

APRIL 2015

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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MAY ALL WHO LEAVE HERE KNOW THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE.
MAY THIS MEMORIAL OFFER COMFORT, STRENGTH, PEACE, HOPE AND SE

OKLAHOMA CITY:

20 YEARS
LATER

**One Marine's
Miraculous
Story of Survival**



Welcome to *Leatherneck* Magazine's

Digital Edition **April 2015**



We hope you are continuing to enjoy the digital edition of *Leatherneck* with its added content and custom links to related information. Our commitment to expanding our digital offerings continues to reflect progress.

Also, access to added content is available via our website at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck and you will find reading your *Leatherneck* much easier on smartphones and tablets. Our focus of effort has been on improving our offerings on the Internet, so we want to hear from you. How are we doing? Let us know at: leatherneck@mca-marines.org.


Thank you for your continuing support.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary H. Reinwald".

Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)
Editor



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Photo By: Cpl. Joshua Murray



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COVER: Maj William Chronister, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Station Oklahoma City, and SgtMaj Bryan K. Zickefoose, Sergeant Major of RS OKC, present a wreath at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, April 19, 2009, on the site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building where two Marines on recruiting duty were killed April 19, 1995, during a terrorist bombing. Read Sara W. Bock's epilogue to the bombing and its aftermath on page 38. Photo by Cpl R. Drew Hendricks. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an e-mail to: r.keene@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 e-mails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

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

How do you repay someone for getting you out of harm's way?

I was wounded on a mountain near Koto-ri, North Korea, in December 1950. It seems that almost immediately, I was dragged to a safer spot and tended to by a Fleet Marine Force corpsman. He retrieved a vial of morphine from his mouth (so it wouldn't freeze) and gave me the shot to help relieve the pain.

A couple of years ago, the Lord presented me with an opportunity to help a retired corpsman. He was having financial difficulties. He became delinquent on his rent and was facing cable and telephone shut-off. Fortunately his landlord was a saint, allowing the corpsman to remain and covering the utilities.

Why was this happening? When "Doc" gave his retirement checks to his daughter to deposit in the bank, she would keep a sizeable amount for herself.

I asked Doc if he would like me to act and sign a limited "power of attorney" to handle his financial affairs. I closed his current account and opened a new account at another bank, and within a month, he was whole once again. I also would do his grocery shopping as directed.

My final act was to pay the expense of his funeral and serve in the honor guard. What a privilege it was to serve this man to the end.

Don J. Mooney, USMC (Ret)
Erie, Mich.

The National Defense Service Medal: People Seem to Want One

I was an active member of the Marine Corps Reserve, serving from February 1965 to May 1970. In a recent discussion with a Marine major, I was advised that as a member of the active Reserve during the Vietnam era, I was entitled to wear the National Defense Service Medal. As this does not appear on my DD-214, I was

under the impression that reservists were not awarded this medal.

Could you advise if a member of the active Reserve was entitled to this medal for service during that time frame?

Cpl Rudy Sannicandro
USMC, 1965-70
Norwalk, Ct.

I read John Klosinski's letter in the January *Leatherneck* about conflicts of the Corps.

In 1957 we evacuated Americans from Alexandria, Egypt, and we did not receive the National Defense Service Medal.

In 1958 we made a landing at Beirut, Lebanon and did not receive the National Defense Service Medal.

In 1961 I was recalled for the Berlin Wall and did not receive the National Defense Service Medal. In 1962 we had the Cuban Missile Crisis and Bay of Pigs and did not receive the National Defense Service Medal.

Did we fall through the cracks in those days, or was there something I don't know about?

Sgt Robert Shofner
USMC, 1955-62
Fairdale, Ky.

• *The National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service as a member of the Armed Forces for any period between:*

• *June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954 (for service during the Korean War).*

• *Jan. 1, 1961, to Aug. 14, 1974 (for service during the Vietnam War).*

• *Aug. 2, 1990, to Nov. 30, 1995 (for service during the Gulf War).*

• *Sept. 11, 2001, to a date to be announced (for service during the War on Terrorism).*

Reserve members who are ordered to Federal active duty, regardless of how long, may be awarded the National Defense Service Medal. Any member of the Guard or Reserves, who becomes qualified for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal or the Southwest Asia Service Medal after Dec. 31, 1960,

also will be qualified for the National Defense Service Medal.

The following conditions are not considered performing active service toward award of the National Defense Service Medal:

(1) Guard and Reserve forces personnel on short tours of duty to fulfill training obligations under an inactive duty training program.

(2) Any person on active duty for the sole purpose of undergoing a physical examination.

(3) Any person on temporary active duty to serve on boards, courts, commissions and like organizations or on active duty for purposes other than extended active duty.

The medal was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to servicemembers who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict. It also may be issued to active-duty military personnel for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates.—Sound Off Ed.

Marines: Veteran Marines, Ex-Marines

All Marines go to boot camp. All Marines go to infantry training. All Marines are 0311 infantrymen.

After boot camp and infantry training, the ones who can read and write go to the air wing.

But, a Marine is a Marine.

E. Michael Smith
USMC, 1964-68
Sun Valley, Nev.

• *Yes, but that leads us to exceptions, such as below.—Sound Off Ed.*

I have an 81-year-old friend, an honorably discharged Marine with four years' service, who says that an "ex" Marine is one who was dishonorably discharged.

I have another friend, about the same age, who retired from the Marine Corps after 20 years of service. He says that there is no such thing as an "ex" or former Ma-



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rine: Once a Marine, always a Marine.

I spoke with another friend of mine, a much younger Marine, and he does not know how to answer that one.

Paul L. Ouellette
Puyallup, Wash.

• *"You earned the title 'Marine' upon graduation from recruit training. It wasn't willed to you; it isn't a gift. It is not a government subsidy. Few can claim the title; no one may take it away. It is yours forever."—MSgt Tom Bartlett, USMC (Ret), the late managing editor of Leatherneck. ... Yours forever, unless YOU give it up and trade it for a Dishonorable Discharge at which time you will be called an ex-Marine: the modern day equivalent of being drummed out.—Sound Off Ed.*

Not Enough Marines for Funerals, So Veterans Take Up the Honor

I read Private First Class Francis Welsh's letter "Nation's Veterans Deserve Proper Funeral Honors" in the January issue. As the coordinator for the Central Coast Leatherneck Honor Guard, a nonprofit organization formed to render military honors at funerals, I could not agree more with the feelings of PFC Welsh that our country's veterans are being forgotten by the government.

Due to the fact that there are no national cemeteries in our area of California and the government's lack of money or willingness to provide full military funeral honors for the veterans of this area (even though many veterans' families requested full military honors for their loved ones), starting in 1999 a small group of Marine veterans, remembering the Corps' principles of honor, courage and commitment, stepped forward to fill the requests of veterans' families.

The current membership of the honor guard is 25 volunteers; 23 are Marines and two are from other branches. They served in all wars and conflicts since World War II. They all have honorable discharges and agree to comply with the dress and appearance codes in line with U.S. Marine Corps regulations.

This group of veterans has been conducting military funeral honor ceremonies since 1999, and last May they rendered their 1,000th military honor ceremony in the San Luis Obispo area. During 2014 they conducted a total of 83 funeral honors for veterans of all branches of the Armed Forces.

To quote President Ronald Reagan: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It has to be fought for and defended by each generation."

My belief is: if veterans such as those

of the Central Coast Leatherneck Honor Guard of San Luis Obispo, Calif., do not continue to provide military honors for veterans who served to protect the freedom of the United States, then who will? Honoring and respecting the veterans shows their families and friends that the people of a grateful nation truly care about their sacrifices.

SFC Jim Brenton, USA
Coordinator

Central Coast Leatherneck Honor Guard
San Luis Obispo, Calif.

In comment to PFC Welsh's very good letter, I agree with him and believe it is a problem that this nation should address. Having witnessed the Army's "Old Guard" and our own Marine Body Bearers at Arlington, Va., I agree there are none better, but in addition to what PFC Welsh said, the local veterans' organizations such as the Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion are doing a great job of filling in the gaps.

After taking my retirement from the Corps and subsequently from a civilian career, I joined the local VFW and its honor guard. Throughout the last 14 years or so, I have been involved in roughly 1,000 military funerals. Sometimes the Armed Forces send representatives of the Navy, Army and Air Force who fold and present the flag in a very honorable and dignified manner. We veterans augment the ceremony with a commander's eulogy dissertation, a chaplain's prayer, the three-round volley and the playing of "Taps."

There is a mixture from all military services in our honor guard, the oldest being more than 90 and an Army veteran of Normandy. We are very proud of the service we perform and hope to continue for the years to come.

MSgt Ron Thompson, USMC (Ret)
Riley, Ind.

Marine Brotherhood Does Not Require Scofflaws

I read *Leatherneck* from cover to cover. I suppose by today's standards I would be considered one of the "old salts." I joined the Corps at age 17 in 1951, and I was 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighed 117 pounds. I was told by my drill instructor that I had zero chance of making it through boot camp because of my size.

In December I was sent to Korea and was assigned to "Fox" Company, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division as a Browning Automatic Rifleman. On July 4, 1952, I was wounded at an unnamed outpost.

I went to Korea as a private first class and left in December 1952 as a buck ser-

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from Mr. Ahern, especially as the Letter of the Month, it seems to say to all that if you have a Marine bumper sticker on your vehicle, you can go as fast as you want without penalty. The trooper failed to do his duty by giving the speeder a thumbs-up. I doubt that this will make print, but at least *Leatherneck* should reject this sort of act.

Thomas F. Williams
Laurel, Miss.

• *Yes, sir! You are right and we were wrong. I think Mr. Ahern and we at Leatherneck got caught up with the act of Marines behaving and bonding as brothers and overlooked the fact that although often done, it is still a violation of the law and is a story probably best told only among friends having a beer (with a designated driver).—Sound Off Ed.*

Oops, Wrong People, Wrong Photo

My February issue arrived and I was amazed to find my picture in it! The article "Training Their Own: The Marines of Air Delivery Jump School, 1954-57" has a photograph of me with my Vietnamese Special Forces jumpmaster. I was working with Mobile Strike Force Da Nang, 5th Special Forces Group.

The photo was taken after an operation, somewhere between Red Beach and the hills to the north in 1968.

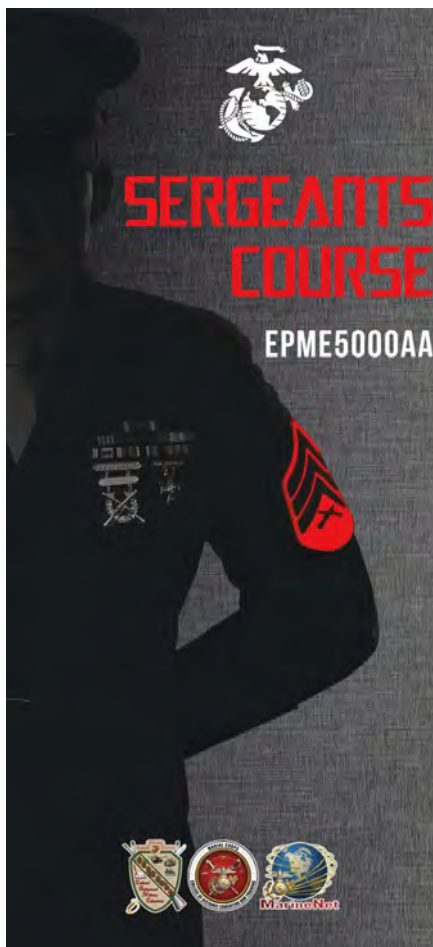
My copy of that photo was lost when my house disappeared in Hurricane Katrina, and I would be extremely grateful if you could send the image to me electronically. I will open a bottle of Jarhead Red, and the photo and I will have a celebratory reunion!

LtCol Tom C. McKenney, USMC (Ret)
Ocean Springs, Miss.

• *Our staff writer, Sara Bock, who penned the article sends the following: "We made a mistake in the identification of the Marine in that photo, and we apologize. We are glad to put the correct name with the face. It was, indeed, not Master Sergeant Arthur S. Umphrey in the photo; although he has a remarkably similar photo of himself with a Vietnamese jumpmaster, somehow our signals got crossed. We aren't sure where the photo came from, but it's a good one. [Too bad it was the wrong one.] Go ahead and crack open your Jarhead Red, because a copy of the photo is on its way to you!"—Sound Off Ed.*

Readers Recall Quantico Football: Exciting as It Gets

The recent stories on Marine football bring back memories of when I was stationed at Quantico, Va.



geant; all less than two years in the Corps. Boot camp, as any Marine knows, taught us to obey orders, obey the law, love our fellow Marines and love our country. That has been foremost in my life now for 83 years.

My concern is about the "Letter of the Month" in the February issue from Daniel Ahern and the issue that he had with the law.

We are reminded by those in leadership positions that we are a nation of laws, and no man is above the law. In Mr. Ahern's letter, he seemed to boast about doing 72 in a 65-mph speed zone and, because he had Marine bumper stickers on his RV, the state trooper gave him a thumbs-up, saying it was OK for him to break the law.

Well, I have Marine bumper stickers, USMC flags on my vehicles as well as USMC flags in my yard and am well-known in my neighborhood and church as the 83-year-old Marine, and I have never considered myself above the law because of it. Yes, I have had one ticket in my adult life, and that was because of an expired sticker. There's no doubt that we all do things that violate some laws, but a Marine veteran should know better and especially try to set an example for the younger generation.

And, finally, by publishing the letter

It was 1956 and the Marines played the team from Bolling Air Force Base for the service championship.

The Air Force team was loaded with college All-Americans and National Football League pros. They were heavy favorites.

The Marines beat the Air Force in the rain, 7-6. The Marines had a placekicker who won the game, named Second Lieutenant Thurlow "Tad" Weed who played at Ohio State.

The extra point was kicked as time ran out. Since we were the underdogs, we celebrated in true Marine spirit and fashion.

Mel Goldstein
Mayfield Heights, Ohio

I enjoyed Capt Jack Paxton's letter about "Marine Football!" in the February issue. I would like to add one more name to Paxton's college stalwarts listing: Harry "The Golden Greek" Agganis.

Harry played on the 1950 Camp Lejeune, N.C.'s football and baseball teams. He was an All-American quarterback at Boston University. The big football game at that time was Quantico's Eddie LeBaron vs. Lejeune's Harry Agganis. It was a long time ago, and I don't know who won. [The game was played Nov. 11, 1950, when Quantico routed Lejeune, 42-7.]

Harry played first base for the Boston Red Sox in 1954 and 1955. The left fielder was a fellow Marine, the great Ted Williams.

Harry Agganis passed away at the age of 26 from a pulmonary embolism, June 27, 1955. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1974.

Cpl Paul Carey
USMC, 1950-53
Seekonk, Mass.

It was autumn of 1972. A company of Marine second lieutenants, students of The Basic School, had humped the hills of Quantico, Va., all day, and now their task was to dig in and prepare to repel a night attack from aggressors, played by leathernecks of Marine Barracks, "8th and I," Washington, D.C. The lieutenants were a week away from graduation, and every lieutenant was considered rifle platoon qualified.

Suddenly, the word is passed down the chain of command: "All football players back to the trucks." My squad included a celebrated placekicker. Sometimes he would return to complete the night evolutions; other times, he would return in the morning, freshly showered and in clean, starched utilities. For away games, we pretended he had been medically evacuated.

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glee club. Training was interrupted for important rehearsals. They were preparing to perform for President Richard M. Nixon's inauguration.

Tail wagging the dog? Form before function? Train the way we fight?

1stLt Anthony J. Caminiti
 Amtracs, 1972-76
 New Hyde Park, N.Y.

• *You tell me. I don't see a major wave of standards lowering and training disrupting in your examples. I don't think I would have Marines in a glee club, even lieutenants, but ...—Sound Off Ed.*

They Did Their Crying in the Rain

In 1962 Paul Johnson and I were sitting in the Infantry Training Regimental mess hall, Camp San Onofre, Camp Pendleton, Calif., at breakfast, and three Marines from another company sat down across from us. One, we didn't know; the other two were Don and Phil ... the Everly Brothers. We readily recognized them and had a terrific conversation. As I recall, they were in the Marine Corps Reserve completing their six-month active duty.

We were interrupted by our ITR troop handlers. It seems the entire company was outside waiting for the last two maggots (us), and it was raining hard and they were

peevish and not at all impressed that we were visiting with the Everly Brothers.

Dick Howard
 Houston

Reunions

• **3dMarDiv Assn. (all eras)**, Aug. 11-16, Orlando, Fla. Contact Don H. Gee, P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914-0254, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **Montford Point Marine Assn. (50th Annual Convention)**, Aug. 12-16, Mobile, Ala. Contact Rodney Lee, (251) 776-2424, or Ron Johnson, (504) 270-5426, www.montfordpointmarines.org.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn. (30th Reunion)**, Sept. 15-18, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact LtCol Richard J. Sullivan, USMC (Ret), (508) 954-2262, sul824@verizon.net.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Aug. 16-20, New Bern, N.C. Contact Jack Paxton, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com.

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Oct. 28-Nov. 2, Arlington, Va. Contact John Wear, (215) 794-9052, johnwear@yahoo.com.

• **USMC Bulk Fuel Assn.**, April 30-May 3, Somers Point, N.J. Contact Howard W. Huston, (609) 432-4027, (609) 927-

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3857, hhust61@aol.com.

• **2d Recon Bn Assn. (all eras)**, June 25-28, Knoxville, Tenn. Contact Bob Moody, c/o 2d Recon Bn Assn., P.O. Box 1679, Westminster, MD 21158, (443) 375-7562, sgtrecon73@gmail.com, www.2dreconbn.org.

• **1st MAW Assn. (RVN)**, May 28-30, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Al Frater, (201) 906-1197, teanal@optonline.net.

• **USMC Hawk Assn. (50th Anniversary)**, Aug. 19-23, Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage, Calif. Contact Stan Buliszyn, (352) 509-2043, sb353@usmchawkassociation.com.

• **USMC A-4 Skyhawk Assn.**, Oct. 8-11, San Diego. Contact Mark Williams, 400 Howell Way, #102, Edmonds, WA 98020, (425) 771-2030, roger.wilco@comcast.net.

• **531 Gray Ghost Squadron Assn.**, April 23-25, Pensacola, Fla. Contact GySgt Ralph Delisanti, USMC (Ret), (585) 426-4091, ralphdelisanti@yahoo.com.

• **Moroccan Reunion Assn. (all eras)**, Sept. 9-13, Branson, Mo. Contact Robert Sieborg, 2717 N. 120th Ave., Omaha, NE 68164, (402) 496-1498.

• **Reconnaissance and Combat Helicopter Marines (RVN, 1965-71, 50th Anniversary)**, April 21-24, Oceanside,

Calif. Contact Charlie Kershaw, (760) 438-8638, c2k2@earthlink.net.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Sept. 13-18, Savannah, Ga. Contact Harold Wilson, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne06@gmail.com.

• **1st, 2d and 3d Amtracs**, June 24-26, Biloxi, Miss. Contact Robert Glausier, (301) 432-5289, rglausier@myactv.net (subject line: Amtrac Reunion), or Vic Ciullo, (941) 496-8119.

• **3d and 4th Defense Battalions (members of other defense battalions welcome)**, May 20-26, Fredericksburg, Texas. Contact Charles Buckley, (510) 794-7280, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, (512) 738-2075, sharon_heideman@yahoo.com.

• **BLT 1/3 (WW II, Korea, RVN, Gulf War)**, Aug. 11-16, Orlando, Fla. Contact Richard Cleary, P.O. Box 128, Mammoth, AZ 85618, (520) 487-0327, clearyrp@msn.com.

• **BLT 3/9 (50-Year Reunion)**, Sept. 8-12, San Diego. Contact Charles Saltaformaggio, (504) 812-7369, csaltaformaggio@yahoo.com.

• **1/1 (RVN, 1965-71)**, Aug. 26-31, Washington, D.C. Contact Rick Bazaco, 14727 Mountain Rd., Purcellville, VA 20132, (843) 324-2734, info@1stbn1st

[continued on page 66]





Relief and Appointment of the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

By Cpl Cuong Le, USMC

On a frigid day which broke cold-weather records in the nation's capital, the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett, relinquished his post to SgtMaj Ronald L. Green on Feb. 20, 2015, at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.

With the passage of a simple sword symbolizing the responsibility of taking care of the Marines and sailors throughout the Corps, SgtMaj Green assumed the duties as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

As noted during the ceremony by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the Marine Corps was the first of the U.S. Armed Forces to establish the position of senior enlisted advisor to its service chief in 1957. Two five-point stars and an eagle, globe and anchor were added to the rank



CPL CLAYTON FILIPOWICZ/USMC

Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., CMC, presents the sword of office to SgtMaj Ronald L. Green, 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, at the Relief and Appointment Ceremony held on Feb. 20, 2015.

insignia of the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps in 1970 to distinguish this Marine from the Corps' other sergeants major.

Gen Dunford also noted SgtMaj Barrett's many accomplishments during his tenure and his unfailing devotion to Marines and their families. According to Gen Dunford, SgtMaj Barrett's efforts in improving enlisted professional military education will have long-term benefits to Marines throughout the Corps. SgtMaj Barrett has filled the post since 2011 and served two Commandants, Gen Dunford and Gen James F. Amos.

"The Corps is in great hands [and] will continue to be in great hands, because there is no shortage of young people to put on the cloth of this nation," said SgtMaj Barrett. "I am leaving with a happy heart." SgtMaj Barrett was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his many accomplishments during his tenure.

During the ceremony SgtMaj Barrett



SGT ALLISON BEISWANGER, USMC

Left: Leathernecks from Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., brave the record-breaking cold weather at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., as they march on.

Below: SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett hands the sword of office to Gen Dunford signifying his relief as 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.



SGT ALLISON BEISWANGER, USMC

paid tribute to First Sergeant Ronald Swann, who recruited him more than 34 years ago. SgtMaj Barrett thanked Swann, who was in the audience, for starting him on the path of becoming a Marine and presented him with his last 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps challenge coin.

SgtMaj Green assumes his post having just completed a tour as the I Marine Expeditionary Force sergeant major. The Jackson, Miss., native was a field artillery cannoneer as a junior Marine.

“We are committed to our nation, to our Corps and to our families; that is what today is all about,” said SgtMaj Green. “It’s about reaffirming our commitment.”

“As we say goodbye to the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, we are fortunate to have another Marine step up as our 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps,” said Gen Dunford. “Sergeant Major Ronald Green has established himself as a superb Marine leader over the course of 31 years.”

The 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps takes his post during a time of transition. The Corps is poised to meet the crises of tomorrow—whatever or wherever they may be.

(Leatherneck staff contributed to this report.)



18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps SgtMaj Ronald L. Green

Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green assumed his current post as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on Feb. 20, 2015. A native of Jackson, Miss., he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in November 1983.

He has been meritoriously promoted to the grades of private first class, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant and staff sergeant.

Throughout his career, SgtMaj Green has been assigned numerous duties, to include field artillery cannoneer; field artillery nuclear projectileman; tower operator; drill instructor, senior drill instructor and drill master; battery section chief and battery gunnery sergeant; Assistant Marine Officer Instructor at Southern University and A&M College; first sergeant of Inspector-Instructor Staff, Company B, 1st Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment; and sergeant major of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps; Marine Corps Forces Europe/Marine Corps Forces Africa and I Marine Expeditionary Force.

He deployed to Somalia with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) during Operation Restore Hope in 1993; to South America in support of Operation United Americas (UNITAS) in 2002; and with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006.

SgtMaj Green has a bachelor’s degree in cybersecurity and a master’s degree in cybersecurity policy from the University of Maryland University College.

—USMC



SgtMaj Ronald L. Green

USMC



SGT REECE LODDER, USMC

Barbara Kenney displays a photo of her late father, 1stLt George Greeley Wells, at her home in Bellevue, Wash., Oct. 25, 2014. Wells provided Marines with the first flag that was raised on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Remembering Greeley

The Marine Who Carried the First Iwo Jima Flag

By Sgt Reece Lodder, USMC

Few events in Marine Corps history are as storied as the iconic flag raising on Mount Suribachi during World War II's Battle of Iwo Jima. The quiet event, starkly contrasting the bloody battle that claimed the lives of a third of the war's fallen Marines, later marked a deafening Allied victory and powerfully symbolized the resolve of a nation at war.

History will forever honor famed Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal for capturing the celebrated photo of the flag raising. But without the attention to detail of a young Marine lieutenant, this powerful image of American patriotism would likely not exist.

The Adjutant

Before a 96-inch-by-56-inch version of Old Glory whipped in the wind atop the volcanic mountain in the famous photo, a

54-inch-by-28-inch flag flew there. The smaller flag was drawn from the map case of 25-year-old First Lieutenant George Greeley Wells, the Lake Forest, Ill.-born adjutant of 2d Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment, Fifth Marine Division.

The sharp, amiable officer, known by his family and friends as "Greeley," joined 2d Bn, 28th Marines shortly before the battalion began training for the Pacific campaign. After receiving orders and driving cross-country with his wife and child to California, Greeley checked in with his new unit a day late. Noting the young officer's tardiness, Greeley's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Chandler W. Johnson, named him the battalion adjutant, remarking, "You will be my adjutant, and you will rue the day. Report on time tomorrow."

Unaware of an adjutant's responsibilities, Greeley scoured the Marine Corps manual on his new job. Near its end, the document noted an adjutant was to carry a flag.

Retired Colonel Dave E. Severance, who as a captain served alongside Greeley on Iwo Jima as 2/28's "Easy" Company commander, recalled receiving the first briefing on the operation and being "amazed that we'd been given the mission of climbing the volcano."

Now 95 and settled in La Jolla, Calif., Severance still clearly recalls the "young, very enthusiastic lieutenant's" portion of the briefing.

"When Greeley said his piece, he mentioned the Marine Corps staff manual directed an adjutant to maintain a flag for every operation, so he took a flag from the USS *Missoula* and carried it in his map case," Severance said.

A senior officer inquired why Greeley kept a flag close, and he replied, "I don't know, but I'll have it if you need it." While not apparent at the time, his steadfastness helped set into action a hallmark of American history.

Below left: Marines show *Leatherneck* photographer SSgt Louis R. Lowery the flag they are carrying up the slope of Mount Suribachi. Lowery accompanied the 40-man patrol and photographed the first flag raising.

Below right: Marines tie the first American flag to a Japanese water pipe before raising it atop Mount Suribachi.



SSGT LOUIS R. LOWERY, USMC



SSGT LOUIS R. LOWERY, USMC

Landing on Iwo Jima

On the morning of Feb. 19, 1945, following a steak and egg breakfast—their last such meal for 35 days, as Greeley recalled in his memoir—Greeley and fellow 2/28 Marines splashed ashore in landing crafts on Iwo Jima’s beaches. Unable to move any closer since “the beach was covered with too many Marines,” the men waded past their fallen brothers while braving intense mortar, sniper and machine-gun fire.

Eventually arriving at the command post, Greeley spent his first night on the island in a foxhole next to Private First Class Rene A. Gagnon, who later participated in the second flag raising. Waking up to find Gagnon on his knees praying, Greeley remarked, “I thought you weren’t very religious.” Gagnon, the lone child of French-Canadian immigrants, replied, “If you look next to you, there’s a big hunk of shrapnel. I didn’t bother to wake you, but it was a tough night.”

Although encamped only 400 yards from Mount Suribachi’s base, Marines slogged through three days of intense fighting to gain control of the territory. While chatting with troop replacements on the second day, Greeley was shot through the arm. The bullet didn’t hit any bone, so he was patched up and resumed his duties, resolute to support the men fighting for their lives.

The base of Mount Suribachi was secured on the fourth day, Greeley recalled. Shortly thereafter, Severance was ordered to select a 40-man platoon from Easy Co to patrol to the peak. Before the patrol,

led by 1stLt Harold G. “George” Schrier, stepped off, LtCol Johnson turned to Greeley and asked for the flag. Producing it from his map case, Greeley handed the flag to Schrier and observed as Schrier led his men to the peak. Not a shot was fired on their ascent.

As *Leatherneck* magazine photographer Staff Sergeant Lou Lowery captured photos, they fastened the flag to a heavy pipe, secured it between the rocks and struggled to raise it up. This marked the first American flag raised on captured Japanese soil. It was Feb. 23, 1945.

“We suddenly heard shouts and horns blowing from the 350 ships surrounding the island!” Greeley wrote in his memoir. “It was like the Fourth of July!”

Making History

Landing on the beach below, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal saw the flag and is said to have remarked, “The flag raising on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years.” Forrestal requested the flag as a souvenir, but when the request reached Johnson—described by Greeley as a “feisty individual”—it stopped there. “This is our flag and we have fought and died for it!” Greeley recalled Johnson saying.

Instead, Johnson sent his assistant operations officer, Second Lieutenant Albert T. “Ted” Tuttle, to the beach to retrieve a larger replacement for the initial flag from a nearby ship, USS *LST-779*. As the Japanese attack resumed, PFC Gagnon carried

A suit jacket adorned with military awards earned by 1stLt Greeley Wells is displayed in the home of his daughter, Barbara Kenney, in Bellevue, Wash., Oct. 25, 2014.



SGT TRECCE LODDER, USMC

As the second larger flag was raised and Joe Rosenthal was taking the famous photo, the first flag was lowered by the Marines of Easy Co, 2d Bn, 28th Marines.



PFC ROBERT R. CAMPBELL, USMC

the replacement flag up the mountain along with fresh radio batteries. Simultaneously, Rosenthal and two Marines, photographer PFC Robert R. “Bob” Campbell, who had a still camera, and cameraman Sergeant William H. “Bill” Genaust, who carried a movie camera, worked their way to the peak. Arriving as Greeley’s flag was replaced by the larger one, the three journalists quickly captured imagery of the change, in both still photos and on film. “For posterity,” Greeley wrote in his memoir, Rosenthal asked the Marines to line up by the flag for a “gung-ho” photo.

Returning to the front lines to continue photographing the battle, Rosenthal sent his film off to Guam to be developed. There, his original, unstaged photo of the second flag raising caught the eye of a photo editor, who sent it to Washington, D.C. The image quickly became the most famous photograph of WW II.

A friend of Rosenthal’s later asked him if the photo was posed. Still unaware of the photo’s fame and thinking his friend was referring to the gung-ho image he’d staged, Rosenthal replied with yes.

While many called into question the authenticity of the flag-raising accounts, Greeley wrote, Genaust’s film captured the replacement in its entirety. The smaller flag Greeley carried was brought back to the command post, where he witnessed it being returned to LtCol Johnson and stored in the battalion’s safe.

Upon their safe return to Hawaii, the 2/28 Marines turned over both flags to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Today, they are displayed at the National Museum of the Marine Corps near Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Not Over Yet

The battle raged on after the flag raisings. Around day six, Greeley received a “wonderful surprise.” His cousin Preston Wells, a Marine officer supporting a Navy construction battalion that was rebuilding Iwo Jima’s landing strips, walked into the command post after a long search, remarking to Greeley that “finding you was the most dangerous part of my stay on Iwo Jima.”

Later that day, 2/28 received word that

their commander, Johnson, was killed by artillery fire. Greeley remembered that the news delivered a crippling blow to the unit’s morale and propelled him and others into positions of greater responsibility. Greeley took charge of the unit’s command post. He oversaw a busy medical staff, kept account of the dead, wounded and fighting Marines and facilitated logistics to obtain food and equipment for their men.

“We continued the battle down the east shore to the very end, and it was very intense fighting all the way,” Greeley wrote. “The memories of the daily battles run one day into the next.”

The fighting stopped on day 35. Greeley and his fellow Marines were ordered to return to the beach where they dropped their weapons and ammunition. Boarding landing crafts, the embattled Marines returned to their ships.

“That first night I realized why they had us remove our weapons,” Greeley recalled. “The men were jumping up all night fighting the battle again.”

Greeley’s sage leadership and sacrifice didn’t go unnoticed. He was awarded the Bronze Star with combat “V” and the Purple Heart.

After the War

Greeley completed his Marine Corps service as a captain in November 1957. After a brief stint in the Chicago area, he moved his family to the quaint community of Harding Township, N.J. There, he became a partner in GW Bromley & Co., mapping out cityscapes for local governments. Greeley later sold the successful business to Sanborn Map Co. and became its president.

Years removed from his time as a Marine, he never lost his will to serve. Over his years in Harding Township, he sat on its city council, planning commission and eventually served as the mayor and police commissioner.

“After serving on Iwo Jima, Greeley wanted to continue to give back to the community,” said his daughter Barbara Kenney, a native of Bellevue, Wash. “He was very firmly conservative and wanted to display these values as an elected official.”

Despite challenges at home with his wife and son having polio, Greeley is remembered by his children as a caring father who always devoted quality time to them and his wife of 68 years, Bobsy. Others close to Greeley remember him for his “love of people,” optimism and problem-solving skills.

“Greeley learned a lot from his service, and one of his goals was to make a positive impact on people and help them see what they could achieve,” said his son-in-law,

Jim Kenney. “Regardless of who he dealt with, whether a cook or a waitress, he was very polite and always had time for each person.”

In these interactions, Greeley never shied away from his identity as a Marine. Along with retired Major General Fred Haynes, with whom he served on Iwo Jima, Greeley co-chaired a reunion for the battle’s survivors every five years, arranging White House visits with the president and dinners with the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

“When I went to Iwo Jima reunions with my father, there was a feeling that I’d never experienced before ... of all of these men from all walks of life sitting down and having intimate, open discussions about not only their experiences together but their lives,” Barbara Kenney said. “The motto ‘Semper Fidelis’ is certainly a true statement of the lives of Marines. I don’t think there is any organization in our society that has the same esprit de corps.”

Greeley didn’t speak openly with his family about Iwo Jima until years later. In the 1990s and early 2000s, he was interviewed for James Bradley’s best-selling book “Flags of Our Fathers” and “War Stories With Oliver North,” an award-winning TV series produced by retired Marine and Fox News correspondent LtCol Oliver North.

North, a decorated Vietnam veteran and award-winning journalist, remembers Greeley as “one of the finest people I’ve ever met.”

“The classical definition of a hero is not the one who catches the touchdown in the end zone; it’s the person who puts himself at risk for the benefit of others—that was Greeley, humble and selfless,” North said. “He may not have been large in stature, but he was a giant of a man.”

Home at Last

In the early 2000s, Greeley and his wife moved to Washington, joining their daughter in the city of Bellevue. Although living in a new setting, he maintained regular contact with local Marines, both prior and active duty.

LtCol Ed Doyne, a retired Marine and Vietnam veteran, befriended Greeley through a Marine support group in Seattle. He fondly remembered him as being extremely proud of his service and “happy



A hat depicting the Iwo Jima flag raising rests on display at a memorial for 1stLt Greeley Wells in Bellevue, Wash., Oct. 25, 2014.

to see young Marines carry on our traditions.”

“Some veterans return from war damaged,” said Doyne, from Kirkland, Wash. “We all come back changed. Rather than be upset or disgusted with war and government, Greeley went the opposite way. He had fought and so many of his friends had died, and this made him more patriotic than when he started.”

Greeley passed away Sept. 22, 2014.

At an intimate gathering in Bellevue on Oct. 10, 2014, his loved ones remembered a man devoted to family, country and Corps.

“Maybe this isn’t a sad occasion; per-

haps it’s a glad moment,” his son, Greeley Wells Jr., told the crowd. “After all this man went through and lived to tell the tale, he died peacefully in his sleep at 94.”

Major Sung Kim, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Recruiting Station Seattle, attended the ceremony on behalf of General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Addressing Greeley’s four children, Kim read letters penned by the Corps’ senior Marine and presented each of them with Gen Amos’ ornate challenge coin.

“Your dad was not only an outstanding Marine, he was also the one who provided the flag for the most iconic image in our Corps’ history,” Amos wrote. “He witnessed the meaning of ‘uncommon valor’ firsthand, and Marines serving around the world today are proud to carry on the legacy he helped forge. His service will forever be an integral piece of our Corps’ heritage, and we are truly grateful for everything he has done for his fellow Marines through the years.”

Greeley, a member of America’s Greatest Generation, is etched into history for his role on Iwo Jima. A thankful nation has fewer privileges as great as maintaining his legacy.

“It’s important for Americans to remember and honor Marines like Greeley because a nation without heroes doesn’t have a future,” North said. “These heroes inspire the next generation to know they can be better than they already are.”

Author’s bio: Sgt Reece Lodder is the marketing and public affairs representative at Marine Corps Recruiting Station Seattle.



Above: Greeley Wells Jr., the son of 1stLt Wells, displays a challenge coin and letter he received from Gen Amos.

Left: Maj Stephen Harding with Combat Logistics Battalion 23 presents a flag on behalf of the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James Amos, to Barbara Kenney during a memorial service for her father, 1stLt Greeley Wells.

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



CPL CHARLES SANTAMARIA, USMC

Cpl David McKenna, a student at Winter Mountain Leaders Course 1-15 with 1st Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, plunges into cold water during an icebreaker drill at Levitt Lake, MCMWTC, Bridgeport, Calif., Jan. 30.

■ BRIDGEPORT, CALIF. Marines Take Icy Plunge, Practice Survival Skills

Frigid wind blows across Levitt Lake as Marines gather on its frozen, glinted surface. At an elevation of 9,000 feet, the temperature is well below freezing. With a pack on one shoulder and ski poles gripped tightly in his hands, a mountain leader steps onto his skis, sharply inhales the crisp air and prepares to take the plunge into the freezing water below.

Marines at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC), Bridgeport, Calif., participated in an “ice-breaker” drill during Winter Mountain Leaders Course (WMLC) 1-15, Jan. 30.

The drill was conducted in the MCMWTC training area and was designed to educate Marines on what to do if they were to fall through the ice and into the lake. Instruc-

tors, permanent personnel and students participated in the plunge, a training evolution that hadn’t been conducted at MCMWTC in three years.

“It’s very important training because it teaches the student how to extricate himself from the ice in the event that he should fall through, which helps build confidence,” said Sergeant Major Steven P. Brunner, MCMWTC sergeant major. “Most students have never fallen through the ice before, but it doesn’t mean that it can’t happen.”

Two holes were cut into the frozen lake, and at the edge of each hole was a pair of skis, ski poles and a five-gallon weighted pack. Each Marine, wearing skis, slid into the hole with the rest of the provided gear. Their objective was to get the pack out of the water, then swim to the edge where they would be tested on their mental state

while under the strain of the freezing water. Participants had to verbally request permission to exit the water.

“When you jump in, you lose your breath, you kind of lose your head,” said Sergeant Aaron Jensen, student, WMLC 1-15. “But you have a task to do, and, as long as you complete each one, you don’t really get caught up in how you feel,” he added.

Once participants got out of the lake, they rolled in powdered snow to help get the excess water off their clothes. Participants then sprinted to the warming tents where they stripped off their wet clothing and put on dry clothes to restore their body’s normal temperature.

“There’s really no such thing as an expert in this type of environment,” SgtMaj Brunner said. “If you’ve never received this type of training, you won’t know

how you're going to react in that type of situation."

The six-week Mountain Leaders Course took place from Jan. 5 to Feb. 18. The course is designed to train Marines on what to expect in a cold-weather environment and tests their skills and knowledge through a variety of scenarios, including the icebreaker drill.

Mountain leaders can take the knowledge gained from this experience and pass it on to the units training aboard MCMWTC.

"It validates what we do up here," said the sergeant major. "In my opinion, we are the premier warfighting organization in the [Department of Defense] when it comes to training at a high-altitude compartmentalized winter and summer mountainous environment."

LCpl Medina Ayalo-Lo, USMC

■ MORÓN AND ROTA AIR BASES, SPAIN

SPMAGTF Alert Force

Completes Medical Evacuation Drill

A platoon of leathernecks with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response-Africa (SPMAGTF—CR—AF) completed an unscripted alert drill Jan. 29 at Morón and Rota air bases, Spain, to test the unit's ability to rapidly respond to regional crises.

"At any given time we have an alert force ready to [respond] to crises in Africa," said Captain Daniel Lakhani, the platoon's company commander. "Rehearsals keep the Marines focused on the mission at hand. They're professional. They're resilient. They're mature, and they're able to focus their attention on each specific mission with the different profiles they require, from embassy reinforcement to tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel to [quick-reaction] missions."

Early in the afternoon on the day of the drill, at Morón Air Base, SPMAGTF—CR—AF received an alert for a simulated medical evacuation mission at nearby Rota Air Base. The Marines assembled at a prearranged staging area, completed planning for their mission and boarded two MV-22 Ospreys. The total time for conducting the rehearsal had to meet the requirement for the Marines to depart Spain and begin their mission within six hours of the order.

The platoon had no prior knowledge of the specific mission they would carry out. Every minute was methodically used to assemble their gear, arrange transportation and run through the mission requirements passed on by the unit's command.

The two Ospreys, filled with Marines, departed the airfield less than four hours after receiving the initial warning. Less



Above: Marines with SPMAGTF—CR—AF treat a simulated casualty during an alert-force drill at Rota Air Base, Spain, Jan. 29. (Photo by Sgt Paul Peterson, USMC)

Below: Sgt Brandon Woodard, a squad leader with SPMAGTF—CR—AF, leads his Marines out of an MV-22 Osprey during an alert-force drill. His team evacuated a simulated casualty while another squad maintained security at the unit's extraction point.



SGT PAUL PETERSON, USMC

than 30 minutes after landing at Rota Air Base, the Marines had successfully secured the area, pushed several hundred yards to their objective and extracted the simulated casualty. The process was designed to test the command's and alert force's ability to come together, adapt and react to the wide range of missions that SPMAGTF—CR—AF was created to handle.

"This mission is different from other missions or deployments the Marines have been on, whether it's Iraq or Afghanistan, where they were conducting combat

operations for a sustained period of time," noted Lakhani. "We're being welcomed by the Spanish. We're interacting with them and other host nations within Europe and Africa, conducting partner training as well as [remaining ready] to respond to multiple contingencies within Africa."

On any given day, the unit could participate in multinational training operations, respond to natural disasters, provide humanitarian aid or evacuate an embassy, all at the direction of U.S. Africa Command.

Sgt Paul Peterson, USMC

POHANG, REPUBLIC OF KOREA Mountain Training Brings Together U.S., ROK Marines

U.S. and Republic of Korea Marines trained together for mountain warfare during Korean Marine Exchange Program (KMEP) 15-17 at the Minam-ri Mountain Warfare Training Facility, Pohang, Republic of Korea, Feb. 8.

The U.S. Marines who participated were with Company K, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marines, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force under the unit deployment program. They trained in rock climbing, rappelling and patrolling alongside ROK Marines with Co 6, 32d Bn, First ROK Marine Division.

“Especially in [the ROK], there are a lot of mountains and difficult terrain, so I can definitely foresee us needing these skills,” said Sergeant Nathan A. Bretz, a machine-gunner with Co K, 3d Bn, 3d Marines. “Rappelling is a widely used skill, not just for getting down a mountain, but also for helicopter insertions. It is definitely important to be comfortable in the basics of these skills.”

This training increased the Marines’ ability to confidently navigate a rock face or any obstacle they may face in mountainous terrain.

“Repetition was a big focus today,” said ROK Marine Gunnery Sergeant Kim Tae Min, a mountain warfare instructor with Weapons Co, 3d Bn, First ROK Marine Division. “The Marines were able to build strength, stamina and balance, which are essential elements to rock climbing and rappelling.”

Training alongside ROK Marines gave the U.S. Marines the unique opportunity to revisit a familiar skill with a foreign force.

“We were split up into small groups, which allowed us to really understand what we were doing,” said Lance Corporal Mitchell P. Jeffers, USMC, a rifleman. “We really got hands-on. It’s a lot of knowledge to take in, but it’s reassuring to know that I can tie my own harness,” he added.

Throughout the training, Marines from both nations were able to observe each other’s techniques and compare their similarities.

“It’s interesting to come out here and share what we know with each other,” said Bretz. “I noticed a lot of the terms they used for different brakes and knots were different than what we used, but they still functioned the same way as ours.”

The Marines trained hard, enjoyed learning new skills from each other and couldn’t wait to continue with their training, according to Jeffers.

“It’s been pretty awesome! I feel like



Above: U.S. and ROK Marines climb and rappel on a rock-climbing tower at the Minam-ri Mountain Warfare Training Facility, Pohang, Republic of Korea, Feb. 8. The training was part of Korean Marine Exchange Program 15-17. (Photo by PFC Cedric R. Haller, USMC)

Below: LCpl Nathaniel Carranza rappels down the tower under the supervision of ROK Marine GySgt Moon Mung Gyu. During the training, the Marines were able to observe and learn from each other’s techniques.



[the ROK Marines] have the same mindset as us,” said Jeffers. “Everyone was a little apprehensive at first, then everyone starts yelling and motivating [each other] to go. It’s been a blast working with the ROK Marines so far.”

KMEP 15-17 is only one iteration in a

series of continuous combined training exercises designed to enhance the alliance between the United States and the ROK, promote stability on the Korean Peninsula and strengthen military capabilities and interoperability between the two nations.

PFC Cedric R. Haller, USMC

■ TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF. Assault Course, ITX Prepare Tank Co For Combined-Arms Ops

The pounding sun of the Mojave Desert had no mercy on the leathernecks of Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force as they performed final maintenance checks on their M1A1 main battle tanks. They were preparing to embark on the Tank Mechanized Assault Course (TMAC), a large-scale assault incorporating multiple elements of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

On Feb. 2, Co D took on the TMAC at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 2-15.

Tanks are a vital asset which provide direct and indirect fire to support other units within Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 4 at ITX 2-15.

“We have two tank platoons and a mechanized infantry platoon moving up to assault three objectives,” said Second Lieutenant Brent C. Teague, a tank officer with Co D, 1st Tank Bn.

The TMAC provides good, applicable training for different units because it allows them to train in open space on a scale Marines don’t often have, according to Corporal Phillip V. Lim, a tank crewman with Co D, 1st Tank Bn.

“A big way this helps us train for real-world application is if there are mechanized infantry in the desert environment, or open ground, you’re going to want tanks to be able to push through and defeat threats as the infantry closes in and controls the objective,” said Teague.

The setting at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms allowed the Marines of Co D to work closely with other units during ITX 2-15 while being able to employ all of their capabilities, said Lim.

“Twentynine Palms is great for training, especially for units coming from Okinawa, Japan; Camp Pendleton, California; or Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, because we can really spread out and get the dispersion we would truly like to have in a conventional mindset,” said Teague.

The leathernecks of Co D, 1st Tank Bn used their tactics and capabilities to support other elements of the MAGTF during ITX 2-15.

“The tank capabilities that are going to be showcased in ITX are our ability to shoot, move and communicate at the same time over the rough terrain,” said Teague. “We can move and close on the enemy at a high rate of speed and set the support, by fire, to allow the infantry to move in.”

The TMAC allows Marines to train with different elements within the MAGTF and integrate fires for a combined arms



PFC Dylan F. McVey greases the bore evacuator on an M1A1 main battle tank in preparation for the TMAC during ITX 2-15 at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., in early February. (Photo by LCpl William Hester, USMC)

assault. According to Lim, the company has a lot of new Marines, and training on the assault course helps them learn to work together and to better use and employ the M1A1 tank.

LCpl William Hester, USMC

■ PERRY, GA. CBIRF Trains Realistically, Puts Critical Skills to the Test

The Decontamination Platoon, consisting of Marines and sailors with Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF), II Marine Expeditionary Force, donned gloves and gas masks Feb. 4 for training unlike anything they had ever experienced.

The platoon traveled to Guardian Centers, a first responder training facility in Perry, Ga., to conduct live-agent decontamination using non-transplantable anatomical materials (NAMs)—bodies that have been donated for research and education.

“I’ve been with the CBIRF for almost two years now, and this is absolutely the most realistic training we have ever encountered,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Kamm, a platoon commander with CBIRF. “It is one thing to put simulants on mannequins; it’s another thing to have role players offer challenging circumstances for us, but in terms of having to actually deal with anatomical material that is porous—changes the entire training evolution.”

CBIRF is the only active-duty unit with

the capability to rapidly deploy and respond to any chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident occurring anywhere in the world. The role of the Decontamination Plt is to facilitate the decontamination of casualties, first responders and CBIRF personnel operating in a contaminated environment during a crisis.

“Working with anatomical materials in the decontamination pit brings a realism that we haven’t had before,” said Lance Corporal Joel Hartom, a member of the Decontamination Plt. “Chemicals actually stick to skin better than other materials we’ve trained with, and it really shows us just how hard it is to focus on the nitty-gritty and small aspects of the anatomy that we have to be able to clean.”

As the Marines and sailors trained, they were presented with various scenarios that may arise during a crisis response situation. The Decontamination Plt received bodies with gunshot wounds, amputations, burns and other serious medical conditions. As the clock ticked, the decontamination team had to care for each “victim’s” injuries, while also thoroughly removing all live-agent contamination.

“One of the biggest challenges was being able to make the medical decisions that we haven’t really been faced with before, being able to change out tourniquets, notice wounds and different things that might come through on people,” said Hartom. “You realize how the decisions you make could impact the life of that



CPL SCOTT WHITING, USMC

Cpl Adam Lindsey, a crew chief with HMH-464, manually rotates a propeller on a CH-53 Super Stallion to brush snow and ice off the blades during a DFT exercise at Camp Dawson, W.Va., in late January. Inclement weather required the Marines to take extra steps in preparing the helicopters for flight operations.

person once they come through the decontamination tent.

“It’s helped my confidence quite a bit, because now I know what it is to work on actual people. Now we have the confidence on how to make decisions, and how to get them clean and out of the decontamination tent as fast as possible,” Hartom added.

Leaving their home station of Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md., allowed the Marines and sailors of CBIRF to train to task.

CBIRF trains to respond to man-made and natural disasters that could potentially harm hundreds of thousands of people. The time spent in Georgia may very well equate to lives being spared in the future.

“Having had the privilege to come down here and do the training has been an absolute professional privilege,” said CWO-3 Kamm. “It is not every day that we get to work with anatomical material, and it’s not every day that we get to deal with a live-agent environment, so the bottom line is that what we were challenged with is absolutely invaluable.”

“Until we’re actually faced with [a] crisis, we’re never going to know exactly what we’re going to have to deal with, but now we know that whatever we experience, we’ll be able to make it work,” said Hartom.

Sgt Fareeza Ali, USMC

■ CAMP DAWSON, W.VA. HMH-464 Battles Cold Weather During Deployment Training

Marines and sailors with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 464, Marine Air Group 29, Second Marine Aircraft Wing executed a deployment for training (DFT) exercise at Camp Dawson, W.Va., Jan. 31.

The exercise, which was designed to increase HMH-464’s operability, also doubled as a cold-weather exercise due to the freezing conditions in West Virginia.

“The goal of this training is to work with our squadron back at [Marine Corps Air Station] New River [N.C.], and control two detachments at the same time,” said Gunnery Sergeant Ronald Strzalkowski, the operations chief for the DFT. “This cold weather also gives us the opportunity to work and operate in a different climate than we normally have back home.”

The Marines took extra precautions when preparing the CH-53 Super Stallions in the cold. Using preheaters to physically warm the engines before turning them on, scraping ice off the aircraft and spending more time before takeoff were all necessary steps to ensure safety.

“The snow and ice can cause all kinds of issues with the engines on our aircrafts,” Strzalkowski said. “Safety is our number one priority, and we aren’t going to compromise that.”

Many adjustments had to be made because of the inclement weather during the exercise, but that didn’t stop the Marines from doing their jobs. Multiple flights had to be cancelled, which the Marines saw as an opportunity to overcome an obstacle.

“Our Marines did a great job of making sure the CH-53s were well-maintained,” Strzalkowski said. “If they couldn’t fly, we made sure they were ready to fly whenever the weather cooperated.”

Although the squadron spent approximately two weeks at Camp Dawson, it only flew three of those days. Even though it wasn’t what they planned, Strzalkowski doesn’t see it as a failure.

“We adapted to the climate change here, and we successfully did everything we could,” he said. “The Marine Corps is all about adapting and overcoming.”

When it’s all said and done, the unorthodox training exercise was a good learning experience for the Marines of HMH-464.

“I believe this is the best squadron in the Marine Corps,” Strzalkowski said. “These guys work hard; you’ll never hear them complain about the long hours. They understand what needs to be done, and they can all be relied on to accomplish the mission at hand.”

Cpl Scott Whiting, USMC



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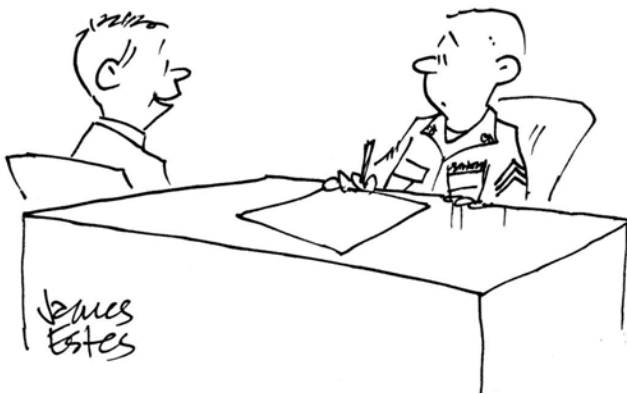
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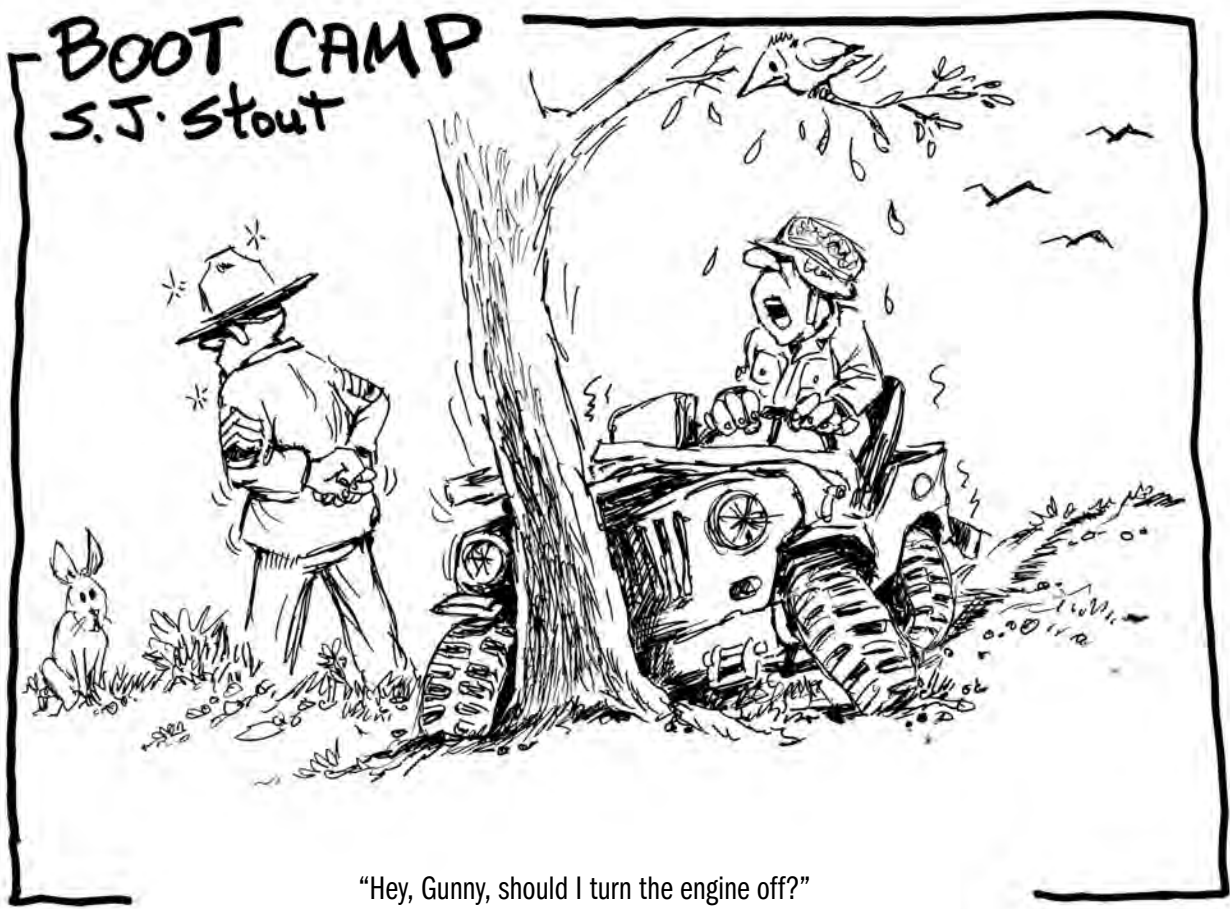
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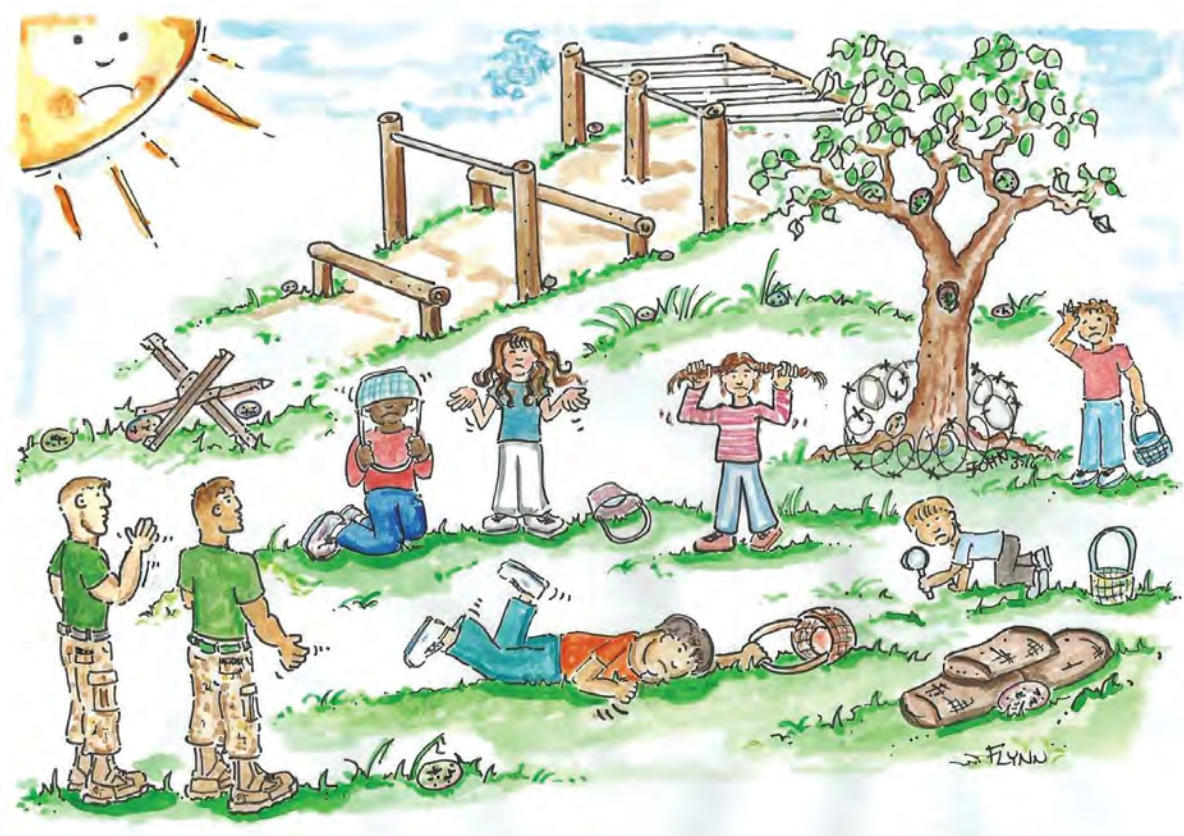
"Shh. He's pitching a perfect game."

BOOT CAMP

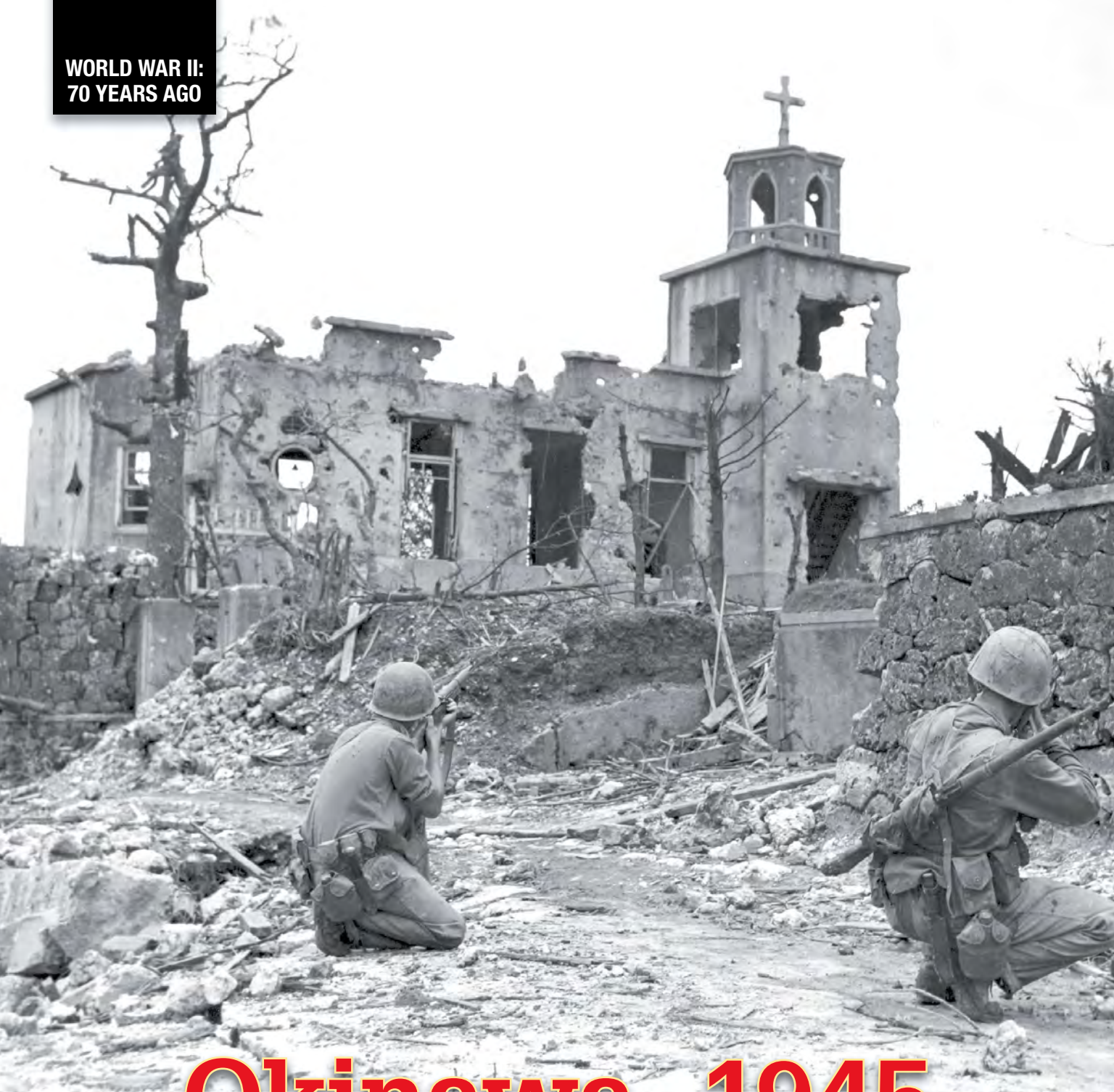
S.J. Stout



"Hey, Gunny, should I turn the engine off?"



"Do you think we hid the eggs too well? The Family Readiness Officer is going to be mad!"



Okinawa, 1945

The Bloodstained Heights of Shuri

Story by Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)
USMC photos

"[Shuri] is one of the most magnificent castle sites to be found anywhere in the world for it commands the countryside below for miles and looks toward distant sea horizons on every side."

—Historian George H. Kerr

Okinawa, Summer 1944

Lieutenant General Mitsuru Ushijima was a realist. Newly appointed as commander of the 120,000 man-strong 32nd Imperial Japanese Army and charged with defending Okinawa from an American attack that was seen as inevitable, Ushijima knew that the assets he had were all he would have. He could not be reinforced.

He could not be resupplied; his adversary, however, could count on abundant additional manpower and firepower from the sea.

Could he hold the island faced with those conditions? Probably not. What he saw as his only realistic course of action was to exact such a cost in blood from the attackers that the American government



This Christian church provided Japanese snipers an ideal view of Marines advancing on Shuri, but it also provided the Marines with an ideal marker of the Japanese snipers' positions.

would see a negotiated end to the war as preferable to continuing the fight. If there were to be any hope of avoiding an American invasion of the Japanese home islands, it lay in forcing the United States to fight an exorbitantly costly battle of attrition on Okinawa.

Where to bring that about? The more LTG Ushijima pondered that question,

If there were to be any hope of avoiding an American invasion of the Japanese home islands, it lay in forcing the United States to fight an exorbitantly costly battle of attrition on Okinawa.

the more he became convinced that the Shuri heights held the answer. No terrain on Okinawa offered a better possibility of forcing the Americans to fight on Japanese terms. Resting solidly on hills to the east and west, the heights dominated everything in front of them.

To build his defense system, Ushijima called upon the man he had personally selected to be his operations officer, Colonel Hiromichi Yahara. Yahara was the operations officer every commander dreams of, one who was able to “think in step” with his commander. Few were equal to him in understanding the commander’s intent and concept of operations and bringing them to life. An exceptional tactician, Yahara possessed an uncommon ability to analyze terrain and use it to maximum advantage.

Okinawa, May 1945

Since walking ashore unopposed on the Hagushi beaches on L-Day, April 1, 1945, the Marines of LtGen Roy S. Geiger’s III Amphibious Corps (III AC) had enjoyed a relatively easy campaign. The First Marine Division, led by Major General Pedro A. del Valle, quickly had seized all assigned objectives, cutting completely across the narrowest part of Okinawa, the Ishikawa Neck. Since then, the division had been engaged in extensive patrolling, encountering only scattered Japanese resistance. MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr.’s 6thMarDiv had turned left and begun eliminating more determined Japanese resistance in northern Okinawa and the Motobu Peninsula. Remaining afloat as corps reserve was MajGen LeRoy P. Hunt’s 2dMarDiv.

It didn’t take Marines ashore very long to accept that the month of April was only an interlude. Each passing day brought increasing evidence that the major fight on Okinawa would be to the south where U.S. Army forces of MG John R. Hodge’s XXIV Corps were encountering the outpost positions of COL Yahara’s Shuri Line. The distant rumble of battle, a rumble that became more pronounced every 24 hours, was a constant background to everything Marines farther north did. Soon enough they, too, would be going “down south.”

On April 30, elements of the 1stMarDiv began relieving units of the 27th Infantry Div on the extreme right flank of XXIV Corps in the vicinity of Yafuso-Machinato. When fully relieved, the 27th Infantry

Div, which had sustained nearly 3,000 crippling casualties breaching the Shuri outer defenses, would be shifted north, releasing the 6thMarDiv to join the fight in the south. With the two fresh divisions of III AC anchoring the right of his line, LTG Simon B. Buckner, USA would have the major combat power of his 10th Army to throw against the Shuri Line.

As the 1stMarDiv was moving to the south, significant elements of LTG Ushijima’s 32nd Army were moving northward. After persistent urging by his firebrand chief of staff, MG Isamu Cho, LTG Ushijima had agreed to launch a major counter-attack against the 10th Army. Only COL Yahara had argued against the attack, summarizing his objection concisely: “To take the offensive with inferior forces against absolutely superior enemy forces is reckless and would only lead to certain defeat.” He was overruled. Events would prove him right.

In the early hours of May 4, Japanese ground forces attacked in strength at all points on the 10th Army front. The primary Japanese attack was made by the Japanese 24th Div, supported by its own divisional artillery and all the guns of MG Kosuke Wada’s 5th Artillery Command. The 77th Infantry Div bore the brunt of the attack, and despite suffering severe casualties, the 77th held its positions.

The newly arrived 1stMarDiv was the objective of an unusual shore-to-shore envelopment attempted by Naha-based Japanese units. Shortly after 1 a.m. on May 4, landing craft carrying the Japanese 26th Shipping Engineer Regiment made for what they believed was the unguarded 1stMarDiv rear in the vicinity of Oyama. Supporting the attack were personnel of the 26th, 28th and 29th Sea Raiding squadrons who had waded offshore under cover of darkness. The mission of the entire Japanese force was to attack targets in the 1stMarDiv’s rear areas.

The attackers had become seriously disoriented, however. Instead of going ashore at Oyama, their objective, the landing craft and the waders made landfall near Kuwan, directly into the beach defenses of Col Kenneth B. Chappell’s First Marine Regiment. Fire from the Marine lines tore into them like a scythe as Marines poured in fire from every available weapon.

Sergeant E.P. Warren remembered, “We caught them completely in the open, without any cover at all. They didn’t have a

chance.” The Japanese attempt to envelop the 1stMarDiv’s seaward flank ended in a bloodbath.

The main Japanese attack, which fell on the 77th Infantry Div, fared no better. Raw courage, and the Japanese suffered from no shortage of that, could not overcome the fires of 43 battalions of Marine and Army artillery that combined with the naval gunfire support of 19 battleships and 34 cruisers. Adding to the carnage were air strikes by more than 700 Marine Corps and Navy aircraft.

By nightfall on May 4, it was over. The Japanese 24th Div had ceased to exist, but the Americans also paid a heavy price. Among units of the 10th Army, the 77th Infantry Div counted more than 700 combat casualties. In cleaning up the remaining Japanese pockets in its zone of action, the 1stMarDiv sustained losses of 649 front-line Marines. The Japanese losses, however, were permanent. Americans put out of action could be replaced; not so, the Japanese. COL Yahara’s prediction had proved correct.

Very little of combat is easy. In light of what was to come, the repulse of the Japanese attack might have been thought of as almost a respite. Badly bloodied, but far from beaten, the Japanese were back in their fortified positions. Defended by men determined to fight for as long as they drew breath, each one of those positions would have to be blasted and burned into submission. It all would be infinitely harder.

On May 6, LTG Buckner issued Operation Order 7-45 to all subordinate units of 10th Army. The entire 10th Army was to assume the offensive, the objective of which was the destruction of Japanese forces in the Shuri bastion and breaking out to the south. The attack would be made by two divisions, the 7th and 77th Infantry divisions of XXIV Corps on the left (east), and III AC, also with two divisions, 1stMarDiv and 6thMarDiv, on the right (west).

They would have to attack against more than a dozen carefully selected strongpoints, each of which had been sited to bring maximum defensive fires to bear, while at the same time providing covering fires for adjacent strongpoints. Soldiers and Marines would not be able to attack any one position without being brought under fire by at least two other positions. Making the task even more formidable, the American attacks would require going forward over ground which had been meticulously surveyed and registered for the fires of supporting artillery. To make the American offensive even more chal-

Before the all-out attack on the Shuri Line could take place, the last of the Japanese outer defenses had to be overcome. For the 1stMarDiv, that in itself would be a major undertaking.

lenging, it would have to be done under the observation of sharp-eyed Japanese forward artillery observers who saw everything and missed nothing from their vantage point at Shuri.

It got worse. The spring rains began. Marines who fought on Okinawa in that spring of 1945 remembered May as the month when it rained every day. While not exactly true, a man could be excused for thinking that it seemed that way. Worse,



Army LTG Simon B. Buckner, left, would be killed by Japanese artillery fire June 18, 1945, on Okinawa. Marine MajGen Roy S. Geiger, right, who commanded III AC, assumed command of 10th Army and became the only Marine officer to ever command a field army.

the rain that fell was cold, driven by an ugly wind that made raindrops feel like ice pellets. For Marines only recently arrived from tropical climes just below the equator, who were soaked to the skin, with their teeth chattering, the wind-driven rain was a particularly miserable torment.

With the rain came mud. The terrain before Shuri dissolved into a bog of mud,

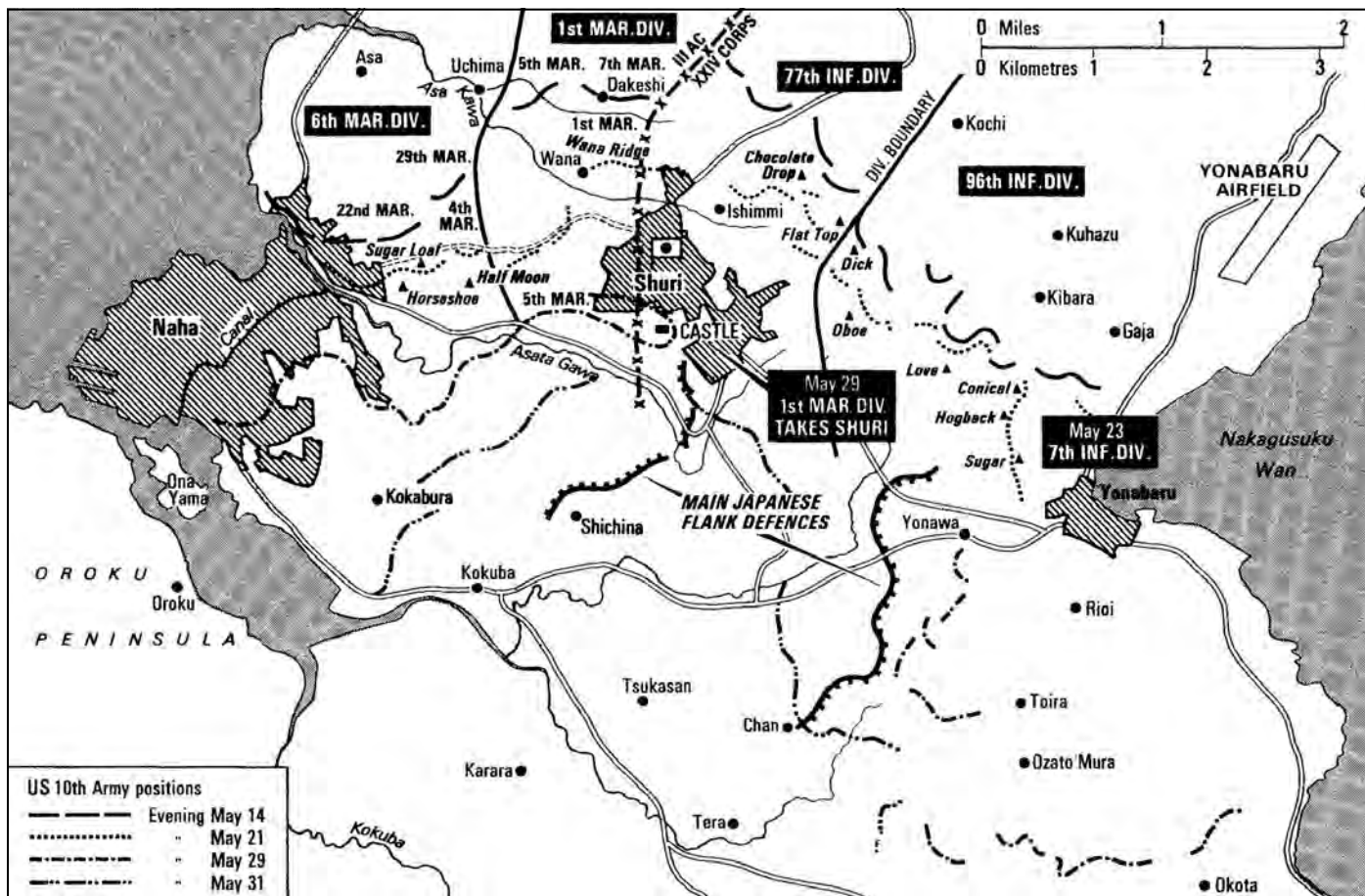
liquid mud, thick, viscous glue-like mud, ankle-deep, shin-deep, knee-deep, thigh-deep mud, through which mud-caked men floundered in slow motion. The Okinawan road system, little more than dirt tracks, collapsed in rivers of foot-sucking mud in which even tracked vehicles struggled. The supply system staggered to a crawl. Only through a near superhuman effort was ammunition for the attack dragged and man-handled forward by mud-plastered, rain-drenched men who were near malnourishment. Rations were somewhere back in the rear, stuck in an ocean of mud.

Before the all-out attack on the Shuri Line could take place, the last of the Japanese outer defenses had to be overcome. For the 1stMarDiv, that in itself would be a major undertaking faced as it was by a jumble of low hills and ridges in the Dakeshi-Awacha hill complex. Each one of those had been transformed into a fortified position by Japanese engineers. It was a brutal slug match which cost the 1stMarDiv 1,409 combat casualties in six days of constant fighting.

At the same time it was fighting, the division was shifting, maintaining contact with XXIV Corps on the left while shortening its front in order for the 6thMarDiv to take up position on the right. Once in position, both divisions of LtGen Roy Geiger’s III AC would be faced with two of the strongest positions of the Japanese main line of resistance. Before the 1stMarDiv lay the Wana Ridge-Wana Draw terrain, while the 6thMarDiv would be confronted by the Sugar Loaf, Half Moon and Horseshoe hill complex, the westward anchor of the entire Shuri Line. Marines might not have encountered two more murderous pieces of real estate on the same island in the war in the Pacific.

Wana Ridge was sited perfectly to block the only good axis of attack against Shuri itself. Before the 1stMarDiv could even reach a jumping-off point from which to launch an attack, the Japanese forces in the Awacha Pocket and Dakeshi Ridge had to be eliminated. That effort would take bitter fighting through a hotly contested system of mutually supporting strongpoints, all the while under deadly accurate mortar and artillery concentrations. It would take the best efforts of two regiments, first the 5th Marines, then the 7th Marines, an entire week of white-hot fighting to wrest those bits of terrain from the Japanese defenders of the 44th Independent Mixed Brigade.

To the right, the 6thMarDiv faced equal difficulties overcoming the screening



It was a particularly slow and dogged slugfest over Okinawa's rugged terrain. Japanese forces begrudgingly gave only inches at a time. Here, 6thMarDiv demolitions experts detonate charges at a Japanese-held cave.



positions that shielded the division's primary objective, Sugar Loaf Hill, and its two satellites, Half Moon and Horseshoe. Those three low hills that anchored the western end of COL Yahara's Shuri Line could not have been better sited to hold that line and to beat back attacks against them.

None of the three hills was that high. While the kingpin, Sugar Loaf, showed on maps as 235 feet in elevation, the 300-yard-long east-west running hill rose scarcely more than 50 feet above the surrounding landscape. While Sugar Loaf was barely high enough to show on a map as a hill at all, its steep and precipitous sides dominated the level terrain all about. The presence of Horseshoe to the south and Half Moon to the southeast ensured that an attack against any one of the three from any direction would be taken under fire by all three.

On Saturday, May 12, four separate attempts to wrest Sugar Loaf from the Japanese of COL Seiko Mita's 15th Independent Mixed Regt met the same fate. The first of those, carried out by Captain Owen Stebbins' Company G, 2d Battalion, 22d Marines, literally was shot to pieces by the time it reached the base of Sugar Loaf. Although wounded himself, the company's sole remaining effective officer, First Lieutenant Dale W. Bair, led a handful of Marines to the crest of Sugar Loaf. Raked and minced by fire from Horseshoe and Half Moon, along with artillery fire from Shuri itself, which reduced them to an even smaller handful, the Marines dragged their wounded down the hill while friendly artillery did its best

to screen their withdrawal with smoke.

Despite air strikes, naval gunfire support and the fires of the 6thMarDiv's total artillery assets, none of the other attempts to carry Sugar Loaf that day fared any better. While an attack might gain the summit, once it did, there were not enough able-bodied Marines left to stay there. Of the 230 members of G/2/22 who made the initial attack, 73 answered roll call that evening.

The next day saw yet another series of attempts to wrest Sugar Loaf from its

There was a sharp rise in the incidence of combat fatigue, men simply worn out and exhausted by endless days of constant action in a natural environment that can be described only as atrocious.

defenders. None was successful. Sugar Loaf could be taken, but it could not be held. It was the same story each time. For every three Marines to gain the crest of Sugar Loaf, two were wounded or killed.

Monday, May 14, dawned with a downpour of rain that never let up. Late in the afternoon, Major Henry A. Courtney, executive officer of 2/22, led yet another attempt against Sugar Loaf over ground that lacked very little to become a swamp, reaching the top by sheer determination. There, amid a storm of Japanese fire that Browning Automatic Rifleman Lester Brandt later described as "the worst hell

I experienced in combat," Maj Courtney fell when a Japanese mortar shell burst at his feet. The Medal of Honor would be presented to his next of kin.

Corporal James L. "Jim" Day, a 19-year-old machine-gun squad leader, also would receive the nation's highest award for military valor at Sugar Loaf. Fighting from a shell crater on Sugar Loaf's north face for three days, Jim Day and his small squad beat back every Japanese attempt to overrun them until only Cpl Day and Private First Class Dale Bertolli remained, having accounted for 142 Japanese. The original recommendation for Jim Day's award was lost for years. It wasn't until 1998 that the President of the United States would place the blue ribbon of the Medal of Honor around the neck of MajGen James L. Day, USMC (Ret).

No less difficult than Sugar Loaf was for the 6thMarDiv, Wana posed an equally harrowing test for the 1stMarDiv. Like Sugar Loaf, the Wana position was east-west oriented. Also in common with Sugar Loaf, Wana was perfectly sited to block an attack on Shuri. As the 1stMarDiv's Special Action Report summed up the situation, in constructing their defensive positions, the Japanese had "taken advantage of every feature of a terrain so difficult it could not have been better designed if the enemy himself had the power to do so."

Getting to a point where it was possible to launch an attack on Wana had been costly. To attack Wana, it had first been necessary to eliminate the Japanese holding the Dakeshi-Awacha positions. That had cost Col Edward W. Snedeker's 7th Marines nearly 1,300 casualties. There were a dismaying number of non-battle casualties in the bargain. Cases of dysentery reached near-epidemic proportions. There were no light-duty chits. Marines afflicted with that vile scourge gritted their teeth and "toughed it out."

With Marines living in mud and water around the clock day after day, an affliction never before encountered in the Pacific began to appear. More and more cases of immersion foot were reported. And there was a sharp rise in the incidence of combat fatigue, men simply worn out and exhausted by endless days of constant action in a natural environment that can be described only as atrocious. Most Marines so afflicted would be fine after a few days of a precious commodity that had been denied them: simple rest.

Every assault on Wana was an excruciating and costly affair. Diabolical is a word that goes a long way toward describing the design of the defenses held by the Japanese 62nd Div. Perfectly protected from almost anything short of a direct



While Americans celebrated VE Day on May 8, 1945, Marines on Okinawa were moving men and supplies to the front by slogging through a morass of mud caused by incessant rain. Without letting up on the enemy, the Marines pushed on to Naha.



Supporting a Marine infantry unit, a flame-throwing tank of the 713th Armored Flamethrower Bn burns out a Japanese position.

hit, each individual position covered by the fires of two or more others, there was no such thing as absolute cover for Marines attempting to come to grips with the defenders.

Tank-infantry teams, flame throwers, demolition charges, white-phosphorus shells and grenades were the weapons of choice. While all of these were effective, they required getting in close by Marines who were under constant fire from the Japanese.

Everything in the line of supporting arms was thrown at the Wana position. Marine and Navy aircraft hammered at Wana and Shuri. The 105 mm and 155 mm guns of the 1stMarDiv's artillery, the 11th Marines, pounded targets in the Wana complex relentlessly. For three days the battleship USS *Mississippi* (BB-41) rained 14-inch projectiles on Shuri, reducing the ancient home of the rulers of the Ryukyu Kingdom to rubble. Still, it was the Marines of the 1stMarDiv who had to get in close and finish the job there.

That was the way it went day after day. And the miserable rain never let up. De-

spite all that, new Japanese positions were discovered constantly, while old positions that had been neutralized were reconstructed and camouflaged again each night.

Finally, after great effort, it all paid off. On Friday, May 18, a three-pronged simultaneous attack on Sugar Loaf, Horseshoe and Half Moon by 29th Marines caught the Japanese completely off guard. The western anchor of the Shuri Line had fallen. Three days later the 7th Infantry Div, operating on the left flank of 10th Army, penetrated far enough down Okinawa's east coast to allow the Japanese strongpoint of Conical Hill to be taken from the rear. The Shuri Line was untenable.

The opportunity to completely destroy the 32nd Army was there, but a rain-soaked battlefield that was now a sea of mud, broken only by the raging torrents of overflowing watercourses, saved it from annihilation. At midnight on May 22, Japanese forces began a slow evacuation of the Shuri defenses. At 10:15 a.m., May 24, a patrol from Co A, 1st Bn, 5th Marines entered the ruins of Shuri Castle.

One member of that patrol, Cpl Irvin R. "Dick" Stone remembered, "I was too damn tired, soaking wet and hungry to think much about it."

There would be more fighting on Okinawa, but from that point on, the Japanese position was hopeless. In the end, more than 110,000 Japanese soldiers would die on Okinawa. LTG Buckner's X Army would suffer nearly 50,000 in dead, wounded and missing.

Author's note: Pounded to rubble in 1945, Shuri Castle has been magnificently rebuilt, and it is well-worth visiting. While you are there, spare a moment or two to think of the price paid by the Marines of 1945 for you to be where you are standing.

Author's bio: Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret), a Leatherneck contributing editor, is a former enlisted Marine who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Later in his career, he was an instructor at Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.



Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment

Keeping Faith With Wounded, Ill or Injured Marines and Sailors



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

Wounded warrior Brad Lang fine-tunes a machine at his business, Stumpies Custom Guns, in Swansboro, N.C.

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

“Like most people I had not fully realized that the horror of war is wounds, not death.”

—“From the Somme to the Armistice: The Memoirs of Captain Stormont Gibbs, M.C.,” 1986

Modern battlefield medicine can give wounded warriors about a 98 percent chance of surviving battlefield injuries, according to current data from the Medical Officer of the Marine Corps’ staff.

In past wars many of those wounded probably would have died.

Today, they survive, but the wounds they come home with forever changes life for the warriors and their families.

That is the reason the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR) exists; the regiment was established eight years ago with a simple mission to serve

as the Corps’ official command charged with providing non-medical recovery care to wounded, ill and injured (WII) Marines or sailors serving in Marine commands and also to their families.

Brad Lang said that 25 or 30 years ago he probably would not have survived the IED (improvised explosive device) blast that took his legs above the knees in July 2011 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Most of his recovery was done at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., aided by coordination with the WWR detachment there.

When the medically retired Marine prepared to transition back to civilian life, he and a fellow Marine who had lost one leg below the knee decided to open a custom gun shop; they called it Stumpies (www.stumpiescustomguns.com).

“My wife actually came up with the name,” noted Lang with a grin. “We were in an elevator at Walter Reed and she said,

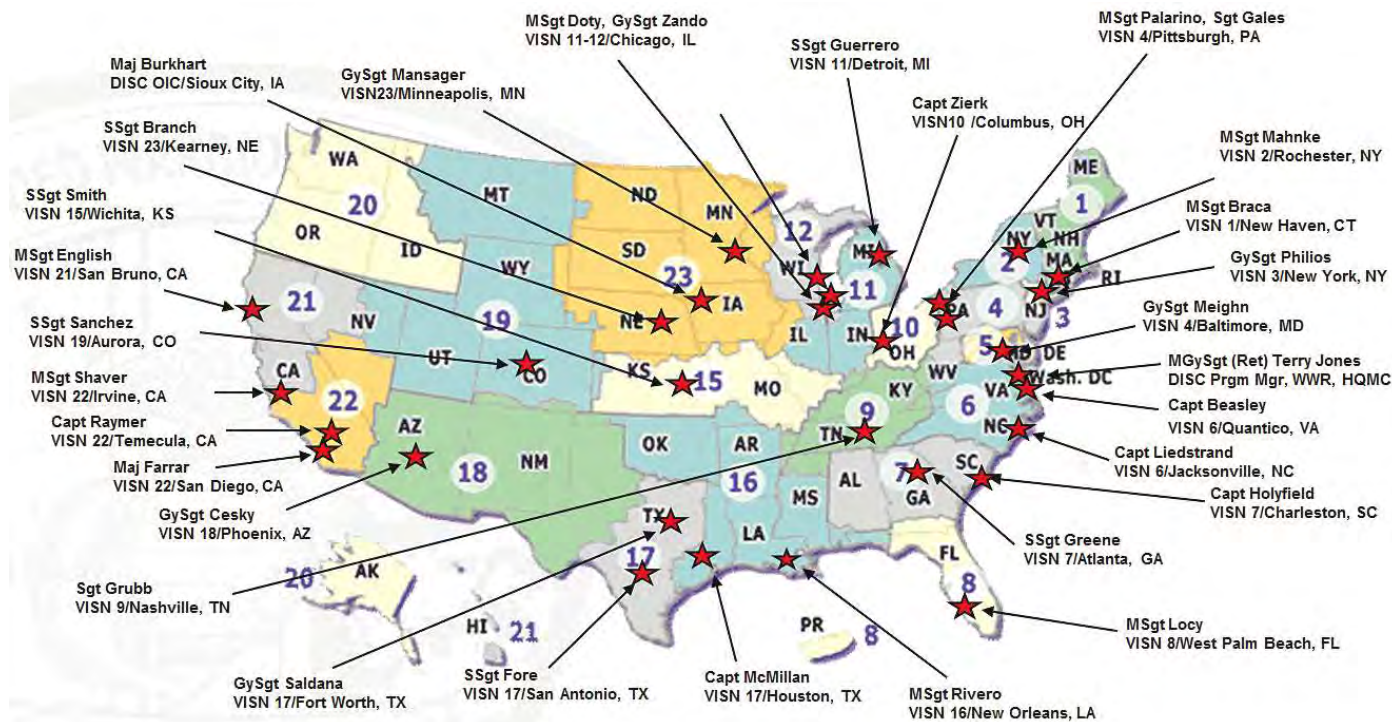
‘You should call it Stumpies—you’ve only got one good leg between you two!’ ”

What started in a garage in 2012 quickly has grown to a commercial storefront with a fully equipped custom gun shop in the rear and a staff of five in Swansboro, N.C. Lang didn’t allow his wounds to stop him from becoming an entrepreneur.

“I just got to a point where I realized that I’d lost my legs and I wasn’t getting them back,” he commented. “I had amazing support from my wife, and she insisted that I needed to be there for her and my son. I decided that life wasn’t over, and now I can do anything; I just do it a little differently than before.”

That is the kind of attitude and family support that embodies the spirit of the WWR’s mission, which is exemplified in its Latin motto, *Etiam in Pugna*, meaning “still in the fight.”

The Marine Corps care model is unique because its approach is to return recover-



COURTESY OF WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

ing warriors to their parent/operational units as quickly as their medical conditions permit. Allowing Marines and sailors to “stay in the fight” is what makes the Marine Corps care model successful. If that isn’t possible, then wounded warriors receive assistance to transition to a civilian life and follow-on support once back in their community.

In spite of its crucial role, many Marines don’t know much about what actually goes on inside the WWR, which has supported more than 52,000 wounded warriors since starting in 2007; they would be amazed to find out.

For example, no distinction is made between combat injuries and other injuries; everyone receives the same level of care. On average, about 40 percent of wounded warriors come from outside combat zones, and that average is expected to increase as direct combat roles decrease.

Wounded Warrior Regiment Organization

“Every other service has a program, we have a command,” said Colonel T. Shane Tomko, the former commanding officer of Wounded Warrior Regiment. “That is an important distinction. We have a regimental chain of command that goes all the way to team leaders who have wounded, ill or injured Marines and sail-

Gen Joseph F. Dunford, 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, presents Sgt Ivan E. Sears with the Marine Corps Male Athlete of the Year award at the CMC Combined Awards ceremony held Jan. 29, 2015, at The Clubs at Quantico, MCB, Quantico, Va.

ors under their care, and their sole responsibility is to help them heal.”

The WWR headquarters, located at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., oversees the operation of the two Wounded Warrior battalions, one at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and the other at Camp Pendleton in California.

The battalions are comprised of companies as well as multiple detachments in locations around the globe, including all major military treatment facilities and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) polytrauma rehabilitation centers. Regardless of location, services are available to the total force—active duty, Reserve, retired

and veteran Marines as well as their families.

The Army’s program is similar to the Marine Corps’ program, but rather than being a singular command, it falls under the U.S. Army Medical Command. The Navy cares for Navy and Coast Guard wounded warriors under a program called “Safe Harbor,” and the Air Force has a similar program.

The WWR supports 30 District Injured Support Coordinators (DISCs) nationwide. The coordinators ease the transition of wounded, ill and injured Marines from active or Reserve status to veteran status by conducting outreach and face-to-face



SRA W. BOCK

visits. These Reserve Marines are responsible for maintaining contact with and assisting in transitioning wounded warriors back into their families and their communities.

Retired Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant Terry Jones is the regiment's DISC program manager. An artillery Marine by trade, his degree in psychology brought him to the program while he was on active duty. "They decided to put my degree to good use," he quipped.

He worked as the senior enlisted Marine and liaison to the WWR at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he saw the most dramatically injured wounded warriors. "I am convinced that the assignment changed my life and certainly the course of my career," said Jones, who was a gunnery sergeant at that time.

While he was there, he devised the concept for the DISC program based on needs he saw for wounded Marines leaving the service. "A very small percentage returned to active duty; the vast majority left the service," he said. "Many of them just wanted to get out at their EAS (end of active service); they didn't want to go through the medical board process for a medical retirement."

Jones explained that they went home to try and get back to normal either with their parents and extended family trying to care for them with little support, or in many cases, care was being provided by young spouses who weren't prepared for that level of responsibility.

"So after a few months, the PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] or TBI [traumatic brain injury] would kick in, and they'd have to try and work with the VA," Jones remarked. "They were never diag-



CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

A wounded warrior runs on an anti-gravity treadmill, which compensates for body weight using compressed air to enable wounded warriors to run without excess pressure on injuries.

nosed on active duty, so they needed someone there to help them deal with all of it."

The preliminary concept that Jones developed eventually was expanded into the DISC program, and upon retirement in 2014, Jones took over the position as civilian program manager. What started out as two staff noncommissioned officers assigned as DISCs has expanded to 30 DISCs around the country, even though more are needed, noted Jones.

"Transitioning veterans and those out there suffering from PTSD and TBI are increasing, and the downsizing is going to make those numbers expand even more," he said.

On average, each DISC has 25 to 40 cases, depending on the number of veterans in his area. Heavily populated areas such as the Carolinas or California have more veterans, so more DISCs are needed in those areas.

"The DISCs are regimental assets," said Jones, noting that they are carefully chosen. "I screen every reservist who applies. This is the most independent of independent duties. These guys are alone and unafraid out there making big decisions. I take the special duty checklist to a whole new level. I interview them face to face; I go to their home and meet their families. I want to make sure they are the right person for the job in their specific area."

Whether Marines or sailors attached with Marine units are wounded in combat, become ill, or are injured in the line of duty, the WWR serves all Marines. Each person's recovery experience will be different, and the process of healing involves many transitions.

Phases of Recovery

As a Marine or sailor moves from *stabilization* through *rehabilitation* to *reintegration*, they will experience different types of medical treatments, changing care providers, and perhaps new locations in an effort to maximize their recovery so they can return to duty or transition to civilian life.

The *stabilization* phase begins at the point of injury or diagnosis and ends with release from acute inpatient care (when the



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Genesis of the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment

Today's Marine and associated Navy wounded warriors have unprecedented long-term care and support through the Wounded Warrior Regiment (WWR), but there was a time not so long ago when it was just the vision of a small group of Marines.

Until 2007, wounded warrior care was not provided in a unified and standardized way. The concept of a WWR resulted from the increased number of wounded military personnel and the severity of their wounds emerging from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although it took a team to put it all together, the idea emanated from retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Tim Maxwell, who suffered a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) in 2004 from a penetrating head wound sustained during his sixth combat tour in Iraq.

He never saw the mortar that hit him. "I woke up next day in the hospital," he told an NPR interviewer in 2007. He had shrapnel up the left side of his body, with two pieces entering his brain.

"A portion of my brain was dead," he told the reporter, who asked him what things he had to re-learn. "Everything you did when you got up this morning," he told her. "I had to learn how to stand, how to walk, how to eat, to brush my teeth, shave, everything."

As Maxwell began his journey to recovery, he asked the basic question: "We fight as a team, we train as a team, why can't we recover as a team?" according to Captain Ryan Powell, public affairs officer for WWR.

"Central to his [Maxwell's] vision was wounded Marines helping each other; an idea that eventually became the WWR," Powell reiterated.

"It was a simple idea that grew," Maxwell said during the NPR interview. It started when he began to visit other wounded warriors at the Camp Lejeune, N.C., base hospital. "I talked with the wounded guys and the doctors and nurses and that is how it started."

After observing that upon release from the hospital, wounded warriors were living alone in separate rooms, he thought, "Golly, we should put these guys together."

Maxwell, speaking from experience, believed that it was fundamentally important for wounded warriors to be together. "There was a lot of depression and guilt for being injured and their unit was still in combat," he said. The intended consequence of putting them together was for them to talk with each other in order to share their experiences with others with similar experiences. "They could also get more information about their recovery because they could talk to each other about basic stuff like getting a second opinion," Maxwell told the reporter.

A wounded warrior is suddenly taken from a unit that has a mission, noted Maxwell. "I would tell them that now they are the unit and their mission is to take care of themselves. Suddenly, you're in command, you are in charge of yourself, you have to make yourself come up with your mission, what you are going to do with your life."

Marines are trained to get the job done and not complain about it. "It comes hard for them to ask for help, but I'd tell them you're not being a sissy ... if you ask for help," Maxwell said.

As Maxwell began to raise the issue, others in the Corps took notice, Capt Powell said. Maxwell got to know two future Commandants who he said were especially helpful: Generals James Conway (CMC, November 2006–October 2010) and James Amos (CMC, October 2010–October 2014). With their support, a barracks was singled out for wounded warriors—it would eventually be named Maxwell Hall.

Maxwell credits Gen Conway with directing that an operational planning team be formed to begin structuring a wounded warrior regiment. The rest is ongoing history. The regiment stood up in 2007 with an east and a west battalion and numerous detachments. A regimental call center was established in 2009, and both battalions now also have call centers.

"I was lucky that General Amos 'adopted' me after I was injured and he'd take me along when he went to visit wounded warriors," said Maxwell from his home today near Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. "He was told by medical people that he shouldn't do it, that I needed to rest. He said he didn't think that was right, that I needed a mission. That was true then and it is true today. My whole belief is that wounded warriors need a mission."

What began as one Marine and his vision now has a staff of more than 500 nationwide and overseas. What began as helping a few wounded warriors in a barracks now reaches out and helps tens of thousands of wounded, ill and injured Marines and sailors.

"I never thought it would ever get this big," said Maxwell. But as much as has been accomplished, it has only begun to address the problem. For every wounded warrior suffering from TBI or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) who finds the support of fellow warriors, there are untold others suffering alone.

"I believe that those Marines or other servicemembers out there alone are suffering worse than those of us who are with other wounded warriors," Maxwell told the NPR reporter, "but they need to know they are still not alone out there." Getting help is just a phone call away to one of the regiment's call centers.

"That's why I talk to anyone who will listen because I know there's some kid out there all alone, sitting in an apartment ... miserable," Maxwell said, citing current statistics on veteran suicides, hovering at an alarming rate of about 20 per day.

In fact, the call centers do more than wait for calls to come in. Obtaining contacts from various sources for potential military personnel or their families in need of their assistance, they engage in daily outreach.

"Instead of saying 'call me if you have a problem,' we are calling them to just see how they are doing, see if they need us and let them know what we can do for them," said Maxwell.

—CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)



LtCol Tim Maxwell, USMC (Ret) speaks during the Purple Heart Memorial unveiling at Maxwell Hall, the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East barracks, aboard MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 11, 2013.

CPL CHARLES CLARK, USMC

Marine is discharged from the hospital). Medical treatment is the top priority during this period.

The *rehabilitation* phase generally begins when the Marine moves to an outpatient status and continues through the tapering off of treatments such as physical therapy. Medical treatments still will be a top priority, but a Marine and family also will begin to focus on goals to heal a Marine's mind, body, spirit and family.

The *reintegration* phase is when the Marine prepares to either return to full duty or separate from the military and return to civilian life. If a Marine returns to military service, he or she will receive assistance, if required, to retrain for a new military job. If a Marine leaves the military, he or she will be introduced to the local DISC, who will help navigate support from the VA and community-based partners.

From start to finish, the process is the same at both battalions following five lines of operation which include medical, mind, body, spirit and family.

"It goes back to the whole Marine concept, including family," explained retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Craig Stevens, the command advisor for Wounded Warrior Battalion-East (WWBN-E). "We found out years ago through trial and error that the family is a critical piece to a wounded warrior's recovery and their successful transition."

Stevens explained that each line of operation is not as easily defined as running down a list putting checks in the blocks. "Each case is different, and each wounded warrior might need emphasis on a specific line of operation," he pointed out. "We try to tailor the comprehensive

recovery plan [CRP] to their specific needs and develop goals along the way."

Developing and guiding that CRP are two Recovery Care Coordinators at each battalion and the five coordinators at Walter Reed. Lillian Rodriguez is one of the coordinators at WWBN-E, and according to Stevens, she is "the expert on everything dealing with Marines and their families."

Indeed, the retired master gunnery sergeant uses her 25 years' experience in the



Corps to first develop a detailed comprehensive needs assessment on each Marine or sailor and their family. This identifies where emphasis needs to be placed in each case and develops goals that will be merged into the final CRP.

"Each Marine or sailor takes that plan with them; it's their plan," said Rodriguez. "It is retained in a secure computerized case management system so anyone in the wounded warrior's care system can use it to continue helping."

Wounded Warrior Battalions

Retired Marine LtCol Paul Swanson, command advisor for Wounded Warrior Battalion-West (WWBN-W), said that the two battalions are set up the same way. "We both have new 200-bed barracks,

a new headquarters building and a 30,000-square-foot Warrior Hope and Care Center [WHCC], which encapsulates all the lines of operation together."

Stevens is quick to note that the battalions only provide non-medical care; the Navy handles medical issues. However, each WHCC has a sick call and associated services for medical needs; a chaplain and transition coordinators for the spirit; an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible gym for the body; mental health professionals for the mind; and a host of services for the family.

"If you can imagine one building where a wounded warrior can come with his family, drop the kids off at the play area, talk together with a family readiness officer, work out, go upstairs and talk with the chaplain, all in the same building," Swanson explained. "They used to have to go all over the place for this."

The open design of the buildings is inviting and well-lit with plenty of large windows and skylights. The

gym supports the Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program with all the latest equipment that is fully accessible for everyone. There is a lap pool and a therapeutic pool that is wheelchair accessible and has an underwater treadmill.

"The Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program is intended to recondition each wounded warrior to the limits of their abilities," said Stevens. "We have one double-amputee who is training for the Paralympics and another Marine who wants to be able to pick up his 3-year-old daughter."

Guiding the training are professional staff members coaching each warrior individually according to their needs.

In one room a Marine is using an anti-gravity treadmill, a compressed air device that enables a wounded warrior who has trouble running to compensate for up to 100 percent of body weight. "I was able to run a 19-minute 3-mile run using this," he said. Staff members talk about Marines who could barely walk and eventually were able to walk or run without it.

Outside the buildings are well-manicured grounds; there's a sport-surfaced, covered basketball court and a nearby Fisher House. Provided by the Fisher House Foundation, the facility is a place for families to stay while their wounded

Wounded, ill and injured servicemembers participate in the National Capital Region Wounded Warrior Reverse Career Fair aboard MCB Quantico, Jan. 29, 2015. At a reverse career fair, the servicemembers remain seated with their résumés, and the potential employers, who are specifically looking to hire veterans, go to them.



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Athletes representing the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East Team march onto the field during the opening ceremony for the 2014 Marine Corps Trials held March 6, 2014, aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Marine Corps Trials are an eight-sport Paralympic-style invitational involving more than 300 wounded, ill or injured Marines and international competitors.



COURTESY OF WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT

warrior receives care at the WHCC, enabling family members to take part in rehabilitation.

The regiment is perhaps the most aggressive and comprehensive effort in history to bring wounded warriors home to receive care for them and their families. Veterans today are beneficiaries of efforts made over the past several decades.

Asked if he would agree with that assertion, Col Tomko said, “Absolutely! I think the Vietnam vets were the first voice that came out and said we really need to do something about this issue. You complement that with education and better support from the public and political and military leadership and that is a very potent triad.”

The regiment’s vast network can reach out and touch an impressive number of wounded warriors. Each battalion averages contact with about 500 wounded warriors in its on-site facilities. Another 500 or so wounded warriors remain with their assigned units but are served as outpatients. Averaging the number of daily contacts through the call centers, Col Tomko estimated that “we reach out and touch well over 30,000 active, Reserve and veteran Marines and sailors daily; it’s non-stop action all the time.”

The predominance of wounded warriors being served by the regiment are from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, but the era served is not a limiting factor.

“For example, we are dealing with a case right now involving a Vietnam veteran,” Col Tomko noted. “We have lines of communication to influence the VA, and we can address certain issues on behalf of veterans. I talked to a [World War II veteran] the other night. Sometimes these guys go to a dark place, and they don’t have anyone to talk to.”

In his 2015 Planning Guidance, the Commandant, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., included among his top priorities: “Marines take care of their own[,] and our approach to wounded warrior care is a reflection of that enduring principle.” He wrote: “We will continue to lead in this area and look for opportunities to improve. Our commitment to our wounded Marines and their families is unwavering.”

Gen Dunford continued: “We are developing a long-term organizational structure and resourcing plan to sustain the Wounded Warrior Regiment. The goal

is the swift return of our wounded, ill, and injured Marines to duty or to support their transition to civilian employment.”

Col Tomko punctuates that resolve, declaring frankly, “We have a contract with America—we take care of our Marines.”

Editor’s note: The Wounded Warrior Regiment is an official U.S. Marine Corps command; it is not affiliated with and should not be mistaken for the Wounded Warrior Project, which is a private, nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization.

Author’s bio: CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret) was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now operates his own writing-based business, RGCommunications. He is a contributing editor with Leatherneck magazine, and a freelance photojournalist.



★ **Regimental Call Center (The Sergeant Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center):** (877) 487-6299, open 24/7

★ **Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Call Center:** (910) 451-1202/2253 or (910) 449-9573; Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Mon.-Fri., East Coast Time)

★ **Wounded Warrior Battalion-West, Camp Pendleton, Calif., Call Center:** (888) 738-7044 or (760) 763-9067/6689/6793; Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Mon.-Fri., West Coast Time)

A New Ship Named for “Chesty”

By R.R. Keene

“Chesty’s” back. This time as an Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB), another step that moves the Marine Corps back to its amphibious role and mission to go ashore anywhere from the sea.

USNS *Lewis B. Puller* (MLP-3), the first AFSB variant of the Navy’s Mobile Landing Platform (MLP), was floated out from the shipyard of General Dynamics National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (NASSCO) in San Diego, Feb. 9. It is the second ship to honor the Corps’ most famous Marine. USS *Lewis B. Puller* (FFG-23) was a guided-missile frigate of the *Oliver Hazard Perry* class. She was commissioned in 1982 and transferred to the Egyptian Navy as ENS *Toushka* (FFG-906) in 1998.

As every leatherneck can tell you, Lieutenant General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller was to the 20th-century Marine Corps what Eric Bloodaxe the Norseman and Millions of Sparta were to those who followed them: “badass warriors.” When Chesty’s daughter Martha Puller Downs swung the bottle of Champagne, it took five whacks against the hull of the 78,000-ton, 784-foot ship to christen *Lewis B. Puller*. Marines saw it as a reminder that among LtGen Puller’s 14 personal combat awards were five Navy Crosses—he was the only leatherneck to ever earn that many. His 37 years of service spanned the “Banana Wars” of the Caribbean and Central America to World War II in the Pacific, and the Korean War from Inchon to the Chosin Reservoir. The barrel-chested Puller was bigger than the combat award citations, legends and stories. “Good night, Chesty, wherever you are!” still reverberates off the bulkheads of squadbays at the Marine Corps recruit depots.

USNS *Puller*, according to *Jane’s Defense Weekly*, will support flight operations and carry up to 250 troops. The hope is that an

AFSB will free up the Navy’s amphibious ships from missions such as training, theater security cooperation, and maritime security engagements, thus allowing the gray hull warships to remain integrated as amphibious ready groups.

The shipbuilders have dubbed the ship a “pier-at-sea,” and say she’s the third in a new class of auxiliary ships designed to be offshore staging bases. She is the first, however, to be configured as an AFSB, adding a flight deck, berthing, fuel storage, repair spaces and accommodations for personnel.

The Navy and Marine Corps recognize the need for ships that can stage and support Marines offshore when access to nearby ports does not exist or features of the littorals make ship-to-shore activities across traditional beaches impossible. This capability is crucial to the success of missions such as counter-piracy operations, maritime security operations, humanitarian and disaster relief missions, and crisis response missions.

According to *Seapower Almanac*, the ship’s design features add-on modules to support a vehicle staging area and side-port ramp as well as large mooring fenders and parking lanes for three landing craft.

The Navy made it happen when USS *Ponce* (LPD-15), a 40-year-old amphibious transport dock,

was issued a reprieve from the scrap yard and converted to USS *Ponce* (AFSB(I)-15) to serve as a test bed for the AFSB concept. It led the way for the (MLP-1) *Montford Point* class, including USNS *John Glenn* (MLP-2) and *Lewis B. Puller*.

There are some concerns, however, about how close to hostile littorals can and should such ships get? Defensive armament, damage control and civilian contracted crews coming under hostile fire is another one of the concerns.

Nonetheless, *Puller* is expected to undergo sea trials in September and then replace USS *Ponce* in the Persian Gulf.



LtGen Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller’s daughter, Mrs. Martha Puller Downs, christens the ship named after her famous father as Kevin Graney, NASSCO vice president, applauds. Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, also was in attendance at the ceremony.



An artist’s rendering of USNS *Lewis B. Puller*, one of three Advanced Forward Staging Base ships with multiple capabilities to support Marines headed ashore.



The ribbons of Chesty Puller, including his five awards of the Navy Cross, were presented to USNS *Lewis B. Puller* by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation at the commissioning Feb. 6, 2015.



PHOTO BY MSGT KEVIN WALLACE, USMC

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TERRORISM

In Oklahoma City

20 Years Later, Marine Survivor Shares His Story

By Sara W. Bock

Twenty years have passed since terror struck America's heartland. Captain Michael R. "Randy" Norfleet, USMC (Ret) recalls the events of April 19, 1995, as though they happened yesterday. It was a day that changed his life.

On that April day, America zeroed in on Oklahoma City as the news coverage poured in. The footage was devastating, and the images of rescue workers pulling the victims from the rubble—especially the children who were inside the building's day care center—are forever seared on the minds of all who watched in horror and disbelief.

That morning, the Alfred P. Murrah

Federal Building absorbed the blast of a 5,000-pound fertilizer bomb and was reduced to a pile of rubble. It was the culmination of a heinous anti-government plot by Timothy McVeigh and his co-conspirator, Terry Nichols. The building was home to the regional offices for numerous government agencies—and on the sixth floor, Recruiting Station Oklahoma City, 8th Marine Corps District. The recruiting station had been in the Murrah Building since 1977.

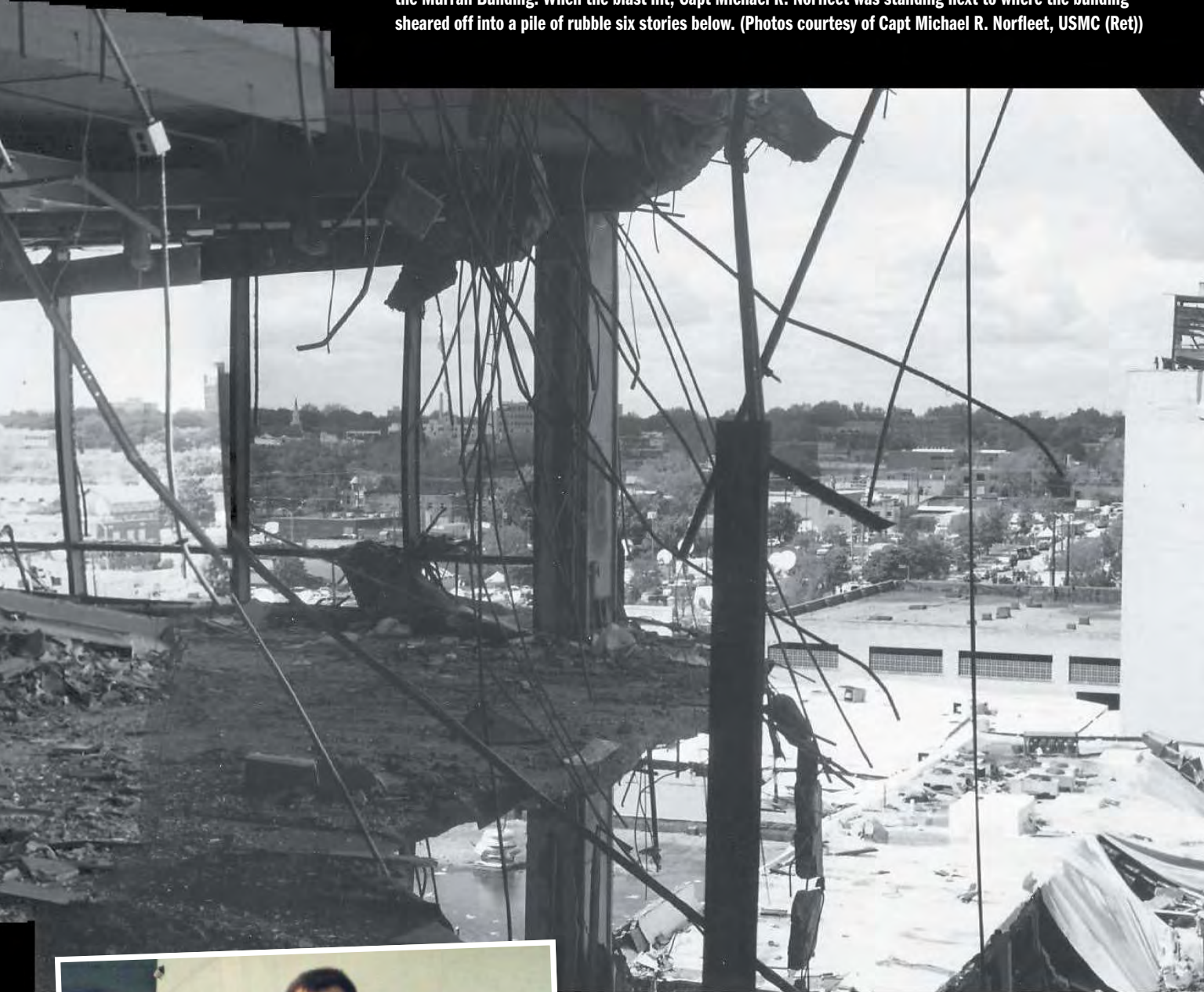
Two minutes prior to the explosion, Capt Norfleet entered the building and made his way to the recruiting office.

Norfleet, a KC-130 pilot, didn't have an office in the Murrah Building. He was the officer selection officer (OSO) in Still-

water, Okla., about an hour from Oklahoma City. On the morning of April 19 he was in Oklahoma City attending a prayer breakfast at the nearby Myriad Convention Center. Rather than immediately drive back to Stillwater, he made a spur-of-the-moment decision to swing by the recruiting station and get some "face time" with his commanding officer.

It was just before 9 o'clock in the morning when Norfleet parked his black Ford Ranger pickup truck in front of the building. Behind his truck was a yellow Ryder moving truck, parked in a loading zone. It seemed out of place to him, and as he contemplated what it might be doing there, a man jumped out and ran across the street. Later, Norfleet would find out that

This composite image of two court photos shows what remained of RS Oklahoma City after the bombing of the Murrah Building. When the blast hit, Capt Michael R. Norfleet was standing next to where the building sheared off into a pile of rubble six stories below. (Photos courtesy of Capt Michael R. Norfleet, USMC (Ret))



In 1990, during Operation Desert Storm, Norfleet, a KC-130 Hercules pilot, gets ready for a flight. Five years later, Norfleet was assigned as an OSO in Stillwater, Okla., but was visiting colleagues at RS Oklahoma City when the Murrah Building was bombed.

COURTESY OF CAPT MICHAEL R. NORFLEET, USMC (RET)

the man he saw was Timothy McVeigh, and that he was the only reliable witness who could place McVeigh with the Ryder truck that contained the explosives at the scene of the bombing.

The captain got out of his truck and headed into the building, walked right into an open elevator and headed up to the sixth floor. The first person he saw in the recruiting station office was Sergeant Benjamin L. Davis, the operations clerk for RS Oklahoma City.

“Captain Norfleet, can you call Headquarters Marine Corps and find out if my meritorious commissioning package has come through?” Davis asked after the two exchanged greetings.

The selection board had met the pre-



Search-and-rescue workers gather at the scene of the Oklahoma City bombing on April 26, 1995. It took many days and a great deal of manpower to recover all the bodies from the rubble.

vious day, and as the OSO, Norfleet had processed Davis' package. He knew the results would be available, so he sat down at the desk of the operations officer, Capt Matthew Cooper, and picked up the phone to make the call. On the other end, he heard a busy signal. He figured he would just try again later. He put the phone down and walked a few offices down to talk to the RS supply clerk, Sgt Tad Snidecor, who he had served with in Operation Desert Storm.

That's when it happened: the explosion that would take the lives of 168 victims, including 19 children, and injure more than 600. It is the most deadly act of domestic terrorism our nation has ever experienced. The clock read 9:02 a.m., and Norfleet

had entered the building only two minutes earlier.

He later learned that he had been in the kill zone until about 30 seconds before the blast. If not for the busy signal on his call to HQMC, his story likely would have ended that day.

"I remember everything," Norfleet said. "I remember it because I felt it, and I heard it, not because I saw it," he added, referring to his experience as a "grayout."

He instinctually threw his left arm in front of his left eye—the glass façade of the building had shattered from the blast, the shards becoming daggers as they rained down on the imploding structure. His left arm and right eye were pierced with glass, and he began to bleed profusely.

Norfleet estimates that about 10 seconds later, all nine stories started to cave in on top of each other. Every one of the support beams in the building gave way except for one, and it happened to be the one he was closest to. He didn't realize it at the time, but the building sheared off just a foot or two from where he lay, rattled and bleeding.

The impact of the structural collapse threw him into the west side of the wall. Norfleet's skull was fractured, his nose broken, there was a piece of glass lodged in his right eye and he was rapidly losing blood from the ulnar artery on his left wrist.

He doesn't know how long he was unconscious—maybe a minute, maybe longer—but when he regained consciousness, the dust had settled a bit.

"It was deathly quiet. It was just deathly quiet, and I don't know how else to say it other than that," Norfleet said, describing the eerie scene.

Sgt Snidecor had sustained fewer injuries from the blast and his Marine Corps training kicked in immediately.

"He was a Marine in charge," said Norfleet. "He knew what to do."

He cleaned off his desk, put Norfleet on top of it and began to administer first aid. After a minute or so, he left to go find some material to bandage Norfleet's wounds. However, Norfleet knew in his heart that if he stayed on the desk he was going to bleed out. He got up and started looking for a way out.

"Somebody had walked out of the building before I had, and they had left a blood trail. ... It was like a neon sign, a neon trail, right there on top of the dust, and I followed the blood to the back of the building. Then, miracle of all miracles, all the stairs were intact at the back of the building," Norfleet remembered.

Somehow, despite his injuries, he mustered the strength to walk down all six flights of stairs and into an ambulance. To this day, he considers it a supernatural experience.

Upon arrival at St. Anthony's Hospital just a few blocks away, Norfleet's blood pressure read 50/0. His blood loss had brought him to the verge of death.

Meanwhile, his wife, Jamie, who was seven months pregnant, sat at home with their two young sons, Matthew and Paul, hoping and praying for a miracle as she watched the devastation on her TV screen with the knowledge that her husband had been in the building at the time. They hadn't received any official word, but the Marines from Norfleet's officer selection office showed up at her home to show their support. Fearing the worst, she wouldn't let them come inside at first.

The 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Carl E. Mundy Jr., visits Norfleet at St. Anthony's Hospital, Oklahoma City, April 20, 1995. As soon as Gen Mundy heard about the bombing, he headed to Oklahoma to be with his Marines.

She eventually let them in, and they sat with her and waited. Hours passed, and still she had not received any word as to her husband's whereabouts.

Norfleet was in surgery for hours, and at 3 p.m., the Red Cross contacted Jamie. Randy had written her phone number on a surgical nurse's arm. She and a family member immediately left to make the hour-long drive to Oklahoma City.

To get to the hospital, they had to drive right past the Murrah Building. The rescuers were bringing babies and children out of the wreckage; authorities were holding back screaming mothers. It is a mental picture Jamie can't erase from her mind, even 20 years later.

She was too shaken to realize it, but when Jamie arrived at the hospital, an employee could tell that she was in labor. They wouldn't let her see her husband until after she visited the labor and delivery unit, where they were able to stop her labor. Their daughter, Morgan, was born two months later, but nearly made an entrance on the day her father almost lost his life.

One of Norfleet's earliest memories after waking from surgery was opening his eyes to see General Carl E. Mundy Jr., 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, in his recovery room. As soon as Gen Mundy heard about the bombing, he traveled to Oklahoma City to be with his Marines.

Two of them didn't live to meet the Commandant.

Sgt Davis and Capt Randolph A.



COURTESY OF CAPT MICHAEL R. NORFLEET, USMC (RET)



COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

Sgt Benjamin L. Davis



COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

Capt Randolph A. Guzman

Guzman, Executive Officer, RS Oklahoma City, lost their lives that day on the soil they had sworn to defend upon earning the title "Marine." Their bodies were discovered days later, buried under the debris from the building's collapse. Davis never learned that HQMC had indeed accepted his meritorious commissioning package just the day before.

"He was always motivated. Even when

he answered the telephone," a fellow Marine said of Davis.

Friends remembered Guzman as an exceptionally nice and personable Marine. He and his fiancée had planned to get married soon.

At the scene in the days after the bombing, another Marine was there in a different capacity. Among the police, firemen and emergency medical service specialists from across the nation who were dispatched as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Task Force 1, New York City police officer Michael S. Curtin, a first sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserve, worked indefatigably to rescue survivors and extract bodies from the wreckage.

On the morning of April 21, 48 hours after the Murrah Building had crumbled from the horrifying blast, Curtin saw



COURTESY OF CAPT MICHAEL R. NORFLEET, USMC (RET)

Above left: Jamie Norfleet, right, holds her husband's hand as he recovers in the hospital after the bombing.



COURTESY OF CAPT MICHAEL R. NORFLEET, USMC (RET)

Above right: This photo taken at his home in Stillwater, Okla., a few months after the bombing, is of Randy Norfleet holding his infant daughter, Morgan, who was almost born on the day of the bombing. He had numerous surgeries after the bombing, but never regained sight in one eye.



something in the rubble that he would have recognized anywhere—deep blue trousers with a red “blood stripe.” He knew it was a fellow Marine, and upon cutting away part of the trousers and seeing that the victim had light-colored skin (Sgt Davis was African-American), he realized that it was Capt Guzman. Until that point, he and Sgt Davis had both been unaccounted for.

Curtin knew what he had to do. He began asking around to see if there were any other Marines among his fellow rescuers. Sure enough, he found three: Manny Hernandez, Juan Garcia and Ray Bonner. The area of the building in which Curtin had found Guzman’s remains was not an area that the recovery efforts were currently focused on, so their plan required special permission from the FEMA chain of command. They received permission to take on what was considered a high-risk task because the debris covering Guzman’s body included major structural columns



COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

At the Oklahoma City National Memorial, 168 stone chairs sit on an open field, representing the lives lost that day. Two of the chairs are marked for Capt Guzman and Sgt Davis.



COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

from the building. It took five hours and an electric jackhammer, but they were able to remove his body. Guzman was still at his desk, beneath the debris.

An Air Force colonel who was on site found an American flag and sent it in to the Marines who had just recovered one of their own. They draped the flag over Guzman's body and brought him out of the rubble.

"When we came out of the building, I couldn't believe what I saw," Curtin told *Leatherneck* in 1995. "Cranes had stopped. It was completely quiet. Rescuers stopped and looked; people had lined the street. Everyone was watching in silence as we brought our Marine out.

"We were in a highly visible location. Engines were turned off. People removed their covers, bowed their heads ... covered their hearts. You could tell the veterans. They were the ones saluting, with tears in their eyes," he said.

Tragically, Sergeant Major Michael

Left: On the ground where the Murrah Building once stood, a peaceful memorial now serves as a reminder of the act of terrorism that happened there on April 19, 1995.

Below: Earlier in 2015, Randy Norfleet and his family visited the *Leatherneck* office at MCB Quantico, Va., to share their story. From the left, Norfleet's son Paul; wife, Jamie; Norfleet; daughter, Morgan; and daughter-in-law, Shay. His oldest son, Matthew (not pictured), is a second lieutenant at The Basic School on board MCB Quantico.



SARA W. BOCK

Curtin, USMCR would later lose his own life to an act of terrorism as he died on Sept. 11, 2001, while saving the lives of victims at the World Trade Center attack.

Capt Norfleet medically retired from the Marine Corps in October 1995, six months after the bombing. He never regained vision in his right eye, so his injuries necessitated an end to his flying career. He always has been determined, however, not to let the experience rob him of a successful, fulfilling future.

Norfleet now works as a test engineer, but he spends his free time traveling and speaking to various groups about his experience in Oklahoma City. He has a strong desire to help others come to peace with tragedies they have experienced or life-altering injuries they have sustained. Recently, he spoke to students at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., about his experience. He shared with them the importance of having a calling "higher than yourself—the Marine Corps, for example," he said.

"If you don't," Norfleet said, "you doubt yourself, and the whole loss seems meaningless. I'm sure there are plenty of wounded Marines that wonder: Was their loss worth it? Was the reason they were there worth the loss they sustained? For what I gave, was it worth it?"

Your experience can either be a stepping-stone or a stumbling block, he believes. "You can either use the experience to get better or ... you can never get up from it." His hope is that his story will

encourage those to use their own tragedies as stepping-stones.

Lastly, he shares the importance of accepting what he calls the "new normal."

"The new normal is hard. ... When you go through a trial like this, and [for] any Marine who's been wounded, it's hard to see into the future. It's the unknown that's so hard to get your mind around, get your heart around," he said.

Norfleet's story is a testimony to the human spirit and the Marine Corps spirit, of how we can all overcome the trials and adversities that are put in front of us.

He was a key witness in Timothy McVeigh's trial in 1997 and also was a witness in Terry Nichols' trial. In 2001, he attended a closed viewing of McVeigh's execution. He said his personal outlook on watching the execution is like a wound when stitches are removed from it—"it can finally heal," he said.

Today, a memorial to honor the victims of the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing serves as a beacon of hope on the same soil where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood. For each life lost, a stone chair sits empty on a pristine field—168 chairs, 168 lives. In the sixth row of chairs, two names will stand out to any Marine, past, present and future, who visits that hallowed ground. Etched in the stone: Captain Randolph A. Guzman, USMC and Sergeant Benjamin L. Davis, USMC. Lost 20 years ago on that April day, but never forgotten.



We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

CMC, MCA&F Recognize Superior Performance

■ The Marine Corps Association & Foundation helped recognize the finalists for the 2014 Commandant of the Marine Corps Combined Awards during a ceremony held at The Clubs at Quantico, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Jan. 29, 2015.

The awards recognized the outstanding performance and exemplary character shown by the following Marines: Recruiter of the Year, Staff Sergeant Jose Flores; Prior Service Recruiter of the Year, SSgt Orlando Torres; Drill Instructor of the Year, Gunnery Sergeant Justin M. Crawn; Marine Combat Instructor of the Year, SSgt Wadale A. Keller; Marine Security Guard of the Year, SSgt Quassie I. Swan; Career Planner of the Year, GySgt Lisa S. Marshall; Reserve Career Planner of the Year, SSgt Wyanika M. Christophe; Male Athlete of the Year, Sergeant Ivan E. Sears; and Female Athlete of the Year, Sgt Candice D. Thomas. The runner-up in each category also was recognized.

Prior to the ceremony, MCA&F, in part-

nership with Navy Wives Clubs of America, hosted a luncheon for the finalists and their families. The spouses' luncheon is designed to thank spouses and other family members for the support they provide to their Marines. MCA&F purchased roses and gifts for the Marines to give to their families and acknowledged each spouse or parent by name.

“One of the MCA&F’s prime missions is to encourage excellence and then to recognize superb performance by Marines,” said Colonel John A. Keenan, USMC (Ret), Editor, *Marine Corps Gazette*. “No Marine succeeds without the support of his or her spouse and family, and it is important to recognize the contributions they make for the success of their Marine.”

During the luncheon, the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, spoke briefly to the families of the finalists, thanking them for their dedication and support. He then walked around the room and presented each Marine with a personalized challenge coin.

As the awards ceremony began, the finalists were seated in the front of the room, facing the audience. The 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., spoke directly to them, their families and a large audience.

“A leader shows what’s important by his or her presence,” Gen Dunford said, speaking to the many senior leaders of the Corps who attended the ceremony.

“The real reason we’re successful is that we have people that join ... like the ones sitting behind me,” Gen Dunford said as he gestured toward the finalists.

Finalists in all categories were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, except for the Athletes of the Year, who were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. Two of the finalists were promoted meritoriously during the ceremony.

After the winners were announced and awards presented, Col Keenan, on behalf of the MCA&F, presented each winner with a plaque and a \$250 gift card to *The MARINE Shop*, and each runner-up was given a copy of the book “First to Fight,” by Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Ret), and a \$150 gift card to *The MARINE Shop*.

MCA&F continues to support and sponsor programs, events and awards that recognize leadership and promote excellence within the Corps.

Sara W. Bock

Marines Compete in 2015 Pacific Division Matches

■ As riflemen, Marines know that marksmanship counts in war, and even during peacetime, Marines strive to be expert riflemen to maintain combat readiness. More than 190 Marines from different units, along with 12 military personnel from other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, competed side by side to qualify as this year’s top shooter during the first day of the Pacific Division Matches at Pu’uloa Range Training Facility, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Feb. 9.

“Every year we hold competition matches where tenant commands within the Marine Corps, stationed in Hawaii, come together to compete for accolades and bragging rights, as well as to identify best



Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, center, and SgtMaj Micheal P. Barrett, 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, right, congratulate Sgt Quassie I. Swan, Marine Security Guard of the Year, during the CMC Combined Awards, MCB Quantico, Va., Jan. 29. Swan was meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant during the ceremony.



“SOUL OF THE FORWARD AND FAITHFUL”—Sculptor **Mardie Rees**, left, and **MajGen Joseph L. Osterman**, **Commanding General, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC)**, stand beside **Rees’ tribute to the Marine Raiders of World War II, entitled “Soul of the Forward and Faithful,”** at the **National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., Nov. 11, 2014.** After being displayed in **Tacoma, Wash.,** and at the **San Diego Air & Space Museum,** the sculpture found its final home at the **NMMC** and will remain on permanent display for generations of visitors to enjoy.

NATHANIEL RENOUF

shooting tenants,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jordan Kramp, the Pacific Division Matches executive officer.

The first week of the competition began as annual rifle qualification does with classroom instruction, dry firing, establishing zeroes and live-fire training. After necessary measures had been taken, competitors began the individual practice and preliminary match portion of week one.

According to Marine Corps Order 3574.2L, the purpose of pre-competition instruction and practice is to “impart the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for safe and accurate firing of the rifle. This training will form the basis for all other training with the service rifle.”

When it was time to apply what they learned, competitors situated themselves on the firing line accompanied by turbulent winds under the searing sun, already sporting red faces from dry-fire and live-fire practice.

“Today is match day one of individual shooting,” Kramp said. “Every shot fired counts for a two-day aggregate, which determines the individual winners. The combined aggregate will determine the winners [of the competition].”

The competition consisted of individual and team pistol and rifle matches, and awards were given to the top individual shooters, top team shooters and the top first-time division shooters.

“The competition is a great experience,” said Sergeant Dustin Woods, 1st Battalion, Third Marine Regiment. “It’s a lot dif-

ferent than annual rifle qualification. The targets are a lot smaller at the same distances, and you have less time to shoot on some targets, but overall we are getting a lot out of it.”

The competition is not just about identifying and recognizing the top shooters in the Pacific Division Matches.

“The purpose of the division matches is to promulgate marksmanship skills and to continue to build a level of marksmanship,” said Captain Jared Dalton, the officer in charge of the Marine Corps’ shooting team. “The top 10 percent get badges and get the opportunity to shoot championships. Our purpose as instructor cadre is to teach the other 90 percent who go back to their units to spread the knowledge we give them. Every Marine is a rifleman.”

LCpl Adam O. Korolev, USMC



LCPL ADAM O. KOROLEV, USMC

Marjah Veterans Gather at NMMC For 5-Year Reunion

■ Some no longer wear the uniform, but five years after taking part in one of the biggest battles in the global war on terrorism, they are all still Marines.

Gathering at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., Feb. 13, for the Marjah Marines Reunion dinner, several hundred of the Marines, sailors and airmen who scored one of the most decisive victories in the war in Afghanistan joined family and friends in regaling their many accomplishments in the face of a determined Taliban enemy, while also remembering their fallen comrades. The dinner, supported by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, was the emotional climax of a three-day reunion at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

“Be proud,” said Major General James

Cpl Christian Cox, a Marine with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, fires his M16A1 service rifle from the prone position at the 500-yard line during the 2015 Pacific Division Matches at Pu’uloa Range Training Facility, MCB Hawaii, Feb. 9. Marines and other servicemembers from a wide variety of units participated in the shooting competition.

Hartsell, former 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade liaison officer with Regional Command-Southwest during Operation Moshtarak, the name given to the assault on Marjah. “Never forget what you did, who you did it with and why you did it,” he added as he addressed those in attendance.

“The Marines didn’t disappoint,” MajGen Hartsell said. “We accomplished the mission we were assigned.”

The Marines were a key contingent of the roughly 15,000 troops from a United States-led coalition that descended on the strategically important southern Afghan town of Marjah to liberate it from Taliban control on Feb. 13, 2010. Many of those in attendance at the reunion were seeing each other for the first time since they shared the battlefield. More than 70 coalition military personnel lost their lives in the operation while scores more were wounded by the time it was formally declared “over” in December 2010.

Marjah and the surrounding area had been a Taliban stronghold—a breeding ground for fighters, suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices. The area’s many poppy fields also provided the enemy with a lucrative source of income.

Medal of Honor recipient Corporal William Kyle Carpenter, USMC (Ret), who miraculously survived after lunging on an enemy grenade in Afghanistan in 2010, was one of the many Marjah veterans in attendance. Carpenter said it was critical that all Americans remember what happened there.

“A lot of the Marines sacrificed life and limb and went through a lot, good and bad,” said Carpenter, the guest of honor at the dinner. “It’s really important that people remember it.”

Others said it was equally important for them to attend and reconnect with former comrades-in-arms.

“I think about [Marjah] all the time,” said former Lance Corporal Shavar Coles, who served as an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner with 2d Battalion, Sixth



CPL JORDEN WELLS/USMC

Following a warm-up and “boots and utes” run, Marines with CLR-25 participated in a pugil sticks battle at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 12. Each battalion participated in the regimental field meet to determine a regiment-wide overall male and female winner.

Marine Regiment and now resides in Frederick, Md. “I think about all the guys we lost, but I think more of the good times we had over there.”

Other speakers at the Feb. 13 event included Colonel Randall Newman, USMC (Ret), the former commanding officer of Regimental Combat Team 7; Col Preston McLaughlin, the former chief of staff for 2d MEB; and the keynote speaker, SgtMaj Carlton W. Kent, USMC (Ret), the 16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. SgtMaj Kent lavished praise on the attendees for having lived up to a rich Marine Corps legacy.

John Hollis, *Quantico Sentry*

CLR-25 Marines Build Camaraderie At Camp Lejeune Field Meet

■ Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 25 participated in a regimental field meet aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 12.

The field meet began with formation warm-ups and a lengthy motivational run through a tank trail to get the Marines warmed up and in the “fighting” spirit.

After returning from the run, they were divided into their respective battalions to begin the main event: a pugil stick tournament.

“The purpose of the event was to build physical readiness, unit cohesion and camaraderie,” said Sergeant Major Alex Dobson, CLR-25 regimental sergeant major.

During the tournament, each battalion had a set number of fighters already chosen to battle. The competitors started from opposite ends, charging at their opponents. With either a finishing blow or a rival knocked to the ground, the winner of the match was determined.

After all the finalists from the battalions were chosen, there were several battles to determine the overall male and female winners.

The overall female winner was Lance Corporal Shaylee Welch, 2d Supply Battalion supply clerk; the overall male win-

Medal of Honor recipient and Marjah veteran Cpl William Kyle Carpenter, USMC (Ret), left, and Leatherneck legend and Battle of Iwo Jima veteran Norm Hatch chat during the five-year reunion dinner for veterans of the Battle of Marjah, held at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., Feb. 13.



SUSAN STRANGE

ner was Sergeant Johnathan Sutton, a tank mechanic with General Support Maintenance Company, 2d Maintenance Bn.

“It felt great to win the overall title,” Sutton said. “Coming out here and representing my battalion felt great, and I was just glad to walk away with a win.”

After the tournament had concluded, the Marines then gathered around the regiment’s commanding officer and sergeant major for an awards ceremony and a meritorious promotion.

“The event went very well,” SgtMaj Dobson said. “We learned that we need to do some more ‘boots and utes’ runs in order to build stamina amongst the Marines and also learned that the Marines’ warrior and fighting spirit is very high, and I look forward to building on that.”

Cpl Jorden Wells, USMC

Quick Shots Around the Corps

Legacy of Iwo Jima Veterans Honored On Battle’s 70th Anniversary

■ Veterans, distinguished visitors, active-duty military personnel, families and dignitaries representing Japan and the United States gathered at Crawford Hall, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Feb.

19, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

A wreath-laying ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Va., followed the commemoration.

Guest speakers included 93-year-old Iwo Jima veteran Lieutenant General Lawrence F. Snowden, USMC (Ret); General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps; Japanese Ambassador to the United States, Kenichiro Sasae; and Battle of Iwo Jima veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams. Also there to pay tribute was MOH Marine Harvey C. “Barney” Barnum.

Sgt Jose D. Lujano, USMC

Chaplains Train for Suicide Prevention

■ Chaplains and religious program specialists participated in a professional development training course focused on suicide prevention and intervention at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 9-12.

The training course involved discussions with subject matter experts as well as case studies showing what tools are most effective.

The Chaplain Corps provides a unique

resource for military personnel by creating a safe space where they can discuss anything without fear of judgment or repercussions.

Beyond just listening, chaplains can help Marines and sailors find tools to navigate the obstacles faced in military life.

“The Chaplain Corps is the one entity where somebody can go talk about their deepest thoughts and concerns in confidence,” said Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben, the Chief of Navy Chaplains. “That inspires individuals to grow wholly and reminds them that they are not just a pawn being moved around, and they’re a human being with thoughts and feelings.”

During the training, chaplains discussed their experiences working with suicide cases. The program also included discussion of what prevention and intervention methods are being used and developed throughout the U.S. Armed Forces.

LCpl Caitlin Bevel, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



PFC SEAN DENNISON, USMC

“Every year the gunny hides the Easter eggs in the same place.”

Submitted by
Joe Doyle
Clarksville, Va.

This Month's Photo



LCPL KENNETH K. TROTTER JR., USMC

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The Swashbuckling Rebirth Of the Marine Corps

Story by R.R. Keene

Illustrations by Col Charles H. Waterhouse,
USMCR (Ret), courtesy of the
National Museum of the Marine Corps

"I presume you will have heard before this reaches you, that a French privateer has made captures at the mouth of our harbor. This is too much humiliation after all that has passed.

"Our merchants are very indignant; our government very prostrate in the view of every man of energy."

—Excerpted from a letter from former

Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton
to Secretary of War James McHenry in May 1798

Leaders of the First Republic of France paid scant attention to the upstart democracy in the Americas. The United States had no men-o'-war, much less Marines, and therefore, merchant vessels under the American colors were easy and fair game to pirates in the Caribbean and Barbary Coast, privateers flying the tricolor of France, and Royal Navy ships of the line. They often sailed into American harbors to plunder and impress crewmen from American merchantmen and did so with near impunity.

Yes, there had been a Continental Navy and Marines during the Revolutionary War, but with the exception of two battalions and "a corps of mules," that ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, according to historian J. Robert Moskin in "The U.S. Marine Corps Story." He also relates a popular sea story from the times: "The army and the navy tossed a coin to determine who would take the mules and who, the Marines. The army ... won the toss—and took the mules." The Continental Marines were disbanded. Aside from a few treasury cutters, Congress, for the most part, saw the navy as a tax burden and the ships as vessels that could be used to engage in dangerous adventures overseas. President George Washington relied on diplomacy, trade embargoes and cash payments, especially to pirates of the Barbary Coast.

There was a fear that the young American government might be tempted to use a military on its citizens, so the newly ratified Constitution stated that the federal government would "provide for the



The Corps' first sergeant major was Archibald Summers, appointed to the post in 1801. The uniform was issued from stocks of old uniforms worn by Wayne's Legion during the Whisky Rebellion in 1794 and was the beginning of dress blues in the Corps. His weapon is an "infantry hanger."

common defense." Each state had the right to maintain a militia and individuals the right to bear arms.

The nation's second elected leader, President John Adams, adopted a similar foreign policy, but the buccaneers and French and British navies were attracted to the Americans' proclivity to pay cash ransoms and not impressed with American threats of trade embargos as their lack of

strength on the high seas made such threats laughable. By 1793, hundreds of American vessels were seized (316 by French raiders). Little by little it dawned on the Americans that men-o'-war and Marines would be needed.

In 1794, Congress ordered keels laid for six men-o'-war and authorized the raising of tars (sailors) and Marines to man the frigates. Other ships later were

constructed or contracted, but only three of the original authorization ever launched: USS *United States*, USS *Constitution* and USS *Constellation*—all wooden-hulled, three-masted heavy frigates.

Launched in 1797, the ships' Marine contingents were commanded by Captain Franklin Wharton, the future third Commandant of the Marine Corps; Lieutenant Lemuel Clark; and Lt Philip Edwards. Historian Moskin notes that Lt Edwards, *Constellation* Marine Detachment commander, was late in reporting, and Army Lt James Triplett commanded the detachment as "acting lieutenant of Marines" during the frigate's first cruise. Those interested in seniority and precedence should note that Lt William MacRae was, as best can be determined, appointed the first acting Marine officer in *United States*.

On April 27, 1798, Congress established the Navy Department with Benjamin Stoddert of Maryland as the first secretary. Stoddert immediately was immersed into his job. He faced France in the Quasi-War undeclared conflict fought on the high seas and along American coastal ports. A tobacco exporter, Stoddert served as a captain of Pennsylvania cavalry and was badly injured at the Battle of Brandywine.

As so often in Marine Corps history, key decisions of culture and survival are, for whatever reasons, the result of forward-thinking civilians in position to help the Corps. Enter Samuel Sewall, a Boston-born lawyer and congressman, and great-grandson of Massachusetts Chief Justice Samuel Sewall, a judge at the Salem witch trials. The younger Sewall was chairman of the House Naval Committee working on a bill to raise "a battalion, to be called the Marine Corps."

Marine historian Colonel Robert Debs Heinl Jr.'s "Soldiers of the Sea: The United States Marine Corps, 1775-1962" states it was Sewall who took the lead: "economy and discipline argued for a single Corps rather than an amalgamation of separate 'minute detachments'; under a Corps headquarters Marines could be better trained and controlled when ashore between cruises; the 'Major Commandant' could co-ordinate recruiting, superintend all Marines, and deal with complaints. Moreover, contended Sewall, the new Corps must be separate—'in addition to the present Military Establishment,' read the Naval Committee's resolution of 22 May."

On July 11, 1798, Congress sent President John Adams "an Act for Establishing and Organizing a Marine Corps."

According to Heinl, Samuel Sewall might well be considered to be the father of the Corps.

The day after the Marine Corps was

authorized, on Stoddert's recommendation, President Adams appointed William Ward Burrows to be the Corps' Major Commandant. According to writer Washington Irving, Burrows was "a gentleman of accomplished mind and polished manner." At 40, he was, by all accounts, a short, stocky and popular son of a well-to-do Charleston, S.C., lawyer. He had studied law in England and had a successful practice in Philadelphia.

Although some accounts credit him with service in the South Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War, he was not selected for his expertise as a military officer. Legal skills aside, he had shown the potential to recruit, supply and organize men into serving as soldiers of the sea, and to do so quickly.

Burrows was a systematic recruiter 200 years ahead of his time. He handpicked a group of officers to assist him, and within a year, he gained an increase to his authorized strength by cutting through red tape to increase pay. Burrows organized the U.S. Marine Band by assessing officers \$10 a month.

Heinl says the officers were gentlemanly about it with one writing to Headquarters: "If my brother officers in general have subscribed ten dollars as a fund for music, I'd thank Major Burrows to place ten to my Acct. and throw in my mite." Burrows understood the value of leadership when it came to subordinates. According to Moskin, he tried to increase the rations of second lieutenants to be on par with

the rations of first lieutenants, noting it was "no great object as to the expense to the U.S. but is of serious import to the 2nd Lieuts."

Marine historian Allan R. Millett, in his "Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps," said the quota for future Marines was similar to the Royal Navy's one Marine for each ship's gun. The ship's Marine officers were responsible for recruiting their detachments. Secretary of War James McHenry directed that the "marines be true (sober) volunteers, preferably native Americans between the ages of eighteen and forty, at least 5 feet, 6 inches in height, and 'healthy robust and sound in ... Limbs and Body.'"

The Corps of Marines was to provide a maximum of 32 ships guards: one Major Commandant to administer the Corps, 32 captains and lieutenants, 48 sergeants and corporals, 720 privates, 32 fifers and 32 drummers. The Commandant was authorized to appoint a regimental staff to include adjutant, paymaster, quartermaster, sergeant-major, quartermaster sergeant and drum-and-fife major for shore service. The Commandant was paid \$50 and four rations; a captain received \$40 and three rations; first lieutenants were paid \$30 and three rations, and second lieutenants were authorized \$25 and two rations. Sergeants drew \$9 while musicians were paid \$7 and privates, \$6. "A ration," explained Millett, "consisted of a pound and a half of beef or a pound

"Placing the Marine Barracks." President Thomas Jefferson's and LtCol Commandant William Ward Burrows' ride down a muddy New Jersey Avenue in Washington, D.C., past a tobacco barn—which doubled as a church on Sundays. The children are playing and picking azaleas as the men are on their way to select a site for a permanent Marine barracks, in an undeveloped tract of land not far from the Navy Yard, destined to become the oldest post of our Corps: "8th and I."





of pork or salt fish; a pound of bread; a pound of peas, rice or potatoes; cheese or butter; and a half pint of spirits or quart of beer.”

Burrows oversaw the Corps’ move from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., and bivouacked on Prospect Hill, in Georgetown. His tent camp provided some comfort from the District’s sweltering summers as the Marines made several moves around the city until President Thomas Jefferson and Burrows selected a site near the Navy Yard for a Marine barracks at 8th and I streets, S.E. It was a bargain at 4 cents a square foot. Established in 1801, it is now the oldest post of the Corps, and with the exception of the White House, the Commandant’s G Street home is the oldest public building still in use in the city. According to Heinl, Burrows wrote Secretary Stoddert modestly: “... I care

not for myself where my house is, so I can get my men comfortably provided for.”

Marines started gaining a reputation for soldierly bearing and military smartness in appearance. Burrows authorized them to appear in uniforms that ensured they stood out among other military and ordered the uniforms to be maintained properly at all times. Officers wore long blue coats with red lapels and lining, a red vest and blue breeches, according to Moskin. Buttons were embossed with fouled anchor and the American eagle. Epaulets denoted grade; lieutenants wore one and captains and the major, two. Enlisted men wore blue coats, trousers trimmed with red, cocked hats, and black leather collars to keep heads erect and, according to lore, to protect them against saber slashes and powder burns. They were thereafter known as “Leathernecks,” writes Heinl.

There was more than stiff leather stock collars that kept alignment, bearing and discipline in the leatherneck ranks. Punishment followed the traditions of the Royal Navy. There was the sting of the lash for enlisted miscreants and infractions, real or perceived. Floggings usually consisted of 12 lashes; however, there are records of courts-martial that reveal that some received 100 lashes with a cat-o’-nine tails which few, if any, survived. Punishments for lesser infractions often meant a loss of rum ration, shaved head, or hard labor while shackled with ball and chain. If a man became addicted to too much drink, he was prescribed to be clothed in rags or drunkard’s dress. One of the more severe punishments was being literally drummed out of the Corps as fellow Marines turned their backs on their former comrade and mate.



Left: “Cutting Out of the Sandwich.” The *Sandwich*, a former British packet captured by the French, cruised as a privateer during the Quasi-War. In an attempt to capture the guns of the fort at Puerto Plata, Marines and sailors of *Constitution*, under LT Hull and Capt Carmick, boarded *Sandwich* “like devils ... carrying all before them and taking possession of the corvette without the loss of a man.”

Below: “Marines at the Great Guns.” Four years later in 1804, Marines of “Old Ironsides” left their normal battle stations to man these guns and provide accurate fire against Tripolitans at the Bashaw’s castle, bringing down the steeple of a mosque.



Officers were required to lead by example and tolerate no slur to their character or their Corps. Burrows demanded it. In 1800, he received word that Second Lieutenant Henry Caldwell had been insulted by Navy Lieutenant Charles Jewett. His letter still is read and passed on in the Corps today:

“Sir, When I answer’d your Letter I did not know what Injuries you had received on board the *Trumbull*. ... Yesterday the Secretary told me, that he understood one of the Lieutenants of the Navy had struck you. I lament that the Capt of yr Ship cannot Keep Order on board her. ... As to your self [sic] I can only say, that a Blow ought never to be forgiven, and without you wipe away this Insult offer’d to the Marine Corps, you cannot expect to join our Officers.

“I have permitted you to leave the Ship,

after settling the pay of the Marines & that you may be on equal Footing with the Captain, or any one who dare insult you, or the Corps. I have wrote to Capt [Daniel] Carmick, who is at Boston to call on you & be your Friend. He is a Man of Spirit, and will take care of you, but don’t let me see you ‘till you have wip’d away this Disgrace. It is my Duty to support my Officers and I will do it with my Life, but they must deserve it.—On board the *Ganges*, about 12 mos. ago, Lt [Anthony] Gale [future fourth Commandant of the Marine Corps] was struck by an Officer of the Navy, the Capt took no notice on the Cruise: the moment he arrived he called the Lieut out, and shot him; afterwards Politeness was restor’d. ...”

Lt Caldwell threw his verbal gauntlet, and LT Jewett apologized.

Such duels kept Marine officers and their young Corps seriously respected. They did not, however, always end favorably. According to Heinl, Capt Carmick was witness to the death of Capt James McKnight, Stephen Decatur’s brother-in-law and *Constellation*’s Marine officer, off Leghorn, Italy, in 1802. Apparently he was involved in an argument with a Navy officer. Carmick wrote the following to Burrows the next day:

“He [McKnight] then left me and

went on board his own Ship where they unfortunately renewed the Quarrel and aggravated each other to the highest pitch when they consented to fight at the distance of Six Paces with a Brace [pair] of Pistols and advance and should both fail then to take Cutlasses. Capt. McKnight received the Ball directly through the Center of his Heart; he had but time to say he was shot and expired. ... We had him conveyed to the American Hotel but the laws of the place obliged us to convey him to a Vault near the Burial Ground that the Coroner might sit over him, and where I was to witness a scene I shall ever remember, that of being obliged to see a Brother Officer’s heart cut out, that I might certify that the Ball had passed through the center of it. ...”

Others Commandants since have been perhaps more colorful and flamboyant than Commandant Major Burrows, but as Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Ret), one of the Corps’ great innovators, said of Burrows in his book “First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps,” “Over the years the Marines have slowly acquired many faces, many qualities of substance that they seem to possess in greater measure than do their military counterparts. No single quality is a true personification of the Marine Corps. It is only in the sensitive mixture of all

of them that the Marines' real character and, consequently, their durability resides. The mixture has been flavored over the years by a procession of exceptional personalities—the right man for the right task at the right moment.

“There was Commandant William Burrows (1798-1804) who made a religion out of the honor of the Corps, who gave the nation the Marine Band, and who delighted a frugal president and secretary of the navy by willingly building the Washington Marine Barracks for a total of \$20,000, using his Marines to do the job.”

Burrows, who later was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, set the bar for every future CMC. By 1804, Burrows' wife had died, and he was in ill health. Also, according to Moskin, because Burrows had been appointed under Federalist administration, “he was ... totally out of sympathy with the Jefferson Administration.” On March 6, Secretary of the Navy Robert Smith accepted Burrows' resignation and sent a chilly note to him in Charleston containing a barely disguised order: “as there is a large balance to your debit on the books of this department it is expected that you

will without delay repair to this place for the purpose of settling this balance.”

There was an investigation, and it was found that the Marine Corps was overdrawn by \$9,428. It is unknown how Burrows or the Corps got into such financial trouble. Congress recommended that the Corps make monthly or quarterly accounting of its expenditures. For all intents and purposes that was the end of the matter, and the end of Burrows' tenure. He died one year to the day after he resigned.

“To arms, then, my young friends—to arms, especially by sea.”

—President Adams in 1798

Although there was always some argument over specific duties of Marines at sea, it was commonly agreed that they would keep discipline aboard ship, lead boarding parties and amphibious landings, fight with muskets in short-range battles, and, if the captain wished, work some of the ship's long guns. They would also guard coastal installations and forts, “or any other duty ashore, as the president, at his discretion, shall direct.”



A Marine marksman high above the fighting top takes a well-earned rest after the battle, seated on the bullet-scarred spar of the mast, with his feet sprawled over the sail. This method of relaxing was frowned upon because a sudden shift of wind or calm would cause the sail to collapse.

“In the days of lace-ruffles, perukes and brocade

Brown Bess was a partner whom none could despise—

An out-spoken, flinty-lipped, brazen-faced jade,

With a habit of looking men straight in the eyes—

At Blenheim and Ramillies, fops would confess

They were pierced to the heart by the charms of Brown Bess.”

—Rudyard Kipling

Marines of the time hefted two muskets similar in nomenclature: a .75-caliber British “Tower” or “Brown Bess” walnut stock, muzzle-loading musket 60-inch smoothbore with 42- to 45-inch barrel that weighed about 10 pounds and the Charleville musket, later produced by Eli Whitney, who would invent the cotton gin. The Charleville was a French .69-cal. musket. A well-trained, cool-headed sharpshooter could get off two to three rounds a minute firing 50 to 75 yards effectively and then lunge into close quarters with 16-inch bayonet.

Marines also used the shotgun blunderbuss, which had a wide, flared muzzle that afforded easier pouring of handfuls of scrap metal down the barrel and was notoriously inaccurate—effective only at close range.

Other accoutrements used by the Marines included assorted swords, knives, daggers, 8-foot pikes with steel spear tips. Noncommissioned officers were adroit with the infantry hanger, a starkly primitive relative of the cutlass. Officers carried a small sword as a badge of office, but relied on a brace of flintlock pistols. Fights on the high seas were up close, and the decks of ships often were slippery with gore and awash with blood.

Millett wrote of the at sea engagements during the Quasi-War: “The importance of Marines in naval battle was inconclusive. ... When there was a fight, American gunnery carried the day without boarding or close-in fighting within effective musket range.”

What was conclusive was that the Navy and Marines, although small in numbers, were spirited fighters causing pirates, French buccaneers and British privateers to take heed.

Heinl writes: “The [USS] *Constellation* (with 41 Marines commanded by Lieutenant Bartholomew Clinch) shot to pieces two French frigates, *Insurgente* and *Vengeance*. The *Constitution*, whose Marine officer was ... Captain Carmick, took three prizes and cut out a captured British Ship, *Sandwich*, held by the French in Puerto Plata, on the north coast of Santo



“Captain Carmick Joins the *Constitution*.” When Marine Capt Carmick reported to *Constitution* at Boston Harbor in 1799, he was greeted by a sergeant and three privates wearing old Army artillery and riflemen’s coats and trousers, reworked to fit the Marine pattern. After inspection, Carmick wrote, “not possible to produce such another shabby set of animals in this world.” Col Waterhouse commented: “It seems ... we didn’t look as handsome in our uniforms as we like to think.”

Domingo. This affair, one of the most deft cutting-out expeditions of the early Navy, likewise involved the first landing on a foreign shore by Marines of the new Corps. The *Sandwich* lay in the harbor of Puerto Plata ... under the guns of a Spanish fort and in water too shallow for the *Constitution*. To get the prize, [Navy] Lieutenant Isaac Hull ... embarked 80 Marines and bluejackets aboard a commandeered American coaster which could enter the harbor without suspicion. Captain Carmick and his junior officer, First Lieutenant William Amory, had the Marines well hidden below, and, as Carmick related, ‘It put me in mind of the wooden horse at Troy.’ ”

According to Heintz, “Entering Puerto Plata in broad daylight on 12 May 1800, Hull put his schooner alongside the *Sandwich*, and, in Carmick’s words, ‘The men went on board like devils.’ Then the Marines landed (some in water up to their necks) and stormed up to the fort where, again in Carmick’s account, ‘It was not half an hour after the ship was taken that I had possession of the fort and all the cannon spiked.’ As soon as the prize could be gotten ready for sea, Hull re-embarked the Marines and took her out. Unfortunately, the raid, though widely acclaimed,

turned out to be a breach of Spain’s nominal neutrality and the *Sandwich* had to be returned.”

This, however, set the scene for several heavy sea duels when the Americans sailed their ships of war into the island waters to stem the predations of the French marauders.

There were other landings during this period. Marine Lt James Middleton led a landing party of Marines from USS *Merrimack* and USS *Patapsco* to help save the port of Curacao from the invading French.

According to the *Leatherneck* November 1988 article “The Corps’ Salty Seadogs ... Come Ashore,” “As the trouble with France neared a conclusion triggered by dozens of captured and sunken French ships, the mighty frigate USS *Enterprise*, with a detachment of 16 Marines, began predations of [her] own. In 1800 the ship’s crew captured nine French privateers, took back 11 American vessels and took down a Spanish brig of war after the latter ship sought an encounter.

“In the last month of that year the stalwart American ship captured the 10-gun privateer *L’Aigle* and engaged and beat the superior vessel *Flambeau* after a tough fight. Marines and their small-arms

fire were credited with a major role in the *Flambeau* battle outcome.”

The Marine Corps was reborn amid the ratchet of “battle rattles” used with drums and fifes as a call to arms, with shot and broadsides across the bows splintering guyed masts of conifer sending wooden shards promiscuously and mercilessly into and through all things living and dead. The Quasi-War would wind down after a treaty with France in 1801, and, as in most of our nation’s conflicts, the Navy was quickly reduced and President Jefferson ordered discharges for all but 26 officers and 435 enlisted Marines. But the Corps—thanks to men such as President Adams, Secretary Stoddert, Congressman Sewall and, particularly, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William Ward Burrows—was permanently established and carried sanguinary bonafides.

As LtCol Franklin Wharton became Commandant in 1804, President Jefferson already was reconsidering his decision to downsize the Navy and Marines. Barbary pirates were raising “Old Nick” in North Africa. The frigate *Philadelphia* had been taken and her sailors held for ransom. The call was made to the Marines and Lt Presley O’Bannon. ...



In the Highest Tradition

Compiled by R.R. Keene

Operation Freedom's Sentinel Qualifies for Campaign Medal



The Department of Defense announced in February that Operation Freedom's Sentinel is a qualifying operation for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. Additionally, the transition from Operation Enduring Freedom to Operation Freedom's Sentinel also marks a new campaign phase, "Transition II," for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Jessica Wright, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed a memorandum authorizing these changes retroactive to Jan. 1, 2015.

The qualifying Afghanistan Campaign Medal operations, campaign phases and associated inclusive dates for each are as follows:

Operations

- Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan)—Sept. 11, 2001, to Dec. 31, 2014
- Freedom's Sentinel—Jan. 1, 2015, to Current

Campaign Phases

- Liberation of Afghanistan—Sept. 11, 2001, to Nov. 30, 2001
- Consolidation I—Dec. 1, 2001, to Sept. 30, 2006
- Consolidation II—Oct. 1, 2006, to Nov. 30, 2009
- Consolidation III—Dec. 1, 2009, to June 30, 2011
- Transition I—July 1, 2011, to Dec. 31, 2014
- Transition II—Jan. 1, 2015, to Current

In order of precedence, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal is below the Kosovo Campaign Medal and above the Iraq Campaign Medal.

Marines should contact their unit S-1 for additional guidance.

DOD

DOD Authorizes Service Stars On the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal



The Department of Defense announced that effective immediately, Marines are authorized to wear service stars on their Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary

Medals (GWOT-EM) to represent deployments in support of approved GWOT operations.

Jessica Wright, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed a memorandum authorizing the new policy change retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

Only one GWOT-EM is awarded for each approved operation. For example, a Marine who was awarded the medal for an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment and is subsequently authorized a second award for an Operation Inherent Resolve deployment would wear a single service star on the GWOT-EM to denote both awards.

The five GWOT-EM-approved operations with inclusive dates are:

- Enduring Freedom (OEF)—Sept. 11, 2001, to To Be Determined (TBD)
- Iraqi Freedom (OIF)—March 19, 2003, to Aug. 31, 2010
- Nomad Shadow (ONS)—Nov. 5, 2007, to TBD
- New Dawn (OND)—Sept. 1, 2010, to Dec. 31, 2011
- Inherent Resolve (OIR)—June 15, 2014, to TBD

This policy change does not adjust criteria for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM).

Full eligibility criteria for the GWOT-EM are contained in DOD Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DOD Service Awards—Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals. Additionally, Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1650.1h (Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual) prescribes procedures for requests from military personnel for award of GWOT-EM service stars.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is positioned above the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal following the Iraq Campaign Medal in precedence.

DOD



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Personal Combat Awards

The awards records in the Marine Corps' Award Processing System (APS) and Improved Awards Processing System were used to populate this list, which reflects personal combat awards from the start of the global war on terrorism presented to Marines and sailors serving with U.S. Marine Corps forces only. This list may not reflect certain personal combat awards processed outside of either system and/or approved by another branch of service. Any questions on the content should be submitted in writing to the Personal Awards Section at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, MMMA-2, 2008 Elliott Rd., Quantico, VA 22134.

The following awards were announced in January:



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

Sgt Aaron P. Alonso,
1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment,
Second Marine Division
Capt Colin J. Culkin, I Marine
Expeditionary Force (Forward)
Capt John M. Dove, 1/7, 1stMarDiv
Capt Michael K. Moore,
I MEF (Fwd)
SSgt Jason J. Morgan, Combat
Logistics Bn 7, Combat Logistics
Regiment 1, First Marine Logistics
Group
Sgt Steven D. Pendleton, 1/9,
2dMarDiv

Capt Jared L. Reddinger, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
SSgt Erik A. Tirado, CLB-1, CLR-1,
1st MLG



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

SSgt Travis L. Adkins, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
1stLt Connor M. Bohnen, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
Sgt Douglas J. Cairns, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
Cpl Brandon D. Fitzgerald, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
Cpl John T. Graham, 1/2, 2dMarDiv

Cpl Michael B. Hamlin, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
Sgt Russell J. Lentz, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
SSgt Patrick T. O'Brien, 1/9,
2dMarDiv
Cpl Nicholas C. Perrorazio, 1/9,
2dMarDiv
Sgt Scott T. Propheter, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
Cpl James M. Rounds, 1/2,
2dMarDiv
HN Garret E. Williams, 1/9,
2dMarDiv



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Marines Learn Lessons From Battle Study at Normandy Beach

By Roxanne Baker

The Marines assigned to Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response–Africa are the tip of the spear. They must be ready to respond to a regional emergency at a moment’s notice.

To gain a deeper understanding of mission readiness, the unit toured the Normandy beaches, the site of the World War II Allied invasion of Europe. The professional military education (PME) trip gave the Marines the chance to study how the Allies successfully executed D-Day.

“The PME directly relates and affects our current mission because we don’t know exactly what we’re going to get called to do just like most [Americans] at Normandy didn’t know they were assaulting the beach until only a couple of hours before. We have to be ready for anything,” said Lance Corporal Alexander Trout.

More than 150 Marines and sailors from “Fox” Company, SPMAGTF–CR–AF departed Morón Air Base, Spain, on Dec. 25, 2014, for a 22-hour bus ride to France. They spent two days touring the D-Day beaches and sites in Normandy and discussed the tactics the Allied forces used to address the challenges they faced, including sheer cliffs, mass transport and strong German defenses.

“The sheer scale of Operation Overlord is something that the world ... [had] never before experienced and will likely

never again witness in my lifetime. Envisioning the command and control challenges for unit leaders embarking 160,000 men onto 5,000 amphibious assault craft in such a chaotic environment puts our current operations into a new perspective,” said Captain Andrew Hornfeck, the commander of Fox Co.

The infantry unit spent the first tour day studying the Omaha Beach landing, the assault with the most fortified German strongholds. Every Marine researched a topic regarding the invasion and then educated their fellow Marines on the operation’s details and tactics. The Marines then walked the sacred grounds of the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial where there are 9,387 gravesites and a memorial wall with the 1,557 inscribed names of the missing. It was an impactful site for many of the Marines.

“Hearing the casualties that came from the battle is one thing, but to see the rows and rows of headstones is what really hits home,” said Corporal Hogan Peters. “The chills that went through my body that day were unlike anything I have ever felt before. It is a feeling that I will never forget.”

On the second tour day, the Marines visited the memorial and museum at Utah Beach and drove through the drop zones used by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. They also stood at the famous cliffs at Pointe du Hoc where the United States Army Ranger Assault Group scaled the 100-foot cliffs amid enemy fire to capture the location and weapons.

“It is almost unfathomable to comprehend or put myself in the boots of those Rangers who had to scale the cliffs,” said LCpl Devin Lewis.

“It was our military brothers that were there and who died for the same reasons we as Marines do to protect our nation from enemies foreign and domestic and to ensure our freedom and the freedom of other countries,” said LCpl Charles Hoffman.

The D-Day invasion was the largest amphibious invasion in military history, and although the invasion was not a Marine Corps-led operation, the SPMAGTF–CR–AF leathernecks still learned applicable lessons from the landings made 70 years ago.

Editor’s note: The PME for Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response–Africa to tour the sites of the Normandy invasion was funded through the Marine Corps Association Foundation’s Commanders’ Forum Program, which provides battle studies and guest speakers in order for Marines to learn tactical decisions and Corps history. To learn more about the foundation’s programs for Marines, or if you’d like to support Marines with a tax-deductible donation, call (877) 4MY-MCAF (469-6223), or visit mcafdn.org.

Author’s bio: Roxanne Baker is a writer and media coordinator for MCA&F. A Marine wife, she is an experienced multimedia journalist with hundreds of published works.



SGT PROCCO DEFLIPPIS, USMC

In 2008, these leathernecks from Marine Corps Forces Europe listen to a tour guide explain the story of one of the soldiers buried at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Omaha Beach. Recently, Marines from SPMAGTF–CR–AF visited Normandy to learn about the D-Day invasion.



CPL JERICO JENKINS

Above: Marines and sailors from SPMAGTF-CR-AF tour Pointe du Hoc, Normandy, where the Army's 2d Ranger Battalion scaled the 10-story-high vertical cliffs on D-Day.

Below: Marines and sailors from SPMAGTF-CR-AF visit the Normandy American Military Cemetery and Memorial in December 2014. The cemetery is the final resting place for more than 9,000 Americans who sacrificed their lives during the D-Day invasion and other military operations during WW II.



CPL JERICO JENKINS

In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

"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, units served in, dates of service and, if possible, a local or national obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear.

Marine Pilots Killed in UH-1Y Crash

Two Marines died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash of the UH-1Y Super Huey they were flying in while conducting training aboard Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 23, 2015, according to a Third Marine Air Wing press release.

Major Elizabeth Kealey and Captain Adam Satterfield were the only Marines on board the aircraft, and both were assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif. They were conducting routine flight operations.

"Our hearts go out to the families and friends of the two Marines we lost in this tragic accident," said Major General Michael A. Rocco, 3d MAW commanding general.

Maj Kealey, 32, a native of Indiana, Pa., was commissioned in 2005 after her graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. She served with HMLA-169 as a UH-1Y helicopter pilot and weapons training instructor. She deployed twice with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and once to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She was a captain at the time of the crash and was promoted posthumously.

Capt Satterfield, 25, a native of Oldham, Ky., graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 2011 and was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was a helicopter pilot with HMLA-169. He was a first lieutenant at the time of the crash and also was promoted posthumously.

"[They] were both outstanding officers and talented helicopter pilots. I was fortunate to have the distinct honor of serving as their commanding officer," said Lieutenant Colonel James M. Isaacs, the CO of HMLA-169.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Freddie Allen, 83, in Mansfield, La. He was a Marine who saw action during the Korean War in the Chosin Reservoir

campaign as part of C/1/5. He received the Purple Heart. From 1948 to 1960 he served at various duty stations including the Panama Canal Zone, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps League and was president of the North Louisiana chapter of the Chosin Few.

Stephen Becker, 65, of New Lebanon, Ohio. He was a Marine who served in the Vietnam War. He was a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and Central Michigan University. He was a member of the MCA&F.

John Cheek, 89, of Colts Neck, N.J. He was a Marine veteran of WW II and Korea. He was a longtime employee of Grumman.

Ramon Delgado, 81, in Oceanside, Calif. He was a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego who also served multiple tours in Vietnam. He retired from the Marine Corps after 24 years and worked in civil service.

Col Paul J. Du Pre, 98, of Port Hueneme, Calif. His 33 years in the Marine Corps included a wide variety of assignments as well as combat in three wars. He was working in the motion-picture industry in California when he joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1940. He was mobilized and was on active duty when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. His unit sailed into the Pacific, and he participated in action at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian.

He served in China after WW II and during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

He had commercial and private pilot ratings, and a year before his death, along with the assistance of another pilot, he flew a Cessna from Port Hueneme to San Francisco for a reunion of Guadalcanal survivors.

Col James L. Fowler, 84, of Alexandria, Va. He was the driving force behind the creation of the Marine Corps Marathon. After graduation from Dartmouth College in 1952, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Following duty in Korea as a rifle pla-

toon leader, he returned to civilian life and went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency while continuing to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve. He continued his education, earning several degrees including a law degree and an MBA. In 1961, he joined a family business in New York City.

In 1966, he returned to active duty and served in Vietnam as an infantry battalion commander with the 3d Bn, 4th Marines. He was wounded in an enemy assault on Fire Base Winchester and spent nearly a year recovering at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia. During his convalescence, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College.

After four years as a civilian, he again returned to active duty and served at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. It was during this time that he conceived the idea of creating the Marine Corps Marathon. (To see a photo of the first Marine Corps Marathon in 1976, turn to "Saved Round" on page 72.)

In 1982, he retired from active duty and went to work with the Office of the General Counsel of the Navy as Counselor to the Auditor General. He later worked for Chesebrough-Ponds as the director of corporate security.

The U.S. Postal Service issued the Purple Heart Commemorative Postage Stamp using one of Col Fowler's two Purple Hearts as a template.

George W.J. Green, 92, of Webster Groves, Mo. He retired from the Marine Corps and was awarded two Purple Hearts. At the age of 60, he founded ISC Contracting.

Maj Robert J. Kinsey, 80, of Deland, Fla. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1956. He served three years on active duty and 15 years in the Marine Corps Reserve. He had a successful 50-year career in the insurance industry.

SSgt Thomas Landry, 72, in Lehigh Acres, Fla. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1959 and served in USS *Enterprise* (CVA(N)-65). Shortly after his discharge

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& Nagasaki**

1 - 12 Aug - Guadalcanal "Turning the Tide"

12 - 25 Oct - 70th Anniv of "China Marines - 1945"

**29 Jan - 8 Feb '16 - WWII - 75th Anniversary of
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from the Navy, he joined the Marine Corps in 1966 and served until 1983. He was trained as an imagery interpreter.

Donald A. "Pappy" Lange, 87, of Stephens City, Va. He joined the Marine Corps when he was 17 and was training for the invasion of Japan when WW II ended. He was assigned to the Marine detachment at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. He later attended college and then worked in the accounting field.

Bruno J. Mariani, 88, in West Palm Beach, Fla. After graduating from high school in Buffalo, N.Y., he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in the 2dMarDiv during WW II. He was a skilled marksman who completed sniper training. His transport ship in the South Pacific was attacked by a kamikaze pilot. He and his fellow Marines spent hours in the ocean before they were rescued.

Donald L. Poag, 85, of Poseyville, Ind. He served in the Navy during WW II and later enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving in the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

James M. Rhea, 91, in Oklahoma City. He was a corpsman who served with Marines in WW II during the Saipan and Tinian landings.

Cpl Walter F. Rihm, 91, of Cambridge City, Ind. A WW II veteran, he served in combat with the 4thMarDiv on Iwo

Jima. He belonged to the Marine Corps League and was active in several civic organizations. He was the co-owner of Rihm Foods, a family business started by his parents.

Kenneth A. Runkle, 90, of Lafayette, Ind. He was a Marine who was with 5thMarDiv on Iwo Jima. He was on the first Gold Star Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., after the WW II memorial opened. He and his wife had traveled to all 50 states and many countries. They also visited Iwo Jima on the 50th anniversary of the battle.

Cpl Jason L. "Jake" Simcakoski, 35, of Stevens Point, Wis. He was a Marine who served from 1998 until 2002. After leaving the Corps, he worked with his father and brothers in the family building contractor business.

Sgt George Tassos, 93, of Dallas. He joined the Marine Corps on his 18th birthday and completed boot camp at MCRD Parris Island, S.C. He was assigned to the MarDet in USS *North Carolina* (BB-55) and served in the South Pacific. He was discharged at the end of the war. Recalled to active duty in 1951, he was an aircraft artilleryman in the Korean War. He later moved to Dallas and opened an upholstery business.

Jackson E. "Jack" Turley, 93, of Dallas.

After joining the Marine Corps in 1941, he served in the South Pacific. He later worked for Adleta Corporation for 40 years, eventually being named the company's general manager.

GySgt Wendell P. "Bud" Wass, 73, of Deer Park, Texas. He enlisted in 1958 and spent 25 years in the Marine Corps. He was in the 2d Recon Bn, during the Vietnam War. He spent three tours as a drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., and was active with Toys for Tots in the early 1970s. His last years in the Corps were spent as a graphic artist. He painted murals and helped design dioramas and exhibits at the Parris Island Museum. After retirement, he worked as a federal police officer.

Al Webb, 79, in Banbury, England. He was a United Press International correspondent covering the Vietnam War, who rushed to the aid of a wounded Marine during the 1968 Tet Offensive. He was reporting from Hue City when an infantryman nearby was shot in the throat and fell to the ground. Mr. Webb was wounded by the explosion of an enemy rocket when he and several others—including two additional journalists—tried to carry the Marine to safety. The three reporters each were awarded the Bronze Star.



Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

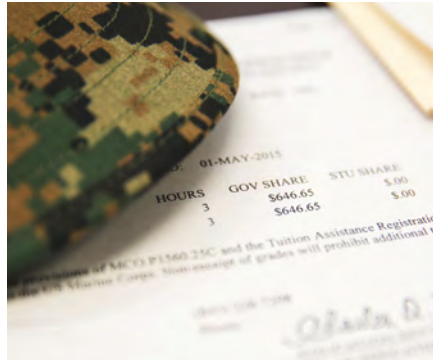
Tuition Assistance Updates “Raise the Bar” for Marine Students

According to Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN) 687/14, the Marine Corps has updated tuition assistance (TA) regulations in the 2015 fiscal year. TA is a financial benefit that helps offset tuition costs for active-duty and Reserve Marines taking either undergraduate or graduate courses.

The time window during which Marines can apply for TA has been widened from 30 days prior to the beginning of each course to 60 days. However, more stringent grade policies have been put into place, and Marines must maintain higher grade point averages in the courses they are taking in order to qualify.

“This is such a great opportunity to be able to take advantage of,” said Jessica Fusco, education technician for the education office at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. “It’s important that TA institutes personal responsibility,” she added.

Under the new requirements, undergraduate students must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher after 15 semester hours, and graduate students must maintain a 3.0 or higher after six semester hours.



CPL SARAH CHERRY, USMC

A tuition assistance form for the 2015 fiscal year reflects the recent changes that have been made to the program. Marines now have longer to apply before their class begins, but must adhere to more stringent grade policies.

“It gives a baseline standard that will keep them on top of their studies,” said Fusco. “It will definitely help them if they’re looking for an extra edge to advance.”

If a Marine’s GPA falls below these requirements, TA will not be authorized until the Marine’s GPA is back within acceptable standards.

In the past, students who failed or received an “incomplete” for a course would be required to pay the government back for the TA they received for that course.

Under the new regulations, they will have to pay back the benefit if they earn a “D” in an undergraduate course or a “C” in a graduate course.

Of note, tuition assistance is no longer offered for coursework beyond a master’s degree. If a student has failed a course or had an approved involuntary withdrawal waiver, the course cost will still count toward their individual TA funding total.

Other changes to tuition assistance this year include more stringent requirements for career and technical certification courses. Certificate programs need to be recognized by the Department of Education, approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs, must have signed a Department of Defense memorandum of understanding, and comply with TA eligibility requirements.

Cpl Sarah Cherry, USMC

Wounded Warrior Battalion To Host Symposium

Wounded Warrior Battalion-East (WWBn-E) will host its first Veteran and Charitable Organization Symposium at Marston Pavilion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 23.

The symposium will give local organizations a chance to see firsthand the im-



COURTESY OF JARED ALLEN'S HOMES FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME—Sgt Colin Faust, USMC (Ret), left, and Chicago Bears defensive end Jared Allen share the scissors at a ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the completion of a new wheelchair-accessible home for Faust in Minnetrista, Minn.—the first-ever home built from the ground up by Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors—Feb. 7. Allen, a five-time NFL Pro Bowler, started the organization in October 2009 after he returned from a USO trip to the Middle East and wanted to provide homes to suit the needs of war veterans who have suffered life-altering wounds. Faust lost his left leg and sustained severe wounds to his right leg and left arm in 2010 after stepping on an improvised explosive device (IED) during a foot patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan. For more information about Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors, call (952) 474-2235, or visit www.homesforwoundedwarriors.com.

pact they've had on the battalion through their contributions. It also will give military personnel of WWBn-E the opportunity to meet representatives from the charitable and veteran organizations that support them.

"This symposium will provide a unique opportunity for both the recovering service-member and the charitable and veterans organizations by allowing face-to-face communication between the two, fostering lasting friendships, long-term care and continued support as the recovering service-member transitions out of the Marine Corps," said First Lieutenant Andrew Year, the future operations officer for WWBn-E.

A presentation entitled "Who We Are and What We Do" will be given during the event to familiarize attendees with how they can specifically support the battalion in the future.

"Because of their steadfast support, Wounded Warrior Battalion-East wants to strengthen relationships with those organizations and also form new partnerships with nonprofit organizations who may be interested in supporting our wounded warriors, veterans and their families in the future," said Dallas Poole, the battalion's Veteran and Charitable Organization program coordinator.

Seventeen organizations, including Hope for the Warriors, Enable America and the Jacksonville, N.C., Veterans Center will be present at the event, and each will give a brief presentation on what they offer to veterans and to the Marines, sailors and family members of WWBn-E.

While the June event will be the first symposium of its kind held by Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, Poole said the battalion plans to host similar events in the future.

Cpl Mary Carmona, USMC

MCRC to Hold Leadership Academy For High School Students This Summer

Marine Corps Recruiting Command is accepting applications from rising high school juniors and seniors to attend its Summer Leadership and Character Development Academy (SLCDA) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., July 19-25. The one-week "leadership laboratory" program, based on the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment, focuses on teambuilding, ethics, education and leadership training and includes a visit to Washington, D.C., as well as the opportunity to hear from distinguished guest speakers.

Specific events during the program include visits to Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), the White House, Capitol Hill, the U.S. Marine Corps War



CPL BRANDON THOMAS, USMC

Above: Students in the 2014 Summer Leadership and Character Development Academy hear from LtCol David Rodgers, Diversity Officer, MCRC, after meeting Marine Corps drill instructors at MCB Quantico, Va. The program is now accepting applicants for summer 2015.

Below: SLCDA program participants transport a training dummy during a platoon competition in 2014. The summer academy, sponsored by MCRC, is designed to help high school juniors and seniors develop leadership skills.



CPL JACKY FANG, USMC

Memorial and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Attendees will participate in a land navigation course, a leadership reaction course, field exercises and a casualty evacuation scenario.

There is no obligation for attendees to join the Marine Corps; rather, the program is designed to help students learn valuable skills, build their resumés and develop themselves personally. Based on the U.S. Naval Academy's Summer Seminar program, the SLCDA is a community outreach and social connection program

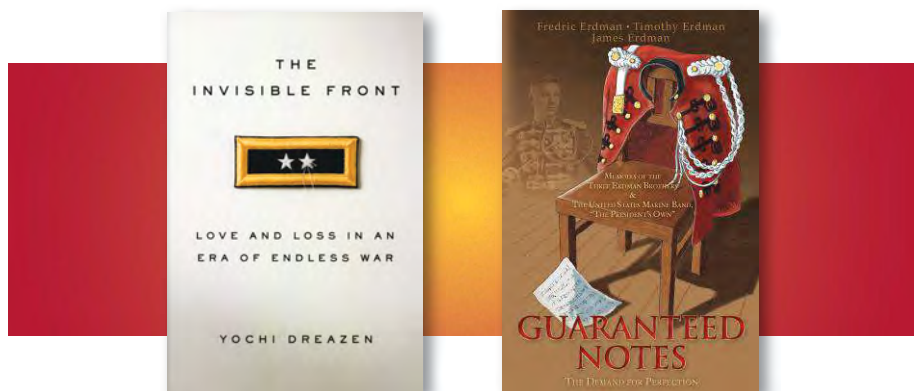
developed by MCRC's Individual Mobilized Augmentee Detachment.

Potential applicants already should have completed their sophomore year of high school; be involved in athletic, leadership and service-oriented activities; and adhere to strong moral and ethical standards. For more information about the program and to fill out an application, visit www.mcrc.marines.mil/SLCDA.



Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from *The MARINE Shop*. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 6 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 6.75 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at www.marineshop.net.



THE INVISIBLE FRONT: Love and Loss in an Era of Endless War. By Yochi Dreazen. Published by Crown Publishers. 306 pages. Softcover. Stock #0385347855. \$13.50 MCA Members. \$15 Regular Price.

“The Invisible Front,” sympathetically written by Yochi Dreazen, a veteran journalist, profiles one American military family in the age of our 21st century wars. Mark Graham, a high-ranking officer in the U.S. Army, and his wife, Carol, are the parents of three remarkable “all-American” children. The oldest boy entered the military, and Kevin, the middle child, also planned to join. However, when Kevin, an ROTC cadet at the University of Kentucky, stopped taking his anti-depressant, he took his own life. Nine months later, the family suffered a second stunning shock: Jeff, their oldest, was killed in Iraq.

The author skillfully presents the Grahams’ epic journey to recover their sense of balance as they cope with the realities of a military system that struggles to support our returning veterans and their families.

In the face of a mounting number of post-traumatic stress disorder cases, we seem to be losing the invisible war here at home.

Many veterans struggle with the effects of PTSD, a crushing invisible wound. The question remains: Must our veterans carry their own personally distressing horrors for the rest of their lives?

Uncontrollable anger and fury coupled

with a feeling that they have left their humanity on the battlefield haunt large numbers of our country’s warriors. Add to that the fact that many military personnel serve multiple combat tours where they deal with a hardened enemy and a frequently hostile civilian population. Additionally, often they deal with the memories of losing close friends or comrades.

The author compassionately tells the Graham family’s experience in his well-written narrative. The family moved around from post to post, and country to country, in the typical fashion of a career military family. The boys grew up assured that their father’s profession was both noble and important.

Both sons planned to have their own military careers. After the family learned that their son, Kevin, hung himself in his college dorm, both parents and their two remaining children went through a difficult period of self-blame and soul searching.

When, a short nine months later, the oldest son, Second Lieutenant Jeffery Graham, was killed by an improvised explosive device in Iraq, the surviving three family members teetered on the brink of disaster at the news.

One of the things that startled the family as they grieved was how their friends reacted to their loss. Jeff’s combat death was heroic, and his memory was revered. However, on the other hand, the loss of Kevin, by suicide, was treated as “off-

limits” in most informal polite conversations. Within the military culture, suicide was considered a weakness.

Not long after the deaths of his sons, Mark Graham took command of Fort Carson in Colorado. The post was experiencing turmoil. The indicators of PTSD diagnosis—sleeplessness, nightmares, paranoia, suicides and domestic violence—were all on the rise. The problems had quickly overwhelmed the base’s ability to meet and treat the growing demand for treatment. To make matters worse, PTSD-diagnosed soldiers also were stigmatized and harassed by their leaders, as well as their fellow soldiers. The military culture attempted to punish the symptoms, not the cause.

When he took command of Fort Carson, Mark Graham had three main goals: his soldiers would be well-trained and well-equipped; he would improve the system for identifying troubled soldiers; and the base would change the procedures for memorializing soldiers who took their own life. The Grahams were now set to bring all their personal experiences out in public.

In the summer of 2008, Admiral Mark Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Fort Carson. ADM Mullen tasked Graham to turn Fort Carson into a laboratory for testing new methods to eliminate the disastrous stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Graham placed experienced and trained staff noncommissioned officers in the vanguard of their program. Equipped with a responsive new system hotline, soldiers and their families were encouraged to call and report any signs of disquieting behaviors and/or any of PTSD’s telltale symptoms.

Graham and his wife, who had a psychology background, were available to meet and support families in need. Despite the growing necessity for experienced troops in the field, soldiers diagnosed as “non-deployable” would not be sent back to the fight.

Following Graham's example, the Army's top leadership resolved that soldiers who killed themselves be given the same memorial service as soldiers killed in the line of duty. The number of soldiers who took their own lives began to drop in 2009. Certainly, Graham made some enemies at Fort Carson, but he felt his spirited fight had been worthwhile.

In 2012, Major General Mark Graham's 34-year career ended. However, both he and Carol continue to speak out in support of our country's better understanding of PTSD and suicides in the military.

President Barack Obama recently stated that he was "committed to removing the stigma associated with the unseen wounds of war." Now, and for the first time, the president would send letters of condolence to the families of soldiers who had committed suicide.

The Pentagon has spent more than \$700 million on researching traumatic brain injuries since 2007, and the Army Study To Assess Risk and Resilience in Service-members (STARRS) has launched a \$65 million program that will track tens of thousands of returning military personnel.

The very real battle on "The Invisible Front" continues. Stand by for no less than a full-blown assault on the devastating effects of PTSD, suicide and traumatic brain injury. It will surely be needed, nay demanded, by a watchful and war-weary nation.

Robert B. Loring

Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine. A tireless worker for the Marine Corps and his local community, he volunteers for various charities, including helping to run a very successful Toys for Tots program in Pasco County, Fla.

GUARANTEED NOTES: Memoirs of the Three Erdman Brothers and The United States Marine Band, "The President's Own." By Fredric Erdman, Timothy Erdman and James Erdman. 324 pages. Published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Stock #1470045109. \$17.10 MCA Members. \$18.99 Regular Price.

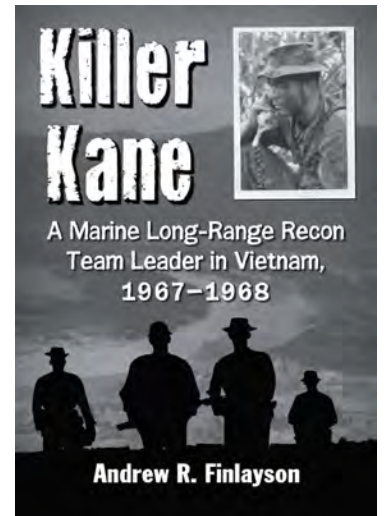
The book "Guaranteed Notes: Memoirs of the Three Erdman Brothers and The United States Marine Band 'The President's Own'" opens during one of the band's annual cross-country tours. Colonel Albert F. Schoepper (pronounced SHOW-purr), leader of the U.S. Marine Band from 1955 to 1972, issued a proclamation: "You must guarantee me ALL the notes," no missed, chipped or wrong notes are tolerated. The discipline and perfection of performance demanded by

Killer Kane

A Marine Long-Range Recon Team Leader In Vietnam, 1967-1968

by Andrew R. Finlayson

Get involved with the preparations for and the conduct of dozens of U.S. Marine long-range reconnaissance patrols by team "Killer Kane" during the Vietnam War. As the team leader, Colonel Finlayson recounts in vivid detail his team's many forays deep into enemy-held territory in search of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units. This book also provides several dramatic accounts of desperate firefights with enemy forces, as well as the life of recon Marines when they are not on patrol. Numerous maps and photos add clarity to the text.



Available at www.marineshop.net, www.amazon.com and www.mcfarlandpub.com

Col Schoepper was felt intensely by every member of the band, and especially by the band's premier soloists Fredric, James and Timothy Erdman.

The Erdman brothers' roots were in Lebanon, Pa., during the 1950s where they were taught the art of brass playing by their father, Frederick James Erdman, band director, performer and educator.

When their father's American Legion Band appeared in concert at Hershey Park, Pa., George Wood, an employee for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and groundskeeper for "8th and I," heard young Freddie play cornet in the band, he was so impressed by what he heard that he and Mrs. Wood visited the Erdman home several times to talk about the Marine Band at "8th and I."

They convinced 17-year-old Freddie and his father that the young player should audition for Lieutenant Colonel William F. Santelmann and Captain Albert F. Schoepper, the Marine Band conductors.

Freddie passed the audition, but listening to the advice from the band's officers, he waited until high school graduation to re-audition and on Wednesday, June 14, 1955, Freddie officially enlisted and was sworn into the Marine Corps for duty with the Marine Band. The Marine Band boasted that "not since Herbert L. Clark—the world famous solo cornetist in the Sousa Band ... was there a more electrifying cornet soloist than Freddie Erdman, dubbed 'the Paganini of the cornet.'"

In the years to come, three of the four Erdman sons would serve simultaneously as soloists in the Marine Band. Freddie often was featured as a cornet soloist and played 537 solos in 10 of the 22 tours that he made with the band. As first chair cornet, he performed 838 during his 30-

year career. His younger brother, James, served as both principal trombonist (first chair) and trombone soloist throughout his 20-year career. The youngest brother, Timothy, served nine years in the band as part of the Erdman Trio and became a professional writer and narrator of this book.

Through their direct quotes and stories of performances and people in the U.S. Marine Band, this book portrays the life of a professional military musician. The pressures of practicing, rehearsing, performing and recording every day are described in full detail. A snapshot of these experiences includes the annual nine-week tours made by the band. Before each concert, new members of the band set up the stage. The uniform and instrument trucks were unloaded, and the band members dressed in dress blue uniforms for the matinees and wore the traditional red coat Marine Band uniform for evening and Sunday concerts.

Today, the U.S. Marine Band tours 31 days presenting 29 concerts in various regions of the country.

Throughout the book, we feel the omnipresence of Col Albert F. Schoepper, the 22nd director of the Marine Band. Through his impatience, intolerance of mediocrity, discipline and perfection of music performance, Col Schoepper molded the band into the country's acknowledged premier military concert band. He could be tyrannical, frightening, authoritarian and demanding both in rehearsal and on stage. From 1955 until his retirement in 1972, the Marine Band sound was Schoepper's. He gave the band a unique organ-like, virtuosic, precise sound that was entirely his own. As music director to the White House, Col Schoepper performed and

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At the first reunion of the U.S. Marine Band in 1995, Col Schoepper gave the keynote speech. He said, "In reviewing this chain of directors, you lean towards the one who hired you and did the most for you." Schoepper died two years later

on July 28, 1997. He was a powerful force who guaranteed ALL the notes.

From the album, "The National Cultural Center presents The United States Marine Band," recorded in 1962 and directed by Col Albert F. Schoepper, two tracks "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and "The Chimes of Liberty" are available from the U.S. Marine Band website: [www](http://www.marineband.marines.mil/AudioResources/EducationalSeries/TheBicentennialCollection/TheBicentennialCollectionDisc5.aspx)

www.marineband.marines.mil/AudioResources/EducationalSeries/TheBicentennialCollection/TheBicentennialCollectionDisc5.aspx.

This book is a long-overdue addition to the history of military bands in America. By using stories of the musicians who perform in the Marine Band, the book demonstrates the close bonds that exist among musicians in the military and the contributions they make to the musical culture of our country.

While a list of sources and an index of events and people would be helpful to the book, there is an abundance of materials here to give the reader a colorful, entertaining and knowledgeable insight into military musicianship. We are indebted to the Erdman brothers for bringing forth this look into "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and what makes it a premier musical organization.

Karl Glenn

Author's bio: Karl Glenn was a French horn member of the U.S. Marine Band (1959-63) and past national president (1990-92) of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Reston, Va.



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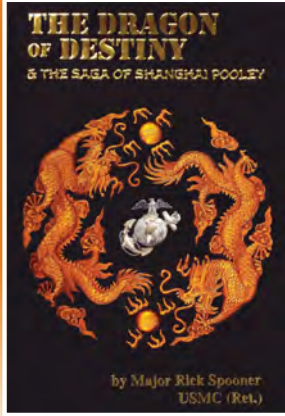
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[continued from page 9]

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- **2/4 ("The Magnificent Bastards," all eras, honoring Gold Star families)**, July 23-26, Quantico, Va. Contact Jim Rogers, (703) 887-6238, jwr@verizon.net, or Dave Jones, (410) 310-4571, oystercove@gmail.com.

- **A/1/7 (Korea, 1950-53)**, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact Leonard R. "Shifty" Shifflette, 25 Emery St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801-2705, (540) 434-2066, (540) 746-2066, captshifty@comcast.net.

- **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

- **"Bravo" Co, 4th CEB, 4thMarDiv (Desert Storm, 25th Anniversary)**, May 13-14, 2016, Roanoke, Va. Contact Steve Garman, stevegarman7@gmail.com.

- **F/2/1 (RVN, 1967)**, April 20-22, Tampa, Fla. Contact Dieter Maass, (920) 846-2988, dietermaass@centurytel.net.

- **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, June 5-7, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Ralph Sirianni, (716) 903-9640, tripp19@aol.com.

- **1st Plt, I/3/1 (RVN, 1968-69)**, Sept.

10-13, Traverse City, Mich. Contact George Butterworth, (248) 627-9336, gbutterworth@aol.com, or "Reb" Bienvenu, (636) 398-8779, dickbienvenu@yahoo.com.

- **3d Plt, H/2/3 (RVN, 1967-68)**, Oct. 8-11, Stafford, Va. Contact Chuck Gaede, (512) 750-9265, csgaede@gmail.com.

- **Marine Security Guards, 1st, 2d and 3d Plts (Marine Barracks, Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D.C.)**, May 8-10, Quantico, Va. Contact Don Green, dgreen@donaldegreen.com, or Dale Wilson, (617) 755-5745, wzeke35@aol.com.

- **1st Provisional Marine Brigade ("The Fire Brigade," Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.

- **2d Force Recon Co**, May 14-17, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Contact Rick Gallagher, 1466 Evans Creek Rd., Brodnax, VA 23920, (434) 865-3251, capt.rgallagher@yahoo.com.

- **3d Force Recon Co (50th Anniversary, 1965-70)**, May 6-10, Quantico, Va. Contact Maj B.H. "Doc" Norton, USMC (Ret), (843) 819-5149, recondoc123@gmail.com.

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• **American Embassy Saigon, RVN (all military and civilian personnel stationed pre-April 30, 1975)**, May 17-21, Louisville, Ky. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

• **Marine Barracks, Great Lakes, Ill.**, is planning a potential reunion. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethe.marine@gmail.com.

• **Ontos Crewmen (all eras)**, May 5-9, San Diego. Contact Louis Najfus, (678) 546-1444, najfus@hotmail.com.

• **TBS, Co A, 1-68 (June-November 1967)**, April 28-May 4, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact LtCol Dick Kurth, USMC (Ret), tbs1dash68@gmail.com.

• **TBS, Co A, 1-70**, June 25-28, Quantico, Va. Contact Bob Del Grosso, (908) 334-3496, robdelgr@aol.com.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

• **Plts 17 and 19, Parris Island, 1955 (and others who went through PI during 1955 are welcome too)**, June 4-6, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Al Pasquale, (484) 802-2516, pasquale@bigplanet.com.

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx,

USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

• **Plt 245, San Diego, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8o06@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.

• **Plt 4035, "Papa" Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **HMM-265 (1962-present)**, Nov. 8-15, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Marine Corps Birthday Ball cruise, Holland America cruise line). Contact Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdb@numail.org.

• **HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 4, Pensacola, Fla. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, jruffini5@gmail.com.

• **HMM-364 (LTA 2 RVN, 50th Anniversary)**, Aug. 6-9, Long Beach, Calif.

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Contact Walt Wise, 1618 Hemlock Way, Broomfield, CO 80020, (720) 340-9534, wwwise364@comcast.net, www.hmm-364.org.

• **VMF/VMA-214**, April 24-25, MCAS Yuma, Ariz. Contact 1stLt Shane Long, (928) 269-2730, shane.h.long@usmc.mil.

• **VMFA-333**, June 17-21, Charleston, S.C. Contact Connie Gause, (202) 306-0848, vmfa333reunion@yahoo.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS Bremerton** (CA-130/SSN-698), Sept. 13-18, Louisville, Ky. Contact Jerry Adams, 106 Ashley Dr., Winchester, KY 40391, (859) 771-5651, jeradams106@gmail.com.

• **USS Canberra** (CA-70/CAG-2), Oct. 14-18, Mobile, Ala. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Hornet** (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12), Sept. 9-13, Lexington, Ky. Contact Carl and Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673-9817, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Houston** (CL-81), Aug. 18-23, Green Bay, Wis. Contact Barbara Hillebrand, (608) 424-6095, bjhillebrand@charter.net.

• **USS Iwo Jima** (LPH-2/LHD-7), Sept.

13-16, Baton Rouge, La. Contact Robert G. McAnally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack46709@gmail.com.

• **USS John R. Craig** (DD-885), Sept. 16-20, Atlanta. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

• **USS Lake Champlain** "Champ Marines" (CV/CVA/CVS-39), June 21-25, Savannah, Ga. Contact H. Wells "Red" French, (941) 697-1870, wellsholm@aol.com (subject line: "Champ Marines").

• **USS Mount McKinley** (AGC-7/LCC-7), Sept. 16-20, Milwaukee. Contact Dave Long, (440) 292-7839, davidlong1944@msn.com.

• **USS Tarawa** (CV-40/LHA-1), April 16-19, Norwich, Conn. Contact Lester Ward, 101 Meadow Ln., Randolph, MA 02368, (781) 961-2583, or Walter Tothoro, 106 N. Tranquil Trl., Crawfordsville, IN 47933, (765) 362-6937, walsue@accelplus.net.

• **U.S. Naval School, Underwater Swimmers (Marine divers trained from recon and force recon)**, May 14-17, Panama City, Fla. Contact Aaron Farrior, (850) 240-7417, bare4@cox.net.



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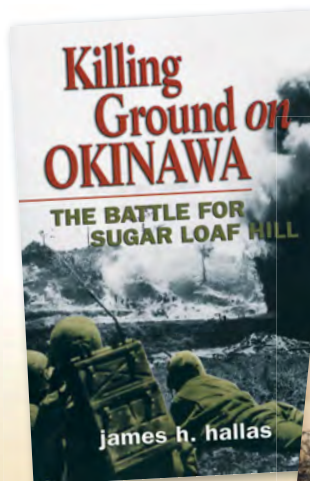
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Edited by Sara W. Bock

Entries for "Reader Assistance," including "Mail Call," 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 e-mail to leatherneck@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.



HAROLD "PAPPY" WAGNER

Harold "Pappy" Wagner would like to hear from the Marines in this photo, whom he served with in JASCO, 3dMarDiv, February 1945.

Mail Call

- Marine veteran Harold "Pappy" Wagner, 1015 22nd Ave. N., Naples, FL 34103, to hear from or about the Marines in this photo (left), which was taken before the **Battle of Iwo Jima, February 1945**. Pictured from the left are **Bob SCHRUM, unknown Marine, Tom WILLIAMS and Art KURVES** (kneeling). They belonged to **Joint Assault Signal Company, 3dMarDiv**.

- Marine veteran and author Ken Haney, 205 B St., Jackson, TN 38301, kenhaney@eplus.net, is doing research for a book and wants to hear from veterans who served during the **Marshall Islands campaign, February 1944**, particularly those of **4thMarDiv at Roi-Namur and 22d Marines at Engebi and the other islands**.

- Rick Bazaco, 14727 Mountain Rd., Purcellville, VA 20132, (843) 324-2734, info@1stbn1stmarines.com, to hear from any Marine or family member of a Marine who served in **1st Bn, 1st Marines, RVN, 1965-71**, and is interested in attending a **memorial dedication and reunion**.

- Former Cpl William Van Wieren, 27 Woodgrain Dr., Billings, MT 50102, to hear from members of **Pvt 273, San Diego, 1942**, or from any Marines who served in **4th Defense Bn, Vella Lavella, WW II**.

- Marine veteran Manuel Statini, 5942 E. Juniper Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85254, to hear from anyone who can help him identify his platoon number, **Parris Island, 1947**. His drill instructor was **SSgt BUTTS**. He would like a platoon photo.

- Marine veteran Michael F. Rowan,

Looking for Back Issues?

Bound volumes of *Leatherneck* magazine for the years 1967-2008 (with the exception of 1968, 1969, 1977 and 2006) are available for anyone looking for back issues. Each volume includes all 12 monthly issues from that year. Cost is \$10 per volume to cover shipping expenses. E-mail your request to: leatherneck@mca-marines.org, or call toll-free: (800) 336-0291, ext. 115.





COURTESY OF MICHAEL F. ROWAN

Marine veteran Michael F. Rowan would like to hear from or about the Marines in this photo, who served with him in 3d Plt, Golf Co, 2/5, Vietnam, 1966.

7911 S. Sugar Island Rd., Chebanse, IL 60922, (815) 697-2414, rowanmichael78@gmail.com, to hear from or about the Marines in the above photo, who served with him in 3d Plt, "Golf" Co, 2d Bn, 5th Marines, RVN, 1966. Back row, from the left: **Robert E. LEE, unknown Marine, DELEON, Don WELCH**; front row, from the left: **Stanley H. LARZARKAWITZ, Joe KELLER, Mike ROWAN, Jerry FORD, Sgt SEEBERT and WEBB**. The photo was taken in April or May of 1966.

• MAJ Ben Luoma, USA (Ret), (602) 370-3217, ben.luoma@yahoo.com, to hear from anyone who knew or served with his uncle, SSgt Arnold HANNUKSELA, who was KIA at the Chosin Reservoir, Korea, December 1950, while serving with Co D, 2d Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv.

Wanted

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

• Former SSgt Marion Moncada, 317 County Road 541, Eastland, TX 76448, (254) 647-5399, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1013, San Diego, 1971**.

• Ruben M. Bermudez, 7220 Masey St., Denver, CO 80221, (303) 427-9335, wants

a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2081, San Diego, 1972**.

• Donald R. Foster, 62 Cardinal Loop, Crossville, TN 38555, (931) 202-1329, 3rdmarines1@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3067, San Diego, 1969**.

• Former SSgt Darnell E. Bush, (386) 344-4829, bushdarnell@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3004, San Diego, 1979**.

• Marine veteran Manuel Cruz, 210 Benning Cir., Clayton, NC 27527, (919) 550-9130, mcruz@embarqmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 317, Parris Island, 1966, or a photocopy of pages 81-82**.

• Marine veteran Odell Young, 1 York Cir., Eastampton, NJ 08060, (609) 332-3561, young267@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 295, Parris Island, 1960-61**.

• Steven Todd Barnett, 147 County Road 420, Houlka, MS 38850, (662) 456-0980, toddbarnett14@hotmail.com, wants a **platoon photo for Plt 3106, San Diego, 1999**.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• Marine veteran F.S. Koniarski, 2049 Meadowbrook Rd., Prescott, AZ 86303,

koniarski30@yahoo.com, has a **recruit graduation book for Plts 220 and 226, Parris Island, 1951-52, to give away**.

• John DeSantis, 58 Brookside Ln., Danbury, NH 03230, (603) 748-1227, jdsusmcgunny@msn.com, has 25 years of **Leatherneck magazines** for sale.

• MGySgt Jerry J. Gooch, USMC (Ret), jjgooch@md.metrocast.net, has **recruit graduation books for Plt 258, Parris Island, 1963, and Plt 3060, Parris Island, 1977, to give away**.

• Marine veteran Larry R. Gies, (989) 686-9937, duck6cms@aol.com, has three **photo books by David Douglas Duncan** for sale.

• Capt R.E. Hoover, USMC (Ret), (717) 701-8051, india6_1968@yahoo.com, has **platoon photos from Parris Island** to give away. They are from the following platoons: **Plt 41, 1957; Plt 364, 1959; Plt 155, 1963; Plt 187, 1964; Plt 110, 1964; and Plt 156, 1964**.

• Former Cpl John Woofter, (330) 697-4431, jwoofter1@neo.rr.com, has a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2032, Parris Island, 1989, to give away**.



Saved Round

Edited by Sara W. Bock



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO BY TOM BARTLETT

THE PEOPLE'S MARATHON—With a finish time of 2 hours, 21 minutes, 14.2 seconds, Olympian Ken Moore crosses the finish line to win the first-ever Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va., Nov. 7, 1976. The brainchild of Col James L. Fowler, USMC (Ret), who passed away in January, the Marine Corps Marathon—nicknamed “The People’s Marathon”—has grown exponentially in prestige and popularity and today is the fourth-largest marathon in the United States and the ninth-largest in the world. A tribute to Fowler’s life and Marine Corps career can be found on page 58 (“In Memoriam”).

According to the Marine Corps Marathon’s history, Fowler wrote a memo to the director of the Marine Corps Reserve, MajGen Michael P. Ryan, in 1975 proposing that the Marine Corps host a 26.2-mile race “to promote community goodwill; showcase the Marine Corps; serve as a recruiting tool; and finally, to give Marines an op-



portunity to qualify for the legendary Boston Marathon.”

The first Marine Corps Marathon had a field of about 1,175 runners and was known as the Marine Corps Reserve Marathon until 1978, when the increased planning requirements for the marathon necessitated a transfer of duties from the Marine Corps Reserve to active-duty Marines. Patches distributed at the marathon, like the one pictured to the left, read “Marine Corps Reserve Marathon” until 1978. The most recent Marine Corps Marathon, held Oct. 26, 2014, had 19,661 participants. Famous marathon finishers over the years include TV personality Oprah Winfrey, comedian Drew Carey, Vice President Al Gore, Gov. Mike Huckabee (Ark.), Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and ABC

News anchor Charlie Gibson.

The 40th Marine Corps Marathon will take place Oct. 25.





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Marine Corps Association & Foundation

Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913

2014 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

The Marine Corps Association Board of Governors, the Board of Directors of the Marine Corps Association Foundation and the MCA&F management team and staff are pleased to present the Annual Report to the membership.

Against the backdrop of a dangerous world and the many challenges greeting our new Commandant, our mission continues to be the preeminent Association and Foundation for all Marines and Friends of the Corps. We remain dedicated to development and recognition of professional excellence and expanding awareness of the rich traditions, history and esprit of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps Association [a 501 (c) 19] and the Marine Corps Association Foundation [a 501 (c) 3] continue to operate under the Marine Corps Association & Foundation banner with the shared objective of Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence of our Marines and providing the resources they need to advance their leadership and mentoring abilities. The Association and Foundation have not rested on past accomplishments. We have expanded our reach in many areas despite new challenges and an ever changing environment.

We take pride in the fact that we continue to hold on to the ideals set forth by the Association's founding fathers and LtCol John A. Lejeune back in 1913. To sustain that legacy, we will make a concerted effort in 2015 to strengthen and grow our membership. We need to reverse the decline in our total membership numbers.

Achievements for 2014 include the launch of our dynamic, new website; expanded outreach through events and awards dinners; steady growth of our programs for Marines

through the Foundation; and a change in several key leadership positions.

In June, MCA&F said farewell to Tom Esslinger who had served as Chief Operating Officer since 2008. Col Dan O'Brien, USMC (Ret) and previous board member was welcomed as the new COO. His initial goals have been to increase awareness of MCA&F, ensure a seamless, successful launch of the website, and foster increases in program development and membership.

The major accomplishment for the Association side of the house has been to provide our members with the ability to access the information they need through their preferred method: tablet, smart phone, computer, or other favorite mobile device. Now, members can download the magazines and search the archives utilizing their preferred digital devices through the enhanced MCA&F website and the various tools associated with it. The website, along with our use of social media, allows MCA&F to now boast more than 250,000 Facebook friends and has allowed us to reach a predominantly younger audience who consumes news and information much differently than previous generations of Marines while still maintaining a focus with our veteran and retired Marine community. Because of the advancements, we are able to do more than just tell the MCA&F story but show the sacrifice, pride and honor of Marines through videos and graphic treatments.

Our Magazines, *Leatherneck* and *Marine Corps Gazette* continue to receive accolades and widespread readership but more members are becoming accustomed to reading the publications online. A major change in the leadership of *Leatherneck* took place over the summer with the retirement of longtime

Leatherneck publisher and editor Col Walt Ford. Col Mary Reinwald, USMC (Ret) assumed control of the *Leatherneck* operation without missing a beat. *Leatherneck* continues to be the most recognizable brand of the MCA.

Our retail operation, *The MARINE Shop* continues to provide Marines, members, and non-members with the quality goods and services they require. This is accomplished through our two stores at Quantico and Camp Lejeune, and our online store at www.marineshop.net.

In an effort to take our Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence message to the masses we hosted several events outside of the Washington DC area. This year we held our 4th West Coast dinner in Carlsbad, California, and a dinner at Camp Lejeune. We have dinners planned for 2015 in Hawaii and Providence, Rhode Island.

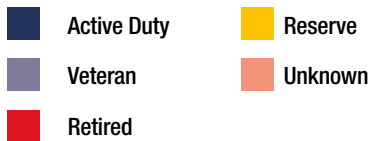
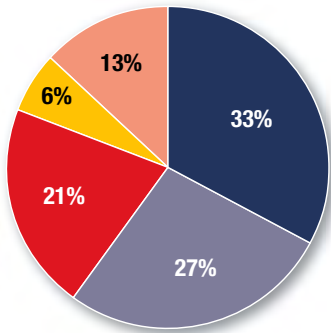
At the Foundation, requests for our programs have never been stronger and we make every effort to fulfill every request. Unit libraries, forums, and awards programs continue to impact the majority of Marines; however, in 2014, there was an increase of interest in our Commanders' Forums program. We anticipate more Marines becoming involved in these programs in 2015.

Thank you again for your membership and your commitment to Marines and your professional association. Together, we are able to accomplish great things for our Association, the Foundation and Marines everywhere.

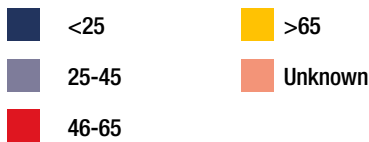
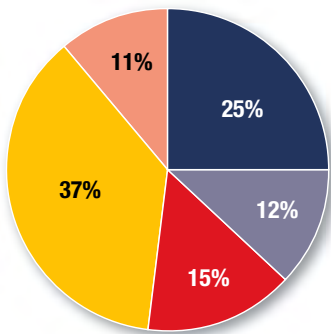
Ed Usher
Major General, USMC (Ret)
President & CEO
Marine Corps Association & Foundation

MEMBERSHIP

MCA&F Member Status



MCA&F Members by Age



Although there has been an increase in the interest in MCA&F programs for Marines we continue to experience a decline in overall membership numbers. Those members that are engaged with the Association continue in their relationship with the organization and MCA&F has seen a slight increase in the veteran and retired segments and a decrease in the active duty segment. This is a reflection on MCA&F's inability to speak directly to all active duty Marines regarding membership in their professional association.

Members continue to be the best advocates and influencers for the association and its many programs. Help support your professional association by encouraging fellow Marines to join. Keep your records accurate and up-to-date by visiting the website or simply by calling Member Services at 866-622-1775.

MCA&F MEMBERSHIP BY TYPE	
Regular	55,075
Life	5,236
Insured	4,332
Corporate	14
Total	64,657

MCA&F ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS	
Officers	4,381
Enlisted	16,627

	2014	2013
REVENUE		
Retail Operations	\$6,553,523	\$6,579,393
Publications and Memberships	2,619,017	2,892,605
Professional Dinners	816,429	908,800
Insurance and Royalties	1,125,493	1,112,647
Total Revenue	11,114,462	11,493,445
EXPENSES		
Retail Operations	6,086,922	5,896,161
Publications and Memberships	2,000,979	2,043,689
Professional Dinners	562,232	664,476
Administrative	3,053,252	3,106,942
Total Expenses	11,703,385	11,711,268
Change In Net Assets Before Investment Activity	(588,923)	(217,823)
Gain on Investments	116,764	1,028,121
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$(472,159)	\$810,298



PUBLISHING

This past year witnessed the launch of new digital versions of both *Leatherneck* and *Marine Corps Gazette*. The digital edition is mobile platform friendly. New features include the ability to comment on articles directly after reading and the ability to download the entire edition to a computer or mobile device. This allows readers to read online even if they do not have internet connectivity. This benefit is an enhancement to your membership. We remain committed to our members who prefer print editions by producing issues that meet the high standards expected of our members.

Leatherneck:

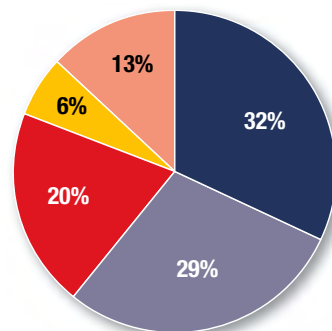
Col Mary Reinwald, USMC (Ret) has taken over the editor's reins and has made changes and updates to *Leatherneck*-Magazine of the Marines. While *Leatherneck* continues to focus on its mission of telling the Marine Corps story with a dynamic mix of articles and dispatches on current operations, training, weapons and equipment, history and profiles of Marines, articles geared towards junior Marines, both those on active duty and those transitioning from the Corps, have been added each month. Some departments have been eliminated or updated with the goal of refreshing the magazine to make it enjoyable for all members across our very broad demographic. New authors are seen in most issues as we grow our stable of writers to continue to provide the best coverage of the Corps of today and of the past.

Our website continues to provide readers access to even more information and updates on the Corps while also giving members the opportunity to interact through blogs and comment sections. We supplement several *Leatherneck* articles a month on the website with additional photos, videos and information to further illustrate the benefit of digital access.

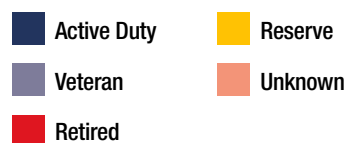
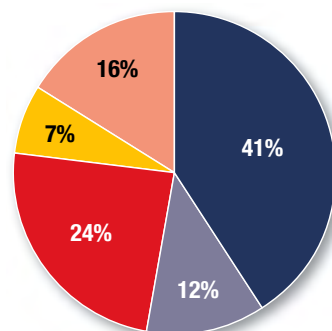
Marine Corps Gazette:

The *Gazette* has continued to remain true to the mission formulated at its inception: provide a forum for debate on issues that affect the Corps, disseminate military art and science to members and to help preserve the history and tradition of the Corps. In the past year we have published articles both in the print edition and online that have fulfilled the original purpose of the *Gazette's* founding. Looking into the future we see a sea change in the Corps' operational concepts, funding, and organization. We will strive to keep our members informed of the vital issues that will have an impact on the Corps and provide a platform for debate.

Leatherneck Readership



Marine Corps Gazette Readership



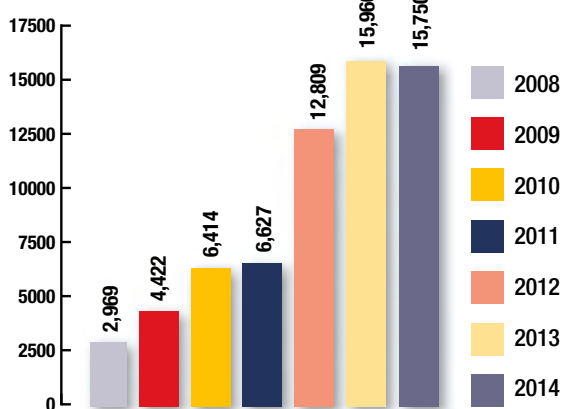
WEB DEVELOPMENT & IT

The new website has led to an enhanced user experience for the many visitors to www.mca-marines.org. The changes have increased navigation, allowed members to easily access our flagship publications on their desktop and mobile devices, and made it easier for members to share that content. In addition, MCA&F has re-launched its online store at www.marineshop.net. Visitors to our new online store can now easily support our Marine programs through their purchases and donations online. One noteworthy upgrade is the ability for our Marines to now order their uniforms online.

Our Facebook presence has grown to almost 270K fans and serves as our number one source of referrals to our website content. We have successfully used our Twitter and LinkedIn presences to keep our members informed about our upcoming events and professional development opportunities. We also use these forums to provide live coverage of our popular events to members and non-members not in attendance.

During 2014 in order to safeguard our electronic information MCA&F started the process of completing Payment Card Industry (PCI) Compliancy. PCI Compliance continues to evolve as standards change and Information Technology vulnerabilities appear. We are fully committed to following industry standards while we insure that the data we store or offer access to have the finest level of protection we can provide.

Number of Readers



Average Online-Only Readership Per Year



MCA&F EVENTS

For 11 years, MCA&F has held the Ground Awards and C4 Awards Dinners. The Ground Logistics Awards Dinner turned 10 this year. We also visited Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, and hosted dinners and recognition events throughout the greater Washington, D.C. region. We thank our sponsors, our Marine Corps partners, our members, and our other guests for making our events the premier Marine Corps events that they are today. Our C4 Awards Dinner broke its attendance record and its number of sponsors' record this year as did the Intelligence Awards Dinner.

Each year, we're more and more impressed with the level of award winners recognized at our major awards ceremonies and banquets. This year's Wounded, Ill or Injured Marine of the Year award winner, Sgt Ivan Sears, is also being recognized as the 2014 Marine Corps Male Athlete of the Year (which we also support with an award). Your MCA&F flies Marine spouses (or parents) from as far as Okinawa to see their Marines accept their MCA&F awards.

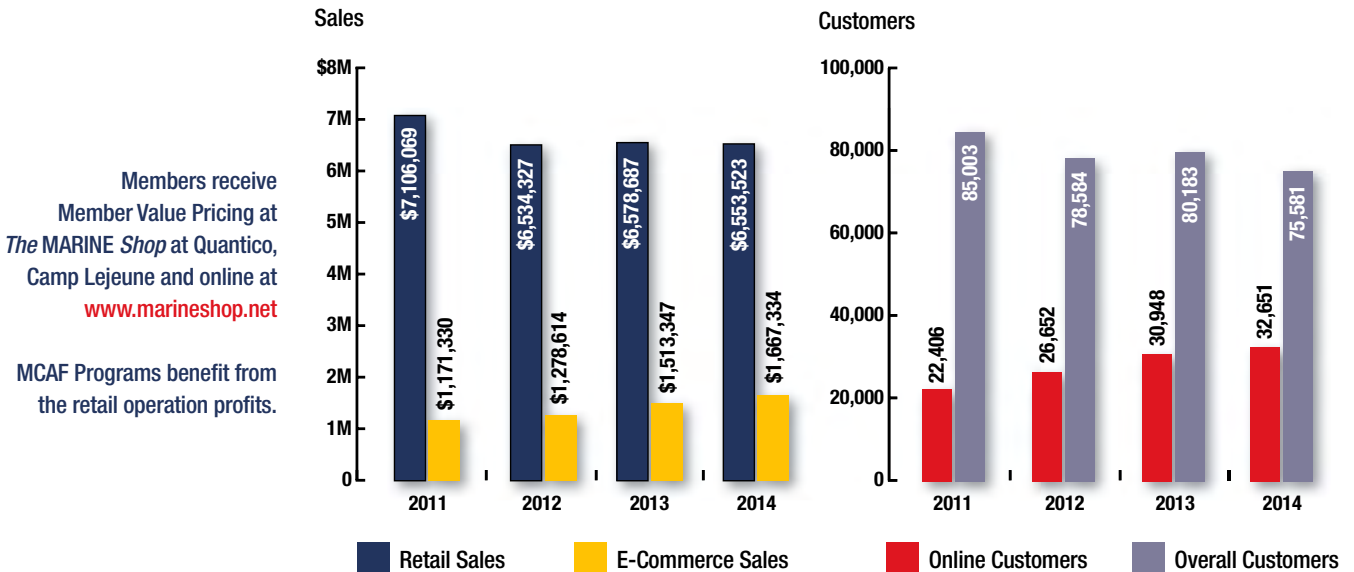
Even though the defense market continues to struggle, our sponsors have been there for us – supporting our awards and our events which provide not only recognition, but networking, camaraderie, and reunions of Marines who unexpectedly run into old friends.

These events would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. Our sponsors also recognize the importance of attending these events and dinners and networking with the many Marines present.



MCA&F RETAIL

The MARINE Shop continues to be the "go to" place for Marines and Friends of the Corps for purchasing their uniforms, books, gifts and services. The retail operation now boasts four e-catalogs: Uniform, Birthday Ball, Holiday Gift and The Commandant's Professional Reading List. TMS is able to deliver almost anywhere to our Marines. In addition to an upgraded website for retail purchases and a more consumer friendly experience, the Camp Lejeune store also experienced a facelift in 2014 in an effort to attract more shoppers.





Marine Corps Association Foundation

MCAF PROGRAMS

The Marine Corps Association Foundation completed its 5th year in 2014. Our charitable arm is young, active and growing!

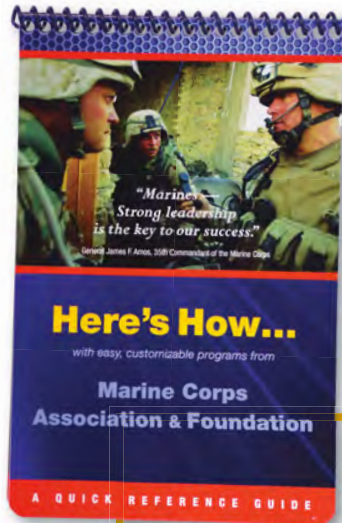
PROGRAMS

The publication and distribution of our Program Guide for Marines increased awareness of our programs across the Corps. This handy tool describes our programs, how to access them, and provides assurances that Marine commanders are within USMC regulations when accepting them. They were distributed to commanding generals, at the Commanders' Course and at SNCO Academies throughout the year.

General Dunford, Commandant of the Marine Corps, has stated, "The challenges of an increasingly uncertain, complex, and decentralized operating environment will continue to place new demands on our leaders at all levels. Our... training and education must constantly evolve to produce Marines who can meet those challenges." Our Foundation's programs are built to evolve with the changing needs of the Corps, are intended to assist unit commanders in the education of their Marines, and are flexible enough to meet the diversity of needs throughout the Corps.

Marine commanders have recognized that these programs provide the tools they need to advance leadership and recognize excellence. As that recognition has grown so has demand, particularly for our Commanders' Forum Program.

Our Commanders' Forum Program provides leader-driven opportunities for Marine leaders at all levels to educate their Marines and develop them as thinking leaders. The flexibility and relevancy of this program has made it our fastest growing area in 2014. Each Forum is designed by the unit commanding officer to meet his/her specific needs; we work closely with units to provide the professional development opportunities that they desire. In 2014 over 2,300 Marines participated in more than 30 Forums, ranging from battle studies of Belleau Wood, Okinawa, Gettysburg, Antietam, Operation Al Fajr and the Korean DMZ. As word of this program spreads, we expect demand to continue to rise.





Through our Commanders' Unit Library Program Marines prepare today for tomorrow's battles. General Al Gray instituted the Commandant's Reading List in 1988 and the requirement that Marines of all ranks read. This program has been refined by every Commandant since. Our Unit Library program allows commanders to provide their Marines with the tools they need to follow through on that requirement. We have evolved this program with changing technology by including Kindles in our libraries for deploying units. Each Kindle holds close to 300 professional reading titles, the entire CMC reading list! In 2014, MCAF donors, members, shoppers and sponsors provided almost 300 libraries, benefitting close to 92,000 Marines.



Our Marine Excellence Awards Program is where our Foundation truly recognizes excellence by providing the best of the best with meaningful and inspirational awards. The overwhelming majority of these awards are provided to enlisted Marines in recognition of their superior achievements in formal Professional Military Education program. In 2014 over 11,000 awards were provided to 9,600 Marines.

Our Marine Writing Program encourages open discussion and critical dialogue on topics important to Marines. Through this program Marines can share their bold and innovative ideas to push the Corps forward. In 2014, 44 Marines received awards valued at more than \$32,000.

Through our Wounded Marine Support Program, which was formally established in 2013, we continue to uphold the mandate that Marines take care of their own. We provide this support by modifying our other programs to meet the unique needs of our wounded Marines, as well as assisting in other mission-related requests. Over 3,500 wounded Marines benefitted from this program in 2014.

Total 2014 program delivery expenses were \$693,609.



FUNDRAISING

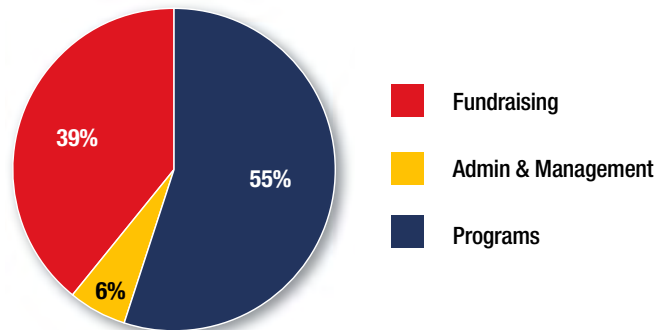
Our fundraising efforts in 2014 were focused on preparing for a strong and solid future for the Foundation. We continued to rely on our donors and sponsors to fund programs that directly benefit Marines. As in the past, the majority of our Foundation program support comes from our individual donors, most of whom are also members. This extra commitment by our membership is what allows our Foundation, and our programs for Marines, to thrive. Simply put, we couldn't provide these resources for Marines without our members going the extra mile, and for that – we thank you!

Our sponsors are also a key component to the success of the Foundation. In 2014 they provided approximately 25% of the support for our programs. Their focus is largely on recognizing excellence through support of our top level awards. Through that support they are providing a meaningful tribute to today's hard-charging Marines.

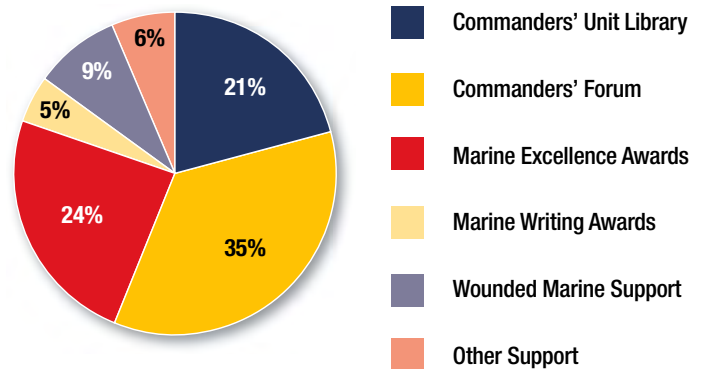
Our fundraising initiatives in 2014 included implementing both Major Gift and Planned Giving programs. These are both efforts that require a long-term commitment, and we are proud that we were able to keep our relative fundraising expenses slightly below previous rates while absorbing the initial costs of initiating these programs.

As we built these programs, we continued our direct mail and email efforts, although they represented a smaller percentage of our overall expenses and receipts. General donations from new and loyal donors are becoming a reliable revenue stream to support active-duty and reserve Marines. We continue to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #19821) as a means for military and government workers to support our Foundation through payroll withholdings.

Expenses



Program Expenses



2015 & BEYOND

We expect demand for our programs to grow as word continues to spread and we react to the suggestions of our Advisory Panel. We will continue to produce programs that are leader-driven and relevant to the changing needs of the Corps. We will meet that demand through continued growth in our revenue streams, with focus on reducing our fundraising costs while ensuring we can continue to provide the funds needed to keep our programs running.

	2014	2013
REVENUE		
Contributions, Gifts, Grants	\$1,507,928	\$1,668,660
Federated Campaigns	39,079	23,779
Contribution from MCA	80,000	165,420
Membership Dues	23,242	25,218
Investment Income	3,747	266
Total Revenue	1,653,996	1,883,343
EXPENSES		
Programs (direct)	693,429	854,132
Programs (indirect)	243,827	172,467
General and Administrative	110,983	108,136
Fundraising	653,477	736,249
Total Expenses	1,701,716	1,870,984
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(47,720)	\$217,628

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS



MCA Board Chairman
 MajGen Harry W. Jenkins, USMC (Ret)



Vice Chairman
 Mr. Michael Hegarty



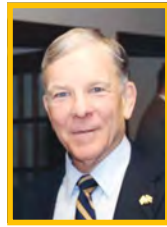
President & CEO MCA
 MajGen Edward Usher, USMC (Ret)



General Counsel
 BGen Joseph Composto, USMC (Ret)



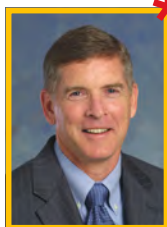
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MajGen Gordon Nash, USMC (Ret)



MajGen Eugene G. Payne, Jr., USMC (Ret)



Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret)



Col Stephen D. Waldron, USMC (Ret)



LtCol James Ledford, USMC (Ret)



SgtMaj Kim E. Davis, USMC (Ret)



Mr. Thomas Corzine



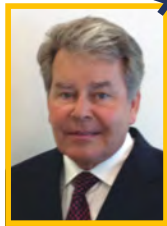
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 Academics Chief, Personnel Admin School

1stSgt Aaron Colling, USMC,
 2d AA Bn, Camp Lejeune

1stSgt Jason Politte, USMC,
 HQ Co, 5th Marines

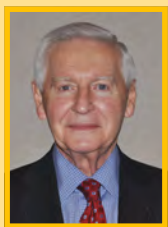
* Marine Corps Association Board of Governors members who are also on the Marine Corps Association Foundation Board of Directors.

* Marine Corps Association Board of Governors members who are also on the Marine Corps Association Advisory Panel.

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Mr. M. L. "Buzz" Hefti

MCA DOD LIAISON



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