

JANUARY 2020

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

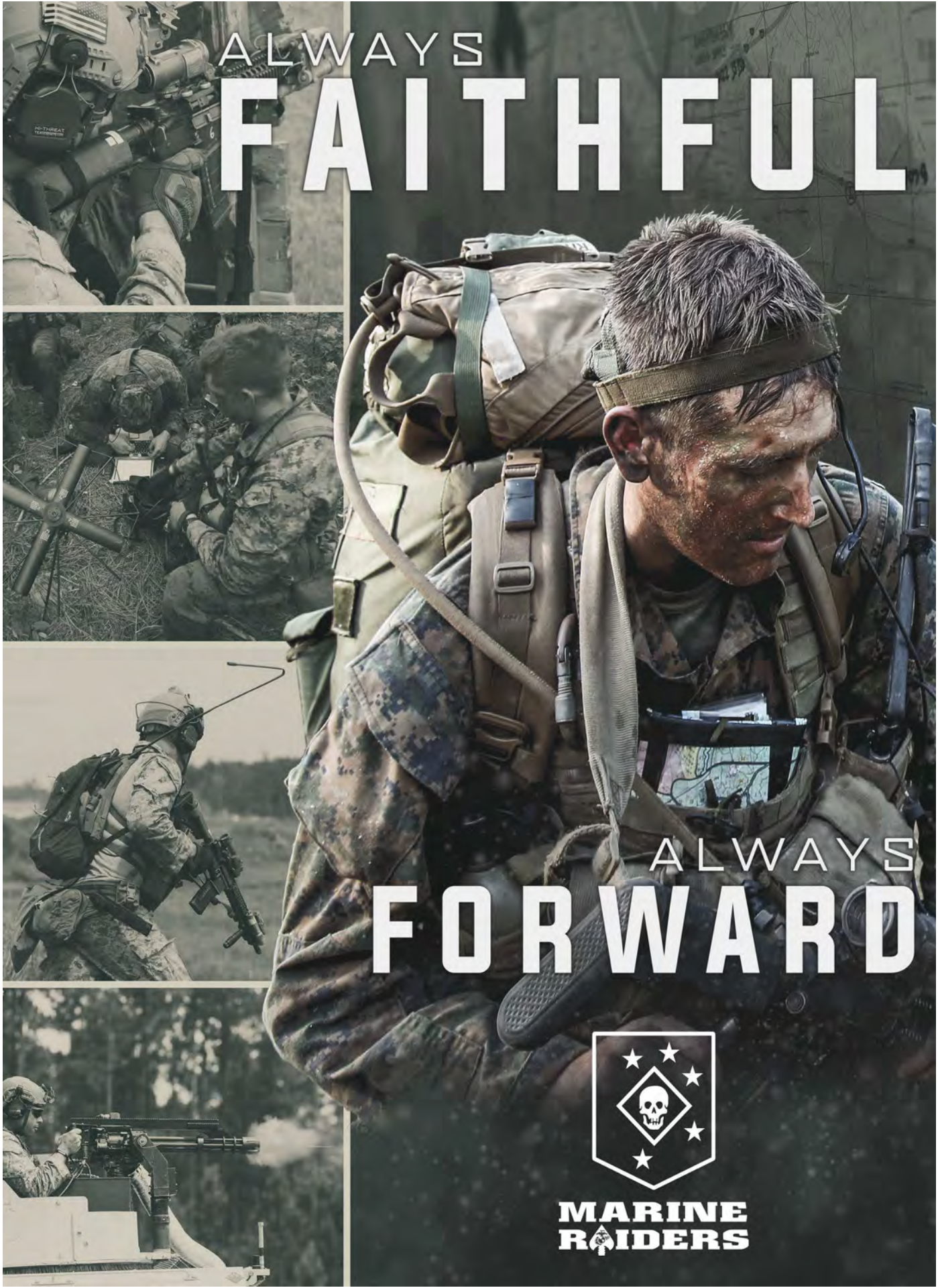
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**Battle of Midway—
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COVER: Marines with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, ride in an Amphibious Assault Vehicle during Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Exercise (MWX) 1-20 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 7, 2019. Photo by LCpl Shane T. Beaubien, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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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.)

My name is Austin Conway and I served as a U.S. Marine for four years as a young man. I spent two years of that time fighting in the Korean War. I returned in 1953 and used my G.I. Bill to finance my college education. I did not realize at that time how well my Marine Corps training would serve me throughout my business endeavors and in my relationships through the years.

On Oct. 26, 2019, I had the honor of traveling to Washington, D.C., as a guest on the Space Coast Honor Flight. Honor Flights throughout the United States are planned for veterans to have the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital to visit our veterans' memorials. This particular group was based in Melbourne, Fla. We traveled from Melbourne to Orlando International Airport to Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. From there, we had a full police escort into Washington. We spent time at the National World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Women's Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va., paying our respects to the veterans of our Armed Services.

The trip included 25 veterans, escorts and staff members. One of the highlights of the day was the packet of mail we received on our way to the airport to return home. It was a planned surprise as letters were presented to us as "Mail Call," just as we had received when we were serving our country on foreign soil. Families and friends of the veterans on the trip were asked to write letters of gratitude and the response was overwhelming. Each veteran now has those letters to keep as a reminder of the trip and of the gratitude that was expressed.

I received so many letters and have reread them since my return home. My children's letters were especially precious to me. They have different perspectives now as adults than they did as children. Who can explain war to children? Here is the letter my son wrote to me.

Dear Dad,

These are the top things a kid learns

growing up as the son of a Marine.

"Yes" and "No" don't exist. Only "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir."

I knew "The Marines' Hymn" before I knew the alphabet.

"High and tight" was a punishment for a kid, not a fashion statement.

I have pictures of me at 5 years old standing at attention.

The three most important winter dates are the Marine Corps Birthday, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

There is no such thing as ex-Marines, only former Marines.

"Semper Fidelis" was the first Latin term I learned.

I knew about Parris Island before Paris, France.

"Chesty" Puller was the first superhero I learned about.

"Adapt and overcome" is more than just a saying; it's the key to life.

All of these things have served me well at some point in my life, Dad, but "adapt and overcome" has delivered me through all of life's most difficult and challenging moments. Thank you for everything you've taught me. I'm proud of my Dad, the Marine. Your service and sacrifice at such a young age are appreciated and through all that you learned and endured. You certainly earned your title of United States Marine. I'm so thankful you have this Honor Flight so that others can see and recognize my Dad. You deserve the thanks and the experience.

Love, Brad

My daughter's letter is also very special to me.

Dear Pop,

Thank you for your service to our great country. There are so many things you have taught me that I carry with me fondly each day. From "clean as you go" to rising at "first light" to telling the truth and what's right. From "cleaning my quarters" to a well-made bed with hospital corners, I will always be a Marine Corps father's daughter. All these things and more, you've instilled in me and I strive hard each day to be all that I can be. Thank you for teaching me discipline and strength, determination and grace. I will always be your loving devil pup and I think of you each day at reveille. Semper Fidelis, Daddy.

Your devil pup daughter, Erin

Sgt Austin L. Conway
USMC, 1952-1960
Melbourne, Fla.

Rifles vs. Guns

In response to Carl Withey's Sound Off letter titled, "Marines Don't Have Guns," in the November 2019 issue, I think *Leatherneck* and Col Woodbridge gave the right answers. The word "gun," as used in "The Marines' Hymn," refers to a Marine's weapon in a broad sense. After all, those are lyrics to a hymn, not paragraphs in a Marine Corps directive.

However, for the sake of anyone who would rather take the lyrics of "The Marines' Hymn" literally, rest assured that line is 100 percent factually correct. As anyone who served in the Corps knows, Marines have both rifles and guns, and we would never go off with our rifles to fight our country's battles in any clime or place without bringing our guns too.

A rifle is a shoulder-fired, individually handled weapon. Guns are much bigger weapons that are crew served or fired from a mount. Every Marine is a rifleman, but the Marine Corps also uses guns to fight our country's battles in the air, on land, and sea, and that is why you find guns everywhere in the Marine Corps from weapons companies to artillery batteries and from tank companies to air squadrons.

The rifles versus guns argument is actually a topic of Marine-speak, not Marine equipment. Marines refer to an M16 as a rifle and an M240 as a gun, but not vice versa. In ["Full Metal Jacket"] the scene Mr. Withey is referring to, Gunny Hartman wasn't teaching his recruits the difference between a rifle and a gun. That lesson is given in a different classroom in boot camp. What he was doing was drilling into the recruits' minds the correct term Marines use for an M14. That chant he made them do in the squad bay, like the repetitive close order drill shown throughout the movie, is part of a boot camp process that permanently transforms recruits so that by the time they graduate from boot camp, they walk and talk like Marines.

1stSgt Frank Furtado, USMC (Ret)
Port Orchard, Wash.

In reference to the Sound Off letter in the November 2019 *Leatherneck* by Carl Withey asking about the guns versus rifles in "The Marines' Hymn," I can offer what was explained to the recruits in platoon 114 by our senior drill instructor, (Acting) Staff Sergeant T.C. Gosh. I turned 17 on Jan. 28, 1960, and at 2330 Jan. 29, 1960, I was standing on the yellow footprints at MCRD San Diego.

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Michael Ehline, Esq

Renato Laranja

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All of the Drill Instructors we had over the 13 weeks in Boot Camp were World War II and Korean War veterans, so I think they knew something about the Marines and our hymn.

We were told by our senior drill instructor, who had been pounding into us that we carried and used rifles, not guns, the use of guns in the hymn refer to cannons. Note the word "take" not "carry" a gun. I do not know about the artillery Marines today, but back then, we did not always call the cannon, "cannon." Most of the time they were referred to as "guns" or "big guns." This may have been because cannon are not rifles. We had a former artillery officer, Captain Cleo P. Stapleton, in my squadron at MCAS Yuma, who would talk a little about his "gun" units. I also had a very good friend, Robert Metcalf, who had been on Peleliu as a 75 mm cannon cocker. He also referred to his cannon as a "gun."

I hope I have been able to shed some light on this subject and am able to help Mr. Withey understand why the hymn refers to "gun" and not "rifle." As an afterthought on my part, since officers and staff noncommissioned officers usually carried M1911A1 pistols only, could they also have been referred to as "rifles?"

GySgt Thomas Lakin, USMC (Ret)
Placentia, Calif.

I find the discussion regarding the use of the term "gun" worth a smile. While I certainly recall the boot camp lessons taught to differentiate between the two, I was also taught that a gun refers to artillery pieces and it is/was/has been appropriate to identify such pieces as guns while our best friend has always been our rifle.

I did my time and had many MOSs, many that no longer exist. So to the old breed or new breed, keep up the good work.

Maj James L. Murphy, USMC (Ret)
Los Osos, Calif.

The Battle Jacket Controversy Continues

I was stationed at Parris Island in September 1951. While there, I saw a number of training films, one of which was devoted to the proper use and purpose of the uniform. This film depicted a Marine in the winter combat uniform of a slightly earlier day. He was wearing greens with the short coat or battle jacket. It explained that the jacket was purposely loose fitting so that a heavy shirt or sweater could be worn under it.

It should be remembered that as late as World War I most armies simply made small changes to their dress uniform for field use. Pictures of our own original

Devil Dogs indicate that to be true.

I hope this information sheds some helpful light on an interesting question. Also, I thought you might like to see a poem I had written on the beleaguered article of apparel.

The Uniforms I Wore

They're rather antiquated now,
Those uniforms I wore.
They're just a part of history,
The story of the Corps.

My herringbones have been replaced,
With cloth of mottled green,
Unlike utilities I wore,
When I was a Marine.

My battle jacket chevrons,
Contain no rifled red,
To signify the sacrifice,
Of those who fought and bled.

In fact, that battle jacket,
Is officially retired,
Although it had a certain style,
That past Marines admired.

The blues I once wore proudly,
Are neatly stored away,
With photographs and souvenirs,
That mark another day.

I sometimes reminisce about,
Those times that are no more,
And feel a certain sadness for,
Those uniforms I wore.

But now and then a young Marine,
Will stop and chat a while,
And all my sadness slips away,
And I have cause to smile.

For uniforms, I realize,
Are really what's inside,
And ours are made of honor,
That's tightly stitched with pride.

Though mine may just be relics now,
To me they're much, much more,
A cherished bit of history,
Those uniforms I wore.

Bob Gannon
Rochester, N.H.

Stacked Racks

The upper picture in the November 2019 issue on page 20 showing Marines lying in stacked racks looks like the racks in troop ships. I traveled on a number of APAs and all had racks resembling the ones in the picture. I have never seen racks like that ashore in Marine barracks.

Verle Randolph
USMC, 1958-1962
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Gunner Holycross at Camp Bulkeley Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in late 1966.

Gunny Holycross Led the Way

Today I will honor a Marine who was my first platoon commander when I was a young 17-year-old Marine private first class 53 years ago when I reported to the 106 mm Recoilless Rifle Platoon of H&S Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines

at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in 1966. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard L. Holycross was known as Gunner Holycross and he was killed in action 52 years ago in Vietnam. This Marine not only showed me what a leader should be but also taught me how to follow. That is something that too many forget as they move up the ranks.

The battalion was sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, sometime around September 1966, to provide security at the base for the next four to five months. This is where it all started for me. As a young PFC, I tried to do most things by the Guidebook according to what we all had learned. One day, we were on one side of the barbed-wire/minefield and the Cubans were on the other side where we were looking at each other. Gunner Holycross was walking up to our position and I could clearly see it was him. I did what the Guidebook said and what I was trained to do. I yelled out, "Halt, who goes there?" He said, "Gunner Holycross." I responded, "Advance to be recognized." He responded, "Neas, you a--hole, you know it's me." I didn't laugh then, but I do now.

Another time on a battalion reaction exercise to see how fast we could get out to the wire, he was in the Command Operations Center (COC) and I got on the battalion net (not a good thing to do as a PFC) after seeing flashes around the COC and asked him, "Sir, what are those lights on the hill?" Not a good move on my part and I could only imagine what they must have said to him at the COC. When we got back to our platoon area, he held a formation and gave the platoon an after-action report on how we did. He then pulled me out of formation and told

the platoon that PFC Neas was so worried about the COC, he was promoting me to colonel. Yes, everyone laughed, and I heard about this for months, but every time I ran into Gunner Holycross, he saluted first and said, "Good morning/afternoon colonel."

He taught me that you can be squared away, tough as nails and still have a sense of humor as a leader. I never forgot that. He left for Vietnam in early 1967, and a few months later I followed. I wrote him two letters while in Vietnam and received one from him. The second letter I sent him was marked "return to sender." I got it in October 1967, just as I was getting ready to board a Helicopter at Quang Tri for the start of Operation Medina. I did not know what it meant, so I ripped it up and buried it in the sand. A few weeks later I got word that Gunner Holycross was killed on Sept. 10, 1967, near Con Thien as a member of H&S Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines. I was devastated to say the least, but I went on. I not only honor him today, but I do every day and think where I would be without his leadership and mentoring that he gave this young PFC. He was the epitome of a Marine officer and leader.

Today when someone calls me an a--hole, I think back to that day when Gunner Holycross first said it and it brings a smile to my face and yes, a tear in my eye. Semper Fi and thank you, Gunner Holycross, you led the way.

SgtMaj Eddie Neas Sr., USMC (Ret)
Brick, N.J.

My DI Was in the Movie

I really enjoyed your Saved Round on Sergeant John R. Brown in the September 2019 *Leatherneck*. When I out-posted on Oct. 24, 1956, I must have watched "The D.I." several times. Then-Corporal John R. Brown and Sgt N.W. Jones were my junior drill instructors (DI), with my Senior DI, J.D. Camp, in Platoon 253, 1st Battalion, Parris Island, S.C.

Brown was a very scary person when he got mad. We learned a lot from him and the other DIs. At one time we were the honor platoon. I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Semper Fi to all Marines and my DIs wherever they may be.

GySgt Lew Souder, USMC (Ret)
Sebastian, Fla.

100 Years of History

I found author Sara Bock's article, "Every Marine Has a Story to Tell: For 100 Years, the USMC's History Division Has Been Documenting the Corps' History for Future Generations of Marines," in the October 2019 issue to be a wonderfully comprehensive treatment. Her meticulous

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but very readable account of the USMC's painstaking resolve to set forth an accurate explanation of its history, both individual and collective, was nearly as impressive as the article's subject matter itself.

The Marine Corps History Division's efforts and accomplishments in documenting leatherneck experiences was nicely complemented, I felt, with brief biographical sketches and photographs of the people, places and operations that have made and continue to make the USMC History Division an exceptional success.

Cpl William K. Bauer
USMC, 1966-1967
Largo, Fla.

Those Who Leave the Corps Have Options

The Marine Corps has always been a great choice for young people starting out in life. You don't have to be concerned that you will have a place to sleep or enough to eat. For many, it was the first time in their lives they had more than one pair of shoes. You get free job training and free health care. There are really too many benefits to enumerate. But still, some find that they want to pursue civilian options and leave the Corps. This letter is for those people.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of the best fits that I can

imagine for Marines wanting to try civilian life. The shades of green are not that different. The camaraderie is nearly the same. The job requirements should be easy for any Marine. I will admit that CBP shooting training taught me a few things, even though I wore the pistol and rifle expert badges my entire time in the Corps. Then, there is pursuit driving, a skill that most Marines have not experienced, but is major fun. There are other benefits to joining from the Corps, but I will leave you to read those on my website.

Since you are already a Marine, we will assume you are a patriot. CBP is not just a career. It is a calling, a desire to continue to serve and to protect the United States.

CBP is having difficulty filling the ranks right now. This is a great opportunity for any of you who have made the decision to leave the Corps. We need people who have clearances (and those who don't). We need people who are honest and can pass a polygraph. We need people with your standards of fitness. There is an entrance exam and I highly recommend you purchase a study guide with a recent copyright date. The guide provided by Customs and Border Protection is simply not adequate for everyone.

To sign up to take the entrance exam,
[continued on page 68]



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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

OKINAWA, JAPAN

MEU Rapidly Responds to No-Notice Drill

The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit completed a no-notice embassy reinforcement and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) exercise at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 31, 2019, in response to a crisis action drill initiated by Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC). The MEU demonstrated rapid planning, long-range insertion, execution and retrograde in less than 72 hours from receipt of the mission from III Marine Expeditionary Force.

At 4 a.m. on Oct. 29, MARFORPAC transmitted a simulated fragmentary order to the III MEF Battle Center, initiating a no-notice recall process for the 31st MEU staff to begin planning for the mission. Within two hours, the MEU stood up its fully functional combat operations center and convened a crisis action team to assess the situation.

By the 12-hour mark, the 31st MEU completed the planning process, selecting a versatile mission package of Command Element Marines featuring a Chemical Response Element (CRE) to address the hazard, along with a mix of law enforcement and Force Reconnaissance Marines to provide security and reinforce the simulated U.S. Embassy. The mission, which simulated a CBRN attack on the

embassy, required a 600-mile air insert of the force by MV-22B Ospreys, aided with aerial refueling provided by KC-130 aircraft.

Less than 36 hours after receiving the fragmentary order, the CRE landed at the “embassy” and rapidly moved into action. Within three hours, the CRE decontaminated the embassy and disposed of the simulated hazardous materials. Next, role players staged a riot, and the law enforcement detachment responded by using escalation of force techniques to subdue the “rioters” before detaining several for transfer to host nation police.

At 11:30 the following morning, the scenario escalated, requiring the exfiltration of the crisis response force in full Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear due to another simulated CBRN threat. An MV-22 aircrew also conducted the 600-mile exfiltration flight in full aviation MOPP gear.

Upon completion of the flight, the Ospreys landed at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, and the Marine Aircraft Group 36 CBRN team conducted full decontamination of each Marine and the MV-22 aircraft.

“The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is the only MEU that remains fully composited 365 days of the year and stands ready to respond to crisis 24/7,” said Colonel Robert Brodie, the commanding

officer of the 31st MEU. “While not afloat, the 31st MEU transitions to the III MEF’s crisis response force. This exercise demonstrated our preparedness to rapidly support MARFORPAC missions countering potential threats against U.S. personnel within the Indo-Pacific region.”

The 31st MEU completed the simulated embassy reinforcement and CBRN response mission within 36 hours of receipt of the fragmentary order, demonstrating MARFORPAC’s ability to rely on III MEF and specifically the 31st MEU, as the 365/24/7 crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region, standing ready to respond at a moment’s notice.

2ndLt Jonathan Coronel, USMC

BODØ, NORWAY

Exercise Trident Jupiter Prepares “Blue-Green” Team for NATO Ops

Supporting Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO (STRIKFORNATO), Marines and Sailors with 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force and Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 2 participated in Exercise Trident Jupiter in Bodø, Norway, Nov. 5-14, 2019.

The exercise brought together NATO nations to assess their ability to conduct high-end, NATO-level mission planning and execution in a simulated scenario against a peer adversary. It also provided



LCPL KENNY NUNEZ BIGAY, USMC

CBRN Marines with the 31st MEU practice decontamination procedures during a no-notice embassy reinforcement and CBRN response drill at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, on Oct. 30, 2019.



LCPL KENNY NUNEZ BIGAY, USMC

During the 31st MEU’s “no-notice” drill, Marines rehearse techniques to subdue “rioters” at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 30, 2019. The exercise demonstrated the MEU’s ability to conduct planning, insertion, execution and retrograde at a distance of 600 miles within 72 hours.



COURTESY OF II MEF

an opportunity to evaluate the ability of STRIKFORNATO to command and control high-end joint warfare operations, including the integration of U.S. naval, carrier and amphibious forces into NATO operations.

The Marines and Sailors who participated exemplify a continuing partnership between the Navy-Marine Corps team under a NATO Amphibious Task Force (ATF) construct. Employment of II MEF and ESG 2 servicemembers as a combined ATF builds on the successes of Exercise Trident Juncture, held in Iceland and Norway in November 2018.

“Trident Juncture was the largest live exercise NATO conducted since the Cold War. It allowed II MEF to lay the foundation for partnership with 6th Fleet, specifically Strike Force NATO,” said Major General Stephen M. Neary, the commanding general of 2nd MEB and deputy commanding general of II MEF. “We worked closely with the Navy to explore how we best fight in the littorals to support fleet operations. Participating in Trident Jupiter allows us to further expand on our lessons learned and increase our lethality as a naval expeditionary team as we reassure our allies and partners and deter adversaries.”

Previously, as part of Trident Juncture, senior leaders from 2nd MEB and ESG 2

Above: U.S. Marines, Sailors and members of the Norwegian Armed Forces come together during Exercise Trident Jupiter at Bodø, Norway, Nov. 5, 2019. The exercise assessed the ability of allied nations to conduct high-end, NATO-level mission planning and execution against a peer adversary.

Below: VADM Lisa M. Franchetti, USN, Commander, STRIKFORNATO, center, discusses operations with RADM Guy Robinson, Royal Navy, Deputy Commander, STRIKFORNATO, left, and BGen Jason Bohm, Chief of Staff, STRIKFORNATO, right, during Exercise Trident Jupiter while transiting the Mediterranean Sea aboard USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20), Nov. 10, 2019.



PO3 DREW VERBIS, USN

served as commander, landing force and commander, amphibious task force, respectively. Trident Jupiter instead offered an opportunity to work as a combined staff to increase integration and identify areas for improvement under the command of STRIKFORNATO.

“One of the most important things coming out of this exercise, aside from the opportunity to work with our partners and allies, centers on improving how the Navy and Marine Corps work together in the future,” said Captain Ethan M. Rule, the operations officer for ESG 2. “Every day we learn something new and this informs what we take back with us to improve integration and operation as a scalable command element.”

Trident Jupiter also required close coordination between U.S. and allied servicemembers who speak different languages and possess varying backgrounds and experiences.

“Deploying to allied countries and working side by side with their militaries increases our understanding of interoperability. The importance of this cannot be overstated,” said Colonel Garrett L. Benson, operations officer of 2nd MEB.

“As II MEF renews its focus on the European theater, the relationships we develop now will pay huge dividends if we must fight together in the future.”

Exercise Trident Jupiter represents the most recent example of II MEF’s commitment to serve as the European theater’s Marine expeditionary force supporting 2nd and 6th Fleets. II MEF Marines regularly deploy as part of Marine Rotational Force–Europe and Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response–Africa. Both deployments contribute to enhancing interoperability between the Marine Corps and its allies and partners.

“Trident Jupiter shows the ability of the Blue-Green team to deploy, employ and redeploy a staff capable of commanding and controlling multi-national forces in support of NATO operations in Europe,” said MajGen Neary. “Rehearsing our ability to send a small, capable staff forward to disparate locations allows us to prepare for real-world operations and the facilitation of follow-on forces supporting our regional allies and partners and deterring aggression.”

Capt Matthew Finnerty, USMC

EASTERN PACIFIC

Lightning Warning: F-35 And USS America Shape Future Of Amphibious Operations

When more than a dozen F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters thundered across the skies of the Eastern Pacific and touched down on USS *America* (LHA-6) on Oct. 8, 2019, the event signaled the birth of the most lethal, aviation-capable amphibious assault ship to date.

“We are a force of about 400 based on both ships and ashore—the command element, aviation combat element (ACE) and the ground combat element,” said Lieutenant Colonel John D. Dirk, the commanding officer of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 122, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. “We augmented key enablers from I MEF to create a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF).”

In his planning guidance, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H. Berger, highlighted the value of partnering Marine forces with surface combatants. Particular emphasis was placed on combining Landing Helicopter Assault

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF.



LCPL JESSE CARTER-POWELL, USMC

244th IN THE DESERT—Leathernecks with 2nd Marine Division attend a cake cutting ceremony in honor of the 244th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 11, 2019. The celebration wrapped up MAGTF Warfighting Exercise (MWX) 1-20, the largest exercise conducted by the division in several decades.



F-35B Lightning IIs with VMFA-122 prepare to land aboard USS America (LHA-6) in the eastern Pacific, Oct. 6, 2019. Integrating 3rd MAW's combat power and capabilities while conducting realistic training is essential to generate readiness and lethality.

an LHA aligns with the Commandant's Planning Guidance. Partnership with an LHA is the right and relevant warfighting capability for many of the challenges confronting the joint force and provides substantial joint operational flexibility, lethality and survivability.

"The 'Lightning Carrier' concept is what we are exercising during this at-sea training," said Dirk. "I think we will continue to see the Marine Corps exercise these capabilities in the future."

The 3rd MAW paved the way for the first F-35B squadron in 2012, and in 2020 will stand up the first F-35C squadron, a variant specifically designed for traditional aircraft carriers.

Sgt Charles Plouffe, USMC

CAMP FUJI, JAPAN

Fuji Viper Provides Vital Force-on-Force Training During UDP

U.S. Marines and Sailors with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division as part of the Unit Deployment Program (UDP), participated in Fuji Viper 20-1 at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Gotemba, Japan, Sept. 29-Nov. 4.

Fuji Viper is an infantry training exercise centered on increasing the Marine Corps' presence, lethality and capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region. The Marines of 2/2 conducted many training events in the Combined Arms Training Center during their UDP, as well as participated in community relations events with the local community.

"Our goal for Fuji Viper 20-1 is to conduct combined arms training in order to

and Dock (LHA/LHD) ships with superior aviation capabilities unique to the F-35B.

"The 'Lightning Carrier' is an LHA/LHD with a jet-heavy ACE embarked, which means the MAGTF aviation element has more of a strike mindset with 12 or more jets that give the fleet or MAGTF commander the ability to better influence the enemy at range," said Dirk. "Tying the sensors and weapons of the F-35B together with those of the fleet is a lethal combination."

Integrating 3rd MAW's combat power and capabilities while conducting realistic training is essential to generate readiness and lethality in 3rd MAW units and for naval integration.

"Our relationship with the Navy is important because if we go to war, we won't be going as just a squadron. We will be going as a joint amphibious force," said Major Christopher Kelly, the executive officer of VMFA-122. "Being able to deploy 12 or more F-35Bs on a naval vessel is realistic; it's something that we can't get

every day at Marine Corps Air Stations Yuma, Camp Pendleton or Miramar."

Training alongside each other enables the Navy and Marine Corps to improve tactical and technical procedures in terms of mutually supporting one another in the battle space.

Employing 12 or more F-35Bs aboard



LCpl Alpha Bah finds his azimuth during Exercise Fuji Viper at Camp Fuji, Japan, Oct. 21, 2019. The exercise is a regularly scheduled training evolution for infantry units assigned to 3rdMarDiv as part of the unit deployment program.

SGT CHARLES PLOUFFE, USMC

LCPL MICHAEL JEFFERSON ESTILLOMO, USMC



CPL TIMOTHY HERNANDEZ, USMC

Cpl Jeffrey Wik runs through the obstacle course during a fire team competition, during Exercise Fuji Viper at Camp Fuji, Japan, Oct. 30, 2019. The Marines of 2/2 were assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division while participating in the UDP in Japan.



LCPL MICHAEL JEFFERSON ESTILLOMO, USMC

LCpl Alain Joseph throws an M67 hand grenade during Exercise Fuji Viper at Camp Fuji, Japan, Oct. 23, 2019.

sustain readiness by maximizing valuable assets in a new environment that offers opportunities unavailable at Camp Schwab or even back home in Camp Lejeune,” said Staff Sergeant Krysta Apodaca, the communications and information systems radio chief with 2/2. “By attending Fuji Viper, we are able to integrate all elements of the battalion into organized small unit training that will enable us to win the fight at any given time.”

Field exercises like Fuji Viper are meant to push Marines to their physical and mental limits as well as build their

confidence as warfighters in the Indo-Pacific theater. Marines had to push outside their comfort zones during training which included combat marksmanship, incidental observer training, military operations in urban terrain and force-on-force simulations where three platoons are faced against each other in an unknown training area.

“The most difficult part of the training was pushing through seemingly endless movements throughout one night of our force-on-force exercise,” said Lance Corporal Mark Taylor, a grenadier with

Company F. “We had to endure the night during flooding and the cold rain, all while we’re in the woods with no illumination. There was so much rain.”

Even with the rigorous training conducted in the field, the Marines and Sailors were given time to explore the area and interact with the local community.

“Marines were given a three-day weekend during the initial portion of our training at Camp Fuji to explore Tokyo, Gotemba and the surrounding area around Mount Fuji,” First Lieutenant Zachary Scalzo, the executive officer of Company F, 2/2, said during the exercise. “Marines experienced the culture of mainland Japan and had great things to say about the people in the greater Gotemba area. At the end of our time at Camp Fuji, our Marines are scheduled to volunteer at the National CHUO Youth Friendship Center open house event. Marines will speak English with participants from the center and participate in face painting and a tea ceremony.”

The training and tactics conducted at Camp Fuji during Fuji Viper are essential to the warfighting capabilities and readiness of the Marine air-ground task force in the Indo-Pacific region and the 3rd Marine Division’s capability to “fight tonight.”

Cpl Timothy Hernandez, USMC



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MIDWAY DISCOVERY

Underwater Researchers Locate World War II Japanese Aircraft Carriers

By Nancy S. Lichtman



COURTESY OF U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

The Japanese warship *Kaga*, shown here at sea after her 1934-1936 modernization, was sunk during the Battle of Midway. *Kaga* was one of the Japanese carriers that transported the aircraft for the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

Located more than 17,000 feet below the surface of the Pacific Ocean, the undersea wreckage of two Japanese aircraft carriers that were sunk during the U.S. victory at Midway in June 1942 have been located by a team of researchers. *Akagi* and *Kaga*, both of which were part of the six-carrier force that attacked the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, are the first sunken Japanese carriers to be discovered, according to Vulcan, Inc., the company that funded the undersea research project.

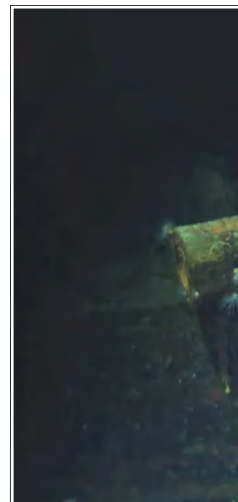
In an ongoing effort to preserve the history of World War II Naval battles, the crew of the Research Vessel (R/V) *Petrel*, has been exploring the waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a marine conservation area

in the Pacific Ocean, in search of the warships sunk during the June 1942 battle, which was a critical victory for the U.S.

"More than 75 years after the battle, the generation that fought in the pivotal showdown has all but faded away. Yet our fascination continues in part because of the recent discovery of long-lost warships on the sea bottom," said historian Bruce D. Gamble, author of "Invasion Rabaul" and several other books about the air war in the Pacific. "It will be exciting to learn the secrets revealed by the continued exploration of *Akagi* and *Kaga* in the years to come," Gamble added.

Marine pilots played a vital role in the Battle of Midway, which took place six months after the Pearl Harbor attack. "Led by Marine Corps dive-bombers,

The gun mount (above) and the starboard gun (right) of *Kaga*, recently was located more than 17,000 feet below the surface in the waters of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a marine conservation area in the Pacific Ocean between the Hawaiian Islands and the Midway Atoll.

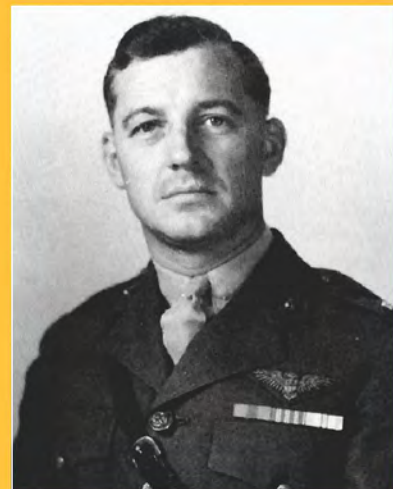




COURTESY OF VULCAN



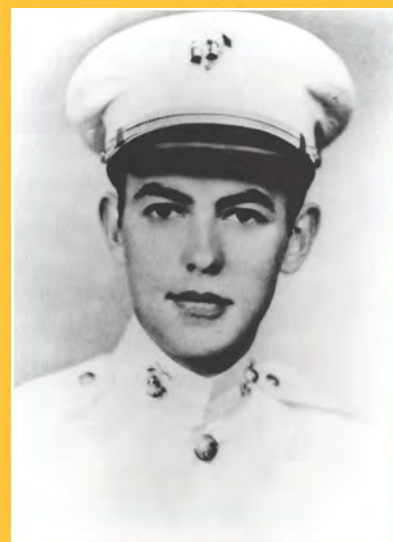
COURTESY OF VULCAN



USMC

Maj Lofton Henderson, flying the Dauntless dive-bomber, was reported missing in action following an aerial engagement with enemy fighters. Henderson, the commanding officer of VMSB-241, was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for leading his squadron in an attack on the advancing Japanese at Midway.

Marine pilots played a vital role in the Battle of Midway, which took place six months after the Pearl Harbor attack.



USMC

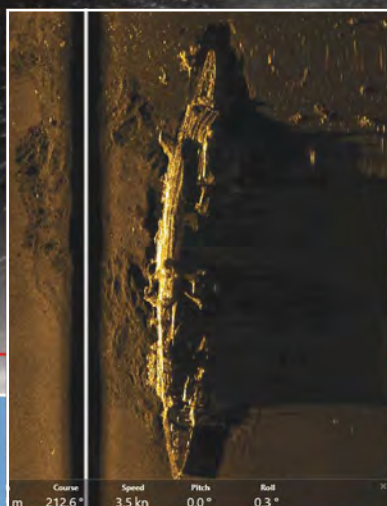
Taking command of VMSB-241 after Maj Henderson was shot down, Capt Richard E. Fleming was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the skies over Midway on June 4-5, 1942.



In the image above, taken during the battle on June 4, 1942, the carrier *Akagi* and one of the enemy destroyers can be seen maneuvering to avoid the high-level bombing by U.S. Army Air Forces B-17 crews. *Akagi*, sunk during the Battle of Midway, was recently located (left) by a team of underwater researchers using the latest sonar technology and underwater camera equipment.

COURTESY OF VULCAN

USAF PHOTO



COURTESY OF VULCAN

Petrel is a 250-foot research and exploration vessel. The ship's advanced underwater equipment, including two subsea vehicles, allows for exploration 6,000 meters deep.

The Japanese aircraft carriers *Akagi* and *Kaga* both were part of the six-carrier force that attacked the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

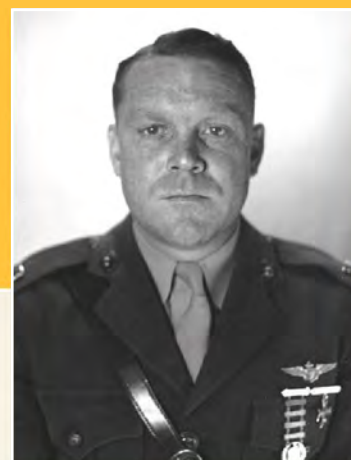


COURTESY OF U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Above right: The Japanese carrier *Akagi* at sea during the summer of 1941 with three Mitsubishi A6M Zero fighters located at the forward end of the flight deck.

Right: Capt Floyd B. Parks was the CO of Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 221 during the Battle of Midway and was killed in action defending the U.S. base on the atoll from enemy air attacks. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

Below: All but one of the pilots of VMF-221 who survived the Battle of Midway are standing in front of a VMJ-252 R4D-1 at Ewa Mooring Mast Field, Oahu, on June 22, 1942. Future ace Marion Carl is at the far left.



USMC



USN



COURTESY OF VULCAN

“Every shipwreck we find reminds us all of the ultimate sacrifice made by those who served their countries.”

—Robert Kraft

This photo of the pilots of VMSB-241 on Midway was taken sometime between April 17, when Maj Henderson took command, and May 1942. The “x” markings on the image indicate which pilots were killed at Midway.

U.S. forces gave the [enemy] everything they had,” declared the July 1942 issue of *Leatherneck* about the battle. That victory came at a price. A number of Marine Corps pilots did not survive the battle, including the commanding officer of Marine Scout Bombing Squadron (VMSB) 241, Major Lofton Henderson, who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for continuing his mission to lead an airstrike against the Japanese carriers even after his plane had been hit during an aerial engagement with an enemy fighter.

“At Midway, inferior training and equipment led to the highest one-day losses of the war for Marine aviation—hard lessons which would quickly be digested and learned from in the form of better tactical training and the arrival of better aircraft,” according to Ben Kristy, collections chief for the National

The researchers aboard *Petrel* use sonar technology, underwater cameras and an extensive suite of computers and monitors to amplify and analyze visual data very quickly.

Museum of the Marine Corps and former aviation curator for the museum. “But the individual acts of heroism displayed by the men of VMF-211 and VMSB-241 helped set the stage for the destruction of the Japanese carriers at the hands of the U.S. Navy and kept the island of Midway in the hands of the United States Marine Corps,” said Kristy.

Frank Thompson, a researcher from the Naval History and Heritage Command, was embarked on *Petrel* for the expedition to find the search for the battle’s sunken ships. “Unlike land battles, war at sea leaves no traces on the surface,” he said. “Efforts made by the Vulcan team aboard *Petrel* in finding the wrecks of *Kaga* and *Akagi* will give historians a new perspective of one of World War II’s pivotal battles.”

Petrel’s mission was funded by philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. Robert Kraft, Vulcan’s director of subsea operations, said that he and his team were honored to locate the carriers. “Every shipwreck we find reminds us all of the ultimate sacrifice made by those who served their countries,” said Kraft.

In addition to *Akagi* and *Kaga*, the crew of R/V *Petrel* has located numerous other sunken warships over the past few years, including USS *Hornet* (CV-8), USS *Wasp* (CV-7) and USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35).



USMC

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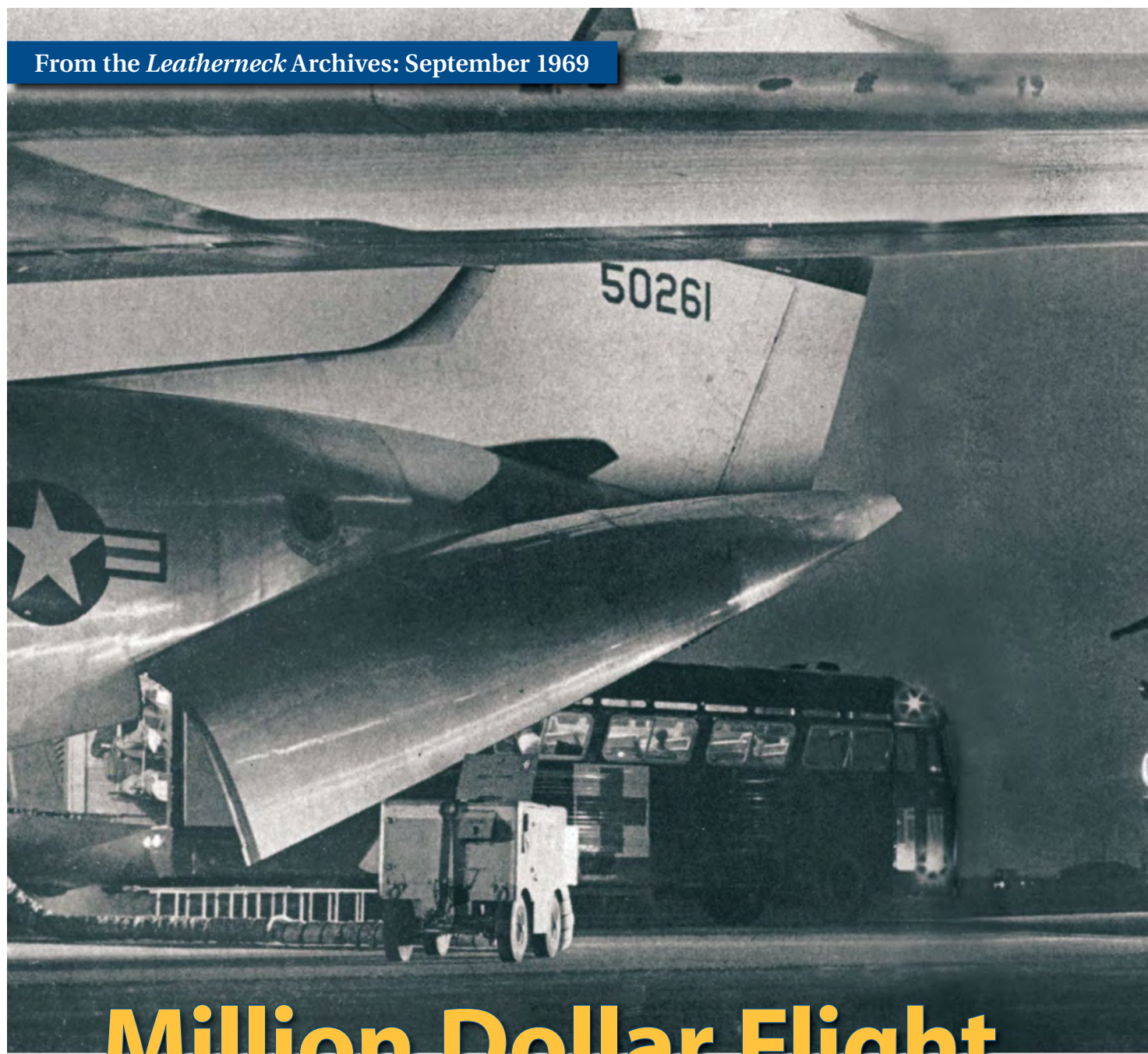
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Million Dollar Flight

Story and photos by
GySgt Bruce Martin, USMC

Editor's note: When this article was originally published in 1969, it was a companion piece to "Where the War Ends," by GySgt Bruce Martin, which we reprinted in the October 2019 issue.

The U.S. Air Force and the jet age are responsible for saving the lives and limbs of thousands of Americans wounded on the battlefields of Vietnam. The swift efficiency of dedicated Air Force men and women working with medical evacuation flights often makes it possible to speed casualties

to Stateside hospitals near their homes within two days—sometimes less—after they're wounded.

Take, for example, the case of Marine Lance Corporal Dewey D. Pears, a Baltimore, Md., native who was hit on a routine patrol north of Da Nang. Pears almost had both legs sheared off by a burst of machine-gun fire. When a Marine helicopter evacuated him to C Medical Co (better known as "Charlie Med"), he was in critical condition. But his tough constitution responded to initial treatment and doctors felt that his legs could be saved if they could get the 20-year-old rifleman to the States, away from an environment that could produce an infection which

would cost Pears his legs—if not his life.

After the Navy doctors had cleaned and dressed Pears' wounds and stabilized his life signs, ensuring that there was no evidence he might slip into shock, he was pronounced ready to move. A Marine helicopter transferred him to the Air Force's Casualty Staging Flight (CSF) at the sprawling Da Nang Air Base. There, Air Force doctors, nurses and med techs (medical technicians, the equivalent of Navy corpsmen) continued the treatment begun by Navy medical personnel.

While medical personnel kept close watch on Pears, the wheels began to turn for his evacuation from Vietnam. Administrative personnel made telephone calls



Above: An ambulance backs into the open bay of an Air Force C-141 Starlifter in Yokota, Japan, to transfer patients.

Right: Air Force medical technicians carry litter patients aboard an ambulance bus at the Da Nang Casualty Staging Flight.

to Saigon, Japan and the States. Orders were cut to move Pears to Bethesda Naval Hospital, on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., 50 miles from his home.

Throughout the night, airmen worked steadily, ironing out occasional administrative snags and ensuring that everything was set to make Pears' flight as uncluttered with hold-ups as possible. By 2 a.m., Pears was scheduled for the next day's flight, a bed was reserved for him in Bethesda, and his rifle company had forwarded all

While medical personnel kept close watch on Pears, the wheels began to turn for his evacuation from Vietnam.

of his records to CSF along with what personal gear they could gather. Casualty Staging Personnel correlated the records and tagged the baggage.

As dawn broke over Da Nang, Air Force flight nurses reported to CSF to complete final preparations of Pears and 91 other sick, injured and wounded American servicemen. The preparations made for other evacuees aboard Pears' flight had followed much the same routine as his. Some would be taken off the aircraft in Japan for treatment there while the remainder were Stateside bound.

While flight nurses and CSF personnel rechecked the medevac manifest and ensured that patient records were in order, the pilot of a giant C-141 Starlifter jet transport from the Military Airlift Command made radio contact with the Da Nang Air Base control tower and began his landing approach. His conversation with the tower was monitored by the CSF office.

Having received his clearance to land, the pilot was contacted by one of the flight nurses in CSF. The pilot verified the



Throughout the flight, Pears and the other patients were smothered with attention, not only by the nurses and med techs, but by the aircraft crew personnel as well.

configuration of the aircraft, informing the nurse that the plane was rigged to carry 37 litter cases and 54 ambulatory patients, plus seats for the medical personnel.

Ambulance buses—with the seats removed to transport litter patients—were lined up and waiting outside CSF. As the C-141 touched down on the Da Nang runway, med techs began carefully loading the litters while ambulatory patients were led to other buses with seats in them.

As the C-141 taxied to a special ramp reserved for medevac planes, the first bus was on its way to meet the aircraft. In less than an hour, 11 bus loads of patients



As the medevac aircraft approached Yokota, Japan, a nurse checks with the flight engineer to find out the plane's landing time.

were transported to the aircraft and it was jockeying for take-off.

Tactical aircraft awaiting take-off clearance on the field yielded to the medevac plane since it had priority on the airfield over any other aircraft except those landing under emergency conditions.

A scant 67 minutes after the C-141 landed, it was airborne again on its way to Yokota, Japan. A little more than three hours later, it landed at Yokota Air Base where some patients were discharged to hospitals in Japan and others were taken aboard to be flown to the States.

Then began the long flight from Yokota to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska with a fresh crew of flight and medical personnel.

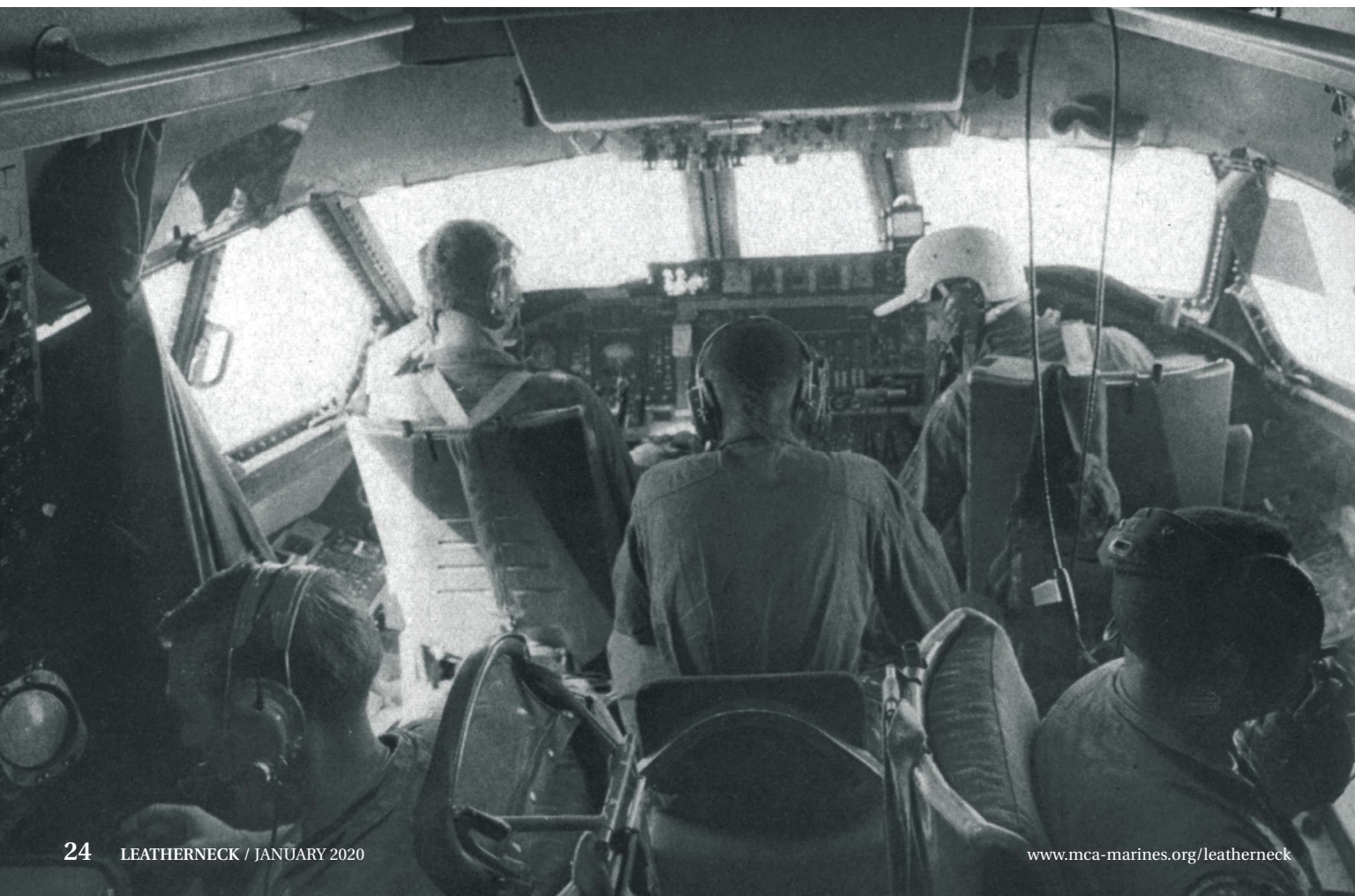
Throughout the flight, Pears and the other patients were smothered with attention, not only by the nurses and med techs, but by the aircraft crew personnel as well.

Pears, in the rear of the aircraft with other litter patients, had nothing to do but rest. If he needed anything, all he had to do was ask and his request was granted.

Med techs moved among the litter patients constantly, lighting cigarettes for some, helping others to eat, or doing whatever was necessary to make the passengers more comfortable.

Meanwhile, the plane's crew was making its contribution to the well-being of the patients. The navigator continually scanned his radar scope to ensure that the

The Air Force flight crew work constantly during the medevac to make sure that the flight was as smooth as possible for the patients.





An Air Force flight nurse checks the condition of a critically wounded Marine during the flight from Vietnam to the States.

flight avoided turbulent air while the pilot and co-pilot flew the plane as smoothly as possible. Flight engineers kept the cabin temperature comfortable while the plane's loadmaster offered assistance to the med techs.

In the cabin, lunch time approached and the patients braced themselves for the familiar "box lunch" served on military flights.

The loadmaster, med techs and nurses pitched in together to prepare the food. Frozen meals prepared by Stateside Air Force cooks were popped into ovens. Beefsteak, mashed potatoes, gravy and mixed vegetables was the main course. It was accompanied by coffee, milk, rolls with butter, fresh fruit and assorted fruit pies for dessert. Each of the ambulatory patients was served much in the same manner he would have been aboard a commercial airliner. Litter patients received special attention during the meal.

While some were allowed to sit up to eat, others had to be helped, and some had to be hand fed. Some, in more serious condition, were either given special diets or fed intravenously. Juices, coffee, milk and snacks were made available to all patients throughout the entire flight.

Medication was administered as required to the patients. The flight did not have a doctor aboard, which meant an



The cabin of the medevac airplane is configured to make the patients as comfortable as possible during the flight.

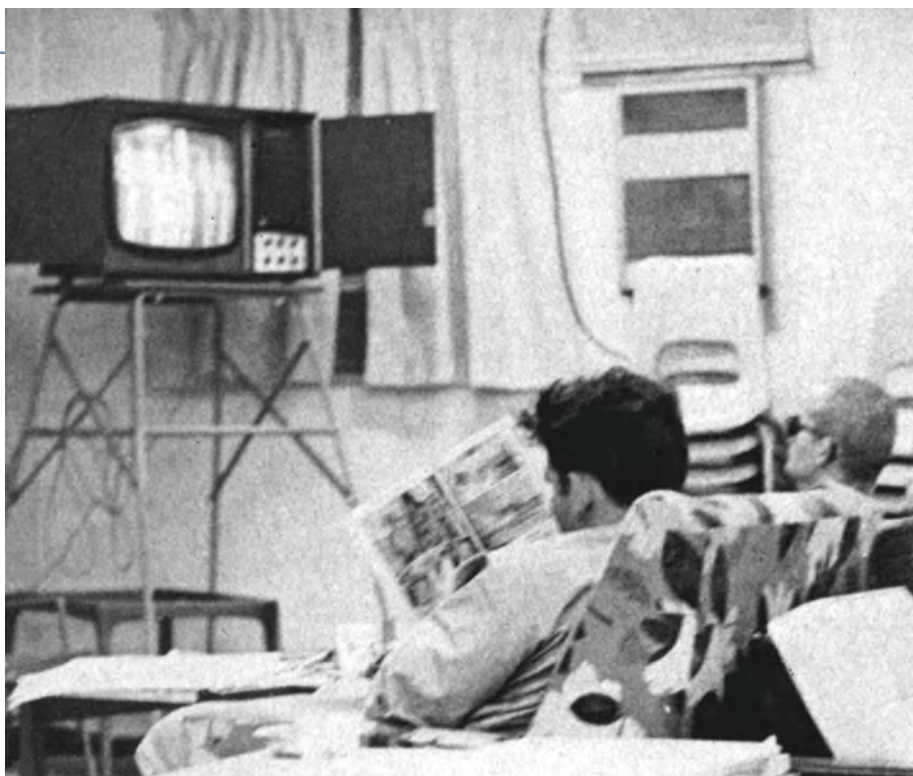
immense responsibility was placed on the flight nurses who possibly would have to make life or death decisions under emergency conditions. Normally, a doctor only accompanies a flight when there are critically ill patients aboard.

With the sleeping, eating and medication routine established, the flight neared Alaska.

On the ground at Elmendorf, preparations were made to receive the flight, which would continue to the Continental U.S. after a brief aircraft servicing and a change of flight crew and medical personnel. Buses waited to take ambulatory patients to a snack bar for hamburgers, sandwiches and soft drinks, courtesy of the Red Cross and the officers' wives club. Litter patients remaining aboard the aircraft would be catered by volunteers.

The plane touched down for the smoothest landing anyone aboard could remember. In fact, Pears and one other patient had to be convinced the aircraft was really on the ground and taxiing.

Ground crews ran portable heaters



Above: Some of the patients who remained overnight at the Casualty Staging Flight in Japan watch closed-circuit TV or read magazines in the lounge.



One of the meals served during the flight is readied by the plane's loadmaster. The main course was beefsteak, mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables.

**As the plane landed,
a murmur among the
patients rose to a low
cheer. They were home!**

into the aircraft to keep the litter patients warm. Then they began servicing the airplane while the ambulatory patients were taken by bus to the snack bar.

A little more than an hour passed before the ambulatory patients returned to the readied aircraft. The brief stop had given them a chance to relax and stretch their legs. Even the litter patients seemed refreshed by the stop.

With a new crew and fresh medical personnel aboard, the aircraft lifted off the runway and climbed above the Alaskan mountains. Chatter among the patients picked up as some realized for the first time that they were really on their way home. The longest part of the trip was behind them.

Hours clicked away as the plane took a southeastern heading and the patients became more relaxed. But their vigil on time seemed to become more intense.

Then came the word to strap-in for landing. Andrews AFB was just below, and Pears and several other patients were just minutes from their destinations. Some patients would continue on the same aircraft to McGuire AFB and Charleston AFB.

As the plane landed, a murmur among the patients rose to a low cheer. They were home! Any apprehension that may have plagued the patients disappeared as the plane came to a halt.

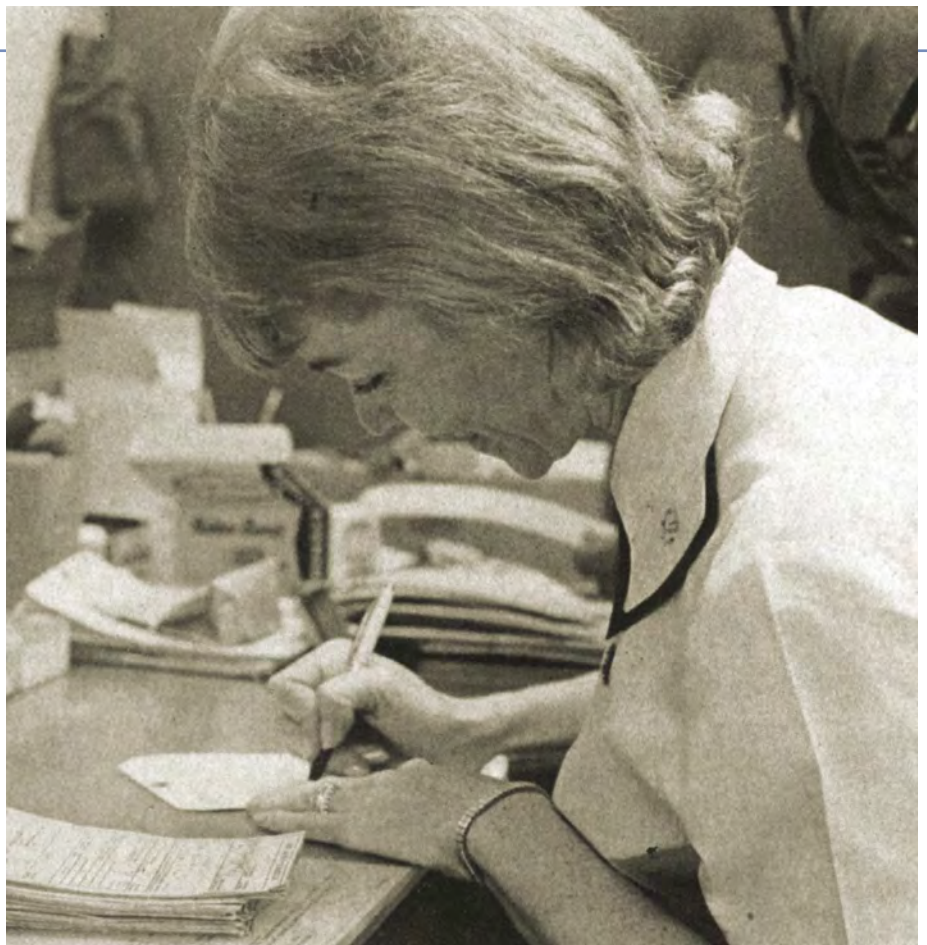
The now-familiar ambulance buses stood by to move patients to Bethesda Naval Hospital and the Army's Walter Reed Hospital. Pears began the last part of his journey aboard one of the buses.

Arriving at Bethesda, Pears and the other patients were processed and admitted in minutes. Each was given a free three-minute telephone call to anywhere in the States.

Pears was scheduled to complete his first day in Bethesda resting while doctors appraised his condition. They determined that his legs could be saved, and because he had been moved so rapidly, infection had not had a chance to set in.

Pears had arrived at Bethesda 27 hours after he had left Vietnam—just 39 hours after he had been hit.

"It used to take us three to five days to move casualties from Korea to the States,"



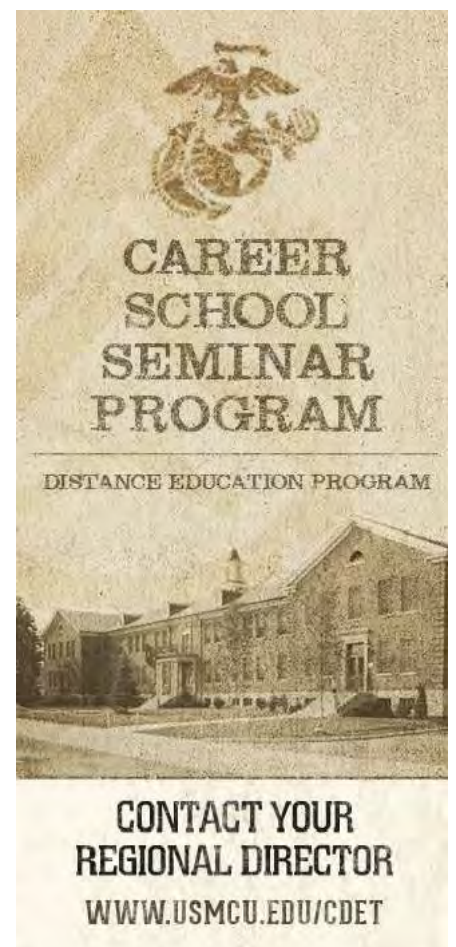
**A flight nurse in Da Nang fills out an
identification tag for a Marine casualty
who was being flown home.**

said one Air Force med tech who has been in his field for more than 18 years. "That included overnight stops, allowing for bad weather, and flying in slow aircraft. But with the aircraft we have now, we can transport more patients faster and more safely than ever."

Another med tech said, "You really feel that you can't do enough for these patients during a flight. Most of them don't complain and they ask for very little, so you stay with them to make sure they're always comfortable."

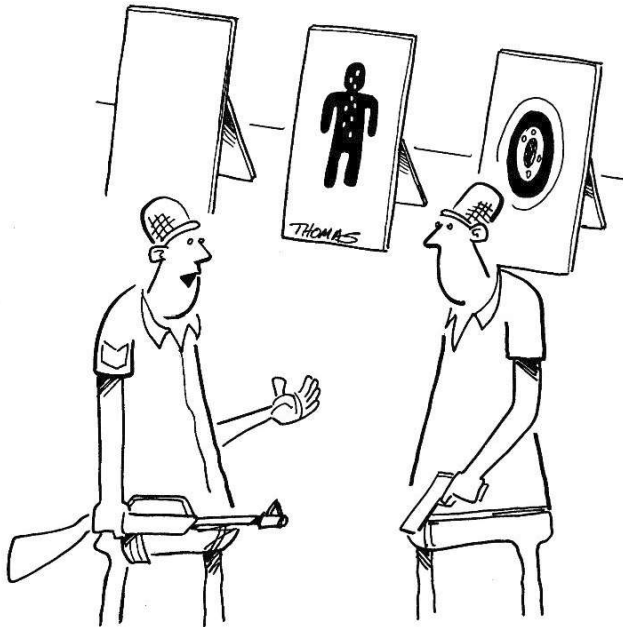
Perhaps Pears' gratitude is indicative of the thousands of Marines who have come back via an Air Force medevac flight. He realized there were hundreds of Air Force personnel—medical personnel, cooks, administrative personnel, air crewmen, flight line personnel, tower personnel, baggage handlers, transportation personnel, and literally scores of other specialists—who silently served him during his flight home.

"I couldn't have received better treatment on that flight if I'd paid a million dollars for it," Pears said. "I know I owe these people more than just gratitude—and I can never repay them." 🍌



A poster for the Career School Seminar Program. At the top is the Marine Corps emblem. Below it, the text "CAREER SCHOOL SEMINAR PROGRAM" is written in large, bold, serif capital letters. Underneath that, in smaller capital letters, is "DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM". The middle section of the poster features a black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building with a central tower, likely a military installation. At the bottom, the text "CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR" is written in bold, serif capital letters, followed by the website "WWW.USMCU.EDU/CDT" in a smaller, sans-serif font.

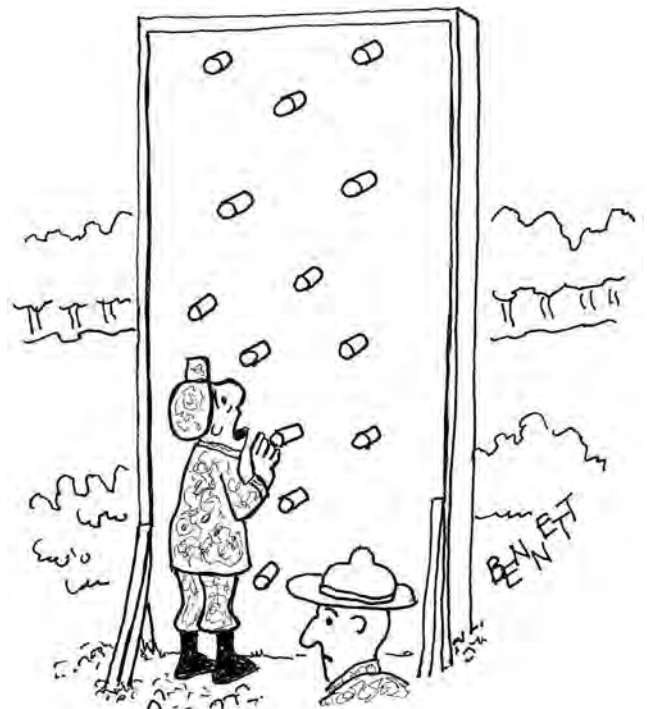
Leatherneck Laffs



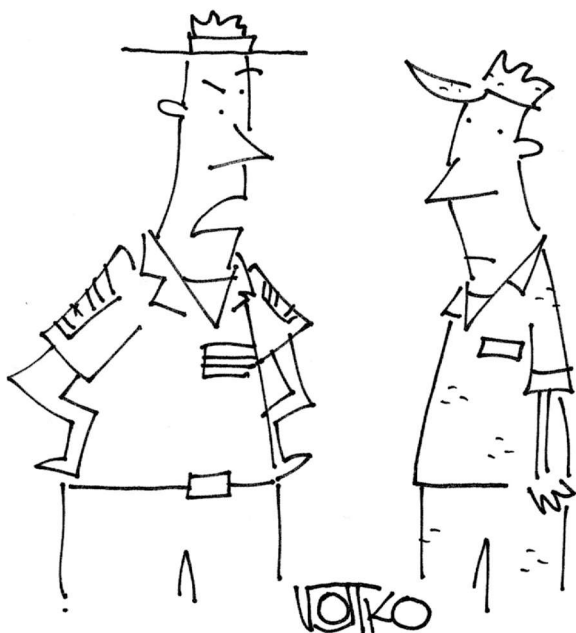
"We've become better shots since they made us buy our own ammo."



"Boot camp? Think of it as an all-inclusive, CrossFit resort."



"May I have an ambulance waiting on the other side just in case?"



"I don't care if it's redundant, Private!
You will answer, 'Sir, yes, Sir!' "



"It's like TED talks on steroids."



"I think I'll just hang up here."





International Insights:

Marine Corps University Welcomes Students From Around the World

By Sara W. Bock

Newcomers and visitors to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., may be surprised to notice the presence of servicemembers wearing international military uniforms around the installation, whether at the commissary or in the barber shops and restaurants that line the streets of the town of Quantico, located within the confines of the base. A drive through the base's various military housing communities will reveal no shortage of Ameri-

can flags waving proudly from the identically angled flagpoles of home after home, but interspersed among them are national flags that might not look as familiar—those of allies and partners such as Norway, Kuwait, Argentina or Egypt, to name a few.

These sights are unique to Quantico, a departure from what you're likely to find at the rest of the Marine Corps' installations, where it's far more unusual to spot a uniform that isn't worn by a U.S. Marine or Sailor. So, what are all these

international servicemembers doing here?

The answer is found at Marine Corps University where there are dozens of international military students studying at its schools. These include the schools of the College of Enlisted Military Education, but primarily the resident schools for Marine officers with a duration of a full academic year: the career-level Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS); the intermediate-level Command and Staff College (CSC); School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW), a follow-on, graduate-



SGT MCKENZIE GIBSON, USMC

Above: International officers attending Expeditionary Warfare School gather during a welcome reception held at the Clubs at Quantico, Aug. 30, 2019. Pictured on the far left is Angela Miller, the regional international military students officer who handles the administrative duties associated with hosting students from around the world. Her assistant, Michelle Amussen, is on the far right.

level PME for selected field grade officers; and the top-level Marine Corps War College (MCWAR).

And while attending MCU is undoubtedly a benefit to those international students who are chosen by their home countries to live and study in the United States, it's equally enriching—if not more so—for the U.S. Marines and members of the other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces who are attending the schools and given an opportunity to learn from and alongside



Above: School of Advanced Warfighting student MAJ Samuel Colclough of Australia and his wife, Erin, enjoy a visit to the White House. Spots for international servicemembers at SAW and other schools at MCU are highly coveted, in part for the rich cultural opportunities the university's proximity to Washington, D.C., provides. (Photo courtesy of Angela Miller)



SGT MCKENZIE GIBSON, USMC

BGen Jay M. Barger, president of MCU, left, greets LtCol Islam Klalefa of Egypt and his wife during the Aug. 30, 2019, welcome reception at MCB Quantico.



COURTESY OF LTCOL JOHN NASH, USMC

LtCol John Nash, USMC, left, is the sponsor for Brazilian Navy CAPT Luis Felipe Valentini da Silva, right, during their year together at MCWAR. Nash has assisted Valentini da Silva and his family during their adjustment to life in the U.S. and has enjoyed the exposure to new perspectives that his Brazilian counterpart brings to the class.

their foreign counterparts, who bring different regional perspectives and military experiences to the academic discourse.

“Having the international students really gives us a larger holistic worldview so we don’t have our own biases and just see things the way we want to see them,” said Lieutenant Colonel John Nash, USMC, a MCWAR student who serves

as a sponsor for Brazilian Navy Captain (O-6) Luis Felipe Valentini Da Silva, the first-ever student from Brazil to attend the War College. “Having Felipe and others here is extremely beneficial to bringing thoughts and opinions from throughout the world. They look at things differently from how we will,” Nash added.

By employing a sponsor program in

which each international student is assigned to a classmate from the U.S., MCU helps ease the visiting students’ transition to life in the United States. The sponsors go to great lengths to ensure that the visiting students—and their accompanying spouses and children, when applicable—feel welcomed and supported as they navigate daily tasks like grocery shopping, doctor appointments and driving in a foreign country, as well as administrative tasks like registering dependents for school and extracurricular activities and handling paperwork at the Department of Motor Vehicles, which can particularly be a challenge for those from non-English-speaking countries.

In the academic setting, the sponsors help ensure that their foreign counterparts understand the structure of the Marine Corps, its history and traditions, and its seemingly never-ending list of acronyms. And for spouses, conversational English classes, social events and guided tours of the commissary help them gain confidence as they adapt to a new way of life.

But it goes beyond just lending a hand, said Nash, whose wife and son have enjoyed getting to know CAPT Valentini Da Silva’s wife and two daughters. Their families enjoy meals and weekend outings together and have formed a bond that surely will outlast their year in Quantico. And, Nash added, it’s a “team effort,” pointing out the many instances in which Valentini Da Silva has helped him stay on track with course assignments and due dates.

Countries Represented at Marine Corps University, Academic Year 2019-2020

Argentina	Jordan
Australia	Korea
Bahrain	Kuwait
Belize	Malaysia
Brazil	Macedonia
Cameroon	Mexico
Canada	Netherlands
Chile	New Zealand
Colombia	Norway
Croatia	Spain
Egypt	Romania
Finland	Saudi Arabia
France	Slovakia
Georgia	Sri Lanka
Germany	Tunisia
Greece	Ukraine
Indonesia	United Arab Emirates
Italy	
Japan	



COURTESY OF LTCOL MIKE KEANE, USMC

MCWAR students LtCol Mike Keane, USMC, left, and LtCol Kojiro Ika of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force, right, enjoy the celebration of the 244th Marine Corps birthday in November 2019. The birthday is just one of the many opportunities international students have to learn about and experience the unique culture of the United States Marine Corps.



COURTESY OF ANGELA MILLER

International families enjoy a private tour of Crossroads Elementary School, located on MCB Quantico, prior to the start of the 2019-2020 school year. For those MCU students from non-English-speaking countries, the immersion experience is a valuable opportunity for their children.

“Obviously it’s beneficial to the program and to Felipe to have him here,” said Nash, “But I think one of the other great things for me is just by having him and his family here, is the friendship we’ve developed and will develop by serving as a sponsor for him.”

Having served three tours of his career in Japan, Marine Lieutenant Colonel Mike Keane was a perfect match for LtCol Kojiro Ika of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF). Currently attending MCWAR, Ika is no stranger to MCU, as he previously attended Expeditionary Warfare School a decade ago. He’s worked alongside U.S. Marines throughout his career in the JGSDF, most recently in February 2019 with the 1st Marine Division at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for Exercise Iron Fist, during which the JGSDF’s 1st Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade became certified as Japan’s first operational amphibious force.

Referring to the vast differences in the capabilities and operations of the Marine Corps and the JGSDF, Ika believes it’s important for the Japanese to learn from the experiences of U.S. Marines in developing their own defense strategies. With students from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, a number of federal agencies and three countries—Brazil, France and Japan—MCWAR provides Ika with a vastly different experience from the corresponding military school in Japan.

“We have a school equivalent to the Marine Corps War College. We call it

Joint Operation College. It is more focused on the joint operations. We focus on how to defend our country,” said Ika. “The United States Marine Corps focuses on global-wide issues, and our focus is more regional.”

And the perspective that Ika brings to the table at MCWAR, said Keane, is invaluable to the rest of the class.

“The areas that we focus on—in the

Pacific and in Asia—and as we look at the rise of China, having someone who is that much closer, who is native to that area of the world, his opinion and his insights are highly valued,” said Keane. “For a lot of us, we haven’t been in that area before, but he’s got some valuable insights into how those processes and cultures work.”

For Major Josh Higgins, a cavalry officer with the Australian Army, attending Command and Staff College in the United States is an opportunity he doesn’t take lightly. In his application for Australian Command and Staff College, he indicated his strong desire to take the equivalent course at Marine Corps University, which he says has a world-class reputation—a sentiment echoed by Valentini Da Silva and Ika. The spots for international students at MCU are highly competitive and coveted among military officers around the world.

“The curriculum’s strong augmentation of history, political science and leadership baseline with some uniquely qualified lecturers from the Washington, D.C., wider region provide a uniquely rich context in which to study and learn,” said Higgins. “There’s quite a degree of robust instruction that’s both mandatory and offered in addition to the curriculum. The other component, which I think is world-class, is the leadership curriculum and how the U.S. and other international members of the course are able to draw on a wide variety of leadership experiences and then inject that into the leadership discussions and seminars.”

The Marine Corps, he added, has been



COURTESY OF MAJ JOSH HIGGINS

Australian Army MAJ Josh Higgins hangs the Australian flag outside his home on MCB Quantico, Va. For those MCU students who choose to reside in military housing, having neighbors from around the world is a unique and enriching opportunity.



COURTESY OF LTCOL MIKE KEANE, USMC

The MCWAR international students and their spouses from Brazil and Japan enjoy the company of their sponsors, and their sponsors' wives during the August 2019 welcome reception.

extremely accommodating to him and the other international students, and MCU has provided a rich engagement program for the families, including local tourism, cultural immersion and hospitality. And when he returns to Australia, he'll take back not only new friendships and family memories—which, he said with a laugh, will likely include a trip to Disneyland at the incessant request of his two young daughters—but also new perspectives.

"The network of professional colleagues that I've established here certainly proves our liaison capability," said Higgins. "The U.S. servicemembers offer a perspective that is different from Australia, so being exposed to different methods of approaching complex problems is of increased benefit to me."

Currently, there are 61 international military students attending the schools at MCU, as well as a Norwegian officer teaching at CSC, and 12 attending The Basic School (TBS), where the Corps trains its newly commissioned officers and warrant officers. Throughout the year, this number fluctuates as students come and go for the enlisted schools and the CSC Blended Seminar, a hybrid of the resident and non-resident PME, said Angela Miller, the regional international military students officer for MCB



COURTESY OF ANGELA MILLER

Erin Colclough, a spouse from Australia, shows off her handmade wreath during an international spouses' craft night organized by MCU, which strives to ensure that family members from overseas are welcomed to Quantico through social events and other activities.

Quantico, who handles the administrative end of hosting servicemembers from around the world. According to Miller, the international presence at Quantico is primarily within, but not limited to, its schools. Marine Corps Combat Development Command has 13 liaison officers from around the world; an Australian

major works at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab; and there are two instructors from the British Royal Marines—one at TBS and a colour sergeant at Officer Candidates School. There also are, on occasion, international servicemembers at the Force Fitness Readiness Center, Marital Arts Center of Excellence, and the Marine Corps Civil-Military Operations School (MCCMOS).

There's a great deal of logistics involved in hosting international servicemembers, said Miller, and her office works to coordinate transportation, temporary lodging and base housing, set up bank accounts and assist with other issues as they arise.

In conjunction with each of the schools, she helps plan and execute events and trips for the international students and their families through the MCU "field studies program" that is designed to expose them to American history and culture. Day trips to neighboring Washington, D.C., to visit the White House and the Pentagon and enjoy the Smithsonian museums are a favorite, as well as trips to New York City, Philadelphia and even to the West Coast. In an effort to make its guests feel supported throughout the academic year, the university hosts a welcome picnic, a formal reception, an international potluck



COURTESY OF ANGELA MILLER

Above left: Col Sebastien Gay, a French officer attending MCWAR, enjoys the sights of Washington, D.C., with his wife and children. For many international military families, attending MCU is the opportunity of a lifetime.



COURTESY OF ANGELA MILLER

Above right: EWS student Capt Victor Parszyk Morgan from Chile, and his wife, Maria, have a little fun posing in front of the bronze Rocky Balboa statue in Philadelphia during a field studies trip in August 2019.

and even a western-themed “cowboy-style” farewell dinner.

The tradition of hosting students from around the world and integrating them into the resident PME experience began in the 1960s, according to Miller, and predates MCU itself, which was founded Aug. 1, 1989, by General Alfred M. Gray, the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

A handful of the international students attend MCU as part of an exchange program in which a U.S. Marine attends the equivalent school in that country. This year, for example, Marine officers are attending Command and Staff Colleges in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Japan, Korea, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom. For academic year 2019-2020, there are students from 36 different countries at MCU, and the majority of them attend as a result of federally funded international military education training (IMET) grants.

The benefits of hosting international

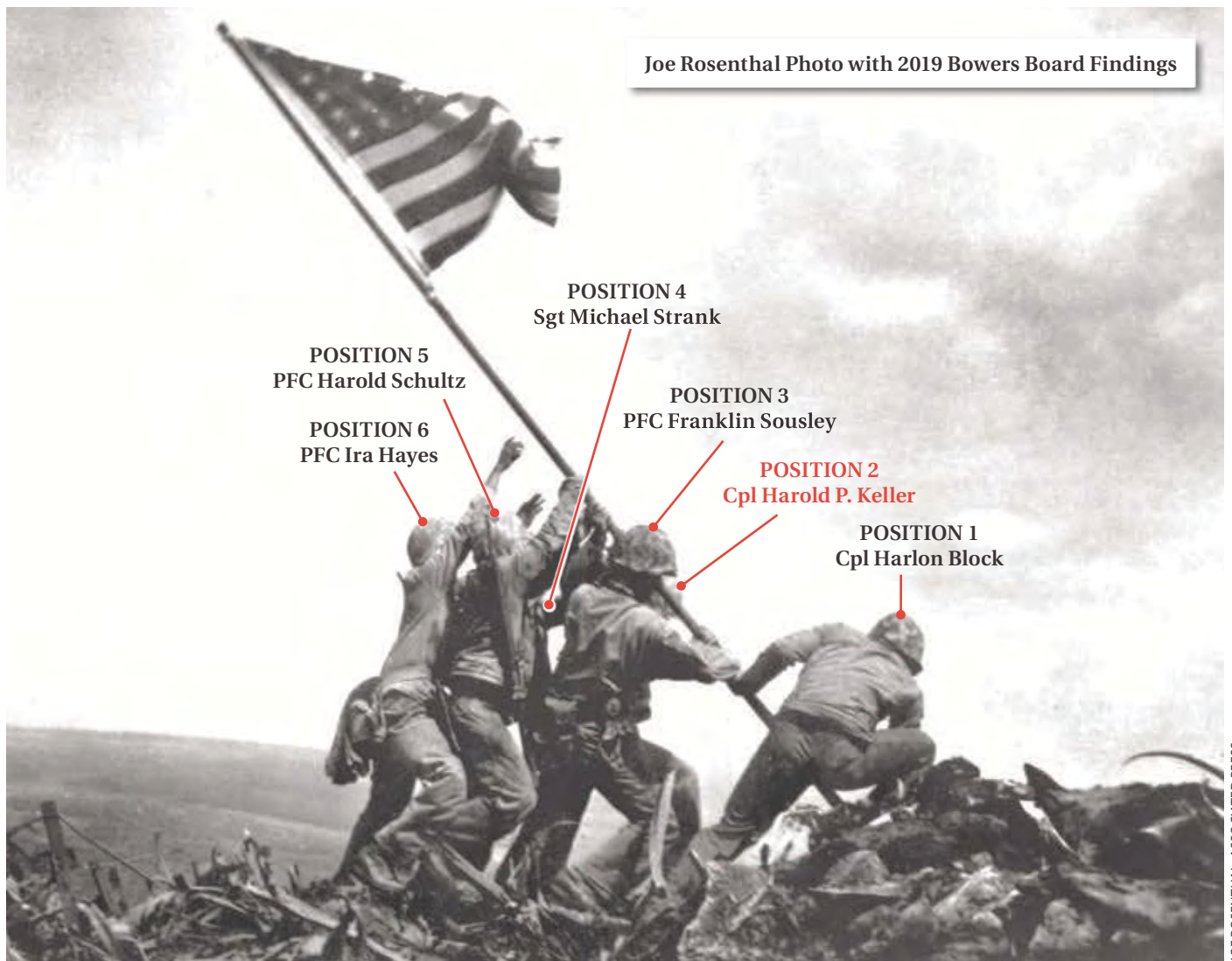
students at MCU trickle down to military dependents as well. For children of U.S. servicemembers attending Department of Defense Education Activity’s Crossroads Elementary School or Quantico Middle/High School, having classmates from other countries enriches their learning experience and expands their worldview. And for those students who do not speak English fluently, it’s a valuable immersion experience.

For Miller, an Air Force spouse who was born in Portugal and moved to the U.S. as a teenager, her position as the regional international military students officer is the perfect opportunity to leverage her personal experiences as she helps the visiting families adjust to their temporary home. To parents who are concerned about their students’ ability to grasp the English language in school, she often relays stories about when she was new to the U.S. and her own frustration as a young student who spoke Portuguese, French and Creole.

“Give the kids until December and they’ll start correcting your English because they learn it so quickly,” Miller tells the international families. She considers it rewarding to play a role in welcoming a diverse group of students and families to MCU each year, and occasionally hears stories about Marines bumping into their international classmates during exercises or on the battlefield even years later.

The opportunity to learn from and alongside individuals from diverse backgrounds who have had distinctly different life experiences has been and will continue to be an asset to every Marine selected to attend resident PME. For LtCol Keane, it likely will be the most memorable part of his time at MCWAR.

“I thought being a sponsor would be a good way to help someone out and his family coming in for the first time, but for me as well it’s been a very rewarding experience,” he said. 🐼



JOE ROSENTHAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

“In Fairness to All Parties”

The Marine Corps Corrects the Historical Record

By Colonel Keil R. Gentry, USMC (Ret)

Editor's note: The following is a condensed version of Chapter 13, “In Fairness to All Parties,” from the Marine Corps History Division’s “Investigating Iwo: The Flag Raising in Myth, Memory, & Esprit de Corps.” The book with the full version of the article can be ordered for free or read online at <https://www.usmcu.edu/HDPublishing/>.

New Claims About the Second Flag Raising

In the spring and summer of 2016 as the Huly panel formulated its conclusions on the identity of the Marines and Sailors who raised the two flags on Iwo Jima, there was robust discussion around the possibility of future changes to the iden-

ties pending new evidence and advances in photographic analysis. The possibility became more and more likely on July 17, 2018, when amateur historian Dustin Spence sent a presentation of historical photographs in support of four new claims about the flag raisings on Iwo Jima to retired Major General Orlo K. Steele. The images offered compelling evidence that potentially overturned the Huly panel’s results. Two significant assertions by Spence and his fellow researchers, Stephen Foley and Brent Westemeyer, were that Corporal Harold P. Keller is the Marine pictured in the position long associated with Private First Class Gagnon and that PFC Gagnon is the Marine in the foreground of Private Robert R. Campbell’s photograph capturing the lowering of the first flag. If confirmed,

Gagnon’s presence in the photo would prove that he could not have raised the second flag as the first flag was lowered as the second flag went up.

Two photographs taken by Private Robert R. Campbell formed the centerpiece of the argument that PFC Gagnon was not one of the flag raisers. Pvt Campbell was the only photographer on Mount Suribachi to capture the lowering of the first flag and the raising of the second flag in a single frame. Another Campbell photograph shows First Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier and Platoon Sergeant Ernest I. Thomas Jr. saluting the second flag after the Marines raised it to a vertical position. Like the photograph of the flag being lowered, this image provides a frontal view of the Marine on the far side of the flagpole. Because the

Pvt Robert R. Campbell's photo shows the lowering of the first American flag that was raised during the Battle of Iwo Jima while the raising of the second more famous flag can be seen in the background. Evidence strongly suggests that the Marine in foreground reaching for the first flag with the Ka-Bar on his utility belt is PFC Rene Gagnon and was a factor in the Bowers' Board determining that Gagnon could not have raised the second flag.



PRIVATE ROBERT R. CAMPBELL, USMC



face in both images is cast in shadow, these photographs appeared to lack discernible detail to prove or disprove the attribution of PFC Gagnon. Enlarged details of both photographs submitted by the researchers purported to show a clear view of the face, uniform, and weapon of the Marine in Position #2. Arguing that the individual closely resembles Corporal Harold P. Keller, the brief further theorized that the slender Marine positioned at the top of the first flagpole, nearest to the viewer in Campbell's photograph of both flags, is Gagnon.

The brief included several images from private collections and from the George Burns Collection at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. In support of Cpl Keller's identification, a photograph taken between the flag raisings by Army

PFC George Burns, a combat cameraman working for *Yank* magazine, shows Cpl Keller shaking hands with Sergeant Howard M. Snyder at the edge of the crater. Burns' caption list for the film roll annotates the photograph with identifications of both Marines and explains that the pair were among the first to reach the summit. This photograph was supplemented with several personal snapshots of Keller during and after his military service.

Recognizing the potential impact this evidence would have on the findings of the Huly Panel, MajGen Steele forwarded the email to LtGen Jan Huly, who had overseen the previous investigation. On Aug. 9, 2018, LtGen Huly shared the file with Brigadier General William J. Bowers, commanding general of Education Com-

mand and the president of Marine Corps University. Upon review, BGen Bowers directed a research effort to evaluate, corroborate, and determine the authenticity of the evidence presented, followed by recommendations for further action based on this assessment.

Verifying the Evidence

The initial appraisal of photographs fell to Dr. Breanne Robertson, a member of the Huly panel and a historian at the Marine Corps History Division. She painstakingly reviewed the images included in Spence's presentation and then developed a parallel version using high resolution scans, as available, from the National Archives in College Park, Md., and the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Robertson also



Inset: Cpl Harold P. Keller never told his family that he helped to raise the second flag on Iwo Jima but an entry in a newsletter from Surge Company, where Keller worked after returning from the war, highlighted Keller's service and mentioned the flag raising, stating, "as Harold Keller and his comrades lunge forward and drove the flag home." (Photo courtesy of Kay Keller Maurer)



PVT ROBERT R. CAMPBELL, USMC

liaised with the Associated Press to obtain high resolution digital image files of Rosenthal's photographs.

Working in the Still Picture Research Room at the National Archives, Robertson viewed the photographs that Coast Guard Photographer's Mate Third Class John Papsun took as well as the myriad images Marine Corps combat cameramen took of the event, including photographs from the summit of Mount Suribachi in subsequent days. Robertson also searched for images depicting PFC Gagnon elsewhere on the island, which would provide insight into the particularities of his uniform and equipment and would offer a point of comparison.

Cpl Keller's daughter, Kay Keller Maurer, was contacted and verified that she had several scrapbooks containing



PFC GEORGE BURNS, USA

Above: Sgt Howard M. Snyder, left, and Cpl Harold P. Keller, right, shake hands between the first and second flag raisings on Iwo Jima.

Left: 1stLt Harold G. Schrier and PltSgt Ernest I. Thomas Jr. salute the newly raised second American flag atop Mount Suribachi. The pipe that was used to raise the first flag is visible in the lower left corner. A closeup of the Marines raising the flag offered a frontal view of the Marine in Position #2, later determined to be PFC Harold P. Keller.

photographs along with other memorabilia related to his military service. She said her father never claimed to be a flag raiser to her or any of her siblings and mentioned that her father recorded reminiscences of his time on Iwo Jima for fellow Marine and author Richard Wheeler, who had served with Keller in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment.

In Their Own Words

Cpl Richard Wheeler became the de facto historian for his platoon after the war. In addition to numerous articles on the battle and the flag raisings, he published two books on the subject, "Iwo," in 1980, and "The Bloody Battle for Suribachi," originally published in 1965 and updated in 2007. His research files included audiocassette tapes, interview transcripts, and letters from the men who fought with him on Iwo Jima. Unfortunately, his narrative began after his platoon had left its position on Mount Suribachi.

A visit to the home of Cpl Keller's daughter in Clarence, Iowa, was arranged and she graciously permitted access to her father's memorabilia which included a 1977 newsletter article from Surge Company, where Keller worked, which provided a cryptic but potentially meaningful

clue. It stated, "Harold rarely talks about his service days in World War II and practically never mentions Iwo Jima where he happened to be one of that group of Marines who raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi." The article goes on to say, "At 12:15 p.m. a Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press came by for a picture ... The photographer climbed upon a cairn of rocks as Harold Keller and his comrades lunged forward and drove the flag home." Based on the clear identification of "Harold Keller and his comrades" as having their hands on the flagpole in this article, Keller must have told someone that he had a hand in raising the flag. Unfortunately, no further reference to the flag raising was found in Keller's personal correspondence.

PFC Gagnon's son, Rene Gagnon Jr., was contacted on Oct. 9, 2018, to determine if he or other members of his family had any material that would confirm their father's place in the Rosenthal photograph. Because the unidentified Marine in the foreground of Campbell's image is also pictured smoking a cigarette and wearing a Ka-Bar fighting knife in another photograph, Gagnon was asked if these aspects were consistent with what he knew about his father's wartime experience. Gagnon



PVT ROBERT R. CAMPBELL, USMC

The individual smoking a cigarette in the far left of the photo taken after the first flag raising has many of the same characteristics including similar helmet camouflage pattern, a tear in his shirt, and the Ka-Bar hanging from his utility belt as the individual at the front of the flagpole of the lowering of the first flag and is thought to be Pvt Rene Gagnon.

confirmed that his father was a smoker and that he carried a Ka-Bar on Iwo Jima. He also stated that he had seen a battlefield photograph of an individual whom he identified as his father. Two cropped details of Campbell's photograph were emailed for his review along with the message, "Attached are two versions of the photo with the Marine smoking. Is the smoking Marine PFC Rene Gagnon?" He responded, "Neither of these two photos [is of Rene Gagnon] ... the one I have is with [the] flag still being tied to pole prior to raising ..." Despite this initial exchange, Gagnon's son declined to assist further with the investigation. Of note, the only photographs showing the American flag being tied to a length of pipe were taken hours before Gagnon arrived at the summit.

Expanding the Search

In addition to verifying independently the photographic evidence, we conducted a thorough review of secondary sources and reached out to museums and historical societies to request their assistance in locating previously overlooked artifacts and documents related to our search.

Robertson engaged Dr. Parker Bishop Albee Jr., professor emeritus at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, and obtained nearly a dozen audiocassette tapes and transcripts of oral history interviews that he and coauthor Keller Cushing

Freeman had conducted in the early 1990s for their 1995 book, "Shadow of Suribachi," which included interviews with and letters from, among others, First Sergeant John A. Daskalakis of Company E and former adjutant for 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, Second Lieutenant G. Greeley Wells. In his interview, Greeley Wells talked about Daskalakis' efforts to identify the flag raisers in Rosenthal's photograph and that the Marines were reluctant to come forward. At one point, Wells describes Daskalakis' frustration with the identification process, and, later, his realization that "this knucklehead, hell he was there, he just didn't say anything." In response, Freeman suggests that the reticent Marine was PFC Ira Hayes, to which Wells responds, "Well it might have been Ira, but there was also another guy." He does not name the other Marine in the interview, but he goes on to say that the person did not want publicity for the flag raising.

Partnering with the FBI

Next, the Marine Corps requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conduct a professional evaluation of the photos focused on the proposed identifications and new image comparisons; a subsequent request asked the FBI to analyze all six positions. The FBI was sent high-resolution digital image files of both complete photographs and cropped details showing individuals of interest to

Cpl Harold P. Keller, fourth from right, and PFC Harold Schultz, fifth from right, pose during Joe Rosenthal's famous "Gung Ho" photo taken after the second flag raising. The two Marines were only recently determined to be in Rosenthal's iconic photo of the second flag raising.



the investigation including Cpl Keller, PFC Gagnon, and other Marines as a baseline for physiognomic analyses (determining the characteristics of facial features), as well as a reference glossary of uniform items and weapons to assist the scientists.

The FBI used a combination of facial recognition software and manual comparisons. Analysts painstakingly traced the movements of individuals in the Genastill film to establish their positions in the still



JOE ROSENTHAL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

photographs. By comparing fluctuating elements, such as the American flag flapping in the breeze, the FBI was able to establish the precise timing of the still photographs in relation to the motion picture footage. Images were processed to improve the visibility of facial features, as well as details of clothing, footwear, gear, and weapons.

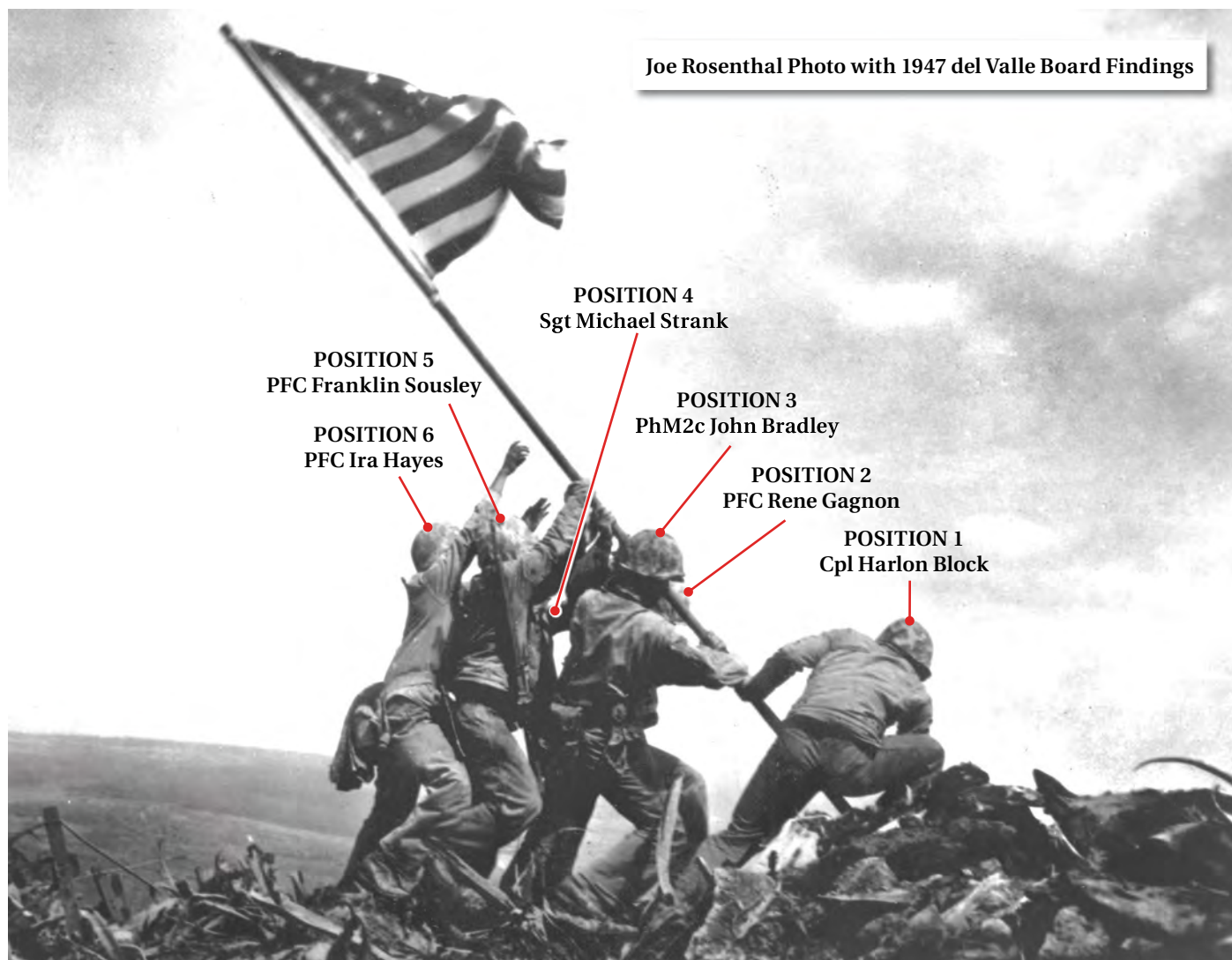
Camouflage patterns of uniforms were key in identifying individuals. Although camouflage patterns repeat themselves in

bolts of material, once they are sewn into clothing and helmet covers, the camouflage pattern location and fabric creases become as distinct as a fingerprint. The relatively small set of potential candidates—the number of individuals on the summit of Mount Suribachi was estimated at 100—aided the analysis.

The FBI confirmed that the Marine in Position #1, Cpl Block, is also the Marine pictured behind Sergeant Hansen in the image known as the “Gung Ho”

photograph. The conclusion was based on the match between the camouflage pattern and creases in the helmet cover in Burns’ versions of the Gung Ho photograph and those of Block in Rosenthal’s photograph of the raisers stabilizing the second flagpole.

For Position #2, the FBI compared facial, helmet, clothing, gear, and weapon characteristics in Campbell’s photographs, Burns’ photographs, Rosenthal’s Gung Ho photograph, and personal photographs.



JOE ROSENTHAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facial similarities combined with the creases formed by the double bandoleers in Corporal Keller's utility coat in combination with the distinctive folds and camouflage pattern of his M1 helmet cover formed individual characteristics that permitted his positive identification as a second flag raiser in Campbell's photographs.

For Position #3, the FBI was able to confirm the identity of PFC Sousley based on the camouflage pattern on his helmet cover; the positioning of his soft cap under his helmet; creases in his clothing; and his equipment, especially the telephone lineman's pouch hooked to his utility belt. These characteristics are clearly visible in the Gung Ho photograph and in Rosenthal's flag-raising and flagpole-steadying photographs where he was previously identified.

For Position #4, the FBI was not able to make a definitive identification. The primary challenge is that the Marine is mostly obscured in both flag-raising and flagpole-steadying photographs. Although more of the individual's face is visible in the Genaust film, the low resolution does

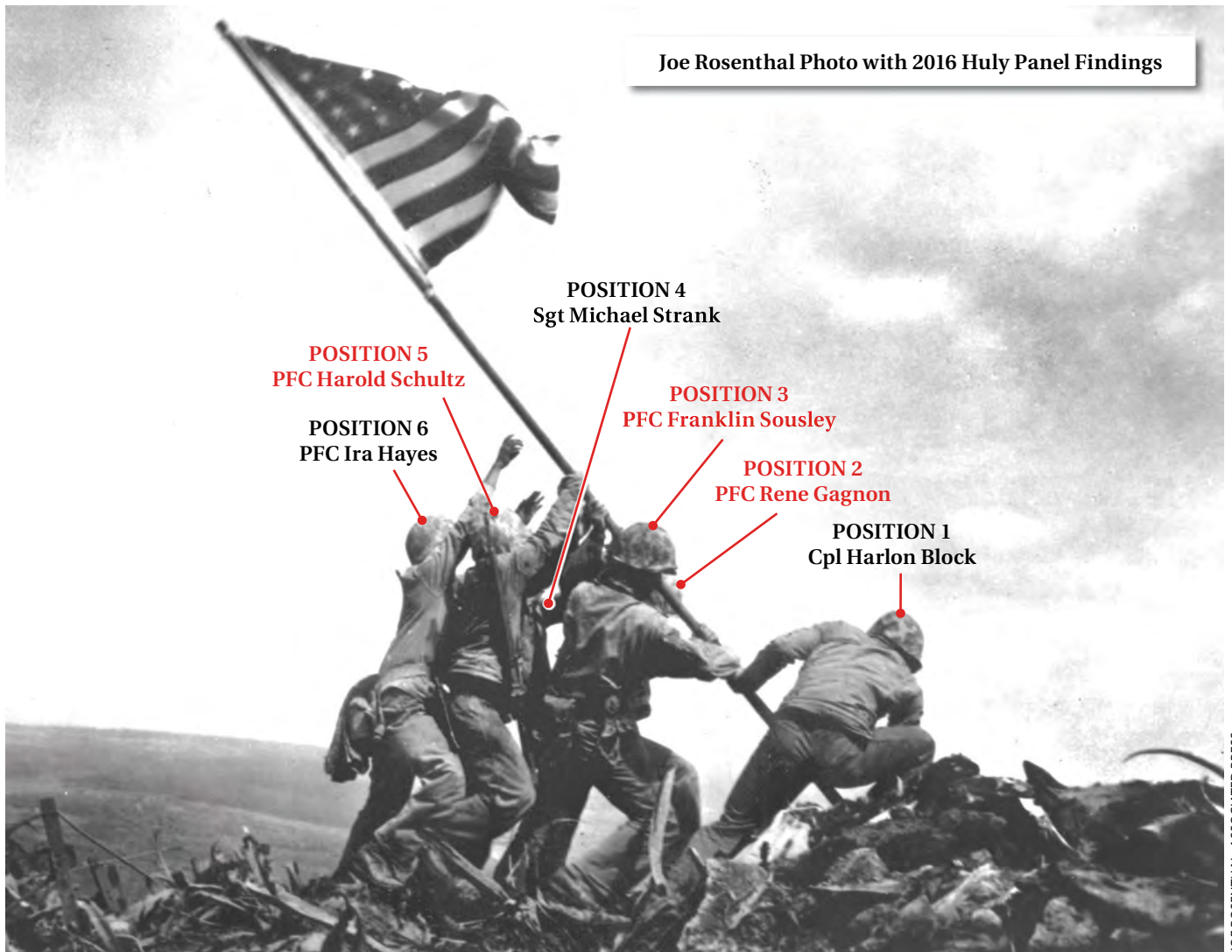
not allow for a positive identification. The FBI determined limited support for the proposition that the serviceman is Sergeant Strank based on the distinctive manner in which he wears his utility coat over his field jacket, a uniform configuration also visible in Rosenthal's flagpole-steadying image and the multiple Gung Ho photographs, and the pronounced curvature of the bill of his soft cap.

The FBI was able to determine strong support that Private First Class Schultz is the individual in Position #5. This conclusion was based on the camouflage pattern on his helmet cover and the broken helmet liner strap that dangles on the left side. These characteristics are clearly visible in the Gung Ho photograph, where he was identified as the Marine kneeling next to Corporal Keller, and in both Rosenthal's iconic photograph and Genaust's film.

The FBI positively identified PFC Hayes as the individual in Position #6. Their conclusion was based on multiple similarities in the camouflage pattern on his helmet cover as well as the difference in his weapon—an M1 carbine—as op-

posed to the more prevalent M1 Garand rifle carried by most other Marines on the summit. Furthermore, as one of the few Native Americans on Mount Suribachi that day, Hayes was distinguishable in still photographs and motion picture footage for his skin tone.

The final claim requiring formal examination was the identity of the individual in the foreground of Campbell's flag-lowering photograph. If Gagnon, then he could not have been in Rosenthal's flag-raising photograph, which was taken simultaneously. Unfortunately, the Marine Corps' research team was unable to furnish the FBI with any archival or personal photographs wherein Gagnon is identified either atop Mount Suribachi or elsewhere on Iwo Jima. The FBI evaluation was narrowed to later images of Gagnon back in the States. The FBI did determine that the slender Marine in Campbell's flag-lowering photograph is the same person seen smoking a cigarette in Campbell's photograph of the first flag. Although the scientists noted some facial similarities between the Marine in Campbell's photographs and later images of Gagnon, they



JOE ROSENTHAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

could not clearly discern whether a mole was present on the individual's right cheek—a distinguishing characteristic of Gagnon's physiognomy. As a result, the FBI could neither confirm nor deny that the individual in question is Private First Class Gagnon.

The Bowers Board Deliberations

On Feb. 4, 2019, the Marine Corps convened a panel to review the new claims regarding the identity of the second flag raisers atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima. The board was composed of BGen William J. Bowers, Commanding General, Education Command; Colonel Robert C. Fulford, Director, Expeditionary Warfare School; Col Keil R. Gentry, USMC (Ret), Education Command; Sergeant Major William J. Grigsby, Sergeant Major, Training and Education Command; SgtMaj Douglas F. Cutsail, Sergeant Major, Education Command; Master Sergeant Stacy M. Patzman (Ret), Education Command; and Dr. Breanne Robertson, Marine Corps History Division. Armed with the FBI's findings, the Bowers Board was tasked with determining the identi-

cation of the Iwo Jima flag raisers with as much certainty as possible. The board agreed with the Huly panel's and the FBI's findings for Position #1, Cpl Harlon Block; Position #3, PFC Franklin Sousley; Position #5, PFC Harold Schultz; and Position #6, PFC Ira Hayes. The board also agreed with the Huly panel's determination that Sgt Michael Strank was in Position #4 due to the atypical way he was wearing his utility coat over his field jacket, the watch on his wrist, the absence of a ring on his left hand and the discoloration of his trousers. The board's most significant finding was in concurring with the FBI's determination that it was Cpl Keller, not PFC Gagnon, in Position #2.

In replacing Gagnon with Keller, the Bowers board took into account the evidence that strongly supported Gagnon's presence at the head of the first flagpole as it is being lowered, although the lack of a contemporaneous photograph of Gagnon in combat utilities hampers a positive identification. The additional evidence of the Marine at the head of the flagpole wearing a Ka-Bar fighting knife—Gagnon was known to wear one—

and equipment in keeping with that worn by a battalion runner coupled with Gagnon's absence in the Gung Ho photograph were influential in the board's determination as was the Marine's striking resemblance to Gagnon. In addition, a mole on Gagnon's right cheek, apparent in other photos, is in the exact position near the Marine's cheekbone and nose in Campbell's photograph. For these reasons, the Bowers Board determined limited-to-strong support that the flag-lowering subject in Campbell's photograph is PFC Rene Gagnon which precluded his being the Marine in Position #2 of the second flag raising.

In June 2019, the Bowers board briefed its findings to senior Marine Corps leadership. Striving for the utmost historical accuracy and thoroughness in the investigation, Headquarters Marine Corps directed an external review of the panel's conclusions. Jon Hoffman, chief historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, performed a meticulous peer review, and on July 12, 2019, the Center of Military History validated the findings of the board. 🇺🇸

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Marines Meet the Makers Of New Amphibious Vehicle

Marines from 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion—slated to receive the first of the Corps' new Amphibious Combat Vehicles (ACV)—were given a rare opportunity to visit the ACV's main production facility and meet with the workforce building the vehicle.

On Oct. 16, 2019, Marines with 3rd AA Bn joined representatives from Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault and Marine Corps Combat Development Command at one of the ACV's primary manufacturing facilities in York, Pa., to tour the assembly line and speak with the contractors in charge of building the Corps' next-generation vehicles.

Colonel Kirk Mullins, Advanced Amphibious Assault program manager, said the event was the result of a collective decision with leadership at BAE Systems, the vehicle's manufacturer.

"We thought it would be really good for the workforce to actually meet some of the Marines for whom they're building the vehicle—the Marines who will take these vehicles and employ them, potentially in harm's way," said Mullins. "From a Marine perspective, we are typically in 'receive' mode of new equipment, but we never really truly understand or appreciate how much work and effort goes into making that piece of equipment."

During the visit, Mullins and his team



ASHLEY CALINGO

Marines with 3rd AA Bn sign their names on the side of an unfinished ACV at a manufacturing facility in York, Pa., Oct. 16, 2019. The battalion is slated to receive the first of the next-generation vehicles, which will replace the Amphibious Assault Vehicle, in the summer of 2020.

emphasized to BAE's workforce the importance of delivering quality vehicles on schedule. He also stressed the collective responsibility everyone has to provide the best possible products to protect the men and women serving our nation.

"What you do matters and how well you do it is significantly important to the

lives of Marines," said Mullins to BAE personnel. "It's important that we—the collective we—give Marines the very best pieces of equipment; specifically, the very best vehicles we can provide to them. What you do is a matter of life or death for a Marine on the battlefield."

From a high-level perspective, building



ASHLEY CALINGO

Representatives from Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault, MCCDC and 3rd AA Bn gather with members of the BAE Systems workforce in front of an in-production ACV in York, Pa., Oct. 16, 2019.

each ACV is not unlike building a car, albeit a highly sophisticated one. Pieces must be welded together, parts will be integrated and the systems require safety testing once assembled.

Though certain components of the vehicle may be built elsewhere, each vehicle itself is integrated and assembled in the York facility. For a day, the Marine Corps customers were given a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the process in action.

“Seeing the ACV in its various stages of production—from bits and pieces of metal to a full tactical combat vehicle—was definitely enlightening to me,” said Major Mark Patridge, a logistics officer with 3rd AA Bn. “It’s actually a very high quality piece of equipment that has had a lot of personal time, personal attention and expertise put into it to be able to provide all of the capabilities that the ACV provides.”

The ACV is the Corps’ replacement for the decades-old Amphibious Assault Vehicle, which has been in service since the 1970s. A next-generation vehicle designed to provide survivability, increased lethality, and protected mobility to the warfighter, the ACV will be carrying Marines for generations to come.

“The ACV represents a new chapter in the development of amphibious combat systems, not only building on lessons learned within the amphibious assault community, but also outside the community with its advanced communications systems, weapons systems and the safety features the ACV has to offer,” said Patridge. “The ACV has the potential to enable many of the fundamental concepts—like expeditionary advanced base operations and distributed operations—that the Marine Corps is trying to put into practice.”

The Marine Corps started accepting delivery of the ACV in the summer of 2019. As of Oct. 31, 2019, the AAA program office was conducting live-fire testing and performing logistics demonstration procedures on the vehicles in preparation for integration, operational tests and evaluation scheduled for summer 2020.

Ashley Calingo

Quick Thinking Saves Lives After Multi-Car Collision

U.S. Marines are known for their quick thinking and courage in times of need and have been taught from day one the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Corporal Alexandra Nowak, an administrative specialist with “Alpha” Company, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton,



LCPL ANDREW CORTEZ, USMC

Cpl Alexandra Nowak receives a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from BGen Dan Conley, CG, MCI-West, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., during an award ceremony, Nov. 6, 2019. Nowak was given the award for her actions to save a family following a car crash on Interstate Highway 15.

Calif., exemplified unwavering courage when she saved the lives of three people on Sept. 20, 2019.

Nowak was driving on Interstate Highway 15 in Escondido, Calif., on her way to pick up her 2-year-old daughter and mother at the airport when she witnessed a multi-car collision that resulted in an SUV rolling onto its side. Relying on her Marine Corps training, she sprang into action to assist. She was able to successfully retrieve a 9-month-old infant and a 4-year-old child from the vehicle and help them to safety.

“Adrenaline. It was 100 percent adrenaline,” said Nowak. “I remember just

sprinting, I remember shaking the whole time, but I wasn’t nervous.”

After pulling back the broken windshield, Nowak realized that the driver’s arm was almost completely severed. Nowak then retrieved a tourniquet she kept in her vehicle and began to administer first aid, keeping the driver conscious until first responders arrived.

“I remember she asked me, ‘Am I going to die?’ and I told her, ‘No, I am not going to let you die,’” Nowak recalled.

Escondido Fire Department officials and witnesses at the scene credit Nowak’s quick thinking and bravery as the main reason that the driver didn’t suffer more

severe complications or even death.

"I was courageous, yes. Would I do it again? Yes. Do I hope I have to do it again? No," said Nowak.

Those who work with her say her willingness to help is not surprising. Nowak acted as any Marine should in a traumatic event. With quick thinking and implementing the skills she learned in the Marine Corps, she became a hero to the three people saved that day and an example to all.

LCpl Melissa Ugalde, USMC

Family, Friends Of Crash Victims Pay Tribute 42 Years Later

On Oct. 21, 1977, during Exercise Fortress Lightning, 24 Marines were killed and 13 injured when a CH-53D Super Stallion plummeted off a cliff in the Philippines and fell 400 feet in the jungle below.

Family, friends and survivors gathered

Right: As part of a memorial ceremony at the Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel in Triangle, Va., Oct. 20, 2019, Gloria A. Goss recognizes a survivor of a 1977 CH-53D crash that occurred during Exercise Fortress Lightning in the Philippines.



Survivors of the 1977 CH-53D crash in the Philippines are recognized 42 years later during a memorial ceremony honoring the lives of the 24 who were killed when the helicopter plummeted off a cliff.

to commemorate the tragedy 42 years later during a memorial ceremony at the Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel on the grounds of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., Oct. 20, 2019. Raindrops raced down the chapel windows and a crisp, cool autumn breeze moved through the open door as everyone rose for the march on the colors.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Matthews was on the ground during the training exercise on Mindoro Island in the Philippines. "The 13 survivors of this crash were recovered," he said, adding that the 24 who died were memorialized while still in the Philippines. "They were given proper memorial ceremonies on ships that were afloat at the time."

Five of the survivors were in attendance at the ceremony and ventured down the rain-soaked sidewalk to the Blue Star Wall in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park where the names of those involved in the accident are etched in bronze. It was a special moment for them, as well as the family and friends of both victims and survivors of the accident.

Gloria A. Goss lost her husband, Sergeant Charles Anderson, during the exercise and recalled when she learned of his death.

"When they came to tell me my husband was killed, we had only been married four weeks," said Goss, with tears in her eyes. She was a driving force behind the plaque dedication and memorial service.

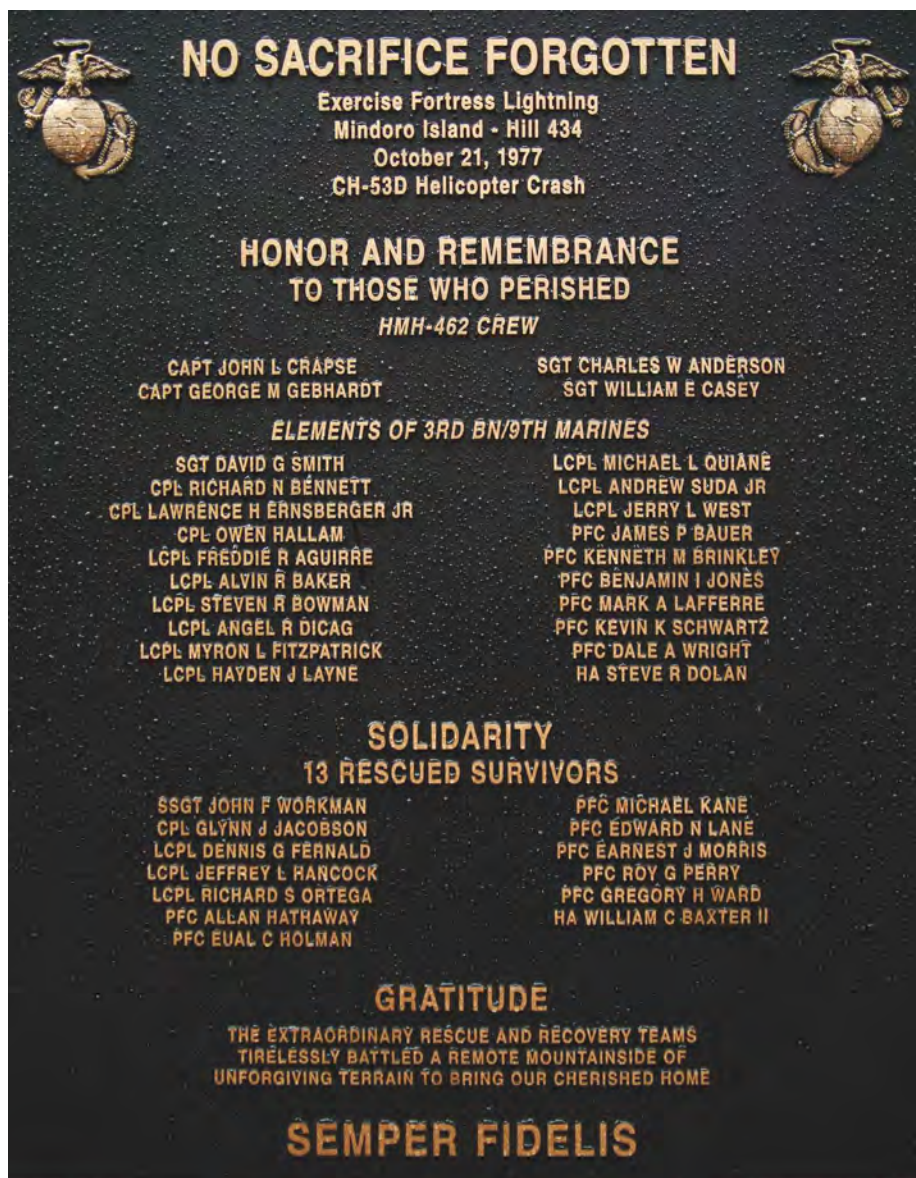
While the families of those killed could never forget that day, the story remained relatively quiet for 40 years, until John Bowman, the brother of Lance Corporal Steven R. Bowman, who perished in the accident, began asking questions on social media. His queries were met with hundreds of comments and responses. An online group was created and more people began following the story.

Goss responded to the wave of followers with information on how to have a plaque placed at the museum. She explained that having the Marines recognized was her "bucket list dream project."

"I had to find some way to make him immortal," said Goss.

The simple plaque on the stone wall not only recognizes the Marines involved in the accident, but pays tribute to the rescue and recovery teams that traveled through

Attendees gather around a memorial plaque located on the grounds of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., Oct. 20, 2019. The plaque honors both the deceased and surviving Marines and Sailors of the CH-53D crash in the Philippines during Exercise Fortress Lightning in 1977.



LCPL PAIGE VERRY, USMC



LCPL PAIGE VERRY, USMC



CPL NICOLE ROGGE, USMC

Marines stationed at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., remove an old structure during a cleanup effort on the Barry M. Goldwater Range West, Oct. 22, 2019. The DOD recently received an Award of Excellence from the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for its conservation efforts on the range, which consists of approximately 1.7 million acres of land.

the unpredictable and dangerous jungle terrain on the mountainside.

“Marines take care of their own, and Marines remember their own,” said Matthews.

LCpl Paige Verry, USMC

MCAS Yuma Recognized With Conservation Award for Range Management

In order to train “America’s finest” into the tactical warriors required in today’s world, Marines are challenged in real-life training scenarios that test their ability to work against the elements they may face in combat environments around the world.

The Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) in Arizona, managed in part by Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., has for decades afforded servicemembers the opportunity to perfect their skills in a desert environment.

On Sept. 20, 2019, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission awarded the Department of Defense an Award of Excellence for its dedication and contributions to conserving and protecting Arizona’s wildlife and outdoor heritage on the expansive range and other DOD lands in southwestern Arizona.

“It’s important to recognize the Marine Corps as a whole for the fact that a very



CPL AARON DIAMANT, USMC

The Sonoran pronghorn, pictured here on the Barry M. Goldwater Range near Yuma, Ariz., is a federally endangered species that has been repopulated on the range thanks to the combined efforts of DOD and other federal agencies.

small team is doing a huge job,” said Colonel David A. Suggs, the commanding officer of MCAS Yuma. “All the hard work they are doing is to ensure that we have future use of the ranges.”

The award was designated for the management of wildlife and recreational resources on the BMGR and neighboring DOD lands, which are comprised of the BMGR West, managed by MCAS Yuma; BMGR East, managed by Luke Air Force Base; and Yuma Proving Ground, managed by the U.S. Army.

“The BMGR is one of the largest ranges in the military inventory,” said Randy English, the MCAS Yuma conservation manager. “The training we do on the range and within the larger Bob Stump Training Range Complex, you can’t replicate it anywhere else because the U.S. doesn’t have that kind of airspace or ground space elsewhere.”

The BMGR consists of about 1.7 million acres of land and MCAS Yuma manages more than 650,000 of those acres. Part of the DOD’s mission on the range is to protect the plants and wildlife native to Arizona.

“There are endangered wildlife, specifically on that piece of land,” said English. “We have the Sonoran pronghorn, which is federally endangered. But thanks

to the efforts of DOD, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners, the pronghorn population, which numbered as few as 21 animals in the U.S. in 2002, has climbed to over 400 animals currently. We also have the flat-tailed horned lizard, which is a species of special management concern, but not endangered because we've managed it appropriately. That's part of the reason we are being recognized."

The 1999 Military Lands Withdrawal Act plays a large role in allowing the military to manage and care for the ranges while performing crucial training that would not be possible elsewhere. The act is slated for renewal in 2024.

"Everything this team is doing here in the long run helps protect our ability to continue the training we need to do and protect and serve this country," said Suggs.

MCAS Yuma's conservation team will be officially recognized at the commission's annual awards banquet on Jan. 25, 2020.

Cpl Nicole Rogge, USMC



CPL MIKAYLA PEREZ, USMC

CMC 38—Gen David H. Berger, 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps, ran the 44th annual Marine Corps Marathon on Oct. 27, 2019. He completed the 26.2-mile course, which takes runners through Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., and took the time to shake the hands of Marines and Sailors volunteering along the route. Also known as "The People's Marathon," the race drew approximately 30,000 participants, promoted physical fitness and goodwill in the community, and showcased the organizational skills of the Marine Corps.

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL MAVERICK MEJIA, USMC

"Gunny, can I get some ice cream to go with the cake?"

Submitted by:
Tony Modzelewski
Millstone Township, N.J.

This Month's Photo



SA ANGEL JASKULOSKI, USN

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

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

Ballwin, Mo.



COURTESY OF DENNIS SIMPSON

Wounded in Afghanistan, Marine Finally Celebrates Missed Promotion

For one Marine veteran who was wounded in Afghanistan, a long overdue promotion ceremony was held in Ballwin, Mo., Oct. 15, 2019, as Marines from different generations came together to recognize his service to country and Corps. Tyler Huffman, pictured front and center, was promoted to corporal during the ceremony, which was hosted by Marine Corps League Private George Phillips Detachment #1214. After being wounded by a sniper on Dec. 3, 2010, Huffman, then a lance corporal, was left paralyzed from the waist down. During the confusion of his medical evacuation, his promotion to corporal never took place. Staff Sergeant Darrel Trankle, District

Injured Service Coordinator from the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment, was instrumental in coordinating the ceremony, and reached out to the detachment's members for help.

Captain Randall Gregorious and Sergeant Major Gabriel Flynn from 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment promoted Huffman, as family and friends, members of the Marine Corps League, the Joshua Chamberlain Society, the Focus Marines Foundation and local Marine veterans watched proudly.

Submitted by Dennis Simpson

Raritan, N.J.

Hometown Parade Pays Tribute To Its Medal of Honor Marine

It was a beautiful and sunny fall day when members of the Marine Corps League Northampton County Detachment #298 participated in the 38th annual John Basilone Parade in Raritan, N.J., Sept. 22, 2019. Named for World War II Marine Medal of Honor recipient Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, who received the nation's highest award for valor for his actions at Guadalcanal and later was killed on Iwo Jima in 1945, the parade is held in honor of Raritan's own war hero and this year included a scale model of USS *New Jersey* (BB-62), pictured on the right.

Submitted by Joseph Pokojni



COURTESY OF JOSEPH POKOJNI

Woodbridge, Va.



COURTESY OF MAJ DONALD F. RITENOUR, USMC (RET)

Food Service Reunion Keeps Marine Connections Strong

The United States Marine Corps Food Service Association held its 10th biennial reunion in Woodbridge, Va., Oct. 3-6, 2019. In addition to their regular business meeting, the group visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., and enjoyed a farewell breakfast, which included the obligatory SOS—no doubt a fitting meal for a group of food service Marines. Pictured in the front row, from the left, Mrs. Ozela Cox; Captain Clark Wylde, USMC (Ret); Mrs. Joyce Wylde; Major Edward Cox, USMC (Ret); Gunnery

Sergeant Robert Newell, USMC (Ret); Master Gunnery Sergeant James Coker, USMC (Ret). Pictured standing, from the left, GySgt Richard Arsenault, USMC (Ret); Maj Richard Bedford, USMC (Ret); GySgt Peter Drummond, USMC (Ret); Sergeant Michael Fishbaugh; Sgt William Miller; Capt Johnnie Clark, USMC (Ret); MGySgt James Pender, USMC (Ret); MGySgt Ronald Fogarty, USMC (Ret); Maj Donald Ritenour, USMC (Ret); and Sgt Edwin Calabrese.

Submitted by Maj Donald F. Ritenour, USMC (Ret)

Quantico, Va.

Gen Mattis Discusses Leadership At MCA&F Professional Dinner

The 26th Secretary of Defense and retired Marine General James N. Mattis was the guest of honor and speaker at the Marine Corps Association & Foundation Combat Development Dinner, hosted by Lieutenant General Eric M. Smith, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command. Held at the Clubs at Quantico, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Oct. 29, 2019, the event was the largest ever hosted by MCA&F with more than 500 guests in attendance. Author of *The New York Times* best seller "Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead," which he co-wrote with Bing West, the general spoke to the crowd on a variety of topics including the need for allies, the Commandant's Planning Guidance and lessons he learned during his time in the Corps. The book is available for purchase at www.marineshop.net.

Gen Mattis also took questions from the audience, many of whom are students at various schools from Marine Corps University, including officers from Expeditionary Warfare School, pictured



ANDREW NOH

from the left: Captain Matthew Raftery, USA; Major Mark Greenlief, USMC; Captain Ryan Wilkins, USMC; Capt Bryan Hassett, USMC; Gen Mattis; Capt Marcus Penner, USAF; Capt Dan Herm, USMC; Capt Dan Koehler, USMC; Capt Rob Callison, USMC; and Capt Carmella Shivers, USMC.

Leatherneck's exclusive interview with Gen Mattis appeared in the October 2019 issue, and an interview with author Bing West appeared in the November 2019 issue.

MCA&F

"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.

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

How Deep Can You Dig?

In February 1969, I was serving with “Alpha” Co, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, “The Walking Dead,” as the forward air controller (FAC) during Operation Dewey Canyon. My foxhole buddy was the company corpsman, “Doc” Hudson. With less than 80 days until we rotated back to the world, we were digging our short-timer foxhole and were delightfully surprised at how soft the ground was. Most of the time it was so hard you could only dig down maybe 3 feet. We thought this was great because we got enemy action almost every night. In a matter of 30 minutes we had dug down almost 6 feet deep and 4 feet wide. We felt if we did get action that night, we would be secure in our hole.

Around 3 a.m., as I was on radio watch, our line was probed and all hell broke out. As I gave the radio to the company radio operator, I ran and jumped about 6 feet into the foxhole on top of Doc Hudson. We were very glad our hole was so deep. After about 30 seconds we realized why the ground was so soft. We had dug into a nest of red ants and they were eating us alive. It was so bad we jumped out of the foxhole and decided to take our chances with the North Vietnamese Army. You never saw two guys so glad to be fighting the enemy even though gunfire was all around us. Every time after that we always made sure our foxhole didn’t have enemy ants.

Cpl Joseph T. Decker
USMC, 1967-1969
York, S.C.

Take That, Punks!

I sent this message to the punks in my neighborhood. So you cowards think you’re tough because you jumped me? Waited for me to be alone in front of my own car? I still handled all of you. My Marine Corps hand-to-hand training kicked in and I left three of you laid out on the deck! You’re lucky I don’t have any marks on my face. I have some on my arms and neck but so what. I bet you didn’t expect me to swing back since it was six against one. I might be old but I’m not too old for this. I’m not gonna lie, I was getting tired of fighting and just wanted to get back in my car, but I kept on swinging and made sure you got yours. Punks! All I have to say is, you started it and I finished it.

Damn, I hate mosquitos.
CWO-3 John “Jack” Wing
USMC (Ret)
Apopka, Fla.

I Fooled No One But Myself

When I was a teenager I knew that some planning was required if I wanted to successfully leave my small town in the Midwest for the wider world. And I did, desperately. So I decided on a three-prong approach: 1) Graduate from high school; 2) Enlist in Marine Corps and 3) See what happens next.

The year was 1968 and the Vietnam War was raging, so I was pretty sure I knew what would happen, but that was OK. I enlisted in my senior year in high school under the delayed-entry program, which allowed me time to graduate before reporting for boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif.

Before that, I had to undergo physical and mental screenings, which were to be

administered at the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station (AFEES) at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. That was a long Greyhound ride from where I lived and the prospect was both exhilarating and intimidating. I had been given meal vouchers for a restaurant near the YMCA where I was to stay, and I was instructed how and when to arrive at the AFEES facility. All proceeded smoothly and the next

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morning when I awoke the idea of enlisting in the Marine Corps at age 17 during a divisive and bloody war in Southeast Asia still seemed like a good idea.

The day at Fort Des Moines was a blur of gently probing questions mostly about personal history and basic literacy, followed by a cursory medical examination. The parts of my history that might discredit me were exempt from public disclosure and I was, even then, reasonably literate. The physical exam consisted mainly of me assuring the examining doctor that I was of robust health, despite the long, meandering scar on my

stomach. He eventually agreed that a spleen was of no known medical value and the lack of one was certainly no reason to keep me from serving my country. I was on my way.

On the bus back home I felt self-assured, buoyant and maybe even cocky. I was now signed, sealed and ready to be delivered to the United States Marine Corps, for better or worse. I was on the verge of becoming one of the proudest of the few and I basked in that knowledge. So I was stunned when an elderly man across the aisle with a kindly smile asked, “First time away from home?”

The image I had hoped to project—one of steely resolve—shattered as I realized that I must have looked exactly like what I was; a kid who had just signed on to a fast track to adulthood and was now contemplating the possible consequences of that act. I was fooling no one but myself.

In time, I didn’t need to fool anyone; I became a Marine, one of God’s chosen few. That long bus ride to Des Moines was the start of my awakening. It was a ride I’d take again in a heartbeat.

Bill Federman
Southampton, Mass.

Leaving Vietnam

In May 1969, I was standing on the tarmac in Da Nang, Vietnam, with about 100 other Marines waiting to board an airplane to Okinawa. The group was made up of those who had served in the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. This was to be the first leg of our journey back to the place young Marines called, “The World.” Standing there, thoughts ran to how

13 months had passed since we first landed here and how we had seen combat at Khe Sanh, Dai Do, the DMZ, Ashau Valley, Dodge City, Anh Hoa, Arizona Territory, etc. We had spent 13 months anticipating this day, and now we stood silently, cautiously aware that it had arrived. Finally, on order, we shuffled aboard a chartered civilian airliner and took our seats.

Rolling down the runway, the anticipation in the cabin rose with the plane's increasing speed to become airborne. When its wheels freed themselves and us from Vietnam, a spontaneous round of applause broke out followed by a shouted chorus from a popular song of the day:

"We gotta get out of this place.

"If it's the last thing we ever do.

"We gotta get out of this place.

" 'Cause girl, there's a better life for me and you."

Everyone started talking to each other and to the aircraft's American stewardesses—especially the American stewardesses. As we drew closer to Okinawa, the excitement grew over what we were going to do when we got there: a hot bath, a girl, get drunk, a girl, a meal on dishes in an air conditioned restaurant, a girl, use a flush toilet, a girl, sleep in a bed with sheets, a girl, and girls. With months of back pay coming, all wrestled with the decision of what to do first on the island stopover back to "The World."

It was early evening when we landed at Kadena Air Base. Some in our group immediately boarded waiting ground transportation and sped off to an out-processing location. The rest of us went into the air terminal to wait for a ride to Camp Hansen. After picking up a Coke and a sandwich at the snack bar, I wandered about

the terminal and then went outside. The cool night air was tranquilizing, causing me to pay little attention to the passing time. Suddenly, I sensed that I was alone. Fearing the buses had come and left without me, I hurried back inside to search for the others on my flight. After several frantic moments, I found them all jammed into the TV lounge. The scene bordered on the poetic. The first thing these Marines did after leaving the combat environment of Vietnam was to watch an episode of the World War II TV series, "Combat," starring Vic Morrow.

Maj Anthony F. Milavic
USMC (Ret)
Reston, Va.

Point Well-Taken

While in boot camp in 1966, a typical day would start something like this. One of three drill instructors would enter our Quonset hut at zero dark thirty and in an instant your ears go from dreams to panic mode. "Grab your socks, get on

During the night a private went behind our Quonset huts and had a smoke. He got caught by an alert fire watch and reported it to his DI who in turn made a call to our DIs.

your feet at the position of attention, now!" he'd yell.

"Sir, yes, Sir!"

"I want you ladies to make your rack, put on your utilities and boots, and police this pigsty. You have three minutes to get outside in formation. Hit it!"

"Aye, aye, Sir!" Once our platoon was in formation our DI would adjust the thinking

of all that didn't follow his three-minute orders. In their faces, nicely, he would ask, "What is your problem, sweetheart?"

"Sir, the private doesn't know, Sir!"

"If it were up your butt you'd know!"

"Sir, yes Sir!"

One day on the parade deck we discovered only two of our DIs were really outstanding at calling cadence. The other, not so much. It meant you would be out of step and lots of physical training. Our senior and junior DIs would take us to the parade deck and show off their cadence style. We got into step. Seventy-five pairs of boots sounding as one. "Platoon halt. Right face. At ease. The smoking lamp is lit. Smoke 'em if you got 'em!" After a short time the DI said, "The smoking lamp is out. Field strip those butts."

"Aye, aye, Sir!" The day continued with more PT, obstacle course, chow, shower and hit the rack. "Lights out. Good night ladies," said the DI.

"Sir, lights out. Good night, Sir." During the night a private went behind our Quonset huts and had a smoke. He got caught by an alert fire watch and reported it to his DI who in turn made a call to our DIs.

DI "not so much" was on duty that night. "Grab your socks. Get on your feet. Get into formation, now!" We all knew his voice and knew PT was in order, but why?

As we stood at attention in our socks and skivvies, our senior DI walked out of the duty office with that look that we all knew. Someone was going to be in adjustment mode soon.

"Private 'X,' go into your foot locker and bring out all your cigarettes along with your metal bucket and report to me on the double. Place the bucket on the deck, unwrap a pack of cigarettes, put them in your mouth, light them all

and start smoking them so I can see lots of smoke. Place your metal bucket over your head."

Everyone saw the adjustment mode in action but still wondered why. After a few minutes the DI said, "Remove the bucket and field strip those butts. The smoking lamp is out!"

Very smart drill instructor. Point well-taken.
SSgt Bernard V. Del Boccio
New Lenox, Ill.

The Buddy System

In July 1965, I was in Parris Island as a member of Platoon 344. I was signed in by my dad in the 120-day delayed-entry program as I had not graduated from high school yet. Robert Cruz, my schoolmate, would not sign up until he was assured we would go through boot camp together. What a mistake.

One day, while standing at attention across the squad bay from each other waiting for another DI assignment, our challenge was to try to make the other guy laugh or smile without getting caught. Cruz always lost and got caught, resulting in additional push-ups or some other form of punishment.

We had an opportunity to revisit those good old days in a recent telephone call. Luckily, he's not the type to hold a grudge. Good on you, Sarge.

Cpl Cordell Price
USMC, 1965-1971
Eastport, 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." 🍷



Forgotten Battalion

By Sgt Bill Miller, USMC

The 155 mm howitzers were talking loud and fast as the big push to secure Guam began. Twenty feet to the rear you could feel the heat of the stubby barrels, almost glowing from the continuous firing.

Those were the guns of the 2nd 155 mm Howitzer Battalion, and they were celebrating an anniversary. Two years ago to the day, on Aug. 7, 1942, these same men got their baptism of fire from high altitude Japanese bombers attacking the troop ships off Tulagi and "the Canal." Then they were the 3rd Bn, 10th Marines, with 75 mm howitzers instead of 155s.

They rate five battle stars and two unit citations. They call themselves "The Forgotten Battalion." They fought on Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Guam, and nobody in the States ever heard of them. The 269 old-timers left of those who shipped out from San Diego on July 1, 1942, are wondering if that two-year rotation deal is only scuttlebutt. They've been lucky, but their luck won't hold forever.

Among their distinctions, they claim to have fired the opening artillery round in the first U.S. offensive of World War II. That was from Gavutu against reported

Japanese sniper positions in the treetops of Gaomi. The next day they fired the first artillery preparation from Tulagi against Makambo, where Marine infantry later found three Japanese and one pig. They have supported every Marine division that has seen action, as well as several Army units, and were the only troops to fight on both Saipan and Guam.

October 1944 made the 28th month they've sweated out in the Pacific. They've seen a lot of saltwater over the rails of a lot of ships in an odyssey Homer never dreamed of. They've seen Tongatabu, the Fijis, Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Espiritu Santo, New Zealand, Efate, Tarawa, the Hawaiian Islands, Eniwetok, Saipan and Guam. And their travels are far from complete.

Like all good fighting men, they know how to laugh off the strain of war and the boredom of so-called rest camps. They remember a song they had about the Tulagi Trots (not a dance) and the lousy chow they had for 22 days when the supply ships were pulled out of the Solomons after they had gone ashore with only 72 hours' rations. That was the only time Mess Sergeant Willie M. Taylor was stumped.

Each gun section organized its own mess, and the diet was wormy Japanese

rice and taro roots. On the first day they removed the worms before cooking the rice. The next day they cooked worms and all, but only a few of the men could eat it. From then on, however, they ate worms and all, calling it meat and rice. It wasn't very funny then, and many had to drop out, weak from malnutrition, when both officers and men had to carry ammo up the steep Tulagi hills to the gun positions.

One of their favorite characters is Corporal Samuel Esrick, also known as "TNT Sam" or "Fire-in-the-Hole Esrick," demolitions man. His biggest job is to clear the line of fire of trees and other obstructions, but he has blasted a lot of holes from one end of the Pacific to the other. As his buddies put it, "When better heads are blown, 'TNT Sam' will blow them."

One battery takes great pride in its canine mascot, Private First Class Sooner, a "two-campaign replacement." She was enlisted on Dec. 7, 1943, and is a veteran of Saipan and Guam with a letter of commendation in her record book. Her chances for a corporal's rate are not so hot after a recent trip over the hill from which she returned in a condition that might be described as delicate. But by special

dispensation she won't get a survey. Her lord and master is Cpl Theodore Dorn, and she takes orders only from him. When he is up with the guns in battle, she mopes around the rear areas waiting to give him a joyful welcome when he returns.

There are some good stories about Captain (now a major in another outfit) William G. "Wild Bill" Winters, who came out from the States with the battalion and went through all five campaigns with it. He liked to scout ahead of his own outfit, and one day on Saipan he came tearing in looking for a jeep. He got one, hitched a trailer to it and drove up through the lines again. When he came back, he had the trailer loaded with Japanese beer, which he proceeded to distribute among the men of his battery.

Another time on Saipan, he stopped an adjacent outfit from firing indiscriminately at night by setting up four .50-caliber machine guns in a strategic spot and issuing an ultimatum that his men would return any fire coming in their direction. During the same campaign, when a Japanese battery tried to destroy his OP, he methodically destroyed each Japanese gun in turn by precision adjustments.

The battalion's story begins on Jan. 1, 1941, when it was organized on the West Coast. It shipped out from the States on July 1, 1942, equipped with the 75 mm pack howitzers that were its weapons on Tulagi, Guadalcanal and Tarawa. Just before the Marianas operation, it became one of the first Marine units to be equipped with 155 mm howitzers and was redesignated as the 2nd 155 mm Howitzer Battalion, 5th Amphibious Corps, on April 29, 1944.

Another unit now holds its former designation as 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines, as well as a considerable reputation of its own, being the artillery which stopped the final Japanese breakthrough on Saipan with the fuses of its shells set for four-tenths of a second.

On Aug. 8, 1942, while Battery I was landing on Gavutu, 26 low-flying Japanese torpedo bombers attacked the transports offshore. Men of batteries G and H helped man AA guns on the transports, and nearly all of the Japanese planes were downed. PFC Wayne Briscoe kept firing at the nose of one plane as it came in to lose its torpedo. Finally it burst into flames, hit the water and exploded. PFC Arthur R. Kazmierczak shot down another, which fell 50 yards beyond the fantail of his ship, still carrying its torpedo.

A pouring rain didn't help matters as Btry I hauled its guns across the Gavutu

causeway and set up to shell Gaomi. Sergeant Cecil E. Chastain, chief of the No. 4 section, fired the first round. Its brass casing, engraved with the date and place of firing and bucked until it shines like bright gold, is his proudest possession. Three other members of No. 4 crew, Cpls Joseph E. Churich, Lee H. Abraham, and Elvord E. Fleming, are still with the battalion. The first round was fired at about 9 a.m. and was followed by 100 more.

It was Sunday morning, Aug. 9, when Btry H went ashore on Tulagi to shell Makambo at a range of 1,000 yards. They fired a 10-minute preparation under section control, and No. 1 section was the first to fire. Four men of that No. 1 crew are still with the battalion—Cpls Robert L. Donaldson, Joe N. Harold and Charles O'Reilly and PFC Joseph M.

was shot in the right thigh. Cpl Dorn and PFC Charlie R. Perry carried him back about 75 yards to a corpsman. After he was given first aid and a shot of morphine, the others had to leave him there alone as the battle moved forward. They took the hill in the morning, but when they came back for Held he had disappeared. He was never found, and there is an unconfirmed story that his wallet was found on a dead Japanese.

The rest of 3/10 moved to Guadalcanal between Dec. 18-21, and on Dec. 22, moved into position in support of a combined Marine-Army drive to capture Mount Austen, thus putting the Japanese out of range of Henderson Field.

It was during that push that three enlisted men in H&S Btry won letters of commendation for their devotion to duty in two days and three nights of continuous

They fought on Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Guam and yet nobody back in the United States ever heard of them.

Griggs. Somehow No. 4 gun was loaded in the 3rd section's boat, and vice versa. So when No. 3's boat hit a reef, No. 4 gun went into the water, and No. 4 crew fired No. 3 gun in the preparation.

After organizing defensive positions in which the 75s were set up to fire on the Japanese fleet if it ever came within range, the battalion had ringside seats for all the air and naval battles that took place over and between Tulagi and Guadalcanal. What they saw there gave them undying respect for Marine flyers and the U.S. Navy.

Btry I moved over to Guadalcanal on Oct. 25 to support 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines. PFCs E.F. Darling and George McCartney were killed when a Japanese cruiser and two cans sank the Yippee boat *Endeavor* and the Navy tug *Seminole*. The guns had been landed, but most of the battery's personal gear was lost. That was the day Sergeant F.G. Iaconelli received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for putting a tourniquet on a Sailor's leg, although some of his old buddies swear he put it on below the wound, and some will even tell you he put it on the wrong leg. All in fun, of course.

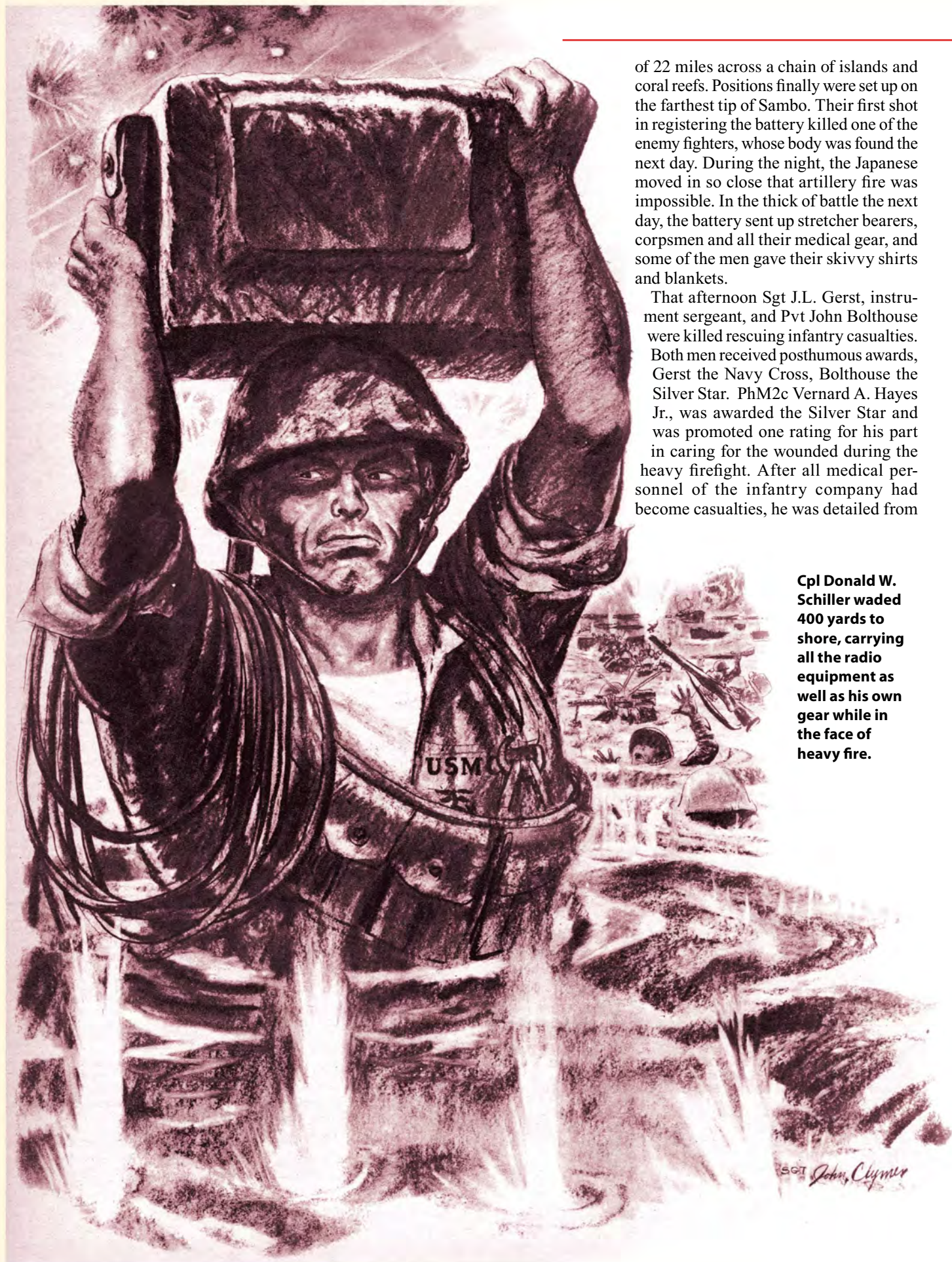
That night the battery lost one of its best men, Scout Sergeant Carl J. "Pop" Held, during the fight for Hand Grenade Hill. The Japanese counterattacked, and Held

firing. They were Sgt John A. Grivich, PFC John D. Cox and PFC Raymond Kehoe. There was also a commendation for Major Earl J. Rowse, Bn S-3 through all five campaigns, who is now executive officer and has been recommended for the Legion of Merit for his excellent direction of the battalion's fire on Saipan.

The battalion spent six months on Tulagi and Guadalcanal, a strenuous tour which few outfits there could match. It fired 13,145 rounds from Dec. 22 to Jan. 7, and finally pulled out for New Zealand on Jan. 31, 1943, for rest and recreation. Nearly every man in the outfit had malaria, dengue or dysentery, and the New Zealand climate aggravated most of the malaria cases so that heavy replacements were needed. But the men got a wonderful reception from the people of New Zealand, particularly from the girls, and most of them would like to go back there some day.

They underwent intensive training and practice landings before leaving with the 2nd Division for Tarawa. Landings with artillery are no picnic, and, as one peon phrased it, "I don't mind the operations so much, but I can't take any more of those maneuvers."

Btry G took most of the honors on Tarawa. They supported 2nd Bn, 6th Marines, in a mop-up of the atoll, a march



of 22 miles across a chain of islands and coral reefs. Positions finally were set up on the farthest tip of Sambo. Their first shot in registering the battery killed one of the enemy fighters, whose body was found the next day. During the night, the Japanese moved in so close that artillery fire was impossible. In the thick of battle the next day, the battery sent up stretcher bearers, corpsmen and all their medical gear, and some of the men gave their skivvy shirts and blankets.

That afternoon Sgt J.L. Gerst, instrument sergeant, and Pvt John Bolthouse were killed rescuing infantry casualties. Both men received posthumous awards, Gerst the Navy Cross, Bolthouse the Silver Star. PhM2c Vernard A. Hayes Jr., was awarded the Silver Star and was promoted one rating for his part in caring for the wounded during the heavy firefight. After all medical personnel of the infantry company had become casualties, he was detailed from

Cpl Donald W. Schiller waded 400 yards to shore, carrying all the radio equipment as well as his own gear while in the face of heavy fire.

his battery to take over. After finishing work at the aid station, he went to the front of his own accord to administer first aid under fire and carry wounded to the rear until he was physically exhausted.

Some of the battalion's observers were on Betio as members of naval gunfire shore parties. Cpl Donald W. Schiller was awarded the Silver Star for his heroism and devotion to duty as acting scout sergeant for one of those parties. On the morning of D-day he took complete charge after his officer and one radio operator were wounded seriously in the boat. He waded 400 yards to shore, carrying all the radio equipment and his own gear while men all around him were throwing away their packs in the deep water and in the face of heavy fire.

He set up his radio and contacted the

Blue Beach near Charan Kanoa, positions were assigned and located, and by 9 p.m. one battery had two pieces in position. On June 18, they fired the first volley and completed registration on a base point with air observation. They fired that day and the next in general support of the 4th, covering Tinian and Mount Tapotchau with excellent effect. On June 20 they were detached from the 4th and re-attached to the 2nd.

The battalion displaced three times on Saipan, firing a total of 10,052 rounds. Targets included 53 enemy guns, all of which were disabled or silenced. Direct hits destroyed one coastal defense gun, 25 large caliber guns and four small caliber or AA guns. In addition to these main fire missions, the battalion destroyed 14 assorted oil, ammo and supply dumps,

is probably the biggest reason they have been so "lucky" in the matter of casualties. Before they moved up the guns, every effort was made to organize battery areas completely and to dig in. The whole outfit took a lot of shelling, and one battery alone accounted for 24 Japanese in and around its second position.


The battalion has undoubtedly been lucky a lot of times. One of the best examples of their luck was the night a shell hit in the middle of PFC L.M. Melka's sack a minute after he left it for a foxhole. That same night a dud landed at the corner of No. 2 tent. In one position on Saipan, the FDC was set up between two ridges in a spot which seemed out of reach of the Japanese guns. The men could hear shells fluttering overhead and exploding on the ridgetops. Somehow the Japanese dropped one almost on top of the FDC. It was a dud, too.

Celebrating that grim second anniversary on Guam, guns of the 2nd 155s fired 1,591 rounds in 24 hours, the maximum for the campaign in a single day. They fired 9,116 rounds on Guam, an average of 608 a day.

Aerial observers (Capt Michael Wojcik was one) could see what artillery fire like that does to the enemy. They saw the big projectiles destroy 10 trucks, 20 buildings, three dumps, two bridges and one dugout of reinforced concrete. Twenty-eight enemy field and coast defense guns and 12AA guns were taken under fire with two direct hits observed and the targets neutralized in every instance.

Heavy artillery has seldom moved so fast and so far under such conditions as the 2nd met on Saipan and Guam. By the time they got through Guam the men were calling themselves the "2nd Displacement Battalion" and their pieces "155 mm antitank guns."

They did such a good job that no one man could be singled out for commendation, and each man of the battalion carries in his record book a letter of commendation signed by Brigadier General Pedro A. del Valle, commanding general of 3rd Corps Artillery on Guam, and a letter from his own CO.

They were a beat-up but a proud outfit when they disembarked from the ships and packed their gear on the little train which was to take them to their rest camp. When the train pulled out, captured Japanese flags flew from the engine and from every car. The only thing missing along their triumphal route was the sound of the cheers they rate from every man, woman and child of their own distant country. 

As on Saipan, the battalion displaced three times, moving up so fast that it was sometimes ahead of the 75s. In their last position they were even ahead of the secondary infantry line.

destroyer assigned to support the assault battalion to which he was attached. Without further instruction, he laid wire to the furthestmost front line position and was ready to deliver fire wherever it was requested. Of all four teams going ashore with TBX radios, his was the only one contacting destroyers assigned to the battalion.

After Tarawa, the battalion was in rest camp until it shipped out for the Marianas. During that time it was chosen to be equipped with 155s and became a Corps Artillery battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Marvin H. Floom. LtCol Manly L. Curry, now an artillery officer on the staff of FMF, Pacific, commanded the battalion from its organization until the change and won a respect from his men that still endures. "He's the guy that made this battalion," they'll tell you.

What LtCol Floom has done with the battalion shows clearly in the story of what they did on Saipan and Guam. On May 10, 1944, they embarked on APAs for maneuvers that preceded D-day on Saipan, June 15. Their transports were offshore on D-day, but only an advance party hit the beach. On June 17, they were attached to the 4th Division and ordered to land. Advance elements hit

disabled two tanks, two locomotives and five box cars. Four reinforced concrete blockhouses were taken under fire, with 14 direct hits, although results could not be observed.

On July 15, when Saipan was secured, the battalion was ordered to Guam. Two days later all troops and gear had cleared the beach and the ships weighed anchor on July 20, arriving off Guam at 8:30 a.m. on D-day, July 21. The first wave was already ashore on White and Yellow beaches.

Attached to 3rd Corps Artillery in general support, their sector of fire covered Orote peninsula from Neye island to Tepungan. They landed on D+2 and unloaded all that night. The next day the first fire mission was underway against two enemy batteries emplaced in a cliff face on Orote peninsula. The batteries ceased firing, but probably were not destroyed until later in the day when a destroyer blasted the cliff face with direct fire.

All guns were in position and ready to fire on July 25, and Japanese 77s were shelling their area by the next day. As on Saipan, the battalion displaced three times, moving up so fast that it was sometimes ahead of the 75s. In their last position they were even ahead of the secondary infantry line.

They are a battle-wise outfit, which

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Reading Program Fosters Connection Between Deployed Parents, Children

A parent reading a book to a child is one of the oldest American family traditions. It is a memorable bonding experience and leaves a positive impact that lasts a lifetime. For those answering the call of duty in foreign lands, this tradition continues thanks to the Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program, hosted by the USO.

Marines currently deployed with Task Force Southwest in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of the NATO Resolute Support Mission, were able to use the program during a scheduled USO visit, Oct. 17, 2019. The program allows deployed servicemembers to pick a book, read it on camera, then send both the recording and book to their child. Those who took advantage of this free service were impressed.

"I think this program is great in what it does for the families," said Chief Warrant Officer Lance T. Matsumoto, a maintenance management officer with the task force. "The families, specifically the children, can connect with parents deployed all over the world."

The Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program was created through a partnership between the Bob Hope Legacy and the USO. From World War II to Vietnam to the Gulf War, Bob Hope traveled the world, visiting military outposts and ships to provide

entertainment and support our nation's servicemembers and their families.

Today, the USO continues to provide the same services for deployed troops as well as additional programs like the Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program.

"My son is 1 ½ and we're always trying to instill good traits in him like always telling the truth and being accountable for your actions," explained Captain Nathaniel T. Lemons, a staff judge advocate with the task force. "The book I chose to read demonstrates in a sort of fun way that lying never pays off and it just gets other people in trouble, and it ends in a bigger predicament for you."

The reading program has become popular even as many remote bases are outfitted with Wi-Fi or internet connectivity. Unlike a phone call or video chat, the recording and book can be enjoyed over and over and used anytime.

"You're giving them a gift not only in a book but a gift of time as a parent as well," said Lemons. "It's there permanently for them. When my kid repeatedly says 'Dadda read book,' my wife plays the video of me reading while they flip through the pages together. It's an amazing program and I recommend it."

For more information, visit <https://www.uso.org/programs/bob-hope-legacy-reading-program>.

SSgt Dengrier Baez, USMC

DOD Announces COLA Increase To Retired Pay

In November 2019, the Department of Defense announced annual cost of living adjustments that will benefit military retirees and survivors during calendar year 2020. Most military retirees will receive a 1.6 percent increase to their retired pay beginning with the pay they receive on Jan. 1, 2020. Likewise, survivors of members who died on active or inactive duty, or survivors of military retirees who participated in the Survivor Benefit Plan will, in most cases, see a 1.6 percent increase to their annuities beginning this month.

Survivors who are eligible for the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) will also receive an increase to their SSIA payments that reflects this 1.6 percent adjustment. The maximum amount of SSIA payable will be \$323 beginning in January.

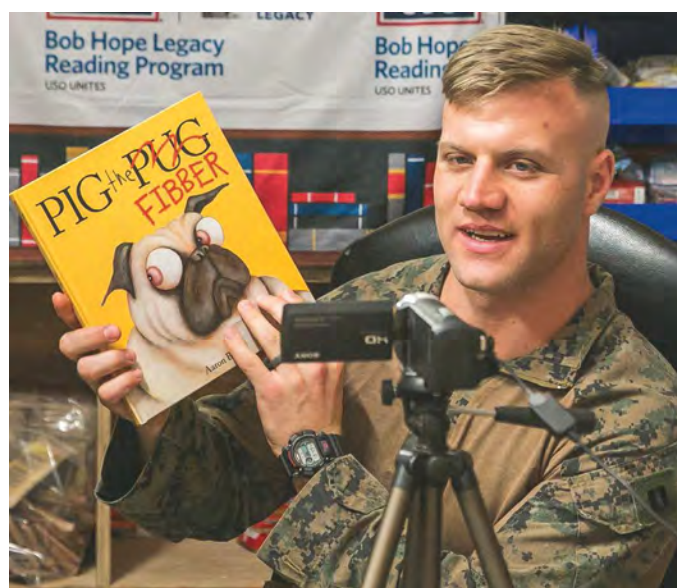
These cost of living adjustments are calculated based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the four quarters ending with the third calendar quarter of 2019 (July, August and September 2019). The adjustments generally go into effect for all pay received beginning in January 2020.

Those military retirees who retired during calendar year 2019 and all military retirees who retired under the REDUX



SSGT DENGRIER BAEZ, USMC

CWO Lance T. Matsumoto, a maintenance management officer deployed with Task Force Southwest, reads a book on-camera for his child during a Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program event, which was hosted by the USO in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Oct. 16, 2019.



SSGT DENGRIER BAEZ, USMC

While in Afghanistan, Capt Nathaniel T. Lemons, a staff judge advocate, reads to his young son, Oct. 16, 2019, thanks to the Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program and the USO, which mails a book and a video of deployed family members reading to their children back home.



Beginning Jan. 1, all service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers will be eligible to shop at military commissaries and military exchanges worldwide, as well as enjoy MWR amenities.

retirement system receive a slightly different annual cost of living adjustment. The complete list of updates to military retired and retainer pay, and survivor annuities, allowances and premiums can be found at <https://militarypay.defense.gov/Pay/Retirement/Cola.aspx>.

DOD

Expanded Access Begins For Some Veterans

The Department of Defense is expanding commissary, military exchange, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail privileges, which includes golf courses, bowling centers, recreational lodging, RV campgrounds and movie theaters on U.S. military installations as specified in the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, included in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.

Starting Jan. 1, access will expand to include all veterans with service-connected disabilities, veterans who are Purple Heart recipients, veterans who are former prisoners of war, and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance

for Family Caregivers. While this expansion will extend eligibility to more than 4.1 million new patrons, the DOD expects little to no impact on current patrons in most locations. There may be some impact in areas with a high cost of living, but the department is preparing to accommodate all new patrons.

"These new privileges recognize the service and sacrifice of these veterans and those that care for them," said A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. "If you or someone you know might be eligible for these privileges, share the message," Johnston said. "Please help us ensure these veterans and caregivers receive the privileges they've been granted."

New patrons eligible solely under this authority should be aware that the law requires the Defense Department to charge them a small user fee to offset the increased expense incurred by the Department of the Treasury for processing commercial credit or debit cards used for purchases at commissary stores.

Veterans eligible solely under the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 who are eligible to obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) must obtain a VHIC from the VA to facilitate DOD installation and

privilege access. These veterans must present their VHIC to gain entry to military installations and some commissary stores, and at point of sale at commissaries, exchanges and MWR retail facilities to complete their transactions.

During the first phase of rollout of these privileges, caregivers eligible solely under this act will receive a letter from the VA Office of Community Care that indicates they are approved and designated as the primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran and are eligible for these privileges. Upon the first visit to an installation, eligible veterans and caregivers must stop at the visitor control center.

For a brief period of time starting on Jan. 1, only veterans with a secure, scannable VA-issued VHIC will be authorized access to the installations. When DOD and VA identify a credentialing solution for all veterans eligible under the expansion, DOD will roll out a new phase of access to accommodate current veterans who are not eligible to obtain a VHIC but are eligible for these privileges. Until a credentialing solution is identified, these veterans are eligible for online military exchange and Armed Forces Travel privileges.

DOD



LCPL CATIE D. EDWARDS, USMC

“Do You Understand?”

Managing Foreign Language Talent

By John Durish, Kevin Johnston,
and Maj G.M. Studer, USMC

The expeditionary nature of the Marine Corps demands a talent management system that aligns foreign language capabilities with a wide array of mission requirements. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the ability to directly engage foreign nationals in their native language, perform intelligence operations, and enable war-fighting functions inherent to Security Cooperation, Expeditionary Advanced Basing Operations and beyond. At this time, however, the Marine Corps is hampered by a manpower system that General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, describes as “designed in

the industrial era to produce mass, not quality.”

In his 2019 Planning Guidance, Gen Berger explains, “We assumed that quantity of personnel was the most important element of the system, and that workers (Marines) are all essentially interchangeable. As the complexity of the world has increased, the spread between physical jobs and thinking jobs has increased dramatically. War still has a physical component, and all Marines need to be screened and ready to fight. However, we have not adapted to the needs of the current battlefield.”

The Marine Corps’ need for foreign language capabilities across the fluency spectrum will increase in the coming years. As Marines deploy around the

world, they conduct operations and have direct communication with local nationals. Furthermore, it is important that Marines possess these foreign language capabilities and that the Marine Corps not over-rely on contracted employees. Contracted linguists, interpreters and translators do not always understand military jargon or culture, and lack the physical capabilities of Marines, limiting their full employability in austere locations. Marines who can support their commands with language capabilities can help ensure successful mission completion. Their presence can save lives on the battlefield and can also limit collateral damage among local populations.

To address talent management issues such as these, the Assistant Commandant

of the Marine Corps, via the Talent Management Executive Committee (TMEC), established a Language Operational Planning Team (OPT) to examine language testing and capability utilization. During its investigations, the OPT recognized that “the Marine Corps is unable to effectively and accurately identify language requirements, which results in validation and management gaps for foreign language capability at every Marine command echelon.” These gaps result in decreased readiness and an inability to posture the right Marine, with the right language, in the right place, at the right time.

The OPT developed three principal lines of effort (LOEs) to improve language talent management:

- Enhance the Marine Corps’ ability to identify language requirements
- Assess if the Marine Corps effectively validates language capabilities
- Analyze existing talent management of language capabilities in order to identify areas to improve

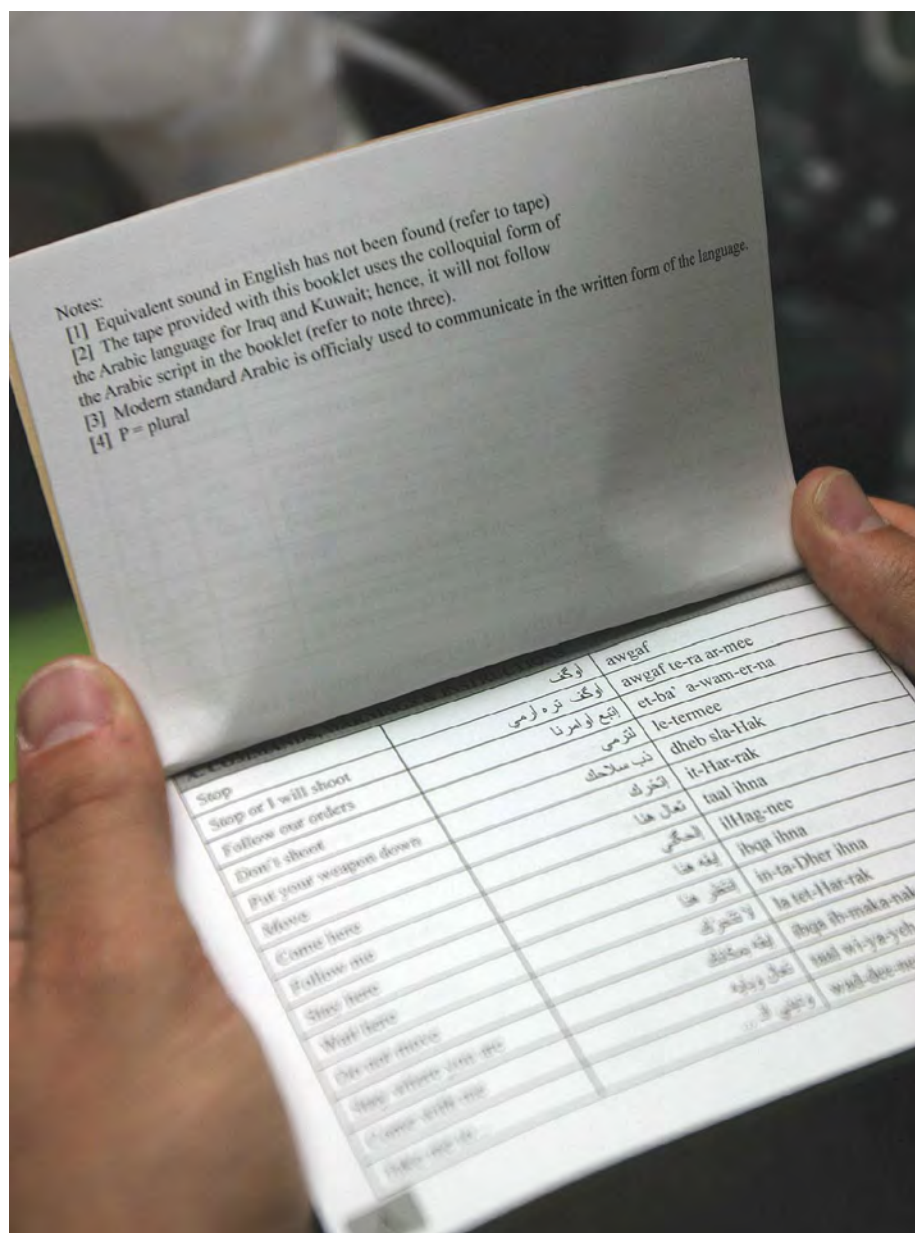
These LOEs are designed to benefit critical MOSs by identifying language-capable Marines at the beginning of their careers, possibly offsetting the cost of training them at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC). These identified Marines could also be better candidates for a Foreign Area Officer/Foreign Area Senior Noncommissioned Officer (FAO/FAS) billet, or even for a career in Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC). Every Special Forces or Special Operations team requires enablers (medics, drivers, supply Marines, cooks, etc.); therefore, regardless of their primary MOS, language-capable Marines can fill a pivotal niche. Every Marine is first and foremost a rifleman, so even if they are not selected for one of these options, the additional language skills potentially make them invaluable assets on routine missions.

Identifying requirements for depth and breadth of language capability across the fluency spectrum is the first step to solving how the Marine Corps employs its language-capable Marines. As the nation’s premier force in readiness, the Marine Corps faces threats ranging across the global commons, where Marines regularly find themselves in contact with a wide array of foreign language speakers. In an environment where more than 6,000 different languages and dialects are spoken, determining which language will be needed and when is a complex, but not impossible task. The Language OPT has identified broad functional areas—including Security Cooperation and Oper-

ations in the Information Environment—to examine and take steps to improve how force development requirements are formulated. In lieu of a perfect solution, the Language OPT must continue to look at the other broad problem sets of identifying individual language capabilities and managing Marines’ talents. The Language OPT will seek to follow the Commandant’s Planning Guidance, and “not wait for perfect clarity when it comes to forecasting the future operating environment,” ensuring that perfect does not stifle movement in the right direction.

Once capability requirements are recognized, the Marine Corps needs to improve how it identifies latent foreign language talent. The problem of identifying language-capable Marines lies in

The OPT recognized that “the Marine Corps is unable to effectively and accurately identify language requirements, which results in validation and management gaps for foreign language capability at every Marine command echelon.”



A Marine from 22nd MEU, Special Operations Capable, holds an Arabic language guide as he studies for a test during an Arabic language course held aboard USS Nassau (LHA-4), Nov. 17, 2005.

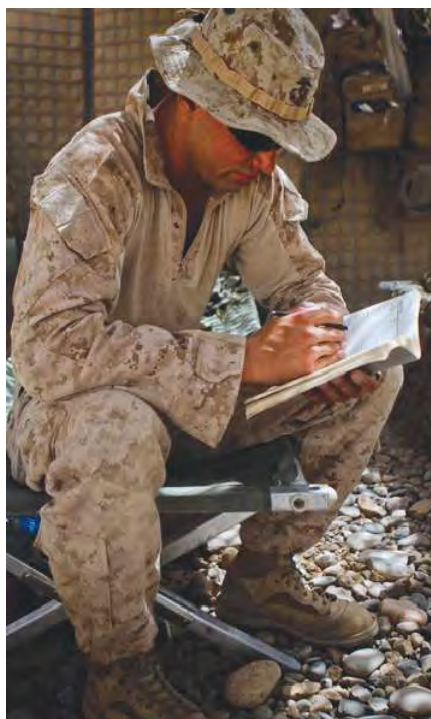


CPL CHRISTOPHER S. VEGA, USMC

An Arabic linguist goes over simple Arabic commands with Marines from 22nd MEU, Special Operations Capable, during a class aboard USS *Nassau* (LHA-4), Nov. 10, 2005.

recognizing, assessing and reporting capabilities. Marines can self-profess a language capability in Section I, Part 13 of the DD-1966, when they enlist or by filling out a simple module on Marine Online (MOL). Although not required, when Marines do choose to profess a language skill, the current system does not require them to undergo an official assessment via the Department of Defense's standardized test, the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT). The DLPT is currently the Marine Corps' only method of identifying and tracking language capability across its ranks. Nurturing and then capitalizing on those capabilities in the right context remains an additional hurdle for the Marine Corps today. It takes years to master a language, and it is a perishable skill. Revamping how the Marine Corps identifies, tracks and retains existing language talent is a first step in becoming more proactive, especially with the recognition of the difficulty of forecasting future conflict zones.

When language speakers are identified, they must be effectively tracked, and their



CPL TIMOTHY LENZO, USMC

LCpl Nathan Pontious reads his Pashtu-to-English dictionary, Aug. 24, 2012.

skill sets must be made available to commanders at every level. This is the crux of talent management. Communicating language capabilities across the Marine Corps requires a ubiquitous information system linked between commands and accessible at all echelons. In the simplest terms, a commander cannot use what he or she does not know to be available. Currently, there are several disparate systems that make finding language capability information difficult for even the savviest leader. As a result, even if a Marine has self-identified or taken the DLPT, the results are not always readily available—or clear—to commanders. To optimize talent management at the tactical level, DLPT scores must be as readily available as physical fitness and marksmanship scores. This current lack of visibility of language capability prevents units from communicating with allies with whom they are training, and potentially deprives linguistically qualified Marines of the opportunity to highlight those abilities in the field and on behalf of their units' missions. A possible solution involves

From left to right: GySgt Ethan F. Irons, a communications chief at MCSCG; Chief Petty Officer Dan Luna, Naval Special Warfare Development Group; Marni Geist, Defense Language Institute, assistant professor of French; LCDR Christopher L. Wallace, prospective chief, Office of Security Cooperation; and GySgt Jacob S. Godfrey, explosive ordnance and disposal technician at MCSCG, pose for a photo after receiving certificates of completion of Defense Language Institute's French Initial Acquisition Course at the Foreign Language Center, Virginia Beach Training Detachment, Feb. 7, 2014.



SSGT VITALIY RUSAVSKIY, USMC

linking the DLPT information that is stored in Marine Corps Total Force System and MOL to Command Profile, and delineating a Marine's DLPT score with a date or to mark it as "self-professed and untested."

In support of identifying language capabilities and enabling talent management, the Marine Corps must do a better job of incentivizing Marines to self-identify and address ad hoc capability requirements. There are several potential incentives for Marines to take the DLPT without incurring additional financial burdens to the enterprise. For example, incorporating DLPT scores into cutting scores for junior Marines and educating small unit leaders on the potential value to both the individual Marine and the Corps of encouraging Marines to take the test. Additionally, new recruits can be promoted directly to private first class out of boot camp if they score above a 2/2 on the DLPT. Midshipmen in Marine ROTC scholarship programs and at the U.S. Naval Academy are not currently required to take language courses as part of their bachelor's degree education. Offering DLPT opportunities for midshipmen and incentivizing taking the test through

Increased visibility of language capability at the unit level will enable units training OCONUS to identify language speakers within their ranks who are ready to provide immediate, accurate and unbiased translations.

academic standing scores either toward graduation or at The Basic School after commissioning may help the Marine Corps identify incoming language talent.

Increased visibility of language capability at the unit level will enable units training OCONUS to identify language speakers within their ranks who are ready to provide immediate, accurate and unbiased translations. In addition to resolving language problems, these Marines will also help their peers bond more easily and quickly with their allies and partners at

the tactical level. Once these steps are enacted, not only the individual Marines but also the entire Corps stand to benefit. Marines will have their valuable skills documented and have more flexibility in pursuing a career path they desire. This flexibility will result in higher retention rates for the most needed skill sets. Additionally, the Marine Corps will enjoy newfound capabilities and skills, ensuring adaptability in environments where foreign languages are prevalent. Implementing the cost-efficient controls proposed in this article is a small part of ensuring that the Marine Corps remains the world's most lethal fighting force.

Authors' bios: John Durish is a retired Marine Corps SIGINT/EW chief and formerly a Russian and Arabic cryptologic linguist.

Kevin Johnston is a contractor and technical writer working for the Headquarters Marine Corps Personnel Studies and Oversight office. Prior to that, he was a transportation corps officer in the Army.

Maj G.M. Studer currently serves as a program development analyst in the programs and resources department at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Books Reviewed

Uprising: A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter. By Sally Armstrong. Published by St. Martin's Press. 288 pages.

Books regarding American or international security rarely discuss a crucial factor in ending military conflict or creating a stable peace: the role of women in conflict zones. "Uprising" focuses entirely on these women and how the passage of equal rights for women creates a better society for all. Covering an extensive area, the author illustrates how women are fighting for their rights and improving the world as they go, economically, socially and politically. Though the reading level is not challenging, the matter of fact reporting on rape, sexual assault, and torture make the book difficult to read at points.

The book focuses on the issues that prevent women being accepted as equals. A lack of rights, cultural traditions, religious decrees, biased legal systems, and bars to education all play a role in keeping women oppressed to varying degrees throughout the world. But change is coming, thanks to a new generation of leaders determined to speak out and demand equal rights in their villages, cities, communities, and countries. As a result, the world is becoming safer, not just for women, but for all people.

Though various countries and international nongovernment organizations (NGOs) play a role in helping overcome these barriers, the main driving force is always a grassroots movement of local women. Working together, they help girls go to school, get police to arrest criminals, and force governments to listen to their demands.

A key difference illustrated is the universal nature of the goals today's women seek to achieve. In prior waves of feminism, people of color, the LGBT community, or other marginalized groups were ignored. But as the author shows, cooperation between ethnic groups and different cultures is becoming more common, and together they are achieving more than they could have had they worked separately or against one another.

This new fight for equal rights ties into security in several important ways. Areas where women have more power are

economically stronger, making them less vulnerable to extremism. When women are able to finish school, they marry and bear children at a later age, again reducing the chance of poverty and extremism. According to Melanne Verwee, the former U.S. ambassador for global women's issues, "Promoting the status of women is not just a moral imperative but a strategic one; it's essential to economic prosperity and to global peace and security."

The consequences for not empowering women are stark. Armstrong quotes the Council on Foreign Relations as stating, "Countries that oppress their women are doomed to be failed states." Issues ranging from disease control to climate change to international terrorism will require new solutions, and governments not willing to listen to half their citizens lose potential solutions every moment they are not engaging all of their constituents.

But the future is full of promise. Every chapter ends with a story of hope for women and girls. Increased access to education, access to attorneys and the courts, political rights and representation, all show the effects of this new wave of feminist thought. As a consequence, their communities become more prosperous and safer. "Uprising" is a story of hope over despair, of equality triumphing over tyranny. It is ultimately a story of increased security and safety, through the lens of an overlooked group of people.

Too often, movements trying to achieve equal rights for marginalized persons are viewed as only helping members of that marginalized group. Nothing could be further from the truth. When an organization denies equality to members of society, it loses the potential those individuals have to offer. In recognition of that concept, the Marine Corps Talent Management Oversight Directorate (TMOD) works to create a culture within the Marine Corps wherein all members are treated with equal respect and dignity. With a promise to be part of the solution, TMOD looks for opportunities where the Marine Corps can improve its culture and

create a society where every Marine has an equal opportunity for success.

Kevin Johnston

Author's bio: Kevin Johnston is a contractor and technical writer working for the Headquarters Marine Corps Personnel Studies and Oversight office. Prior to that, he was a transportation corps officer in the Army.

The U.S. Marines in the Second Creek and Second Seminole Wars. By David Ekardt. Published by David Ekardt. 152 pages.

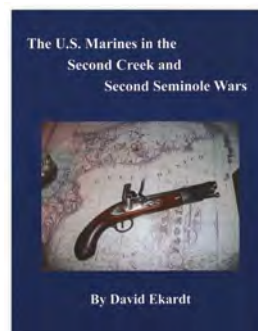
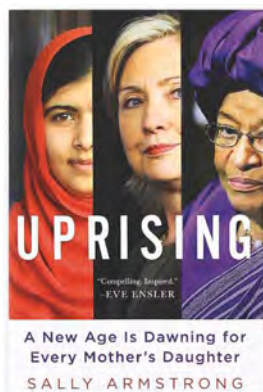
It speaks volumes about the poor quality of American history education in public high schools that I never knew these wars took place. Ekardt's book is red meat to those of us left hungry from an incomplete education.

The back cover blurb gives a good overview of the book. "Most Americans do not realize that the U.S. Marines participated in the longest of the Indian wars, the Second Seminole War. After serving for several months in Georgia and Alabama in the Second Creek War, Commandant Archibald Henderson led them to Florida. There they served in many capacities from 1836-1842. They were put in charge of Tampa Bay and Fort Brooke for several months, as well as manning other forts. They patrolled the interior of the territory, led the Creek Indian volunteers, were detailed as mountain troops, provided security for the many supply wagon trains and even escorted several

groups of Indians to the Arkansas Territory for resettlement. They, along with sailors from the West Indies Squadron's 'Mosquito Fleet' of specially constructed canoes, were the first non-natives to cross the Everglades from the East Coast to the West Coast."

Ekardt states in the book, "When Colonel Commandant Archibald Henderson volunteered the Marines for service in the Indian wars, it was the first large scale mobilization of the Marines since the war of 1812 ... As in most wars, the majority of deaths were not from wounds in battle but from disease, especially in a climate such as Florida which most of these men from the north were unaccustomed to."

Ekardt originally started the project as



an article about the Seminole war, but decided that he could not do a proper book about the topic with scant information from various sources. Unfortunately, some important information was lost in a fire. He found that U.S. Marines were actually in charge of the Indians' removal to the Arkansas territory, which is present-day Oklahoma. Both of these wars were the result of President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830. The act as passed by Congress is featured in its complete form at the beginning of the book.

Because a lot of this history was pretty much unknown, Ekardt does a good job in detailing these wars in the spirit of his readers being novices on the topics. This is revealed early in the book. The second chapter, entitled "The Participants in the Wars," gives a brief capsule biography on the major players on both sides. Many vintage artworks and photographs, some directly from the Marines Corps' archives, are used to illustrate the matters at hand.

The beginning of the Seminole War, Ekardt explains, was a side effect of the policy of slavery. As he states: "There was much friction along the Georgia-Florida border as slave catchers ran back and

forth across the border retaking those escaped slaves as they could. This led to reprisals from the Seminoles who could attack plantations and settlements in north Florida and southern Georgia. This culminated in the start of the Seminole War when Major Francis Dade's command of over 100 men was attacked on the military road between Fort Brooke (Tampa) and Fort King (Ocala) and were massacred in December 1835." The major cause of the war would, of course, be from Indians who did not want to comply with Jackson's Indian Removal Act.

The author features in the book transcripts of actual newspaper clippings from the period, as well as correspondence from combatants like the Marine Corps leader, the previously mentioned Col Archibald Henderson, as well as other characters in the fray. He even got his hands on a private journal of Army COL William S. Foster.

It is astounding to learn that President Jackson thought the Marine Corps should be abolished, but he realized that his policies could only be put into place with the assistance of the Marine Corps, especially the policy of what would come to be known as "Manifest Destiny."

Ekardt also covers the topic of reset-

tlement in the chapter called "Indian Removal." The meat and potatoes of this chapter are excerpts from the writings of actual government forces involved including Marine lieutenants J.T. Sprague, John G. Reynolds, and Thomas T. Sloan.

Ekardt is not quick to rise to judgement as to the moral validity of the wars, as he states, "This work was not written to endorse or condemn what transpired, only to make a comprehensive compilation of what the Marines did during these years of conflict."

Ekardt writes the book in a clear-cut journalistic style. Ornamental trappings and fancy prose are nowhere to be found. Some readers might be put off by this plainness. But you've got to admit that vanilla ice cream, if it's done right, can be really good.

Joseph D'Alessandris

Author's bio: Joseph D'Alessandris is a freelance writer and musicologist who currently resides in Pittsburgh, Pa. He received a bachelor of arts from The Pennsylvania State University where he concentrated his studies on advertising and film history and criticism. 🍷

A Book Reviewer's Reading List

By Don DeNevi

As a book reviewer, I have devoted decades acknowledging the most superlative of military biographies and histories, and have not been better served by any publisher than the publication efforts of Casemate publishers.

Today, with more than 500 titles produced by more than 30 publishing houses in English text, the Casemate collection of authors, editors, and their titles say the same thing, namely "Writing well-documented, well-told biographies and histories for popular reading is enormously challenging. Our efforts are not merely presenting the ordinary. Our books are authentic, objective, of permanent value on one's bookshelf. Our authors are the foremost military historians in the world."

Receiving such works of authors who struggled researching, validating, harnessing insight and tempering feelings to write easy-to-read prose on extremely complex military subjects is virtually pure, unadulterated joy.

Although I focus exclusively on World War II subjects, I recommend the eight titles listed below as "Best Military Book Buys." Simply put, each of the following, exciting and irreplaceable, is a fascinating read.

Infantry Combat: The Rifle Platoon: An Interactive Exercise in Small-Unit Tactics and Leadership, by John F. Antal, 288 pages. An intensive way to learn light infantry tactics and small leadership tactics.

Girl With A Sniper Rifle: An Eastern Front Memoir, by Yuliya Konstantinovna Zhukova, 206 pages. An insightful, thoroughly absorbing, first-person account of being a successful Russian female sniper.

Operation Starlite: The Beginning of the Blood Debt in Vietnam, August 1965, by Otto Lehrack, 233 pages. A superb account detailing how regiment fought regiment on the Van Tuong Peninsula near the new Marine base at Chu Lai.

"The United States Marine Corps: The Expeditionary Force at War," by Paul Westermeyer, 160 pages. This cogent history charts the evolution of the Corps as it has adapted to changing combat over two centuries. Every Marine should carry a copy of this amazing statement in his back pocket for reference of what it means to be an elite warrior.

Why Soldiers Miss War: The Journey Home, by Nolan Peterson, 216 pages. What is it about war that soldiers miss? A provocative book that weaves together a wide range of stories focusing exclusively on war itself and what it means coming home and confronting another struggle all veterans share—the search for happiness.

Whispers in the Tall Grass, by Nick Brokhausen, 216 pages. His account of suicidal missions behind the lines in Vietnam is in the best tradition of military memoirs, startlingly alive, and showing the bonds between comrades.

Battle For Skyline Ridge: The CIA Secret War in Laos, by James E. Parker Jr., 216 pages. A rare look into the first substantive insider account of the largest covert military operations the CIA has ever run, including significant material heretofore classified "CIA Top Secret"—somber, provocative, vivid, and memorable.

Concorde: Supersonic Icon: 50th Anniversary Edition, by Ingo Bauernfeind, 208 pages with 300 photographs. The amazing story of Concorde lavishly illustrated, photos taken from its maiden flight in 1969 to the present. The Aircraft legacy and heritage is presented in great detail as one of the world's great aircraft.

Author's bio: Don DeNevi has been reviewing titles for Leatherneck and Marine Corps Gazette for the past 35 years.

Korean War Marine Accounted For

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Marine Corps Private First Class Billy E. Johnson, 21, of White Oak, Texas, killed during the Korean War, was recently accounted for.

In late 1950, Johnson was a member of the 1st Marine Division, attached to the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950, after the enemy attacked his unit near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. After the battle, his remains could not be recovered.

On July 27, 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American servicemembers killed during the Korean War. The remains arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Aug. 1, 2018, and were subsequently accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for identification.

To identify Johnson's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA and autosomal DNA analysis.

Today, 7,607 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by Korean officials, recovered from Korea by U.S. recovery teams, or disinterred from unknown graves.

DPAA

Sgt John E. Adams, 89, of Greeley, Colo. He enlisted in 1950 and served with 1stMarDiv in Korea for 13 months where he saw action at the Chosin Reservoir. After the war, he returned to the family farm, raising dairy cows and pheasants. He was a member of the American Legion.

Howard "Howie" Anderson, 76, of Ashwaubenon, Wis. He was a Marine who served from 1961-1964.

Robert L. "Bob" Atkins, 89, of Little Rock, Ark. He enlisted in 1947 and initially served on Guam. He later was assigned to the 1st Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv and made the landing at Inchon during the Korean War. He later fought at the Chosin Reservoir.

1stLt William H. "Bill" Beresford, 86, of Mattituck, N.Y. He served in the

Marine Corps after his 1955 graduation from Fordham University. He played baseball for the Hawaii Marines team.

CWO-4 Lee A. Boise, 83, of Jacksonville, Fla. His 30-year career in the Marine Corps began in 1953. He served at Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton and Okinawa. He was an MSG Marine at embassies in Turkey and Sri Lanka. He also served three tours in Vietnam.

Henry A. "Hank" Burkel, 79, of Silver Cliff, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his high school graduation and served four years.

Sgt William J. Cleland, 83, of Albuquerque, N.M. He served with 1stMarDiv from 1954-1958. He later earned a degree in accounting and had a 33-year career with the Department of Education.

Elizabeth S. Darton, 94, of Rutland, Vt. She was a Marine who served during WW II.

MSgt Donald A. Duffus Sr., 94, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He transferred from the Army to the Marine Corps in 1942 and served for 20 years. In 1943 he was assigned to 1stMarDiv and participated in four amphibious landings: New Guinea, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa. He served in Korea from 1951-1952.

Abel M. Grace, 95, of Mattapoisett, Mass. He enlisted during WW II and completed his training at Montford Point. During the war, he served in the Pacific and saw action on Guam, Saipan and Okinawa.

SSgt Samuel J. Grimes, 63, of St. Joseph, Mo. He served from 1975-1986. He was assigned to 3rdMarDiv and later 2nd MAW. His brother is also a Marine.

Robert E. Harding, 96, of Yarmouthport, Mass. He enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II and served with 3rdMarDiv in the Pacific. He saw action on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima.

Col Herbert N. Harmon, 74, of Stafford, Va. He was wounded while serving in Vietnam with 2nd Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv. He was a board member of the Young Marines and was one of the "founding fathers" of the Marine Corps Marathon. He was in charge of publicity and community support in the early years of the marathon.

Sgt E. Bruce Heilman, 93, of Richmond, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1944 and served with 2nd MAW and 6thMarDiv during the Battle of

Okinawa. After the war, he completed his education, earning a doctorate. He was the president and chancellor of Virginia's University of Richmond for many years. He was a member of the MCA&F and was a good friend to *Leatherneck*. He was featured in the magazine in 1986 and more recently, in 2008, where at age 82 he is pictured atop his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, which was adorned with a Marine Corps emblem.

James C. Irwin, 87, of West Chester Township, Ohio. When the Korean War began, he left college to enlist in the Marine Corps.

William R. Lamb, 92, of Beaverton, Ore. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his high school graduation and served in the Pacific during WW II.

Lewis A. Langdon, 90, of Conway, S.C. He enlisted in 1946 and served until 1950.

Maj Scott E. Lark, 96, of Clinton, Md. He enlisted in January 1942, one month after Pearl Harbor was attacked. His 25 years in the Marine Corps also included service during the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Thomas J. Lazarz, 83, of Livonia, Mich. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War.

John G. Ledes, 93, Katonah, N.Y. He was a mechanical engineering student at Columbia University when he gave up his scholarship to attend Yale University in the Marine V-12 program. WW II ended before he completed his training. When was recalled to active duty during the Korean War, he survived a plane crash while traveling in a transport aircraft from MCB Camp Lejeune to the West Coast. He later earned his law degree from NYU and had a successful career in the cosmetics industry. He was the editor and publisher of several industry trade magazines. He was a good friend to *Leatherneck*, and his V-12 program experience was featured in the December 2017 issue of the magazine.

Robert "Bob" Ledvina, 78, of Pilsen, Wis. He enlisted in 1959 and served for seven years. He later had a 30-year career as a dairy farmer.

John D. McCurdy, 102, of Des Moines, Iowa. He was a Navy Seabee who served in the South Pacific. He landed at Bougainville with the 2nd Raider Bn. He also made a landing on Guam with the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade.

Clifford A. McKenzie, 77, of New York, N.Y. He was a combat correspondent who served in Vietnam.

PFC Eugene “Gene” L. McLinn, 97, of Edina, Minn. He was a machine gunner with 2nd Bn, 25th Marines, 4thMarDiv during WW II.

SgtMaj Cecil McNair, 68, of Richmond, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1971. During his 30-year Marine Corps career, he served in Vietnam and was a DI at MCRD Parris Island. He was an active volunteer with the Salvation Army and the McGuire VA Hospital.

John “Jack” Melotte, 84, of Bellevue, Wis. He enlisted in 1954 and served for two years.

LtCol John “Jack” R. Merrill, 88, of Portland, Ore. He was assigned to Camp Lejeune from 1953-1956. He later had a long career in local government while continuing to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve.

John J. Miller, 91, of Bradenton, Fla. He enlisted in 1945 and served until 1949. He was a past commandant of his MCL detachment and was a member of the MCA&F.

PFC John L. Moon, 103, of Macomb, Ill. He enlisted after the attack on Pearl Harbor and fought in the Pacific. He saw action as a BARman with the 5thMarDiv on Iwo Jima.

LCpl Robert J. Morrissey, 77, in Roseville, Calif. He served from 1959-

1963 and was assigned 2/5 at Camp Pendleton and 1/9 at Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Vernon E. Nelson, 94, of Eau Claire, Wis. He enlisted in 1943 and fought in the South Pacific, seeing action in the Marshall Islands and Okinawa, where he was wounded.

Cpl Eugene A. Osborn, 92, of Brooklyn, Mich. He enlisted in 1943 and went to boot camp at MCRD San Diego. He saw action in the Pacific, including during the Battle of Okinawa. After the war, he had a 46-year career in the railroad industry.

Cpl Ronald H. Schampers, 78, of Green Bay, Wis. He was a Marine who served for four years.

Capt Leonard R. “Shifty” Shifflette, 89, of Rockingham, Va. He served for 21 years and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of the MCA&F and was a good friend of *Leatherneck* magazine for many years.

Shirley M. Speake, 84, in Portland, Ore. She was a Marine who served during the Korean War.

Sgt Victor A. Stevens, 86, of Chelsea, Mich. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War. He helped establish MCL Det #414 and was a member of the MCA&F.

Maj Herbert J. “Fritz” Werner, 91, of San Diego, Calif. He enlisted in 1948 and served two tours in the Korean War seeing action at Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir. He spent 22 years as an enlisted Marine and was a master gunnery sergeant assigned to 1st Bn, 9th Marines, 3rdMarDiv in Vietnam in 1968 when he accepted a field commission. He retired in 1985, having served for nearly 37 years. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat “V.” He was a member of the MCA&F.

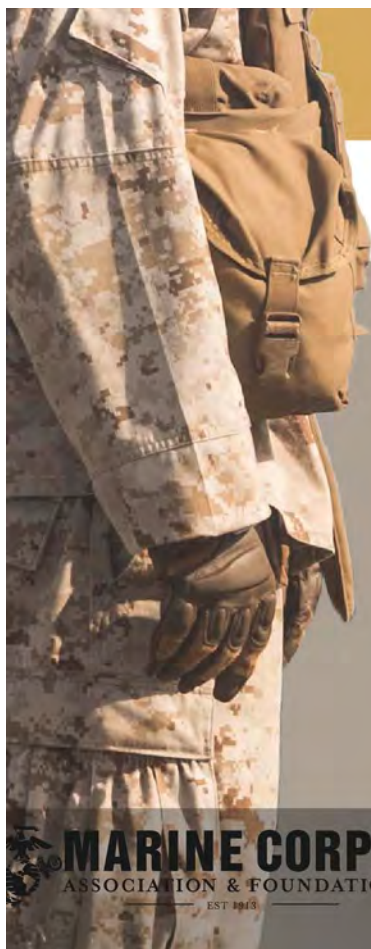
Elizabeth (Steele) Whitbeck, 98, Minneapolis, Minn. She enlisted in 1943 and served until 1946 as a flight school instructor.

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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SOUND OFF
[continued from page 8]

see the official government website: <https://www.cbp.gov/careers/bpa>. To see the Old Gunny's (that's me) website along with an online forum where you can talk to other applicants and on-duty agents, see: www.HonorFirst.com.

GySgt Ray Harris USMC
Las Vegas, Nev.

West Loch Disaster

Recently I heard from a friend who went to Pearl Harbor and found out about what has come to be known as the West Loch Disaster. This is what happened to me that May 21, 1944.

My outfit was 2nd Armored Amphibian Battalion and we had arrived on Maui in early May 1944. We got to see our new tanks which were better than the ones we had at Boat Basin, near Camp Pendleton. After some work on the LVTA4s, the DUKWs were taken from the ship as well as most of the Marines and Navy personnel. A fellow Marine, Ernest Lund, wasn't feeling well so he stayed on board as did I. Lund went down below and I got in the shade of an LCT that was anchored on deck. I had a paperback book and began to read. I don't know how much later but

there was an explosion and I was hurting on my chin and back. I had been knocked out from the explosions but had no idea for how long. I immediately thought of Lund and went below to try and find him. I heard later that he had died.

I had been aft but came up forward and saw lots of guys in the water swimming to safety. I tossed all the life preservers overboard that I could find. At no time did I see anyone else on my LST. Guys from the front of another LST that was across the water kept yelling at me to jump into the water. I swam to the ramp of the open LST and was pulled up. A corpsman looked at me and said he would give me a shot of morphine but I said I didn't need it. I took two steps and collapsed. Zing, the morphine went in. I was taken to the naval hospital where I was cleaned up and my cuts treated. I was at the hospital three days before I convinced the doctor in charge to let me get back to my outfit. I was taken to a new LST that was all set to go. A replacement for me was already on board but I kept my position as radio operator, machine gunner and assistant driver. I had a rather difficult time going up and down ladders because of my bad knee but that exercise was good for my knee and it never bothered me after healing.

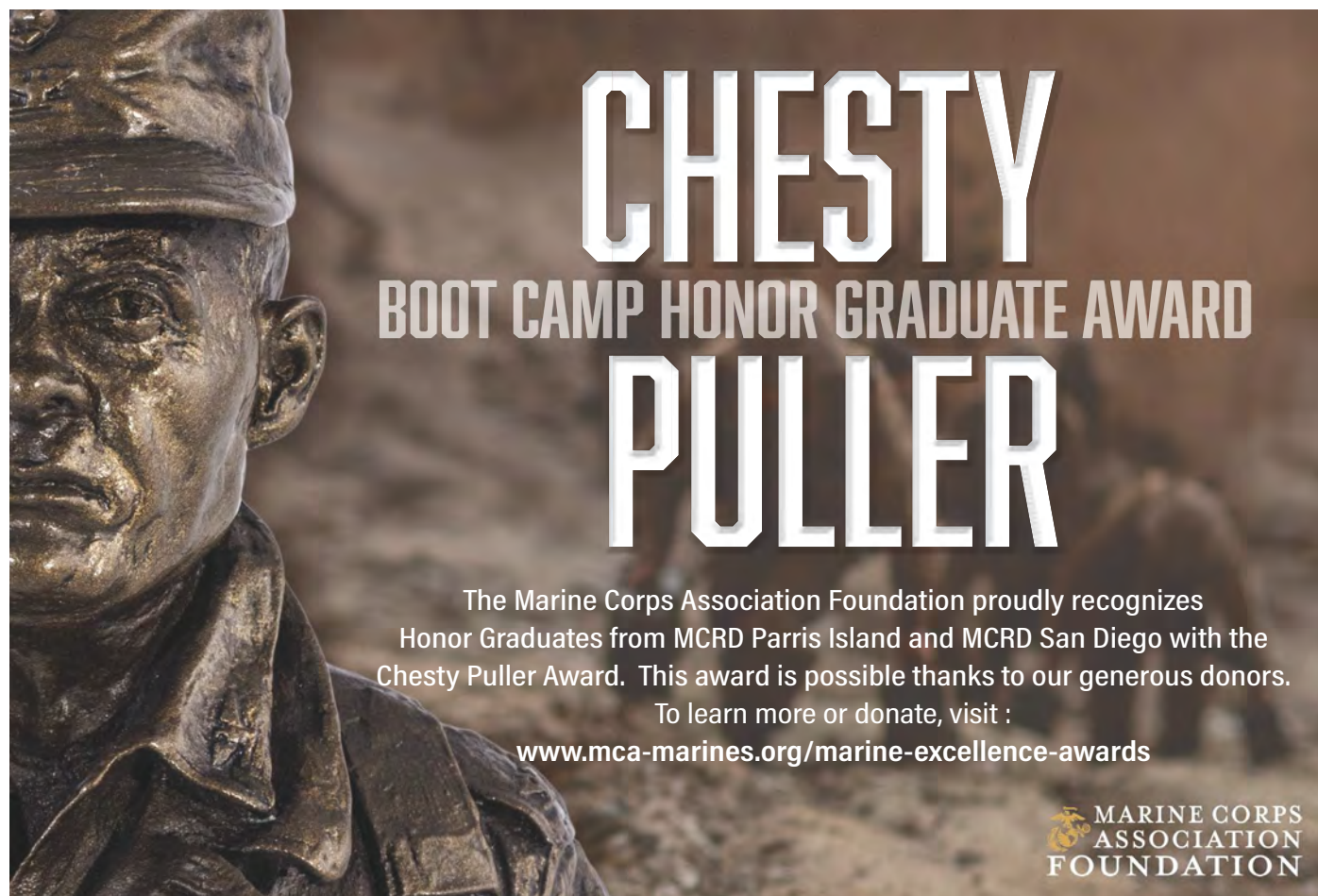
One other thing of interest was the presence of Marines from the 2nd Division being aboard. They were to go to the beach in the amphibian tractors. They billeted on deck and since I didn't like being below in a crowded bunk area, I stayed topside with them. We were soon underway to Saipan. I got distracted from what had happened but I never forgot that day and all that had happened. I later learned LST 353 was the first one that exploded.

Eugene R. Lewis
Silver City, N.M.

All In A Day's Work

On Aug. 2, 1969, while flying missions southeast of Cua Viet, Vietnam, near Dong Ha, our aircraft received a radio message that a pilot of an A-4 aircraft was about to crash into the South China Sea. Since we were in the area for a rescue, the pilots of our YL-25 aircraft headed for the ocean. We could see the pilot dangling from his parachute as we were approaching the area with his aircraft making a big splash. Seconds after he was in the water, the first helicopter moved over him to pick him up, but the hoist didn't work. The first aircraft moved aside and our aircraft moved in over him.

If our aircraft experienced hoist problems, the plan was for me to go into the



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JOEL "DOC" DANIELS

LCpl James Slater stands in front of his YL-25 helicopter at LZ Dong Ha after he and his crew rescued a pilot who had crashed into the South China Sea, near Dong Ha, Vietnam, on Aug. 2, 1969.

and inflated his floatation devices. The man had his stuff together well before hitting the water.

We flew him back to Dong Ha and dropped him off on the flight line and then departed to continue with our missions. We asked him if we could have his D-ring from the ejection but he smiled and held it close to his heart. A memorable day.

LCpl James "Jim" R. Slater
USMC, 1967-1971
Indianapolis, Ind.

water to assist if the pilot was injured. Our pilots later said they were going to put the wheels in the water if necessary to get the downed pilot into our aircraft. One way or another, he was going to be retrieved.

In moments, we hoisted the pilot up into

our aircraft and left the scene. He was a very happy man, to say the least. I never could find out his name. I'll never forget when this pilot hit the water. In a flash, he cut his parachute away, released a strong yellow dye in the water, popped a smoke,

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



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ANZAC Day

APR 25-MAY 8

50th Anniversary of VN War
I-II-III-IV Corps Delta to DMZ

MAY 16-25

WWI Doughboys &
Devil Dogs French U.S.
Battlefields & Paris

MAY 27-JUN 9

76th Anniversary D-Day &
Battle of the Bulge plus Paris

JUN 1-9

76th Anniversary D-Day:
Normandy to Paris

JULY 2-12

Russia WWII Eastern Front
Moscow, Stalingrad & Kursk

AUG 1-10

WWII Pacific "Turning the
Tide" Battle of Guadalcanal

AUG 24-SEP 3

Vietnam I-Corps "The
SgtMaj Returns"

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50th Anniversary of the VN
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Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn. (all eras)**, Jan. 27-31, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact June Cormier, (760) 763-3268, june.oldbreed@fmda.us, www.1stmardivassociation.com.

• **Iwo Jima Assn. of America**, Feb. 25-29, Arlington, Va. Contact Art Sifuentes, (703) 590-1292, rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org, www.iwojimaassociation.org.

• **Iwo Jima Veterans (Marines, Navy and all other WW II veterans)**, Feb. 12-15, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Dan Zepeda, 1052 W. Sunsong Ct., Ontario, CA 91762, (951) 201-6251, zepeda012@msn.com.

• **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans**, March 28, Punta Gorda, Fla. Contact Al Hemingway, (941) 276-8222, www.welcomehomevietnamvets2020.org.

• **Marine Air Traffic Control Assn.**, Sept. 23-27, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Steve Harris, (509) 499-8137, sandkh2@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Aviation Assn. Don E. Davis Squadron**, March 19-22,

Jacksonville, N.C. Contact Jim Rodgers, rogers77oki@yahoo.com, www.avlogmarines.org.

• **MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., (all units, 1978-1982)**, Feb. 7-9, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Contact Maj Stew Rayfield, USMC (Ret), ironmajor@gmail.com.

• **1st CEB/Super Breed Assn.**, Feb. 15, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Phil Bryant, 31700 Via Cordoba, Temecula, CA 92592, (760) 696-1642, admin@superbreedassociation.com.

• **11th Engineer Bn, 3rdMarDiv**, Aug. 10-16, Washington, D.C. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 532-2963, genethemarine@gmail.com.

• **I/3/7 (all eras)**, April 22-25, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695, dennisdeibert8901@comcast.net.

• **3d 155s, M/4/12, 3rdMarDiv**, Sept. 13-17, Branson, Mo. Contact SgtMaj Gordon Niska, USMC (Ret), (770) 868-8694, sniska@windstream.net.

• **Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, Task Force Leatherneck (2009-2010)**, May 1-3, Quantico, Va. Contact reunion committee, taskforceleatherneck@gmail.com.

• **Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (40th anniversary reunion)**, March 2-3, MacDill AFB, Fla. Contact LtCol Cal Lloyd, USMC (Ret), 16115 W. Course Dr., Tampa, FL 33624, (813) 417-4627, clloyd02@verizon.net.

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

• **TBS, Co F, 6-70**, April 30-May 3, Quantico, Va. Contact Tom Kanasky, (202) 366-3156, tkanasky@earthlink.net, or Mitch Youngs, (703) 493-9435, mitchyoungs@verizon.net.

• **TBS, Co I, 9-70**, Aug. 20-22, Quantico, Va. Contact Scott Kafer, 16436 Turnbury Oak Dr., Odessa, FL 33556, (202) 403-7680, scottkaf@mac.com.

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

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

• **VFA-125 (1980-1990)**, Sept. 15-17, NAS Lemoore, Calif. Contact MSgt Ben Spotts, (970) 867-8029, benjo1993@msn.com.

Mail Call

• James R. Williams, (910) 331-9645, marinel@rsnet.org, to hear from members of **Plt 373, Parris Island, 1967**.

• Charles Pagliarulo, (509) 834-0684, charliedory@gmail.com, to hear from **John RICHARDS or RICHERSON of Cherry Hill, N.J.**, who served with **2nd CAG Mobile Training Team** outside of **Hoi An, Vietnam, 1968**.

• Bill Ober, (631) 459-0062, marine traveler@verizon.net, to hear from Marines who served in the **1st Marine Drum and Bugle Corps at Camp Pendleton (San Mateo), 1962**, under the direction of drum major Sgt Calvin Cobb.

• John D. Underwood, 743 Wick Blvd., Woodbury, NJ 08096, (856) 845-7181, to hear from **drill instructors from Plt 163, Parris Island, 1958: TSgt J.T. ADKINS and Sgt J.G. MAINS**.

• Lynn Davis, dcmassing215@gmail.com, to hear from or about **James "Kelly" WILSON**, a Marine who was stationed at **MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., in 1960**.

• Milton McCarthy, (503) 810-6624, to hear from or about **Donald F. "Smitty" Smith** of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, **pictured below**, who served with **C/1/3 in Vietnam, 1966-1967**.



COURTESY OF MILTON MCCARTHY

• Norman Wahner, (215) 584-2834, nandb1131407@gmail.com, to hear from **recruits, drill instructors or officers from Plt 309, Parris Island, 1956**.

• Nathan Smith, Ka-Bar in Combat, P.O. Box 34, Quantico, VA 22134, stories@kabarincombat.com, to hear from Marines who are interested in sharing firsthand accounts of using **Ka-Bar knives in combat or in amusing situations** for a book he is writing about the Ka-Bar knife.

Wanted

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

• John Johnson, (417) 880-4073, freetrapp1950@yahoo.com, wants a **platoon photo and recruit graduation book for Plt 3327, San Diego, 1967-1968**.

• Rodney Miller, rmiller@akataglobal.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1076, Parris Island, 1988**.

• James R. Williams, (910) 331-9645, marinel@rsnet.org, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 373, Parris Island, 1967**.


• Jacqueline Giacomo, (918) 629-3836, tulsacop1969@sbcglobal.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 209 and Plt 223, Parris Island, 1946**.

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. 🐞

Leatherneck reader Milton McCarthy is trying to track down Donald F. "Smitty" SMITH, pictured here in Vietnam in 1967. The two served together in C/1/3, in 1966 and 1967.

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Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM

ONE WARBIRD'S TALE—The SBD-2 Dauntless dive-bomber, Bureau Number (BuNo) 2106, pictured above at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla., is an airplane with a story to tell.

Originally assigned to a Navy squadron, the Dauntless was in a hangar on Ford Island when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. As luck would have it, the aircraft was not damaged, and shortly thereafter, was loaded on board USS *Lexington* (CV-2), bound for the South Pacific. On March 10, 1942, Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Mark T. Whittier and his rear gunner Aviation Radioman Second Class Forest G. Stanley flew BuNo 2106 in a daring raid against enemy shipping in the area of New Guinea for which LTJG Whittier later received the Navy Cross.

The Dauntless was then transferred to Marine Scout Bombing Squadron (VMSB) 241, arriving on Midway Atoll in late May 1942, only days before the Battle of Midway.

With First Lieutenant Daniel Iverson as the pilot and Private First Class Wallace Reid as rear gunner, BuNo 2106 was one of 16 SBD-2s of VMSB-241 that attacked the approaching enemy force during the battle of Midway. "The Marine scout-bomber pilots and aircrewman of VMSB-241 made determined attacks on enemy shipping with great losses," said Hill Goodspeed, the historian for the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla. The enemy also inflicted significant damage—BuNo 2106 was one of only eight of the squadron's SBD-2s to survive the battle.

Some of the holes caused by enemy rounds are visible in this photo of the airplane (right) taken on Midway Atoll, June 4, 1942. 1stLt Iverson, pictured here standing on the wing of his battle-damaged Dauntless, was the recipient of the Navy Cross



USMC

for his actions at Midway and his gunner, PFC Reid, received the Distinguished Flying Cross. (Each Marine later received the Silver Star for their actions in the skies over Guadalcanal).

After the Battle of Midway, BuNo 2106 was returned to the United States, where it was repaired and assigned to the carrier qualification training unit at Glenview, Ill. On June 11, 1943, during an unsuccessful approach to the training carrier USS *Sable* (IX-81), the pilot of the aircraft lost power and had to ditch the Dauntless in Lake Michigan.

After being submerged for 50 years, the aircraft was recovered from the lake's cold water in 1994 and following extensive restoration, is now on display at the National Naval Aviation Museum. 🦅

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