3/7 "Band of Brothers" (RVN, 1969-70), Nov. 6-8, San Diego. Contact Roger Villarreal, (832) 573-7382, roger jarhead@gmail.com.
- · 2d Topographic Co (FMF), Oct. 16-20, Stafford, Va. Contact Jim Martin, (781) 572-7924, topotrooper@aol.com.

- · 630th Military Police Co (RVN), Oct. 5-8, New Orleans. Contact Roger Merillat, rkmerillat@gmail.com, www .630thmilitarypolicecompanyvietnam.org.
- · Mortar Btry "Whiskey," 2/12 (RVN, 1965-69), Oct. 3-6, St. Augustine, Fla. Contact Henry Ortiz, 191 Regal Sunset Ave., Henderson, NV 80502, (949) 874-3636, ortizwood@yahoo.com.
- · 1st Provisional Marine Brigade ("The Fire Brigade," Korea, 1950) is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@ aol.com, www.miltours.com.
- Yemassee Train Depot, Oct. 14-15. Yemassee, S.C. Contact Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385.
- · Marines Stationed in Holy Loch, Scotland, May 17-21, 2017, Dunoon, Scotland. Contact Doug Ebert, (307) 349-3468, lochsailor9@charter.net, or Gerry Haight, (817) 602-0825.
- · Parris Island Brig Guards (1976-79), Summer 2017, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Ken Haney, 26420 Highway 49, Chase City, VA 23924, kenhaney 79@gmail.com.
- Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan, Oct. 17-21, Las Vegas, Contact 1stSgt McCarthy, (515) 274-9110, coach430@aol.com, or Ruben Chavira, bngrm@aol.com.
- TBS, Class 1-66, Oct. 2-5, Quantico, Va. Contact Ed Armento, (502) 228-6595, evarmento@aol.com.
- TBS, Co F, 6-79, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.
- "Kilo" Co (Plts 277, 278, 279 and 280), Parris Island, 1961, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Martin D. Smith, USMC (Ret), 10 Lee Ct., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-3653, martann843@gmail.com.
- Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@ gmail.com.
- · Plt 171, Parris Island, 1966, is planning a reunion. Contact J.P. Kuchar, 33 Sheridan Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, (732) 549-6468, jpkuchar@mac.com.
- Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.
- Plt 245, San Diego, 1965, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8006@yahoo.com.

- · Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.
- Plt 340, Parris Island, 1963, is planning a reunion. Contact Garrett W. Silvia, (508) 992-7392, gwsil@comcast.net.
- · Plt 431, Parris Island, 1945, is planning a reunion. Contact 1stSgt George P. Cavros, USMC (Ret), (262) 782-7813, gcavros88@gmail.com.
- Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968, is planning a reunion. Contact Stephen Norpel, 206 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com.
- · Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.
- Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@ roadrunner.com.
- · Plt 2077, San Diego, 1966, is planning a reunion. Contact SgtMaj Raymond Edwards, USMC (Ret), 100 Stephens St., Boyce, LA 71409, sgtmajedretired@ gmail.com.
- Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707) 527-8319, wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com.
- · Plt 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island, 2000, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.
- · Marine Air Groups (WW II to present), Oct. 5-8, Branson, Mo. Contact Jerry Gipe, 808 W. Walnut St., Waverly, MO 64096, jgipe@hotmail.com, or Joseph Mowry, josephmowry@att.net.
- · SATS/EAF, MAG-12 (Chu Lai, RVN), Nov. 7-10, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Paul Flatt, (801) 782-2468, pfflatt@msn.com.
- Marine Air Control Squadrons (all squadrons), June 22-25, 2017, Quantico, Va. Contact Frank Walter, 3465 W. Loon Lake Rd., Angola, IN 46703, fwalter@ frontier.com.
- HMM-165/VMM-165 (all hands/all eras), June 8-11, 2017, Washington, D.C. Contact Al Dickerson, (317) 462-0733, www.hmm165whiteknights.com.
- HMM-265, May 22-26, 2017, San Francisco. Contact George Cumpston, (704) 351-0193, george36691@aol.com, or Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdl@ numail.org.
- · HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras), Sept. 7-10, 2017, Arlington, Va. Contact

John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, ruffinich 53@gmail.com.

Ships and Others

- USS America (CVA-66, 1965-69, Marine detachment), Oct. 2-5, Norfolk, Va. Contact Les Holzmann, lesholzmann @verizon.net.
- USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2, 1943-71), Oct. 12-16, Portland, Maine. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.
- USS Houston (CL-81) Assn., Oct. 19-23, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113.
- USS Saratoga (CV-3, CVA/CA-60), Oct. 19-23, Branson, Mo. Contact Sammy King, (270) 570-8494, ursupersara60@ gmail.com.

Mail Call

- Eugene Echols, (719) 281-1047, gave2839@gmail.com, to hear from or about James THARP, who served with him in Peking, Tinsin and Tsingtao, China, 1946-48.
- LtCol Nora Tyer-Witek, c/o Heritage Committee, Naval Justice School, 360 Elliot St., Newport, RI 02841, hanorah .tyerwitek@navy.mil, to hear from form-

- er staff and students of the Naval Justice School, Newport, R.I., (1950-present), or Port Hueneme, Calif., (1946-50), who are interested in being included in a historic "cruise book" in recognition of NJS's 70th year.
- Ken Haney, 26420 Hwy 49, Chase City, VA 23924, kenhaney79@gmail.com, to hear from SSgt G. GONZALES, senior drill instructor, Plt 2021, Parris Island, 1975-76.
- Bill Ashworth, (919) 636-2602, ashworthbilly748@gmail.com, to hear from or about Cpl Judson COLLINS of Norfolk, Va., who served with him at Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Ga., 1963-64.
- Chris Grant, chrispara03@icloud .com, to hear from or about Walter Ray MILLER of Pennsylvania, who was stationed in England, 1957-58.
- Ann Roberts, post1974@cwv.org, to hear from any Marines who served alongside Father Vincent CAPODANNO in 1/7 or 3/5 (RVN, April 1966-September 1967.
- CWO-4 Paul T. Kirsch, USMC (Ret), (412) 343-5378, ptkirsch@verizon.net, to hear from members of I/3/23, 4thMarDiv, December 1943, Camp Pendleton, Calif., or anyone who can name a Marine who was a member of the company. He has a

photo he would like to share with anyone who can correctly identify a member of the unit by name.

Wanted

Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered:

• Clyde Mayberry, 701 Buck Rd. Apt. D, Willard, MO 65781, (417) 242-9416, mayberryc@aol.com, wants a recruit graduation book, Plt 3003, San Diego, 1970.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Bob Brockmann, usmcbob63@gmail .com, has a recruit graduation book, Plt 379, Parris Island. He is willing to trade it for two challenge coins plus shipping.

Entries for "Reader Assistance," which include "Reunions," "Mail Call," "Wanted" and "Sales, Trades and Giveaways," 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 s.bock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.





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OPERATION MAUI PEAK—Leathernecks from the Fifth Marine Regiment cross a small stream during Operation Maui Peak. The operation was launched on Oct. 6, 1968, near a U.S. Army Special Forces camp at Thuong Duc in Quang Nam Province after it was attacked by enemy forces.

Seventh Marines was tasked with relieving the surrounded Thuong Duc camp; 2d and 3d Battalions, 5th Marines were attached to the regiment. Facing elements of 21st Regiment of the 2d NVA Division and the newly established 141st Regiment, the Marines had a fight on their hands. The difficult terrain and oppressive heat made the task even more challenging. With support from engineers, attack aircraft, AC-47 gunships, artillery from 3d Bn, 11th Marines and the Army's 4th Bn, 8th Field Artillery, the Marines made slow but steady progress.

2/5 bore the brunt of the NVA attack on Oct. 12. "Using a heavy volume of small arms and RPG fire, the enemy

closed within grenade-throwing range. Company E [2/5] head fast," according to "U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year: 1968." Lieutenant Colonel James W. Stemple, 2/5's commander, said, "this was a particularly vicious attack against "E" Company that almost succeeded."

Close air support made the difference, and the enemy was repulsed. By Oct. 14, BLT 2/7 advanced to the Thuong Duc camp.

The arrival of Tropical Storm Elaine in the middle of October also impacted the operation. The storm resulted in almost 40 inches of rain falling over a week's time, including more than a foot of rain in one day. Several bridges were washed away, and many others were submerged, preventing supply convoys from reaching their destination.

With the enemy no longer surrounding the Special Forces camp, Operation Maui Peak officially came to a close on Oct. 19, 1968.