

OCTOBER 2019

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

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From the Editor's Desk



SGT MALLORY S. VANDERSCHANS, USMC

From left, U.S. Southern Command Commander Gen John F. Kelly; Gen James N. Mattis; International Security Assistance Force Commander Gen Joseph F. Dunford; 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen James F. Amos; Gen John R. Allen; and the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen John M. Paxton Jr., gather at the Home of the Commandants in Washington, D.C., April 19, 2013. This marks the first time that six four-star generals are actively serving in the Marine Corps.

An iconic photo was taken at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., in April 2013. Six Marines in camouflage utilities gathered in the Home of the Commandants, all obviously very comfortable in each other's company and each one a four star general. Six Marine four star generals. Such a sight was startling. The Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) wasn't promoted to general until 1945 (the 18th Commandant, General Alexander A. Vandegrift) and a second four star general wasn't authorized until 1969 when General Lewis W. Walt became the first Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (ACMC) to receive a fourth star. While there have been other four star generals in the Corps in addition to the CMC and ACMC over the last few decades, never have so many Marines served in the most senior grade at the same time.

All of the generals pictured are especially impressive, but when I look at this photo, I'm struck by the fact that four of the Marines in the room are focused on Gen Joseph F. Dunford. The only one of the generals who is not looking at Gen Dunford is Gen John F. Kelly. While I don't know what Gen Kelly was thinking, I do know that as his best friend during their decades as Marines and as a fellow native of Boston, Mass., Kelly was already very familiar with "Fightin' Joe" Dunford, who would go on to become only the second Marine to serve as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This month, Gen Dunford will retire—the last of the six Marines in the photo to leave active duty. While a retiring Marine is not unique, Gen Dunford's remarkable career is. As an infantry officer he commanded at all levels including

service as the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Forces Central Command and he took his Marines to combat in Iraq as a regimental commander, but it is his service as a four star general that is historic. No other Marine has spent as much time wearing four stars; Dunford will have served more than *nine years* at the senior grade in the Corps when he joins the retired ranks this fall. He initially served as the ACMC for two years before being selected to command the International Security Assistant Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan. After his success in both of those assignments, he was nominated to serve as the 36th CMC. With less than a year as the Corps' senior Marine, he was selected to be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs—a role he has filled since 2015.

The son of a Marine who fought at the Chosin Reservoir, Gen Dunford's legacy of service is second to none, and his retirement marks a sad day for the Corps. Here's hoping that, like some of the other generals in the iconic photo, our nation will be blessed to have Joe Dunford continue to serve even after joining the rolls of retired Marines.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, General.

Mary H. Reinwald

Mary H. Reinwald
Colonel, USMC (Ret)
Editor, *Leatherneck*



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COVER: Then-MajGen James N. Mattis, CG, 1stMarDiv, provides guidance to Marines throughout the Division during Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2003. Read *Leatherneck*’s exclusive interview with Gen Mattis on page 38. Photo by LCpl Henry S. Lopez, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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Letter of the Month

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

I read with great interest Sara W. Bock's very informative article, "Squared Away—At The MARINE Shop, Uniform Excellence is the Standard," in the July issue about The MARINE Shop and its founder, the late Major Harry D. Elms Sr.

Having purchased all my Marine Corps uniforms from Maj Elms, along with my good friend and fellow Marine Corps officer General Tony Zinni, USMC, during our Basic School days from July through December 1965, we both had more uniforms than civilian clothing.

Harry Elms took a personal as well as a business interest in us, and we both maintained contact with him for many years, Tony Zinni as a career Marine and I as a career FBI agent with periodic visits to Quantico for training.

I remember Maj Elms describing to me how Gen Charles Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, lured him to Marine Barracks for a private uniform fitting and surprised him with a party celebrating his 76th birthday in 1997 at the historic Home of the Commandants. Maj Elms was thrilled to be remembered in such a meaningful way.

On several occasions when I visited The MARINE Shop, Maj Elms greeted me warmly and reminisced on how I had been his first uniform customer. When I tactfully tried to correct him, he would go to his desk drawer and pull out an invoice reflecting the sale of uniforms to my brother, Art Armento, who was commissioned in 1961 shortly after The

MARINE Shop opened for business in a small store near the train station. Even though I tried on several occasions to explain to Maj Elms that it was my brother and not me, who had purchased the first uniform from The MARINE Shop, he always greeted me with great enthusiasm and warmth whenever I visited. Thanks for rekindling great memories of a wonderful man.

Colonel Reinwald, Sara Bock is an outstanding writer. She is one of the many reasons why *Leatherneck* is such a wonderful magazine, especially for veterans. I look forward to receiving it every month. Love the history. Thanks for your leadership.

Ed Armento
USMC, 1965-1968
Prospect, Ky.

• *We are glad you like the article. Quite a few of our readers had fond memories of their interactions with Harry Elms at The MARINE Shop. Sara Bock was especially pleased to hear that the Elms family also enjoyed the article. See below.—Editor*

Harry Elms' Family Thanks Writer

Sara: Your article on The MARINE Shop and the associated photos are absolutely superb. If Dad was still with us, he would be so pleased and honored. It is also very special to us that it is in that particular issue because, as you know, it was his birth month.

We sincerely appreciate your time, attention to detail, and excellent writing skills. You truly put your heart and soul into it, and I'm certain you will receive many compliments for it. You really deserve an award.

Pamela J. Elms Scott
Punta Gorda, Fla.

SgtMaj Kent Leads The Marine Corps Way

"The Leader," by Cpl Taryn M. Brackett, USMC, in the June *Leatherneck* was very well-written and deserving of first place prize in the *Leatherneck* Writing Contest.

There also was a good example of leadership and mentorship qualities in the article by Sara Bock, "Don't Be Afraid to Raise Your Hand: For Navy Cross Recipient, Battle of Fallujah Led to Battle Within," about PTSD in the same issue.

Sergeant Major Carlton Kent's continued mentorship, support and guidance even after the retirement of [SSgt Jeremiah Workman] a Marine previously in his command suffering from PTSD gives credence to the saying, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

Milt Hazzard
Baltimore, Md.

President John F. Kennedy Was a Friend to the Marine Corps

The 1962 photo in *Saved Round* for the July issue shows John F. Kennedy becoming the first President of the United States to visit the Home of the Commandants. This speaks to his special relationship with General David M. Shoup who was the only member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when Kennedy was inaugurated still serving at the time of Kennedy's assassination.

The picture in *Sound Off* in the same issue of Kennedy visiting MCRD San Diego in June 1963 played a part in the September 1963 White House meeting between President Kennedy and Gen Shoup. When Gen Shoup refused President Kennedy's urgent request that he serve a second term as Commandant because "it would be good for the Marine Corps," JFK offered an alternative. Noting how impressed he was by the training young Marines received on his recent visit to MCRD, Kennedy asked Gen Shoup to consider heading a new youth training organization, a "youth corps." Gen Shoup agreed to consider it but JFK's assassination ended the idea.

The refusal of Gen Shoup to agree to a second term as Commandant as well as JFK's raising the possibility of a job heading a new youth training organization are documented in Gen Shoup's personal memo, "A Happening in September 1963," which was given to me by the Shoup family to assist in writing his biography and which has since been donated to the



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 LtGen W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret)

Vice President/COO,
Marine Corps Association & Foundation
 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

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

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Hoover Institute at Stanford University where it has been added to the papers of Gen David M. Shoup.

Colonel Reinwald, I want to congratulate you on the two photos of John F. Kennedy. Those pictures are of immense historical significance and, as the editor, you deserve acknowledgment. When I was writing my book, "Kennedy's General," Col Walt Ford, your predecessor, was of great help. I am so pleased you are carrying on the high level of performance.

Aside from passing on my congratulations, I did want to make you aware that, after purchasing extra copies of the July Leatherneck, I offered to mail one to the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Jean Cannon, Curator for North American Collections at the Hoover Institution has requested a copy of the July issue and I have done so.

Frank E. Wallace
 Martinez, Calif.

• *Thank you for your kind words and for sending a copy of the issue to the Hoover Institution.*

Our senior editor, Nancy Lichtman, is responsible for the picture of President Kennedy in July's Saved Round. In addition to doing an outstanding job helping edit the magazine each month, Nancy takes great pride in finding rare and interesting photos that she thinks our readers will enjoy.—Editor

I saw the picture in the July issue of Leatherneck [Sound Off] of President Kennedy's June 1963 visit to MCRD San Diego. His visit has been mentioned before, but I felt compelled to submit this story regarding his presidential visit.

I was a recruit going through basic training at MCRD San Diego at that time.

We were close to graduation, and our platoon, Plt 222, was selected to do a "Junk on the Bunk" presentation for the President's visit, not knowing if he would actually have time to come by or not. Much to our surprise, President Kennedy did pay a visit. We came to attention as soon as he hit the forward hatch of our Quonset hut, and at precisely that same instant, the rear hatch popped open with two Secret Service agents entering and standing there to observe. President Kennedy stopped by four or five of our men to briefly chat. I was one of the fortunate men, and he asked me my name, where I was from, said "Thank you," and then proceeded on. It's a moment that will never be forgotten.

Sgt Bill Haase
 Shelby Twp., Mich.

Acting Enlisted Ranks

There have been many Sound Off comments and anecdotes about the acting enlisted ranks during 1959 to 1962. Permit me to clarify some enlisted Marine rank history during and after World War II and during the transition of the early 1960s.

During WW II, the Marines had a seven-grade rank structure, from private to master/first sergeant and sergeant major, with the numbering in reverse of today's grades. For example, private was grade 7 and master sergeant was grade 1.

During this period, there were line and technical grades, such as platoon sergeant/staff sergeant or gunnery sergeant/technical sergeant. The tech ranks were for specialized fields such as administration, armorer, electronics, supply, aviation, etc., much like the specialist ranks used by the Army during the 1960s. The rank chevrons were differentiated by rockers on line noncommissioned officers (NCOs)



Acting sergeant collar chevron left, and current sergeant collar chevron.



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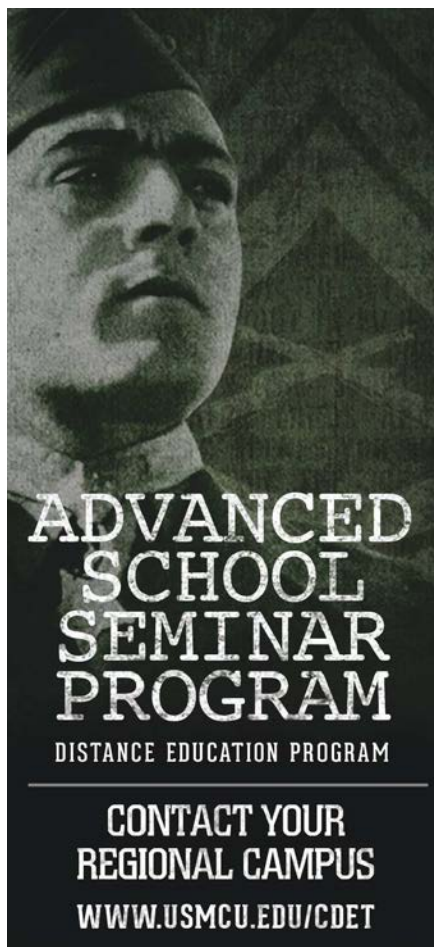


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and ties, a horizontal bar where today's rockers appear. These rank insignia did not appear on sleeves of the utility or dungaree uniforms.

On Dec. 1, 1946, Marines revised the enlisted ranks to reverse the pay grade numbering, private was now an E-1, etc., and to delete the ranks of platoon and technical sergeants. Enlisted ranks later began to be stenciled on sleeves of the utility jackets, often using a metal template from the PX, although any reduction in rank obviously made it impossible to change.

In December 1954, Marines re-established the ranks of sergeant major and first sergeant as grade E-7. While pay was the same, their order of seniority is as stated.

In January 1959, the Marines again revised the enlisted rank structure, adding three pay grades or ranks of E-3, lance corporal, previously corporal, E-8, first sergeant/master sergeant, and E-9, sergeant major/master gunnery sergeant. The new E-9 rank had four rockers instead of three.

It was during this transition period, slated to end July 1, 1963, that the current ranks promoted up to the new rank or remained in the old pay grade. The NCO and staff NCOs were referred to as acting temporary grades with the authority and privileges of the rank held. The revised and acting ranks are illustrated in the "Guidebook for Marines," 1960 edition on page 38.

A significant part of this transition was the adoption of pin-on metal rank insignia worn on the collar of the utility jacket. The black metal chevrons for E-2, PFC and acting E-3 through E-9 were 1 1/8-inch wide and lacked the crossed rifles; current style are 7/8-inch wide. Initially, the pin-on chevron had a threaded screwpost with a rounded dome retainer which tended to tear the fabric of the collar and were later replaced by the current clutch fasteners.

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

Guam: The Tip of the Spear

Major Ralph Bates' article on Guam was a fascinating read for me because I lived there from 1980 to 1982. In talking about citizenship and voting rights, however, he failed to emphasize the reason that Guamanians can't vote in presidential elections which is that Guam is a territory, not a state. Whether that is a good rule or not is not the point. The fact is that it is the rule. It probably will never be a state because of its size and population: 210 square miles and 165,000 people. Our least populated state, Wyoming, has 580,000 people. People from California, New York,

and other states with millions of residents, would scream bloody murder, and rightly so, if Guam rated two senators in Congress. Guamanians do have all of the other rights of citizens of the U.S.

Birney Dibble
Eau Claire, Wis.

I am a longtime subscriber to *Leatherneck* and always seem to find something interesting to read each month.

I found the article on "Guam: America's Tip of the Spear," by Maj Ralph "Stoney" Bates Sr., in the July 2019 issue, to be particularly interesting since I was stationed at Camp Witek on Guam from 1948 to 1950 with the First Brigade. Upon completion of my tour, I shipped out to Korea with the 1st Marine Division. When I mentioned the article to my Guamanian friend who still lives there, he was also very interested since he is a historian for Guam and the Marianas region.

Sgt Richard Grim
USMC, 1947-1951
Campbell, Calif.

A Son-in-Law Remembered

My son-in-law, Captain Michael C. Wunsch, was KIA July 28, 1969, at Da Nang, South Vietnam and received the Silver Star for his actions. He learned the language and was an interpreter at Quang Tri. Capt Wunsch was a good Christian and a good son. I will always remember Michael. He was a fine young man.

Cpl James Pericles
USMC, 1944-1946
Media, Pa.

• *Capt Michael C. Wunsch received the Silver Star posthumously for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as CO, Co A, 3rd Tank Bn, 3rdMarDiv, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. Capt Wunsch's unit was participating in Operation Idaho Canyon northwest of Cam Lo in Quang Tri Province when he detected movement forward of his position in the early morning hours of July 27, 1969. "Reacting instantly, he boldly stood in the turret of his tracked vehicle to better observe the area. While thus exposed to the intense hostile fire, he was mortally wounded by the detonation of a rocket-propelled grenade which impacted on his tank."*—Editor

Apollo Launch Anniversary

I received my July issue today. Never in my wildest imagination, while working for *Leatherneck* magazine among the last active-duty Marines to have that honor, did any of us contemplate viewing the

[continued on page 64]

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In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA Amphibious Assault Central To Talisman Sabre Mission

U.S. Marines, Australian soldiers and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) conducted simulated amphibious mechanized and direct-action raids in Bowen, Queensland, Australia, as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 19, July 22-23.

Assault amphibious vehicles loaded with Marines from “Fox” Company, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit launched from the amphibious transport dock USS *Green Bay* (LPD-20), landing on the beach in waves along with Australian soldiers assigned to the Amphibious Task Group and members of the JGSDF’s Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade. Following the landing, Force Reconnaissance Marines with the 31st MEU’s Maritime Raid Force pushed inland on Light Armored Reconnaissance Vehicles and up-armored humvees brought ashore by Landing Craft, Air Cushion

(LCAC) hovercraft from the amphibious assault ship USS *Wasp* (LHD-1) to conduct a simulated limited small-scale raid on a factory as the culminating event for the exercise.

“Exercises like Talisman Sabre are really beneficial for us as a company,” said Captain Ryan J. Moore, Fox Co commander, BLT 2/1, 31st MEU. “They offer my Marines and [me] the ability to operate in a complex and challenging multinational environment, allowing us to hone our skills and improve our interoperability with our Australian and Japanese partners.”

During Talisman Sabre, the 31st MEU supported 3rd Marine Division as Combined Task Force 79, integrated with Sailors of the *Wasp* Amphibious Ready Group under Expeditionary Strike Group 7 as Combined Task Force 76.

“The Marine Corps and Navy relationship is inherent to amphibious operations, and during a large forcible entry, it becomes much more deliberate and focused to accomplish that objective,” said Major

Mike Mroszczak, 31st MEU operations officer. “The fact that U.S. Marines, the Australian Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force conducted an amphibious combined joint forcible entry into the same objective area here during Talisman Sabre cannot be understated. Alongside the landing force, the U.S. Navy simultaneously tied in with the Royal Australian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force to make this large-scale amphibious operation happen.”

After completing simulated actions on objectives, the combined force rapidly withdrew from the landing site and returned to amphibious shipping in preparation for the next potential mission.

Talisman Sabre is designed to improve partner nation combat readiness and interoperability through realistic, relevant training, enhancing the MEU’s ability and proficiency to respond to crisis as part of a combined effort while maintaining regional security, peace and stability.

Capt George McArthur, USMC



LCPL TANNER LAMBERT, USMC

U.S. Marines with the 31st MEU come ashore in Queensland, Australia, while conducting a simulated amphibious assault with Australian soldiers during Exercise Talisman Sabre 19, July 22.

SENEGAL AND MALI

Marines Establish CSL, Prepare for Crisis Response

Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response–Africa, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, rehearsed operations to establish and operate from a cooperative security location (CSL) in Dakar, Senegal, July 28-Aug. 10.

Once the CSL was established by the forward logistics element, the air, ground, logistics and command elements arrived in Dakar and began mission planning within a complex scenario. The scenario required the participating U.S. Marines, Sailors and airman to exercise quick reaction force and U.S. embassy reinforcement procedures. The ground combat element also participated in bilateral training with the Senegalese Armed Forces to increase proficiency and interoperability while the logistics combat element established a Forward Resuscitative Surgical System (FRSS) within the CSL.

During the training, the FRSS played a vital role as a mobile operating room containing Role 2 medical capabilities to treat trauma patients. The system and its 13 team members, who ranged from surgeons to laboratory technicians, demonstrated their ability to conduct forward damage control resuscitation and damage control surgery. Throughout the duration of the training evolution, the FRSS team had the opportunity to validate their capabilities and rehearse the setup of the facility in a dissimilar environment.

“The FRSS is important because it brings life-saving treatment closer to wherever the battle may be,” said Lieutenant Commander Sarah Sebby, USN, an emergency medicine physician and officer in charge of the FRSS. “This allows us to bring the operating room closer to the patient and potentially save lives from preventable causes of death.”

From Aug. 2-4, the ground combat element of SPMAGTF–CR-AF participated in a bilateral field training exercise with members of the Senegalese Armed Forces. The Marines and Senegalese soldiers rehearsed basic marksmanship skills, static shooting and machine gun ranges during the three-day exercise. In addition, Marine scout snipers exchanged tactics with the Senegalese snipers to increase their lethality as a force.

“We conducted this training because we have a good rapport with the Senegalese as a whole, and we are trying to build a stronger bond with them, exchange procedures and improve our overall relationship with them,” said First Lieutenant Zachary Taylor, a platoon commander with SPMAGTF–CR-AF.

On Aug. 5, a QRF rehearsal required



CPL MARGARET GALE, USMC

Above: During a QRF rehearsal in Thies, Senegal, that took place on Aug. 5, Marines with SPMAGTF–CR-AF extract a simulated casualty. The rehearsal increased the SPMAGTF’s ability to conduct link-up procedures, on-scene and en-route trauma stabilization, and offensive and defensive operations.



CPL MARGARET GALE, USMC

At a cooperative security location in Dakar, Senegal, July 31, a Marine with SPMAGTF–CR-AF establishes generator power for a forward resuscitative surgical system, which provides medical treatment capabilities in a deployed environment.

Marines to respond to an evolving scenario against a simulated enemy, with assault support provided by the aviation combat element.

“Anytime Marines get the chance to get out and train, they are going to get better at what they do,” said Major Joseph Hardin, the SPMAGTF operations officer. “Getting away from where our logistics are set up and our communications are stable, it adds a new dynamic to the training we conduct.”

The culminating event took place Aug.

6-7 and involved an embassy reinforcement rehearsal at the U.S. Embassy in Bamako, Mali. The Marines inserted into the embassy Aug. 6, received a scenario update from the Marine Security Guard detachment and provided additional security around the embassy. They responded to a notional complex enemy attack on the embassy Aug. 7 and rehearsed securing the embassy compound, safeguarding personnel and treating simulated casualties.

“The Marines did an excellent job and

really knocked it out of the park,” said Colonel Eric Cloutier, the commanding officer of SPMAGTF–CR-AF. “I am proud of each and every one of the Marines ... everyone came down here intent on mission accomplishment. Everything was done with a potential that this could be done for real at any time. So, hats off to everyone who made this possible.”

Cpl Margaret Gale, USMC

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. Regimental-Level Exercise Improves Interoperability Among Units

Marines with 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division conducted Summer Fire Exercise at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 1.

Summer FIREX is designed to bring the entire regiment together and maximize the training areas available on the base, which enhances their ability to conduct real-world operations. There were approximately 1,600 Marines and Sailors, 250 vehicles, 23 M777 howitzers and 16 M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) in the field simultaneously.

“Camp Pendleton is a very good training area—it’s not the largest in the Marine Corps, but it does give us a lot of options,” said Colonel Ricardo Miagany, the commanding officer of 11th Marines.

There are many advantages to training at the regimental level, including a chance to work together with a variety of units to accomplish the mission.

According to Captain Gregory Scott,



Marines with Fox Btry, 2/11 load a 155 mm round into an M777 howitzer during Summer FIREX at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 23. The live fire regimental-level exercise maximized the use of the training areas on the base and improved interoperability among the units of 11th Marine Regiment, enhancing their ability to conduct real-world operations. (LCpl Alison Dostie, USMC)

the battery commander for “Sierra” Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, he and his Marines benefitted from learning tactics, techniques and procedures from other units and refining standard operating procedures. Sierra Btry conducted a high mobility raid infiltration (HI-RAIN) during which they conducted on-load/offload drills by putting an M142 HIMARS in a KC-130J Hercules.

After the drills, Sierra Btry fired M-28A Reduced Range Practice Rounds. These rounds, used only in training, give Marines the capability to do live-fire ranges without impacting any areas outside Camp Pendleton, said Staff Sergeant Levi Eisenhower, HIMARS operator with Sierra Btry, 5/11.

Marines with “Fox” Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines conducted battery



An M142 HIMARS is fired by Marines with Sierra Btry, 5/11 during Summer FIREX at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 23. (Photo by LCpl Alison Dostie, USMC)

training and readiness manual evaluations with the battalion. They used M777 Howitzers and 155 mm rounds to train and contribute to Summer FIREX.

“The battery itself has our gun line, fire direction center, communication sections, [motor transportation] sections and supply, all contributing to getting 155 mm artillery rounds on target so we can continue to train to be all-weather support for 1st Marine Division,” said Capt Patrick Owens, the Fox Btry commander.

The regiment uses the Summer FIREX and other regimental training to prepare to deploy as a regiment and to see how other units work and integrate.

“Marines don’t want it easy,” said Col Miagany. “They want to be challenged and this is when we do that. We take them to the field and we challenge them, and I think on the back end of this, they’ll feel like they accomplished something and they’re a better warfighter for having participated in Summer FIREX.”

LCpl Alison Dostie, USMC

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

26th MEU Prepares for Life at Sea

The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit successfully completed Amphibious Squadron MEU Integration Training (PMINT) with the U.S. Navy *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group off the coast of Onslow Beach, N.C., July 19. The training evolution was executed in order to familiarize the ARG/MEU Marines and Sailors with life aboard amphibious ships and prepare them for an overseas deployment later this year.

The training began with the 26th MEU embarking onto the amphibious assault ship *USS Bataan* (LHD-5), amphibious transport dock *USS New York* (LPD-21) and dock landing ship *USS Oak Hill* (LSD-51). The embarkations occurred in Norfolk, Va.; Mayport, Fla.; and Morehead City, N.C. From there, more than 1,100 Marines and Sailors assigned to the 26th MEU integrated with their Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 8 counterparts for the first time as an ARG/MEU while at sea.

Embarking onto multiple ships is not an easy task. One of the most complex groups to move was Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. For many Marines and Sailors, it was their first time working together, while also bringing equipment and personnel onto the ships. Whether it’s their first time or their tenth, Marines and Sailors always discover new training opportunities and ways to be more efficient as an overall blue-green team.

“From on-load to offload there is a lot of great training and learning that is occurring,” said Lieutenant Colonel

Thomas Siverts, the BLT 2/8 commanding officer. “We are learning how to load our ships, live on ship, train on ship and prepare for and execute missions from ship. It’s impressive to see the teamwork that has occurred through PMINT. We’ve established a solid foundation that we will build upon throughout the remaining training cycle and deployment.”

One BLT 2/8 asset was the Combined Anti-Armor Team (CAAT), which embarked via LCAC. Multiple vehicles and more than 30 Marines were transported from shore-to-ship by the LCAC Navy Craft Masters.

“It was a great experience for many Marines integrating with the Sailors onboard,” said Second Lieutenant Connor Mahoney, BLT 2/8 CAAT platoon commander. “The shore-to-ship movement via the LCAC was executed smoothly thanks to our Navy partners. Once aboard, we were able to validate armory spaces, berthing allotments and workspaces for Marines and staff.”

Once all personnel and equipment were fully embarked, Marines and Sailors then conducted ship-to-shore movements with Assault Amphibious Vehicles, LCACs and aviation assets assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 365 (Reinforced). The embarked Marines and Sailors also practiced ship-specific exercises such as man overboard drills.

“Successfully embarking and getting accustomed to life aboard naval vessels can be challenging for Marines and Sailors who have never deployed on a ship before,” said Colonel Trevor Hall,

the commanding officer of the 26th MEU. “PMINT allows us to integrate into one team so we can efficiently, and safely, execute missions across the full range of military operations from the sea.”

PMINT not only puts shore-to-ship and ship-to-shore movements to the test, but it is also the first time for many Marines and Sailors to communicate as one team.

“Over the course of PMINT, working with the crew of *USS New York* has been an enjoyable experience,” said First Lieutenant James Foley, BLT 2/8 communications officer. “They have a first-class group of Sailors that have helped us tremendously in setting up connectivity and providing command and control throughout the ship. It’s extremely impressive how much of a focus that they have on a team mindset, working together, and supporting the Marines on ship.”

MEUs operate continuously across the globe to provide a forward-deployed, flexible and responsive sea-based Marine air-ground task force. The ability to move Marines, Sailors and equipment from ship to shore is a key function that allows the ARG/MEU team to rapidly respond to a variety of situations—ranging from full-scale combat operations to foreign humanitarian assistance.

“We are a stronger, more capable force when we integrate as a blue-green team,” Col Hall said. “It’s about teamwork and maximizing the tremendous capabilities of our forces so we provide commanders around the globe with a scalable, ready and resilient force.”

2ndLt James Sartain, USMC



GySgt Christopher Oakley, USMC, a combat cargo assistant with Amphibious Squadron 4, guides an expendable boom forklift during a Navy-Marine Corps joint loading exercise aboard *USS Carter Hall* (LSD-50) at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., July 11.

Maritime Raid Force Rehearses Ship-to-Ship Operations

During a Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exercise in the Arabian Gulf, July 25, Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit boarded the amphibious transport dock ship USS *John P. Murtha* (LPD-26). The 11th MEU and *Boxer* Amphibious Ready Group are deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the Western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.



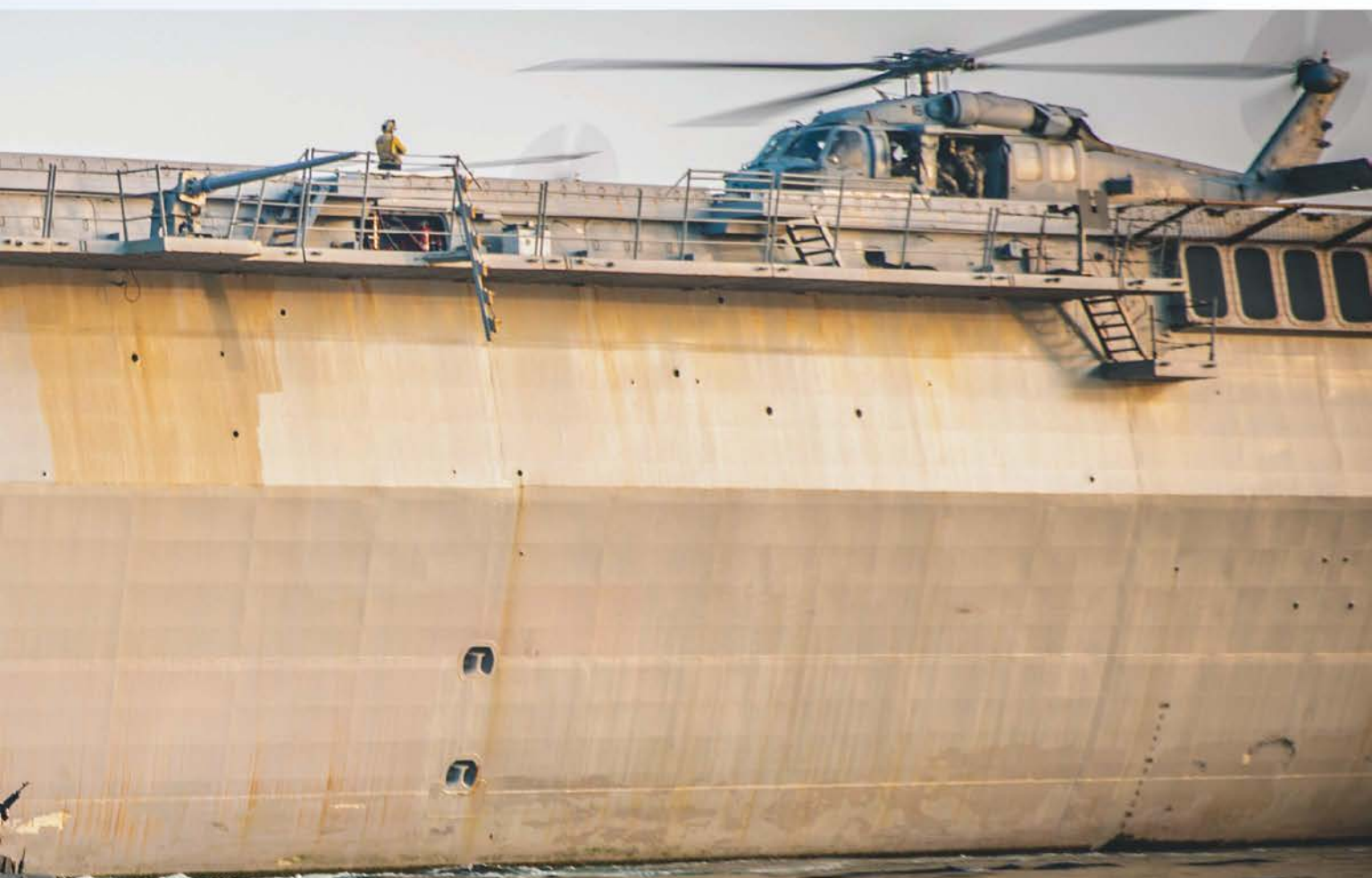
Right: A Marine with MRF, 11th MEU holds a tactical assault ladder while conducting a VBSS exercise in the Arabian Gulf, July 25. (Photo by Cpl Matthew Teutsch, USMC)





Left: Marines with MRF, 11th MEU ride in a rigid-hull inflatable boat operated by Sailors from Assault Craft Unit 1 during a VBSS exercise in the Arabian Gulf, July 25.

CPL MATTHEW TEUTSCH, USMC



Using a caving ladder, MRF Marines with the 11th MEU board USS John P. Murtha (LPD-26) during a VBSS training exercise. (Photo by Cpl Matthew Teutsch, USMC)

Where the War Ends ...

They fight a different kind of battle at the Naval Support Activity Station Hospital near Da Nang

Story and photos by GySgt Bruce Martin, USMC

The Naval Support Activity Station Hospital near Da Nang is where the war ends for hundreds of Marines each week. But for the Naval medical personnel stationed there, it is a battlefield where a different kind of war is fought every hour of the day. For them, the hospital is the theater for a continuing drama in which they, as the cast, come to grips with death.

The dramatic effort to sustain life begins with the landing of a medical evacuation helicopter flying straight from a battlefield where the Marines onboard were wounded only moments before in a brief encounter or from an exploding booby trap or any form of confrontation with the enemy or what some regard as "fate."

As the helicopter approaches a landing

site on the hospital's grounds, stretcher-bearers are already standing by to offload the casualties. The triage area where the casualties will first be taken to have their wounds cleaned and their conditions diagnosed stands ready as it does 24-hours a day. Special sections, such as X-ray, stand by to offer their services.

As the medevac choppers touch down, there's no hesitation on the stretcher-bearers' part to rush forward and begin immediately removing the casualties. Some wounded are ambulatory and make it to triage with a minimum of assistance, but others are lying on stretchers, and for some of them, their lives are in the hands of men whom they've never seen and whom they may never see again after they've made a successful recovery.

Leatherneck followed a seriously



Above: Naval medical research specialists constantly seek the causes and cures for illnesses peculiar to those who are serving in Vietnam.

Below: The dramatic effort to sustain life begins when a medical evacuation helicopter arrives at the NSA hospital.



wounded Marine through the lifesaving processes performed by the NSA Hospital personnel. The result was what laymen might term a miracle, but what has seemingly become routine to the men who performed it. It began with a tension-packed dialogue in the triage room where organized chaos reigned.

"Squeeze it, Charlie, squeeze it!" a tall, green-clad figure intoned, almost frantically.

Charlie squeezed his right hand into a fist and the corpsman inserted a needle into an arm.

"Where you from, Charlie?" asked another Sailor armed with a clipboard, a sheath of forms and a pencil.

"G ... Georgia," Charlie stuttered through clenched teeth as he fought the pain.

"How'd you get it?" another corpsman asked as he cut Charlie's clothes away.

"Damned booby trap," grunted Charlie.

"How you feel?" asked one of Charlie's buddies lying next to him on another stretcher.

Charlie hesitated before he answered the question. He must have decided to survey the damage before he could ascertain how he felt. He raised his head to assess the damage caused by the booby trap: he saw that both his legs were gone above the knees and that he was missing three fingers and a thumb from his left hand.

"Uh-oh!" sighed Charlie, fully realizing for the first time what had happened to him. But Charlie never related how he felt; instead, he seemed to be more concerned about his buddy who had asked the question.

"Hey, Smitty! You OK, man?" Charlie asked.

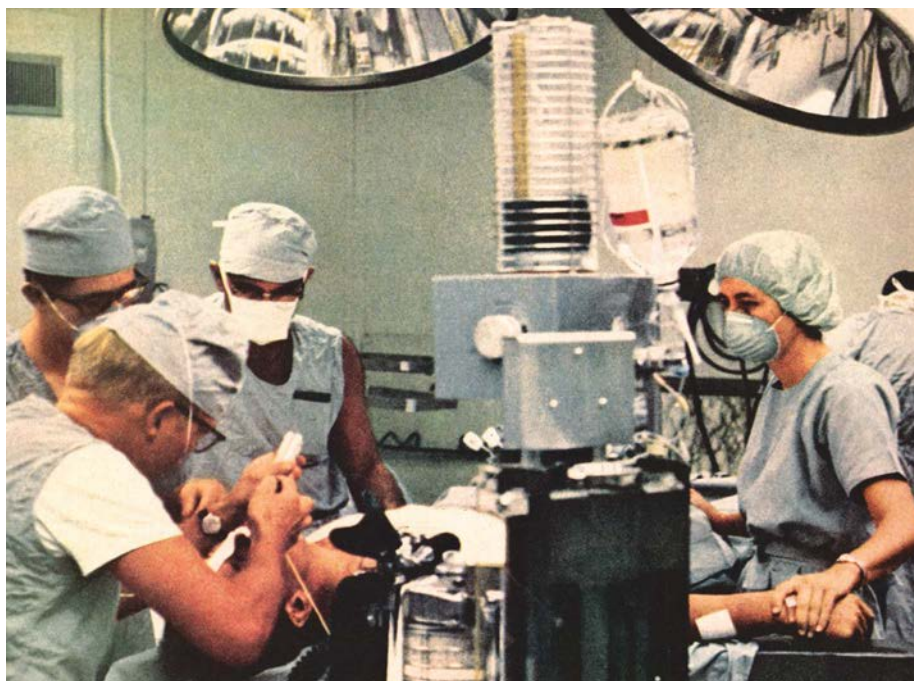
"Yeah," Smitty said, forcing a grin that Charlie couldn't see, "but I feel like a porcupine turned inside out."

Smitty was riddled with tiny fragments from the booby trap Charlie had stepped on, but he was considered to be in "excellent" condition by the hospital personnel. No real battle here for them, but for Charlie, it would be an uphill fight all the way because he was bleeding internally, had large fragments from the booby trap in his torso, arms, and face, and faced the possibility of slumping into what would be a fatal shock.

After a half-hour of stabilizing Charlie's life-signs, getting blood into him and stemming as much of the flow from his wounds as possible considering their size, Charlie was carried into X-ray. After a few moments in X-ray, Charlie, who was still conscious and carrying on a conversation with the corpsmen in an effort to keep his mind off his wounds, was taken straight to one of the hospital's six operating rooms.



Above: A Navy doctor and his assistant study X-rays of a Marine's fragmentation wounds before his scheduled surgery.



For Navy medical personnel at the NSA hospital, the war continues daily, although it may be only a brief and easily won skirmish with a flesh wound or a hard-fought battle against death.

Waiting for Charlie in the operating room were four surgeons, an anesthetist, a nurse and eight corpsmen. There was no need for a conference on the procedures to be performed on Charlie because, for the most part, Charlie's wounds were very obvious. Preparations began immediately on Charlie's arrival for treating his injuries. Normally, he would have first gone to a pre-operation area where he would have been shaved, bathed and completely prepared for surgery but because of his

wounds and the fact that every second counted in saving his life, he was prepared for surgery on the operating table where doctors discussed and planned their procedures.

The operating room personnel were swift and sure. Arteries were tied and bleeding stopped; frayed flesh was trimmed and cauterized; metal fragments were dug out of Charlie; surgery was required to halt internal bleeding; an orthopedist set Charlie's left arm which



The intensive care unit of the NSA hospital is the scene of 24-hour-a-day activity. Casualties just out of surgery are kept under constant surveillance by medical personnel who are alert to the slightest change in a patient's condition.

had been broken by the explosion; another doctor worked to save Charlie's one remaining finger on his left hand; and finally, six hours after Charlie had arrived at NSA hospital, his wounds were bandaged and the surgeons had performed another "miracle." But most of them could not step back and admire their work because other "Charlies" would soon require their attention.

After surgery, Charlie was moved to the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Here, he was watched literally every minute of the day for signs of infection in the wounds, reaction to any medication or any indication that his already critical condition might worsen. When emergencies did arise, the nurses and corpsmen in ICU either countered them or called for a doctor's assistance.

Three days after Charlie tripped the booby trap, he was in such good condition—and high spirits considering the extent of the injuries he had sustained—that he was evacuated to the States.

"These people are really wonderful," Charlie said. "I don't know any of them—but I know I owe them something I can never repay."

Charlie's debt of gratitude is something thousands of Marines owe to the medical personnel at NSA hospital but the doctors, nurses and corpsmen seem to feel that no one owes them anything.

"We get our own satisfaction out of seeing a man who's more dead than alive when he arrives here leave for the States well on the way to recovery," said one corpsman. "It's a hard feeling to describe ... but it's a good feeling."

But then, there are those Marines who are beyond help when they arrive at the hospital and frantic efforts to save them are not so happily rewarded.

"It really hurts you when you fight like hell to save a man's life," explained one corpsman, "and you begin to see him slip away from you and you fight all the much harder, but you lose him anyway because there's just no power on earth that can save him. And after he's gone, you ask yourself, 'Did I do something wrong? Was there something else I could have done?'"



Thousands of lives have been saved because of rapid medevacs, the excellent facilities of NSA hospital, and the professional competence of its medical and support personnel.

and even though the answer always seems to be 'no!' you still wonder."

While the results of the dedication of the hospital staff in cases like Charlie's speak more clearly than printed facts and figures, it should be noted that statistics are important in the case of NSA hospital. They are not statistics compiled for the sake of beating old records, but they are datum accumulated through the necessity of projecting the hospital's needs for personnel and equipment to handle casualties whose numbers fluctuate daily. Statistics gathered by the hospital for February 1968 reflect not only the hospital's busiest month, but the hardest fought month of the Vietnam War. They are: 2,175 admissions, 3,556 outpatient visits, an average stay of 4.2 days per admission, 49,542 immunizations, 596 refractions, 3,526 spectacles fabricated, 42,741 prescriptions dispensed, 80,307 lab tests performed, 13,632 X-rays taken and 2,888 units of whole blood transfused.

"You might think that the majority of the admissions here come from the battlefield," one doctor pointed out, "but oddly enough, more than half the patients admitted are suffering from disease or injuries."

Comparatively, in February 1968 only 897 patients admitted to NSA hospital suffered from disease or injury while the remainder were battle casualties. But, in September 1968, 1,739 patients with diseases or injuries were admitted while 740 combat casualties were admitted.

"Because of the high disease rate, such as malaria, fever of unknown origin and so on, here in Vietnam, a Naval medical



Corpsmen assigned to the hospital's triage area find a few moments for relaxation while waiting for another medevac helicopter to arrive.

research unit works with the hospital in trying to find cures and causes of these diseases,” said a doctor.

The medical research unit is one of the five special tasks assigned the hospital. The other four are shock research, operation of a frozen blood bank, preventive medicine research, and optical fabrication.

There are 12 specialty departments within the hospital manned by 49 doctors, 34 nurses, 17 medical service corps officers, 432 corpsmen and 152 support personnel. They are: general surgery; orthopedic surgery; neurosurgery; genitourinary surgery; anesthesiology; ophthalmology; otolaryngology; internal medicine; radiology; dermatology; preventive medicine; and laboratory pathology.

Additionally, there is a dental facility at the NSA hospital staffed by 15 dentists and 30 technicians. Dental personnel handle a lot of specialty cases resulting from combat which require surgery or treatment. And, in addition to the normal duties of a dental clinic, a set of dentures can be turned out in one to three days, depending on circumstances.

Perhaps it is somewhat ironic that all of the facilities available at the NSA Station Hospital can be utilized by Viet Cong or North Vietnamese Army captives. And, in some cases, Vietnamese patients are treated at NSA hospital, depending on the

type of treatment they require. However, as any doctor or corpsman will be quick to inform you, medical treatment of a Marine, or any other U.S. serviceman, is their first obligation.

“We’ve got everything going for us here in the way of equipment and personnel,” a neurosurgeon pointed out. “Our equipment is up to date and comparable to many exclusive private hospitals in the States. And we feel that we have the best and most experienced hospital staff you’ll find anywhere in Vietnam.”

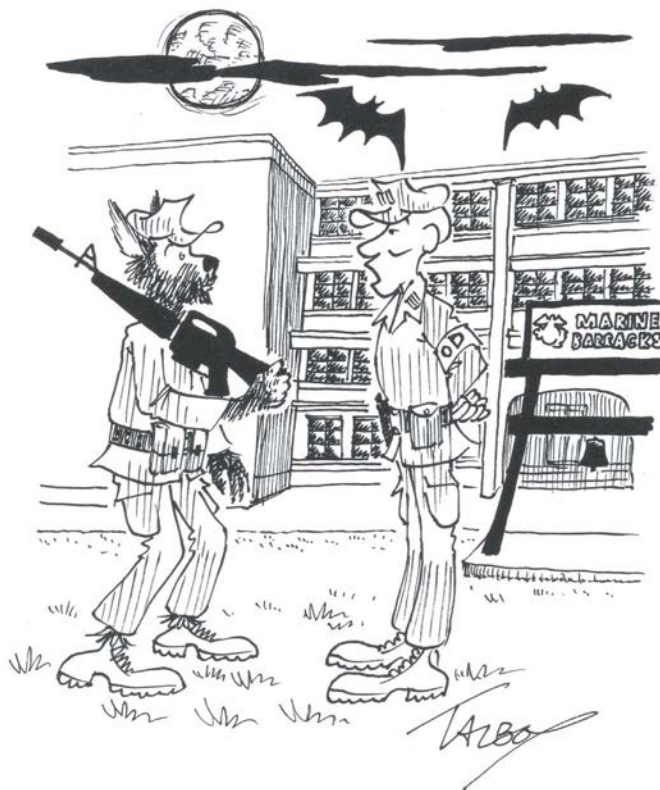
This statement may be why one Marine patient was quick to point out that “... it’s better to get hit in Vietnam than to be in a traffic accident on the Los Angeles freeway. Your chances of survival are better.” He, of course, included the fact that speedy helicopter medical evacuation to the NSA hospital has greatly improved survival chances.

For every seven Marines admitted to NSA hospital, one returns to duty in the field with his unit and the others are evacuated to the States. But for every Marine admitted to the hospital, his war has ended, often only temporarily. For the Navy personnel, their war continues daily although it may be only a brief and easily won skirmish with a flesh wound—or a hard-fought battle against death for a Marine’s life. 🇺🇸

Leatherneck Laffs



"OK, guys. We go for the full-size candy bars first!"



"Does this happen with every full moon or just at Halloween?"



"It's a high and tight, Gunny."



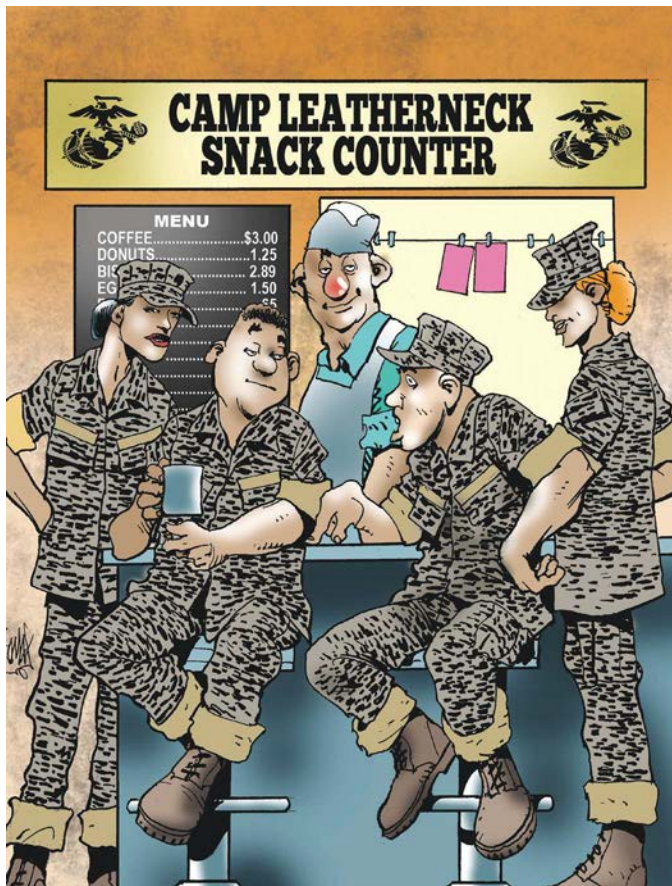
"I don't care if you're from a Reserve group in Kentucky ... lose the hat!"



"You ever notice that we practice with gas masks the day after we have beans in the mess hall?"



"I hear there's a pilot shortage. How can I help?"



Counter intelligence



"Kevlar is our most popular vest with the military."



CARRIER CASUALTY

Marines aboard had some bad moments when *Princeton* sank on Oct. 24, 1944

By Sgt John Conner, USMC

The blazing *Princeton* (CVL-23), shuddering with successive explosions, and almost hidden under a dense pall of smoke was getting too hot for comfort. Private First Class Mike Flinn hung on to the paravane chain for long seconds waiting for PFC Warren Abriel to come to the surface with the lifejacket they were going to share in the squally sea. Flinn could swim but the going would be rough. Time was flying and he looked again, this time well be-

yond the spot one would expect a buoyed-up man to reappear and saw his buddy in a swirl of foam moving swiftly astern and already out of reach. Flinn had no choice but to kick off and try to reach the nearest destroyer under his own power.

The can was about 50 yards off the carrier's starboard beam and closing in, cutting her speed to that of the drifting flattop. It should have been an easy stretch for Flinn's practiced crawl but when he finally reached for a knotted line swinging from the destroyer's fo'c'stle, he knew he could not make the hand-over-hand ascent.

He was too tired. The waves he had been fighting he now used to his advantage. When the next one lifted him almost to the weather deck he grabbed the rope near the rail and hung on. The wave withdrew, the rearing bow lifted him clear and in another moment he would have been aboard with a single, last heave had not a pair of desperate Sailors reached from a roller's crest and pulled him down with them. Flinn spluttered a warning, but too late. They had him around the waist and shoulders with the tenacity of the drowning men and his cramped hands wouldn't hold.



USN

Above: *Birmingham* assists *Princeton* with firefighting on Oct. 24, 1944.

Left: *Princeton* explodes as one of *Reno's* torpedoes strikes home moments before the stricken carrier takes her final plunge on Oct. 24, 1944. (USN photo)

make it in his sodden clothing. He ducked under and pulled at his shoelaces, but didn't have the strength to pull them untied. A Sailor in a lifejacket splashed past, ignoring his yells, but two others wearing Mae Wests caught him under either arm and helped him along. After an eternity of more struggling in a nightmare of ocean he felt himself being dragged onto something rubbery, and there was air to breathe again.

The second Battle of the Philippine Sea had moved on, leaving the stricken *Princeton* in the care of cruisers and destroyers. The task force was steaming north to intercept the big Japanese carrier fleet. The Battle of *Princeton* had been a sudden, one-punch round in which a bogey, identified as a dive-bomber Judy, had knocked the flat-top cold with its one egg.

Marine Corporal Frank Rutkowski, a control talker in a 40 mm gun director pit, heard Control yell "dive-bomber overhead" and looked up to see the Japanese come screaming out of a low cloud ceiling directly off the bow. Up forward anti-aircraft guns crackled briefly and too late. His eyes picked out the red disks on the wings and Rutkowski noted the dull, blackish bomb start on its separate downward path. He knew it couldn't miss. It seemed to be coming right down his throat. He folded to the deck behind the



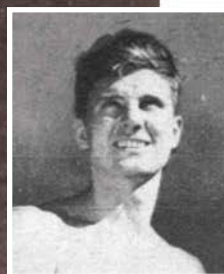
LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

PFC Mike Flinn



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

PFC Warren Abriel



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

Cpl Frank Rutkowski

Flinn got back to the surface in time to see a cargo net, slung overside amidships, going by him. He grabbed again but now the waves, sloshing with washing-machine vigor in the shrinking space between can and carrier, knocked him loose. The destroyer drove on. Its stern fender, a Sailor astride it, dipped by and the Sailor, grinning encouragement, leaned over and extended an arm. Their palms slapped together, held a moment, and were jerked apart. Flinn swore and went under a third time, spinning in the propellers' wake, and praying. Then he was free again on the roaring surface.

Gasping for breath he looked around. Now and then another head would come

and go in the glimpses he would get from the crest of a wave. Faint cries interposed themselves in the general din of a dying ship. Cries of "Help me," "I can't swim," and "Oh, God, save me" came to him faintly, and he thought of Abriel, a non-swimmer with luck enough to find a lifejacket in the scramble. Sucking more water than air into his lungs and almost blinded by the brine sluicing over his face, he caught the picture of a raft skidding down the side of an advancing mountain of water.

Alternately floating and dog paddling—he was too tired to raise an arm out of the sea to swim—Flinn worked his way toward it. He couldn't, he was certain,

Crewmen on board *Birmingham* spray water from fire hoses onto the burning carrier as the cruiser closes to render assistance on Oct. 24, 1944.



director shield and covered up.

The 40 Marines and hundreds of Sailors aboard the carrier were hardly aware a fight had started before it was over. The clouds were less than 2,000 feet high and few had had time to see the enemy as he bore down and jumped back into the overcast again, scot free.

His bomb sliced through the flight deck a few feet from a crew of Marine gunners and splattered destruction in the bowels of the ship. Acrid smoke belched from the clean wound and burst through hatches and crew shelters behind the guns.

At the first sound of firing the Marines, at general quarters since before dawn, loaded their pieces and stood by. Cpl Bob Bailey was in a clipping room handing 20 mm magazines through a passageway to PFC Nathan Smith. Smith, who had the control phones on, didn't have time to tell Bailey about the bomber. The bomb's impact bounced him into the corporal and they slid sprawling up against a bulkhead. It had gone through a neighboring, inner compartment, cutting a Sailor in half in

its passage. Feathers from a smashed sack floated through the air as the Marines, dressed only in skivvy shorts, grabbed their clothes and scrambled outside. Behind them the clipping room's ammunition already had begun to pop.

In another clipping room Field Music Cpl Carl Heumann had a sandwich and cup of coffee whisked from his hand. He had been making a fast try at grabbing some chow. Through the smoke he could see that his left trouser leg was gone, ripped off.

Ready to fight, Marines had nothing to shoot at. No more bogeys appeared, but the dose of smoke generated by the one was moving over the carrier fast and became Enemy No. 1. No one could live in it. The leathernecks were ordered to abandon one battery, then another. The growing conflagration split them up, some deploying fore and some aft.

Sergeant George Gaylor and two of his men started to close their clipping



Cpl Bob Bailey

LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO



Cpl Carl Heumann

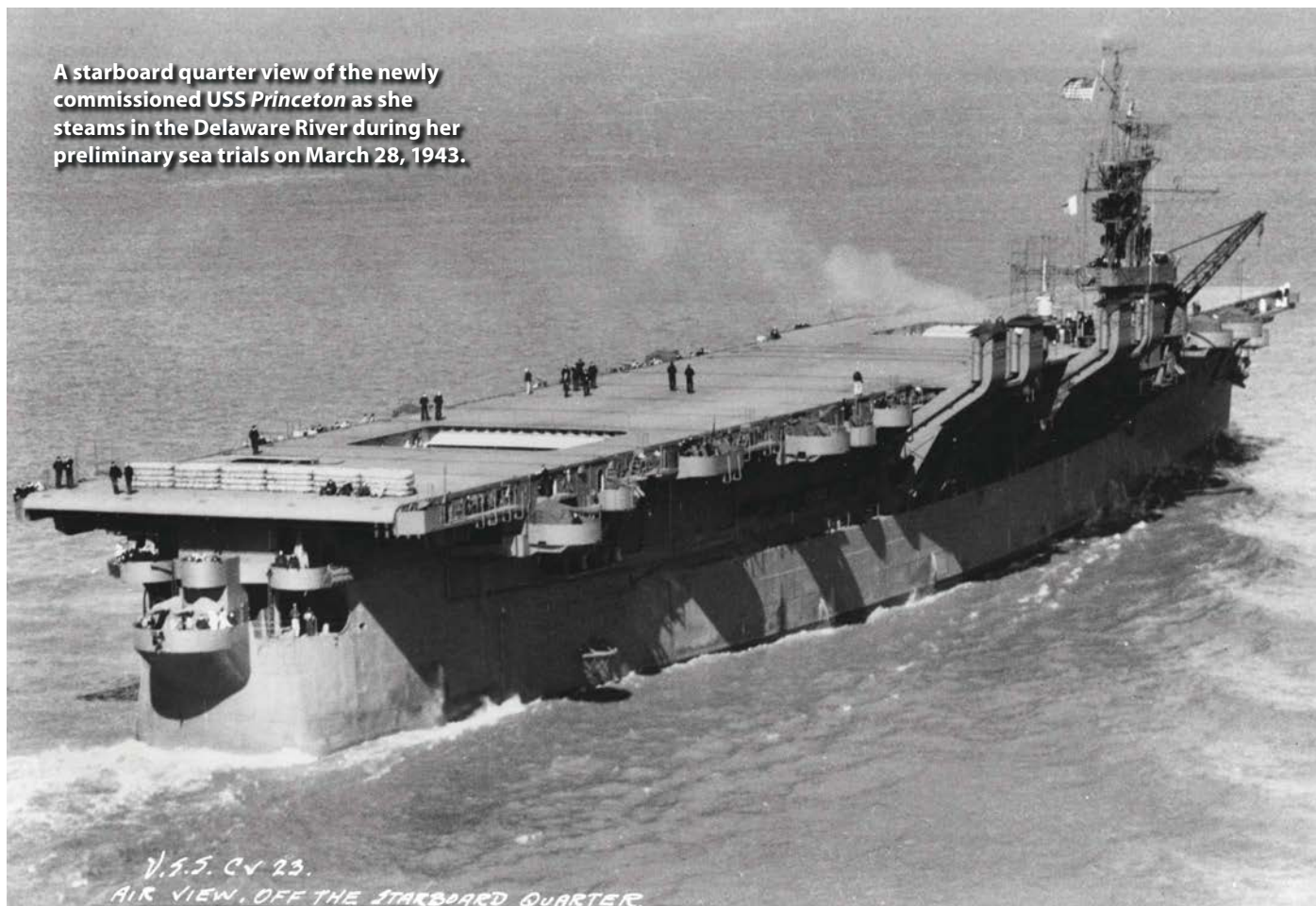
LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

room when they heard someone inside yell "Hey, let me out of here." Through a scuttle barely big enough for a man to get his shoulder into, they hauled PFC Roy Gallatin, a little doped off at being left in the lurch by his colleagues. He had been trying to secure the clipping room and thought the gun crew was outside.

Those forced aft were pursued relentlessly by the smoke. Stumbling blindly in a search for air, some started to jam on gas masks, others either tumbled or jumped overboard. First Sergeant A.C. Chisholm yelled his lungs out trying to get them to stop. Everywhere men gagged and vomited until the slowing ship veered in her course and the windswept part of the aft flight deck clear.

Forward, the firefighters could dodge the smoke. A score of Marines were assigned to jettison fighter planes, an ex-

A starboard quarter view of the newly commissioned USS *Princeton* as she steams in the Delaware River during her preliminary sea trials on March 28, 1943.



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

1stSgt A.C. Chisholm



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

PFC Conrad Lepage

plosive fire hazard. They were crowded together where they had been parked after a flight, and had landed just before the bombing. Another explosion below decks quaked *Princeton*. The Marines hurried with their job. Pursuit after pursuit was rolled toward a deckside ramp and with a running shove was toppled into the sea. One plane stuck, half over. It was pried loose and fell away, leaving a belly tank jammed in superstructure gear, its highest gasoline pouring through a parted seam. With a superhuman yank, PFC Conrad Lepage heaved it loose.

Five fighters had been disposed of. The Marine crew had gone forward for a sixth when an aircraft elevator blew up. It rose skyward on a column of yellow fire and crashed back sideways on the blazing well. The carrier shook as if with the ague. A piece of sheet iron wrapped itself around

the crane; a timber from the hangar floor struck down a signalman on the open bridge, fatally injuring him; another Sailor, standing at the edge of the shaft, had his clothes burned off him where he stood.

The wrecked elevator blocked further work on the fighters. Five minutes later, a second elevator went up in a series of “whoof-whoofs.” A group of eight Marines, crouched near this new volcano, covered up in a fruitless effort to shield faces and hands from the searing geyser of flame and debris. Many of them were burned.

Twenty feet away, 1stSgt Chisholm turned his back and was promptly lifted overside on a blast of hot air. It was a 50-foot trip down, but the first sergeant, hugging knees to chest, didn’t feel any shock when he hit the water. The explosions on the ship worried him and when he squared himself away on the surface, he rolled over on his back, sticking his chest out as far as he could to escape the effect of concussion. Dozens were in the water around him clinging to tattered timbers in groups. An injured Marine kept addressing him bleakly:

“Sergeant, how’s my face?”

The faces of all but this Marine were black with the grime of the fire. His was

white, as if the skin had been peeled off. But the first sergeant couldn’t tell him that.

“It looks OK,” he would always reply.

“Look at it, look at it,” the Marine kept insisting. “Sergeant, I’m worried about my face.”

The abandon ship order was given at 1020, immediately after the second elevator explosion, but with the PA system knocked out it had to be passed by word of mouth. Many didn’t hear it. In the turmoil, during which the firefighting continued, Navy pilots pulled lifejackets and inflatable rafts from planes and threw them into the sea. They helped the Marines whose jackets had been left in crew shelters behind their guns to make more room for firing. The smoke was now too thick to reach them.

Sgt Gaylor, who had been helping with the planes, was ill from the smoke. He was wondering how long he would last in the heavy weather when a flier threw a lifejacket over his shoulders and propelled him toward the starboard side. Gaylor had thrown a leg over a line and was starting to descend when a naval officer ran up yelling through cupped hands that the abandon ship order had been changed from starboard to port debarkation. A destroyer was pulling up to starboard to take off the wounded. The sergeant

staggered across the flight deck and made it down the paravane chain to be picked up later.

By now destroyer gigs and whaleboats were climbing through the waves on the lookout for survivors. One approached Cpl Heumann. The coxswain was cheerfully singing out:

"Taxi, taxi, fresh water, salt water taxi."

As he helped the tired Marine out of the ocean after a 45-minute swim, he piped:

"Geez, just a week ago we were picking up Japanese, and now it has to be you, mate."

It was hard to get many of the men to leave the carrier. Navy Lieutenant V.A. Moitoret, the navigator, bellowed the final word. "Exercise salvage control phase." None but the salvage crew was to remain aboard.

First Lt Sam Jaskilka, Marine detachment adjutant, left the signal bridge, clambering down the island superstructure to insist on immediate debarkation. He met Sgt J.A. Melby.

"Sarge, round up all the men you can find and get them off," he ordered.

As he turned to check on other details, he remembered \$600 he had left in his room below. He was wardroom mess treasurer and this was not his money. He

spotted Lieutenant Junior Grade John Peterson, a gunnery control officer.

"Pete," he yelled, "Think I ought to get that money?"

"Hell, no, you never can tell what's going to blow next," the other officer replied.

Men were running past them to the hoses, rope lines and chains hanging overside. Sgt Melby had reached the fo'c'stle when he heard the roar of planes over the racket. The destroyers and a cruiser were opening up as he saw five Japanese torpedo bombers coming in low over the whitecaps. He noticed they were two-engined Betty's, chubby, grotesque planes, bent on scoring an easy victory. The "pawm-pawm-pawm" of the American ships drummed louder as Melby got over the side, hastily. In the water, he looked again. The Japanese had disappeared. Some said all had been shot down either by fighters the *Princeton* had put up earlier that day, some by ack-ack. The Japanese had not been able to launch their fish.

Up on the flight deck PFC Abriel stood uncertainly near a group of Sailors. There was a shock and the Marine and Sailors were thrown in a heap to a gun platform. Everyone got to his feet, the Sailors cleared away and the PFC found himself

staring at a lifejacket dropped at his feet like manna from Heaven. He snatched it up and ran for the paravane chain. As he reached it Flinn stopped him. He didn't have a life preserver.

"How about hanging on to you, chum?" he asked.

"Come on." Abriel jerked his head toward the side.

Six feet from the water Abriel jumped. When he popped to the surface he was too far away to try to wait for Flinn.

The drift was fast and before long he began to have trouble with his jacket. In his haste he had not tied it securely enough and now it was banging against his chin. After more than an hour of fighting to keep his head from sliding down through the collar he realized he was out of sight and sound of the ships. The jacket was slopping water down his throat, slowly drowning him, when six Sailors came up over a wave, their arms wrapped around an empty powder can. They gave him a hand and he caught on. Ten minutes later two of the Sailors started blowing whistles and the rest yelling and pointing. A destroyer was plunging toward them.

For a minute it looked like an enemy ship because it was firing its anti-aircraft guns. Abriel could hear the chatter of

Survivors jumped from a motor whaleboat to USS *Cassin Young* (DD-793) on Oct. 24, 1944.



machine guns and the crack of rifles from its decks. The water around him boiled in the rain of bullets. What the hell were they firing at? He looked around and what he saw made him jump nearly out of his waterlogged clothes. Long, yellowish bodies were lazily edging in.

“Sharks!” one of the Sailors screamed and five of them struck out wildly for the destroyer. Abriel and a barber stayed behind. Neither could swim.

Abriel’s legs tingled with apprehension. He watched the can heave to and lower a whaleboat. He counted the seconds feverishly. Somewhere he had read the sharks were harmless to man, but you couldn’t count on that in a spot like this. A Sailor in the bow of the whaleboat stood up, shouting oaths and prodding at the water with a boat hook. This became an effective treatment as the boat got closer for one by one the underwater forms disappeared and Abriel, almost done in, was hauled out of their element.



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

Sgt J.A. Melby



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

Cpl Carl Munski

Aboard the destroyer he found Melby, who had been one of those doing the shooting.

“I had just put on my Sailor’s suit and come on deck when someone recognized me as a sharpshooting Marine,” he explained. “They handed me an ’03, but I couldn’t see what they were shooting at until a Tommy gun on the bridge opened up. Then I saw the sharks. I don’t know whether we hit any, but they would disappear when our shots got close.

From the destroyer’s deck *Princeton* looked like a solid mass of fire and smoke. Another can was still tied up to her, and there were some aboard getting off the last of the injured. Two of these were Marines, Cpls Bailey and Carl Munski, the last enlisted men to leave the flat-top.

Climbing down a ladder from the flight deck to the fo’c’stle, intending to shove off, the corporals stopped to watch the destroyer tie up. It had moved up the side of the carrier and as its upper decks tilted toward the catwalk with each heave of the sea men scrambled aboard from the carrier. Now it was being made fast to the bow and the two Marines noticed there were wounded waiting to be transferred. They pitched in.

Those who could still walk they boosted to the destroyer’s

fo’c’stle. Others were put into a transfer chair and swung across on a line. Still others were literally tossed into the arms of crewmen on the can. The *Princeton* was trembling from the almost constant concussion of exploding ammunition and might go down at any moment.

When all the wounded were off, Bailey followed them over. Munski climbed back to the flight deck where efforts were still being made to control the fire. A group of men—you couldn’t tell officers from enlisted men—were manning hose lines at an elevator shaft. At the nozzle of one was the ship’s commander, Captain William Buracker, hardly recognizable in his soaked and blackened khaki uniform. He was leaning into the smoke to point the stream down.

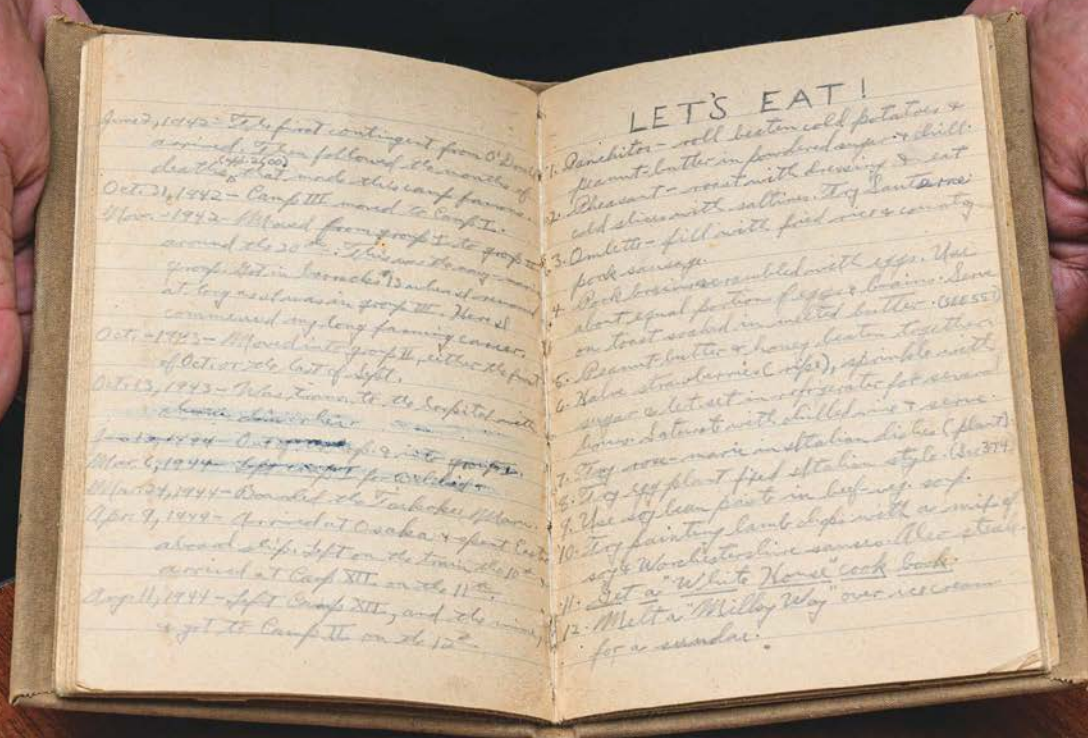
“Gawd,” thought Munski, “I’ve read about captains staying with their ships to the last man. I’ve always wanted to see it, and here it is.”

The corporal and the few firefighters caught the destroyer as it cast off. When the smaller ship was clear, two of the other rescue ships were assigned to turn guns and torpedo tubes on what was now a floating pyre. She went down, spectacularly, in an explosion of color as brilliant as a setting Pacific sun. 🇺🇸



Birmingham, left, helps Princeton, right, during her ordeal, Oct. 24, 1944. The two ships grinded together in the swells and the cruiser’s starboard side crushed part of the carrier’s portside catwalk and a 40 mm gun mount. A flight deck tractor hangs precariously over Princeton’s deck edge and crewmen position Hellcats and Avengers forward. (USN photo)

“Every Marine Has a Story to Tell”



For 100 Years, the USMC's History Division Has Been Documenting the Corps' History For Future Generations of Marines

By Sara W. Bock

Corn fritters with Karo; fried apple sandwiches with mayonnaise; lamb chops covered with a mix of soy and Worcestershire sauces.

These unique combinations are just a few of the recipes in the personal papers collection of Corporal Martin E. Eichman, which he penciled within the pages of a diary he aptly titled “Let’s Eat.” Out of context, it’s a seemingly insignificant list of ideas for main dishes, desserts and drinks written by a young Marine.

But for Eichman, who was captured

during the fall of Corregidor in 1942 while serving with Company H, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and held by the Japanese as a prisoner of war for 40 months, a diary of recipes—written in his malnourished state in captivity—was a mental exercise that sustained his hope that he’d one day return home and eat to his heart’s content.

The Eichman collection is just one of 5,700 personal papers collections in the possession of the Marine Corps History Division, which has amassed more than 9 million items ranging from original photographs and film to oral histories and significant documents and since 2015

has been located in the Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons Marine Corps History Center on the campus of Marine Corps University in Quantico, Va. The diary is a personal favorite of archivist John Lyles, who has spent nearly a decade working for the division and has seen more historical papers than he can count.

“On the surface you say, ‘it’s a cookbook—what does that really have to do with the Marine Corps or with this particular Marine?’ But I think it’s a fascinating look at a Marine doing what he needed to do to survive the ordeal of being a POW,” said Lyles, who compares each

Archivist John Lyles displays “Let’s Eat,” the WW II diary of POW Cpl Martin E. Eichman, one of the “treasures” among the personal papers collections at the Marine Corps History Division in the Simmons Center at Marine Corps University, Quantico, Va., Aug. 21. (Photo by Stephen Collins)

day in the division's Archives Branch—where family members often come to donate photographs and letters that belonged to a Marine in their family—to Christmas morning. “You never know what’s going to be on the other end of that door!”

Lyles and six other full-time archivists work to collect and preserve the primary source materials that tell the story of the Corps and to make those documents accessible to both military and civilian researchers. Each individual item, such as Eichman’s “Let’s Eat” diary, has its own distinct story and is properly archived, cataloged into a database, and may even be referenced by staff historians as they continue the division’s 100-year effort to write and publish the official history of the Marine Corps.

“Every item that we get is sort of like a grain of sand on a beach. As an individual grain, it’s not much, but when you start piling all of the grains together, then the entire picture comes together,” said Lyles. “That’s sort of the way I view our collection.”

As home to the Marine Corps’ repository for historically significant papers, photographs and audiovisual materials, the History Division celebrates its centennial this year. It’s a multifaceted organization that has evolved greatly over the last century and became a component of Marine Corps University in 2002. Its mission includes preserving, researching, writing and publishing the “long and illustrious history” that is ingrained into the collective Marine identity and its organizational culture as a whole. Marines have long immortalized legends of the Corps like Chesty Puller, Dan Daly and John Basilone and passed along the stories of Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima and Khe Sanh for posterity, and it’s up to the division to ensure that these narratives—and those of today’s Marines serving in every clime and place—are accurately preserved and documented.

With director Dr. Edward Nevglowski, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel, at the helm, the individuals who comprise the History Division’s staff are energized and excited to help usher in the division’s second century with an increased focus on digitization of its records and a commitment to harnessing the power of technology to make Marine Corps history more accessible to the masses than ever before.

“There’s really no point in preserving it if you’re not going to provide access to it,” said Lyles, who also is responsible for managing the Marine Corps’ command chronologies program. Utilized by the



STEPHEN COLLINS

Of the more than 9 million items in the possession of the History Division, Eichman’s “Let’s Eat” diary stands out to Lyles as a unique piece of Marine Corps history. Lyles views the individual items in the Archives as “grains of sand” that together tell the story of the Corps.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Maj Edwin McClellan, the first officer in charge of the History Division, wrote the Corps’ first historical publication, “The United States Marine Corps in the World War,” in 1919.

Its mission includes preserving, researching, writing and publishing the “long and illustrious history” that is ingrained into the collective Marine identity.

History Division as the foundation for official histories, battle studies and other publications, command chronologies—required submissions from every Marine Corps unit—serve as the primary source materials, detailing the unit’s operational history during a specified period of time.

The tradition of documenting and disseminating the history of the Corps officially began in September 1919 with the establishment of the Historical Section, as it was then called, at Headquarters Marine Corps. By directive of Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, Commandant



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

LtCol Clyde H. Metcalf wrote “A History of the United States Marine Corps,” published in 1939.

Major General George Barnett ordered the creation of an archive of records and tasked Major Edwin N. McClellan with writing the history of the Marines in World War I. His report, “The United States Marine Corps in the World War,” emphasized the lessons learned by Marines and was intended to be a useful resource in future wars. McClellan also began writing a seven-volume official history of the Marine Corps, a task that he never finished but later was completed by Lieutenant Colonel Clyde H. Metcalf and published as “A History of the United States Marine Corps” in 1939.

The evolution of the History Division is best understood within the greater context of what was happening in the Marine Corps at the time, said Dr. Seth Givens, one of the division’s historians, who has studied at length the correlation between the two.

While the Marines were heavily engaged in the Pacific theater during World War II, the division faced challenges publishing histories and battle studies due to restructuring and frequent personnel changes. The first unit histories published by the division were based primarily on war diaries and after-action report and highlighted a need for a more clearly organized “wartime historical program” in the future, with trained historians gathering information in the field.

The 1947 publication of “The Defense

of Wake” by then-director of the History Division, LtCol Robert D. Heintz Jr., was the first of a series of 15 monographs—book-length studies of campaigns and operations—covering the role of Marines during WW II. A decorated combat veteran and one of the Corps’ most renowned historians to date, Heintz and his counterparts laid the framework for future monographs, which the division continues to publish today.

The authors of the WW II monographs were “critical where warranted,” wrote Givens in a *Marine Corps History* article entitled “The History Division and Change in the Marine Corps: A Historiography” in commemoration of the division’s 100th anniversary.

“The criticism was constructive as much as it was academic, providing planners lessons from the last war that might be applied to the next,” Givens wrote.

According to Givens, in the late 1940s when the Marine Corps was threatened with dissolution by Congress and the Pentagon, its leaders used the History Division’s WW II monographs to justify their position that the Marines should remain their own independent branch of the Armed Forces.

Another of Heintz’s initiatives as director gained traction during the Korean War with the deployment of History Division field historians to the front in an effort to accurately record events for future publications, a practice that had begun during the tail end of WW II and has continued through subsequent wars and conflicts. The division also began to hire civilian historians, which resulted in accounts of Korean War battles being published as early as 1951 while Marines were still engaged in the fighting.

The Marines’ involvement in the Vietnam War led to a number of works, the first of which, “Small Unit Action in Vietnam, Summer 1966” was published in 1967 with the intention of keeping the Marines involved in the war informed about lessons learned the previous year. It was written by Captain Francis J. “Bing” West Jr., who later became the assistant secretary of defense under the Reagan administration and who has in recent years become a prolific author of books about the role of Marines in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Following the war, the division published a nine-volume series, “U.S. Marines in Vietnam.” The first volume was



published in 1977 under the direction of BGen Edwin H. Simmons, for whom the History Division’s current building is named. BGen Simmons served as director from 1971 to 1996 and under his leadership, said Givens, the division “expanded and thrived.”

In the 1990s, the History Division began publishing commemorative histories, beginning with “Opening Moves: Marines Gear Up For War,” written by former chief historian Henry I. Shaw Jr., in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the U.S. entry into WW II.

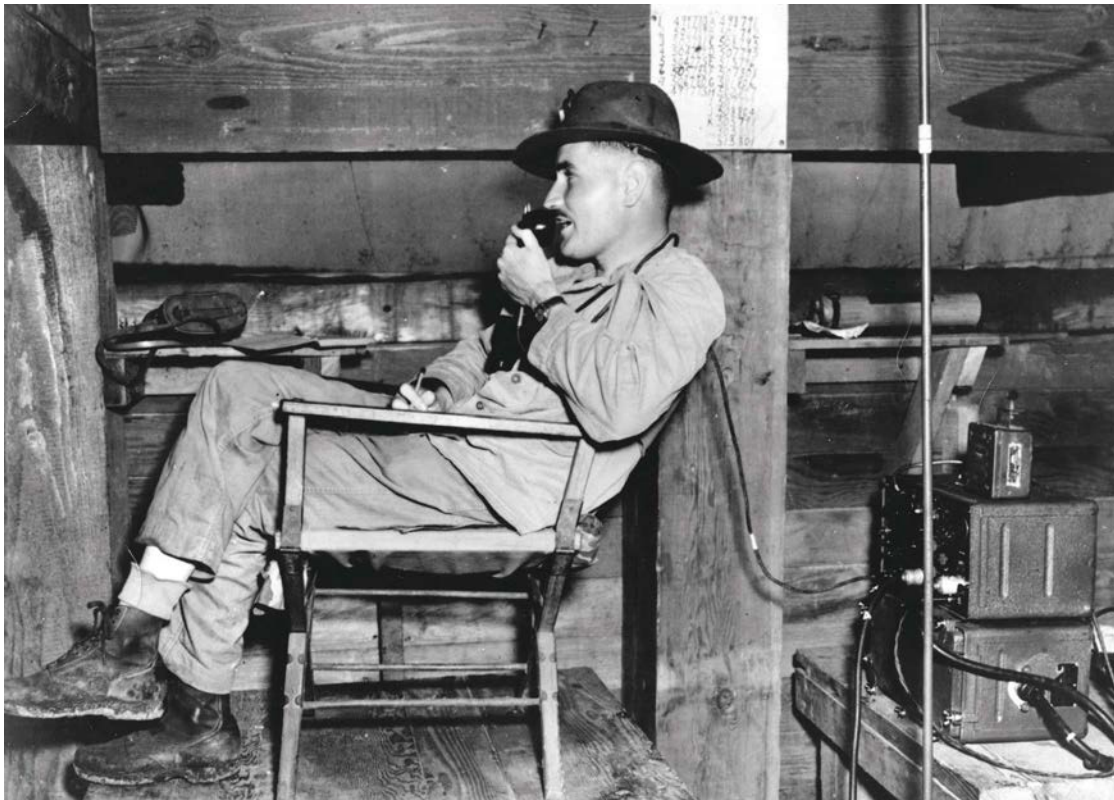
During the Gulf War and later during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the division sent field historians to document events, gather materials and conduct interviews, resulting in numerous publications. The effort to complete the official operational histories of Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan remains underway to this day.

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This 1978 photo shows the exterior of Building 58 at the Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., which housed the History Division—then the Marine Corps Historical Center and Museum—until it was relocated to Quantico in 2005.



SGT W.S. EISELE, USMC



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

LtCol Robert D. Heintz Jr., pictured here in a reinforced bunker in the Hawaiian Islands, served as director of the History Division following WW II and wrote the first monograph about the war, which set the standard for future publications.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Gen Wallace M. Greene Jr., 23rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, left, receives the first copy of the third volume of the history of Marine Corps operations in WW II from Henry I. Shaw, one of the authors and the chief historian with the History Division, June 21, 1967, in Washington, D.C.

Existing under a variety of names, including Historical Section, Historical Division, Historical Branch and History and Museums Division, what is now known as the History Division was located in Washington, D.C., until 1941, when it was moved to Arlington, Va. The division returned to Washington at the Navy Yard in 1977 and later was relocated to Quantico in 2005.

Having been aligned previously with

the Marine Corps' Museums Division, which became its own separate element in 2005 prior to the 2006 opening of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the present-day History Division is focused on papers, idea and concepts while the museum specializes in objects. There is a great deal of interaction between the two, particularly when it comes to fielding questions from the general public and accepting donations of personal collections

that may include a combination of papers, photographs, uniforms and other items.

Throughout a century of evolution and change, the History Division's staff members emphasize that one thing has remained the same: a realization that a Marine Corps that knows and understands its history can use that knowledge to improve its future.

"The division's importance is not in chronicling what has already been, though that history is an important component of Marine culture," Givens wrote in his historiography of the division. "More crucial is its role in producing works that inform those responsible for making decisions that will shape the future of the service. As a result, the division's publications are historical documents in and of themselves, illustrative of what the leadership has deemed important enough to study at a given moment. To analyze them is to understand how the Marine Corps has evolved institutionally, doctrinally and philosophically."

Givens, who earned his doctorate from Ohio University in 2018 and has been with the Marine Corps History Division for a year, is one of the historians in the Histories Branch, which is responsible for writing the Corps' official history, both operational and institutional.

"We're strictly interested in the narrative of what went on. We're the first draft of history," said Givens. "Scholars can then use our narrative and they can analyze any type of question they have, but we're just trying to get the record down."

Using primary source materials held by the Archives Branch, Givens and his counterparts are tasked not only with writing history, but also with anticipating what the Marine Corps might need or want in the future.

Givens' current area of focus is on writing the history of the Marine Corps in Operation Iraqi Freedom, which previously had only been completed through 2004. It's a project that he says has proven more difficult than one might think. Documents like command chronologies and unit records that in previous eras would have been paper-based were computer-based during OIF and OEF, and many external hard drives and files containing unit records were lost or destroyed.

"It's indicative of our digital age, isn't it? At once it makes our lives really

Since joining the staff of the History Division's Histories Branch in 2018, Dr. Seth Givens has become a subject matter expert on Marines in OIF and OEF and is working to complete the service's official histories of those conflicts.



STEPHEN COLLINS



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Daniel Crawford, a reference historian with the division in the 1970s, uses a microfilm machine to conduct research.

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COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

A History Division employee works among stacks of papers in this 1970s photo. Today, the division is working toward digitization of its collections as it enters its second century.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

"The stacks," pictured here in the 1970s, continue to be a valuable resource for reference historians as they work to answer questions about Marine Corps history.



Located in the BGen Edwin H. Simmons Marine Corps History Center at Marine Corps University, today's History Division is at the epicenter of the Marine Corps' academic community, giving its historians the opportunity to participate in discussions that affect the future of the Corps. (Photo by Jason Monroe)

easy but it also complicates them," said Givens, who also is working on various commemoratives for the 50th anniversaries of battles and operations during the Vietnam War.

While the digital age presents some challenges for the division, Givens also sees technology as a force multiplier—an opportunity to get Marine Corps history into the hands of more people. With such a large volume of items in the archives, complete digitization of all the division's materials on a research-friendly website is

a tall order but ultimately is the end goal, said director Nevglowski.

Utilizing social media sites Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and photo sharing forums like Flickr to share Marine Corps history with the world, the division is slowly but surely growing its online presence and ensuring its viability for future generations. But the division's mainstay continues to be its publications: monographs, battle studies, commemoratives, definitive histories, and anthologies under two distinct imprints: History Division

and MCU Press; as well as two biannual professional journals: *Marine Corps History*, which replaced the division's magazine, *Fortitudine*, in 2015; and *MCU Journal*.

"I think the goal for each of these published products is to analyze the Marine Corps' past as a way to enable those 'thought leaders' and military leaders who would like to draw from its past as an example of lessons learned—to help inform their decisions for the future," said Stephani Miller, managing editor of *Marine Corps History*.

Miller and the five other individuals who make up the division's Editing and Design Branch are committed to accuracy and spend their days fact-checking and editing materials written by in-house historians like Givens, outside historians who have been asked to contribute, and instructors and students at MCU. In addition to the two journals, the division generally publishes between eight and 10 books each year. Publications are available digitally and are free to the public, with print copies sent out primarily to libraries and to units in the fleet.

As part of Marine Corps University, the History Division is strategically positioned to interact with the students at

How To Access the History Division:



Flickr: Marine Corps Archives



Facebook: Marine Corps History Division



Twitter: @CorpsHistory



Instagram: @MarineCorpsHistory

Reference Branch: history.division@usmcu.edu

Publications: <https://www.usmcu.edu/Outreach/Publishing/History-Division-Publications>

But the division is far more than a just resource for the Marine Corps' academic community—its Reference Branch regularly fields inquiries from Headquarters Marine Corps, federal agencies and the general public.

the university's various schools, which include Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College, helping them better understand the history of their service and to use that knowledge to improve situational awareness, said Nevglowski. The division provides lectures and presentations on the operational history of the Marine Corps and its institutional development, giving its historians a prime opportunity to be involved in the academic discussions and debates within the Marine Corps at large, Givens added.

But the division is far more than a just resource for the Marine Corps' academic community—its Reference Branch regularly fields inquiries from Headquarters Marine Corps, federal agencies and the general public. And for historian Mike Westermeier, these interactions, which include everyone from the Commandant to junior enlisted Marines and middle school students working on history projects, may just be the most rewarding of all.

Piled in the Reference Branch's seemingly endless "stacks" are files on a wide range of subjects related to the Marine Corps—"everything from colonial Marines to movies about Marines and biography files on everybody from Samuel Nicholas to Lee Harvey Oswald to Adam Driver; Commandants and Medal of Honor recipients," said Westermeier, an Army veteran who received his master's in military history from Norwich University and joined the division in 2017. All of the files were compiled over decades as the reference historians fielded requests for information on a wide variety of Marine Corps-related topics.

"The great thing about working here is every day I'm going to get something new," said Westermeier, who emphasized that he takes even the most minor requests as seriously as the more substantial ones. "Sometimes it's verifying a Montford Point Marine. Sometimes it's just an email. I like to take pride in the fact that



STEPHEN COLLINS

Reference historian Mike Westermeier fields inquiries from both inside and outside the Marine Corps and enjoys the opportunity to interact with Marines and help them identify with and learn from the history of the Corps.

that small email is going to mean the world to somebody whose father was a Montford Point Marine, and they're going to receive that recognition they've been waiting for."

In addition to answering inquiries and requests, Westermeier is the division's unit historian and is responsible for ensuring accurate lineage and honors, allowing Marines to know and understand their unit's history and heritage.

Last year, Westermeier had an opportunity that he considers the highlight of his career: he traveled to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and shared his knowledge with the Marines of I Marine Expeditionary Force. He told them the

stories of the Marines who fought for their lives on the streets of Hue City and of the daring exploits of the Marine Corps' first aviators who braved the skies above Europe during World War I.

He also shared a simple yet profound message with the next generation of history-making Marines:

"This is what you are part of now. This is a part of you. You own it. You're responsible for it. You've got to perpetuate it—but look at what you're a part of, and what these Marines did. Maybe someday you'll have to do the same, but you'll be able to do it because you know that other Marines have done it." 🐼

A man in a military uniform is hugging a man in a blue hoodie from behind. The man in the hoodie is smiling and looking to the right. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting.

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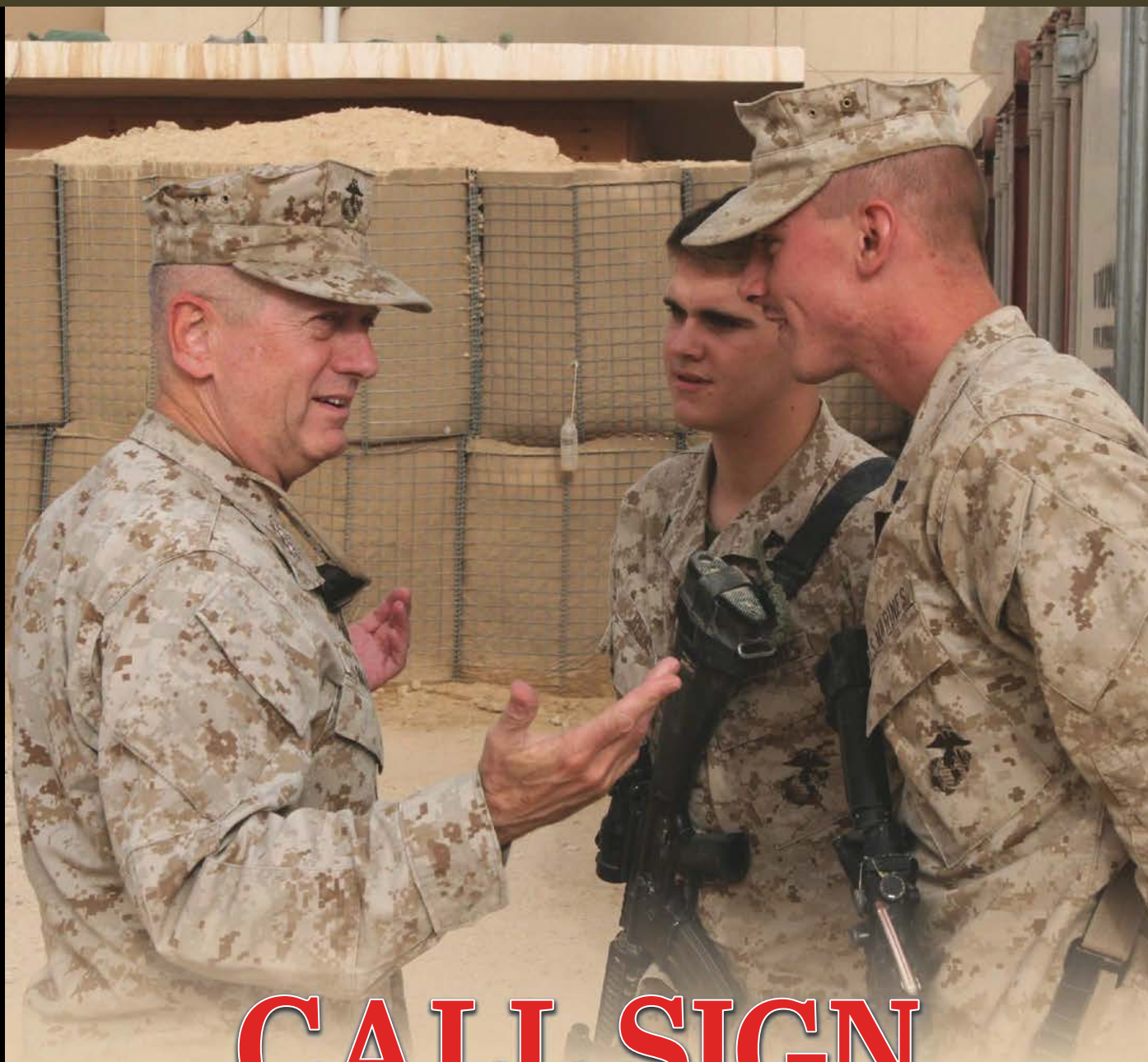
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CALL SIGN CHAOS

Lessons on Leadership From an Iconic 21st Century Marine

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

After arriving in Iraq during a July 2007 visit to the region, LtGen James N. Mattis, left, takes a moment to talk to Cpl Brian E. Bell, center, and Cpl Gregory L. Souza, right. (Photo by LCpl Brian L. Lewis, USMC)

Anyone who spends even just a few minutes with former secretary of defense and retired Marine General James N. Mattis quickly realizes that his so-called nickname of “Mad Dog” is completely inappropriate for such an intelligent, rational and deliberate man. His new book bears the far more appropriate moniker by which the general is actually known. “Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead,” co-authored with Bing West, contains reflections and lessons learned by a giant of the Corps whose successes leading Marines in both Afghanistan and Iraq are the stuff of legend. Gen Mattis spoke with the editors of the *Marine Corps Gazette* and *Leatherneck* on May 28 and discussed his upcoming book and the leadership philosophy he honed over more than 40 years in uniform.

The book’s title, like everything Gen Mattis does, was deliberate. “My troops never called me ‘Mad Dog.’ It was ‘Chaos’, it was ‘Six.’ It was never that thing made up by the press. That was never an accurate moniker.”

With service in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Desert Storm and in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, Gen Mattis has an exceptional combat record, but it is his intellect, judgment and knowledge of history that ensure his place in the pantheon of iconic Marines. Coupled with his command of two combatant commands, U.S. Central Command and Joint Forces Command, and, of course, his recent service as Secretary of Defense, few leaders of any service have the incredible record of James N. Mattis.

West, a Marine veteran whose service in Vietnam stood him in good stead years later when as an embedded writer he accompanied Marines young enough to be his grandchildren on patrols in Iraq and Afghanistan, is one of the legions of Marines, veteran and active duty, who look up to Gen Mattis. “When the 1st Marine Division went to Baghdad in 2003, I kept seeing General Mattis at the points of attack at one place, another place.” But it wasn’t only in Iraq that West saw Mattis. “I first knew him as a one-star, then a two-star, then a three-star, then a four-star, but the commonality was that he was always where the action was, and he was immediately with the troops. He just had that essence of getting along with the troops,” West said.

The general still feels a responsibility to those troops and others. “I benefited from all the reading I’d done [and that] I was required to do by commanders who insisted I read,” Gen Mattis said. “I was reminded that I had some lessons that I’ve learned along the way that I pass on in the same spirit that I’ve benefited from,” he continued.

Lifelong Love of History

The lessons the general learned along the way were in large part due to that devotion to reading and studying history. “I took responsibility for

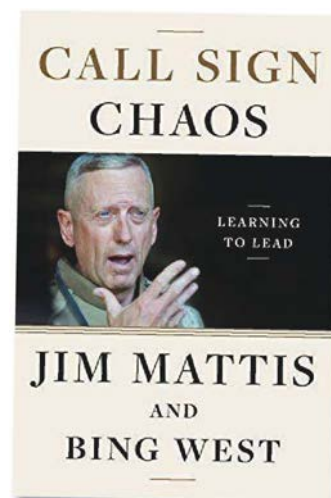


SGT JOSEPH R. CHENELLY, USMC

LtGen James T. Conway, left, consults with MajGen James N. Mattis in central Iraq on March 30, 2004. LtGen Conway was the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force and MajGen Mattis served as the 1stMarDiv commander during the initial phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

my own learning and I was never at a loss when I ran into the enemy.” The former Task Force 58 commander remembered being on a site survey in late 2001 as he prepared to take his Marine Expeditionary Brigade into Afghanistan. “I remember looking down from a P-3 when the admiral had asked if I could get the Marines from the Mediterranean and the Pacific together and move against Kandahar.” Then-Brigadier General Mattis had no doubts. “As I was circling that night, I could see very clearly that the Taliban senior leaders or generals were dumber than a bucket of rocks. And so I took advantage. Thanks to Marine Corps coaching, thanks to the [Commandant’s Professional] reading list, thanks to Quantico, thanks to doing my homework, I knew exactly how I was going to nail them. And I didn’t care how brave their boys were. I didn’t care how many artillery guns or rockets they had. I knew that we were going to destroy them there in those opening battles after 9/11.”

A native of Washington, Mattis graduated from what is now Central Washington University with a degree in history. His love and appreciation of all facets of the past have been clearly evident throughout his many decades as a Marine. The new Director of the Marine Corps’ History Division, Dr. Edward Nevglowski, retired Marine lieutenant colonel, met then-Major Mattis when Nevglowski’s father, retired CWO-5 Alexander



Gen Mattis said that the leadership lessons that he and co-author Bing West included in “Call Sign Chaos” can be applied to military or civilian life.

The lessons the general learned along the way were in large part due to that devotion to reading and studying history. “I took responsibility for my own learning and I was never at a loss when I ran into the enemy.”



LISA FERDINANDO

Above: James N. Mattis, Secretary of Defense, left, and Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, conduct a joint press conference at the Pentagon, Aug. 28, 2018.

Left: The two Marines had previously served together during Operation Iraqi Freedom when then-Col Dunford, left, as the CO, 5th Marines, worked for then-MajGen Mattis, right, during his tenure as CG, 1st MarDiv.



GYSGT MATTHEW M. SMITH, USMC

“Operations occur at the speed of trust. And once you are running on trust, and you are rewarding initiative and aggressiveness ... you get brilliance in the basics and then you reward the initiative of aggressive implementation.”

Nevgloski, was the drill master at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in the early 1980s. At the time, Mattis was the school’s battalion officer. While visiting his father at work, the junior Nevgloski often saw Mattis, who took an interest in the future Marine and encouraged his love of history.

“We talked about Marine Corps history and military history in general,” said Nevgloski. “He’d ask me what I was interested in, and, later, if I was reading anything specific. He always rattled off a number of books and authors. I recall him recommending ‘The Campaigns of Napoleon’ by David Chandler,” Nevgloski continued.

Other suggestions included James Webb’s “Fields of Fire” and “A Rumor of War” by Philip Caputo. According to Nevgloski, Mattis told him that both of those classics would not only give him an idea of what war was like but also describe the moral and ethical challenges of leading Marines in combat.

“He also reminded me, more than once, how history affords us the opportunity to learn from someone else’s experiences—good or bad—and



CPL ZACHARY DYER, USMC

that if you read enough, you will never really be surprised or caught off guard,” said Nevglowski, a retired infantry officer.

The general provided additional recommendations for professional reading during his recent interview with *Leatherneck*. “I think for all Marines, read E.B. Sledge’s ‘With the Old Breed’ or read Ms. [Gail] Shisler’s book, ‘For Country and Corps [The Life of General Oliver P. Smith]’ about the commanding general of 1st Marine Division who brings the division out of being surrounded at Chosin Reservoir. I would recommend those two books because they will remind everybody that we’re not going to ask any more of our troops in the future in terms of grit than Marines have proven capable of delivering in the past. We need to know that we will not be asked to do anything more than those veterans in their past.

“For those in higher ranks, those who will have to make the operational, even strategic, decisions or provide advice to the operational and strategic leaders or be those leaders themselves, I don’t think

you can go wrong if you read three books. One is ‘The Memoirs of Ulysses Grant.’ The other one is ‘Defeat into Victory’ by Field Marshal Slim, and the other one is Liddell Hart’s book on Sherman [‘Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American’]. Even when the chips are down, even when it’s hard to come up with other options because of the situation you face, in those books you can find mental models for what you need to do in order to find your way out of the situation. Then you need to employ effectively what you have learned.”

Leadership Lessons for All

Many of Gen Mattis’ leadership lessons apply beyond the Marine Corps. He believes that organizations, whether civilian or military, should reward the right behavior while also delegating decision-making authority as far down the chain as possible. “Operations occur at the speed of trust. And once you are running on trust, and you are rewarding initiative and aggressiveness, it doesn’t matter whether you’re in business or

LtGen James N. Mattis, commander of Marine Corps Forces Central Command, speaks to Marines with Marine Wing Support Group 27 in Al Asad, Iraq, May 6, 2007.



COURTESY OF LTCOL EDWARD NEVGLOSKI, USMC (RET)

Above: The Marines who were assigned to the staff of the Naval Academy Preparatory School in the early 1980s included Maj Mattis, left and GySgt Nevgloski, right.



COURTESY OF COL CHRISTOPHER WOODBRIDGE, USMC (RET)

When he was a lieutenant colonel, Mattis commanded 1st Bn, 7th Marines during Operation Desert Storm.

“The kind of a unit that needs ‘Mother, may I,’ doesn’t delegate responsibility because they don’t trust that their troops are disciplined enough or effective enough on their own to make good decisions—those units will become basically irrelevant.”

marketing. It doesn’t matter whether you’re playing football or you’re a coach on the battlefield. You get brilliance in the basics and then you reward the initiative of aggressive implementation.” He added, “In the Marines, our greatest honor is fighting alongside our comrades. Our troops going into the fight deserve commanders who clearly state the mission.”

And according to the general, this approach ensures that even the most junior members of an organization are appreciated. “Everybody knows

how important they are. Right down to the youngest Sailor and Marine or the youngest kid or gal fresh out of college in your business.”

Using a story from his time in Iraq as an example, he described young Marines showing him how lessons were passed down the chain of command and implemented. “When a funeral procession goes down the street, a Marine patrol on the street stops and takes their helmets off as a sign of respect. I never taught them to take their helmets off. They knew to take their helmets off because they were there not as an occupying or dominating force. They were there trying to give the Iraqi people a fresh start. And I think that when you have that level of initiative going on, a hundred things are happening that you don’t control, but they’re exactly what you need to carry out that clearly articulated aim.”

Preparation for the Future

“Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead” serves not only as an outstanding source of leadership lessons for organizations but also individuals. It includes advice for military professionals on how to prepare themselves for the future—physically, mentally and spiritually. “Future conflict is going to be more unrelenting. There will be everything from robots and information operations that are demanding constant adaptation. But I think what you have to do is make certain your small unit leaders are physically the toughest guys in the unit. If someone can’t do the pull-ups ... if they can’t do the run in good form and still be able to fight at the end of it, if they can’t pick a machine gun off the back of a Marine who’s got the flu and carry it for him for a while, if they haven’t done enough homework that as fast as the situation changes, they’re able to accommodate it, integrate it, and have a mental model for it. And if spiritually, they don’t have a reservoir of spiritual strength that will allow them to take the tragedies of conflict, of combat, in stride, you’re not going to be able to delegate the authority down.

“And because of information technology, cyber attacks and all, we know we’re going to lose communications at times—they’ll be up and down, up and down. So the kind of a unit that needs ‘Mother, may I,’ doesn’t delegate responsibility because they don’t trust that their troops are disciplined enough or effective enough on their own to make good decisions—those units will become basically irrelevant. And the ones that have tough guys who know what

they're doing, can create affection inside the unit, and can keep exercising initiative and aggressiveness, they're going to have to be prepared to do all that sort of thing. And if you can't do that, then you simply will not be a player in future conflict because it's going to be so chaotic."

Communications

Given his significant and impressive record in command billets from the platoon to the combatant command level, it should come as no surprise that Gen Mattis has much to say about commander's intent and communications up and down the chain of command. "Can he [the commander] say what it is that he stands for and what it is [he] will absolutely not stand for?" And the general recognizes that in today's world where young Marines and other servicemembers are bombarded by a variety of communications, there has to be greater emphasis on the commander's persuasiveness. "Let's assume that leaders are good leaders, then it's not any more difficult to lead [in today's technologically dominant environment]."

But he is quick to point out that the leader who is a throwback to the strong silent type will have issues in a world where Marines have access to almost limitless amounts of information 24/7. "The strong silent type will find his troops are listening to someone who is more vocal or getting their values off of the Internet. And those may or may not be ones that we're comfortable with.

"Can [the commander] go out in front of an 800-man battalion and give his intent in very plain and clear language?" Leaders should be talking to their Marines and emphasizing what it is that they stand for while coaching to achieve what they want, according to Gen Mattis. He also added that commanders must be able to articulate what they need done yet leave a lot of leeway for subordinates to accomplish the mission.

His co-author, Bing West, continued the discussion on communication by referring back to the now classic letters that Gen Mattis sent to the entire 1st Marine Division when he served as the Division's commander during the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Al Anbar Province. "Those two letters made quite clear to everyone in the division what the commander's intent was and I think they are models for what any senior commander has to do to convey what he wants his troops or whatever his subordinates are in business to do."

Gen Mattis emphasized how crucial it is for leaders to do the right thing. "I used to tell the troops that if taking a shot at a terrorist across a crowded marketplace, they also take a chance on killing a woman or child, don't take the shot. Hunt him down and kill him another day but don't do something that you can't live with personally or that's just going to create more enemies."

March 2003

1st Marine Division (REIN)

Commanding General's Message to All Hands

For decades, Saddam Hussein has tortured, imprisoned, raped and murdered the Iraqi people; invaded neighboring countries without provocation; and threatened the world with weapons of mass destruction. The time has come to end his reign of terror. On your young shoulders rest the hopes of mankind.

When I give you the word, together we will cross the Line of Departure, close with those forces that choose to fight, and destroy them. Our fight is not with the Iraqi people, nor is it with members of the Iraqi army who choose to surrender. While we will move swiftly and aggressively against those who resist, we will treat all others with decency, demonstrating chivalry and soldierly compassion for people who have endured a lifetime under Saddam's oppression.

Chemical attack, treachery, and use of the innocent as human shields can be expected, as can other unethical tactics. Take it all in stride. Be the hunter, not the hunted: never allow your unit to be caught with its guard down. Use good judgement and act in best interests of our Nation.

You are part of the world's most feared and trusted force. Engage your brain before you engage your weapon. Share your courage with each other as we enter the uncertain terrain north of the Line of Departure. Keep faith in your comrades on your left and right and Marine Air overhead. Fight with a happy heart and strong spirit.

For the mission's sake, our country's sake, and the sake of the men who carried the Division's colors in past battles—who fought for life and never lost their nerve—carry out your mission and keep your honor clean. Demonstrate to the world there is "No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy" than a U.S. Marine.



J.N. Mattis
Major General, U.S. Marines
Commanding

"Mattisims"

Many of the general's sayings have become engrained in the culture of the Marine Corps including "First, do no harm" and "The most important 6 inches on the battlefield being between your ears."

Perhaps the most famous of all is "No better friend, no worse enemy," a phrase Gen Mattis found from the Roman general Lucius Cornelius Sulla, 138B.C-8 B.C. "In other words, discriminate," Mattis said explaining the iconic phrase he used in the letter of March 2003 to the Marines of 1stMarDiv. "Don't let the enemy make you hate all Iraqis. How can you clearly convey what you want, and how can you go as often as possible face to face with your troops and emphasize it personally so they know that you know you want them to destroy the enemy? No mistake about it, you're there to break their spirit, but at the same time, you've got to keep your honor clean to put it in words of 'The Marines' Hymn.' "

MajGen Mattis' famous "Message to All Hands" was sent to the entire 1stMarDiv when he served as the Division's commander during the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, making clear what he expected of his troops.



James N. Mattis served as the 26th Secretary of Defense from January 2017 to December 2018.

As high as his expectations are for those lieutenants, Gen Mattis' tolerance of mistakes from young Marines may be somewhat of a surprise. "You're tolerant of mistakes but absolutely intolerant of a lack of discipline."

Taking Care of His Marines

LtCol Mattis commanded 1st Battalion, 7th Marines during Operation Desert Storm, and it was during this time that the future four-star general experienced his best day in the Marine Corps. As one of the assault battalions of Task Force Ripper with the mission of breaking through the

vaunted Iraqi minefields, Mattis had received devastating casualty estimates for his unit before they opened the minefield for the rest of the Division—estimates were up to 400 Marines from the battalion's 1,250 men would be lost. "But the best day was when we broke through and got through the second minefield. We had some vehicles knocked out, we had some lads wounded but the best day was realizing we'd gotten through and I hadn't had one guy killed despite all the forecasts of disaster in the minefield. While combat always has exciting moments, so long as you have strong, disciplined NCOs, the outcome of any fight is not in doubt." He also noted that it was the last time he brought all of his Marines home alive from an operation.

His worst day in the Corps would come more

than a decade later during Operation Iraqi Freedom when his 1stMarDiv had advanced deep inside Fallujah but was ordered to pull back. "We were literally on the cusp of getting Zarqawi and the rest of them." The general's frustration was still clearly evident more than 15 years later. "They were running out of ammo. They hadn't stockpiled ammo for the fight—they hadn't anticipated it. I hadn't wanted to go in that way, but once we were underway, I didn't want to stop; being told to stop and pull back after we'd lost that number of Marines and Sailors. That was a rough day."

Bing West adamantly agreed with Gen Mattis' assessment of that day in Iraq and elaborated even further. "I was with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines on that day, Easter Sunday 2004 in Fallujah. We could hear over the radio that the terrorists were really confused. We knew roughly where this bastard Zarqawi was, and I believe if General Mattis had been permitted to finish, it would have changed history because he would have been able to smother the Sunni terrorists who were killing Shiites that [later] provoked the civil war."

Personal Reflections

When asked what his favorite time as a Marine was, Mattis recalled his early days as a young infantry officer. "There's no doubt in my mind the most enjoyable job was being a second lieutenant infantry platoon leader where the physical toughness and the mental abilities are on full display to your troops." The general was blunt as he said, "There's no hiding from your Marines at that level. They see you in the mud with them. They see you making decisions on calling fire or on medevac or humping the hills or doing as many pull-ups as they can do, plus one."

As high as his expectations are for those lieutenants, Gen Mattis' tolerance of mistakes from young Marines may be somewhat of a surprise. "You're tolerant of mistakes but absolutely intolerant of a lack of discipline, coaching out any bad habits during peacetime. That's the same unit that cannot maintain low DUI rates, no drug abuse, no sexual harassment; that's the same unit that cannot maintain fire discipline in a fight because you either lead a disciplined life, or you do not," he said. "Consider every week of peace your last week to prepare your Sailors and Marines for combat."

When asked what his most impactful job was, Gen Mattis' response is likely to be echoed by his Marines. "Commanding

"CALL SIGN CHAOS"

LEARNING TO LEAD

A BOOK BY

JIM MATTIS

AND

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COURTESY OF COL CHRISTOPHER WOODBRIDGE, USMC (RET)

1st Marine Division—23,000 Sailors and Marines. That unified Division, that Division in its prime was probably the most impactful but I would also say that I was learning the lessons all the way through about how to lead in a very confusing kind of war situation.”

So, who did one of the finest Marines to ever wear the uniform look to for inspiration and mentorship throughout his own career? The general didn’t hesitate when asked that question, quickly responding with numerous names starting with Corporal Wayne Johnson, his first platoon sergeant. As he continued, the names Gen Mattis provided were an impressive reflection on his lifelong practice of learning from everyone, regardless of grade. “Over the years there’s just been a host of them. A lot of NCOs, obviously. Gunnery Sergeant Collier at OCS ... I still remember the lessons he’d give us.”

Gen Mattis related a story from decades ago when he was an officer candidate. “GySgt Collier once chewed me out for my time on the obstacle course at Camp Upshur. He was chewing me out because my time on the obstacle course was slower than it had been a day or two before, but frankly, I’d been pacing the other guys there and I could beat them without going faster. And he said, ‘If you’re not going to give 100 percent, just get out. I’m not interested in somebody who comes in here and says ‘I think I’ll give 99 percent.’ He said ‘Let me be blunt. I’m going to be 100 percent dissatisfied

with you. Ninety nine percent is failure in my book for someone who’s going to be an officer in the Marine Corps.’ ”

Gen Mattis has several other names on his list of influences including LtCol Carl Mundy [later the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps] and Gen Tony Zinni, former Commander, U.S. Central Command. “Basically I just went from one great mentor or leader [to another], but all the way along, I was very fortunate to have mentors of all ranks from lance corporal and corporal all the way up to four-star generals and former Secretaries of State George Shultz [and] Henry Kissinger, and former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich. I’ve learned all along the way.”

Six years into his retirement from the Marine Corps and less than a year after his tenure as Secretary of Defense came to a close, the general reflected on his decades of service. “I was always amazed that the Marine Corps allowed me to stay in the ranks so long. It was a joy to wake up every day. Once in a while the lads would get me in a little bit of trouble with their high spirits, but I could go up and see an assault unit getting ready to go into Fallujah. In most cases most of an infantry company is not old enough to buy a beer legally. I miss those guys and their spirits more than anything else, but I know the Marines will carry on. I have a great deal of confidence that they’ll overcome every challenge.”

The Marines of 1/7 reunited with their battalion commander, Gen Mattis, 25 years after they participated in Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Marines Reach New Heights With UAS Capabilities

The first enlisted Marines to be assigned as sensor operators for the MQ-9 Reaper Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) graduated from the Air Force's Basic Sensor Operator Course (BSOC) at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 9.

Lance Corporals Joshua Cuddy and Tyler Rodriguez, assigned to Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22, were part of the BSOC graduating class with the 558 Flying Training Squadron which also included 21 Air Force students.

"This is a major milestone for the Marine Corps UAS community. This is something we have been waiting for a long time. It's a milestone for moving the Marine Corps towards the 'group five' initiative and will eventually be a major warfighting leap for how the MAGTF [Marine air-ground task force] operates UAS," said Major Matthew Bailey, the Marine liaison to the 558 FTS.

The MQ-9 Reaper meets the Marine Corps' need for a large "group five" UAV. With a weight of more than 1,300 pounds and a capability to fly at altitudes up to 18,000 feet, the Reaper can stay in the air longer with a larger payload and greater intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities than other available UAS assets, which are categorized in groups one through four based on size, speed and maximum altitude.

Employed by the Air Force for more than a decade, the Reaper has taken on taskings previously assigned to manned combat aircraft. As sensor operators,



1STLT PAWEŁ PUCZKO, USMC

From the left, LtCol Eric Bissonette, USAF, Commander, 558 FTS; LCpl Joshua Cuddy; LCpl Tyler Rodriguez; and Maj Matthew Bailey, Marine liaison to 558 FTS, stand together following the graduation ceremony for the 19-14 Basic Sensor Operator Course at Randolph AFB, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 9. Cuddy and Rodriguez are the first two Marines to complete the course and subsequently be assigned as sensor operators for the MQ-9 Reaper.

Rodriguez and Cuddy went through the Air Force training program, and their job will be to support the drone pilot and provide real-time ISR to supported units on the ground.

"I enjoyed my time here training with the Air Force and everything that I have learned," Cuddy said. "It seems like it has

been a long journey to get here, but I know that I am ready to use what we learned here in the real world. I am looking forward to getting back to working with Marines and supporting boots on the ground."

Cuddy and Rodriguez completed 220 academic hours of training during the course and took part in 36 Predator Reaper

An unmanned MQ-9 Reaper flies over the Nevada Test and Training Range July 15. The "group five" aircraft is the newest addition to the Marine Corps UAS community.



SA HALEY STEVENS, USAF

Integrated Mission Environment simulators. During their final two weeks in the course, they worked directly with a UAS pilot undergoing training to put their new skills to the test. The next step in their training will be earning their final Reaper-specific qualifications at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.

“My aspirations in the Marine Corps come from my parents,” said Rodriguez. “Both my parents are retired Marines—my dad was a gunnery sergeant and my mom was a staff sergeant. They always told me to leave a place better than you found it. My goal is to stay in the Marine Corps as long as possible and leave it better than when I started, and I think this is a pretty good first step to doing that.”

Training Marines on the Reaper was the ideal solution for providing ISR support and a stepping-stone for the training that will be required for future UAS platforms, ideally those that are capable of being deployed from aircraft carriers. Following closely after Cuddy and Rodriguez, two more Marines were scheduled to graduate from BSOC Aug. 23.

1stLt Pawel Puczko, USMC

Program Gives Separating Recruits Training for a “Fresh Start”

For most of the 20,000 recruits who step onto the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., each year, recruit training is only the beginning. But for those assigned to the Recruit Separations Platoon (RSP), which houses recruits being processed for entry-level separation from the Marine Corps, a new program has been implemented to help prepare them for success in the civilian world.

Operation Fresh Start combines lectures and practical application exercises to help recruits identify and address the deficiencies that prevented them from completing recruit training, as well as topics relating to their success in the civilian world, such as preparing for job interviews or building resumes.

Major Brandon Mokris started the program while serving as the executive officer of 1st Recruit Training Battalion after noticing that the majority of recruits being separated had issues dealing with stress. Mokris tried working with recruits one-on-one, but found he didn’t have enough time to give each recruit the attention they needed.

Inspiration struck when Mokris heard Sergeant Major Jorge Guerrero, the sergeant major of 1st Recruit Training Bn, speak to Family Day attendees prior to graduation.

“One of his lines was, ‘It’s our responsibility to return quality citizens back to

society,’ ” remembered Mokris. “I kind of took that to heart. These recruits have signed on the dotted line, they’ve stepped on the yellow footprints—regardless of whether they’ve done one day or 20 years, they are part of the Marine Corps. I wanted to make sure we were doing our part to return quality citizens back to society.”

For Mokris, doing his part came in the form of Operation Fresh Start, which first launched in June 2017. The classes are taught by an all-volunteer team of active-duty enlisted Marines and officers from across the depot, as well as civilian contractors and retired Marines. Extra effort is made to seek out speakers who have entrepreneurial experience and can provide recruits with practical tips for wisely investing their money or even starting their own business.

Recruit Reed Deane, who majored in business before enlisting and is still working to pay off his student loans, found the classes particularly impactful.

“I learned more about finances than I did in some of my college classes,” said Deane. “It’s really going to help me later.”

For many recruits in RSP, it can take time to overcome the disappointment of not earning the title “Marine.”

Recruit Christine Senyk-Porino was dropped to RSP following a concussion received during training. She wasn’t interested in the Fresh Start classes until she attended a lecture given by a drill instructor on the Marine Corps’ 14 leadership traits and how they translate to success in the civilian world.

“He said, ‘Even though you may not have gone through all the training, you

still have those leadership traits inside you,’ ” she recalled. “I realized that even though I am going home, I’m not going home as a failure.”

Senyk-Porino still hopes the Marine Corps can be an option for her in the future and plans to attempt recruit training again after recovering fully. However, Fresh Start has led her to consider other possibilities.

“I was really disorganized when I left home,” she said. “I’ve gained a lot of discipline. If [the Marine Corps] doesn’t work out, I’ll probably go to college for computer science.”

While there is still an element of disappointment for those who are unable to complete recruit training, Operation Fresh Start helps ensure that every recruit who steps aboard Parris Island leaves with the tools to succeed.

“They can prove to themselves and others that this was not a waste by hitting the ground running and being successful,” said Mokris. “That’s what’s going to show people that the Marine Corps really did have a large impact on their lives.”

Cpl Daniel O’Sullivan, USMC

Shoreline Cleanup Gets Marines Involved

In an effort to clean up the shorelines of the New River on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., the Single Marine Program (SMP) challenged Marines, Sailors and civilians to join in an organized effort to dispose of washed-up trash on the banks of the river, beginning at the Gottschalk Marina, July 25.

More than 60 servicemembers and



CPL DANIEL O’SULLIVAN, USMC

Recruits separating from the Marine Corps attend a guided discussion at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., July 29. The class is part of a new initiative called Operation Fresh Start, which encourages personal development and provides transition assistance for those unable to complete recruit training for various reasons.



LCPL KARINA LOPEZMATA, USMC

Cpl Lorena Mares, an intelligence specialist with 2nd Intelligence Bn, holds up trash during a shoreline cleanup near the Gottschalk Marina, at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 25. The clean up was hosted by the Single Marine Program.

civilians from across the base answered the call and showed up to support the effort toward a cleaner Camp Lejeune.

“Having an event like this, a cleanup, and being involved with the SMP is vital to the marina itself,” said Sammy Landrum, the marina manager. “Not only is it good for the river and the area, but for the wildlife dwelling in the water.”

Volunteers paddled their way down the

riverbanks in kayaks and canoes as they collected waste and debris. More than 30 bags were filled with objects ranging from tires and car bumpers to beer cans and cigarette butts.

“Many Marines cleaning up one lake will not have a direct drastic impact on the world, but every wave starts with a ripple,” said Zeelie Scruggs, a Marine volunteer with the SMP. “Cleaning up

the shore for two hours was enough to keep some trash out of the river, out of aquatic life and wildlife.”

According to Sergeant Major Charles A. Metzger, sergeant major for Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, there were two teams who stood out as “winners” of the cleanup with the most debris gathered: Sergeant Jesse McCormick and Lance Corporal Braidon Roberts with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, and Sgt Taylor Proffitt and Sgt C. Olson with 2nd Intelligence Battalion.

SMP provides recreational activities and opportunities for community involvement to improve quality of life and personal growth and development for single Marines.

LCpl Karina Lopezmata, USMC

Corps’ First Female F-35 Pilot Heads to the Fleet

Marine Captain Anneliese Satz left her legacy on the Marine Corps’ F-35B program when she became the first female Marine to complete the F-35B Basic Course at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., June 27.

Prior to commissioning in the Marine



LCPL KARINA LOPEZMATA, USMC

Cpl Timothy Holman, left, and LCpl Joe Dempsey, right, intelligence analysts with 2nd Intelligence Bn, remove trash from the Camp Lejeune shoreline, July 25.

Corps, she earned her commercial pilot's license flying a Robinson R44 helicopter, which she said prepared her for a career in military aviation.

Over the last four years, Satz completed aviation pre-flight indoctrination in Pensacola, Fla., primary flight training in Corps Christi, Texas, where she learned to fly the T-6 Texan II, and in Meridian, Miss., where she flew the T-45C Goshawk advanced jet training aircraft. After earning her wings as a naval aviator, she was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 501 to train on the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, the world's first supersonic short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) aircraft. The aircraft is designed to operate from austere, short-field bases and a range of air-capable ships operating near front-line combat zones.

"At each of my training schools I did my best," said Satz, a native of Boise, Idaho. "I truly believe that showing up prepared and working diligently are two major keys to success."

After arriving at MCAS Beaufort in July 2018, she flew the F-35 for the first time in October.

"The first flight in an F-35 is by yourself," she said. "The syllabus thoroughly prepares you for that first time you take off and for every flight after that. It's an exhilarating experience."

During her four years of training, Satz completed more than 300 flight hours, spent a significant amount of time practicing in simulators and studied for written and practical application exams. She has been assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, where she will continue to train and learn.

"I'm very grateful for the instructors, the maintainers and countless others at [VMFAT] 501 who lent me their expertise and time while I was going through the syllabus," said Satz. "This is a phenomenal program made possible by all of their hard work. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to learn from all of them. I am incredibly excited to get to VMFA-121 and look forward to the opportunity to serve in the Fleet Marine Forces."

Sgt Brittney Vella, USMC



SGT ASHLEY PHILLIPS, USMC

Capt Anneliese Satz walks to an F-35B before a training flight at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., March 11. Satz made history in June when she completed training and became the Corps' first female F-35B pilot.

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



PFC KARIS MATTINGLY, USMC

"Wow! This is some video game."

Submitted by:
Terry T. Komar
The Villages, Fla.

This Month's Photo



SGT MACKENZIE GIBSON, 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.

The Battle of Okinawa Through One Marine's Eyes

By Jonathan Vanhooose

In early July 1945, Second Lieutenant Sid Garland of Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, sat down on a coral outcropping in southern Okinawa and started writing a letter to his parents. After months of intense fighting and witnessing untold horrors, he finally had time to write them and reflect on what he had just been through.

"Dear Folks,

Well, I'm finally writing at last. This sure was a rugged affair over here. Anyway, who got through without being hit can consider themselves extremely lucky ... the old timers in the company say the fighting on this island compares with the worst they had ever been in. Some of the 2nd Division said Saipan was a breeze compared to this ... "

The letter went on to describe some of the fighting he had taken part in and a little of what he had seen.

On June 5, 1942, just a few months after the Japanese attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Sidney Blythe Garland joined the United States Marine Corps. Born on Sept. 7, 1922, in Howard County, Iowa, the son of a traveling Methodist minister, the young man had lived in Townsend, Tenn.; Fairview, Ill.; Spokane, Wash.; and Harlan County, Ky. by the time he was 14 years old. In 1936, his father was hired as the minister at the First Methodist Church in Paintsville, Johnson County, Ky. There, Sid completed his first two years of high school. As a sophomore at Paintsville High, Sid was a member of the Current Events Club and was the sports writer for his high school newspaper. Moving once again in 1938, his family returned to Iowa, settling in Geneva, where he finished high school and was a local basketball star. In 1940, he began his college career at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, but was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II.

Due to his two years of college education, he was selected as a potential officer candidate and sent for additional training. From July to December 1943, he was assigned to the Marine detachment as part of the Navy's V-12 unit at Oberlin College in Ohio. The V-12 program was a college program designed to give officer can-

didates the requisite and minimum education necessary for more specialized training as military officers on an accelerated schedule. After finishing the requirements, Private Garland was assigned to Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Va. Completing his training there, he was commissioned and sent to the Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where Garland received a crash course on leading assault troops in



2ndLt Sidney B. Garland

combat. Finally, with officer training complete, Garland was ordered to Camp Pendleton in December 1944 and from there was given orders to report for duty in the Pacific.

The 1st Marine Division had suffered tremendous casualties fighting on the island of Peleliu. Many Marines of the Division had been fighting since Guadalcanal, and by the fall of 1944, many were sent back to the United States for rehabilitation. To bring the Division up to strength, it was necessary to absorb more than 8,000 replacements, including Lt Garland, who had been assigned to the unit as part of the 29th Replacement Draft. Arriving in the Russell Islands, he and many other replacements began intense training.

Basic training, small unit problems and specialized schools were held for the new men on the island of Pavuvu in the Russell Islands. A special emphasis was placed on the type of warfare Marines were to face in a large scale operation on a large island. It was during training that Garland was assigned to his new unit—Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

On April 1, 1945, the United States 10th Army, a force that consisted of the 7th, 27th, 77th and 96th Army Infantry Divisions and the 1st, 2nd and 6th Marine Divisions—encompassing nearly 200,000 combat troops—began landing on the island of Okinawa as part of Operation Iceberg. The island was targeted by Allied forces because of its distance to the Japanese home islands, just 350 miles away. Allied airfields built on Okinawa would be able to strike almost every major Japanese city, bringing a new level of destruction to Japan. Anticipating the same fanaticism the Allies had faced elsewhere in the Pacific, the invasion force could hardly believe their luck. The first waves of men landing on the beach found little to no opposition. Moving quickly, the American troops reached the east coast of Okinawa on April 5, cutting the island in two.

For the remainder of the month, the 1stMarDiv did not spend much time in front-line action against the Japanese. They had been ordered to patrol areas of the island under American control, seal caves suspected of harboring Japanese troops and handle the rush of civilians who were escaping the fighting. This time off of the front lines had given them time to bring in replacements, unload all of their equipment and supplies and ensure the Marines were prepared.

At the end of April, 5th Marines were ordered into the fighting. On May 1, the regiment relieved the 105th and 106th Infantry Regiments, two units of the 27th Army Division that had been on the front lines since the opening of the battle. Executing this movement, the regiment came under mortar and machine-gun fire that caused some casualties. Now on the front, the 1stMarDiv was given their initial objective—moving to and

capturing the north bank of the Asa River. Unfortunately, between the Division and the objective were “a series of hills and ridges the Japanese had prepared [with] defensive positions in depth ...” This was the outer perimeter of the Shuri Castle defensive line. It was in these hills, ridges and valleys, some later known by the names of “Shuri Ridge,” “Wana Ridge,” “Wilson’s Ridge” and “Death Valley” that 1stMarDiv would meet the Japanese in bitter fighting.

On May 3, the three companies making up 1/5 (Companies A, B and C) attacked Japanese positions but were held up by the intense fire coming from enemy machine-gun positions and pillboxes. The next morning, 20 tanks and six large flame-thrower tanks supported the battalion in another assault. With the help of the tanks, which destroyed numerous enemy positions, 1st Bn was able to advance and occupy high ground. It was a costly two days for Co A. Their first taste of heavy fighting on Okinawa had cost them four killed and 46 wounded. Among those wounded were three of the junior officers in the company. Garland, writing home to his family, discussed the situation: “The last I wrote to you I told you I had a machine-gun platoon. Well, after being on the lines about 10 minutes, one of the rifle platoon leaders got hit and I took over.”

For the next few days, 1/5 consolidated their lines, making sure to clear “the numerous caves, pillboxes and installa-

tions” that were in the area of Japanese troops. Co A, having been hit hard with casualties from the previous days, received another group of 13 replacements on May 5. As the men of the company were recovering from their baptism of fire on Okinawa, plans were being made for another attack. This time, the assault would be on a 110-foot mass facing the regiment. Later known as Wilson’s Ridge, it was covered with caves and pillboxes

**“The last I wrote to you
I told you I had a machine-
gun platoon. Well, after
being on the lines about
10 minutes, one of the
rifle platoon leaders got hit
and I took over.”**

on both sides, giving the Japanese the ability to fire in all directions and hinder any American advance.

On May 10, orders came for the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment to attack the northern and eastern sections of Wilson’s Ridge. The 1st Bn, including Sid Garland and the men of Co A, were ordered to advance across an open area of ground to the west of the ridge, known as “Death Valley,” and strike at the western portion of Wilson’s Ridge. Co A advanced first across the open terrain,

followed closely by Co C. Co B provided supporting fire during the attack. Due to poor road conditions in the area, the men were forced to assault the ridge without the support of armor.

Garland and the Marines of Co A moved across “Death Valley” quickly, despite suffering casualties as the Japanese hit the advancing men with heavy machine gun and mortar fire. They were able to reach the slope of Wilson’s Ridge but were pinned down by the terrific amount of fire coming from enemy positions where it became difficult and dangerous to evacuate wounded Marines. Hours later, Co A and two platoons of Co C which had also reached the ridge managed to fall back under the cover of smoke, carrying their casualties out by hand. Co A again suffered tremendous casualties in the assault on Wilson’s Ridge. Company muster rolls show that four troops were killed and 23 were wounded, including Captain Julian Dusenbery, commander of the company. Four of the wounded Marines later died.

Sid Garland distinguished himself in the assault while leading his platoon. According to official reports of the action, he “repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile fire to lead his men forward Observing that the leader of an adjacent platoon was wounded, he immediately took charge, skillfully organizing and directing the men to advantageous positions from which they could fire upon the Japanese.

Marine armored amphibious tractors form on line as they head toward the beaches of Okinawa in the early days of the last major battle of World War II. (USMC photo)





Marines from Co A, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines battle for a ridge 2 miles north of Naha, the capital of Okinawa in May 1945. (USMC photo)

Shortly afterward, while pinned down by a heavy enemy artillery and mortar barrage, he supervised the withdrawal of both units and constantly braved the hostile fire to assist in the evacuation of numerous casualties.” Because of his actions on the ridge, 2ndLt Garland was later awarded the Silver Star for valor in combat.

On May 11, Co A and Co C were again ordered to assault Wilson’s Ridge, this time successfully capturing the hill and forcing the Japanese to retreat. Co A lost another Marine and five more were wounded in this second day of action. Because of the hard fighting over two days, 1/5 was placed in reserve and given the mission of mopping up the area it had just captured. The unit had a few days to rest and replace its casualties.

Their rest would be brief. Receiving orders to the front, 1/5 moved forward in the early morning hours of May 15, relieving 1/1. Now faced with enemy positions on the Wana Draw, the plan was to attack the Japanese with all available firepower. Fierce fighting took place for the next five days, mostly by 2/5, as American tanks, escorted by infantry,

attacked Japanese held positions on Hill 55. Methodically moving among the honeycombed hills, the Americans threw everything they could at the enemy—artillery, tanks, self-propelled guns, engineers with demolition charges, flame-throwers and even American ships

**Because of his actions
on the ridge, 2ndLt Garland
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in combat.**

offshore—added to the amazing amount of fire targeted on the Japanese. Finally, the hill fell on the evening of May 20, bringing the Americans one step closer to Shuri Ridge, the high, natural barrier protecting Shuri Castle.

Shuri Castle, built at some point during the Sanzan Period (1322-1429), was the administrative center and main palace of the Ryukyu Kingdom. American Commodore Matthew Perry came to the island twice, once each in 1853 and 1854 during his expedition to Japan. In 1879, the king-

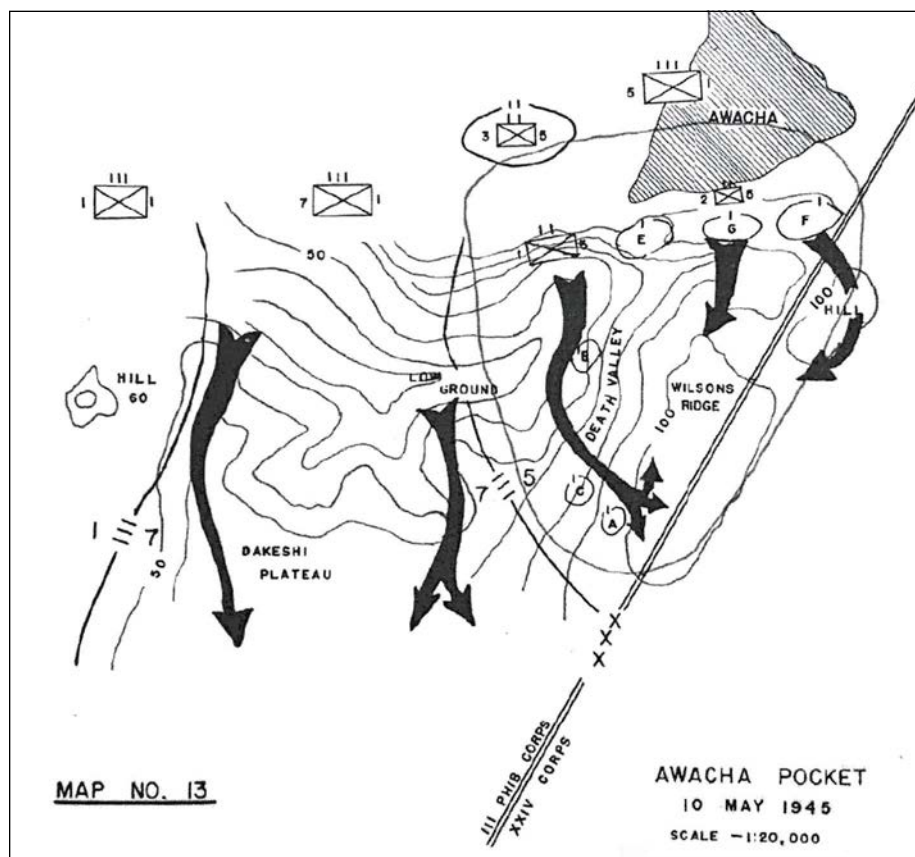
dom fell and Okinawa was annexed by Japan. The old castle was then put to use as a barracks by the Imperial Japanese Army, which built a series of tunnels and caverns below it. Falling into a state of disrepair, the castle was not used again until the outbreak of World War II. Anticipating an American invasion, the Japanese military set up a headquarters in the tunnels under the castle and began to create a very complex series of defensive positions on Okinawa, centered on the ancient castle.

By May 21, American troops found themselves in front of the complex Shuri fortifications. Patrolling the area to their front, the Marines discovered that the steep escarpment, on which the Shuri defenses were built, did not have a place suitable to move tanks and other armor against the Japanese. The U.S. Army’s 77th and 96th Divisions had advanced to the Shuri line as well, but no one could move forward until the castle was taken. Orders to attack the defenses on May 22 had to be scrapped. Heavy rain and wind had transformed the ground into deep and heavy mud. The rain continued for days, making life miserable for the already tired troops.

One account recalled that “living conditions of front-line troops were indescribably bad. Foxholes dug into the clay slopes caved in from the constant soaking, and, even when the sides held, the holes had to be bailed out repeatedly. Clothes and equipment and the men’s bodies were wet for days. The bodies of Japanese killed at night lay outside the foxholes, decomposing under swarms of flies. Sanitation measures broke down. The troops were often hungry. Sleep was almost impossible. The strain began to take a mounting toll of men.” To make matters even worse, the Japanese were constantly shelling the American troops with mortar and artillery fire, especially at night. The Marines in front of Shuri were left to undertake “aggressive patrolling” to keep the Japanese pinned in their defenses.

Early on the morning of May 29, Co B and Co C of 1/5 moved toward the Shuri defenses. A patrol the previous day had discovered a possible weak point in the Japanese lines and the men of the two companies were sent forward and occupied the high ground. Approximately 800 yards away, the Marines could see Shuri Castle and unbelievably, it looked undefended. Many of the Americans fighting in front of Shuri believed that the Japanese would fight to the death there and were surprised at the lack of resistance from that “stinking hole of death” as they advanced. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Shelburne, the battalion commander, immediately requested permission to move a group forward to capture the castle. He had to ask permission because the fortification lay in the area reserved for the 77th Army Division. Crossing into their area and capturing this significant military obstacle without previous discussion would more than likely anger the Army.

After discussion among the top brass, the request was approved, and at about 9 a.m., Co A of 1/5, which had been in reserve, was ordered forward through the heavy mud and muck. Cautiously approaching the castle, the Marines were surprised that there was not much resistance coming from the Japanese. They didn’t realize that they were entering an area through a gap in the enemy defenses when the Japanese 3rd Battalion, 15th Independent Mixed Regiment began their withdrawal from the Shuri lines. All other enemy units were still in their positions. The Marines just happened to be advancing in the right place at the right time. Moving into the castle, the men of Co A encountered approximately 50 Japanese soldiers who were quickly killed. Garland was right in the thick of the advance on Shuri. In fact, when he wrote after the battle, he told



his family, “My platoon was the assault that day and we took it and you know who was the first one there.”

Once inside the castle, Co A deployed into what has been described as “a hasty defensive line within the castle’s rubble.” Expecting the Japanese to attack at any moment, the men settled into their positions in the shattered masonry. The men were exhausted, and there wasn’t much time to reflect on what they had just accomplished. Corporal Irvin Stone recalled, “I was too damn tired, soaking wet and hungry to think much about it.” They wanted to rest. But there was no time for the men to let down their guard.

Exploring the tunnels and caverns under Shuri Castle the Marines discovered “a wrecked Japanese command car surrounded by trucks, a baby Japanese tank and several extinct Japanese soldiers who came out [of] their caves at the wrong time.” They also discovered a cave that was equipped as a hospital. Many Japanese soldiers lay dead within the tunnel leading to the hospital and medical and surgical equipment was found strewn all about.

Co A was relieved in Shuri by members of the 1st Marine Regiment and moved back into their original position as the 1st Battalion reserve. That night and early into the next morning the three companies of the 1st Battalion fought off many groups and individual Japanese soldiers they discovered trying to infiltrate the Marine lines. Garland remembered that

his men fought against “a big counter-attack that first night.”

Without much rest, the 1/5 Marines then sent out patrols to find and determine the exact strength of the enemy in the area. After advancing about 500 yards, the patrols were hit with heavy machine-gun and rifle fire from the Japanese and forced back to American lines. On June 1, advancing in force, the men of the 5th Marine Regiment reached the hills north of the Naha-Yonabaru Highway where they “could see the roads to the south littered with vehicles and equipment” from the retreating enemy. The Marines continued to advance in order to maintain contact with the Japanese.

Additional patrols determined that enemy troops in the area appeared to be entrenched on a large hill, shown on the map as Hill 69. On June 3, the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 5th Marine Regiment, made an assault on Hill 69 in which they described resistance as “spotty.” By that evening, Hill 69 had been captured “without too much difficulty,” and the Japanese retreat continued.

The 5th Marine Regiment was placed in a reserve role until June 15, when they relieved 2/1 on Kunishi Ridge. After their brief rest, fierce fighting continued for Sid Garland and the men of Co A. For four days, the men slugged it out over the control of two more small knolls, Hills 79 and 81. Honeycombed with caves and spider holes, the Japanese fought off

American attempts to break their lines with machine guns, grenades, small arms and anti-tank guns.

On June 20, a few men of Co A reached the crest of Hill 79, "but there were so few men left, they could not hold their ground and were driven back." The next day, with the assistance of tanks, all three companies of 1/5 fought their way through the Japanese defenses and up Hill 79. Finally securing the crest, the battalion began "mopping up," or blasting the entrances to caves with flame-throwers and demolition charges. It was a costly few days for Co A, which suffered 13 killed and 37 wounded in the fighting around Hills 79 and 81.

The U.S. Tenth Army announced the end of organized fighting on Okinawa on June 22. However, many individuals and small groups of fanatical Japanese soldiers remained scattered and hidden across the island. Before the American occupation forces could begin restoring and building airfields and bases on the island, Okinawa would have to be cleared of the remainder of the enemy. The III

Amphibious Corps issued Operation Order Number (24-25), stating that the "1st and 6th Marine Divisions would conduct a coordinated mopping up operation from south to north within certain assigned boundaries." Eugene Sledge, serving with K/3/5, recalled the orders, "We're moving back north ... You people

"You just do what you're trained to do. You don't worry about getting hit or killed."

will mop up the area for any enemy still holding out. You will bury all enemy dead. You will salvage U. S. and enemy equipment. All brass above .50-caliber in size will be collected and placed in neat piles" The battle was not yet over for the 5th Marine Regiment.

For the next week, the men of the 1stMarDiv occupied themselves with the burning out of caves, pillboxes and "sniper-infested brush and cane fields." The soldiers they encountered here "were

the toughest of the diehards, selling their lives as expensively as possible." The Marines encountered the enemy in "small disorganized groups and individual soldiers who moved around in the darkness trying to find other comrades or a new place of hiding for the next day" Okinawa was still a dangerous place and Co A had three men who were wounded in this mopping up operation.

Finally, on June 30, Garland and the 1stMarDiv had completed their mission. According to one account, "the total number of Japanese killed during the mop up was 8,975, a large enough number of enemy to have waged intense guerrilla warfare if they hadn't been annihilated." The island was now considered secure and Garland could finally take a moment to write a letter to his parents, letting them know he was safe. A few days later, the tired and exhausted Marines were moved to the northern part of the island where they went into camp on the Motobu Peninsula. Their battle was over.

Casualties from the Battle of Okinawa were staggering. In three and a half

Marines pinned down by Japanese fire on Cemetery Ridge during the battle of Okinawa. The Marines secured the island after 82 days but their victory came at a huge cost. More than 12,000 Americans were killed during the battle with another 38,000 wounded. (USMC photo)





A Marine rifleman signals to his fellow Marines to hold their fire as a Japanese soldier emerges from a cave during the battle of Okinawa.

PFC FRANK ROGERS, USMC

months, approximately 12,500 American servicemembers had been killed and another 33,000 were wounded. Over 100,000 Japanese fighting troops were killed during the battle. Garland's Co A had suffered tremendous casualties as well. The company commander, Capt Julian Dusenbury, called his company "the best outfit in the Marine Corps ... Those boys never gave up." He pleaded for credit for his men who had survived the battle, stating, "We started out with 228 officers and men and we got 75 replacements before we were through, but at one time we were down to two eight-man rifle squads, a total of 16 men in all." Amazingly, 2ndLt Sidney B. Garland was one of the lucky ones who made it through the "typhoon of steel" without being killed or wounded. In the letter to his parents after the battle, he recalled, "I started out with 60 men [in the platoon] and got down to 1, then replacements put me back up to 40, then [due to casualties] down to 10. I believe we had about 90 percent casualties in the company. We have seven officers in a regular company. We lost 13 ... Who got through without being hit can consider themselves extremely lucky."

For their bravery, the entire 1stMarDiv, including 2ndLt Sidney B. Garland, was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation that stated, "For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the invasion and capture of Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, from April 1 to June 21, 1945. Securing its assigned area in the north of Okinawa by a series of lightning advances against stiffening resistance, the 1st Marine Division, Reinforced, turned southward to drive

steadily forward through a formidable system of natural and man-made defenses protecting the main enemy bastion at Shuri Castle. Laying bitter siege to the enemy until the defending garrison was reduced and the elaborate fortifications at Shuri destroyed, these intrepid Marines continued to wage fierce battle as they advanced relentlessly, cutting off the Japanese on Orokuni Peninsula and smashing through a series of heavily fortified, mutually supporting ridges extending to the southernmost tip of the island to split the remaining hostile force into two pockets where they annihilated the ...



Sid and Jan Garland in 1995.

COURTESY OF JONATHAN VANHOOSE

enemy. By their valor and tenacity, the officers and men of the 1st Marine Division, Reinforced, contributed materially to the conquest of Okinawa, and their gallantry in overcoming a fanatic enemy in the face of extraordinary danger and difficulty adds new luster to Marine Corps History and to the traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Garland remained on Okinawa until September 1945, when 1/5, was sent to China to help protect the Chinese countryside from aggression during the civil war then sweeping the country.

After being sent back to the United States and being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Sid returned to school, graduating from Cornell College in Iowa in 1947. He met Jan Hyde while he was finishing college and married her in 1948. He stayed active in the Marine Corps Reserve and returned to active duty during the Korean War, serving at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve with the rank of colonel after 30 years of service.

Sid and his wife Jan moved to Paintsville in 1953, becoming pillars in the community. Together they raised four sons. Sid was active in the Methodist church, was a Paul Harris Fellow in the Paintsville Rotary with "perfect attendance for 37 years," helped establish Little League baseball in Paintsville and also was a Boy Scout leader. He was described as a man who "lived his life by the Marine Corps motto, Semper Paratus"—always faithful, always loyal.

Sidney Blythe Garland passed away on Nov. 24, 2010, in Oak Ridge, Tenn. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Years after the battle, when Sid was asked to talk about being awarded the Silver Star and his experiences on Okinawa, he just simply said, "You just do what you're trained to do. You don't worry about getting hit or killed. When you run into a bunch of Japanese shooting at you, you just do it." These are simple words from a humble man of the Greatest Generation.

Author's bio: Jonathan Vanhoose is a former basketball player who was named Kentucky Mr. Basketball in 1998 as a high school All-American. After playing college basketball at Marshall University, he spent time in the NBA Developmental League. He has taught history for the last 16 years, at Johnson Central High School in Paintsville.

Denver, Colo.



COURTESY OF WALTER M. STOLPA JR.

Final Salute: MCL Det Provides Honor Bell, Guard

Members of the Union Colony Marines, Detachment #1093 of the Marine Corps League, supported a fellow Marine veteran, Jimmy Strong, center, at his father-in-law's funeral at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colo., May 17. The detachment Marines provided an honor guard to render military honors for

the U.S. Army veteran and rang the honor bell in memory of his service and sacrifice. From the left, Mac McClure, Rich Ellin, Ken Jacobsen, Bud Stolpa, Ken Balltrip, Ray Delgado, Robert Klausner, Don Lindsay, Ernie Martinez and Mark Kauffman gathered by the honor bell to express their condolences.

Submitted by Walter M. Stolpa Jr.

Dallas, Texas



COURTESY OF STEVE GRIFFITH

Marine Vet, Golfer Advances After Warrior Open Win

Retired Marine Captain Jerry Woods, left, receives the Warrior Cup from former President George W. Bush following his win at the 2019 Bush Institute Warrior Open, held at the AT&T Byron Nelson in Dallas, Texas, May 5. The competitive golf tournament honors post-9/11 wounded and injured servicemembers, and Woods' win earned him a spot in the American Century Championship in July, where he finished the final round in 33rd place. The field of golfers included more than 90 sports and entertainment stars including Tony Romo, Aaron Rodgers, Charles Barkley, Larry Fitzgerald, Carson Palmer, Roger Clemens, Jerry Rice, Ray Romano and Larry the Cable Guy. The 54-hole tournament in Stateline, Nev., at Lake Tahoe, has raised more than \$5 million for charity.

A mustang Marine officer, Woods enlisted in 1998 and served as an infantryman in Iraq, where he was wounded during the Battle of Najaf. After recovering from shrapnel wounds, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served in Afghanistan as an aviation supply officer. As he transitioned to civilian life upon his retirement in 2018, he turned to golf as a form of therapy and healing.

Submitted by Steve Griffith

Richmond, Va.

WW II Veteran, Educator Recognized For Lifetime Contributions

On May 25, the Marine Corps League James M. Slay Detachment #329 conducted a ceremony in Richmond, Va., honoring Dr. Bruce Heilman, right, a Marine veteran of World War II who served in the Battle of Okinawa and during the occupation of Japan.

After leaving active duty as a sergeant, he spent his life as an educator, most notably serving as the president of the University of Richmond for 25 years. At 93 years old, Heilman remains active in both the academic and Marine Corps communities, inspiring those who have the privilege of knowing him.

The Slay Detachment Marines presented Heilman with an outstanding shadow box commemorating his service. The detachment also raised nearly \$2,000 to fund a scholarship in honor of Heilman's service as a Marine and an educator. Three Marine Corps JROTC cadets from high schools around the Richmond area will receive the scholarship named in his honor.

Submitted by Kyle Watts



KYLE WATTS

Swansboro, N.C.

Virtual Run Honors Gold Star Families

On July 22, a 9-mile "Sugar Bear's Virtual Memorial Run" rallied supporters across the nation—including a dedicated group of individuals in Swansboro, N.C.—to raise awareness of the sacrifices made by Gold Star families. For a registration fee of \$25, each participant's entry fee benefitted both the Marine Corps Association Foundation's programs for Marines and the Sugar Bear Foundation. Named in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Mario "Sugar Bear" Carazo, whose AH-1W Cobra was shot down by enemy fire in Afghanistan in 2010 while supporting Marines engaged in a firefight on the ground, the Sugar Bear Foundation continues his legacy of service by supporting the surviving spouses and children of fallen U.S. servicemembers. The virtual walk/run takes place each year on the anniversary of Carazo's death.




COURTESY OF STEVE SCARBOROUGH

From the left, Jen McHale; Colonel Bob Hayes, USMC (Ret); Steve Scarborough; Neva Tucker; Angie Cooper; and Jill Riggs walked 9 miles from Swansboro across the Emerald Isle Bridge to Emerald Isle, N.C.

"I plan to do this every year now," said Riggs. "There were three that walked last year and we had six this year. I hope our group continues to grow."

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

"Corps Connections" highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks. We welcome submissions of photos from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to s.boat@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos. 

DPAA Accounts for Tarawa Marine

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced recently that a Marine killed during World War II has been accounted for.

PltSgt George E. Trotter, 38, of Kansas City, Mo., was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, which landed on Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. He died during the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943, and was accounted for on April 16, 2019.

DPAA

Marine Raider Dies in Firefight

The Department of Defense announced the death of a Marine who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

GySgt Scott A. Koppenhafer, 35, of Mancos, Colo., died Aug. 10, after being engaged by enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations. The incident is under investigation.

GySgt Koppenhafer was assigned to 2nd Marine Raider Bn, Marine Forces Special Operations Command, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He previously deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star in lieu of second award, both with combat distinguishing device. Koppenhafer received the Sergeant Clyde A. Thomason Marine Special Operator of the Year award in 2018 which was presented by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.

DOD

Germaine Buckbee, 82, of Green Bay, Wis. She served on active duty from 1956-1959 and was in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1962. She later served 20 years in the Coast Guard Reserve.

James S. Carnrite, 93, of Blacksburg, Va. Following his graduation from high school, he served with 2ndMarDiv during WW II. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Barbara M. Cooke, 95, of North Branford, Conn. She served in the Marine Corps from 1944 to 1945.

Joseph Thomas Desthers Sr. 86, of North Babylon, N.Y. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and saw action at the Chosin Reservoir. He later had a career as a firefighter.

Roy R. Isaksen Sr., 79, of Brookfield,

Wis. He served in the Marine Corps and was a member of the MCL. He was a Toys for Tots volunteer.

William C. "Bill" Janssen, 82, of De Pere, Wis. He served in the Marine Corps from 1956-1962.

PFC Vincent Henry Jaramillo, 62, of Rio Rancho, N.M. He served in the Marine Corps.

Henry "Hank" Kallis Sr., 74, of Clinton, Mont. Henry enlisted in the early 1960s, serving as an MP in Iceland and at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif.

SSgt Raymond Kaster, 96, of West Los Angeles, Calif. He joined the Marine Corps in 1941 and saw action during WW II in the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian as a member of the 2ndMarDiv.

Elman J. Keller, 95, in Vermillion, S.D. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II, seeing action at Guadalcanal. He was a life member of the 2nd Marine Division Association, the V.F.W. and the Newcastle American Legion.

William J. Keough, 76, of Paddock Lake, Wis. He was a Marine aviator who flew the UH-1E helicopter in Vietnam. He later had a successful career in sales.

James Anthony Kostecki, 90, of Missoula, Mont. He left home at the age of 16 to join the Marine Corps. He served in WW II and the Korean War. He retired in 1968 after a tour in Vietnam.

Martin C. Lattimer, 74, of Clinton Township, Mich. He served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Leo Lopez, 99, of Yountville, Calif. He joined the Marine Corps in February 1952, serving in the 4thMarDiv during WW II. He saw action on Kwajalein Atoll, the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Howard T. Loudermilk, 93, of Columbia, Tenn. He was assigned to the 1stMarDiv during WW II as a mortarman on Guam and Okinawa.

SgtMaj Peter J. Marovich, 94, of Aliquippa, Pa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 at age 17. During WW II, he served with the 3rdMarDiv in New Zealand and Guadalcanal. He also participated in the fighting on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima. During the Korean War, he served as a machine gun platoon sergeant. His 32 years of service also included a tour as a DI at Parris Island and later as the sergeant major for the recruit depot. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

Cpl Ken Matthies, 81, of West Lynn, Ore. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1955 and served until 1959. He was a jet engine mechanic and served with H&S Company, MCAS El Toro, in Santa Ana, Calif.

Edward L. "Mac" McCallum, 95, of Roanoke, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II serving with the 10th Defense Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division at Hawaii, Guadalcanal, Eniwetok, Saipan, Okinawa and Nagasaki.

Helen (Zolnowski) McCann, 96, in Fort Edward, N.Y. She enlisted in the Marine Corps during WW II.

Joseph P. McDowell, 69, of Indiana, Pa. He served in the MarDet aboard USS *Coral Sea* (CV-43) during the Vietnam War.

Don J. Mooney, 89, of Toledo, Ohio. He was a combat veteran of the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart. He was a member of the MCL and the Purple Heart Association.

GySgt Kenneth J. "Jim" Moore, 83, in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Kenneth was a veteran of the Vietnam War who served 24 years in the Marine Corps.

PhM3c Fidencio S. Moreno, 90, in Fresno, Calif. He was a corpsman assigned to the 5thMarDiv on Iwo Jima.

Claude R. "Bob" Mowbray, 93, of Richmond, Va. Claude served in the Marine Corps from 1943 to 1963. He participated in the recapture of Guam in July 1944 as well as in the battle of Iwo Jima.

Sgt Rudolph T. Mueller, 93, of Louisville, Ky. He saw action on Iwo Jima where he was wounded. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Joseph A. Neff, 89, of Zanesville, Ohio. He was an air wing Marine who served during the Korean War.

Eugene W. Neitman, 97, of Green Bay, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after the attack on Pearl Harbor, serving as a radio man with Co C, 2nd Tank

Bn, 2ndMarDiv during WW II and saw action on the islands of Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian.

Gary E. Neuhaus, 76, of Albuquerque, N.M. He served in the Marine Corps for five years and later had a career in the construction industry.

Charles H. "Charlie" Nichols, 88, of Veedersburg, Ind. He joined the Marine Corps in 1948 and served his country during the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Barbara Passalacqua, 97, of Strasburg, Ill. She enlisted in the Women's Reserve in January of 1944 and was stationed in Arlington, Va. She worked in the Navy Annex for the duration of WW II.

John Pinto, 94, of Santa Fe, NM. He was a Navajo Code Talker and received a Congressional Silver Medal in 2001. He was elected to the New Mexico state senate.

Joseph Reedy, 68, of East Moline, Ill. He served his country in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Cpl Sarah "Sally" Rezen, 95, in Cortland, N.Y. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1944 and trained as an airplane mechanic. She served at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

SgtMaj V. Rob Robinson, 76, of Chattanooga, Tenn. He was a Marine

who served in the Vietnam War. He was a member of the DAV and the VFW.

Major Paul J.G. Roosen, 94, of Aiken, S.C. He enlisted in the Marine Corps a few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served as a parachute rigger at NAS Lakehurst, N.J., before he left for the South Pacific where he saw action on Guadalcanal. He was later commissioned and served as an infantry officer with a machine-gun platoon during the Korean War. He was wounded in the fighting at the Chosin Reservoir. He served in a variety of other assignments, including as a seagoing Marine, before his 1962 retirement.

MGySgt George W. Schreck, 93, of Idaho Falls, Idaho. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II. He had a 24-year career in the Marine Corps Reserve.

SFC Nicholas Sheperty, 36, in Suffolk, Va. He was a Marine assigned to MARSOC for eight years before serving in the West Virginia National Guard as a Green Beret. He served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dale S. Sperry Jr., 69, of Monroe, Wis. He served with 3rdMarDiv and was wounded in Quang Tri Province, Ashau Valley, Vietnam, in February 1969.

Carlo Valenti, 94, of Troy, N.Y. He served with 5thMarDiv, on Guam and Iwo

Jima. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Sgt Charles V. Van Scyoc, 92, of Green Lake, Wis. After graduating from high school, he served in the Marine Corps during WW II with 2ndMarDiv. He saw action on Guadalcanal and Okinawa. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War where he was assigned to 1st Amtrac Bn.

Robert R. VerHaagh, 73, of De Pere, Wis. He served in the Marine Corps from 1966 to 1968, seeing action in the Vietnam War.

John Vicens, 78, in Albuquerque, N.M. John served in the Marine Corps and later worked at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque.

Cpl Daniel F. Wagner, 36, of Palmyra, Va. He was a Marine who saw action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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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Books Reviewed

THE FROZEN CHOSEN: THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION AND THE BATTLE OF THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR. By Thomas McKelvey Cleaver. Published by Osprey Publishing. 324 pages. \$13.50 MCA Members. \$15 Regular Price.

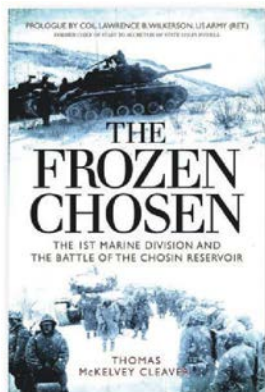
As perhaps a new confrontation with North Korea looms large, Thomas McKelvey Cleaver's book, "The Frozen Chosen," takes a hard, cold look at the Marines' war in the Land of Morning Calm.

In the introduction to this finely crafted military history, the author pens a bold statement: "Thus, the battle of the Chosin Reservoir in 1950 has assumed mythological status in the national memory, given it is the one military event of the past 70 years that wholly and completely fulfills this national mythology." His statement may not sit well with the Marines who fought in the quintessential battles at Khe Sanh, Hue City, or Fallujah, but if there are any doubters, please take the time to contemplate the remarkable campaign. Consider that the fate of the entire Korean War may well have hinged on the campaign's outcome, and from the point of view of the United States Marine Corps, the Corps' reputation as an exceptional fighting institution was reinforced.

Our involvement in the Korean War was as close to an accident as might ever be envisioned. To the mid-20th century American strategist a war fought on the Korean peninsula was without question, the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time. And seen through the eyes of a 1950 "Cold War" masterminds, it was to be fought against the wrong enemy.

After World War II, the Korean peninsula was divided into two parts: South Korea, favored by the West, and North Korea, championed by the Communists. In 1950, the North Korean Army invaded the south and came close to driving the allies completely off the peninsula. In September, Marines made a successful amphibious landing over the beaches at Inchon and liberated Seoul, the capital city. This bold move swiftly turned tables in favor of the U.N. forces. As winter approached, the Marines of the 1st Division made a second amphibious

landing on the northeastern beaches of Korea. MacArthur directed all his forces to press the attack up to the Korean northern borders of China. Here, the general made the worst mistake of his long and storied career. The Chinese, feeling threatened, sprung a massive counterattack all along their border and down into Korea. The U.S. 8th Army troops, on the west side of the peninsula, were unceremoniously driven back in ignominious panic. Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, remarked: "The Chinese assault in North Korea was the greatest defeat of American Arms since the battle of Bull Run." In fact, the majority of POWs captured throughout the three-year war occurred during this inglorious retreat.



However, things played out quite differently with the Marines. The 1stMarDiv moved north along a narrow winding mountainous road up to the Chosin Reservoir, approximately 65 miles from the sea. O.P. Smith shrewdly set up at Koto-ri, which was held by Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller's 1st Regiment. He then moved forward and

established his pivotal support base at Hagaru-ri. Gen Smith sent the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments farther north to the small village known as Yudam-ni, located on the west of the reservoir. Elements of the Army's 7th Division moved north along the east side of the Chosin. By Nov. 25, the Chinese flooded down and around the Marines of the 10th Corps. Gen Smith prudently changed from the offense to a tactical defense. In an epic withdrawal, both the 5th and 7th Marines fought their way south back to the base at Hagaru-ri. The plan now was to bring the division and all its equipment back south toward the port of Hamhung. When a British reporter referred to the withdrawal as a "retreat," Gen Smith pointed out that this was not a retreat. The main part of the division then moved south through Koto-ri and joined the 1st Marines. The reconstituted division then made a fighting march to the sea and was safely evacuated. By bringing out most of its wounded and equipment through the sub-zero wintry weather, the 1st Marine Division succeeded in adding a glittering chapter to its already legendary historical heritage.

On Dec. 31, 1950, the Commandant

of the Marine Corps reported that the Marines had incurred 4,418 casualties between Oct. 26 and Dec. 15, with 718 Marines and Sailors killed in action. Additionally, there were 7,313 non-battle casualties, most due to the effects of frostbite. The tenacious campaign, fought in the unforgiving Korean winter, produced 14 Medal of Honor recipients.

Interestingly, the author includes the battle reports of the Chinese commanders. The assault against the Marines at Yudam-ni and Hagaru-ri nearly destroyed both the 20th and 27th (PVA) Chinese armies. Chinese commanders reported that their communication efforts were not up to standard and their troops did not have enough food, ammunition or supplies. Clearly, they had utterly underestimated the leathernecks. In a message to one of his commanders, Mao acknowledged that as many as 40,000 men had perished due to the fierce fighting, cold weather, and their lack of supplies. The Chinese Ninth Army Group was unable to re-enter combat until April of the following year. Of the Marines fighting ability, the Chinese noted their coordination between infantry, tanks, artillery and air support was as surprising as it was deadly and effective.

Of the Marine battle, the author confidently argues: "The Marine stand at the Chosin had not only saved the division, but had saved the entire U.N. position in Korea. As a result, by May 1951 the U.N. forces had time to stabilize and hold their position around the 38th Parallel."

This excellent researched volume sparkles with gritty combat action. The part played by Naval and Marine air support is well developed. Great care in recounting both the gallant stand by "Fox" Company at the Toktong Pass and the battles around the East Hill are especially well presented. Sadly, the maps included in this first-rate volume were noticeably inadequate. Overall, however, this masterwork of military history will stand the test of time and become a valuable addition to any thoughtful history buffs and/or resolute military historians.

Bob Loring

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

ILLICIT: HOW SMUGGLERS, TRAFFICKERS, AND COPYCATS ARE HIJACKING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.
By Moisés Naim. Published by Anchor.
352 pages. \$14.40 MCA Members. \$16 Regular Price.

Moisés Naim's book "Illicit" starts with three swiftly disproven illusions. The first illusion is that trafficking has not changed greatly over the years. Trafficking transformed in the 1990s, becoming more widespread, entering more markets and becoming more profitable. The second illusion is that criminal syndicates still utilize a hierarchy with a command structure. But the hierarchy of trafficking transformed as technology changed, and organizations rely less on singular leaders, making them able to adapt to disruption more quickly. The third illusion is that there is a clear difference between illicit business and legal business. Modern trafficking blurs the lines between legitimate and underground business.

Due to the interconnected nature of today's commerce, trafficking is more widespread than ever. Markets such as narcotics and human trafficking are more profitable and affect more people than in previous years. Drugs from Afghanistan arrive in Western Europe in record numbers. More people are

purchased every decade than in the history of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Naim also pivots into the rise in intellectual property theft that created an industry of copycat entertainment that was impossible before the prevalence of the internet. The swiftness of modern transportation created a market for organ theft and animal smuggling, making them profitable, common forms of trafficking.

Current organizations are capable of continuing operations even if high value targets are eliminated from their ranks. Hierarchy and bureaucracy slow down criminals, so criminals became less centralized and with fewer command and control structures. They also do not specialize in the goods they traffic. Today's criminal leaders simultaneously sell multiple types of illicit wares. They also participate in the legal market, making it harder to identify and stop them.

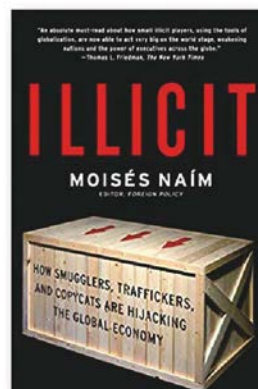
Weak and failed states offer excellent sanctuaries for criminals. Weak governments are coerced by threats or violence, or persuaded with bribes. Some governments operate at the whims of criminal

enterprises within the country. Governments such as North Korea facilitate illicit trade to make money. Different countries struggle to overcome logistical and linguistic differences. Within a country, multiple law enforcement agencies fail to communicate.

Illicit trafficking merges with legal business. Money raised by criminals allows them to invest in commercial enterprises and become legitimate participants in regional trade. Legal businesses permit criminals to launder money, hiding criminal profits. This translates into political and social power, and gives traffickers de facto control of whatever country they occupy. The merging of criminal and legal businesses creates an atmosphere

where it is harder to know who is a criminal and who is not.

Naim suggests that in order to react to modern trafficking, we must mirror it. To counter criminals' use of the latest technology, law enforcement must utilize the latest equipment. The creation of radio-frequency identification (RFID) tracking allows shipments to have in-



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transit visibility. There must also be pragmatic decisions made by governments to see if anything currently illegal can be decriminalized or even completely made legal. Harm reduction should be the target of governments. If banning a substance or product is more harmful than legalization, the policy banning that product should be reconsidered. Soft drugs are a prime example. Creating circumstances under which more people can legally immigrate to a country reduces human trafficking and its secondary effects. Short-term task forces need to be exchanged for long-term cooperation between different countries and different police forces.

Overall, Naim's book is to criminality what Friedman's "The World is Flat" is to global trade. The rise of modern technology, the speed of transport, and the booming consumer market make great strides possible. Those same hallmarks of the new age, harnessed by nefarious individuals, destroy lives, threaten state sovereignty, sustain terrorism and reap unfathomable profits for unscrupulous criminals. The 21st century is rife with new possibilities. Unfortunately, Moisés Naim shows us that those possibilities can benefit the worst mankind has to offer as well as the best.

Kevin Johnston

Author's bio: Kevin Johnston is a contractor and technical writer working for the Headquarters Marine Corps Personnel Studies and Oversight office. Prior to that, he was a Transportation Corps officer in the Army. The views expressed within this writing are his own.

BROTHERS IN VALOR: BATTLEFIELD STORIES OF THE 89 AFRICAN-AMERICANS AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR. By Robert F. Jefferson Jr. Published by Lyons Press. 248 pages. \$24.26 MCA Members. \$26.95 Regular Price.

The new book, "Brothers in Valor," tells the remarkable stories of 89 African-American servicemen who were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions. The book spans the time from the American Civil War up to the end of the Vietnam War. Dr. Jefferson's fine new work helps illustrate how African-Americans have faithfully defended our country with distinction throughout our history. The many acts of incredible valor exhibited by African-American warriors continue to provide us with an abounding source of inspiration and pride.

However, the book also recounts our country's racial past as many black Americans pursued their dreams of equal treatment while serving shoulder-

to-shoulder beside their white brethren. The volume fully scrutinizes the history of America's changing military policy, presidential politics, and unrelenting quest for equal justice under the law.

During the opening stages of the Civil War, a senator from Iowa, James W. Grimes, introduced a bill that presented a small token of appreciation to Navy personnel who had distinguished themselves above and beyond the call of duty. By December 1861, President Lincoln approved the Navy Medal of Honor. The Army soon joined in; by July 1862, they too had developed the Army's version of America's highest award for valor.

Early in the Civil War, Union generals saw the benefits of turning newly freed slaves into a labor force to support the Army's growing needs. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation cleared the way to organizing fully equipped all Black Regiments. The War Department issued General Order 143, and many Blacks, both free and former slaves, enlisted. Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts helped to organize, equip and finance both the 54th and 55th Army Regiments.

William H. Carney, born a slave, escaped bondage and joined the Army. During the summer of 1863, Carney, and his unit received orders to attack Fort Wagner on the Atlantic coast of South Carolina. During the attack, their commander, Colonel Shaw, clasped the 54th Regimental Colors after the regiment's standard bearer was shot; an instant later, the colonel also fell. Though himself seriously wounded, Carney returned with the battle-torn flag after the failed attack shouting, "Boys, the Old Flag had never touched the ground."

Through the promise of military service, many African-American men redefined their sense of honor in relationship to a still divided, racially charged America. Black soldiers fought bravely in the Indian War, 1867-1897 and 18 African-Americans received the country's highest honor for valor. An African-American soldier named William McBryar was awarded the MOH for "coolness, bravery, and good marksmanship" while fighting against the Apaches in southwest Arizona.

The Spanish-American War offered another chance for black troops to show their mettle. And the Punitive Expedition along the Mexican border also offered black soldiers their chance to seek and display valor.

In 1917, the 92nd Division of the Ameri-

can Expedition Force (AEF) sailed to Europe. This new war offered men of color new opportunities to prove their worth. Henry Johnson and a fellow soldier fought off a 20-man German raiding party. General John J. Pershing raved, "The two-colored sentries should be given credit for preventing, by their bravery, the taking of prisoners of any of our men."

During World War II, members of the all Black 761 Tank Battalion served as part of GEN Patton's famed 3rd Army.

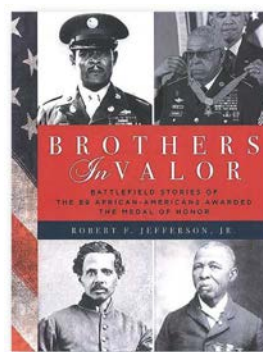
The tankers saw continuous action from Nov. 7, 1944, until the end of the war but their numerous MOHs would not be granted until much later. In some cases, including Ruben Rivers', a grateful nation was slow to act. It would take nearly 60 years before the MOH was awarded to Rivers posthumously.

As the Korean conflict broke out, some important changes were taking place in the military. In October 1951 President Truman desegregated Army.

The stage was now set for the new challenges brought on by the American involvement in Southeast Asia. In 1966, James Anderson Jr., enlisted in the Marine Corps. After boot camp in San Diego, James reported to the 3rd Marine Division, located in South Vietnam. The Marines were tasked with carrying out hard-hitting combat operations against the wily NVA along the country's North/South demilitarized zone. In a fierce firefight, Anderson, with total disregard for his own safety, fell upon an incoming enemy grenade and fully absorbed the destructive blast. He successfully shielded several other Marines from the bulk of the explosion. He died instantly. He was the first African-American Marine to receive his nation's highest award.

Over the past century and a half, only 3,500 service men and women have been recognized with the country's highest decoration for valor. Of that population, 89 were African-Americans, 59 were Hispanic-Americans, 33 were Asian-Americans, and 32 were Native Americans. In an increasingly diversified military, black men and women continue to excel to include GEN Colin Powell serving as the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under George H.W. Bush's presidency. "Brothers in Valor," is a powerful reminder of just how far we have come as a people.

Bob Loring



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715 Broadway St
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Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Col Mary Reinwald USMC (Ret)
715 Broadway St
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715 Broadway St
Quantico VA 22134

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9021 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: Leatherneck Magazine

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: August 2019

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

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b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	75	96
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	43,669	28,317
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS® (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	1,376	247
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS	126	118
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		45,245	28,778
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	625	823
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	104	75
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	718	718
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		1,447	1,416
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		46,692	30,194
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers at page 433)		472	785
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		47,164	30,979
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		96.9%	95.3%

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	20,797	21,166
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	66,043	49,944
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	67,489	51,360
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	97.8%	97.2%

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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner:
Mary Reinwald, Editor, Leatherneck
Colonel, USMC (Ret)
Date: 20 Aug 19

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

republishing of any of our work 50 years later.

I'm referring to "Blast Off," my report on Marines standing by to recover the capsule of Apollo 10 in case the mission had to be scrubbed in the first few seconds after the Saturn V rocket was launched on May 18, 1969.

Thanks for the memory.

SSgt Bob Bowen, USMC
Fredericksburg, Va.

• *We have a treasure trove of incredible articles in Leatherneck's archives. Access to the archives is a benefit of MCA&F membership and while our readers can easily access past issues online, the sheer volume alone is daunting and gems like SSgt Bowen's "Blast Off" could be missed. We've been including select archived articles in recent months and hope our readers enjoy these stories from the Corps' illustrious history, often written by those who helped make it.—Editor*

Are Platoon Numbers Consecutive?

I am entering my second year as a reader of your "memory provoking" magazine which for me is far and away, a good thing.

Mike Miner would like to know if the hill shown behind the 1st Force Recon team is Hill 327, Freedom Hill, and if the tower, right, is the same tower shown in the background on the hill.

I served from 1952 to 1960 and refer to myself as a "tweener," obviously referring to Korea and Vietnam.

I thought platoon numbers were consecutive, with Parris Island and San Diego using a separate system. Will you explain, please?

Sgt Norman E. Wahner
USMC, 1952 to 1960
East Norriton, Pa.

• *The question you ask is one that has commonly been posed to us by Leatherneck readers over the years. Interestingly, there's not a completely clear-cut answer to this but the question appeared in a 2001 issue of Leatherneck in the "Sound Off" department. Here is the answer our Sound Off editor at the time, retired MGySgt Ron Keene, wrote:*

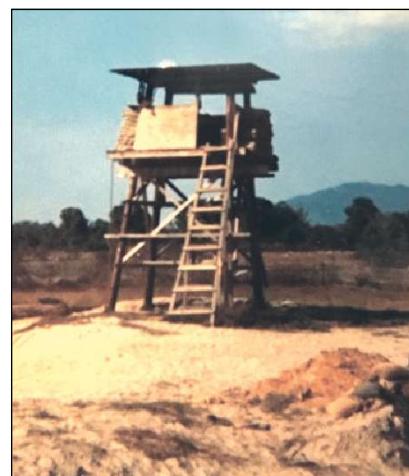
Over the years, there seems to have been several systems used to designate platoons at San Diego and Parris Island. Even those have had their inconsistencies. However, the way it has been for the last 30 years or so is that the first numeral on the guidon does signify the recruit battalion, and the rest is pretty simple. The platoons are numbered numerically as they are formed after the start of the calendar year, e.g., 3d Recruit Training Bn 5 first platoon would be 3001. In the early 1960s it would have been 301. When the

year ends, they start over again. I suspect the depots have more or less always followed a similar system of renumbering. Recruit Training Regiment has custody and responsibility for the guidons and maintains that it would go broke making and dry-cleaning individual flags for every new platoon.—Editor

Recon Doc

While reading an article in the April issue titled "Recon Doc" by Kyle Watts, I was interested in a photo on page 55 of the 1st Force Recon team from 1968.

By chance, does anyone know if the large hill in the background is Hill 327, aka Freedom Hill, Headquarters, 1st Marine Division? If so, is the compound to the right with the observation tower the 11th Marines headquarters? It looks familiar to me. I was in both locations many times in 1969 to 1970. If I am in



MIKE MINER



COURTESY OF FRED VOGEL

the right neighborhood, I spent my second scary night in Vietnam in that tower.

Mike Miner
Greenwood, Ind.

Exodus Movie Theme

In mid-summer of 1963, after 13 months and 28 days of overseas duty, we were all overjoyed to be back on American soil. The military buses took us from the ship to the recruit depot and dropped us off on the “grinder” with all our gear. We were on the same end as the Marine Corps band.

On the top step of a building stood two nuns dressed in black robes. The band was playing the theme song, “This Land is Mine,” from the hit movie “Exodus,” starring Paul Newman. As I stood and watched, it was like the band was playing for me and all the others who had just returned home. I have heard that theme song at least 25 times over the years and that moment in time always comes back to me when I hear it. It was one of the finest days in the Marine Corps, and to me, the band was at its most magnificent point in my four years of service. I shall never forget the band and how I wish I could hear them play that tune again.

Douglas “Chuck” Longie
Saint Michael, N.D.

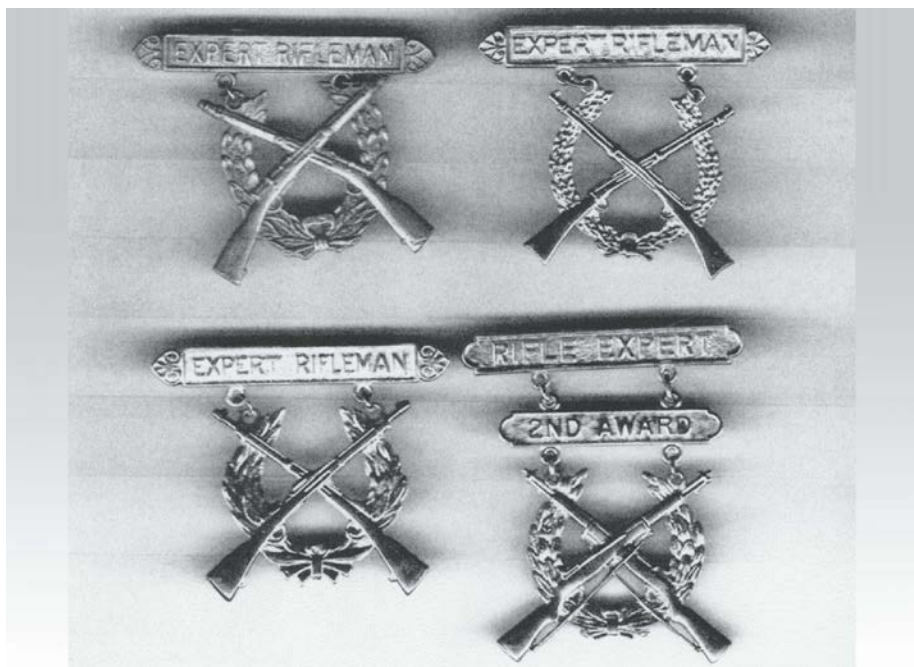
Rifleman Badges

In response to Cpl Ken Goodwin’s letter, “Rifleman Badge” in the May issue, according to a Google search, the shooting badge is a pre-World War I and WW II issue.

In the above photo are four different types of Expert Rifleman badges. The first

three display Expert Rifleman with the third badge issued by the Marine Corps in the mid-1940s or early 1950s. The 4th badge was issued in the mid-1950s and displays the M1 rifle with rifle markings of Rifle Expert.

Roberto S. Aguilar
El Paso, Texas



COURTESY OF ROBERTO S. AGUILAR

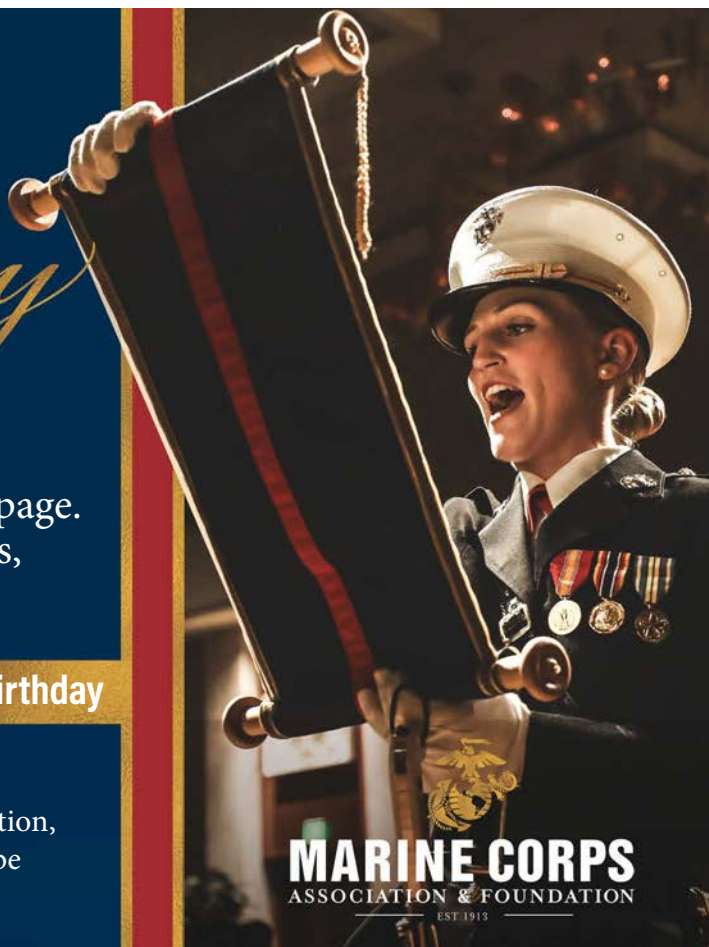
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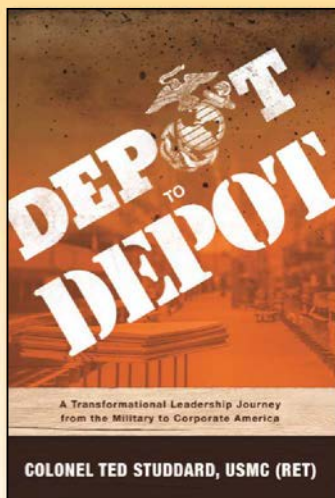
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Processing Data During The Punch Card Days

I saw the photo about tape handlers, sometimes called tape apes, in the April 2019 issue of *Leatherneck*. The following is my account of handling many, many tapes.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960. My first duty station was H&HS-26, MCAF, New River, N.C., and my MOS was 3071 supply clerk. A little over a year later I was transferred to my second duty station with MWSG-17, Iwakuni, Japan. I was doing work as a supply clerk and during my duty days, I was allowed to work with a mobile data processing platoon. This was back in the days of punched cards and program panels—before any modern computers were in field use. My third duty station was H&HS-26, MCAF, New River, N.C., while there I did additional work with a transceiver unit to transmit punched card information to the Data Processing Department at MCAS Cherry Point. In doing this work, I was given a secondary MOS of 4013 key punch operator.

After a meritorious promotion, I was transferred to Cherry Point and assigned to the data processing department. The initial language I learned was the RCA assembly language and later on I learned COBOL. After programming school I was

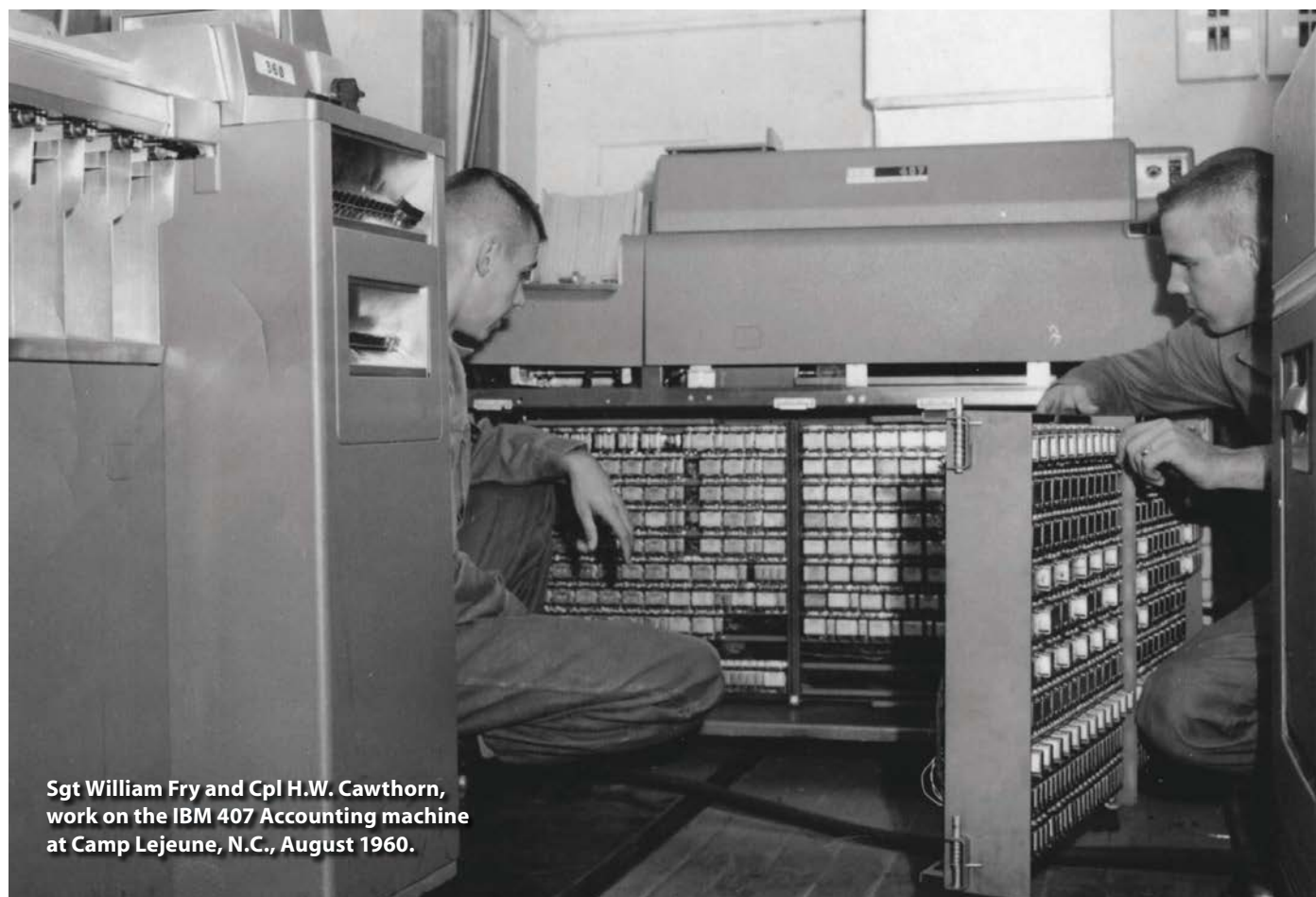
assigned to work on the RCA system as an operator for a few months. Some of the new programs eliminated the need to read numerous trays of punched cards into the computer.

When an opening came in the programming section I was reassigned to programming. This didn't eliminate me from working as a computer operator as the conversion of programs was taking a large amount of time.

To reduce the computer backlog two of us would travel to other government facilities to work on computer backlog. Sometimes we took 20 to 30 tape reels with us. One advantage to this was I could work on programs I was responsible for developing when there was a long job running on the computer.

After eight years in the Marine Corps, I went to work at the Army Mobility Equipment Command in St. Louis, Mo., as a programmer in the Autodin communications section on an IBM 360-30.

This also had tape drives and disk drives. Six years later I moved and worked for the U.S. Army Communication Electronic Command in communications environment. We still had tape drives at that point. I also worked for Defense Logistics Agency, still in the communications field. Tapes drives were still being used for



Sgt William Fry and Cpl H.W. Cawthorn, work on the IBM 407 Accounting machine at Camp Lejeune, N.C., August 1960.

COURTESY OF 1STLT H.W. CAWTHORN, USMC (RET)

backing up computer information, but disc storage was becoming more prevalent.

I am like a lot of other Marines in that I didn't have a direct knowledge of what I wanted to do as a career and the Marine Corps gave me the direction I needed and for that I am grateful.

SSgt Roy E. Meiss
USMC, 1960-1968
Bexley, Ohio

In the April *Leatherneck*, [Saved Round] you asked if anyone had experience on the AMPEX data recorder computer equipment. The machine, in the photo above, that Sergeant William Fry and Corporal Cawthorn are looking at, is an IBM 407 Accounting machine. It could print reports from the cards fed from the hopper. It could add and subtract. The print was controlled by a panel that had to be hand wired.

The machine on the right is an IBM 602A calculator and could multiply and divide, and punch the results into the card. This also had a panel that had to be hand wired.

The machine to the left is an IBM 360 collator and could sort the cards in numerical and alphabetical sequence by running them through many times and requiring you to select different buttons


and turn the dial on the machine for each time you ran the cards through.

Within two years the IBM 1401 computer, which had to be programmed, replaced these machines and had a tape drive to be used for backing up data. By 1967 the 1401 computer was replaced by the IBM 360 and had multiple tape drives as well as disk drives which allowed for random access.

1stLt H.W. Cawthorn, USMC (Ret)
Summerville, S.C.


Editorial Irish Pennants

In our August issue the Crazy Caption winner was listed as MSgt Don Bowersox of Bainbridge, Ga., and should have been listed as MGySgt Bowersox. We apologize for the error.

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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Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Be Aware: Social Media Scams Affect Military Personnel, Families

Nowadays, you have to be cautious of everything you do online. Scammers are always trying to get money, goods or services out of unsuspecting people—and military members are often targets.

There are numerous recent scams that servicemembers, Defense Department employees and their families need to look out for.

In April, Army Criminal Investigation Command put out a warning about romance scams in which online predators go on dating sites claiming to be deployed active-duty soldiers. It's a problem that's affecting all branches of service—not just the Army.

DOD officials said there have been hundreds of claims each month from people who said they've been scammed on legitimate dating apps and social media sites. According to the alleged victims, the scammers have asked for money for fake service-related needs such as transportation, communications fees, processing fees and medical fees—even marriage. Many of the victims have lost tens of thousands of dollars and likely won't get that money back.

Remember, servicemembers and government employees do not pay to go on leave, have their personal effects sent

home or fly back to the U.S. from an overseas assignment to a new assignment. Scammers will sometimes provide false paperwork to make their case, but real servicemembers make their own requests for time off. Also, any official military or government emails will end in .mil or .gov, not .com, so be suspicious if you get a message claiming to be from the military or government that doesn't have one of those addresses.

DOD officials said task forces are working on the growing problem, but the scammers are often using cyber cafes with untraceable email addresses, then routing their accounts across the world to make them incredibly difficult to trace.

Another scam is sexual extortion, known as "sextortion," when a servicemember is seduced into sexual activities online that are unknowingly recorded and used against them for money or goods. Often, if a victim caves to a demand, the scammer will just demand more. Servicemembers are often targets for these scammers.

To avoid falling victim, don't post or exchange compromising photos or videos with anyone online, and make sure your social media privacy settings limit the information outsiders can see—this includes advertising your affiliation with the military or government. Be careful when you're communicating with anyone you

don't personally know online, and trust your instincts. If people seem suspicious, stop communicating with them.

DOD officials said sextortion often goes unreported because many victims are embarrassed to have fallen for it. But it happens worldwide and across all ranks and services. If it happens to you, stop communicating with the scammer, contact your command and your local Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) office. Do not pay the perpetrator and save all communications you had with that person.

Lastly, servicemember impersonation scams are also on the rise. These scammers often steal the identity or profile images of a servicemember and use them to ask for money or make big claims that involve the sale of vehicles, house rentals or other big-ticket items. These scammers often send the victim bogus information about the advertised product and ask for a wire transfer through a third party to finish the purchase, but there's no product at the end of the transaction.

Another example of recurring scams are fake profiles of high-ranking American military officials on social media websites using photos and biographical information obtained from the internet. Scammers often replicate recent social media posts from official DOD accounts and interact with official accounts to increase the appearance of legitimacy. As an example, there are impersonator accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These accounts are also interacting with Joint Staff account followers in an effort to gain trust and elicit information.

Scammers are making these profiles to defraud potential victims. They claim to be high-ranking or well-placed government/military officials or the surviving spouse of former government leaders, and promise significant profits in exchange for help in moving large sums of money, oil or some other commodity. They offer to transfer large amounts of money into the victim's bank account in exchange for a small fee. Once the payment is received, the scammers are never heard from again.

To avoid having your personal data and photos stolen from your social media pages, limit the details you provide on them and don't post photos that include your nametag, rank, and unit identification. If an alleged official messages you with a



REGINA ALI

Social media scams are increasingly becoming a threat to servicemembers and can include romance scams, sexual extortion and servicemember impersonation frauds. It's important to know how to recognize "red flags" and what steps to take if you fall victim to these scams.



PO3 MANUEL NAJERA, USN

TELLING THEIR STORIES— A new exhibit located on the third floor of the Pentagon in Arlington, Va., entitled “We Will Tell Their Stories,” is a memorial gallery that represents a cross-section of family and friends of fallen service-members who were photographed by famed Los Angeles-based photographer Brian Bowen Smith. The larger-than-life black and white images portray grieving loved ones holding portraits of their fallen servicemember. Sponsored by the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), the exhibit was unveiled Aug. 16 and attended by the survivors who participated in the project. Veronica Bennet, mother of fallen Marine Lance Corporal Daniel Ryan Bennet, is pictured here next to the photograph of herself taken by Smith.

request or demand, look closely at their social media page. Often, official accounts will be verified, meaning they have a blue circle with a check mark right beside their Twitter, Facebook or Instagram name. General and flag officers will not message anyone directly requesting to connect or asking for money. You can also search for yourself online—both your name and images you’ve posted—to see if someone else is trying to use your identity. If you do find a false profile, contact that social media platform and report it.

Katie Lange

SkillBridge Equips Marines Approaching EAS Date

Every year, thousands of servicemembers transition from the military to civilian life, and it can be an extremely stressful and confusing time. Undoubtedly, servicemembers will polish their resume and perhaps look for opportunities for extra training or internships.

The SkillBridge program, a Department of Defense initiative facilitated through Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), is offered to servicemembers who are within 180 days of their end of active service (EAS) date. SkillBridge at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune,

N.C., for example, offers 13 courses in the information technology, business, transportation and industry and vocational categories to servicemembers to essentially give them a “head start” during their transition period.

“What SkillBridge is designed to do is afford servicemembers the opportunity to attend a training program that will lead to employment on the back end,” said Robert Jaeger, Personal and Professional Development Advisor, Marine and Family Programs Division, MCB Camp Lejeune.

For servicemembers dealing with uncertainty about what to do after the Corps, SkillBridge can help find a temporary option or even a lifetime career in fewer than 18 weeks. Some programs are in a classroom setting, while others are hands-on or online, depending on the course.

“I took advantage of the Troops into Transportation program,” said Jason Pittsley, a retired master sergeant. “It had guaranteed job placement upon completion, so I knew I would be able to provide for myself and my family.”

The programs are available to all transitioning servicemembers with a general discharge under honorable conditions or honorable discharge, regardless of time served.

“I absolutely would recommend SkillBridge because they do just as the title says—they bridge the gap between our Marine Corps career, no matter how long that may be, and our next chapter or next career in civilian life,” said Pittsley. “I wish more commands and career planners knew about these programs so they could advise the Marines before they go to the transition readiness seminar.”

It is understood that training and mission accomplishment will always come first, but leaders are encouraged, if time permits, to allow servicemembers to enroll in these programs. A servicemember’s participation in SkillBridge must be approved by the first commander in their chain of command.

“If there is an opportunity that does not conflict with training schedules to give these Marines and Sailors a good start out the door, I implore commanders, sergeants major, command master chiefs, etc., to look at these SkillBridge programs,” said Jaeger.

For more information about SkillBridge, visit <https://dodskillbridge.usalearning.gov> or visit the Transition Readiness Branch on your local military installation.

Cpl Nikki Morales, USMC



Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Reunions

• **Iwo Jima Assn. of America**, Feb. 25-29, 2020, Arlington, Va. Contact Art Sifuentes, (703) 590-1292, rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org, www.iwojimaassociation.org.

• **USMC Law Enforcement Assn.**, Oct. 10-13, Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contact CWO-4 Don Bolen, USMC (Ret), 1066 Mount Laurel Rd., Clover, VA 24534, usmcleanet@gmail.com.

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

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

• **Marine Corps Cryptologic Assn.**, Nov. 8-12, Branson, Mo. Contact John Bicknas, (850) 944-3827, (850) 375-4640, jbicknas@gmail.com.

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

• **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.

• **Marine Corps Air Transport Assn. (VMGR/VMR)**, Oct. 3-6, San Diego, Calif. Contact Rich Driscoll, (817) 657-7768, president@mcata.com, www.mcata.com.

• **MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., (all units, 1978-1982)**, Feb. 7-9, 2020, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Contact Maj Stew Rayfield, USMC (Ret), ironmajor@gmail.com.

• **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.

• **1/5 (Afghanistan)**, Oct. 9-12, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Jim Hogan, (310) 728-9166, socks4heroes@gmail.com, <http://scmsg.org/1-5-afghanistan-reunion>.

• **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.

• **1/8 (1988-1996)**, Oct. 19, Atlanta, Ga. Contact James D. Harding, jharding@centuryfasteners.com, www.1-8reunion.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.

• **3/26 (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.

• **A/1/12 (RVN, 1965-1969)**, Nov. 3-6, Savannah/Tybee Island, Ga. Contact Charlie Jensen, (770) 329-8585, cjensen@bellsouth.net.



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

• **I/3/7 (all eras)**, April 22-25, 2020, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695, dennisdeibert8901@comcast.net.

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

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

• **Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (40th anniversary reunion)**, March 2-3, 2020, MacDill AFB, Fla. Contact LtCol Cal Lloyd, USMC (Ret), 16115 W. Course Dr., Tampa, FL 33624, (813) 417-4627, clloyd02@verizon.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, Co M, 10-69**, Oct. 10-13, Pensacola, Fla. Contact James Newcomb, jamesnewcomb@juf.org.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-70**, April 30-May 3, 2020, Quantico, Va. Contact Tom Kanasky, (202) 366-3156, tlkanasky@earthlink.net, or Mitch Youngs, (703) 493-9435, mitchyoungs@verizon.net.

• **TBS, Co I, 9-70**, Aug. 20-22, 2020, Quantico, Va. Contact Scott Kafer, 16436 Turnbury Oak Dr., Odessa, FL 33556, (202) 403-7680, scottkaf@mac.com.

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

• **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)



COURTESY OF LARRY GIES

Leatherneck reader Larry Gies, who served with Btry L, 4/11, 1stMarDiv in Vietnam, would like to hear from the members of his unit pictured here in 1967 near Hoi An.

423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

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

Mail Call

• Larry Gies, 2074 Kenneth Dr., Bay City, MI 48706, (989) 686-9937, duck6cms@aol.com, to hear from Marines who served with **Btry L, 4/11, 1stMarDiv** and are pictured in the above photo, taken in May or June 1967 near **Hoi An, RVN**, including **J.M. ZINOWITCH, W.H. YOST, R.W. CAPUTO, O.B. KELLY, W.G. DEAN** and **W.D. MEDICINEBEAR**. He is looking for help verifying a VA claim regarding a back injury from loading artillery rounds.

• Ronny Pollard, hollywdmarine@aol.com, to hear from Marines assigned to **HMH-461, MCAS New River, N.C., January 1978-April 1980**.

• 1stLt H.W. Cawthorn, USMC (Ret), and Maj W.R. Fry, USMC (Ret), (843) 754-4696, hcawthorn@homesc.com, to hear from Marines who worked with them on early computer equipment at **MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., in the 1960s**.

• James H. McClure, (620) 205-9909, mcclurediv@gmail.com, to hear from **Robert (Bob) SANGER**, who was with him when he was wounded in the graveyard in **Quang Nam Province, RVN, on May 24, 1970**.

• Dr. William Bauer, 1001 Starkey Rd. Lot 91, Largo, FL 33771, (727) 532-9379, yphd77@aol.com, to hear from **recruits and drill instructors** who comprised

3rd Recruit Training Bn, Co S, Plt 320, Parris Island, 1966.

• Daniel Zavala Jr., (559) 281-7072, danielzavalajr9@gmail.com, to hear from members of **Plt 3033, San Diego, 1994; admin school class 9-95; 1st Supply Bn 1995-1997; or MWSG-17, 1997-1998**.

• Hugh Roberts, hrobel0711@aol.com, to hear from members of **Plt 3047, Parris Island, 1969**.

Wanted

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

• Terry Whitford, (636) 485-7449, terryrw@gmail.com, wants a **platoon photo and recruit graduation book for Plt 308 and 310, San Diego, 1964**.

• Robert Riordan, (925) 518-7739, riordan1@pacbell.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3022, San Diego, 1967**.

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. 📧

Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Capt Ted Fuller

“DEAREST MRS. FULLER”—The archivists and historians at the Marine Corps History Division are the keepers of some of the Corps’ greatest treasures, including compelling film footage of iconic battles and visually stunning photographs of history-making events. Sometimes, however, a treasure is a simple, everyday item: a letter from one mother to another.

Mrs. Lelia Montague Barnett, wife of Major General George Barnett, the 12th Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited France in January 1919. Upon her return, she sent a letter to Mrs. Katherine H. Fuller, the wife of Brigadier General Ben H. Fuller, and mother of Captain Edward C. “Ted” Fuller, who was killed in the fighting at Belleau Wood. The letter read: “On my trip abroad, I made it my business to find your son’s grave, and to put on it some flowers in loving memory of the boy who has given his life for his country. ... My heart is too full of loving sympathy for your grief, for any intrusion on my part, but I do want you to know that I covered your boy’s grave with flowers, and I put flowers on every other grave there, for his sake.” Barnett enclosed the photograph above that she took of the gravesite.

Capt Fuller’s remains were brought to the United States in 1921 and re-interred at the U.S. Naval Academy. Fuller was a graduate of the class of 1916. His father, MajGen Ben Fuller, was a member of the class of 1889 and later became the 15th Commandant of the Marine Corps. After his death in 1937, he was laid to rest next to his son. 🇺🇸

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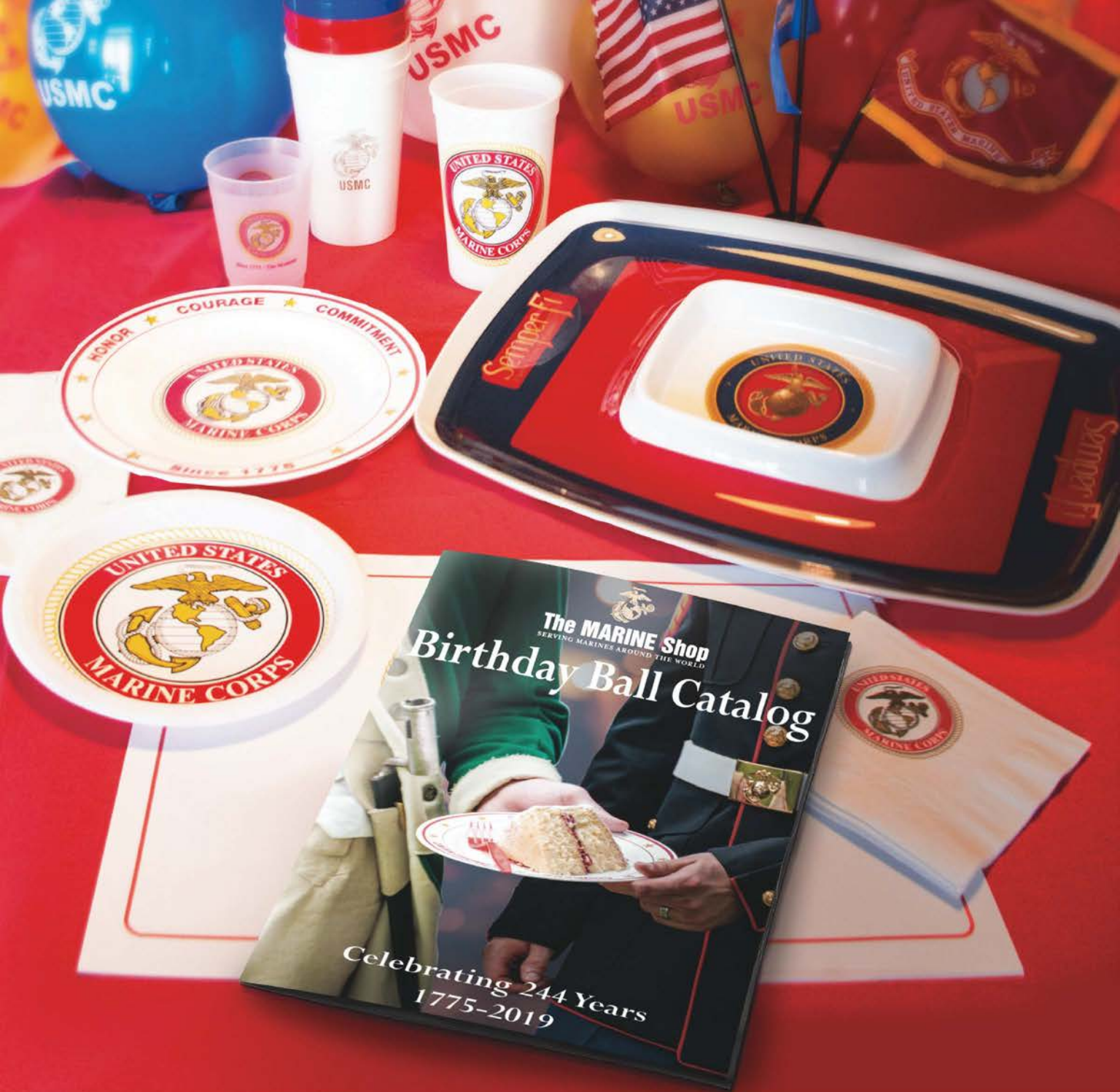


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