

AUGUST 2020

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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**Artist in Residence
Draws From His
USMC Experience**

**Wake Island, 1945:
Old Glory Flies Again**

**NMMC Restoration Team—
A Focus on the Details
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56 Marines Hone Skills During Warfighting Exercise

A follow-up to last month's feature on 2ndMarDiv's MAGTF Warfighting Exercise 1-20, the numerous lessons learned by company grade officers throughout the Division confirm the success of the huge exercise conducted in the fall of 2019 at Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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COVER: A portrait of Capt Elizabeth Okoreeh-Baah, an Osprey pilot, is one of many original works by Kristopher Battles, the Marine Corps' Artist in Residence. Turn to page 8 to see more of Battles' artwork. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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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.)

Reading Major Jonathan Bush's article, "On Target: The Future of Field Artillery Officer Basic Training," in the May issue, moved me to the past. It was during the summer of 1966 when I and about a dozen other Marine second lieutenants reported to Fort Sill for artillery school. We were already "seasoned" officers having completed The Basic School. We were joined by newly minted U.S. Army second lieutenants, directly from ROTC, OCS, and West Point, to round out our class.

Maj Bush's article noted "cultural challenges" when Army and Marine officers serve together. It was certainly apparent in 1966. Some of our fellow Army classmates were amazed to find out the Marine Corps even had actual artillery. They thought 81 mm mortars were our heaviest support artillery. On the other hand, we Marines were in awe upon seeing the Army's modern artillery weapons as compared to the rather antiquated Marine artillery still being used in the FMF—think World War II and Korean War vintage. We joked that we would have to go to the U.S. Army Artillery Museum in Fort Sill in order to observe and study the current USMC inventory.

Cultural challenges really surfaced during one class period of gunnery instruction. Our Army instructor was trying in vain to get across to our class the importance of some mathematical concept and its significance that we all needed to grasp. He apparently saw blank looks on everyone's face. It led him to say that without a thorough conceptual understanding, we would find ourselves in the field as forward observers in Vietnam. He asked, "Who would want that?" Immediately, every Marine's hand shot into the air. He was momentarily stunned and looked dumbfounded at us. Then he simply smiled, shook his head, and mumbled something about "Jarheads."

Capt Everett A. Robinson III
Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Confederate Battle Flag

After reading the Commandant's letter in our June magazine, I am not certain that forbidding Marines to have the Army of

Northern Virginia battle flag will end all the problems we have as Marines. There is so much I want to say but it would be counterproductive. Let me state that he sounded like a whiney little girl.

Enough.

MSgt John Decker, USMC (Ret)
Denver, Colo.

• The banning of the Confederate flag is a controversial subject both in the Corps and throughout the nation, and there are Marines, active-duty and veteran, who disagree with the Commandant's recent decision. Disagreeing is fine, and while I know attacking the person and not the issue is prevalent in our society today, I would have hoped that a Marine, especially a master sergeant, would have articulated his rationale against the decision in a mature, reasonable manner and not simply resorted to insults. Saying our CMC sounded like a "whiney little girl"? That's a reflection more of your character, MSgt Decker, than an accurate description of a Marine who has served honorably for almost 40 years, including leading Marines in combat, and who is working hard to address the numerous complex issues facing our Corps today. You should be ashamed.—Editor

Silver Star Recipient Praises Awards Branch Article

I am writing today to commend Sara W. Bock on the very interesting and informative article, "Awards Branch: MMMA Works to Ensure Accuracy, Recognition

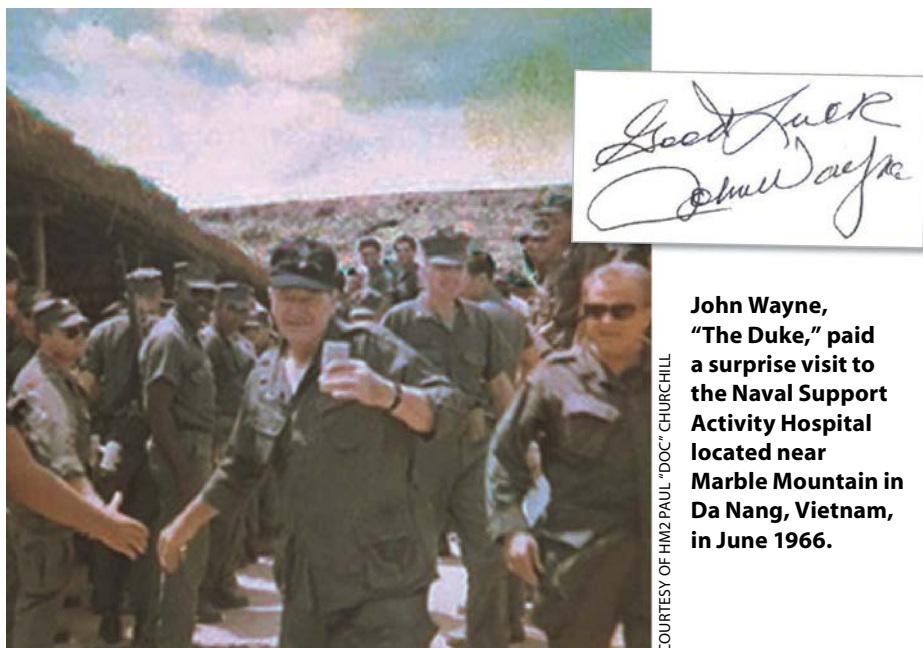
for Deserving Marines," from the May 2019 edition of the *Leatherneck*. The article describes both the process used to determine who is eligible for an award and my 51-year wait before being awarded the Silver Star. Again, Sara, great writing, and sorry for the long delay in thanking you.

Ray Kelley
USMC, 1965-1969
Port Charlotte, Fla.

Surprised by "The Duke"

After reading, "Duke or Dud" from Capt Dan Macsay in the June Sea Stories, I have to tell the rest of the story. I was a corpsman with "Lima" Co, 3/3 and one of our platoons was pulling security for Naval Support Activity Hospital as a break after having been in the field for a couple operations and other actions. We had been on duty for a couple of weeks and were still running patrols and ambushes day and night. Between patrols I was with several of my Marines at the hospital compound when a CH-34 chopper landed in the middle of an open area instead of the usual medevac pad and out jumps John Wayne, "The Duke," escorted by a two star, a colonel and a couple of majors.

"The Duke" started talking with all the guys, shaking hands and giving autographs on business cards. After five minutes the general started saying, "Come on 'Duke,' we can't stay here too long." After hearing this several times John Wayne turned and said, "By God, these guys are in this war too! If you are in



John Wayne, "The Duke," paid a surprise visit to the Naval Support Activity Hospital located near Marble Mountain in Da Nang, Vietnam, in June 1966.

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such a ----- hurry, get on that chopper and come back for me in an hour." The general's jaw locked, he turned beet red and the veins in his neck nearly popped. I guess he wasn't used to that kind of response, but you could hear the cheers from the Marines for a mile.

After a few more minutes the general prevailed and "The Duke" got back on the chopper and lifted off for the next stop but not before I got his autograph and a picture of him around a bunch of smiling grunts saluting the guys with a beer in his hand. Hope it makes the captain feel better to know that the shortness of the visit wasn't John Wayne's decision. And for those of us who saw him that day, it was a real morale booster.

HM2 Paul "Doc" Churchill
Port Huron, Mich.

Sen Warner is the Real Deal

In 51 years of being a Marine I have never read a better article in *Leatherneck* than the one Sara W. Bock wrote in the May edition concerning Senator John W. Warner.

I was a corporal in Vietnam serving with "Alpha" Company, 1st Recon Bn. Lieutenant Colonel William Leftwich was my battalion commander. It was a horrible day when he died during an emergency extract of one of our teams.

While manning an observation post overlooking Elephant Valley, we received word that SECNAV Warner would be visiting us and staying for a lunch of C-rations. Accompanying him were Lieutenant General Donn Robertson,

Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific, and Major General Charles F. Widdecke, CG, 1stMarDiv. Our senior man was a sergeant.

They spent more than an hour with us and fired some weapons as well. When Warner asked what was a good C-rat, I told him the beans and weenies followed by pound cake and peaches. He loved it.

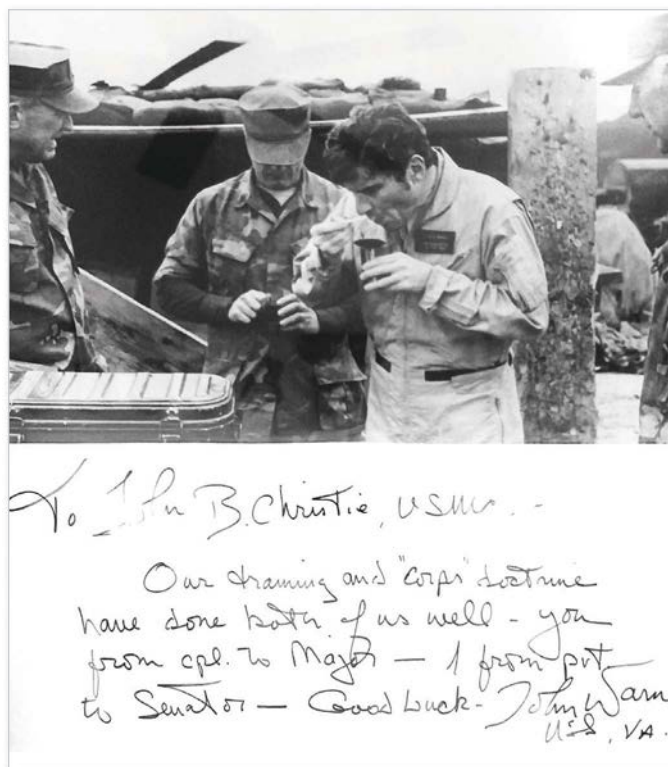
A few months later I received copies of pictures from that day, one of which was signed with a very nice inscription that hangs on my office wall to this day.

Senator Warner was and is the real deal!
LtCol John Christie, USMC (Ret)
Troup, Texas

Military Athletic Teams

I was going through some of my older *Leatherneck* issues and decided it was important to write, even though it's three years later. This is in response to a letter in the March 2017 Sound Off titled, "What Happened to Military Teams?" I have information to share about some Wilson High School students from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who were a group of 10 Marine recruits who enlisted during the Korean War conflict.

The Marine Corps Recreational Division in San Diego sponsored football, baseball and tennis teams in 1951. I was asked to try out for the tennis team and ended up number three of four on the team. One of my high school classmates was a four-star athlete by the name of Franklin Simanovsky. Frank punted for the 1951 football team and pitched for the baseball team. He was a 1948 New York



SECNAV John Warner, second from right, eating C-rat peaches, visits an OP in Vietnam with MajGen Charles F. Widdecke, far left, CG, 1stMarDiv; Cpl John Christie, second from left, opening a can of C-rat pound cake and LtGen Donn Robertson, CG, FMFPAC. (Courtesy of LtCol John Christie, USMC (Ret))

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Yankee bonus signer who had two great minor league seasons. During 1950 he had 20 wins and three losses.

Interestingly, Frank was a team member with Mickey Mantle. Mantle played third base that year in the minor leagues in Joplin, Mo., just before he catapulted to stardom.

Frank Simanovsky served in Korea and was wounded. He never recovered to pitch again. None of the other Wilson High graduates ended up in combat.

Sgt Phillip L. Oakes
Shoreline, Wash.

Battle of Dai Do

There was another spectacular article, "Fire Mission! 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines in the Battle of Dai Do," by Dick Camp in the May issue. He must sleep with a keyboard in his hands. Between him and Bing West, the histories of Marines in combat in recent decades are in good hands.

Three of my TBS (The Basic School) classmates from A1-68 were referenced in this article. However, we graduated early in December 1967, not 1968, as planned, at the "convenience of the government" who urgently needed many more second lieutenants in Vietnam.

In our class, those in the infantry MOS (military occupational specialty) got to

Vietnam first. We Recon/ANGLICO types had several weeks additional training and arrived just a few days before Tet 1968. Other classmates with more sophisticated MOS training came to the party later as their training was completed with the aviation types at the end of our pipeline.

The three A1-68 classmates, Second Lieutenants Carl R. Gibson (KIA), John Basel (WIA) and Peter A. Acly (WIA), mentioned in this battle had just come from Fort Sill as artillery officers and arrived in country in mid-April 1968 just two weeks before Dai Do. Not much time to practice their trade for real.

Gibson was the son of prominent Virginia educators and had just married weeks before his death. Basel served for 30 years with prominent commands, retiring as a colonel. Acly was a Yale graduate who likely could have avoided the draft had he not chosen the path of becoming a Marine officer.

Artillery saved the day in this battle. And the forward observers there, including these three very green young officers, new on the front lines and in grave danger alongside other Marines at the "pointy end," made that all possible.

This is my salute to my classmates as individuals, for earning their salutes and brown bars during those terrible days

at Dai Do, when, as we were warned in TBS, they had to stand up and lead in the face of horrible dangers. And my salute to countless young Marine officers before and after them who did the same.

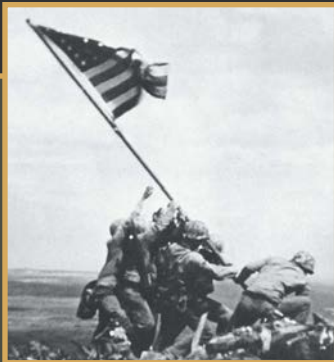
Robert Koury
Oakton, Va.

It was great to see Lieutenant Colonel "Rocky" Dunwell mentioned in the article, "Fire Mission! 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines in the Battle of Dai Do." Prior to going to Vietnam, he was my NROTC Marine Option instructor at the University of California, Berkeley. He was also the faculty advisor to my fraternity which probably explains why three of my fraternity brothers were Marine options or PLC candidates. It is hard to imagine a less desirable assignment for a Marine instructor in the 1960s than Berkeley.

I only heard him called Rocky to his face by another Marine option NROTC student which caused a brief lull in the conversation. Unfortunately, that Marine option was Stephen P. Broderick who was KIA two years later. Steve was the only casualty from our NROTC unit as far as I know and an officer in Rocky's mold.

An internet search showed LtCol Dunwell had a successful career after the war and a productive retirement. He

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was a great example of a Marine officer to me and my other Marine options for which I am eternally grateful.

Dick Bass
San Francisco, Calif.

A Collection of Marine Corps Memories

In October 1967, I was assigned to Chu Lai, Vietnam, as a postal clerk and performed postal duties for Marine units in the field. Full postal operations included sorting incoming mail and preparing money orders. The highlight each day was being able to hand the mail orderlies their unit's mail. It was truly a morale booster.

On one occasion, I had to send clerks to the front lines to write money orders. Telling those young Marines to stay behind the engineer company as they cleared the roads did not sink in for two Marines. Although I told them not to drive up on the berm, they never came back.

One night while on a mission we were walking down a road, and as I looked up, I could see what I thought was a dog up ahead. I had my squad halt as my fire team leader and I approached the silhouette. I started whistling for the dog to come to me, but it didn't move. When I got closer, I realized it was the largest rat I had ever seen!

When we returned to the States, we were told we could not wear a uniform off base. This was hard to believe after all we went through. I was lucky and got a ride to MCAS Cherry Point that night in a C-130 where my family from Havelock, N.C., came to meet me on base.

I had two tours of recruiting duty, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Richmond, Va., three tours at MCAS Cherry Point, where all three of my children were born, a tour at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., and a tour in Vietnam.

Now at the age of 85, a lot of my experiences in the Marine Corps are fading. We did our jobs and then some. I worked with some very fine officers, Lieutenant Lockwood, Sam Hope and Jim Stewart. We helped each other as much as we could. They were all great Marines.

For 22 years I served my country and I'm proud of it. Marine Corps then, Marine Corps now, and Marine Corps forever!

Lauren P. Bands Sr.
USMC, 1953-1975
Virginia Beach, Va.

Mustang Officers

Every Marine enters the Corps from the ground up and without rank. Some go on
[continued on page 68]

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"Moving Up in the Dust"

Combat Artist Kristopher Battles Is Anything but Typical

"My mission is to recruit, train, and deploy uniformed and civilian combat artists to create world-class art that will tell the Marine Corps story for generations to come."

—Kristopher Battles

Recently named Marine Corps Artist in Residence, Kristopher Battles works in his studio at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va.



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

By Kelly A. Battles

From active-duty service to the Marine Corps Reserve and back to civilian life, Kristopher Battles has proven himself to be anything but the typical artist and Marine. In December 2019, Battles became only the second Marine Corps Artist in Residence (AIR), a position left vacant since 1992 when Colonel Charles Waterhouse retired. “My main directives are to spearhead the Marine Corps Combat Art Program (MCCAP), preserve the visual story of our Marine brothers and sisters stationed around the globe, and create original art based on key events from Marine Corps history,” said Battles, who works out of the Combat Art Studio at the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC).

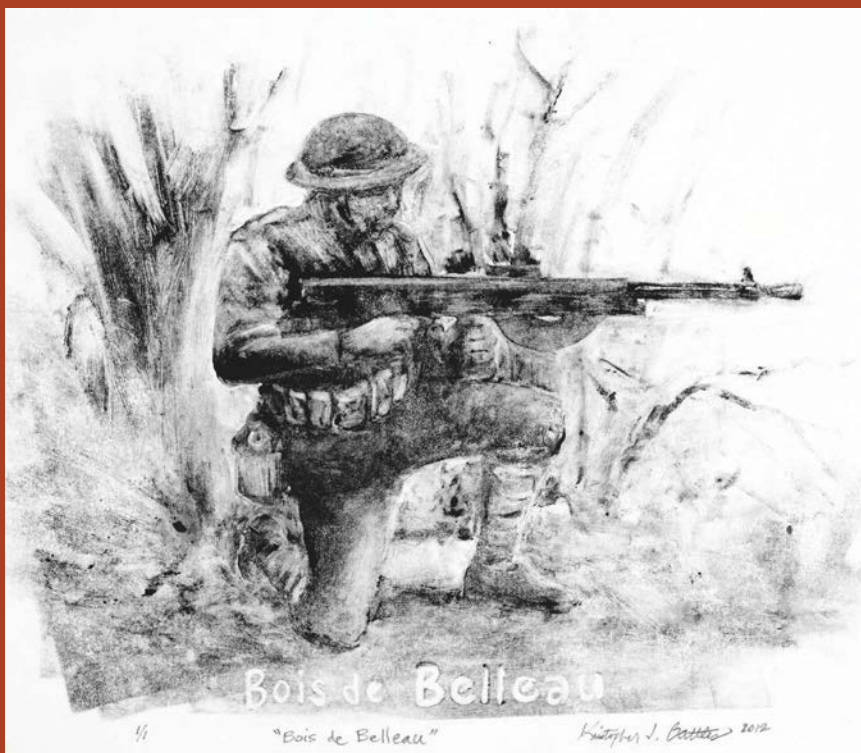
Of his 16 years in the USMC, Battles served half of that time as an active-duty combat artist. His experience and fine art skills are the unique combination needed to advance MCCAP’s mission: “Go to war, do art.” Battles leads this directive along with a handful of specifically selected active-duty Marines and civilian artists.

Whether Battles is working on historical pieces to fill the gaps in the Marine Corps Art Collection or sending a civilian artist to document Marines supporting USNS *Mercy* (T-AH-19) near Los Angeles, Calif., during a global pandemic, he knows the importance of preserving the Corps’ rich heritage and legacy. Using fine art to document, inform, and inspire Marines of yesterday, today, and tomorrow is the key. “My mission is to recruit, train, and deploy uniformed and civilian combat artists to create world-class art that will tell the Marine Corps story for generations to come,” he said.

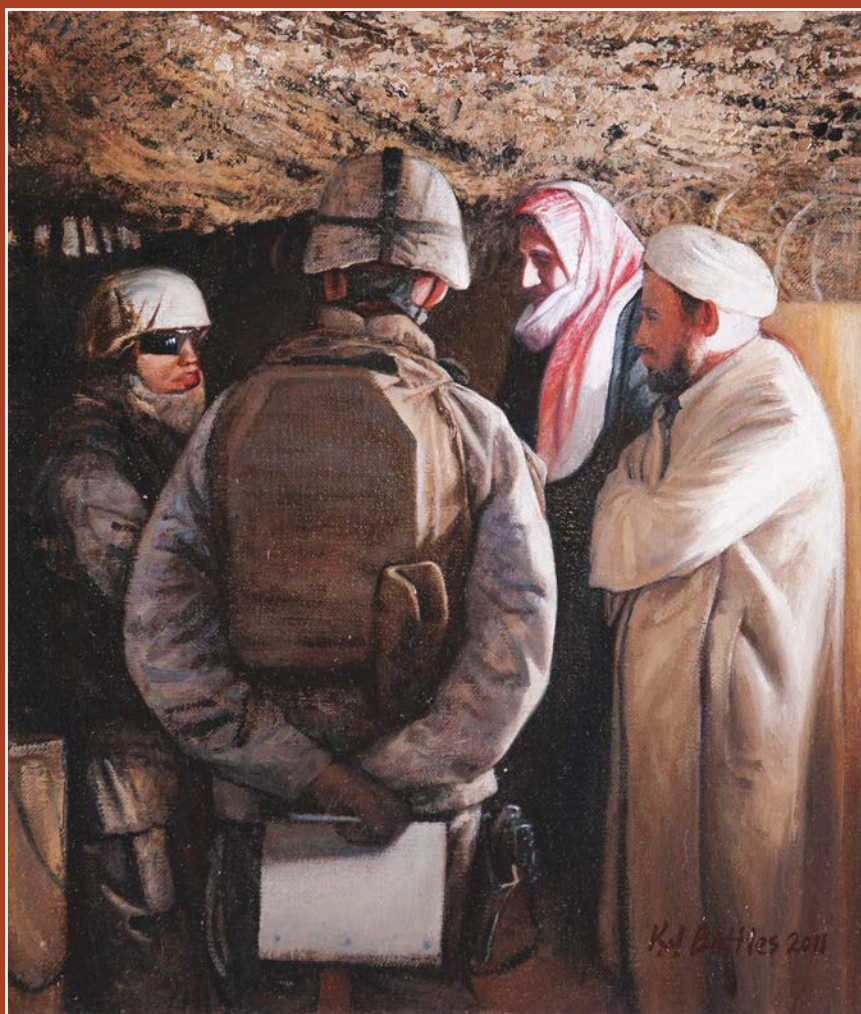
Battles has always loved the Corps. Just after his high school graduation, with a signed parent waiver in hand, 17-year-old Kristopher Battles enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and reported to recruit training in June 1986 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

Beginning as a computer operator, he spent his drill weekends in Kansas City, originally with 4th Force Service Support Group (FSSG). Battles became a combat correspondent in 1989 and was attached to Headquarters Company, 24th Marine Regiment in Kansas City, Kan. During those years, Battles also was a full-time art student at Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University) graduating in December 1991 with a BFA in studio art.

After eight years as a reservist, Battles left the Corps to pursue art professionally. Taking an interesting turn with his career,



“Bois de Belleau”



“Evening Parley at Rutbah”



"Of Binocs, Bottles and Flypaper"

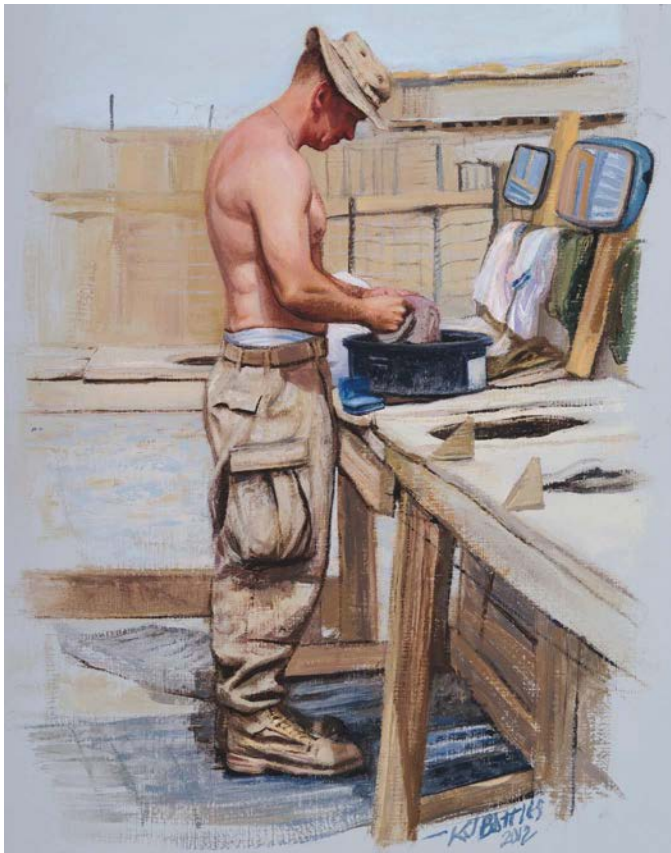
he became a Christian missionary in Haiti, working with local artists as the crafts development officer for Baptist Haiti Mission. While in Haiti, Battles learned to speak Haitian Creole fluently. Little did he know, he would return to Haiti as an active-duty Marine nearly a decade later to cover the humanitarian efforts after the devastating earthquake in January 2010.

In 2001, after two years of mission work in Haiti, Battles returned to the United States to pursue his professional art career in St. Augustine, Fla. After the tragic events of 9/11, he couldn't shake his desire to return to the Corps. He started following a blog written by an active-duty combat artist, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Fay. Fay, who is now retired, introduced Battles to NMMC Art Curator, Captain Charles Grow, USMC (Ret), and the director of the Marine Corps History Division, Colonel Richard Camp, USMC (Ret). An interview was set up with each individual to assess Battles' skills to become a combat artist.

On June 28, 2006, just over 20 years since his original enlistment and with 14 years as a professional artist with a BFA



"They Watch Us"



"Chaplain Robert Washing His Laundry at the Wash Rocks, FOB Dehli, 2009"

in Studio Art, Battles reenlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve as a combat artist. Finally, his love of art and the Corps were combined.

Joan Thomas, the current art curator at the NMMC, said she believes Battles' artwork will stand the test of time. "Kris was always a Marine first and artist second. He brought the same commitment for excellence both as a Marine and artist to the table. He maintained his readiness to deploy and always has produced works of art that are honest, informed, and inspired."

As soon as he was mobilized to active-duty status from the Marine Corps Reserve in September 2006, Battles moved his family from Florida to Virginia. "When I first began, I was creating art in a makeshift studio in a supply closet at History Division's headquarters, but was soon permitted to work out of my studio in Fredericksburg, Va., and eventually worked with CWO-2 Fay in a dedicated art studio on Marine Corps Base Quantico."

Within weeks of arriving at Quantico, Battles deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq, for his first-ever combat deployment, where he was attached to Information Operations to cover Marines engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

On that first deployment, Battles embodied the motto "Every Marine a rifleman." His mission to embed and record

Marines sent him on patrols with many units in places across Al Anbar Province, including Habbaniya, Baharia, Rutbah, Al Qaim and Korean Village. He even had an opportunity to accompany Navy SEALs while on patrol. Battles said the most memorable incident during this deployment was when he found himself being escorted by military police to the base provost marshal's office at Al Asad Air Base. Battles was detained for sketch-

On that first deployment, Battles embodied the motto "Every Marine a rifleman." His mission to embed and record Marines sent him on patrols with many units.

ing and photographing guard posts and a downed MiG. Luckily, his combat art orders proved he really was there to capture the Marines in paint. He stayed away from sketching or photographing certain parts of the base after that. While he was sketching the MiG, a bystander snapped a photo. That photo was eventually turned into a silhouette that the NMMC placed



"Lioness Reading"

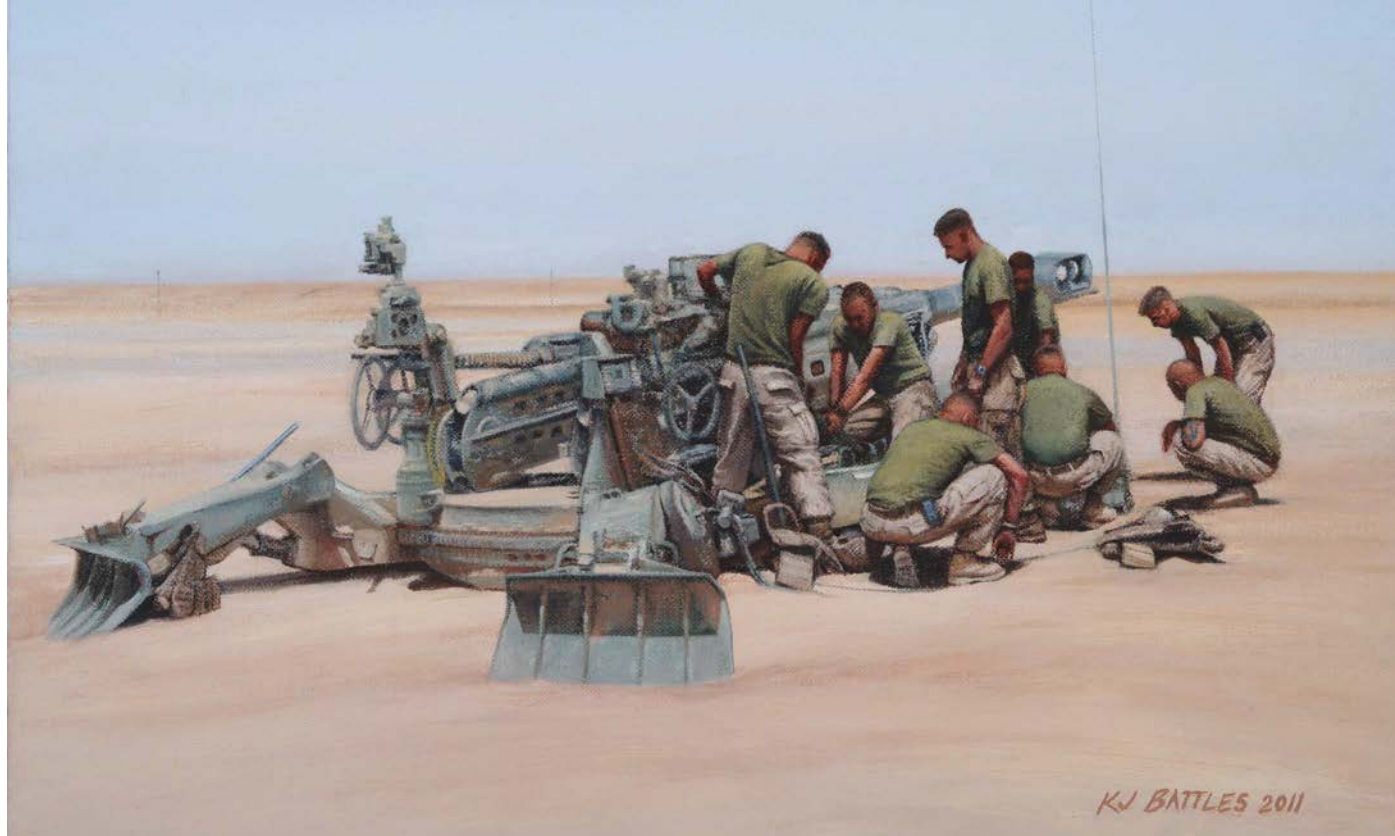
on the wall just outside the entrance to the Combat Art Gallery.

The Marine combat artist is a unique breed. After Battles' first year as an active-duty combat artist, he had the honor of meeting the Corps' first AIR, Col Waterhouse, when Grow, Fay and Battles traveled to Waterhouse's studio in Toms River, N.J. In September 2007, all four Marine artists were featured on ABC News as "Persons of the Week."

Battles' deployment with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 was also memorable as he was embedded with the Osprey unit for their first-ever deployment to the Middle East in September 2007. His portraits of the pilots and other Marines, as well as their famous aircraft, have been shown in various art shows, including the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., show titled, "Fly Marines! The Centennial of Marine Corps Aviation: 1912-2012."

One of Battles' most requested images is a painted sketch titled "Lioness Reading." Uncharacteristic of his classical realism and lacking identifying characteristics of the Marine, the sketch depicts a deployed female Marine in such a way that many women can relate to her. NMMC visitors can view a reproduction of the painting, which hangs permanently in the museum.

Battles was sent to Afghanistan in the summer of 2009. He traveled in Helmand



"Triple Seven: Arty Marines Placing the Gun"



"Flight Operations Aboard USS Wasp"



"Smoke Break on USS Carney"

Province, painting and sketching a wide variety of activities. Some of the memorable moments captured consisted of a painting of a chaplain shaving and Marines speaking to a tribal leader in a nearby village—Battles captured the essence of the civil affairs mission. His paintings, sketches, and illustrations from this particular deployment highlight the importance of building strong relationships between Marines and locals.

Battles created more than 200 paintings and sketches for the Marine Corps Art Collection as a result of his deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan to cover Marine combat operations as well as to Haiti and the Philippines in support of humanitarian relief efforts. In Haiti, he also found himself useful as an unofficial interpreter thanks to his proficiency in Haitian Creole.

Battles participated in atypical training for a Marine. While conducting research for his first sculpture, he was sent to Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif., for the Animal Packers Course. Battles had expected to be an observer, but he was enrolled in the course, which afforded him firsthand knowledge about the subject. In the end, Battles added "certified animal packer" to his service record book.

While on active duty, Battles earned his MFA in illustration from the University of Hartford. His master's thesis included the creation of several historical paintings of Marines in famous battles including Belleau Wood, Manassas and Peleliu. These paintings have all since been accessioned into the Marine Corps Art Collection.

Battles' active-duty orders were renewed several times during this period, and he also reenlisted several times, eventually being promoted to staff sergeant. In the spring of 2014, after eight years of creating hundreds of original artworks that are now part of the permanent collection, Battles transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve.

Battles transitioned to civilian life and in the fall of 2014 became a Navy combat artist as well as an adjunct professor at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design in Washington, D.C. With the Navy, he was deployed to sketch and paint Navy subjects on ships throughout the globe. "My paint palette went from Marine Corps Coyote Brown and Olive Drab to Navy Blue and Haze Gray," joked Battles.

On his own time, Battles continued to add to the Marine Corps Art Collection with commissioned sculptures and paint-

ings. In 2017, more than a dozen pieces of his work from the collection, including his first sculpture, "A Mule and His Marine," were added to the NMMC's Combat Art Gallery inaugural show.

In 2019, with the full support of NMMC Director Lin Ezell and Deputy Director Charles Grow, the Artist in Residence (AIR) position was revived with Battles' selection. Although he had hoped to wear the uniform again, the position ultimately created was a civilian one. As the second Marine Corps AIR, not only does Battles create art once again for the Marine Corps Art Collection, he also recruits, trains, and deploys civilian, active-duty and reserve Marine combat artists to cover training and combat missions across the globe. As a team, the MCCAP is preserving the Corps' accomplishments in a way that will endure for generations.

According to Grow, "Kris Battles is a rare blend of career Marine and professional artist. We were lucky to have him serve in uniform and blessed to have him onboard as the Artist in Residence. The artwork he creates will help to cele-

He was deployed to sketch and paint Navy subjects on ships throughout the globe.

"My paint palette went from Marine Corps Coyote Brown and Olive Drab to Navy Blue and Haze Gray," joked Battles.

brate the Corps' 250th anniversary. The artists he influences will contribute to the Corps' significant visual history."

Later this year, Battles hopes to host the NMMC's annual Combat Art Symposium with artists and museum professionals from across the nation and even abroad. This year's focus is on "One Team One Fight" and will bring all military branches together at the NMMC.

The storied history of the Marine Corps will be enriched and captured for centuries, thanks to the work of Kristopher Battles who is anything but a typical Marine.

Author's bio: Kelly Battles is a part-time English teacher as well as a freelance writer and editor living in Spotsylvania, Va. She has been the Marine Corps Combat Art Program's special assistant since January 2018. 🐼

Triangle, Va.



COURTESY OF ANDY RICHARDSON

Museum's New Classroom Reflects Spirit Of the Young Marines

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Young Marines Multipurpose Classroom at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., Feb. 16, which will be used by groups, schools and organizations to meet and host classes while visiting the museum.

Pictured from the left are Chester, Mascot of the Young Marines; Colonel William P. Davis, USMC (Ret), the national executive director and CEO of the Young Marines; Col William L. Smith, USMC (Ret), chairman of the Young Marines Board of Directors; Young Marines Sergeant Major Megan Lynch, National Young Marine of the Year; Lieutenant Colonel Michael B. Kessler, USMC (Ret), chairman of the Young Marines National Foundation Board of Directors; Major General James A. Kessler, USMC (Ret), President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

"Last year, more than 53,000 children came to the National Museum of the Marine Corps," said Major General James A. Kessler, USMC (Ret), President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. "Many of these students will be able to use this classroom for group sessions."

The Young Marines program forged a partnership with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation to sponsor a classroom that would showcase the scope and impact of the Young Marines program.

"The Marine Corps inspired the Young Marines program as it was founded more than 60 years ago by Marine Corps veterans," said Davis. "It's only fitting that the Young Marines has a presence here in the sacred home for Marine Corps history."

Following the ribbon cutting, more than 250 Young Marines and dignitaries were shown the national premiere of a 60-minute documentary film titled "Tomorrow's Leaders," which took place in the museum's Medal of Honor Theater.

The documentary explores youth leadership training by learning from the past. Cameras followed members of the Young Marines as they honored and met America's veterans in Washington, D.C.; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Guam and Iwo Jima. In Arizona, cameras captured a poignant meeting between the members and the remaining World War II Navajo Code Talkers. By honoring military heroes past and present, the documentary showcases youth accomplishments in their mission to honor and preserve military legacy by recognizing and supporting veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War and the War on Terror.

Submitted by Andy Richardson

St. George, Utah

Amid Pandemic, Marine Corps League Members Honor the Fallen

While the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Sun River Veterans Honor Park in St. George, Utah, looked a bit different than previous years due to the coronavirus pandemic, one thing that remained unchanged was the participation of the Marine Corps League Utah Dixie Detachment #1270. The detachment's members were on hand May 25 to provide ceremonial assistance in honor of those who gave "the last full measure." With participants and attendees observing social distancing guidelines, the full program of events included motorcycles from the Patriot Guard, music by detachment bagpiper John Mayer, and the presentation of the national colors by a Marine.

Retired Air Force major and guest speaker Donald Richardson



COURTESY OF WILLIAM G. FORTUNE



COURTESY OF WILLIAM G. FORTUNE

told stories of heroic servicemembers, and former Marine aviator Jack Stanfill awed attendees with a low flyover in a Beechcraft F35 Bonanza. Pictured from the left, James Haney, Billion Johnston, Gary Boothroyd and Carl Kulyk of Detachment #1270 provided the firing detail as the nation's flag was raised.

Submitted by William G. Fortune



COL MARY H. REINWALD, USMC (RET)

Quantico, Va.

MCA&F Announces Partnership with "The People's Marathon"

The Marine Corps Association & Foundation is proud to announce its new partnership with the Marine Corps Marathon. Lieutenant General W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret), President and CEO of MCA&F, right, and Major Rick Neal, USMC (Ret), Director of the Marine Corps Marathon, signed an agreement at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., March 9, which will allow the Corps' professional association to provide support to "The People's Marathon" and other events in the MCM race series. MCA&F is looking forward to working with MCM staff and supporting the thousands of runners who plan to hit the streets of Washington, D.C., in October.

MCA&F



COURTESY OF JEFF MOSHER

Port Charlotte, Fla.



COURTESY OF JEFF MOSHER

Gaines Memorial Park, Future Home of Beirut Peacekeepers Tower, Moves Toward Completion

Marine veterans from 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division (above right) reunited at a memorial ceremony in Jacksonville, N.C., in 2013, marking the 30th anniversary of the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing of the Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon. During the ceremony, they honored the life of one of their own, Corporal William R. "Bill" Gaines Jr., who was among the 241 American servicemembers killed in the attack.

The ceremony also allowed the Marines to reconnect with Gaines' family, including his younger brother, Mike, who served in the Army. Mike was working to honor his brother and the other "Beirut Peacekeepers" who served and died in Beirut between 1982 and 1984 by building a memorial park and tower in his hometown of Port Charlotte, Fla.

Jeff Mosher, a childhood friend of Gaines' who enlisted in the Marine Corps with him as part of the "buddy program" in June 1981, was among those in attendance, and Mike asked him to be part of the project by serving on the board of the William R. Gaines Jr. Memorial Fund. For Mosher, there was no question that he would be involved.

"It is extremely humbling to be involved in a project that is

part of history. It is an honor to tell the story," said Mosher, who is pictured in the 2013 group photo with his arm around Gaines' mother, Kaye.

The 40-acre park, pictured under construction, in the above left photo is making progress toward completion, with two military-themed playgrounds recently finished and the addition of tennis and bocce courts underway. The permit for the Beirut Peacekeepers Memorial Tower has been issued with a goal of completion by the end of 2020. The unique design is symbolic of the two primary buildings in Beirut used by the Marines. The base of the tower will include 241 center rods representing those who died in the attack. On each of the three levels, panels will educate visitors with timelines with pictures and descriptions of events in Beirut between 1982 and 1984.

"Our hope is to lay a foundation for all to come, to remember, to reflect, and for some, to heal," said Mosher. For more information or to help support the memorial tower project, visit www.beirutpeacekeepers.org.

Submitted by Jeff Mosher

"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.boat@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos. 

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



LCPL CHASE DRAVER, USMC

Marine scout snipers with MRF-E rendezvous with Norwegian soldiers to exchange information during Exercise Thunder Reindeer in Setermoen, Norway, June 4. Thunder Reindeer is an annual two-week exercise that includes live-fire ranges and improves interoperability between the U.S. Marine Corps and Norwegian armed forces.

SETERMOEN, NORWAY **Marines, Norwegian Allies** **Integrate, Stay Ready** **Despite Pandemic**

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, successfully deployed to Norway in May as Marine Rotational Force-Europe (MRF-E) 20.2. The rotation, which falls under the command of Marine Forces Europe and Africa, focuses on cold weather training, mountain warfare training and military-to-military engagements to enhance interoperability with allies and partners.

“COVID-19 was certainly a challenge to readiness,” said Lieutenant Colonel Brian Donlon, the MRF-E battalion commander. “It imposed conditions on the battalion’s ability to train that were new and challenging, but COVID did not erase the requirement to be ready to deploy, to be expeditionary and be prepared to execute our mission-essential tasks.”



LCPL CHASE DRAVER, USMC

A U.S. Marine scout sniper with MRF-E provides security during Exercise Thunder Reindeer in Setermoen, Norway, June 4.

During the deployment process, the battalion mandated strict social distancing, specific hygiene protocol, and mask wearing, and corpsmen continually screened Marines and Sailors for any symptoms of the virus. When the battalion arrived in Norway, a 14-day quarantine was implemented.

“We treated quarantine a lot like being on ship, and when we were in quarantine we did our prep for combat in the limited spaces available to us, and we created a battle rhythm that was essentially ship-board living,” added Donlon.

After a successful 14-day quarantine in which the battalion saw zero COVID cases, Marines and Sailors immediately transitioned into the annual interoperability exercise Thunder Reindeer, which took place in the Arctic Circle. The exercise included opportunities to practice live-fire and combined arms training as well as air integration. On the ground, the Marines found themselves setting up camp

Trekking through snowy terrain to a rendezvous point, Marines with MRF-E and Norwegian soldiers participate in Exercise Thunder Reindeer in Setermoen, Norway, May 27.

in snowy, rocky terrain, much different from the humid swampland they were accustomed to at their home station in North Carolina. The Marines tactically integrated with the Norwegians and provided support by fire. Marine scout snipers maneuvered through forests across mountainous terrain to practice stealthy link-up procedures with their Norwegian counterparts without giving away a position.

“This shows the flexibility of each country and our ability to quickly integrate after coming out of quarantine,” said Sergeant Stephen Michaels, a Marine scout sniper.

Marines also integrated with a Norwegian artillery battalion and learned how their NATO counterpart conducts a call-for-fire exercise. The Norwegians were able to integrate air, land and naval assets, to include F-35 Lightning II aircraft, in a joint setting at the battalion level for the first time.

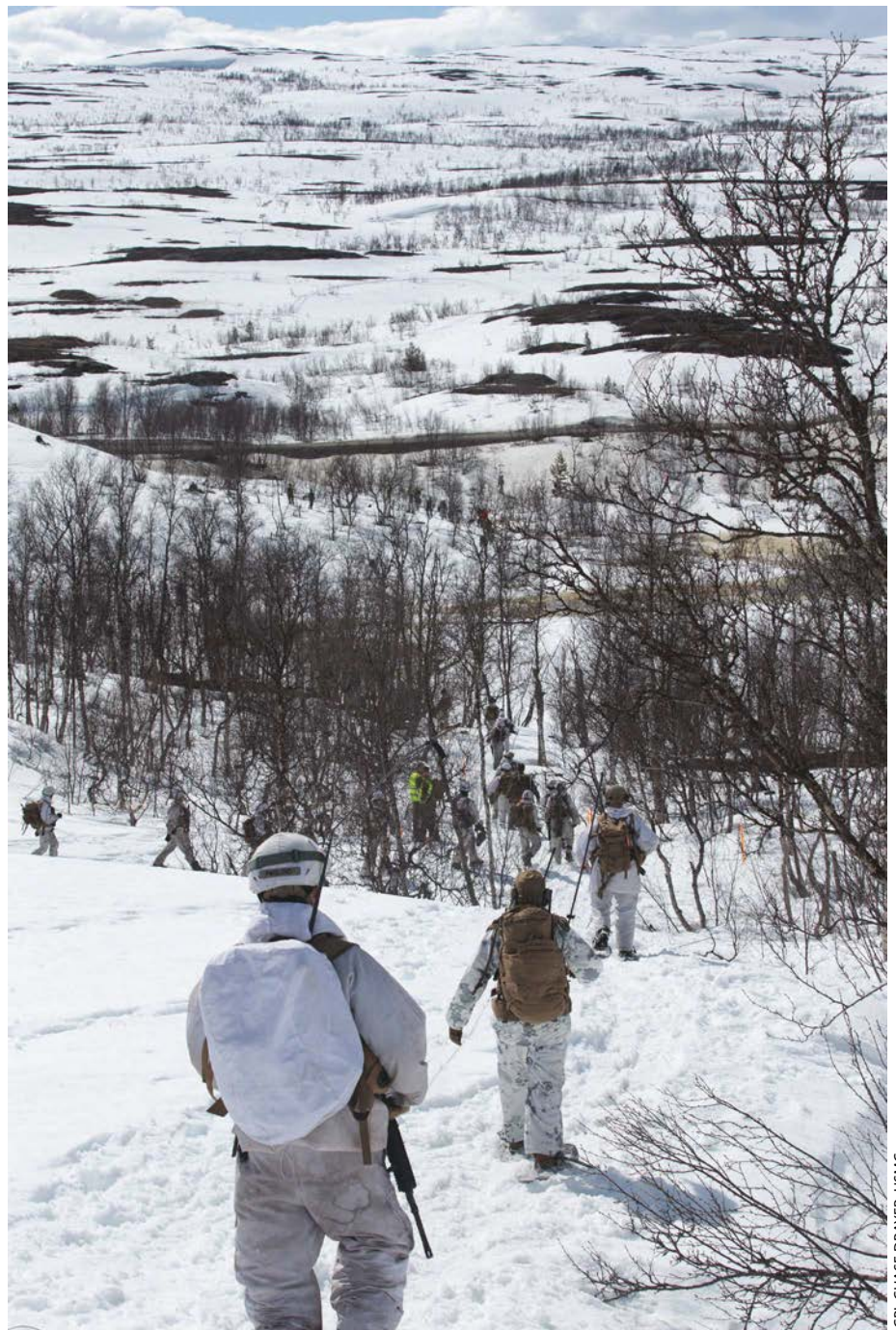
The Norwegian government announced in 2008 its intent to purchase F-35s, and the first round of jets became operational in late 2019. According to Norway’s Chief of Defense, the capability to communicate with the jets is still a work in progress for its armed forces.

To assist in that progress, the Marines stepped in. During Thunder Reindeer, simulated air support was conducted with Norway’s 2nd Army Battalion, which integrated Marine forward air controllers. The Norwegian battalion made contact with F-35s for the first time ever, and troops on the ground received the simulated support needed.

“It’s a personal feat for the Norwegians as they continue to progress with that sort of technology and being able to use them not only as air assets but air-to-ground,” said Captain Sage Santangelo, a Marine forward air controller.

Lieutenant Colonel Erling Nervik, commander of Norway’s 2nd Army Bn, said making contact and having air support was an important facet of the training, and he was very satisfied with his unit’s experience with the Marines.

“We are in many ways like-minded, and we have been good allies for many years, and working together with the USMC is always a pleasure,” Nervik said. “After being at Quantico in America for a year at the Command and Staff College, I know the Marines, know the attitude, the mentality. I’m looking forward to the cooperation between two good allies.”



LCPL CHASE DRAYER, USMC

The Marines are expected to operate in Norway until the fall, and plan to hold various exercises with the Norwegians for continued interoperability and arctic training.

LCpl Chase Drayer, USMC

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.
TACP Exercise Equips 1/10
For Deployment**

As the mid-morning sun rose, a high-mobility, multipurpose, wheeled vehicle roared to life and Marines loaded themselves and their equipment into the back to begin the day’s training. “Charlie” Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division conducted a Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) exercise at Marine

Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 15-22.

The purpose of a TACP exercise is to help air support units work in unison with artillery. For artillery Marines, this consists of timing gunfire with air and ground elements. The Marines use radios to communicate with forward observer units, and the artillery is given the time and impact areas of a mission to support the air combat elements.

“The air units will call us and give us a type of mission for support,” said Corporal Tyler Schuler, a field artillery cannoneer and section chief with 1/10. “Then the air will come in and do their job. It’s important to understand how to work together with the air elements.”



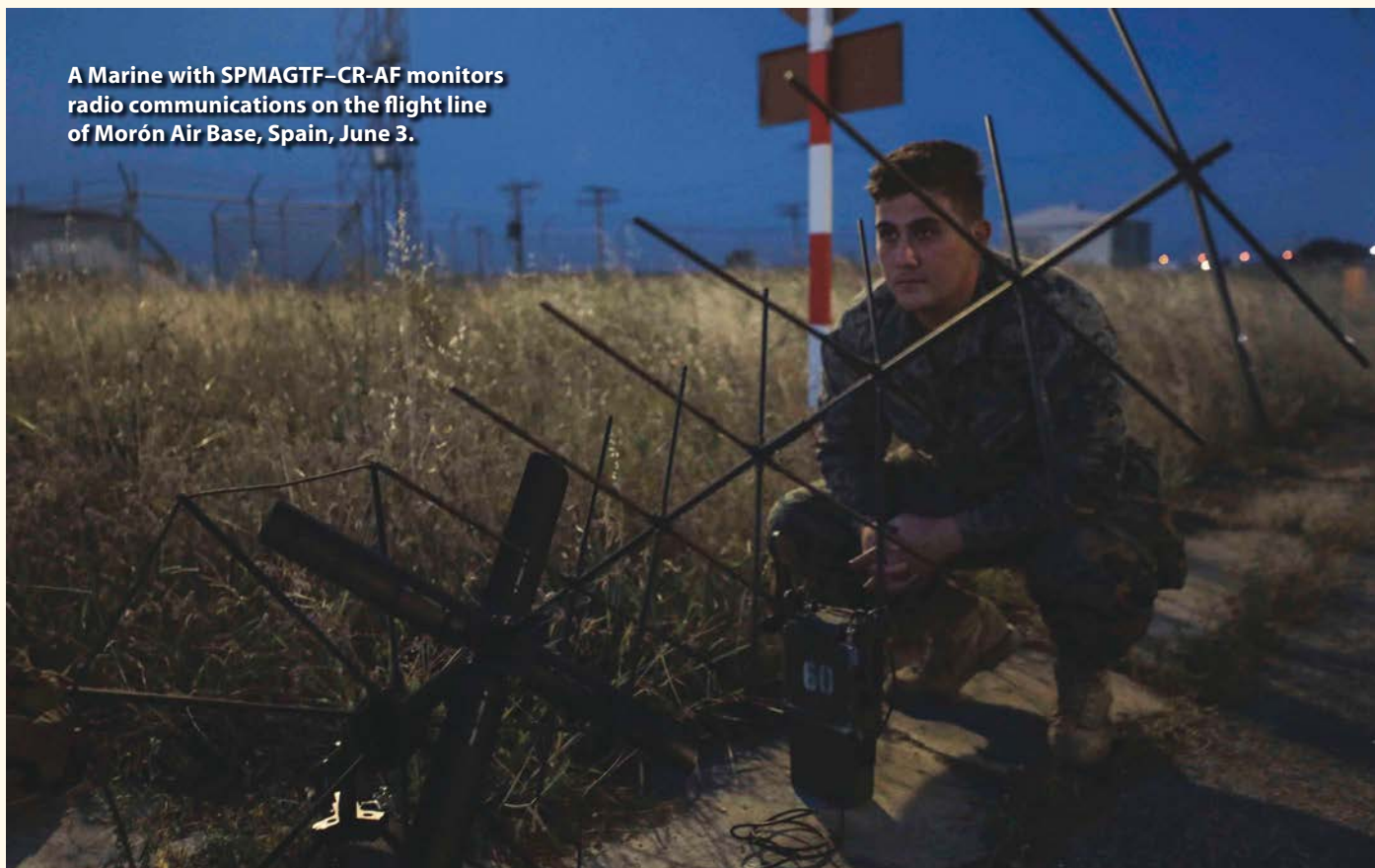
CPL ANTONIO GARCIA, USMC

Above left: A Marine with SPMAGTF–CR-AF adjusts his magazine pouch during an alert force training drill on Morón Air Base, Spain, June 3.



CPL ANTONIO GARCIA, USMC

Above right: During alert force training in Spain, June 3, a Marine with SPMAGTF–CR-AF function checks his AN/PVS-14 monocular night vision device.



A Marine with SPMAGTF–CR-AF monitors radio communications on the flight line of Morón Air Base, Spain, June 3.

CPL TAWANYA NORWOOD, USMC



LCPL REINE WHITAKER, USMC

The training was part of 1/10's preparation for a Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, Japan, and while TACP training is common, this exercise was different than usual due to COVID-19 precautions. The Marines followed guidelines by wearing face coverings, maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others, and frequently sanitizing commonly used surfaces.

"I think it's understandable for us to keep training, even though the world is on pause," said Corporal Matthew Burchwell, a field artillery cannoneer with 1/10. "Our training values have stayed the same because we are preparing for a deployment."

The weeklong TACP training consisted of dry fire exercises, emergency displacements, and "Killer Junior"—quick reaction drills used to give Marines an understanding of how hastily rounds need to be loaded into the howitzer to complete a mission, allowing them to experience calling in coordinates to fire. This gives artillery Marines an opportunity to employ their expeditionary mindset by encouraging leadership from the small unit level, developing problem solving, and testing their knowledge in a field environment.

Above: Marines with Charlie Btry, 1/10, 2ndMarDiv perform an emergency displacement drill during a TACP field exercise at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 16. The training is held several times each year and assists in maintaining readiness for potential future operations.

Below: A "Killer Junior" quick reaction drill puts the Marines of Charlie Btry, 1/10, 2ndMarDiv to the test during their TACP field exercise at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 17.



LCPL REINE WHITAKER, USMC



LCPL REINE WHITAKER, USMC

Above: A Marine with 1/10 participates in an emergency displacement drill, part of the unit's TACP field exercise at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 16.

"Killer Junior is important to practice because if enemy troops dismount in front of us, we are able to take them out up to 800 meters in front of us," said Cpl Tyler Schuler, a field artillery cannoneer and section chief with 1/10. "We are making sure they don't load two rounds at once, knowing what to do if there is a problem, and what would happen if there is a casualty."

The Marines with 1/10 continued to train for the Combat Effectiveness Test in June 2020 while also preparing for their deployment. At the same time, they followed guidelines and precautions issued in response to COVID-19. Nevertheless, the training provided an opportunity for younger Marines to practice drills they may be unfamiliar with.

"It's not just for the job, it's interacting with the young Marines that only have the basic training," said Goines. "To be able to use your own experiences to mold and shape them as proficient Marines and leaders."

LCpl Reine Whitaker, USMC

HAWAII Navy, Marine Helo Squadrons Join Forces for Maritime Strike Exercise

Marines with Marine Light Helicopter Attack Squadron (HMLA) 367 joined forces with U.S. Navy Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 37 to con-

duct an integrated maritime strike exercise off the coast of the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Hawaii, June 8-10.

The two squadrons combined to improve their warfighting capabilities and create a more lethal force from the air. The HSM-37 crew, which flies the MH-60R Seahawk, used radar cueing to provide reconnaissance and strike coordination for the section of HMLA-367 H-1 helicopters—the AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom—which then destroyed a moving surface vessel with Hellfire missiles and rockets.

"This evolution demonstrates Marine Aircraft Group 24's unique ability to integrate with the Navy—optimizing pre-existing technologies that demonstrate precision strikes against maritime targets [and] showcasing the lethality of our naval warfighting capabilities against a peer competitor," said Lieutenant Colonel Page Payne, the commanding officer of HMLA-367.

HMLA-367 and HSM-37 developed this unique training opportunity to hone skills using each aircraft's strengths and to demonstrate the combined advantage of their mutually supportive relationship. By executing this precision maritime strike training, each squadron is better prepared to exercise sea control and sea denial operations in a combined tactical scenario.

1stLt Colin Kennard, USMC



LCPL JACOB WILSON, USMC

Marines with HMLA-367 operate an AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom over Pacific Missile Range, Hawaii, during a joint maritime strike exercise with the Navy's HSM-37.

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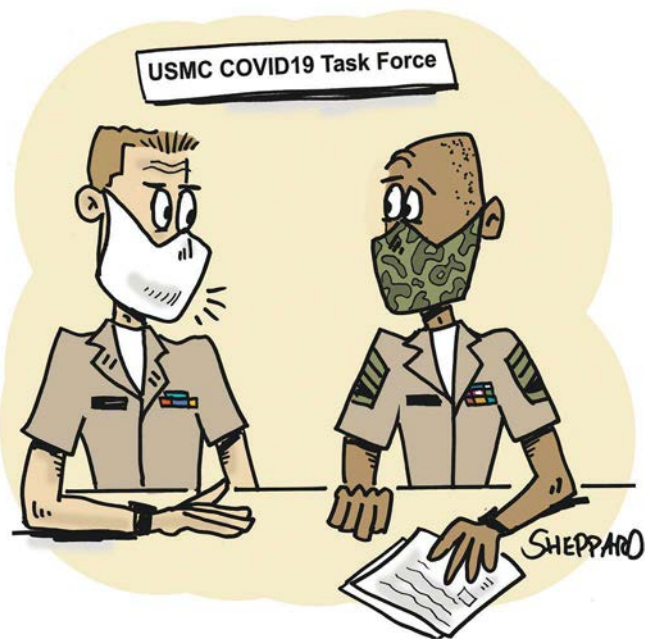
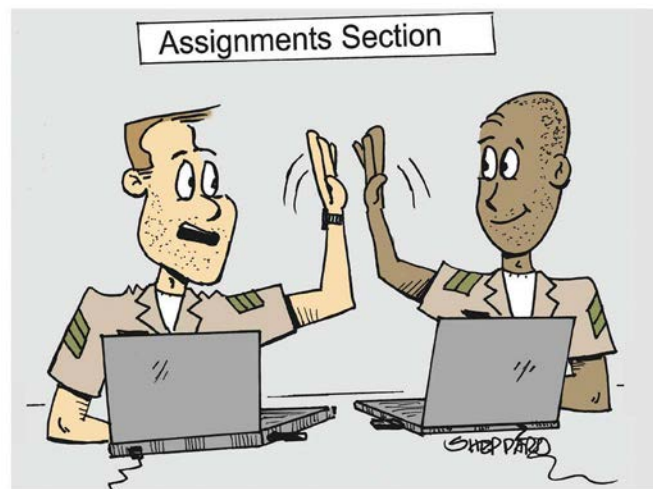
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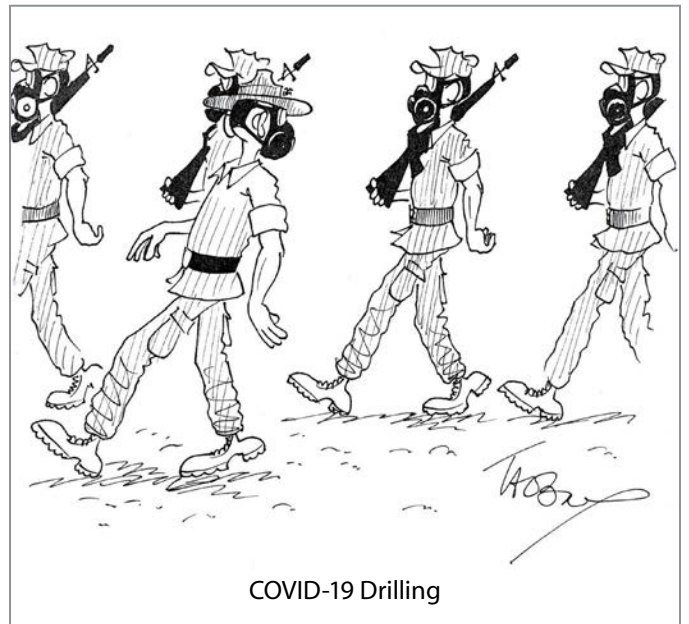
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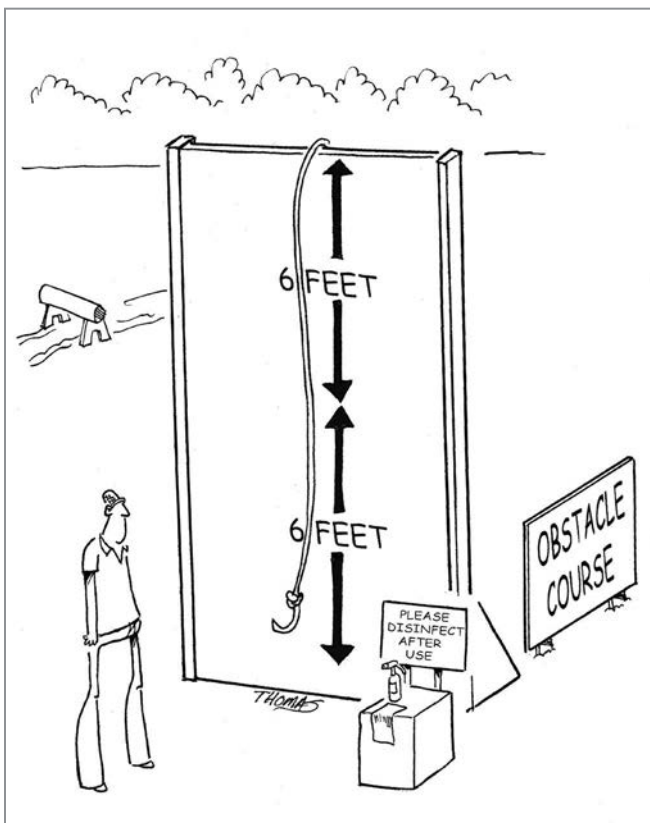




"It's the COVID-19 Service Medal.
I was stuck in the barracks for two months."



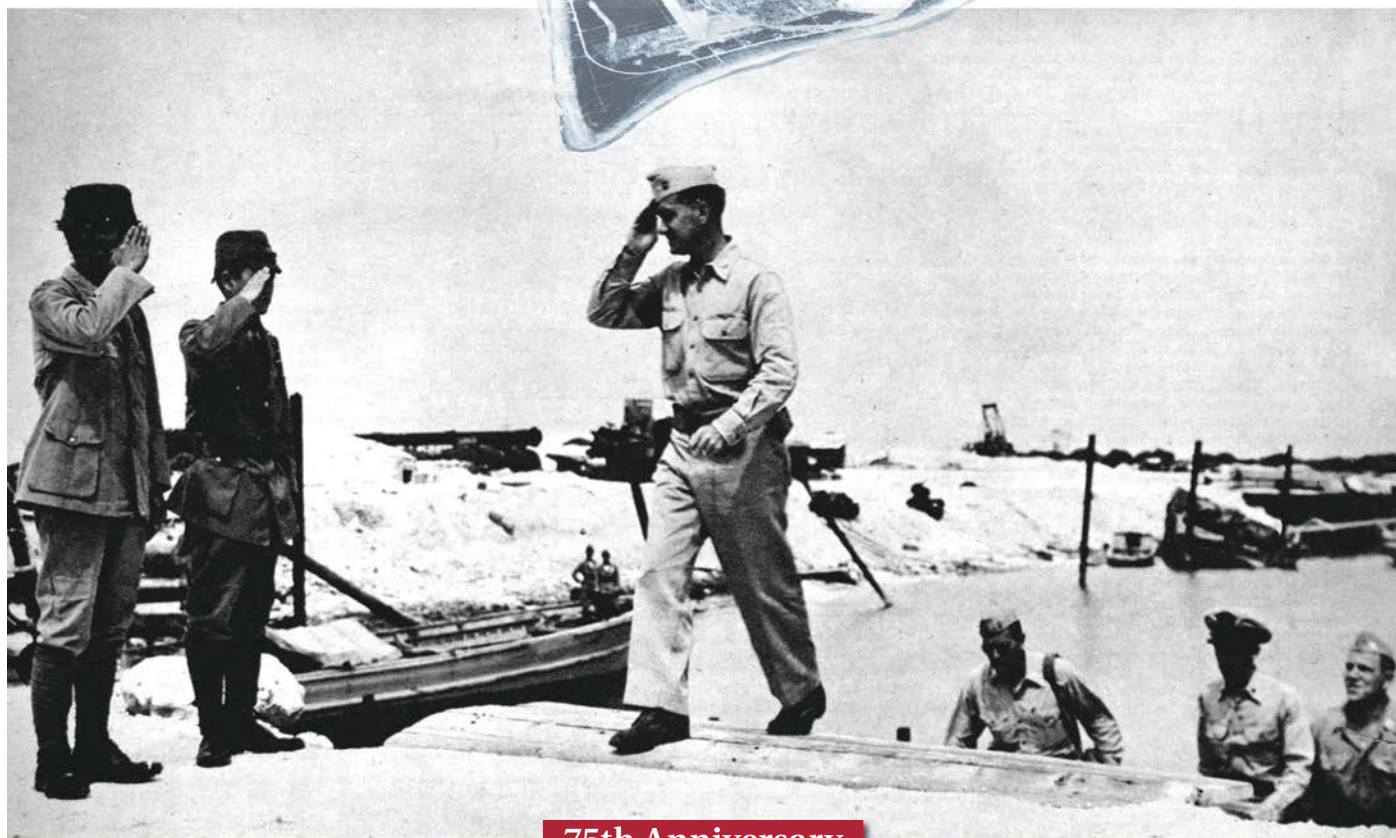
COVID-19 Drilling



Profanity Mask

THE WAKE STORY

**After 45 months,
Old Glory again flies
over the island where
Marines made history**



75th Anniversary

By Sgt Ernie Harwell, USMC

On Wake Island are two flagpoles. One is being choked at its base by scrubby, green bushes. It is an unsteady, bent shaft, almost hidden in the shadow of a rusted and mangled steel observation tower. It is desolate and lonely—without a flag. A half-mile northward, close to the lagoon, is the other flagpole. From its base of stubborn white coral it rises above the ruin of the island. It is inspiring—the American flag flies from its heights.

One pole was that of the 1st Marine Defense Battalion when for 15 days in December 1941, it fought off the Japanese attack. The other was erected Sept. 4, 1945, to fly the American colors after the Japanese had surrendered. Three years and nine months—the entire span of World War II—are between Wake's two flagpoles.

Today a naval air station is under construction there. It will be a stopover for peacetime flights into the western Pacific, and, if the time does come again, a stout defense against a recurrence of Japanese aggression.

The flag-raising ceremony, which once again made Wake American territory, was over in less than two minutes. In the Corps it'll be remembered forever. At 1343, Marine Brigadier General Lawson H.M. Sanderson finished reading the surrender proclamation to American and Japanese contingents.

"Prepare to raise the colors," he commanded.

Master Technical Sergeant Ralph H. Broc of Sacramento, Calif., and Private First Class Millard P. Moore of Tulsa, Okla., stepped forward. They began to

Above: The last man to leave Wake Island in 1941, Col Walter L.J. Bayler, was the first American to return in September 1945.



A battered whaleboat carries the Japanese surrender delegation, led by dour ADM Shigematsu Sakaibara, to the destroyer escort *Levy*.



ADM Sakaibara, LCDR W.G. Clarenbach and Army SSG Larry Watanabe cross *Levy*'s deck.

hoist the flag as PFC George Ellis of Alliance, Ohio, sounded colors. A breeze blew in from the sea and caught the flag as it reached the top. Marines, Sailors and Japanese saluted. Then, following a 21-gun tribute by USS *Levy* (DE-162) lying off-shore, BGen Sanderson turned the island over to Commander William Masek of the Navy.

"I accept this island proudly," said the commander. "Because this is Wake Island. Not just any island. It was here the Marines showed us how."

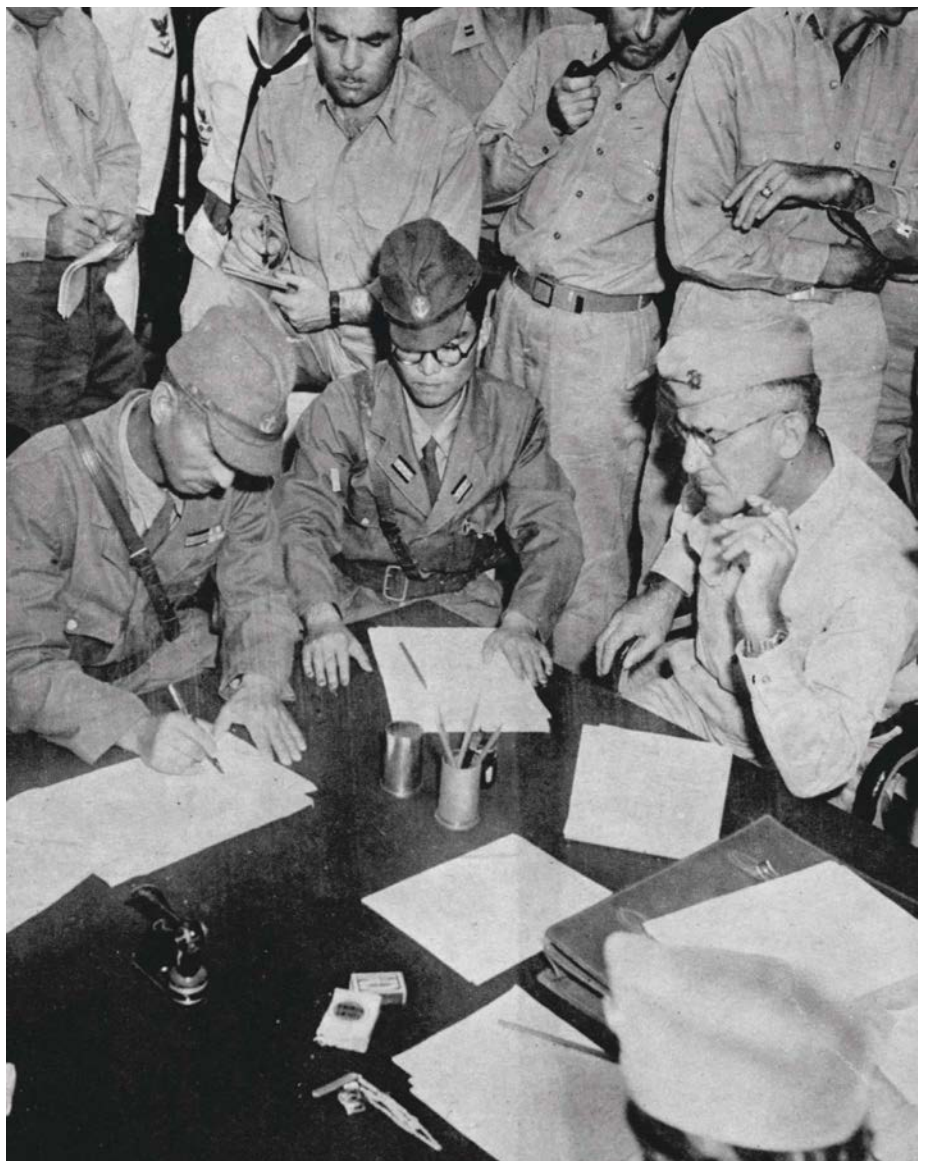
The general moved slowly toward the Japanese naval ranks on the opposite side of the flagpole. Standing before Rear Admiral Shigematsu Sakaibara, through an interpreter he said, "The Japanese fought bravely. Now the war is over, and there'll be peace between us."

"We are very proud for the general to take over," answered ADM Sakaibara. "Thank you for your kind treatment of myself and my men."

The general saluted.

The surrender had been signed earlier the same day on the boat deck of *Levy*, a destroyer escort and flagship of the three-ship convoy, which had taken the Marines to Wake. At 0745, a Japanese whaleboat, carrying a white flag, putt-putted out of the mist which shrouded Wake and moved alongside the American ship. ADM Sakaibara was first aboard. After saluting the ensign and the deck officer, he removed a white glove and shook hands with Lieutenant Commander William G. Clarenbach of Richmond, Calif., captain of the ship. Close on the admiral's heels came three aides followed by Army Colonel Shigeharu Chikama and his aide, Massao Yoshimizu.

The naval officers were dressed in green



BGen Lawson H.M. Sanderson watches closely from the head of the table as Japanese ADM Sakaibara signs the surrender agreement. Marines, Sailors and reporters closely follow the proceedings in the background.

“I accept this island proudly,” said the commander. “Because this is Wake Island. Not just any island. It was here the Marines showed us how.”



Above: Arms and munitions, including Springfields taken from the Wake garrison in 1941, are loaded on the docks by the Japanese. There was no fear of sabotage given the weak state of the Japanese.

with khaki shirts and blue ties. They wore Sam Browne belts and black puttees. A green visor cap with a yellow anchor insignia topped their uniforms. Army officers wore olive drab, khaki gloves, white, open-neck shirts, and brown puttees.

The surrendering party was escorted to the boat deck by LCDR Clarenbach and Army Staff Sergeant Larry Watanabe, the American interpreter. While they were conferring with BGen Sanderson's chief of staff, Colonel Thomas J. Walker Jr., of Columbia, S.C., the general came into the group. BGen Sanderson, his face lined with a calm grimness, did not shake hands. He nodded to the Japanese delegates and told them to be seated.

He placed his tanned left hand on the shoulder of his Nisei interpreter and turned to the Japanese admiral.

“This boy,” he said, “was born in U.S. territory. He is an American citizen. Not a prisoner.”

A smile broke through the admiral's stony features.

“Of course, general,” he commented, “we regret that the Japanese must surrender, but we are glad it is to America.”

Arranging themselves around the table to confer with the Japanese were BGen Sanderson, Colonel Walker, Commander Masek, CDR H.E. Cross (commanding officer of the Destroyer Escort Division 11) and Lieutenant Colonel William D.



The raising of the American flag on Wake Island was the most visible symbol of the transfer of the island back into the hands of the Americans.

Roberson. Four photographers and two movie cameramen moved around the green, felt-covered table like hunters stalking their prey. A microphone hung from above.

CDR Cross extracted a package of cigarettes and offered one to Lieutenant (paymaster) Nakasato, who was serving as Japanese interpreter. The paymaster, who wore black-rimmed glasses, accepted the cigarette but didn't inhale. BGen Sanderson slipped his glasses on and then took a cigar from his shirt pocket. Col Walker brought a sheaf of papers from his red briefcase, and final negotiations were under way.

Already the Japanese had agreed on general terms. But there were a few specific questions, written in pencil on tablet paper, which BGen Sanderson handed the admiral. "How many buoys do you have?" and "Are they in use?" were two of the queries. These were settled, and the signing began. BGen Sanderson handed the admiral a pen and both the original copy of the surrender and the Japanese translation.

After glancing over the Japanese translation, the admiral turned to his aide and questioned him.

"Why is the date not filled in? Will it be inserted?" he asked. Learning it would be, he signed. The general watched. Then he affixed his signature to both copies in a large bold hand. Eleven more copies in both Japanese and English were handed the Japanese admiral.

"Why so many?" he asked.

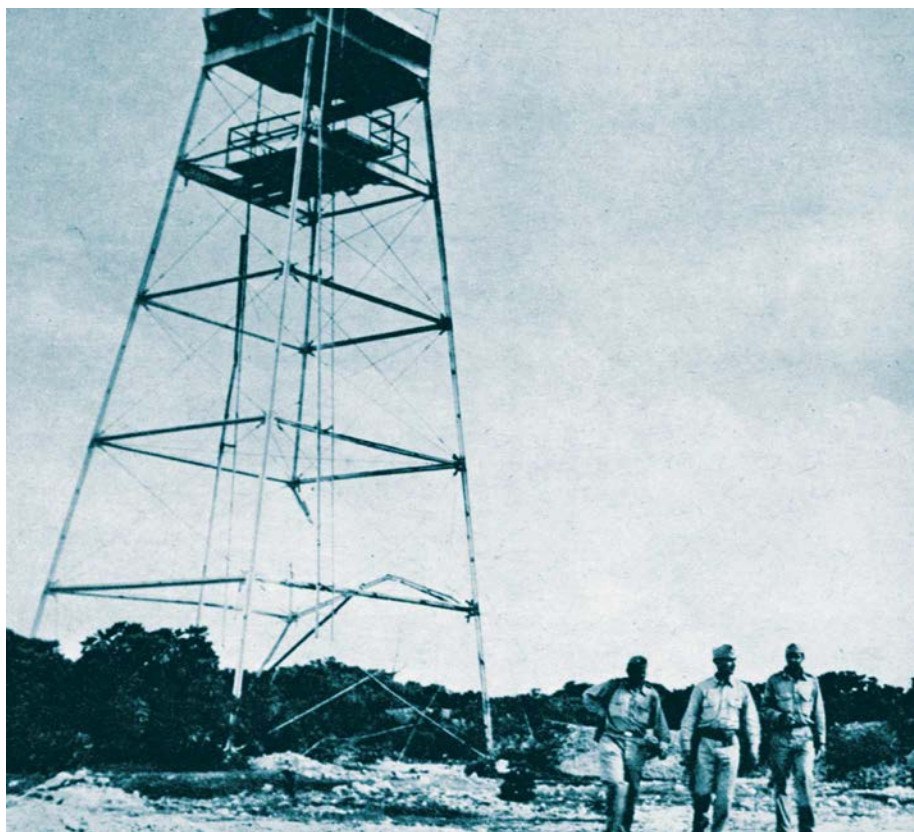
"It is necessary," the general explained, "because of our procedure. Copies must be sent to many different headquarters."

The Japanese shrugged and penned his name to the bottom of each document. Col Walker then stamped the papers with the U.S. government seal, and the surrender was completed.

A discussion concerning the sending of a party ashore by the Americans took place next. CDR Masek pulled out a map of the island. When he did, the Japanese jumped up and pointed toward the shoreline, explaining with gesticulations the location of important points. A rain blew in from the west, sending the group below to the wardroom.

Thirty-five minutes later, a party of Marines headed for Wake in a whaleboat. The first to step ashore was Colonel Walter L.J. Bayler of Lebanon, Pa., who on Dec. 21, 1941, had been the last American to leave the same island. The colonel was followed ashore by a group of correspondents, and a few minutes later another boatload of Marines arrived.

As they walked up the concrete steps from the pier, the first structure they saw



Above: Passing Wake's observation tower, now rusty, battered and standing on three legs, are, left to right, *Time* writer Robert Okin, Col Bayler and William Norwood of the *Christian Science Monitor*.



Col Bayler stands by a Japanese tank during an inspection of the island which would become a naval air station for American forces.



Japanese seaman Tokeo Endo had been on the island since the initial Japanese landing in December 1941.

was a white frame Japanese building, fronted by circular steps. It formerly had been a dining hall, but now was being used by the Japanese as a command post. Four trucks, a 1941 station wagon, a touring car and a sedan were parked in front. Inside the hall the Japanese had stacked much of their ammunition.

The Japanese who stood around the veranda in their patched uniforms were polite but steely-eyed and aloof. They told the Marines that 1,250 men were left on Wake. Last supplies, they said, had been brought in by a submarine on June 21. However, half of that supply had been lost when an American sub sighted the Japanese vessel and forced it to submerge.

Since the original Japanese invasion, 2,000 Japanese had died of malnutrition; 1,000 had been killed by air attacks and almost another 1,000 had been evacuated by hospital ship. The remaining Japanese were living underground and subsisting on pumpkins, fish and rice. Many of them were emaciated.

"We must guard against sabotage," BGen Sanderson told the Japanese delegation at the surrender ceremony.

"There need be no worry," was the reply. "None of our men has the strength for such action."

The beleaguered Japanese had just 17 days' rations left. This condition was alleviated immediately when Sailors from *Levy* brought ashore four tons of rice and fish, plus 550 pounds of medical supplies.

The Americans had provided the Japanese with movies—but didn't know it.

"We enjoyed American cinemas very

**"We must guard
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much here," a Japanese Army major told the group. "The films once belonged to your Marine garrison. Our sound amplifiers would not work but we did not mind."

The Japanese, who spoke broken English, jotted down the names of the movies. The list: "Chicago," "Dance in Honolulu," "Cowboy A & B," "Three People in Heaven," "Lost Love," "Brave Soldiers," "Military Ships" and "Amusement of Soldiers."

Anxious to see the island, especially the old Marine encampment, the group hopped

aboard a commandeered Japanese truck and began a tour. Col Bayler pointed out many spots where the small leatherneck garrison had lived, worked and fought. The old observation tower, now staggering on three rusty legs, still stood.

"It was from there," explained Col Bayler, "that we saw the first wave of attacking Japanese planes come over the island on the morning of Dec. 8."

Smoking a black pipe, the colonel led the group 100 yards to the left, stepping around several duds as he went.

"See those two wooden sticks over there across that tank trap?" the colonel asked. "Well, that is all that's left of our old administration building."

The Japanese, the colonel observed, had worked hard on the islands, bringing in sand and coral to build defenses. They had changed the face of the area almost completely. Off the well-kept airstrip was an underground hangar which had been built by Marine forces. Nearby stood a dugout.

Three wrecked Japanese planes lay near the strong, concrete revetments. In the bushes on the opposite side of the field were three of the Grumman Wildcats which had fought off the early enemy attacks.

The island still bristled with gun emplacements. A glance in any direction showed American machinery, most of it wrecked. Down the coral road from the airstrip was the former Marine industrial area. There the officers' quarters had been under construction when the first Japanese planes roared over Wake.

A Curtis Commando takes BGen Sanderson and his party back to Kwajalein following the surrender ceremonies. It was the first air transport ever to land on Wake Island, and first of many more to come.



All that remained were a few toilet bowls staring bleakly into the Pacific sky.

“Were there any Marines or American civilians buried on the island?”

The Japanese said yes, in two common graves with 80 men in one and an unknown number in the other. Big crosses marked both graves. Atop the first mound of coral and sand was a marker which read: “Will Miles, Died July 15, 1942.”

Who was Will Miles?

None of the Japanese knew. The closest guess was that he had been an American civilian worker; that all the Americans had been thrown into the two graves and that Miles had been the last to die. Or perhaps as one Japanese explained:

“He was the most important, so we placed his name on top of the grave.”

(Records of the Navy Department’s Bureau of Yards and Docks carry the name of a William Miles, 57, who was on Wake at the time the island fell to the Japanese. Listed as a contractor’s employee, Miles has been unreported since that time.)

The plot showed signs of recent preparation. Bushes near it were freshly cut. The white paint on the posts surrounding the graves and also that on the markers was not quite dry. Evidently the Japanese, expecting an early visit from American forces, had policed up the cemetery area.

When the group returned to the Japanese command post to prepare for the flag-raising, correspondents asked if there was anyone left on the island who had participated in the original attack there almost four years ago.

“We have few,” was the answer.

A Japanese lieutenant commander dispatched a sailor to bring a man to the command post. He was Japanese Superior Seaman Tokeo Endo, a swarthy, stocky man of 31 years.

“I came ashore,” he said in answer to the newsmen’s queries, “in early morning of December 23. Our attacking force included four destroyers, two transports, four cruisers and one seaplane tender. I landed from a patrol vessel. The fighting was fierce—full of hand-to-hand combat—and lasted more than eight hours.”

“How many men did your forces include?” he was asked.

“We had about 700. Of those we lost about 120 in landing and 60 or 70 later.”

“Are you happy now that you’ll be going home?”

No answer.

“Are you married?”

“Yes,” he said. “But no children.”

“Don’t you want to see your wife?”

No answer.

The Japanese said that they had taken 1,600 American prisoners and moved

them from Wake in two groups, the first leaving in March 1942.

The final question put to him was, “Don’t you want to return home at all?”

“I will return if ordered,” was the laconic reply.

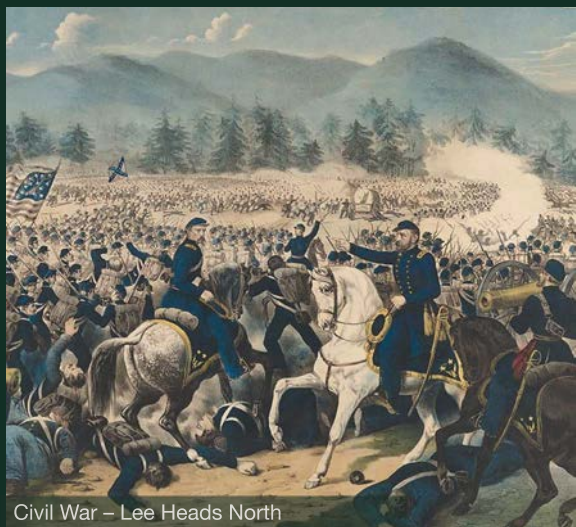
Meanwhile, BGen Sanderson had come ashore, and the Japanese and American forces were gathering for the flag raising. As the flag was hoisted into the air, Superior Seaman Endo, watching from behind the command post, looked down and scraped some coral aside with his heavy black shoe. What he was thinking no one will ever know.

What the Americans were thinking, everybody knows.

The next morning a Curtiss Commando landed on the Wake airstrip—the first plane to visit the island since its capture by the Japanese, and the first transport ever to land there. At 1000 it took off and headed for Kwajalein with BGen Sanderson and his party.

Many more planes will land and take off from Wake. This little island which the Marines defended so stoutly is ours again—a tribute to American heroism.

Editor’s note: All photos are USMC photos.



Civil War – Lee Heads North

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A CH-53E Super Stallion prepares for takeoff from the flight deck of USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3).

While the World Watched

The Rescue of Captain Scott O'Grady, USAF

By Maj Fred H. Allison, USMC (Ret)

The U.S. Marine Corps has used the tactic called TRAP, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel, since the early days of Marine aviation, although it was not officially named that until much later. One of the earliest instances was in 1932 in Nicaragua when a Marine aircraft went down. The three crewmen were located, and a ground patrol went forth to provide security and lead the crewmen to a pick-up site. Once there, another amphibian aircraft landed and loaded the three aboard. In a general way, this encompassed a TRAP mission. With the downed aviator's location known, troops go in to secure the area and the pick-up site. The rescued individuals are then flown to a friendly location.

A TRAP is not the same as combat search and rescue (CSAR), although there are similarities. As the name implies,

TRAP can also include the recovery of a downed aircraft, whereas CSAR is surgical-like and goes solely after the people who need to be rescued. Another difference is that a TRAP does not include a search function. Of course, Marines will try to locate missing personnel, but the TRAP does not execute until the missing individual(s) is positively located. A TRAP force includes Marine infantry who can secure the area around the individual to be rescued when in a hostile zone.

As commanding general of Fleet Marine Force Atlantic in the late 1980s, General Alfred M. Gray added TRAP to the Marine Amphibious Unit's special operations missions. His reasoning was that the Marine Corps needed this rescue capability if no other force was around to do it. He explained, "The Marine Corps, with its TRAP capability, is the only maritime,

forward-deployed rescue and recovery force available to the United States military. The inherent flexibility and virtually assured access of a maritime force such as an Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with embarked Marines provides the geographic Commander-in-Chief, Joint Force Commander (JFC) or Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) commander with a ready and relevant platform from which to launch trained CSAR forces such as a Marine TRAP force."

In recent years, downed aviators in hostile areas represent significant strategic implications. The very fact that an American aircraft is downed is a great morale and public relations victory for the enemy. The capture of American personnel is a sought-after prize that can serve as another great public relations victory and a bargaining chip for concessions. These

A Serb-fired SA-6 popped through clouds and cleanly sliced U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O’Grady’s F-16 in half.

With his cockpit world disintegrating, O’Grady gave the “beautiful gold handle of his ejection seat,” a firm yank and was fired free.

incidents can have a powerful impetus for the U.S. or coalition to shift or alternate a strategic or tactical game plan.

The 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Charles C. Krulak, advanced the concept of the “strategic corporal.” This concept asserts that a junior officer or enlisted Marine, by their actions in real-world operations, can have a powerful effect on public opinion, which can powerfully affect tactics and strategy. The execution of TRAP missions today is especially visible and consequence-laden. The TRAP is conducted on the world stage, and every Marine involved is “strategic.”

An example of this occurred during the NATO operation, Deny Flight, when the Marine Corps and Navy team, in concert with a joint/coalition force, conducted a highly significant TRAP. The precision and professionalism of this TRAP not only resulted in the rescue of the downed aviator but also allowed Deny Flight to continue without a troublesome hostage situation.

On June 2, 1995, a Serb-fired SA-6 popped through clouds and cleanly sliced U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O’Grady’s F-16 in half. With his cockpit world disintegrating, O’Grady gave the “beautiful gold handle of his ejection seat,” a firm yank and was fired free. For nearly six days, O’Grady, hiding out in the Bosnian woods, employed techniques learned in Air Force survival training to evade capture and stay alive. He lived off grass and bugs and successfully avoided capture while American and NATO forces searched for his whereabouts. Marine F/A-18D “Hornet” aviators of VMFA(AW)-533, the “Hawks,” who were flying Deny Flight missions, also looked for O’Grady.

When O’Grady went down, the special operations-capable 24th Marine Ex-



PAUL FARLEY

Above: Marine aviators of VMFA(AW)-533 flying F/A-18 Hornets like the one pictured here were responsible for helping locate Capt Scott O’Grady.



The Soviet-made SA-6 was the type surface-to-air missile that shot down Capt Scott O’Grady’s F-16 in June 1995. (Photo by Srđan Popović)

peditionary Unit (MEU), commanded by Colonel Martin R. Berndt, aboard USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3), broke off a training exercise on Sardinia, sailed immediately to the Adriatic, and stood off the coast of Croatia, ready to execute a TRAP if O’Grady were located. The 24th MEU (SOC) shared a rotating alert with the Joint Special Operations Task Force in Brindisi, Italy. The MEU covered the period 3 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. On June 8, a fellow F-16

pilot made the first contact with O’Grady, a brief radio transmission shortly after midnight. This provided a beacon to his position.

At an airbase at Aviano, Italy, Captain Charles E. “Monger” Ehlert was asleep in the squadron ready room. He was roused awake at 3 a.m. on June 8 and told to execute VMFA(AW)-533’s pre-planned, pre-briefed recovery mission. Ehlert and Capt Chris C. Pappas, Ehlert’s weapons

USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3) was the Navy amphibious assault ship from which the TRAP mission was launched to rescue Capt Scott O'Grady.



system operator (WSO), had developed a fast response plan to verify and report on O'Grady's position. The plan required Hawk pilots and WSOs to remain on alert status and sleep in the ready room in order to respond within 30 minutes if O'Grady were located. Now that it was determined that O'Grady was alive and his approximate location was also known, the Hawk rescue crews scrambled. Ehlert, Pappas, wingman Major John D. "Homey" McMaster, and WSO, Captain Wilbert E. "Wheels" Thomas, hurried to their jets. They were airborne at 3:20 a.m. Aboard

Kearsarge, Col Martin Berndt was alerted about the same time to execute the TRAP.

The TRAP commander, Lieutenant Colonel Chris J. Gunther, Commanding Officer, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines Regiment (BLT 3/8), commenced a detailed briefing, and soon, the Marines began loading into the helicopters. The helicopters for the TRAP mission had been "spotted" on the deck of *Kearsarge*, on a one-hour alert since O'Grady had gone down. The helicopters belonged to HMM-263, the "Thunder Chickens," and two of the squadron's

CH-53Es were loaded with 42 Marines from BLT 3/8, escorted by two AH-1Ws. The Cobras were ready for a fight, loaded with TOW missiles, rockets, and 20 mm cannon rounds. Minutes after 5 a.m., they lifted from the deck of *Kearsarge*. Leading the flight was Major William R. Tarbuton, flying the lead CH-53 with copilot Captain Paul D. Oldenberg. The second CH-53 was flown by Capt Paul A. Fortunato and copilot Capt James M. Wright. Flying the Cobras were Major Scott C. Mykleby and copilot Capt Ian K. Walsh, and the wingman Cobra was



Above: A Marine F/A-18D Hornet from VMFA(A)-533 takes on fuel. Marine Hornet pilots conducted one in-flight refueling during the TRAP mission to rescue Capt Scott O'Grady. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)

The Cobras were ready for a fight, loaded with TOW missiles, rockets, and 20 mm cannon rounds. Minutes after 5 a.m., they lifted from the deck of *Kearsarge*.

MC2 THOMAS HENDERSON, USN

piloted by Maj Nicholas J. Hall and copilot Capt James T. Jenkins II.

While the rescue helicopter crews scrambled, Ehlert's section of Hornets obtained O'Grady's coordinates from the AWACS controller while over the Adriatic Sea. A delayed aerial tanker put them behind schedule, and the sun was breaking the horizon as their Hornets crossed into Bosnia. Daylight made them more vulnerable to Serbian anti-aircraft fire. Their mission would not only pinpoint O'Grady, but it would also provide an essential weather report and assess the



MC MARK HAYS, USN

AH-1W Cobras of HMM-263 (Rein) similar to the one pictured above provided cover for the TRAP mission, specifically at the point of rescue in Bosnia.

enemy threat—valuable information for Gunther’s TRAP force. Their jets, flying low and nearly supersonic, flashed over and awoke O’Grady. Wheels Thomas was soon talking to him.

The two Hornets split their formation, then turned back toward where they thought O’Grady was. Ehlert flew a south to north route, then McMaster flew an east to west route. They asked O’Grady to report when he saw their jets directly overhead. This would precisely mark his location. Although fog was in the area, it was providentially clear directly over O’Grady’s location. They radioed all the critical information to the AWACS aircraft that then passed it to Gunther. The Marine F/A-18 crews, having completed this critical part of the rescue plan, exited Bosnian airspace and refueled on an airborne tanker. They rendezvoused with a flight of

Navy F/A-18s and EA-6Bs and led them to a holding point south of O’Grady. The Navy jets were positioned to suppress enemy anti-aircraft weapons that might challenge the TRAP force. These Navy aircraft were part of a 40-plane air armada assembled to support the TRAP mission.

The delay in getting an aerial tanker for Ehlert’s flight also delayed the TRAP package, which held in flight near *Kearsarge* as it steadily moved closer to the Croatian coast. The Cobras ran short of fuel and landed aboard *Kearsarge* to refuel. Once this was done, they rejoined in formation on the CH-53s. At 5:47 a.m., the word flashed that the mission was on, and the four Marine helicopters turned landward with O’Grady about 90 miles away.

The helicopters roared into Croatia and descended to about 200 feet over the

ground to present only a fleeting target to enemy gunners. Two Harrier jets, flown by Maj Michael S. Ogden and Capt Harold W. Blot Jr., took off from *Kearsarge*. Loaded with Mk-82 bombs and 25 mm cannon rounds, the Harriers provided escort and heavy fire support if required. They also served as a radio relay between the low-flying helicopters and the AWACS. Five miles southwest of O’Grady’s position, the CH-53E Super Stallions went into a holding pattern while Mykleby’s Cobras pressed forward toward O’Grady’s location.

Capt Mykleby was soon speaking with O’Grady, and wingman Hall popped a yellow smoke to mark the location. A call from Mykleby brought Tarbutton’s section of CH-53s roaring in toward the yellow smoke. They selected a cleared area near the woods and settled down. Marines



The CH-53E of HMM-263 is the type of aircraft that landed in a Bosnian pasture and rescued Capt Scott O’Grady. Infantry Marines debarked from the helicopter and provided a security force during the rescue.



Captains T.O. Hanford, left, Scott F. O'Grady, center, and Bob Wright speak at a press conference after O'Grady's rescue. Capt Hanford made the initial radio contact with O'Grady before his rescue, and Wright was O'Grady's lead man the day he was shot down.

radar tracking the helicopters. About 20 minutes into the return flight back to the ship, the flight encountered a flurry of ground fire. Capt Fortunato called a SAM shot. It was an SA-7, a shoulder-fired missile. Its white smoke trail corkscrewed toward them, then passed without hitting. The pilots pushed their aircraft lower, dropping to 100 feet.

A few minutes later, Mykleby watched another SA-7 arc up and pass to the left. At the same time, Hall saw small arms and an antiaircraft automatic gun flash, and yet another SAM twisted up toward them. All missed. Gunfire, however, hit Fortunato's CH-53, the one carrying O'Grady. Bullets bounced off the rear ramp and sparked off the rear rotor. One round popped into the fuselage, ricocheted around and then plowed into a Marine's canteen, where it stopped without hurting anyone. Once clear of Bosnia, the flight quickly crossed the strip of Croatia that bordered the Adriatic. The helicopters and O'Grady were all safely aboard the ship by 7:40 a.m.

Right after thanking God, O'Grady gave the Navy and Marine Corps credit for his deliverance, saying, "the biggest heroes in the world, [are] the men and women of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps who came in there and saved me." Later, O'Grady visited the Hawks in Aviano and thanked the crews, including his friend Wheels Thomas, who he knew through their time working together in the operations center, for their role in rescuing him.

The Marines and Sailors accomplished the TRAP mission to rescue O'Grady nearly flawlessly, knowing failure was not an option. It made the hundreds of hours spent in training and rehearsals more than worthwhile.

Editor's note: This story derives from Fred Allison's new manuscript, tentatively entitled, "Modern Marine Aviation," which has recently been accepted for publication by MCU Press.

Author's bio: Maj Fred Allison, USMCR (Ret) is a former Marine F-4 radar intercept officer. He earned his doctorate in history from Texas Tech University and recently retired as the oral historian for the Marine Corps History Division, Quantico, Va.

Bullets bounced off the rear ramp and sparked off the rear rotor. One round popped into the fuselage, ricocheted around and then plowed into one of the Marine's canteens, where it stopped without hurting anyone.

aboard the first CH-53 clambered out and established a secure perimeter. There was no enemy fire. Captain Fortunato, flying the second CH-53, landed seconds later. Unfortunately, a boulder and a fence prevented the ramp on his CH-53 from dropping. Fortunato lifted off and while doing so, O'Grady, wet and dirty, ran full tilt toward the CH-53, pistol at the ready.

The big helicopter then eased down, and immediately Marines hauled O'Grady into the helicopter through a side door. It was a bit anti-climactic. LtCol Gunther remarked, "We trained for nine months for such a rescue, of course we didn't expect him to come right up to us." The Marines wrapped him in a coat, and the helicopters lifted off. They had only been on the ground for 10 minutes. To stay clear of clouds, the helicopters had to climb briefly to 2,000 feet as they flew back toward Kearsarge.

In the meantime, Navy EA-6Bs had detected and jammed Serbian antiaircraft



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Hardships in Afghanistan

By Sgt Chase B. Gindin, USMC

Editor's note: The following article is the second-place winner of the 2020 Leatherneck Writing Contest. Major Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines, through the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Upcoming issues of Leatherneck will feature the third-place winner and honorable mention entrants.

Everything is dark. A faint ringing grows louder. Voices echo far away, yet they feel close. Sergeant Baker exhales. The air around him is heavy and humid, like an open oven. The coppery stench of fresh blood, cordite, and burning flesh fill the summer air.

Private First Class Holiday screams over the sound of incoming and outgoing

gunfire. "Sgt Baker, you all right? Wake up! We're taking contact."

Corporal Torres shouts over the intense firefight that seems to have broken out of nowhere. "Where the hell's the radio? Someone find me the damn radio." ... Silence.

Sgt Baker thinks of the front yard of his house. He sits with his parents on a cold winter night, gathered around a fire pit. The heat from the fire pushes against the cool winter air. They talk about life, his future, what he wanted to do with his career.

He debates whether he'd stay in the Marine Corps or get out after four years and apply to Florida State University.

"You nervous, Son?" asks his father.

Sgt Baker replies as he takes a long drag from his cigarette, "A little, Dad ... just a little."

"That's good," his father affirmed. "If you weren't nervous then you're either an idiot or something's wrong."

Cpl Torres screams on the radio, "Archangel-41, this is Gravedigger, I've got multiple enemies inside compounds Tango, Charlie, and Echo. Enemies southwest of Tango about 300 meters in a wadi, two technical vehicles southeast 250 m of Charlie compound. This will be a Type 1 control, advise when ready to copy 9-line."

Sgt Baker is in his shithole barracks room with his best friend Cpl Foy. They're drinking whiskey straight from the bottle and talking about their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Sgt Baker's phone rings. It's his girlfriend, Sarah.

"We need to talk about this ... I think we need to take a break."



A squad from 1/9 conducts a patrol in Helmand Province in 2014.

COURTESY OF SGT CHASE B. GINDIN, USMC

From left to right: LCpl Chase Gindin, LCpl Kyle Seykot, LCpl John Konsavage, and Cpl Scamp, an IED detection dog, sweep for IEDs in 2014.

Shocked, Sgt Baker looks up to the wall. A single photograph remained unpacked. It was the one with his arms wrapped around her, as she kisses him on the cheek. He had wanted to make sure it would be with him. That way if anything happened to him, she would have known how much he had loved her. Sgt Baker replies angrily “Are you serious? You’re doing this now? You know I leave tomorrow, right?” He rips the photograph down and throws it into the trash.

Sarah answers, “Yeah, I know but I don’t want to do this anymore, I’m still young and I want to go out and explore the world. I don’t want to be forced to wait nine months for you. I’m sorry, Jonathan.”

Cpl Torres bellows into the radio, “Ford, zero-seven-zero, left, ten-point-one. Forty-six feet MSL, two technical vehicles in the open, grid 18S TD 9183 3574.”

Cpl Foy shouts to the rest of 1st Squad. “Pick up suppressive fire on the right.”

Cpl Torres yells into the radio as he triple checks all the work on his map, while rounds continue to impact all around him “Illum on deck, southwest 250 m, left pull back to HA Vegas. Advise when ready to copy remarks, final attack heading one-two-zero through one-five-zero. I’d like a single Mk-82 from each jet. Lead hit the northernmost vehicle, Dash-2, hit the southernmost vehicle. Dash-2, follow 30 seconds in trail. Immediate push.”

Sgt Baker slowly opens his eyes. The world is spinning but slowly stabilizes. He lays there a couple seconds before realizing that an IED just went off and the squad is being ambushed by enemy insurgents.

Sgt Baker says to Cpl Torres as he’s stumbling toward him, “It’s kind of late to be triple checking, you fucking boot.”

Cpl Torres replies sarcastically, “Screw you. I was hoping you’d stay knocked out for longer so I don’t have to hear your dumb ass talk about my control.”

Sgt Baker looks around and shouts, “This is a decent ambush, I’ve never seen anything like this before.” Half shocked and half impressed he states, “I thought these guys were just stupid farmers.”

Cpl Torres opens his mouth to speak but is interrupted by Archangel-41 on the radio. “Gravedigger, Archangel-41 is pushing.”

Cpl Torres calmly replies, “Archangel-41, continue.”

Archangel-41 comes back on the radio. “Roger, Archangel-41 is IP inbound.”



COURTESY OF SGT CHASE B. GINDIN, USMC

Cpl Torres calmly says into the radio as he makes visual eye contact with the aircraft, “Archangel-41 continue.”

Archangel-41 comes back on the radio. “Archangel-41 is visual friendlies, contact mark, tally target. Archangel-41 is in, heading one-three-zero.”

Cpl Torres, giddy with excitement, announces “Cleared hot.”

First squad’s screams of joy ring out over the exploding bomb and mask the sound of the intense firefight. Sgt Baker continues to command his Marines, loudly, over the chaos, “Gain fire superiority NOW! Once that SMAW hits the compound, first and second fire teams are bounding with me while third fire team provides overwatch.”

Sgt Baker locks eyes with his team leaders, Cpl Torres, Foy, and Jones to ensure they’re all tracking and ready to go. Private Corza moves into the hot position with his SMAW. He lines up his shot, checks his back blast, and squeezes the trigger. The compound wall explodes in a hail of dirt and debris. First and second teams begin bounding. Under the suppression from third fire team they quickly close on the first compound. As soon as they hit the compound wall, the first fire team forms a rolling stack and gains entry while the second fire team holds outside security.

Lance Corporal Dean enters immediately clearing the fatal front. Two shots



A squad leader in 1/9 leads his squad to the next compound while patrolling Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2013. (Photo by Cpl Austin Long, USMC)



CPL PAUL PETERSON, USMC

Cpl Dennis Cox, a scout sniper with 1/9, Regional Command Southwest, uses his rifle scope to scan distant buildings during an interdiction operation in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2013.

sing past his head and slap the wall behind him. Instinctively, Dean brings his rifle up and snaps off a hammer pair to his front. The bullets knock back the head of the insurgent crouched behind a couch. Blood and brain matter splatter the wall behind the lifeless body. Dean button hooks and clears out the rest of his sector while the rest of the fire team enters behind him.

With the first room clear, Dean alerts the team to a doorway left. They stack up to enter the doorway when the sound of a PKM fills the compound. As machine-gun fire rakes the room, Dean drops his weapon and falls to the dirty, brass-filled floor, crying, "I've been hit." He crawls back into the first room, pulls out a tourniquet from his left shoulder pocket, and applies it high on his right thigh.

Cpl Torres screams over the sound of gunshots while trying to engage the enemy in the second room. "Dean! You good bro?"

LCpl Dean winces in pain, "Yeah, by the grace of God it only grazed me."

Cpl Torres shouts, "Barns, bring the SAW in here! I want you to go cyclic into that room. Offset yourself so you don't get killed."

LCpl Barnes replies, "Sounds good, Corporal." He angles himself from the door and starts unloading, holding down the trigger while he props the SAW against the threshold of the door, engaging the enemy through the doorway. At the same time, Cpl Torres begins prepping a grenade.

Cpl Torres screams over the chatter of the SAW, "Barnes! Sustained rate! Get ready to take cover, I'm about to toss this frag!"

Barnes nods, pulling back slightly allowing Cpl Torres to swing around and fling the grenade into the room, "Frag out!"

The explosion leaves the Marines with ringing ears and the concussion shakes them to their boots. The enemy fire has stopped.

Cpl Torres gasps as he clears his head, "Screw that, I'm never doing that again!"



COURTESY OF SGT CHASE B. GINDIN, USMC

LCpl Hentges sits with Gindin in the back of a 7-ton truck during an ITX at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

All right, let's finish clearing out the rest of the compound and link back up with second fire team."

After linking up with the second fire team, Sgt Baker tells the third fire team to move up to their position while first and second fire teams cover them. Sgt Baker orders the first fire team to hold security on the roof and inside of the compound while the second and third fire teams move to the second compound and clear it.

While en route to the second compound, second and third fire teams start receiving accurate small arms and machine-gun fire from the third compound. They quickly return fire, take cover, and return accurate fire until they gain fire superiority. They then run to the second compound under first fire team's support by fire. Without warning, the world explodes in a deafening boom and blast of dirt and debris, knocking the Marines back.

Sgt Baker coughs, "Is everyone OK?"

He hears a gut-dropping thud to his left and looks down to see the upper torso of LCpl Freeman's body. Sgt Baker knows he will never be able to get the image of the mangled and legless body out of his memory.

Sgt Baker screams as tears streak down his dirt-covered face. "Freeman! No! Corza, grab Freeman! We need to push inside this compound for cover. I'll go first since the CMD is broken." They braced for heavy enemy resistance. As soon as they break through, the smell of human feces overwhelms them. No enemy. On the ground lay abandoned binoculars and footprints. Evidence the enemy had been observing the Marines to prepare for an attack on their FOB.

Once first squad establishes 360-degree security, Sgt Baker grabs the radio handset and says into the radio, "Dust-off! Dust-off, this is Gravedigger. Standby for casevac 9-line."

LCpl Jones, Freeman's best friend, hangs his head in the corner with his hands on his Kevlar mumbling "Damn, I can't believe they got Freeman ... we haven't even been here two weeks."

Wiping tears from his eyes, Sgt Baker speaks into the handset of the radio, "3 Delta, 4 Alpha, 5 Litter, 6 X-ray, 7 Charlie, 8 Alpha, 9 Delta advise when ready for Z-Mist."

Sgt Baker looks across the room and sees LCpl Jones crying uncontrollably. "Listen, Jones, we'll get through this together, I promise you that we'll make these guys pay for what they did to Freeman."

Dust-off squawks over the radio, "Gravedigger go with Z-Mist."

Sgt Baker tries to stop his hands from shaking as he slowly reads off the Z-Mist

Right: LCpl Hentges “drops rounds” during an ITX at Twentynine Palms, Calif.

into the handset. “WF6594, IED, lower torso blown off, None, None.” Sgt Baker starts walking across the small one room compound getting an ammo, casualties, and equipment report, setting sectors of fire, and assessing his Marines emotional and mental state.

The Dust-off pilot cuts through on the radio. “Gravedigger, this is Dust-off, en route 10 mikes.”

Sgt Baker responds, “Roger 10 mikes. Advise when ready for landing zone brief.” Instantly the pilot replies, “Ready to copy.”

Sgt Baker wipes the tears from his eyes and says, “Grid 18S TD 9179 3572, marked by smoke, northeast about 6 knots, dust, debris, possible IEDs in vicinity of grid passed. Enemy currently located NE 150 meters. Will provide suppressive fires for you.”

The Dust-off pilot replies, “Roger, solid copy on all, will advise when two mikes away, Dust-off out.”

Sgt Baker goes to the center of the compound to give commands to second and third fire team. “As soon as I give the order we’re going to pick up suppressive fire on the enemy in the last compound to cover Dust-off while they evacuate Freeman. Then we’re going to go over there and show those guys how real men fight.”



COURTESY OF SGT CHASE B. GINDIN, USMC

Cpl Charles Kristel, team leader with 1st Bn, 9th Marine Regiment, stands between desert compounds cleared by his Marines during an interdiction operation in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2013.



CPL PAUL PETERSON, USMC

Sgt Baker now switches his radio to the squad internal net, “Torres, it’s Baker, Over.”

Cpl Torres replies, “What’s up?”

Sgt Baker says into the dust covered radio, “We got a casevac coming. Once you see me pop smoke I need you to pick up suppressive fire into the third compound, all right?”

Without hesitation, Cpl Torres replies, “OK, I got you, bro.”

Sgt Baker switches back over to the Dust-off net just in time to hear the pilot say, “Gravedigger, this is Dust-off, touch-down in two mikes.”

Sgt Baker throws a smoke grenade into the open field behind the compound. “Roger, popping red smoke, tally smoke.”

The pilot replies, “Tally smoke.”

Sgt Baker clips the handset to his flak, turns to his Marines and shouts over the sound of the incoming helicopters, “OK, start suppressing the hell out of that compound now.” In unison, everyone starts shooting. Rounds tear into the hard mud wall of the compound that’s baked in the sun for hundreds of years.

Sgt Baker screams to Pvt Corza over the sound of the gunshots, “Corza, you’re with me! Grab Freeman and let’s get ready to move!”

Barely loud enough for Sgt Baker to hear, the radio squawks to life and the pilot says, “30 seconds.”

Sgt Baker turns to Pvt Corza. “Let’s go, I’ll cover you, Corza.”

As they make movement to the CASEVAC helicopter, smoke grips their lungs, the helicopter blades kick up soft dirt into the air, and bullets snap all around them. They load Freeman onto the bird when a rocket propelled grenade flies by the helicopter, dancing between the blades.

Nervous, Sgt Baker yells to Corza, “Let’s get the hell out of here!”

They quickly run back to link up with the rest of the Marines under the cover of friendly suppression.

Once they enter the compound they catch their breath and calm their nerves. Sgt Baker takes out a can of dip, and packs a lip. “All right, listen up ... second and third fire team, I’m going to call in 81s to hit the third compound. Once I deem suppression is effective we’re going to push to the wadi that’s in between this compound and the third. Once we’re there, I’ll cease fire and we’re going to bound to the third compound and clear it.”

Sgt Baker now switches his radio to the 81s COF net and says, “Savage Bravo, Savage Bravo, this is Gravedigger. Stand-by for POS REP.”

Savage Bravo instantly replies, “Roger, standing by.”

Sgt Baker looks at the Garmin GPS on his wrist. “18S TD 9180 3576, how copy?”

Savage Bravo replies, “Roger, I copy 18S TD 9180 3576, out.”

Sgt Baker calls to LCpl Arnold, “Hey, Arnold, bring me the Vector DAGR.”

LCpl Arnold runs over and digs the Vector DAGR out of his assault pack and hands it to Sgt Baker, “Here you go, Sergeant.”

Sgt Baker looks through the Vector and begins to flip through the menu. He quickly does the 12-point field calibration, chicken dance. Once the display says he has a good field calibration he quickly connects the Vector and DAGR. Sgt Baker keeps a low silhouette, sets the Vector on the mud hole in the wall that he assumes is a window, and presses a button on the black cord that instantly gives him a grid location to the enemy compound.

Sgt Baker speaks into the radio while jotting final notes into his note taking gear, “Savage Bravo, Savage Bravo, this is Gravedigger. Fire for effect, over.”

The radio operator replies excitedly, “Fire for effect, out!”

Sgt Baker replies while spitting on the ground, “Grid TD 9200 3599, over.”

Savage Bravo is in the middle of replying when they lose communication, “Grid TD 9200 35-”

Sgt Baker looks worried, swears, and grabs his radio out of his radio pouch. He fiddles with it, attempting to establish communication with Savage Bravo again. “Savage Bravo, Savage Bravo, this is Gravedigger, radio check, over.”

Savage Bravo, with heavy static and barely readable, replies, “grid TD 9200 3599, out.”

Sgt Baker, visibly relieved that com-



Cpl Dennis Cox, right, scout sniper with 1st Bn, 9th Marine Regiment, peers around a dirt wall to search for insurgent activity during an interdiction operation in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2013.

CPL PAUL PETERSON, USMC



CPL AUSTIN LONG, USMC



CPL AUSTIN LONG, USMC

LCpl Patrick Tomassi, grenadier with 1st Bn, 9th Marine Regiment, looks for insurgents firing on Marines during a patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 22, 2013.

munication is back, says, “Enemy compound, requesting delay and converged sheaf, over.”

Savage Bravo replies, “Enemy compound, requesting delay and converged sheaf, out.”

As Sgt Baker calls in his fire mission, Cpl Foy calms his fire team to make sure they are ready to push into the wadi.

“Listen up, third team, when we push

to the wadi make sure you’re glancing over your sights and not through them, so you don’t get tunnel vision. If they start shooting at us, just do what we were trained to do and I promise everyone will be fine.”

The rounds from Savage Bravo start hitting the compound. Sgt Baker screams over the explosions, “All right, let’s do this.”

Sgt Brian Early, left, squad leader with 1st Bn, 9th Marine Regiment, points in the direction he wants LCpl Wandy Santos, team leader with 1/9, to cover while patrolling in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 22, 2013.

Second and third fire teams push to the wadi without any contact from the enemy insurgents. Once they hit the wadi, they wait for the fire mission to end and the go-ahead from Sgt Baker. As soon as the fire mission ends, they start to receive fire from the compound. However, they are still engaging the first compound where first fire team is. Sgt Baker realizes that they had crept into the wadi without being observed and whispers, “Maybe something will go right today.”

Sgt Baker screams, “Wolfe, use the M32 and start lobbing 203s into the compound. Make sure you’re aiming for the windows and doorway and not the compound itself.”

LCpl Wolfe replies, “Roger that, Sergeant.”

LCpl Wolfe low crawls to the berm of the wadi and starts lobbing 203 rounds into the windows where the enemy fire is coming from. Sgt Baker sees an enemy insurgent shooting from the window moments before a 203 round impacts his position and explodes.

Seeing the effects from LCpl Wolfe’s M32, Sgt Baker screams over the sound of incoming fire and explosions, “Prepare to rush! Rush!”

During the bound, Sgt Baker sees rounds impacting all around his Marines, kicking up puffs of dirt. He’s scared, but not of getting shot. He’s scared one of his Marines will get hurt. The only cover in sight is micro terrain, not protective against enemy fire at all.

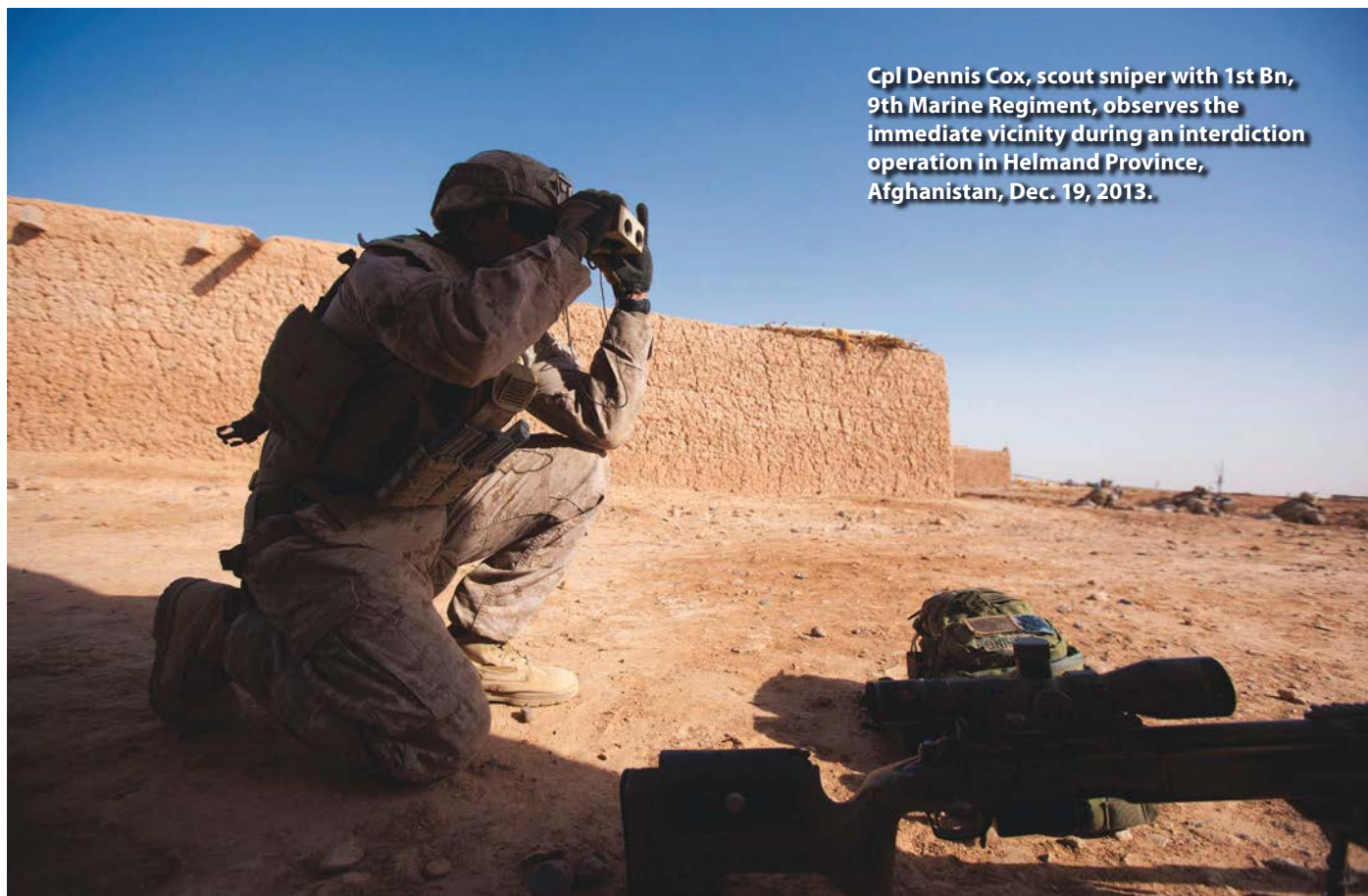
Once they get to the compound, they stack up against the compound wall and are about to make entry into the compound when Private First Class Jackson stops everyone from moving.

Realizing they’re exposed, Sergeant Baker yells angrily, “What the hell is going on, Jackson?”

PFC Jackson screams back, “I see trip wire, Sergeant.”

Quickly losing his initial frustration, Sgt Baker responds, “Good call.”

Sgt Baker takes his squad around the back of the compound making sure they crawl under the compound windows, while the person behind them holds security on the window in case an enemy pops up. Once they reach the back of the compound Sgt Baker sees a window to climb through. He knows it would be risky to enter in case the enemy was waiting for him or if they had another IED planted. The thought



Cpl Dennis Cox, scout sniper with 1st Bn, 9th Marine Regiment, observes the immediate vicinity during an interdiction operation in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 19, 2013.

CPL PAUL PETERSON, USMC

Below: A squad leader with 1st Bn, 9th Marine Regiment, provides security for Marines moving to the next compound during a patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 22, 2013.



CPL AUSTIN LONG, USMC

weighs heavily on him. He knows he couldn't let his Marines go in first. He knows that he would have to be first to enter to set an example as a leader and show his Marines that he cared about their welfare. Sgt Baker feels around the window, methodically making sure it's clear. He takes a deep breath, says a prayer in his head, and climbs through the window.

Upon entering, he sees a civilian mother

holding her child, hiding in a corner visibly frightened. He raises a finger to his mouth, signaling for them to be quiet while he fixes his weapon on the doorway to the room. He motions for them with his free hand to come to him. They slowly walk to him. The mother and child are about halfway when she trips and knocks over a table.

Sgt Baker knows that the insurgents are going to come for them. He quickly

hands the child out the window. The insurgents' voices start echoing down the hall getting louder and louder. He knows that he couldn't help the woman out the window without getting shot in the back. He signals for her to get down on the ground behind the table. As she gets down, a grenade tumbles into the room and stops in front of the table. Sgt Baker instantly jumps on top of the woman. As soon as he lands on her, the grenade explodes. Instantly, Sgt Baker screams out in pain from the shrapnel that peppers his legs. Two insurgents storm the room. Everything is in slow motion for Sgt Baker, and he sees them raise their weapons.

He thinks about his squad and how they would take his death.

He thinks about all the good times he had with his squad during their workup and at ITX.

He thinks about the song "Worst Behavior" by Drake.

Lastly, he thinks about his parents.

Sgt Baker sees the insurgent put his finger on the trigger of the AK, he closes his eyes, waiting for death.

Two shots ring out.

"Sgt Baker, are you all right?" screams Cpl Foy as the two insurgent bodies hit the ground. Sgt Baker opens his eyes in disbelief.

"I just took shrapnel to the legs," says

Sgt Baker as he rolls off the woman, who is trying to thank him in broken English. The rest of second fire team enters the window and help the woman out of the window to talk to the interpreter. The fire team clears out the rest of the compound. Sgt Baker calls up to EOD and lets them know about the IED at the front of their compound that they were going to mark and bypass. As he communicates with EOD, the corpsman bandages his legs.

Sgt Baker winces at the pain. "Team leaders on me. We're going to push back to the second compound, link up with first, and then RTB."

Upon link up with first, they consolidate their ammo and start the patrol back to the forward operating base. Sgt Baker thinks about how everything went wrong. He lost one Marine with two wounded. They'd only been in country two weeks. He knew that Afghanistan would be challenging and stressful, but he didn't understand to what degree until now.

Once the squad enters the forward operating base, Sgt Baker and the other fire team leaders go to the command post and give the platoon commander, company officer, and watch officer a debrief on their patrol. After the debrief they walk to their tents to take off their flaks, Kevlars, and blast diapers. They



COURTESY OF SGT CHASE B. GINDIN, USMC

Marines with 1st Squad, 81 mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Co, 1st Bn, 9th Marines, "The Walking Dead," pose for a photo.

sit down on their cots and begin to cry about LCpl Freeman. All the emotions of the day's events, which they had so carefully guarded till now, come out full force. Afterwards, they walk over to the rest of the squad and give a Frag-O for the next day's patrol.

Author's bio: Sgt Gindin enlisted in October 2012 and was assigned the

MOS of 0341. His first duty station was with 1st Battalion, 9th Marines where he deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2014. He then went to 3/2 and he deployed twice to Okinawa, Japan, in 2015 and again in 2016. Sgt Gindin is currently assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, Officer Candidates School, Quantico Va. 🇺🇸



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We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Marine Recruiters Adopt New Approach Amid Coronavirus Pandemic

Marine recruiters' unwavering devotion to mission accomplishment helps them find creative and innovative solutions to unique problems in uncertain conditions. Marine Corps Recruiting Substation (RSS) Westminster in Orange County, Calif., has implemented new techniques to ensure its recruiters keep that commitment to their pool of future Marines during a time when the nation is facing a pandemic.

Staff Sergeant Eduardo Santillan, a recruiter with RSS Westminster, explained that he knew the importance of social distancing, but also recognized the seriousness of the commitment that Marine recruiters have to their pool's moral, mental and physical development.

"I realized that we can communicate with our enlistees just as we would with distant family," said Santillan of the sub-

station's recent move to virtual communication with its poolees. "When an applicant makes a commitment to join the Marine Corps, we make a promise to them that we will help train them to the best of our abilities before they leave for boot camp."

The Marines at RSS Westminster recognize that the time recruiters spend with future Marines is crucial, the recruiters have gone above and beyond to ensure their pool is successful and fully prepared for the rigors of recruit training. According to Santillan, building a strong foundation at the beginning of a Marine's career will help instill good habits, mental toughness and provide a good example of what is expected of a leader.

RSS Westminster's use of digital meeting technology has allowed the recruiters to maintain their commitment, continue to develop their group of future Marines, and ensure mission accomplishment. More than 30 future Marines and other

prospective recruits virtually sign in twice a week for a dose of moral, mental and physical development. There is no substitute for in-person physical training, but given the current circumstances, the recruiters are showcasing their adaptability by getting the job done safely and effectively.

"There are two kinds of people: people who come up with any excuse in the book and people who come up with solutions. Nobody wants to hear about what you can't do, we'd much rather hear about what you can do. Tell me what you can do," explained Santillan.

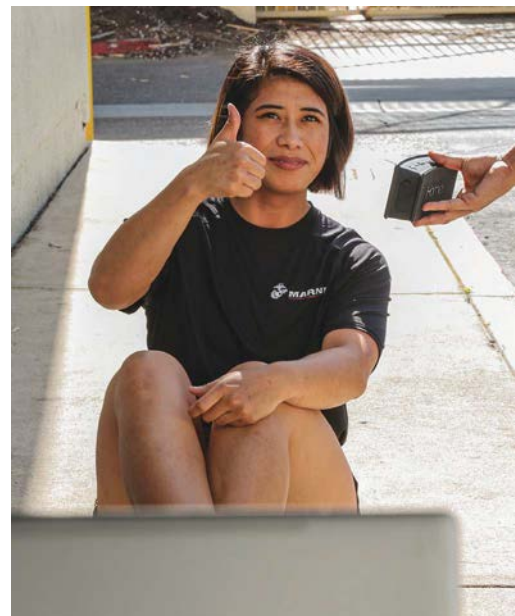
To safeguard the health of recruit depot populations, additional screening protocols have been implemented during the processing of new recruits. The Marine Corps has issued a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for all future Marines prior to shipping to entry-level training.

Sgt Sarah Ralph, USMC



Left: Sgt Jakebrainer Saoit, a recruiter with RS Orange County, Calif., leads enlistees and guests during a virtual circuit workout at RSS Westminster, Calif., May 8. Marine recruiters across the nation have come up with creative ways to prepare their enlistees for boot camp while observing social distancing guidelines due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Below: Sgt Carrie Nguyen, a recruiter with RS Orange County, Calif., leads a virtual workout from outside RSS Westminster, Calif., May 8. (Photo by Sgt Sarah Ralph, USMC)



Free Rides to a Better Quality of Life

Editor's note: The following article was a submission to the 2020 Leatherneck Writing Contest.

Living in a foreign country presents an opportunity to appreciate distant cultures, but for many Marines, having to spend your own money to enjoy yourself off base could dissuade anyone from leaving their own living space. As a result, Marines are left feeling trapped and far from home including the thousands of Marines stationed on Okinawa, Japan.

Many Okinawa Marines see it as impractical to buy a car to use for just three years. Others may have different financial interests that don't involve buying a temporary vehicle. At first sight, a good alternative to buying a car would be to use a taxi. Unfortunately, for the Marines on Camp Foster, most taxi rides to popular destinations in the local area cost an average of \$10 or more. Using a taxi service just once a week could result in a Marine spending hundreds of dollars per month, and more than \$1,000 yearly. To Marines living on the island for three years, this is an issue that affects their quality of life.

In March 2019, First Sergeant Jakob Karl, then assigned to Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, created a plan to eliminate this worry and allow Marines to enjoy their stay on Okinawa while also saving money.

Karl's idea resulted in Fidelis Rides, a program that offered free rides to any U.S. servicemember, both off and on base.

How could a program offer free rides to its passengers? How would drivers get reimbursed? Is it legal to use? In Okinawa, it is illegal to operate an unlicensed taxi service per Japan's Road Transportation Law.

Prior to Fidelis Rides, an unofficial group by the name of "U-Ride" was a U.S. personnel-operated program that provided illegal taxi service in the local Okinawa community. The program was disbanded in 2019, and subsequently caused speculations of Fidelis Rides' legality and legitimacy.

It is imperative to Fidelis Rides' coordinators that the program not only adheres to Japanese law, but also prevents another illegal ride service from forming on Okinawa.

Volunteers and coordinators do not accept compensation for their services, even if the passenger insists on leaving a tip. Every driver is instructed to not accept any compensation from passengers. Doing so keeps the program well within the legal parameters to operate.



CPL CHRISTOPHER MADERO, USMC

The Okinawa-based ride-sharing service Fidelis Rides, founded by 1stSgt Jakob Karl, recently expanded its volunteer services to include free-of-charge grocery shopping to help patrons minimize their exposure to COVID-19.

Colonel Vincent J. Ciuccoli, program coordinator for Fidelis Rides and commanding officer of H&S Bn, MCIPAC, has supported the program from its inception and has made it his duty to ensure its success after the program's creator departed Okinawa.

"It caught my eye because I knew if you got Marines an affordable way to get out on liberty, free in this case, that it would translate into overall readiness, better morale, and financially, they could direct their money into other [desired destinations]," said Ciuccoli. "We are a command-sanctioned, grassroots driven, quality of life initiative."

Fidelis Rides was established and operates out of Camp Foster, but has extended its reach to other southern camps on Okinawa. The program is currently working with plans to operate out of the northern camps to increase the volume of volunteers and passengers throughout the island.

Since its inception, the program has given free rides to more than 4,000 passengers from camps all around the southern sector of Okinawa.

Brigadier General William J. Bowers, the commanding general of MCIPAC, recently joined Ciuccoli as his assistant driver, giving him an opportunity to see how the program operates and gives back to the military community.

BGen Bowers aided Marines and Sailors for hours. In that time, he saw Fidelis Rides as a great opportunity to prevent alcohol-related incidents, yet it

was the sacrifices Marines and Sailors made taking care of each other that made this program truly stand out.

"What's the connective tissue of an organization? The Commandant calls it 'warrior ethos.' The ethos of the organization is what binds it together—Fidelis Rides does that," said Bowers. "You can pretend to care but you can't pretend to be there, and by being there, you're helping Marines out."

Whether in combat or garrison, supporting each other has always been an indispensable quality Marines carry. It's the quality that Fidelis Rides was built upon. After all, it's in the program's slogan: "Helping each other helps ourselves."

Based on current statistics and a projected increase in the program's demand and volunteers, it appears that Fidelis Rides isn't going away anytime soon.

The desired outcome for the future is reaching beyond Okinawa—hoping that Marines in the continental U.S. would be willing to assist one another in a way that Marines on Okinawa have been for the past year. Eventually, Marines across the world could have a free ride to a better quality of life.

Cpl Christopher A. Madero, USMC

Lejeune-Based Marine Recognized for Lifesaving Actions

Marines are trained to respond to distress at a moment's notice. From the beginning of basic training, traits like decisiveness, initiative and unselfishness are instilled in their hearts and minds.



SGT STORMY MENDEZ, USMC

Cpl Matthew T. Ubl, an LAV repair technician with Alpha Co, 2d LAR Bn, 2ndMarDiv, received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his efforts executing CPR for 15 minutes on an unconscious civilian in Richlands, N.C., which contributed to saving the man's life.

One Marine recently epitomized what the Marine Corps stands for when presented with a life-or-death situation.

Corporal Matthew T. Ubl, a light armored vehicle repair technician with "Alpha" Company, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 4, for his actions in saving a man's life.

On Dec. 16, 2019, Ubl was driving through the town of Richlands, N.C., when he noticed a man lying unresponsive on the ground in the vicinity of a gas station. Without hesitation, he secured the area and immediately proceeded with rescue measures until paramedics arrived to treat the man.

"My first thought was to make sure no one else was hurt, and then I stepped in and started doing CPR and chest compressions to try to get a pulse back," Ubl said. "I just wanted to keep him breathing until the ambulance got there."

Ubl executed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the unconscious civilian for

15 minutes, which ultimately contributed to saving the man's life. Even after first responders arrived, Ubl continued to assist by utilizing their automated external defibrillator.

"I was tired and my shoulders were giving out, but the adrenaline just kicked in and I gave my best and helped out however I could," said Ubl. "I was just being a good person. This is what we train for, this is what we do, and helping another person is the best thing we can do."

Aside from the basic Tactical Combat Casualty Care skills taught in Marine Corps basic training, Ubl had no prior experience with first aid. According to his command, Ubl is a humble Marine who brings pride to his unit on a daily basis.

"Cpl Ubl is the kind of Marine that never asks for any sort of recognition or praise," said Captain Robert Mortenson, Alpha Co, 2nd LAR company commander. "He's not out to gain accolades but is one of the hardest working Marines in the company. So, it was no surprise to me that he was the one who saved that man's life."

When the unit leadership heard the

news of their Marine's heroic actions, they jumped into action to acknowledge the example he set to the Marines around him.

"We immediately started talking about how we can recognize him for this," Mortenson said. "Most people are going to drive right by, but the fact that Cpl Ubl stopped and took charge of the situation to save a man's life, that's the kind of Marine we want to recognize. This is what Marines do on a daily basis. We rise above the expectations of the average person."

For his initiative and perseverance under extreme pressure, 2nd LAR presented Ubl with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service.

"Everyone says I'm a hero, but I feel like anyone else would have done the same thing," said Ubl. "Just because I did it doesn't make me special. I was just the right person at the right time."

Sgt Gloria Lepko, USMC

Marines in the Movies: Entertainment Media Liaisons Office Aids Hollywood

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., is host to the Entertainment Media Liaisons Office (EMLO), which has an exciting—and unusual—role in the Marine Corps: to assist production companies in all aspects of the institution when showing, telling and displaying Marines' stories.

Also known as the Communication Directorate's Los Angeles Liaison Office, the primary responsibility of the EMLO is to assist directors, producers and writers in the entertainment industry when Marines are depicted in major motion pictures, television shows, video games and documentaries. The office provides information and education on the roles and missions, history, operations and training of the Marine Corps.

"We oversee scripted and unscripted content for movies and documentaries and look at the request to see if it's feasible," said Major Matthew H. Hilton, communi-



SGT JUAN A. SOTO-DELGADO, USMC

Maj Matthew Hilton, communication strategy and operations officer for the EMLO, shows historical photos during a production at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 20.

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cation strategy and operations officer for EMLO. “We not only take care of Camp Pendleton, but the entire Marine Corps worldwide.”

Over the past 77 years, the office has assisted with many prominent productions from Allan Dan’s “Sands of Iwo Jima,” starring John Wayne, to Stanley Kubrick’s “Full Metal Jacket.” In more recent years, the office has aided in the production of Roland Emmerich’s “Midway” and “Top Gun 2,” which is scheduled for a December release.

There are specific criteria that a production company must meet to receive assistance from EMLO. Although the criteria are specific, the process is straightforward.

“There are two main things production crews need for us to support them. One is

funding, and second is distribution,” said Hilton. “The big thing is timelines. The earlier we can establish contact, the better. This way, we can work with each other’s expectations, and all parties involved can come out of this with a happy experience. Honesty is also a big part when planning because if timelines aren’t met, it can create an emergency.”

Camp Pendleton’s proximity to Los Angeles makes it a unique place for production crews to film.

“This place is special because of how close we are to LA, and also because of the diversity of the environment. You have hills, desert and some areas have jungles, making it perfect for whatever the film needs,” said Hilton.

The EMLO also plays a significant role

when production crews are filming, often assisting with location and planning and providing accurate information to help the team achieve authenticity in their production.

“We provide the production crews with guidance to give them accurate information so they can accurately portray the Marines,” said Hilton. “We edit scripts and provide extras. I put out casting calls and have actual Marines in the production, and it’s a lot easier than the production crew hiring actors that don’t have the experience of being a Marine. This makes the production more authentic.”

Hilton has worked with crews from prominent TV shows and movies and gathers posters and memorabilia to add to a growing collection in his office.



COURTESY OF NASA

MARINE IN SPACE—Retired Marine Colonel Doug Hurley, right, and Air Force Col Bob Behnken, are pictured after entering the orbiting lab on the International Space Station, May 31, shortly after arriving on the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft. In the first manned space launch from American soil in nine years, Hurley and Behnken lifted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, May 30, for an approximately 19-hour journey to the space station, where they performed tests aboard the Crew Dragon and the space station as part of its Expedition 63 crew. Prior to his service with NASA, Hurley was a Marine fighter pilot and test pilot.

Actor and director Clint Eastwood, center, visits with Maj Matthew Hilton, left, director of the EMLO, and MSgt Kristin Bagley, communication strategy and operations chief for EMLO, following an advance showing of his movie "Richard Jewell" at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 7, 2019.

"In my time here, I've worked with the cast of CBS 'SEAL,' 'Midway,' 'Top Gun 2' and 'The Last Ship,' and overall it's a great experience because of the creativity of the job," said Hilton. "I always try to get Marines in front of the camera."

In many ways, the Marine Corps provides production companies with more than just information and locations. The EMLO office can also provide Marines to act as extras. In the acting world, there are a number of Marines who have made their way to Hollywood and have had successful careers. In recent years, Marine veteran Adam Driver, known most prominently for his role as Kylo Ren in the recent "Star Wars" trilogy, has experienced a significant amount of success in the industry. Other noteworthy Marine veteran celebrities include Rob



LCPL MELISSA UGALDE, USMC

Riggie, Gene Hackman and Drew Carey.

"Sometimes we get to meet some of the celebrities. In the past, we've had Clint Eastwood and Mark Wahlberg," said Hilton.

The medium of film provides a bridge between the military and the communities

that it serves. By providing an understanding of what the Marine Corps does, audiences can gain an understanding and empathy for the mission and those who carry it out.

Sgt Juan A. Soto-Delgado, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL AARON SMITH, USMC

"Read it again, Colonel! Read it again!"

Submitted by:
Miriam Foster

This Month's Photo



LCPL MICHELLE BRUDNICKI, USMC

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Bringing Back History

Behind the Scenes at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Restoration Branch Breathes New Life Into Old Relics



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

LCpl Blake Burns, left, and Sgt Megan Talbott examine the wheel of a WW II-era Japanese infantry gun undergoing restoration at the Museum Support Facility in Dumfries, Va., Jan. 10. The two active-duty Marines are both assigned to the Restoration Branch staff.

By Sara W. Bock

Each year, roughly half a million visitors walk through the Leatherneck Gallery, the expansive atrium of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. Within its walls, many people find themselves transfixed by the immersive history of Marines in the air, on land and sea. Guests both young and old crane their necks to soak in the grandeur of some of the Corps' most iconic aircraft suspended motionless above the gallery, each telling a story without words. One of these aircraft, an SBD-3 Dauntless dive bomber restored to its wartime state, fuels the imagination by conjuring up visions of the frenetic skies over the Pacific during the Battle of Guadalcanal.

But what the casual observer may not consider while gazing up at the Dauntless, a stalwart aircraft that saw action for the entirety of World War II, is that they're looking at the finished product of a complete overhaul—one that took the museum's restoration

team six years and 65,000 man hours to accomplish.

This particular Dauntless didn't see action during the war, but spent 50 years submerged in the waters of Lake Michigan following a 1943 training mishap. The aircraft was recovered from the lake in 1991 and became part of the collection at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, where it underwent an initial restoration process. In 2002, the Marine Corps acquired the Dauntless in an exchange agreement, and it arrived in Quantico three years later in 2005. An inspection revealed that corrosion and lake sediment rendered it structurally



What visitors to the Corps' world-class museum also may not realize as they explore the rest of the sprawling 120,000 square-foot facility, is that the items they see on exhibit are just the tip of the iceberg.



Suspended above the Leatherneck Gallery at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, an SBD-3 Dauntless dive bomber, painted in the colors of an aircraft that flew over Guadalcanal during WW II, is pictured below undergoing the final steps of restoration at the National Air & Space Museum's Udvar Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., in December 2015. The aircraft was installed in the museum in February 2016. (Photos courtesy of National Museum of the Marine Corps)



unsound, necessitating another more extensive restoration in order for it to be suitable for suspension above the gallery.

What visitors to the Corps' world-class museum also may not realize as they explore the rest of the sprawling 120,000 square-foot facility, is that the items they see on exhibit are just the tip of the iceberg. According to Ben Kristy,

the museum's collections chief, the National Museum of the Marine Corps has approximately 65,000 artifacts ranging in scale from coat buttons to 70-ton main battle tanks.

"We can display less than 10 percent of it at any one time," said Kristy, who has served on the museum staff since it opened its doors in 2006. "We don't add things to the collection lightly—we

don't dispose of things lightly. It's a long process and a lot of intellectual work goes into that."

While many of the museum's artifacts are currently out on loan to other museums and installations, the bulk of its collection is housed off-site. At one point, said Kristy, the collection was stored across seven different buildings around Quantico—most of which were



Sgt Talbott, left, and LCpl Burns stand in front of a ZU-23 Iranian anti-aircraft gun on display at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Jan. 24. Talbott and Burns were heavily involved in the restoration of the artifact, which was captured by Marines in the Strait of Hormuz during Operation Praying Mantis in 1988.

For now, the restoration team, made up of three civilian staff members and two active-duty Marines, sometimes with the help of part-time special assistants or volunteers, are the ones doing the labor-intensive work behind the scenes, and they strive for perfection when it comes to implementing the curator's guidance for a particular artifact. Throughout the entire process, they rely greatly on communication and collaboration with the curators as they work together to produce a finished product that's in line with the story the curator wants to tell.

For example, when the museum acquired the Dauntless, Kristy knew that he wanted it to represent a different airplane than the one that had sat on the bottom of Lake Michigan.

"We had our airplane depict the first Marine airplane from the first Marine squadron to land at Guadalcanal," said Kristy. "I went through, found photographs, wrote a detailed description of how to do the paint, what configuration we needed the airplane, turned that in, and then as they worked on it, we would go back and forth," he added of his collaboration with the restoration team.

Often, restoration requires first taking an object entirely apart and performing a complete inspection before brainstorming ways to fix or recreate the elements that are missing, damaged or deteriorated, said Shaun Pettit, the museum's restoration specialist and a Marine veteran who previously was assigned to the facility from 2008 to 2011 while serving as an active-duty airframe mechanic, in between a tour of duty in Iraq and another in Afghanistan.

In 2013, after leaving active duty, Pettit returned to the restoration facility as a civilian and now serves as the team lead, overseeing a staff that includes two other civilians as well as active-duty Sergeant Megan Talbott, an airframe mechanic, and Lance Corporal Blake Burns, a Motor-T mechanic.

For Talbott and Burns, it's an extremely unique opportunity within their military occupational specialties

non-climate controlled, unsuitable environments for what he calls "long-term, good collections care." The bulk of the restoration efforts on "macro artifacts" like the SBD-3 Dauntless previously were conducted in Larson Gymnasium, a crumbling pre-WW II aircraft hangar aboard the base.

In 2015, during the final reassembly of the Dauntless, the hangar-turned-gymnasium was condemned and the restoration team had to relocate the aircraft—and their work on it—to the National Air & Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., where the Smithsonian Institution provided them with a space to finish the project.

In 2018, Naval Facilities Engineering Command procured a leased commercial space in nearby Dumfries, Va., to serve as a Museum Support Facility and home to the Restoration Branch. It's a brand new building with a warehouse-like interior, featuring a state-of-the-art paint booth, which Kristy says is vital to being able to perform a "national museum-level paint job" on a macro artifact like an aircraft or vehicle, something they previously did not have access to. There's also a full woodworking shop, a machine shop and a welding shop, allowing the team to now perform nearly all of its restoration work in house.

The museum's storage configuration

is currently going through a transitional period, said Kristy, with its art collection and a number of other small artifacts in the process of being relocated out of those various buildings on base into a separate, similar space next door to the one occupied by the Restoration Branch.

And while the museum doesn't currently have its own conservation lab for micro artifacts like flags and leather goods—they contract that work out—there's a long-term goal of building their own lab and hiring conservation specialists to perform more of that work in house, said Kristy.



Various containers of nuts, bolts and other hardware can be found around the Museum Support Facility, where specialists work to restore artifacts with the utmost historical accuracy.

to use their Marine Corps training as a foundation for new skills and outside-the-box thinking and problem solving.

"It's a learning experience every single day because no project is the same, no repairs are the same, no techniques are the same and there's no manual," said Pettit, who relishes the opportunity to mentor young Marines in the same billet he once held. "It's just discovery work and learning new techniques and mimicking what they've done in the past."

Typically, the replacement parts they need are for aircraft, weapons or vehicles that are no longer in production, so the staff has to create tooling and make hardware in order to manufacture new parts themselves. Sometimes, they reach out to conservators at other museums, or even private collectors, to see if they have spare parts or can remove a part and send photos of it so the team can attempt to accurately replicate it.

"It's a challenge but that's what drives us. That's how we get through these projects," said Pettit in January, pointing out a 1940s Roebling Alligator III amphibious tractor in the process of restoration. "We could get through this thing and be done in a couple months, but what's taking time is doing everything exactly right, the way they'd done it in the past."

Pettit picks up a part that had been removed from the Alligator.

"You can see something that's been so badly corroded that we can't reuse it," he said. It's the specialist's hope that they have access to the blueprints for the item they're restoring. "For this one, we're not as lucky," added Pettit.

While they try to retain as much

"The key for us is we don't necessarily just do everything right to the naked eye. We replicate the originals even down to the parts that nobody sees."—Shaun Pettit

of the original material as they can, sometimes a part or component is no longer suitable for use. When that's the case, the restoration team gets to work on problem solving using what Pettit refers to as "reverse engineering."

"We'll have to fill the gaps," said Pettit. The process involves taking measurements, studying reference photographs and using original materials as templates.



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

Shaun Pettit, who previously was assigned to the Restoration Branch while he was an active-duty airframe mechanic, now serves as the museum's restoration specialist who oversees the daily operations at the Museum Support Facility located in Dumfries, Va.

And it's not just about making the exterior of an aircraft, vehicle or other artifact look museum-ready. The team is laser focused on making every single detail perfectly accurate and in line with the curator's notes.

"The key for us is we don't necessarily just do everything right to the naked eye. We replicate the originals even down to the parts that nobody sees," said Pettit, who used the cockpit of the Dauntless as an example. Even though a museum visitor can't see its entire interior, it was immaculately restored down to every last dial and switch.

"At this kind of level the curators aren't involved as much. This is his world—he knows how to put these things together," said Kristy of Pettit. "Once you get to the markings and the final coatings, then we [the curators] kind of come back into play and again we're oftentimes driven by whatever reference images we can find."

When it comes to replicating every precise detail from their guiding reference photos, particularly when it comes to paint and markings on aircraft, the team puts hours upon hours into what Kristy calls "perfecting the imperfections."

Most paint jobs done in the fleet, he said, don't follow the regulations to a "T," so using the manuals for markings wouldn't result in an accurate depiction



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

The process for restoring the Roebeling Alligator III amphibious tractor pictured in the photo to the left has included using the vehicle's original deteriorated track components, pictured in the above photo on the left, to manufacture replicated replacements, pictured on the right.

Kristy found the two Marine pilots who had primarily flown the helicopter in 2003 and brought them in to be “cast” as figures of themselves that will sit inside the aircraft in the museum.

of what they actually looked like.

“We spend a lot of time trying to figure out how to recreate the mistakes that were made. These things were painted on a moving flight deck or by a lance corporal who was given a roll of tape and said, ‘Here, go do this,’ ” said Kristy.

When working on the Dauntless, he added, they spent dozens of man-hours trying to recreate what was probably “a 30-minute slap-dash job” and sometimes was conducted by multiple people working on different areas of the aircraft at once.

The same thought process goes for something as seemingly negligible as replicating patch repairs on aircraft.

“Patch repair 100 years ago was completely different than it is now, so we replicate patch repairs and other structural repairs the way that they’ve done it in the past, not how we do it today” said Pettit. “We try to mimic everything to the detail as much as we can possibly mimic.”

Across from the Alligator, there’s a Bell UH-1N Huey that was part of

the March Up in Baghdad in 2003 and saw action at Nasiriyah. The Huey will soon be finished with restoration and moved to the site of the Iraq gallery in the museum’s forthcoming final phase, where it will tell the “story” of the role of a forward arming and refueling point (FARP) during the war.

With a little bit of research, Kristy found the two Marine pilots who had primarily flown the helicopter in 2003 and brought them in to be “cast” as figures of themselves that will sit inside the aircraft in the museum and give visitors the opportunity to see what it looked like with a crew inside. It was an experience Kristy won’t forget.

“They hadn’t seen this helicopter in years, and they climbed back in and went through the preflight checklist like it was yesterday,” he said of the pilots. “They told all kinds of amazing stories that we’ll reflect. The small little details.”

For example, at one point one of the pilots gave his chest armor plate insert to a Marine on the ground that hadn’t received his. In its place, he tucked

a folded American flag in the pocket where the armor had been and carried it with him as he flew missions over Iraq. Even though no one will ever see it, a folded flag will rest in the cast figure’s front pocket, giving the display more accuracy than any visitor could ever imagine.

Another story the Huey pilots told the museum staff was that they typically flew with a box of toilet paper rolls under one of the seats in the back of the helicopter and made a game of throwing them to the Marines on the ground below. When it takes its place in the museum, Kristy will make sure the Huey has a box of toilet paper in the back.

“That’s not going to be in any signage in the museum,” said Kristy. “It’s for the one-tenth of one percent of people who will know.” This particular Huey was retired in 2013, so the restoration team had to figure out how to make it look like it would have in 2003. They were able to find the antenna housings for part of the aircraft’s antiaircraft missile warning system, which had been taken off later in the aircraft’s life, and changed the squadron name on the aircraft. They also crafted a fake infrared countermeasure that was originally part of the aircraft’s defensive system but was removed due to the highly classified technology it contains, using tinted orange plexiglass. That level of attention to detail requires a great deal of time and effort, but the Restoration Branch team won’t have it

Ben Kristy, the collections chief for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, (below) points out intentional imperfections in the paint job on a Bell UH-1N Huey that will be installed in the museum’s Iraq gallery. The helicopter (right) flew in the March Up in Baghdad, Iraq in 2003.



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

A Marine-issue Harley-Davidson motorcycle from WW II is on display at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and was a personal favorite restoration project for Sgt Talbott, a Marine airframe mechanic assigned to the Restoration Branch.

any other way. For them, it's all about telling the Marine Corps story and preserving its history for posterity.

Most of the items in the restoration facility are slated to go into the museum at some point in the future, said Kristy.

A Boeing FB-5 flown by the Marine Corps in the late 1920s and early 1930s sits in one corner, awaiting placement in the final phase's Inter-War Years Gallery. The museum hired a contractor in Wenatchee, Wash., to take on the restoration process during the time of transition from Larson Gymnasium, and the Restoration Branch will complete some minor work on it prior to its installation.

There's also a Bell AH-1W Super Cobra with the famed "Never Forget" 9/11 paint scheme, which was added to the helicopter by Marines in Afghanistan in 2011.

"From a restoration standpoint, it's more preservation," said Kristy of the Cobra, adding that the team cleans the aircraft to prevent corrosion, preserves the engines, and checks for any corrosion issues that might have been created by previous fuel leaks.

By 2025, museum visitors will be able to see it up close as part of a stand-alone 9/11 exhibit.

"We're actually kind of coming to the end of a chapter so to speak," Kristy said of the planned completion of the museum's phased galleries in 2025. "For the last 15 years we have been restoring things that were programmed to go into the museum. As we are finishing off the galleries, now we're getting to a point where we're either transitioning to

restoring things that aren't necessarily slated for immediate display but need to be restored because of their condition, or potentially to support as a loan program elsewhere."

Recently, the team worked to restore a wheel from a WW II-era Japanese infantry gun that is part of the museum's collection, but is on loan to the Command Museum at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. The wheel's wooden spokes had rotted and deteriorated, and



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

Sgt Talbott, left, looks on as LCpl Burns, right, explains the challenges involved in restoring the ZU-23 Iranian anti-aircraft gun using a manual written entirely in Russian, Jan. 10. Burns, who was since promoted to corporal, is a Motor-T mechanic who says he'll take back to the fleet many valuable lessons from his work with the Restoration Branch.



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

The upper wing of a Boeing FB-5 biplane is currently being stored in the Museum Support Facility as the restored aircraft awaits installation in the forthcoming Inter-War Years gallery.

at first Pettit assumed they'd just make new ones out of wood. However, they decided to experiment with casting, making a mold using one of the spokes that was in better condition and casting new spokes using urethane casting resin that will far outlast the wood.

"This was a skillset that we previously didn't have, so this was a way for the crew to expand what they're learning how to do," said Kristy.

For Sgt Talbott, it was a new and exciting opportunity.

"That's something as an airframer I would never get to do. I really enjoy it," she said.

LCpl Burns particularly enjoyed working on the restoration of a ZU-23 Iranian anti-aircraft gun that was captured by Marines in 1988 in the Strait of Hormuz during Operation Praying Mantis. For disassembly and reassembly, the team had to rely on an old manual for the weapon written entirely in Russian. For Talbott, there's no better feeling than walking into the museum and seeing a WW II-era Marine-issue Harley-Davidson motorcycle that she spent hours working on.

"To actually see it in the museum, that's the best part," Talbott said.

When their time at the Restoration Branch is over, the Marines will return to the fleet where they'll bring with them a greater aptitude for creative problem solving and an increased attention to detail. And they'll never forget the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work for the museum while serving on active duty.

"We get to bring back history," said Burns. 🇺🇸

Marines Hone Skills During Warfighting Exercise



PFC PATRICK KING, USMC

Cpl Song Le, a tank crewman with “Charlie” Co, 2nd Tank Bn, 2ndMarDiv, on an M1A1 Abrams tank at Camp Wilson, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms Calif., Oct. 19, 2019, during MAGTF Warfighting Exercise 1-20.

The Development of a Tank Platoon Commander

By 1stLt Collin Massman, USMC

In November 2019, 2nd Marine Division executed Marine Air-Ground Task Force Warfighting Exercise (MWX) 1-20. This marked the first Division-level force-on-force training event in more than three decades, bringing 10,000 Marines and Sailors to Twentynine Palms, Calif., to train and grow across all functions within the Division. A large-scale exercise of this magnitude provided countless lessons learned for every unit across 2ndMarDiv. The after action points from MWX will shape 2ndMarDiv’s standard operating procedures, battle drills and equipment and manning. The exercise provided more than just improvements for the Division. It provided tangible growth for each Marine and small unit leader. From a platoon commander’s perspective, I learned an incredible amount and felt a tremendous

level of growth and development. I worked for multiple battalion and company commanders and supported several adjacent platoon commanders. Across these levels of command, I learned three key criteria demanded of any successful platoon commander—gain and maintain subject-matter expertise in one’s specialty and craft, make decisions and recommendations with confidence, and understand how to achieve commander’s intent.

Prior to supporting an infantry battalion for the first time, I followed the guidelines learned from my previous training iterations. I quickly found the execution of my duties as a platoon commander to be much harder in practice than conveyed in the vague job description listed in official publications. A platoon commander must “know the capabilities and limitations of the platoon’s personnel and equipment, as well as be a subject-matter expert in the tactical employment of the platoon, either independently or as part of a com-

pany team.” The infantry battalion commander swiftly challenged my expertise during the initial planning process for the defensive phase of MWX. The battalion commander posed many questions about our ability to support the plan. I thought hard and leveraged my platoon sergeant to best prepare me to answer the difficult questions.

The senior officers in the room planned and employed my platoon based on the feedback and recommendations from our platoon leadership. The battalion commander’s ability to plan required my understanding and quick response to his questions, all of which helped inform his decision-making. I suggested movement speeds and formations through the different terrain in the area of operations, planned my resupplies, and calculated time requirements for refuel and sustainability.

Second Tank Battalion is typically far better equipped to handle logistical and supply requirements. They possess all the necessary equipment for long-range operations and the numerous logistical demands associated with them, as well as the trained personnel to do so. The requirements are massive, and it became apparent to me that the infantry battalion to which I was attached would become quickly overwhelmed by those requirements. A tank platoon needs more than 5-gallon jugs to support fuel consumption. It needs to request and plan for more than 4,000 gallons of fuel at certain times. My knowledge and effective planning with my platoon sergeant prevented logistical shortfalls. Identifying these issues early in the planning process and creating innovative solutions led to our success in the fight.

As we progressed through the training cycle, the knowledge requirements grew while the time available to provide valuable insights diminished. My company leadership and adjacent units operated at significant distances and out of a feasible communication range through available equipment, which exacerbated the dilemma and forced me to make assumptions. I needed to be confident in my understanding of the requirements for engaging targets and defending a position while keep-

ing in mind safety considerations. The more kinetic the environment, the more I was challenged. Publications and manuals lacked answers throughout the chaos. I quickly applied dynamic solutions from the information I possessed on the tank, weapon systems, and doctrine. Memorizing the capabilities and limitations of my equipment and Marines had hardly qualified me as a subject-matter expert, but it built the foundation of the habits I would eventually form in order to succeed.

The commanders across MWX supported my decisions and recommendations. They accepted the expertise that my platoon sergeant and I brought on the employment of armor and knew that our recommendations could dramatically improve their plan. This is a premiere struggle that junior armor officers constantly face. It's the make it or break it moment for many. They are often required to provide information on weapon systems, capabilities and limitations, and tactical employment to senior commanders with nearly two decades more experience. It's a daunting task and one that requires a tank officer to be proficient in his trade and committed to sound doctrine. I was fortunate to lean on my platoon sergeant for most of the technical expertise. My armor school training, guidance from my company commander and knowledge of publications filled the gap in tactical employment from my lack of experience. Our recommendations were sound, and the results reinforced that fact.

The initial plan tasked the tank platoon with occupying the forward engagement area. Lacking tactical patience, I jumped on the proposition and developed my engagement area on the map. After some detailed planning, I found more and more issues with my defense of the forward engagement area. I suggested we remain in the main engagement area for survivability and logistical reasons. The commander agreed, reassigning the forward engagement area to the combined arms anti-tank (CAAT) platoon that could support with vehicle-mounted, anti-tank weapon systems. This change resulted in an entirely new plan, which turned out to be a better one. Every phase required thoughtful inputs and sound recommendations from supporting units, as well as a continued discussion between platoon and company commanders. These conversations, recommendations and inputs created the foundation for the plan that would be briefed to the battalion commander and eventually executed with a great deal of success.

Through the execution phase, requirements for information increased, and the requirement for recommendations

followed that increase. These recommendations improved the commander's situational awareness and resulted in an increase in our tempo and effectiveness. During this phase, my recommendations were no longer solely focused on my platoon's employment. They encompassed the actions of my adjacent units.

During the offensive phase of MWX, each commander made recommendations to support the maneuver force. The CAAT platoon suggested they push forward to provide early warning with my platoon behind for an immediate response. I recommended pushing forward to occupy a more advantageous position. The first step in providing the necessary informa-

effective the unit would become.

As a platoon commander, I made recommendations that would enable senior leaders to make decisions, just as my Marines fed me recommendations and information that I required in order to make sound decisions. For example, during the occupation of defensive battle positions, my subordinate tank commanders fed me information about our engagement area from their perspectives. They gathered information about visibility, egress routes, and engagement lines and obstacles. Using this information, they would send recommendations on their battle positions, allowing me to make decisions on their employment in the overall scheme of

I recognized that all of my Marines had perspectives that enhanced my own decisions. Each view created a variety of recommendations and provided amplifying information through the chain of command. 1stLt Collin Massman



Marines with 7th Marine Regiment, 1stMarDiv, discuss the upcoming exercise during MAGTF Warfighting Exercise at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 6, 2019. (Photo by LCpl Corey Mathews, USMC)

tion for the battalion commander came from the platoon commanders. I learned that this feedback mechanism and systematic process would play a part in driving the overall scheme of maneuver. The platoon commanders serve as the observers for the unit commander, often providing recommendations that allow for sound decision-making. This same process was described by John Boyd and coined the "OODA Loop." The faster a leader could cycle to a decision and an action, the more tempo would be achieved, and the more

maneuver and to continue developing the engagement area. The need for information from my platoon enlightened me about the effect that my own recommendations and information had on the commander I was advising. I recognized that all of my Marines had perspectives that enhanced my own decisions. Each view created a variety of recommendations and provided amplifying information through the chain of command. This process, often referred to as bottom-up refinement, led to more situational awareness across the Division

and allowed battalion commanders the best opportunity to make their decisions.

Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 1-0: Warfighting states, “All decisions must be made in the face of uncertainty and since every situation is unique, there is no perfect solution to any battlefield problem.” Pressure and self-doubt emerge quickly with difficult decisions. These difficult decisions came with consequences far beyond just my platoon. In times of self-doubt and limited guidance, commander’s intent helped me make decisions and act. The commander’s intent gave clear guidance on how things should look at the conclusion of the mission. Moreover, this intent served as a final check before

in their leaders to support them and provide that bottom-up refinement, especially in friction-induced and uncertain environments. The platoon commander needs to work with adjacent units in full cooperation to best achieve mission success. The required support from others, as well as the need to support so many, amplifies and complicates decision-making, however. When the time for a decision arises, and uncertainty sets in, the commander’s intent provides the implicit guidance to navigate complicated decisions. The limits inherent in that intent allow platoon commanders to proceed with confidence, all while knowing that their choices will affect the overall mission. The command-

In times of self-doubt and limited guidance, commander’s intent helped me make decisions and act. 1stLt Collin Massman

making a decision or recommendation. If my decision fell outside the limits of this intent, then the decision ran the risk of wasting resources or worse, the mission. I frequently questioned the validity of my decisions before following through with a course of action; however, when my decision was nested within the commander’s intent, my confidence improved. I tried to make decisions that I knew supported the mission and benefitted more than just my small piece of the puzzle. This all-important intent actually contributed to my certainty on decisions and steadied my thoughts when I lacked a perfect solution.

Despite of all the training that I’ve received, I believe that MWX stands out as the most influential event I’ve experienced throughout the course of my development. Everything I learned from publications and training became clear during this exercise. For the Division’s ultimate success, for example, every commander must properly employ each unit and attachments. It is not a stretch to reiterate that a tank platoon commander’s imperative to excel in his trade is grave and unforgiving. Platoon commanders must be dedicated to their trade and must master the art of employing armor to properly provide clear guidance to the commanders they support. In my limited experience, the best recommendations come from the platoon commander at the point of friction, the one who has gained the situational awareness to provide insightful feedback, and the Marine who has done the work and gathered the most critical information to solve the dynamic problems.

Similar to the battalion commander, the platoon commander needs support. Platoon commanders must be able to trust

er’s intent unified the platoon commanders within the unit by a common understanding objective. In the end, this collective of incidental, platoon-level decisions led to the overall success of the mission during the largest force-on-force training exercise in the modern Marine Corps.

Author’s bio: 1stLt Massman, 24, is from Warren Mich. He is a 2018 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He checked into 2nd Tank Bn in July 2019 and currently serves as 1st Platoon Commander, Co C.

Perfecting the Art Of Cover and Concealment

By Capt Michael A. Bianca, USMC

Cover and concealment is not a new concept, and the difference between the two is often drilled into entry-level students from early in their careers. The recent shift toward peer and near-peer competition has raised the need to review how communities perform the art of cover and concealment. During 2nd Marine Division’s recent MAGTF Warfighting Exercise (MWX) 1-20, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion tested multiple concepts designed to mask our physical signature. The battalion reviewed FMFRP 12-96-1, “German Experiences in Desert Warfare During World War II” to focus our testing on relevant lessons learned. As with many lessons, history proved to be a useful place to start.

Battalion representatives tested two forms of concealment, the classic “garage-style” netting, as taught in entry-level crewman courses, and the “shaggy hog.” Initial attempts to create a “shaggy hog,” camouflage netting that is cut and draped over vehicles, proved unreliable back at Camp Lejeune due to its propensity to snag on the local vegetation while on the move. While in the desert of Twentynine Palms, however, this proved to be more reliable at breaking up the hard lines of the vehicles, even if just while the vehicle was stationary. A better option would be ensuring that all vehicles and equipment



Marines of 2nd Assault Amphibian Bn tested multiple concepts designed to mask their physical signature during MAGTF Warfighting Exercise 1-20 at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif. (USMC photo)



MWX 1-20 provided opportunities for combat simulation and testing of various concepts and equipment including determining which of two forms of camouflage netting were better for cover and concealment. (USMC photo)

are outfitted with enough camouflage netting to both “shaggy hog” the vehicle, as well as construct the classic “garage-style” netting. The garage-style netting must be tied to terrain, and crews must be given the flexibility to adjust vehicle locations to best tie into the terrain.

Fighting and command post positions that tied into the veins of mountains proved nearly impossible to spot from the air and provided the best defense against tube artillery when at long ranges. Despite significant effort, vehicles in the open proved to be relatively easy to identify from both high ground and the air, even when integrated with the large bushes and vegetation. If integrating in heavy equipment to dig vehicles in, the spoil of the dig should be covered if at all possible by the netting. Rehearsals, like all warfighting skills, greatly improved the time required to construct “garage-style” netting. The average crew at the beginning of MWX clocked at 12 minutes to erect their netting and reduced that time to just five minutes by the end of the exercise. The initial assumption by the battalion was that the green netting already found on the vehicle would suffice within a desert environment, but it became clear that even after the green netting became shaded with dirt and sand, dedicated desert netting proved to be far superior.

Command and control nodes require a clear plan to remain concealed. Vehicle dismount points should be 300-400 meters away from the nodes in order to avoid vehicle “parking lots” forming in too close a vicinity to the node. Supplemental equipment, such as trailers or generators, must have its own camouflage netting and be concealed in the same manner as vehicles. Air defense batteries should be placed far enough away from nodes to avoid inadvertently giving away the location of a high-value target when engaging targets.

Moving at night should be viewed as a requirement, and night terrain training must not be restricted to flat topography. Commanders must be willing to accept risk and force Marines to operate their vehicles over broken and rocky terrain in order to improve their driving and judgment skills. While moving in the broken terrain of the veins of mountains or dried riverbeds, dismounting rear crewmen and having them proof routes has proved to be a reliable technique.

As with all skills, the lessons learned from reviewing history enabled quick and focused learning. Leaders must not stop at merely reading history; they must continue to give Marines the opportunity to employ their learning in a stressful, physical environment. The continued

imperative now is to sustain and further refine those realized techniques.

Author's bio: Capt Bianca is a company commander with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion and previously deployed in 2014-2015 with the 24th MEU as the assault amphibian platoon commander.

It's Not Just New Tactics We Need to Take Away From MWX 1-20

By Capt Evan Phillips, USMC

The amphibious assault vehicle (AAV) community learned that the success of the community during Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Warfighting Exercise (MWX) 1-20 was a result of competent Marines using the equipment they had to find a way to win. The crucial elements of what it takes to win in combat were revealed in this exercise, and that should be the most significant takeaway regarding why we must continue to prosecute evolutions like MWX. Warfare will continue to evolve with new technology as well as with geopolitical and societal changes. The Marine Corps has always taken great pride in adapting to any situation and preparing for all combat circumstances by taking an honest assessment of ourselves when

necessary. This is sometimes hard to do, as it can reveal unflattering weaknesses in what we would all like to assume is an impenetrable suit of armor. Nevertheless, it is precisely this humble and realistic approach to self-improvement that has made martial forces throughout history able to dominate and stay relevant on the field of battle.

As 2nd Marine Division executed MWX 1-20, many wondered how it might turn out, given that nothing on that scale had been executed since the “Carolina MAGTF” experiment in the 1980s. As the exercise evolved, however, it became apparent that MWX was a much-needed, highly beneficial evolution. For the AAV community, MWX was one of the few opportunities we have had during the last decade to see where we stand in a simulated large-scale force-on-force evolution and answer many questions, such as: is our vehicle still a viable option on today’s battlefield? What tactical considerations are still valid from the wars in Iraq and other locations around the world? What deficiencies do our leaders face when it comes to tactical employment? Do supporting units have the ability to support AAVs in a large-scale conflict? These were but a few questions that were contemplated as we prepared to execute the force-on-force MWX evolution.

From a company commander’s standpoint, I was able to take a top-to-bottom look at my platoons as they concurrently supported three infantry battalions across a wide range of mission sets ranging from large-scale urban environment scenarios to large-scale open-desert fire-and-maneuver evolutions. I observed several key takeaways that seemed essential to our future success in combat, not to mention improving our play in the exercise itself.

Brilliance in the Basics

Of course, all Marines understand the mantra that we need to be fully competent in basic tactical considerations, but this cannot be overstated for several reasons. Most importantly, only the most senior master sergeants and gunnery sergeants have been in combat with an AAV. As for the remainder of the field, they often do not fully understand that not putting a camouflage net up, not maintaining good noise and light discipline, and demonstrating a lack of proper control of things like electronic emissions could result in an entire crew being killed. Basic map skills, using a compass, and examining the terrain for tactical advantages are just some of the measures we would like to think we employ all the time but, in reality, do not.

To some of our younger Marines, losing



access to a cell phone for more than six hours seemed impossible. My company didn’t take any cell phones to the field. Consequently, I was concerned about how this would affect the morale of my Marines. Fortunately, there was a mature and universal understanding that in a real-world scenario, the selfie you send to your wife back home may well translate to an immediate enemy attack. With this understanding, cell phones ceased to carry the same importance. The most important thing I saw in my company was their solid understanding of what a combat mindset really meant. It is easy for a Marine to do a maintenance check or execute continuing actions when those actions contribute to their survival, as well as that of those around them. The execution of the force-on-force evolution proved this home as no other training could.

Warriors Revealed

Throughout history, there are prominent figures who spent significant amounts of time in the military during “non-conflict” periods, only to go on to make a meteoric impact during major conflict. Examples of these icons, such as Ulysses Grant and Thomas Cochrane, were disfavored, disciplined and even thought to be inferior in their profession. These individuals displayed military genius, however, when

they were allowed to demonstrate their military prowess in conflict. When the question became, “Who can get the job done when it matters most,” warriors like these became the go-to since they could all but assure victory.

While MWX did not allow us to observe the same variables one might observe in real conflict, it did allow me, as a commander, to observe some important aspects of my Marines. During the force-on-force, I witnessed Marines who had been below-average performers in garrison make excellent low-level decisions and rise to the challenge in every way. Lance corporals, for example, were forced to lead sections and produced superior tactical results—results even worthy of awards. Conversely, I observed “model” Marines prove that they needed more training. These Marines often did not rise to the challenge as anticipated. I would not have been able to observe this without the realism of a force-on-force scenario. This phenomenon in which some rise to the occasion while others falter in the heat of battle is a mere revelation of those who naturally have the right stuff, versus those who do not. We all want the Marines who can score touchdowns in the real game when everything is on the line. The force-on-force play reveals who these Marines are.



POC PATRICK KING, USMC

AAVs belonging to 2ndMarDiv are staged in a motor pool lot at Camp Wilson, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct 6, 2019.

motivating to see Marine Corps doctrine play out as Marines at the lowest levels were able to comprehend and execute at the highest levels. A prime example was the outstanding performance of a gunnery sergeant who had just returned to the fleet from recruiting duty. Thanks in no small measure to the doctrinal aspects of decentralized command and commander's intent, which he aptly applied with his platoon, he was able to produce superior results by expertly using terrain, night ambushes, deception and fire-and-maneuver to cause hundreds of casualties and the destruction of multiple enemy vehicular assets.

Let the Scenario Play Out

If we want a true assessment of where we stand in terms of combat readiness, we need to be able to get a realistic look over an extended period of time. During the five-day MWX force-on-force evolution, multiple resets were effected to give time for units to collect themselves. While there is a time and place for this, it is extremely beneficial to let the exercise play out until certain aspects fail. Failure is one of the best teachers we have. From an AAV standpoint, AAVs did not receive the logistical support necessary. Such a factor would devastate the AAV asset in real war, rendering us unable to execute our mission set. Marine Corps doctrine dictates supported-supporting relationships, and we need to let that play out during force-on-force scenarios. In my estimation, the concept of effecting pauses in the play of the exercise that inevitably prevented failure was ironically a major failure. The support aspect was lacking and due to the reset, was unfortunately not allowed to be highlighted. I would also point out that while the MCAGCC MOUT evolution was a fantastic training opportunity, the ability to execute a similar evolution aboard Camp Lejeune could have been facilitated at a significantly lower cost. This would also have enabled the Division to work out support relationships, as well as other after-action items, prior to MWX 1-20, which would have potentially made for a richer, fuller, MWX 1-20 evolution by allowing for a longer and more meaningful force-on-force play,

without resets. Ultimately, this may well have translated to a more realistic and combat-like test of across-the-board assets and capabilities.

While there are many more takeaways that are documented in after-action reports across the Division, I saw the most beneficial aspects of this evolution to be the ability of Marines to make decisions and step up in a real-world scenario. It is absolutely true that we need to re-evaluate the way we communicate, which assets we use to communicate, and determine strategies to carry the fight to the enemy for 15-90 days. Some constants will remain the same, however, no matter what technology we have. Among these is how Marines will conduct themselves with whatever situation is presented to them at any given time. We should train Marines with the assumption that they will be disadvantaged in the near-peer fight, if for no other reason than to ensure that they maintain the right mindset.

While AAVs had a good showing during MWX 1-20, we do need a new platform with a different weapons system, a fact that I believe is universally understood. I am confident that Marines will get the job done when needed; however, MWX 1-20 convinced me that it is time for change and better-functioning equipment. Marines should be concentrating on killing the enemy instead of exhausting themselves by repairing antiquated, 50-year-old vehicles every five minutes, and reducing combat effectiveness. We don't want to be stuck fighting our new war with the assumptions and equipment of old wars. Moreover, the majority of the fundamental principles we took away from MWX 1-20 will remain the same, needing only to be built upon. The Marine Corps must be prepared to win the battles of the future. Giving Marines the opportunity to exercise the realism of battle is essential in preparing us for this future. While technological advances and new equipment are needed, most apparent is that MWX exercises make Marines understand what it takes to win reinforces that as Marines, we rely on ourselves and each other to win above all else.

Author's bio: Capt Phillips is with 2ndMarDiv currently serving as the aide de camp for Major General Furness. He is an AAV Officer who was in command of Company A, 2nd AA Bn at the time the article was written.

Decentralization at its Best

AAV employment in an urban environment is a tricky endeavor, to say the least. The fact that the platoons had less than a week to integrate with their companies made it difficult to understand what was desired and how they could achieve the best impact in an urban environment. The employment of vehicle pairs and sections throughout the Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) facility at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms, Calif., executing defense-in-sector, and the tasking of specific units as Quick Reaction Force (QRFs) and Task Forces allowed AAVs and their embarked infantry the flexibility to handle a wide range of mission sets, as well as to carry out commander's intent, using their own initiative. The results were impressive, as AAVs scored multiple kills across the board, including the elimination of multiple aerial assets.

It was simultaneously educational and

"While there is a time and place for this, it is extremely beneficial to let the exercise play out until certain aspects fail. Failure is one of the best teachers we have." Capt Evan Phillips

Calling All Student Artists: Museum Announces Annual Competition

The National Museum of the Marine Corps recently announced the opening of its second annual Marine Corps Student Art Competition to all U.S. students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

“The theme for the NMMC’s art competition is ‘Welcome Home.’ Student artists are asked to create 2D art which visually shows what ‘Welcome Home’ means to Marines. Suggestions include but are not limited to Marines and their families, Marines in U.S. history, being patriotic, brotherhood and combat support,” reads the contest entry form.

Submissions will be divided into five grade-based categories. Entries must be submitted via digital copy between Sept. 1 and Sept. 15, and only the first 50 submissions in each category will be eligible for consideration.

Winners will receive certificates and cash prizes from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. For more information, to download an entry form, or view the 2019 winning submissions, visit <https://www.usmcmuseum.com/marine-corps-student-art-competition.html>.

NMMC

MARFORRES is Looking For A Few Good IT Experts, Cyber Security Pros

The Marine Corps Reserve stands ready for cyberspace operations with a highly skilled and formidable defensive team comprised of members working in technology firms, major banks and many other private sector companies.

The Defense Cyber Operations Company (DCO) is part of a broader information environment spanning many domains, operations, and related capabilities such as computer network attack, electronic warfare and information operations. The company’s Marines support the Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, Marine component headquarters, and Combined/Joint Task Force headquarters in order to enable and enhance the warfighting abilities of a commander.

As cyberspace threats evolve, the battle is always in real-time. Reserve Marines, experts in their field in the private sector, add an immense depth of experience, certifications and education to the total force.

“Seeing this unit grow from an idea



SSGT JACOB OSBORNE, USMC

Marines with Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command work in the cyber operations center at Lasswell Hall, Fort Meade, Md., Feb. 5. The Marine Corps Reserve is seeking data scientists, penetration testers, forensic investigators, malware analysts and other specialists from the private sector to join the efforts of the Defense Cyber Operations Company.



CPL SETH ROSENBERG, USMC

Marines with DCO Internal Defensive Measures Co, 9th Comm Bn, I MIG, actively hunt network threats at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 8.

into reality has been amazing to watch,” said Brigadier General Mark Hashimoto, the commanding general of Force Headquarters Group. “The reserve DCO companies will be a force multiplier as we augment and reinforce the Fleet Marine Force.”

BGen Hashimoto also praised those behind this effort: “When future generations of Marines not yet born walk into the McCarthy building and read the lineage of Marine Forces Reserve, they might see a list of wars, campaigns and battles decided in the information environment.

These future Marines will be well-served to know that the work of visionaries, Colonel Jeffrey Lipson and his team, were instrumental in seeding our first reserve DCO companies with impressive industry talent, thus laying the groundwork for MARFORRES to provide such highly capable forces when it was needed most.”

The Cyber Reserve unit has two companies, Company A on the West Coast in Concord, Calif., led by Major Robert McCartney, and Company B on the East Coast in Ayer, Mass., led by Maj Dan Heywood.

The Marines of the DCO companies can expect to focus on training and operations in three mission assurance actions: protect and defend against anticipated attacks using appropriate response actions, hunt for advanced threats, and respond and recover from cyber attacks.

"I'm thrilled to be starting this amazing effort on behalf of the Marine Corps Reserve," said Heywood. "I've been involved in this line of work for many years and to be able to take my skills in cybersecurity and blend leadership of Marines together, it's a dream come true."

"When I started working in Silicon Valley, I didn't know paths would cross with my Marine Corps career," stated McCartney. "Taking command and utilizing my knowledge and skills learned from the civilian world to lead Marines is a unique opportunity. I'm thrilled to be a part of it."

Teammates with varied backgrounds and capabilities are filling the ranks of the DCO companies including data scientists, penetration testers, forensic investigators, malware analysts, security architects, incident responders and many more.

Interested in learning more? Visit <https://www.marforres.marines.mil/Major-Subordinate-Commands/Force-Headquarters-Group/DCO-IDM/> and contact a Marine Forces Reserve representative if you are interested in joining the cyber companies.

MARFORRES

New Medal of Honor Podcast Inspires Listeners

On June 15, Evergreen Podcasts launched the "Medal of Honor" podcast with support from the National Medal of Honor Museum. The short-form podcast—consisting of three-minute episodes—will provide a quick narrative on one of the more than 3,500 men and women who have received the highest military honor in the United States. The stories of Medal of Honor recipients demonstrate bravery in combat at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty. The award serves as an inspiration to all Americans and its significance reaches far beyond honoring individual bravery.

The Medal of Honor podcast is hosted by Ken Harbaugh, a former Navy pilot and past president of Team Rubicon Global. He served as a commentator for National Public Radio, as host of the Crooked Media podcast "Reclaiming Patriotism," and as a guest fellow at Yale University. Ken's writing on service and citizenship has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Time* and the *Yale Journal of International Law*.

"It's an incredible honor to be able to



CPL DAISHA JOHNSON, USMC

Retired SgtMaj John L. Canley receives the Medal of Honor at the White House in Washington, D.C., Oct. 17, 2018, for his actions in Vietnam in 1968. A new podcast that tells the stories of America's Medal of Honor recipients in three-minute episodes has been created by Evergreen Podcasts and is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or the Evergreen website.

tell these stories of American heroes who rose to the challenge when duty called, often paying the ultimate sacrifice," said Harbaugh. "Now, more than ever, our nation needs examples of this kind of selflessness. The Medal of Honor podcast celebrates America at its best."

The first two episodes featured Medal of Honor recipients Jacob Parrott and John Chapman. You can listen to the Medal of Honor podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or by visiting www.evergreenpodcasts.com/medal-of-honor.

Evergreen Podcasts

American Corporate Partners Offers Mentorship Opportunities With Fortune 500 Companies

From drill instructors to noncommissioned officers who are integral to a servicemember's training, the military makes a point to ensure there's constant mentorship and always someone to learn from. That changes when veterans receive their DD-214, but American Corporate Partners (ACP) says it doesn't have to.

The organization offers a completely virtual one-on-one mentoring program to assist veterans with career development, networking, and general mentorship. The program consists of one hour a month with a handpicked mentor that is supported by ACP staff along the way. Veterans are paired with a mentor for one year and are offered a total of 12 monthly sessions.

ACP also offers Advisor Net, an online networking resources that is a great place to ask questions of a variety of advisors and find new networking opportunities. Questions like, "What are the best government contracting companies to work

for?" or "Does anyone have any contacts at Raytheon?" are common. Users can connect on discussion boards or in private messages, and members are searchable by location so veterans can find local mentors or in-person networking opportunities.

Many veterans also ask questions related to business development and entrepreneurship.

"Our secret sauce is the human touch we put on the mentor matching," said Colleen Deere, the executive director of ACP. "It's not a random algorithm. We know our veterans and we know our mentors."

Many of the mentors are from Fortune 500 companies. All are industry experts who simply want to give back to those who served.

Any post-9/11 veteran who has served on active duty for at least 180 days is eligible for the ACP mentorship program. Spouses of active duty servicemembers also are eligible.

The program's results are impressive. As of June 9, 17,000 veterans had completed the mentorship program. In 2018, 86 percent of those hired with the program were still with the same company in 2019. Last year, 2,000 veterans were hired while enrolled in ACP's mentorship program with an average salary of \$80,000.

To fill out an application, visit www.acp-usa.org. ACP will respond within 24 hours and schedule a 15-minute phone call to ask a few more clarifying questions to match the applicant with the perfect mentor.

Tim Hudak



In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

LtGen H.C. Stackpole

Lieutenant General H.C. "Hank" Stackpole, an infantry Marine who was a company commander in Vietnam when he was hit by enemy fire and then survived the shootdown of his medevac helicopter, died on May 29 at the age of 85.

In 1966, when he was commander of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam, then-Captain Stackpole was shot in the leg by a .50-caliber round. He was the only survivor of the medevac helicopter crash, crawling from the wreckage just before the aircraft burst into flames. Another helicopter flew him to the hospital at Chu Lai, where he was rushed into the operating room, and after going into cardiac arrest twice, doctors were finally able to revive him. He made a full recovery and went on to a Marine Corps career that lasted nearly four decades.

Originally from New Haven, Conn., Stackpole was commissioned a second lieutenant after graduating from Princeton University in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in English. He led Marines in combat during the Vietnam War and was the recipient of the Silver Star for actions on May 12, 1967. According to the award citation, his company came under intense enemy fire while reinforcing another unit which had sustained heavy casualties. "Captain Stackpole maneuvered his units to engage the enemy and, constantly exposed to the intense fire and disregarding his own safety, coordinated the direction of fire and supporting arms, relocation of units and the evacuation of casualties."

Throughout LtGen Stackpole's 37 years as a Marine, he held a variety of leadership roles such as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policies and Operations at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., and the Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in Okinawa, Japan. In his final assignment before his 1994 retirement, he was the Commander of Marine Force Pacific/Commanding General for the Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

After his retirement from active duty, LtGen Stackpole continued giving back to his community through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America and Wounded Warrior programs. In 2010 he served as the president of the Iwo Jima Association of America. He also served as the president of Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies from 1998 to 2005.

"Hank Stackpole was the ideal Marine role model," Kerry Gershaneck, who worked under LtGen Stackpole as both a platoon commander and a senior staff officer, recently told the *Honolulu Star Advertiser*. "He was a scholar, a warrior, and a teacher—a natural born leader who personified the virtues of moral and physical courage."

Katie Sinclair

CPO Ruben Aguirre, 73, of San Antonio, Texas. He was a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, serving with C/1/9. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and the Combat Action Ribbon. He later served 20 years in the Coast Guard.

LtCol Americo L. Ambrosi Jr., 89, of Clinton, Mass. He enlisted and served in the Korean War. After he was commissioned, he returned to Korea where he commanded C/1/5, 1stMarDiv. Throughout his career he had a variety of staff and command assignments. He retired in 1969.

Gene W. Bailey, 94, of Denver, Colo. During WW II he served with the 1stMarDiv in WW II and saw action on Cape Gloucester, New Guinea, Peleliu and Okinawa. After the war he had a 30-year career as a printer for the *Denver Post*.

Capt Bernard "Ed" Burgess, 88, in Salisbury, Md. During his 21 years in the Marine Corps, he served in combat in Korea and in Vietnam. He was the vice president of the Men of the Chosin Few Association and was the director of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Chosin Few. He was also active with the VFW and the American Legion.

PFC Angelo Ciotta, 94, of East Meadow, N.Y. He was born in Italy and came to the United States when he was 8 in 1932. He enlisted in 1943 and served in the Pacific. He was wounded during the Battle of Iwo Jima. He was a founding member of the Iwo Jima Survivors Association.

William DeJager, 101, of Clackamas, Ore. He left home after finishing 8th grade to join the Civilian Conservation Corps. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and served in the Pacific. He was assigned to 1stMarDiv and saw action on Okinawa. He later had a career in the construction industry, working on projects such as the Oakland Bay Bridge.

Sgt James C. Elligson, 39, of Martinsburg, W.Va. He was a nuclear biological and chemical defense special-

ist who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He later earned a bachelor's degree from Penn State University.

Sgt Paul Wayne Fry, 90, of Waynesboro, Pa. He was assigned to 2ndMarDiv during the Korean War.

Clyde Gabbard, 96, of Hamilton, Ohio. He enlisted after his 1942 graduation from high school and served in WW II.

SSgt William G. Gandy, 78, of Westfield, N.J. He served with Mobile Training Team 1-1, 1st Combined Action Group, III MAF. He received the Silver Star for his actions during one of his two tours to Vietnam. According to the award citation, he led a counterattack against a large Viet Cong force. "While providing covering fire ... he sustained a serious wound and his rifle malfunctioned. Ignoring his painful injury and with complete disregard for his own safety ... he fearlessly assaulted the advancing enemy force and rapidly killed five hostile soldiers in hand-to-hand combat." His other awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and three Purple Hearts.

Randall W. Gensamer, 70, of Altoona, Pa. During the Vietnam War he was assigned to the "Thundering Third" Bn of the 4th Marines. His awards include three Purple Hearts. He was active as a Toys for Tots volunteer and was a member of the MCL.

Douglas D. Gorr, 85, of De Pere, Wis. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War.

Sgt Archie W. Hazzard, 84, of Lakeland, Minn. During the Korean War, he served with D/2/5, 1stMarDiv. He later had a career in the floor covering business. He was an active volunteer with the Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad.

Sgt Ferdinand H. Hoehing, 98, of Hicksville, N.Y. He was assigned to a Grumman Avenger squadron in the Pacific and saw action in the skies over Peleliu and Bougainville.

Denzil "Rusty" Howard, 96, of Middletown, Ohio. He was a Marine who served in the Pacific in WW II and saw combat on Bougainville.

Angus H. Kittle, 94, of Leroy, Mich. He was a sniper with the 25th Marines during the Battle of Okinawa, where he was wounded. He later had a career as an engineer/machinist and was an avid gun collector.

Sgt Leo J. Kruise, 98, of Youngstown, Ohio. He enlisted in 1942 and served as a tail gunner and crew chief in the Pacific.

He saw action in the Solomon Islands, New Britain, Saipan, Tinian and the Philippines. His awards include two Distinguished Flying Crosses. He was a member of the MCL.

SSgt Michael W. Landreville, 50, of Canby, Ore. He was a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the VFW.

James J. "Jim" Loftus Jr., 95, of Pleasanton, Calif. During WW II he saw action in the Solomons and on Kwajalein and Peleliu. During the Korean War, he participated in the landing at Inchon and fought at the Chosin Reservoir.

Wesley J. "Wes" McCoy, 95, of Edina, Minn. He enlisted during WW II and served with 1stMarDiv. He saw action on Iwo Jima and later was stationed in China, where he assisted with the repatriation of Japanese servicemembers. After the war, he completed his degree in agricultural studies. He had a 37-year career with Dow Chemical Co.

Cpl Robert C. "Bob" Mueller, 95, of La Mirada, Calif. He enlisted when he was 18 and graduated from boot camp at MCRD San Diego. He trained as a paratrooper and served in the South Pacific. He saw action on Bougainville, spending 42 consecutive days in a foxhole

during the battle for Hellzapoppin' Ridge. He later was assigned to 5thMarDiv and fought on Iwo Jima.

James "Pee Wee" Pierson, 71, of Lawton, Okla. He was a Vietnam veteran who was wounded in combat.

John L. Plath, 91, of Albuquerque, N.M. He enlisted in 1946 and later served a tour as a DI.

Louis "Lou" Rodgers, 96, of Detroit, Mich. He was a Marine who served in WW II and the Korean War.

Edward L. Roy, 87, of Huntington Beach, Calif. During the Korean War he served with "Able" Co, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv during the fighting at the Chosin Reservoir. He later had a career as a firefighter.

William L. Russell, 76, of Albuquerque, N.M. He was a Marine who served one tour in Vietnam.

Sgt Thomas D. Siefke, 100, of Toledo, Ohio. He was a ParaMarine who saw action in the Choiseul raid in 1943. He fought on Iwo Jima and was wounded twice during the battle. After the war he had a long career in the telecommunications industry.

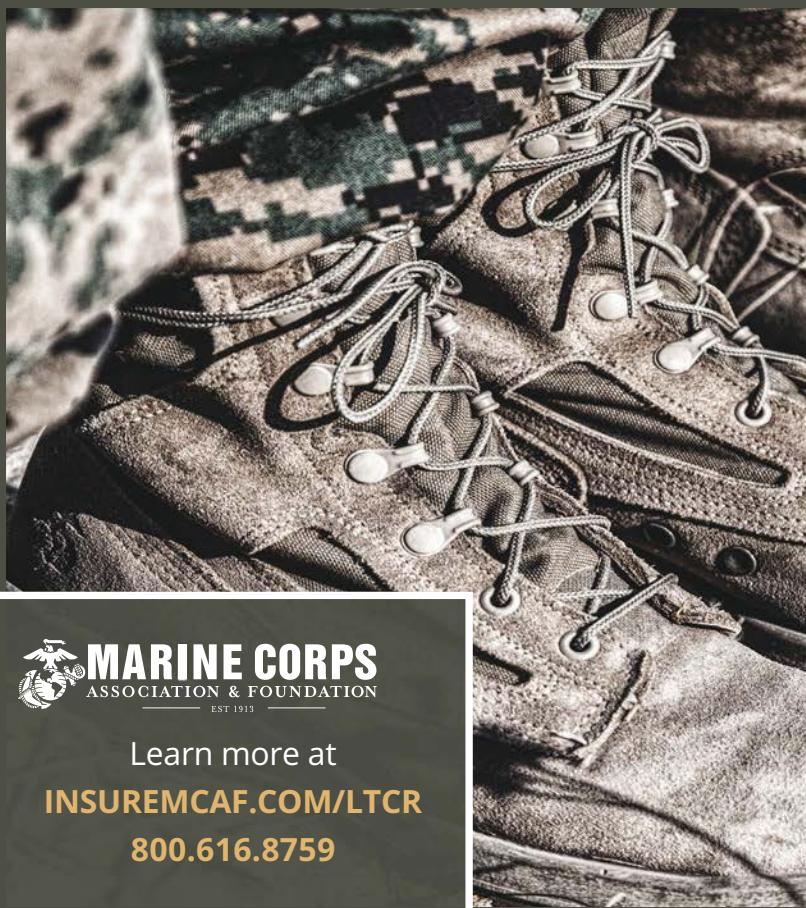
Garrett C. Soul, 75, of Hutchinson Island, Fla. He enlisted after his high school graduation and served in the Vietnam War. He later had a successful

career as a financial planner. He was also a certified numismatist.

Cpl Robert D. "Bob" Weber, 90, of Dunlap, Iowa. He enlisted in 1951. He was a machine gunner with 1/5, 1stMarDiv in the Korean War. After returning from Korea, he was a DI at OCS in Quantico, Va. He later returned home and ran the family farm for more than 50 years.

Michael E. Zavilla, 69, of Monticello, Ind. He was a Marine who served from 1968-1972. He spent 18 months in Vietnam, first in the infantry, and later as a door gunner in a Huey squadron. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and the Purple Heart. He later had a career as an iron worker in Chicago, where he worked on the construction of the Sears Tower.

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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SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

Instant Promotion

February and March of 1965 saw elements of the 6th Communication Battalion, Fort Schuyler, Bronx, N.Y., providing supply support for Operation Silver Lance. Danny and I were newly promoted non-comms assigned radio watch at the comm center headquarters where approximately 40 Marines operated radios, the message center, telephone switchboards, teletypes, etc., on each shift.

At dawn one morning Danny and I were leaving to go to chow. From the darkness of the tent, we opened the flap and were about to step out as a Marine was coming in. We gave way and he greeted us by saying, "Morning, Privates," and we responded, "Morning, Sir."

As we got outside, we realized that we had forgotten to put our rank on our utilities. We doubled back to our quarters, got properly dressed, and headed out to the mess hall tent. As we walked by the comm center, a Marine greeted us by saying, "Good morning, Corporals and congratulations on your promotions." We saluted and said, "Good morning, General Krulak."

CWO-4 David L. Horne
USMC (Ret)
West Palm Beach, Fla.

A Little Dab Will Do You

I had an amusing incident occur while I was a member of the Marine Detachment on USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA-42) in 1965. Heads and showers on ships, even aircraft carriers, are very small and limited. We had three showers and, as I recall, six sinks. One

day after I had finished my shower, I was standing at a sink ready to brush my teeth when I spied a tube of toothpaste on the sink next to mine. I thought, "I'll just use some of the Marine's toothpaste while he's still in the shower."

I picked up the tube and squeezed some paste onto my brush and began brushing my teeth. Instantly I thought, "Oh my God, this toothpaste is terrible!" I started spitting it out and picked up the tube to see what brand this terrible toothpaste was. To my shock it wasn't toothpaste at all. It was Brylcreem, the hair cream. I tasted Brylcreem in my mouth for about a week.

Cpl James L. Stuckey
USMC (Ret)
Seminole, Fla.

Touring Parris Island The Hard Way

One Sunday morning during my last weeks at Parris Island, about 10 of us were writing letters or polishing boots—normal Sunday morning activities. Our drill instructor came into the squad bay and announced in his normal voice, "Who wants to take a tour of the base? We'll go by the Commandant's office, the Women Marine Barracks and the PX and maybe we'll see some dependents." We didn't know what dependents were, but we were interested in the tour, so we volunteered. Then, in his DI voice he said, "Fall out in PT gear, three minutes."

As we started to run, he said, "Up ahead is the Women Marine Barracks, but if any of you *%# turn your heads, we'll be running all day!" He said the same at the Commandant's office and the PX too. We still didn't find out what

dependents were, but we learned a valuable lesson. No matter how good they make something sound—don't volunteer!

Alex Ditinno
Largo, Fla.

Two Mules Go Swimming

In April 1962, the 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David M. Shoup, escorted President John F. Kennedy and the Shah of Iran to the shores of Onslow Beach at Camp Lejeune to watch a mock landing by 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines.

Assigned to H&S Company as a flamethrower, I was in one of the 12 amtracs from 3rd Bn, 6th Marines coming out of two landing ship docks heading to the beach. Suddenly, the large front door of my amtrac opened prematurely,

**Before I knew it,
I was in front of
President Kennedy
shaking his hand.**

and water began quickly entering my boat. This prompted me to get the attention of the amtrac driver above me as I tugged on his left trouser leg. The driver responded by yelling for us to jump overboard. We relied on our training to float in the ocean before being picked up by a "Mike" boat.

Upon arriving on the shore, the battalion sergeant major met us and told us to take a waiting jeep and double-time it back to our barracks. We were instructed to change into our Class A uniforms and return in order to meet the

President, the Shah and the Commandant.

Before I knew it, I was in front of President Kennedy shaking his hand. The President asked me if we were all right, and I answered, "Yes, Sir." He then asked me what was stowed in our sunk amtrac. I responded that the amtrac had two MULEs, two 106 recoilless rifles and two flamethrowers. This sparked the President to ask me curiously if the Marine Corps was using live mules. Without missing a beat, I respectfully informed the President that a MULE is a jeep-like vehicle without a top on it. As the group dispersed, the Commandant leaned over to me and said, "Good job, Marine."

SSgt James Alexander
USMC, 1960 to 1966
Enfield, Conn.

A Nasty First Sergeant

I was assigned to 3rd Pioneer Battalion on Okinawa from 1959 to 1960. We were stationed at Camp Koza. We were a combat engineer battalion and had many construction projects with hard labor and dirty details.

About four months after I reported in, there was a new first sergeant assigned to the company. First Sergeant "Nasty" was hell on wheels. He conducted a company-wide "junk-on-the-bunk" during his first week with the company. Just prior to the inspection we all noticed that three dump trucks had parked in front of our Quonset huts and we all thought we were going to work after the inspection.

The first sergeant, with four assistants, entered the huts and began tearing us up. The "First Shirt" picked up each item of uniforms, inspected it, then threw it

to the middle of the hut. Any item that had a stain or minor tear, loose seam or was frayed, was trashed and taken to the dump trucks. We had one Marine who was a body builder and all his uniform items in one way or another were unserviceable and he was left standing in his skivvies.

1stSgt Nasty made a statement prior to departing the hut. "You will all go to cash sales on Monday with clothing checkages from your pay. Private 'Body Builder,' you will borrow a set of utilities to go to cash sales, and when you get back, you will shit-can the skivvies you are wearing now."

About a month later the company went aboard ship for an exercise in Formosa. We were making boat landings by climbing down the nets from the ship. The troops went down the nets first, and the first sergeant was one of the last down. The sea was rough, and the boats were banging up against the ship. 1stSgt Nasty lost his grip and fell into the water between the ship and the boat. Four Marines grabbed him and pulled him into the boat. Three days later the first sergeant held a rifle inspection and found rust in three of the rifles of the four Marines. He awarded all three NJP. Nasty he was, but a dedicated Marine.

CWO-3 Jack Wing
USMC (Ret)
1958 to 1982
Apopka, Fla.

Access Refused

As a young first lieutenant assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, 1st Marine Brigade at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, in the spring of 1958, one of my assigned duties as battalion adjutant was as top secret control officer. Those duties included having control of a small locked office in the headquarters building.

No one was allowed in that area without the express permission of our battalion commanding officer except my sergeant and me.

One day a colonel who I did not recognize appeared at my door. A colonel in Kaneohe at that time was a mighty big man as there were only three or four of them in the whole 25,000-man 1st Marine Brigade.

He introduced himself as Colonel "So-and-So," from FMF Pacific and announced after that he was here to inspect our

He pointed to the eagle on his collar and said *that* was his permission. I gulped and again refused to give him access.

top secret control room. I explained that I was unable to allow him into that space without my commanding officer's permission and that the colonel was in the field and not available to give permission.

He pointed to the eagle on his collar and said *that* was his permission. I gulped and again refused to give him access. He then said, "Well, we will see about that!" and promptly spun on his heels and walked out.

Later I found out that he had been able to get into some of the 4th Marines battalion headquarters and raised hell with their commanders. I was lucky and received a commendation from my commanding officer for doing my job.

Capt Arthur K. Lund
USMCR (Ret)
San Mateo, Calif.

Disastrous Day On the Flight Line

In 1965 I was stationed at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, assigned to Marine Air

Maintenance Squadron 17. One day while working on the flight line, I saw a group of Marines playing flag football so I decided to drive my flat-bed truck over and watch. I parked on the flight line next to the field and after about 20 minutes, a young lieutenant came over and graciously asked me to move the truck because an airplane with dignitaries on board was scheduled to arrive shortly. I agreed, however, I couldn't get the truck started. The more I tried, the madder the young lieutenant became. When the aircraft arrived, the lieutenant had to direct it to another location which inconvenienced a lot of people.

While I was still trying to get the truck started, the irate lieutenant came back over and requested my ID card. A couple of days later my master sergeant called me into his office. As I entered, I could see that he was holding something, and it appeared to be an ID card. With a frustrated look, he held the card out and said, "Ellis, I don't know what the hell you did but if anyone asks, you just got the worst ass-chewing of your life. Now get the hell outta here!"

Sgt Bill Ellis
USMC, 1963-1967
Warrior, Ala.

The DI's Heavy Load

I went through recruit training in 1974 at MCRD Parris Island. I was standing guard duty around 0300 one day while on bivouac. It had been raining on and off throughout the night. It always surprised me that a place so hot and humid could be chilly at night. One could sweat and shiver at the same time.

Our drill instructors, Sergeant Dahling, Sgt Sanders and Sgt Lemon were all lounging around a small fire. Their gear, as always, was meticulously packed and off to the side. Sgt Dahling was mixing hot

chocolate in his canteen cup and heating it over the fire.

By now I was soaked because the worthless poncho I was issued did not keep the water out. I was casually watching the three DIs as I tried to edge near the fire. Sgt Dahling noticed me and motioned me to come over. He said nothing as I stood waiting for a proper dressing down topped off with a few "bends and thrusts," their favorite punishment.

Crouching in front of the fire he looked up at me and handed me the canteen cup. I took it and just stood there not sure what to do next. Sgt Dahling motioned for me to drink. For several minutes we passed the cup back and forth until it was drained.

Again, saying nothing, Sgt Dahling motioned for me to get his gear and bring it over. I obeyed and trotted over to where his pack and gear were. He was watching me closely. Bracing for the weight of the pack I hefted it up and to my surprise the pack almost went airborne it was so light. That's when I realized that the pack was full of empty boxes. I looked over at Sgt Dahling, and he was smiling. He nodded and spoke his first words that morning, "Wake the men." I did as I was told with a new understanding and appreciation for how things worked at Parris Island.

John Caccioppoli
Queens, N.Y.

Do you have an interesting story from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? We would love to hear them. 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." 🐼

to great careers as enlisted Marines while others serve as commissioned officers. However, there is a special breed of Marine who encompasses both enlisted and commissioned service and that is the Mustang officer. It is a breed that is resilient, ambitious and seeks greater responsibility.

The dictionary defines a Mustang as a tough, resilient small wild horse. One able to survive under harsh conditions and possessing stamina and the ability to survive a barren environment. This definition fits the Marine who has gone from enlisted service to warrant or commissioned status.

It is only since World War I that the Mustang officer has an honored position in the Corps. Prior to that, enlisted personnel could only rise to sergeant major. Since that time, many distinguished officers of Marines have risen through the enlisted ranks including Major General James Day, Lieutenant General Lewis "Chesty" Puller, and Gen Roy Geiger.

My personal career did not take me to the level of commandant as two Mustangs have done in the past, Gen Robert Barrow and Gen Alfred Gray, but it did involve

rising from a seagoing private first class to Marine Security Guard to infantry platoon sergeant and later commanding rifle companies both in combat and deployment as a commissioned officer. Achievements that would not have occurred if I did not reach out and seek more responsibility.

Recent years have seen the corporals and sergeants of today be tested by numerous deployments and combat, thus, providing them with the experience needed to train and lead the recruits entering our ranks. What corporals and sergeants have to do is examine themselves to see if they are qualified to apply for either the Warrant Officer Basic Course or Officer Candidate School.

Many of my age group can only dream of the opportunities you have today compared against what we had in the 1950s. It is our wish that you, the essence of the Corps, take advantage of educational opportunities to polish your qualifications and forge ahead.

Capt George B. Meegan, USMC (Ret)
1955 to 1978
Tempe, Ariz.

Recognizing Marine Organizations

In addition to the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, I would like to

recognize the following for their excellent help and attention to those of us who have proudly served our Corps. These organizations are the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of which I am a life member and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). DAV provides assistance to veterans in filing claims and transporting veterans to their VA appointments, among other things. The VA's medical centers and clinics serve the health needs of veterans. I receive my care at the VA Medical Center in Lebanon, Pa., and it is outstanding. The staff at the Lebanon facility treats their patients with dignity, compassion, and respect, making veterans even more honored to have served our country.

Thank you for allowing me to "Sound Off."

David J. Dickson
Reading, Pa.

No Such Thing as Former Marine

I've been noticing the phrase, "No such thing as a former Marine," appearing more and more often, and quite often associated with General James F. Amos. I first heard the term shortly after reconnecting with Major Gene Duncan. Up until then I had been certain the wounds he suffered on Feb. 1, 1968, were fatal. Guess not. He sent me this quote around 1991.

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Former Marine: “No such thing, really. Anyone who has ever been a Marine—for two years or 30—has been touched, changed, improved, and has become a better man or woman. A sense of honor has been developed which will never leave that person. A trait of compassion and a love of the intangible form and become a part of that man or woman. When we bemoan the loss of patriotism, the national selfishness, the materialistic and immoral attitudes of the American people, make sure you don’t include those hundreds of thousands who once bore—and still truly bear in their hearts and characters—the title Marine! For Joe Fenech who was with me on that bad day at Phu Loc. Semper Fidelis, Marine!”

Joe Fenech
Chelsea, Mich.

• *One of the first things the previous Leatherneck editor, Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret), taught me during our turnover was that the phrase “former Marine” is never used in Leatherneck. Instead, veteran or retired Marine is used to describe those of us who have left active duty. It’s a simple solution that reflects both the individual’s service and the Corps’ ethos.—Editor*

Reflections

This poem is dedicated to the Vietnam Veterans of VFW Post 4194 in Stuart, Fla.

As my age approached its 18th year,
So young and so carefree,
The things I said and done back then,
Didn’t mean that much to me.

For I remember high school days,
And the senior prom,
Hadh’t thought of Cambodia,
Much less of Vietnam.

For I was young in a reckless way,
Still wet behind the ears.
How could I know the ghosts of past,
Would follow me for years?

For years the water flows beneath,
The endless bridge of time.
I am now plagued by morality,
Was killing then a crime?

I guess we all are victims now,
As I’m sure you can plainly see,
That I was once a part of it,
Now it’s a part of me.

Jay Massey
Hobe Sound, Fla.

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Reunions

Editor's note: The following reunion information was current as of July 1. Given that things are rapidly changing due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, please continue to check with the reunion points of contact for the most up-to-date information.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Sept. 23-25, 2021, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **Marine Corps Cryptologic Assn.**, September 2021, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Edgar Kitt, 2250 Heavenly View Dr., Henderson, NV 89014, (702) 454-1646, edgarkitt@earthlink.net.

• **Marine Corps Disbursing Assn.**, May 16-20, 2021, Reno, Nev. Contact MGySgt Kevin Gascon, USMC (Ret), (760) 458-2655, majorisin68@hotmail.com, www.usmcdisbursers.com.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn.**, Aug. 11-16, Arlington, Va. Contact Jim Casey, (703) 349-0893, businessmgr@marinecorpsmustang.org, www.marinecorpsmustang.org/muster.

• **National Montford Point Marine Assn. (Virtual Reunion)**, Aug. 29. Contact Eric Nelson, (703) 629-8839, or MGySgt Ron Johnson, (504) 202-8552, www.montfordpointmarines.org.

• **Marine Air Traffic Control Assn.**, Sept. 19-26, 2021, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Steve Harris, (509) 499-8137, sandkh2@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Assn.**, Aug. 21-23, Quantico, Va. Contact MGySgt Daniel E. Burke Sr., (540) 287-3833, b12daniel@aol.com, www.marinedsa.org.

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Assn.**, Sept. 10, Arlington, Va. Contact Norbert Johnson, 6100 Cochrane Rd., Marlette, MI 48453, (810) 300-0782, nwgj@outlook.com, www.usmc.org/7th/.

• **Marine Corps Air Transport Assn. (VMGR/VMR)**, Sept. 3-6, Chicago, Ill. Contact CWO-4 Dave Harshbarger, USMC (Ret), (630) 394-2568, reunion@mcata.org, www.mcata.com.

• **Khe Sanh Veterans**, Oct. 25-Nov. 1, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact Tom Eichler, (773) 625-2101, teic1448@aol.com.

• **Force Logistics Command, Vietnam (all battalions/FLSG-A&B)**, Sept. 26-Oct. 1, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Mike Fishbaugh, 990 Little Lick Fork, East Point, KY 41216, (606) 789-5010,

smfishbaugh@mikrtec.com.

• **11th Marine Regiment, OIF (20th anniversary)**, March 31-April 1, 2023, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Casey Harsh, casey.harsh@gmail.com. Facebook group: The Cannon Cockers of OIF-1 (20-Year Reunion 2023 Group).

• **3rd Recon Bn Assn.**, Oct. 6-10, Tucson, Ariz. Contact Floyd Nagler, (952) 440-1553, floydnagler@yahoo.com.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Aug. 11-16, Arlington, Va. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.

• **1/5 (1986-1992)**, Sept. 10-13, Macomb, Ill. Contact Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com.

• **1/27 (1968)**, July 2021, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Felix Salmeron, (469) 583-0191, mar463@aol.com.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3**, 2020 reunion postponed until 2021, date TBD, Branson, Mo. Contact Burrell Landes, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net, www.stormys33.com.

• **G/2/7 (RVN, 1965-1970)**, Sept. 2, Carson City, Nev. Contact Travis Skaggs, (775) 291-6813, tskaggs6@email.com.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-1970)**, June 24-27, 2021, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact Steve Cone, (843) 424-8279, scone1948@yahoo.com.

• **1st 8-inch Howitzer Btry**, Aug. 6-8, Tacoma, Wash. Contact Stanley Alpha, (253) 847-0850, stg66@netzero.net.

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 25-27, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, slickstuff@nwcable.net.

• **U.S. Naval Disciplinary Command Portsmouth, N.H. (Marine Detachment)**, Sept. 14-20, North Conway, N.H. Contact Don Ferry, (972) 334-0609, don.ferry1942@gmail.com.

• **41st OCC/TBS 3-67**, Oct. 22, San Diego, Calif. Contact Paul Disario, (559) 273-9549, pdisario@comcast.net.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-70**, Oct. 22-25, Quantico, Va. Contact Tom Kanasky, (202) 366-3156, tkanasky@earthlink.net, or Mitch Youngs, (703) 493-9435, mitchyoungs@verizon.net.

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

• **Plt 1187, San Diego, 1969**, is planning a reunion. Contact T.E. Miller, (618) 520-9646, or Mark Elder, (314) 322-8516.

• **Plt 2057, San Diego, 1971**, is planning

a reunion. Contact K.L. Christeson, (816) 830-1498.

• **Plt 3028, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Bob Rees, USMC (Ret), (619) 940-9218, bobrees86@gmail.com.

• **VMF/VMA-311**, Sept. 27-Oct. 1, New Orleans, La. Contact Jim Galchick, (610) 584-5654, jgalchick@neo.rr.com, <http://www.vmfvma311reunion.org>.

Ships and Others

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 16-20, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, Pa., 16673, (814) 224-5063, (814) 3112-4976, hornetcva@aol.com.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Norfolk, Va. Contact Frank Thoms, (975) 595-6924, Kevin Auriemma, (973) 625-3893, or Tom Ballinger, (210) 403-3302.

Mail Call



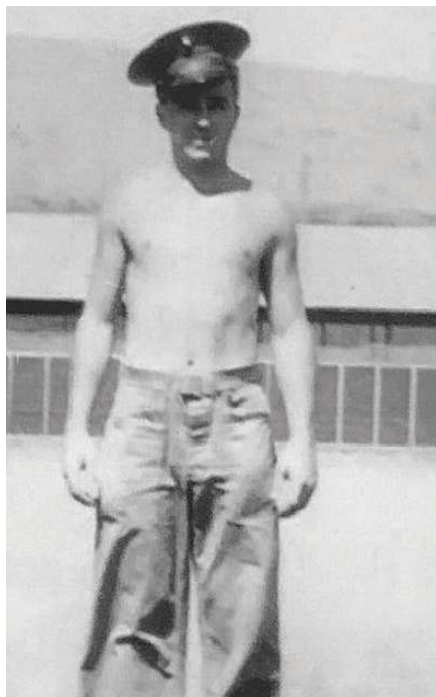
Cpl Charles R. Sallenger was a relative of Leatherneck reader Gene Spanos, who would like to hear from Marines who served with Cpl Sallenger in the 1stMarDiv during WW II.

COURTESY OF GENE SPANOS

• Gene Spanos, (847) 532-2963, gene.themarine@gmail.com, to hear from Marines who served with **Cpl Charles R. SALLENGER**, pictured above, who served with the **1stMarDiv** at **Guadalcanal** during **WW II**.

• Rick Martini, (425) 343-7951, agentontherun@gmail.com, to hear from **retired Maj Ed QUINTERO**, **Ron COTTINGHAM**, **Steve DAVID** and **Danny DOTSON**.

• Tom Crilly III, (908) 433-3895, sgtcrilly@aol.com, to hear from **J. KRAUTER**, **Cpl DELAY**, **Tom FORMBY**, **MENDEZ**, **SANCEZ**, **J. HOFFMAN**, **R. BRANIGAN**, **WINTERS** and **G. WAULTNAVICH**, assigned to **"Golf" Co, 2/5, 1stMarDiv**, which stood down in April 1971 and left Vietnam aboard **USS Denver (LPD-9)**.



COURTESY OF KAREN COZZI CAMPBELL

Karen Cozzi Campbell would like to hear from *Leatherneck* readers who might have information about Matthew "Al" Cozzi, who was assigned to with B/1/28, 5thMarDiv, during the Battle of Iwo Jima. She also would like to know if this photo was taken at Camp Pendleton or at Camp Tarawa, Hawaii.

- Karen Cozzi Campbell, (630) 554-1602, halkarencampbell@yahoo.com, to hear from anyone with information about **Matthew "Al" COZZI**, who was assigned to **B/1/28, 5thMarDiv** in 1944 and is pictured in the photo (left). He served alongside another Marine named Oscar "Gene" EIB. She also would like to hear from anyone who can tell her whether the photo of Cozzi was taken at **Camp Pendleton** or at **Camp Tarawa, Hawaii**, while he was training prior to the **Battle of Iwo Jima**.

- Former Cpl Michael Radovich, (704) 820-0796, mwradovich@gmail.com, to hear from **Cpl Ken CHAMBERS** of **Lincoln, Neb.** He has photos of the **Khe Gio Bridge** to give him.

- John Koessler, (904) 259-9179, to hear from Marine **Capt KEITH** who served on **USS Canopus (AS-34)**, 1970-1971.

Wanted

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

- Robert Stringfield, astringfield08@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 3029, Parris Island, 2008**.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

- CWO-4 Paul Kirsch, USMC (Ret), (412) 343-5378, ptkirsch@verizon.net, has **recruit graduation books** for **Plt 360, Parris Island, 1953; Plt 402, Parris Island, 1953-1954; Plt 76, Parris Island, 1954; Plt 156, Parris Island, 1954 and Plt 303, Parris Island, 1954**, that he will give away to a member of that platoon for the cost of postage.

- Charley Frey, (717) 854-7295, has **recruit graduation books** for **Plt 1004, 1005 and 1006, Parris Island, 1989-1990**, to give away to any graduate who can identify a drill instructor from those platoons.

- Joyce Cornell, jtcorne@yahoo.com, has a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 156, San Diego, 1965**, to give away.

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.bock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134. 🐞

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In support of the quarantined recruits at San Diego, we have already sent 6,600 separate publications. We anticipate sending an additional 10,000 publications to Parris Island recruits and approximately 8,000 to the Marines at Officer Candidates School in an ongoing effort by MCUP and History Division to support the troops while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic environment. To learn more about what Marines are reading about their history, visit www.usmcu.edu/mcupress.

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Saved Round

By Katie Sinclair



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, MARION FISCHER COLLECTION

WHEN THE LIGHTS CAME ON AGAIN ALL OVER THE WORLD—A small cake with a single candle hardly seems like a worthy commemoration of VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, a monumental event in both U.S. and Marine Corps history. Nevertheless, Corporal John Dullin and his fellow leathernecks of 1st Marine Division were smiling from ear to ear as they cut into his starch-icing cake with a Japanese samurai sword. The war was finally over and *that* was reason to celebrate.

On July 26, 1945, the Potsdam Declaration was issued by U.S. President Harry S. Truman, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and President Chiang Kai-shek of the Republic of China, offering Japan a chance to bring the war to a close. Emperor Hirohito denied their terms of surrender, which subsequently led to the Soviet Union's declaration of war against Japan and President Truman's decision to drop atomic bombs on the Japanese cities Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, and Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

These catastrophic attacks forced Hirohito to announce his unconditional surrender of Japan to the Allies on Aug. 14, 1945. The Japanese Instrument of Surrender was formally signed on Sept. 2, 1945, on board USS *Missouri* (BB-63), officially signifying the end of World War II.

When news of Japan's surrender broke, celebrations erupted around the world. Historians estimate that the Pacific and Asian campaigns of the Second World War accounted for approximately 77,000 American casualties, so its conclusion was undeniably reason for servicemembers and civilians alike to celebrate. The valiant efforts of the Marine Corps were crucial to the Allied victory and had an immense impact on the way the Corps was perceived at home and around the world.

The Marine Corps was America's "first to fight" at Guadalcanal in August 1942 and led the final campaign of the war in the Pacific—the invasion of Okinawa in April 1945. Not only did the Marine Corps grow to a previously unimaginable six divisions and five air wings (nearly 500,000 strong) by the war's end, but it also gained recognition as the world's premier amphibious assault force. Furthermore, the reputation of the undaunted courage and fighting spirit of the individual Marine was firmly established and endures to this day.

Although many Americans throughout the country still observe V-J Day, Rhode Island is the only state to officially acknowledge it as a holiday. Called Victory Day, it's celebrated on the second Monday in August. 🇺🇸



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