

FEBRUARY 2019

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

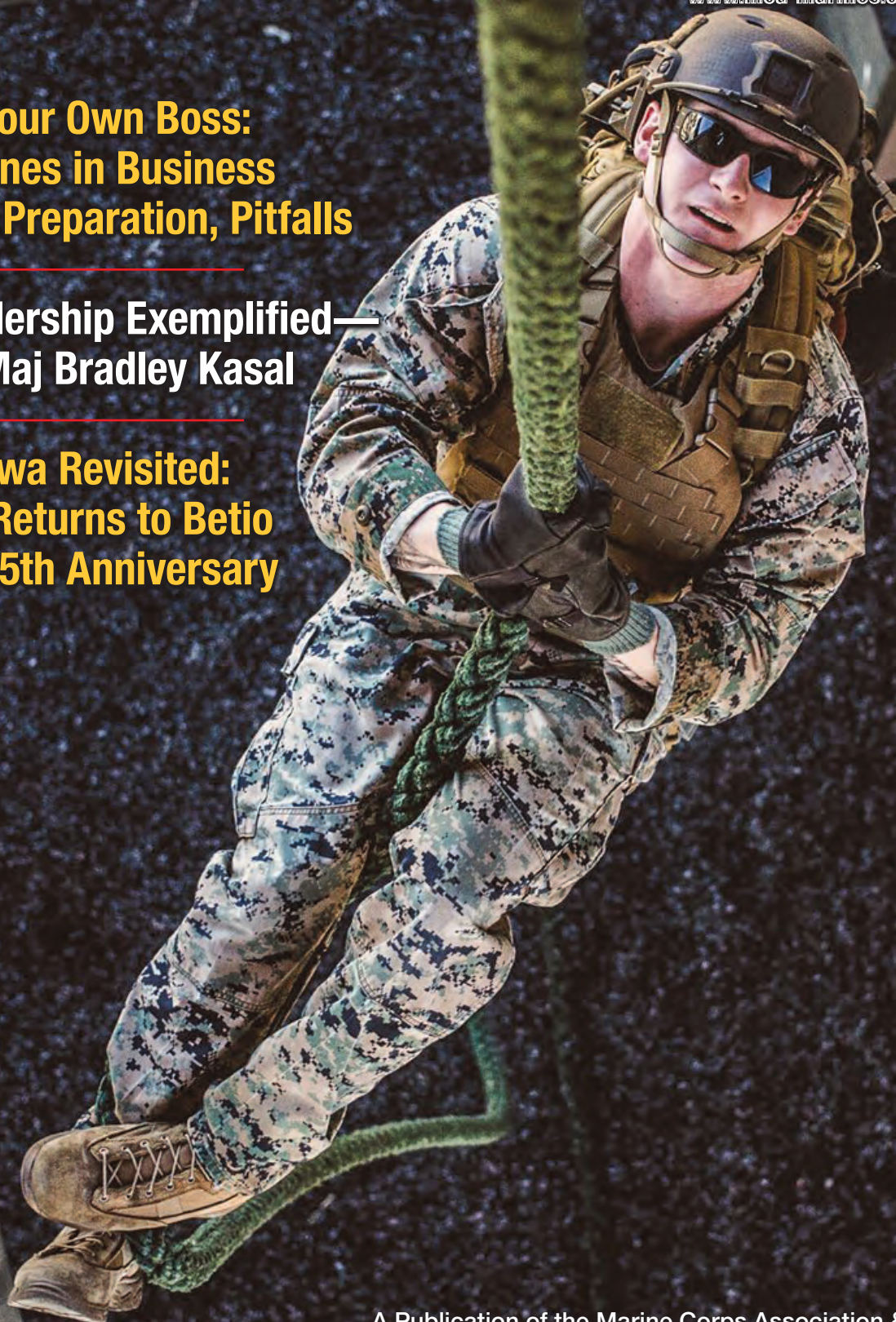
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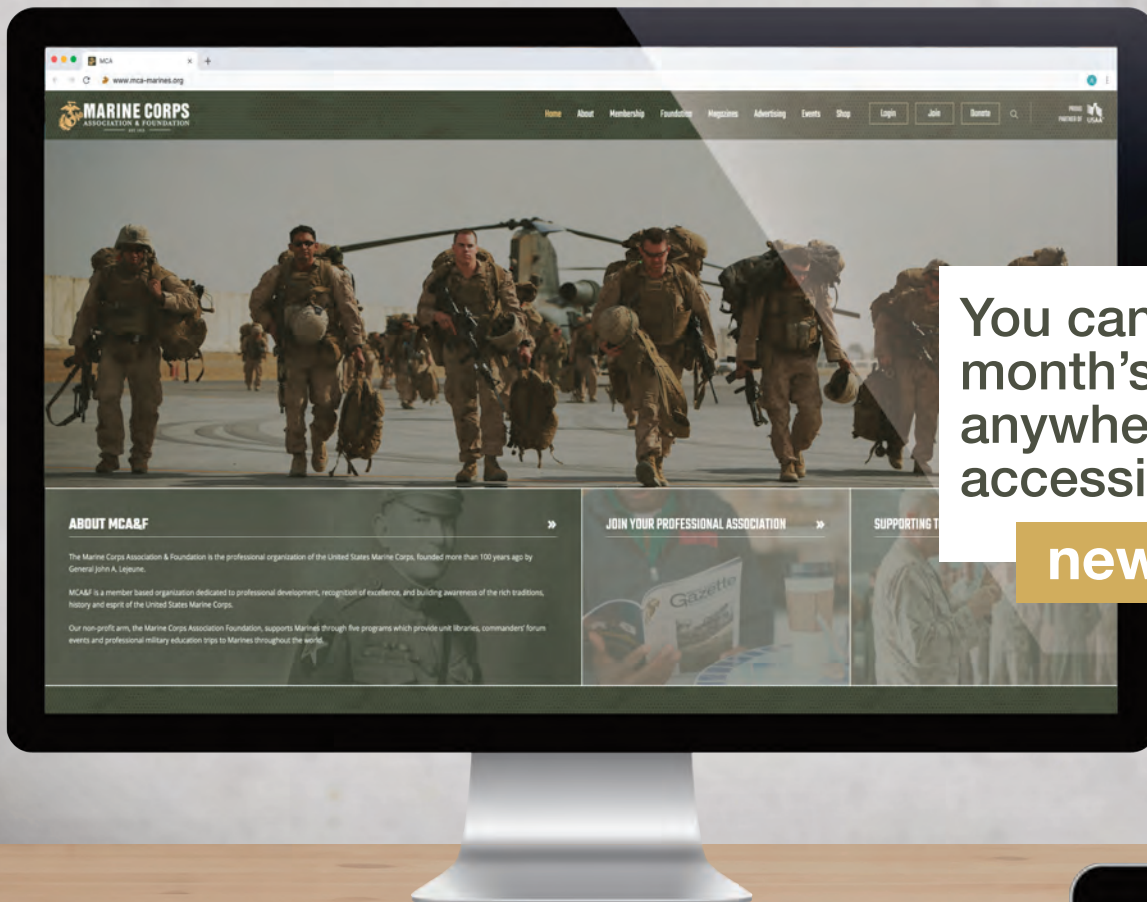
**Leadership Exemplified—
SgtMaj Bradley Kasal**

**Tarawa Revisited:
3/2 Returns to Betio
On 75th Anniversary**



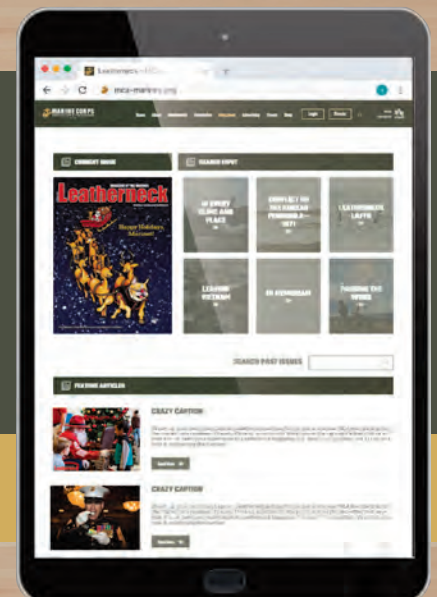
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COVER: Sgt Nathan Fox, 1st Recon Bn, 1st MarDiv, fast-ropes during a Helicopter Rope Suspension Techniques Master Course at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 3, 2018. Fast-roping is a technique that allows Marines to be inserted in locations where aircraft cannot safely land such as mountain faces and difficult terrain. Photo by LCpl Dalton Swanbeck, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Letter of the Month

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

I must sound off on two items published in the December 2018 issue of a great publication, our Corps' magazine, *Leatherneck*. First, the "Operation Gunny: A Marine's Dedication to Honor SgtMaj John L. Canley," article by Mr. John Ligato. The persistence, dedication, loyalty and faithfulness in completing the mission of upgrading the Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor (MOH) for Sergeant Major Canley is a perfect example of Marines taking care of their own, no matter the issue. Mr. Ligato never gave up. He jumped through hoops, fought the bureaucracy ... and won! I salute him and those who helped in that endeavor.

The well-written story brought tears to my eyes due to heartfelt pain while going through this ordeal of honoring a most well-deserved Marine for his heroic service by presenting him with the MOH. We are so glad that SgtMaj Canley is alive and was able to receive this award presented by President Trump.

Second, the Sound Off section published comments from Captain Robinson regarding his experiences during PLC training with Staff Sergeant David L. Yoder. Dave and I were close buds having served on the grinder together in "Charlie" Company, MCRD San Diego, Calif., as drill instructors in 1962 to 1964. We worked two platoons together and had honor platoons both times.

Over the years he and I kept in touch. When I was hospitalized at the naval hospital in Bethesda, Md., then later at Veterans Administration Medical Center, Richmond, Va., during 1967 to 1968, for combat wounds received in Vietnam, Dave visited me as often as he could. He gave me a wooly-pully on one visit, which I treasured.

SgtMaj Leland "Crow" Crawford, later 9th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, was on the drill field and in the same company with us. Crawford and I graduated from the same DI School class in February 1962. Crow, Dave and I had some real good liberties and duty together. Both of these outstanding Marines are now guarding the golden gates. I miss them both and think of them often. They made Marines

from youngsters, set standards by which others followed and are remembered by those with whom they served.

Lt John "Jack" Rine, USMC (Ret)
Ocean View, Del.

Honoring a Marine's Legacy

In watching the funeral for President George H.W. Bush, I was reminded of everything I have done to honor the legacy of my close friend and fellow Marine, First Lieutenant Lee Roy Herron. It seemed that his mother received the greatest satisfaction from a personal letter from President George H.W. Bush. Mrs. Herron proudly displayed that letter in her home and showed it to all guests.

As much as I am pleased to help preserve Lee Roy's memory, I am equally thankful that his mother received some well-deserved recognition for her only son's service and ultimate sacrifice to our nation.

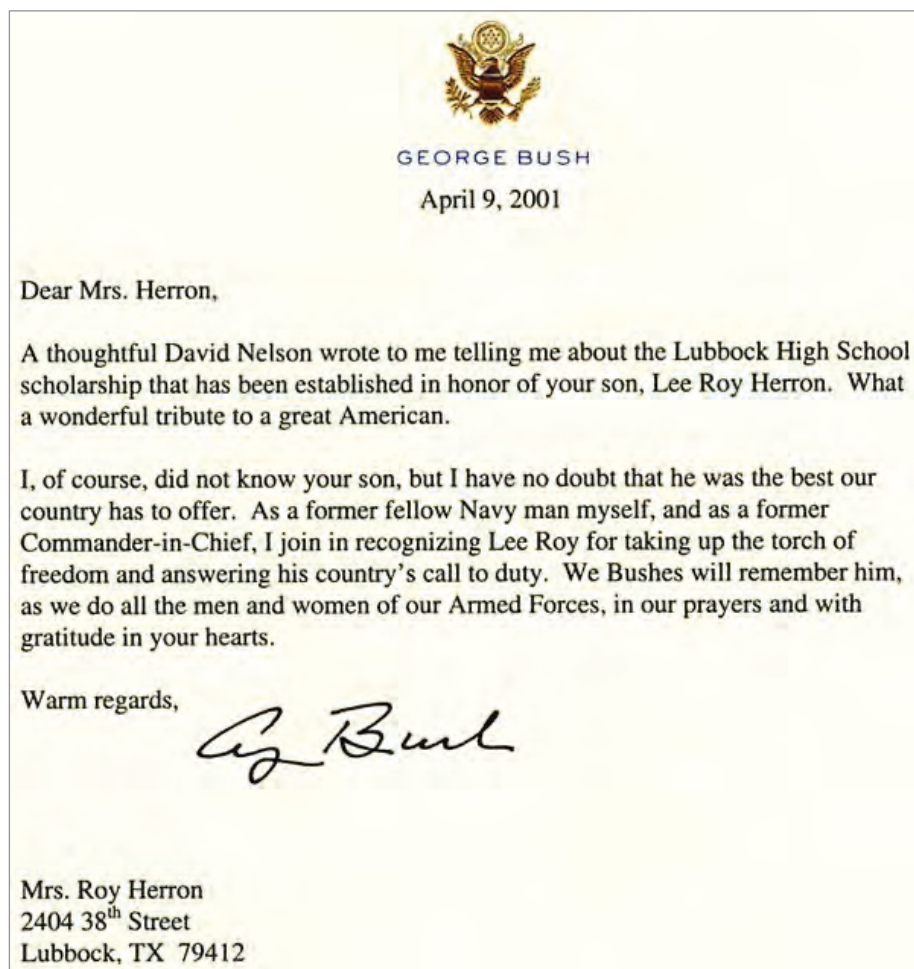
David Nelson
Houston, Texas

Observations to Previous Letters

Months ago there was a letter about the eagle, globe and anchor emblems being removed from shirt collars. What wasn't mentioned was that when the eagle, globe and anchor emblems were removed, the tie clasp, which was the same brownish black color as the emblem, was no longer authorized. It was replaced by a gold-colored tie clasp.

I believe this happened sometime in the 1960s. I remember when the ranks changed with the inclusion of lance corporal which pushed the E-3 corporal up to E-4 and pushed the E-4 sergeant up to E-5, etc. This was in January 1959 when I was in my second month of boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif., during my six months of active duty in the Reserve.

I have questions or doubts about two letters in the September 2018 issue of *Leatherneck*. In *Sea Stories* the letter, "Elvis Had Me 'All Shook Up,'" the author mentioned that he said, "Sir, I don't know." In boot camp we were forbidden



Mrs. Herron received a personal letter from President George H.W. Bush in 2001.

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Chicago: (312) 236-4900
Los Angeles: (213) 624-0900

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Send address changes to: *Leatherneck* Magazine, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.



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to use personal pronouns; I, you, me, he, etc. In boot camp he would have said, "Sir, the private doesn't know." Bad memory by author or was he really in boot camp?

In the letter, "Esprit de Corps," the author states, "Compared to boot camp at Camp Pendleton, this was an Ivy League campus." The boot camp for the western half of the United States is in San Diego, 50-plus miles south of Camp Pendleton. It is not at Camp Pendleton. Was this experience by the author real or was it because he's from Tennessee and probably went to boot camp at Parris Island?

William C. Lamon
USMCR, 1958-1961
San Jose, Calif.

Silver Star Information

Regarding the letter, "Silver Star Information," in *Sound Off* (December 2018), I have two sources that are pertinent. As background, as some already know, in World War I, U.S. Marines who were in combat in France were a part of the Second Division, and that Division had some units which were Marine units and others were U.S. Army units. Officially, the Second Division (later termed Second Infantry Division) was part of the U.S. Army, and was not the Second Marine Division famous from World War II.

In the book "The Second Division American Expeditionary Force in France, 1917-1919" by Col Oliver Lyman Spaulding and Col John Womack Wright, on pages 319-376 in small print it lists the numerous "Citations Second Division Enlisted Men," separated by each unit. Under "Sixth Marines" (pages 366-375) it gives their names and "Ranks, Company, Citations, Places of Award." On page 368 we find "Frillman, Florian L. (Pvt, 80th)—2 SSC, St. Mihiel." The 80th means 80th Company. Because it has a 2 before the SSC, it appears that he actually received two SSCs, apparently for two events at St. Mihiel, and the SSC stands for Silver Star Citation.

Because the Marine units were serving under the Second Division, U.S. Army, Marines received awards from either or both the Army and Navy/Marine Corps, as well as from France, such as the Croix de Guerre. Some received both the U.S. Army and Navy/Marine Corps Medals of Honor, some received both the Distinguished Service Cross (Army), and the Navy Cross.

The other source is "Decorations, Medals, Services Ribbons, Badges, and Women's Insignia," from *National Geographic* magazine, Vol. LXXXIV (84), Vol. 4, (October 1943). Under the section titled "Decorations and Lifesaving Medals Awarded in All Services," it states: "Army

decorations may be awarded to members of Navy detailed to duty with Army. The same policy is followed by Navy."

Below that we find Citation Star followed by Silver Star Medal. It states under Citation Star that it was approved by Act of Congress July 9, 1918. "For each citation of an officer or enlisted man for gallantry in action, a Silver Star 3/16-inch in diameter was authorized for wear on the suspension and service ribbons of appropriate service medal." In 1932 the Citation Star was replaced by Silver Star Medal.

Below that is the Silver Star Medal. In 1932 the Army Silver Citation Star was placed on a bronze pendant and a ribbon of its own was designed, instead of being placed on a campaign medal ribbon. The Silver Star Medal, by Act of Congress Dec. 15, 1942, is awarded for, "each citation of any person for gallantry in action while serving in any capacity with the Army ... not warranting the award of a Medal of Honor or distinguished service cross." The Silver Star Medal was made a Navy decoration Aug. 7, 1942, by Act of Congress. Based on the above, it seems correct enough to say that a WW I Marine or soldier earned one or more Silver Star Medals, since their original Silver Star Citations were converted in 1932. Of course from 1918 to 1932 they were Silver Star Citations.

Leon Basile
Woburn, Mass.

What About the Medals in the Portrait of Lt Bonnyman?

That was a great story about Lieutenant Bonnyman in the November 2018 issue. He was a great Marine.

The portrait on page 59, painted in 1944, has a World War II Victory Medal ribbon. Maybe it was added later.

Rich Basile
Belvidere, N.J.

• *We contacted Clay Bonnyman Evans, the author of the article and Alexander Bonnyman's grandson. He told us the portrait was commissioned by his great-great aunt in 1944. At that time, Bonnyman had been awarded the Navy Cross. In 1946, that award was upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Evans said the portrait was altered sometime after that to include the Medal of Honor ribbon, however the Navy Cross ribbon was not removed as it should have been. Evans also noted it's likely that the World War II Victory Medal was added at the same time.—Editor*

Remembering LtCol Quinn

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story by Terry A. Williamson, [December 2018 issue] brought a flood of memories when I saw the picture of Lieutenant Colonel Francis X. Quinn. He was my platoon leader (not commander) in Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, during the so-called “outposts war” in Korea. I had the assault section, demolition specialist. I thought the world of him.

He was the epitome of what a leader should be. It was never “him,” it was “us.” At every patrol or night defense briefing it was always, “What do you think?” I did not know about his Silver Star but I’ll bet you it was for the night of July 24, 1953, on Outpost Dagmar. If he ever had back problems, I know how he got it.

It had rained the first 21 days and nights of July while 16 of us held Dagmar. The rocky terrain had 18 inches of standing water in our fighting holes and trench, and we couldn’t bail it out. The only place the water ran out was at the gun gate facing the MLR (main line of resistance). Just before dusk, word was passed that then-Lt Quinn wanted all of us at the CP (command post). I couldn’t believe it and asked for clarification. That meant my six Marines had to crawl, in daylight, down the connecting trench that was a sniper’s delight. Yes indeed, we were to assemble.

USMC Birthday Photos

Leatherneck is looking for a few good Marine Corps Birthday photos to run in the November 2019 issue. Did you take a photo at your 2018 Marine Corps Birthday celebration that captured a special moment with your fellow Marines? Was there a special guest in attendance with whom you snapped a photo? Whether it was in a grand ballroom or a small intimate setting or in the field, please send it in so we can share it with *Leatherneck*’s readers. Be sure to include the location and date of the celebration and identify the people in the photo.

Send your photo to: **Patricia Everett at: *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134** or email them to: **p.everett@mca-marines.org**.

Please do not send originals as we are unable to ensure their safe return.



CAPT ERIN BEVACQUA

We gathered without drawing any fire. Quinn saw that I was really ticked. He looked right at me and said, “Wadley, this just might do you some good.” Then to add more concern about expected enemy assault that night, he said, “Remove your helmets and bow your heads.” I thought for crying out loud we’re going to get killed while he prays. Lt Quinn and I both loved the history of the Corps and early America and had lots of discussions about it. He

never mentioned religion of any kind. He would, however, caution me about hatred for our enemy telling me, “You can’t kill them all.” I was a sergeant but he always called me “Marine” or “Wadley” while he referred to others by their rank.

He prayed this prayer, which I have used many times in church and other meetings, “Heavenly Father, tonight I ask you to hold this wonderful bunch of Marines in your protective arms and let us see another

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day. Amen." That was it. We no sooner got back to our positions when the world turned upside down. The 76 mm recoilless rifle screaming incoming began to tear the top off Dagmar. Of course their artillery had us plotted and began to turn our trench water into mud as the sides kept falling in. We figured it was two platoons that hit us in two columns. Two of my Marines, Privates First Class Frank Medina and John "Pecos" Reeves, had already been out on listening post (LP) duty and had not returned. About that time a round hit our sandbagged ammo, satchel charge and flamethrower bunker blowing Lt Quinn out of the trench and down the slope. I ran past the A4 gunner at the gate who was firing into a scattering of Chinese. He had not seen Medina or Reeves. He laid down fire to my right as I ran to the LP swale full of water. There hunkered down were Medina and Reeves. The Chinese hadn't gone up that rise in the ground.

Reeves couldn't move, his legs had gone to sleep and Medina wouldn't leave him. We each got under his arms and half dragged him toward the gun gate. The Chinese either didn't recognize us in the flare light or thought we were a part of them. They never fired on us. We dumped Reeves in the trench and headed to our forward positions. Lt Quinn must have

been knocked out but he was revived and back in the trench on the radio. I ran past him to my position just as a 76 mm hit the aperture of Cpl Wilcox's A4 gun blowing him out into the water and dropping the bunker on his gun. We pulled Wilcox, figuring he was dead, onto a high spot out of the water so he wouldn't drown if he was still alive. In about an hour he sat up. Not a scratch on him. We dug his gun out and he was back to action. The Chinese had gotten into the forward sector that would have been held by me, Medina and Reeves. Our plan had been, since we were so widespread, to hold while we could signal to pull back from that sector and use the flame thrower. The way we used it was not to strike the five matches but trigger the fuel arching up and over into the trench held by the enemy. Getting soaked with raw napalm was message enough. If they persisted Medina was to lob a light bulb, an illumination grenade. To strike the matches and ignite the fuel could get you killed quickly. This seemed to always work.

I moved to a different fighting hole just as a Chinese artillery round hit barely 4 feet in front shoving the rain soaked ground right into me. It didn't detonate so I feared it was a timed round or would
[continued on page 68]

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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



LCPL MARGARET GALE, USMC

Amphibious assault vehicles from USS *New York* (LPD-21) come ashore at Alvund Beach, Norway, in support of Exercise Trident Juncture 18, Oct. 30, 2018.

NORWAY

U.S., NATO Partners Integrate And Tackle Challenges During Exercise Trident Juncture 18

Marines and Sailors with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in Exercise Trident Juncture 18 in Iceland and Norway during October and November 2018. The largest NATO exercise held since 2002, it allowed military forces to operate in a collective defense scenario.

Marines began their participation in the exercise in Iceland, where they executed an air assault and conducted cold-weather training to prepare for the live exercise in Norway. The cold-weather training allowed them to rehearse establishment of a bivouac location and familiarized them with their gear in Iceland's high winds and driving rain.

"We need to exercise our capabilities in different locations so we can plan for different variables," said Lieutenant Colonel Misca Geter, the 24th MEU executive officer. "The weather and terrain

of Iceland forces us to plan around those factors."

After Iceland, the 24th MEU moved on to Norway for the live exercise portion. Norway provided another challenging environment for Marines to train in that would not be possible to accomplish in the United States. The unique climate and terrain in Norway allowed the Marines to demonstrate their proficiency in the cold weather, consistent precipitation and high altitude.

At the end of October, the 24th MEU executed an amphibious landing and air assault in the Norwegian villages of Alvund and Gjora. Eleven amphibious assault vehicles, more than 50 humvees, and six light armored vehicles were delivered ashore during the amphibious landing. More than 20 other vehicles were moved from ship to shore and approximately 1,000 Marines were transported ashore by surface or air connectors. The air assault saw a company of Marines from Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine

Regiment insert into Gjora, secure the landing zone, and set the conditions for follow-on operations. While ashore, Marines rehearsed tactics in conjunction with NATO allies to defeat the notional "enemy forces."

"The training Trident Juncture 18 provided is important because we have Marines who have never deployed, been on ship or operated in the cold-weather environment that Iceland and Norway have," said 24th MEU Sergeant Major Chris Garza. "We had the opportunity to operate with the ... Royal Marines, who are one of our NATO partners. The Royal Marines have a history much like ours and it has been a great opportunity to train with them. We now know our capabilities with the Royal Marines and look forward to working with them in the future."

The large-scale exercise validated the 24th MEU's ability to deploy with the Navy, rapidly generate combat power ashore, and set the conditions for offensive operations under challenging conditions.



Above: A CH-53E Super Stallion with HMH-366 conducts flight operations in Oppdal, Norway, during Trident Juncture, Nov. 4, 2018. (Photo by LCpl Cody Ohira, USMC)

Below: A Marine adjusts equipment on a light armored vehicle during an amphibious landing at Alvund Beach, Norway, Oct. 30, 2018. The landing showcased the ability of the *Iwo Jima* Amphibious Ready Group to rapidly project combat power ashore.



LCPL MARGARET GALE, USMC

Trident Juncture strengthened the bond shared by the Navy-Marine Corps team and integrated NATO allies and partners, particularly the United Kingdom.

“It’s been interesting to integrate with U.S. Marines,” said Declan Parker, a heavy weapons operator with the British Royal Marines. “We have had the opportunity to learn about their weapons systems and tactics. This exercise will aid the troops in future deployments.”

The Royal Marines from X-Ray Company, 45 Commando, worked in conjunction with the 24th MEU and assets from Marine Aircraft Group 29 to rehearse tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP) and improve proficiency. During the TRAP portion of the exercise, approximately 30 Royal Marines loaded into CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 366 while two U.S. Marines served as “isolated personnel” to be recovered. The Royal Marines were attacked by the notional enemy multiple times, allowing them to maneuver while a U.S. Marine called for close air support, delivered by a UH-1Y Venom with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 269. The effective enemy suppression allowed the Royal Marines to deliver both isolated U.S. Marines safely to the awaiting CH-53.

“The fact that we were able to integrate

Right: Marines with E/2/2 conduct operations in Norway, Nov. 3, 2018. Units from across 2ndMarDiv participated in Trident Juncture 18, the largest NATO exercise held since 2002. (Photo by Cpl Dominic Littleton, USMC)



LCPL MARGARET GALE, USMC

Above: Marines with 2nd Amphibious Assault Bn, 24th MEU, come ashore at Alvund Beach, Norway, during an amphibious landing in support of Trident Juncture 18, Oct. 30, 2018.

Below: U.S. Marines and Sailors with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn, 24th MEU, offload a light armored vehicle from an LCAC on Alvund Beach, Norway, Oct. 30, 2018.



LCPL MARGARET GALE, USMC



CPL DOMINIC LITTLETON, USMC

Cpl Justin Droll and LCpl Stephen Luzier, machine gunners with E/2/2, assault an “enemy” position during Trident Juncture 18 in Norway, Nov. 7, 2018.

[the Royal Marines] with Marine Corps aviation is a great training value for both of our forces,” said Captain Jacob Yeager, USMC, who was embedded with the Royal Marines during the TRAP mission. “U.S. Marine Corps aircraft delivered U.K. Royal Marines into a landing zone to recover two isolated U.S. Marines. That’s significant.”

As the exercise came to a close, the Marines emerged more lethal and capable of operating in unique terrain and climate while exposed to the elements.

“Trident Juncture has been an extremely beneficial training exercise,” said Corporal Zachary Zupets, an anti-tank missile gunner with 2/2, 24th MEU. “The cold weather [in Norway and Iceland] is not the same back in North Carolina—it gets cold, but it isn’t the same kind of cold. This exercise has taken us out of our element and forced us to apply the things that we have learned and how to operate in this type of environment. We definitely had some fun out there. I think it was an amazing experience, and my guys and I really enjoyed it.”

LCpl Margaret Gale, USMC

OITA PREFECTURE, JAPAN Forest Light Highlights Augment Capabilities of MARFORRES

Approximately 260 Okinawa, Japan-based U.S. Marine Corps and Japan Ground Self Defense Force personnel participated in the semi-annual bilateral exercise Forest Light 19.1 in the Oita Prefecture of Japan, Dec. 7-19, 2018. Marines from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, forward-deployed to the 3rd Marine Division as part of the Unit Deployment Program, along with Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 36 joined their JGSDF counterparts from the 41st Infantry Regiment, Western Army. Forest Light marked the first time a battalion from the Marine Corps Forces Reserve has conducted an exercise on a bilateral level in the Indo-Pacific in more than 10 years. This deployment highlighted the capability and capacity of the reserve component to augment their active-duty counterparts.

2ndLt Brett Vannier, USMC



U.S. Marines with 2/23, assigned to 3rdMarDiv as part of a UDP, and Japanese soldiers with the JGSDF receive a detailed explanation of the safety procedures involved with firing mortars during Exercise Forest Light 19.1 in Hijiyudai Maneuver Area, Japan, Dec. 9, 2018. (Photo by LCpl Christine Phelps, USMC)





LCPL CHRISTINE PHELPS, USMC

Above: Marines with 2/23 post security during Forest Light in Japan, Dec. 7, 2018. The exercise marked the first time in 13 years that the reserve unit was activated and deployed to the Indo-Pacific region.

Below: As part of Exercise Forest Light 19.1, Marines prepare to fire a mortar in Hijiyudai Maneuver Area, Japan, Dec. 9, 2018. During their UDP, the unit conducted multiple bilateral training exercises in various countries in the Indo-Pacific region, improving their combat readiness.



LCPL CHRISTINE PHELPS, USMC

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF.



LCpl Kevin Moran with Transportation Services Co, CLB-4, 3rd MLG, prepares to throw a smoke grenade to signal for an emergency casualty evacuation during a live-fire recovery mission at Camp Wilson, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., during ITX 1-19, Nov. 9, 2018. (Photo by Cpl Joshua Pinkney, USMC)

Combat Readiness Begins at ITX

Eyes darted back and forth, scanning the horizon as armored vehicles swept through clouds of dust and sand. A loud popping sound echoed through the air. "Contact left!"

From inside humvees, Marines radioed instructions to each other before springing into action. Bullets flew from turrets atop humvees, Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements, and AMK36 Wreckers as the vehicles rushed to eliminate the enemy in order for the Marines to achieve their mission.

Marines with Transportation Services Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, 3rd Marine Logistics Group completed live-fire recovery missions as part of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 1-19 at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 15, 2018.

ITX 1-19 was a large-scale Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) integration exercise in which CLB-4 Marines and Sailors trained to respond quickly to any contingency by fully integrating with ground and air combat elements of the MAGTF.

The unit trained to recover damaged vehicles and personnel while combating a simulated "enemy." Marines fired at targets of various distances using M16A4 rifles and M4 carbines with M240B ma-



CPL JOSHUA PINKNEY, USMC

During a live-fire recovery mission, part of ITX 1-19, Marines with Transportation Services Co, CLB-4, 3rd MLG prepare to set up security at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 9, 2018. The large-scale MAGTF integration exercise trained the unit to respond quickly to any contingency by fully integrating with ground and air combat elements.

chine guns, Mark 19 grenade machine guns and Browning .50-caliber machine guns mounted on top of vehicles.

"This training gives us the ability to see how we will act in an actual combat situation," said Corporal Tristen Barry, a mechanic with 1st Platoon, TS Co, CLB-4. "Instead of just learning about what we would do in combat, we get the opportunity here to operate as if we are already in it."

Barry said that the training was important because it gave the Marines an opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them, rather than trying to learn while deployed in combat situations.

Along with identifying and dealing with a simulated enemy, the Marines also had to properly care for casualties during the training.

Lance Corporal Alyssa Plunk, an operator with TS Co, said she learned a lot about casualty care during the missions.

"Eliminating enemy threats is important, but so is taking care of Marines and keeping everyone alive," Plunk said. "I was forced to pay attention to the little things when it came to lifesaving techniques in order to help keep Marines in the fight."

If Marines failed to maintain cover from fire, put themselves in vulnerable

positions, or had their vehicles affected by enemy artillery or an improvised explosive device, they could be deemed a casualty by the evaluators who were present during every portion of the training. The simulated "casualties" were evacuated by a KC-130J Hercules and CH-53E Super Stallions.

"The Marines learned a lot," said Lieutenant Colonel Dana Demer, the commanding officer of CLB-4, 3rd MLG. "This training is something that we are not able to do all the time, so coming to ITX is definitely a great opportunity for us. Things like live-fire recovery missions allow us to understand exactly how we as a unit will function in combat."

Demer said that he is proud of the effort the Marines put into the missions, and that they are going to work hard to strengthen weak areas and improve on strengths in order to be ready for anything at any time.

Cpl Joshua Pinkney, USMC

OKINAWA, JAPAN Marksman-Observers Train to Protect SRT Teams

Leathernecks with Special Reaction Team (SRT), Marine Corps Installations Pacific Provost Marshal's Office conducted marksman-observer training on Ranges 171 and 172 at Camp Hansen,



LCPL BRENNAN PRIEST, USMC

Sgt John Fruin, an SRT leader with MCIPAC PMO, wears camouflage netting during training at Range 172, Camp Hansen, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 29, 2018.

Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 29, 2018.

The training provided the team members with the opportunity to sharpen their precision rifle skills, preparing them for any situation that is above the capabilities of normal law enforcement. This particular training focused on hostage scenarios.

“The marksman-observer is an integral part of an SRT team,” said Corporal Corey Richardson, a reaction team leader with SRT. “They provide security and information for the team that is entering the building.”

A marksman-observer team supports the entry team, which tactically breaches the building if the scenario dictates. The safety of the entry team depends on the detailed information and watchful eyes of the marksman-observer team. The SRT practices firing in a variety of locations and positions from ranges of 100 to 1,200 meters. This ensures that the team is prepared for any situation they encounter.

For Ranges 171 and 172, SRT fired from both open and concealed locations in the prone and seated positions. The teams shot through windows into the range building from approximately 100 meters away, the approximate distance for most situations that SRT would encounter. This style of training hones the ability of the spotter-shooter team dynamic.

“The marksman-observers are outside the building watching everything that is going on,” said Sergeant John Fruin, an SRT reaction team leader. “They are the big brothers, they have the element of being there, but not being seen—they are the protection that we need.”

LCpl Brennan Priest, USMC



LCPL BRENNAN PRIEST, USMC



LCPL BRENNAN PRIEST, USMC

Above: Cpl Corey Richardson adjusts the bipod on an M40A6 sniper rifle at Range 171, Camp Hansen, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 29, 2018. The exercise allowed SRT members to practice precision shooting for hostage scenarios.

Left: LCpl Oscar Gutierrez spots for the shooter during SRT marksman-observer training in Okinawa, Japan, Nov. 29, 2018.

The Impressions of First Lieutenant James C. Blank

Student, Marine Officers' School,
Field Training Depot, Quantico, Va.



Marine officers attending Marine Officers' Training School, Quantico, Va., were instructed in the use of bayonets.

By 1stLt J.C. Blank, USMC

The Marine Corps Officers' School was established by Major General John A. Lejeune in 1919 after undergoing a series of moves and different names in the early 1900s. Like lieutenants at The Basic School of today, Marines attending the Officers' School were instructed in a variety of military subjects including tactics, weapons and engineering. And like all lieutenants over the years, they had opinions on the quality of instruction and their Marine teachers. The following is one Marine's impression of the Officers' School as published in the March 1919 Marine Corps Gazette.

Do you know that there is a Marine Officers' School at Quantico, Va.? Do you know the subjects which are taken up there? Do you have any idea that if you entered the Marine Officers' School and followed the three weeks' course which is given you, that you would, at the end of the course, have a working knowledge of machine guns, automatic rifles, hand and rifle grenades, Stokes mortar, scout sniping, modern field engineering, bayonet fighting, physical training, and the 37 mm gun? That in addition to the knowledge you have gained

of the above specialties, you would have observed and participated in various problems in minor tactics that would show you how to combine the use of specialties into the correct tactical combination of fire and movement?

Do you think you can learn these specialties by reading pamphlets? Have you tried any one subject? Do you understand it practically? Have you been examined by a specialist to find out what you really know? Do you know the "Theory of Indirect Machine-Gun Fire?" Do you know why a Lewis Gun is



called a machine rifle? Do you know the effectiveness of marching fire as executed by automatic rifles? Do you know the range of a rifle grenade fired from a Springfield rifle? What is a Tromblon?

These are only a few of the many questions that a modern Marine officer has to have at his finger-tips. All these questions are taken up by you. You are given the practical answer to each question. If there is any uncertainty in your mind after finishing the three week schedule as outlined, it is to a great extent your own fault.

With such feelings of uncertainty and unanswered questions I received orders from the post commander at Quantico, Va., to report to Field Training Depot for instruction in the Marine Officers' School, Feb. 1, 1919.

I reported to Field Training Depot on

Marine Officers' School was a three-week course that gave Marines working knowledge of machine guns, automatic rifles, hand and rifle grenades, and modern field engineering.



COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Left: At Marine Officers' School in the early 1920s, Marines were taught how to defend themselves against a bayonet and other types of attacks.

the date mentioned, was assigned to quarters by the adjutant and directed to report to Major L.A. Clapp, Senior Instructor, Marine Officers' School.

Upon reporting, I was given a memorandum of the articles I was supposed to provide myself with and also a schedule of Marine Officers' School which was to start Monday, Feb. 3, 1919. I was further directed to report to building 801 Monday at 8 a.m.

Monday morning having arrived, I found 24 officers on the same errand. We were formed into a class under Major H., who had just returned from the overseas fleet. Upon looking the class

USN

over, I found quite a few friends. There was Captain D. of the fleet, who had just returned from overseas. Captain M., who had just seen a tour of duty overseas as Q.M. [quartermaster] with our famous aeroplane squadron. First Lieutenant James just up from Haiti. First Lieutenant Jackson of the 10th Reg. In fact, it seemed a class from the four corners of the globe.

Upon the class entering the building, I observed quite a few fixtures. There was a large and small sand table. The large one was apparently all arranged for some problem, with houses, trees and terrain. We later found out the problems in the third week of our course. There were quite a few landscapes and a noticeable landscape target for an indoor sub-caliber rifle range.

We were requested to have seats and in a few minutes we met the commanding officer, Major Philip H. Torrey. In a few words he welcomed us to the Field Training Depot. He outlined the course that we would be expected to follow and

also the spirit of cooperation that he expected from us. He then turned us over to Maj Clapp.

Captain Mixon, Senior Instructor, Machine Gun School, was introduced and immediately got to work. It took every bit of my attention to follow him, not because of his manner or the clearness of his lecture but because of the subject. He certainly knows his specialty. A machine gun under his instruction began to take form and by the time the gun was taken up mechanically, I was anxious to see the weapon that could function in the manner in which he described. It is certainly a revelation as a weapon of destruction. Mr. Browning certainly deserves the million dollars voted to him by Congress for his inventions. There are things you can do with this gun that are as bad as a gas attack in its suddenness and unexpectedness. I would be willing to work with this weapon in support of me if I was an infantryman, and if Capt Mixon was laying the machine guns, I would

certainly feel safe in advancing under a barrage from this weapon. I understand why machine gunners should be picked men both physically and intellectually. The fastest firing I ever saw was when Capt Mixon in demonstrating the Heavy Browning fired two boxes of ammunition (500 rounds) in 40 seconds, which includes the time required for changing the boxes. Capt Mixon explained that this particular gun was a pet of his. When I finished those three days, I realized that machine gunnery had certainly been condensed in this course. But on reading over my notes at night I saw that I had a great deal of valuable information I could work on, and if I get another shot at school, I am going to take the full machine gun course.

The next two days I spent with Capt Henry, who is senior instructor in the Automatic Rifle School. And this time it was the light Browning Automatic Rifle. My admiration for Mr. Browning certainly rises as I see more of his handiwork. Capt Henry, by the way, is a machine gun

Students at the Marine Officers' School practiced tactics and maneuvers using topographical sand tables at Quantico, Va., in 1918.



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO



USN

Above: U.S. Marine Corps motor-drawn field artillery battery at Quantico, Va., was also used to instruct young officers in 1918.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Camouflaged snipers, who minutes before were invisible to the eye, supported officer training, Quantico, January 1919.

officer who served under Maj Cole in France. He has improved the accuracy of the weapon by supplying a forked mount as he calls it. Capt Henry tells me that the asbestos forearm invention is a success and that it will help in handling the gun which gets very hot. However, I fired one which had fired intermittently 4,000 rounds and they had not as yet changed the barrel. The most spectacular work I have seen performed with bullets was on the afternoon that we were given a demonstration of marching fire. The spraying of bullets on the target 200 yards away was a great deal like a description I have heard of liquid fire. The claim that the automatic rifle can accompany riflemen is sustained without a doubt in my mind.

On Saturday we turned in our notebooks smooth written to be examined. I was rather proud of mine, and I know, as it is now, it will be a help to me. We also had an examination on machine guns and automatic rifles. I found out I knew more than I thought I did. I named all the



Above: Marine student officers' quarters at Quantico, 1918.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Student officers in training at Quantico, 1918.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

necessary parts of the light Browning which surprised me.

I feel particularly fit this week end. The only thing I can attribute it to is the half hour physical exercise we have every morning. This is conducted by Capt Walker, an officer who was returned from the 5th Regiment as an instructor.

Capt Walker is also the senior instructor in bayonet. This physical exercise is an innovation adopted from the Canadian forces. It is certainly effective.

In the second week I came to the specialties of hand and rifle grenades. These were two things that I had heard a great deal of, and under the efficient

instruction of Capt Lawson, another officer returned from the 5th Regiment as an instructor, I loaded live grenades, threw and fired live grenades and learned the principles and precautions to be observed. And though at first I handled grenades a little skittishly, I now handle them with confidence.

There were four other specialties that we gained insight into: Stokes mortar, scout sniping, 37 mm gun, and a little engineer instruction as to barb-wiring, types of trenches, trench systems, dugouts, etc. Each subject was handled as practically as possible, and I would know what to expect from the Stokes mortar and 37 mm gun. I would certainly like to have some of my men trained as Scout Snipers for patrol work. And I could, with practice, string barbed wire. I have notes on everything.

While I know my rifle well enough to qualify, there is a subject called musketry which has been greatly confused in my mind. But now I believe I have got a few principles that I can work on. It took Maj Clapp exactly a day with quite a few practical exercises to do it. Those landscapes in 801 were not made entirely for ornament.

I have seen a platoon of 58 men equipped as specialists. I know how many teams there are in each platoon. I have seen them maneuver in half platoons, line of combat groups, as skirmishers in two waves. For this I am thankful to Capt Muldrow, the assistant instructor, and to Co C, Field Training Depot. Co C is a company that is organized for tactical work. It is at the disposal of the Marine Officers' School at all times.

In the third week, Maj Clapp led us on that big sand table on quite a few tactical walks that cleared up subject after subject. This was the week in which we were made to see the coordination of all specialties we had studied in practical problems. We were actually given the characters to place and the situations to handle. Each problem would result in many solutions, each of which was taken up by our instructor and thrashed out to the satisfaction of all by the entire class. Each solution was the solution until it was clearly shown that there was a better one. In the outpost problem which is taken from a problem used by the First Corps School in France, we had to handle a 250 man company. This was the best problem we had and it took an entire day.

Having finished the course and received my average for the term, my enthusiasm has grown in desiring the specialist in my platoon. With the dope I have and the practical work performed, I believe I have a better chance of succeeding as a Marine officer. 🐻

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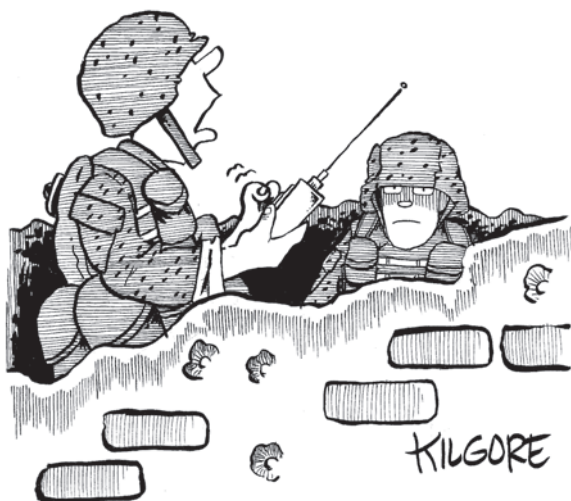
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"It's just something I do when they're flying missions on Valentine's Day."



"He's changing the insignia on my portrait. I just got promoted to colonel."



"Does this make me an air winger now?"







The Fight for Edson's Ridge

By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)

"When we got back to Lunga and they sent us out toward the ridge, I was firmly convinced we were in the path of the next Japanese attack."

LtCol Merritt A. Edson
Commanding Officer, 1st Raider
Battalion

In May 1942, Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift's 1st Marine Division loaded out from ports in the United States, bound for New Zealand. There, it was planned that the Division would spend six months in intensive training prior to undertaking offensive operations against the Japanese in the Southwest Pacific. It was not to be.

When plans collide head-on with reality, it is usually reality that finishes on top. MajGen Vandegrift's Marines' reality took the form of an alarming intelligence report that the Japanese had begun construction of an airfield on the island of Guadalcanal, the southernmost major island in the Solomon Islands chain. The general knew that if that airfield became



Left: Officers from Colonel Merritt A. Edson's (seated at desk) 1st Marine Raider Battalion confer before another attack during the Guadalcanal campaign.

Below: Marines work on front-line defenses around part of the airfield on Guadalcanal. (USN photo)



unable to mount any resistance. Before the sun dropped below the horizon, Marine engineers had already begun work on completing the airfield the Japanese had laid out. Even as bulldozers and graders labored into the night, the Marines had given the airfield a name—Henderson Field. The airfield was called in honor of Marine aviator Major Lofton Henderson who had been killed in action at Midway Island, where the Japanese had been dealt a stunning defeat earlier that year.

The Japanese struck back immediately. The result was somewhat less than a success. Two Japanese thrusts—one an air attack to neutralize the airfield, the other a ground attack to reclaim it—were resoundingly routed. Of the 36 Mitsubishi G4M twin-engine medium bombers that took part in the air attack, a scant three returned to their base at Rabaul on the island of New Britain, the northernmost of the Solomon's Chain. Of the 900 Japanese who threw themselves at the lines of Colonel Clifton B. Cates' 1st Marine Regiment on the banks of a sluggish tidal estuary, Ilu Creek, 787, their commander Colonel Kiyonao Ichiki among them, died there.

Despite two resounding setbacks in as many attempts, the Japanese were not considering pulling the plug on the Guadalcanal operation. In the Japanese view, Guadalcanal was essential to the overall Japanese posture in the Southwest

In the Japanese view, Guadalcanal was essential to the overall Japanese posture in the Southwest Pacific and they were upping the ante.

Pacific and they were upping the ante. After the shocking Japanese victory at Savo Island on the night of Aug. 8 that sent four Allied cruisers—three American and one Australian—to the bottom of the ocean, the Japanese were in total control of the waters around Guadalcanal and they were taking full advantage of the situation.

From his headquarters at Rabaul, Lieutenant General Harukichi Hyakutake, supreme Japanese commander for the Southwest Pacific, was cramming the 4th Mixed Brigade on fast transports—destroyers—their decks filled with troops, and sending them south as quickly as shipping became available. Headed for Guadalcanal from the immense Truk Atoll, hundreds of sea miles to the north, were the combat experienced veterans of Major General Kiyotake Kawaguchi's 35th Infantry Brigade. The two forces would meet on Guadalcanal. Their mission: to reclaim the airfield and deprive the Americans of vital air support.

operational, Japanese bombers from Guadalcanal would be able to wreak havoc on the crucial shipping lanes from America's West Coast to New Zealand and Australia, the very places from which America's counterattack forces were to be assembled. For the 1stMarDiv, there would be no extended period of training; instead there would be combat.

On L-Day, Aug. 7, 1942, the Marines of 1stMarDiv came ashore on Guadalcanal unopposed. By nightfall, all objectives on Guadalcanal were exclusively held by Marines. Caught short with nothing more than a relative handful of construction troops on the island, the Japanese were



Above: This photo, taken on Sept. 6, 1942, of members of the Kawaguchi Brigade Headquarters with mustachioed MajGen Kawaguchi in center, was probably taken in the Philippines or on Palau shortly before the unit shipped out to Guadalcanal.

COURTESY OF DOD



Japanese troops from the Aoba Regiment march along the shore of Guadalcanal shortly after landing in the first week of September 1942. Savo Island can be seen faintly in the background.

COURTESY OF DOD

Both commanders, Gen Vandegrift and Gen Kawaguchi, were fully aware of the importance of Guadalcanal's airfield. The side that held the airfield would control the skies above Guadalcanal, which would be essential to the battle on the ground. Already, a slim handful of Marine Corps air assets were operating from Henderson Field. Brigadier General Roy S. Geiger and less than a dozen of his 1st Marine Aircraft Wing staff had already set up shop at Henderson Field, with more to follow.

From the Japanese perspective, that condition could not be allowed to continue. As seen from Gen Vandegrift's command

post, the condition must not only continue but grow if the campaign on Guadalcanal were to succeed. The stage was set for Henderson Field to be the key terrain of the Guadalcanal operation.

The advance elements of the Kawaguchi Brigade arrived on Guadalcanal during the night of Sept. 8. Almost immediately, engineer units assigned to the brigade began cutting an approach road through the dense tangle of jungle that blanketed everything east of Henderson Field. Japanese reconnaissance units already were at work probing Marine defenses and the site of the main Japanese attack had been determined.

Edson's style of leadership by example made him the obvious choice for a mission filled with danger.

That site was a complicated ridge within gunshot range of Henderson Field. About 1,000 yards in length, the ridge was oriented southeast-northwest, with several spurs running from both the front and back of the ridge. Combined with the confusing network of lesser ridges and ravines in its front, the ridge was a difficult place to approach. It also made the ridge a difficult place to defend.

Gen Vandegrift was playing from a short hand. One of his infantry regiments, Colonel James W. Webb's 7th Marines, was still hundreds of miles away, tied down in the defense of New Caledonia. What Gen Vandegrift had available to defend the ridge was Lieutenant Colonel Merritt A. Edson's 1st Raider Battalion, a force too slim to maintain a continuous line of 1,000 yards.

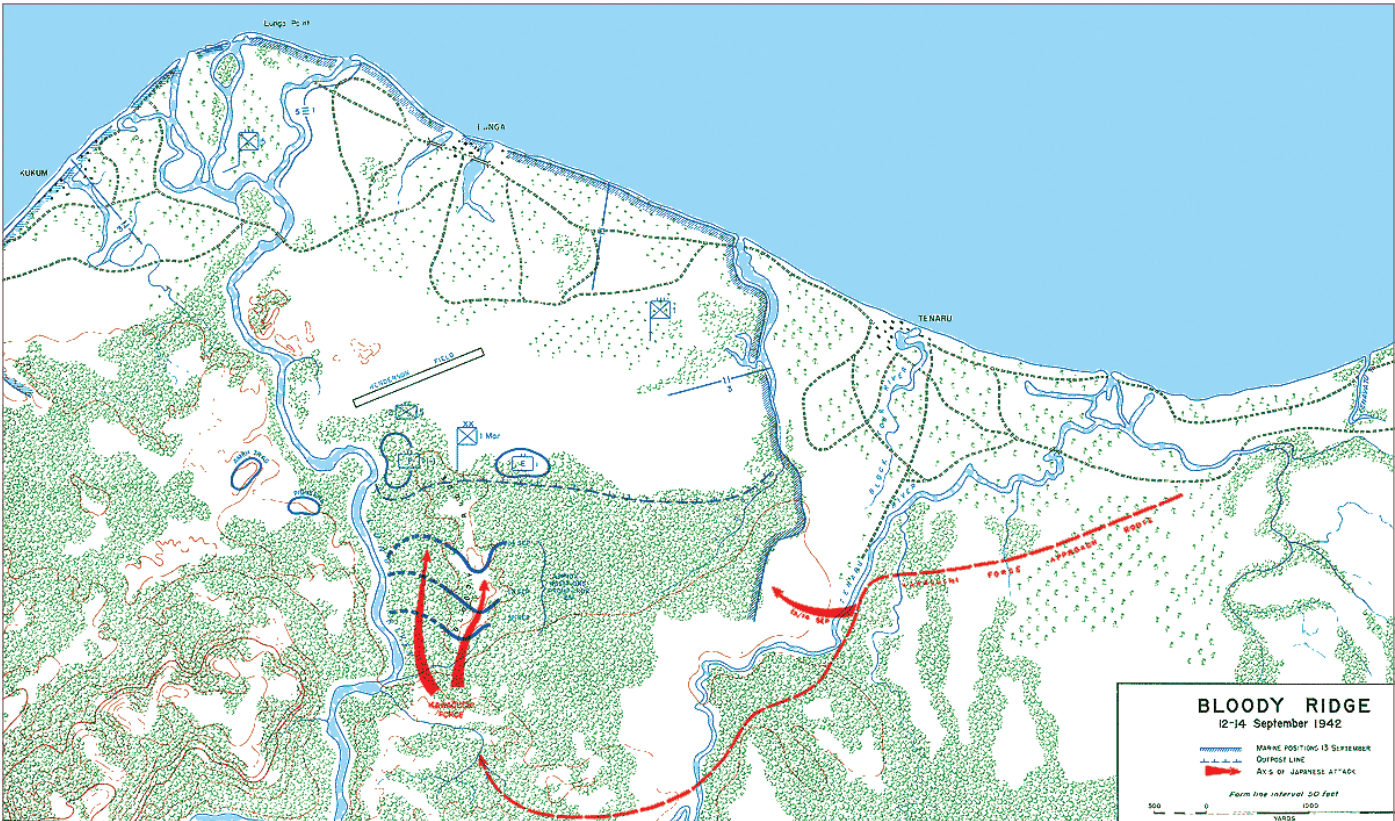
Edson already was a bit of a Marine Corps legend for his action in Nicaragua in 1926 during which he earned the Navy Cross. Over a period of a month, in the heart of Nicaragua's rainy season, Edson had pre-empted every move of the rebel leader Augusto Sandino before Sandino could make them, almost without having to fire a shot. That operation also brought Edson the nickname of "Red Mike" for the bristly red beard that grew when the constant rainfall made something as simple as shaving impossible. Edson's style of leadership by example made him the obvious choice for a mission filled with danger.

Faced with the conditions that existed, Edson settled for doing what the situation permitted with the assets he had. Already suspecting that the ridge would be the objective of the main Japanese attack, Edson established his battalion in a series of strongpoints along what he felt would be the logical Japanese avenue of assault.

The assets Edson had on hand to man these strongpoints were not much. His own battalion had been reduced to only three companies. The battalion's fourth company, Company D, had been cannibalized to provide replacements for casualties in Companies A, B and C. Beyond this, Edson could count on only the three understrength companies of Major Robert A. Williams' 1st Parachute Battalion and Co C, 1st Pioneer Battalion which were attached to his command. This force was pretty well dwarfed by the 3,500 men Kiyotake Kawaguchi could throw at it.



Above: This is a copy of a photo that was found among the personal items of a Japanese soldier who was captured by Marines on Guadalcanal. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)



Edson anticipated that the Japanese would not attack the ridge frontally; rather, they would attack along the long axis of the ridge from the southeast. While the ridge itself was for the greater part covered by kunai grass, the terrain to the east—the direction from which the Japanese would come—was cloaked in thick, matted jungle. The Japanese would be able to launch their attack from almost stone-throwing distance of Edson's sketchy line.

Edson's defense plan was both aided and complicated by the terrain. While the Raiders' strongpoint defense was anchored on the left by the bulging nose of the ridge itself, the right rested firmly on the unfordable Lunga River. Almost dead center between these points was a lagoon, which also was unfordable. While this was an asset, in one respect it was a danger as well.

Edson's Co C that defended the gap between the lagoon and the river, the very spot that one of Kawaguchi's battalion was slated to attack, was almost isolated. Co B, which held the ground between the lagoon and the ridge, would be able to support by fire but only to a limited extent. For all purposes, Co C would be fighting its own war.

On Sept. 12, Kiyotake Kawaguchi

launched his attack. As it was planned, this was to be no hell for leather, devil take the hindmost, mad charge in the manner of Kiyonao Ichiki's doomed effort. As planned, the Japanese assault was to be a joint air, sea and ground effort that employed air and naval gunfire bombardment followed by an infantry

The Japanese assault was to be a joint air, sea and ground effort that employed air and naval gunfire bombardment followed by an infantry attack.

attack. Before that effort could get underway, the hellish terrain of Guadalcanal threw it all into confusion.

If Red Mike Edson had problems defending an over long stretch of terrain, Kiyotake Kawaguchi wasn't long in encountering his own difficulties. A long approach march through dense jungle that all but strangled movement threw the Japanese commander's timetable completely off the tracks. Barely a third of Kawaguchi's troops had reached their start line at the time the assault was to begin.

Although Kawaguchi's engineers had attempted to clear several routes for an approach march, the dense jungle made for slow going. There still were more than 10 miles of nearly impenetrable jungle growth and deep ravines to be overcome before the Japanese infantrymen arrived at their starting points. The Japanese assault units were almost exhausted by their battle with the jungle before they even went into the attack. The result was that Kawaguchi's force was compelled to attack piecemeal as individual units arrived in position.

While the Japanese attack may have been uncoordinated, it lacked nothing in courage. But courage alone cannot overcome confusion. Rather than a clenched fist, the Japanese attack was more along the lines of a jab by the spread fingers of a hand. Worse, the fingers did not all arrive at the same time, as the bulk of Kawaguchi's troops were still fighting the strangling jungle at the designated time for the attack to begin.

Right on schedule at 9 p.m., a flight of Japanese bombers swooped low over the ridge and dropped several sticks of bombs along the length of the bridge. Due to the dispersed nature of the Raiders' defense plan, most of these disturbed nothing but foliage. No sooner had the Japanese

This craft was used by the Japanese to land reinforcements on Guadalcanal Island. The ramps were designed to land light mechanized equipment and artillery. (USN photo)



bombers departed than a lone floatplane dropped a string of green flares along the spine of the ridge, the signal for a light cruiser and a trio of destroyers to begin raking the ridge from end to end with almost point blank fire from six-inch and three-inch guns. Once again, most of the projectiles impacted where there were no Marines.

The Japanese naval gunfire lasted no longer than 20 minutes. Hot on the heels of this, a series of green flares arose from the jungle at the foot of the ridge. This was the signal for the Japanese infantry attack, but two-thirds of those infantry elements were still slogging through the jungle attempting to reach their starting positions. From that point, everything descended into confusion.

What Kiyotake Kawaguchi had envisioned as one coordinated attack became a series of individual attacks as units went into the battle in bits and pieces. Nevertheless, while the Japanese were exhausted by their struggle with the jungle, they advanced by sheer determination, throwing themselves at the Marine positions regardless of fatigue and casualties.

The first of these piecemeal attacks, as Edson had determined, threw itself at the nose of the ridge. There, a comparatively minor coral elevation dubbed Hill 80, constituted the core of where Edson's Co B and Co B, 1st Parachute Battalion, had established themselves. At first, the Japanese attack was pressed forward by only a single company, but as more Japanese finally arrived after what must have seemed an eternity of floundering through the jungle, the Raiders and Paramarines found themselves locked in combat with the entire 2nd Battalion of Kawaguchi's 124th Infantry Regiment.

Inevitably, the sheer weight of Japanese numbers began to tell. The Raiders and Paramarines holding the nose of the ridge were forced back to a tight semi-circle around Hill 80 before finally establishing a perimeter of sorts there. It got worse.

On Edson's right, where the Raiders of Co C held the ground between the lagoon and the Lunga River, Japanese troops in sufficient numbers finally were in position to initiate a concentrated move against Co C. The company's third platoon, holding the ground adjacent to the lagoon, took the main impact and was soon cut off and surrounded. Other Japanese attacks, taking advantage of the dense jungle in that area that lessened the Raiders' advantage in firepower, were able to dislodge Co C's strongpoints closer to the river.

Greatly aided by the fires of 3rd Bn, 11th Marines' 75 mm pack howitzers, all three of Co C's platoons were able to successfully withdraw in good order and establish a new line close to the west of the



Above: This photo, dated Oct. 28, 1942, shows several of the U.S. officers who were leading the fight against the Japanese on tiny Tulagi Island in the Solomons. Seated on the steps of the staff house are, left to right, front row: LtCol O.K. Pressley, LtCol M.A. Edson, LtCol H.E. Rosecrans, and LtCol R.E. Hill. Second row: LT E.B. McLarney, MC, USN; BGen W.H. Rupertus; Col R.C. Kilmartin; and Maj William Enright. Third row: Capts Ralph Powell, Daryle Seeley and Thomas Philpott.



A Marine looks at fighting positions on Edson's Ridge—possibly Hill 123, looking north—in September 1942.

ridge.

Had the Japanese been able to follow up on their success and advance along the line of the Lunga, the Raiders' situation could have become perilous. Three things intervened to prevent this. First, Gen Vandegrift released Lieutenant Colonel Harold E. Rosecrans' 2nd Bn, 5th Marines from the Division's reserve to counter any

Japanese move along the line of the Lunga. Second, light was beginning to make its presence known on the eastern horizon. Daylight would erase the Japanese advantage of moving under the cover of darkness. Third, the Japanese infantrymen who had spent the entire night battling the jungle and Edson's Marines were all but out on their feet. As tense as the night had been, the Raiders had emerged in

A Grumman F4F Wildcat fighter sits at Henderson Field, Feb. 2, 1943. Markings under the cockpit indicate this plane was credited with shooting down 19 Japanese aircraft while being flown by several different Marine Corps pilots.



USN

Supported by the fires of mortars and heavy machine guns, the Japanese infantry hit the Marine lines with the impact of a pile driver.

relatively good condition.

The day that followed was a day when both sides needed a break. The Japanese were able to enjoy a break of sorts. Shaded by the jungle overhead, they were at least shielded from the direct rays of a scorching sun that burned ever hotter as the day wore on. Edson's Marines weren't as for-tunate. In the midst of nothing but kunai grass, which provided precious little shade, the Raiders and Paramarines sat, waited and baked. The bit of warm water in their canteens provided what little comfort that could be had.

The sun's slow descent to the west found Edson at his command post, firmly convinced that the next Japanese attack would be launched as soon as light failed. In true Edson style, he had established himself and his battalion staff on another coral outcropping identified as Hill 120, less than 200 yards behind his forward companies. There, he informed the handful of officers and NCOs grouped about him that he intended to stay, alive or dead.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

View of final line positions on Edson's Ridge, Guadalcanal, that were barely held during the battle on Sept. 13, 1942, as viewed from Bailey's intermediate position just southward.

As night fell on Sept. 13, the Japanese came on again, at the very site Edson had felt would be the point of the main Japanese attack—the nose of the ridge. This time, the Japanese attack was far better coordinated and organized than the previous day's effort. With a full day to reassemble, the Japanese threw the defenders of Hill 80 a clenched fist that struck with force.

Supported by the fires of mortars and heavy machine guns, the Japanese

infantry hit the Marine lines with the impact of a pile driver. Fires by the Raiders and Paramarines cut the Japanese down in swaths, but the Japanese were there in strength and they kept pressing forward. Inevitably, the sheer weight of numbers began to make itself felt. Slowly, grudgingly, the Raiders and Paramarines were forced backward. By 10 p.m., the Japanese were in a position to attack in strength all across the Marine front from the Lunga to the ridge. The next Japanese



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ADM Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief Pacific, presents awards to Marine Raiders at Guadalcanal in January 1943.

surge would determine whether Marines or Japanese would control the ridge and access to Henderson Field.

That surge was not long in coming as a massive Japanese attack hit all along the Marine line. On the right, the Raiders and Pioneers holding the gap between the lagoon and the Lunga were able to beat back the attackers and hold their positions. At the ridge itself, it was a different story. There, the Japanese had forced the Raiders and Paramarines back until their defensive line straddled the ridge barely 50 yards in front of Edson's line.

Edson himself hadn't taken a single backward step. While others around him sought what cover was available, Edson stood totally erect amid the missiles flying through the air all around him.

Utterly fearless, Edson continued to direct the defense. At one time, when the artillery forward observer informed him that friendly fire would fall below the "danger close" criteria, Edson instructed him to "bring it in." There was no other choice and Edson didn't hesitate. As the 75 mm rounds of the 11th Marines impacted among the Japanese regrouping for another assault barely 80 yards in front, Edson did not do so much as duck

as shell fragments flew through the air.

By that time the Raiders and Paramarines had been forced back to a horse-shoe-shaped line little more than a dozen yards from Edson's command post. Then the word went down the line: this was the final stand. "Nobody moves, just die in your holes."

Somehow, by midnight, the Marines' situation had stabilized. Co C, which had enjoyed a very brief "rest" in reserve after the previous day's fighting, was brought forward to bolster the defense. That seemed to take some of the offensive spirit out of Kawaguchi's troops. They had come within sight of their objective only to find relatively "fresh" Americans barring their way. They still were attacking, but some of the strength had gone out of them. "From then on," Edson would later say, "I knew we had them licked."

Sporadic fighting would continue until dawn. By noon, Kiyotake Kawaguchi knew that it was a lost cause. His command had suffered about 750 dead and 500 wounded. The rest of his men were utterly exhausted, as much by their struggle with the jungle as by their battle against Edson's Marines who refused to give up. Sadly, Marine losses were equally heart-

breaking, and those who were left were out on their feet.

The attack on Edson's Ridge—it had a name now—would be the last Japanese offensive on Guadalcanal. The fight for Guadalcanal would continue for another four months, but from that point on, the Japanese would be on the defensive. Henderson Field would remain in American hands that would eventually control the sky above Guadalcanal, sweeping it clean of Japanese.

For his indomitable and courageous leadership on Sept. 12 and 13, 1942, Red Mike Edson would receive America's highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor. Major General Merritt A. Edson made his final roll call on Aug. 13, 1955, and was interred in Virginia's Arlington National Cemetery.

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. 🦖

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Innovation Boot Camp Challenges 2nd MLG

More than 30 Marines and Sailors with 2nd Marine Logistics Group participated in the first Innovation Boot Camp held in Jacksonville, N.C., Dec. 10-14, 2018.

Facilitating the weeklong course were leaders from 2nd MLG and representatives from MD5 National Security Technology Accelerator, a public-private partnership among the Department of Defense, New York University and a large network of top U.S. research universities.

"This is the first iteration of the Innovation Boot Camp at 2nd MLG, but the Marine Corps as a whole has participated in many versions of this course," said Captain Conor Bender, 2nd MLG innovation officer. "Last July, there was an innovation symposium in Quantico, Va., where servicemembers participated along with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert Neller. [He] emphasized the importance of innovation throughout the Corps and how it will make us a more effective fighting force in the future."

Like the symposium, the course focused on applying human-centered design, problem framing, Lean LaunchPad (an entrepreneurship course), and Mission Model Canvas to solve 2nd MLG problems. The training was led by Sophi Martin, innovation director and lecturer with the Blum Center for Developing Economies, University of California, Berkeley, and Vivek Rao, a lecturer with the university's Haas School of Business.

"One of the things that makes this really special is that it's interactive and not just a slideshow," said Martin. "We pick a topic ... and train the students how to tackle that challenge in their workplaces."

To conclude the course, the teams pitched their ideas to a panel made up of leaders within 2nd MLG and Tommy Sower, MD5's Southeast Regional Director. The panel picked some of the ideas for further development and implementation within the command. The boot camp participants planned to take what they learned during the course and apply it within their units, as well as share the problem-

solving methodology they learned with other Marines.

"I love that we start out with a few skeptical people, then see them open up and come up with some great ideas," said Martin. "It's so awesome to inspire people to challenge their everyday problems and find legitimate solutions that work within their life."

Cpl Ashley Lawson, USMC

Eye in the Sky: Heli-Drone Security System Considered for Base Security

At 2 a.m. on the coastline along Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., an unknown object sends a signal to a Marine monitoring the pitch-black waters with a Lattice Modular Heli-drone security system. With the lift of a finger and the press of a button, a drone is deployed to investigate. It relays back crystal-clear footage and provides images that reveal a smuggling vessel slithering its way through the water.

This is one of the many fictional scenarios



Marines and Sailors with 2nd MLG pitch ideas to a panel on the final day of an Innovation Boot Camp facilitated by MD5 National Security Technology Accelerator in Jacksonville, N.C., Dec. 14, 2018.

Manoj Palacios, a mission operations engineer with Anduril Industries, conducts a preflight check on a Lattice Modular Heli-drone at the Red Beach training area, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 8, 2018.

that can be prevented using a new cutting-edge security system that was recently tested aboard the Southern California installation during a demonstration for the leaders of Marine Corps Installations West, Nov. 8, 2018.

The system consists of three sensor mast towers, which can monitor up to 6 nautical miles. If they detect any unusual objects or vessels, that information is relayed back to a command center. From that point, the operator can deploy a fully automated drone to the object for a closer look.

"If an operator sees a threat either in the water or on the base, they can use the [drone] to get a better look," said Scott Sanders, head of operations for Anduril Industries, which manufactures the drone. "This eliminates the need to put a Marine or anyone else at risk to investigate the threat."

The drone can be considered an additional asset to existing security systems at Marine Corps installations like Camp Pendleton. It offers more detailed surveillance by relaying high-definition video and photos, can track objects by following or orbiting, and with the ability to reach speeds up to 60 miles per hour, nothing can escape its sight.

"Currently, the systems that we have do offer the same 360-degree surveillance, but they cannot travel beyond the I-5 perimeter," said Nick Morin, physical security officer for MCIWEST. "With the drone, we can send it out beyond the normal perimeter to give us a clearer understanding of whatever threat may be, and in doing so, it extends our perimeter as well."

The tower and drone systems are automated, meaning once a threat is detected, the drone can be deployed, eliminating the need for an investigation team.

Not only does the drone eliminate the hazard of sending people to investigate, but the cost of the system is significantly less than the system currently being used.

As one of the largest military installations in the western region of the United States, ensuring security is a top priority for MCB Camp Pendleton. If acquired, this drone system would greatly improve both coastal and inland security.

"This system would be a great enhancement to our security by giving us the ability to secure our more isolated areas on base, like Case Springs, without having to send Marines out there—which is not only costly, but more importantly, very



CPL DYLAN CHAGNON, USMC

dangerous," said Morin. "The drone would allow us to do that without using as much manpower, which makes it a big enhancement for not only security, but safety as well."

Cpl Dylan Chagnon, USMC

New Dress Blues for Females Provide Unified Look for Marines

A white belt, a form-fitted coat and a standing collar are a few features female Marines can expect to see on their new dress blue uniform. Based on a 2014 Marine Corps initiative, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) was tasked to develop a dress blue coat for women more similar to the men's uniform.

The goal was to make the Corps look unified while also offering female Marines a more tailored fit. Marines with "Novem-

ber" Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion made history as the first to don the new uniforms during their graduation ceremony at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Nov. 16, 2018. MCSC's Sergeant Major Robin Fortner served as the parade-reviewing official.

"I was honored to be a part of history and stand out on the renowned parade deck to witness the newest Marines who will enter into the operating forces," said Fortner. "All the Marines looked sharp. The uniform represents the United States Marine Corps and its proud, rich legacy, which was exemplified by the Marines."

MCSC's Infantry Combat Equipment (ICE) conducted extensive research through surveys and roadshows to ensure that female Marines' voices were heard on the subject. To gather input, the team



SSGT TYLER HLAVAC, USMC

PFC Kathy Espinoza inspects the uniform of Pvt Arella Aleman at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., Nov. 9, 2018. The two were part of the first company to graduate wearing the new dress blue uniform for female Marines.

visited I and II Marine Expeditionary Forces and conducted onsite surveys with more than 2,500 Marines from the National Capital Region; MCRD Parris Island; Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.; Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.; and throughout the West Coast. Nearly 3,000 additional Marines elected to take the survey online instead of attending a roadshow.

“It was important for MCSC to get this right for the institution,” Fortner said. “I appreciate the diligence that went into this effort from the beginning and the follow-on support to the depot.”

The coat MCSC fielded is the third iteration of prototypes, said Louis Curcio, ICE clothing designer. The main additions are a white belt and standing collar—previously a standard lapel.

“Throughout the process, we conducted three different surveys to figure out if the new coat was something Marines actually wanted—and we only surveyed females,” Curcio said. “We gave all of the results to the Commandant, and he made the final decision based on their input.”

Designers also added a seam to the upper-torso area to make the uniform easier to alter to fit different body types. Additionally, the coat was lengthened to give it more structure and balance with the trousers, which also offered greater range of motion and mobility.

“With this change, all Marines will have the uniform of the Corps, and there will be no doubts that they are U.S. Marines in the dress blue uniform,” Curcio said.

During the roadshow tour, Lieutenant Colonel Jenifer Ballard and Sergeant Lucy Schroder traveled with Curcio and his team to model the uniforms and answer any questions from fellow Marines. General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, asked their opinions directly, along with other female Marines, to ensure he was hearing the information straight from the source.

Ballard, section head for Operations, Plans, Integration and Distribution for the Manpower Management Integration Branch at Manpower and Reserve Affairs, said she was surprised by some of the feedback they received during the roadshow. Some women were worried that the new coats would take away their femininity, while others said they would lose their tradition as female Marines.

Throughout the 100 years that women have served in the Corps, said Ballard, there have always been changes and options regarding uniforms.

“It was important for us to show what the uniform looked like in person versus in an online survey, and some Marines were pleasantly surprised saying it exceeded their expectations,” said Ballard.

At first, Ballard was not a fan of the uniform changes because she thought it

would be an exact replica of the male coat with the same pockets and collar.

“Over the course of time the coat grew on me, and I really like it now because it helps modernize the force, so there isn’t such a distinction between male and female uniforms,” she said.

Sgt Schroder, who works for the Wounded Warrior Regiment at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., said that female Marines should try the blue coat on before forming a negative opinion because she believes this is a huge step for the Corps.

“Before I joined the service, my first impression was the iconic male uniform coat I saw on commercials,” said Schroder. “When I got to boot camp and they gave me my coat, I was confused because it looked different than what I expected. The more we progress in time, the more female Marines are having a voice and opinions on how they want to look, which will hopefully draw the attention of future recruits.”

The new female dress blue uniform is now available for purchase, and by fiscal year 2022, every female Marine will be required to wear the uniform.

“We cannot be afraid of change—often-times a new era brings about changes,” said SgtMaj Fortner. “Many Marines have adapted throughout their careers, and this is no different. We must take it on and own it.”

Kaitlin Kelly



Sgt Crista Abregomedina, a warehouse clerk with Headquarters & Service Battalion, examines the uniforms of female Marines from November Co, 4th Recruit Training Bn, at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., Nov. 9, 2018.



SGT DEVAN GOWANS, USMC

“Hike for the Hungry” Combines Training, Community Service

More than 200 Marines and Sailors took part in a “Hike for the Hungry” at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 16, 2018.

1st Radio Battalion worked with a local charity to collect food donations to carry on the hike. The Marines carried the non-perishable food items during a 9-mile hike

to enhance their combat fitness, build resiliency and to help the community. They collected more than 8,600 pounds of food and carried it for half of the hike until they dropped it off at the first rest point, where they met with the charity organizer.

“The carrying of the food and eventual lightening of the load signified to all Marines participating that there will always

Marines with 1st Radio Bn, I MEF Information Group, transport canned goods during part of a 9-mile “Hike for the Hungry” held at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 16, 2018. The event resulted in the donation of more than 8,600 pounds of nonperishable food items to those in need.

be someone there to help you out,” explained Second Lieutenant Robert McCain, the 1st Radio Bn training officer and event coordinator.

The second half of the hike included a tear gas exposure drill and a tug-of-war competition.

“This was important to accomplish because we represent more than a fighting force,” said McCain. “During any occasion, Marines can be called upon to aid others during a crisis—you don’t always have to go across the globe to find someone in need of help. It feels incredible to be part of an organization that ensures that no matter what, Marines will always get the job done and take care of those who need help.”

Capt Maida K. Zheng, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL ETHAN PUMPHRET, USMC

“For Christmas you want to go to Parris Island? Santa can work that out in about 12 years.”

Submitted by:
Jack McHugh
Hamilton, N.J.

This Month’s Photo



CPL MICHAEL DYE, USMC

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

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



No Glory at Penobscot Bay

By MSgt Jeff Dacus, USMC (Ret)

This map shows the Penobscot River and Bay and depicts the location of the English fleet under Sir George Collyer against Fort Castine in August 1779. (Courtesy of Library of Congress)

Glory in battle usually is assigned to those who win. In 1779, Continental Marines took part in one of the most disastrous expeditions in American Naval history. They accomplished all that was asked of them but the total defeat and dissolution of the American effort was so complete that it overshadowed their valiant effort.

The colony of Massachusetts was in revolt against Great Britain in 1779. Many residents, however, were dissatisfied with this course of events and petitioned the British government to provide a haven for them. Many fled to Halifax, Nova Scotia, but the British government decided that Penobscot Bay in Massachusetts—now Maine—would provide the new colony for displaced Loyalists and would be called New Ireland.

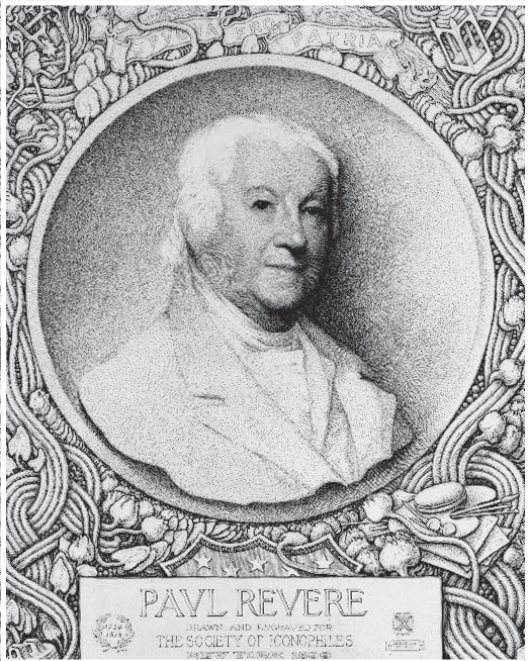
On June 16, 1779, a force of nearly 800 British soldiers was put ashore under General Francis McLean on a peninsula called Bagaduce on the eastern side of Penobscot Bay, about 25 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The peninsula pointed west into the bay, bordered on the north by swampy land connecting it to the mainland, and on the south and east by the Bagaduce River. The western part of the peninsula was lined with rocky cliffs covered in heavy vegetation.

General McLean built a small fort atop a plateau and christened it Fort George. A small battery called Half Moon was constructed on the southern coast of the peninsula and another battery on Nautilus Island across the Bagaduce River directly opposite the Half Moon guns. The British Navy left a small force of three warships and four transports under Lieutenant Henry Mowat to support the fort. Mowat



COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

In this late 18th-century painting by Dominic Serres, the British Fleet is seen in action in Penobscot Bay, Aug. 14, 1779. It was the worst naval defeat in American history with 43 ships lost.



Paul Revere, the famous silversmith, served as a commander of artillery on the Penobscot Expedition. He was blamed for much of the failure and his career as a militia officer ended. (Illustration courtesy of Library of Congress)



arranged his sloops broadside on the Bagaduce River between Half Moon Battery and Nautilus Island.

The Massachusetts Provincial Congress organized an expedition to eliminate the British forces. A fleet of nearly 40 vessels, including eight “warships,” was to take 1,500 militiamen to Penobscot Bay and drive the British out. In command of the force was Solomon Lovell, major general in the Massachusetts militia. His second in command was Peleg Wadsworth and his artillery commander was Paul Revere.

Massachusetts requested help from the Continental Congress including three Continental ships. The frigate *Warren* (32 guns), sloop *Providence* (12 guns), and brig *Diligent* (14 guns) were placed

at the disposal of the expedition. Aboard the ships were about 130 Continental Marines. Aboard the Massachusetts ships were an additional 100 “marines,” who were mostly soldiers detailed to duties aboard the ships. The senior Marine was Captain John Welsh aboard *Warren*.

Captain Dudley Saltonstall, the second-ranking captain in the Continental Navy, was chosen as commodore of the fleet and sailed in the *Warren*. Unfortunately for the expedition, Saltonstall was a competent sailor but also “egotistical, arrogant, irascible, obstinate, overbearing, a marginal officer, dictatorial, haughty, indefatigable, and morose.”

The fleet arrived at the entrance to Penobscot Bay on July 24 and sent Marines ashore to perform



In the painting "Penobscot," by Col Charles Waterhouse, Continental Marines are depicted assaulting and capturing the heights above Penobscot Bay at Dyce's Head despite heavy enemy fire and a steep slope.

COURTESY OF THE CHARLES H. WATERHOUSE ESTATE AND ART COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

On July 26, about 150 Marines led by Captain Welsh landed on the island's western side. The attack surprised the British as their fortifications were oriented to the northeast to protect their ships between Nautilus and the peninsula.

reconnaissance of the British positions. With the return of the Marines, the fleet sailed into the bay and took position off Bagaduce Peninsula.

The Marines were chosen to capture the British position on Nautilus Island. At the same time, nine warships would engage the British ships and the militia would land on Bagaduce Peninsula. On July 26, about 150 Marines led by Captain Welsh landed on the island's western side. The attack surprised the British as their fortifications were oriented to the northeast to protect their ships between Nautilus and the peninsula. The Continental Marines landed from the opposite direction. An attempted landing by militia and a naval engagement distracted the British artillerymen and Royal Marines. The British

realized too late that the Continental Marines were behind them and fled. Jumping into boats, they rowed out to the nearest British warship, leaving their provisions, tents and four cannon. The Marines proudly presented a British flag captured in the camp to Wadsworth.

The Marines on Nautilus erected breastworks and prepared defenses against a British counter landing. Paul Revere brought in some of his artillery and set up guns to sweep the British ships with cannon fire.

As depicted in this illustration by Col Charles Waterhouse, Marines drove the British from their artillery redoubt on Nautilus Island and at the Half Moon Battery. (Courtesy of the Charles H. Waterhouse estate, art collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps)



British Captain Mowat was forced to withdraw his small fleet further east to avoid the Americans' fire, opening up the southwestern flank of the fort on the peninsula. The decision was made to attack Bagaduce Peninsula the next day. The total forces available to the Americans included about 850 militia, under General Wadsworth; 80 artillerymen, under Paul Revere; and 227 Marines, under Captain Welsh. Marines led the landing on the peninsula's eastern end at Dyce's Head. And landing on the right, they headed up the steep, wooded slopes. Clawing their way up the near vertical slopes, the Marines used branches and roots to pull themselves up the rocky face, all the while under fire from about 80 British soldiers atop the ridge. One young Marine remembered, "When the Marines were all landed and about half of the militia, we began our ascent, which was indeed a very difficult one; had it not

been for the shrubs growing on the side of the hill, we might have lost half of our men before we gained the height."

The steepness of the slope and brush made it difficult for the redcoats to hit the climbing leathernecks who often lost their hold and slipped back down the incline only to start back up again. Unsupported by the lagging militia and the warships, the Marines could only continue up the heights on their own, stopping occasionally to fire upward at the hidden British soldiers.

Despite the tough climb and enemy fire, the green-clad Marines reached the top and charged the British, who fired one last volley and fled. Marine Lieutenant William Downs said, "We drove the enemy from the ground which I think they might have kept till forever if they had chose to defend it." One of the last musket balls fired by the retreating British hit the intrepid Capt Welsh, killing him instantly. Eight Marines were wounded.

The militia, on the left, took time getting organized and then struggled up the shallow incline studded with boulders and covered in trees. Finally, they reached the top and joined the Marines. Unfortunately, General Lovell ordered the victorious militia and Marines to cease their attack and dig in. British commander General McLean said, "I only meant to give them one or two guns, so as not to be called a coward, and then have struck my colors."

A half-hearted attack by Saltonstall's vessels against the three British warships was easily repulsed. The Half Moon Battery on the southern side of Bagaduce provided cover for the British ships and it was decided to assault the small re-

Despite the tough climb and enemy fire, the green-clad Marines reached the top and charged the British, who fired one last volley and fled.

doubt. Militia and Marines would attack from their hilltop positions with Sailors and Marines from the ships landing next to the battery to join the assault.

At 2 a.m. on Aug. 1, the Marines and Sailors led the attack on the Half Moon Battery. The British opened fire in the darkness and the militia disappeared, running back toward their entrenchments. Marine Captain Thomas J. Carnes led the naval detachment into the Half Moon Battery and sent the small British force in a hasty retreat back to Fort George.

When daylight broke, the Americans found themselves closer to the enemy than to their own forces and under cannon fire from Fort George. Before the Marines and Sailors could set up defenses, a British sortie covered by artillery fire succeeded in penetrating their position. Carnes ordered the leathernecks and Sailors back to the American lines. Half Moon remained unoccupied for the remainder of the campaign. Lieutenant William Dennis of the Marines was one of the five men lost in the attack.

Most of the Marines were withdrawn to the ships

and remained aboard until the end of the expedition. The militia dug in above Fort George and Revere landed several cannon to support an attack on the fort or lay siege to the works. The cannon fired ineffectively at the fort while militia, Sailors and Marines waited for the generals and commodore to decide the next move.

Small efforts were made to move cannon closer to the fort but terrain and vegetation made it impossible to get into an advantageous position. The Commodore and General Lovell each refused to move until the other did. Lovell wanted the Navy to attack the British ships and bombard the fort before the next attack. Saltonstall wanted the militia to attack the fort before he went after the enemy ships. As the impasse lasted 10 days, morale sank and supplies dwindled.

Finally, on Aug. 11, it was agreed that another attack would be attempted. Saltonstall landed 120 Marines to lead the next assault but it was too late.

Out of the early morning fog on Aug. 12, one of the ships assigned to patrol the Atlantic entry to the bay brought news of a British fleet's approach. Six warships, including the *Raisonable* with 64 guns, were coming up the bay. Troops ashore were quickly loaded aboard transports and the American warships formed a crescent in front of the transports to await the British assault. The Marines could only watch as the naval disaster unfolded before them.

As the British ships approached the American line, Saltonstall and the captains of the ships decided it was best to flee farther into the bay instead of fighting the British. Several ships headed toward open sea but were captured or destroyed. The rest of the ships, warships and transports fled north and were destroyed piecemeal by the enemy or scuttled by their own crews. Every vessel, both Continental Navy and the ships from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, was destroyed or captured. It was the worst loss of shipping in American military history.

The Continental Marines had captured every objective assigned them during the expedition but now were ingloriously forced to find their way overland through the wilderness to Boston. It was a journey of more than 200 miles and many were lost and never returned. The militia and Sailors suffered through the same difficult journey to get back to their homes.

Massachusetts placed the blame on Generals Wadsworth and Lovell and Paul Revere. The government of Massachusetts exonerated the two militia officers but charged Revere with misconduct. He was acquitted by a court-martial in 1782. General Wadsworth and Marine Captain Carnes charged Saltonstall with cowardice and disobedience of orders. The Continental Navy found Saltonstall guilty of incompetence and dismissed him from the service.

Unfortunately for the leaders of the Penobscot Expedition, John Paul Jones was enjoying success on his raids against the British at this time and the comparison was too painful for some. Abigail Adams wrote, "Unhappy for us that we had not such a commander at the Penobscot expedition. We should not have been groaning under disgrace, disappointment and the heaviest debt incurred by



BRUCE COOPER



Above: A present-day view of Penobscot Bay from the Heights of Dyce's Head.

Left: British soldiers fled when faced with the fierce attack by the Marines on Nautilus Island. (Courtesy of the Charles H. Waterhouse estate and art collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps)

this State since the commencement of the war."

The Continental Marines' heroic and successful exploits were lost in the midst of the disgrace and disappointment of the Penobscot fiasco.

Author's bio: MSgt Jeff Dacus, USMCR (Ret), lives in Vancouver, Wash., where he teaches history to 8th-grade students. His 23 years as a Marine include a combat deployment during Operation Desert Storm as a tank platoon sergeant. 🇺🇸

Corps Connections

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

La Jolla, Calif.

Iwo Jima Veteran, Col Severance, to Celebrate 100th Birthday This Month

Colonel David E. Severance, USMC (Ret), who turns 100 on Feb. 4, was a 26-year-old mustang captain and company commander of "Easy" Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment when the 5th and 4th Marine Divisions landed on Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945. At the time, he had no idea of the fame that men from his company would attain for raising a flag on Mount Suribachi five days later.

When battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Chandler Johnson told Severance to send Marines up the mountain to reconnoiter it, he sent a 40-man patrol with Lieutenant Harold Schrier in charge, along with an American flag the colonel wanted raised, if possible. The patrol found a pole, fastened the flag to it, and raised it.

"That boosted our morale," Severance said. Then LtCol Johnson wanted a larger flag in its place and the first one brought down for the battalion. Easy Co runner Private First Class Rene Gagnon was taking radio batteries to Schrier and was given the second flag to take with him. The second flag is the one pictured in Joe Rosenthal's famous photo.

"We didn't think any more about it until later when they wanted



COURTESY OF RAY ELLIOTT

the men identified to take back for the bond tour," Severance said. He's been continually asked about the flag raising for the last 73 years, including responding to a large number of claims from men who say they were one of the flag raisers or were on the patrol.

"If everybody who said they were on the mountain then were there," he said years ago, "the whole mountain would have sunk into the ocean."

After enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1938, the colonel later received a commission, was a member of the 1st Parachute Battalion and fought on Bougainville. When the Paramarines were disbanded, he joined the newly formed 5th Marine Division and received the Silver Star on Iwo Jima.

He later became a Marine aviator and received the Distinguished Flying Cross in Korea, where he flew 60 missions.

"I don't know what I did to deserve those awards," he said at his La Jolla, Calif., home this summer where he lived with his wife, Barbara, since shortly after he retired from the Marine Corps in 1968. She passed away in 2017.

Asked if he ever thought he'd live to be 100, he said, "I never thought much about it." A small group of family and friends have planned a celebration to honor that milestone.

Submitted by Ray Elliott

Macomb, Ill.



COURTESY OF SCOTT HAINLINE

Leathernecks of 1/5 Maintain Strong Bond Through Annual Reunion

A large group of Marines who served with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment between 1986 and 1992 held their annual reunion in Macomb, Ill., Sept. 7-9, 2018. Among those in attendance were guest speaker Corporal Thomas Childs, who served with 1/5's Headquarters & Service Company in Vietnam, as well as 102-year-old World War II Marine veteran John Moon, who landed on Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945.

A unique location for a reunion, Macomb, Ill., is home to Western Illinois University's "Fighting Leathernecks," a mascot established in 1927 by athletic director Ray "Rock" Hanson, a Marine veteran who was awarded the Navy Cross at the Battle of Chateau-Thierry

during World War I and who later served during World War II.

This most recent reunion of 1/5 Marines included the reading of a proclamation by Representative Darin LaHood of Illinois' 18th Congressional District, referencing the battalion's participation in Operations Earnest Will and Prime Chance in the Persian Gulf in 1987 and 1988; the West Yellowstone, Mont., Wildfires in 1988; Operation Desert Shield in 1990 and Desert Storm in 1991. Additional letters of appreciation were received and read from Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and Lieutenant Colonel Eric Olson, the current 1/5 commander.

Submitted by Scott Hainline

Triangle, Va.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

Decades Later, Vietnam Marine Receives Silver Star

During a ceremony held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., on May 18, 2018, Raymond Kelley, a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, was presented with the Silver Star for valor in combat. The presentation of the award came 51 years to the day after then-Lance Corporal Kelley and his unit, Company D, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, were called to support another company that was pinned down by enemy fire. According to the award citation, Kelley maneuvered his machine-gun team to a high vantage point where they could provide observation and suppressive fire. His team sustained multiple casualties.

"Disregarding his own safety, Lance Corporal Kelley repeatedly placed himself in the open in order to assist the wounded Marines to the platoon command post where they could receive medical attention," according to his Silver Star citation. "He regained his fighting position, and ignoring his own wounds, murderously engaged the enemy until they broke contact."

While Kelley's Silver Star was approved in August 2017, he elected to wait until the anniversary of his actions to receive the award.

Submitted by Ray Kelley

Louisville, Ky.



JACK COONEY

Kentucky Marines Pause, Remember Victims of Beirut Bombing

In honor of the 35th anniversary of the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, patriotic citizens and the local Marine Corps community gathered at the Patriots Peace Memorial in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 23, 2018, to remember the 241 Americans who perished in the deadliest attack on U.S. Marines since the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. Among the fallen were seven Kentuckians, who had been enshrined previously at the Patriots Peace Memorial, as their deaths initially were classified as non-combat by the Department of Defense.

During a commemorative ceremony, Major General Richard A. Huck, USMC (Ret) delivered reflective remarks on the sacrifice of these young lives and their unrealized potential. Each Kentuckian

killed in the bombing was individually recognized with a bell-ringing tribute as was Colonel William R. "Rich" Higgins, USMC, also from Kentucky, who was killed by terrorists in Lebanon in 1988. His remains were recovered in 1988 and interred in Quantico National Cemetery.

Support for this ceremony was provided by the entire local Marine Corps community, including a color guard from "Echo" Company, 4th Tank Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky.; bell ringing tribute from Marine Corps League, Kentuckiana Detachment #729; Patriots Peace Memorial Committee; and the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Kentucky.

Submitted by Ed Armento

"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 email them to s.heck@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos. 🇺🇸

The Betio Bastards: A Legacy as Good as Any Other



SGT TIMOTHY TURNER, USMC

Cpl Austin B. Loppe, team leader, Lima Co, 3rd Bn, 2nd Marines, carries the organizational guidon during a promotion ceremony at Red Beach 1, Betio, Tarawa Atoll, Nov. 20, 2018. The ceremony was held at an original landing site for 3/2 during the Battle of Tarawa in 1943.

By Sgt Dyllan L. Royal, USMC

“I turned to the big red-headed Marine gunner who is standing beside me and say, ‘What a hell of a way to die!’ The gunner looks me in the eye and says, ‘You can’t pick a better way.’”

—Robert Sherrod, *Time Magazine War Correspondent, Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Nov. 21, 1943*

Journey to Betio Island

The sun rose above the Okinawan horizon on Nov. 18, 2018, bathing the drab gray airframe of a Marine Corps KC-130 with a bright golden hue as it lumbered down the runway at Kadena Air Base, picking up speed. In an instant, the Hercules floated effortlessly into the baby blue sky, turning southeast toward the Gilbert Islands. Onboard that morning were eight Marines from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division headed to Betio Island in the Tarawa Atoll.

The trip would commemorate the 75th anniversary of the World War II battle for the valuable island airfield and their unit’s pivotal role in securing victory against a tenacious and unrelenting enemy.

Compared to the usual mind-numbing discomfort of riding in a KC-130, it was borderline luxurious. Fewer than 30 passengers flew on the aircraft that day, allowing many to stretch out and take up two—or three if they were in the right spot—seats. I was one of the lucky people who scored an additional seat and took full advantage of it. The upcoming 12-hour plane ride with an overnight stopover in Guam was not the time to try to prove I was tougher than everyone else. I reclined across the second seat and the hum of the propellers slowly lulled me to sleep while I contemplated how my trip to Betio compared to the 1943 trip fellow noncommissioned officers (NCOs) from the battalion took to Betio.

After seven months spent recuperating

in Wellington, New Zealand, following the Guadalcanal campaign, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines received a warning order from 2ndMarDiv in August 1943 to prepare for a resisted amphibious assault in the Pacific, with no word regarding where or when it would take place. The following two months included a frenzy of preparation as the units in the Division hiked, practiced working with the limited numbers of amphibious tractors and landing boats available, and sharpened their marksmanship skills. In late October, orders came down to embark for a Division-wide rehearsal at nearby Hawke Bay.

On the morning of Nov. 1, 1943, as the ships left the port of Wellington, only few knew that they would not be returning. The rehearsal in Hawke Bay was a cover for the real destination of Betio. En route, the Division stopped to conduct two rehearsals at Efate in the New Hebrides island chain on Nov. 7 and 9 before heading for Betio on Nov. 13. Two days later, on Nov. 15, Rear Admiral Harry Hill, the amphibious task force commander, sent out the following message: “Give all hands the general picture of the projected operation and further details to all who should have this in execution of duties. This is the first American assault of a strongly defended atoll and with northern attack and covering forces, the largest Pacific operation to date.” It was the first time that the NCOs learned the name of the island they were going to assault five days later.

“Ryan’s Orphans”

After 19 days living on crowded troop transport ships, the battalion awoke to reveille at 2 a.m. on Nov. 20 and breakfasted on eggs, steak, potatoes and coffee prior to debarkation at 3:20 a.m. into Higgins boats and then later into amphibious tractors (LVTs). Nearly six hours and more than 7 kilometers later in the LVTs or Higgins boats, 3/2 would be the first assault unit to reach Red Beach 1, at 9:10 a.m. The first LVT, vehicle No. 49 and nicknamed “My Delores,” slammed into

I reclined across the second seat and the hum of the propellers slowly lulled me to sleep while I contemplated how my trip to Betio compared to the 1943 trip fellow noncommissioned officers from the battalion took to Betio.



USMC



USN

Above: An LVT-1 is lowered from a troop transport during landing rehearsals for the assault on Tarawa during World War II.

Right: An aerial view of Betio taken during a reconnaissance flight in the months leading up to the amphibious landing.



DONALD CRAIN

The first three assault waves in amphibious tractors (LVT-1s and LVT-2s) make their way toward Red Beaches 1, 2, and 3 during the invasion of Tarawa on Nov. 20, 1943.



SGT TIMOTHY TURNER, USMC

BGen Sean M. Salene, Assistant Wing Commander, 1st MAW, speaks at Red Beach 2 after a memorial ceremony in Betio, Nov. 20, 2018.

the seawall. “India” and Kilo Companies, coming ashore in the first three waves on LVTs able to cross the reef, would take 50 percent casualties in the first two hours as they fought to establish a beachhead. Lima Co, coming in the fourth wave on Higgins boats, ran aground on the reef 500 yards from the beach and sustained 35 percent casualties wading ashore. Major Mike Ryan, the commander of Co

As the ceremony started and speeches described the incredible courage and perseverance exhibited by young Marines and Sailors, the events from 75 years ago really hit me.

L, wading ashore as part of the fourth wave, prevented more casualties when he recognized the devastating kill zone created by Japanese gunners on Red Beach 1. He led his men out of the assigned lane to Green Beach and away from the fiercest fighting.

By 6 p.m. on D-day, Maj Ryan would find himself as the senior officer ashore from 3/2 in charge of a hodgepodge of personnel. Combined with the survivors from 3/2, the group included four rifle platoons from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines as well as 100 men from 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, all of whom had pushed west from their assigned beaches to avoid the withering crossfire from Red Beach 1, ending up with 3/2. That night, cut off from all other units on the other beaches, they consolidated along a front only 300 yards inland and 150 yards wide, anxiously waiting for a Japanese counterattack that never came. The next morning, “Ryan’s Orphans,” with the help of pinpoint preparatory naval gunfire, took the initiative and secured the entirety of Green Beach in an hour, allowing the Division to land 1st Bn, 6th Marines later that evening without enemy opposition. Nearing the

point of culmination, Ryan’s Orphans would hold their defensive position looking east along Green Beach on D+2, allowing 1st Battalion, 6th Marines to pass through their lines to continue the attack east. With a semblance of unit integrity regained on D+3, 3/2, in coordination with 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, would spend the morning reducing the last pockets of resistance on Red Beach 1. The island was declared secured at 1:30 p.m. by Major General Julian Smith, the Division commander.

75 Years Later

Late on the afternoon of Nov. 19, 2018, our detachment landed in the Republic of Kiribati. It was the first time since leaving on the morning of Nov. 24, 1943, that the battalion had returned to Betio. As we stepped off the KC-130, the salty smell of the ocean and a dense humidity engulfed us immediately, just as it must have done to 3/2 as they debarked offshore 75 years ago. Wary from traveling, the group went to our local lodging and retired for the evening in preparation for the anniversary the next day.

Early the next morning, we attended the official III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) ceremony being held at the 2ndMarDiv memorial just inland from Red Beach 2. Many locals attended, led by the president and vice president of Kiribati and top officials from the Kiribati Police Service. As the ceremony started and speeches described the incredible courage and perseverance exhibited by young Marines and Sailors, the events from 75 years ago really hit me. I could envision the well-entrenched and heavily guarded beach that included 13 mm machine guns and countless other anti-aircraft and shore defense guns. I could imagine Colonel David Shoup wading ashore and setting up his command post just yards from the waterline on Red Beach 2. I could visualize the gallantry of combat engineers First Lieutenant Alexander Bonnyman and Staff Sergeant William Bordelon as they reduced Japanese pillboxes with flamethrowers and demolitions. I could see Maj Mike Ryan leading 3/2 during its bold breakout attack to seize Green Beach on D+1.

As the III MEF ceremony ended, the 3/2 detachment went to Red Beach 1 for a small, intimate ceremony honoring the



SGT TIMOTHY TURNER, USMC

Capt Mateo Flores, CO, Lima Co, 3rd Bn, 2nd Marines, speaks during a commemoration ceremony at Red Beach 1, Betio, Tarawa Atoll, Nov. 20, 2018. The ceremony was held at one of the battalion’s original landing sites during the Battle of Tarawa in 1943.



SGT TIMOTHY TURNER, USMC

Above: Military personnel from Marine Corps Forces Pacific, participate in a memorial ceremony on Betio, Nov. 20, 2018. The ceremony, held on the 75th anniversary of the landings on Betio that initiated the Battle of Tarawa, marked the sacrifice of all who fought there.



USMC

Aerial photograph of the northwestern tip of Betio (the "bird's beak") taken from 1,400 feet at 1407 on D-day from an OS2U Kingfisher observation floatplane. A number of Marines from 3/2 were killed while crossing the sand spit in the extreme lower left corner in their LVTs.



SGT DYLLAN ROYAL, USMC

One of the four Japanese 8-inch Vickers antiship gun emplacements from the battle stands as a solemn reminder of the carnage along Betio's shores as it slowly corrodes into antiquity.

lineage of those who earned our unit moniker as the "Betio Bastards." Corporal Joel Patino held the national ensign and I held the battalion colors as Captain Mateo Flores, the current Co L commander, gave a short speech describing the significance of the ground on which we stood to past and present Betio Bastards around the world. At 9:10 p.m., we held a moment of silence to mark the moment that 3/2 landed on Red Beach 1 and then the band played our national anthem, the 2ndMarDiv song, "Follow Me" and "The Marines' Hymn." To complete the ceremony, Capt Flores promoted one of our own, Second Lieutenant Joseph Pohlman, to first lieutenant.

With our respects paid, we linked up with historical experts from History Flight, Inc. and toured the island. We visited the bunker at which 1stLt Bonnyman performed the actions that earned him

the Medal of Honor. We saw the infamous 8-inch Vickers guns that were thought for years to have been stolen from the British garrison in Singapore but were actually purchased legally by the Japanese. We toured various machine-gun bunkers and the imposing concrete command bunker from which Rear Admiral Shibasaki coordinated defense of the island prior to his death on the afternoon of D-day. Most remaining structures were very run-down and actually used by the locals. Others still had unexploded ordnance inside.

The tour lasted only two and a half hours because the island is so small. In some locations, a baseball could be thrown from one side to the other. The island is so narrow and flat that it was often possible to see from one side to the other. The island's high point peaks only 6 meters above sea level. The sweltering, tropical climate left us looking for relief during

even that short period and demonstrated a fraction of the challenges Marines and Sailors went through when coming ashore that morning and fighting in the hot, white sand with little water.

A Legacy as Good as Any Other

The next morning, as we sat on the tarmac of Bonriki International Airport waiting for the KC-130 to take off, I thought about the trip and the place Tarawa holds within the collective memory. It served as the first stop in the famous "island hopping" campaign. In the words of Fleet Admiral Nimitz himself, the battle "knocked down the front door to the Japanese defenses in the Central Pacific."

The lessons learned from the battle reshaped and improved the amphibious doctrine for preparatory fires, fires-maneuver integration during assaults, ship-to-shore movement vehicles, tank-infantry integration ashore and the centrality of high explosives and flame-throwers in reducing fortified positions. These lessons would prove crucial countless times in landings over the next 18 months at Kwajalein, Peleliu, Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and as evidence of their timelessness, are still taught to this day. Despite this, these lessons are commonly derided for being learned at too high of a cost, and the battle is remembered as a cautionary tale. The battle has been known as a mistake not to be repeated compared to the glory given to Iwo Jima and other World War II battles.

In the final analysis, however, success at Tarawa depended upon the discipline, courage and fighting ability of each individual Marine. Seldom has anyone been called upon to fight a battle under more experimental and difficult circumstances. Those Betio Bastard Marines proved the fundamental soundness of our amphibious assault doctrines and gave our nation's leaders confidence that even though it might take time, the job would get done. As a modern-day Betio Bastard, I take pride in the history—a legacy as good as any other.

Author's bio: Sgt Dyllan L. Royal serves as the Weapons Company police sergeant and assistant operations chief in 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment and deployed twice with unit as the Forward Deployed Battalion-East to Okinawa, Japan. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in May 2015 from Moultrie, Ga., and earned the primary MOS 0352 (antitank missile gunner). 🇺🇸

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Charting Their Own Courses:

For Marine Veteran Entrepreneurs, Service Lays the Framework for Success

By Sara W. Bock

Flexibility, perseverance, organization, responsibility, integrity and innovation—these traits, instilled by the Corps in all who earn the title “Marine,” are key to success not only in military service but also in entrepreneurial endeavors and business ownership.

Enterprising Marine veterans have grown good ideas into flourishing companies, including delivery service FedEx, pizza chain Little Caesars and internet domain registrar and web hosting service GoDaddy. And while not every Marine-owned small business becomes a household name, many are extremely successful and allow their proprietors to enjoy the numerous benefits of working for themselves after leaving active duty.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), veterans are more than 45 percent more likely to be self-employed than non-veterans. But that certainly doesn't mean that starting a small business is effortless, even for them.

“Veterans are more prone to self-employment and entrepreneurship than the rest of the population, but it's not easy—it's hard work,” said retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant Mark Williams, who manages the SBA's Boots to Business program, a training track within the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) taught by SBA personnel

and its resource partners. “A lot of the attributes you gain through your military service do come through, but it's not magic, it's not a sure thing ... but there are a lot of resources to help.”

Whether those resources come in the form of the multitude of free programs and services available to servicemembers and veterans—or through mentorships, partnerships or higher education degree programs—one thing is certain: The more tools they're equipped with, the more likely they are to succeed.

“We're striving to make sure that veterans who are transitioning or even already transitioned or looking for the next challenge, whether that's entrepreneurship or jobs or anything else, that they are informed consumers,” said Misty Stutsman, the director of entrepreneurship for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University, an interdisciplinary initiative that conducts research and provides programs, education and training to active-duty servicemembers, veterans and military spouses.

The following are just a few of the many relatively new small businesses owned by Marine veterans who turned dreams and business plans into reality. While their stories are different in many ways, they all continue to grow, learn and develop as they live out their version of the American Dream.

Popcorn Friday

Popcorn was the last thing on Master Sergeant Dan Schrubbs' mind as he prepared to retire from the Marine Corps.

The career combat cameraman had plans to start a real estate photography business in the Texas Hill Country, and while attending the Transition Assistance Program at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., he opted for the Boots to Business “Introduction to Entrepreneurship” track offered by the SBA. Schrubbs completed the two-day in-person course, which teaches fundamentals of business ownership and entrepreneurship, and then enrolled in an eight-week online follow-on course offered by IVMF.

Over the course of the two programs, Schrubbs wrote up a real estate photography business plan.

“In doing the business plan, I got frustrated because the margins were low, the time away from the family was

going to be considerable and the photography field is saturated,” Schrubbs said.

It was through the Boots to Business and IVMF courses that Schrubbs and his wife, Priscilla, came to a realization: Their plan was not going to work.

This is a common scenario, said Williams, who emphasized that the Boots to Business course is not designed to convince servicemembers to start their own businesses; rather, it's to give them the information they need to make an educated decision.

“We're there to say, ‘OK, if you want to go into business, this is the landscape, these are the regulations, these are some of the things you need to look out for,’ ” Williams added.

A chance encounter with fellow Marine veteran Jim Ford, owner of The Popcorn Bag in Fredericksburg, Va., set the Schrubbs on the path to



DAN and PRISCILLA SCHRUBB

**“Ask a lot of questions,
because it's a lot of hard work.
But if anyone can handle it,
it would be a Marine.”**

—Dan Schrubbs

COURTESY OF POPCORN FRIDAY

open Popcorn Friday, a specialty-flavor gourmet popcorn shop in the town of Spring Branch, Texas, just after Dan's retirement from the Corps in early 2015. After visiting Ford's shop, trying the popcorn and getting to know him, the Schrubbs and Ford ended up signing a unique business contract, which included his training and mentorship as well as a license to use his shop's dozens of popcorn flavors, which include white chocolate Oreo, red hot cinnamon, jalapeno ranch and sea salt caramel, under their own brand name.

When Priscilla Schrubb asked Ford why he encouraged them to start a popcorn shop and spent so much time helping them get started, his answer was simple: "You're a Marine family and we take care of each other."

Popcorn Friday has been a welcome addition to Spring Branch, a small, affluent suburb of San Antonio, but the early years haven't been without challenges. The Schrubbs didn't draw a paycheck for themselves during the first year, relying on Dan's military pension and their personal savings while reinvesting every dollar Popcorn Friday earned back into the business.

While the plan for the photography business he wrote up during his Boots to

30-day instructor-led online course, an all expenses paid nine-day residency at participating universities nationwide—Schrubb attended his at Texas A&M—and 12 months of post-program support and mentorship.

In 2018, Dan and Priscilla together attended another IVMF program, Veteran EDGE (Engage, Develop, Grow, Evaluate), a four-day conference and networking event; and Priscilla earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Brigham Young University-Idaho. The Boots to Business and IVMF programs that Dan has taken advantage of, she said, brought him up to a similar level of knowledge of business and entrepreneurship.

"I learned all of the things that he was learning at EBV in my entrepreneurial class," said Priscilla Schrubb. "So we could talk about these things, and we had the same vocabulary and knew what we were talking about. It was so beneficial."

Networking with other veteran entrepreneurs both nationwide and particularly within their local community, has proven to be key to their success thus far. Dan has regularly attended city council and town hall meetings to get involved in the community and recently was appointed to the city's zoning board of adjustments.

"I'm kind of integrated into this community and the network of people that I know in the community is growing," he said, adding that after leaving the Marine Corps, his business gives him a new purpose. "I feel like I'm an asset to the community as opposed to a liability."

Popcorn Friday has grown steadily at a rate of 6 to 7 percent each year. In 2016, their website began online sales and "The Texas Hill Country's Best Popcorn" is now available

for delivery nationwide.

When asked what advice they would give to Marines and their spouses considering starting a small business, Priscilla replied: "I think it's going to be harder than you think. It doesn't matter if you know it's going to be hard—it will be the hardest thing. But there's a lot of rewards, and you have to be patient for them."

"Ask a lot of questions, because it's a lot of hard work," said Dan of entrepreneurship. "But if anyone can handle it, it would be a Marine."



COURTESY OF POPCORN FRIDAY

Business course didn't pan out, Schrubb says that he easily was able to apply the fundamentals he learned during the course to their new endeavor.

After opening Popcorn Friday, Schrubb continued to take advantage of the resources available to him and to other veterans and as well as their spouses. He attended IVMF's Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV), a three-phase entrepreneurship program for veterans whose businesses are in "early growth mode." EBV is offered free of charge and includes a



COURTESY OF RANCH ROAD BOOTS

SARAH FORD

Ranch Road Boots

She has an MBA from Harvard Business School under her belt, but Marine veteran Sarah Ford insists that her four years as a Marine officer prepared her more for life as an entrepreneur than Harvard did. Not only did the Corps help her develop the qualities that she says are vital to being an entrepreneur, but being part of a network of Marine veterans in business has also proven invaluable.

"As far as a network, the Marine Corps 'alumni' network is just as valuable as the Harvard Business School alumni network," said Ford, who started Ranch Road Boots in 2012. "Not to knock my Harvard alum friends, but it is just to elevate the point that the Marine Corps alumnus are very successful and really care about each other," she added.

What began as an online custom boot-making business has evolved into a ready-to-wear collection of luxury boots—western, non-western and military combat boot inspired—handcrafted in Spain from high-quality leather and available for purchase through the Ranch Road Boots website. Ford recently hired the former vice president of well-known leather boot manufacturer The Frye Company to assist her as she transitions the business to wholesale this fall, which will transform her inventory and bring her boots to high-end department stores and boot retailers both in store and online.

Now married to an active-duty Ma-

rine stationed at Marine Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Ford is in a unique position to understand the drive many veterans have to start their own businesses, as well as a military spouse's desire to have a portable career.

Twice deployed to Iraq as a logistics officer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ford was unexpectedly recalled from the inactive reserve and deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 just after graduating from Harvard Business School.

"Right when I got out of Harvard, I was back on the rifle range at Camp Lejeune," Ford recounted with a laugh.

After returning from that deployment, she worked in the business sector for several years before she came up with the idea to start a custom cowboy boot business. The self-described "entrepreneur type," who was raised in a small town in west Texas, grew up with an appreciation for good boots because her grandfather was a cowboy. Ford fell in love with the idea of custom boots when she designed a pair for herself and enjoyed the entire process.

She leaned on advice from a Harvard classmate who encouraged her to focus less on business plans and paperwork and more on making things happen.

"Just try to sell 50 pairs of boots," her friend said. "You can sit there all day behind spreadsheets pretending this is how much money we're going to make in the future, but getting your first customers is the most important thing."

Ford now gives the same advice to other aspiring entrepreneurs.

"I would focus on getting revenue as quickly as you can and figuring out how you're going to get your first customers. You'll know if somebody's going to buy what you're going to sell," she said.

In 2015, she began to sell a ready-to-wear collection rather than custom-made boots after a former owner of The Frye Company, Stan Kravetz, called her and said, "I like your story, I like what you're doing—I think you should do ready-to-wear."

Kravetz helped Ford find a manufacturer during a shoe show in Las Vegas, when he encouraged her to talk to representatives from a factory in Spain.

His phone call came after one of the numerous times over the course of her business when she strongly considered quitting.

"I think when you're in the fog of your business, you need to have a lot of perseverance. Sometimes success is that

**"You don't have to get out
and immediately start your
business. You can start
working for somebody else."**

—Sarah Ford

you're still just standing—that you're still a business," said Ford. "You just need to keep going and keep trying, and don't quit, because what seems like a rocky start or a slow start ... things can happen overnight."

And while she went the business school route and believes that for her it was worth every penny, Ford insists that veterans do not need a degree in business to successfully start one. She encourages them to take advantage of resources like those offered by SBA, as well as to plan prior to their end of active service (EAS) date, stockpile as many funds as possible and have minimal to no debt.

"The other thing is you don't have to get out and immediately start your business. You can start working for somebody else," said Ford. "You may have to have two jobs—one is your own



COURTESY OF RANCH ROAD BOOTS

business and one is paying your bills in the short term."

Ford is working on growing a small program that provides Ranch Road Boots to veteran amputees free of charge, with aftermarket modifications that allow the boots to easily fit prosthetic feet. She also donates a portion of the proceeds from every Ranch Road Boots purchase to Semper Fi Fund, which provides financial assistance and lifetime support to wounded, ill and injured servicemembers and their families, and she's proud to operate a business that stays true to her Marine Corps roots.



COURTESY OF LTCOL TY MOORE, USMC

TY MOORE

Black Ops Grooming

Starting a small business wasn't something that Lieutenant Colonel Ty Moore ever planned on—let alone becoming an entrepreneur while still on active duty. The mustang infantry officer, who has deployed to combat zones numerous times, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1995 after losing a bet with his college roommate, and is currently serving as a military planner with U.S. Alaskan Command.

Moore, who plans to retire from the Corps in 2020, is the founder and part-owner of Black Ops Grooming, or

"BOG," a high-end line of tactically-inspired shaving goods—pre-shave oils, shaving creams, shaving soaps, aftershaves and razors—designed primarily to appeal to current servicemembers and veterans.



JORDAN HALLAND

“If you can find a partner,
someone who’s going to
walk through that with you,
then they’re going to
have more at stake than
just giving you advice.”

—Ty Moore



JORDAN HALLAND

LtCol Ty Moore and his son, Nate, stand on the beach in Hawaii in 2017. After Nate sustained traumatic injuries requiring several surgeries on his face, both father and son found healing in an unlikely activity: shaving.

“In the Marine Corps you kind of go from one assignment to the next. When I think about the future and I’m a platoon commander, I’m thinking about becoming a company commander. When I’m a company commander, I’m thinking about becoming a battalion commander,” said Moore. “But what happened was I had kind of this significant disruption in my life, and to be perfectly honest, to my career also. I kind of had to start thinking, ‘What’s next if not the Marine Corps?’ So that’s kind of where this all started.”

It was after his family faced a series of difficulties while stationed in Hawaii—a cancer diagnosis for his wife,

Jennifer; a near-fatal accident that left his 7-year-old son, Nate, in need of facial reconstruction; and the realization that he himself was dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to his son’s trauma—that the father of three began to formulate a business plan. And it was all because the simple act of shaving had become his way of “grounding” himself to deal with the symptoms of PTSD.

“When I felt the need to break away, I would shave my face,” Moore said during a short documentary, “Shaving for Beginners,” directed by Jordan Halland, which features the Moore family’s story.

When he realized that shaving helped him overcome the feelings of helplessness he battled, he taught his young son to shave with a safety razor. It was, he said, how Nate learned to look at himself in the mirror again.

“Watching Nate get his confidence back gave me mine back, and this became something that was important to me,” Moore said during the film. “I want to provide that same feeling that I got with my son to everybody else. I want a mechanism to give back.”

That desire manifested itself in the form of Black Ops Grooming, which launched in January 2017, and which Moore says wouldn’t have been possible without the help of a few civilian partners who, veterans themselves, had both entrepreneurial and business experience and helped him navigate through the processes and procedures that go along with owning a business.

“A mentor is good too,” said Moore, “But if you can find a partner, someone who’s going to walk through that with you, then they’re going to have more at stake than just giving you advice.”

Relying on the knowledge and expertise of his civilian partners eliminated much of the intimidation from the equation, said Moore.

“If you were a businessman and you went to war, you would want a combat vet to help you navigate that environment. And this is just the opposite. We don’t know how to be an entrepreneur. As smart and as good as we are as military members, this is something that we haven’t done yet,” he added.

Even though he wasn’t yet preparing to leave the Corps when he started Black Ops Grooming, Moore participated in the Boots to Business program, which many servicemembers don’t realize they are eligible to attend at any point, not just during a transition period—and their spouses as well.

“It’s never too early to start thinking

Entrepreneurship Resources For Servicemembers, Veterans and Military Spouses

Have a great idea but not sure where to start? The following are a few of the many resources available:

Boots to Business—

Run by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the entrepreneurship training track is available on military installations worldwide to servicemembers and their spouses, with priority given to those transitioning from active duty. Visit <https://sbavets.force.com> for more information or visit the transition office on your installation to register.

Boots to Business Reboot—

Identical to the Boots to Business program offered on military bases and stations, Reboot is held in local communities, allowing access to veterans from all eras. Visit <https://sbavets.force.com> to view a list of upcoming courses, and then create an account to join and request a desired date.

Institute for Veterans and Military Families—

Run by Syracuse University, the institute, which developed the Boots to Business curriculum, delivers a number of follow-on courses, programs and conferences including Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV) and EBV Accelerate, Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE) and Veteran EDGE. An enrollment

about it. You need an unbelievable amount of resources to execute it, and it’s never too early to get started ... to reach out to resources and get moving” said B2B program manager Mark Williams, speaking to servicemembers still on active duty who are interested in starting a business that they can continue to grow after transitioning to civilian life. “It’s free and you serve your country—you deserve it. However early you want to start, SBA



A group of female entrepreneurs gather at a V-WISE event in San Diego. A cooperative program of the IVMF and SBA, V-WISE is specifically focused on women and offers training in entrepreneurship and small business management to veterans, active-duty servicemembers and military spouses.



EBV attendees gain expertise from an instructor during the nine-day residency phase of the program. During this phase, students learn from more than 30 accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship educators.

team stands ready to talk to interested veterans to help determine which program or programs works best for their situation. Visit <https://ivmf.syracuse.edu> for more information.

Veterans Business Outreach Centers—A program of the SBA, 22 organizations nationwide serve as

VBOCs, providing business training, counseling and analysis to transitioning servicemembers, veterans and military spouses who are either starting or looking to grow a small business. For a list of the centers and their contact information, visit <https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/vboc>.



Veteran small-business owners participate in the residential portion of the EBV program, sponsored by IVMF, which includes more than 80 hours of instruction.

SCORE—A resource partner of the SBA, SCORE provides free mentoring and small business education offered by a network of volunteers. To be paired with a mentor or find a SCORE location, visit www.score.org.

and our team is ready to help you.”

Moore hopes to run Black Ops Grooming full time after he retires in 2020 and is excited by the idea of doing something different after a quarter of a century of military service.

His guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs is simple, and it’s something he reminds himself of often: “Never take advice from somebody you don’t want to switch places with.”

The Way Forward

Whether you’re in the transition period from active duty, are still on active duty or left the Corps some time ago, it’s never too early—or too late—to explore the idea of entrepreneurship. The free resources available to you, combined with the skills and qualities developed during military service, are an invaluable benefit. Organizations like IVMF are constantly changing their programs based on current research and evaluation so that veterans are equipped to meet challenges and barriers head-on.

“It’s data-driven—veterans make better entrepreneurs, frankly. They out-earn their counterparts, they grow at a higher rate,” said Stutsman, adding of IVMF: “We want to make sure we partner with you as you go forward.” 🐾

SgtMaj Bradley A. Kasal is Leadership Personified

By Cpl Jose Gallardo, USMC

Editor's note: The following article received an honorable mention in the 2018 Leatherneck Magazine Writing Contest. Major Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines, through the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.

In the Marine Corps, we are surrounded by many different types of leaders. Some of our leaders are enlisted noncommissioned officers who are placed in positions as mentors or noncommissioned officers in charge. The Marine Corps also has leaders who are commissioned officers such as lieutenants, captains, and so forth. The Marine Corps has identified several leadership traits for leaders to follow including endurance,



SgtMaj Bradley A. Kasal, USMC

CPL JACOB FARBO, USMC

initiative, dependability, enthusiasm, tact and courage.

Dr. Deepak Chopra explained that a leader must be "the symbolic soul of the group. His role is to fulfill the needs of others and, when each need is met, to lead the group on to fulfill ever higher needs lifting the group's potential at every step." Sergeant Major Brad Kasal is a Marine Corps leader who has demonstrated the aforementioned leadership traits that have made him a successful leader in the Marine Corps.

To illustrate, the first leadership trait that SgtMaj Kasal employed is endurance. Endurance is defined by the Marine Corps as "the mental and physical stamina that is measured by your ability to withstand pain, fatigue, stress, and hardship." In his autobiography, "My Men Are My Heroes: The Brad Kasal Story," co-written by



CPL JACOB FARBO, USMC

SgtMaj Bradley A. Kasal, the outgoing I MEF sergeant major, salutes while the national anthem is played during a relief and appointment ceremony at Camp Pendleton, May 18, 2018. Kasal was the I MEF sergeant major during the last three years of his 34-year career in the Marine Corps.

Nathaniel R. Helms, Kasal wrote that he “would go on missions with Marines. He was on the run 24 hours a day, living on 20-minute catnaps. He consistently went without rest, so he could be with his Marines.” Kasal wrote, “Sometimes we would get four or five hours of sleep. I learned to adapt. Marines learn to adapt to anything.” SgtMaj Kasal put himself in the boots of his Marines. He demonstrated the same endurance his Marines had to develop in order to make the mission objective achievable. They went without sleep at times and learned to perform mentally and physically despite the challenging circumstances.

SgtMaj Kasal showed initiative. Initiative is taking action without orders. It means meeting new and unexpected situations with prompt action. Kasal had to take initiative in the streets of Nasiriyah, Iraq, with his Marines. “What we did was clear houses, city blocks, everything. I ran from position to position directing fire, helping Marines, inspiring Marines. It was the first time any of my Marines had been in combat.”

No one directed SgtMaj Kasal to go with his Marines on foot to clear out buildings. He took the initiative to lead his Marines the way he believed was best to keep all of his Marines alive and to accomplish the mission. This type of initiative allowed for his first-time combat Marines to trust their leader with their lives.

The third leadership trait that was exhibited by SgtMaj Kasal is dependability. The Marine Corps explains dependability to be, “reliable upon performing the duties you are appointed. It is consistently putting forth your best effort in an attempt to achieve the highest standards of performance.”

With regard to this, Kasal and Helms wrote, “Your men are a direct reflection of you. What they know is what you taught them. If they are out of shape, you allowed it. If you don’t know them, you’ve failed. And their confidence and pride comes from you, the leader setting the example by your actions.” In other words, SgtMaj Kasal constantly put forth his best effort to ensure his Marines performed at the highest standard. He believed that if his Marines failed, then he had failed as their leader. His Marines depended on him for guidance in every aspect. He believed that if he did not improve himself as a leader, then the Marines serving under him would not be able to depend on him for guidance.

Another notable leadership trait that was emphasized by SgtMaj Kasal is enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is the sincere interest and exuberance in the performance of duties and corresponds with cheerfulness

The President of the United States
Takes Pleasure in Presenting The Navy Cross To
BRADLEY A. KASAL
FIRST SERGEANT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
For Services as Set Forth in the Following Citation:



For extraordinary heroism while serving as First Sergeant, Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM on 13 November 2004. First Sergeant Kasal was assisting 1st Section, Combined Anti-Armor Platoon as they provided a traveling over watch for 3d Platoon when he heard a large volume of fire erupt to his immediate front, shortly followed by Marines rapidly exiting a structure. When First Sergeant Kasal learned that Marines were pinned down inside the house by an unknown number of enemy personnel, he joined a squad making entry to clear the structure and rescue the Marines inside. He made entry into the first room, immediately encountering and eliminating an enemy insurgent, as he spotted a wounded Marine in the next room. While moving towards the wounded Marine, First Sergeant Kasal and another Marine came under heavy rifle fire from an elevated enemy firing position and were both severely wounded in the legs, immobilizing them. When insurgents threw grenades in an attempt to eliminate the wounded Marines, he rolled on top of his fellow Marine and absorbed the shrapnel with his own body. When First Sergeant Kasal was offered medical attention and extraction, he refused until the other Marines were given medical attention. Although severely wounded himself, he shouted encouragement to his fellow Marines as they continued to clear the structure. By his bold leadership, wise judgment, and complete dedication to duty, First Sergeant Kasal reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

and a willingness to accept challenges. Kasal and Helms illustrate how SgtMaj Kasal demonstrated enthusiasm to his Infantry Training Battalion West students during their 15K hike. “The last mile or two is when the privates start dropping out. They can’t take it anymore. So, as they were walking by, I would run the full obstacle course and then climb the rope to motivate the privates and show them that ‘Hey, this ain’t that hard. You can make it.’”

Having personally experienced the challenging terrain of the mountains on the West Coast, I can say that the 15k hike feels like it will never end when you are approaching the finish. The enthusiasm of an instructor performing a difficult obstacle after nearly finishing such a challenging hike would spark that last piece of motivation Marines need to finish. SgtMaj Kasal was fueled with enthusiasm

whether in combat or while serving as an Infantry Training Battalion instructor and undoubtedly motivated and inspired his Marines and students.

Tact is a leadership trait many junior Marines and at times, even senior Marines, fail to perfect, yet it is a powerful trait to have. Tact is explained as, “being able to deal with people in a manner that will maintain good relations and avoid problems. It means that you are polite, calm, and firm.”

Concerning tact, Kasal and Helms identified how SgtMaj Kasal used tact to calm his Marines before they went into battle. “Kasal never tried to diminish his young Marines’ fears about the upcoming fight with bullshit. He told them that good Marines are prepared Marines. Their training was the best weapon they had. He made sure they understood it.”

SgtMaj Kasal had to keep calm and



SGT LAURA GAUNA, USMC

SgtMaj Bradley A. Kasal, sergeant major of I MEF, speaks to Marines with the 1st Marine Logistic Group G-6 section at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 19, 2016.

firm when his young Marines expressed fears of their upcoming battle. If he could not instill calmness in them before facing battle, it could have resulted in the death of many Marines. Marines need to have a leader who will remain tactful in the most stressful and intense circumstances. The leader has to be able to communicate when the circumstances intensify when facing combat situations.

Kasal was able to be tactful and keep his Marines calm. This allowed them to understand that it was okay to be nervous but that their training would guide them to stay alive.

Lastly, courage is a leadership trait that

as Marines, we have been taught since the day we stepped on the yellow footprints. Courage is explained as, "the ability to remain calm while recognizing fear. Moral courage means having the inner strength to stand up for what is right and to accept blame when something is your fault. Physical courage means that you can continue to function effectively when there is physical danger present."

On the subject of courage, Kasal and Helms explained how SgtMaj Kasal had the courage to run into a house that was full of enemies to rescue three wounded Marines while still under enemy fire including automatic weapons and grenades. "The first thing that

came across my mind was getting to those three wounded Marines as quickly as possible. I was particularly concerned they would be captured and later tortured or beheaded. So, I grabbed a near by Marine and directed him to provide security while I headed directly for the house."

Without hesitation, SgtMaj Kasal ran toward the sound of the enemy. He had the physical courage to effectively perform and save the lives of his injured Marines. He did not second-guess his actions because he knew that was the right thing to do as their leader. He did not tell another Marine to run inside that house to save those wounded Marines—he had the courage to do it himself. He was more concerned about his Marines getting captured than getting captured himself. He was more concerned with his Marines' survival than his own. SgtMaj Kasal is the perfect example of courage.

Overall, SgtMaj Kasal is an outstanding Marine Corps leader who effectively lives day in and day out with the Marine Corps leadership traits of endurance, initiative, dependability, enthusiasm, tact and courage. As a Marine who is still developing as a leader, I want to serve under leaders who are able to lead by example, listen when subordinates have something to say and take time to know the Marines under their command. SgtMaj Kasal is exactly this type of leader. There is no doubt in my mind that I would trust any decision SgtMaj Kasal made if my life depended on it.

Author's bio: Cpl Jose Gallardo currently is assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26-Aviation Supply at MCAS New River, N.C. He has a bachelor's degree in communication studies.



SGT LUIS R. AGOSTINI, USMC

During a ceremony at Camp Pendleton on May 1, 2006, SgtMaj Bradley A. Kasal, right, received the Navy Cross, was promoted and reenlisted.



DOD

Anna Sherony, one of the founders of Wounded Heroes Foundation Inc., visited with 1stSgt Bradley A. Kasal at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Jan. 1, 2005. Kasal was wounded in Fallujah, Iraq, in November 2004.

Now is the Time to Develop Future FMF Medical Leaders

By CAPT Sean M. Hussey, USN

“Doc.” It is a term of endearment bestowed by Marines upon their Navy medical officers and corpsmen. Over the course of my career, I have had the privilege to be the doc for half a dozen Marine Corps units, and like many of my Navy medical colleagues who have served on the “green side,” I consider it one of my highest professional honors.

The relationship between the Marines and their docs is rooted in mutual respect and a deep trust, knowing that lives depend on the ability of each to protect and care for the other. The expectations and scope of responsibility encountered by a young doc serving with Marines are unique for a junior physician. The experience often leaves a lasting positive impact which results in those medical officers returning to the Fleet Marine Force (FMF) throughout their military careers. It is imperative that Navy medicine, out of respect for and in full support of the Marine Corps mission, selects the best and brightest to serve at the tip of the spear and prepares them for a career centered on the educational foundations of both the medical profession and the profession of arms.

Being a successful medical leader within the Marine Corps enterprise, particularly at the senior staff or executive level, requires a comprehensive knowledge of service processes, refined interpersonal communication skills, and an understanding and appreciation of the Corps’ warrior ethos. FMF medical officers must be adept at these skills, which are not commonly rehearsed, or even addressed, during the traditional, hospital-based clinical training. Mastery of these traits, however, will result in more successes during a Marine Corps tour than a simple understanding of clinical management concepts.

Medical officers spend years learning about anatomy, physiology and pathology in medical school and residency, but have far less training in basic leadership fundamentals such as emotional intelligence, conflict resolution and operational risk management communication. They have even less training in the concepts of warfighting or Marine Corps history. The



CAPT SEAN M. HUSSEY, USN

Navy medical personnel assigned to the SPMAGTF-CR-CC, along with Air Force personnel, receive a brief on air evacuation procedures from a U.S. Army DUSTOFF team during a training exercise aboard Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, in July 2015.

Uniformed Services University (USU) is one of the few medical schools in the nation that provides its medical students with a longitudinal leadership course that focuses on leadership development and exposes trainees to staff level interaction with senior uniformed line officers. While this is excellent, the number of USU medical students who graduate represents less than a quarter of the total number of physicians in the force.

Moving Forward

There is currently no dedicated operational track within Navy medicine that prepares medical officers who wish to spend the majority of their career supporting the Marine Corps. I propose that

the Marine Corps, with its distinctive mission and unique culture, should require one. Navy medicine should no longer solely use Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) as the centerpiece for officer development. Rather, it must look to operational medicine as a training platform to prepare leaders for the future battlefield and dedicate resources to focus on the development of highly skilled FMF medical officers.

The Corps provides fertile ground for growing the medical leaders of tomorrow’s Navy. By the nature of its organizational structure, the FMF requires a cadre of junior medical officers, fresh from internship or residency, to embed within the battalions and squadrons as general

medical officers, flight surgeons, or diving medical officers and go forward with a unit to serve as primary care providers. This amazing opportunity is often the first introduction the medical officer has to the FMF and should serve as the main entry portal into the operational FMF career track. Additionally, the Marine Corps needs senior Navy medical officers to support line commanders as their operational medical consultants as well as serve as mentors to junior FMF medical officers. These staff officers must understand Marine Corps functionality, offer experience, and possess sufficient training to thrive in it in order to be effective.

Marine leadership expects these officers to possess the analytical skills and critical thinking ability to rapidly adapt to changing environments within the Marine air-ground task force and provide the necessary information to help them assess risk. In this setting, clinical or healthcare business acumen, although beneficial, are not the traits the commanding officer prioritizes. Commanding officers require competent military staff officers who appreciate the operational context and can speak the Corps' language. In order to create these highly functioning senior FMF medical leaders to serve ultimately at the Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Forces Command, and Headquarters

Marine Corps-Health Services (HQMC (HS)) level, Navy medicine must take a new and progressive approach in their development.

Navy medicine is currently going through a period of tremendous change. Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison III, USN, the current Navy Surgeon General has stated, "The world in which we operate is constantly changing. Our success depends on how well we adapt to those changes." The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 has reassigned the administration and management of health-care delivery at MTFs from the services to the Defense Health Agency (DHA), while maintaining military health readiness requirements and the man/train/equip mission at the service level. This paradigm shift creates a unique window of opportunity for the Navy to redesign how it manages executive talent, adding as a priority to its operational readiness mission the development of FMF leaders.

Professional Track

This dedicated and organized operational FMF Track within Navy Medicine is designed to best accomplish the goal of creating experienced and proficient senior medical staff officers and leaders on a continual basis to help support the Marine Corps on the 21st-century battle-

field. It establishes the institutional expectation that future leaders of the Navy-Marine Corps medical team will engage in this career-long educational program. The Office of the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps (TMO) should function as the talent management office to track these individuals, provide professional development and educational objectives, and advise them on career progression. In order for the track to accomplish its objective, there must be enterprise-wide awareness and acceptance from both senior Navy medical and Marine Corps line leadership.

Individuals with a proclivity for the FMF should be identified early in their professional careers during their clinical specialty utilization tour at an MTF. This should occur after these individuals have spent at least one successful tour as an FMF medical officer and ideally after they have earned their Fleet Marine Force Warfare Officer designator (Additional Qualification Designator of BX2). Once their clinical utilization tour is complete, the officer should return to an assignment with the Marine Corps, either as staff at a medical battalion, as a regimental/group surgeon, or as a staff officer within any of the multiple Headquarters Marine Corps entities that employ medical professionals. These options would allow the officer to



SPMAGTF-CR-CC surgeon speaks with a member of the medical team during a simulated mass casualty drill that took place at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base in Kuwait, July 2015.

integrate into the Corps' unit culture as a junior field grade officer and begin establishing a green-side Navy identity. During this time it is recommended that the individual should begin working toward their Phase I Joint Professional Military Education (JPME I) through non-resident distance education at one of the intermediate service colleges (Army, Navy or Air War College). This course of study would broaden the medical officer's perspective on the operational aspects of warfighting and expose them to the benefits of collaborating in a joint environment. JPME I would represent for most the initial course of study on the profession of arms and serve as a requisite to expose them to the operational and analytical thought processes of the warfighters with whom they will be working alongside for the remainder of their military career.

The following two stops on the career track are chronologically interchangeable and should consist of tours at a Navy or Joint MTF in a leadership or executive position, such as department head or director, and resident education at a senior top-level school (TLS) that fulfills the JPME Phase II requirement. Although JPME Phase II education may be completed at any senior level service school, including the National Defense University, the Marine Corps War College (MCWAR) would be recommended as it provides a unique Marine Corps perspective on preparing senior officers for decision making during military operations in a joint and multinational environment. The TLS candidate must have achieved the rank of commander and have the requisite green side experience outlined above to be recommended by the TMO and considered by the service and TLS selection board. There are a multitude of alternatives to the Phase II JPME requirement, including military and federal fellowships as well as Department of Defense staff positions that would offer equivalent opportunities for the officer to broaden their experience and challenge their ability to think critically from a non-medical perspective.

Once the rank of Navy captain is achieved, the track should steer the officer to command. While doing back-to-back tours as an executive officer and commanding officer of an MTF is a viable option that certainly offers benefit to anyone seeking to refine leadership skills, MTF command should not be viewed as the sine qua non to continued advancement. I certainly would not refute that a shore-based hospital or clinic-based command adds diversity to the leadership experience,



CAPT SEAN M. HUSSEY, USN

During a mass casualty training exercise at Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base in 2015, U.S. Navy medical personnel with SPMAGTF-CR-CC triage and treat a U.S. Marine "casualty."

especially if held at a joint facility, but less traditional commands such as those in the operational realm (medical battalion, field medical training battalion, Navy Medicine Operational Training Center), in the sea-based hospital setting (USNS *Mercy*, USNS *Comfort*), or in the research arena (Naval Health Research Center, Naval Medical Research Unit) offer equivalent value in skills development to a future Marine Corps senior medical executive. Once a command tour is completed, there are several post-command milestone billets to be filled at the most senior level of the Navy-Marine Corps medical team. These would include senior staff positions within Headquarters Marine Corps, and force surgeon billets with the MEFs, their major subordinate commands and MARFORs. Completion of a Navy medical shore-based command tour before returning to a senior operational Marine Corps staff billet would be advantageous. Although this would be the ideal scenario, as it aligns with the career pathway followed by the majority of Marine Corps senior line leaders who are assigned post-command as senior staff officers, the reality is that these senior staff positions could also be held by Navy captains prior to assuming command.

The FMF medical officers have never had a codified career pathway to follow

that would improve their chances for success in reaching the highest levels of Navy-Marine Corps medicine. This is an attempt to outline a prospective path for future Navy medical leaders within the Marine Corps. It parallels in many ways the same track that Marine Corps line officers follow (with the noticeable exception of commanding at the O-5 level as Marine officers do) and would prepare them for a career spent working with Marines. With the future battlefield changing, the role of the Marine Corps on that battlefield increasing, and the state of service-level garrison medicine in flux, the climate is ideal to relook at how we identify and develop our next generation of senior FMF medical professionals. To the Marines' doc, there is nothing more gratifying than caring for brothers and sisters in the Corps. Now, let's give them the guidance and structure required to spend a successful career doing just that.

Author's bio: CAPT Hussey currently serves as the Brigade Commander at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. He has previously served with the Marine Corps as the IMEF Surgeon, 1st MLG Surgeon, and as the Force Surgeon for the SPMAGTF-Crisis Response-Central Command. 🦋

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

A Rose for Any Other Name

In February 1968, I was wounded at Khe Sanh and medevaced to the 106th General Hospital in Yokohama, Japan.

I was the only Marine officer in a ward that was occupied by approximately 19 Army officers. Naturally, a lot of “trash talking” took place back and forth, with me clearly being at a numerical but not verbal disadvantage.

One day an Army nurse came in with an armful of roses, obviously for one of the patients in the ward. Since my rack was near the hatch I saw her immediately and proceeded to loudly berate whomever the poor Army sucker was who was getting roses.

Unfortunately, she announced my name as the recipient of said roses (they were from my wife). Definitely a day comparable to any verbal abuse I took from my drill instructors at Parris Island.

Capt Anthony R. Shaw Jr.
USMC (Ret)
Bradenton, Fla.

Shipboard Showers— The Marine Corps Way

This story occurred in the summer of 1960 while I was embarked in USS *Traverse County* (LST-1160) as the artillery component of Battalion Landing Team 1/8 in the Mediterranean. An Ontos platoon and a detachment of Seabees also were embarked.

The LST was filled to capacity with 395 officers and men in addition to the ship’s company. I was serving as the commanding officer of Battery H, 3rd Battalion,

10th Marine Regiment with the additional duty of commander of troops.

Besides the lack of air conditioning, the inherent problem with the ship was its inability to consistently produce enough fresh water for the ship’s company and embarked troops. As a result, relations between the Navy and Marine Corps leaders on board were oftentimes contentious. Therein lies the story.

As commander of troops, each evening I attended the ship’s executive officer’s meeting with the ship’s department heads. Invariably, the report was made that the ship was having difficulty maintaining an adequate supply of fresh water. The

**Upon reaching
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water on the ship!”**

reason given was that the embarked Marines were not adhering to proper procedures for taking a shower aboard ship. In defense of the troops, I steadfastly denied the charge. I stated that we had diligently instructed them in that regard back at

Camp Lejeune as part of our pre-embarkation training. Further, I advised that strict orders had been issued concerning this matter and I added that when a Marine received an order, he complied with it.

After a few days of quarrelsome dialogue, the ship’s captain confronted me and said, “Captain Como, starting tomorrow morning there will be saltwater showers. Pass the word to your troops.”

My immediate response was, “Does this apply to the whole ship or just the Marine side?”

He replied, “It applies to the whole ship. After all, we are shipmates.”

Whereupon I said, “I asked you that because that will be the first question my first sergeant will put to me when I give him the word.”

True to my prediction the first sergeant posed the question. After hearing what the ship’s captain said, the first sergeant replied, “Aye Aye, Sir, I’ll take care of it.”

The following afternoon the ship’s IMC blared out, “Captain Como, come up to the bridge immediately!” Upon reaching the bridge I was confronted by an enraged ship’s captain waving his arms wildly and shouting, “You damned Marines have finally done it! We don’t have a drop of fresh water on the ship!” My response was, “How can that be, Captain? We went on saltwater showers this morning.” He blurted out, “That first sergeant of yours marched a platoon of bare-assed Marines through the showers on the Navy side of the ship!”

At that moment, I had a difficult time maintaining my composure but shortly thereafter I managed a broad smile. Suffice to say Navy/

Marine relations improved significantly from that day forward.

LtCol Joseph A. Como
USMC (Ret)
1951 to 1974
Greenwood, S.C.

Unleash the Hounds

The year was 1972. I was getting ready to retire in a few weeks when one of my younger military police (MP) got word that a gang from Barstow, Calif., was coming aboard the base during a fundraising carnival for the purpose of disturbing the carnival and causing problems. It was a Saturday evening and most of my MPs were on liberty, so I had a bare minimum staff on the road.

I sat down with one of my staff noncommissioned officers who served with me in Vietnam before we were reassigned from the infantry to the military police MOS, and asked him if he had any suggestions. He suggested recalling the Marines on liberty back to the base. I didn’t want to recall anyone because we were already short-handed and the guys were working 12-hour shifts.

I decided to ask the local animal pound if they had a few German shepherds we could borrow for the evening. They said yes and even had muzzles and leads for them. I had four MPs on patrol at the carnival as working dog handlers. Luckily, we had no problems, although one of my MPs recognized several kids who were suspected gang members. The evening went very well and we got the dogs out of the “pet brig” for the night and gave them some exercise. Adapt, improvise, and overcome!

Capt Ed “Machete Eddie”
McCourt, USMC (Ret)
Florence, Ariz.

Lose Something, Officer?

I was the company driver for "Hotel" Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division while stationed in An Hoi, Vietnam, in 1969. My jeep was kept at the motor pool in town about a half mile from our company billets. Each morning and evening I would walk to and from the motor pool.

One day while walking down the road I spotted an envelope lying in the middle of it. Upon opening it I discovered the envelope contained the entire payroll for either "Golf" or "Fox" Co. I knew that the officer handling the payroll was in serious trouble.

Within minutes a figure appeared with a very concerned expression on his face. As he passed I asked if he had lost anything of value. He immediately stopped and asked me to repeat the question. It was then that I informed him I had found his payroll. He was very relieved and thanked me for its safe return. He had been saved by a corporal and it felt quite good that I was able to help him.

David C. George
USMC, 1967-1969
Porter, Ind.

The Family Roast

Our family business was hugely successful back in the 1970s. After 20 years, the family reunited to celebrate the anniversary of the company. The schedule of events included a massive cookout followed by a roast of our Dad.

Dad was seated in a rocking chair and nestled in front of him was an audience of family, friends and other relatives that packed our living room. The program involved Dad's children dressing up as various people from his past. One by one, we paraded in front of the audience recalling Dad's humorous experiences.

The final character was



LtCol John "Ping" Scanlan, USMC (Ret) roasts his father, Marine veteran John T. Scanlan, at a family celebration.

COURTESY OF LTCOL JOHN "PING" SCANLAN, USMC (RET)

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none other than yours truly dressed as Dad's drill instructor from boot camp. I wore a Marine Corps shirt and tie with the impressive chevrons of a sergeant major sewn onto the sleeves. Atop my head I sported a campaign cover. Lastly, in my right hand, I wielded a rolled-up newspaper as a swagger stick. Being an active-duty Marine myself, I proceeded to jokingly berate my father and swat him with the

newspaper. It brought the house down.

LtCol John "Ping" Scanlan
USMC (Ret)
Hilton Head Island, S.C.

How Do You Like Your Eggs?

It was warm in December of 1966 at Camp Garcia on Vieques Island, a small island that's part of Puerto Rico. As a private I had been assigned mess duty at this tiny outpost in the Caribbean Sea. The cook shack consisted of a floor, a corrugated iron roof, and screen sides to keep out the flies and mosquitos but unfortunately it couldn't keep out the large cockroaches that infested this tropical paradise. The similarly constructed mess hall was adjacent.

The daily rain showers made for a hot and muggy environment in the galley area that was already heated by a large griddle and multiple burners. Another private and I were told to crack eggs into a large stainless steel bucket, scramble them and pour the mixture onto a large griddle. As I started my

swing to pour the mixture across the griddle, I didn't notice that one of these cockroaches had attempted to scurry across it but had died halfway into his journey. The pail, heavy and unwieldy, continued its delivery of eggs over the grill, completely covering the deceased roach. Our attempts to find said insect and cut it out were only partially successful at best.

A panicked look at each other sealed our lips as the cooks quickly scooped up the eggs into pans and served them to the hungry Marines standing in line. Rest assured neither he nor I ate any eggs that morning. And needless to say, we both took that secret off the island with us but had many a chuckle over it in the years to come.

Fifty years later I returned to Vieques with my wife, daughter and grandson. Camp Garcia is gone and scant evidence of any military presence can be found now. As I related the cockroach incident to my family, it completely disgusted them.

It's plain to see that many things one experiences in the service are funny only to those of us who were there.

Cpl James Jones
USMC, 1966-1969
Gladewater, Texas

Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? Maybe it's a boot camp tale or a good old sea story that will have us in stitches? We would love to hear your stories and see any accompanying photographs. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Patricia Everett, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to p.everett@mca-marines.org. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA&F membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." Spread the word! 🦗

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Apple Introduces Military Discount For Active Duty, Veterans

If you're in the market for a new iPhone, iPad, MacBook or other Apple product, you may be able to benefit from a new discount program offered by the California-based technology giant.

In December 2018, Apple opened an online store that offers active-duty servicemembers and veterans—and their immediate family members who reside in the same household—a 10 percent discount on all Apple products.

"At Apple we are deeply grateful to the men and women of our Armed Forces. We're proud to offer active military and veterans a new dedicated online store with special pricing as an expression of our gratitude for their brave service," said a representative from Apple in a statement provided to *Leatherneck*.

The store is now accessible as a link in the footer of www.apple.com titled "Shop for Veterans and Military," under the "For Government" heading. The store also can be accessed at https://www.apple.com/us_epp_805199/shop.

Colin Johnson

PBS Host Visits Children At Camp Lejeune

For as long as United States servicemembers have deployed overseas, there have been children who eagerly await a parent's return.

Trevor Romain, star of the PBS Series "The Trevor Romain Show," bestselling author and renowned public speaker, gave presentations to students at Tarawa Terrace Elementary School and Heroes Elementary School on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 7, 2018. He listened to the students' experiences and shared some tips on how to cope with the challenges of military family life.

"When it comes to many of the problems that these kids face, adults can't always solve their problems," said Romain. "We want the kids to be able to manage what they are going through, so we try and give them some tips, tricks and tools to be able to figure out how to ask for support when they need it, and how to be part of a team."

Over the past eight years, Romain and his nonprofit organization, Comfort Crew, have toured the world, visiting American military installations to support children of active-duty servicemembers.

"I was volunteering with the United Services Organization (USO) and asked



CPL JONATHAN SOSNER, USMC

Above: Trevor Romain discusses ways to thrive as a member of a military family during a presentation at Heroes Elementary School, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 7, 2018.

Below: After his presentation, Romain speaks to a student at Heroes Elementary School. Besides hosting a PBS show, Romain is also an author, public speaker and the founder of a nonprofit organization, Comfort Crew, which tours military installations to support school-age dependents.



CPL JONATHAN SOSNER, USMC

if they have anyone speaking to kids,” said Romain. “After finding out that they did not, I volunteered to speak to military children at a base in Germany, where it was a huge success, and we have been traveling and presenting to schools ever since.”

Romain, who served in the South African Army, uses a number of different strategies to connect with children, including comedy and animated videos.

“The kids love it,” said Romain. “We try to balance the laughter and the more serious parts together so they become more comfortable and willing to share what they are going through. We use the animation to communicate with the kids using their own language.”

Although Romain does the presentations for the children, they’re not the only ones who benefit.

“I’m an American by choice. I have been a proud citizen for 25 years, so this is really a way for me to give back to this amazing country,” Romain said. “Our military kids didn’t choose to be military kids. They’ve been through a lot and I’m honored to be able to help them.”

Romain’s Comfort Crew also provides deployment kits, free of charge, designed to support children between the ages of 6 and 12, which include a teddy bear, journal, dog tags, a video and a book for parents. They also offer kits for children of fallen heroes and wounded warriors. For more information about the program or to request a kit, visit www.comfortcrew.org.

Sgt Breanna Weisenberger, USMC

Scholarship Benefits Minority Marine Corps, Navy Veterans And Families

A new Semper Fi “Honor” Scholarship offered by A Little Hope Foundation is now available to benefit eligible minority Navy and Marine Corps veterans and their families who are seeking higher education at accredited universities.

The Miami-based not-for-profit organization, founded by Louis Hernandez Jr., founder and CEO of Black Dragon Capital, is dedicated to supporting the needs of underrepresented and underprivileged children through education, healthcare, the arts and youth leadership development.

Students who receive the need-based Semper Fi “Honor” Scholarship will be chosen based on assessment for need, as well as for their achievements, ambition and drive to pursue a degree in selected fields that will equip them to tackle complex social and economic issues affecting their communities.

“Coming from a family where many have served in the Armed Forces, including my father and my wife, I understand the incredible sacrifice and loyalty to our



CPL DYLAN CHAGNON, USMC

TREES FOR TROOPS—Military families across the country received free Christmas trees in December 2018 thanks to Trees for Troops, a program of the Christmas Spirit Foundation and its corporate sponsor, FedEx. At Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., more than 600 trees were provided to Marines and Sailors and their families during a Dec. 1 event hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, which also included free Christmas stockings, a petting zoo, photos with Santa and other holiday festivities.

country that comes with military service,” said Hernandez Jr.

The scholarship selection committee is co-chaired by Hernandez’s wife, Sarah, a Marine veteran who previously served with Marine Helicopter Squadron (HMX) One, and his father, Luis Hernandez Sr., a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

“It’s a privilege and an honor to provide support to military veterans and their families to improve their lives by overcoming the financial challenges of a higher education,” said Sarah Hernandez. “The Marine Corps will always have a special place in my heart, as I served with incredibly dedicated and hard-working

people committed to protecting our freedoms and willing to sacrifice their lives to make sure we all have a chance to choose our own path in life. Through sacrifice, training and discipline, we forged lifelong friendships. I’m so excited to be able to give back to this incredible community.”

A Little Hope Foundation’s scholarship program provides up to \$10,000 in scholarships annually. Students have the opportunity to receive one \$2,500 scholarship a year. For more information, visit www.alittlehopefoundation.org.

Melissa Lichtenheld



Books Reviewed

LANDING IN HELL: THE PYRRHIC VICTORY OF THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION ON PELELIU, 1944. By Peter Margaritis. Published by Casemate. 208 pages. \$29.66 MCA Members. \$32.95 Regular Price.

"My route of return to the Philippines," wrote General of the Army Douglas MacArthur in his autobiography, "Reminiscences" (1964), "lay straight before me—along the coast of New Guinea to the Vogelkop Peninsula and the Moluggas between New Guinea and Celebes, Indonesian. In September of 1944, I was still 1,600 miles from the Philippines and 2,100 miles from Manila. At last, I was in a position to carry out with increasing speed the massive strokes against the Japanese I had envisioned since the beginning of my campaigns in the Southern Pacific area."

But first he needed to pierce the Halmahera-Palau Line defenses to secure invasion bases less than 300 miles from two of the most important objectives of the Pacific War, Leyte and Luzon Islands in the Philippine Sea. Easy pickings since reports indicated the Palau Islands were inadequately garrisoned, diminishing the prospect of prolonged fighting and heavy Marine Corps losses.

"The rank and file of the Japanese troops was beginning to lose some of their idolatry for their leaders. The myth of military infallibility which had dominated Japanese culture for centuries was no more," McArthur continued.

Generally, he was right, except for the Central Pacific which was less fortunate. While taking the Palaus, 1,950 of our boys were killed and 8,515 wounded—most of them on Peleliu. It was a casualty rate on the unacceptable scale of Tarawa in the Gilberts.

In perhaps the most definitive analysis ever compiled, "Landing In Hell: The Pyrrhic Victory of the First Marine Division on Peleliu, 1944," explains in a refreshingly easy-to-digest narrative style all that went wrong for such colossal casualties taking a five mile long, 300-yard wide, strip of sand.

Was the price too high for what was considered an invaluable airstrip urgently needed for the pre-invasion attack on Leyte?

Why hadn't the operation been a "quickie" as Major General William H. Rupertus predicted to regimental leaders of the 1st Marine Division?

Why hadn't the preliminary bombardments on the southwest Peleliu shore near the airfield been an utter failure?

Military historians, professional soldiers, and civilian war buffs since the 1960s concur that the Palaus assaults didn't go as planned. But were the Peleliu casualties a pointless sacrifice?

"Landing in Hell" will soon be acknowledged as the ultimate reference to understanding that, arguably, not only was the

loss of so much life unnecessary, but also not since the American Civil War had a major campaign been so incompetently prepared and managed.

Thoughtfully included within the book's five main sections, "Target: Peleliu," "Planning," "Invasion," "Analysis," and "After the Battle," are more than 40 previously unpublished photographs and detailed battle maps.

Peter Margaritis, a retired chief petty officer turned historian and writer with an extensive military background in communications and Naval intelligence, is to be commended for successfully tackling this controversial amphibious operation.

Don DeNevi

Author's bio: Don DeNevi has recently written a novel about an unexplored incident that occurred in the Russell Islands—"Pacific Nocturne—Pavuvu Island, 1944—The Mystery of a Murder Mad Marine Multiple Murdering His Own."

GHOST OF IWO JIMA: A Story About Battles, Ghosts, and Two Very Special Dogs. By Joe Jennings. Independently published. 329 pages. This book is available on Amazon.

On the back cover of this incredibly exciting book, Joe Jennings, a retired mustang Marine officer, states: " 'Ghost of Iwo Jima' is a realistic novel about a group of dedicated searchers who travel to the island of Iwo Jima with two remarkable dogs to recover the remains of five young Marines missing for over 70 years. The story includes realistic scenes of combat,

and there are ghosts, but the 'Ghost of Iwo Jima' is primarily a dog story."

The important thing to remember is the novel rings true. The author owns a search and rescue dog named Gunny, with additional specialization certifications in wilderness, water, and cadaver searches. On the question and answer page of the book, the author states that most of the book's characters' names are fictional, but "Gunny is Gunny and he has done all the things described in the book either in training or on actual searches."

Iwo Jima was the bloodiest battle in Marine Corps history. Sixty-eight hundred Marine and Navy corpsmen were killed in 36 days of brutal fighting. On this tiny sulfuric island, approximately 8 square miles, the desperate 36-day battle cost an estimated 26,000 lives.

There are Americans still missing from World War II and later conflicts. Some, such as the five Marines of "Baker" Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, featured in this book, are considered recoverable. The five Marines were last seen on March 1, 1945, (D+10) when they attacked an area known as "the amphitheater." At a well-fortified ridgeline, southeast of airfield number two, the Japanese stubbornly held up the progress of the 4th Marine Division.

In 2015, Tom Sanders, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, convened the first meeting of a newly assembled MIA recovery team from Team Liberty, an ongoing effort to recover U.S. POW/MIA's around the world established by retired officers from all services. Members included Sam Webber, a retired Marine officer, Dr. Alicia Phillips, a forensic expert, and Steve Haney, an explosive expert. Two dogs also were part of the team and Sam and Steve were the team's dog handlers. One of the two dogs was Sam's dog, Gunny, a golden retriever and a certified cadaver search dog. Steve's dog, Luck, was a black Labrador retriever and fully trained for the detection of explosives. The plan was to find and recover the remains of a five-man squad of Marines who disappeared during an attack on a strong Japanese position. As the island, even now, contains dangerous undetonated ordnance, the team's search area needed to be swept and cleared for explosives by Luck. Once cleared, Sam's dog Gunny would conduct the search for the odor of decaying bones. It is interesting to note that a trained cadaver search dog



can detect odors 100 percent better than a human, and can, as in this case, detect the 70-year-old scent of human bones still buried below ground.

Iwo Jima was returned to Japan in 1968 so the team needed to coordinate their 10-day search with Japanese officials. As is understandable, U.S. and Japanese relations involving this desperately fought battle are, at best, delicate. To smooth over ruffled feathers with the island's commander, the team found it necessary to involve a Japanese forensic anthropologist, Dr. Okada.

It is important to understand that the Japanese Shinto religion places enormous importance on honoring their ancestors. Since the war, the Japanese have worked tirelessly to recover the remains of their own honored dead. As one might expect, their views of disturbing a gravesite take on serious religious significances. Ancestor worship holds the notion that in the afterlife, both good and bad spirits can still exist and may well influence the lives of the living. Their feelings about anyone disturbing a battle site possibility containing dead Japanese are exceedingly troubling. The results of any search location which may contain Japanese soldiers must include a Shinto priest to purify the dig sight. As for Team Liberty, appropriate American military honors are deemed to be vitally important. All honors, both military and religious, are successfully incorporated into the removal of all human artifacts recovered.

What makes this novel truly great revolves around the fascinating work of the two dogs and the ghost involvement of the spirits of the two Iwo battle participants, one Japanese and one American Marine. The introduction of the spirit world is felt by the members of research team members through their dreams and some oddly unusual occurrences. Interestingly, the novel includes some strange behaviors of the two search dogs.

When more than 25,000 lives are lost on a small island, isn't it conceivable, even among those of us brought up in western world thought and religion, that there could be some lost souls, and perhaps even demons, still lurking this battlefield?

The battle descriptions of the five Iwo Marines' fight are powerfully written. This moving novel has a surprising ending, which is enormously satisfying, and helps to fill in the final picture of how these Marines paid the

ultimate price, and just how their small, but important, part of the great island bloodbath transpired. Do give this one a good hard look!

Bob Loring

TOO YOUNG FOR A FORGETTABLE WAR. By William Edward Alli. Published by Xlibris Corporation. 332 pages. \$12.38 MCA Price. \$13.75 Regular Price.

William Edward Alli's book, "Too Young for a Forgettable War," is a superbly written memoir of the Korean War. According to the author, "Wars are worth reading about if for no other reason than trying to figure out how to avoid them."

When William Alli turned 18 in 1950, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve. He enlisted for and served with a unit in Detroit, Mich. With no war on the horizon, the young men of his class, excited by the patriotism and lure of the Corps, were eager to sign up and serve. Alli donned the uniform and received extra pay for attending weekly drills. Fortunately, most of his senior officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs) were World War II veterans and were the glue that held the reserve unit together until the Korean War when the Marine reservists from Detroit were activated.

Many of the reserve Marines were sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for boot camp. Under the sharp eyes of their drill instructors, they were processed and soon became qualified on the rifle range. Alli shot 212 out of 250, and he qualified as a sharpshooter. After infantry training, he was sent to Korea.

As a replacement for the Marines lost in the first bitter winter campaign, Alli was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Regiment of the legendary 1st Marine Division. The Division had recently taken substantial losses in its fighting withdrawal from the "frozen" Chosin Reservoir. New replacements were both needed and truly welcomed by the Marines of the hard-pressed Division.

Private First Class Alli was quickly involved in the Pohang Guerilla Hunt, also called Operation Rathunt. During the spring of 1951, the North Korean stragglers were being pushed north out of South Korea in a textbook anti-guerilla campaign.

Of his initial experience with war, the author writes: "In Korea no place was safe. ... There were so many dangers around us and the smallest detail of our behavior could have life-and-death consequences. I must watch where I walk; there may be landmines around. I must not fall asleep on night watch; a lurking enemy can sneak up and kill me. I must keep my weapon properly cleaned; if it jams, the enemy can shoot me. I must stay off the ridgeline not be out in the open; those make me an easy target for the enemy. Loud talking or nosily walking can attract the wrong attention."

Night was the most dangerous time. Both the Chinese and the North Koreans launched their attacks under the cover of darkness. Night-time was also preferred by both sides for reconnaissance operations.

Being of Turkish descent, the author sought to visit the Turkish Brigade. At the time, the Turks were attached to the 25th (Tropic Lightning) Army Division. Also, rumors were circulated that the enemy would attempt to infiltrate the U.N. lines with English speaking "white" Eastern European soldiers. In a mix-up befitting a comic movie plot, PFC Alli was briefly arrested as a suspected spy before he was able to prove his true identity and allegiance.

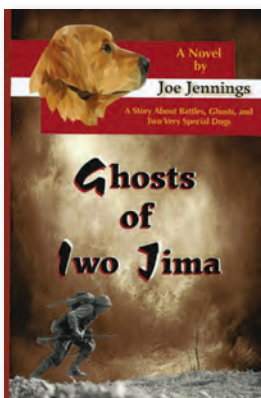
The greatest battle in which Alli fought was in September 1951 for Hills 749 and 812, near the rim of the famous Punchbowl. A machine-gun section is heavily loaded with the tools of their trade. Alli writes: "It was September, and the 2/1 had entered a cauldron of fury." In the fight, a remarkable new technology came to the battalion's rescue. For the first time, helicopters were used to bring in needed supplies and evacuate 74 wounded Marines and corpsmen from the desperate fight.

By March of 1952, William Alli was home.

"Too Young for a Forgettable War," is an excellent memoir. This fine work is studded with previously unpublished Korean War photos and is skillfully written in hopes that the "forgotten war" will never be forgotten.

Bob Loring

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



In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

Mid-Air Incident Results in 6 Deaths

Six Marines died following a mid-air mishap off the coast of Kochi, Japan, on Dec. 6, 2018. The incident involved an F/A-18 Hornet and a KC-130J Hercules. A seventh Marine, one of the Hornet pilots, ejected and was rescued.

The KC-130 Hercules was assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The F/A-18 Hornet involved was assigned to VMFA(AW)-242. The aircraft were conducting regularly scheduled training. The circumstances of the mishap are currently under investigation.

The deceased are:

LtCol Kevin R. Hermann, 38, of New Bern, N.C. He was assigned to VMGR-152. His awards include the Air Medal with 24 Strike Flight Awards, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Maj James M. Brophy, 36, of Staatsburg, N.Y. He was assigned to VMGR-152. His awards include the Air Medal with two Strike Flight Awards, a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Capt Jahmar F. Resilard, 28, of Miramar, Fla. He was assigned to VMFA(AW)-242. His awards include a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

SSgt Maximo A. Flores, 27, of Surprise,

Ariz. He was assigned to VMGR-152. His awards include a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Cpl Daniel E. Baker, 21, of Tremont, Ill.

Cpl William C. Ross, 21, of Hendersonville, Tenn.

Compiled from III MEF PAO
news releases

Alvin B. Anderson, 92, of Stoughton, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 1944 graduation from high school. During WW II he was assigned to 6th Marines and saw action on Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He also served during the Korean War.

James A. "Jim" Cantrell, 69, of Kernersville, N.C. He was wounded during a combat tour in Vietnam. He later spent 30 years as a U.S. Postal Service employee.

Ralph D.N. Diedrick, 84, of Seymour, Wis. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War.

Col William R. Etter, 84, of New Bern, N.C. He was a Marine Corps aviator who served for 28 years. His assignments included command of the Naval Air Rework Facility at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. Following his retirement, he had a successful career in banking and was involved in several community programs.

Bryan A. "Barney" Farah, 93, of Green Bay, Wis. He was a Navy corpsman during WW II and saw action in the South

Pacific on New Caledonia and in the Philippines. After the war he became a successful A&W franchise owner in the Green Bay area.

Maj Barry W. Ferich, 80, of San Diego, Calif. He served in Vietnam with 3rd Bn, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv. He was in Dong Ha and Da Nang during the Tet Offensive. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

Cpl Drake A. Gleason, 25, of La Plata, Md. He was a Marine who served from 2011-2015. After leaving the Marine Corps, he became a dog trainer, training dogs to detect the presence of drugs or explosives.

Norman "Bud" Hebel, 88, of Denmark, Wis. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War.

Sgt Thomas E. Lauters, 69, of Coopersville, Mich. He was a Marine who served from 1967-1971. During the Vietnam War he was assigned to the 1st Tank Bn.

Kenneth H. "Mudhole" Merrill, 94, of Mesa, Ariz. He was only 17 during WW II when he served with the 2nd Raider Bn.

Paul Morrison, 89, of Licking, Mo. He fought in the Korean War and was wounded at the Chosin Reservoir. After the war he had a career in aviation; he was rated as a pilot, flight instructor and airframe and powerplant mechanic.

Joseph Poleo Jr., 88, of Roanoke, Va. He was with the 1stMarDiv during the Korean War and saw action at the Chosin Reservoir. His awards include a Purple Heart. He later earned a degree in electrical engineering and had a 36-year career with General Electric.

Elmer W. Rerucha, 94, of Laramie, Wyo. During WW II, he fought in the Pacific. He was wounded during the Battle of Iwo Jima. His awards include a Purple Heart.

Larry D. Schroeder, 77, of Oneida, Wis. He served in the Marine Corps from 1960-1964.

Carl G. Schwendler, 81, of Ashwaubenon, Wis. He was a Marine who served in Vietnam. His awards include the Bronze Star. He later had a 30-year career as a teacher and coach.

Capt George B. Search, 82, in Tucson, Ariz. He had a 20-year career in the Marine Corps.

William Spicer, 86, of Moline, Ill. He was wounded in action during the Korean War. His awards include a Purple Heart.

LCpl Drew R. Stefforia, 29, of Port

DPAA Accounts for WW II Marines

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) recently announced that several Marines who were killed during World War II have been accounted for.

New Georgia

PFC Nicholas J. Gojmeric, 29, of Kansas City, Kan., was a member of Company Q, 4th Raider Bn, 1st Marine Regiment when his unit assaulted a Japanese stronghold at Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia Island, Solomon Islands. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1943, after he was last seen crawling through heavy fire to provide medical care to an injured Marine. He was accounted for on Sept. 24, 2018.

Tarawa

Pvt Fred E. Freet, 18, of Marion, Ind., was assigned to Co F, 2nd Bn, 8th Marines, 2ndMarDiv, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. He died on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943, and was accounted for on Aug. 6, 2018.

PFC Michael L. Salerno, 19, of Philadelphia, Pa., was assigned to Co K, 3rd Bn, 2nd Marines, 2ndMarDiv, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. He died on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943, and was accounted for on Sept. 27, 2018.

Compiled from DPAA news releases

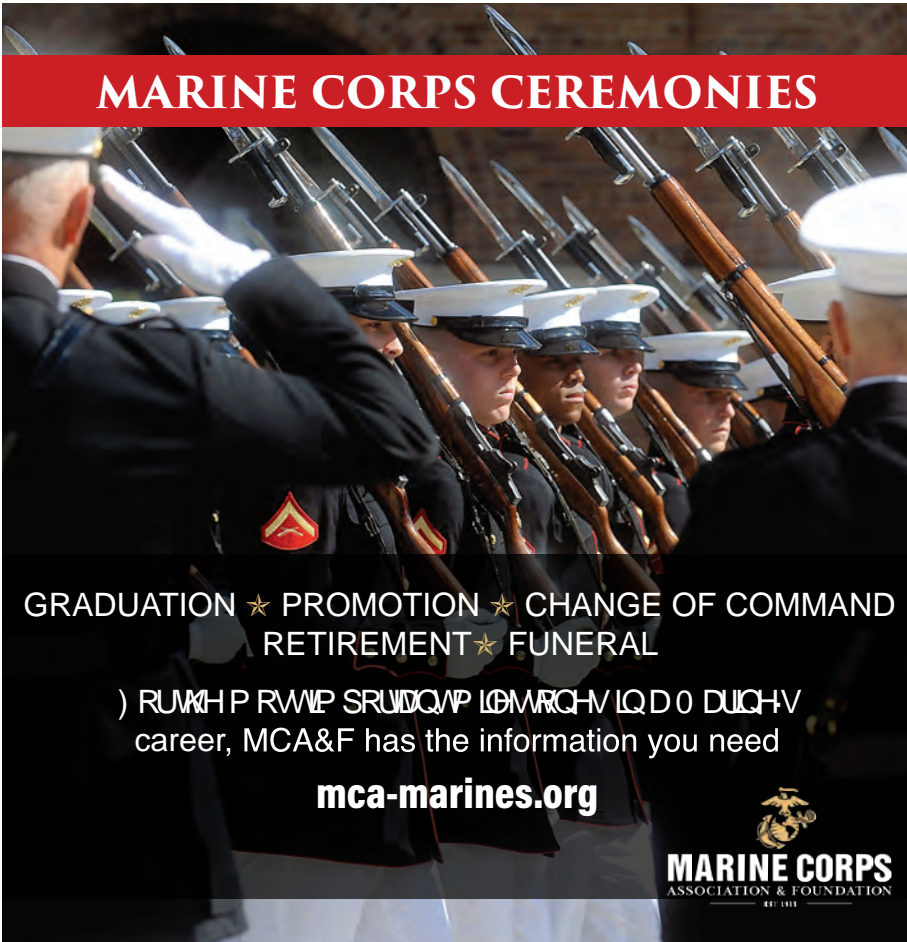
Huron, Mich. He served one tour in Afghanistan and onboard USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8).

Jim Stein, 81, of Green Bay, Wis. He was part of a three-generation Marine Corps family. He served with the MarDet aboard USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31).

Sgt Clarence W. Stone, 74, of Woodstock, Ga. He was a Marine who served in Vietnam.

1stLt William A. "Bill" Sullivan, 99, of Poway, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He served in the South Pacific and saw action on Bougainville and Guadalcanal. He was promoted in combat. After the war, he completed his education and served 27 years with the FBI.

In Memoriam is run on a space-available basis. Those wishing to submit items should include full name, age, location at time of death (city and state), last grade held, dates of service, units served in, and, if possible a published obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear. Submissions may be sent to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va., 22134, or emailed to leatherneck@mca-marines.org or n.lichtman@mca-marines.org.





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APR 27- MAY 10 50th Anniversary of Op Apache Snow-Hamburger Hill I-II-III-IV Corps	AUG 11- 20 75th Anniversary Op Dragoon D-Day - Southern France
MAY 18- 27 WWI Battlefield France "First Over There"	AUG 28- SEP 9 50TH Anniversary of the VN War - 1969 I-Corps
JUN 12- 19 75th Anniversary WWII Liberation of Saipan	SEP 10- 22 Ireland WWII U.S. Marines Dublin-Belfast-Derry
JUL 4- 14 Russia "Eastern Front" Moscow-Kursk-Stalingrad	SEP 10- 22 50TH Anniversary of the VN War - 1969 I-Corps
JUL 18- 25 75th Anniversary WWII Liberation of Guam	SEP 12- 19 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Peleliu
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SOUND OFF
[continued from page 7]

get hit by other incoming. Lt Quinn came up not knowing the round was there and yelled to hold what we had. We held and the raw napalm cleared the forward sector.

The next day we gathered at what was left of the CP bunker. We were covered in mud but not one scratch was on anyone, only a few headaches. Lt Quinn looked at me and said, "Well, what do you think?"

That same night poor "George" Companies of both 3/1 and 3/7 really got chewed up on Boulder City. That belief and prayer of Lt Quinn started a change in my life. I realized indeed, I could not kill them all. From then on I let Christ, who surely answered Lt Quinn, be my shepherd also.

I do not recall Lt Quinn ever giving us a direct order. His presence and our bonding through training and combat moved us as one. His presence was the leading element, not commander.

Lt Quinn and we were still on Dagmire when the war ended that night of July 27, 1953. We couldn't believe the number of Chinese who came out of tunnels right in front of us on Taedaksan. Wilcox turned to me and said, "You better get me more ammo. I don't have near enough."

Lt Quinn said it was over and we were to clear our weapons and return to the MLR the next day. We wanted no part of that. Another call came asking if we were prepared to leave. Lt Quinn replied that the squelch was bad and turned the radio off. We hung in our positions with Wilcox's gun on half cock and grenades stacked. Then we left in the dark. I asked Lt Quinn, "What about Reno and Vegas?" He replied that Panmunjom left them to the Chinese. We couldn't believe it. I just sat down in the mud and cried. A big hand lay on my shoulder. I looked up and there was the tear streaked face of Lt Quinn. A leader? The best. I used to razz him about making Commandant. He would laugh and say, "Don't forget Colonel Walt!"

Our good Commandant General Robert B. Neller should deep six that Secretary of Defense Robert Strange McNamara change to "Commander" and go back to "Leader." It means a world of difference to the troops I talk to. Young Marines in airports pass and ask, "What does the difference mean?" Leadership is "us," Commander is "I am in charge and do as you are told." Combat will melt the chaff out.

I have told my son, Neal, a Marine Corps sniper weapons instructor at The Basic School in the 1980s and 1990s, and

his son, William, my grandson, now a Marine which makes number six in our family, about Lt Quinn.

William's other grandfather, Sergeant William Stutes, H/2/5, died in September 1967, holding onto my boots trying to get up when shot again. I had lots of memories this Pearl Harbor Day.

Sgt Harold E. Wadley, USMC (Ret)
Saint Maries, Idaho

• *In a typical "it's a small Marine Corps" story, one of my friends is the son of Francis X. Quinn. Quinn enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1945 and served in China before being discharged and later obtaining a commission. He retired as a major general and last served as the commanding general of 1st Marine Division. His legacy of service lives on through his family. His son Patrick served in the Navy and is currently an FBI agent. Patrick's oldest son is a Marine captain, his second son is an Army lieutenant, and the third son is in Army ROTC in college. The youngest is still in high school and is currently applying for a ROTC scholarship.— Editor*

1960s Uniform Changes

Regarding the article in the December 2018 issue of *Leatherneck* about uniform

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LETTERS | Leatherneck, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134

changes, I beg to differ. The story states Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara required changes from cordovan to black in 1964.

I entered Parris Island on Oct. 9, 1963 and was assigned to 1st Battalion, "Charlie" Company, Plt 181. We were issued cordovan dress shoes and soft leather boots. We had to dye the shoes black and then spit-shine them. The Drill Instructor took a pair of dyed shoes and

showed us how to spit-shine them with water and a rag. In 20 minutes he had the top half of the shoe shining like a mirror and we recruits had maybe a dime area shining.

I don't remember if we dyed the boots but we had to put many coats of polish on them to make them hard and smooth, not like they were issued to us with soft side out. I believe we dyed the barracks cover brim and polished it black also.

I'm still in awe of how the drill instructor made that shoe spit-shine in one day when it took days for the recruits.

Sgt Mike Skorich
Leesburg, Fla.

I just received my December 2018 issue of *Leatherneck* and read with interest the letter by Captain Dan Macsay regarding the uniform change for leather items from cordovan to black. He had referenced Mr. Brooks' letter in the September issue and stated the Mr. Brooks reference to the change was around 1959 or 1960 was wrong. I have to disagree with Capt Macsay.

I joined the Corps on Nov. 23, 1960, and was a member of Plt 230, "Kilo" Co, 2nd Recruit Bn at Parris Island in the summer of 1961. I distinctly remember our DI giving us instructions on dyeing our shoes and barracks cover with black dye


and using the M Nu for the metal objects. I believe the change was around the same time or shortly after the restructuring of the rank structure. I hope this will shed some light on the time of the change.

GySgt William H. "Bill" Young
USMC (Ret)
Sun City Center, Fla.

Editorial Irish Pennants

In the December 2018 issue we identified SgtMaj Canley standing with his fellow Marines from 1st Bn, 1st Marines. The Marines in the photo were from 1st Bn, 3rd Marines where SgtMaj Canley served three times throughout his career.

In the December 2018 issue we mistakenly listed the USS *Colorado* off Korea in June 1971 instead of June 1871.

Feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an email 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 emails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Editor 

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Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Reunions

• **Montford Point Marine Assn., Inc.** (open to all veterans and supporters from all branches of the Armed Forces), Aug. 28-31, Charlotte, N.C. Contact MGySgt Ron Johnson, USMC (Ret), (504) 202-8552.

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn.**, April 11-14, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 757-0968, usmcpidi@charter.net, www.parrisislanddi.org.

• **Marine Corps Aviation Assn. Donald E. Davis Squadron**, March 21-24, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Wayne Miller, (973) 441-3636, millerwayne559@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Musicians Assn.**, April 4-7, New Bern, N.C. Contact Tom Stevens, (818) 262-4410, stevyt@outlook.com, www.mcma.clubexpress.com.

• **Iwo Jima Survivors (Marines, Navy and all other WW II veterans)**, March 20-24, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Dan Zepeda, (951) 201-6251, zepeda012@msn.com.

• **Black Marines Heritage Group**, June 20-23, Alexandria, Va. Contact Bernard Colebrook, (540) 720-2633, Bobby Wallace, (352) 259-2435, or Patricia Mims, (760) 717-2949, www.blackmarinereunion.com.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-1970)**, June 20-24, San Diego, Calif. Contact Dan Steiner, (618) 567-4077, dsteiner49@yahoo.com.

• **38th/39th OCC, TBS 3-66/4-66**, Oct. 7-11, Newport, R.I. Contact Jack Sheehan, (401) 255-0387, jacksheehanjtown@me.com, www.usmc-thebasicschool-1966.com.

• **TBS, Co C, 2-67**, May 12-15, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Bill McBride, (210) 656-6035, bill.mcbride@gmail.com, or Ed Walsh, (610) 459-1879, eireish1@aol.com.

• **TBS, Co C, 3-72**, is planning a 50th-anniversary reunion. Contact Col Joe Mueller, USMCR (Ret), (818) 815-8331, jnm21213@yahoo.com.

• **TBS, Co E, 5-69**, May 7-11, Quantico, Va. Contact Joe Howard, 21 Snow Meadow Ln., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-0259, jlheach1@cs.com.

• **TBS, Co H, 8-69 (50th Anniversary)**, June 6-9, Arlington, Va. Contact Dennis Mroczkowski, m4ski@comcast.net, or Thomas Molon, ncmolons@suddenlink.net, www.facebook.com/basicsschoolhotelcompany69.

• **Plt 3028, San Diego, 1966**, is planning

a reunion. Contact MSgt Bob Rees, USMC (Ret), (619) 940-9218, bobrees86@gmail.com.

• **Distinguished Flying Cross Society**, Sept. 15-19, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Warren Eastman, (760) 985-2810, weastman@dfcsociety.org.

Ships and Others

• **USS Hornet (CVS-12) and Apollo Program 50th anniversary**, July 18-22, Oakland, Calif. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com.

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, May 4-9, Nashville, Tenn. Contact David Fix, ussinchon@gmail.com.

Mail Call

• Cpl Larry Weeks, (360) 402-7068, qclarry4@hotmail.com, to hear from members of **1st Tank Bn, HNS Co, Tank Plt, 3rdMarDiv, Da Nang, RVN, June-August 1969**.

Wanted

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

• John Horne, 1508 Abraham St., McKeesport, PA 15132, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 292, Parris Island, 1953**. He also wants a book from **MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, 1st Marine Brigade, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rdMarDiv, 1956**.

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 email to s.boock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134. 🐼



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Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



FAREWELL TO A COMMANDER IN CHIEF—During his final trip abroad as President of the United States, George H.W. Bush visited with Marines and other military personnel in Somalia in January 1993.

The former President was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and was assigned to Torpedo Squadron 51 in the Pacific during World War II. He flew 58 combat missions in the TBM Avenger and was shot down on Sept. 2, 1944, during an attack on Japanese defenses on Chi Chi Jima. Lieutenant Junior Grade Bush was rescued by the submarine USS *Finback* (SS-230), but his two crewmembers did not survive.

His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals.

After the war, he earned a bachelor's degree from Yale University and then went into the oil business in Texas.

He entered the political arena and was elected to two terms as a congressman from Texas. He also

served as ambassador to the United Nations, chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the Peoples Republic of China and director of the CIA. In 1980, following an unsuccessful bid to win the nomination by the RNC as their candidate for President, he joined the party's ticket as Ronald Reagan's Vice President. He served in that capacity for eight years and in 1988, he was elected the 41st President of the United States.

President Bush was defeated in his 1992 bid for re-election, but he remained dedicated to public service, working with his former political rival, President Bill Clinton, to raise funds for communities that had been ravaged by natural disasters.

His son, George W. Bush, later was elected 43rd President of the United States.

President George H.W. Bush died Nov. 30, 2018, at the age of 94. 🇺🇸

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Operation Dewey Canyon Challenge

Commemorate the 50th anniversary of Operation Dewey Canyon and the valiant sacrifice and service of the Marines who fought in the Vietnam War. Run or walk 50 miles between January 22nd and February 20th.



Celebrate 10 Years in 10 Days Challenge

MCAF celebrates its 10th anniversary on April 30. Run or walk as many miles as you can between April 30th and May 9th to celebrate the Foundation's anniversary and the hundreds of thousands of Marines who have benefited from MCAF Programs.



Sugar Bear Memorial Run

Run or walk 9 miles on July 22nd to honor the sacrifice and memory of LtCol Mario "Sugar Bear" Carazo. MCAF has partnered with the Sugar Bear Foundation to help raise awareness of Gold Star/surviving spouses and children of fallen United States military personnel, continuing Mario's legacy of service.



The Run for Marines

Join MCAF in celebrating the 244th Birthday of our Corps by running or walking 10K on November 10th.

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