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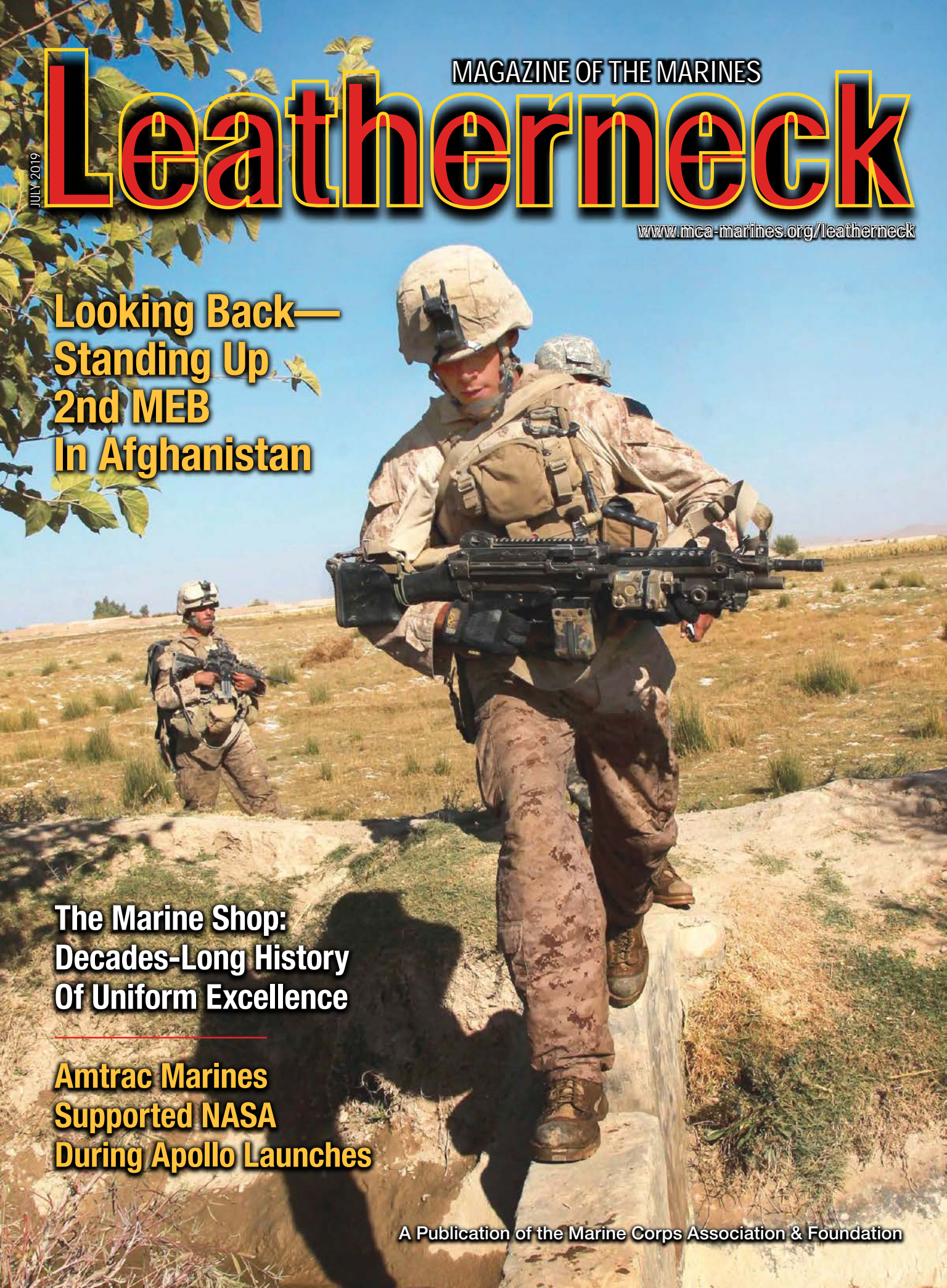
JULY 2019

**Looking Back—
Standing Up
2nd MEB
In Afghanistan**

**The Marine Shop:
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COVER: LCpl Daniel Vilalobos, "Bravo" Co, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment crosses a bridge during a security patrol in the Nawa District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on Oct. 20, 2009. Conducting counterinsurgency operations in partnership with Afghan National Security Forces in southern Afghanistan, 1/5 was the ground combat element of Regimental Combat Team 3. See "Afghanistan: 10 Years Ago: 2nd Expeditionary Brigade Deploys to Afghanistan" on page 48 to read more about the challenges faced in Afghanistan a decade ago. Photo by Cpl Artur Shvartsburg, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Letter of the Month

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

We are all familiar with Gold Star Families who have lost a loved one killed while serving in the Armed Forces, Blue Star Families who have loved ones currently serving, and Silver Star Families who have a loved one who has been injured while serving. Now there is another group of families—White Star Families. These families have experienced the suicide of a loved one who has served in the military.

The number of suicides, 20 to 22 per day, is not the point. One is too many. We know from school shootings: see something, hear something, say something. No different for suicides. Military or civilian—keep in touch with our brothers and sisters. If they don't show up for activities, call. If they are missing work, call. Don't wait.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs crisis line is available by calling (800) 273-8255 or you can text 838255 to connect with a Veterans Affairs responder or start a confidential online chat session or take a self-check quiz to learn whether stress and depression might be affecting you. Whether you are an active-duty servicemember, guardsman or reservist, don't wait. Let our brothers and sisters know we care, and that we love them and support them.

Cpl Ted Smith
USMC, 1960-1964
Sarasota, Fla.

Camp Hansen, Interesting Read

I just read the article, "Before There Was Camp Hansen," in the April issue. It was very interesting to learn its history and its naming. I was in "Bravo" Co, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines at Camp Hansen in 1959. We didn't know that it was once an airstrip. We were the only infantry on the base. Down the main street, the only street, there was a tank unit and across from them was an Ontos antitank unit. We were in several Quonset huts across from the mess hall. Thank you for the history.

Gerry Townsend
USMC, 1958-1962
Dayton, Nev.

I have long been reading about Camp Hansen, Okinawa and never knew anything about it or where it was on the island of Okinawa. Now I know that I was there.

In 1955 and early 1956 I was assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune with the military occupational specialty (MOS) of construction surveyor. I was subsequently ordered to Engineer School at Courthouse Bay and graduated with the MOS of combat engineer, demolition and mine warfare specialist. This was followed by an assignment as instructor at the demolition and assault ranges at Camp Lejeune.

In June 1956 I was transferred to Headquarters Company, 3rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, Camp McTureous, Okinawa, as a construction surveyor. At the time we had a training area on "the Rock" simply known as North Camp and a rifle range at Easley.

I recall being at the range for rifle qualification when a few of us were roaming the area and came across a cave. We entered the cave and found a group of human remains placed in a circle. Next to one of the remains was an automatic pistol. I recall it as being a Colt M1911 service pistol. We were somewhat perplexed at the discovery of the weapon. The skull of one of the remains contained a hole, obviously from a gunshot. We surmised the remains to be those of Japanese soldiers who had taken their own lives. I do not recall what happened to the pistol but I am sure we reported the incident to our command but further details escape me.

In regard to the noted *Leatherneck* article, I wonder if the cave referenced in the article could be the same as I described above. Memories have faded for all of us and as the author of the article stated, our ranks grow thin. Some incidents may never be fully substantiated.

I do not recall hearing of the incident regarding the detonation of the noted ammunition. As a member of Headquarters Co, 3rd Engineer Bn, I don't remember any explosive ordnance disposal personnel from 3rdMarDiv headquarters.

In order to justify my previous statement regarding the explosive ordnance disposal personnel, I offer another incident of my Okinawa experiences.

One day at Camp McTureous, I was cleaning a chain (steel measuring tape) at our surveyor shack when I looked up and saw several Okinawan men standing there. One of them said hello and I returned the greeting. He said that he and other "boysans" were cutting grass in officers' country. I said that was nice and he held up one arm in a throwing stance and said, "We find, how you say," and I said, "Hand grenade," and he replied "Hai." I told my "Top" and said I wanted to go take a look. I reminded him of my second MOS as a demo man and he gave me permission to go with the men. We found the grenade under a stone wall leading up to a tomb. After examining the grenade and finding it to be missing a fuse, I recovered the grenade and returned to show it to my Top. When I returned from a subsequent deployment to the Philippines, my "souvenir" was gone, probably now a paperweight on some old devil dog's desk.

From 1956 to 1957, the Okinawa landscape was still littered with various types of ordnance both live and otherwise and

LtGen David H. Berger Confirmed as 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Lieutenant General David H. Berger, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, was confirmed by the Senate promotion to the grade of general, and service as the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps, June 5.

Berger will replace General Robert B. Neller, who has served as Commandant since August 2015.

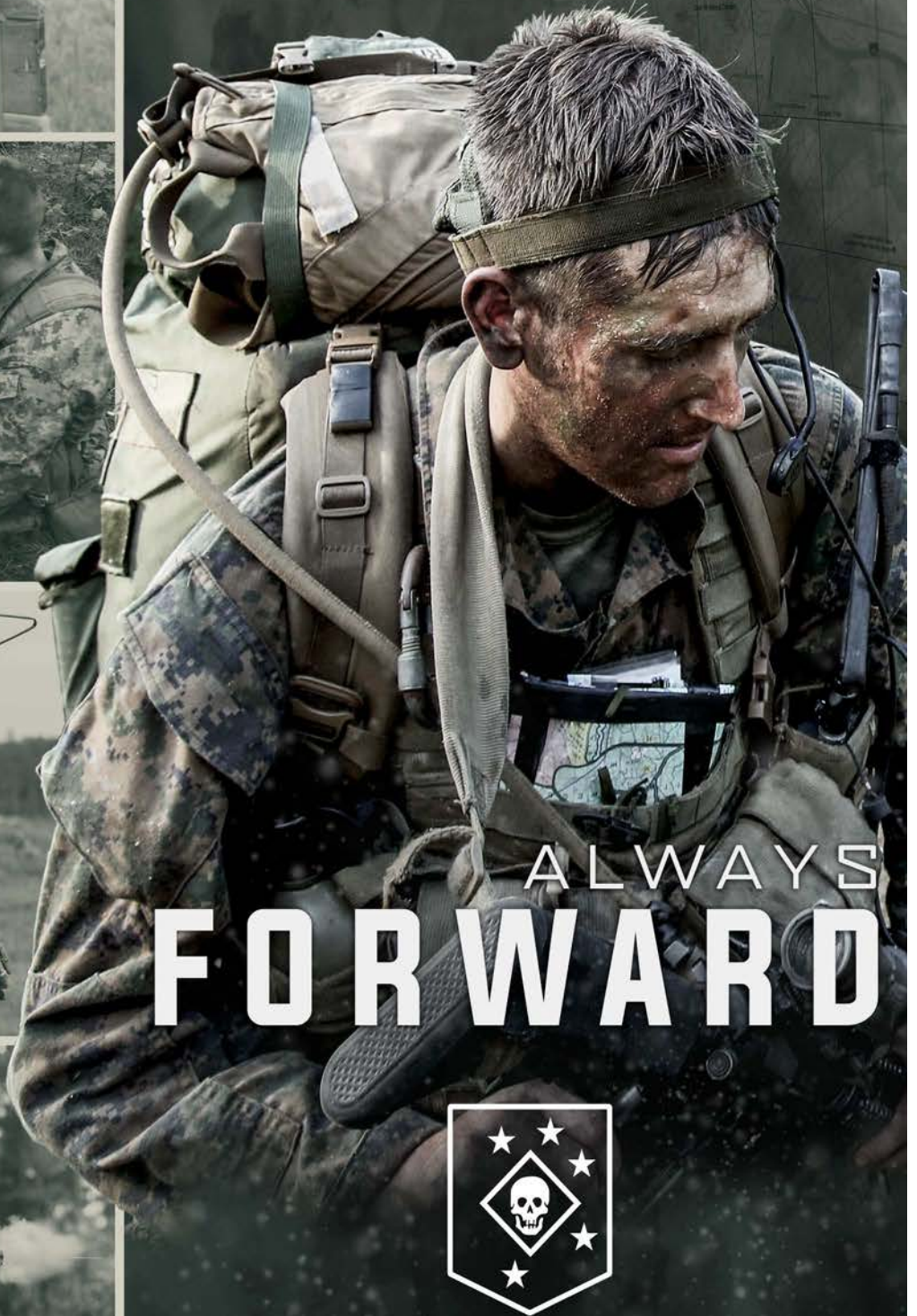
The change of office ceremony will be held in July at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.

Berger, 59, hails from Woodbine, Md. He graduated from Tulane University in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in engineering. Berger also holds a Master of International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and an M.S. in Military Studies.



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LtGen W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret)

Vice President/COO,
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Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret)

Publisher: Col Christopher Woodbridge, USMC (Ret)

Editor: Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

Senior Editor: Nancy S. Lichtman

Copy Editor: Jessica B. Brown

Staff Writer: Sara W. Bock

Editorial/Production Coordinator
Patricia Everett

Art Director: Jason Monroe

ADVERTISING QUERIES:
Defense Related Industries/Business:
Contact: LeeAnn Mitchell
advertising@mca-marines.org 703-640-0169

All Other Advertising Contact:
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Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134
Phone: (703) 640-6161, Ext. 115
Toll-Free: (800) 336-0291
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Phone: toll-free (866) 622-1775
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unlimited amounts of comm wire. I recall finding a Japanese mortar shell and dropping it down an abandoned well much to the dismay of my sergeant.

Regarding the typhoons mentioned in the *Leatherneck* article, I remember them well. We lived, ate chow, and received medical treatment in Quonset huts all tied down with the noted steel cables. Despite this, the unbelievable winds of the typhoons were able to lift the roof from the rest of the structure. I recall standing "roof watch" through the night in my hut in case the roof would begin to lift. While on my way to secure a paint locker, the wind tore the strap of my helmet in two and the helmet was gone.

As the *Leatherneck* article notes, that was a long time ago. Yes, there really was something there before there was Camp Hansen. Thank you, Major Bevilacqua, for making me realize I had been to Camp Hansen and did not even know it.

David J. Dickson
Reading, Pa.

A Continuing Duty

The Sound Off letter from MSgt Patrick Farmer, USMC (Ret), in the April issue, touched a nerve. We owe the next generation a duty to teach them of our history, our experience, and our Corps. Before long our older generation will be gone leaving our story to books and college professors.

When I was a youngster my neighbor told me of his Army time in the Civil War. As I get older I tell my great-grandchildren of Pearl Harbor, Iwo and Tarawa which I remember from school. I spent World War II in school; my time in the Corps would come later.

The point is, our history books give a page to WW II, a paragraph to Korea, and we know what they say about Vietnam. Marines, tell the next generation of Korea and the Chosin Few, of Tet and Saigon and those still there. Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, tell the next generation before you too disappear from the history books.

We owe this duty to our country, our Corps and our kids.

Bruce Sessa
Nampa, Idaho

Recon Doc

I was thrilled to read the article, "Recon Doc" by Kyle Watts, in the April issue of *Leatherneck*. I was one of the Navy corpsmen who volunteered once I got in country in April 1968. The article correctly pointed out corpsmen only served with Marine reconnaissance by volunteering. I was there when the success of the small unit operations had led to the expansion of the

1st Recon Battalion. This involved many Marines volunteering upon arrival in country. They, like me, had to learn on the job.

I was assigned to "Echo" Co and was picked up at the battalion aid station by Marine Corps legend First Sergeant Maurice Jacques. He took me into the company office and introduced me to the acting company commander First Lieutenant Peter Badger. Lt Badger took time to show me the Area of Operation under patrol by the battalion and gave me some words of wisdom, "Keep your mouth closed and do what you are told and we will keep you alive, Doc." He went on to explain I would be required to carry my weight and be part of the team.

I spent six very tough months with team Rio Grande, and we certainly had our share of tough times. Losing our platoon sergeant, Staff Sergeant Bill Rash, was the single worst moment for myself as a corpsman. You become so close with the endless time shared and bonded like brothers for life. I look back with great pride for my service with the reconnaissance Marines. Many of us are still in touch even today. I completely agree with the statement in the article that recon docs continually relate to the Marine Corps and not the Navy. Only those I served with can truly understand what it was like for me.

HM3 Robert Buehl
USNR, 1965-1971
Bluffton, Ind.

Marine F4U Corsairs

I totally enjoyed the article in the March issue of *Leatherneck*, "Marine F4U Corsairs, in the Early Days of the Korean War," especially the part on VMF(N)-513. After completion of boot camp and Infantry Regiment Training (ITR) as a "Hollywood Marine," my first duty assignment was with VMF(AW)-513 at El Toro commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Dewey F. Durnford Jr. During World War II, LtCol Durnford, then a young pilot, flew 49 combat missions during the Okinawa invasion and became an ace with 6 ½ confirmed kills. During the Korean War he flew 115 missions with another confirmed kill.

When I arrived at El Toro, the squadron was flying the F4D Skyray and was doing a lot of intense training in preparing for our deployment to Japan. We spent 10 days on USS *Lexington* (CVA-16) for carrier qualifications. In 1961, the squadron shipped out and started breaking records. The bulk of the personnel, myself included, boarded USS *Noble* (APA-218), while the squadron pilots started breaking records with the F4D. They flew from El

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Toro to Atsugi, Japan, with a combination of in-flight refueling island hopping across the Pacific and rest breaks for the pilots and maintenance checks on the aircraft.

While at Atsugi, VMF(AW)-513 broke two more records. In June 1962, a recall was sounded and they flew a total of 207 hours in a 25 hour period. Then in July of the same year the squadron flew 1,500 hours which included day and night missions in all kinds of weather.

By November 1962, we were headed back to the States, but with one less pilot and aircraft. It was a night mission over northern Japan when there was a malfunction in the F4D. I believe it was called "Pilot Alpha, Aircraft Alpha" which meant that both pilot and aircraft had paid the ultimate price in doing their job. The pilot was First Lieutenant John A. Chesney from Ohio.

Once back in the States I was assigned to Cherry Point. Seeing the well-known "WF" on a squadron of aircraft on the flight line I knew it was VMF(AW)-513, then flying the F-4 Phantom. I also found out that LtCol Durnford was then a colonel and working at wing headquarters. I visited him, but he didn't remember me personally—although he was pleased that someone had remembered him. He was as polite as always and we spent a good 30

minutes talking about the good old days at VMF(AW)-513.

Steve Thomas
USMC, 1960-1970
Olathe, Kan.

Marines Are Proud to Return to Where it All Began

I just wanted to take a moment to thank Sergeant Major Edward F. Neas Sr., for his letter in the April *Leatherneck* for standing up and sticking up for those of us who want to make one final visit or pilgrimage to places that defined who and what we are.

Visiting Camp Pendleton, Parris Island or "K-Bay" would be akin to a Marine visiting a battlefield he fought on or saying farewell to friends who didn't come home or closing out a chapter in their life. That is how we honor our friends, our country and our Corps.

Vince Fasone
USMC, 1986-1999
Lompoc, Calif.

Saved Round Readers Access Random Memories

I saw Saved Round in the April *Leatherneck*. Yes, we were cutting edge and then some. Among bases throughout the Corps, including DaNang and Okinawa, we

also put a large data processing center in Kansas City which was propelled by the needs of MMS and JUMPS. There were rows and rows of tape drives, as in your photo, and it seemed like an acre of IBM 2311 disk drives and IBM 360 Mod 65s.

We had one of the first CRT online data retrieval systems to allow rapid access to MMS/JUMPS data and a world class data network, AutoDin, that supported personnel data coming from all places in the Corps electronically. The staffing was huge and the talent was amazing. Two people who stand out in my mind as the crusaders of the early days of this beginning are General Samuel Jaskilka and Major John Jenkins. Looking back it feels like this era was the Manhattan Project for Marine Corps data processing and computer science and what it has become.

Major Jerry Hanks, USMC (Ret)
Sahaurita, Ariz.

While stationed at Quantico, Va., in 1958, I was transferred from Schools Demonstration Troops to "Dog" Co, H&S Bn. I was assigned to a unit named Machine Records Installation. This was the forerunner of electronic data processing, as it was later named.

It all started in the keypunch section

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where information was transcribed from documents into IBM punched cards. Each card held 80 characters of information. That was a lot of information at the time.

The IBM cards were sent to the next section which was comprised of electronic machines that would sort, reproduce, calculate results, collate, interpret print on the top of the card and finally to an electronic accounting machine that would, via a wired control panel, produce printed reports, payroll checks, etc.

At this time we were considered the height of electronic data processing at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. I was always amazed how a grunt was selected to be transferred to such a high-tech assignment.

After my release from active duty, I went to work for IBM in New York City and 40 years later retired from the IT field. I have observed the transition from the punched card system through all the systems and hardware in use today and what an amazing experience.

In 1962 I oversaw the installation of an IBM 1401 computer system. The hardware was so large it encompassed an entire computer room and had an extended memory size of 4K. The thought was we could never utilize that much memory ever. Fast forward to today and we're

seeing hand-held devices and thumb drives with capacities we never thought would exist.

As has been said by many Marines, I am where I am today as a result of my training and discipline from the Corps. Upon separation there wasn't much of a need for a machine gunner or rifleman in civilian life but there were plenty of opportunities in the data processing field and for that I am ever grateful to the Marine Corps.

Cpl John P. Tuohy
USMC, 1955-1959
Grand Blanc, Mich.

8-Hour Battle, 3 Navy Crosses, Two MOH

In response to Sergeant Thomas Payne's query in the April 2019 issue, he was wondering if this has happened before. Yes. In fact, it happened just 17 days before the battle you described east of Con Thien on Sept. 4, 1967, in the Que Son Valley.

In an eight-hour battle, an undermanned company in a totally exposed position were awarded two Medals of Honor, three Navy Crosses and numerous Silver and Bronze Stars with "V" for valor. The Medal of Honor and two Navy Crosses
[continued on page 64]

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Compiled by Sara W. Bock

KENITRA, MOROCCO EOD Training Proves Key Factor In Demining Efforts

U.S. Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response-Africa 19.2 participated in a Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) program with members of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces at Unite de Secours et Sauvetage Base, Kenitra, Morocco, April 1-26. The program is designed to assist partner countries in reducing landmines and explosives that threaten the civilian population.

In order to further this effort in Morocco, Marine explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians and a U.S. Navy corpsman trained with the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces for four weeks, instructing their Moroccan partners on proper ordnance disposal techniques and tactical combat casualty care.

“The goal at the beginning of the course was to conduct a refresher on basic demolition practices and ordnance identification,” said Sergeant James Roberts, an

EOD technician with SPMAGTF–CR-AF. “We were here to instruct HMA level two, which teaches the students about fuse functioning and how to conduct reconnaissance and research on an ordnance item.”

After the refresher training, the Marine instructors put their Moroccan Royal Armed Forces counterparts through multiple complex scenarios to test their knowledge of the subject matter and to have the students make decisions in real time.

“We started off in the classroom with a quick overview of HMA level one,” said EOD technician Sgt Efrain Moreno. “During the second week we went into depth on how fuses function. This type of training gave the students a deeper respect for how ordnance items work.”

During the scenarios, the students would go down range with their gear, conduct reconnaissance on the inert explosives and take measurements and pictures in order to get a good understanding of the type of ordnance they were dealing with. After the students executed reconnaissance of the inert items, they returned to the classroom

to reference their learning material. The students would then rehearse procedures to dispose of the item.

“A lot of the scenarios were designed to have the students dispose of the item, either by [notionally] blowing it in place or moving it,” said Staff Sergeant Jay Lorenzo, an EOD technician with SPMAGTF–CR-AF. “We wanted to ensure they had a firm understanding on how to dispose of the item properly and determine the safest way to do that. If they had to move the item, then they had to determine how to move it and the safest way to go about moving it.”

The trainers also incorporated medical training into the HMA course, which included tactical combat casualty care and combat lifesaving skills. This allowed the students to gain experience dealing with combat-related injuries they could encounter during an EOD scenario.

“We taught the basic combat lifesaving skills, how to improvise and how to treat specific casualties,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Andres Caldas, USN, a corpsman with SPMAGTF–CR-AF. “The students were very receptive and they wanted to know more. They were eager to learn and they liked the hands-on experience.”

While the students and instructors enjoyed their time together and learned from each other, the importance of the training was not lost. Both the U.S. and Moroccan servicemembers were well aware of the dangers associated with the job.

“In the end, it’s about sacrifice,” said Warrant Officer Lee Bowden. “Every piece of ordnance destroyed equals another life saved.”

Capt Clayton Groover, USMC



CAPT CLAYTON GROOVER, USMC

A Marine with SPMAGTF–CR-AF discusses detonating cord emplacement procedures with a member of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces during HMA training in Kenitra, Morocco, April 22. The Moroccan servicemembers trained with U.S. Marines on identifying and properly disposing of explosive ordnance.

ARABIAN SEA Squadron Sets New Record For Monthly Flight Hours

April 30 was a historic day for the Marines of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 264 (Reinforced) as they set a record for most hours flown in a month. The squadron’s MV-22B Ospreys clocked in at more than 637 hours, and the squadron as a whole flew more than 1,266 hours.

Attached to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, the squadron flew to and from the *Wasp*-class amphibious assault ship USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3) and numerous nations including Iraq, Oman,



SGT AARON HENSON, USMC

Landing support specialists with the 22nd MEU brace themselves as an MV-22 Osprey with VMM-264 (Rein) prepares to detach a 1,500-pound beam as part of helicopter support team training at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, April 11.

Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait transporting personnel, mail, and cargo as it supported various exercises throughout the month of April.

“I don’t know if any ACE [aviation combat element] has flown that many hours before, but I’ve never heard of it if they have. They made me proud,” said Lieutenant Colonel Eric Keith, commanding officer of VMM-264 (Rein).

Their record surpasses by more than 100 hours a previous record set by VMM-165 during the month of January in Kuwait.

“This was among the highest operation tempos I have ever participated in,” said Sergeant Isaac Hutchins, an MV-22 crew chief. “We were flying through chow hall hours and regularly spending eight hours a day in the plane with work to do before and after.”

Of the total hours flown, the squadron’s CH-53E Super Stallions flew 154 hours with a three-helicopter detachment, and the AV-8B Harriers flew more than 266 hours with a six-plane detachment. The

remaining hours were flown from the *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock ship USS *Arlington* (LPD-24), deployed in the Mediterranean.

“When you see that our squadron flew 1,266.2 hours in the month of April, we as maintainers see that it took well over 9,000 hours of documented maintenance to support,” said Sgt Alison Reinhardt, an airframes collateral duty inspector with the squadron.

Safety was emphasized and the maintainers worked diligently to support the mission and ensure the welfare of the crew.

“Every time we conduct maintenance on the aircraft, we think about the people flying the aircraft,” said Staff Sergeant Taylor Stevens, an MV-22B avionics technician with VMM-264.

According to Master Sergeant Guy Row, the squadron’s maintenance control chief, for every one hour of flight time there was an average of eight hours of maintenance performed on the MV-22s and 13 hours on the CH-53s.

Despite maintenance challenges and wait times for replacement parts, the squadron set the flight hours record without any mishaps.

“We were not only able to break the record, but we were able to do it safely,” said Reinhardt. “I strongly believe the Marine Corps does the most with the least amount, and safety has never been pushed to the side.”

Breaking the record is a feat the squadron’s Marines are undoubtedly proud of, but more important to them is what they gained as a unit from the teamwork, dedication and sacrifice that were required to accomplish such a task.

“Watching our Marines that are as young as 19 years old grow from being individual workers on singular jobs working together to accomplish multi-shift maintenance tasks, all to meet a legendary squadron goal, is something that really motivated our leadership,” Reinhardt concluded. “It’s a testament to our squadron.”

Cpl Tawanya Norwood, USMC



LCPL HARRISON RAKHSHANI, USMC

Above: LCpl Allen Yang, a radio operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, assembles communications equipment at White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, Japan, Feb. 1. During the 31st MEU's annual spring patrol, Marines in the S-6 section were responsible for keeping the MEU connected while conducting split operations.



LCPL HARRISON RAKHSHANI, USMC

1stLt Dakota Deter, a communications officer with the command element of the 31st MEU, stands in front of a satellite terminal on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, April 18. Tasked with connecting the MEU's geographically separated components, the Marines of the communications and data section also help prevent cyber attacks on the various networks utilized.

OKINAWA, JAPAN Communications Marines Keep 31st MEU Connected

For the first time in its 50-year history, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted split operations across a vast swath of the Indo-Pacific region during its annual spring patrol. Marines and Sailors dispersed across thousands of miles of ocean completed a series of complex amphibious maneuvers—called Expedition-

ary Advanced Base Operations—and planned and commanded from a central hub in Okinawa, Japan.

How does a 2,200-person unit connect its widely separated components, simultaneously planning, rehearsing and launching missions to flex its amphibious capabilities in one of the world's most strategic corridors? Ask the Marines in the 31st MEU's communications and data section (S-6).

“It takes a variety of communicators to provide complete command and control to the commanding officer and his staff officers,” said First Lieutenant Dakota Deter, Communications Platoon commander, 31st MEU.

The S-6, composed of Marines from a variety of occupational specialties including satellite communications operators and maintainers, cyberspace operators and radiomen, links each component of the 31st MEU together with expeditionary communications capabilities. In layman's terms, they connect decision makers to each other and to the outside world in garrison, at sea, and in the field, said Deter.

“Whether it's secured email correspondence, Department of Defense work or a Google search, it's going through us,” Deter explained.

The 31st MEU, which partners with the U.S. Navy twice each year for patrols of the Indo-Pacific region, trains and operates in a wide variety of littoral landscapes from the mid-Pacific west to the Indian Ocean and from mainland Japan south to Australia. Covering roughly 20 percent of the earth's surface, the Indo-Pacific region is vital to the interests of the United States and its allies, and the 31st MEU is forward deployed to address a myriad of possible crises at a moment's notice.

The S-6 Marines enable the 31st MEU's ability to remain forward, flexible and ready, according to Sergeant Jimmy Siackasone, who completed a patrol aboard USS *Green Bay* (LPD-20). While many Marines deploy as a small team, S-6 Marines often work independently, helping connect the MEU and prevent incursions from cyber threats.

“It's a lot of responsibility for one individual,” said Siackasone, a defense cyberspace operator who oversaw 150 users on the Marine Corps' network aboard *Green Bay*. While satellite communication operator-maintainers maintain connections on the ground, defense cyberspace operators build and protect connections at sea. As one of the few with permissions and technical know-how to regulate cyber traffic, Siackasone functioned as the gatekeeper of the ship's network, constantly checking for vulnerabilities.

“It's a highly, highly technical MOS, but our success as an organization also hinges on the routine services we need to do our jobs,” said Deter. Data systems administrators are responsible for the programming and configuration of practical applications and servers.

Without Microsoft Outlook, secured chat servers and Marine Online, operations both on and off ship can come to a

near standstill, and troubleshooting data problems can be time consuming. Radio operators, who are also an integral part of S-6, work around the clock on eight to twelve hour shifts on radio watch.

Weeks before anyone comes on board, the Marines of S-6 are hard at work configuring the ship's network for the upcoming deployment—and the pressure doesn't subside while underway. Inclement weather, technology failures and aging infrastructure aboard the ships present regular challenges to overcome.

"It only takes a few discrepancies to significantly degrade communications," said Deter, who added that in order to keep the MEU capable and connected at every level, the Marines of the S-6 have to be performing at their best.

Flawless and timely execution is only possible through the coordination of the whole spectrum of communications designations. Satellite communication operator-maintainers, data system administrators and radio operators rely on one another to do their part. The communication section is committed to keeping the 31st MEU intact and connecting Marines across the globe.

LCpl Harrison Rakhshani, USMC

YUMA, ARIZ.

MAWTS-1 Marines Test Ground Refueling System

Marines assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron (MAWTS) 1 tested the capabilities of the tactical aviation ground refueling system (TAGRS) while conducting forward arming and refueling point (FARP) operations in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course 2-19 from March 10 to April 30.

WTI is a seven-week course aimed at supporting Marine aviation squadrons through the development, testing and employment of innovative ideas and technology to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The Marine Corps began testing the TAGRS method of refueling in 2017 to see what improvements its capabilities provide support squadrons during FARP operations.

"One of the things that we provide from the aviation ground support community across the Marine Corps is the forward arming and refueling point operations," said Major Steven Bancroft, the aviation ground support department head for MAWTS-1. "The faster that FARPs can be established and repositioned in

support of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander's priorities, the faster it's going to enable the commander to accomplish their mission."

A FARP is set up by a support squadron and can have one or several distributive fuel points across a landing zone that enable aircraft to land and obtain both fuel and ordnance during a mission. The current method of refueling used by the Marine Corps involves a team of six Marines who assemble the helicopter expedient refueling system, commonly referred to as HERS.

"With a traditional FARP you have to worry about the embarkation and transportation of your gear to the landing zone," said Sergeant Angel Manzanoramirez, a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 371. "The TAGRS allows us to use the M-RZR Polaris ATV and trailer pump assembly to aerial insert the system right on-site, and once we get inserted it takes less than seven minutes to get set up."

The TAGRS can be transported by the CH-53E Super Stallion, MV-22 Osprey and KC-130J Hercules and has the ability to be driven up the ramp of each aircraft. Once it arrives at the FARP, the TAGRS

An AV-8B Harrier II awaits refueling in support of a FARP exercise during WTI 2-19 at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., March 29. During the seven-week training event hosted by MAWTS-1, Marines with MWSS-371 tested the capabilities of the TAGRS method of refueling. (Photo by Sgt Sean Berry, USMC)



comes back down the ramp and maneuvers to the established distributive fuel point where teams will begin the pump to fuel pod assembly stage and begin arming and refueling.

“The platform itself is on an M-RZR Polaris ATV that carries a team of four Marines and has a trailer with the pre-assembled pump on the back,” said Bancroft. “Putting it on wheels makes it easily deployable and enables it to be repositioned quickly if tasking requires.”

The M-RZR Polaris ATV allows the TAGRS team to operate expeditiously over rugged terrain, and the trailer’s ability to carry preassembled equipment makes for a smarter use of manpower and a shorter setup and overall refueling completion time.

“I believe we should start using this system because the Marine Corps is all about being expedient, and that is exactly what this system brings to the table,” said Manzanoramirez.

Pilots and crewmembers rely on support squadrons to ensure their aircraft are performing at their highest capacity. WTI 2-19 provided the support squadron Marines with the ability to test and validate various insertion and support methods.

“WTI provides a great opportunity to test the system against various type model series aircraft,” said Bancroft. “With this testing we are hopeful that in the future this method will be adopted into the Marine Corps.”

Sgt Brianna Gaudi, USMC

BERREIRO, PORTUGAL Combined Training Highlights Strength, Flexibility of Allies

Marines with “Bravo” Co, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in a combined Instruction Exercise 2019 with Portuguese Fuzileiros, March 25-April 10.

“It’s always a great opportunity to work with our NATO partners,” said First Lieutenant David Calves, Bravo Co executive officer. “The Marines and Fuzileiros quickly built strong camaraderie and working relationships, and we were able to complete a myriad of tasks together.”

The training began with a leadership challenge exercise, which integrated both units into small teams that worked together to solve puzzles.

“This was a great starting point for the training,” said Staff Sergeant Jason

Sasse, a platoon sergeant with Bravo Co. “We were all able to observe each other’s problem-solving capabilities and build that effective communication that is so important in combined operations.”

Within just a few weeks, the combined team faced more challenging tasks, and the Marines and Portuguese servicemembers were able to build upon their relationship through events that ranged from endurance courses and amphibious assault demonstrations to demolition ranges and live-fire combined assault exercises.

“We learned a lot from each other,” said 1stLt Brandon Kiel, a platoon commander with the company. “The relationships that were built over the last few weeks highlight the strength and flexibility of NATO.”

The final event of Instruction Exercise 2019 combined the platoons and tasked them with a noncombatant evacuation operation. After successful completion, the Fuzileiro and Marine team enjoyed a final meal together, exchanged parting gifts and cemented their strong partnership and successful integration.

SSgt Andrew Ochoa, USMC



SSGT ANDREW OCHOA - USMC

Marines with the 22nd MEU take cover while an interior strip charge explodes at a squad assault range during INSTREX at the Alcochete Firing Range in Portugal, April 5. Elements from the MEU participated in the exercise with Portuguese Fuzileiros to demonstrate interoperability and strengthen the partnership between the two allies.

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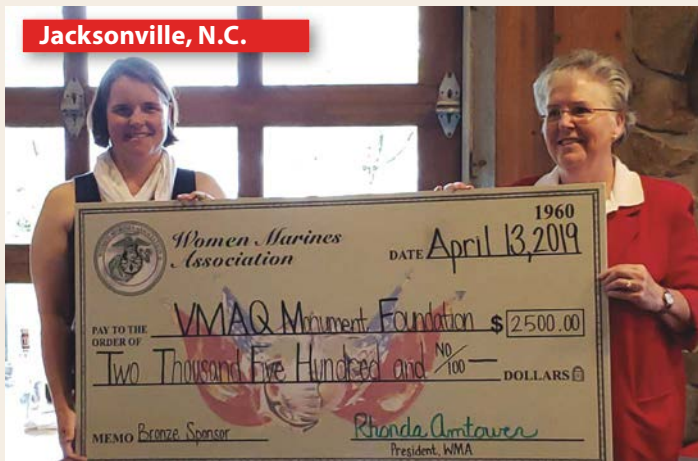
Washington, D.C.

MajGen Bolden Recognized for Lifetime Achievement

During a black-tie event in Washington, D.C., March 26, retired Marine Major General Charles F. "Charlie" Bolden Jr. was awarded the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum 2019 Trophy for Lifetime Achievement. The trophy, a miniature version of "The Web of Space," a sculpture by artist John Safer, recognizes outstanding achievements in the fields of aerospace science and technology and was presented by Ellen Stofan, right, the John and Adrienne Mars Director of the Museum.

Featured in an exclusive interview in *Leatherneck's* May 2018 issue, MajGen Bolden served as a Marine aviator in Vietnam; a Naval test pilot; a NASA astronaut who flew four space shuttle missions; and Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. He was appointed by President Barack Obama as the 12th administrator of NASA.

Submitted by Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum



COURTESY OF WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

Jacksonville, N.C.

WMA Makes Contribution to Prowler Monument Foundation

Through their generous support of the VMAQ (Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare) Squadron Monument Foundation, members of the Women Marines Association are doing their part to help ensure that the women who served in the Marine Corps' EA-6B Prowler community are honored as part of a new monument that will be built and donated to the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.

The monument will feature a Prowler pilot, aircraft mechanic and, notably, a female electronic counter measures officer (ECMO), which will be the first sculpture of a female Marine aviator in the nation.

Women Marines Association National President Rhonda Amtower, right, presented a check for \$2,500 to VMAQ Monument Foundation representative Lieutenant Colonel Melissa Pratt Kelley, USMC (Ret), left, in Jacksonville, N.C., April 13. The Marine Corps retired its last EA-6B Prowler squadron in March, and the VMAQ Monument Foundation was formed as a volunteer organization of veterans and supporters who are dedicated to preserving and honoring the history, legacy and memory of those who served in the Marine VMAQ squadrons for more than 40 years.

Submitted by Mary Ann Merritt



COURTESY OF MARK OSWELL

Nashville, Tenn.

Weapons Co, 2/3 Marines Reconnect Thanks to Social Media Platform

Marines and Navy corpsmen who served together in the 81 mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment from 1991 to 1994 at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, reconnected via Facebook and began holding biennial reunions in 2016. Pictured here in November 2018 at their most recent reunion in Nashville, Tenn., the group took to the gun range as part of the gathering during which they also celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday with a cake cutting and toast to Chesty Puller and all Marines and corpsmen deployed around the world. Their Facebook group has grown to include more than 60 Marines and two corpsmen, and they look forward to their next reunion in San Diego, Calif., in 2020.

Submitted by Mark Oswell



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Triangle, Va.

Two Leatherneck Articles, Authors Recognized with Prestigious Awards

The authors of two articles featured in *Leatherneck* during 2018 were recognized for their exemplary work during the 2019 Marine Corps Heritage Foundation awards ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., April 27. Pictured with General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green, 18th Sergeant Major of

the Marine Corps, are Marine veteran Kyle Watts, who took home the Colonel Robert D. Heinl Jr. Award for his articles “The Flying Ladder” and “The Flying Ladder a Reunion,” and Corporal Kyle Daly, who was presented with the Master Sergeant Tom Bartlett Award for his article “The Legacy of Holland M. Smith.” Gen Dunford also was among the individuals recognized that evening and was presented with the prestigious Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune Recognition for Exemplary Leadership.

Leatherneck




ABIGAIL WILSON

Quantico, Va.

MCA&F, Royal Marines Association Exchange Ideas

The United States Marines and British Royal Marines have long shared a strong bond, and their respective professional associations and nonprofit organizations are striving to do the same. The leaders of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation and its counterpart in the United Kingdom, the newly merged Royal Marines Association—The Royal Marines Charity, met at the MCA&F headquarters building on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., April 23, to exchange ideas about professional development and learn from each other about how to best support Marines in their respective nations. Following the meeting, Jonathan Ball, left, chief executive of the Royal Marines Association—The Royal Marines Charity, presented a plaque to Lieutenant General W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret), right, President and CEO of MCA&F.

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

Disaster Relief Mission



U.S. servicemembers from the Army and Air Force search through the rubble for buried victims of an earthquake disaster at Agadir, Morocco, March 1960. (Courtesy of National Archives)

Devastating Earthquake Prompts U.S. Military To Provide Relief in Agadir, Morocco, in 1960

By GySgt Brian Knowles, USMCR

Editor's note: The following article is the second-place winner of the 2019 Leatherneck Writing Contest. Major Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines, through the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Upcoming issues of Leatherneck will feature the third-place winner and honorable mention entrants.

On Feb. 29, 1960, the weather was warm and clear, as is typical of a winter evening in the coastal city of Agadir, Morocco. On this Leap Day, Moroccans were celebrating Iftar feasting in observance of the third night of Ramadan. Over the previous week, minor earthquakes had occurred but hardly disturbed the usual rhythms of life in Agadir. These small quakes were barely felt. Most

small tremors went unnoticed in a region known for centuries to be earthquake-free; however, a slightly stronger quake occurred just before noon, sending a jolt through the city and providing the only warning of impending danger.

Later that night at 11:41 p.m., a severe earthquake with a magnitude 5.7 and lasting roughly 15 seconds, devastated the city. Brutal ground motions lasted several moments and caused old masonry buildings to collapse. Even modern buildings developed structural failures, some with wall sections breaking loose and crashing to streets below. The newest hotels and apartments with reinforced concrete failed

and collapsed, burying hundreds of visiting tourists under twisted beams, shattered columns, and smashed concrete. Throughout the city, buildings crumbled into heaps of wreckage. Thousands of people were killed as plaster walls fragmented and concrete slab ceilings pancaked onto floors below. Thousands more were buried beneath collapsed structures and debris. It is estimated that between 10,000 and 12,000 were killed over the next few days. Another 10,000 were injured. The great loss of life and unbelievable damages to property and infrastructure overwhelmed basic emergency services. The earthquake put the population of 32,000 local Moroccans in a debilitating and hazardous situation.

Recognizing the dire need of the Moroccans, U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Samuel D. Mandeville Jr., the commanding officer of the Marine Barracks at Kenitra, Morocco, prepared 23 of his Guard Detachment Marines and 29 Marines of Air Transport Squadron VMR-252 for a rescue and relief mission. They stood by for official orders to commence the relief mission. Charles W. Yost, U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, received the formal request for assistance from the Moroccan government and forwarded the message through the State Department and to the Department of Defense. At 4:55 p.m. on March 1, 17 hours after the earthquake, U.S. military commanders for the region issued orders to provide relief efforts to the impacted area. With the relief mission authorized, Marines in Kenitra mustered in 25 minutes and departed in convoy. The quick response was instrumental in rescuing dozens of trapped survivors and easing the suffering of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of injured persons across Agadir.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter L. Williams led the Marine detachment. Within hours of departure, the 52 Marines were joined by 20 U.S. Navy personnel assigned to Port Lyautey Naval Base, 54 Air Force personnel from a Strategic Air Command (SAC) airfield near Rabat and an American translator from U.S. Embassy Rabat. Using pickaxes, flashlights, shovels and crowbars, rescue teams searched and recovered more than 300 survivors from collapsed buildings within hours of arrival. At the airfield in Agadir, 200-300 survivors were being treated by a Navy doctor and other medical staff.

Early the next morning, March 2, the Agadir airfield had been established as a base of operations for the impromptu relief force. From the airfield, rescuers were tasked out to the Moroccan Coordinating Agency, which began to lead operations. U.S. forces were directed to focus on res-



Above: In the aftermath of the temblor, Marines and Sailors work side-by-side to recover a casualty from a collapsed building.



Sailors use a bulldozer to clear rubble during relief efforts.

idental areas. Moving into their assigned search areas, they recovered 25 Moroccan survivors and an unknown number of fatalities buried under rubble. Additional supplies of water, canteens, blankets and clothing arrived for distribution.

It wasn't until 7 p.m. on March 2 that U.S. servicemen were told to stop for the night; however, only when no more voices could be heard in the ruins and the last of the daylight faded, did the Marines finally rest. Most had been awake for two days and in action for more than 24 hours. A second group of U.S. Marines

from Port Lyautey arrived to join the relief efforts led by First Lieutenant Orville R. Kartchner. Other U.S. personnel from Ben Guerir Air Base, Nouasseur Air Base and Port Lyautey Naval Air Station arrived as additional volunteers. Throughout the day, more than 100 U.S. servicemen joined the rescue effort, while exhausted men were returned to their respective bases. Total U.S. military personnel on site averaged about 140 per day throughout the mission. Due to the rapid deployment of Marines, Sailors, airmen and soldiers, an accurate count of exactly who and how

USS Newport News from the U.S. 6th Fleet arrived on March 3, 1960, and provided emergency supplies, helicopter transport, communications facilities and personnel for the relief effort. (USN photo)



many contributed to the relief efforts is unknown.

On March 2, President Dwight Eisenhower wrote a message of sympathy to King Mohamed V, King of Morocco:

“Your Majesty:

I have been deeply saddened by the news of the terrible earthquake which has caused so much loss of life and suffering at Agadir. Please accept the sincere condolences of the American people and myself in this great tragedy.

Dwight D. Eisenhower”

The response message from King Mohamed V, dated March 12, 1960, to President Eisenhower:

“His Excellency
Dwight D. Eisenhower,
President of the United States

We were particularly touched by the message of sympathy Your Excellency transmitted to us in your own name and that of the American people in connection with the disaster in Agadir.

We wish to express to Your Excellency and to your country, our friend, sincere appreciation for your deep concern over this tragic occurrence.

Mohamed V”



U.S. military cargo aircraft transported personnel, vehicles, and relief supplies from as far away as Germany, Italy, and England to support relief efforts in Agadir, Morocco. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)

On March 3, the mission continued in the early hours with all hands conducting search and recovery operations. Only fatalities were discovered. The count of deceased recovered for the day is unknown but estimated at several dozen. U.S. Army Europe coordinated the deployment of heavy equipment and personnel from the 39th Engineer Group arriving from

Ramstein, Germany. Company A, 79th Engineer Battalion arrived by airlift with full field and construction equipment. The engineers were flown to Agadir by Air Force C-119s, C-124s and C-130s of the U.S. Air Forces Europe’s [USAFE] 322nd Air Division. The engineers and heavy equipment greatly aided excavation and recovery operations. They also conducted

decontamination to restore sanitation and reduce sickness among the relief forces. The engineers installed a water purification system at the city's pumping station, donating the equipment to the Moroccans when the relief mission ended.

Flights from Europe were coordinated by the USAFE Headquarters Command Post at Wiesbaden, Germany. Greater command and control became essential in managing the various military flights through the international air traffic. Managing air transport of personnel, equipment and supplies from Africa, Europe and the U.S. was a complex problem that was dutifully managed to provide a smooth flow of logistics and personnel.

USS *Newport News* (CA-148), from the U.S. 6th Fleet, arrived on March 3 and provided emergency supplies, helicopter transport, communications facilities and personnel for the relief effort. *Newport News* had been sailing 75 miles northeast of Sicily on March 1 when ordered to render assistance in Agadir. Steaming 1,225 miles in 40.5 hours, the ship averaged 31 knots to arrive just two days later. Proving their outstanding seamanship, the Sailors added invaluable support to the relief mission. By 6 p.m. on March 3, as darkness settled over Agadir, the fatigued rescuers ceased operations and returned to the airfield and ship for the night.

On March 4, excavation and body recovery were halted by order of the Moroccan medical authorities. The hazards of recovering corpses—several thousand remained buried within damaged structures—had become too great for the recovery crews. Biohazards and the spread of disease from the decomposition became a serious issue and medical authorities determined it best to leave the remaining bodies buried to contain any spread.

By 9:30 p.m. on the 4th, all Marine and Navy personnel departed Agadir by air to Port Lyautey or returned aboard ship. Six Navy Seabees with a bulldozer and USAFE flight-line personnel remained to support of the Army's 79th Engineer Company, which assumed command of operations from the Marines. Astonishingly, survivors were still being located in the rubble up to 10 days after the quake. The soldiers from the 79th Engineering Battalion were the last of the U.S. military personnel to cease relief operations and departed for Germany on March 12.

During the relief mission, VMR-252's C-119s totaled 49 flights from March 1-7, 1960, with 270 flight crew hours and 400 ground crew hours. One flight of cargo was flown from as far away as Aviano, Italy. In total, they transported more than 103,335 pounds of equipment, supplies and personnel. U.S. Air Forces Europe



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force medical personnel provided first aid and evacuation to earthquake victims at an airfield in Agadir, Morocco, March 1960.

provided heavy-lift transport, airlifting U.S. Army troops and equipment. With 39 C-130s, eight C-124s and five C-119 aircraft, more than 575 tons of cargo, vehicles and 481 passengers were airlifted when flight operations ended on March 14. The supplies distributed included food, water, tents, blankets, ponchos, clothing, and medical supplies. The 316th Air Division Defense Control Center, located at Rabat-Salé Air Base, Morocco, coordinated much of the local airlift traffic. Throughout the mission, coordination of

the U.S. military was invaluable to success.

The international community responded to the event with swift aid and assistance. Spanish fishing vessels in Agadir Harbor first radioed news of the disaster to the outside world. Several European, American and African countries mobilized relief efforts immediately. Supplies were shipped from the United States, Spain, Germany and other countries. Moroccans quickly organized their efforts and coordinated the international relief. King Mohammed V himself surveyed the disaster and placed

THE U.S. AND MOROCCO

The Kingdom of Morocco and the United States share a long history of mutually beneficial accord. Morocco formally recognized the United States by signing a Treaty of Peace and Friendship on June 23, 1786. The treaty was valid for 50 years and was renewed in 1837, with subsequent agreements of friendship and cooperation. Today U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), located in Stuttgart, Germany, has responsibility for U.S. military interests and operations throughout Africa. The joint U.S. command conducts annual military exercises and counterterrorism partnership efforts with Moroccan military forces, working closely to safeguard both countries' national security interests. A friendship built on centuries of goodwill and solidarity will continue to endure and prosper.

GySgt Brian Knowles, USMC

Relief efforts included the air transport evacuation of earthquake survivors. Here, Moroccans wait for instructions to board U.S. Navy and Air Force cargo transports.

his son, Prince Moulay Hassan, in charge of all relief operations.

Several factors led to the severity and destructiveness of the 1960 Agadir earthquake. The shallowness of the earthquake focused ground motion directly toward Agadir. Few buildings within Agadir were constructed to seismic codes as the region was not known for seismic activity. No warnings were issued to prepare people for an earthquake. Agadir was far removed from international emergency aid and local emergency services were ill-prepared for the magnitude and destructiveness of the earthquake. The last known earthquake near Agadir occurred in 1731, which destroyed the town of Santa Cruz de Aguer. These factors all contributed to the devastation following the earthquake.

Within seconds of the ground motion, several square miles of Agadir were completely destroyed. One-third of the population was killed. Another third of the population was injured or incapacitated. Some sections of the city had 95 percent death rates. All structures suffered damage or were entirely shattered. The number of casualties will never be known as many bodies were never found or recovered.

In Morocco's desperate time of need, the U.S. offered as much assistance as it could and helped save countless lives. From March 1-12, 1960, Marines and Sailors from Port Lyautey, the crew of *Newport News*, airmen from airfields near Rabat, dozens of soldiers from units in Europe and American translators and staff from U.S. Embassy Rabat rescued injured, trapped and displaced civilians in one of



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

the most devastating earthquakes. Although not a joint mission by design, the U.S. military and Department of State integrated their efforts in the best application of their respective capabilities. The 1960 Agadir earthquake was an impromptu joint humanitarian mission that could compare well to contemporary relief operations. All U.S. personnel sent to Agadir performed an exemplary demonstration of their compassion, determination and professionalism. The men and

women who joined the relief mission can be proud of their efforts in easing suffering from the catastrophe.

Author's bio: GySgt Brian Knowles served with Communications Platoon, HQ Co, 3rd Bn, 24th Marines from 2001-2010. He then served in the Marine Corps History Division's Field Historian Branch. He is currently serving as a historian for public affairs, U.S. Africa Command.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

U.S. Marine guards speak with a local citizen in Morocco in 1960.



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This 1960 image shows Marines posing near a sign that reads, "Marine Barracks, 2nd Guard Company, Sidi Yahia, Morocco."

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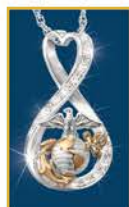
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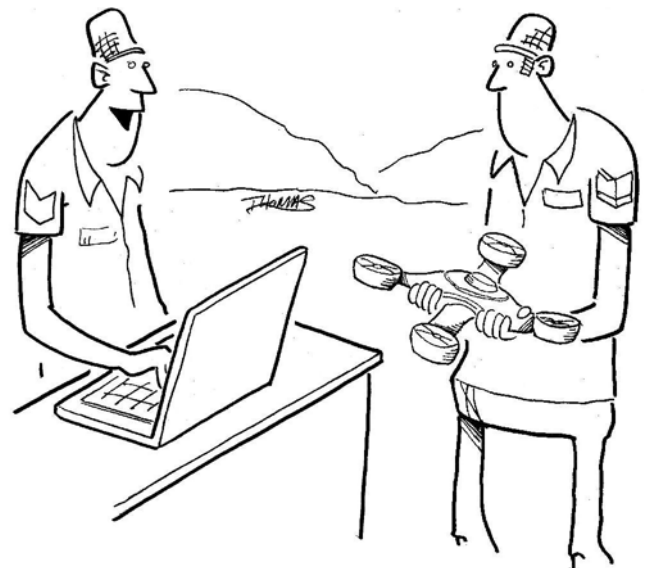
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"They're Marine dependents."



"... And FYI, it is customary for Marines to yell, 'Semper Fi,' not 'simplify!' "



"Yes, I am aware of the chain of command, 'Gunny.' "

KILGORE



COURTESY OF MAJ RALPH STONEY BATES SR., USMC (RET)

GUAM: America's Tip of the Spear

By Maj Ralph Stoney Bates Sr., USMC (Ret)

Above: A typical nighttime skyline on Guam as it appears today. The United States acquired the island from Spain after the Spanish-American war.

In the November 2014 issue of *Marine Corps Gazette*, Major Giuseppe A. Stavale wrote an article entitled “Living With Ghosts,” about the attitudes of the people of Japan—especially the people of the island prefecture of Okinawa, Japan—toward the U.S. military presence within their community. Stavale also described the need for our military and civilian personnel to better understand the attitudes and concerns of the local populations. The most powerful statement was contained in the first paragraph: “This is not a Service-specific gap in historical based perspectives of the Japanese human terrain; it is an American deficiency that deserves better attention.”

I commend him for his insight, research and proposals for better U.S.-Japan relations regarding mutual defense posture of our two nations. Marines are a major U.S. military force on Okinawa. Good military-civilian relations foster greater cooperation, while negative or strained relations can have unexpected and unplanned international ramifications.

The use of land by the U.S. military on Okinawa has been a point of contention for years between the U.S. and Japanese governments. During World War II, Okinawa was invaded, seized and occupied by the U.S. military in the spring of 1945, thereby

turning the island into a giant military cantonment from which the United States began preparing to invade Japan proper. After the war, the United States continued to control Okinawa until 1972, building a huge military presence and infrastructures on the island. Today, the U.S. military controls about 17 percent of the land use on Okinawa. Since 1972, treaties and agreements between Japan and the U.S. are the methods used in deciding what land may be used by the U.S. military on Okinawa and Japan proper. Understanding that on Okinawa prior to the war, land seized and retained for use by the American military was mostly privately owned, provides some insight into the attitudes of many local Okinawans. In some cases, these land holdings were owned by locals dating back dozens of generations.

Today, we continue to move our sights more and more toward the region of the western Pacific with concerns regarding our defense posture for military readiness for potential armed conflict. We as a nation, and especially the Marines and Navy maritime forces, should expand our understanding and familiarity with this geographic and political region. It is becoming a “hot spot.”

Another island community in the far western Pacific with U.S. military bases has similar, yet different, concerns regarding the U.S. military presence. Unlike Okinawa, where citizens are represented by their locally elected members of the Diet (national government) in Tokyo, thus creating national attention, the American island

In contrast, the American citizens of the U.S. Territory of Guam cannot vote in United States national elections.

of Guam has a totally different set of circumstances generating a similar American deficiency that deserves better attention. All Japanese 18 years of age and over may vote for their national representatives. In contrast, the American citizens of the U.S. Territory of Guam cannot vote in United States' national elections. Citizens of Guam are not represented by elected lawmakers in the U.S. Congress. Instead, U.S. citizens of Guam have a locally elected official with the title Congressional Delegate, actually an observer in the U.S. Congress, who may participate and vote in committees, but is not allowed to vote on the floor of the House of Representatives or the Senate.

Compounding the lack of representation, the citizens of Guam also cannot vote for the president or the vice president of the United States. Similarly, like Okinawa, land use on the American island of Guam has also been a point of contention between the native inhabitants of Guam—at one time U.S. nationals, now U.S. citizens—and the U.S. government since the end of WW II. Currently, the U.S. military controls one third of the land on the small (32 miles x 12 miles) peanut-shaped island of Guam.

The United States acquired the island from Spain after the Spanish-American war. Although the United States maintained a Navy and Marine force on Guam since 1899, the island and its people were not defended by the U.S. military at the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific—certainly not like Wake, Midway, the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines. There was no intent to defend Guam. Instead, after all but one of the U.S. military dependents and almost all U.S. civilian construction workers were safely evacuated from Guam in October 1941, Guam was left open to Japanese invaders. The naval governor surrendered all military and naval personnel to the Japanese landing force commander five hours after the first Japanese landing forces walked ashore on an undefended beach. The Chamorro natives, all U.S.



COURTESY OF MAJ RALPH STONEY BATES SR., USMC (RET)



COURTESY OF MAJ RALPH STONEY BATES SR., USMC (RET)

Above: Aerial view of what is now a portion of Anderson Air Force Base on Guam.

Left: Navy personnel gather in a picnic area on Naval Base Guam in 1945.

In 1950, Congress passed the Organic Act. It bestowed upon the citizens of Guam exactly what the citizens of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands had received decades earlier. They had American citizenship with no constitutional rights.



COURTESY OF MAJ RALPH STONEY BATES SR., USMC (RET)

Above: Military cantonments on Guam in early 1945.

Right: In August 2015, Marines from Marine Corps Activity Guam, participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Chaguian Massacre Memorial site.



LYN BATES

nationals, and six elusive American sailors were left to be captured, beaten, tortured, raped, and murdered for 31 agonizing months by Imperial Japanese military and naval forces occupying Guam. The few U.S. military and naval forces assigned to Guam at the outbreak of war, along with American civilians living or working on Guam, were sent to Japanese prisoner of war camps for the duration of the war.

With the threat of death as a constant companion,

the Chamorros of Guam organized into a secret underground cadre. Their mission was to protect the hiding sailors, listen to clandestine AM/FM commercial radio news of the war from America and Australia, thus keeping up the morale of the captive society anticipating the American forces' return to Guam, protect each other from Japanese reprisals and to defy, deceive, confuse and resist the Japanese. Most of the men and women of this underground network have never been recognized



COURTESY OF MAJ RALPH STONEY BATES SR., USMC (RET)

for their loyal contributions to the war in the Pacific.

In July 1944, America's military and naval might returned with a vengeance. The 3rd Marine Division, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade and the 77th U.S. Army Infantry Division stormed ashore on July 21 and 22 and declared the island secure on Aug. 11, 1944. Guamanians were overjoyed. Men and boys offered their support as guides and scouts. Later, some volunteered as a Marine Corps-controlled Chamorro Combat Patrol, hunting down the near 5,000 Japanese soldiers still alive, armed and dangerous. In 1972, the last Japanese soldier alive was captured by two Chamorro hunters.

After securing Guam, American military and naval forces took what was needed to continue to prosecute the war against Japan. Like Okinawa, land was simply taken, roads were built, cantonments, airfields, ports and headquarters constructed, fences erected and huge stockpiles of weapons and military hardware were stored for future invasions of islands and ultimately for the invasion of Japan proper. During these war preparations on Guam, no effort was made to uncover or document land ownership of any of the civilian population. After all, a war continuing to be fought took priority. As camps were set up to care for the civilian population, the people of Guam understood and accepted that fact. Then the war ended.

In the years after the war, the U.S. military con-

solidated its presence on Guam. Naval governors, who had ruled Guam since 1898, were reconstituted. Rules were established with deference to military objectives. As an example, no one could enter or leave Guam without clearance of the U.S. Navy. Although some compensation was made for loss of life, limbs, torture, etc. of local Guamanians, payment caps were kept artificially low. Hundreds of citizens from the Philippines were imported into Guam to fill jobs related to the defense industry mushrooming on the island. Wages for most civilian workers not from the mainland were also kept low. Then, in 1950, Congress passed the Organic Act. It bestowed upon the citizens of Guam exactly what the citizens of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands had received decades earlier. They had American citizenship with no constitutional rights. Only those rights granted by the Congress were bestowed upon its new citizens, including those who had maintained a loyalty to, and provided a service for, the United States throughout the Japanese occupation and during America's return.

The act also transferred management of the island and its people from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior. In 1968, the U.S. Congress also gave the people of Guam the right to establish their own local government and elect their own governor, finally leading toward economic growth.

The author, Maj Ralph Bates, at the site of the 1944 command post for the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade on Guam.

A secret underground cadre of local citizens, including Adolfo Sgambelluri, left, was organized on Guam during World War II in support of American forces. Sgambelluri's son, Adolph P. Sgambelluri, later served in the U.S. Marine Corps.



COURTESY OF LTCOL ADOLPH P. SGAMBELLURI, USMC (RET)

Guam's association with the U.S. military, especially the Navy and Marine Corps, dates back to the turn of the 20th century. The men of Guam were utilized as a local military force from 1901 until the Japanese occupation. Prior to WW II, it was referred to as an Insular Force. The U.S. Marines were the primary training and supervisory element maintaining the Chamorro Insular Forces. At one time, men were drafted into the Insular Force, but it became voluntary in the 1930s.

The Guam police department was part of the Insular Force and the members were utilized in the traditional role of civilian police but trained and supervised by Marines. These locals were paid exactly one half of the pay of a U.S. Marine or Sailor of the same grade or rank. Other than the Chamorro Combat Patrol, the Insular Force ceased

If a Guamanian moves to any state or to Washington, D.C., they have full constitutional rights; however, if they move back to Guam, they lose those rights. In short, we have two classes of American citizens,

to exist after the Japanese invasion; however, the Organic Act required all male citizens of Guam to register for the draft and they were drafted. Although the draft is no longer utilized with an all-volunteer force, men and women of Guam serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, by percentage of the population, in greater numbers than any other geographic-political region of the United States. Schools on Guam recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem (and the Chamorro Hymn) is sung at public events. They are proud of America; however, it is slowly changing.

Because of its strategic importance, the United States military has always had a great deal of control over decisions regarding Guam. Indeed, for

almost 400 years, Guam had been ruled by the military of Spain, the United States, Japan and the United States again. The transfer from military rule to civilian rule of Guam has evolved slowly in the past few years and some would suggest it is not fully complete. Many Guamanians have long sensed a "behind the fence" mentality within segments of the military and naval personnel serving on Guam. There also exist subtle undercurrents of growing resentment within some segments of Guam's population regarding their real or perceived attitudes of some factions of the U.S. military toward the citizens of Guam. It's somewhat subdued, but it exists. It is compounded by the "second-class" citizenship status clearly felt by many Guamanians.

The administration of President Gerald Ford attempted to address the issue in the 1970s with a move toward commonwealth status for Guam, but the idea died with a change in presidents. Interestingly, if a Guamanian moves to any state or to Washington, D.C., they have full constitutional rights; however, if they move back to Guam, they lose those rights. In short, we have two classes of American citizens, one with rights under the Constitution of the United States and another without those rights.

The second-class citizenship status was derived from a series of United States Supreme Court decisions made in the late 1800s and very early 1900s that the Constitution of the United States did not follow the flag of the United States. Bluntly stated, the Supreme Court of the United States did not feel that "natives" of acquired overseas territories deserved constitutional rights of U.S. citizens, deserving instead whatever Congress decided to be appropriate. That series of decisions, known as the Insular Cases, sealed the fate of all Americans who choose to reside in any United States commonwealth and/or territory. It is well past time for Congress to revisit this decision. It's been more than 100 years.

LtCol Adolf Sgambelluri, USMC (Ret), Chief of Police, Guam, left, met with Marine veteran James Webb in the 1980s.

Marine Corps combat units along with Navy amphibious vessels and crews are scheduled to return to Guam in large numbers in a few short years. These Marines and Sailors must be made aware of the environment to which they will be exposed. They must take steps to understand the feelings, ambitions, aspirations, dedication, sacrifice and dreams, past and present, of the American population they will be living among and have chosen to defend against any and all adversaries. The fathers, mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers of the current Chamorros of Guam defended Americans and American ideals during their darkest hours. Many paid with their lives defending the honor of America. Marines understand what that means. Since 1898, there has always been a special relationship between the people of Guam and the United States Marines.

Many years ago, during a Liberation Day celebration on Guam, the guest of honor, General Lemuel C. Shepherd, USMC, who had been the Commanding General, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, and later Commandant of the Marine Corps, was asked, “Was the sacrifice of so many American lives to liberate Guam really worth it?” He responded, “When I get to heaven, the men who died on Guam assuredly will ask me, ‘Lem, was Guam worth it?’ I will look them straight in the eye and say, ‘You’re damn right it was—they were fellow Americans.’ ” A weathered metal plaque stands at the U.S. Navy World War II Memorial Park aboard the U.S. Naval Base Guam with that



COURTESY OF LT COL ADOLF P. SGAMBELLURI, USMC (RET)

inscription. Indeed, the citizens of Guam are fellow Americans, and it was, and is still—worth it. Maintain that conviction.

Author’s bio: Maj Ralph Stoney Bates served on active duty for 26 years, retiring in 1981. He was an enlisted man, a warrant officer, and a commissioned officer. He was a drill instructor, criminal investigator, military police officer, and infantry officer. He is the author of “An American Shame: The Abandonment of an Entire American Population,” a book on the Chamorros of Guam before, during and after the Japanese occupation. 🇺🇸



COURTESY OF MAJ RALPH STONEY BATES SR., USMC (RET)

Governor Eddie Calvo, left, Lyn Bates and Ralph Stoney Bates, after Bates received an award from the governor of Guam for his book “An American Shame.”

Recollections of Colonel Edward A. Craig During the Recapture of Guam

By Dick Camp • USMC photos

Editor's note: The author used excerpts from LtGen Craig's typewritten "Note on Incidents of Service 1917-1951" to write this article. According to LtGen Craig, "The Incidents of Service have been selected from many which I have compiled from time to time ... to make a record of typical incidents in the life of a Marine Corps officer."

Prelude

In the summer of 1944, the United States had advanced across the Pacific in a two-pronged attack toward the Japanese home islands. The recapture of Guam, Operation Stevedore, was the last of the objectives in the Marianas and, from the standpoint of national pride, was the most important. Major General Roy S. Geiger's III Amphibious Corps was tasked to recapture the island. His force consisted of the 3rd Marine Division, composed of the 3rd, 9th, 19th (engineers and pioneers) and 21st Marines, totaling approximately 20,000 men, and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, composed of the 4th and 22nd Marines and supporting units with 9,886 men, as well as the U.S. Army's 77th Infantry Division.

The recapture of Guam had been a long-standing student exercise at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. Generations of Marine officers had passed through the demanding course. Colonel Edward A. Craig, the commanding officer of 9th Marine Regiment, was one of those former students headed for Guam and the "final graduation exercise." One of his classmates remarked during the landing, "It was a strange feeling to lay off the coast a few miles and recognize places on the beach ... I spotted a house I lived in before the war and observed it being demolished by our own shell fire."

Edward A. "Eddie" Craig

Forty-eight year old Edward A. "Eddie" Craig was a 27-year veteran of the Corps when he led the 9th Marines during the recapture of Guam. Operation Stevedore would be his second operation



MajGen Edward A. Craig

as regimental commander. During his years of service, Craig served in a variety of posts and stations including Haiti, Santo Domingo, Nicaragua (Guardia Nacional de Nicaragua) and China. He also served as aide-de-camp to Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune. In July 1943, he assumed command of 9th Marines from his old friend Lemuel C. Shepherd, who later became the 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Craig led the regiment during the Bougainville campaign for which he received the Bronze Star. He also received the Navy Cross for the Guam campaign. He was later assigned as Operations Officer, V Amphibious Corps for the landing on Iwo Jima. After the war, he became Assistant Division Commander for the 1st Marine Division and later served as Commanding General of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, which he led during the defense of the Pusan Perimeter. He retired on June 1, 1951, as a lieutenant general.

Japanese Defenders

The intelligence section of the III Amphibious Corps estimated that Guam was garrisoned by approximately 20,000 Japanese of 29th Division under Lieutenant General Takishi Takashima, the 48th Independent Mixed Brigade and

the 54th Naval Guard Force. The Japanese defenses were oriented on the western coast of the island around Tumon Bay, Agana and Agat.

Hitting the Beach

The 9th Marine Regiment landed in a column of battalions—3rd Battalion, 2nd Battalion, and 1st Battalion in reserve—over Blue Beach on the Division's right flank near Asan Point. 1/3 came under a deluge of Japanese small arms, mortar and artillery fire as soon as it came within range. Several amphibious tractors were hit as soon as they crawled over the coral reef that surrounded the island.

"I saw two tractors hit," Craig said. "It was just at this moment that motor shells started to fall around us. My boat officer, a brand-new ensign, refused to carry out my orders [to land] ... I told him, if he didn't carry out my orders, he'd be over the side! About this time, one of my sergeants jumped up and said, 'I'd be delighted!' So this ensign decided to go in."

The tractor reached the beach and the command group piled out and dashed forward through a tangle of fallen palm trees and demolished houses to several bomb craters, where they set up the command post (CP). Craig went forward with his adjutant, Captain Charlie Henderson, to find the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Walter Asmuth. Heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire swept the area, forcing them to take cover behind a low mound. "I was looking through my binoculars at the ridge ahead when [Henderson] suddenly toppled over across my knees, shot through the throat."

Craig continued forward after the severely wounded Henderson had been evacuated and discovered that Asmuth suffered an arm injury. As he returned to his CP, "Some stretcher bearers passed me and I recognized Captain Harry Barker, one of my best company commanders, lying on one of them dead." Upon reaching the CP, he found out that his executive officer had also been wounded and evacuated.

During a short lull, Craig remembered



Above: Marine M4 medium tanks led the way as leathernecks pursued Japanese soldiers wherever they found them during the recapture of Guam. Skirmishes and battles were often bitter melees that later saw American and Japanese dead side by side.

Left: LVT vessels off Guam, July 21, 1944.

It took two blasts to silence the Japanese in this cave on Guam. The first blast, shown here, sent debris skyward, but Japanese gunners from inside immediately opened fire again. A second charge was more than enough to do the job.



the tractors that had been hit. "I was sure it was from a hidden gun emplacement on the ridge ... sure enough, I saw a light puff of smoke on the side of the ridge, and it came from a spot not over 150 yards away." He pointed out the camouflaged position to a pair of 75 mm half-tracks. "The second and third rounds hit the target exactly and I could momentarily see parts of the gun and [Japanese] intermingled in a depression on the side of the ridge."

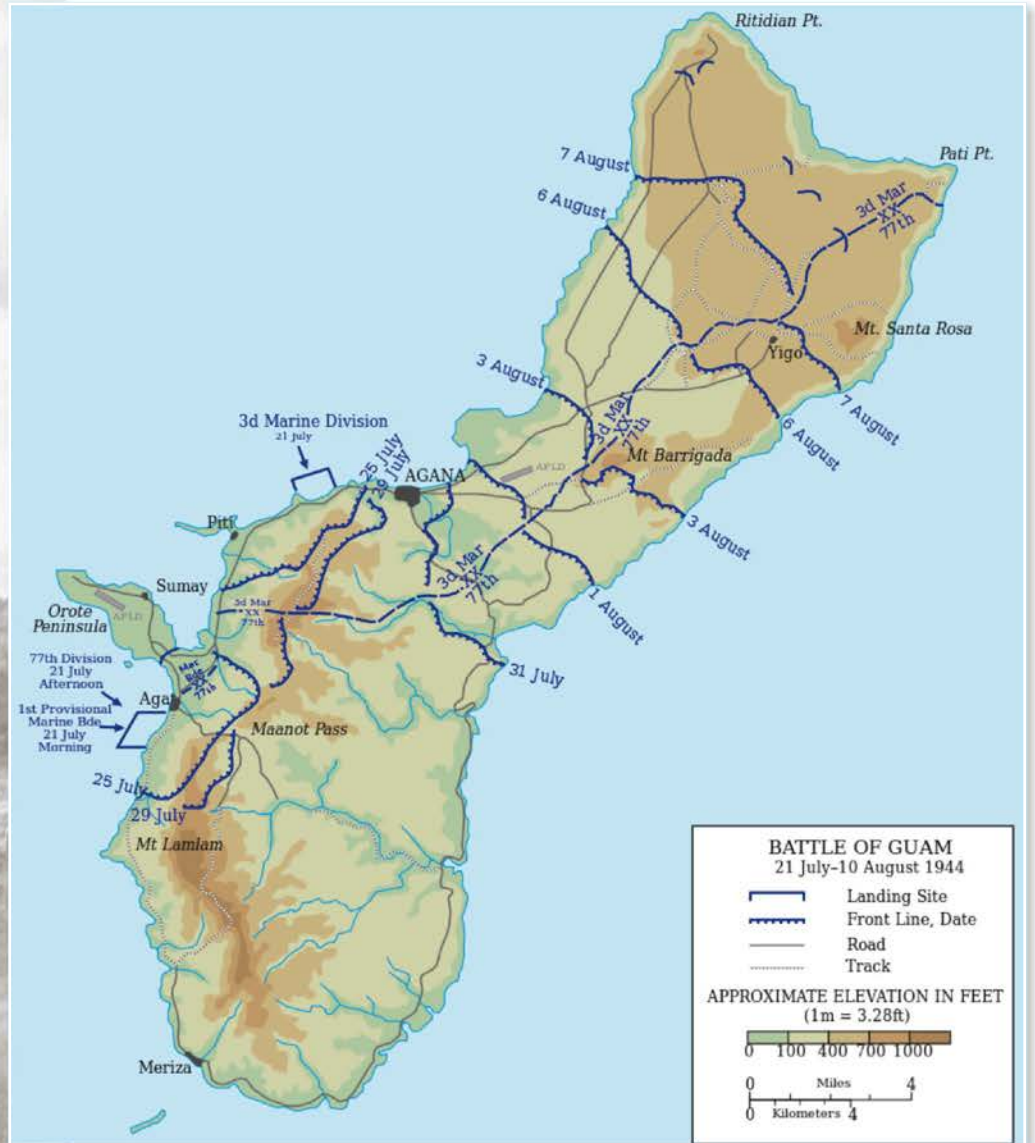
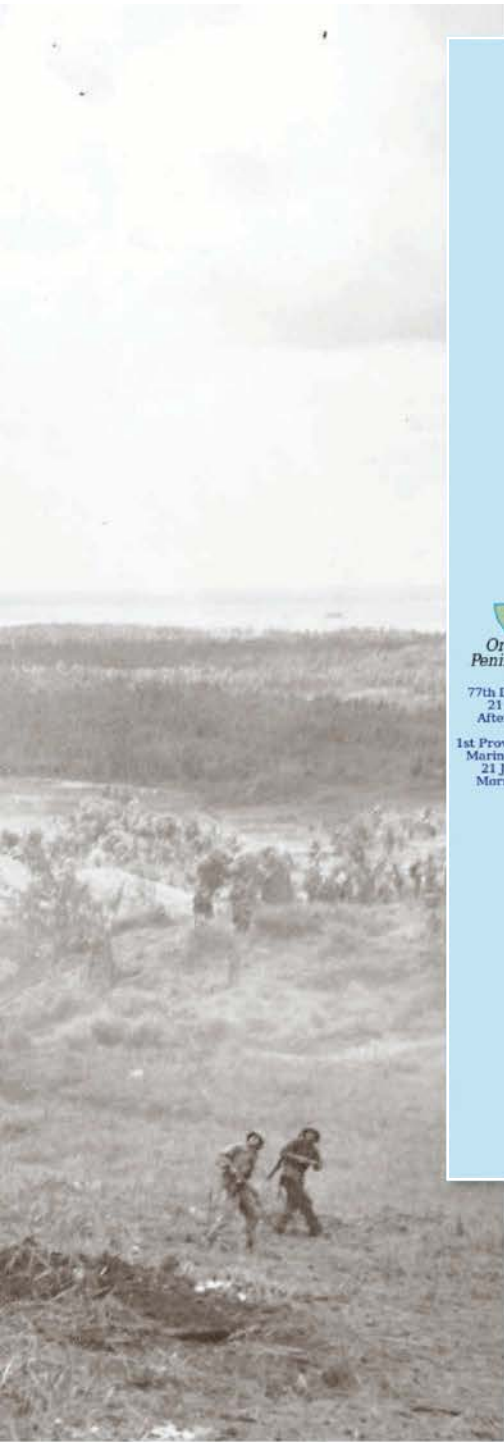
Bodyguards

Two Marines often accompanied Craig as bodyguards on his tours of the front lines. He said, "I have always been for-

tunate in picking drivers and runners. They were both fearless and outstanding Marines." One, Private First Class Arthur Highsaw, always positioned himself in front of Craig, using his body as a shield. "Highsaw was standing by me when he suddenly dropped his automatic rifle and spun around. He had been hit in the upper arm by a [Japanese] sniper. As he was carried away, he said, 'I'm sorry I crapped out on you like this, Colonel.'" Highsaw was evacuated to a hospital ship and Craig did not expect to see him again. "However, the next morning, he appeared with his automatic rifle ready to accompany me on my rounds of the units. He had escaped

from the hospital ship. He looked white and drawn and as I spoke to him, he fell over in a dead faint." Highsaw was evacuated for a second time, and that was the last time Craig saw him.

Craig was down to his runner, Corporal Walter Lamka. "Lamka and I were on our way from a company CP towards one of the platoons. Suddenly a machine gun opened up on us and we both hit the ground and rolled into a shallow depression. Every time we moved, the machine gun would fire at us, and the bullets were just grazing us. I felt we would never get out of it." A Marine patrol happened by and attacked the Japanese position from another angle.



“We rolled, got up, and ran into the jungle. We jumped into a Japanese gun pit that was surrounded by dead bodies. We landed right on top of them—and when the firing stopped, we got quickly out of the mess.”

Perils of Command

Craig learned that his right flank was being held up and went forward to see what he could do. “I always felt that a commander should be where his troops are held up and cannot advance. Being there he can take any required action on the spot and his presence sometimes steadies the situation.” He caught up with the right

Preregistered fields of fire made Japanese mortars and artillery very effective during the initial stages of the recapture of Guam. Marines and corpsmen treated a leatherneck wounded by fragments from an exploding Japanese 77 mm shell.

The President of the United States
takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to



COLONEL EDWARD A. CRAIG, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
for service as set forth in the following Citation:

For extraordinary heroism as Commanding Officer of the Ninth Marines, THIRD Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Guam, Marianas Islands, from 21 July to 10 August 1955. An Aggressive and inspiring leader, Colonel Craig constantly directed his men in combat in the face of intense enemy fire from the time of landing with the assault elements of his regiment until organized resistance ceased. On 30 July, charged with capturing a portion of high ground on the force beachhead line and making contact with the Army on Mount Tenjo, Colonel Craig remained with his leading assault elements during the entire advance and, by his coolness under fire, provided inspiration for his officers and men. Personally directing the final assault on Mount Chachao, he kept casualties at a minimum by his expert judgment. When of his battalions encountered heavy enemy resistance near an important road junction during the advance to the northern end of Guam on 3 August, he took a position beside a tank advancing with the assault troops and, despite a constant stream of rifle and machine-gun fire, fearlessly remained there throughout the entire action of several hours to direct the attack which annihilated several hundred of the enemy. His outstanding ability, courageous leadership and devotion to duty were important factors in the success of the campaign and reflect the highest credit upon Colonel Craig and the United States Naval Service.

flank platoon and was advancing with it when, “we received intense machine-gun fire from Asan Ridge, which was then to our right rear. Taking cover, we located the position, a concrete machine gun emplacement not over 25 yards away, and took it out.”

After watching the unit take the objective, Craig started back to his CP. “As I was walking along the road ... with Captain George Percy and a runner, I was surprised to look to my left and see a couple of Japanese soldiers who had just come out of a cave. One of them raised a square package in his hand and threw it at me. It landed some distance away and exploded with a terrific roar, knocking me off the road into a ditch filled with sharp stones.” Craig’s companions were farther from the explosion and did not get its full effect.

Several Marines came to the rescue, including a crew with a jeep-mounted antitank gun, which blasted the cave, killing the inhabitants. Craig was unhurt, but described being “severely bruised from the concussion, which really made [his] teeth chatter for a while.”

The regimental CP moved with the advance, often setting up just behind

the front lines. “It was sometimes more secure and safe than further back.” Craig personally selected many of the CP sites, usually in a location that placed him in a position to control the movement of his Marines. On one occasion, the CP was set up in the thick jungle at the intersection of several trails and road junctions. “Shortly after I had picked the place as a CP site ... a Japanese officer wandered into the middle of things and was shot as he started to pull his pistol. Later, a Japanese private was also shot ... at this important road junction.” Shortly afterward, Craig went forward to check on the advance. “About 300 yards up the trail, I noted a well-worn path leading to a knoll. Steps had been carved in the steep slope.” Craig stopped the jeep and got out to look it over. “I changed my mind and decided to get back in and continue to the front. Stopping a messenger, I told him to tell Major Lips [operations officer] to have a patrol investigate this area, and drove on to the front.”

Upon returning, Craig was surprised to hear the sounds of a small battle. The patrol he had ordered to investigate the knoll was heavily engaged with a large Japanese force and had suffered several

casualties. An Army battalion happened to be in the area. “I quickly explained the situation to the commanding officer and he immediately organized a full-scale attack. Quite a battle ensued and the Army suffered many casualties before the place was overrun. It was found that the main position was a huge concrete underground bunker with steel doors. Inside was a complete headquarters with communications. The place was so large that trucks were parked inside. It appeared that this was the secondary command post for the Japanese command on Guam. How thankful I was that I had changed my mind and decided not to investigate this interesting looking knoll.”

The knoll, officially known as Mount Mataguac, was attacked by infantrymen of the U.S. Army’s 1st Battalion, 306th Regiment. After a spirited assault using flamethrowers, white phosphorous grenades and massive charges of TNT, they overran the headquarters. The body of Lieutenant General Hideyoshi Obata, commander of the 31st Army, was found inside.

Tanks, Tanks and More Tanks

The 9th Marines advanced more than 6,000 yards and seized a critical road junction. Craig followed closely behind. As his jeep headed down a small valley, “We heard the sound of motors starting. Before we could locate the position of the noise, two enemy tanks rolled out of cleverly camouflaged positions on the side of the hill to our right and headed toward us firing machine guns and small caliber cannon. They were not over 100 feet away and I had visions of losing all my men who were in the immediate vicinity. A bazooka man ... and his assistant went into action immediately. With a calmness that was uncanny, they proceeded to knock out the tanks in quick succession!”

A couple of gutsy Marines jumped on the tanks, forced open a hatch and dropped hand grenades inside, finishing the crews. “We later found two well-camouflaged, unmanned tanks dug into the side of the hill, just a short distance away.”

During the advance toward the northern end of the island, Craig went forward to Tiyan Airfield, which had just been captured. “As I reached the southern end of the airfield, a Japanese tank suddenly appeared and cut right across my bow. It turned and started down the road towards the 2nd Bn assembly area. I had my driver follow it and was not over 150 feet behind. As it reached the battalion position, the top of the turret flew open and a Japanese officer started wildly firing his automatic pistol. The Marines were so surprised that the tank drove right through them and they didn’t fire a shot. The [Japanese] tank



Above: Leathernecks used flame throwers to burn out Japanese pill boxes. In a bit of irony, the Marines found themselves fighting on the old Marine golf course adjacent to the Marine Barracks on Guam's Orote Peninsula.



Marines raised the American flag on Guam on July 27, 1944.

continued on towards a jungle area and stopped. Three [Japanese] jumped out and fled. It was one of those incredible Japanese actions for which there is never an explanation.”

Fancy Meeting You Here

As the 3rdMarDiv's right flank unit, 9th Marines was tasked to make contact with Brigadier General Lemuel C. Shepherd's 1st Provisional Marine Brigade working its way north on the Orote Peninsula. Craig was anticipating making contact on July 26. "I was in great hopes of pushing ahead and making contact with the brigade by nightfall." Instead, he received an order to fall back. "I tried to argue against such a move ... however, I didn't get very far." Instead, he sent a patrol to make contact. "I was most happy when at 8 p.m. that night the patrol returned with a personal message from the brigade commander." The two finally made contact a few days later. "It was evening when General Shepherd ... came over to visit me. He had just arrived when a number of artillery shells started to land in the very near vicinity of my CP. We both ducked behind a cement wall and continued our conversation while sitting on the ground." The two old friends quietly reminisced in the midst of a shelling!

Tragic Ending

By Aug. 10, the end of the campaign was in sight—just one more push remained. Craig ordered a company to clear Peti Point and went along with them. "Nearing the point, we ran into a small group of enemy, and in the short skirmish, one of my men was killed and one wounded. It was a sad sight because the buddy of the man shot through the head went temporarily insane. He had just had too much and it was more than he could take. He ran screaming and hysterical into the jungle and it was some days before he was eventually found." Guam was declared secure on Aug. 11.

In 1949, Craig commanded the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade on Guam. His men captured two Japanese soldier holdouts. They surrendered after seeing a photograph of Emperor Hirohito with two American MPs standing near him. The two holdouts lived in a well-stocked cave near the officer's mess.

Author's bio: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of the Marine Corps History Division and a prolific author. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.

Head tailor Nhean Keo examines the fit of a Marine second lieutenant's dress blue coat at The MARINE Shop in Quantico, Va., Feb. 19.



ABIGAIL WILSON



Squared Away—

At The MARINE Shop, Uniform Excellence is the Standard

By Sara W. Bock

There's a soon-to-be-commissioned second lieutenant in the fitting area of The MARINE Shop at 300 Potomac Avenue in Quantico, Va., in early April, and she walks out of her dressing room wearing the newly redesigned female dress blue coat. The coat was made to order—constructed using her exact measurements, giving it the perfectly fitted, precisely tailored appearance that has long been heralded as the Marine Corps' signature look.

She steps up on the fitting platform in the center of the room and head tailor Nhean Keo helps her fasten the gleaming gold buttons. There's something mesmerizing about his movements and about the entire scene, as she looks into the three-way mirror and sees for the first time an image of her future as an officer of Marines.

Next, she is fitted for her white dress skirt. It's a bit loose and needs to be taken in. Quickly and adeptly, Keo gets to work measuring, marking and pinning the skirt. It's a task he's done thousands of times, and his expertise in tailoring Marine Corps uniforms is unmatched; yet it's evident that he views each customer as an individual and each uniform as a custom piece.

For Keo, it all began in 1982, when he moved from his home in Cambodia to join The MARINE Shop's tailoring staff,



ABIGAIL WILSON

Keo buttons the dress blue coat of a soon-to-be-commissioned second lieutenant in The MARINE Shop's fitting area, April 3. The recently introduced female dress blue uniform is the newest addition to The MARINE Shop's high-quality uniform offerings.

and was personally hired by the founder and then-president of the shop, retired Major Harry D. Elms Sr.

The introduction of the new female dress blue coat in the fall of 2018 is just one of the many changes Keo has witnessed over his nearly 40 years in the Marine Corps uniform industry and within The MARINE Shop itself. Since 2007, the store

Taken in the early 1980s, this photo shows the exterior of The MARINE Shop at 300 Potomac Avenue prior to the store's 2007 renovation after being purchased by MCA&F.

has been owned and operated by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation and has upheld the retail establishment's decades-long reputation for providing superior service and the highest quality uniform items in the Corps.

It's a unique business with a remarkable story that all began after Maj Elms, a mustang Marine officer and World War II veteran who fought at Guadalcanal and Bougainville, retired from the Corps in 1961. He had become an expert on Marine Corps uniforms and insignia over the last 13 years of his active-duty career by serving as executive secretary of the Marine Corps Uniform Board, which was established to regulate and improve the quality of all uniforms and insignia for the Marine Corps.

"There were many companies manufacturing insignia items that varied from vendor to vendor," said Elms' daughter, Pamela Scott, of the standardization issues that plagued the Corps in the late 1940s, when the uniform board was established. "He was also instrumental in standardizing the design of all insignia to meet strict specifications," she said of her father's accomplishments.

While serving on the uniform board under General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Elms would leave a permanent mark on the Corps by designing the official seal of the Marine Corps, which was approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in June 1954.



COURTESY OF PAMELA ELMS SCOTT

In 1959, Elms was responsible for the redesign and standardization of the Marine Corps emblem worn on uniform items, both enlisted and officer, the product of which is still used today. With unprecedented experience in the area of Marine Corps uniforms, opening a uniform shop post-retirement seemed a natural progression—but he didn't rush into it.

According to Scott, the newly retired major first spent an entire year evaluating the quality of available uniforms and the service provided to Marines by private vendors. Elms concluded that the current offerings were inadequate for all Marines, but especially



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

President Dwight D. Eisenhower presents the new Marine Corps Seal, designed by then-Capt Harry Elms, to Gen Shepherd, 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, during a White House ceremony on June 22, 1954. Though not pictured here, Elms was present at the ceremony.

for newly commissioned second lieutenants. The MARINE Shop, she said, was created to fill the “quality and service void” that Elms perceived, and the town of Quantico, or “Q-town,” was an optimal location due to the fact that Marines tend to return to Marine Corps Base Quantico often throughout their careers earning it the nickname “Crossroads of the Marine Corps.” Its proximity to Officer Candidates School, The Basic School, Marine Corps University, Headquarters Marine Corps and the United States Naval Academy made it an obvious choice.

Elms designed a store logo that incorporated the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, which he submitted to the Marine Corps for approval. The shop’s original storefront, located at the opposite end of Potomac Avenue from where it currently stands, included a tailor shop on the premises. Elms hired tailors from across the globe, primarily from countries like Hong Kong that had longstanding reputations for producing the finest tailors in the world.

Within the first few years, Elms designed a more fitted look for the dress blue uniform, which was approved by the Corps and became the standard. The Hirsch Tyler Company of Philadelphia, which at the time was The MARINE Shop’s primary uniform manufacturer, initially owned the store while Elms served as its vice president and general manager. The MARINE Shop quickly became known for offering the highest-quality uniforms and tailoring available to Marines.

“Eventually, because of Hirsch Tyler’s expansion into other markets, Harry purchased the business from the company,” said Scott.

In 1976, after a fire destroyed the Quantico Town Drug Store, Elms purchased that land to build a new MARINE Shop building at 300 Potomac Avenue. Opened in November 1979, the store continues to operate today.

Maj Elms acted as an adviser on uniform matters to each Commandant of the Marine Corps until he passed away in 2002, but The MARINE Shop was his true passion. He worked tirelessly, often seven days a week, determined to live out the shop’s longstanding motto of “Serving Marines Around the World.” The business was a family affair—over the years, all three of his children, Pamela, Harry Jr. (David), and Stephen worked at the shop in different capacities, and both of his sons enlisted in the Marine Corps after high school.

“It was his pride and joy,” said Scott of her father’s dedication to The MARINE Shop. “He never lost sight of his passion to make his customers feel proud to wear a MARINE Shop uniform that represented their service in the Marine Corps and to their country.”

Elms is remembered fondly by a number of employees whom he hired that are still on the staff today, including Keo and The MARINE Shop’s general manager, Pat VanZummeren, the spouse of a retired Marine, who began working in the store’s mail order department in 1984. VanZummeren worked for Elms on and off as her husband’s orders brought her back and forth from Quantico and permanently rejoined the staff in 2002. Elms earned a special place in his employees’ hearts and would encourage them to bring their children to work with them on days off school.

“He would take them out around town and buy them a treat,” said VanZummeren of her children’s relationship with Elms. “The kids basically grew up at The MARINE Shop.”

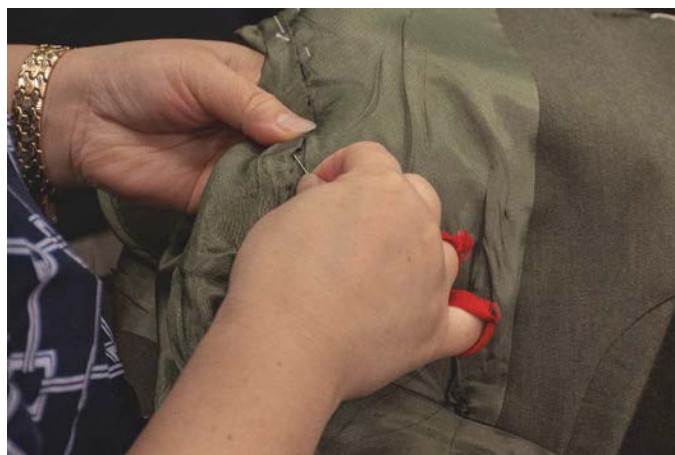
One of VanZummeren’s most treasured memories at the shop was watching Nhean Keo—who had watched her children grow up—fit her son, Troy, for his dress blues as he prepared to commission as a second lieutenant.

VanZummeren, who is an expert in Marine Corps uniforms in her own right, attributes much of The MARINE Shop’s success to the vast connections Elms made in those early years both



COURTESY OF PAMELA ELMS SCOTT

For The MARINE Shop displays and special events, Elms, pictured here with a second lieutenant in 1997, often wore this red vest and navy blue blazer with an embroidered Marine Corps emblem.



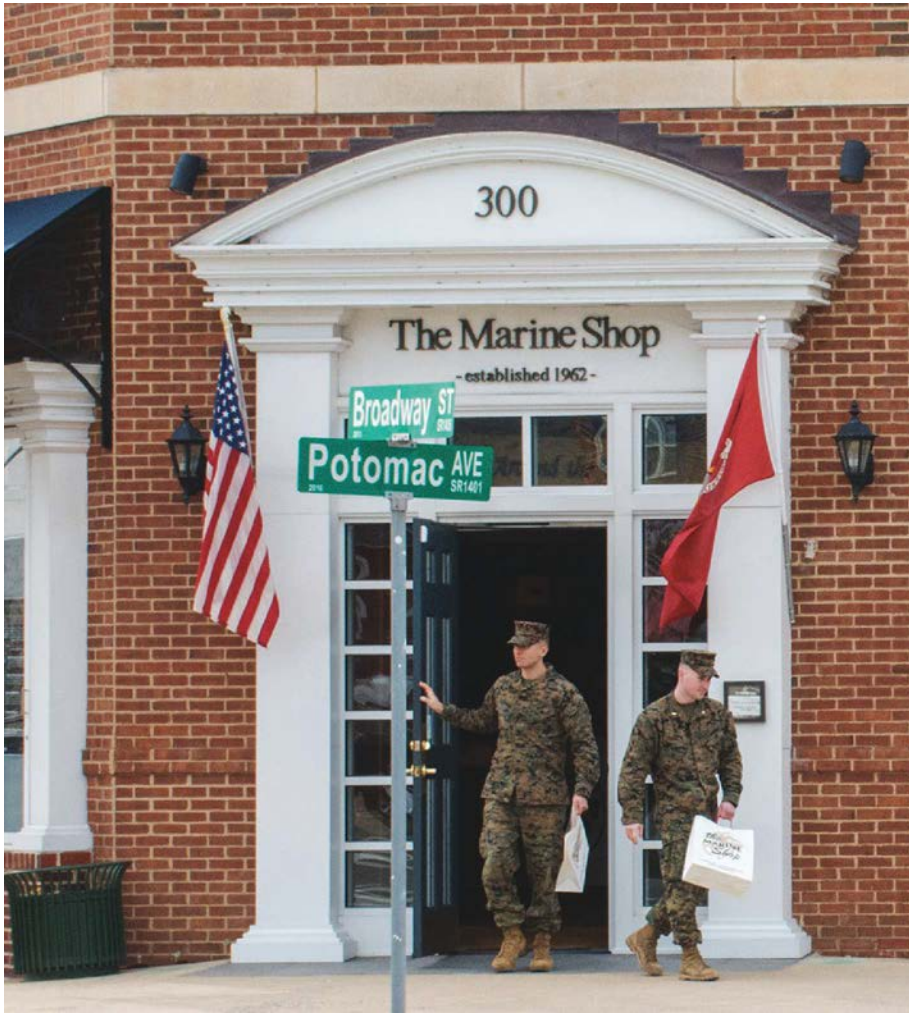
ABIGAIL WILSON

A seamstress hand sews a uniform piece at The MARINE Shop, April 3. Today’s staff takes pride in upholding the shop’s decades-long reputation for uniform excellence.



ABIGAIL WILSON

Pat VanZummeren, pictured here in The MARINE Shop’s uniform department, began working for Elms in 1984 and today is the store’s general manager.



ABIGAIL WILSON

Though the appearance of The MARINE Shop significantly changed after it was purchased and renovated by MCA&F, today's Marines continue to trust the iconic retailer with their uniforms. Their purchases benefit the Marine Corps Association Foundation, which exists to promote the professional development of Marines.



COURTESY OF PAMELA ELMS SCOTT

At Elms' 76th birthday celebration on July 30, 1997, Gen Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, presented him with a congratulatory letter signed by Krulak and seven other commandants, recognizing Elms' service to the Corps both before and after his retirement as a major.

within the Marine Corps and among small vendors. "He knew everyone," she said.

Of those employees who worked for Elms and remain at The MARINE Shop today, Scott said, "They are a testament to their dedication to continue the major's legacy, and for that, the family has been humbled and inspired by their love."

While the Marine Corps Association didn't purchase the business until nearly five years after Elms' death, the acquisition had been set in motion years earlier when Major General Les Palm, USMC (Ret), then-CEO of the association, approached Elms with a proposition.

"Have you ever thought about selling the shop?" MajGen Palm recalls asking Elms during a casual conversation in the shop, which is located just a block away from MCA headquarters. The two discussed the possibility of the MCA purchasing the store, but they never moved forward on it. After Elms' passing, ownership transferred to his children, and in 2007 the association purchased it from the family. The iconic MARINE Shop became an extension of the association's mission as the professional organization of the Marine Corps.

"A lot of things just fell into the right place," said MajGen Palm of the transition period, which included merging the Marine Corps Association Bookstore and the uniform sales at The MARINE Shop into one retail establishment. The MCA Bookstore located at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., also took on The MARINE Shop name. Nearly all of the employees remained on staff throughout the transition, which helped ensure that the shop would continue to maintain its reputation for quality and excellence.

The association hired the renowned Boston-based design firm Bergmeyer Associates, whose clients include major retailers like L.L. Bean and Talbots, to oversee a \$1 million redesign and renovation of both the exterior and interior of the store. Bergmeyer designers spent time at OCS and at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., to get a feel for what the Marine Corps was all about and worked to reflect that in their design, said MajGen Palm. The new and improved The MARINE Shop reopened in 2008, featuring a visually stunning remodel with rich woods and high-quality finishes, a lounge area and a distinctly separate uniform shop located beyond the main retail area.

The store offers clothing, accessories, gifts and books—with the Commandant's Professional Reading List taking center stage—as well as a variety of other

The décor and design of The MARINE Shop highlights the professionalism of Marine uniforms and creates a space for a memorable shopping experience.



ABIGAIL WILSON

services such as medal and ribbon mounting, sword repair and refurbishment, custom challenge coins and engraving, but the uniforms continue to be the linchpin of The MARINE Shop's success.

Members of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation receive a discount of up to 10 percent at The MARINE Shop, and the proceeds from all purchases benefit the Marine Corps Association Foundation, which promotes the professional development of today's Marines through unit libraries, writing programs, excellence awards and educational forums.

Lieutenant General W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret), President and CEO of MCA&F, views the operation of The MARINE Shop as a direct support of the association's mission.

"We consider it an honor and privilege to support Marines and friends of the Corps through The MARINE Shop either online or at our brick and mortar store aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico," said LtGen Faulkner.

Commandants and Sergeants Major of the Marine Corps, as well as many general officers, Medal of Honor recipients and other "VIPs" trust The MARINE Shop with their uniform, accessory and alteration needs. Their patronage speaks volumes to the quality of the store's services, but VanZummeren insists that she and her staff of 25 employees strive to treat every customer equally.

Keo pins a white dress skirt for alteration at The MARINE Shop, April 3. Shortly after founding the shop, Elms created a more tailored, fitted look for the dress blue uniform which was adopted by the Corps and continues to be the standard today.

"We try to give everyone the same service whether they're a general or a PFC. We try to provide the same amount of professional service regardless of rank," she said.

While The MARINE Shop does not sell the enlisted dress blue coat, which is made in large quantities and sold through the Marine Corps Exchange system, it does offer the Staff Noncommissioned Officer evening dress coat and trousers as well as the enlisted blue trousers, chevrons, covers and other accessories. According to VanZummeren, the shop does a great deal of alteration work on enlisted dress blue coats and also offers measurement services for customers who want to know what size to buy.



ABIGAIL WILSON



ABIGAIL WILSON

Sales associate Dreanna Perkins assists Maj Angela Zunic at The MARINE Shop, May 31. With a clientele that ranges from junior enlisted Marines to four-star generals, the staff of the store endeavors to provide the same level of customer service to each individual who enters, regardless of rank.

There's a focused energy that's easily discernible in The MARINE Shop's tailor room, where 17 tailors, seamstresses and pressers work meticulously and quickly to meet their deadlines. Keo assigns the work, and each individual has a specific job they've perfected. Whether it's hand sewing, machine sewing or pressing, each has mastered his or her skill.

"With the volume we have, you have to be able to do it very quickly," said VanZummeren, who credits Keo and a few of the other longtime employees with teaching and training newcomers who, while extremely skilled in their trade, have to learn the processes that are specific to Marine Corps uniforms.

The MARINE Shop recently launched an updated, redesigned website at www.marineshop.net. Customers who are unable to visit the shop in person can upload their measurements and full body photographs on the site and the uniforms are made according to their exact specifications and shipped directly to them.

For uniforms purchased elsewhere—or for those that need to be taken in or let out over time—the alteration services offered by the shop are unparalleled. Many alterations are labor intensive and time consuming and require moving pockets and buttons while maintaining adherence to Marine Corps uniform standards, said VanZummeren, who added that most other tailor shops won't even take on these types of alterations and will often suggest that the customer buy a new coat altogether.

The shop's uniforms have to be certified by the Marine Corps, but over the years, the staff has developed enhancements to the certified pattern that set The MARINE Shop's uniforms apart,

said VanZummeren. They also carry their own brand of khaki shirts, which have a more fitted, athletic cut compared to other approved brands. These seemingly small variations make a big difference in the way the uniform fits or hangs.

Throughout the year, The MARINE Shop staff travels to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., as well as to OCS, where they measure and fit the Corps' future second lieutenants for their uniforms. With a quick turnaround time during those busy commissioning seasons, the tailor shop in the back of the store is overflowing with racks of uniform coats and trousers.

By focusing on uniform commissioning packages, The MARINE Shop staff creates customers for life. Many Marines will stop in the store over the years to have their measurements updated and added to their file. They can then place orders from installations worldwide—Okinawa, Camp Pendleton and beyond—and be confident that their uniform items are made to the highest possible standard and that their purchases benefit their fellow Marines through MCA&F's programs.

Founded by the Marine Corps' foremost uniform expert, The MARINE Shop continues to carry on the legacy of Major Elms while also supporting the mission of the professional association of the Corps. Few can claim the title "Marine," but those who are proud to wear the uniform of the nation's finest fighting force continue to trust The MARINE Shop to help them look their professional best. 🇺🇸

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We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Days of Service Brings Together Marines, Community

Community service doesn't require people with college degrees, high paying jobs or long resumés. Anyone can contribute to their community which is exactly what Marines with the Single Marine Program (SMP) at Marine Corps Station Miramar, Calif., did during the last week of April as part of the fifth annual Marine Corps-wide "Days of Service" event.

Multiple events throughout the week allowed the participating Marines the opportunity to engage with the San Diego

community and lend a helping hand. They cleaned the decommissioned USS *Midway* (CV-41); picked up trash from Fiesta Island and Presidio Park; led a fitness challenge at a local elementary school and hosted an "Unwasted Warrior Weekend," in an effort to encourage Marines and Sailors to find alternatives to consuming alcohol.

The opportunity to help clean USS *Midway* was of particular significance, and the Marines not only assisted with cleaning of high traffic areas, but also learned some of the history about the aircraft carrier.

"The ship receives a minimum of 2,000 visitors a day," said Steve Suslik, safety operation specialist and volunteer coordinator for the USS *Midway* Museum. "The *Midway* represents the military to the public—we want to represent the military in a professional and clean fashion. Having the Marines come on deck allows the staff to do things we normally couldn't accomplish on a day-to-day basis. We like to call the *Midway* 'America's living symbol of freedom.' Having it in excellent condition for all the guests to see is truly amazing."

Participating in events like Days of Service shows the community that Marines take care of their history and the local environment.

"My goal is to partake in anything that will help make the community better," said Lance Corporal Steven Mara, an administrative clerk with Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron.

"The SMP is usually known for their community involvement and volunteerism. The Days of Service brings a bigger light because it is more than one base—it is the entire Marine Corps," said Katie Weeres, SMP coordinator at MCAS Miramar. "This broad of an event allows the Marines to do things that aren't the typical SMP fitness events, but grants them the ability to do events such as restore the *Midway* and beach cleanups."

Days of Service is about more than volunteering—it is an opportunity to show the community that Marines not only take care of each other but also their neighbors.

Sgt Sarah Ralph, USMC



SGT BECKY CLEVELAND, USMC

Single Marine Program volunteers from MCAS Miramar clean and restore Fiesta Island in San Diego, Calif., April 24 as part of the fifth annual "Days of Service" event.



SGT BECKY CLEVELAND, USMC

Cpl Robert F. Nabors, a sheet metal worker with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, wipes down picture frames on USS *Midway* during the "Days of Service" volunteer event in San Diego, Calif., April 22.

Following Renovation, OCS Rededicates Branch Hall

Marine Corps Officer Candidates School (OCS) hosted a rededication ceremony for the newly renovated Branch Hall at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., May 1, in memory of Captain Frederick C. Branch, the first African-American Marine officer.

Branch graduated from boot camp in 1943 at Camp Montford, N.C., which at the time served as a segregated training facility for African-American recruits. During his enlisted service in World War II with a supply unit in the Pacific, Branch was recommended by his commanding officer to attend the Navy V-12 program at Purdue University, where he was named to the dean's list and was commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps in



LCPL AARON SMITH, USMC

Colonel Ahmed Williamson, center, the OCS commanding officer, stands in front of the newly renovated Branch Hall with members of the Montford Point Marine Association following a rededication ceremony at MCB Quantico, Va., May 1.

November 1945.

Gunnery Sergeant Forest E. Spencer Jr., USMC (Ret), the president of the National Montford Point Marine Association, attended the ceremony along with many members of the organization to honor Branch's contributions to the Marine Corps.

"It is a humbling experience for me, and I am honored to represent the organization as a whole," said Spencer. "That's why I dedicated my time after retirement as the national president—to preserve the legacy of the Montford Point Marines."

In speaking about Branch, Spencer explained, "To get through boot camp during times of segregation and to become a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps was a great feat. We wanted to rededicate Branch Hall as a reminder to those who may not fully understand the important history of Frederick C. Branch."

Branch Hall is the oldest building still standing at OCS, and is where female candidates of the first gender-integrated OCS class were billeted in 1977.

"I'm glad that the command was instrumental in saving this building," said Lieutenant Colonel Rhonda Amtower, USMC (Ret), the national president of the Women Marines Association (WMA). "We have to preserve our history and this building is part of it."

Like her predecessors, Amtower also



Capt Frederick C. Branch

stayed in Branch Hall while undergoing training. Along with paying her respects to the birthplace of her career, Amtower also came to honor the legacy of those who have gone before her.

"This part of history is not just for the WMA but for the Montford Point Marines and the Marine Corps in general," said Amtower with pride. "I wish everybody were here to see this."

Several years ago, leaders of OCS realized Branch Hall had fallen into a serious state of disrepair. Colonel Ahmed Williamson, the commanding officer of

OCS, explained that it would be unhealthy and unsafe for Marines and Sailors on the OCS staff to continue to work in the building. It was ultimately decided that the building would be renovated rather than demolished.

The renovations were completed before this summer's surge of candidates when the largest number of men and women enter OCS hoping to become Marine officers, and the rededication ceremony was held just in time to start the new season.

"Now, the condition of the building offers a fresh and healthy work environment befitting of the Marines serving there as well as representing its namesake, Frederick C. Branch," said Williamson.

LCpl AaRron Smith, USMC

Okinawa-Based Marines, Sailors Compete in Dragon Boat Race

Marines and Sailors representing the Okinawa Single Marine Program competed in the 45th annual Naha Dragon Boat Race at Naha Port, Okinawa, Japan, May 5.

More than 130 teams made up of individuals from local schools, public and private organizations, and the U.S. military community participated in the three-day festival and famous race, also known as the "Haarii." The SMP team placed first in their preliminary heat.

With the sound of the starter pistol, the race began. Black, yellow and green dragon boats started to push forward. Marines and Sailors pierced their oars deep down in the water, rowing in perfect unison to the beat of the gong and synchronizing their effort through cadence as they shouted “Osu! Osu! Osu!”

“Osu” is a Japanese martial artist’s way of greeting, which means to push aside your weakness and endure, said Nobuhiro Hirahara, the head coach for the SMP dragon boat team.

The history of the dragon boat races goes back more than five centuries. The tradition thanks the ocean for its blessings and wishes for the safety of fisherman and an abundant harvest.

“I joined the team to get out and see Okinawa,” said Lance Corporal Aiden Hudgell, a motor transport operator with 3rd Transportation Support Battalion. “Participating in a local event allows us to meet people. It is a great way to form camaraderie with Okinawa residents.”

For many of the Sailors and Marines who participated, it was their first opportunity to engage with Okinawan culture.

“The majority of our team members have never rowed a boat in their life before,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class

Michael Ponn, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. “It does not matter which branch, age, gender, rank or job you have. When we put everyone on the boat, we learn how to work together as a team. It is amazing.”

The SMP members practiced twice each week and had two practices with the actual boat at Naha Port. Rowing a boat manned by 32 individuals requires harmonized paddling and teamwork. Getting the team to row on the beat was challenging, said Hirahara.

“The most important thing about rowing a boat is timing,” said Hirahara, a native of Kyoto prefecture. “The practice to get everyone together was the most challenging thing. Overall, coaching the servicemembers has been a fulfilling experience for me.”

“This is a great opportunity for Marines and Sailors to be outside the gate, immerse into local traditions and see the community,” said Secoya Holmes, coordinator with SMP. “I’m very happy that we’re able to participate in the race. We also got to bring a trophy home!”

Learning, participating and sharing each other’s community are important elements of building the relationship between the U.S. and Japan, said Hirahara.

“I would like to continue contributing in taking part in cultural exchanges between the U.S. military and the local community,” he said.

Nika Nashiro

Two USMC Installations Awarded For Environmental Efforts

On Earth Day, April 22, the recipients of the 2019 Department of Defense Environmental Awards were announced and among them were two Marine Corps installations. Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., was recognized for Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation, and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, was the recipient of the Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation award.

“MCAS Miramar and MCB Butler’s efforts highlight a great example of what can be done when we focus on building energy resilience,” said Major General Vincent A. Coglianesse, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations Command. “These installations are known for adopting innovative new practices to address environmental stewardship.”

Since 1962, the Secretary of Defense annually has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding conservation achievements, innovative environ-



LCPL NICOLE ROGGE, USMC

The Okinawa Single Marine Program dragon boat team celebrates their victory during the first preliminary heat of the 45th annual Naha Dragon Boat Race at Naha Port, Okinawa, Japan, May 5. Teams from the U.S. military and the local community participated in the famous race, also known as the “Haarii.”

mental practices and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising the DOD's mission success.

“Our installations generate combat power. We cannot remain dependent on one source of energy, and we must continue to analyze new renewable energy sources,” said MajGen Coglianese. “We are very proud of our Marine Corps installations and their efforts to make our bases more resilient.”

Nearly 60 judges with relevant expertise from both the public and private sector evaluated nominees over six central subject areas: natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, cultural resources management and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition.

As the largest air station in the Marine Corps, MCAS Miramar maintains diverse infrastructure to enhance the combat readiness of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and encompasses more than 23,000 acres of mesas and undeveloped foothills. The Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation award the air station received recognizes its efforts towards energy efficiency, re-



CURTIS HILL

Electric vehicle charging stations are located around MCAS Miramar, Calif., and were integral to the air station's selection as the winner of the 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Sustainability on a Non-Industrial Installation.

newable energy practices, greenhouse gas reduction efforts, procurement of sustainable goods and services, waste diversion and energy resilience.

Home to III Marine Expeditionary Force and Jungle Warfare Training Center, MCB Camp Butler also serves as the headquarters for Marine Corps Installations Pacific. More than 3,000 species of flora and fauna inhabit the base, along with several hundred archeological sites. Their award for Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation recognizes efforts that ensure mission completion and the protection of human health in the categories of environmental planning, waste management and compliance with existing environmental laws, policies and regulations.

Maj Simba Chigwida, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL MATTHEW KIRK, USMC

“They keep staring at us. Must be our shirts.”

Submitted by:
Jack McHugh
Hamilton, N.J.

This Month's Photo



SGT WILLIAMS QUINTEROS, USMC

(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.

2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Deploys to Afghanistan



CPL ARTUR SHVARTSBERG, USMC

Marines with “Bravo” Co, 1st Bn, 5th Marine Regiment, conduct a security patrol through the Nawa District in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Oct. 20, 2009.

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

Marine Corps oral historian Lieutenant Colonel Michael I. Moffett conducted an interview with Brigadier General Lawrence D. Nicholson, the commanding general of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, which deployed to Afghanistan from May 2009 until April 2010. In this excerpt from that interview, BGen Nicholson discusses the challenges the MEB encountered while undergoing preparations for deployment before leaving Camp Lejeune and while they were deployed to the culturally complex and dangerous environment of Afghanistan.

MEB-A Stands Up

BGen Nicholson remembered the rather unique way in which his command began in late 2008. “On 17 December, General Hejlik [Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force] put his finger in my chest and said, “Start forming the [2nd] MEB.” I think we started in earnest putting the team together in January, and the interesting thing was [that] unlike a MEU,

where you can look at other MEUs and figure out what they’re doing, there’s not a real bright template to putting a MEB together. It is the proverbial blank sheet of paper that you’re staring at—where the forces are coming from, where the equipment is coming from, what the mission is. So we built about a 250-man staff. We identified very quickly the battalions we would be taking over: 1/5 [1st Battalion,

5th Marines], 2/8 [2d Battalion, 8th Marines], 2d LAR [2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion]. We would inherit 3/8 [3d Battalion, 8th Marines] that was already in [Afghanistan].

“The next part was the gear. That was the harder piece. ‘Hey, what is it?’ ‘I don’t know. Load it. We’ll sort it out later.’ That was very much the plan of the day, but we had about five ships that had to get loaded and get sailing very, very quickly, because there’s no straight shot to Afghanistan. The ships had to leave Blount Island, and they weren’t allowed to go to Karachi, in Pakistan. They had to go to Fujairah, UAE [United Arab Emirates], offload there, where they were cross-decked into Pakistani freighters, and then the Pakistani freighters would take the gear into Karachi.”

By February 2009, LtGen Nicholson was in Kabul, Afghanistan, doing a site survey where he met with General David D. McKiernan, USA, who was the commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

“Marjah [Nad Ali District, Helmand Province] had been talked about extensively as being the worst place and, for all intents and purposes, Marjah had seceded from the union is the best way I can say it,” Nicholson said. “So I’m with General McKiernan, one on one, and I said, ‘Sir, if it’s the worst place, let us go there.’ And his answer was, ‘Larry, I can’t let you go there, because the elections are in August, and Marjah is going to be extremely kinetic. Marjah is going to be a hell of a fight.’ So we were told, ‘Hey, thank you for your interest in ISAF affairs, but you’re not going to Marjah. You can go anywhere you want, but don’t go to Marjah.’ So we ended up going to Nawa [District, Ghanzi Province] where there was pretty good fighting.”

The general returned to Camp Lejeune from the site survey and continued to plan. “We went into more detailed planning. At that point, we were ready to get into some mission analysis and look at the areas, and [we] formulated the plan of introduction of the force into the Helmand River valley. There was a rush to determine where the gear was going to come from. The infantry battalions didn’t come with their gear. They brought their personal weapons, but crew-served weapons, radios, COCs [combat operations centers], trucks, MRAPs [mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles], those things were generated ecumenically, if you will, from throughout the Marine Corps. Everyone gave people, everyone gave gear, so there was a taxation on the Marine Corps. So we started loading ships, literally, as we were forming it up in January. By late January, we’re loading ships in Blount Island [Jacksonville, Fla.]. Gear is coming from all over.”

In May 2009, BGen Nicholson assumed authority of Marine battlespaces and forces in Helmand Province as the commanding general of Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan which later became known as MEB-A. During the same time period, the ISAF commander, GEN McKiernan, was relieved by LtGen Stanley McChrystal, USA, whose special forces background gave him a different perspective on the fight in Afghanistan. LtGen McChrystal released a new tactical directive which had the potential for significant impact on upcoming MEB-A operations.

BGen Nicholson was initially concerned. “Our guys were already in the field. Our guys were already staged, they were ready to go. As I sat there reading



LCPL WALTER MARINO, USMC

Marines with 3rd Bn, 4th Marine Regiment, conduct combat operations in Now Zad, Afghanistan, during Operation Cobra’s Anger, Dec. 4, 2009. Operation Cobra’s Anger disrupted enemy supply lines and communication in Now Zad which was once a haven for Taliban forces.

that thing over and over, where I knew that there was some trepidation out there in the ranks, so to speak. I came away feeling that the guidance we had already issued met the commander’s intent that GEN McChrystal was trying to get across in the document. So I went out to our forces and said, ‘No change. ... We’re not going to do anything differently because our intent is not to go in there and kill a bunch

of innocent people anyhow. Continue with the plan.’ You have to be very careful as a commander to temper that to make sure that you don’t take the aggressiveness out. One of the greatest things we have on young Marines is their aggressiveness, their ability, their willingness, their desire to make contact and dominate the enemy. You don’t want to do anything to mitigate that. You just want to do it smartly.”



CPL ZACHARY NOLAN, USMC

Marines from Lima Co, 3rd Bn, 4th Marine Regiment, hand a pressure plate in the area of Now Zad, Afghanistan, to an explosive ordnance disposal technician, Dec. 8, 2009.

Operation Khanjar (Strike of the Sword)

In what was both the biggest operational Marine airlift since the Vietnam War and the largest Marine offensive since the Battle of Fallujah five years earlier, the MEB embarked on Operation Khanjar by advancing into Helmand Province in early July 2009. According to BGen Nicholson, “We didn’t surprise a whole lot of people when we went into Garmsir and Nawa. I think how we got in, the speed, the size of the force going in and the speed at which we built up that combat power was very much like an amphibious operation for us. Only instead of flying over ocean, we were flying over sand.

“There was some pretty intense fighting on the first couple of days. I think in Garmsir, especially, we unhinged an enemy that was on the PB line because we got behind him. And what we found out in Now Zad and Nawa and Garmsir is that when you get behind this linear enemy, you unhinge them very quickly. Because, like any linear front, nobody likes somebody behind them, and I think the threat of people in the rear was really—they left a lot of things right there in their holes. There were a lot of weapons and caches and supplies that were just abandoned as they took off.



CPL ARTUR SHVARTSBERG, USMC

Above: Sgt Jason Swofford, Bravo Co, 1st Bn, 5th Marine Regiment, takes a security halt during a patrol through the Nawa District in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Oct. 20, 2009.



CPL ARTUR SHVARTSBERG, USMC

Marines assigned to 1/5 conduct a security patrol through Nawa District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on Oct. 20, 2009. Security patrols were conducted to decrease insurgent activity and gain the trust of the Afghan people.

“Many of the enemy we were fighting, we ended up hiring. I am a big subscriber to the big-T, little-T theory that probably 10 percent of the Taliban are the big-T guys, or the ideologues or the irreconcilables. You’re never going to convince them. No amount of reasoning ... they are going to be out there to be killed or captured. But 90 percent of these guys are probably the economic Taliban, the lunch pail Taliban, the guys who are working for five, six bucks a day. I think they can be co-opted very easily. They have nowhere to go. They’re not moving anywhere. They go home every night, and if the area they’re living in all of a sudden is under Afghan control, well, then they’ll probably get along. They probably will work with whoever’s in charge locally, but especially if they can take a paycheck home. They have no real ideological bent to them, but in this Pashtunwali culture, they will respond to whoever the biggest dog is, and if the biggest dog is the Marines or the Afghan Army or the Taliban, they’ll respond accordingly.

“I think as the sun went down on 2 July, we were thrilled, absolutely thrilled. We were absolutely stunned in some ways that we had been able to pull off the largest heloborne op since Vietnam and do it successfully and get in. But that was only the start of the problem, because the temperatures were about 120 [degrees], and I was at that point more concerned about heat casualties than I was, frankly, about the Taliban. I knew we could handle the Taliban.”

Equipping the MEB In Country

BGen Nicholson’s concerns with equipping the MEB’s Marines continued well into the deployment and the start of Operation Khanjar. “We crossed the line of departure [LD] with 49 percent of our gear. There was a lot of teeth sucking. We lost sight of gear when it went to Karachi, even though it had identification tags and they were supposedly scanned, the Pakistanis weren’t doing that. So with those identification tags, we lost control. It was Pakistani contractors. There were no Americans in Karachi, and we were very much at the mercy of the Pakistanis to see what was showing up every day. Some things showed up immediately, some things took three months. We had expected 10 percent loss. We probably had less than 1 percent loss. Most of the gear made it, and very little damage was inflicted. We were every day counting how many HMMWVs, how many MRAPs, how many MTRVs, seven-tons [we had]. And we were very much betting on the fact that there would be a continuous flow of equipment over the rest of July and August.



CPL ARTUR SHVARTSBERG, USMC

LCpl Daniel Vilalobos, B/1/5, crosses a stream during a security patrol in Nawa District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Oct. 20, 2009. The battalion was a combat element of Regimental Combat Team 3 which conducted counterinsurgency operations in partnership with Afghan National Security Forces in southern Afghanistan.

But we were at a razor-thin margin in terms of gear, getting the equipment and the materiel, and we made that decision probably on about 28 June.

“We had our final workouts, and we slotted the table and said, “Okay, everybody’s green.” Nobody had what they wanted, but we had what we thought we needed to at least get ashore. One of the driving factors here was the elections in August 2009. We had to get in. One of the implied tasks was to get in and start setting up the conditions that would allow for elections in some of these areas that, frankly, had been under Taliban control for many years.”

The Brits

British forces had occupied much of the same battlespace as the newly arriving MEB and had established a different presence than what BGen Nicholson hoped for with the MEB.

“I thought the Brits fought exceptionally

well, but they have a little bit different methodology than we do. I think the Brits were garrisoned in smaller units. They had, in many cases, squad and platoon-size units everywhere. I think that what that takes away from you—and we were very hard on platoon-size locations. There’s a good reason for having a platoon by itself, and ... there’s some criteria that I would require before we would allow a platoon to be by itself. One, that you’ve got Afghan policy; two, that you’ve got Afghan Army; and three, that you have some local support. If you’re in a Fort Apache type scenario, a platoon doesn’t make any sense because, at that point, all you’re able to do is pretty well defend yourself. You can’t really do much of anything. Frankly, we closed some FOBs that we had taken over from the Brits because they were in a Fort Apache-type scenario. But if you can’t generate combat power and you can’t reaggregate your force to be able to go do something, you



SGT WILLIAM GREESON, USMC

Gen James Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, talks with Marines of 1st Bn, 5th Marine Regiment at Patrol Base Jaker, Nawa District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on Aug. 24, 2009. The Marines were deployed with RCT-3.

find yourself essentially imprisoned in these small little COPs up and down the Helmand River valley, where the enemy has all the advantage in the world because he's got you surrounded, and he's got you pinned down, and you're able to accomplish little to nothing.

"My sense was that there were a number of small British [outposts] that frankly they had inherited from previous rotations. I don't think necessarily my counterparts wanted to be laid out like that. I think that they inherited some of these situations, where the lay down was something that had been done over previous years. In contrast, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, James T. Conway, when he came to visit, he talked to General Muhayadin Ghorri, and Muhayadin was raving about the relations with the Marines, about how well they got along. He made a comment that General Conway carried back and used as one of his talking points. What Muhayadin said is, 'You know the reason I love the Marines, General Conway? Because they drink out of the same canteen as my soldiers, and not everyone does that.' I think that, in a nutshell, captures the difference. If you go into a Marine COP in the Helmand River valley, in most cases, the Afghans and the Marines are living the same. There are not

two standards. In many cases, they're living together. I think 1/6 and 3/6 for Marjah, and the complete immersion, the complete putting Afghan soldiers into our squads, where every squad had a fireteam of Afghans. It's not the preferred methodology of doing it, but it was necessary at the time because these were recruits that we got. We were hoping for some crack Afghan combat units to come down from other parts of the country to join us. We got companies of recruits with less than three weeks to train them and integrate them into the combat formation. They didn't really have any of their own officers, or not many. They were not able to function independently. So how do you do that? The decision was we needed to integrate them at the lowest possible level, and that was the squad level."

Female Engagement Teams

The MEB's experiment of creating and employing teams of female Marines to engage the local populace proved to be a resounding success. "You go to Kabul, you see women. You go to Lashkar Gah, you see women. Anything outside of Lashkar Gah and Helmand, you don't see women. You don't see them in Delaram [District, western Afghanistan]. You certainly don't see them in Bahram Shah. I

mean, you don't even see them. I'm not talking about dealing with them, you don't see them. They don't shop. Women are so isolated and so protected, but sheltered and hidden. We had a Pashtun woman called [Hali Jilani]. She lives in Alexandria, [an] American citizen, but Pashtun and spent a lot of time in Afghanistan. We had some very talented civil affairs folks. We just had a perfect storm of opportunity there to put together some teams to go out and experiment.

"The FET was an experiment. We had some opportunities to take some small teams of women, put them out there in areas that recently had been contested, and just started engaging, seeing what the other 50 percent of the population was thinking. We started with Hali Jilani and some of the women, Master Sergeant Julia L. Watson, and we did some experiments. We literally knocked on some hatches, knocked on some compound doors, and went in. [Hali's] pretty strong. She'd throw the men out and they were very docile, the men would all leave. They'd sit there with 10, 15, 20 women in a compound, women and girls. They'd drink tea and they would just chat for hours. It was not an intel-gathering organization, not designed for that, but you can't help but come out of there with some atmos-

pherics as to what's going on and what do you think. What are the men saying? What's the perception of the community? And I think those things are important.

"We also found that the FET team was exceptionally good at working with men, with Afghan men. Afghan men were much less reticent about coming up and telling our women any number of things. We saw a tremendous opportunity for growth here, and we started taking volunteers to take them to an FET academy, and Colonel Edward Yarnell did a great job of kind of taking the lead on that with Master Sergeant Watson. Probably once a month, we'd have a class of volunteers. Women would raise their hands. We worked it like a volunteer fire department thing, where we would train women from the MLG [Marine logistics group], from the ACE, pull them out of the flight line, from headquarters, and when we needed a team to go to Now Zad or Khan Neshin or Marjah, we'd ring the bell and see who's available. Send a mass email out saying we need 10, and for 10 [spots] we'd have 100 volunteers. We'd pick 10 and we'd take them out two or three weeks at a time, and then we'd bring them back and let them go back to the flight line or supply warehouse or wherever. But while they were there, they were doing great jobs. They were working in the schools. They were out every day. They were not sheltered. They were going out and we just saw great potential. I had several female Marines tell me, 'Hey, sir, if I could do this for the rest of my career, I'd sign up tomorrow. If I could do this forever, this is what I'd like to do.'



CPL PETE THIBODEAU, USMC

Marines with Lima Co, 3rd Bn, 8th Marine Regiment, conduct a local security patrol in the abandoned village of Now Zad, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, April 12, 2009.

Lessons Learned

BGen Nicholson was effusive in his praise of his Marines and Sailors whose dedication and courage were crucial to its success from the MEB's initial stand up to its return to the United States. "One of the more amazing things about the deployment had nothing to do, frankly, with Afghanistan. It had to do with the ability of our Marine Corps to put together such a large, disparate force, with units coming from all four divisions, all four wings. Hell, we didn't even settle on a name until we were about done. And effectively introducing that force into sustained, significant combat operations in early July when much of it was forming

in March, April ... gear still flowing. ... Bringing that size force in from all over the world ... and in a very short period of time being able to make sure everybody was on the same page. And we trained hard for a very short period of time, and we trained in country. It was a challenge to put that team together and it was a tribute to that team, and really a tribute to our Corps, that we are able to composite a force from throughout the world, with a bunch of relative strangers, put them together and in a few short weeks—put them in sustained, very difficult combat situations and have them succeed. That is probably what I am most proud of—being a part of that." 🇺🇸



CPL DANIEL FLYNN, USMC

Marines assigned to 2nd Bn, 8th Marine Regiment, RCT-3, patrol through Afghanistan's southern Helmand Province during Operation Khanjar.

SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

You're Welcome, Comrade

One fine spring day, I found myself in a great place to run into Marines, our local Walmart. As always, I was wearing a red Marine Corps cover. As I was browsing the new movies, an older woman approached me, saw my hat, and said, "Thank you for your service." I replied, "You're welcome." She then added, "It's because of people like you that we're not speaking Russian." I wished her a fine day.

I didn't have the heart to tell her that I am a teacher of Russian language and have been for close to 30 years.

Eric Hood
Franklin, N.J.

Mama Was Speechless

Some years ago, one of the good guys in our cul-de-sac, Cecil, saw my Marine and Vietnam decals on my truck and told me a story about his son joining the Marines in the 1980s. His wife wanted their son to attend college after his high school graduation but his son graduated and ran off and joined the Marines.

His mother was really mad. The young man went through Parris Island boot camp, then the Infantry Regiment at Camp Geiger before going home on leave.

As the three of them were sitting in the living room chatting, his mother, still extremely peeved about his decision, said to her son in a sarcastic tone of voice, "So, did the Marines teach you how to fight?" He said, "No, Mama. They taught me how to kill." Mama was speechless.

Bruce Crow
USMC, 1965-1969
Midlothian, Va.

Snappy Salute

While serving with MAG-39 at MCAS Camp Pendleton in late 1985, I walked across the parade deck near the headquarters building with a friend named Allen. I was on Allen's left as we walked.

Coming toward us was a second lieutenant and as we neared, Allen and I both gave a snappy salute and an exuberant, "Good afternoon, Sir!" The thing is, being on Allen's left and appreciating symmetry as I do, Allen saluted with his right hand and I, my left. As we continued on, I looked over my shoulder only to see the now befuddled lieutenant stop, look down at each of his hands, shake his head and shrug his shoulders.

I meant no disrespect but I had a bad habit of playfully messing with lieutenants. Thankfully, most were easygoing rotor jocks and took it all in stride, thus ensuring that I kept my rank

Hugh Noble
Wood River, Ill.

And the Paint Fight Ensued

I was with the newly moved Schools Battalion at Twentynine Palms, Calif., in 1971. I had just returned from leave and was informed that we had an Inspector General (IG) inspection coming up in a couple weeks. We were told to clean, paint and do any repairs needed to have our billeting area shipshape for the IG but we were not given any supplies to accomplish our mission.

We were all instructors in basic electronics and were chosen as instructors for our abilities to teach. One instructor volunteered to obtain paint, one to obtain paint brushes, scrub brushes and cleaning supplies and

another to obtain a paint sprayer (with our pooled money) to save us time. We went to the fence at the electronic schools area and obtained brushes to clean and to paint. Two 5-gallon paint buckets were obtained from the supply depot, via a drive-up-and-grab approach. Bunk beds became ladders and the work began.

Things went too well. The bunk bed collapsed as the ceiling was being painted and the painter lost control of the sprayer as he fell and sprayed one of the other instructors head to toe in the

"The bunk bed collapsed as the ceiling was being painted and the painter lost control of the sprayer as he fell and sprayed one of the other instructors."

process. That set off a paint fight. We had a great time for several minutes until reality hit. We had a mess to deal with. We finished cleaning up in time to put on our dress greens and ensure our wall lockers and footlockers were ready. We were in formation right on time with very little sleep.

The IG stuck his head in the door to our billeting area and then walked on. We were somewhat let down, to say the least, by the brief inspection, but we laughed for weeks about the paint fight. Oh yeah, the supply sergeant was a little ticked and confused about

the missing brushes. The Marine Corps had taught us to improvise and make do with what we had.

Sgt Howard E. Johnson
Elk River, Minn.

Senior Marine Was Lowest Ranking

In 1973, I was a staff sergeant and noncommissioned officer in charge of the Marine Security Guard (MSG), U.S. Embassy Tehran, Iran.

There was a U.S. Military Assistance Mission headed by an Army major general headquartered just outside Tehran. They were some distance from the embassy so we MSGs rarely had any interface with the mission except to occasionally use their PX.

You can understand my surprise one morning when I received a note from the general's aide that I was to appear at the general's quarters on Saturday two weeks away at 1400 for a reception. The reception was to start at 1430, and the dress was Service Dress "A" with medals—dress blues and tennis shoes with a light coat of oil as we used to say.

I went next door to the defense attaché's office to find out if they knew what it was all about. They did. It seems that the general was going to host an Armed Forces Day reception, and I was to be there. The general wanted all the services represented for the occasion.

I arrived at 1400 as directed and about 1425 the reception line was formed by rank. And there I was at the end of the reception line, the senior U.S. Marine in Iran and the lowest ranking person in the place.

While we were greeting guests, a lieutenant colonel in the Royal Marines and his wife came down the line. He

said that he had been afraid that he would be the only Marine there and was glad to see that another Marine was present. I was also glad that I wasn't the only Marine present.

MSgt Thomas A. Gafford
USMC (Ret)
Altavista, Va.

Home Brew

While I was assigned to Ordnance Maintenance Company, 3rd FSR, in Chu Lai, Vietnam, during the summer of 1965, my mother would regularly send me care packages containing some good old Amish country goodies from Lancaster County, Pa., that were a treat for my buddies and me. Hershey chocolates, Kunzler hams, Zausner's cheeses, and Lebanon bologna were regular items. One time, at my request, she included a bag of Kauffman's Apple Schnitz—dried apples used to make apple dumplings.

We had other ideas for the dried apples than making dumplings. We put the whole bag of apples into an air-tight water container, filled it with water and sealed it tightly. It was placed on top of one of our vans in the sun and Vietnam heat for a couple weeks with the thought that it would ferment into a delicious drink that could possibly numb our brains to our less than desirable surroundings. Unfortunately, our concoction didn't react as expected and when we popped the seal, to our surprise and misfortune, it literally exploded out of the opening, covering all of us and the inside of our tent in bits of apples and apple juice.

Sgt Vernon R. Martin
USMC, 1964-1967
Lititz, Pa.

Identity Theft?

In 1966, while a member of Platoon 189 at MCRD San Diego, I was called into the duty hut. There I

stood before Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sergeant F.E. Jessee. He was born to be a Marine. He had the face of a bulldog and a similar disposition. I have absolutely no recollection of why I was summoned, but there he sat behind his desk as I stood at nervous attention.

I glanced down and noticed a single dog tag front and center on the duty desk. As I was dismissed, I

I glanced down and noticed a single dog tag front and center on the duty desk. As I was dismissed, I grabbed it, did an about face and left.

grabbed it, did an about face and left. I thought they were being issued and this was mine.

Upon returning to my Quonset hut, I read the tag and realized my innocent error. No way was I going to confess, stutter and giggle my way through an explanation and apology to SSgt Jessee and be assigned to permanent head detail for the remainder of basic training. I hid the evidence and kept this souvenir and secret for more than 50 years. If the staff sergeant is

still out there and would like me to return his dog tag, I would be pleased to send it to him with my regards and repentance.

Cpl Ken Goodwin
Bradley, Ill.

Political Influence

In the summer 1956, I was an aviation cadet going through the preflight stages of Naval Aviation Flight Training in Pensacola, Fla. Preflight consisted of 16 weeks getting through the steps that projected some probability that a cadet might be trusted to move on to and actually get hands on an airplane.

The first two weeks were dedicated as indoctrination on military essentials from haircuts, uniform issue, shining shoes and brass to marching, sending civilian clothing home and writing home to mother once a week. The remaining 12 weeks included physical fitness, water safety and classroom essentials on everything from aerology to navigation to engine basics to Morse code. Each week a new indoctrination class began and the senior preflight class "graduated" to finally get some actual flight instruction.

A cadet from the final week of preflight was assigned as the Senior Cadet Duty Officer (SCDO) each day with the new indoctrination class. As the SCDO, one was essentially a gopher for the

drill instructor who had overall responsibility for the incoming indoctrination class.

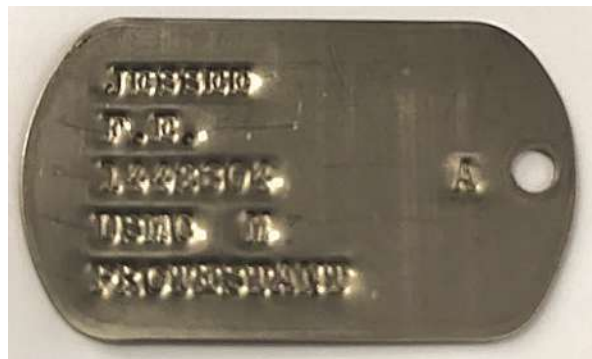
During my time as SCDO, I witnessed Staff Sergeant Sterling begin a new indoctrination class at 5:30 a.m. one Monday on the grinder. SSgt Sterling provided words of guidance to the newbies before marching them to their first chowhall visit, saying, "I've been told there is someone here got 'political influence.' I don't want someone here got 'political influence.' Who is it that got 'political influence'?"

Reluctantly a hand in the formation was raised. Obviously knowing without having to ask the individual's name or relationship to "political influence," SSgt Sterling directed, "Mr. Nixon, come out here and give me 20 pushups." The cadet did as directed and returned to his place in the formation. "Thank you, Mr. Nixon. Is there anyone else here got political influence?" No one responded.

We only learned via hearsay there was some family name relationship between Cadet Nixon to Richard M. Nixon. If any political influence was ever exercised, we never knew.

LtCol C.G. "Jug" Gerard
USMC (Ret)
1956 to 1981
Brevard, N.C.

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." 🍷



COURTESY OF CPL KEN GOODWIN, USMC

Cpl Ken Goodwin mistakenly took the dog tag of his Senior DI, SSgt F.E. Jessee, in 1966 and is hoping to return it with his regards and repentance.



Story and photos by
SSgt Bob Bowen, USMC

Editor's note: On July 20, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong took mankind's first steps on the moon. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, we turned to the Leatherneck archives for a look back at the Marine Corps' contribution to the "Space Race."

The author of the article, Bob Bowen, now a retired captain, said he vividly remembers standing on the beach 50 years ago with the amtrac Marines, watching the launch of Apollo 10. "Thousands of seagulls and assorted other birds scattered at the sound" of the huge Saturn V rocket, he recalls.

"Two months later when Apollo 11 blasted off... I was in Vietnam walking with Marines of 1/1 in the paddies of Go Noi Island. Almost every Marine had a small transistor radio tuned to the news of the moon walk," Bowen said.

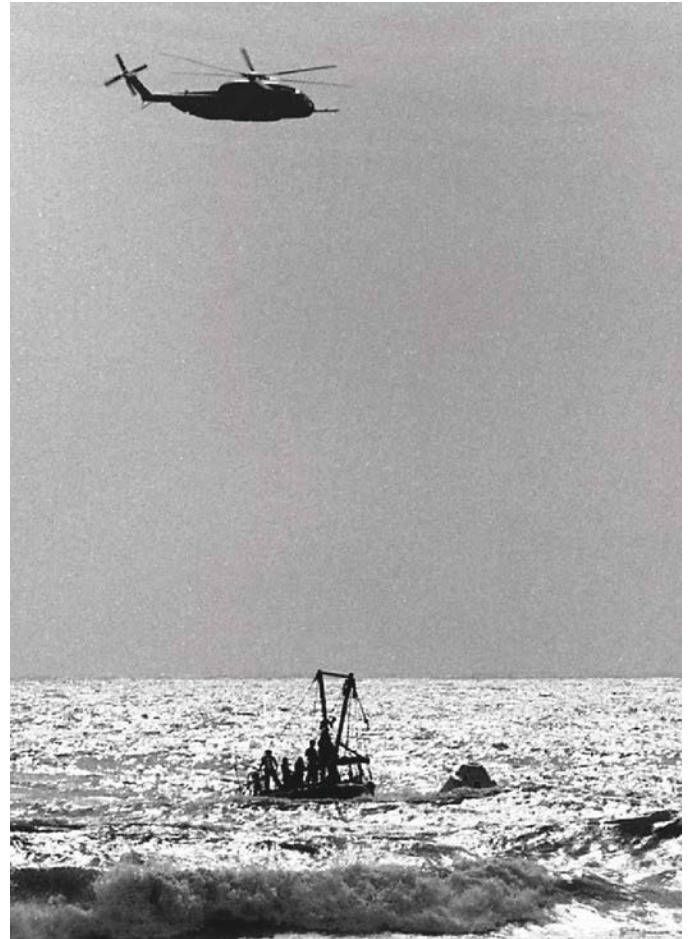
Left: Astronauts Gene Cernan, Thomas Stafford and John Young began their ascent when the powerful Saturn V rocket roared to life.

BLAST-OFF!

Left: SSgt Mike Wahren, on top of the spacecraft, and Sgt James Steinke, left, practice retrieving a mock-up capsule before the May 18, 1969, Apollo 10 launch. The Marines were part of the teams assigned to recover the spacecraft in case there was a problem during the launch.



During one of the daily recovery practices conducted in the weeks prior to the Apollo 10 launch, one helicopter carries the mock-up capsule while another carries firefighting equipment.



An amtrac maneuvers a mock-up spacecraft into the surf as an Air Force helicopter hovers overhead.

When the Apollo 10 spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy, May 18, 1969, several Marines were among those closest to the launch pad.

Perched aboard two cumbersome-looking amtrac retrievers, the 13 Marines appeared out of place on the Florida island where speed is measured in microseconds, but their mission was nonetheless a vital one.

If something had gone wrong during the first few seconds of the launch, the capsule carrying the three astronauts would have been blown free of the huge Saturn V rocket.

The Marines were there to pluck the capsule from the raging surf should such an abort take place. Three Air Force helicopters hovered nearby in case the capsule landed in deep water or in the swamps during an abort.

Fortunately, everything went like clockwork and within seconds the Marines

found themselves with nothing to do but watch as the rocket began its climb out of the earth's atmosphere.

Pelicans paused in flight and then beat a hasty retreat to all corners of the compass as the rocket's five liftoff engines roared to life. Bright orange flames belched out and the massive launch pad complex 39-B was enveloped in smoke as the engines built up an initial thrust of 6,499,016 pounds.

As if awakening from a nightmare, the rocket began its slow climb. From the Marines' position about 6,000 yards away, it seemed as if it would never get off the ground. For the thousands of spectators who lined the beaches on the mainland, about 10 miles away, Apollo 10's struggle to get aloft was painfully slow. Women cried shamelessly as much from anxiety as from fear for the well-being of the astronauts who sat atop the rocket.

Comments from the Marines ran the superlative gauntlet from "Wow!" to "Fantastic!" and back again. Some stood

mute, necks craned, hands shading eyes as the rocket gained speed and headed downrange into the clouds. The fumes and noisy clanging of the amtracs went unnoticed. The Marines were witnessing history in the making—hell, they were part of it—and they were relishing every moment.

And then it was over.

In less than 60 seconds, the rocket was no longer visible to the naked eye. It was traveling over 1,500 knots on its way to orbiting the Earth.

"It's been front row center for us on every shot," Gunnery Sergeant Lucien Hayden said as the amtracs began a slow crawl to their shelter 5 miles down the beach, "but there's always that chance we'll be needed."

That chance of being needed has taken Marines to the cape for every major space shot since 1965. Gunny Hayden, senior enlisted man on the team, made all 10 Apollo shots and the last Gemini space



Above: Amtrac retrievers and a replica of the spacecraft before a practice run. Marines arrived at Cape Kennedy about two weeks prior to each mission's launch to ensure they were prepared for any possible problems.

mission. Apollo 10 was his last official visit to the Cape. Selected for master sergeant, you might say he was promoted out of a job.

When the United States first began its space program, the Navy's amphibious vehicle LARC was used as the launch recovery craft, but when the capsules began carrying two astronauts, and then three, they became too heavy and awkward for the LARC and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) turned to the Marine Corps for help.

The amtrac retriever, with a few modifications, proved to be just what the doctor ordered and the Marine Corps found itself involved in the race to the moon.

The space-minded Marines, members of 2nd Amphibious Tractor Bn, Force Troops, Camp Lejeune, N.C., arrive at Cape Kennedy about two weeks prior to each shot to begin rehearsals. Shortly after their arrival, a contact team from Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Ga., visits the Cape to install radio equipment in the amtracs and to ensure the vehicles are ready to roll.



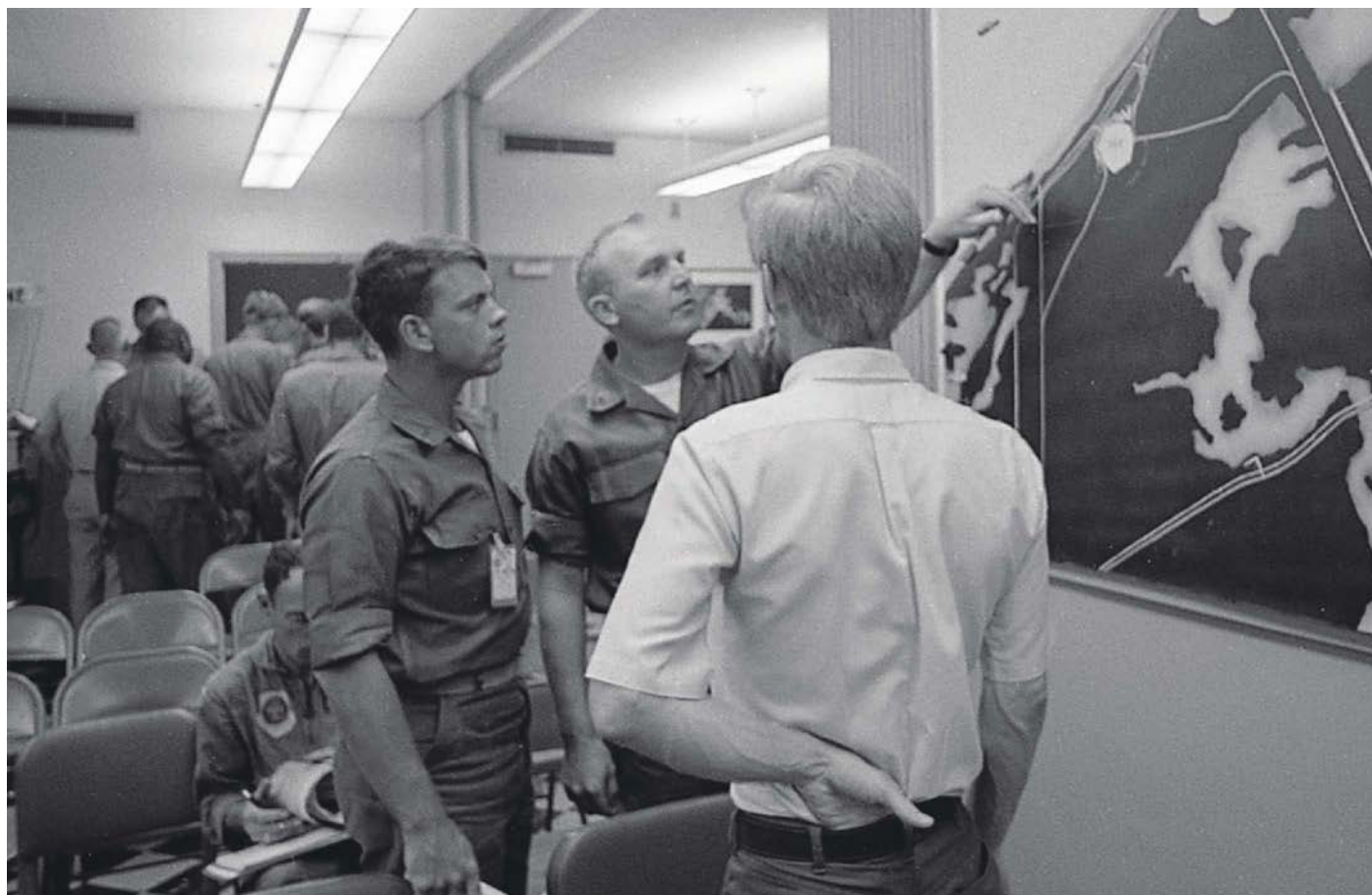
In a practice run, Sgt James Jackson operates the winch mechanism after the spacecraft is attached to the amtrac. Sgt Jackson was one of 13 Marines from 2nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion who supported the launch.

When the amtracs have been declared "all systems go," the Marines begin the daily ritual of carrying a mock-up capsule into the surf, returning to the beach, then back to the surf to retrieve the capsule. The routine varies only when the Marines work with the Air Force. Then, the choppers bring the capsule back to the beach.

During the final week prior to the shot, rehearsals begin in earnest. NASA officials at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, run the show with everything as close to the way it would be if the shot were actually taking place, including the countdown.

Each amtrac carries six men: the officer in charge of the detail or the

GySgt Lucien Hayden, center, points out a recovery area to 1stLt John Fowler and a NASA official. Gunny Hayden participated in 10 of the Apollo launches and one Gemini launch as part of the team from 2nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion.



noncommissioned officer in charge, the crew chief, one communications man, a driver, a winch operator, and one man to handle the cables used to pick the capsule out of the water. Both teams are thoroughly schooled in their assignments, and after reaching the capsule, it takes less than a minute to have it out of the water and on its way to the beach.

Once on the beach, the Air Force would take over. The astronauts would be removed from the capsule, if they hadn't already been freed by pararescue personnel, and flown directly to the hospital at Patrick Air Force Base, about 35 miles south of the Cape.

In practice, everything goes according to schedule but no one is anxious to see what could be done in an actual situation. The opportunity to prove their abilities would mean a setback in our space program, and if that's the only way the public is going to find out Marines are involved at the Cape, the amtracmen would just as soon remain anonymous.

The work isn't hard, nor does it require a lot of time. The Marines are usually free by mid-afternoon and chances are you'll find them lying on the beach soaking up that warm Florida sunshine, or splashing in their motel's swimming pool.

While working with NASA, the Marines live at a motel in Cocoa Beach, some 25 miles from their working area at Cape Kennedy. Each man receives per diem (\$16 a day), while he's there, but after paying for lodging, chow and laundry, there isn't much left to squander on the town.

Liberty is good there, but expensive. What in the 1950s was just an orange grove with a few small farms scattered about, has mushroomed into a thriving resort area where 10-dollar bills are tossed around like small change.

Most Marines are content with afternoons on the beach or an occasional fishing outing. No license is required for fishing the waters surrounding the Cape and the men have a ball reeling in everything from salt water catfish to trout and flounders.

Sunburns are a dime a dozen and by the time the Marines are ready to head back to Camp Lejeune they look as if they'd backed into the fiery blast of the Saturn V rocket. The discomfort of blistered backs is of little consequence to these Marines, however. They've been given an opportunity most Marines would give their can of ham 'n limas for. 🍷



Cpl Nick Manning climbs out of an amtrac after ensuring all systems were go prior to one of the rehearsals for recovery of the Apollo 10 capsule.

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Marine Wife Named Military Spouse of the Year

Holly Vega, the spouse of Lieutenant Colonel Javier Vega, USMC, was named the 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year during a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., May 10. She was chosen for the honor from a pool of candidates—one each from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Guard.

The Vega family, including the couple's three children, currently reside at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

"Holly's volunteerism, generosity and passion to serve military families in her community has earned her this award," said Catherine Thomas, spouse of Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Gary Thomas. "Holly is pas-

sionate about consistency in education for military children, which is why she supports and volunteers for the 'Purple Up' kids' program. She not only volunteers in her community, but she also works part time for Military Home Base and is a full-time student at Park University, studying social psychology and organizational communication. Fellow military spouses describe Holly as a ray of sunshine, full of warmth and life, and she has a reputation for being generous, kind and is known for lifting up other military spouses when they need it most."

Vega stays extremely busy at MacDill, serving as an ambassador to the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce, a "Heart Healthy Advocate" and a co-leader with Military Hearts Matter, a co-leader of a Girl Scouts Brownie troop, a co-leader

for the Military Kids Club at Lithia Elementary School, and a co-facilitator for Our Forces Book Club, among other activities.

"Serving my community has been a joy, and I am privileged and grateful every day for it," Vega said. "I am pleased and honored to be so humbled to be selected as the overall 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year."

C. Todd Lopez

VA Tells Servicemembers: Don't Wait to File Disability Claims

Whether you are years away from separation or retirement or transitioning from active-duty tomorrow, the Department of Veterans Affairs' benefits and services are available to you at every stage of your military career.



Gen Paul J. Selva, USAF, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Mrs. Holly Vega; LtCol Javier Vega; and LtGen Stanley Clarke, USAF (Ret), chairman of the Armed Forces Insurance board of directors, participate in the 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year award ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., May 9. Selva and Clarke presented Mrs. Vega with the award for Military Spouse of the Year.

The VA's mission statement is derived from President Abraham Lincoln's famous words: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan," by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

"We believe that no servicemember leaves the military unchanged, and that every veteran has given some of themselves to some degree," said LaShaunne Moore, a Disabled American Veterans (DAV) advocate with the Veterans Affairs Office at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. "The VA has promised to ensure veterans receive care and compensation for injuries incurred through service. The DAV ensures this promise is kept."

At the VA office at Camp Lejeune and other bases and stations, the staff assists servicemembers in setting up their VA benefits claims. Marines should come prepared with information needed to complete their claims, including service treatment records (digital or paper copy), non-government medical records (during period of active service), social security numbers, date and place of marriage, birth records for dependents, direct deposit information and copies of any prior DD-214s.

"We are here to help military members make the transition to civilian life, and we offer a range of no-cost programs and services to help make it easier for them and their families," Moore said. "This includes a thorough review of service medical records to identify conditions that can be claimed for VA disability compensation and health benefits; assistance in completing those claims and representation throughout the entire decision process; counseling on additional VA benefits like housing and education; and more than 160 in-person and online job fairs for transitioning military members and spouses."

Moore recommends that transitioning servicemembers get their claims submitted as early as possible because not only does the process take time, but submitting early also helps ensure that individuals get care for any conditions they currently have.

If you visit the office between 90 and 180 days prior to your end of active service (EAS) date and 45 days before taking terminal leave, your claim application and exams can be completed before you go on terminal leave. If you come in less than 90 days before your EAS, your application will be completed but your exams will take place after your EAS.

"Some military members are hesitant to file a claim, but having a VA disability rating does not necessarily mean you will receive compensation; sometimes it just means it is documented as serv-

ice-connected in case the condition worsens over time," Moore said. "The servicemember is ultimately in charge of their claim, but DAV representatives are here to guide them through the process and advocate for them from start to finish."

LCpl Ashley Gomez, USMC



"Own It" Campaign Video Features SgtMaj Green

A new Marine Corps awareness campaign, "Own It," is designed to provide tips on how to start tough conversations with fellow Marines. On April 29, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Ronald L. Green, shared his second video message to Marines as part of the campaign in which he calls for Marines to "look around and see who might be struggling, and ask them, 'How can I help?'"

Marines and their families can join the conversation by texting OWNIT to 555-888. They will then receive links to resources that will guide them on how to have a tough conversation about difficult situations like suicide, consent, rejection, bullying, substance abuse and family issues including relationship red flags, divorce, child abuse or the unexpected death of a loved one. The tip sheets are also available at www.usmc-mccs.org/ownit.

"We all need to support each other in protecting what we've earned. So, if you see something, do something and help all our Marine Corps family be safe and ready for the next fight," said Green in the video.

"Even a little bit of straight talk can make someone think twice before they act."

USMC

Museums Nationwide Participate in Tenth Summer Of Blue Star Museums

For the tenth summer, the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families announced that more than 2,000

museums nationwide are participating in Blue Star Museums by providing free admission to our nation's active-duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day, Sept. 2.

"As we launch the tenth summer of Blue Star Museums, it remains a privilege for the National Endowment for the Arts to serve members of the military and their families through this program," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "Whether it's an art museum, science center or botanic garden, there are so many wonderful opportunities for military families to share a memorable experience exploring our nation's museums."

By participating in Blue Star Museums—even if they already provide free admission—museums can express appreciation to servicemembers and their families and share with them America's cultural treasures. Blue Star Museums also provide a way for military families to have fun together while traveling or when exploring their home community—an especially valuable opportunity for families who have recently relocated due to a change of station.

"We've seen the tremendous impact the Blue Star Museums program brings to our military families, and we're thrilled to be celebrating a decade of support," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families "Not only are museums fun to explore but are also great for making memories and strengthening military families as a whole."

This year's participating organizations are located in all 50 states, as well as



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, and include fine art, science, history and children's museums as well as zoos, aquariums, gardens and more.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—as well as members of the Reserve, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps and up to five family members.

For a list of participating museums, visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

National Endowment for the Arts



MARSOC Marine Dies In Vehicle Accident

A Marine Raider died as a result of a tactical vehicle accident at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., on April 13.

Staff Sergeant Joshua Braica, 29, a critical skills operator with 1st Marine Raider Battalion, suffered critical injuries when the MRZR tactical vehicle he was driving experienced a rollover. He was medically evacuated to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, Calif. He did not survive his injuries, passing away April 14.

An investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Braica enlisted in July 2010 and served as an intelligence specialist with 1st Bn, 4th Marines and Marine Aircraft Group 36. He completed MARSOC's training pipeline in 2015. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award.

USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Howard V. Lee

Lieutenant Colonel Howard V. Lee, who received the Medal of Honor for his leadership under fire during the Vietnam War, died March 23 in Virginia Beach, Va. He was 85.

Lee was born in New York City in 1933. Following his 1955 graduation from Pace College, New York, N.Y., he went to Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. He augmented into the regular Marine Corps in 1958.

He received the Medal of Honor for his actions during his first tour of Vietnam in 1966 when he was the commanding officer of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. On Aug. 8 and 9, a platoon from Co E was operating deep in enemy territory when it was attacked and surrounded by the enemy. Capt Lee took seven Marines and proceeded by helicopter to reinforce the platoon. According to the award citation, he disembarked from the helicopter with two of his men, and exposing himself to enemy fire, he led them into the perimeter where he "fearlessly moved from position to position, directing and encouraging the overtaxed troops. The enemy then launched a massive attack with the full might of their forces. Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy grenade ... he continued undauntedly throughout the night to direct the valiant

defense, coordinate supporting fires, and apprise higher headquarters of the plight of the platoon."

The next morning, they were safely evacuated. His actions during the six-hour firefight saved his Marines from capture.

"I was on automatic pilot. I was just dealing with what was happening right then and there and ... everything seemed instinctive to me," Lee later said of that night. "I felt what I did was what any good company commander would have done," he continued.

To learn more about the battle, read Tom Bartlett's story "In the Shadow of the Rockpile," in the September 1991 issue of *Leatherneck* which is available in the *Leatherneck* archives at www.mca-marines.org.

Lee had a variety of assignments during the rest of his 20-year Marine Corps career. After his 1975 retirement, he worked for two decades for the City of Virginia Beach, retiring as superintendent of grounds maintenance.

In a 2001 interview with the Veterans History Project for the Library of Congress, Lee spoke about the Medal of Honor, saying: "It should represent the sacrifice of all the people ... if you talk to recipients, you'll see that most of them will say that they wear the medal not just for themselves but for all the people who were with them when the incident happened. The real heroes of any war are the people that don't make it, the people [who] make the ultimate sacrifice. We kind of wear it for them. So it's a huge symbol to the military and I hope the general public at large."

Michael Adessa, 72, of Tempe, Ariz. He served from 1966-1968 and did a tour in Vietnam with VMFA-115, MAG-15, 1st MAF. He later had a career in culinary arts, becoming a professor at a culinary institute.

Emanuel "Manny" Airey, 92, of Pasadena, Md. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of WW II and later served in the Marine Corps where he fought at the Chosin Reservoir.

Cpl George C. Alpaugh, 81, of Snow Camp, N.C. He served with 8th Marines in Beirut, Lebanon in 1958. He later completed college and had a successful career in business.

Sgt Fred M. "Poppy" Babcock, 71, of Keystone Heights, Fla. He was assigned to 3rdMarDiv during the Tet Offensive.

His awards include the Navy Achievement Medal with combat "V." He was a member of the MCL.

Sgt John Borman, 73, of Winona, Minn. After his 1964 graduation from high school, he joined the Marine Corps where he served as an armorer, ordnance specialist and helicopter gunner. His four years of active duty included two tours in Vietnam.

Lloyd W. Brewer, 93, of Newton, Kan. During WW II he was assigned to 27th Marines during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Lawrence N. Brown, 92, of Willoughby, Ohio. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 1944 graduation from high school and served for two years. He saw action on Iwo Jima. His awards include a Purple Heart.

James Conklin, 90, of Green Bay, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 1945 graduation from high school.

LtCol Andrew DeBona, 81, in Rancho Mirage, Calif. He enlisted in 1955 and graduated from boot camp at MCRD Parris Island, S.C. He was selected to attend Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1961. He served two tours in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967.

During his first tour, while he was commanding Co M, 3rd Bn, 26th Marines, 3rdMarDiv (Rein), he received the Navy Cross for actions on Sept. 10, 1967.

During a search-and-destroy mission in Con Thien, his company came under attack while providing flank security for the battalion. According to his award citation, he unhesitatingly "moved in among his men, rallying them to drive off the enemy assault. After supervising the evacuation of his wounded to a secure area to await medevac helicopters, he conducted an orderly withdrawal of his troops and casualties toward prepared positions on the ridge line. Constantly exposing himself to the enemy while repulsing another enemy assault and concurrently organizing a defensive perimeter, he displayed a tremendous degree of composure and calm, inspiring his Marines by his presence of mind and outstanding courage." Later in the firefight, he led a small reaction force in the rescue of 20 Marines who were pinned down in a bomb crater.

As a major in 1971-1972 he completed a tour in RVN as the Senior Advisor for the 7th Bn Vietnamese Marines. During that tour he received three Bronze Stars

with combat "V." His other awards include the Purple Heart with gold star in lieu of second award.

David Farley, 95, in Camden, Del. During WW II, he fought in the South Pacific including on Saipan and Tinian.

Geroge B. Garmire, 98, of Pocatello, Idaho. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1941 and went to boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif. He saw combat in the Marshall Islands and was wounded in action.

After the war he earned a degree in business and accounting and had a career as a contract negotiator at Hill AFB in Utah.

Hector J. "Papa" Gonzales, 94, of Albuquerque, N.M. He was a corpsman with 3rdMarDiv during the fighting on Guam in WW II.

Donald E. Jacobsen, 91, of Rock Island, Ill. He was a Marine who served during WW II and the Korean War. He later had a career as a metallurgist and was a volunteer with Toys for Tots.

Sgt Anthony M. Lima, 88, of North Weymouth, Mass. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1948. He was assigned to D/2/5 and served in Korea. He saw action at the Chosin Reservoir. He was a member of the New England Chapter of the Chosin Few organization.

Bernhardt F. Link, 93, of Grand Rapids, Mich. He was a veteran of WW II who was a BARman with 28th Marines, 5thMarDiv during the Battle of Iwo Jima, where he was wounded.

LCpl Joseph A. LoRusso, 69, of St. Louis, Mo. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving from 1969-1971. He later had a 40-year career as a pastor.

J. Robert Moskin, 95, of New York, N.Y. He was a historian and journalist who is well-known among Marines for his work "The Story of the U.S. Marine Corps."

A U.S. Army veteran of WW II, he served in the Pacific. He later worked for *Look* magazine, covering the Korean War. He was the recipient of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association 1978 Distinguished Service Award and was a member of the MCA&F.

SSgt Calvin C. Peterson, 94, of Rock Island, Ill. During WW II, he was assigned to 4thMarDiv and saw action in the Pacific. After the war, he had a 33-year career with John Deere.

E.P. "Stovepipe" Pette, 78, of Burbank, Calif. He was a Marine who served from 1958-1962.

CWO Frank J. Walley, 86, of Tempe, Ariz. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1950 at the age of 17 and retired 30

years later. During the Korean War he was assigned to 2nd Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv and saw action at Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir. In 1967, he served a tour in Vietnam as a wire platoon commander, 5th Communications Bn. After his 1980 retirement from the Marine Corps, he was a Capitol Police Officer.

Sgt Theodore R. "Ted" Wheeler, 95, of Benton, Ark. He saw action with 4th Motor Transport Bn, 4thMarDiv on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was recalled to active duty in 1950 and landed at Inchon with 1stMarDiv. He was captured by Chinese Communist forces on Nov. 30, 1950. He survived six months in captivity before he and 17 other POWs escaped. His awards include the Purple Heart.

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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COURTESY OF LT COL RUSSELL LLOYD JR., USMC (RET)

LtCol Russell Lloyd Jr., USMC (Ret), far left, and MajGen Sidney Wade, center, escort President John F. Kennedy during a ceremonial review at MCRD San Diego, June 6, 1963.

SOUND OFF
[continued from page 7]

were posthumous. This company walked off the field with a minimum casualty rate of at least 57 percent of which 21 were killed in action. I should know because I was there.

I feel certain that there were other battles throughout the history of the Marine Corps that saw an even greater number of acts of bravery which were awarded medals, even to exceed that which happened on Sept. 4 and 21, 1967.

That being said, what is more important are the casualties, not the awardees. The casualties were the real heroes. Besides, every Marine and Navy corpsmen who served in combat in Vietnam, and, for that matter, any combat throughout history served bravely and are deserving of some kind of medal. The actual awardees would all say they wear the medal for those who didn't get one.

If you wish to know more about the battle of Sept. 4, 1968, read "Swift Sword: The Marines of Mike 3/5" by Doyle Glass. It is a good read and written from the testimony of those who were there.

Sgt Kenneth Fields
Columbia, Mo.

Escorting President Kennedy

I would like to sound off about the pride I have regarding a special day in my father's, LtCol Russell Lloyd Jr., USMC (Ret), Marine Corps career. On June 6, 1963, he had the privilege of personally escorting President John F. Kennedy during a ceremonial review of the honor guard while leading his men in the pass and review. My father at the time was commanding officer of the honor guard and director of Sea School at MCRD San Diego.

His memory of that day provides our family with a unique moment of history just prior to President Kennedy's untimely death. My father recalls that President

Kennedy spent a great deal of time observing the men including during training with pugil sticks. As a bonus, a local TV affiliate recorded this special visit and it is now archived on YouTube for all to see.

Molly Ferris
Reston, Va.

Marine Uniforms in TV Shows Are Incorrect

I have heard from several unofficial sources that when a production company (TV or movie) depicts Marines that they must have something about the uniform that is deliberately incorrect. A good example of a bad example is the new television series "The Code." Why would producers not be allowed to show the Marine uniform worn in a squared away regulation manner? Another example of that would be NCIS and even Gomer Pyle.

Steve Johnson
Jamestown, N.Y.

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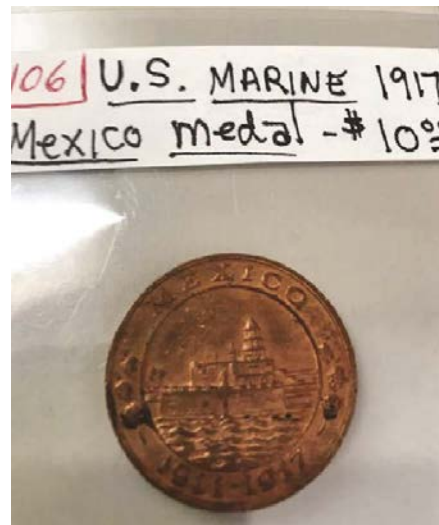
This is to answer the questions of Corporal Ken Goodwin, “Did the Army and Marine Corps issue the same badge during World War I,” in *Leatherneck’s* May Sound Off.

The badge that was shown on the near right, which reads “Expert Rifleman,” was used by the Marine Corps in WW I through WW II and the Korean War and beyond. Then, in July 1958, the Marine Corps changed the wording on the bar portion to read “Rifle Expert.” During WW I, the U.S. Army wore the exact same “Expert Rifleman” badge as the Marine Corps, while the National Guard wore them in bronze rather than the silver. However, sometime between WW I and WW II, the Army changed their design completely to the type still worn in the Army as “Expert,” with a Maltese Cross, a target inside the cross, and a wreath around the cross.

The item that was shown on the far right is the bottom portion of the “Mexican Service Medal,” authorized by members of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps between the designated dates. The obverse shows the old castle of San Juan de Ulloa in Veracruz harbor. The complete medal would have a ribbon above the planchet



COURTESY OF CPL KEN GOODWIN



COURTESY OF CPL KEN GOODWIN

that you showed, with the following colors left to right: dark green, yellow (or gold), navy blue, yellow (or gold) and dark green. The complete medal is shown in color in the October 1943 issue of *National Geographic*.

Leon Basile
Woburn, Mass.

In your May Sound Off, Cpl Goodwin inquired about two items purchased at an antique shop. He asked, “Did the Army and Marine Corps issue the same badge

during World War I?” The answer is yes.

Beginning in 1912, the Marines used Army marksmanship badges with crossed '03 rifles for “Rifle Expert” and crossed Colt revolvers for pistol. In 1924, the Marines began using an Army “pattee” (footed cross) badge similar to those in current Army use. In 1937, the Marines re-adopted the former crossed rifle Army badge of 1912 and added the USMC Basic Badge (declared obsolete in 1968) with various clasps for pistol and other weapons qualifications.




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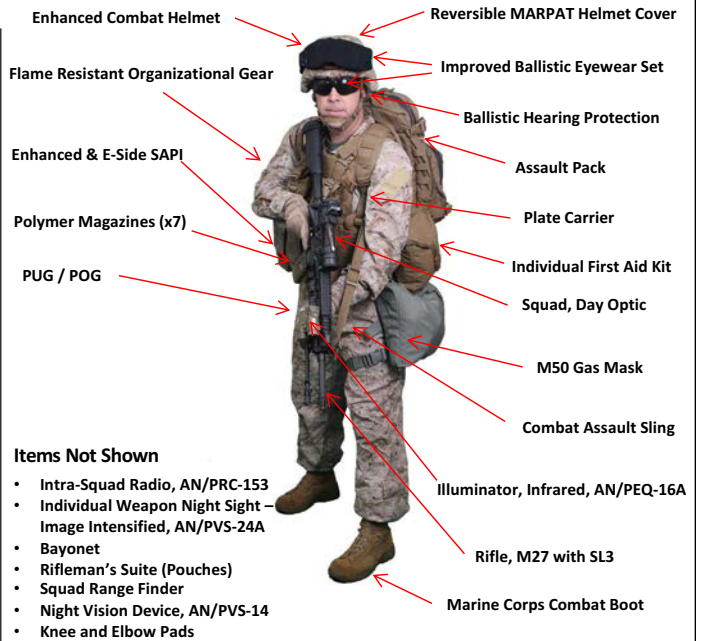
Assault Load: 2000



Items Not Shown

- MOLLE Assault Pack
- Sun, Wind and Dust Goggles
- Small Arms Protective Insert
- M12 Holster / M9 Magazines
- Fighting Load Carrier/Pouches
- MOLLE Hydration System
- M7 Bayonet w/scabbard
- Mask, Chemical-Biological (M40A1)

Today's Assault Load: 2018



Items Not Shown

- Intra-Squad Radio, AN/PRC-153
- Individual Weapon Night Sight - Image Intensified, AN/PVS-24A
- Bayonet
- Rifleman's Suite (Pouches)
- Squad Range Finder
- Night Vision Device, AN/PVS-14
- Knee and Elbow Pads

Measures of Effectiveness

- Limited Protection/Survivability
- Limited Range of Target Identification and Engagement
- Limited Lethality

\$7,312.24 / 60.23 lbs

Measures of Effectiveness

- Improved Lethality (M27)
- Improved Protection/survivability (Body Armor, Helmet, eyewear)
- Improved Range of Target Identification and Engagement (Optics, Range Finder)

\$29,333 / 73.68 lbs

The current USMC rifle and pistol qualification badge designs were adopted in 1958, with the crossed M1 Garand rifles and crossed M1911 pistols.

The "Expert Rifleman" badge is a Marine Corps item, circa post-WW I through WW II. These are documented in several reference books, including "Uniform Regulations United States Marine Corps 1937," reprint by S. Brannan and "Marine Badges & Insignia of the World: Including Marines, Commandos, and Naval Infantrymen," by B.L. Campbell. The badge is also referenced in a *National Geographic* special edition dated June 1943 showing insignia of all U.S. military services.

During this period, the Maltese Cross-style "Sharpshooter" badge, with one suspension ring, and single bar "Marksman" badge were also used. Most are seen with pin-back closures rather than the current pin and clutch attachments.

The disk-shaped challenge coin is a U.S. Navy Mexican Service medal, sans the cloth suspension ribbon. However, the reverse side should have an eagle astride

a fouled anchor and the words United States Marine Corps—for Service. The same medal was awarded to U.S. Navy personnel but is so marked on the reverse.

C. "Stoney" Brook
USMC, 1961-1965
Santa Cruz, Calif.

Outfitting Today's Marine

When I arrived at Parris Island on Sept. 25, 1956, I was issued several sets of utilities, underwear, socks, my M1, cartridge belt, various 782 gear and the infamous galvanized bucket. We didn't receive any part of the class uniform until after the rifle range, which was after week 8 or 9. The Marine Corps, in its infinite wisdom, knew that out of everyone getting this first issue, a certain percentage would no longer be there to receive their second issue.

Every time I receive my new issue of *Leatherneck* magazine, the same question pops into my mind. I see today's Marines, all decked out in this fancy electronic gear and I always have the same thought, how much does it cost to outfit a Marine in 2019? It looks like it would be slightly

more than my utilities and bucket issue from back in 1956.

Art Smalley
Virginia Beach, Va.

• According to *Marine Corps Systems Command*, the cost to outfit an individual Marine with an assault load in 2018 was \$29,333. The weight of the uniform and equipment was over 73 pounds—in 2013 it was more than 90 pounds. The cost has more than quadrupled and the weight increased by 25 percent since 2000 alone.—Editor

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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Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn. (all eras)**, Aug. 3-12, Louisville, Ky. Contact June Cormier, P.O. Box 9000, Box #902, Oceanside, CA 92051, (760) 763-3267, june.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **3rdMarDiv Assn. (all eras)**, Sept. 17-22, Branson, Mo. Contact Roger Bacon, (215) 822-9094, rogerbacon45@yahoo.com.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Aug. 20-23, Atlanta, Ga. Contact Kate Stark, (352) 448-9167, kate@usmccca.org.

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Oct. 31-Nov. 4, Seattle, Wash. Contact John Wear, (719) 495-5998, johnwear2@verizon.net.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Sept. 12-14, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **USMC Food Service Assn.**, Oct. 3, Woodbridge, Va. Contact Maj Rick Bedford, USMC (Ret), (804) 386-6991, rdbedford1@gmail.com, www.usmcfssa.org.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn.**, Sept. 17, Branson, Mo. Contact CWO-4 Jim Casey, USMC (Ret), businessmgr@marinecorpsmustang.org, www.marinecorpsmustang.org.

• **Seagoing Marines Assn.**, Oct. 1-6, Louisville, Ky. Contact Bob Sollom, (540) 840-9310, sol136@msn.com.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Aug. 1-4, San Diego, Calif. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, USMC (Ret), (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **The Chosin Few**, Dec. 4-8, San Diego, Calif. Contact Chosin Few Headquarters, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907, (843) 379-1011, thechosinfewinc@aol.com, www.chosinfew.org.

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

• **26th Marines Assn. (all eras)**, Aug. 23-25, New Orleans, La. Contact Sonny Hollub, (512) 825-4730, sonnyusmc@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Recruiting Service** (all who served in a recruiting command, officer or enlisted), Sept. 11-15, Bluffton, S.C. Contact Larry Risvold, (803) 760-

4575, larryrisvold@att.net, http://marinecorpsscruitingservice.com.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Sept. 29-Oct. 4, Norfolk, Va. Contact MSgt Robert I. Brown, USMC (Ret), (910) 358-7752, cbrown11@ec.rr.com.

• **Marine Barracks Fort Meade (NSA)**, Sept. 19-22, Valley Forge, Pa. Contact Bob Pepin, (508) 831-5575, rpepin@wpi.edu.

• **Marine Detachment/Barracks Bermuda (all eras)**, Sept. 15-19, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Dennis McDonald, (763) 473-3458, (612) 247-3299.

• **3rd Engineer Bn**, Oct. 1-3, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Contact A.J. Folk, (610) 589-1362, ajfpa@comcast.net.

• **1/1 (RVN, 1965-1971)**, Oct. 23-26, San Diego, Calif. Contact Bill Kendle, (651) 248-3914, bkendle@comcast.net.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Sept. 17-22, Branson, Mo. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.

• **1/5 (1986-1992)**, Sept. 5-8, Macomb, Ill. Contact Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com, Facebook: 1/5 USMC 1986-1992.

• **1/7 (1984-1988)**, October 2019, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Maj Bill Pedrick, USMC (Ret), bill.pedrick@gmail.com, or SgtMaj Dave Jones, USMC (Ret), drjonessgtmaj@gmail.com.

• **2/9 (all eras)**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 667-4762, twoninencoic@aol.com, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3**, Oct. 20, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Burrell Landes, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.

• **3/4 (all eras)**, Aug. 21-25, Virginia Beach/Norfolk, Va. Contact Travis Fryzowicz, (732) 251-5518, travisjfry@gmail.com.

• **3/26 (RVN)**, Nov. 10-17, Eastern Caribbean Cruise from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Contact James Sigman, (850) 528-3854, www.funseas.com/26marine.

• **A/1/11 (RVN, August 1965-August 1966)**, Oct. 15-18, San Diego, Calif. Contact Jim Wybenga, jwybenga15@gmail.com.

• **H/2/5 (RVN)**, Nov. 7-10, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Robert Hardrick, (513) 410-0935, www.hotel25vv.org.

• **K/3/7 (all eras)**, Sept. 12-16, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Bill Gerke, (631) 433-8575, msggerke@aol.com.

• **M/3/7 (RVN)**, Oct. 9, Branson, Mo. Contact Keith and Judy Kohlmann, (920) 203-5764, jckohlmann@yahoo.com.

• **3rd 155s, M/4/12, 3rdMarDiv**, Sept. 8-12, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact SgtMaj

Gordon Niska, USMC (Ret), (770) 856-1542, sniska@windstream.net.

• **Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, Task Force Leatherneck (2009-2010)**, May 1-3, 2020, Quantico, Va. Contact reunion committee, taskforceleatherneck@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 20-23, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, slickstuff@nwcable.net.

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

• **TBS 4-67**, Oct. 9-12, San Diego, Calif. Contact Ken Pouch, (860) 881-6819, kpouch5@gmail.com.

• **TBS 3-68**, Sept. 19-22, Quantico, Va. Contact Norm Hapke, 9949 Halo Circle, La Mesa, CA 91941, (619) 249-2281, nhapke@cox.net.

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

• **Plt 238, San Diego, 1965**, Oct. 15-18, San Diego, Calif. Contact Bonnie Arnold Gallegos, (608) 582-2386, hookemceg@hotmail.com.

• **Plt 331, Parris Island, 1959**, September 2019, Beaufort, S.C. Contact R.W. Wood, (205) 903-7220, bwood9@bellsouth.net.

• **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.

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

• **VMO/VMA/VMF/VMFA-251 (all eras)**, Nov. 7-10, Charleston, S.C. Contact Steven Dixon, (404) 944-1268, frenchy@vmfa251.org.

Ships and Others

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 9-13, Deerfield, Ill. Contact Ken Minick, 2115 Pride Ave., Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

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

(814) 224-5063, horneteva@aol.com.

• **USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7)**, Oct. 2-5, Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert G. McNally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack46709@gmail.com.

• **USS Wasp (CVS-18) Marine Detachment (1960-1970)**, Sept. 22-25, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Contact Joseph Looker, jsphlooker@aol.com.

Mail Call

• Terry Lydell, 1552 148th Ave. NW, Andover, MN 55304, terrylydell@qualityci.us, to hear from anyone who served with or has information regarding his uncle, **PFC Patrick John KIRBY**, a **WW II Marine parachutist with 1st Parachute Bn**, who was listed as **MIA on Nov. 29, 1943**. He is believed to have last been involved in the **Koiari Raid** under **Maj Richard Fagan** at **Bougainville** along with Co M of the **Marine Raider Battalion**.

• MGySgt John Street, USMC (Ret), streetfamily1@verizon.net, to hear from or about **CWO Danny KEMP**, who served as admin/personnel officer with **VMAQ-2** at **MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.**, in the **late 1980s-early 1990s**.

• MSgt H.L. Davis, USMC (Ret), (865) 254-4412, halusmcret@aol.com, to hear

from recruits **ZOSA, HARDEN, F. DAVIS, TUCKER, J.M. SMITH, PRITCHETT, GREEN** and all members of **Plt 2059, Parris Island, 1982**.

• Gene T. Spanos, (847) 532-2963, genethemarine@gmail.com, to hear from **Marine veterans of 3rdMarDiv** who would like to help establish an association chapter in the state of Illinois.

• Mike Brewer, (760) 550-8083, micbrewer@aol.com, to hear from anyone who was assigned to the **MAG-16 provost's office** between **March and September 1969**.

• Rosalie King, (713) 598-3324, rosalie@rosaliekking.com, to hear from a **veteran who has been diagnosed with PTSD** and is willing to review for accuracy an upcoming book about a fictional Marine with PTSD.


Entries for "Reader Assistance," which include "Reunions," "Mail Call," "Wanted" and "Sales, Trades and Giveaways," are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your email to s.bock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134. 🇺🇸

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SEP 7- 15

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SEP 10- 22

50th Anniversary of the VN War- 1969 I-Corps

SEP 12- 19

75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Peleliu

SEP 17- OCT 1

Ireland WWII U.S. Marines Dublin-Belfast-Derry

OCT 3- 13

China "Three Jewels" Beijing - Xian - Shanghai

NOV 2- 13

WWI Armistice Day France & Explore U.S. Battlefields

NOV 28- DEC 9

50TH Anniversary of the VN War - Delta to the DMZ Post Tour: Cambodia & Laos

DEC 3- 9

Hawaii 78th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor & WWII Sites

JAN 4- 11

Panama - 30th Anniversary of Operation Just Cause

FEB 8- 20

50th Anniversary of VN War Tet Offensive & Hue City

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By Nancy S. Lichtman



ROBERT KNUDSON

COMMANDER IN CHIEF VISITS THE OLDEST POST OF THE CORPS—Much like cherry blossoms along the Tidal Basin signify springtime in Washington, D.C., the Evening Parade at “8th and I” is a sure sign that summer has come to the nation’s capital.

The “Oldest Post of the Corps” was established in 1801 and the Marines who are assigned to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., have performed countless military reviews and ceremonies since then. The Evening Parade was conducted in its current format for the first time on July 5, 1957, and it never fails to dazzle tourists, locals and invited guests.

President John F. Kennedy paid a visit to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., on July 12, 1962, to attend the precision demonstration of traditional military ceremonial marching and music. Those

with a front row seat to that night’s parade were, from left to right, Senator Richard B. Russell; President Kennedy; General David M. Shoup, the 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps; Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson; Zola Shoup; and Congressman Carl Vinson (just visible on the edge of the frame).

Evening Parades begin at 8:45 p.m. on Fridays during the summer. They are free and open to the public and feature “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, “The Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps color guard, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and ceremonial marchers.

For a schedule of Evening and Sunset Parades for 2019, visit www.barracks.marines.mil/Parades/parade-Schedule-2019. 🦖

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