

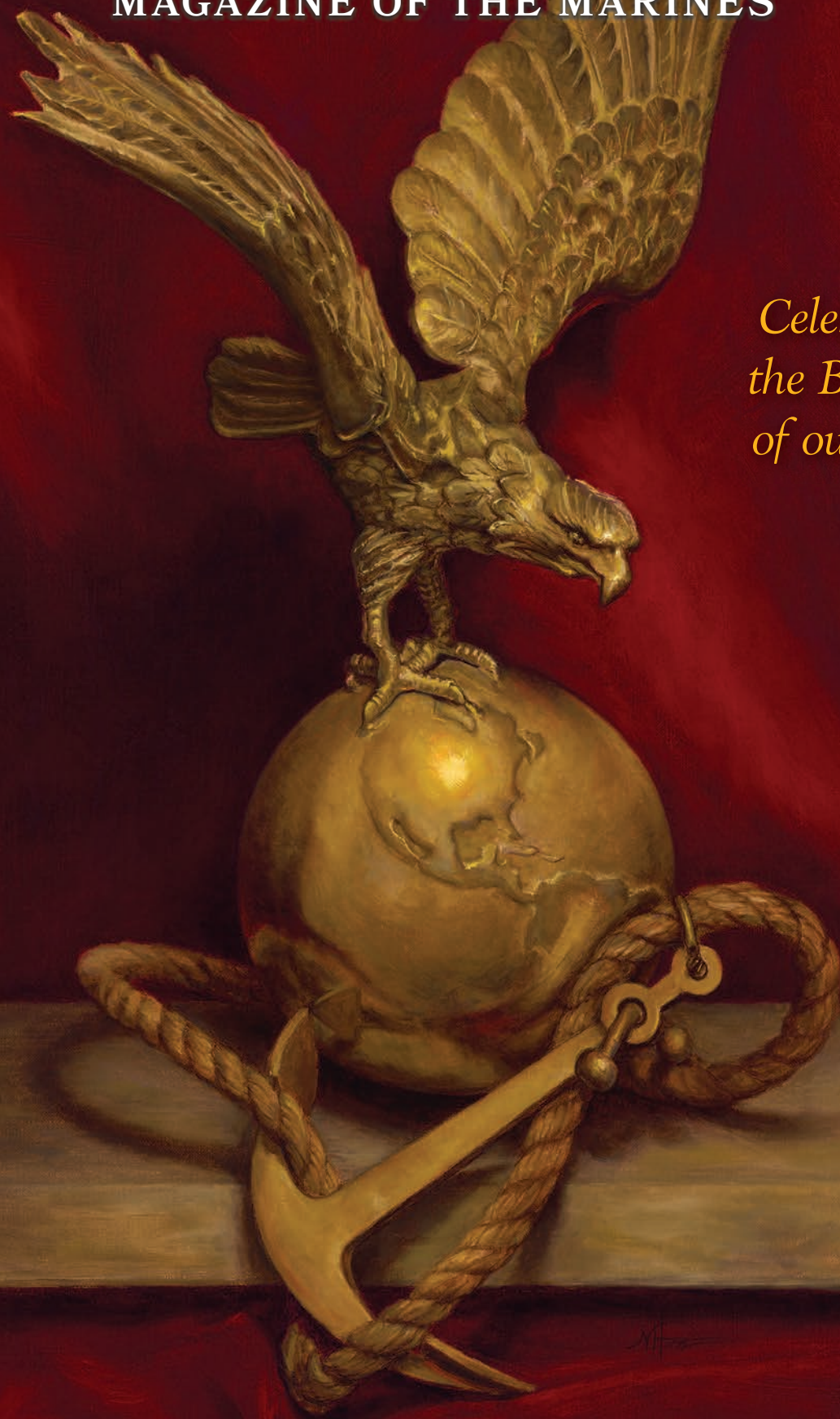
NOVEMBER 2021

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LEATHERNECK

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

*Celebrating
the Birthday
of our Corps*



IN EVERY MARINE RAIDER
LIES THE ELITE FIGHTING SPIRIT
OF A MARINE.



**MARINE
RAIDERS**



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LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

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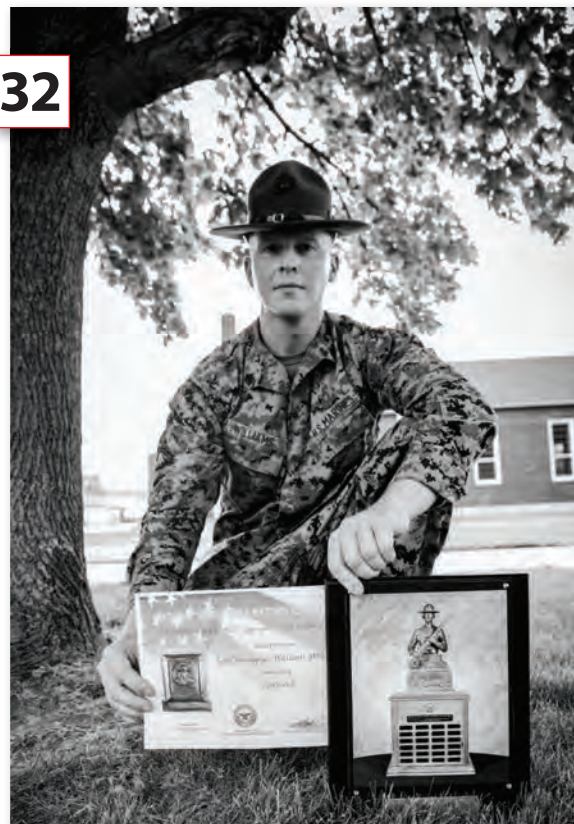
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54 The Eagle, Globe and Anchor: Representing the Marine Corps

Compiled by Jacqueline Jedrych
The emblem of the Marine Corps is an important and historical symbol of honor, courage and commitment. Inspired by this issue's cover painting, we have assembled our favorite representations of the eagle, globe and anchor since its 1868 adoption.

COVER: On the 246th birthday of the Corps, we present artist Nicole Horn's latest work, "Reflection of Honor," a unique depiction of the Corps' iconic eagle, globe and anchor. This is the second painting in our Sense of Duty Collection. Prints of "Reflection of Honor" are available at www.Marineshop.net. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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Letter of the Month

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

This letter is in response to Colonel Mary Reinwald's poignant editorial in the September edition of *Leatherneck* magazine. Like so many others, our family has been affected by the events of Sept. 11, 2001. My son, a New York Police Department (NYPD) first responder, will never be the same due to the tragic events that took place 20 years ago. Shortly after the towers fell, my son took me to Ground Zero, and as we stood in silence on "the pile," another body was found. My son was then sent to Great Kills landfill in Staten Island to search for human remains in the rubble. This experience had a great effect on him, so much so that he found it difficult to talk about it.

For nearly two decades we here on Long Island have been holding memorial services on 9/11. My son in his honor guard dress uniform (part of the elite ceremonial unit of NYPD) and I (Commandant of our local detachment for 10 years) in my

Marine Corps League uniform marched together every year except for 2020 due to the coronavirus. Then came the news we dreaded to hear. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease as well as bladder cancer. As COVID hit New York City with a vengeance, he had his bladder and prostate removed at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC. He is now fully retired with disability at age 50. Our lives will never be the same due to the events of 9/11.

William Ober
Huntington, N.Y.

9/11 Never to Be Forgotten

I read Colonel Reinwald's editorial comment in the September issue, and I write this on Sept. 11, 2021. I watched the towers come down from my office. I knew seven of the people who died there, including two firemen and one police officer. My oldest son's best friend was killed. He was the son of a good friend, a brother Marine, Vietnam veteran and retired FDNY lieutenant. The son of another good friend, a retired FDNY lieutenant, a firefighter himself and one of the first firefighters to enter was killed.

I watched and heard the funeral pro-

cessions for fallen firefighters and police officers leave St. Patrick's Cathedral and march down Fifth Avenue with bagpipes playing. I cannot listen to "Amazing Grace" without crying. I called a recruiter to reenlist, and he advised that, at age 59, I was past reenlistment age.

Sgt Joe Doyle
USMC, 1964-1970
Scottsburg, Va.

Dedicated to Sgt Nicole L. Gee

I wrote this poem for Sergeant Nicole L. Gee this week because I personally knew her. She is one of the Marines who died in the bombing in Afghanistan on Aug. 26. I worked with Sgt Gee for the last four years. I am dedicating this to her and the other members who passed away.

Sergeant Gee Reporting to the Angels as Ordered

Good morning, Sir, as she sharply salutes.

Welcome young lady, Saint Peter states,
Heaven awaits you here with the other angels,

Sergeant Gee, it's time you entered these gates.



LtGen Charles Chiarotti, USMC (Ret), President & CEO of the MCA, right, and SgtMaj Kevin Bennett, USMC (Ret), Director of Professional Development, left, placed a Wreath of Remembrance at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial to honor those who lost their lives in the attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

SJ COLLINS PHOTOGRAPHY




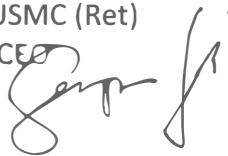
September 1, 2021

Dear Members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank LtGen William Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret), for his countless contributions to the Marine Corps Association and our Foundation and ultimately to the betterment of our United States Marine Corps. Through his actions and leadership, Mark has embodied the spirit and mission envisioned at the founding of the Association in 1913, by then-LtCol John A. Lejeune and articulated in our current mission statement: "To be the preeminent association for all Marines and friends of the Corps dedicated to leader development, recognition of professional excellence and expanding awareness of the rich traditions, history, and spirit of the United States Marine Corps." We, at the Marine Corps Association, wish Mark and Janet nothing but happiness and success as they begin a new chapter of their lives in North Carolina.

I am humbled at the opportunity to take the helm of the Marine Corps Association and follow in Mark's footsteps. I am excited by the prospect of continuing to support our Commandant's future force design initiatives through the programs and awards that the Marine Corps Association provides to Marines.

This is our Association and will continue to be recognized as The Professional Association of the United States Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis,

C.G. Chiarotti
Lieutenant General, USMC (Ret)
President and CEO


Leatherneck

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

**President/CEO,
Marine Corps Association**

LtGen Charles G. Chiarotti, USMC (Ret)

Publisher: Col Christopher Woodbridge, USMC (Ret)

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

Senior Editor: Nancy S. Lichtman

Copy Editor: Jessica B. Brown

Staff Writer: Sara W. Bock

Editorial/Production Coordinator
Patricia Everett

Editorial Assistant: Jacqueline Jedrych

Art Director: Jason Monroe

**ADVERTISING QUERIES:
Defense Related Industries/Business:**

Contact: LeeAnn Mitchell

advertising@mca-marines.org 703-640-0169

All Other Advertising Contact:

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EDITORIAL OFFICES

Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134

Phone: (703) 640-6161, Ext. 115

Toll-Free: (800) 336-0291

Fax: (703) 630-9147

Email: leatherneck@mca-marines.org

Web page: www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

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MEMBER SERVICES

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Email: mca@mca-marines.org

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But first, how was your tour there on earth?

You seemed flawless, even on a foreign shore,

Outstanding service and unparalleled commitment,

As you donned the uniform of the world's finest Marine Corps.

Daughter, sister, wife and good friend to all,

A fellow Marine to so many while in service.

Most are down there saying you're gone too soon,

That in your passing, you truly never deserved this.

I gave it my all, Sir, the sergeant reveals.

My passion was sincere, as honor was a daily belief,

For my country I'd do it all over again.

I stand before you awaiting my fate, as I now stand relieved.

You surpassed your assignment, dear Nicole,

And with you, our Lord is very pleased.

Now take your proper place among the angels,

Into their ranks you'll forever be released.

Up here among the Heavens is now your duty station.

Sergeant Gee, we now assign you to your new command,

This is home to the greatest service of them all,

Front and center of our Savior, you'll forever stand.

GySgt Michael J. Black, USMC
Jacksonville, N.C.

• *As heartbreaking and maddening as the loss of Sgt Gee and the other Marines, Sailor and soldier from the attack at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, has been, the incredible outpouring of support from our fellow citizens has been heartening. Maybe it was the photographs of the Marines holding babies or comforting Afghans fleeing the Taliban in the days before the attack, or maybe it was realization that these young servicemembers were the true definition of "No better friend ..." but either way, their tremendous loss has struck a chord with Americans who are mourning alongside their families and fellow Marines.—Editor*

Sgt Edgar Harrell Remembered

A few weeks ago, I received my August issue and made it to the In Memoriam page. Sergeant Edgar Harrell's name caught my eye. I didn't know he had passed away. He is from Murray, Ky., about 45 minutes away from me.

I decided to take a road trip to Wickliffe, Ky., about an hour away, to visit the Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum, which is run by Sandy Hart, wife of Marine veteran Ray Hart. I hadn't been to the museum in a few years, not since they remodeled. As soon as I pulled up, Sandy came out to greet me. As we walked inside, I started looking around and then I saw it. A wall dedicated to Sgt Edgar Harrell. I was shocked. I told Sandy that his name was listed in *Leatherneck* magazine and that he had passed away, but she already knew. Sandy and Sgt Harrell used to go to schools and other places and give speeches. What Sgt Harrell endured needs to be remembered as they all do, and their stories told.

LCpl Mike K. King
Paducah, Ky.



Sgt Edgar Harrell was one of 316 survivors of 1,196 Sailors and Marines onboard USS Indianapolis when a Japanese submarine torpedoed and sunk the ship in the Philippine Sea, on July 30, 1945. It took days for the men to be rescued. (Photo courtesy of LCpl Mike K. King)

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Thanks to the *Leatherneck* Staff

I want to thank you for putting my dad's photo in the August *Leatherneck*. It was published in the Iwo Jima article, "History of the 5th Marine Division" on page 57. My dad, the late Franklin Morrell, was at Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima with the 2nd Armored Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division.

I served in 3rd Marine Division in 3rd FSR from 1959 to 1960.

Dad was contacted by three Marines from his unit who saw the article, and he was glad to hear from them. I contacted *Leatherneck* and was sent copies of the picture which I framed and gave to my brothers and two sons. Thank you so much.

Thomas Morrell
USMC, 1959-1964
Green Valley, Ariz.

Failed Experiment

Interesting as it may be, Captain Bob Sanders' Sea Story, "Failed Experiment" [July issue] is not historically accurate. To set the record straight, the concept of para/scuba jumping by recon units in order to enter hostile or denied areas was first accomplished in 1963 by the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company. Capt P.J. Ryan and First Lieutenant L.V. Bearce were the first two members of the

company to successfully complete this type of insertion technique. They were followed throughout that year by other members of the company doing the same thing. Additionally, Force Recon Co's Pathfinder Team No. 43, then attached to 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa, also made such para/scuba jumps.

Like a lot of things happening at that time, it was never looked upon as a big deal and was not documented. I know this because I was a member of Force Recon Co from 1962 to 1964, and both witnessed these endeavors and participated in one of these jumps.

Col Jim Reilly, USMC (Ret)
Carlsbad, Calif.

Sea Story Had Me Digging Into My Past

The Sea Story, "Surname is a Catch-22," in the July issue had me going through my drill instructor (DI) files. I was the senior DI for Co F, 2nd Bn, RTR, MCRD San Diego at the end of 1983—my first platoon as a senior DI. I found the platoon photos for Plt 2109 and found a Pvt J.A. Sergeant. When looking at his name, it looks like it's written "Sergeant." I wonder how many times over his Marine Corps career that his name was misspelled, especially if he was ever promoted to sergeant.

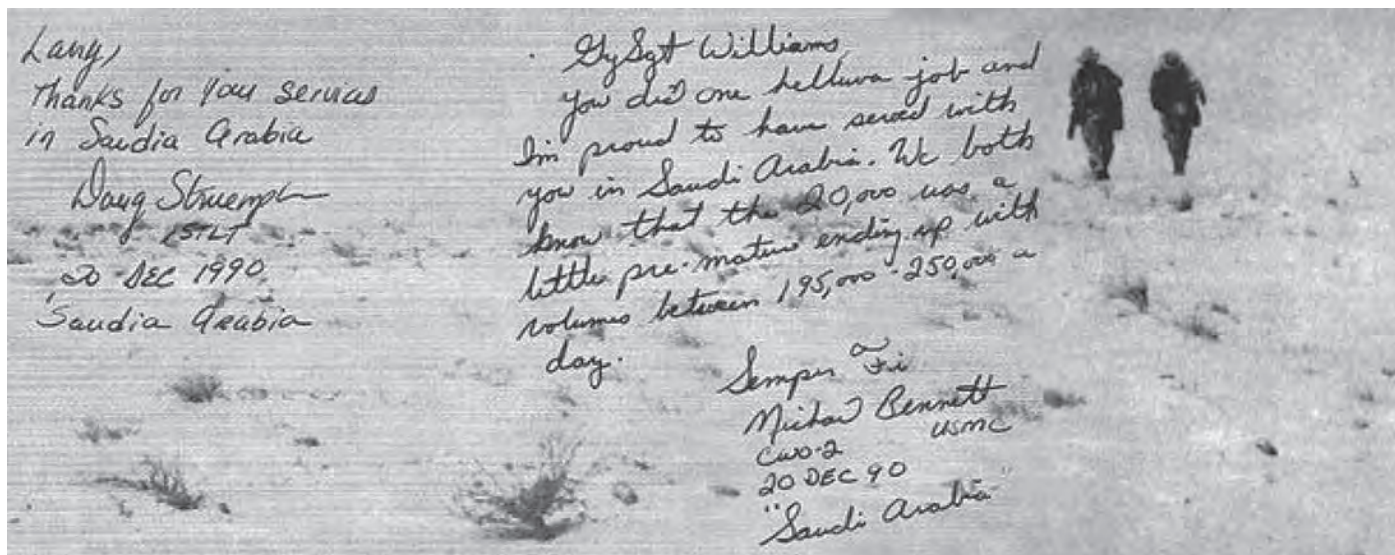
While digging into my past, I also found my *Leatherneck* magazine from December 1990. Sergeant Tony Sinagra, PAO, I MEF wrote an article, "Mail: Ever Wonder Who's Sorting the Mail in Saudi?" On page 52 is a picture of two Marines walking in the desert. On one side of the photo is two handwritten notes from my two postal officers during Desert Storm. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Bennett, assistant postal officer, took me and seven other postal Marines to the Gulf War. CWO-2 Bennett was the powerhouse for getting postal up and running after we arrived Aug. 10, 1990. First Lieutenant Doug Struempfer, postal officer, arrived a few weeks later.

We arrived with our uniforms, helmets, packs and side arms and the troops carried their postal safes and a rifle. The safes weighed 100 lbs. and had a basic amount of money and stamps inside. One postal clerk forgot his safe combination and we had to get a safecracker to break it open. I was placed in charge of the postal directory. Every piece of mail that we didn't or couldn't find the addressee for was my responsibility; I had to find them or RTS (Return to Sender) the pieces of mail. I had a crew of six postal Marines that were great. Postal was not my most favorite job, but I put everything into it and did my best.

*Cheers to
246 years*

AND TO CELEBRATING
THE BIRTHDAY
TOGETHER!
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THE MARINE SHOP.

SHOP TODAY AT WWW.MARINESHOP.NET



COURTESY OF GYSGT LARRY D. WILLIAMS, USMC (RET)

1st Lt Doug Struempfer and CWO-2 Michael Bennett signed this photo from a December 1990 *Leatherneck* article for GySgt Larry Williams on Dec. 20, 1990. All three Marines worked together in postal in Saudi Arabia.

As Desert Shield turned to Desert Storm, we had a total of about 250 Marines sorting mail near Jabail. We also had two fully functioning post offices in northern Saudi and one at Jabail. We were the hub for receiving all Marine Corps mail and sorting it for delivery to our units. We worked every day with the first crew working 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the second from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Last week I made a minor complaint to our post office here in Yuma and explained the hardships of running a postal operation in Saudi near the Jabail air base. The Yuma postmaster said he was in the Air Force with postal at Jabail and knew the difficulties.

GySgt Larry D. Williams, USMC (Ret)
Yuma, Ariz.

Readers Respond to Liaison Officer Article

I read the monthly *Leatherneck* magazine cover to cover to stay abreast of the movements and actions of my grandson's unit, BLT 1/4, 15th MEU, and my son's artillery unit before that. The article in the August edition by Captain Raymond Lee Maloy, "A Few Days in the Life of a
[continued on page 66]



FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

From the beginning of our Great Nation. To the Shipyard in Pearl Harbor.

From the battlegrounds of Europe. To the Asia Pacific seas.

From the freezing cold of Korea. To the dense jungles in Vietnam.

The desert & terrain of the Middle East. And everything in between.

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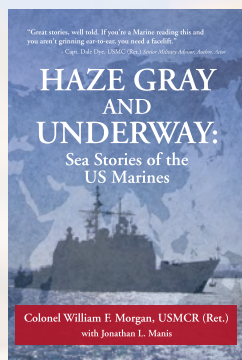


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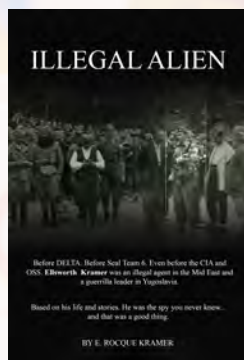


SEMPER FIDELIS

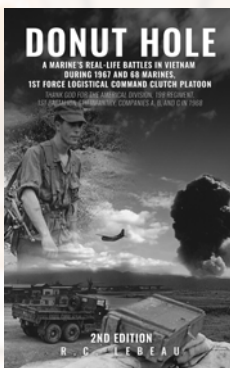
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM YOUR FAVORITE AUTHORS



COL WILLIAM F.
MORGAN, USMCR (RET)



E. ROCQUE KRAMER



R. C. LeBEAU



JOSEPH PUTKOWSKI

10 NOVEMBER 2021



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On 10 November 1970, Commandant Chapman challenged all Marines, active and inactive, young and old, deployed or recently returned from combat, “not to look back, but instead, to look to the future.” He insisted that we celebrate our anniversary, “not as an end of almost two centuries of dedicated service, but as preparation for new service, new dedication, and new achievement.” Those sage words resonate across time and are as applicable today as they were 51 years ago.

Our Corps holds to traditions that link us to the elite warriors who wore the uniform before us, but the traditions we hand down through the generations go far beyond tangible displays, symbols, or customs. The most important traditions that link us to our past and must be carried into the future are the intangible ones—traditions of courage, trust, discipline, loyalty, respect, perseverance, adaptability, and leadership. Today, 246 years since our warfighting legacy began, we celebrate those traits that have been forged in all Marines—past and present.

The character of Marines, our unwavering commitment and relentless pursuit of excellence, remains unchanged from that of past generations, even as the character of warfare is ever-changing. These changes will require us to do what Marines do best—adapt and innovate to win any battle or respond to any crisis. Just as Marines who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan over these past 20 years adapted to the demands of protracted counterinsurgency operations—which would have been all too familiar to the Marines of 1970—we will adapt to the demands of the present and future, while learning the hard lessons from our recent past. We can’t know for certain where future battlefields will be, or how our methods of warfighting will be redefined as threats to our Nation evolve, but we can ensure that the Marines who fight those battles will be forged of the same courage, spirit, and warfighting excellence as all Marines before them.



LCPL MORGAN L.R. BURGESS, USMC

We who serve today represent an unbroken chain that stretches back 246 years. As we mark our anniversary, we remember those who went before us, and as we look over the horizon to “new service, new dedication, and new achievement,” solemnly swear to uphold their example of honor, courage, and commitment.

Happy 246th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "D. H. Berger".

David H. Berger
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



YOUR ACTIVE SERVICE MAY BE ENDING BUT YOUR OPPORTUNITIES HAVE NOT

Transitioning? We're listening. See if the Direct Affiliation Program is right for you.

You're a Marine, and that will never change. But Marines feel most like Marines when they're still in the fight. So before you leave the service, we'd like to introduce you to a new way to serve. Through the Direct Affiliation Program, you can stay a Marine in a Reserve unit in your town. Opportunities include:

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*For DAP details reference MARADMIN 279/20



MARINES

Celebrating Marine Corps History, Mission and Tradition



CPL BRYCE MUHLBERG, USMC

Camp Lejeune celebrated the 233rd Marine Corps Birthday on Nov. 6, 2008, with its annual Joint Daytime Ceremony at Liversedge Field. Attendees were reminded that throughout history, Marines distinguished themselves on battlefields and foreign shores in war and peace.

Marines All Over the Globe to Honor the 246th Marine Corps Birthday

Compiled by Patricia Everett

A Marine Corps Birthday Ball is a celebration of Marine Corps history and traditions. It represents where the Marine Corps started and where it is now while giving us a glimpse of the past, present and future. Throughout the world on Nov. 10, Marines celebrate the birth of our Corps—the most loyal, feared, revered, and professional fighting force the world has ever known.

In 1921, the 13th Commandant, Major

General John A. Lejeune, issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921. MajGen Lejeune's order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps. It further directed that the order be read to all Marines each year on Nov. 10 to honor the founding of the Marine Corps. Soon after, Marine commands began to not only honor the birthday, but celebrate it in a variety of ways. In 1923 the Marine Barracks at Ft. Mifflin, Pa., staged a formal dance. The Marines at the Washington Navy Yard arranged a mock battle on

the parade ground. At Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Marine baseball team played a Cuban team and won with a score of 9 to 8. But this was only the beginning.

The first formal birthday ball took place in Philadelphia in 1925. Guests included the Commandant, the Secretary of War (known today as the Secretary of Defense), and a host of statesmen and elected officials. Prior to the Ball, MajGen Lejeune unveiled a memorial plaque at Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the Marine Corps. Then the entourage headed for the



LCPL MACKENZIE SCHLUETER, USMC

A color guard marches toward LtGen Richard P. Mills, Commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North, at the beginning of the 239th Marine Corps Birthday ball ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in New Orleans, La., Nov. 1, 2014.



MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

During a tour in Vietnam, 1stLt Raymond Horn, CO, C/1/7, cuts a piece of cake to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday, Nov. 9, 1969.



SGT WESLEY TIMM, USMC

1stLt James Bird reads Gen John A. Lejeune's birthday message during the Marine Corps Birthday Ball held by Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 51, 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade on Nov. 8, 2018.

In 1921, the 13th Commandant, Major General John A. Lejeune, issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921. MajGen Lejeune's order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps. It further directed that the order be read to all Marines each year on Nov. 10 to honor the founding of the Marine Corps.

Above: Gen Robert B. Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, dances at the II Marine Expeditionary Force Birthday Ball at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Nov. 5, 2016.



CPL SAMANTHA K. BRAUN, USMC



Left: Brooke R. Farland, daughter of the U.S. ambassador, shares a dance with Sgt William R. Waller during the Marine Corps Birthday celebration at Marine Security Guard Detachment Ciudad Trujillo, now Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Nov. 10, 1958.

1775 Rum Punch Recipe

The recipe for 1775 Rum Punch has been preserved and is a traditional drink dating back to Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Pa. It is used to toast the United States Marine Corps on her birthday each Nov. 10.

- 1 part lime juice
- 2 parts sugar syrup
- 3 parts dark rum (preferably Pusser's)
- 4 parts water

Mix, pour over ice, or chill. Top with a sprinkle of nutmeg and dash of Angostura bitters. You may substitute pineapple juice for water.

COURTESY OF SGT WILLIAM R. WALLER, USMC



Left: Although hospitalized, this Marine was still able to enjoy a piece of birthday cake. Col F. N. Reeve presents a piece of cake to a patient in the U.S. Naval Hospital, Beaufort, S.C., 1953.

Below: Gen James F. Amos, left, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, passes a slice of cake to 2ndLt David J. Williams, the youngest Marine present, at the 2012 Commandant's Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md., on Nov. 10, 2012.

COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES

Cake Recipe

Marine bakers came up with a recipe for the official Marine Corps Birthday Cake which was printed in the U.S. Marine Corps Recipe Manual (NAVMC 1067-SD, dated 1952). Many bakers throughout the Corps use this recipe to this day.

- ½ cup shortening
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups sifted cake flour
- 2 teaspoons double-acting baking powder
- ¾ cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 egg whites

Cream shortening, sugar and salt until light and fluffy (about three minutes by machine at medium speed). Combine flour and baking powder and add alternately with milk and vanilla to shortening mixture (mix about four minutes by machine at low speed). Beat egg whites until they will hold in peaks, fold into batter. Pour into two 8-inch layer pans (½-inch deep) which have been rubbed with shortening and lined with heavy waxed paper. Bake in a moderate oven (360 degrees Fahrenheit) about 30 minutes.



CPL TIA DUFOR, USMC

Benjamin Franklin Hotel for an evening of celebration.

Over the years the annual birthday ball grew, taking on a life of its own. In 1952, Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps, formalized the cake-cutting ceremony and other traditional observances. The first piece of cake is traditionally given to the oldest Marine present and then passed to the youngest Marine representing the passing of tradition from generation to generation. Among other highlights of

balls and other ceremonies celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday is the reading of the current Commandant's birthday message to the Corps along with Gen Lejeune's message.

Like the U.S. Marine Corps itself, the annual birthday ball has evolved from modest origins to the dignified function it is today. On Nov. 10, regardless of where Marines are stationed or deployed, you will always hear "Happy Birthday, Marine!"

MCCS


In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



PO2 JOHN BELLINO, USN

Marines assigned to “Bravo” Co, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines embark on a landing craft, utility attached to USS *Arlington* (LPD-24), Aug. 18. *Arlington* deployed to U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in Haiti following a 7.2-magnitude earthquake.

HAITI

When Earthquake Strikes Haiti, N.C.-Based Marine Units Deploy At Moment’s Notice

In the aftermath of a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on Aug. 14, Marines and Sailors of 2nd Marine Division aboard the *San Antonio*-class amphibious dock ship USS *Arlington* (LPD-24) arrived off the coast of Haiti to support the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Joint Task Force-Haiti, Aug. 21. Days later, they were followed by Marines with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, who departed from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., headed for the island nation in the Caribbean.

“With less than 12 hours’ notice, my Marines and Sailors embarked on the USS *Arlington* in support of USAID’s efforts in Haiti,” said Major Mark Paige, executive officer of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. “These Marines and Sailors are trained to answer the nation’s



LCPL ELIAS PIMENTEL, USMC

Marines with 2nd MAW prepare for their flight to Haiti aboard a KC-130J Super Hercules at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., Aug. 23.



LCPL JACQUELINE ARRE, USMC

Marines and Sailors with Joint Task Force-Haiti help volunteers offload boxes for redistribution in Port of Jeremie, Haiti, Aug. 31.

call at a moment's notice and to be ready when no one else is, which they proved and will continue to do. I'm honored to witness the Navy and Marine Corps team come together to provide aid to the people of Haiti and remind the world we are a naval expeditionary force in readiness."

The Division deployed approximately 200 Marines and Sailors aboard USS *Arlington*, where they joined other U.S. Southern Command components and U.S. Coast Guard ships already on station, in addition to allies and partners from the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom.

"Being able to deploy in support of USAID's humanitarian effort is an incredible opportunity," said Corporal Bailey Blanford, an intelligence specialist with 1/6. "As Marines we train to be a force in readiness, whether that means preparing for the next conflict or, in this case, supporting a humanitarian aid mission. My Marines and I are thankful for the opportunity to better support Joint Task Force-Haiti and the people of Haiti."

Meanwhile, approximately 150 personnel from 2nd MAW units departed on MV-22B Osprey aircraft from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 266 and KC-130J Super Hercules planes from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 252 to assist in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

Historically, U.S. military capabilities are most critical in the early stages of

a disaster relief operation when fewer resources and disaster response experts are available to help victims and impacted communities. As those disaster relief operations progress and more uniquely experienced experts arrive to assist with longer-term recovery and reconstruction, the need for U.S. military capabilities diminishes, and other, more experienced relief personnel and organizations assume the roles previously performed by military troops and units.

Compiled from reports by
1stLt Gabriela Mogollan, USMC
and 1stLt Kayla Olsen, USMC

KAUAI, HAWAII **Flexible and Lethal: EABs Provide Long-Range Strike Capabilities For Future Fight**

Marines participating in Large Scale Exercise 2021 employed a pair of Naval Strike Missiles that traveled more than 100 nautical miles through simulated mountain ranges and shipping lanes before striking a naval target ship at sea.

The live-fire, long-range precision strike mission was the first tactical demonstration of the flexibility and lethality enabled by Marine Expeditionary Advanced Bases (EABs), a key component of the Marine Corps' Force Design 2030.

Marines and Sailors from 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment carried out the mission Aug. 15, aboard Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands

on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. The missiles were fired from a Navy Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System launcher. Their operation began days earlier, landing ashore using U.S. Navy landing craft, air cushion hovercraft and MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft. Once on the beach, the Marines and Sailors of 1/12 established a firing position, set security perimeters and deployed cutting edge command and control technology to support their combat operations center. The unit used the Networking-On-the-Move Utility Task Vehicle, which resembles a dune buggy mounted with wireless satellite communications equipment. Other command vehicles carried additional command and control systems that provided enhanced battlefield awareness, target tracking and long-range communications with ships and aircraft.

"It's impressive to me how the Marine Corps is advancing our long-range precision fire capabilities, both from how we target and process missions to how we engage them with the NMESIS platform," said Lieutenant Colonel Richard Neikirk, the commanding officer of 1/12. "The capabilities within a fire direction center now rival those previously found in a combat information center aboard ship."

These new systems and capabilities represent a major change for the artillery community as it shifts its focus to implement Force Design 2030 concepts and refine its support to distributed maritime

operations. There was one piece of equipment in particular that attracted the Marines' attention throughout the exercise: a NMESIS launcher. Many Marines recognize the familiar form of a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle—a tall, heavy duty truck built for tough conditions in tough places. This unfamiliar new piece of equipment looks like a JLTV but without a cab and is equipped with an assortment of sensors and cameras and topped with a prominent missile launcher. The Marines were captivated by the unmanned system's ability to be remotely controlled by a distant operator and its ability to follow in-trace of a leader vehicle. It was the latest indicator that Marine Corps operations have changed in order to keep pace with a changing international security environment.

Throughout the weekend, the EAB on Kauai maintained a low electronic signature while maintaining connection to others like it operating across the island of Oahu. Together, the Marines kept an eye on the ocean around them, scanning for threats and keeping tabs on digital fire missions carried out by adjacent units via LSE 2021's live, virtual, constructive training systems.

After days of stalking naval targets, the mission 1/12 had been waiting for crossed their screens: the EAB's sensors had detected an aggressor ship. The

Marines gained contact with the target, identified it and developed a targeting solution. Its launch tubes elevated, the NMESIS fired a Naval Strike Missile that streaked into the sky and over the horizon. It traveled more than 100 nautical miles before slamming into the adversary ship, played by the ex-USS *Ingraham* (FFG-61), a retired *Oliver Hazard Perry*-class guided missile frigate. Smoke and flames billowed from the damaged sections of the ship just as the NMESIS' second missile found its mark. In the interest of avoiding an adversary's counterattack, the NMESIS launcher followed its leader vehicle to a Marine KC-130J waiting on the nearby airfield.

Artillery Marines and KC-130J loadmasters worked together to maneuver the NMESIS inside the body of the plane. The aircraft and NMESIS stayed on the ground, but the evolution highlighted the system's ability to go to any location serviceable by a KC-130.

"This scenario is representative of the real-world challenges and missions the Navy and Marine Corps will be facing together in the future," said Brigadier General A.J. Pasagian, commander of Marine Corps Systems Command. "This exercise also provided an opportunity for us to work alongside our service partners to refine Force Design 2030 modernization concepts."

The next day, the NMESIS was loaded onto an LCAC and transported to the well deck of USS *San Diego* (LPD-22), an amphibious transport dock. This demonstration of the system's transportability and mobility, as well as the previous loading aboard the KC-130, highlighted the operational flexibility artillery Marines will provide in the future to fleet commanders seeking to achieve sea denial or sea control in important areas of the ocean.

"It's not like a traditional cannon fire direction center with lots of noise and chaos as calls for fire are being processed," said Neikirk. "A track comes in, gets analyzed, disseminated and engaged. Then we're on to the next one."

The sinking exercise at PMRF highlighted the new and important roles Marines will play for the naval and joint force in future global competition and conflict involving key maritime terrain. Marine EABs will create options for fleet commanders, either with their own weapons systems or by playing a key role in enabling the joint targeting and fires process.

"While the systems and methods used to locate maritime targets are classified, they enable our EABs to sense and make sense of the threat environment. Long-range precision fires can then be delivered from Marine platforms or handed off to



During Large Scale Exercise 2021, artillery Marines with 1/12 escort a NMESIS launcher vehicle ashore on PMRF Barking Sands, Hawaii, Aug. 16. The previous day, the Marines conducted a live-fire sinking exercise that involved striking a naval target ship with two Naval Strike Missiles.

An AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom with HMLA-267 fly over a U.S. Navy submarine during the Advanced Naval Basing evolution of Exercise Summer Fury 21 near San Clemente Island, Calif., July 20. (Photo by LCpl Isaac Velasco, USMC)



the joint force for optimal attack,” Neikirk said.

Large Scale Exercise 2021 set conditions for future large-scale naval exercises and demonstrated the naval services’ ability to employ precise, long-range and overwhelming force in a contested environment. The exercise involved forces and ships from three naval component commands, five numbered fleets, and all three Marine Expeditionary Forces spanning 17 time zones. It was the first iteration of what will become a triennial exercise with allies and partners from around the world.

Maj Nicholas Mannweiler, USMC

SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, CALIF. **Marines of 3rd MAW Take On** **Modern Island-Hopping Campaign**

Marines and Sailors with 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) participated in an island-hopping campaign as part of advanced naval base training during Exercise Summer Fury 21, July 20. With assets positioned across the West Coast, both on land and at sea, 3rd MAW tested components of expeditionary advanced base operations (EABO) in preparation for future maritime conflicts in the Indo-Pacific region.

Island hopping originated during World War II when Allied forces deployed in the Pacific theater adopted a “leapfrogging”



LCPL ISSAC VELASCO, USMC

LCpl Christian Paterson with HMLA-267 surveys the Pacific Ocean for simulated enemy vessels near San Clemente Island, Calif., July 20. During Exercise Summer Fury, Marines of 3rd MAW trained to generate the readiness and lethality needed to deter and defeat adversaries during combat operations.

tactic to gain control of strategic maritime islands while avoiding heavily guarded enemy targets. Leapfrogging ultimately paved the way for Marines to more efficiently reach enemy objectives with fewer casualties, leaving adversaries in Southeast Asia in a constant state of surprise and unbalance.

Using this blueprint, Marines with 3rd MAW synchronized the seizure of strategic airfields at San Clemente Island off the coast of Southern California, which set conditions on the objective to bypass heavily fortified islands and seize lightly defended locations that could support follow-on operations during Summer Fury. During the evolution, Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 267 and Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 372 reinforced 3rd MAW efforts by establishing forward arming and refueling points on both San Clemente Island and an outlying landing field.

Additionally, Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 163 provided continuous logistical support, allowing 3rd MAW assets to continue the fight. The Forward Arming and Refueling Points effectively increased the range and tempo of aviation operations within the simulated island chain, increasing 3rd MAW’s ability to gain command and control of maritime islands.

As warfighting remains both “timeless and ever-changing,” 3rd MAW continues to make considerable progress toward the goals of Force Design 2030 through adversarial-minded war gaming and combat-driven exercises. During Summer Fury 21, 3rd MAW units participated in evolutions such as advanced naval base

training, long-range strike operations and forward air controlling exercises, enhancing readiness and lethality in support of a maritime campaign.

As the Marine Corps' largest aircraft wing, 3rd MAW continues to "Fix, Fly and Fight" and remains combat-ready, deployable on short notice, and lethal when called into action.

LCpl Alondra OrtizMontejano, USMC

NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA MRF-D Brings the HIRAIN To Exercise Looby

The sun rose over the hot, harsh outback, hundreds of miles south of Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. On any other day, the sight would be simply calm and quiet, but on Aug. 12, on the notional "Bradshaw Island," a simulated enemy target was about to meet its end. The simulation, known as Exercise Looby, served as a unique demonstration of expeditionary precision-strike operations by the U.S. Marine Corps and Australian Defence Force (ADF). During the exercise, a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) conducted a rapid infiltration demonstration, or HIRAIN. This quick and complex operation enabled friendly forces to land the long-range precision strike capability on the ground and expediently destroy a threat, allowing follow-on forces to conduct landing operations.

This marked the first time a HIRAIN mission had ever been executed by Marine



CPL LYDIA GORDON, USMC

LCpl Dantrel Gandy, a Low Altitude Air Defense gunner assigned to MRF-D, observes a HIMARS launch during Exercise Looby at Bradshaw Field Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia, Aug. 12. The HIMARS launched as part of the final act of Exercise Looby to demonstrate MRF-D's ability to conduct HIMARS rapid infiltration.

Rotational Force-Darwin (MRF-D) in its 10-year history, and the first HIRAIN for both MRF-D and the ADF in Bradshaw Field Training Area.

Over the course of its deployment in 2021, the Marines of MRF-D progressed through various training scenarios in which they battled simulated enemy forces throughout the Northern Territory.

First, a notional natural disaster affected a simulated friendly nation during Exercise Crocodile Response, initiating a disaster response effort by MRF-D, ADF and other governmental agencies. In June, Exercise Darrandarra demonstrated embassy reinforcement and noncombatant evacuation operations in the same nation, while tensions between the friendly and



Marines with HIMARS Plt, MRF-D, drive a HIMARS off a Royal Australian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III after a combat landing during Exercise Looby, Aug. 12. HIMARS were loaded onto the aircraft at RAAF Darwin and flown to the training area during a bilateral exercise with MRF-D and the Australian Defence Force. (Photo by MSgt Sarah Nadeau, USMC)

enemy elements in the scenario continued to rise.

Later in the month, MRF-D participated in the execution of the trilateral Exercise Southern Jackaroo, during which Australian, Japanese and U.S. militaries cleared an enemy threat with combined fires, maneuver and command-and-control.

Later during Exercise Looby, the notional enemy set up defensive positions on "Bradshaw Island." By seizing key terrain and establishing anti-access/aerial denial systems on the island, the "enemy" effectively prevented allied forces from safely mobilizing, landing and operating in the area.

"It's important to exercise in a simulated contested littoral environment reflective of an expeditionary advance based operations campaign because it aligns with the planning guidance set forth by our Marine Corps leadership," said Captain Owen Tucker, the MRF-D intelligence officer. "It allows us to be more capable and dynamic in our pursuits of a free and open Indo-Pacific by practicing to respond to scenarios in which we may actually find ourselves."

After significant intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance efforts to determine the enemy's position and capabilities, an RQ-21 Blackjack from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron (VMU) 3 spotted an anti-ship missile position in the heart of "Bradshaw Island," a threat that would pose a significant risk to an assault force embarked at sea and one that MRF-D would need to neutralize before conducting an amphibious assault.

Upon finding the target, MRF-D inserted a small team from its Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company detachment to get an in-person visual and confirm what was seen in the video feed.

"Due to the priority of this target, we need to ensure redundant methods of observation," said First Lieutenant Holly Sandler, the Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) detachment officer-in-charge, during the exercise. "A video feed from the RQ-21 Blackjack, reinforced by actual eyes-on, ensures that no matter what, when the time comes to strike, the combined task force operations center will be able to observe its effects and we can confirm its destruction."

The issue remained how to neutralize the anti-ship missile. With several offensive methods at its disposal, MRF-D chose one of its most expeditionary and intense options: HIRAIN.

The High Mobility Rocket Artillery System is well-suited to destroy surface targets from the deck of a ship. However, an anti-ship missile presents a significant

risk to an amphibious force if it is within the weapon threat range. But to land a plane and conduct a HIRAIN mission, they needed an airfield. Enter the Royal Australian Air Force.

On Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin, an RAAF C-17 Globemaster sat ready to load a U.S. Marine Corps HIMARS in the back of its cargo hold. When given the call to launch, it flew the HIMARS to an airfield secured by the MRF-D ground combat and aviation combat elements.

"Loading and carrying other service's or other militaries' equipment is a well-practiced thing that we do. We are always looking at how we do it safely as number one, but on top of that, we are looking to provide the customer with what they need," said Flight Lieutenant Thomas Breaden, an RAAF C-17 pilot.

While the C-17 was being loaded, a company of Marines from 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment (Reinforced) loaded a division of MV-22B Ospreys, ready to seize the enemy airfield and set conditions for the C-17 to land. A section of AH-1Z Vipers prepared to escort and protect the assault force.

The mission commander, Colonel David Banning, the commanding officer of MRF-D, gave the order to launch, officially beginning Exercise Looby.

Less than an hour after departing RAAF Base Darwin, the Vipers arrived at Nackeroo Airfield at Bradshaw Field Training Area and began to simulate destroying targets from the enemy oppositional force. This force—a combined team of Australian soldiers and U.S. Marines—had days to dig in defensive positions to make the MRF-D assault as realistic as possible. In the orchestrated chaos of notional gun runs and rocket fire, the Ospreys landed their company of infantry Marines, who quickly swept up the runway and cleared it.

Ultimately, the notional enemy was overcome, and the infantry company set security and notified the mission commander, who called in the HIRAIN. Less than an hour after seizure of the airfield, the RAAF C-17 landed on Nackeroo, lowered its ramp and unloaded a HIMARS, ready to move to the firing position with some targeting assistance from the aircraft.

"We directly linked up the advanced navigation system on the C-17 to the HIMARS trucks onboard. They were constantly updating their position and orienting themselves throughout the entire flight, so that once we arrived, they could go off and fire," said Breaden.

Once VMU and ANGLICO detachments confirmed visual on the target, the mission commander gave the approval to fire.



An RQ-21A Blackjack is caught by a cord to safely land at Nackeroo Airfield, Northern Territory, Australia, Aug. 12. The UAS can provide surveillance and reconnaissance to Marines on the ground and was a vital asset during Exercise Looby. (Photo by Cpl Lydia Gordon, USMC)

The HIMARS launched a single rocket, guided by GPS and containing 200 pounds of explosive, which soared more than 40 kilometers above Bradshaw before landing exactly on its mark.

As quickly as it arrived, the HIMARS sped back to the airfield to avoid detection from other enemy in the area who may have identified its position from the shot.

HIRAIN complete. Mission accomplished.

Exercises like Looby demonstrate MRF-D's ability to conduct operations as a combined joint force with the Australian Defence Force, execute expeditionary operations like HIRAIN and exemplify their mutual dedication to being postured and ready to respond to a crisis or contingency in the Indo-Pacific region.

Capt Thomas DeVries, USMC



The Krissoff family at Lake Tahoe in the fall of 1985. Nate and Austin Krissoff would later serve as Marine officers while their father Bill joined the Navy's Medical Corps to help take care of Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.



The True Meaning of SEMPER FIDELIS

A Surgeon's Journey to Heal Wounded Marines

By CDR Bill Krissoff

Our older son, Nate, was a gifted musician, scholar, and athlete, a natural leader with a keen wit and wry grin. Like many young men and women of his generation, Nate was forever changed by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He set his course on serving his country and sought the challenge of the Marine Corps. During the summer of 2004, he reported to Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Va. My wife Christine and I attended his graduation ceremony in August and watched in amazement as our boy—now a man—marched his company around

the parade ground using a drill sergeant voice that we had never heard before. Nate's younger brother, Austin, was with us that day at Quantico. Clearly the experience rubbed off on him. He decided that he, too, wanted to become a Marine.

In September 2006, Nate emailed Christine, Austin and me as he departed Okinawa for Iraq. He wrote to us: "Almost five years to the day after September 11, 2001, I have a chance to put my money where my mouth is in terms of service. I'm constantly reminded of the famous quote by Tom Hank's character at the end of 'Saving Private Ryan'—'Earn this.' Earning it

required sacrifice, determination, and doing my job to the best of my ability. I chose this and I wouldn't have it any other way."

Later in the deployment, while Austin was at OCS, Nate wrote to him with a description of an attack that killed Sergeant Jonathon J. Simpson, a much-admired member of 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. "Why do I tell you this? Because Sgt Simpson and many All-Americans like him are the ones you are entrusted to lead, protect, and stand in front of. Never forget that all the trials and training that you and the other candidates go through is not about you. America's sons and daughters will be

I asked him who took care of his Marines? He told me that every Marine battalion deploys with a Navy physician, and I knew, in that moment, what I wanted to do—take care of Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

entrusted to your care. You owe them competence, discipline, courage, and judgment. Post Sgt Simpson's memorial picture perhaps up on your squad by read-board, tell your fire team and squad and platoon all about him as a clear reminder of what this is all about. Keep it with you throughout the trials ahead. Because when you hear the final roll call, the lone bugle playing taps, and the bagpipes wailing—we better have everything short of the hand of God Himself to accomplish the mission and bring our Marines home. It is a sacrifice he and many like him have made fighting for each other. Earn it."

In December 2006, Nate was killed by an improvised explosive device while in a humvee (HMMWV) on patrol near Fallujah, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. At his memorial service in Iraq, Lieutenant Colonel Bill Seely, Nate's CO at 3rd Recon, spoke of Nate's "point of honor as his commitment to service. A man whose calling was 'Not Self, but others. Nathan brought to this battalion professionalism, teamwork, integrity and fidelity.'" Seely concluded, "Nathan, your love, your brotherhood, and your memory like the flash on the horizon at sunrise and sunset, will be endless; your silence will be deafening."

One week after his brother's death, Austin was commissioned a second lieutenant in a small ceremony in our living room in Reno, Nev. In early January 2007, Austin began The Basic School and Christine and I returned to our orthopedic practice in Truckee, Calif.

The following summer in 2007, LtCol Seely came to visit our family. As we hiked along Lake Tahoe's Emerald Bay, I asked him who took care of his Marines.



Lt Nate Krissoff (above) on patrol in Al Anbar, Iraq, in 2006 and Lt Austin P. Krissoff (left) at TQ Air Base, Iraq, 2009.

thanked me for my interest, but told me very politely that I would need an age waiver and he doubted I would be able to get one. A few weeks later, we had an unexpected opportunity to meet President George W. Bush, who was in Reno and wanted to meet privately with local families who had lost loved ones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Christine and I accepted the invitation and Austin flew in from Camp Pendleton to join us.

At the end of an emotional meeting, the President asked if there was anything he could do for any of us. I was last to speak. "Mr. President, I am an orthopedic surgeon and I want to join the Navy Medical Corps, but I was told I was too old. And no disrespect, Sir, but I am younger than you are." President Bush looked directly at Christine and asked, "What does Mama think about that idea?" Luckily, she supported my desire to serve. The President said, "No promises, but I'll see what I can do." Three days later, I got a call from LCDR Hopkins. "Well, Bill," he said chuckling. "Looks like you got your age waiver." On Nov. 19, 2007, I was

He told me that every Marine battalion deploys with a Navy physician, and I knew, in that moment, what I wanted to do—take care of Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There was only one small problem. I was 60 years old.

I called Lieutenant Commander Ken Hopkins, the nearest Navy medical recruiter, who was in San Francisco. He

The President said, “No promises, but I’ll see what I can do.” Three days later, I got a call from LCDR Hopkins. “Well, Bill,” he said chuckling. “Looks like you got your age waiver.”



Nate Krissoff with an elderly Iraqi man who was rescued from insurgents during 3rd Recon’s deployment in support to OIF in 2006.



CDR Krissoff with President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush at the State of the Union address in January 2008.

commissioned a lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserves. We closed our orthopedic surgery practice and moved to San Diego to be near my new unit—4th Medical Battalion.

Despite my nearly 30 years of orthopedic experience, I needed training in military medicine, especially combat casualty care. I spent most of 2008 training and completed the Combat Casualty Care Course along with Advanced Trauma Life Support and the Navy Trauma Training Course. These courses were often taught by military surgeons just returning from deployment and eager to share “lessons learned.” To learn more about working with Marines, I also completed the Field Medical Training Officers’ Course and participated in a three-week deployment in support of Marines doing live fire training with the Moroccan military.

I volunteered to deploy to Iraq in early 2009 as an individual augmentee with 2nd Medical Battalion. After being mobilized, I was sent to Okinawa with a small surgical team to do our predeployment workup at Camp Schwab, where Nate had previously trained.

We flew to Iraq in a noisy, hot C-130 with mesh row seats in full combat gear including helmet, flak vests with Kevlar plates, and weapons in early 2009. When we landed in Taqaddum (TQ) Air Base in Al Anbar Province, I thought we had landed on the moon—there was no ambient light for security reasons, no greenery, no trees, no plants—just sand and concrete. The housing units and chow hall were surrounded by 20-foot high concrete “blast walls” and the “cans”; 6x12 thin metal portable housing units, consisted of bunk beds, a jury-rigged desk

and set of drawers and the necessary AC. Communal bathrooms and showers were a short hike away.

The TQ surgical facility was impressive with a large trauma bay (ER) and two large operating rooms (OR) with a three-bed recovery room and small inpatient unit. This was a hardened, fixed facility that had been constructed a few years earlier. The OR even included a C-arm image intensifier to aid in fracture reduction and fixation. We had basic laboratory, blood bank, and X-ray support as well.

Things were pretty quiet in Anbar during 2009 and we saw few combat-related injuries. We did routine orthopedic care for our Marines who had sustained injuries during training on base or at the gym. In addition, we taught orthopedics to the battalion surgeons and medical officers and established a corpsmen orthopedic care course.

Austin was also deployed at that time and was stationed at Al Asad Air Base.

After seven months in Iraq, I redeployed to serve on the orthopedic staff at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. Just as I was getting oriented, I received a call from the orthopedic specialty leader, Captain Dan Unger, who called me and asked if I was available to deploy to Afghanistan. With Christine’s continuing support, I joined “Bravo” Surgery Co, 1st Medical Battalion and flew to Afghanistan in February 2010 and landed at Bastion Air Base, next to Camp Leatherneck, the Marine headquarters in Helmand province where Brigadier General Larry Nicholson, Commanding General of Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan was lo-

Dr. Krissoff at work in the surgical facility in Delaram, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2010. Krissoff's expertise in orthopedic surgery was especially valuable with patients wounded by IED blasts.



cated. When Colonel Bill Seely heard that I was deploying to Afghanistan, he told me to introduce myself to BGen Nicholson, who had been Nate's regimental CO in 2006. BGen Nicholson had sent us a long, heartfelt handwritten condolence note at the time of Nate's death in combat.

Four years later, he sat down with me at Camp Leatherneck; we talked for an hour about Nate and his deployment and then BGen Nicholson briefed me on Marine

strategy and tactics battling the Taliban in Helmand province.

I was initially assigned to Camp Bastion, a British surgical facility co-located with Camp Leatherneck. Navy staff worked side-by-side with British military medical personnel to care for U.S. and British soldiers and Marines, Afghan Army and Police, as well as Afghan civilians. Bastion was the busiest surgical facility in Afghanistan.

My first patient was an Afghan soldier with traumatic triple amputation from an IED blast—both legs amputated above the knees and partial amputation of one arm. Severely injured patients were treated by teams of surgeons—often two per extremity and at least two anesthesiologists to deal with airway and fluid resuscitation. Our goal was orthopedic damage control surgery—control life-threatening hemorrhage, remove foreign debris and devitalized tissue, ensure temporary blood supply to devascularized limbs with plastic shunts, release tight muscle compartments (fasciotomies), quickly stabilize any fractures or dislocations (usually with external fixators), and get the patient out of the OR quickly to continue resuscitation in the ICU.

U.S. troops were usually routed through Bagram, the Level III Air Force hospital near Kabul for further debridement and evaluation of wounds, before being flown to the Level IV facility at Landstuhl, Germany. Often the wounded soldiers and Marines would arrive at Walter Reed



Dr. Krissoff with a local Afghan man who was treated for a snakebite at the Level II surgical facility in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 2010.



An Afghan patient with a blast injury is stabilized in the trauma bay at the surgical facility, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 2010.



The surgical facility at Al Taqqadum Air Base, Iraq in 2009.



Dr. Krissoff completes an amputation as the result of a blast injury in the Delaram II Level II surgical facility, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 2010.

Medical Center or Bethesda Naval Hospital within a matter of a few days. Severe burn patients would be flown directly from Afghanistan to Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

After five weeks at Camp Bastion, I rejoined my surgical company to set up a Level II ER/ surgical facility in Forward Operating Base Delaram II in remote western Helmand Province. Plans were being drawn up for scaling up this base as the center of combat operations for the region and we were to provide medical/ surgical support.

Within a few days we were up and running in three Alaskan tents with wooden floors. The first tent held our trauma bay or ER. The second was designated as our operating room and the third encompassed lab and a portable X-ray unit. We slept in tents just across from our ER/OR adjacent to the helicopter pad and were readily available for emergencies—night and day.

As the only functioning surgical facility in the region, we saw all manner of injuries from car wrecks to snakebites to kids with forearm fractures to severe combat injuries. We would see anyone who showed up at the main gate of the base. We took care of a pair of Afghans who claimed they had their legs blown off while riding a tractor going to their fields but their injuries were most likely from an ill-fated attempt to plant an IED which detonated prematurely.

In early July 2010, I was reassigned to Camp Bastion where we were inundated with blast injuries from IEDs. The signature injury to our Marine patients was the high (above the knee) double amputation which occurred during dismounted combat operations. Often this was combined with injuries to at least one arm as well. The chest and abdomen were less frequently injured because of body armor.

Innovations in combat casualty care were saving lives on the battlefield. Universal adoption of the CAT tourniquet helped prevent death from blood loss. All soldiers, Sailors and Marines carried at least one tourniquet and were trained in the application. In the case of traumatic amputation, often two tourniquets would be used on the injured extremity. Corpsmen and Army medics were given extensive training on improving airway management which could include oral airways, specialized supraglottic tubes such as the Combi-tube and the King airway, endotracheal intubation, or when all else failed, emergency surgical cricothyroidotomy (creating a surgical hole in the windpipe or trachea). Navy corpsmen were also instructed on needle decompression of the chest to treat tension pneumo-



But as soon as he awoke from anesthesia, he insisted that he go back to his unit in Marjah. Initially I said, “No, you’re out of here.” He replied, “No way.” I finally relented and closed his wounds.

Krissoff, right, and BGen William Seeley, Nate’s battalion commander in 3rd Recon Bn, at Mount Soledad in San Diego, Calif., at a Memorial Day ceremony honoring Krissoff’s oldest son, 1stLt Nathan Krissoff, who was killed in action while serving in 3rd Recon Bn in 2006. BGen Seeley and LtGen Larry Nicholson both spoke at the ceremony.

thorax (collapsed lung leading to shift and increasing pressure on the remaining lung).

Rapid evacuation, usually by helicopter to a surgical facility, was standard procedure in Iraq and Afghanistan. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates mandated that all seriously injured soldiers, Sailors, and Marines be transported to surgical care within the “Golden Hour” to give them the best chance of survival. The Army “dustoff” medics and the Air Force paramedics performed heroic work on the battlefield, often under fire, to evacuate and stabilize injured servicemen. In Afghanistan, the British evacuation help even included a critical care physician onboard, essentially bringing the ER to the battlefield.

Military ER physicians and surgeons changed the standard of care for fluid replacement in combat trauma. Blood loss from traumatic battle injuries was now treated with blood products instead of sterile saline solution. Fresh whole blood transfusion was the preferred product. In some remote bases, a “walking blood bank” of volunteer base Marines and soldiers provided lifesaving transfusions.

Our orthopedic team at Bastion consisted of two British orthopedists, another Navy orthopedist, an Army

orthopedic PA and myself. We were lucky to have also have a talented British plastic surgeon, Wing Commander Wian Van Niekirk, who was a microvascular expert as well as burn specialist. He would prove invaluable in the care of upper extremity injuries, particularly when we needed urgent major blood vessel repair or reconstruction.

The introduction of MRAP (mine-resistant-ambush-protected) vehicles in the place of the vulnerable humvees saved countless lives. The heavy protective V-hulls of the MRAPs proved their design when hit by IEDs and the force of the blast was directed away from the vehicle. The

greatest vulnerability of the “up-armored” humvee was from bombs planted in the roadway since the floor of the vehicle was not armored.

I never met a Marine who complained about his injury. A strapping young Marine sergeant was injured in the Battle of Marjah and sustained a high-velocity gunshot wound to his upper right arm with a devastating, fist-sized exit wound. He was quick to tell me that even with this injury, he had returned fire to the enemy. We took him directly to surgery to clean his wounds. He had lost part of his triceps muscle and would require specialized wound care back in the States. After surgery, I prepared to make the arrangements to transfer him back to Bethesda Naval Hospital. But as soon as he awoke from anesthesia, he insisted that he go back to his unit in Marjah.

Initially I said, “No, you’re out of here.” He replied, “No way.” I finally relented and closed his wounds at Camp Bastion a few days later. When I last saw him to remove his sutures, his wounds were healing nicely and was on his way back to his unit. I later heard that he was wounded again—this time with a gunshot wound to his hip. He was treated at another surgical facility and again made it back to his unit. All he wanted to do was get back in the fight.

One Navy corpsman was brought in



CDR Bill Krissoff, USN, and his younger son, Lt Austin Krissoff, USMC.

The Krissoff boys, Austin and Nate, were both on the U.S. Junior National Whitewater Team in their youth.

with grave injuries: the loss of both legs above the knee, loss of one arm at the elbow, and partial loss of his other hand. When we rushed him to the OR, we were shocked to find a large gun barrel and webbing around one of his amputation stumps. Despite his catastrophic injuries, he had directed his Marines to make an improvised tourniquet out of a web belt and the barrel of a 240 Golf machine gun. A standard tourniquet would not have worked on an amputation so high on his right thigh. No doubt he saved his own life with his quick thinking.

On our busiest day at Bastion, we admitted 32 trauma patients and took 24 of those patients to surgery. They were unfortunate victims of a Taliban bomb in the busy market of the nearby town of Gareesh. It was heart-wrenching to see traumatic limb amputations on young, innocent children. Every surgeon, nurse, surgical tech, and corpsman at Bastion pitched in until the last patient was cared for that evening.

I left Camp Bastion in August and my deployment in Afghanistan, especially at Bastion, was the most rewarding of my entire orthopedic career. The work was intense and exhausting, yet gratifying caring for injured soldiers, Sailors and Marines, Coalition troops, Afghan soldiers, policemen and civilians. This was truly a team effort: from the Army helo medics and Air Force PJs, to the ER docs, nurses, and corpsmen, to the OR techs,



Bill, Christine and Austin Krissoff (left). As a military spouse and Gold Star mother, Christine held down the homefront during multiple deployments by her husband and two sons.

Deployment is harder on the family back in the States than the servicemember who is deployed. ... I will be forever grateful for her willingness to support my quest to serve in the Navy Medical Corps.

nurses, surgeons and anesthesiologists to the ICU nurses and docs and finally to the Air Force critical care flight teams. An injured Marine who came to our facility with a heartbeat had a 98 percent chance of leaving alive.

Deployment is harder on the family back in the States than the servicemember who is deployed. Christine was a whirlwind when both Austin and I were deployed to Iraq in 2009. She moved us from Reno to Southern California and prepared our new home that had been unoccupied for 18 months. I will be forever grateful for her willingness to support my quest to serve in the Navy Medical Corps and deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In June of 2010, Austin transferred to Washington, D.C. to an Army billet and graduate school and by November, I checked back into the Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. Although I had been changed by my tour in Afghanistan, it was business as usual at the Navy hospital—plenty of Marines with knee, shoulder, and ankle injuries, disability forms to deal with, and administrative paperwork. The Marines were terrific patients—highly motivated, positive, uncomplaining and stoic—but were often too aggressive with their post-op rehabilitation. I settled back into the routine of office hours, surgery and emergency call and some semblance of normal life.

I felt very lucky to be selected for O-5 and hoped to have my promotion in Washington, D.C., so that Austin and his fellow Marines as well as Nate's friends could attend. Austin suggested I contact Major General Larry Nicholson and see if he would be willing to officiate. When I contacted him by email, he responded immediately that he would be honored to officiate and suggested the ceremony be held at the Pentagon. It was a special day with a Pentagon tour, lunch in the General Officers' Mess, and then an emotional ceremony in Secretary Gates's conference room hosted by MajGen Nicholson. Christine and Austin pinned on my commander's silver oak leaves on my summer whites.

When offered a chance to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in the fall of 2011, I jumped at the opportunity. My main tasking was to be available 24/7 for orthopedic emergencies. I ran weekly orthopedic clinics at the hospital with my ortho tech, scheduled elective surgeries, and saw detainee patients on Fridays at the Detainee Camp. They were polite, respectful, and spoke surprisingly good English. Not at all what I expected. Mostly I ended up treating overuse injuries from their soccer games.

Before I deployed to Iraq in 2009, a



MajGen Nicholson, right, promoted Krissoff to the grade of commander in a ceremony in the Secretary of Defense's office at the Pentagon in 2010.



Krissoff and Capt Shin, right, during Krissoff's visit to 3rd Recon Bn, Camp Schwab, Okinawa in November 2017. Capt Shin was the battalion's intelligence officer, the same section Nate Krissoff had served in more than 10 years earlier.

My presentation at that Marine Corps Birthday Ball was an electric experience for me. I felt an extraordinary connection to the hundreds of MCI-Pacific Marines and their families that night.

Reno journalist asked me if I was going there to get closure around Nate's death and if I was planning to visit the location near Fallujah where his attack took place?" My answer at that time was that I was not seeking "closure" but rather Austin and I were deploying to Iraq to finish Nate's unfinished work. In 2016 as I prepared to honor Nate at a Memorial Day ceremony at Mount Soledad in San Diego, the journalist called me and asked if I had gotten closure in Iraq. This time I was ready with my answer. I told him

that the term "closure" is a meaningless term to anyone who has ever lost a son or daughter. Your family is never the same. Your loss is endless.

Mount Soledad National Veterans Memorial chose to honor 1stLt Nathan Krissoff on Memorial Day, 2016. MajGen Larry Nicholson readily agreed to be the keynote speaker and had the rapt attention of all those in attendance that gloomy day when he recounted Nate's service and sacrifice, Austin's Marine career, my surgical work in Iraq and Afghanistan, but most importantly, Christine's steadfast patriotic support of her sons and husband. Nate's former battalion commander, Colonel Seely, was also with us that day. He spoke of Nate's invaluable work on deployment as the only Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence (CI/HUMIN) specialist in the battalion in Anbar and he spoke of how beloved Nate was by his fellow Recon Marines.

Since completing my tour at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, I have had many occasions to share our family story. In 2017, LtGen Nicholson, then CG, III MEF, invited me to Okinawa for the Marine Corps Birthday celebration. I talked of "Lessons Learned" on combat casualty care in Iraq and Afghanistan with the docs and surgeons from both 3rd Medical

Battalion and the Okinawa Naval Hospital. At the MCI-Pacific Marine Ball, I spoke of Nate's service and sacrifice and related stories of injured Marines and Sailors I cared for in Afghanistan. My presentation at that Marine Corps Birthday Ball was an electric experience for me. I felt an extraordinary connection to the hundreds of MCI-Pacific Marines and their families that night.

My final morning on Okinawa I traveled once more to Camp Schwab to visit 3rd Recon Bn's new headquarters. The intel shop had Nate's picture from deployment in Iraq posted prominently on their wall. I shared Nate's story with the battalion's attentive young Recon Marines. Then to my surprise, I received a handmade Recon Paddle dedicated in honor of 1stLt Nathan Krissoff, USMC with the inscription: "EARN THIS!" Austin, Christine, and I will forever be part of the 3rd Recon family.

I joined the Navy to heal Marines. It was an honor and a privilege. In the process, I was able to learn a little about the fraternity my sons had joined. I learned there are no truer words than the Marine motto—Semper Fidelis—Always Faithful.

Editor's note: All photos courtesy of CDR Bill Krissoff. 🇺🇸



Dr. Krissoff was presented with a Recon paddle by the Marines of 3rd Recon during his visit to the unit on Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan in 2017.

Marine Raider Awarded Navy Cross



The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David H. Berger, presented the Navy Cross to Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Jones for his actions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Base Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 26.

“It was his quick thinking, his selfless actions, and his decisive leadership not only that saved the lives of another team member but kept the rest of the team alive,” said Gen Berger. “It was his demanding leadership that prepared his team. It was his demanding mindset, I would offer, that led his team off that mountain that day,” he added.

SSgt Jones was assigned as an Element Leader with Marine Special Operations Company H, 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, Marine Raider Regiment, on March 8, 2020, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Jones was accompanying Iraqi forces to clear enemy positions when numerous barricaded enemy forces opened fire, wounding an allied special operator, and subsequently wounding two Marine Raiders.

According to the award citation, despite the chaos that was unfolding, SSgt Jones “seized the initiative and organized a counterattack. Under sustained, accurate enemy fire at close range, he maneuvered to the [allied] casualty, suppressing the enemy 20 meters away with his rifle and grenades while helping to move the casualty to a covered position and subsequent medical evacuation.”

Nearly five hours into the firefight, Jones was struck in the leg after leading a third and final attack on the enemy position. Refusing medical treatment and pain medication, he continued to fight until he was medically evacuated.

“It is not beyond me how fortunate I am to be alive to accept this award. Thank you all for your support,” Jones said. “Never above you. Never below you. Always beside you,” he added.

SSgt Jones is the eighth servicemember in MARSOC’s 15-year history to be awarded the Navy Cross.

Sgt Jesula Jeanlouis, USMC



SGT JESULA JEANLOUIS, USMC



SGT JESULA JEANLOUIS, USMC

Above: Gen David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, presents the Navy Cross to SSgt Nicholas J. Jones. SgtMaj Troy Black, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, far left, was also in attendance at the Aug. 26 ceremony aboard MCB Camp Lejeune.

Left: Marine Raider SSgt Nicholas J. Jones speaks to the audience during the ceremony at which he received the Navy Cross, Aug. 26 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. “It is not beyond me how fortunate I am to be alive to accept this award,” he said. SSgt Jones received the award for his actions in Iraq, March 8, 2020, during Operation Inherent Resolve.

“Under sustained, accurate enemy fire at close range, he maneuvered to the [allied] casualty, suppressing the enemy 20 meters away with his rifle and grenades while helping to move the casualty to a covered position”

USMC Rifle Team Competes In 2021 National Matches

The U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Team made its mark on the historic ranges of Camp Perry, Port Clinton, Ohio, while competing in the 2021 National Matches, July 26-Aug. 10. The team placed fourth out of 58 six-member teams made up of U.S. servicemembers, junior shooters and civilians.

The National Matches, known as the “world series of shooting sports,” have been a tradition at Camp Perry since 1907, welcoming more than 4,500 participants

annually. Shooters compete in precision rifle and handgun competitions for five weeks.

Sergeant Christopher Williams, a competitor with the Marine Corps Rifle Team, finished ninth out of 836 shooters in the Rifle President’s 100. His final overall score—a combination of his scores in the National Trophy Individual Match, the Rifle President’s 100 and the National Team Trophy Match—earned him the Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock Trophy. The trophy is awarded to the Marine competitor with the highest overall score. Sgt Williams’

score of 1,283—51x broke a 2013 record set by Master Sergeant Julia Watson.

“This is my fifth season on the team and my fourth time at nationals,” said Williams. “I go out there and do what I can do—some days it comes together and some days it doesn’t. This year it came together for all the big matches ... If I produce a good score during a match, I am happy because I know that I pulled my weight for the team.”

The teams prepare extensively prior to the competition with several practice days and team meetings. They also take the time to weigh each individual round and separate them into boxes based on their weight.

“We weigh the ammo to create a perfect storm,” said Sergeant Mike Ogle, the team’s assistant coach and competitor. “We try to create every bit of accuracy that we can in order to succeed.”

While being a member of the rifle team is rewarding, it comes with challenges that require a resilient mindset to overcome mental and physical adversity.

“A lot of people may think that bull’s-eye shooting is a relatively easy sport because they only ever see us sitting or lying down,” said Sergeant Patrick Moody, a member of the Marine Corps Rifle Team who competed in the 2021 National Matches. “It takes a toll on your body. Being out there for long days, you have to have a competitive mindset. As a team we always come together and make it happen.”

The team and its individual members take the marksmanship skills they learn and bring their knowledge back to their own units, which in turn produces more well-rounded and precision shooters for the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps Shooting Team instructors also offer a Mobile Training Team Program, which trains staff from other units in advanced and practical marksmanship skills, ultimately helping create a more lethal and effective fighting force.

LCpl Paige Verry, USMC

Qualified Individuals Earn Spots on New Littoral Engineer Recon Team

A brand-new Littoral Engineer Reconnaissance Team (LERT), designed to support engineering and mobility-specific intelligence requirements, was recently assembled as part of 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. In order to evaluate and select the most



LCPL PAIGE VERRY, USMC

Sgt Christopher Williams of the Marine Corps Rifle Team was awarded the coveted GySgt Carlos Hathcock Trophy at the 2021 National Matches at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, Ohio, in August.

Below: LCpl Michael Barger, right, a combat engineer with 9th ESB, 3rd MLG, participates in a timed ruck run during the LERT screener on Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 18. The battalion conducted the screener to select the most qualified Marines and Sailors to serve on its first-ever LERT and to introduce some of the physical and mental challenges that the selected Marines will be expected to overcome.



SGT HAILEY CLAY, USMC



SGT HAILEY CLAY, USMC



SGT HAILEY CLAY, USMC

Above: During the first phase of the LERT screener, which tested muscular endurance, a Marine with 9th ESB, 3rd MLG does pull-ups, Aug. 18. The LERT is a 3rd MLG capability, specialized in engineering and mobility-specific intelligence reconnaissance.

Left: Capt Samuel Houghtling, left, assistant operations officer with 9th ESB, 3rd MLG, gives a safety brief to Marines and Sailors participating in the LERT screener at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 18.

qualified Marines and Sailors to serve on the team, 9th Engineer Support Battalion held a physical and academic screener at Camp Hansen, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 18.

By the end of the day-long selection process, 12 Marines were chosen to establish one Engineer Reconnaissance Squad made up of three four-man fire teams. To ensure a cross-section of necessary skills to conduct overt geospatial collection

operations, the LERT consists of combat engineers, transmissions system operators and a hospital corpsman, all led by a ground intelligence officer, forming a cross-functional team that 9th ESB can detach to provide crucial support to other units.

“Eventually we want to see the LERT turn into something similar to Radio Recon,” said First Lieutenant Brandon Cavil, the intelligence officer with 9th ESB. “If you look at how to win a fight

over a near-peer adversary, aside from overwhelming firepower, it’s overwhelming intelligence. That is critical. In response to the Commandant’s planning guidance in manning, training and equipping to fight a near-peer adversary, reconnaissance is an important element. Our LERT is going to fill that role here at 3rd MLG and throughout III MEF [Marine Expeditionary Force].”

The LERT screener entailed four separate phases, culminating in a selection

board. The first and second phases tested muscular endurance with a max effort pull-up, push-up and sit-up evaluation and a timed 250-meter swim in utilities. The third phase tested the participants' ability to maneuver under load to different objectives via a 6-mile timed ruck run.

"The LERT screener is all about being a warrior. It's Marines putting themselves in a situation that makes them uncomfortable, putting out, not quitting, and leaving here a little more capable than when they woke up this morning," said Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Gillet, 9th ESB's battalion commander.

The fourth phase, a written exam, tested the Marines' basic knowledge in engineer-

ing, demolition and provisional infantry knowledge to evaluate their aptitude to meet the demands of complex operations. After completion of the final event, battalion leadership held a selection board to tally the final scores and select the team. Of the 22 Marines and one Sailor who participated, only 12 were selected to form the LERT.

While 9th ESB conducted a trial run of the LERT concept during Exercise Poseidon's Watchtower in June alongside the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, Gillet says this is only the beginning of an exciting new tool for 3rd MLG.

"We're only scratching the surface right

now. The LERT will be capable of conducting mobility assessments and beach reconnaissance, establishing helicopter landing zones, assessing infrastructure and other tasks that are the bread and butter of what the engineering community has done for years, but taken to the next level. If any element of the MAGTF requests this capability I will not say no," said Gillet. "The LERT will inform the commander on the capabilities and limitations of what can be done, and what work is required to get Marines and equipment wherever you need to get them while overcoming the physical environment."

1stLt Alejandro Arteaga, USMC

First Corps-Owned MQ-9A Reaper Procured by 3rd MAW

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron (VMU) 1, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing procured the Marine Corps' first MQ-9A Reaper remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) after transitioning from contractor-owned, contractor-operated (COCO) to government-owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) construct at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 30.

In order to achieve the Commandant of the Marine Corps' vision of future force design, VMU-1 has transitioned from the RQ-21 Group 3 unmanned aircraft to the MQ-9A. Since 2018, flight operations of the MQ-9A have fallen under a COCO construct. Now, the MQ-9A has transitioned to a GOCO unmanned aerial system, signifying the Marine Corps' ownership of these assets and progression toward an organically trained and qualified aircrew. This milestone is the culmination of three years of training, safety and operational planning, contractor maintenance, process development and staff analysis of risk management to ensure complete procedural adherence to Navy and Marine Corps aviation policies.

"VMU-1 is living the Commandant's vision of Force Design 2030, and our unit is laying the groundwork for future squadrons to execute similar missions within INDOPACOM [U.S. Indo-Pacific Command] or anywhere else that we are needed," said Major Keenan Chirhart, the executive officer of VMU-1.

VMU-1's procurement of the first MQ-9A owned by the Marine Corps evolves the service as a force, making it capable of further integration of operations in naval, ground, air and cyber domains. As the Marine Corps transitions to the employment of the MQ-9A, Force Design 2030 presents opportunities for similar implementation across the globe. This transition gives VMU-1 the capability of piloting the forward-deployed MQ-9A that aligns with the Commandant's directive



CPL SARAH MARSHALL, USMC

MARINE'S BEST FRIEND—Cpl Levi Smith, a military working dog handler with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, and his military working dog, Eddie, prepare to depart Camp Hansen, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 17. With the planned deactivation of 3rd LE Bn in accordance with the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Force Design 2030, the battalion said goodbye to its six military working dogs, who were either adopted by their current or past handlers or were sent to continue their training with different branches in the Department of Defense. Cpl Smith chose to adopt Eddie and bring him along to his next assignment. During their time attached to the battalion, the military working dogs provided III MEF with unmatched deterrence, detection and threat-engagement capabilities.



LCPL GABRIELLE SANDERS, USMC

Capt Joshua Brooks, a UAS operator, and MSgt Willie Cheeseboro Jr., an enlisted aircrew coordinator with VMU-1, prepare to launch and operate the first Marine Corps-owned MQ-9A Reaper on MCAS Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 30.

domain awareness operations in highly contested areas, providing friendly forces a multi-domain reconnaissance capability across the electromagnetic spectrum. Moreover, it proves that VMU-1 is uniquely positioned to enable naval and joint force targeting from a remote location by a Marine aviator and sensor operator while the aircraft is physically located within another combatant commander's area of operation.

The MQ-9A was developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Incorporated. The remotely piloted aircraft capability revolutionizes military operations by allowing the system operator to operate from ship and shore and employ both collection and lethal payloads while integrating with command-and-control centers, allowing the synchronization of remotely piloted aircraft with ground and air assets.

Cpl Levi Voss, USMC



for persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, which have supported daily combat operations around the world.

"The MQ-9A is a medium altitude, long-endurance Group 5 remotely piloted aircraft capable of conducting multiple mission sets to include multi-sensor imagery reconnaissance, unmanned aerial

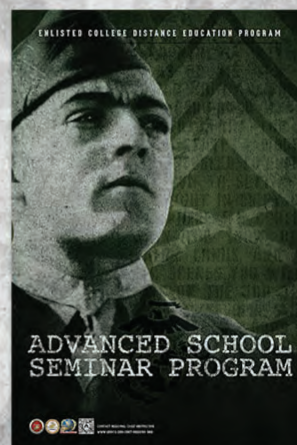
escort and electronic support," said Chirhart.

As home to the first Marine Corps-owned MQ-9A, VMU-1 is also taking a huge step toward the verification of policies and procedures that the squadron's Marines have developed for the aircraft. With this transition, the squadron is currently engaged in executing maritime

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The Storytellers

Museum's Docents Bring Marine Corps History to Life

By Sara W. Bock

As visitors to the National Museum of the Marine Corps weave their way through the extensive exhibits and galleries that chronicle the 246-year history of the Corps, they'll find the revered flag raised atop Mount Suribachi in February 1945, captured in the famed photograph by Joe Rosenthal. Just steps away, visitors can brave refrigerator-like temperatures and hear the roar of gunfire as they venture through the "Frozen Chosin" alongside Marines in Toktong Pass, Korea. Along the Legacy Walk, they can see Sergeant Major Dan Daly's Medals of Honor—one from the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 and a second earned during

the first Haitian Campaign in 1915—and get up close to original works by Colonel Charles H. Waterhouse, the Marine Corps’ first official artist-in-residence, in the Combat Art Gallery. Here, just outside the gates of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., the legends of the Corps come to life, but not just in the museum’s impressive and interactive displays.

Visitors also have an opportunity to learn from those who have lived the history that lines the walls around them and can speak about it firsthand: Marine veterans serving in the museum’s robust, all-volunteer docent corps.

They might have an exchange with 98-year-old Jack Elliott, who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and can point up at the SBD-3 Dauntless dive bomber that hangs in the museum’s Leatherneck Gallery and tell stories of his exploits as an SBD-3 rear gunner. Or perhaps they’ll peer into the Vietnam exhibit and meet helicopter pilot Larry Britton, who can stand beneath the CH-46 marked with the insignia of the HMM-364 “Purple Foxes,” the squadron he was assigned to during the war and recount the missions he flew as

a young lieutenant at Marble Mountain.

Whether they take a 45-minute docent-led tour of the museum or briefly interact with a docent posted inside one of the galleries, visitors’ experiences are enhanced by these seasoned storytellers,

**“It’s one thing to read about
Marine Corps history,
it is another thing to speak
to someone that has
lived it, and many of our
docents have lived it.”**

**Scott Gardiner, NMMC
Visitor’s Services Chief**

who devote a great deal of their time and energy to connecting with those who enter the museum doors, from young students on school field trips and prospective Marine recruits to veteran Marines visiting with reunion groups.

“The docents bring a level of context to the history that a visitor may not fully grasp, particularly if the visitor is not a Marine. It’s one thing to read about Marine Corps history, it is another thing to speak to someone that has lived it, and many of our docents have lived it,” said Scott Gardiner, the museum’s Visitor Services Chief, who retired from the Navy in 2008 after more than 21 years of service as a Chief Culinary Specialist and joined the museum staff in 2017 after earning a master’s degree in applied history from George Mason University. “Our volunteers have recorded over 319,000 volunteer hours and welcomed more than [6 million] visitors,” he added.

The docent corps, which was established just before the museum first opened its doors in 2006, is a diverse group of individuals who reside in Northern Virginia and come from varying backgrounds and different generations. It’s important to note that not all the museum’s docents served in the Marine Corps: Some served in other branches of the Armed Forces, some are children or spouses of Marines, and others simply have an interest in Marine



Above: Museum docent and Marine veteran Frank Matthews talks to high school students about his experiences during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Left: The National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., has welcomed millions of visitors since its opening in 2006. An integral part of the visitor experience is interacting with the museum’s docents, many of whom served in the Marine Corps during critical times in its history. (Photo courtesy of National Museum of the Marine Corps)



SCOTT GARDINER

Docent Nayla Mengel speaks with museum visitors in the museum's expansive Leatherneck Gallery. The museum is proud of its diverse docent corps, which includes individuals of varying ages, backgrounds and experiences.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

Docent Randall Arnold talks with active-duty Marines during a professional military education event at the museum.

Corps history and a passion for teaching and interacting with people. Their service to the museum, said Gardiner, is of equal importance and value as the service of the Marine veterans who volunteer.

Prospective docents must complete a series of eight Saturday morning training sessions, as well as a mentorship with a more experienced docent, in order to "graduate" and begin volunteering. Even after they become certified, the museum offers monthly training events for all docents, during which dinner is served, important announcements are made, a guest speaker gives a presentation, and the docents have an opportunity to socialize with one another. On the museum's second deck, a docent lounge houses a library of publications about Marine Corps history that can be utilized for continuing education.

"We are teaching, but we are learning the whole time," said Wally Jabs, one of the original docents who has dedicated more than 5,000 volunteer hours to the museum since it opened. "You can talk all day about the Marine Corps and not a soul will tell you to shut up! That's what I enjoy about it," he added with a chuckle.

Each year in November, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, which

supports the museum as its nonprofit arm, puts on a Marine Corps Birthday celebration and dinner for the docents, who enjoy the opportunity to observe traditions like the reading of Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune's birthday message and the cake cutting ceremony

Before they visited the museum, they did not understand why their child [or] grandchild would ever want to join the Marines, but they do now. When that happens it is very humbling.

Scott Gardiner, NMMC Visitor's Services Chief

which honors both the oldest and youngest Marine present.

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced lengthy closures of the museum during 2020 and early 2021, many docents described feeling a bit unmoored without their weekly routine of spending their assigned days at the museum interacting with visitors. Many have re-

turned since its reopening on May 17 and were excited to get back to a new "normal."

As the museum's staff members look ahead to the next decade and beyond, they recognize their need for the younger generations of Marine veterans, particularly those who served in the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan, to join the docent corps and share their stories, knowledge and experience with museum guests.

"Our volunteers not only make a difference to the museum's mission, but they make a difference to the Marine Corps as a whole," said Gardiner. "I cannot tell you how many times a parent has said to me that their child is getting commissioned [or] promoted today and it all started with a visit to the museum. I have also had parents and grandparents tell me that before they visited the museum, they did not understand why their child [or] grandchild would ever want to join the Marines, but they do now. When that happens it is very humbling, but it is almost always because of an interaction a visitor had with a docent that inspires that visitor to commit to the Marine Corps," he added.

Here are the stories of just a few of the many Marine veterans who volunteer their time as docents:

Jack Elliott

Every Friday morning, 98-year-old retired Marine Major John “Jack” Elliott gets in his car at the Springfield, Va., assisted living facility where he resides, and drives himself more than 20 miles south to the museum. The son of a Marine who served during the First World War, Elliott enlisted in 1942 as an aviation ordnanceman and served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam during his 24-year career in the Corps. Elliott, a mustang officer who worked his way up the ranks from “buck private to warrant officer to major and every rank in between,” he says, worked on the first F4U Corsairs to head for Guadalcanal and as a rear gunner in the SBD-3 Dauntless as a young Marine during WW II. He later served as an ordnance officer.

Elliott has authored numerous books and articles on Marine aviation and says his passion for preserving the Corps’ history began when he was still serving on active duty. Once, he caught wind that the Marine Corps’ aircraft history cards—which documented the record of each individual aircraft by tail number—were at the burn pile loading dock at the Pentagon and would soon be destroyed.

“I called over. I was the air station ordnance officer here at Quantico, so I had nothing to do with the museums, and I told more lies than a recruiting sergeant!” Elliott said with a laugh, describing how he overstated his position and then drove from Quantico to Arlington to rescue the cards. “I went there, and I took the whole damn file.”

After he retired from the Corps, Elliott took his military background and interest in history to a second career with the Smithsonian Institution. Initially, he was assigned to work in collections for the National Armed Forces Museum, which was a planned addition to the Smithsonian and was in the preliminary stages of development throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. The museum never became a reality due to a lack of funding, but Elliott stayed with the Smithsonian, becoming a contract administrator and later working in various other roles. He also was involved in the establishment of the Marine Corps Aviation Museum on Brown Field at Quantico, which later was renamed the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum and was a precursor to the National Museum where he serves as a docent today.

When the National Museum of the Marine Corps acquired the SBD-3 Dauntless that hangs in the Leatherneck Gallery today and began extensive restorations, Elliott helped advise the staff as a technical consultant. It’s not surprising, then, that the Dauntless is his favorite artifact in the museum to talk with visitors about.

“I enjoy talking with them. I tell them ‘This is the way it was,’ said Elliott.

As soon as the museum began looking for docents, Elliott



SCOTT GARDINER

“I enjoy talking with them.

I tell them ‘This is the way it was.’ ”



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

signed up. Today, he says, there are just a handful of the original docents left.

For Elliott, whose wife passed away in February, the museum is more than just a volunteer opportunity.

“This is home,” said Jack Elliott of the museum. “This keeps me going.”

Mike Styka

The Battle of Iwo Jima is arguably the most well-known in Marine Corps history, and for museum docent and retired Master Gunnery Sergeant Mike Styka, visitors' interest in the iconic battle presents an excellent opportunity for him to share the greater context that surrounds it.

"Everybody understands, I think, that we raised the flag on Mount Suribachi, so I like to put things into perspective because a lot of people don't realize how important attacking the island of Iwo Jima was and what it was going to do for the Allies," said Styka, who retired from the Marine Corps in 2001 and then worked for Marine Corps Recruiting Command as a civilian for 15 years. After retiring from his second career, he volunteered as a docent and recently passed the 3,000-hours of service mark.

"We were going to take this island at any cost, and that's basically what happened," Styka tells visitors about Iwo Jima. "On Dec. 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked—65,000 Marines on active duty. About 39 months later, we're putting Marines ashore on Iwo Jima—over 70,000 Marines ashore. In today's world, that would be half of the enlisted force of today's Marine Corps."

Once, when Styka was giving a museum tour, he stopped in the Leatherneck Gallery next to the mounted Sikorsky UH-34D helicopter that depicts Marines exiting the aircraft during Operation Starlite in Vietnam. Just below the cockpit on the right side of the helicopter, the name "Gracious Lady Bev" is painted. A museum guest asked Styka what that meant, and he didn't have an answer.

But just as Styka said that, the man standing next to him said, "That's my wife's name." He had served as president of the HMM-361 Flying Association, which refurbished the aircraft prior to donating it to the museum, and he told Styka that after all the hours he spent in the barn to refinish the aircraft, he honored his wife for putting up with his absence by painting her name on it.

The museum is filled with untold stories and fascinating details like these, and Styka enjoys the opportunity to learn something new every day from the museum's visitors, as well as from fellow docents—both those who served in the Corps and those who didn't, he says.



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

"Everybody understands, I think, that we raised the flag on Mount Suribachi, so I like to put things into perspective because a lot of people don't realize how important attacking the island of Iwo Jima was and what it was going to do for the Allies."

Wally Jabs

“Get off my bus!” bellows a loud voice from the entrance to the museum’s Legacy Walk, causing heads to turn in that general direction. But it’s not a drill instructor they see when they look that way: it’s retired Major Wally Jabs, one of the museum’s original docents, who relishes the opportunity to make a visitor’s walk through the “Making Marines” exhibit as realistic as possible.

His goal? To gain followers as he gives a museum tour rather than lose any along the way.

“I scared the security guards the first time I did it,” he says with a hint of mischief in his voice. “Now they say ‘Oh, that’s just Wally!’ I like taking people through here and giving them the boot camp experience.”

Whether it’s teaching visitors about boot camp, the Marine Corps’ early years and its beginnings in Philadelphia or telling them about his own experiences as a Marine Security Guard assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Paris, the mustang Marine officer’s enthusiasm for the history of the Corps is contagious.

“It’s the greatest thing in the world to be able to tell people about different parts of Marine Corps history,” said Jabs, who is also the son of a Marine. “You don’t have to know everything. You’ll learn it.”

When he’s not volunteering at the museum, Jabs, who spent most of his Marine Corps career in aircraft maintenance and started a construction company after his retirement in 1978, stays busy with woodworking projects and ballroom dancing lessons. He’s been known to turn on some polka, foxtrot or tango music in the museum on lower-traffic days—whenever he can find a willing dance partner, that is.

As a docent, Jabs has enjoyed the opportunity to meet general officers from different service branches and members of foreign military services, as well as Marines who served during World War II. He prides himself on being able to captivate an audience with stories of the Marine Corps and encouraging them to participate by asking them questions and interacting with them.

“We know how to engage people and keep them interested because now they want to know the answer to that question I asked them!” Jabs said.



SARA W. BOCK



SARA W. BOCK

“It’s the greatest thing in the world to be able to tell people about different parts of Marine Corps history. You don’t have to know everything. You’ll learn it.”

And when he talks with visitors or finishes a tour, Jabs often reaches in his pocket and presses a special memento into their hands in a gesture of camaraderie: a “challenge coin” with an Eagle, Globe and Anchor that reads, “Once a Marine, Always a Marine: Maj Wally Jabs, USMC (Ret).”

Tom Smith



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

When Marine veteran Tom Smith gives a tour of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, he stops and takes his time next to a glass display case entitled “Every Marine a Rifleman.” Within the case, among other things, are dog tags once worn by the legendary SgtMaj Dan Daly. But what Smith really likes to point out to visitors is the M1903 Springfield rifle in the center of the case.

“They carry it with them to Europe in World War I. Which rifle do you think they take with them to Guadalcanal? Same one. What is the sniper weapon in Korea? The 1903 Springfield rifle,” Smith tells visitors. “The Marine Corps has a reputation for being frugal [...] we have a whole history of things like the 1903 Springfield.”

In the pre-World War I “early years” section of the museum’s main thoroughfare, the Legacy Walk, Smith believes that visitors to the museum can learn a lot about the Marine Corps’ traits—ones that he says haven’t changed throughout its history.

“We’ll stand here and talk about how the Marine Corps uses these obsolete planes in the Banana Wars, and what they do is develop a message system,” said Smith, gesturing upwards to a de Havilland DH-4, staged to appear as though it’s picking up a pouch containing a message. “The Marine Corps has learned over the years to find ways around problems, and they’re known for that,” Smith added.

Smith, who served in Vietnam during his three-year enlistment in the Corps, was a truck mechanic and engineer. He resided in New Jersey for many years but

became connected with the museum when his son, who is an active-duty Marine lieutenant colonel, was stationed in the area. The two attended the opening of the museum together along with their wives.

Smith enjoys interacting with visitors and asking questions to keep them engaged. He says the best part of being a docent is the people he’s had the privilege to meet.

“I always said I wanted to volunteer here,” said Smith, who eventually relocated to Northern Virginia and now is a mainstay within the docent corps, having recently surpassed 3,000 hours of service.

“The Marine Corps has a reputation for being frugal [...] we have a whole history of things like the 1903 Springfield.”



NANCY S. LIGHTMAN

Larry Britton

It's hard to walk through the doors of the National Museum of the Marine Corps without noticing the rows of engraved bricks that line the expansive walkway to its entrance. If you're looking for it, you just might find one that reads "With Gratitude, Aug 69, LtCol Larry Britton, Medevaced Grunts 2/7."

"That brick means a whole lot more to me than anything you wear on a uniform," said Britton, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel and one of the museum's original docents.

But the story behind the brick is what's truly remarkable, and it never would have happened had Britton not been volunteering at the museum when a reunion group of Marine veterans who had served with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in Vietnam, came to visit.

Britton began chatting with Bill Schuler, one of the veterans in attendance. The two had never met but realized they served in Vietnam at the same time. This led to the typical "Where were you when?" conversation, which in this case was "Where were you on Aug. 25, 1969?" That day, Schuler was severely wounded by shrapnel in Hiep Duc Valley, and as it turns out, Britton, a CH-46 pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 364, was flying night medevac flights in the area as part of a mission called "Bald Eagle."

"We were on standby in case somebody really stepped in it, and they needed reinforcements or support, and we got launched that night," recalled Britton. "We took in a reinforced company. Their battalion had run into an NVA [North Vietnamese Army] regiment at a place called Hiep Duc. So, we took in the reinforcements and then spent the next five or six hours that night bringing ammunition, water, food—whatever they needed in, and if they had medevacs they'd jump on the helicopter and we'd take them back to the LZ [landing zone]."

Britton and Schuler realized that it was plausible—likely even—that Britton was the one who had flown Schuler to the battalion aid station.

That year, near Christmas, Britton received a card in the mail from Schuler, with a receipt for the commemorative brick he had purchased in his honor.

"He said he considers the 25th of August his 'second birthday,' " said Britton.

While Britton can speak from experience about Marine Corps history between 1966, when he commissioned, and 1989, when he retired, he has enjoyed learning from the museum curators and historians about other eras in Marine Corps history.

"I like telling stories of Dan Daly during the Boxer Rebellion. I like to point out to people, because we have his two Medals of Honor on display, that after he died, his daughter donated them to the museum. The curators asked her, 'Did he have them displayed in the house?' and the daughter says, 'No, we found them in a kitchen drawer,' " said Britton. "And I point that out to people, and say, 'I've served with Medal of Honor recipients, Navy Cross, Silver



SARA W. BOCK



SARA W. BOCK

"They've got the signs up to tell what it is and everything, but I like to concentrate on the rest of the story. Anybody can walk through here and read, but I try to tell the backstory."

Star guys, and unless somebody else tells you, you wouldn't know that they have those awards."

For Britton, serving as a docent is about enhancing a visitor's experience with knowledge and information they wouldn't otherwise acquire during a walk through the museum's exhibits.

"In Vietnam—in any of the galleries really—they're pretty much self-explanatory and they've got the signs up to tell what it is and everything, but I like to concentrate on the rest of the story. Anybody can walk through here and read, but I try to tell the backstory," he said. 🐼

San Diego

Marine Colonel Retires on Yellow Footprints, With DIs in Attendance

As Colonel Randy Hoffman approached retirement after 36 years of faithful service, it felt only fitting to conclude his time on active duty at the place where it all began: on the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, with all five of his former drill instructors in attendance.

On June 24, Hoffman served as the parade reviewing official for the "Mike" Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion graduation and shortly afterwards was retired by General Robert B. Neller, USMC (Ret), 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Hoffman's connection with Gen Neller began when he was a student at the School of Advanced Warfighting while the general was the president of Marine Corps University. When Hoffman, who served numerous combat tours in Afghanistan, turned down command selection to seek treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, Gen Neller supported his decision, which was detailed in the 2019 *Wall Street Journal* article, "The Bravest Thing Col. Randy Hoffman Ever Did Was to Stop Fighting."

According to Hoffman, graduating boot camp with Platoon 2082 as the "Hotel" Company honor man in October 1985 was an "enormous catapult" that started his 10-year career as an enlisted Marine prior to commissioning as an officer for the remaining 26 years of his service. He credits his drill instructors with setting him up for a successful career in the Corps.

"My drill instructors were extraordinarily impactful and set the 'life azimuth' that led me to become an officer and ultimately attain the rank of colonel," said Hoffman. "Because of their impact, I knew I needed to end my career on the same yellow footprints that I



GYSGT JOE BLEACH, USMC (RET)

started on 36 years ago with all of them by my side, at the end, like they were at the beginning."

Pictured (above) from the left: Gen Neller; Col Hoffman; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Garcia, USMC (Ret), Hoffman's former senior drill instructor; and Gary Hoffman, Randy's uncle who attended MCRD San Diego in the same platoon as his father, Carl Hoffman, in 1959, gathered for a photo (above) following the retirement ceremony. Also in attendance were Hoffman's former DIs, Master Gunnery Sergeant Jim Eckles, USMC (Ret) and retired Gunnery Sergeants Joe Ingram, David McKenzie and Joe Bleach.

Following the ceremony, the former DIs presented Hoffman with the campaign cover worn by Garcia in 1985, which they all had signed. It was a "full circle" moment for Hoffman.

"This ceremony was as much about my drill instructors as it was about me," he said.

Submitted by Col Randy Hoffman, USMC (Ret)

Elkins, W.Va.

Marine Corps League Member Recognized For Service During Pandemic

The Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League presented Marine veteran Stan Legge with its 2021 Marine of the Year award during the annual state convention held in Elkins, W.Va., May 15. Legge, who resides in Milton, W.Va., is a life member of the Marine Corps League and is currently serving as senior vice commandant of Huntington Detachment 340.

This prestigious award is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership and guidance in meeting all department and national guidelines, policies and procedures.

"Legge's meritorious and unselfish service supporting his fellow Marines, veterans and their families during the pandemic truly exemplifies his steadfast dedication to help others in need," according to a statement from the Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League. Legge has served as chairman for his local detachment and organizes its annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Program. He serves on his detachment's honor guard, which supports burial services for fallen Marines, and is active in the Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation and the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation.

Submitted by W. Jean Lamb



COURTESY OF MIKE LYNN

Kent, Wash.

Decades Later, Honor Guard Members Reunite at Gravesite of WW II Marine Veteran

In the spring of 2018, a group of five veterans gathered at the gravesite of World War II Marine veteran Clyde Maynard "Dick" Dickson at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Wash., for a reunion and remembrance. It was not their first visit to Dickson's final resting place; rather, it was a return to the ground on which they served as the honor guard for his burial on Oct. 1, 1997, when he was the first veteran to be buried in an honor service at Washington's first and only national cemetery.

Pictured from the left, Marine veteran Richard Ludwig; Navy veteran Milton Till; and Army veterans Mike Jelvik, Andy Anderson and Larry Johnson, who served on the honor guard for Enumclaw VFW Post 1949 and Maple Valley-Black Diamond VFW Post 5052, stood together to again honor the life of Dickson, whose service in the Marine Corps remained an integral part of his identity long after leaving active duty as a corporal. After concealing his age and enlisting in the Army at the age of 15, Dickson later joined the Marine Corps and served in the Pacific theater, where he saw action on Guam and watched the first flag raising on Iwo Jima.



CARY COLLINS

Described by his family as a "renaissance man" who was driven by "a quiet, sturdy patriotism," Dickson planned his own funeral after receiving a terminal cancer diagnosis and selected the Tahoma National Cemetery as his place of burial.

Submitted by Cary Collins

LaGrange, Ky.



ERIK JON BARRETT

Avid Motorcyclist, WW II Marine Memorialized In Hometown Statue

World War II Marine veteran Dr. E. Bruce Heilman died in October 2019 at the age of 93, but his intrepid spirit lives on in a newly unveiled statue of him in his hometown of LaGrange, Ky., which was dedicated on May 29 with his family members present.

Heilman, who had an impressive career in higher education after leaving active duty, served as the president of Meredith College in North Carolina before he was selected as president, and then




COURTESY OF BOBBIE MURPHY

chancellor, of the University of Richmond, Va. An avid motorcyclist, Heilman made headlines as he continued to ride until just weeks before his death, traveling as a spokesman for The Greatest Generation Foundation and Spirit of '45. In 2015 and 2016, he rode from his home in Virginia to California and back to promote those organizations.

The statue, which is located on the campus of the Oldham County History Center, was created by sculptor Wyatt Gragg to honor Heilman and all WW II veterans. It fittingly depicts him riding his Ultra Classic Electra Glide Marine Patriot Edition Harley-Davidson bike, which, according to his daughter, Bobbie Murphy, was parked in front of the chapel at the University of Richmond for his memorial service.

Submitted by Bobbie Murphy

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

IN THE ARENA:

A Memoir of Love, War, and Politics



By Chuck Robb

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from "In the Arena: A Memoir of Love, War, and Politics" by Chuck Robb courtesy of the University of Virginia Press, copyright 2021.

The Viet Cong (VC) were a formidable force. Lacking in conventional firepower, they were easily underestimated. But they more than made up for their lack of firepower with expert use of the elements of stealth, deception and surprise.

And unlike the young conscripts of the NVA, who wore more conventional uniforms and fought with traditional

weapons and tactics, the VC were older, wiser, and blended in easily with the civilian population.

The VC were not, however, always allied with the local civilian population, and there were many instances of the VC committing robbery and terrorism against civilians. I wrote to [my wife] Lynda in May 1968 about an offensive by the enemy:

The civilian population has not fared so well as they have born[e] the brunt of the VC attack. The VC have slaughtered peasants in every hamlet in the area and set fire to several entire villages with satchel charges. Two entire villages were over 90 percent destroyed by fire shortly after the attack started yesterday morning.

The VC have not gone scot-free in my area of responsibility, however. The ambush which I set out last night turned out to be the most successful move in the entire regiment for the last 48 hours. We caught part of a VC company which was coming to attack our positions and burn two villages right next to us completely off guard. They thought we were spread too thin to put out any offensive force. I won't go into the details, but among others, we killed their company commander, who had been terrorizing this area for a long time and found many usable documents on the bodies. One wounded VC was trying to eat a very important document, but we managed to salvage it.



Left: Capt Robb at his combat base on Hill 65 in Vietnam.

Below: Robb, CO, India Co, 3/7, meeting with LtGen Lewis W. Walt during the general's visit to the 1st Marine Division headquarters.



USMC

At night, the Viet Cong could melt into the dense vegetation and, using their knowledge of the terrain, could attack patrols and set up ambushes working with their NVA counterparts. The ambushes were sometimes highly coordinated operations. After one particularly successful ambush in which another company had lost several men, I wrote to Lynda: "One of the NVA bodies turned out to be an officer and he had all of his official and classified documents on him including very detailed plans and sketches of the ambush that actually took place. The infinite detail with which they plan each operation of this nature is amazing. If it weren't for our superiority of supporting arms, we'd have a tough time beating them."

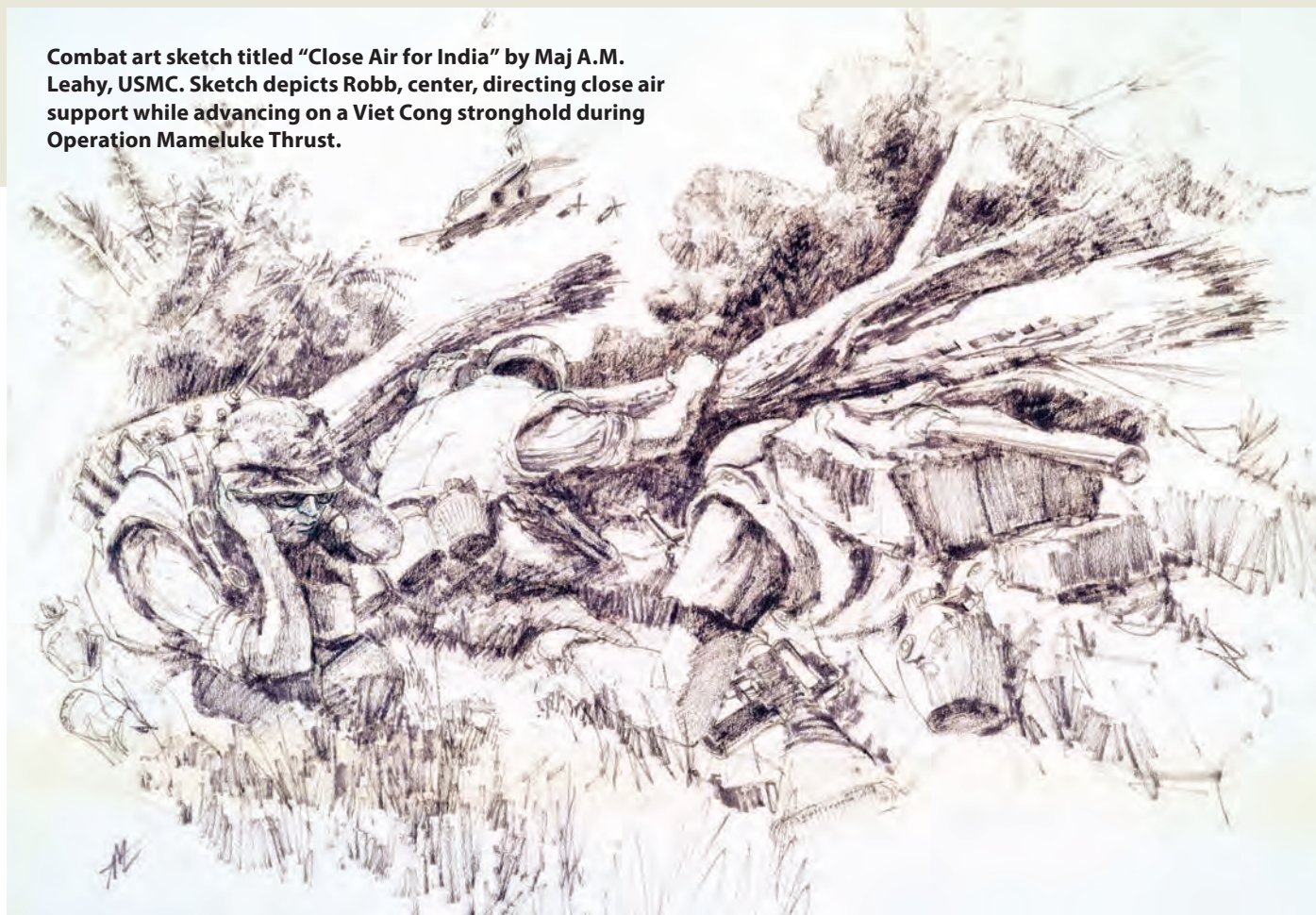
No matter what we were up against, I was constantly impressed by the ability and discipline of the Marines under my command. On one moonless night, "India" Company was moving through a dry rice paddy when we were caught by an enemy ambush. The enemy had dug into the surrounding tree line, whereas we were completely exposed in the open field. We couldn't see the enemy in their entrenched position among the trees, so we were unable to effectively return fire. I ordered the men to hit the deck and we dropped on our bellies into the brush, where the enemy could no longer see us. I could hear the unmistakable "zip-zip-zip" of bullets

flying just over our heads. I gave the order for the men to crawl through the field to the cover of the nearby trees and absolutely hold their fire. From the trees, we could get enough cover to return fire. More than 100 men, spread in a single line, crawled noiselessly through the open field. The enemy kept up their barrage of firing, but they could no longer spot our exact positions, and their bullets whizzed past. If just one man had lost his nerve and returned fire, the flash from the tip of his weapon's muzzle would have given away the location of the whole company. But Co I held its nerve. We inched our way to cover, maintaining perfect fire discipline, and didn't lose a single man in that encounter. This incident was by no means isolated. It was one of the many times that I felt unmitigated pride in my

**If just one man had lost his
nerve and returned fire,
the flash from the tip of his
weapon's muzzle would have
given away the location of
the whole company.
But Co I held its nerve.**

During the daytime, the Viet Cong were indistinguishable from the many farmers and villagers you'd pass on patrol or see around base camp. These local Vietnamese were an essential part of life on the combat base because they set up small businesses just outside the perimeter of Hill 65. Women would charge a few pennies to take your clothes down to the nearby streams, beat them with rocks and sticks, and hang them in the sun to dry. Even straight from the "laundry," the clothes always had an earthy smell, but we still valued the service. Vietnamese men would sometimes set themselves up as company barbers. These entrepreneurs were essential around a makeshift combat base that had no such services for its Marines.

Combat art sketch titled “Close Air for India” by Maj A.M. Leahy, USMC. Sketch depicts Robb, center, directing close air support while advancing on a Viet Cong stronghold during Operation Mameluke Thrust.



MAJ ALBERT M. LEAHY, USMC
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

company and the ethos of the Marine Corps.

Night movements were a constant part of our missions in Vietnam, and we conducted many in late June 1968, during our battalion’s turn in the massive, long-term operation known as Operation Mameluke Thrust, in which companies rotated in and out of operations, spending several weeks at a time in the bush. We would engage with the enemy wherever we could find him throughout the Arizona Territory, sleeping in shifts during the day and moving under the cover of night.

It was while out on Operation Mameluke Thrust, one evening just before dark, that we received a supply of C-rations and ammunition from a helicopter drop. Resupply helicopters were both essential and very risky because they loudly proclaimed our position to the enemy. The key was to time a supply drop right as the sun was low in the sky, execute it as quickly as possible, and immediately move to a new position. On this occasion, we had already set a specific regroup location, but we didn’t get the chance to make it there. Mortar fire started coming in as soon as the enemy spotted the helicopters.

With enemy fire coming from an un-

known location, the best course of action was to hold our fire, hit the deck, and crawl to a new position to regroup. We hastily selected an alternative regroup location just as darkness descended. With mortar rounds exploding all around us, I ordered the men to dig in quickly at the new location. But with entrenching tools in hand, several men soon discovered an unsettling fact: we were in a Vietnamese graveyard. We’d seen enough such graveyards to know that the bodies would be buried just a foot or so below the surface, wrapped only in cloth or plastic.

With mortar rounds exploding all around us, I ordered the men to dig in quickly at the new location. But with entrenching tools in hand, several men soon discovered an unsettling fact: we were in a Vietnamese graveyard.

Two diametrically opposed motivating forces were hard at work. Some men hesitated, recoiling at the idea of digging up and then lying down with recent Vietnamese remains. Training and survival kicked in, though, and soon every Marine was digging in the graveyard, deep enough to avoid the shrapnel from mortars exploding around us.

At the time, the event barely registered as strange. Life and death sat side by side in Vietnam. Death in the Vietnam War was not at all like death in civilian life, where we are accustomed to seeing people fade out over a long illness. In Vietnam, someone was alive one moment and dead the next. Injury and death didn’t favor one type of person or another—no matter how careful or alert we were, incoming mortar or artillery fire, a booby trap or a mine could get anyone.

I had one staff sergeant, then an acting platoon commander, who had, before I took command of Co I, a malfunctioning M16 rifle. Not content simply to swap it for a new one issued by the Marine Corps, he wrote a letter on a lark to the manufacturer. To his delight, they shipped him a personal replacement directly to Vietnam, and he carried it proudly. No more than a week after he received the new weapon,



Capt Chuck Robb married Lynda Bird Johnson in the East Room of the White House on Dec. 9, 1967, after meeting her when Robb served as a social aide to her father, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

**Robb, center,
dismounts a Jeep
to distribute candy
to local children in
Vietnam, 1968.**



we were on a night movement in the Dodge City area. There were no visible artificial lights, just a little moonlight through the trees, and we were spread out, moving through dense vegetation. The staff sergeant hit a trip wire, triggering a booby trap made from one of our own unexploded U.S. projectiles—a 105 mm round—hidden in a hedgerow.

I happened to be closest to him when the shell exploded, but I was just far enough away to avoid being directly hit by the blast. I called in a medevac helicopter, and another Marine and I carried him toward a cleared road where the helicopter could land. I could hear the gurgle in his throat as he struggled to breathe. We hurried toward the helicopter, but the sounds he made grew fainter and fainter, and by the time we reached the thumping chopper, he was silent. The staff sergeant was the first of two Marines who would die in my arms during my 13 months in Vietnam. There was no fanfare or extraordinary drama to

it; the life simply slipped from his body.

Ambushes and booby traps were major tactics of the formidable guerilla force of the VC. They could launch attacks in the pitch black of night or set mines and booby traps along routes frequented by U.S. or allied forces. We suffered more casualties from those mines and booby traps than we did from conventional direct-fire weapons, so spotting and disarming them was a major part of any foray away from the company combat base. For the most part, our methods were reliable, but they were by no means foolproof.

When we saw a suspected mine in our path, the demolition engineer assigned to our company had a nerve-shredding and dangerous task. Once, as we walked on a narrow path through dense vegetation, a Marine directly ahead of me spotted some suspicious recently disturbed dirt. I gave the order to halt in place while a demolition specialist moved up to take a closer look. We watched as he walked

ahead, knelt about 25 feet in front of us, bayonet in hand, and gently slid the flat tip under the dirt. Because detonators are usually located on the tops of mines, sliding a flat bayonet blade in to tap the side of an object was the least dangerous way to quickly learn whether a mine was present. Silently, carefully, he listened and felt for the telltale tap on the metal casing of an explosive device buried just beneath the surface. If he felt the tap, we could then detonate it in place with C4 plastic explosive and keep the convoy moving forward.

I put out the word for everyone to hit the deck, and we watched in complete silence as the demolition expert did his work. Suddenly, there was a violent explosion. I instinctively looked away as debris flew past my face, and when I turned back, all I saw was a cloud of dust and smoke. None of the men around me were hurt—the explosion had been designed to direct its force upward to the underbelly



COURTESY OF ROBB FAMILY ARCHIVE

Right: Marine veteran Chuck Robb served as a U.S. senator, governor and lieutenant governor of Virginia during his distinguished career.

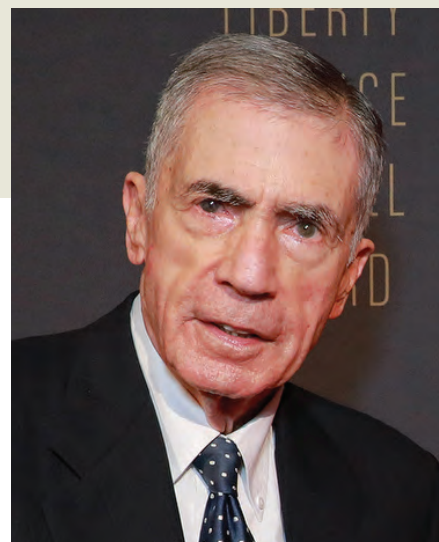
liked to have searched longer but staying stationary in this difficult-to-defend area increased the risk of losing more men, so I quickly pushed the mission forward.

The threat of ambushes made one of our more dangerous tasks the forays by supply convoys, called “rough riders.” These convoys helped move supplies to remote outposts deep in enemy territory, close to the Laotian border, and it was our job to provide security for them. The supply missions were critical to the overall battle effort, but they were always tricky and frequently resulted in casualties. The enemy would invariably see us coming with our large armored, amphibious, tracked vehicles (known as amtracs), tanks and heavy-duty combat trucks, and they would lay mines, set booby traps, and organize ambushes as we tried to get the convoy through. This violent game was played over and over, with countless variations, as we learned the lessons of a new kind of warfare.

The return trip to our combat base was more dangerous because, by laboriously clearing a path through the dense vegetation on our way to the isolated outpost, we alerted the enemy to our route. We made every effort to quickly retrace our route back to our combat base before they could lay fresh mines. On one return trip, I split my company up among the three amtracs and several trucks for the bumpy, hurried ride. We were nearly two-thirds of the way back to the combat base when the amtrac immediately ahead of me, carrying most of the members of my second platoon, nearly 30 men, hit a mine.

The concussive explosion was deafening, but ordinarily it wouldn’t have resulted in many serious casualties—the vehicle’s heavy armor would have absorbed most of the shock. But the blast had ignited the amtrac’s gas tank, sending up a blue ball of flame that instantly engulfed almost every man on board.

The explosion was large enough to be physically stunning and disorienting. My ears rang, and I caught the bitter, earthy smell of explosives and dirt in the air. Smoke blurred my vision, and a few burning tear gas grenades made my eyes water. I quickly took in the situation. The vegetation was thick on both sides of our column—thick enough to hide



AMANDA RHOADES/LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

enemy troops waiting for our convoy to hit the mine. The amtrac in front of me was now unmovable, and there were many Marines injured. I immediately halted the rest of the convoy and set up a makeshift perimeter in case of an ambush. Around me, the whole company shook off the impact and leapt into action, with some securing the convoy while others assisted the wounded. There was a danger to rescuing our comrades because the men on the burning amtrac were carrying ammunition and explosives, such as hand grenades, that could “cook off” in the heat of the flames. We rushed to get Marines off the burning amtrac as quickly as possible, away from the heat source before secondary explosions caused more injuries. The sounds coming from the wounded Marines were sickening—some Marines were still on fire and cried out in agony, their smoldering skin peeling off as they were lifted off the wreck. I was able, by radio, to divert two large helicopters from medevacs in a nearby area, and we got the 17 most serious cases out in almost record time. A few minutes felt like hours as we stabilized the injured as best we could and left behind the smoldering hull of the destroyed amtrac.

The injured Marines were medevacked back to medical facilities to be patched up, and either sent home or reassigned. I would rarely get any sort of update on the status of our company’s injured or even whether they survived. The helicopters simply swooped the injured Marines away forever, as much like angels as anything else I’ve ever encountered. The swift arrival of the helicopters that day likely saved several lives, I wrote to Lynda, “because they were all alive when we put them [on] board. The rest will be up to the doctors and the Almighty.”

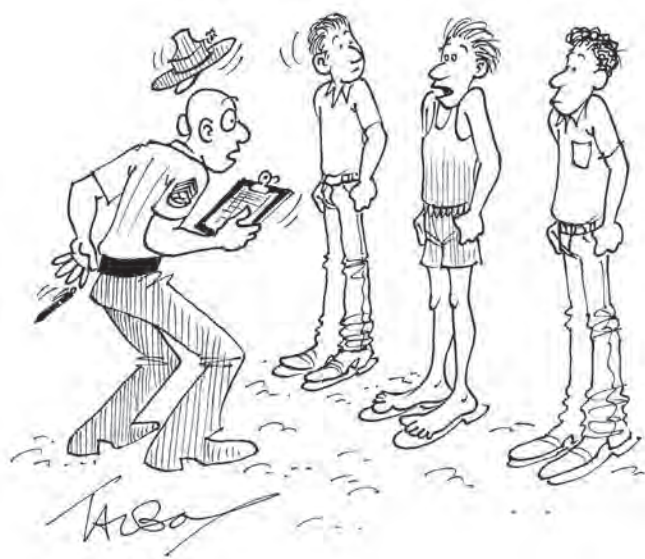
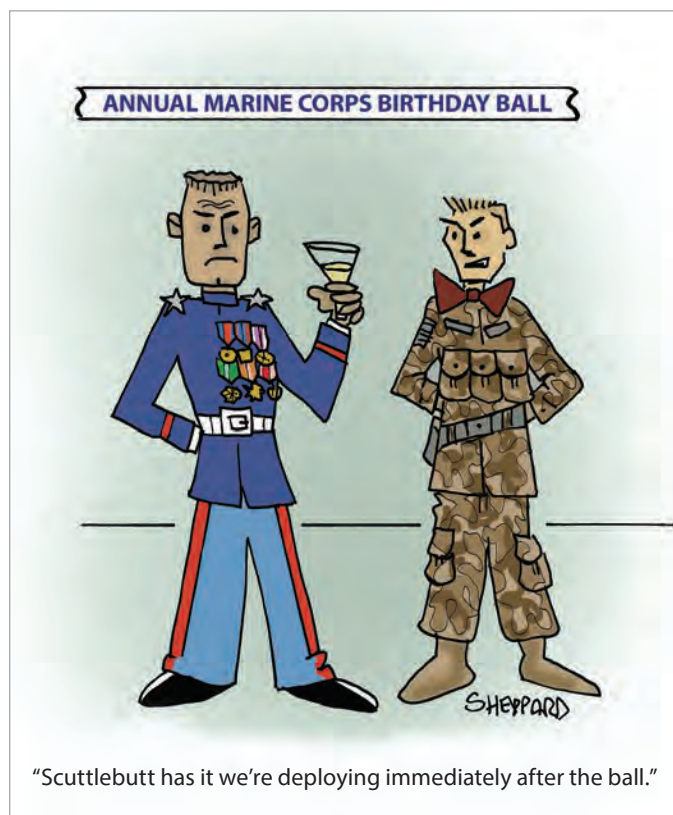
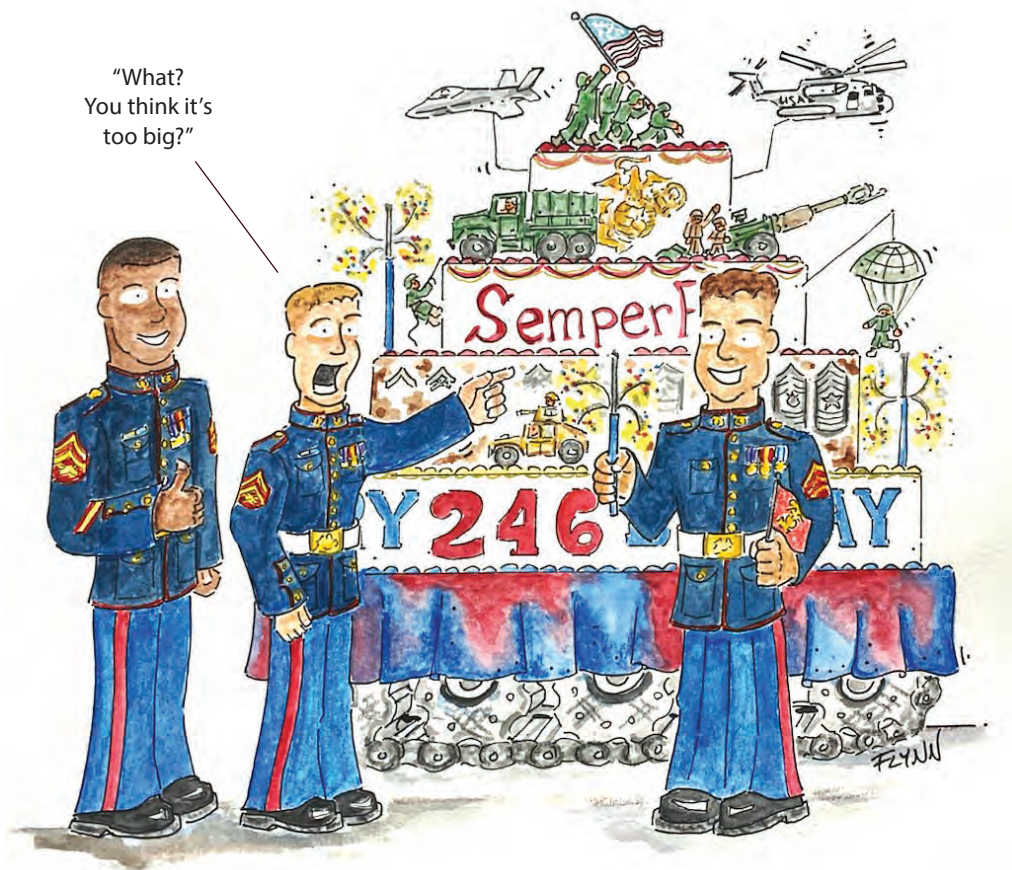
In closing, I wrote: “I was very proud of the company again. When the chips are down, they’re tremendous.”

All we could find was one foot, still encased in his combat boot. The rest of the demolition expert had been vaporized instantaneously by the force of a blast meant to knock out a tank or a heavy truck.

of a passing heavy truck or tank. We ran forward to help the demolition expert, but he was simply gone.

With my ears still ringing from the explosion, I ordered a quick search of the area for any remains that we could send home to his family for burial. All we could find was one foot, still encased in his combat boot. The rest of the demolition expert had been vaporized instantaneously by the force of a blast meant to knock out a tank or a heavy truck. We would have

Leatherneck Laffs





"A computer's 'at ease' is putting it in sleep mode."



It was then the DI found a new purpose in life.



"What size ill-fitting uniform do you take?"



"Think you have enough ammo?"

The Eagle, Globe and Anchor: Representing the Marines

Compiled By
Jacqueline Jedrych

The first time that leathernecks receive their eagle, globe and anchor, it transforms them from civilians to Marines. The emblem resides over their hearts for the remainder of their service, an ever-present reminder of the mission of the Corps. The insignia has evolved since its genesis, but for most of its history it has held three main aspects: an eagle, a symbol of strength and eternal vigilance sitting atop a globe symbolizing the Corps' worldwide mission crossed by a fouled anchor representing the Marine naval birthright as Soldiers of the Sea. The eagle, globe and anchor has inspired Marines everywhere from battlefields to writers' dens since its adoption in 1868. We combed the *Leatherneck* archives, available to all MCA members, to find our favorite works. What's your favorite?



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

This is the emblem as it looked from 1892-1904.

PHOTO BY LCPL.
CARLIN WARREN

Poetry is an accessible way for servicemembers to express themselves and their experiences on the battlefield. From lofty legends about its origin to heartfelt poems about what it means to their lives, the emblem of the Corps has offered inspiration to Marines across the globe.

The Emblem Legend *April 1930*

As Mars, the mighty God of war,
Strode through the clouds in a wrath,
A frolicsome little Planet chanced
To cross in the War God's path.

Then heedless of aught in his fury,
Save the lust of his ruinous reign,
With an angry stroke of his
twin-edged sword,
Mars severed this world in twain.

Then Venus wept in her sorrow,
For this frolicsome Star-world,
her pride,
And sought it afar in the spaces,
To bring it again to her side.

But half was lost in the endless void,
To fall forever away,
The other lodged on the earth
we tread,
In the Land of the U.S.A.

And there the Love-Goddess found it,
Nestled all sweet and at rest,
The cordons of Liberty 'round it,
The Stars and Stripes raised
on its crest.

From her bosom unclasped the anchor,
That was forged by the hand of Thor,
And left it there sweet in compassion,
For the hideous prowess of War.

The Mighty American Eagle,
From his vantage-place in the sky,
Watching over the frontiers
of Freedom,
With a practiced and piercing eye,

Witnessed the work of the
fickle Gods,
And he said: "A symbol for me!
About this Emblem my best
shall stand,
For a world ruled by justice and Free."

Dropped from aloft
with the speed of light,
He struck and his claws sunk deep.
Ordained, do I live or perish,
By the guard that my chosen keep.
He voiced a cry to his dauntless sons,
They heard and the bold ones came,

Raised the Globe, Anchor and
Eagle high,
And pledged them to win for it, Fame.

That a world might know,
be it friend or foe,
Justice and right must prevail,
And the naked sword of Freedom,
They wielded never should fail.

They chose by acclaim
the watchword,
"Semper Fidelis" to be
Unconquerable legions of Honor,
The pride of the Land of the Free.

Thus was conceived the
Marine Corps,
With Democracy swept in its train,
To conquer or die is the standard,
And Lo! How they make it plain.
Tad Jones

Eagle, Globe and Anchor *March 1971*

Proud emblem ...
Worn by your adopted sons.
Symbol of suffering, death and valor;
Untouched by shame.
Eagle, Globe and Anchor ...
Earned through sweat, tears and pain,



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

This drawing shows the emblem that was used in 1925.

But worn with pride.
Symbol of victory ... not defeat.

Marines ...
You who would be fighters,
Trained to do your duty well,
At all costs, at all times—
Not even to shun the face of death—
This is your mark of fame.

Esprit de Corps ...
Sublime in all its glory—
Buddy to buddy, man to man—
On parade, or 'midst of battle.
Proud the walk and strut,
That binds you all—
Under one flag, one love,
One emblem.

Eagle, Globe and Anchor ...
Symbol of warriors!
Mark of honor!

Dr. Helen Martin-Trigona



CPL VANESSA AUSTIN, USMC

The title Marine and the coveted eagle, globe and anchor emblem are earned only by those who have proven themselves worthy.



The bronze eagle, globe and anchor sculpture located at the Carolina Museum of the Marine in Jacksonville, N.C., was unveiled April 30, 2016, and was designed to pay tribute to the Marines of the Carolinas. (Photo by Cpl Careaf L. Henson, USMC)

The Emblem *May 1978*

What does that emblem mean to me,
Resting there proudly for all to see?
A call to arms when danger is near
And yes, at times a friendly beer.

A symbol there for which I heed
My country's call in time of need.
A sign of adventure, near or far.
Yes, for me, a guiding star.

Once a Marine always one,
A trait passed down from father to son.
The emblem seen upon his head—A
Marine, and that's enough said.
James M. Garrett

Eagle, Globe and Anchor *October 2013*

If you've stood at attention
on the parade field
With eagle, globe and anchor in hand,
You're entitled to join the
brotherhood of Marines
No matter where in the ranks
you might stand.

From the reservists
to battle-tested veterans,
Often the choice was not
yours to make,
But you did choose
a Marine Corps boot camp
And demonstrated you have
what it takes.

From the air corps to the fleet
Marines,
From a sniper to a bugler in the band,
And the clerk at
headquarters company,
Holds the true grit of Iwo Jima sand.

But the leadership, heart
and dedication
To become part of America's
honored team,
Only a few recruits possess
the courage
To train and become
a United States Marine.

Donald "Jerry" McKeon

Leatherneck publishes Sound Off, a forum for readers to ask questions or voice opinions to the editor of the magazine. As the most important symbol of the Corps, the emblem has been the subject of many letters over the years.

EGA or Eagle, Globe and Anchor? May 2000

The Marine Corps emblem—the eagle, globe and anchor—was adopted in 1868 and is perhaps the most recognizable military insignia in the world. Since that time, the emblem’s appearance has changed, but its meaning has always been the same. It’s a symbol of pride, honor and accomplishment. Only those who complete the rigorous demands of Marine Corps boot camp or Officer Candidates School will earn the right to wear this emblem.

Through two world wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War and other conflicts, the emblem has adorned uniforms and flags and has been seen by the enemy as a symbol representative of brave warriors willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and fellow Marines. It’s a cherished symbol, deserving dignity and respect.

With that said, imagine my surprise when I heard that the Marine Corps emblem is being referred to by some as the EGA. It was like fingernails scratching a chalkboard. I couldn’t believe my ears. For some reason, it just struck me the wrong way. The statement was made by a new Marine who had just graduated from boot camp. Maybe I’ve just been out of the loop for a while and didn’t know it?

To me, it just doesn’t seem right. It’s like half of a salute or a sloppy one at least. I’ve tried it. It takes approximately 1.4 seconds to distinctly say “EGA” and only about 1.7 seconds to say “eagle, globe and anchor.” The extra .3 seconds takes very little effort. Let’s remember our core values of honor, courage and commitment. HCC just doesn’t sound right and neither does EGA. Please, no more shortcuts. Pass the word.

Capt Ron Tucker
Beaufort, S.C.

• *Amen, Skipper! The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Alford L. McMichael, also recently voiced his dislike for the term EGA. Those who use the term are, for the most part, young gung-ho Marines who need to be reminded that just as there are no shortcuts to good leadership and professionalism, there are some things that shouldn’t be abbreviated.—Sound Off Editor*

Those Fouled Anchors! Feb 2014

I was asked by a young Marine at the 238th Birthday Ball why a fouled anchor is part of the Marine Corps emblem. I did not have an answer for him. Do you or someone on your staff know the answer to his question? I would be grateful if you might be able to point me in the right direction, as I don’t have a sergeant major anymore!

Col Steven Miller
ARNG/USMC (Ret)
Mantiou Springs, Colo.

• *Tradition. The Royal Marines include the fouled anchor in their “badge” or emblem; we adopted it. The fouled anchor was part of the Lord High Admiral of the British Fleet badge and first worn by Royal Marines in 1747. The current U.S. Marine emblem, with the eagle, globe and anchor (never referred to as the “EGA”), dates from 1868. It was contributed to the Corps by Brigadier General Jacob Zeilin, seventh Commandant. Until 1840, Marines wore various devices mainly based upon the spread eagle or fouled anchor.*



Marines wore this version of the emblem in 1936.

Why did the Royal Marines include a fouled anchor in their emblem?

“The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea,” edited by I.C.B. Dear and Peter Kemp, 1976, has the following explanation for the use of the fouled anchor on the Royal Marines badge: “The use of the foul, or fouled anchor, an abomination to seamen when it occurs in practice, as the seal of the highest office of maritime administration is purely on the grounds of its decorative effect, the rope cable around the shank of the anchor giving a pleasing finish to the stark design of an anchor on its own.”—Sound Off Editor



This officer grade 1868 eagle, globe and anchor epaulette emblem is the earliest example of the emblem in the National Museum of the Marine Corps’ collection. (Photo courtesy of National Museum of the Marine Corps)

COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS



NANCY S. LICHTMAN

The 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Carl E. Mundy, wrote the letter below for the August 1992 issue of *Marine Corps Gazette*. Weighing in on an ongoing debate about the uniforms of the Corps, his sentiments sum up the feelings of all Marines about the emblem and its importance.

Soul of the Corps

I've read Capt Terry L. Bruning's article, "It's More Than a Uniform Issue," (*Marine Corps Gazette*, March 1992) and related "Soul of the Corps" letters (*Marine Corps Gazette* June 1992, pages 60-62). I would like to comment on some of the points made.

First, the article and letters are moving. I believe your readership has some feeling for the mystique and emotion I attach to being a Marine. Their views have fallen on friendly ears. That said, my own view—not very different from those expressed in the article and letters—is that the soul of the Corps is the pride we have in the institution we, who are Marines, know to be our Corps. The symbol of the institution is the eagle,

globe and anchor, and it is that which has been worn to identify us throughout the history of our proud service. Recall, if you will, that it was not until 1941, with the introduction of utilities, that we emblazoned "USMC" on our field uniforms. Before that time, only the symbol of the Corps was worn—in earliest years, a Hunter's Horn, which transitioned to an eagle and anchor and then to the present Eagle, Globe and Anchor. In World War I, for example, when we earned the title "Devil Dog" at Belleau Wood, one of our most inspiring moments to this day, Marines fought in forest green uniforms and in olive drab Army uniforms when their initial issue wore out, with the Marine emblem on their field hats and overseas caps. The monument to the brigade of Marines, who fought so valiantly at Belleau Wood and shed the blood of 4,710 of its members, bears only the eagle, globe and anchor as its tribute to the "soul" of those who fought there.

In the years between World War I and World War II, we continued to wear our emblem on pith helmets in the tropics and at Marine Barracks throughout the world, and our organizational battle colors to this day display our emblem, with identifying unit streamers below.

In sum, to me, the historic manifestation of what we are—what the "soul of the Corps" is in terms of identity—is the emblem. It's for that reason that one of my first acts after becoming

As demonstrated by these Marines with the Marine Corps Historical Company at the Commandant's Ball in 2018, uniforms may have changed over the years, but the emblem has remained a constant. The uniform on the left is the M1892 undress uniform with the undress cap introduced in 1897. The uniform on the right is a variant of the 1892/99 campaign uniform. The eagle, globe and anchor on both covers was adopted in 1892.

Commandant was to modify the earlier tape decision to restore the emblem to the pocket of the utility uniform. The decision had been made to adopt the name tag and "U.S. Marines" tape, which I believed then, and still do, to be more identifiable for the Corps than the iron-on. Much as we might be attached to the former, the fact is that the woodland camouflage utility pattern had already diminished the impact and effectiveness of the overall decal as it had originally been portrayed (and was in the *Gazette*) on the herringbone or sateen utilities. That fact alone might not have been reason to change to a tape, but both my predecessor and I believed the tape to be more practical and identifiable. With the reinstitution of the emblem below the name tape, I concluded that the "soul of the Corps" was preserved ...

As a side note, consistent with what I've described as our earlier days under the emblem. I've just approved a recommendation from the field that the eagle, globe and anchor be authorized for iron-on the helmet cover as it was in World War II, and Korea, and as it was issued to me when I became a Marine.

And as I said at the outset, even though my views and my continuing decision varies somewhat from the opinions of some who wrote, my pride and emotions do not. Our Corps would never be the same if we did not have men and women who know that there is, indeed, a "soul of the Corps."

Gen Carl E. Mundy Jr.

30th Commandant of the Marine Corps



COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

This is the emblem that is used by Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

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SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

When in Doubt, Bellow it Out

While serving as a Marine Security Guard in Geneva, Switzerland, I was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the mess at our Marine House. One of my responsibilities was to pay our mess bills out in town. One day I was in the office at the Migros grocery store talking to the manager when a phone call came in from an irate American customer. The manager did not speak much English, and my French was pretty good at the time, so the manager handed me the phone with a helpless look. I took the phone and said hello. I got back a loud and angry, "Who is this?" I responded in my best Marine voice, "Sgt Ring, USMC!" There was dead silence on the other end. Once he got over his surprise, this individual became very cooperative, and I was able to translate the situation to the satisfaction of both parties. When in doubt, bellow it out.

Sgt Thomas Ring
USMC, 1975-1980
Virac, Philippines

Quick Thinking Saved My Stripes

In early January 1956, I reported for duty at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., as a new sergeant after spending the previous two years in Hawaii and Korea with 1st ANGLICO. One Saturday morning while getting acquainted with my new quarters and getting my gear squared away, I heard loud clinking of heels coming down the hall. It was a three-star general followed by a gaggle of bird colonels. I hoped they wouldn't come

in my room, but they did. The general came face to face with me and started asking questions such as my MOS, former duty stations and commanding officers. I think he might have even asked a general order or two. He then noticed my uniform was wrinkled, chevrons were obsolete, I wore double-soled shoes, and needed a haircut. He then turned and walked out of the room and all colonels followed.

One of the colonels returned with a pad and pen in hand and said, "The general sent me back to bust you." Well, there goes my newly acquired sergeant stripes. I explained I had just gotten there, and my winter uniforms hadn't left my seabag for two years and I was in the process of getting my gear and myself squared away. He left the room for a minute and when he came back, he said, "You can keep your stripes, but you have 24 hours or less to get everything taken care of." Within hours I went to town, bought new shoes, had all uniforms cleaned and pressed, purchased new chevrons and had a haircut.

I didn't know at the time but found out later that the general was none other than David Shoup, 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps and Medal of Honor recipient. Sixty-nine years later, at the age of 85, I still break out in a sweat when I think about that day.

Sgt Franklin N. Masselle
USMC (Ret)
Kensington, Conn.

Unexpected Answer

While passing the time on guard duty at Naval Security Station, Washington, D.C., in 1956, Captain Smits asked the sentry on guard duty, "What would you do

if you saw me climbing over that fence?" "Sir, I would call the corporal of the guard to get your dead ass off my post!"

Cpl Eugene Brooks
Akron, Ohio

DI Went Too Far

During my 22-year career as a Marine, I met and served with many off-the-wall Marines. While stationed at Quantico, Va., in the early 1960s, I served with Gunnery Sergeant "B." As a young noncommissioned officer, he was a drill instructor (DI) at Parris Island. Gunny B had a system and devised a plan to get his boots' attention on receiving day. During the

**Gunny B was
harassing the boots to
the maximum level.**

It was very intense.

**The two Marines
within the formation
started yelling,**

"I can't take this!

I want out!" They

**both broke rank and
started running.**

**The DI yelled to the
two Marines with
the M1s, "Shoot them
SOBs!"**

were two other Marines wearing utility uniforms, armed with M1 rifles and blank ammo. While the recruits were moving toward the 1st Battalion, Gunny B was harassing the boots to the maximum level. It was very intense. The two Marines within the formation started yelling, "I can't take this! I want out!" They both broke rank and started running. The DI yelled to the two Marines with the M1s, "Shoot them SOBs!" The two Marines fired several shots of blank ammo. The two Marines who ran had blood capsules and when they landed on the deck playing dead, broke the capsules. It was very realistic. The DI formed the boots to show them the dead Marines. He said, "See what will happen to you if you screw with me." He said the terror in the recruits' faces was true fear.

There was a dumpster nearby with several barracks' mattresses inside. Sgt B yelled to the two Marines wearing utilities, "Throw them in the dumpster." They were thrown inside, and Sgt B yelled, "Call motor transport and have the truck pick up the trash!" The truck came and they were hauled away. The looks on the maggots' faces was priceless. The gunny never had any problems with these recruits up through graduation.

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

My Whisper Was a Little Too Loud

While stationed at Camp Lejeune in the summer of 1955, my company, A/1/8, had a first lieutenant as a company commander. He was probably a Mustang since he appeared to be

about 40 years old. He had an interesting physical appearance and resembled a penguin, so guys began to refer to him as "Penguin," but not to his face. On top of that he smoked Kool cigarettes. At the time, Willy the Penguin was a cartoon character on television as a spokesman for Kool cigarettes.

One evening several weeks after the first lieutenant left our company, I was looking out an open window of the barracks and observed him walking by. I commented that Penguin was outside. Apparently, he heard me and commanded that I report to him immediately. Panicking, I wasn't sure what to do. If I tried to hide from him, someone in the barracks was likely to rat me out. I decided to report to him immediately. As I stood before him, he asked me what I had said. I lied and said that I had just remarked that our old company commander was walking by. He looked at me for a few seconds and I had visions of my brand-new PFC chevron being torn off. Then, to my surprise, he said, "Carry on," and turned away. I'll never know if he heard what I said from the window or not. Maybe he wasn't fooled by my lie, but I was not one to look a gift horse in the mouth and made a mental note never to say anything stupid like that again.

SSgt Paul E. Gill
USMC, 1954-1966
Shippensburg, Pa.

Futenma Looked Like A Winter Wonderland

From June 1985 to June 1986, I was stationed on Okinawa at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. As a 2161 sergeant, I ran the Machine Shop at HAMS-36. One Saturday afternoon, Sgt Duke and I had traveled to Camp Kinser to visit our friend, Butch, and enjoy the facilities at the Kinser enlisted club. After spending

the afternoon and evening at the enlisted club, Duke and I were the only two left from our party still in the club. Finishing our last drink and feeling absolutely no pain, Duke and I decided to low crawl out of the club.

After making it to the sidewalk in front of the club, we got up and noticed a small shed to our right.

They flew like little Frisbees. The next thing we knew, there were thousands of lids floating to the ground. Looking down it was a sight to behold, like a winter wonderland.

We walked over and found it contained large boxes of drink cup lids. We both took a box, then proceeded to the barracks across the street to sleep it off in Butch's room.

Climbing the outdoor stairway to the third-floor deck, we stopped and opened the boxes. The lids were packed in long plastic bags with hundreds in each bag. We opened a bag each to check out the lids and after a brief inspection, decided they were useless to us and tossed them in the air. They flew like little Frisbees. The next thing we knew, there were thousands of lids floating to the ground.

Looking down it was a sight to behold, like a winter wonderland. With a job well done, we proceeded to Butch's room and fell to the floor and slept like babies.

The following morning, we were awakened by a few kicks from Butch's boots. He had just returned from the chow hall and was complaining that the base CO ordered everyone up out of the rack to clean up the lids.

Duke and I decided to keep the lid incident our own little secret. Duke is gone now, God bless his soul, so I am sharing our secret.

GySgt Henry J. Tomasko Jr.
Andreas, Pa.

The Day the Music Died

In 1971 and 1972, I was with Communication Support Company at MCB Kaneohe, Hawaii. We lived in a three-story concrete building and there were approximately 50 Marines living in each squad bay. Even though lights out was at 10 p.m., quite a few Marines continued to play their stereos. You might have hard rock being played in one corner, soul in another, and country western in another. Complaints to the sergeant guard or staff duty might bring a short reprieve but it would soon begin again with each inconsiderate Marine trying to outdo the other. On weekends it was louder than ever. We suffered through the unbearable din until I took the initiative and solved the problem.

I purchased an electric extension cord, cut the end off and twisted the two wires together and then taped over the bare wires. At 10:15 every night I would reach under my rack and plug in the cord. All the circuit breakers on the second floor would trip. Every electrical appliance in the squad bay would go dead. The cord would get hot for a short while, but once the breakers tripped and the power was off, any hazard was gone.

Everyone with a radio or stereo would try to flip the breakers to no avail. As long as that cord was plugged in, nothing electric worked. First thing every morning I would reach under my rack, unplug the cord, and hide it in my footlocker. Everyone would complain and electricians would come and check the building out

and find nothing wrong. Most of the Marines on that floor were glad they could finally get some good shut-eye. After I was promoted to sergeant, it was no longer a problem because we had a separate smaller area on the other side of the barracks.

I was due to be discharged in December 1972 and had orders to Camp Pendleton, Calif., but before I left, I delivered my cord to the first sergeant and explained what happened, why, and how it worked. Needless to say, he got a good laugh.

Sgt Jim Grimes
USMC, 1969-1972
Wathena, Kan.

The Happy Couple

In August 1955, my platoon was in the stands getting instructions on the Browning Automatic Rifle. Two "goof-offs" kept talking during class so our DI, Corporal Reed, sent them across the grinder to speak with a DI from a different platoon. After about 15-20 minutes the two returned to our platoon, soaking wet, skipping and holding hands. The other DI had told them to tell Cpl Reed that since they seemed to be the happy couple, they had been given a shower.

In good times or difficult times, it was a pleasure to be in that fraternity of Marine Corps brothers and sisters.

Sgt Larry Iles
Long Beach, Calif.

Do you have any interesting stories from your time in the Corps that will give our readers a good chuckle? We would love to hear them. Write them down (500 words or less) and send them to: Patricia Everett, *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or email them to p.everett@mca-marines.org. We offer \$25 or a one-year MCA membership for the "Sea Story of the Month." 🐞

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Educators' Workshop Returns After Pandemic Shutdown

Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) reinstated its Educators' Workshop Program this summer after a long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The workshops were paused to ensure the safety of the recruits and educators. The return of the program will provide recruiters the opportunity to invite their local teachers, counselors and school administrators to attend a workshop designed to demystify the training process and give them valuable insight into the opportunities the Marine Corps offers to America's youth.

"The workshops play an important role in the recruiting process because they go a long way in helping educate those influencers most directly connected to the student," said Greg Gilliam, MCRC community engagement director and workshop program manager. "As each year passes, there are more and more people who have not served in the military, and these workshops will, at a minimum, provide insight into the process of becoming a Marine."

Marine Corps Recruit Depots Parris Island and San Diego each host 12 workshops annually focused on high school educators, civic leaders and local influencers.

MCRC Headquarters conducts three additional workshops aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., geared toward reaching collegiate educators, coaches,

band directors and other key influencers.

"Recruiting stations are funded annually to execute an educator workshop hosted by their recruiting region or one of three workshops aboard Quantico," said Gilliam. "Every year we connect with more than 1,500 educators. It's very rewarding to see educators begin to better understand the Marine Corps, how the transformation takes place and the value it provides to their students."

Educators' Workshops provide attendees with firsthand knowledge of how the Marine Corps transforms young men and women into Marines. The program emphasizes the Marine Corps' training practices, military job skills, service opportunities, the military lifestyle, and available educational benefits Marines can receive upon completion of recruit training.

"I learned that not only can you have a good career in the military, but if you come to the Marines, your exit is designed to ensure you are successful with the training you receive here," said Cheryl Brinson, principal of Suwannee River Ridge High School in Florida, who attended the workshop at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in August. Upon her return home, Brinson put together a presentation about the experience to share with students who are considering their college and career options.

Attendees arrive early in the morning the first day and experience a taste of

recruit life from the initial long, quiet bus ride to aligning their feet on the revered yellow footprints and their first meeting with their drill instructors. What follows is a crash course in Marine Corps history, weapons live fire, educational programs, physical fitness, nutrition, job skills and graduation from recruit training.

"If there is one thing we have learned in our time here ... you can come in and make a career out of the Marines, but if you choose to serve and leave, you can learn a skill, take that to the civilian world and not only compete but excel," said Cale Langston, a school board member from Wakulla County, Fla.

Those attending workshops at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., participate in similar events, but they are geared toward the training of Marine officers. The participants, who are college educators and coaches, visit Officer Candidates School, The Basic School, and Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico.

"As much as we are trying to teach them about the Marine Corps, they are teaching us a lot about what their students are looking for and what we can do better to support the students and future Marines," said Captain Sara Walker, the executive officer for Recruiting Station New Jersey.

Scheduled workshop dates and locations for future programs will be available at <https://www.mcrc.marines.mil/Workshops/Workshop-Home/>.

MCRC



LCPL JENNIFER SANCHEZ, USMC



LCPL JENNIFER SANCHEZ, USMC

On Aug. 4, educators had a chance to look inside the cockpit of an F/A-18A during their visit to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., (left), and complete an obstacle course at MCRD Parris Island (right). MCRC conducts educator's workshops annually to inform high school educators about the process of becoming a Marine and raise awareness of the opportunities the Marine Corps can offer their students.



COURTESY OF MILITARY ONESOURCE

The campground at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., is one of the many DOD facilities that can be found on a new “Best Kept Secrets” site that connects eligible individuals with information about affordable reservations, amenities and activities.

DOD Offers Discounted Rates For Campgrounds Nationwide

The Defense Department recently launched an online guide to U.S. joint-service campgrounds and facilities that can be accessed via computer or mobile devices.

“Best Kept Secrets” connects active-duty servicemembers and their families, National Guard, Reserve, DOD civilians and retired military members with campground sites that offer lower rates as compared to non-DOD campground sites.

With a new look-up feature, users can search by state to easily locate the campground of their choice, contact information, details on reservation policies and a list of amenities and activities available at different locations.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance states that outdoor activities, such as campground visits, are safer than indoor activities while the COVID-19 pandemic persists.

The campground guide was produced by DOD’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and Resale Policy Officer. MWR provides the resources to help servicemembers connect with recreational opportunities.

To access “Best Kept Secrets,” visit <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/recreation-travel-shopping/recreation/best-kept-secrets/>.

David Vergun

VA Now Processing Disability Claims for Conditions Linked to Particulate Matter Exposure

On Aug. 2, the Department of Veterans Affairs began processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed

particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA’s evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for veterans

who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to the present. VA’s review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

“I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities,” said Dennis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptives moving forward.”

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. For more information about Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures, visit <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/index.asp>.



COURTESY OF ARMED FORCES INSURANCE

SPOUSE OF THE YEAR—During a Sept. 9 ceremony in Arlington, Va., Arlene Allen was named the 2021 Armed Forces Insurance Military Marine Corps Spouse of the Year in recognition of her outstanding commitment to the Marine Corps community. Allen is the spouse of MSgt Robert Allen, who is stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and was chosen following a rigorous selection process that eventually saw the nomination of nearly 1,000 military spouses from all branches of the Armed Forces. She is an active volunteer for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and helped launch a Kanehoe Bay chapter of Stroller Warriors, a no-fee running club open to all military spouses.

DPAA Identifies Remains of Battle of Tarawa KIA

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced recently that Marine Private First Class Royal L. Waltz, 20, of Cambria, Calif., killed during World War II, has been accounted for.

In November 1943, PFC Waltz was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, which landed against a firmly entrenched Japanese force on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. The Japanese were defeated over several days of intense fighting, however, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded. PFC Waltz died between the first and second day of the battle, Nov. 20-21.

In the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Tarawa, U.S. servicemembers who died during combat were buried in a number of battlefield cemeteries on the island. The 604th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company conducted remains recovery operations on Betio between 1946 and 1947, but Waltz's remains were not identified. All of the remains found on Tarawa were sent to the Schofield Barracks Central Identification laboratory for identification in 1947. By 1949, the remains that had not been identified were interred as unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu, including one set, designated as Tarawa Unknown X-228.

On March 27, 2017, DPAA disinterred Tarawa Unknown X-228 from the Punchbowl for identification.

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

DPAA

Benjamin "Ben" Alfano, 97, of Gainesville, Va. He served during WW II and was a veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Robert R. Arias, 89, of San Antonio, Texas. He was a machine gunner during the Korean War who was captured by the enemy at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. He was a POW for 32 ½ months and weighed only 100 lbs. when he was released in August 1953. After the war, he returned to his career in cartography,

eventually working for the DOD teaching his mapmaking skills to others.

1stSgt Donald Barnhart, 92, of San Antonio, Texas. He enlisted at age 17 just before WW II ended. He was an ANGLICO Marine during the Korean War and also served two tours in Vietnam. After retiring from a 22-year Marine Corps career, he moved to Hawaii where he used his artistic ability and creativity to draw intricate pencil sketches of the island's people and places. One of his drawings was published in the April 2017 issue of *Leatherneck*.

Robert J. Baumert Sr., 86, of Staten Island, N.Y. He was assigned to the MarDet aboard USS *Wright* (CVL-49) during the Korean War. He had a 22-year career in the Marine Corps.

Richard A. Bonelli, 90, of Newport News, Va. During the Korean War he was assigned to Co F, 2nd Bn, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv and saw combat at the Chosin Reservoir. He was the recipient of the Silver Star for his actions in November 1950. According to the award citation, during an enemy attack, he bravely exposed himself to devastating hostile fire to man a machine gun whose crew had become casualties. He "succeeded in delivering a large volume of accurate fire upon the advancing enemy."

Mario "Al" Boragine, 95, of South Yarmouth, Mass. He enlisted while he was still in high school. He was assigned to 1stMarDiv and fought on Peleliu and Okinawa.

Joe Bruni, 98, of Brooklyn, N.Y. He enlisted in 1943 and went to boot camp at Parris Island. He served in the Pacific and saw action with the combat engineers of 20th Marines on Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Richard "Dick" Bub Sr., 90, of Kinnear, Wyo. He was a combat veteran of the Korean War. He later earned a college degree and had a career as a physical education teacher, coach and athletic director. To thousands of students in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., he was known as "Coach," and he often introduced his students to the local Marine recruiters.

Max. W. Chapman, 95, of Morganton, N.C. He served with the 2ndMarDiv during WW II and later had a career in carpentry.

Frederick M. Colony, 94, of Little Falls, N.Y. He enlisted in 1943 and served in the Pacific during WW II. He saw action on Tinian and Iwo Jima. He

was called back to active duty during the Korean War. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

Pvt Joshua Culbreath, 88, of North Wales, Pa. He was a competitive athlete who won gold medals in the 1955 and 1959 Pan American Games in the 400m hurdles. He enlisted in 1956 and competed in the All-Marine Track and Field Championship, setting Marine Corps and Inter-Service records. He won a bronze medal in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne Australia. He later earned a degree in education from Temple University and became a track and field coach at Central State University in Ohio. He was a member of the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame.

Paul J. Ellis, 73, of Philadelphia, Pa. He was a corpsman who served in Vietnam, and also at Philadelphia Naval Hospital and the naval hospital in Bethesda, Md. He later had a 24-year career as a firefighter in Philadelphia.

SSgt Chester H. McDonough Sr., 90, of Tarpon Springs, Fla. He served from 1948-1950. He was assigned to Wpns Co, 3/5 at Camp Pendleton and in Korea. He also was a DI at Parris Island.

Sgt Dennis E. Metz, 68, of Rock Island, Ill. He served for three years at MCB Camp Pendleton.

Col Jack P. Monroe Jr., 87, of Fredericksburg, Va. He enlisted in the Navy in 1951 and was a tail gunner on patrol aircraft. In 1956, after completion of the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and designated a naval aviator. During his 26-year Marine Corps career, he logged more than 6,000 flight hours in more than 30 types of aircraft. In 1958, he was a Forward Air Controller with 2nd ANGLICO attached to 3rd Bn, 6th Marines when they went ashore in Beirut, Lebanon. During the Vietnam War he flew A-4E Skyhawks out of Chu Lai with the WMA-223 "Bulldogs." Other assignments included a tour as CO of VMFA-451 "Warlords," and later as CO of MAG-31. He also served as the chief of staff of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade in Okinawa. He was a graduate of the Air War College.

Following his 1983 retirement, he worked for DCS Corporation and McDonnell Aircraft. He was the Director of the Marine Corps Aviation Association from 1993-2005 and he was a good friend to the MCA and *Leatherneck*.

GySgt Raymond A. Morse, 89, in Chico, Calif. He enlisted in 1950 and served in Korea with Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron Two as a communications chief in an area north of the 38th parallel, directing aircraft for bombing and strafing runs. After the war, he had a career in the electronics manufacturing industry.

Col W. Hays Parks, 80, of Lorton, Va. He was commissioned in 1963 and served as a platoon leader in a reconnaissance battalion. From 1968-1969 he completed a tour in Vietnam as an infantry officer and senior prosecuting attorney for 1stMarDiv. He left active duty, but remained in the Marine Corps Reserve, while pursuing a career in the legal field in the DOD. In 2016 he was awarded the NDI Small Arms Group Gunnery Sergeant Carlos N. Hathcock Award for his work advocating for the military's use of the most accurate and reliable ammunition available.

Harold E. Partch, 98, of Erie, Pa. He was a Navy Seabee attached to the 4thMarDiv during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Joel Schmidt, 94, of Hamilton, Ohio. He served in the Pacific during WW II and saw action on Iwo Jima. After the war he returned to his hometown where he eventually opened six McDonald's restaurants.

Col David E. Severance, 102, of La Jolla, Calif. He was a paratrooper with the 3rd Parachute Bn on Bougainville during WW II. He saw action during the fighting on Iwo Jima as the CO of E/2/28, and his Marines raised the flag on Mount Suribachi. He was also the recipient of the Silver Star for his actions during the battle.

On March 1, 1945, according to the award citation, when Co E was ordered to attack a ridge south of Nishi Village, then-Capt Severance directed the assault against the enemy. "Once the objective was gained, he tenaciously held the position which formed a salient in the line. When the enemy made a fanatic effort to dislodge the company with a concentrated barrage of mortar, machine-gun and rifle fire, [he] marshaled his men and held the ridge until the friendly units on his flanks were able to advance and regain contact along the entire front."

He later completed pilot training and flew combat missions during the Korean War in the Grumman F7F-3N Tigercat and was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

He retired from the Marine Corps in 1968. He was a good friend to *Leatherneck*, writing several articles for the magazine over the years.

Sgt William S. Shallman, 92, of Rock Island, Ill. He enlisted when he was 17 and served for several years. He later earned degrees in engineering and worked as a civil servant for the Army Management Engineering Training Agency at the Rock Island Arsenal.

John "Jack" Stewart Jr., 81, of Stafford, Va. He was a Marine who served from 1957-1960. He later volunteered at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Richard V. Wandler, 87, of Averill Park, N.Y. After serving in the Air Force during the Korean War, he joined the Marine in 1954. He served two tours in Vietnam and retired in 1971. His awards include a Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and two Purple Hearts.

In Memoriam is run on a space-available basis. Those wishing to submit items should include full name, age, location at time of death (city and state), last grade held, dates of service, units served in, and, if possible a published obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear. Submissions may be sent to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, Va., 22134, or emailed to leatherneck@mca-marines.org or n.lichtman@mca-marines.org.



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LARKIN SPIVEY is a retired Marine and Vietnam veteran. He commanded Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines and Bravo Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion in combat, and was a platoon commander in 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company prior to his Vietnam service. He was with the blockade force during the Cuban Missile Crisis, commanded the Guard Company at Marine Barracks 8th & I, and served at the White House. He also taught U.S. military history at The Citadel, and now writes full-time and resides in SC.

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SCREENWRITER?



are you an
ARTIST?

SOUND OFF [continued from page 7]

Liaison Officer in Vietnam” immediately caught my attention. The photos at first seemed to indicate Vietnam-era Marine “hootch” designs, but the article told a different story, especially the Attack on An-Trach (1).

Capt Maloy told of a reactionary force to recover Marine casualties of the attack southwest of Da Nang. Nov. 12, 1966, was a night of widespread attacks around the Da Nang area of operation (AO) with mortar and small arms fire hitting Hill 55 and 1/26 positions incurring several casualties about midnight. A reactionary platoon from “Delta” Co, 1/26 climbed aboard two M-48 tanks, hanging onto the two jerking tanks for dear life as they raced pell-mell in the darkness and ran along the main supply route to 3/1’s AO only to find a decimated perimeter and 15 KIAs lined up at the church near their company command post. Viet Cong sappers had marked and blown many positions and infiltrated the company perimeter at ease before escaping with Marine heavy weapons. A tragedy of command complacency. Our Delta reactionary team provided security around the entire AO removing the casualties until mid-day.

This was the tragic lesson we learned at other Marines’ expense, and we carried forward to other missions and did not repeat.

Sgt Dan Fisher
Oakdale, Minn.

This is regarding the excellent article, “A Few Days in the Life of a Liaison Officer in Vietnam,” written by Captain Raymond Lee Maloy in the August issue. As a first lieutenant I served with Capt Maloy, then-Sergeant Maloy, in 1st and 3rd Amtracs and remember him as a noncommissioned officer who had it all together; he was an outstanding Marine. Years later as a Marine reservist, I ran into him one evening in an Oceanside, Calif., harbor restaurant and was quite pleased to learn that he had retired as a captain.

Col Bruce “Brent” Davis, USMCR (Ret)
1959 to 1993
Thousand Oaks, Calif.

What Semper Fidelis Means to Me

Over the years there has been good-natured kidding about which boot camp is the toughest, Parris Island or San Diego. Sometimes it hasn’t been so good natured with comments like, “Real Marines are only ‘made’ in one or the other, not both.”

In Vietnam, and I’m sure it was the

same in every combat zone, no one asked which boot camp the guy in the hole with you, or the one walking point in front of you, or the guy walking trail behind you, graduated from. We were just glad to be with brother Marines.

Here’s what Semper Fi means to me. I lost my first wife, MaryEllen, to cancer just before Christmas in 1993 after a five-year battle. We had been married 25 years. My current wife, Nancy, came into my life as a nanny and stayed to raise my sons as she had raised her own and kept me, a Marine Vietnam vet with serious PTSD, from drinking myself to death. She now has Alzheimer’s and I’m taking care of her. We Marines all know the Marine Corps motto is “Semper Fidelis,” Latin for “Always Faithful.” I have lived my life being faithful to my beliefs, my family, my friends, my nation and the Marine Corps. At 78 years of age, I have no intention of breaking faith or any promises.

Sgt Joe Doyle
USMC, 1964-1970
Scottsburg, Va.

First it Was Tanks, Now It’s The Grunts

First it was the tanks, then the artillery, now it’s the grunts. I do not understand what this Commandant is trying to do to



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our Marine Corps. He's destroying our beloved Corps. Without the combat arms branch of the Marine Corps, there is no Marine Corps. All other branches within the Marine Corps exist to support them. If this Commandant believes he can fight

China with his high technology stuff and no grunts, tanks or artillery, he is highly mistaken. God help our Corps.

SSgt Robert D. Minton
USMC, 1974-1990
Concho, Ariz.

I Learn About Our Marines from *Leatherneck*

As a veteran Marine of the old breed in the early 1950s, I always enjoy reading my *Leatherneck* magazine cover to cover. I learn so much of our 21st century Marines of today. From modern-day military training programs for our Marine brothers and sisters making them more skilled trained, better equipped, more educated, more knowledgeable of the universal type of deployments to accomplish the missions successfully, to the highest tradition of our Corps. I would like to commend our Marine Corps for making our young brother and sister Marines the world's best military force, always standing by on the ready for whatever the mission may be. Our tradition, heritage and legacy continue into the new 21st century of another generation.

Cpl John Messia Jr., USMCR (Ret)
1952 to 1954
Brockton, Mass.

Cua Viet Memories

After reading *Saved Round* in the July issue about R&R on the Cua Viet beach, I am writing about my time in Cua Viet in May 1969. I was attached to H&S Company, 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, 3rd Marine Division. I was there March through May 1969, and I never saw anyone on the beach as we were told it was mined.

The picture below was taken the evening of May 26, 1969, when we were hit by 122 rockets, causing heavy damage to the company area and resulting in several injuries which needed to be evacuated to rear areas. I was hit with a piece of shrapnel in the lower leg, a minor injury, and was offered a Purple Heart, which I didn't take. I now feel it was the wrong decision. I wish I had it now. I don't know anyone to verify it now. The next day, as far as I can remember, we were pulled out because a battalion of hard-core Viet Cong were heading toward us.

SSgt Willard "Bill" U. Wooldridge
Webb City, Mo.

Question Regarding Awards

I served in the Corps from June 1991 to June 1995 as an 0331 with CAAT Platoon, Weapons Co, 1/6, 2nd Marine Di-



COURTESY OF SSGT WILLARD "BILL" U. WOOLDRIDGE


H&S Co, 1st Amphibian Tractor Bn, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, 3rd Marine Division in Cua Viet, after being hit by 122 rockets on May 26, 1969.

vision. My question is, if your unit received awards/medals from a mission/deployment after our honorable discharge are those awards added to your DD-214 by the Marine Corps or Veterans Administration, or is it something that the service-member would have to petition for?

Brett Savage
Parrish, Fla.

• You will need to submit a DD-149, "Application for Correction of Military Record," which can be found at www.archives.gov/veterans, to the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) at 1701 South Courthouse Road, Suite 1001, Arlington, VA 22204-2490.—Editor

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



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R.C. LeBeau

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Reunions

• **National Montford Point Marine Assn.**, July 12-16, 2022, Shreveport, La. Contact Ronald Johnson, (504) 202-8552, vice_president@montfordpointmarines.org.

• **USMC Weather Service**, June 19-24, 2022, Overland Park, Kan. Contact Kathy Donham, (252) 342-8459, kathy.donham@hotmail.com, or Dave Englert, engertd@psci.net.

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

• **STA Plt, 2/8 (1989-1993)** is planning a reunion. Contact Mike Moriarty, mmoriarty81@comcast.net.

• **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, twoninencoic@aol.com, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

• **M/3/7 (RVN)**, May 11-14, 2022, Annapolis, Md. Contact George Martin, (443) 822-3597, m37bulldog@aol.com.

• **Marine Expeditionary Brigade-**

Afghanistan, Task Force Leatherneck (2009-2010), May 13-15, 2022, Quantico, Va. Contact reunion committee, taskforceleatherneck@gmail.com.

• **Philippine Embassy Marines (1976-1977)**, Nov. 10, North Carolina. Contact Tim Craig, phildream2017@gmail.com.

• **TBS 3-64**, April 5-7, 2022. Contact Hugh Doss, hudoss@aol.com.

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

• **TBS, Co D, 4-73**, is planning a 50th-anniversary reunion in 2023, Quantico, Va. Contact Col Bill Anderson, USMCR (Ret), (540) 850-4213, binche57@yahoo.com, or Col Bob Donaghue, USMCR (Ret), (617) 840-0267, ip350haven@comcast.net.

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

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

Wanted

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

• Robert G. Soto Jr., 414 Clary Dr., Mesquite, TX, 75149, (214) 650-7903, marinedawg529@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1037, San Diego, 1984.**

• Beverly Sidler, P.O. Box 294, Lavaca, AR, bevspase@yahoo.com, wants a **March 1976 issue of Leatherneck.**

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

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A PAINTED MAP OF HALLOWED GROUND—Barry Faulkner’s painting, “Bois de la Brigade de Marine-Belleau Wood,” (above) was commissioned by Edward Robinson, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Robinson’s purpose in commissioning the piece was to honor the Marines who fought at Belleau Wood and to memorialize his son, Captain Phillips B. Robinson.

Capt Robinson was commissioned in 1917. With his knowledge of international affairs and fluency in French and German, he served with the Quartermaster Department until he died in an automobile accident in late 1918. Robinson’s grieving parents dedicated a room at Marine Corps Base Quantico’s Waller Hall to the memory of their son with this painting as the focal point. Waller Hall housed Quantico’s officers’ quarters and club until the building was torn down in 1970. After that, the painting was moved to Harry Lee Hall where

it was displayed for a few years. It was accessioned to the art collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps in 1976.

Faulkner, a noted muralist, studied at the American Academy in Rome and was a member of the National Academy of Design. An early advocate of the use of camouflage, he enlisted in Company A, 40th Regiment, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and served two years in France during World War I. For the Robinson commission, he used aerial maps and even returned to France to familiarize himself with the battlefield. Faulkner completed the painting, an oil on canvas attached to a wood panel, in 1920.

Author’s bio: Joan Thomas is the art curator for the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. 🐼

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