

APRIL 2024

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LEATHERNECK

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

**20th Sergeant Major
Of the Marine Corps
Carlos A. Ruiz:**

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**24th MEU Trains
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From the Publisher & Editor-in-Chief



LCPL RYAN RAMSAMMY, USMC

U.S. Marines with “Alpha” Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/8, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), conduct a hike during patrol base operations as part of Realistic Urban Training (RUT) on Fort Barfoot, Va., Jan. 10, 2024. RUT provides the 24th MEU the opportunity to operate in unfamiliar environments, integrate the units of the Marine Air Ground Task Force, and train toward being designated as special operations capable.

Welcome to the April 2024 edition of *Leatherneck*. As our cover highlights, this month we’re featuring an interview with the Corps’ senior enlisted leader SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz, the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. In “Protecting the Way: Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Carlos A. Ruiz: A Committed, Engaged Leader of Marines” on page 36, staff writer Kyle Watts discusses SgtMaj Ruiz’s ideas on leadership, protecting the Corps’ values and ethos and strengthening the entire Marine community.

This month we also feature several articles covering some very different aspects of training, from the fundamentals every Marine will recognize to more cutting-edge methods. In “The Life of Lauchheimer: The Man Behind the Corps’ Top Shooting Trophy” by Col Dwight H. Sullivan, USMCR (Ret) on page 28, we learn how during World War I, Charles Lauchheimer, the first Inspector of Target Practice, helped create the foundation of excellence in marksmanship that distinguishes Marines to this day. On page 22, “Realistic Urban Training Prepares 24th MEU for Deployment,” by Capt MacKenzie Margroum and SSgt Ryan Sammet, describes the recent training

exercise conducted by Marines from the 24th MEU based aboard Camp Lejeune using the U.S. Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center at Fort Barfoot (formerly Fort Pickett, Va.). This training simulated aspects of the modern battlefield including operating in complex urban terrain and defense against unmanned aerial systems or drones.

Not all training and learning takes place in the field, so we are starting a series of articles reviewing various commercially available wargames that can be used to develop tactical decision-making skills as an adjunct to the study of history and live training exercises. The first review in this series is “Revolutionary or Redcoat? ‘Campaign 1776’ ” by William Treuting on page 64. This computer game from Wargame Design Studio allows players to “fight” as either the Continentals or the British in various battles of the American Revolution.

Enjoy a great month of reading. Semper Fi!

Colonel Christopher Woodbridge,
USMC (Ret)

LEATHERNECK
MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

MARINE CORPS
Gazette



Contents

LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

APRIL 2024
VOL. 107, No. 4

Features

22 Realistic Urban Training Prepares 24th MEU For Deployment

By Capt MacKenzie Margroum, USMC, and SSgt Ryan Sammet, USMC

Marines of the 24th MEU prepared for battlefields of all types during an exercise at Fort Barfoot, Va. Part of that experience included the use of counter unmanned aerial systems designed to protect the Corps from drones.

28 The Life of Lauchheimer: The Man Behind the Corps' Top Shooting Trophy

By Col Dwight H. Sullivan, USMCR (Ret)

The head of Marine Corps recruiting during World War I and the first officer to hold the position of Inspector of Target Practice, Charles Lauchheimer helped make Marines the accurate marksmen they are today.

36 Protecting the Way: Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlos A. Ruiz: A Committed, Engaged Leader of Marines

By Kyle Watts

Leatherneck sat down with SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz to discuss his role as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Read here about his approach to this senior position, his philosophy on engaging the active-duty and veteran Marine community, and his commitment to core values.

50 A Shared Hardball History: Pre-World War II Marines, Japanese Were Friendly Foes on the Diamond

By Kater Miller

Before fighting bloody battles in the Pacific, the Marines often skirmished with the Japanese on the baseball field in the Far East.

60 Leaders and Changemakers at Home and Across the Corps

By Silha Bess and Krista Ickles

There are many ways for Marine spouses to contribute to their communities. Read about a few spouse groups making a difference where they live.

64 Revolutionary or Redcoat? "Campaign 1776" Allows History Buffs to Fight for Freedom or England

By William J. Treuting

Want to take on the British Army in Lexington or the Continentals at Yorktown? Play the role of general in this personal computer game created by Wargame Design Studio.

10



Departments

- 2 Sound Off
- 10 In Every Clime and Place
- 20 Leatherneck Laffs
- 46 We—the Marines
- 58 Passing the Word
- 62 Corps Connections
- 66 In Memoriam
- 70 Reader Assistance
- 72 Saved Round

COVER: SgtMaj Carlos A. Ruiz, the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, met with Marines from the Recruit Training Regiment at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif. Get to know all about SgtMaj Ruiz and his perspective as a leader, on page 36. Photo by LCpl Sarah M. Grawcock, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$3 (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 member or provide a one-year courtesy subscription to a non-member whose letter is selected.)

I saw a letter in the February 2024 issue of Sound Off about the loss of the aviation landmark, Hangar One at MCAS Tustin. I had the honor and privilege of serving as the air traffic control officer at the air station from 1980 to 1985. When the news first broke about the hangar, it was bittersweet information. I had numerous wonderful memories while

stationed there and was truly sad to see that it had burned down.

When I made a trip to visit family in December, I could not help but to revisit Tustin. The first photo I sent in shows the entire wooden structure of the hangar gone, with only the concrete supports remaining along with the metal doors. The second photo shows the cranes in position to bring down the massive door. Both photos were taken on Dec. 7, 2023, one month after the fire. The last photo is of Hangar Two, that still stands tall.

John Trosper
Orangevale, Calif.

Great photos of MCAS Tustin. We’ve received many images of Tustin as it was before the fire, and we may publish some of those pictures in an upcoming issue of the magazine. Thank you for your service as an air traffic control officer. Keep an eye out for our May issue—we are publishing an article about the Marine Corps’ air traffic controllers and the important job they do.—Executive Editor

Reader Shares

Marine Security Guard Memory

Regarding the *Leatherneck* post in the February 2024 issue of Reader’s Assistance, which asked for comments re-



COURTESY OF JOHN TROSPER

Images of Hangar One at MCAS Tustin (above) after a fire destroyed much of the building in November 2023, along with a view of Hangar Two at MCAS Tustin, which still stands (below).



COURTESY OF JOHN TROSPER

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garding President Kennedy, I submit the following:

I was in the Marine Corps from 1960 to 1966. I was a Marine Security Guard at the American Embassy in Seoul Korea from 1962 to 1965. I went through Marine Security Guard School when it was at Henderson Hall in Arlington Va., and graduated from there in May of 1962. Out of the class of 60 or so who had already left for their various posts, there were 10 or 11 of us who were waiting for whatever paperwork to come in for us. President and Mrs. Kennedy went to Mexico City in June of 1962 and the 11 of us went down a few days before they arrived and stayed for a few days after they returned to the States. We were his bodyguards there. The Marine Security Guards who were assigned to the Embassy there stayed at the Embassy while we went wherever President Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy went. Seven of us were assigned to President Kennedy and four were assigned to Mrs. Kennedy's detail. We wore civilian clothes on this assignment because ever since the war with Mexico,

U.S. servicemen are not allowed to wear their uniforms in Mexico.

We stayed at the Hotel Francis in Mexico City and were picked up every day by drivers from the American Embassy and went along with President and/or Mrs. Kennedy. This assignment was the highlight of my Marine Corps career. When I got back to Henderson Hall, my orders were in and I went over to serve as a Marine Security Guard at the American Embassy in Seoul Korea from 1962 to 1965. A few months after I arrived in Korea, I received a letter from the Honorable Thomas C. Mann—U.S. Ambassador to Mexico—enclosing a telegram thanking me for the job that I had done during President Kennedy's visit to Mexico.

This was 62 years ago and yet it seems like only yesterday.

Sgt Julius J. Spohn
USMC, 1960-1966
Newark, N.J.

What a great story and a truly unique experience for a Marine. Thanks and Semper Fi.—Publisher



A telegram from President John F. Kennedy and letter from U.S. Ambassador Thomas C. Mann were sent to former Marine Security Guard Julius Spohn after completing an assignment to guard the president while he was in Mexico in 1962.

8 MONEY MOVES TO MAKE WHEN YOU'RE NEW TO THE MILITARY

Virtually all military operations begin with some sort of detailed planning process. That same approach will help you get off to a good start with your personal finances. Here are eight money moves to make during your first few years of military service. Even if you're not new to military life, these tips serve as a great foundation for everyone's finances.

BUILD A BUDGET

The first step to managing your money is developing a detailed list of what comes in and a plan for what goes out. A good starting place is with a 20-50-30 budget.

- 20% spending and debt repayments
- 50% needs
- 30% wants

Start here, then personalize it to your individual needs and situation.

SAVE FOR EMERGENCIES

Set money aside in a savings account for the unexpected. Start with an initial goal of \$1,000, then build until you can cover three to six months' worth of expenses.

CONSIDER THE TSP

The Thrift Savings Plan, also known as TSP, is the military's 401(k). It's a great place to start as you begin your retirement savings journey. When eligible, those under the Blended Retirement System are offered matching contributions, which is free money.

GUARD YOUR CREDIT

Your credit report and accompanying score are important. Start by using credit responsibly and always pay on time. Don't borrow what you can't pay back by the end of the month. Since military members are 76% more likely than other adults to report that an identity thief misused an existing account, take practical steps to safeguard your credit and identity.

These four tips are just the beginning. Follow this QR code or select [this link](#) to learn more about these in more detail and review the rest of the list.



Thoughts on the February 2024 Articles on Iwo Jima

The articles in the February 2024 issue of *Leatherneck* gave me a great update on the assault on Iwo Jima. My uncle George Browning was with the HQHS company of the 1st BLT, 23rd Marines who were on Yellow Beach 1.

Unfortunately, my family never knew what happened to him and he had been declared missing since Feb. 20, 1945. However, in June 2019, I received a letter from the WFI Research Group, telling me that they had identified his remains using a dental chart match. They explained that he had been sent from Yellow Beach 1 to Red 1 to obtain communication gear but was never heard from or seen again. They provided me with a file that contained his history and sent it to the USMC POW/MIA casualty assistance team in Quantico and to the DPAA.

My aunt, George's sister, and I submitted DNA samples to the lab in Dover, Del. The team there advised me that a disinterment would take up to 12 months, but then COVID-19 struck and shut everything down.

In July 2019, the DPAA approved the dental match. From there, I contacted the Marine team on a quarterly basis and in April 2023, I was advised that a disinter-

ment order for Pvt George C. Browning would be executed in the spring of 2024. It is my hope that he will come home in the next few months to be placed near his mother in Englewood, N.J.

Peter M. Clay
Irvington, Va.

Thanks for sharing this family history and please keep us updated. It will be important to close this chapter of your uncle's story and to ensure his sacrifice is properly remembered. Semper Fi.—Publisher

I am currently working on a book about "Easy" Company, 2nd Bn, 28th Marines during the assault on Iwo Jima. In the February 2024 issue of *Leatherneck* in the article "Trapped: Marine Tankers Come to the Rescue on Iwo Jima," there is a photograph on page 21 of Second Lieutenant Leonard Sokol standing in front of a tank on March 1, 1945. He was killed two days later. During the course of my research, this is what I learned about the Marine:

Sokol was born on Nov. 15, 1921, in Washington, D.C. He completed grammar school in 1935 and graduated from High School in 1939. Sokol was a student at The George Washington University in



COURTESY OF WILLIAM L. MEYERS

A boot camp photo of 2ndLt Leonard Sokol. He was a Marine who was killed on Iwo Jima on March 3, 1945.

Washington, D.C. when he enlisted in the Marine Corps on March 5, 1942. He was allowed to continue as a student at George Washington through the V-12 commissioning program.

Sokol was a swell athlete and a big man. At the time, he was 6'2 and 180 pounds and he played basketball and



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baseball for the Colonials. He graduated in 1943 with a bachelor's degree and accepted employment as an instructor of physical education for the Washington, D.C. School Board, which was a position that taught health habits and sports. Sokol also was a referee.

In August 1943, Sokol was called to active duty, went to boot camp at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., and was then assigned to Company K, 39th Candidates Class, Marine Corps Schools, MCB Quantico, Va., and was eventually commissioned as a second lieutenant and received further training as an infantry officer.

In April 1944, he was assigned to the then-forming 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. Sokol was a member of Easy Company, 2nd Bn, 28th Marines, and he participated in the assault and capture of Iwo Jima as an infantry officer in command of the mortar section.

This was his first combat experience. By March 3, 1945, attrition had whittled away at Easy Company and Sokol was one of only two lieutenants remaining. He and 2ndLt Robert Schuelzky had taken over what was left of the company. Sokol was killed by Japanese gunfire later that day. Sokol was buried in the 5th Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima and in August 1947, his body was moved to the

United States and buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

PFC William L. Meyers
USMC, 1960-1964
Maurice, La.

Remarkable research of a great story. We're looking forward to reading your book. Thanks and Semper Fi.—Publisher

Leatherneck just keeps getting better and better! The recent February 2024 edition was outstanding! The articles on Iwo Jima were very timely, I hope you were able to attend the reunion in Arlington, Va., this February!

I have a personal story to tell: When reporting to boot camp at Parris Island in 1948, I was issued a bucket which contained all the necessities of life like soap, a scrub brush, toothpaste, etc. Included was a copy of *Leatherneck*. I have been reading it "cover to cover" ever since, even in Korea and Vietnam. That's 76 years!

Will you please ask one of your gifted writers to consider writing up the "Frozen Chosin" for your December issue! There are several other CF veterans in the area to include LtGen Phil Shutler, who was in Division Recon.

Warren Wiedhahn
Annandale, Va.

Thanks very much for the kind words. Great idea for a "Frozen Chosin" story especially with the 75th anniversary of the battle coming up next year. Semper Fi.—Publisher

The Article on LZ Russell Was Outstanding!

I would like to pass my respects and appreciation to Kyle Watts, the Staff Writer at *Leatherneck* for his exceptionally well-researched and well-written January 2024 article, "Enemy in the Wire." It is a fantastic follow on to his June 2023 story, "90 Days a Grunt," which made a deep impression.

Col Walter Ford
USMC (Ret), 1969-1999
Rock Hill, S.C.

I just finished reading the February 2024 issue of *Leatherneck*, it was quite the issue with the Iwo Jima articles which really rendered some good history. However, your article on "Enemy in the Wire" was really outstanding, where once again you hit it from the battle side, and the human emotional factor.

The layout was perfect with the placement of the words written by Dennis Gardner with his illustration, really
[continued on page 68]

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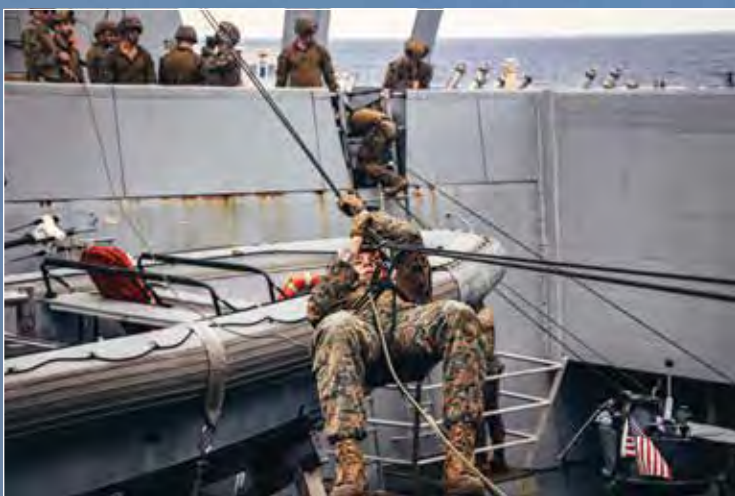
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Compiled by Kyle Watts

Mediterranean Sea

**26th MEU(SOC) in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Operations,
Aiding in Maritime Security And Stability**



CPL AZIZA KAMUHANDA, USMC

Marines assigned to 26th MEU(SOC) conduct tactical rope suspension training aboard *USS Mesa Verde* (LPD-19) in the Mediterranean Sea on Dec. 10, 2023. Marines and Sailors of the 26th MEU(SOC) embarked aboard the ships of the *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group for their scheduled deployment.





MC2 MOISE SANDOVAL - USN

Marines assigned to the 26th MEU(SOC) enter the well deck aboard *USS Carter Hall* (LSD-50) during combat raiding drills in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations on Dec. 4, 2023.



***USS Carter Hall* (LSD-50) Sailors and 26th MEU(SOC) Marines conduct small boat operations during a Maritime Special Purpose Force exercise on Dec. 4, 2023. Components of the *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group and 26th MEU(SOC) deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to help ensure maritime security and stability in the Middle East region. (Photo by MC3 Alisha Gleason, USN)**

26th MEU(SOC) in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Operations, Aiding in Maritime Security And Stability



Above: A Light Armored Vehicle, attached to Company L, BLT 1/6, 26th MEU(SOC), disembarks a landing craft air-cushioned during Odyssey Encore, Volos, Greece, on Jan. 8. The 26th MEU(SOC) Marine Air-Ground Task Force readiness sustainment exercise enhances the unit's operational capabilities as a crisis response force.

Right: A Marine with "Charlie" Co, BLT 1/6, 26th MEU(SOC), rappels from a tower during fast rope and rope suspension training at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the island of Crete, Greece, Dec. 17, 2023.



CPL MICHELE CLARKE, USMC



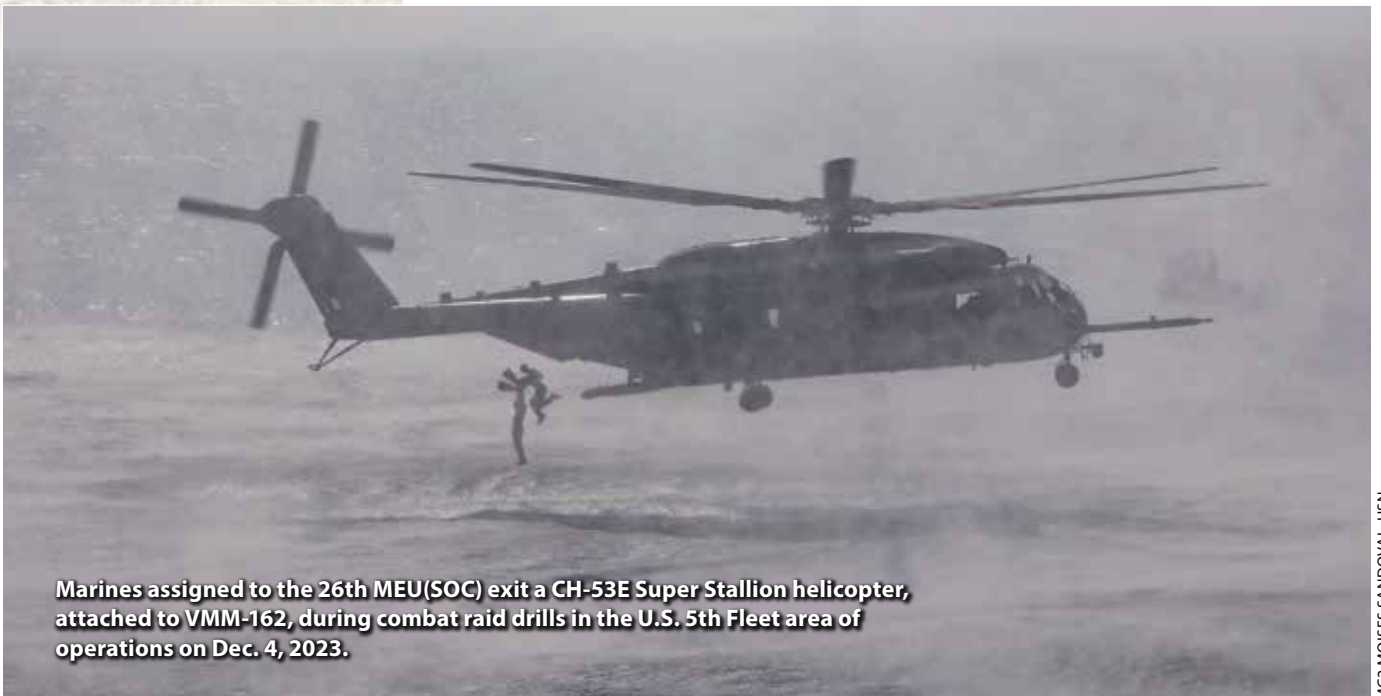
SGT MATTHEW ROMONOSKE-BEAN, USMC

Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. Chesty Promoted to Lance Corporal



LCPL CHLOE N. MCAFEE, USMC

Chesty XVI, mascot of Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., receives his promotion warrant during a ceremony on Jan. 17. Chesty was promoted to the rank of lance corporal by the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy.



MC2 MOISES SANDOVAL, USN

Marines assigned to the 26th MEU(SOC) exit a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, attached to VMM-162, during combat raid drills in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations on Dec. 4, 2023.

15th MEU Embarks Aboard the *Boxer* Amphibious Readiness Group, Conducting Integrated Training and Operations



Above: Marines assigned to the "Charlie" Co, BLT 1/5, 15th MEU, board a CH-53E Super Stallion, assigned to VMM-165 (Rein), during a training exercise aboard *USS Somerset* (LPD-25) while underway in the Pacific Ocean on Jan. 6. The *Boxer* Amphibious Ready Group and the embarked 15th MEU conducted integrated training and routine operations in U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations.

Below: A USMC AH-1Z Viper attached to VMM-165 (Rein), 15th MEU, sits on the flight deck of *USS Boxer* (LHD-4) in the Pacific Ocean after completing a simulated strike on Dec. 10, 2023. (Photo by Cpl Joseph Helms, USMC)





CPL AMELIA KANG, USMC

Above: A Marine assigned to Charlie Battery, BLT 1/5, 15th MEU, loads a charge into a M777 towed 155mm howitzer during an expeditionary fires exercise at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Dec. 10, 2023. During the exercise, the 15th MEU was embarked aboard the *Boxer* Amphibious Ready Group in the Pacific Ocean coordinating integrated fires with aviation and indirect fire assets ashore.



LCPL GARRETT KIGER, USMC

Above: LCpl Adrian Brown, a mortarman attached to Bravo Co, BLT 1/5, 15th MEU, carries a M224 60mm mortar system through the hangar bay of *USS Boxer* (LHD-4) in the Pacific Ocean before departing for an amphibious raid on Dec. 15, 2023.



GYSGT DONALD HOLBERT, USMC

Above: Marines and Sailors assigned to "Bravo" Co, BLT 1/5, 15th MEU, stage on the flight deck ramp of *USS Boxer* (LHD-4) in preparation for a quick reaction force mission in support of Naval Special Warfare operators while underway in the Pacific Ocean on Dec. 12, 2023.

Right: An F-35B Lightning II attached to VMFA-225, 15th MEU, prepares to land aboard *USS Boxer* (LHD-4) while conducting carrier qualifications on Jan. 11.



CPL AMELIA KANG, USMC

Marines Hone Their Skills Throughout Japan



Marines with BLT 1/1, 31st MEU, detonate an explosive charge during urban sustainment training on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan on Jan. 5. Combat engineers attached to BLT 1/1 taught Marines proper procedures for making and employing breaching charges in urban environments. (Photo by LCpl Osmar Gutierrez, USMC)



Marines with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4thMarDiv, participate in an endurance course during a Basic Jungle Skills Course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 12. BJSC teaches Marines survival skills, tactical rope suspension techniques and jungle warfare tactics. 4th LAR Battalion was forward deployed in the Indo-Pacific as part of the 3rdMarDiv Unit Deployment Program. (Photo by LCpl Jeffrey Pruett, USMC)



CPL KYLE CHAN, USMC

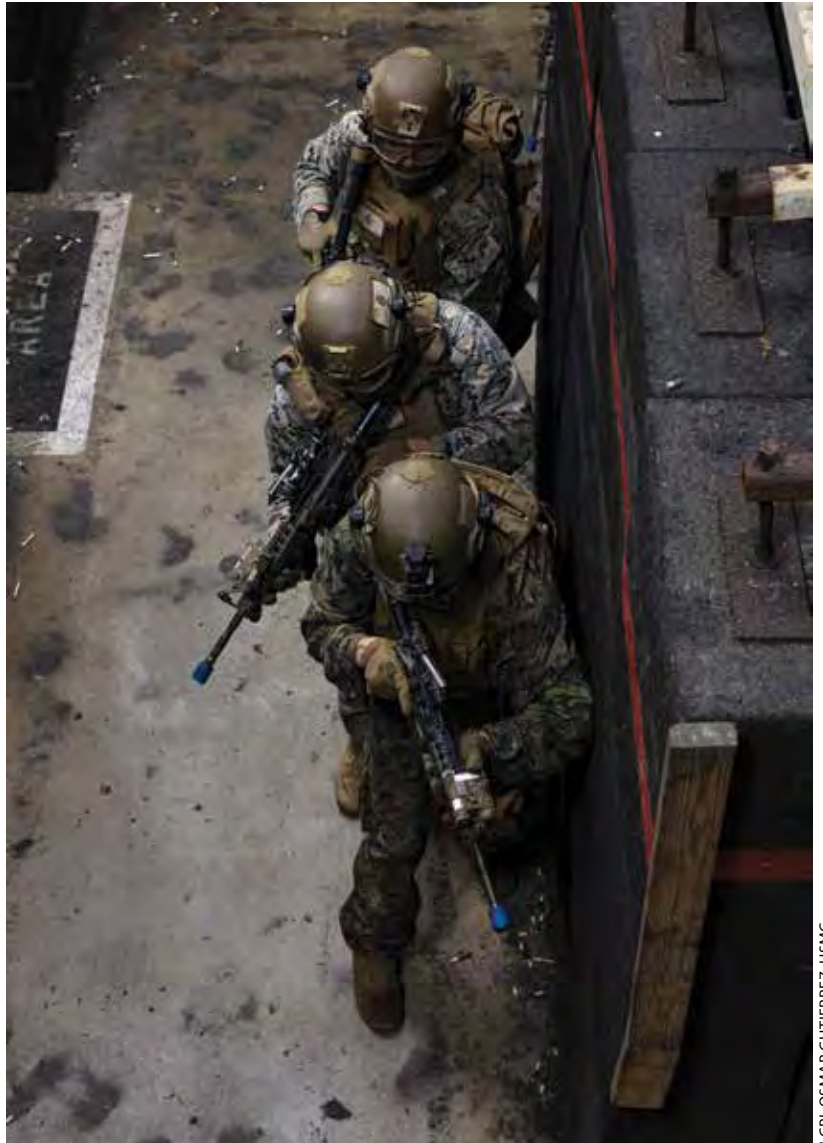
Above: Cpl Emily Weiss, a combat graphics specialist with 1st MAW, dons an M50 gas mask during a chemical biological radiological nuclear defense training event hosted by III MEF at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 23.



LCPL JEFFREY PRUETT, USMC

Above: Sgt Alexander Abke, a light armored vehicle master gunner with 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4thMarDiv, assists a Marine during a Basic Jungle Skills Course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 12.

Right: Marines with Marine Air Support Squadron 2 (MASS-2) participate in an M240 Bravo machine-gun relay during a field meet at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 19. The field meet was held in celebration of MASS-2's 81st anniversary.



LCPL OSMAR GUTIERREZ, USMC

Above: Marines with BLT 1/1, 31st MEU, maneuver through a hallway during a close-quarter tactics range on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 5.



LCPL SAVFORD, USMC

Recruits Learn What it Takes To Earn Their Eagle, Globe and Anchor



Above: Sgt Sharif Adan, a drill instructor with Receiving Company, rushes new recruits from Mike Co, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, off the bus during receiving at MCRD San Diego, Calif., on Jan. 16. During the receiving process, recruits are checked for contraband, given a haircut, make a phone call home and issued gear. (Photo by LCpl Jacob B. Hutchinson, USMC)



LCPL JACOB B. HUTCHINSON, USMC



LCPL SARAH M. GRAYCOCK, USMC

Above: A new recruit with "Mike" Co, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, is given a haircut during receiving at MCRD San Diego, Calif., on Jan. 16.

Left: Recruits with "Echo" Co, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, execute buddy drags during the Crucible at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Jan. 23. The Crucible is a 54-hour exercise where recruits apply the knowledge and training they've learned throughout recruit training to earn the title of United States Marine.



LCPL SARAH M. GRAWCOCK, USMC

Recruits with "Echo" Co, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, fire downrange during the table two course of fire at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Jan. 16. The table two course of fire teaches recruits the fundamentals of safety and marksmanship in combat shooting positions and rifle carries.



LCPL SARAH M. GRAWCOCK, USMC

Recruits with "Echo" Co, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, participate in a body sparring event at MCRD San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 18, 2023. Recruits executed Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques throughout body sparring, teaching them self-defense and instilling a combat warrior mindset.



Leatherneck Laffs



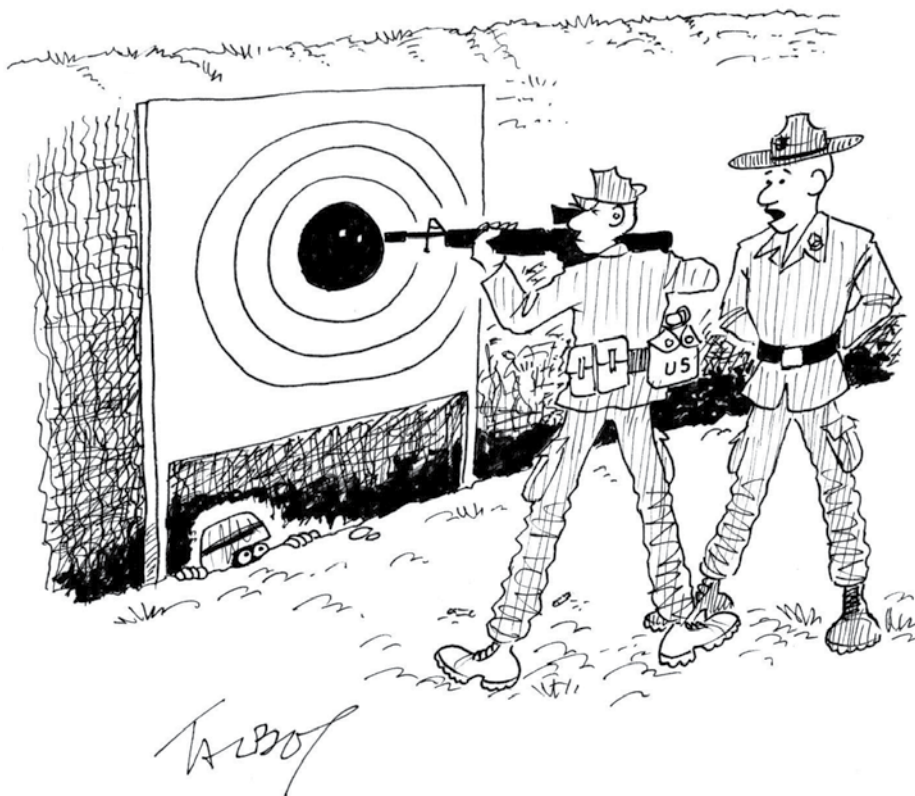
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"The only thing I can say is that
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"Oh dear, he's on a
secret mission in Syria."



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measures the
distance to the target
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Realistic Urban Training

Prepares 24th MEU for Deployment

By Capt MacKenzie Margroum, USMC, and SSgt Ryan Sammet, USMC

Marines and Sailors with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) executed Realistic Urban Training (RUT) exercise throughout Virginia and South Carolina from Jan. 7-27.

RUT is an expeditionary land-based training exercise where over 2,200 Marines and Sailors from the 24th MEU planned and conducted operations they may have to execute while on deployment. The Ground Combat Element, Battalion Landing Team 1/8; and Logistics Combat

Element, Combat Logistics Battalion 24, and the Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365 (reinforced) comprise the 24th MEU.

As the second Marine Air-Ground Task Force training exercise in the 24th MEU's deployment work-up cycle, the MEU executed multiple training missions ranging from raids, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel and foreign humanitarian and disaster relief operations. RUT took place off of military installations to position Marines and Sailors

in more unfamiliar and urban environments and presented them with complex scenarios. RUT also gave the MEU an opportunity to deploy for unit level Mission Essential Task (MET) training. Sailors from the *Wasp* Amphibious Readiness Group (ARG) witnessed the expeditionary land-based training exercise by joining their Marine counterparts in unit level training events. These training events ranged from forward arming and refueling point operations, a light armored reconnaissance-fire support team exer-

Left: Cpl Cody Miller, a joint terminal attack controller with Alpha Co, BLT 1/8, 24th MEU, prepares to board a CH-53E Super Stallion with VMM-365 (Rein), prior to a simulated raid during Realistic Urban Training (RUT) at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 22. (Photo by Sgt Jacqueline Peguero-Montes, USMC)



SSGT RYAN SAMMET, USMC



Above: Marines with the 24th MEU practice on the Light Marine Air Defense Integrated System (L-MADIS) at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 10.

Marines with Alpha Co, BLT 1/8, 24th MEU, climb through the window of a building during military operations in urban terrain as part of RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 18.

LCPL RYAN RAMSAMMY, USMC



Marines with Maritime Special Purpose Force, 24th MEU, load a Utility Task Vehicle aboard a CH-53E Super Stallion prior to conducting a reconnaissance and surveillance mission during RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 20. (Photo by Sgt Elton Taylor, USMC)



LCPL RYAN RAMSAMMY, USMC

Sgt Timothy Skalecki, a rifleman with Charlie Co, BLT 1/8, 24th MEU, rescues a simulated isolated person during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel mission as part of RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 20.

cise, an M-777 towed 155mm howitzer live-fire range, a combined anti-armor team convoy course, and culminated in live-fire supported platoon attacks.

During RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., the Marines of the 24th MEU fielded and fine-tuned their capabilities with an array of counter unmanned aerial systems (CUAS) that allow the Marines to adapt and prevail over constantly changing small unmanned aerial system (sUAS) threats.

sUAS continue decreasing in price, making them easier to weaponize and flood the battlespace. The innovation of sUAS continues changing tactical operations. Marines from the 24th MEU practiced and enhanced their abilities to detect, track, identify and defeat sUAS threats.

“The need is great for CUAS systems in the battlespace,” said First Lieutenant Daniel Butler, a low altitude air defense (LAAD) officer with 2nd LAAD Detachment, 24th MEU. “We keep the Marines on the ground safe from small aerial threats, often before they even know they were there.”

The 24th MEU is equipped with the Light Marine Air Defense Integrated System (L-MADIS). The L-MADIS can inform the Marines on the ground of the presence of enemy UAS and protect them from unwanted aerial reconnaissance or ordnance.

Marines with Charlie Co, BLT 1/8, 24th MEU, approach the site of a simulated battle during patrol base operations at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 12.



CPL NOAH SEAL, USMC

Marines with Alpha Co, BLT 1/8, 24th MEU, set security during military operations in urban terrain as part of RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., Jan. 18.



LCPL RYAN RAMSAMMY, USMC



LCPL RYAN RAMSAMMY, USMC

U.S. Navy LTJG Amanda Zielinski, a surface warfare officer with Amphibious Squadron 4, fires a 25mm Bushmaster chain gun aboard a Marine Corps light armored vehicle 25 with BLT 1/8, 24th MEU, during RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 16.



LCPL RYAN RAMSAMMY, USMC

Above: A USMC AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom with VMM-365 (Rein), 24th MEU, land on a flightline during RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 7.



CPL VICTORIA HUTT, USMC

A Marine with Light Armored Reconnaissance Co, BLT 1/8, 24th MEU, provides suppressive fire during RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., on Jan. 21.

“The L-MADIS system is a great tool to counter enemy UAS capabilities,” said Butler. “It is specifically tailored to counter commercial off-the-shelf drones that have been retrofitted to serve a military purpose.”

Through the duration of RUT, the LAAD Marines worked with the aviation and ground combat elements of the MEU. Like any other air defense system, the L-MADIS is one tool in the 24th MEU’s arsenal to conduct CUAS. It mitigates threats by disrupting the electronic sig-

nals between the unmanned system and its controller.

“Air defense systems are employed based on the principles of mass, mix, mobility and integration,” said Butler. “That’s why it’s so important to employ the L-MADIS with other air defense systems. It paints a full picture of the battlespace, where we can detect, track, identify and defeat enemy UAS.”

At the conclusion of RUT, the 24th MEU was one step closer to being certified as deployable and special operations




CPL VICTORIA HUTT, USMC

Marines with the 24th MEU complete tactical combat casualty care training during RUT at Fort Barfoot, Va., Jan. 12.

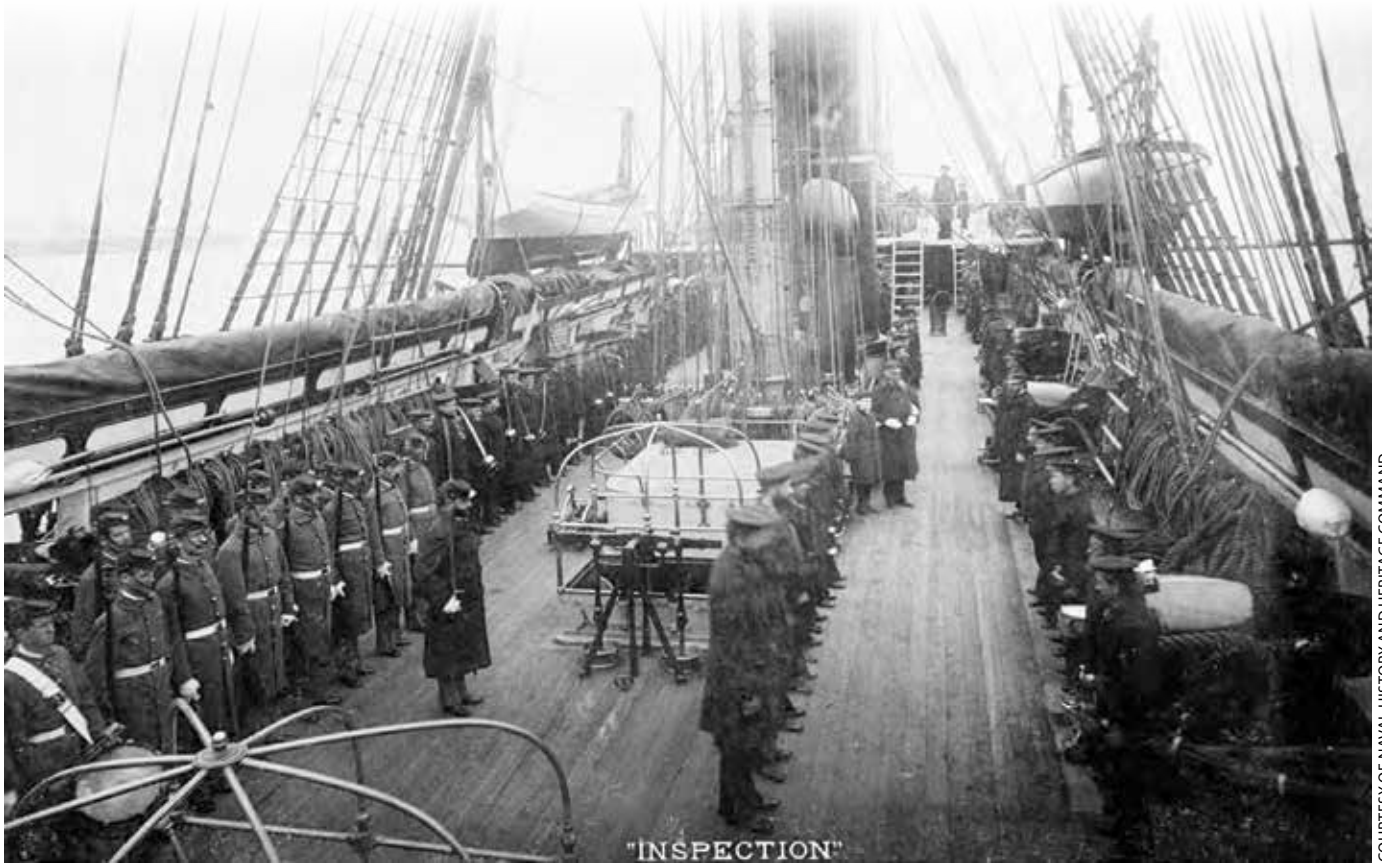
capable, ready to support geographic combatant commanders as the nation’s premier crisis response force. Following the exercise, the 24th MEU embarked aboard the *Wasp* ARG and U.S. Navy ships for their culminating deployment certification event, Composite Training Unit Exercise. COMPTUEX is the final deployment certification event for the *Wasp* ARG and 24th MEU where they were evaluated on their execution of mission essential tasks to determine certification before deployment. 🇺🇸

The Life of Lauchheimer:

The Man Behind the Corps' Top Shooting Trophy



The Lauchheimer Trophy is awarded to Marines who obtain the highest aggregate score in the individual rifle and pistol competitions and was named after Marine Charles H. Lauchheimer, who graduated from the Naval Academy in 1881. (Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command)



COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

USS *Ossipee*'s crew stand on deck during an inspection in February 1887. Then-2ndLt Lauchheimer assumed command of the vessel's Marine guard shortly after graduating from the Naval Academy.

By Col Dwight H. Sullivan,
USMCR (Ret)

This month, the Marine Corps' top shooters will gather at Marine Corps Base Quantico to compete for the Lauchheimer Trophy—the award for the highest aggregate rifle and pistol score at the Championship Match. Who was Lauchheimer, and why is the Marine Corps' most prized shooting trophy named after him?

Charles Henry Lauchheimer was born on Sept. 22, 1859, the fifth of Meyer and Babeth Lauchheimer's nine children. His parents had immigrated from Bavaria to Baltimore, Md., where his father cofounded a successful clothing manufacturing company. The family worshiped at the city's Oheb Shalom synagogue.

In June 1877, Lauchheimer graduated from Baltimore City College, a public secondary school. He won a Peabody Prize and a \$50 cash award for finishing fifth in his class. That summer, Congressman Thomas Swann of Baltimore held competitive examinations to select his West Point and Naval Academy nominees. Swann limited the competition to Baltimore City College students and graduates. Among six applicants vying for the nomination, Lauchheimer emerged victorious.

Lauchheimer performed well at the academy, graduating in the top fourth of the class of 1881. He was popular with his fellow cadet midshipmen, as Naval Academy students were then known. In his second year, he and several classmates had been restricted to the Naval Academy's yard due to disciplinary infractions, depriving them of Saturday afternoon off-base liberty. In response, they sewed bedsheets together to create an enormous banner on which they wrote, "Give us liberty or give us death." They displayed their makeshift protest sign on the front of their barracks, facing the superintendent's quarters. The ringleader of that prank was Lauchheimer. Years later, he was elected the president of his alumni class.

When Lauchheimer attended the Naval Academy, the cadet midshipman training program lasted six years. The final two years were spent at sea. Lauchheimer was assigned to USS *Richmond*, the Asiatic Station's flagship, for most of his tour. In June 1883, the class of 1881 returned to Annapolis to take a final examination. In the era of a constricted Navy, commissions were available for only 23 of the 86 test takers. The final examination results elevated Lauchheimer to 14th in his class. Preferring the Marine Corps to the Navy, he re-

quested and received one of 10 available Marine commissions. Lauchheimer and nine of his classmates became the first Naval Academy graduates to serve as Marine Corps officers.

Second Lieutenant Lauchheimer received his Marine Corps officer indoctrination at the Brooklyn Navy Yard's Marine Barracks. There, he and his newly commissioned classmates fell under the tutelage of Colonel Charles Heywood. The tall, imposing colonel was a Civil War veteran who went on to become the Marine Corps' ninth Commandant.

Lauchheimer assumed command of USS *Ossipee*'s 28-member Marine guard at Philadelphia's League Island Navy Yard. On ship, they patrolled the Suez Canal and the Western Pacific. During the cruise's second year, Lauchheimer suffered a severe bout of typhoid fever, which he attributed to the drinking water in Nagasaki, Japan. He spent 70 days on the sick list.

The highlight of the old wooden sloop's Asian cruise occurred in August 1886. Tensions were building on the Korean peninsula amid fear of Chinese intervention. When a Chinese gunboat escorted six troop transports into the Korean port of Chemulpo, the U.S. Minister Resident and Consul General in Seoul telegraphed *Ossipee*'s captain,

implored him to send “a guard of 20 men to protect the Legation.” The following afternoon, Lauchheimer led *Ossipee*’s Marine guard from the ship’s berth in Chemulpo to the U.S. legation in Seoul. There, the Marines provided security until reboarding *Ossipee* four days later, the perceived crisis having passed.

After *Ossipee* returned to the United States, the Marine Corps selected Lauchheimer for advanced military training. He attended the Naval Torpedo School in Newport, R.I., in the summer of 1887, and after completing the three-month program, he studied at the Naval War College, then only in its third year.

When he reported to his next duty station at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., he decided to leave the Marine Corps—but then changed his mind after

almost a year of leave. Eight months into that leave period, he wrote to his Naval Academy classmates that he “found the atmosphere of civil life [to be] frigid.” He returned to duty, promoted to first lieutenant, and, in 1890, began a 16-month tour commanding USS *Enterprise*’s Marine guard. Following that shipboard assignment, Lauchheimer spent five months on recruiting duty, looking for a few good men in his hometown of Baltimore. His career took a pivotal turn when he reported for duty in the office of

the Judge Advocate General of the Navy (OJAG) in March 1892.

In October, he enrolled in Columbian University’s law school (since renamed George Washington University Law School). Classes started at 1800, allowing him to attend while still working at OJAG in the nearby State, War, and Navy Building (now known as the Eisenhower Executive Office Building). When Lauchheimer completed the two-year program, he received an honorable mention for best examination for the Bachelor of Laws degree.

Lauchheimer would spend the rest of his Marine Corps career as a staff officer, and with the aid of his law education, he excelled as a judge advocate. His litigation work in both court-martial and civilian courts won accolades. The Government Printing Office published two editions of a procedural guide that he prepared for naval courts and boards. At the Naval War College, he also delivered well-received lectures that were published in the U.S. Naval Institute’s professional journal, *Proceedings*.

Starting in 1899, Lauchheimer experienced a meteoric rise in rank, jumping from first lieutenant to colonel in just six years. During his seventh year at OJAG, he underwent a rigorous two-day promotion examination. Following a medical exam, he was tested on administration, field engineering, minor tactics, military law and infantry fire discipline. On the examination’s second day, he conducted a parade and drill practical exercise followed by oral examinations in artillery mechanical maneuvers, small arm firing regulations and naval gunnery. Lauchheimer passed the examination. He did best in military law, obtaining a perfect score. Probably reflecting his extended time away from troop handling, his lowest score was in drill regulation.

Lauchheimer was promoted to captain in February 1899. He did not serve as an O-3 for long. On March 3, the Senate confirmed President McKinley’s nomination of Lauchheimer to become the assistant adjutant and inspector of the Marine Corps with the rank of major. Writing in his Naval Academy class newsletter, he explained that his new duties included “being Inspector of Target Practice of the Marine Corps, having charge of this entire subject throughout the Corps.”

The first officer to hold the position of Inspector of Target Practice, Lauchheimer strove to improve Marine marksmanship. He oversaw the construction and upgrading of live-fire ranges. He also fostered the Marine Corps’ competitive marksmanship program. After joining

Lauchheimer served as Adjutant and Inspector of the Marine Corps as a colonel (right). On Sept. 8, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed a commission (below) appointing Lauchheimer to the rank of brigadier general, making him the first Jewish general officer in Marine Corps history.



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COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Above: The Department of the Navy's leadership team during World War I. BGen Lauchheimer, center, back row, was a member of the team along with then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt; and 12th Commandant of the Marine Corps, MajGen George Barnett.



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The 12th Commandant, MajGen George Barnett, fires a Lewis gun at the Marine Corps Rifle Range in Winthrop, Md., 1917. Barnett and Lauchheimer were close friends and Naval Academy classmates.

the National Rifle Association's board of directors in 1900, Lauchheimer supervised Marine Corps teams in shooting competitions.

In 1901, Lauchheimer entered a Marine team in a match at an international rifle meet in Sea Girt, N.J. The Marines finished sixth of 11 teams. The following year, the Marines scored sixth of nine in two of the meet's team matches. Despite being bested by five National Guard teams, the Marines took solace in having beaten the Army for the first time in a team marksmanship competition. Lauchheimer's best shooter was then-Second Lieutenant Thomas Holcomb, who in 1936 would become the 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Holcomb won a \$5 prize for finishing seventh overall in the meet's President Match. Lauchheimer required the lieutenant to relinquish the prize money to the U.S. Treasury because he won it while performing duties at government expense.

In what must have been a bittersweet moment, when Lauchheimer was promoted to lieutenant colonel on March 23, 1903, his duties as Inspector of Target Practice were transferred to a junior officer. Lauchheimer had significantly boosted the Marine Corps' marksmanship

program during his four years in that role.

As a lieutenant colonel, he was dispatched to Manila to establish the office of Adjutant and Inspector of the Marine Corps in the Far East. He also assisted the Attorney General of the Philippines in legal matters involving the Navy Department.

Lauchheimer returned to Washington in December 1904 after a year abroad and was soon promoted to colonel, replacing the Adjutant and Inspector of the Marine Corps' upon his retirement...

However, following his meteoric rise, Lauchheimer suffered a career setback in 1910. He and the Commandant, Major General George F. Elliott, repeatedly clashed, leading to a court of inquiry. The court faulted both Elliott and Lauchheimer for the imbroglio. As punishment, the Taft administration transferred Lauchheimer to Manila. Just a few months from mandatory retirement age, Elliott was allowed to remain as Commandant.

Lauchheimer did not sulk. He actively executed his duties, inspecting various Marine Corps units and facilities in the Philippines. He also won praise for recommending security improvements at the U.S. legation in Beijing after inspecting that facility. His fellow officers dem-

onstrated the esteem in which they held Lauchheimer by electing him president of the Army and Navy Club of Manila.

Lauchheimer's supporters back in the United States mounted a lobbying effort to restore him to his previous position. As a result of that campaign, the Taft administration reassigned Lauchheimer from the Philippines to San Francisco in November 1911. His transfer to the West Coast did not mollify Lauchheimer's champions, who maintained pressure to reinstate him as Adjutant and Inspector of the Marine Corps. In the presidential election year of 1912, Taft relented. Lauchheimer returned to Headquarters Marine Corps and resumed his duties there in October. By then, Elliott had long since retired, having been replaced as Commandant by the undistinguished but politically well-connected William P. Biddle. Taft badly lost his November 1912 reelection bid, finishing behind both the victor Woodrow Wilson and former President Theodore Roosevelt.

Little more than a year after Lauchheimer's return to Headquarters Marine Corps, the Army and Navy Club of Washington bestowed the signal honor of electing him as its president. A month later, Lauchheimer's career received a major boost when his Naval Academy classmate and close friend George Barnett became the 12th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Lauchheimer's responsibilities grew under Barnett. He assumed control of Marine Corps recruiting and sat on several boards determining Marine Corps policy.

Lauchheimer had thoroughly rehabilitated his career by 1916, when an opportunity arose for further advancement. Following the deaths of 124 Americans and 1,071 others in the German U-boat sinking of RMS *Lusitania*, President Wilson sought to expand the U.S. Navy. The result was the Naval Act of 1916. The statute authorized the production of 156 new Navy vessels. The Marine Corps shared in the largess: the act created the Marine Corps Reserve and authorized the President to greatly expand the Marine Corps' size. Most significantly for Lauchheimer personally, the statute created seven new Marine Corps brigadier general billets. One was reserved for the senior officer in the Adjutant and Inspector's Department. President Wilson chose Lauchheimer for that position. The Senate confirmed the nomination the day after receiving it. On Sept. 8, 1916, Wilson signed the commission appointing Lauchheimer as



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Then-Sgt Morris "Bud" Fisher, left, won the Lauchheimer trophy in 1931. The trophy was created by Lauchheimer's siblings and MajGen John A. Lejeune, right, during his tenure as Commandant.

the first Jewish general officer in United States Marine Corps history.

Less than seven months later, the United States entered World War I. The Marine Corps expanded more than five-fold during the war and Lauchheimer was the officer in charge of filling the ranks. His recruiting effort was remarkably successful. Declining to accept draftees, the Marine Corps positioned itself as an elite all-volunteer force. By the war's end, the Marine Corps had received 239,274 applications for 60,189 openings. Commandant Barnett lauded Lauchheimer's oversight of the recruiting campaign.

The Wilson administration recognized Lauchheimer's exceptional performance of wartime duties with the Distinguished Service Medal. Unfortunately, that medal was awarded posthumously. After completing a West Coast inspection tour, the 59-year-old Lauchheimer suffered a severe stroke in July 1919. Following a coma, he suffered paralysis, and he remained hospitalized until dying from another stroke on Jan. 14, 1920.

Lauchheimer's siblings sought to commemorate his Marine Corps service



Left: Charles H. Lauchheimer served as a brigadier general from Sept. 8, 1916, until his death on Jan. 4, 1921.

Below: As a triple trophy titlist at the 1959 Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol Matches, then-Capt William W. McMillian Jr., left, receives the Lauchheimer Trophy, the Marine Corps Pistol Trophy and the David S. McDougal Memorial Trophy. LtCol McMillian was awarded the Lauchheimer Trophy for a fifth time in 1971.

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LCPL JOAQUÍN CARLOS DELA TORRE, USMC



CPL MITCHELL JOHNSON, USMC

Capt Chris Scott hoists the Lauchheimer Trophy at the 2022 Marine Corps Marksmanship Awards Ceremony at MCB Quantico, Va., April 11, 2022.

The original 50-pound bronze plaque that Lauchheimer's siblings donated to the Marine Corps has been remounted twice to accommodate more nameplates for the annual winners.

by establishing a shooting medal in his honor. Commandant MajGen Barnett enthusiastically endorsed the idea, noting that Lauchheimer had been “instrumental in establishing the present system of target practice in the Marine Corps which has placed the Corps, as you know, in the first ranks of the shooters of the United States today.” When John Archer Lejeune replaced Barnett as Commandant on June 30, 1920, he continued to work with Lauchheimer’s family to establish the commemorative shooting award. The result was a bronze relief trophy depicting Marines advancing in battle. Above the battle scene are the words, “The Lauchheimer Trophy for Annual Competition in Small Arms Firing.” Below the battle scene is the inscription: “Presented to the United States Marine Corps by the Family of Brig. Gen. Charles Lauchheimer.” The original 50-pound trophy included 14 small shields on which to engrave the annual winners’ names. The Lauchheimer family also paid to cut the die for a badge to be presented to each year’s top three competitors.

When they presented the trophy to the Marine Corps, Lauchheimer’s siblings explained that they donated it “as a means of keeping his name before the Marine Corps, to which he devoted his life, and for which he felt a love, affection and loyalty so well known to all his comrades and associates.” Commandant Lejeune replied that the trophy’s commemoration of “the distinguished services rendered by your brother, the late Brigadier-General Charles H. Lauchheimer, will forever enhance its value to every Marine.”

The first Lauchheimer Trophy competition was held in 1921. Over the past century, the original brass plaque has been remounted twice to accommodate more nameplates for the annual winners. The trophy’s presentation to the Championship Match’s top shooter in April will once again honor Charles H. Lauchheimer’s role in developing Marines’ marksmanship prowess.

Author’s Bio: Colonel Dwight H. Sullivan, USMCR (Ret), is a civilian attorney in the DOD Office of General Counsel and an adjunct faculty member at the George Washington University Law School. He is the author of “Capturing Aguinaldo: The Daring Raid to Seize the Philippine President at the Dawn of the American Century.” 🇺🇸



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Protecting the Way

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlos A. Ruiz: A Committed, Engaged Leader of Marines

By Kyle Watts

On Nov. 29, 2023, I had the opportunity to interview Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz, the recently appointed 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, at his office in the Pentagon. I looked forward to our conversation, as I knew little about him beyond his official bio and hoped to understand what kind of Marine and leader he is. I arrived prepared with questions focusing on the current state of the Corps, and where we are headed. To my surprise, the interview kicked off with a series of questions directed at me. The Sergeant Major wanted to know about my time on active duty and my time since in the civilian world. He asked about my wife, my children, and how my work life balances time for them. He even concerned himself with how much traffic I encountered on the way and if I found a parking spot. One question he posed proved most difficult, and I still wrestle with my answer.

“How long did it take you to find your way?”



SSGT JOHN MARTINEZ, USMC

SgtMaj Carlos A. Ruiz, USMC
20th Sergeant Major of the
Marine Corps



CPL DAKOTA DODD, USMC

SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz visits MCRD Parris Island, S.C., on Nov. 16, 2023. The visit to the Depot marked Ruiz's first time aboard the base since assuming his current duties as the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.



LCPL SARAH M. GRAWCOCK, USMC

SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz connects with the staff of the drill instructor school during a visit to MCRD San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 5, 2023.

As we progressed onto other topics, I realized his questions were no accident or mere pleasantries. They were a reflection of his personal journey through 30 years wearing the uniform and a genuine concern for individual Marines. I understood that some of the items I desired to ask him might simply be distractions from what is truly important in his eyes. The Sergeant Major's philosophy on life and definition of his new role, however, remains focused on helping Marines find their way and preserving the way of the institution amidst a never-ending tide of change.

He first reflected on the many mentors throughout his career who helped him find his way in the Corps. The Sergeant Major was born in Mexico and became a naturalized citizen of the United States. Fresh out of boot camp in 1993 as a brand-new Marine warehouse clerk, Ruiz missed his flight to Okinawa after boot camp, leaving him UA to his first duty station in the fleet. The Sergeant Major laughed as he remembered this cringe-worthy entrance into the Corps, recognizing the importance of others pointing him in the right direction and setting him up for success.

"It's the ability of others to make you focus on what is in front of you, and to

see the potential in you," he said. "I'm just glad that happened for me, that someone said, 'you are more than this. You can do something else.' That happened for me constantly. At every rank along the way, there was always somebody to touch me and say, 'move this way.' I have been very lucky."

Fittingly, the first mentor to come to his

The Sergeant Major's philosophy on life and definition of his new role, however, remains focused on helping Marines find their way and preserving the way of the institution amidst a never-ending tide of change.

mind was the first NCO he encountered in the fleet once he finally arrived in Okinawa. A Marine named Sergeant Tukes helped Ruiz push beyond his dismal start and taught him what the right path could look like.

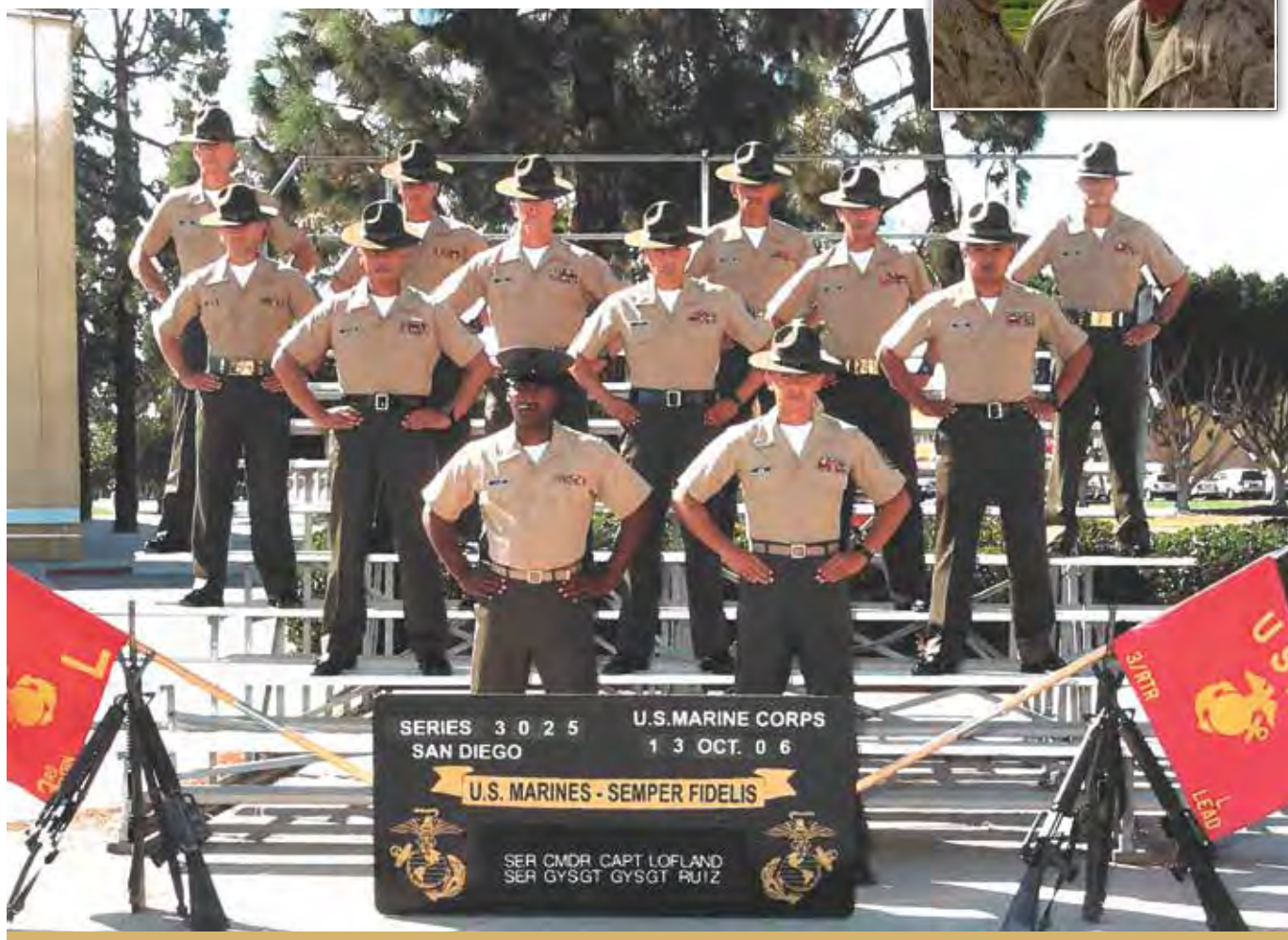
"Sgt Tukes was an infantryman who

couldn't reenlist in the infantry. At that time, the Marine Corps was very small, so he reenlisted with a new MOS of warehousing. He was like a fish out of water, but Sgt Tukes and his NCOs were my entire world. When you're young, there's no first sergeant. There's no battalion commander. You see them every once in a while, but my world was with Sgt Tukes. He was the person who looked like, walked like what I imagined a Marine should be like. Everything that was promised at some point in my enlistment period was right there in front of me."

A machine-gunner by trade, Tukes led his section of warehouse clerks like a machine-gun section and ensured they believed that in Sgt Tukes' world, every Marine was truly a rifleman. Ruiz and the other junior Marines fought for a spot on the machine-gun team to spend more time with their sergeant. They loved to hate him on their routine hikes across the island, watching in awe as he remained on his feet pacing back and forth during breaks, forcing them to drink water and recite general orders or machine-gun data.

"That was a great experience for me," Ruiz remembered. "I was sold. When you have someone like that, then you spend the rest of your career trying to

Earlier in his career, SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz served four years as a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego, Calif., (right) then progressed as the chief instructor of drill instructor school (below). His time with the instructor cadre remains one of his proudest accomplishments. (Photos courtesy of SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz, USMC)



LCPL SARAH M. GRAWCOCK, USMC

SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz speaks to Marines with “Fox” Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, at MCRD San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 5, 2023.

be Sgt Tukes for someone else. If I can just get others to feel what I felt, I think that’s the hook.”

Three decades have passed since his time with Sgt Tukes, with opportunity and accomplishment at each stop along the way. Ruiz spent three years on recruiting duty early in his career, and later four years as a drill instructor. To this day, his time as the Drill Instructor School’s chief instructor remains one of his proudest accomplishments. He deployed to Kuwait in January 2003, pushing north to Iraq that March with the opening of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His first experience with an infantry battalion in combat came as the company first sergeant with Lima Company, 3/4, while deployed to Afghanistan in 2009. In addition to his duties as the company first sergeant, Ruiz served as the Shock Trauma Platoon Commander, helping evacuate wounded Marines from the front line to medical care. He completed

SgtMaj Ruiz defined his role as a representative and voice for all Marines ... on all institutional programs and how the Marine Corps is preparing for the future. ... “I am the one person that must deliver to the individual on the promise of what it was going to be like to be a Marine.”

a second tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom before receiving orders to Inspector-Instructor Staff.

He returned to the infantry in 2013 on his first assignment as a newly minted sergeant major, serving with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. He served in various assignments through the last decade, most recently holding dual roles as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for both Marine Corps Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) and Marine Corps Forces South (MARFORSOUTH).

Ruiz took over his current role in August 2023. He accepted the responsibility with characteristic joy and humility.

“There was no plan for this, there was no plan to be this!” SgtMaj Ruiz said. “The jubilation I felt when I found out I had been selected to be Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, though, was no different from the way I felt when I was selected for lance corporal. And then again for corporal, and again at every rank. It was terrifying. I’m thinking, ‘wait, you think I can be a corporal?’ But someone said, ‘yes, you can.’ The fear of letting others down drives you to work, prepare, and to really listen to what the force and the environment is telling you.”

SgtMaj Ruiz defined his role as a representative and voice for all Marines, officer and enlisted, on all institutional programs and how the Marine Corps is preparing for the future.

“What’s bigger,” he added, “I am the one person that must deliver to the individual on the promise of what it was going to be like to be a Marine. The promise we made to each Marine and their families. The promise that we made to the American people, that who we say we are, we are. If we are not moving in that direction and doing the things that are synonymous with being a Marine, I think that’s where I belong the most.”



LCPL PRANAV RAMAKRISHNA, USMC

Above: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz salutes Gen Eric C. Smith, then the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, during the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps relief and appointment ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., on Aug. 10, 2023. SgtMaj Ruiz assumed the duties and responsibilities of his current position from SgtMaj Troy E. Black.

Below: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz speaks with Sgt Nate Bullock, a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv, after Bullock’s reenlistment at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Feb. 16.



CPL JUAN TORRES, USMC

Force Design 2030 initiated a rapid sequence of changes across the force. Now, several years into its implementation, Ruiz made clear his take on the future.

“General Smith came in and told us to get rid of the, ‘2030.’ When you look at what the threat is today, we needed to change. Sometimes we have a habit of going head on into a brick wall over and over and over again, and the environment

is compelling us to change. General Berger got us on the right path, and General Smith continues with that, he’s just saying change faster. Take all the platforms and whatever fancy things we are buying, put them in the hands of the Marines, and they’ll come back to us and tell us how to better employ it. All the technology is good, because we need to give an advantage to our Marines, but it



CPL JENNIFER DELACRUZ, USMC

Above: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz, then the sergeant major of MARFORRES and MARFORSOUTH, presents a coin to Sgt Jay Stutzman, a section chief with “Oscar” Battery, 5th Bn, 14th Marines, at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., at Integrated Training Exercise 4-23 on June 22, 2023.



COURTESY OF SGTMAJ CARLOS RUIZ, USMC

Above: Then-Cpl Carlos Ruiz receives the “Marine of the Quarter” award, presented by his commanding officer, in 1997.



CPL DAKOTA DODD, USMC

“There is an expectation of the veteran community for us to be better than they were. I think it’s my job to find a better way to communicate that we are. This generation is not only meeting the standard of 10 years ago but elevating that standard for the next fight.”

is the human being that we continue to invest in. We can keep investing in technology, but Force Design 2030 is not designing a way out of the culture of what a Marine is. We are not redesigning that. We are just making it more lethal.”

In addition to fielding all the new gear, Marines across the fleet experienced the changes to training, MOSs, unit sizes and deployment strategies. Heavy financial investments have already been made to modernize equipment and training for fighting the next war dispersed across the Indo-Pacific.

“I don’t think we will ever finish changing,” Ruiz said. “I think the moment we think that we have arrived and are finished changing, someone is going to kick our ass.”

Through all the changes, the Sergeant Major admonishes the entire Marine community to remain focused on who we are. While the changes taking place might alter the direction and outlook of the Corps as an institution, and raise concerns and controversy, they do not change the identity of Marines.

“Even the worst critics who might spend all year shooting at my target, on Nov. 10, they’re not,” he reflected. “There is an expectation of the veteran community for us to be better than they were. I think it’s my job to find a better way to communicate that we are. This generation is not only meeting the standard of 10 years ago but elevating that standard for the next fight. You can get distracted by what’s on the news or the political environment or whatever is going on today, but if you go to Twentynine Palms right now, there is still a Range 400 happening. The Marines are still as fit. They’re still as sweaty, stinking, carrying everything they have to carry, and they’re still run-

Left: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz visits the range with recruits at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., on Nov. 16, 2023.



LCPL JOSEPH E. DEMARCUS, USMC

Above: The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Christopher J. Mahoney, and SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz lead Marines in a motivational run in honor of the Marine Corps' 248th birthday in Arlington, Va., on Nov. 8, 2023.



LCPL DAVID GETZ, USMC

Gen Eric M. Smith and SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz talk with U.S. Marines and Sailors at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, on Sept. 12, 2023. During the visit, Gen Smith and SgtMaj Ruiz met with Marines and Sailors to answer questions pertaining to improving the quality of life for on-base personnel.

ning towards the objective. They're still closing in on the last 300 meters and accomplishing the mission. They're a little smarter and a little faster. They call it, 'innovation' today. It's a fancy word, but it's still the Marine way. Getting the job done and a culture of winning has not changed. I want to evolve, but I want to protect that culture."

To help accomplish this goal, Ruiz frequently relies on social media to connect with Marines and the veteran community. His message of transparency and positivity has proven successful and trusted. In one example at the end of October 2023, when the Commandant experienced a heart attack and was hospitalized, the Corps chose to officially share this news through SgtMaj Ruiz. His belief in the power of social media comes tempered with the understanding that each content creator's motivation will dictate the positive or negative impact of their message.

"On social media today, there are a lot of very serious Marines at all ranks with professional accounts who are trying to mentor. They see a need, and they use these platforms as a way to fill a gap and spread information like steel sharpening

steel. I say, 'yes please! Give me more!' I engage on social media because you can't get to know me or what I think by reading an ALMAR, MARADMIN, or a letter from the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. I can't be everywhere at once, so I try to use social media to

"Imagine having a job where 99 percent of people tell you 'no' every day, and you're just searching for that one 'yes.' All the credit goes to the recruiters. They're the ones working the extra hours and driving the extra miles."

show Marines that it's OK to smile, it's OK to be happy when it's time to be happy, and serious when it's time to be serious, to be transparent as best as I can. What I don't appreciate about social media is when the uniform is used to deliver something motivated by instant

gratification, looking for likes or views. If you could imagine yourself 10 years from today talking about your service and someone pulled up these videos, I want you to do that before you hit post. It may gratify whatever that itch is today, but it doesn't age well. I would ask those Marines with a foothold on social media to just think and use it for good. What do you want to be thought of our brand?"

His views on the importance of transparency are bolstered by his experience as a recruiter early in his career, and the understanding that transparency remains the key ingredient to the Corps success in recruiting. Last fiscal year, the Marine Corps succeeded as the only branch of service, other than the comparatively small Space Force, to achieve its targeted recruiting numbers. This proved a remarkable accomplishment in the current climate and speaks directly to the enormous effort of Marine recruiters. Across the board, they exceeded their target of more than 33,000 non-prior-service enlistments in FY23. The Space Force, by contrast, achieved its recruitment goal of less than 500.

"Imagine having a job where 99 percent of people tell you 'no' every day,



SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz speaks with staff noncommissioned officers from 5th Marine Regiment, 1stMarDiv, at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Feb. 6. During his visit, Ruiz met with SNCOs from 5th Marines to discuss different aspects of improving quality of life.

Right: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz reads the reenlistment warrant for Sgt Oscar Aguilar, a drill instructor with "Fox" Co, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, at MCRD San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 5, 2023.

Below: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz visits Recruiting Sub Station Savannah, Ga., to meet with recruiters and lead them in physical fitness exercises at the unit's monthly poolee function on Nov. 16, 2023. (Photo by Cpl Dakota Dodd, USMC)



LCPL SARAH M. GRAWCOCK, USMC





SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz, then the sergeant major of MARFORRES and MARFORSOUTH, joins Marines from "Fox" Company, 2nd Bn, 24th Marines, 4thMarDiv, during Exercise Gunslinger 22 at Riley, Kan., on June 22, 2022.

CPL RYAN SCHMID, USMC

and you're just searching for that one 'yes.' All the credit goes to the recruiters. They're the ones working the extra hours and driving the extra miles. We recruit and retain at the rate we do because our recruiters are pretty transparent about what we're going to do to you. Somehow, that transparency is rewarded by interest. This is still one of the very few places in America where there is still a rite of passage, and that's attractive. Our part, then, is if we are not who our recruiters say we are; professional, disciplined, lethal; then we cannot recruit."

In addition to recruitment, retention emerged during the interview as another key focus today. Several Talent Management programs within the Force Design structure have cut through red tape, making it easier for Marines to reenlist. Marines with specific skill sets, such as cyber security certificates, can more easily enlist directly into those types of MOSSs. Rules regarding families with both spouses on active duty have changed so that families cannot be split between

separate duty stations unless a General Officer approves the decision. Other checks and gates have been implemented for certain family situations in an effort to keep Marines and their families connected to their support system and to each other.

"The institution will always come first, and some things we won't be able to make perfect for everyone, but we are trying," Ruiz stated. "The point is, it's a signal to

our people that we are making steps to understand their situation."

The Sergeant Major focused on the total force when discussing retention, both active and reserve Marines. He credited his time as the sergeant major of MARFORRES with illuminating the full value of the reserve component and the important role it plays in the overall mission of the Marine Corps. For Marines set on leaving active duty

Cpl Tyler Harmon, a combat photographer with MAG-12, hands his rank insignia to SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz for a meritorious promotion at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, on Sept. 12, 2023.



CPL CHLOE JOHNSON, USMC



Above: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz speaks with a Marine Corps Korean War veteran at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., on Nov. 2, 2023, during a reunion for those who fought at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. (Photo by SSgt Kelsey Dornfeld, USMC)

Right: SgtMaj Carlos Ruiz embraces LCpl Brandon Long, USMC (Ret), at the MCRD Parris Island Marine Corps Birthday Ball, held in Savannah, Ga., on Nov. 18, 2023. Long fought with "Lima" Company, 3rd Bn, 5th Marines, in the Battle of Sangin, Afghanistan, where he was wounded.



CPL DAKOTA DODD, USMC

once their contract is up, career planners are working hard to show them how remaining in uniform with the reserve can benefit them, as well as the Corps.

"From very early on it's a fight for talent to stay, and a fight for where [to stay]," Ruiz said. "It's OK to go active or reserve. Service is service, and I just want access to you when it's time."

In view of the total force, Ruiz included the veteran community, placing immeasurable value on what these Marines add. As the number of active Marines with combat experience dwindles, specifically at the ranks of sergeant and below, Marine veterans increasingly represent the sole source of knowledge and perspective on this all-important topic.

"I need the veteran community," he said. "Not just to stand on the sidelines, but to engage with the active community. I remember as a young sergeant in Sergeant's Course at Twentynine Palms, Colonel Mitchell Paige, Medal of Honor recipient, came to tell us his story. No one in the room was breathing. He spoke about the night and when it was over, the bodies around his machine gun, and I was just in awe. I imagine experiences like that have happened frequently over the last 248 years. The wise leaders will find time to bring in those veterans to

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talk to their Marines. We need it. What we get from them in that 45-minute conversation, we can't duplicate in days of PME.

There's only one of me, but there's a lot of veterans out there who care. I think I owe from my billet a lot more engagement to the veteran community to bring them in, to help them understand the environment of where we are at and what the threat is, and how much we need their help. We are all in it. If you ever wore the uniform of a Marine, it takes all of us to make the Marine Corps who we say we are."

When you hear the Sergeant Major speak in person or through social media, his concern for preserving the Marine Corps way rings genuine. His commitment to individual Marines comes through with a positive and refreshing message. Like Sgt Tukes did for him three decades ago, SgtMaj Ruiz still believes that any Marine can be a powerful influence and help someone else find their way in the Corps.

"This is what I have been trying to get through to the Marine Corps; you don't have to wait until you're older to be excited about being a Marine. You don't have to wait until you're out the service and you start looking back and think, 'this was a good time in my life.' I don't want you to wait until then. I want you to wake up in the morning and make a choice that you can have that impact today."

Author's bio: Kyle Watts is the staff writer for Leatherneck. He served on active duty in the Marine Corps as a communications officer from 2009-2013. He is the 2019 winner of the Colonel Robert Debs Heintz Jr. Award for Marine Corps History. He lives in Richmond, Va., with his wife and three children.

2/2 Machine-Gunners Rescue Drowning Victims While on Predeployment Leave

In a combined ceremony at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 12, 2024, two machine-gunners with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their life-saving actions in rescuing victims from drowning. The incidents occurred separately for each Marine while on predeployment leave.

On the afternoon of July 23, 2023, Sergeant Aidan Blansfield was spending his last day of pre-deployment leave at the beach in North Carolina with his wife and two friends. The surf conditions that day were rougher than usual. While relaxing on the shore, Blansfield noticed a woman floating on the water.

"I remember looking at the situation, and it didn't particularly look like she was in distress," Blansfield said. He then spoke to the swimmer's boyfriend, who was nearby and he said she had been in the water for a while and didn't seem to be able to get back to the beach.

Blansfield immediately took action and headed into the water to aid the woman, who had been swimming on her back to remain afloat. As an experienced swimmer certified in the Marine Corps Water



CPL EDUARDO DELATORRE, USMC

Sgt Aidan Blansfield received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during a ceremony at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 12. Blansfield is a machine-gunner with 2nd Bn, 2nd Marines.

Survival Advanced course, Blansfield navigated the surf and slowly approached the woman. She confirmed she was unable to make it back to shore on her own.

"I extended one arm out to her, which she took, and I began aggressively side stroking towards the beach, swimming across the current," said Blansfield.

Once they reached the shore, Blansfield confirmed that she was not seriously injured.

During the same period of predeployment leave, Corporal Jacob Cogswell returned to his home state of New York. During a boat ride along the Oneida River, Cogswell observed four teens jump from the bridge into the river. Three swam back to shore, but one was swept away by a strong current. The teen struggled to keep his head above water and called for help.

"You could hear it in his voice," said Cogswell, "He was panicking and asking for help, but no one was helping him."

The teen's distress was ignored by other bystanders. However, Cogswell immediately took the initiative and directed the boat closer to the struggling teen.

"As others were talking to him, I kind of just jumped in and went after him," he said.



CPL EDUARDO DELATORRE, USMC

LtCol Andrew Nicholson, right, presents a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Cpl Jacob Cogswell, left, during an award ceremony at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan, on Jan. 12. The ceremony was held to recognize Sgt Aidan Blansfield and Cpl Jacob Cogswell for life-saving acts while on predeployment leave. Like Sgt Blansfield, Cogswell is a machine-gunner with 2/2.

Cogswell's experience and qualification through the Marine Corps water survival training program taught him how to handle the situation. He wrapped the teen's arms around his shoulders, supporting him on his back. Cogswell then swam back to the boat, fighting against the current. Cogswell said the relief he saw on the teen's face kept him going.

Cogswell assisted the teen into the boat as soon as it was within reach, and the group immediately checked him for injuries. Luckily, the teen had no physical injuries and was safely returned to the shore.

The lesson Cogswell hopes Marines learn from this is not to be afraid to act because you never know when it might result in saving someone's life.

"Being a Marine is doing things not for yourself, but for others. Don't be afraid to act, don't hesitate, and go with your instincts."

Blansfield also said he hopes all Marines learn from his experience.

"Don't be afraid to act," he said. "If you know you have the skills and abilities to handle a situation, then, by all means, take action."

Blansfield and Cogswell are both currently forward deployed with 2/2 in the Indo-Pacific under 4th Marine Regiment, 3rdMarDiv, as part of the Unit Deployment Program.

Combined stories by
LCpl Evelyn Doherty, USMC
and Cpl Eduardo Delatorre, USMC

Marine Helps Save Lives After a Lightning Strike

A Marine from Palm Beach County, Fla., helped save 11 people injured by a lightning strike during the Florida International University Disaster Field Operations Course.

Sergeant Neil Howe, a civil affairs specialist with 4th Civil Affairs Group (CAG), Force Headquarters Group, rushed into action when lightning struck a tent pole, injuring the people inside the tent. One of the victims was holding the pole the moment of the strike. Howe was sitting in a 7-ton truck when the lightning struck. He immediately began triaging the wounded, using his training as a paramedic firefighter for Palm Beach County.

"As Reserve Marines, our dual mission sets from our civilian careers and our military training amplify our value in these situations," Howe later said.

Although Howe was one of the first to tend the wounded, others soon arrived and began providing aid. The group's collective efforts helped the injured returned home within 48 hours.



2NDLT SEAN CLOHERTY, USMC

Col Masie Wong, Commanding Officer, 4th Civil Affairs Group, Force Headquarters Group, MARFORRES, and SgtMaj Brian Judkins (center), Command Senior Enlisted Leader, 4th Civil Affairs Group, present a Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Sgt Neil Howe, a civil affairs specialist with the 4th Civil Affairs Group, on Jan. 19.

Howe received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his actions. His swift response and paramedic expertise during the disaster demonstrates the fusion of military and civilian skills the Marine Corps Reserve strive to uphold.

2ndLt Sean Cloherty, USMC

Iraq Veteran, Police Officer Receives Purple Heart Nearly 20 Years Later

Francisco Roman, a Marine Corps veteran of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, who served during the first battle of Fallujah and was subsequently injured in Ramadi in 2005, was awarded the Purple Heart during a ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Jan. 23, 2024.

Roman was wounded by an Improvised Explosive Device while leading Marines in a quick reaction force to support

another squad during a firefight in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

"We were patrolling back to our base, and I noticed that the streets were empty," said Roman, "A mosque started playing the call to prayer. I looked back and told my squad mate that it felt like we were in a movie and the next thing I saw was a bright orange flash."

Roman woke up a few minutes later, stumbled to take cover, and did his best to regroup his squad. He fought through blurry vision and a tingling body to accomplish the sole mission of ensuring his Marines were okay.

"I found my squad and asked them who got hit and they told me that I got hit. I didn't know I got hit."

Roman was not originally awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries but was convinced by his squad mates and wife to advocate for the medal. Marines who served with Roman in Ramadi were more



COURTESY OF FRANCISCO ROMAN

Francisco Roman Jr. (right), a police officer with the San Diego Police Department, and a veteran of 1st Bn, 5th Marines, received a Purple Heart medal at Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Jan. 23. The ceremony honored Roman's sacrifice during his deployment to Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. In 2018, Roman sustained life-threatening injuries in the line of duty while shielding a fellow officer from gunfire (left).

Whitley "He selflessly sacrificed for his country, and he continues to sacrifice for his community."

Roman's service did not end with his time in the Marine Corps. He is now a police officer with the San Diego Police Department, where he heroically saved a fellow officer's life in 2018. Roman was shot three times while placing his body in front of his partner to prevent his partner from receiving further wounds.

"I took a position in front of him just in case, so it would be me to get hit next instead of him getting hit, again," said Roman, "All I could think about was my family and protecting my partner."

Roman was hospitalized and then spent 364 days in rehabilitation. Roman attri-



LCPL MHECAELA J. WATTS, USMC

than happy to write witness statements for him, including his platoon commander who wrote in lieu of Roman's company commander, who had been killed in action. General Eric Smith, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and Roman's battalion commander in Ramadi, personally signed off on the Purple Heart citation and the medal was presented by Colonel Daniel Whitley, the deputy commander of Marine Corps Installations West. Whitley served with Roman in 2008 while on recruiting duty in Peekskill, N.Y.

"Roman lives a life of service," said

butes his survival to training he received while serving in the Marine Corps. He hopes to inspire others to serve and eagerly anticipates any opportunity to help those around him.

"We serve to help people, that's what's most important."

2ndLt Jorin Hollenbeak, USMC



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A Shared Hardball History

Pre-World War II Marines, Japanese Were Friendly Foes on the Diamond

By Kater Miller

In August of 2021, the Japanese national baseball team won the gold medal in the Olympic Games. They defeated the United States 2-0 at Yokohama Stadium, in the same city where Japanese and American baseball teams squared off against each other for the first time more than a century ago. The two countries have a long, shared history of baseball. Because Marines have been stationed across the globe, they found themselves in a position to take part in these international baseball games, which

many people hoped would foster goodwill and promote peace between the two rising superpowers of the early 20th century.

The United States' global influence expanded rapidly on the heels of the Civil War. One of the main exports that followed was baseball, which exploded in popularity domestically during the war. Americans took the game to far-ranging outposts, playing it among themselves to relieve boredom, and planting its seeds in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Japan—all places where baseball is still very popular today.

Major General John A. LeJeune bragged, "Everywhere we go, we leave them baseball." This notion is somewhat true, but the truth is a little more complicated. For instance, Cuba had already had a professional baseball league for two decades by the time the Marines showed up during the Spanish-American War in 1898. In fact, Spain had tried to suppress baseball because it was rivaling bullfighting as the most popular sport on the island. It was American and Canadian missionaries who spread the game well before the U.S. Marines showed up to play.

American businessmen also took the

The Shanghai Race Course was not only where many sporting events took place, it was also a major hub for military activity.





Left: The USS Olympia baseball team was one of the first teams to play against a Japanese team in Yokohama.

Below: This Marine baseball team played in Haiti in the 1920s. Sports like rugby and cricket were very popular pastimes of the inhabitants of foreign settlements before baseball grew in popularity.

COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

game of baseball with them as a recreational pursuit, but for the most part, they had no interest in expanding the game outside of their enclaves. The missionaries wanted to include a form of physical education in their foreign schools and often introduced the sport to local students as a form of exercise. Many believed that they were teaching American-style values to their students, and that would help them to become “civilized.” In China and Japan, baseball would become very popular by the end of the 19th century.

In treaty ports such as Yokohama, foreign athletic clubs catered to European and American members. Rugby, cricket, and baseball were popular pastimes

among the inhabitants of the foreign settlements. The Yokohama Athletic Club, founded in 1868, was initially almost exclusively British. Over time, Americans supplanted the British, and baseball supplanted cricket as the most popular sport played at the club by the late 1880s. According to Donald Roden, author of the article “Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji, Japan, published in *The American Historical Review*, Americans living in Japan used baseball as a way to express their national identity.

Sports clubs in treaty cities restricted access to Japanese athletes. They could not participate in the sporting events, but they were hired to maintain the grounds

Team captains of Waseda University's baseball team and the Quantico Marines team gather for a photo op before their 1927 game. Waseda played many games against the Marine Corps from 1910 to 1933.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

on which the games were played. Despite the prohibition, a Japanese baseball team from Ichiko University challenged the American baseball team in Yokohama in 1891, but the Americans declined. Undeterred, the Ichiko side continued to challenge the Americans. Because of the restrictions, the Americans declined for nearly five years before finally relenting. They agreed to play, and the May 23, 1896, game was a lopsided and embarrassing defeat for the Americans. The students of Ichiko trounced the Americans 29-4. On June 5, the Americans agreed to another game, hoping to avenge the loss. The team bolstered their roster by using extra players from the U.S. Navy vessels in Yokohama Harbor. These efforts did not achieve their desired results, and the Americans suffered a similar humiliation, suffering a 32-9 defeat. A third game eventually went the Americans' way after they pulled more ringers off of the newly arrived USS *Olympia*, according to Roden.

At this point, baseball's popularity exploded in Japan. Roden recognized that Americans in Yokohama played baseball to maintain their identity as Americans, viewing it as a rugged, in-



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

MajGen John A. Lejeune, right, and Japanese Ambassador Tsuneo Matsudaira, center, attended the 1927 baseball game in Quantico, Va., between the Marines and Waseda University. The game would later be considered one of the most high-profile games ever played between Japan and the Marine Corps team.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

The July 1940 issue of *The Tientsin Marine* featured coverage of the last baseball game played between the Marines and Japan. The games would not resume until the end of World War II.

dividualist sport, while the Japanese players found that baseball aligned with their collectivist ideals. They felt the team sport was better suited to underpin collectivism than individual sports like judo. Baseball took on whatever ideal the players needed it to take. Americans saw their turn at the plate as an expression of their independent nature, as man-to-man combat. Japanese players saw their turn at the plate as an opportunity to sacrifice themselves for the good of the team.

Japan, like America, started an age of expansion towards the end of the 19th century. When the Japanese Navy crushed the Russian Navy in the 1905 Battle of Tsushima, the western powers took notice. The Japanese victory in the Russo-Japanese war changed the military dynamic in Asia, and the United States began to view Japan as a potential adversary. Both nations wanted to keep a foothold in the Pacific Ocean, securing islands to use as bases to re-coal their fleets. War with Japan seemed like a very real possibility after Japan's annihilation of the Russian fleet.

Because baseball had become so popular in Japan, both the United States and Japan thought that college and all-star

tours of each other's countries would foster a sense of goodwill and enhance the chance for peace. Baseball seemed like a good way for the countries' young men to meet, compete peaceably and foster good diplomatic relationships. These tours started in 1905, when Waseda University's baseball team toured the United States and lasted through the 1930s. The most notable of these was the 1934 American all-star tour of Japan, which featured superstars like Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth.

Marines also played baseball against Japanese teams nearly until the United States entered World War II. In 1910, Waseda University played a series of 24 games in Hawaii against local civilian teams, U.S. Army teams, a U.S. Navy team and the Marines. Waseda won 11 of their games, including two games out of three against the Marines. This would be the first of many games between Waseda and the Marines over the next 23 years, the most high profile of which was a 1927 game in Quantico, Va., with Japanese Ambassador Tsuneo Matsudaira and Commandant John A. Lejeune in attendance.

Waseda University was a frequent op-

ponent of the Marines in China as well. It was in China that the Marines and Japanese teams faced off against each other the most often. Both countries enjoyed equal footing in the international settlements in the Chinese concessions, and both countries used baseball as an opportunity to exhibit national pride.

There were two areas of China where Marines regularly played sports. The first was in North China and included the cities of Peking and Tientsin. The Marines of the Legation Guard joined the North China League, a baseball league composed of the American and Japanese businessmen of the foreign settlements in those cities, and the 15th Infantry, a U.S. Army unit in Tientsin. Occasionally, the teams of visiting U.S. Navy ships joined in. The earliest games were in the 1910s, and they continued until the onset of WW II.

The second area was Shanghai. In 1927, a civil war in China was about to erupt. The Marines sent the 3rd Brigade, under the command of then-Brigadier General Smedley Butler, to Tientsin and Shanghai to protect the international settlements there. Much of the brigade went to Tientsin, and they formed a base-



A view of the Shanghai Race Course baseball diamond. The facility was so well-maintained that the diamond was considered to be one of the best in the world.

COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

ball team that joined the North China League.

The 4th Marines went to Shanghai and stayed there until 1941. They found that the city was rife with sporting competitions, including polo, soccer, rugby, tennis, bowling and baseball leagues. The American and British civilian population living in the international settlement made dozens of sports fields. The city boasted five YMCAs, one of which catered exclusively to the U.S. military personnel. There were several baseball fields in Shanghai but the most well-kept was at the Shanghai Race Course. The race course itself tended to be a major hub of sports and military activity. Since the 4th Marines' billeting was dispersed through the city, the track's infield was a place they could drill and pass in review. The facilities included a grandstand,

a baseball diamond, tennis courts, cricket pitches, several soccer and rugby pitches, and tees and greens to play golf shoe-horned in between everything else. Chinese laborers meticulously maintained the race course; its baseball diamond was one of the best in the world.

Shanghai's thriving sports atmosphere benefited the Marines' physical conditioning, but some commanders did not see it that way. One Marine officer lamented the fact that duty in the city was making his troops soft—the infrastructure did not allow the Marines to practice field problems, and they had to perform forced marches through the city streets early in the morning before commuters choked them off. Marines drilled and paraded through the well-maintained infield of the Shanghai Race Course and the Columbia Country Club, some of the only training

spaces available to them. The commander wanted his units to rotate through the Philippines, where they could do proper military activities in a harsh environment to toughen up.

Due to the lack of regular military training, the 4th Marines in Shanghai were a perennial baseball powerhouse playing through the Shanghai baseball matrix. The teams in the league generally consisted of civilian businessmen and government officials called the Amateurs and U.S. Sailors anchored on the Man of War Row on the Huangpu River or the Yangtze River Patrol. Some years, the 4th Marines fielded a regiment-wide team. Other years, each battalion and the headquarters fielded their own teams. And some years included Japanese and Chinese civilians. The league was quite multinational.

The Peking Marines unsuccessfully



Battleships of several international naval forces were docked in the Huangpu River in Shanghai.



Broom Hockey Champs. — "D" CO.

Other sports, like broom hockey, were played by the Marines in Shanghai.



A Marine Corps rugby team photo taken in Shanghai, circa 1930.



COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

attempted a goodwill tour of Japan in 1925. In 1930, the 4th Marines managed to tour the country, where they were welcomed by throngs of cheering fans. They played 14 games against college and corporate teams and won 10 of them. *Leatherneck* published an account of the tour in January 1931. The 4th Marines failed in an attempt to tour the country again the following year.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Japanese colleges and high schools toured China, playing games against Japanese and American baseball teams. Year after year, the Marines played against touring Japa-

nese universities like Waseda, Keio, Meiji, Tokyo, the Saga Commercial School, and others. The visiting Japanese students usually gave the Marine teams a tough time. They used Japanese baseballs (slightly smaller than American ones), hired local Japanese umpires, and let the Japanese team set the ground rules. They usually played at the Hongkew Park diamond, which was in the Japanese defense sector of Shanghai. The games had an air of mutual respect and cordiality. Marines in China talked every year of how exciting the visiting colleges were because of their remarkable style of play.

In July 1936, the Golden Dolphins, one of Japan's first professional baseball teams, traveled to Shanghai to play baseball. They planned to play the 4th Marines, American civilians and the Japanese civilian baseball teams in a best two-out-of-three style tournament. They handily defeated each team in succession and won without the need to play the third game. The Americans made an all-star team of Marines and civilians, which the Golden Dolphins beat as well. The *North China Herald* reported that the professional side was going to travel to Tientsin to play another game against the Marines there, but no record of that game was reported in the English newspapers of China.

The Meiji University team visited in the summer of 1937 and beat the Marines twice, the American civilians twice, and the local Japanese civilians once. They then beat an all-star team of Marines and civilians 10-0. The visiting team sent a letter of appreciation to the Marines for the spirit of their play, which they published in the July 31, 1937, edition of *Walla Walla*. The visit from Meiji was one of the last times Japanese universities sent teams on tours to China, because the Second Sino-Japanese War began to erupt through the country.

Not for the first time that decade, Marines watched firsthand as China and Japan edged closer to war. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria, and hostility between the two nations boiled over. In late January 1932 the Japanese military stationed in Shanghai attacked Chinese army units in the district of Chapei. Marines took defensive positions along the Soochow Creek, which separated their defense sector from Chapei. They watched as Japan burned the district in the two-month-long battle. A Japanese bomber, operating from an aircraft carrier off the Chinese coast, bombed a cotton mill, injuring a few Marines who were billeted there.

The Japanese attack on Chapei ended in March. Though many of the Marines felt

Marines witnessed Japanese military forces in Shanghai burn down the Chinese neighborhood of Chapei in 1932.



COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Below: The May 1936 cover of *Walla Walla* magazine celebrated the return of the baseball season. Despite the conflict between China and Japan, Marines still played against Japanese college teams. (Courtesy of Marine Corps History Division)



uneasy watching the battle, it did not deter the baseball season, and that summer at least two Japanese college teams visited. Those were the Saga Higher Community College and Ritsumeikan College. The 1932 Shanghai league included a team of Japanese businessmen and a U.S. Army team from the 31st Infantry Regiment, which deployed to the city during the crisis to reinforce the Marines.

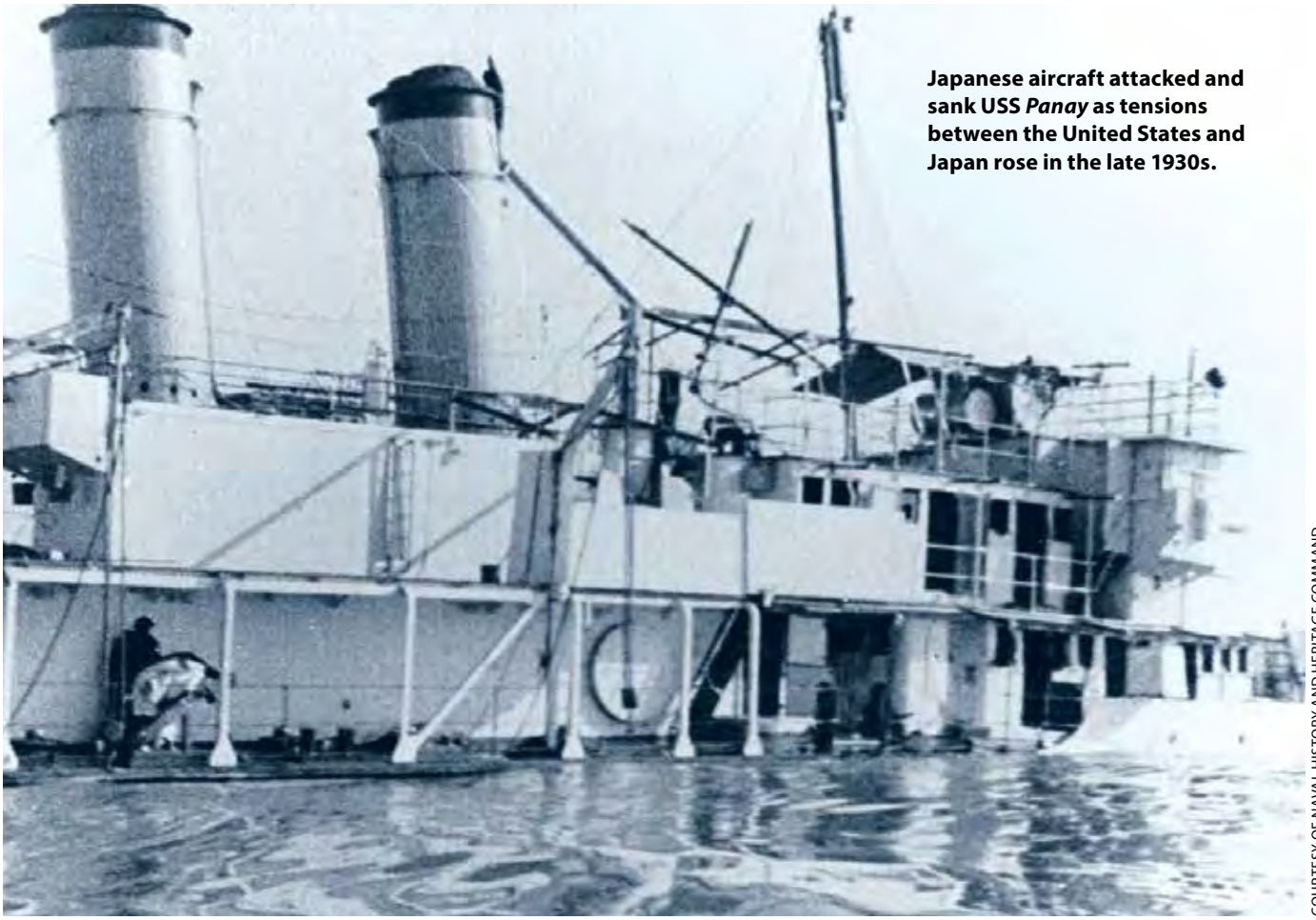
But in late summer of 1937, Japan took a more aggressive posture in China. Fighting once again erupted in Shanghai, and the Japanese fought to drive the Chinese military away from the city. In October, the *North China Star* reported that a Golden Dolphin pitcher who the previous year had embarrassed the teams of Shanghai, identified only as “Matsumoto,” joined the Japanese Army and was sent back to China, where he was killed in action.

Relations between the Japanese and American governments rapidly unraveled. The Marines were ordered to keep the armed non-American units out of their sector by any means necessary. After several months of intense fighting, the Japanese succeeded in expelling the Chinese fighting forces from Shanghai and acted more belligerently toward the other countries of the

international settlement. They attempted to bring armed troops into the American defense sector, where Marines resisted their ploys to conduct armed patrols there. In December 1937, the Japanese bombed the USS *Panay* (PR-5), of the Yangtze River Patrol. The bombing killed three U.S. Sailors and wounded dozens more. President Franklin D. Roosevelt considered a military reprisal against Japan, but the isolationist stance of the United States pervaded. Eventually, the Japanese government apologized and paid for the damage done to the ship.

After the fighting of the previous year, the 1938 Shanghai baseball league consisted of three Marine teams and one team of American amateurs. Gone was the cooperative atmosphere from earlier years. The Second Sino-Japanese war raged through the country, and it looked like war was imminent in Europe. The foreign military contingents evacuated Shanghai, leaving the Marines in an increasingly vulnerable position. The baseball league in Shanghai survived through the 1941 season, but only American teams entered the competition in the final three years.

International baseball lasted a little longer in Peking and Tientsin. Between 1929 and 1938, the only Marine Corps



Japanese aircraft attacked and sank USS *Panay* as tensions between the United States and Japan rose in the late 1930s.

COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

team in North China was the one put together by the Legation Guard. In 1938, the 15th Infantry left Tienstin, and the Marines took over their compound. They fielded a second team, used the 15th Infantry's Can Do Field and joined the North China League.

In 1939, Marines faced off against a baseball team from the Japanese Embassy,

winning 6-4. In the summer of 1940, the Marines played one final baseball game against a Japanese military team. They used a rubber baseball, as the leather-covered baseballs were becoming hard for the Japanese government to supply. The Japanese team beat the Marines 14-1, but in consolation, the Marines were treated to libations at the Japanese club after the

game. The camaraderie of the baseball teams in 1940s China was one of the last times the two countries would be on good terms until well after WW II. At least three of the Marines who played in the final July game later ended up as prisoners of war.

During WW II, the sport endured domestically—America always has baseball. Japan was forced to withdraw from the sport until their eventual surrender. Baseball returned to the Japanese populace after the war as a way to regain normalcy. It seems fitting that the two nations are still facing off—and that Japan won its gold-medal game in Yokohama, where the games between the two countries began.

Author's bio: Kater Miller is a curator at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and has been working at the museum for 12 years. He served in the Marine Corps from 2001-2005 as an aviation ordnanceman. 🇺🇸

Left: A screenshot from a film of a post-war game played between Marines and a Japanese military team in occupied China. Japan withdrew from the sport until its surrender at the end of World War II.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA MOVING IMAGE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

“Full Metal Modine” Photo Exhibit Opens at National Museum Of the Marine Corps

“Full Metal Modine” is a photographic exhibition of images captured by actor Matthew Modine during the filming of the 1987 movie “Full Metal Jacket.” It will be on display at the National Museum of the Marine Corps through September 2025. This temporary exhibition is a glimpse into the making of a war film that is often said to transcend time while also giving the viewer an inside look at the brilliance of the film’s director, Stanley Kubrick.

The exhibition includes dozens of images captured during the filming of the movie and then printed on metal. Modine, who played war correspondent Private Joker in the movie, captured the black-and-white images on a Rolleiflex camera that was given to him by a friend. While Kubrick seldom allowed photography on set, his response upon seeing Modine with the Rolleiflex was “Listen, if you’re going to take pictures on my set, this is the camera you need to get,” according to Modine.

“He told me about a state-of-the-art 35mm camera and which lens I should get,” Modine said. “He even told me what kind of camera bag to purchase. The important part of this story is that he said, ‘If you’re going to take pictures on my

set.’ That was something unheard of. And I took full advantage of that invitation.”

Modine said he thought keeping a photographic and written diary would be a beneficial opportunity for his preparation as a war correspondent in the film. Now the images mean even more to him. “I can look back at those days as being part of another person’s life, this young kid who went on a journey to work with the legendary filmmaker, Stanley Kubrick,” Modine said.

While “Full Metal Jacket” doesn’t necessarily reflect Marine Corps values, it nonetheless inspired some to join the Corps and has become a cult classic. It is a Vietnam War/controversy-inspired fictional movie, not a documentary.

The film is representative of the challenging, somewhat spiritual, and often personally conflicting journey associated with becoming a Marine and serving in the Marine Corps, specifically in combat.

Modine made the images available to the museum for display and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation paid to have them printed on metal and framed. This exhibition is a rare opportunity to see filmmaking and the Corps through a different lens.

Gwenn Adams

National Museum of the Marine Corps

Scholarship Program for Military Spouses and Caregivers Announces Spring 2024 Recipients

Hope for the Warriors, a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the foundation of stability, strength, and community for post-9/11 veterans, servicemembers, and military families, recently awarded 18 military spouse and caregiver scholarships for higher education for the spring 2024 semester. Two of the scholarship recipients were Marine spouses.

Candace Mulhauser, the spouse of a Marine Corps veteran based in Mesa, Ariz., is a two-time recipient of the Restoring Self Scholarship. Mulhauser is currently enrolled at Arizona State University pursuing a bachelor’s degree in engineering with a concentration in human systems. “The Restoring Self Scholarship has been a transformative force in my academic journey, providing me with the financial opportunity to focus on my studies without the burden of financial stress on my family. This support has not only enabled me to excel in my undergraduate studies, but it has also paved the way for me to graduate summa cum laude in May 2024,” said Mulhauser.

As the first in her family to obtain a bachelor’s degree, Mulhauser aims to



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

eventually earn her master's degree and work within the Department of Defense developing technology tailored to the unique needs of military life. "I am excited to continue my academic pursuit, aiming for a master's degree in human systems engineering. The scholarship has truly been a catalyst for my success, and I am grateful for the opportunities it has provided."

Veronica Wiscowiche based in Victorville, Calif., received the Restoring Family Scholarship for spouses of the fallen. Her husband, Marine Lance Corporal William Wiscowiche, was killed by an IED explosion in March 2004 while serving overseas during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

She currently attends Ashford University and is working on her master's degree in human resource management. She plans to obtain a certification from the Society of Human Resource Management. Wiscowiche said she is very passionate about diversity, inclusion, compensations and benefits, and accommodations for employees with disabilities.

"Being the recipient [Restoring Family Scholarship] is an honor, and I feel very blessed, as this helps when I need it most," said Wiscowiche. "Unfortunately, my benefits will be ending come March due to the amount of time that has gone by

from my husband's passing. I appreciate the opportunity to continue my education and utilize all the opportunities and connections that my husband's sacrifice has provided."

Since 2006, Hope for the Warriors has awarded military spouses and caregivers with scholarships twice a year. The pro-



gram recognizes and rewards post-9/11 spouses and caregivers for their strength, fidelity and resolve despite adversity as they assume critical roles in the financial well-being of their families. Scholarships vary from \$1,800 to \$2,500 and are applied toward higher education at an accredited U.S. university, college or trade school. Unique to the program is a scholarship for a Ph.D., or Master of social work or counseling psychology students, called Restoring Hope.

"It's heartwarming to see this program continue to grow each year," said Robin Kelleher, co-founder, and president of Hope for the Warriors. "From the rise

in applications for scholarship to donor support, we know this scholarship program is life changing for these military spouses and caregivers."

Three scholarships were funded through the Jerry Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund for multiple semesters as a gift from Fred and Maria Jose Wright with the goal of allowing recipients to achieve their educational goals without interruption. These include the Restoring Family Scholarship (bachelor's degree) and the Restoring Self Scholarship which awards \$2,500 each, and the New Beginning Scholarship (for associate and entry level classes or training) which awards \$1,800.

Additionally, the Riding for Warriors Scholarship Fund, sponsored by Hillmann Consulting, LLC, and Michael Nehlsen, awards \$2,500 each semester to the recipient of the Restoring Self Scholarship and \$1,800 to the recipient of the New Beginning Scholarship.

Since its inception, Hope for the Warriors has granted 249 military spouse and caregiver scholarships, totaling \$641,607. The 2024 fall scholarship application is open from March 1-April 30. To receive an application to apply and connect for services, visit hopeforthewarriors.org.

Hope for the Warriors



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Leaders and Changemakers At Home and Across the Corps

By Silha Bess and Krista Ickles

In recognition of National Volunteer Month, *Leatherneck* is highlighting efforts of spouse-led initiatives across the Marine Corps. From organizing in-person events to providing virtual support, Marine Corps spouses are finding ways to come together to influence positive changes in their communities. Join us in celebrating the following spouse-led initiatives that

are making a difference through education, advocacy, outreach and community building.

Authors' bios: Silha Bess is the professional leaders conference coordinator for MCA.

Krista Ickles is the coordinator of spouse programs for MCA.

Leadership Education Seminars—LES enriches the military spouse community through leadership development. Currently, seminars are open in Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton, Hawaii, Twentynine Palms, Okinawa and Iwakuni. According to Berlinda Castillo, president of Camp Lejeune Leadership Seminar, the seminar has been vital in developing and fostering servant leaders since 2018. “CLLS is led by a team of volunteers looking to provide leadership education, training, skills and confidence necessary to assume leadership positions within their communities,” Castillo said.



USMC PCS Advocacy Council—This group is made up of spouses partnering with HQMC, Installations and Logistics (I&L), to advocate for positive PCS policy changes for all Marine Corps families. “The USMC PCS Advocacy Council (UPAC) is a team of all-volunteer Marine Corps spouses stationed around the globe who work to identify trends and advocate on behalf of Marine Corps families to reduce the negative impacts of a PCS,” said Amanda Watkins, the HQ lead advocate. “Our successes in advocacy are directly attributed to our continued partnership and support by HQMC I&L Department.”

Military Spouse Association—The Military Spouse Association of Camp Pendleton volunteered over 1,500 hours last year and disbursed \$73,100 through impactful scholarships and grants to strengthen support for military families. “These grants played a crucial role in addressing diverse needs such as food security, mental well-being, childcare, educational programs, financial crisis assistance and overall family welfare,” said club president Marybeth Wiener. “Deeply valuing the support the military receives, the association is propelled by a strong passion and commitment to give back to both their community and supporters.”



Spouses Kickball Corps—Get fit and have fun while building community! Jessica Branch and Spouses Kickball Corps president Abbra Andrews said the following about the group activity: “In a lifestyle where the military spouse is often left in the supporting role, Spouses Kickball Corps (SKC) provides female spouses the unique ability to have something for themselves by promoting camaraderie within their respective unit-based team, across their base in competition with other teams, and in their community by offering charitable opportunities and local outreach. Spanning across six installations, including a few that are overseas, the league also aids in smoother transitions when ladies PCS by fostering immediate connectivity and support within the community of the league.”

Molly Pitcher—This yearly event in the artillery spouse community celebrates the spirit of Molly Pitcher by recognizing extraordinary volunteer support to the field artillery. “Anyone who supports their field artillery Marine is a Molly Pitcher,” said Krista Ickles, Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher award recipient. “Molly Pitcher events are a great time for the spouse community to come together and celebrate each other and our community! We make this community what it is with the service and sacrifice we offer!”





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CHRIS BOYER

Desert Storm Artillerymen Reunite

Operation Desert Storm veterans from Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines recently held a reunion in Washington, D.C. As part of its December 2023 visit, the group toured the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. The museum was the best part of the trip, according to Marine veteran Chris Boyer, an ammunitions specialist for the M198 Howitzers that were fired in the January 1991 operation.

"Hands down the highlight was by far the museum trip where the staff took extra care to make us feel special," said the Colorado resident. "I wish that there had been more time to chat with them as

they are such good people [that are] very dedicated to preserving the history of our beloved Corps."

Boyer said he plans on going back with several of his Fox Co Marines after the new section of the museum is completed.

"Being together again left no doubt that the bonds created in battle will last for our entire lives and that you can take the Marine out of the Corps, but you will never take the Corps out of the Marine!" Boyer said.

Kipp Hanley

Winston-Salem, N.C.



COURTESY OF WARREN BOYER



COURTESY OF WARREN BOYER

MCL Detachment Holds Record-Setting Toys for Tots Campaign

On Oct. 1, 2023, the Toys for Tots campaign in Forsyth County, N.C., began operations. When the campaign ended on Christmas Eve, 93,747 toys had been distributed to 37,229 children in the Forsyth County area—a 20% increase from 2022.

Staff members and other volunteers from the Percy John Fulton Detachment No. 1075 of the Marine Corps League helped receive, sort and organize the toys. Special thanks to the Forsyth County

Sheriff's Office and Winston-Salem Police Department for their assistance in the distribution.

This year's TFT program was a resounding success because of the many organizations and hundreds of people that purchased and placed toys in the many Toys for Tots boxes placed around the Forsyth County area.

Submitted by: Warren Boyer

Camp Pendleton, Calif.



CPL MARY JENNI, USMC

Honoring Heroes from Camp Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services Department

On the afternoon of June 14, 2023, the direct actions of six members of the Camp Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services Department saved the life of Declan Henson, a military dependent. In January, Henson presented the Marine Corps Installation Command Lifesaver award to these same firefighters.

Henson suffered a life-threatening injury after wrecking his bicycle on base. Due to the rapid response of the Camp Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services Department, paramedics, early air ambulance notification and lifesaving intervention, the life of the child was saved.

Firefighter paramedic Matthew Calton was one of the first responders on the scene. He and his partner actively went over a plan en route to the call, discussing if they needed to transport the patient to the nearest hospital or trauma center or if they needed to call a helicopter for support. Because of their dedicated



CPL MARY JENNI, USMC

professionalism and quick decision making, they were able to efficiently render the appropriate care.

"A continued dedication to our EMS craft is embedded in the character of each firefighter that volunteers to be a 911 responder for others. We put our personal lives on hold for 24 hours a day to be here for each member, Marine, Sailor, their dependent or supporting civilian on the installation," said Jerry Bowling, the fire chief of Camp Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services.

Also reflected in the smiling faces of the family is the gratitude for another day with their son.

"I don't have any kids myself, but on that day, that little dude was my kid," said Calton. "It's nice for our department to receive recognition for what we do day in and day out, but the best feeling is knowing that when you get an award like this, it means someone is alive and doing well because of the team effort we as a department have put in."

Cpl Mary Jenni, USMC

"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: *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to leatherneck@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos. 🦁

Revolutionary or Redcoat?

“Campaign 1776” Allows History Buffs To Fight for Freedom or for England

By William J. Treuting

Wargame Design Studio’s “Campaign 1776” personal computer game allows players to fight the major battles and skirmishes of the American Revolution—from Lexington and Concord to the Siege of Yorktown and a wide variety of alternate-history scenarios.

Fought throughout the eastern regions of North America, the battles of the American Revolution offer wargamers a unique variety of scenarios that will put them to the test. Many engagements are fought in remote areas of the American wilderness, with limited lines of communication and blocked lines of sight, forcing players to decide early on how to conduct their battles, leaving little room for error. The parity between the British and American forces is quite stark. Generally, the British armies will be of higher quality with superior officers, weapons and supplies. To compound these advantages, in many scenarios, the British will have numerical superiority over the Americans. Conversely, the American armies are generally smaller and suffer from deficiencies in troop quality, weapons and supplies; however, their advantage comes from the fact that they are generally fighting on the defensive in many scenarios and usually have greater numbers in their offensive battles. While few and far between, the Americans also have greater access to rifled units—which can offer a tactical edge if applied appropriately. Considering the size and scope of the American Revolution, “Campaign 1776” lends itself to wargamers interested in exercising their skills at the tactical level of war.

For wargamers interested in fighting guerrilla warfare, the Battle Road scenario pits the British regulars against a disparate band of dozens of American mili-

tia companies in a 72-turn brawl on the road between Lexington and Concord. The British force consists of 848 grenadiers and infantrymen who must escort their supply wagons from the outskirts of Concord past Lexington toward Boston. They are well-armed and of superb quality. Opposing them are 1,807 American militiamen from a variety of militia companies. They are of exceedingly poor quality and are ill-equipped compared to their British counterpart, but have a numerical advantage of over two to one.

In this classic setup of professional military versus local militias, each side will have to play to their advantage to win. To succeed, the British must keep moving while fighting an active rearguard and avoid being bogged down in one

location. They must use their superior infantrymen to push aside any road-block—or else risk being slowed down and surrounded—and make sure to maintain ranks as any unit that gets separated from the main column will likely be swarmed and annihilated. For the Americans, the key to victory will be to stall the British at every turn. Although the Americans outnumber the British, it takes roughly half the scenario before all the American forces arrive on the field, whereas the British start the game with all forces available. By using hit-and-run and swarming tactics, the Americans can offset the qualitative advantage of the British troops by forcing them to fight on ground not of their choosing. By wearing down the enemy over time, the

Americans can begin to unravel the British formations and gobble up isolated units. Regardless, this scenario is a challenge for either opponent and offers the ability to apply both guerrilla and counter-guerrilla tactics.

As with any game from Wargame Design Studio, it would benefit wargamers to play through historical scenarios when studying the conflicts; however, the alternate-history scenarios allow players to fight in free-play battles unbounded by the constraints of history. Two scenarios in particular provide great opportunities

with relative force-on-force parity: Independence Day and The Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778. The former scenario starts with each army arrayed in column on the map—based on the Battle of Germantown—in full strength, with each side containing roughly 20,000 men. The large map offers a wide variety of geography with multiple lines of communication, allowing for a variety of gameplay options. The latter scenario, The Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, is based on the Battle of Monmouth and features two armies of roughly equal



Considering the size and scope of the American Revolution, “Campaign 1776” lends itself to wargamers interested in exercising their skills at the tactical level of war.



Screenshots (above, right) from the Wargame Design Studio game "Campaign 1776."

parity fighting for 80 turns on a large map with the majority of forces arriving from an off-map position. With roads, forests and streams dividing the map into roughly three sections, players will have to carefully reconnaissance the area to determine where to best position their supporting and main efforts. Both scenarios allow wargamers to fight a peer enemy on a map that is neither conducive to, nor hinders the offense or defense. Victory will be dependent on skill alone.

Wargamers interested in fighting a free-play siege scenario will enjoy The Siege of Yorktown, September 29-October 19, 1781. Lasting 370 turns, this scenario is the longest of the "Campaign 1776" series and is also one of the largest maps in the game. The length of the scenario is crucial for replicating siege warfare as it puts the onus on the defender to ration their ammunition while the attacker has time to maneuver their forces and launch several coordinated assaults to chip away at the enemy's defenses. The British player will have a total strength of 5,557 men compared to 5,293 American troops supported by 6,578 French soldiers. While the British troops are of excellent quality, they are outnumbered over two to one by the American and French who possess troops of average quality.

Beginning on the morning of Aug. 31, 1781, the game begins with Cornwallis' British army arriving off the map to



drive off the few militiamen holding Yorktown. With American and French forces not arriving until the next day, the British player has time to array defenses as they see fit. Should they choose, they can occupy the historical defensive line, construct their own, or even plan an assault to try and defeat the French and American armies in detail. Still, being heavily outnumbered, the British can ill afford to make a critical mistake. Alternately, the American and French forces must contend with fighting offensively against an enemy that holds a significant geographic advantage. To the west, a series of swamps and streams will limit any offensive capabilities while to the east they must traverse over open ground with little cover. To beat the British will require careful probing and scouting to determine the

gaps and surfaces of the enemy defenses. Ultimately, this scenario will test both players' patience and resolve when conducting 18th-century siege warfare.

With a focus on smaller, tactical engagements, "Campaign 1776" is a great series for newer wargamers trying to get in their "reps and sets" as well as those looking for a companion game on their studies of the American Revolution. With an array of historical and alternate-history scenarios on reasonably sized maps, wargamers have an opportunity to fight among the most foundational battles in American military history.

Author's bio: William Treuting is a historian, associate editor for Marine Corps Gazette, cohost of the MCA podcast, "Scuttlebutt" and the director of MCA Films.

3rd MAW Identifies Marines Killed In CH-53E Crash

Five Marines died as the result of a crash of a CH-53E helicopter on Feb. 6. Lance Corporal Donovan Davis, Sergeant Alec Langen, Captain Benjamin Moulton, Capt Jack Casey and Capt Miguel Nava were assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, Calif. At the time of the mishap, the CH-53E and crew were conducting a routine training flight from Creech Air Force Base to MCAS Miramar when the aircraft was reported overdue.

The aircraft was located by civil authorities in Pine Valley, Calif., on Feb. 7. The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing managed search and rescue efforts through the Wing Operations Command Center using ground and aviation assets to locate the crew in coordination with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and multiple federal, state, and local agencies. The mishap is currently under investigation.

LCpl Donovan Davis, 21, of Olathe, Kan., was a CH-53E helicopter crew chief. He enlisted in 2019, and was recently promoted to lance corporal. His decorations include Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Sgt Alec Langen, 23, of Chandler Ariz., was a CH-53E helicopter crew chief. He enlisted on Sept. 14, 2017, and was promoted to sergeant on Oct. 1, 2022. His decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.

Capt Benjamin Moulton, 27, of Emmett, Idaho, was a CH-53E helicopter pilot. He was commissioned in 2019 and was promoted to captain on Aug. 1, 2023. His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal.

Capt Jack Casey, 26, of Dover, N.H., was a CH-53E helicopter pilot. He was commissioned in 2019, and was promoted to captain on Sept. 1, 2023. His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal.

Capt Miguel Nava, 28, of Traverse City, Mich., was a CH-53E helicopter pilot. He was commissioned in 2017, and was promoted to captain on Nov. 1,

2021. His decorations include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

"We have been confronted with a tragedy that is every service family's worst fear," said Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas J. Harvey, the commanding officer of HMH-361. "Our top priority now is supporting the families of our fallen heroes, and we ask for your respect and understanding as they grieve. The 'Flying Tigers' family stands strong and includes the friends and community who have supported our squadron during this challenging time. We will get through his together."

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

Sgt Earl W. Fowler

Sergeant Earl W. Fowler, who was the recipient of the Navy Cross for his actions while serving as a squad leader with Company C, 1st Bn, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division while in action against the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam, died Dec. 29, 2023, in Albuquerque, N.M. He was 80.

On March 28, 1966, while participating in Operation Indiana, then-Corporal Fowler's platoon was engaged in an assault on a hostile village in Quan Ngai Province. The intense volume of enemy machine-gun and automatic-weapons fire soon inflicted heavy Marine casualties and halted the advance of the two attacking squadrons. According to his Navy Cross citation, Corporal Fowler "skillfully deployed his squad to provide covering fire and, with complete disregard for his own safety, courageously moved across an open field where three wounded Marines lay helpless only about 10 yards from a Viet Cong machine-gun bunker." He was knocked down by a barrage of enemy concussion grenades, but he picked himself up and fired back at the enemy with an M-79, killing and wounding several others, forcing the enemy to temporarily retreat.

As he was administering medical aid to wounded Marines, the VC returned, but Fowler "drove them back, killing two with his pistol at a distance of 5 feet. After helping to carry the wounded men to a covered position, he replenished his supply of ammunition and recrossed the fire-torn field, directing covering fire while other casualties were withdrawn." He was wounded during the battle but stayed with his squadron through the

night to help defend the perimeter.

After returning to civilian life, Fowler was a member of the "Jerry" Murphy Marine Corps League detachment in Albuquerque, N.M., and later wrote a book titled "The Long Journey Home: A Treatise on the Effects of PTSD on the Combat Veteran and Their Loved Ones." His other awards include the Purple Heart.

Briesa Koch

GySgt William M. Allen, 89, of Boise, Idaho. He was a Marine who served overseas during the Korean and Vietnam War. During his Marine Corps career, he also served as a recruiter in Oregon and Idaho. He was a member of the MCA.

Jack Burke Jr., 100, in Houston Texas. He was a Marine who served from 1942 to 1946 at MCAS Miramar where he taught self-defense classes to Marines preparing to fight overseas. After the war, he became a world-class golf champion. In addition to his Masters' victory in 1956, Burke Jr. won the PGA Championship that same year. He recorded 17 PGA Tour victories and played on multiple Ryder Cup teams. After his playing days were over, he became one of the most well-respected golf teachers in the nation, mentoring the likes of 1995 PGA Championship winner Steve Elkington and multiple major championship winner Phil Mickelson. He also co-founded the Champions Golf Club in Houston, Texas, the site of several of golf's majors over the years. Burke was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2010. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living Masters champion.

John Chappell, 98, of Columbia, S.C. He enlisted at age 18 after his graduation from high school. During WW II he served in the Pacific and was assigned to 1st Bn, 26th Marines, 5thMarDiv, and saw action during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Victor R. Frei, 99, of Santa Clara, Utah. He was a Marine who served in the Pacific during World War II.

Col Thomas G. Furlong, 78 of Gorham, Maine. After graduating from Providence College in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in economics, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He attended The Basic School before serving a tour in Con Thien, Vietnam in 1967. During his 20 years on active duty, he had assignments in Washington, D.C.,

and in Weymouth, Mass. After retiring from the Corps, he worked in the transportation industry.

Sgt John W. Hall, 79 of Wilmington, N.C. He served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He later worked in law enforcement for 10 years and had a 32-year career with AT&T.

Jack Lowe, 17, of Flowery Branch, Ga. He was a member of the Young Marines program and was officially granted the title of honorary Marine by the Marine Corps on Nov. 1, 2023. The title is a rare honor given to civilians with extraordinary contributions and ties to the Corps. BGen Walker Field, Commanding General, MCRD Parris Island, S.C., came to Lowe's home to give him the title. After receiving the title, Lowe attended a Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by the Marine Forces Reserve Combat Logistics Regiment 45 in Atlanta, Ga.

(Executive Editor's note: In the March issue of the magazine's Corps Connections department, we published photos of Jack Lowe's Honorary Marine presentation ceremony. At the time he received this honor, he was terminally ill. Sadly, he died just as we were going to press with the March issue. Leatherneck offers our condolences to the Lowe family.)

Lloyd H. Pinchart, 96, of Algoma,

Wis. He enlisted in 1952 during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge in 1954, he continued his work at Algoma Hardwoods, where he would remain until retiring in 1990. He also volunteered as a fire fighter for the City of Algoma for 21 years and was a life member of the Algoma VFW Post 7152, where he served as post commander and chaplain.

David H. Rienow Sr., 72, of Green Bay, Wis. He was a Marine who served during the Vietnam War.

Col David L. Shane, 94, of Camarillo, Calif. He joined the Marine Corps in 1954 after completing law school at the University of Southern California. After graduating from The Basic School, he entered the Naval Justice School and served as a judge advocate from 1955 to 1958. He then transitioned from active duty to the reserves until his retirement in 1985. After his military service, he worked as a lawyer for a small firm in San Fernando Valley, Calif.

Daniel J. Sharkey, 89, of Shrewsbury, N.J. After graduating from high school, he joined the Marine Corps and served in the Korean War and served with Easy Company, 2nd Bn, 5th Marines. He was one of the "Chosin Few" who survived the battle at the Chosin Reservoir. He later served with the 41st Commando as a

Royal Marine before returning stateside to Camp Lejeune. After leaving the Marine Corps, he had a career in the oil industry and served as the president of the New Jersey chapter of the Chosin Few.

Thomas "Tom" Swille, 81, of Green Bay, Wis. He was a Marine who served from 1961 to 1966. After returning to civilian life, he had a career as a firefighter for the Green Bay Fire Department. He was also a "scratch model" ship builder in his spare time, winning gold, silver, and the People's Choice Award at the Wisconsin Maritime Museums Mid-western Model Ships & Boats contest.

Joseph "Joe" Wolfe, 85, of Algoma, Wis. After graduating from high school in 1957, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and later served in the Navy. After returning to civilian life, he worked for Green Bay Packaging until retiring in 1999.

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.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS TO SUPPORT TODAY'S MARINES

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Join our **Shores of Tripoli 20 virtual run!** The second line of the Marines' Hymn, "to the shores of Tripoli," pays tribute to the Battle of Derna where Marines fought in their first battle abroad and received the nickname "Leatherneck".

On **April 27, 2024**, run, walk, row or bike 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) to honor the original Leathernecks. Text [shoresoftripoli](https://www.shoresoftripoli.com) to 41444 to register.



27 APR



11 JUN

SAVE THE DATE!

The Marine Corps Association Foundation's **2024 Giving Day** will be held on **June 11, 2024**.

This day long fundraising campaign will bring together Marines, families and friends of the Corps to raise funds for the Foundation's mission of supporting Today's Marines and enhancing their professional development.



LEARN MORE ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS AT [MCA-MARINES.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.mca-marines.org/events)

brought some deep thoughts to me. Thank you for another great article!

David Jensen
Golden, Colo.

“Enemy in the Wire: The Fight for Survival on LZ Russell” in the February 2024 issue of *Leatherneck* by Kyle Watts dramatically tells the selfless heroics of the men from Echo Company, 2/4 and Hotel Battery, 3/12 as they were being overrun by North Vietnamese Army (NVA) sappers on the early morning of 25 February 1969. In 10 pages with marvelous photographs, Watts accurately captures the moment-to-moment, six-plus hours of continual night combat that resulted in 29 Marines and corpsmen killed and 80 others wounded.

The article’s conversion from combat to the LZ Russell vet’s first reunion in 2000 was perfectly told. As a Vietnam veteran with Fox 2/5, I know we and many, many combatants of all wars suffer PTSD. For combatants reading Watts’ “LZ Russell” story, you may reflect unpleasantly while reading moments of this lethal story as it will cast you back into

your battles and skirmishes when your death was nearly certain.

Bottom line: Thanks for the story, Marine Watts, and I was glad to be fighting with Marine brothers during my war.

Dave Brown
Swansboro, N.C.

We appreciate the great feedback on this article. On behalf of Kyle Watts, Jason Monroe and the entire Leatherneck team—thank you!—Publisher

Comments on QuikClot From a Former Corpsman

I was a corpsman with H/2/5 1967-1968 in Vietnam. I read with interest the February 2024 book excerpt about QuikClot. I have used it as a civilian and believe if we had access to it, we could have saved more Marines in Vietnam. Prior going to Hue City we conducted many patrols in the “Arizona Territory” outside An Hoa. It was heavily booby trapped with many types of homemade but effective explosives. As a result, we corpsmen had to treat many traumatic leg injuries with massive and rapid loss of blood. We packed the wounds with copious amounts of gauze, battle dressings, ace wrap, and used tourniquets. In many cases we experienced many

seriously wounded at the same time.

As a result, we did not have time to loosen and retighten the tourniquets on every Marine to reduce tissue damage. While under heavy fire, medevacs could not land and when they courageously did, we were not always able to load the wounded. We also expended a large number of medical supplies on each Marine to address the massive blood loss. On some patrols, I ran out of gauze, battle dressings etc. even though I carried more in a C4 satchel and had each Marine carry a small battle dressing. QuikClot is easy to carry in small packages and most effective. I compliment the Corps and Navy Medical for using it.

Dennis Noah
Baltimore, Md.

Thanks for the feedback, Doc, and thanks for your service to our wounded Marines. Semper Fi. —Publisher

A Book Recommendation For Those Interested in MARSOC

Having had a tour in 1960 with A Company, 3rd Recon Bn in Okinawa, I read with interest the article, “A Day in the Life of a MARSOC Critical Skills Operator” in the January 2024 issue of *Leatherneck*. For your readers who are

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interested in MARSOC, a great book to read about the training required to become a Special Operations Marine is "Always Faithful, Always Forward." The book is written by Dick Couch, a former SEAL, and retired Navy captain.

GySgt Gilbert R. Archuleta,
USMC (Ret), 1955-1975
Las Vegas, Nev.

Thanks for the recommendation. We'll check it out. Semper Fi.—Publisher

What Became of the 68th Rifle Company?

There was a newspaper article printed in the Camden, N.J., paper the *Courier Post* in August 1960 about the 68th Rifle Co, which was a part of the USMCR. I signed up with the 68th Rifle Co in Camden, N.J. I earned the title Marine at Parris Island in March 1959.

In August 1960, the 68th Rifle Co was selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen David Shoup, to participate in Operation Whipsaw, which was at the time one of the biggest war games staged in the United States.

I was pictured in the article holding an M1 rifle, but unfortunately, the newspaper misprinted my last name as "Billy" instead of "Villy."

It is my hope that you can cover this long-ago war training exercise in the future.

I have no idea what became of the 68th Rifle Co. I never understood why the Corps never activated this highly trained infantry company during the Vietnam War.

Albert D. Villy
New Port Richey, Fla.

Was the unit also known as the 68th Special Infantry Company? The company may have been deactivated in 1964. During Vietnam, reserve units were not activated although individual Marine reservists were mobilized.—Publisher

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.—Executive Editor 🦁

Ways To Sound Off



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To learn more,
contribute or
volunteer, visit
www.thetun.org



The Tun Tavern Legacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to rebuild and re-establish The Tun. The foundation needs to raise **\$19 million** to complete the project. When completed, it will serve as a functioning tavern reminiscent of the colonial Philadelphia mariners' tavern that it was, serving period-influenced refreshments, food, and entertainment and offering an educational experience through exhibits, historical documents, and special events. The new location will be approximately 250 yards from the original site, in the heart of Philadelphia's "Old City" district.

Many organizations whose history began at The Tun, such as the United States Marines (1775), Pennsylvania, Freemasons (1731), St. Andrew's Society (1747), Society of St. George (1729), The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick (1771), United States Navy (1775) are involved in reestablishing The Tun in Philadelphia to support veteran causes, Shriner's Hospitals, educational scholarships, and qualified charities. **The Tun™ is scheduled to open in November 2025**, coinciding with the Navy and Marine Corps 250th Homecoming Celebration in Philadelphia. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for November 2024.

Reader Assistance

Edited by Briesa Koch

Reunions

• **FMFEUR/MARFOREUR (London)** is planning a reunion. Contact Kurt Stinemetz, (334) 590-8016, kstinemetz@charter.net.

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Association**, April 11-14, MCRD Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, usmcpidi@charter.net.

• **Echo 2/3 Vietnam Vets 1965-1969**, April 29-May 3, Swansboro, N.C. Contact Bill Smith, (925) 997-8041, da190@aol.com.

• **Embassy Guard Association**, May 16-19, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Bob Lighty, (717) 433-1105, bob.lighty@embassymarine.org.

• **TBS Class 2-91 Co B**, May 23-25, New Orleans, La. Contact LtCol Jay Senter, USMC (Ret), (540) 446-7864, j.senter.III@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Weather Service**, June 16-21, Billings, Mont. Contact Kathy Donham, (252) 342-8459, kathy.donham@hotmail.com, or Dave Englert, (812) 630-2099, englertd@psci.net.

• **Mike Co 3/7 (1965-1970)**, July 31-Aug. 4, Minneapolis, Minn. Contact David Ray, (612) 860-8932, davidrayray49@gmail.com.

• **Adak Marines**, Aug. 3-10, Adak, Alaska. Any Marines who served at Adak are welcome. Contact Barry Erdman, (920) 540-1585, beefoot2@aol.com.

• **1st Marine Division Association**, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 18-25. Contact June Cormier, (760) 763-3268, June.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **1st Bn, 5th Marines, 1985-1992**, Sept. 5-8, Macomb, Ill. Contact Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Association**, Sept. 26-28, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact LtCol George Carlson, USMC (Ret), (931) 307-9094, treasurer@marcorengasn.org or visit www.marcorengasn.org.

• **USMC A-4 Skyhawkers**, Nov. 11-13, Pensacola Beach, Fla. All drivers, maintainers, and aficionados welcome. Contact Mark Williams, (702) 778-5010, rogerwilco14@gmail.com.

Wanted

• Charles Malnarick, 0917scar@gmail.com, is looking for a **platoon graduation book for Platoon 1119, MCRD San Diego, January 1969.**

• Mark Pacey, markp@mstn.govt.nz, is looking for **photographs, interviews, letters, and any other information on Americans stationed in New Zealand during WW II.**

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

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Saved Round

By Kipp Hanley



LCPL ADRIAN ESTRADA, USMC

PATRIOTIC PERFORMANCE—The Marines for the Mounted Color Guard presented the colors to a packed house at the San Diego Rodeo at Petco Park on Jan. 12.

Started in 1967 at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., the Corps' only surviving mounted color guard has participated in a variety of events over the years including the Rose Bowl Parade, Marine Week, Mardi Gras Parade and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The horses in the unit are wild mustangs adopted from the Bureau of Land Management's Adopt a Horse and Burro Program. The Marines chosen for the Mounted Color Guard serve primarily as stablemen and are selected for their adherence to Corps values and ability to present the national ensign in an appropriate manner.

Before the Mounted Color Guard team can perform in a large venue—the San

Diego Rodeo holds 12,000 spectators—they have to prepare and train continuously to perfect their drill movements and precision on horseback. Corporal Natasha Oschner, a member of the Mounted Color Guard, described what it was like on the day of the event.

"Before the rodeo, we arrived and set up the stalls for the horses to be fed and watered, then we headed into a dress rehearsal prior to the event and once that was completed, it was time for us to make the horses look pretty and get ourselves in uniform," Oschner said.

For a more comprehensive look at the history of the Mounted Color Guard, please see the July 2014 issue of *Leatherneck*. If you are interested in joining the Mounted Color Guard, please call the staff NCO at (760) 590-3574. 🇺🇸



LCPL MIHECAELA WATTS, USMC

Bahamas, 1776, Samuel Nicholas leading
the Marines against Providence Forks, ink
drawing by Arman Manookian, Honolulu
Academy of Arts



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"The Marine Corps was my first real family. Consequently, I feel an obligation to repay the Corps by leaving something for other young Marines...I've been extremely fortunate, which I owe to the Marine Corps."

— Capt Ed McCourt, USMC (Ret)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

www.mca-marines.org/legacy-gift-planning/samuel-nicholas-society

*If you have already included MCAF in your will or estate plan, please let us know.
We want to thank you for your commitment of remaining always faithful to our Marines.*

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