

AUGUST 2013

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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31st MEU— Amphib Raids And Rescues

Part I
Clyde Thomason:
The Forgotten Hero

Wounds of a Warrior:
One by Choice,
One by Fate

Zell Miller:
Georgia's Only
Sergeant Governor



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Leatherneck Editor, Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret),
provides insight into this digital edition



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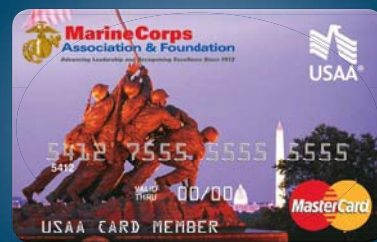
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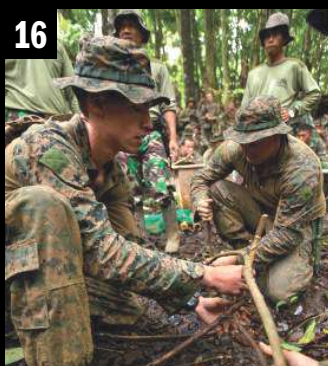
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COVER: LCpl Eric A. Sundquist, a scout swimmer with Co F, BLT 2/4, 31st MEU, provides security during boat raid training at Kin Blue Beach Training Area, Okinawa, Japan, on June 8, 2013. Read more about 31st MEU on pages 55-56. Photo by Cpl Codey Underwood. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

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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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.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 provide a free one-year courtesy subscription to the non-MCA&F member whose letter is selected as the "Sound Off Letter of the Month." Leatherneck will continue to pay \$25 for a "Sound Off Letter of the Month" submitted by a member.)

My father, Donald Pratt, was a World War II Marine, who served in the Pacific. He participated in the Battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He passed away on the day we celebrated Memorial Day, May 28, 2012, and his obituary was published in the July 2012 issue of *Leatherneck*. I requested a Marine honor guard to be present at his funeral, and they did an excellent job. Here is something my daughter, Amanda, wrote after the funeral.

"Yesterday I was at my grandpa's funeral. He was a Marine veteran from World War II. As I looked at him, I could see peacefulness on his face that was a long time coming.

"I did a good job holding back the tears all through the wake. When it came time to drive to the cemetery, I noticed, as the hearse carrying my grandpa's coffin slowly made its way through our small town, total strangers on the sidewalks, who saw the Marine Corps emblems that were placed on the vehicle doors, stop what they were doing, turn toward the hearse and render a hand salute as it passed. They must have been Marines. Still I held back the tears.

"Arriving at the cemetery, I noticed several Marines in dress blue uniforms awaiting our arrival. As the vehicles came to a stop and my grandpa was carried to his final resting place, I noticed the Marines at attention and rendering hand salutes. Still I held back the tears.

"Through all the prayers, the playing of 'Taps' and the folding of the American flag over my grandpa's coffin, I managed to keep a dry eye.

"Then, as I watched the sergeant take the folded flag over to my dad and present it to him, and after saying a few words, render a salute, turn sharply and march

away, that is when I 'lost it.' I could not hold back the tears any longer. My dad was right when he told my sisters and me, even as little girls: 'Once a Marine, always a Marine.'

"I miss my grandpa very much, but I know his spirit is in good hands. He is in heaven because, as my dad said, he has served his time in hell."

Stephen A. Pratt
USMC, 1969-77
N. Bennington, Vt.

Readers Respond to June "Sound Off" Letter To Create "Peace Heart Medal"

It is a tragedy when anyone loses a family member, particularly a member of the military who has volunteered to defend this great country of ours. But, let us be realistic on this. It seems that over the past couple of decades, the Corps has tried to compete with the Army in how many medals, ribbons, etc., can be attached to the uniform; to the point that today we are starting to look like a bunch of Russian field marshals.

I thought that medals, etc., were awarded for a Marine's "above and beyond" accomplishments and sacrifices. It used to be that the National Defense Service Medal was about the lowest position on the ribbon bar. Today, I see it on the second and sometimes on the third rows up. Are all of these lower ones just "feel good" ribbons?

As the editor commented: "What is the criteria?"

Is this proposed award only for Marines who die in a training accident, or is it for an injury also? If the latter is the case, then all of us "old-timers" should receive the award for our "M1 thumbs." I don't mean to be flippant, but we have to be realistic about this.

Individuals join the Corps knowing the risks involved, and those risks include injury and sometimes death. That is our contribution to keeping America free.

Steve Thomas
USMC, 1960-70
Olathe, Kan.

There are enough Department of Defense medals, and a "Peace Heart Medal" would be better suited as a commemorative medal and only for noncombat deaths that, like the Missing in Action Medal, would be presented to the next of kin.

A medal for noncombat injuries would be an endless can of worms. Where would you draw the line: brass casing burns, heat stroke? Would every recruit who sprained an ankle or tore a muscle graduate with another medal?

Tyke Supanchick
Corpsman, USN, 2000-05
Ontario, Ore.

But Then There's This ...

I'd like a medal for my friend Private First Class Stapley, who was murdered on his way to New Orleans by four Navy deserters in 1953.

I realize there are too many medals, but there should be one for dead or seriously injured Marines.

Former Sgt George Leyda
Monongahela, Pa.

While We're Creating the Peace Heart Medal, Let's Award Two Bronze Star Medals

It is my contention that the Bronze Star Medal is two different awards: those with combat "V" and those without.

Therefore, an individual with both would wear two ribbons.

David Torrel
Eveleth, Minn.

• *Does that mean there would also be two separate Legions of Merit, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals, Joint Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals? Because they all also can be awarded with the combat "V." It's not going to happen. That's why the Corps authorizes a "V."*—Sound Off Ed.

One Little Fact Left Out

Nice article on Dale Dye by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Gaddo in the June

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issue, but I was surprised there was no mention of his assignment to the magazine in the 1960s.

Capt Robert "Bob" Bowen, USMC (Ret)
Fredericksburg, Va.

• *Sorry, Bob, and sorry, Dale. How could we have overlooked such a distinguished alumnus of our Leatherneck staff? CWO-4 Gaddo and I will do three times around the grinder at high-port. Thanks, "TV-san" Bowen, for reminding—lest we forget.—Sound Off Ed.*

... Then, There's One That Makes Our Day

I love the magazine. It keeps me in touch with the Corps, and it helped my son become oriented to the Marine Corps way of life as he prepared to leave for recruit training at Parris Island, S.C.

I believe it was very instrumental in guiding him and educating him about the Marine Corps. When he told me he was serious about entering the Corps, I began sharing my Leatherneck magazines with him.

He has successfully made it through boot camp and is now in his military occupational specialty training at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

MGySgt R. E. Davis, USMC (Ret)
Yeadon, Pa.

Camp Matthews: Its Location Is Etched in Stone

In the May issue, mention was made of Camp Matthews. It piqued my interest since I did my rifle training there in 1943 as a member of Platoon 905.

I believe Camp Matthews was part of Camp Elliott and was located in La Jolla just north of San Diego. Jacques Farm, where the Raiders trained, and later where we went to Land Tanks School, also was in the same area.

In 1964, the camp property became the site of the University of California, San Diego.

I had an occasion to visit there months ago and took pictures of the monument that identifies the Camp Matthews location. The inscription on the stone is as follows:

"THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS OCCUPIED THIS SITE KNOWN AS CAMP CALVIN B. MATTHEWS. From 1917 to 1964 over a million Marines and other shooters received their rifle marksmanship training here. This site was deeded to the University of California at San Diego on 6 October 1964 for the pursuit of higher education."

Of particular interest is the fact that the first house built for the university chancellor is located a mile or so from the monument and now is the home of my sister.

My training in land tanks was short-lived. I ended up serving in the Pacific as a driver with 2d Armored Amphibian Tractor Battalion.

Harlan Rosvold
Oak Park Heights, Minn.



• *Harlan, I am sending you our "Good Clear Report" MCA 100-Year Commemorative Challenge Coin.—Sound Off Ed.*

Marine Security Guard Duty Changing And What It Was Like in the Beginning

This inquiry has no political agenda, but is merely an attempt to accurately answer a question that many of my friends have regarding the events in the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi.

I was under the impression that most, if not all, U.S. Embassy locations had contingents of Marine security guards. Indeed, past editions of Leatherneck have contained articles on that very subject.

As I recall, "Embassy Duty" was one of those highly sought-after assignments



COURTESY OF HARLAN ROSVOLD

Marine veteran Harlan Rosvold poses next to the stone commemorating Camp Matthews on the University of California, San Diego campus.

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out of boot camp, along with “Sea Duty.”

Presumably, all U.S. Embassy posts do not qualify for Marine guards. Is there a benchmark for that decision or some other criteria that dictates which embassy will have Marine guards and which will not?

Patrick A. Callahan
USMCR, 1956-61
Belton, Texas

• You are referring to the American diplomatic mission at Benghazi, in Libya, which was attacked on Sept. 11, 2012, by heavily armed terrorists. Four people were killed, including U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. Ten others were injured. The diplomatic mission had no Marines.

The short answer to your question about the criteria for determining which U.S. diplomatic missions have a Marine security guard detachment is that the Department of State makes the determination based on a great many factors, not the least of which is availability of Marines.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, spoke May 29 at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and addressed this issue. He said Marines occupy about half the U.S. Embassies around the world, and the Corps is working with the Department of State

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now on plans for an increase in the MSG program.

The Commandant stated that more Marines for an expanded MSG program would be additive to what the Corps' analysis indicates is needed for the post-Afghanistan force. A giant issue to be addressed is end strength and budget. However, he did say that there are six embassies that will receive an MSG detachment in the near future.

Right now, Leatherneck is working with the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group here in Quantico to produce an informational article on the MSG program for a future issue. Stay tuned.—Sound Off Ed.

It was the summer of 1948 when my unit received a quota for a number of Marines for special duty. The prerequisites included (1) considered an outstanding Marine, (2) a clean Marine Corps and civilian disciplinary record, (3) both parents must be native-born U.S. citizens, (4) eligible for Top Secret clearance, and (5) single and agree to remain single throughout the tour.

Scuttlebutt had it that the "special duty" was anything from diplomatic couriers to secret agents. The first of our group received orders in December 1948.

In the beginning, all embassy Marines were on the rolls of Casual Company,

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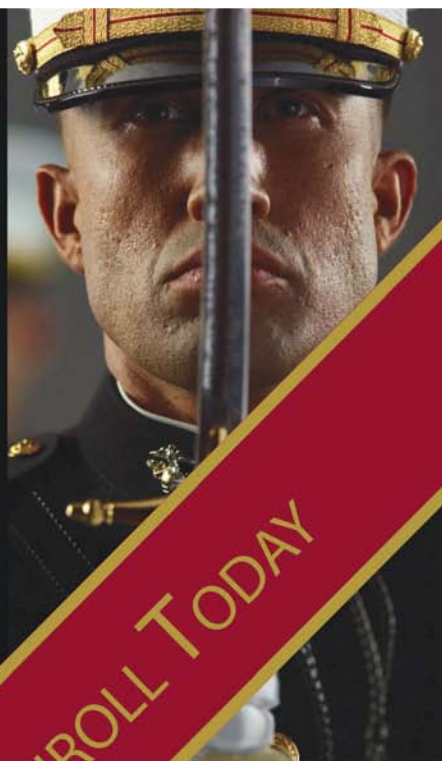
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Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, commanded by First Lieutenant Gene M. Hoover. It was reported to be the largest company in the Corps. This was quite a responsibility for a young first lieutenant.

The training for this special duty was very brief: three half-day sessions at the State Department and familiarization firing of the .45-caliber pistol. We were issued civilian clothing and a passport, and we were ready to go.

My orders were to the U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires. We soon learned that it was not to be the secret agent or the swash-buckling duty we imagined. The embassy was located on the 9th floor of a large bank building, not the impressive mansion in wealthy suburbs of today. Our weapons consisted of one .38-caliber revolver with five rounds of ammunition. There was no housing provided. We were paired off and found our own inexpensive quarters near the embassy.

As an introduction to embassy duty, we were invited to a party at the ambassador's residence. We were on our best behavior until one Marine, who was a veteran of Iwo Jima, had one too many drinks. He got a hold of a visiting admiral's cover and, with it perched on his head, jauntily swaggered through the reception room. I do not recall that we were invited again.

In typical Marine Corps fashion, all eventually went well and the success of the program is history.

SgtMaj Richard M. Turner, USMC (Ret)
Greensboro, N.C.

Vince Dooley Would Be Proud To Meet MGySgt Hallila

Great story about a Marine alumnus, Captain Vince Dooley, by CWO-4 Randy Gaddo [April issue]. I am glad Capt Dooley made it into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame.

This 92-year-old master gunnery sergeant tried, some years ago, [to make the Corps' Hall of Fame], but didn't; however, I'm in the Maryland Senior Olympic Hall of Fame 2006. I have more than 150 ribbons, medals and trophies from state and national swim meets.

MGySgt Esko E. Hallila, USMCR (Ret)
Silver Spring, Md.

• Thank you, "Master Guns," for your service to your adopted country. MGySgt Hallila came to America from Finland in 1927 at age 6.—Sound Off Ed.

Cuff Links With Uniforms Go Back a Ways

Too long out of the Corps? No, too much time in utilities [June "Sound Off"].

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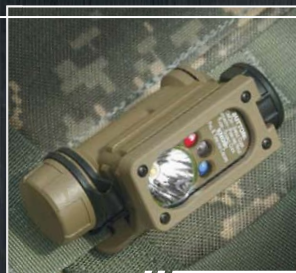
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COURTESY OF CINDY K. HUMPHREY

Cindy K. Humphrey lost her brother, PFC Gerald C. Kinny, at Hue in 1968. She went to Vietnam in 2007 and is pictured standing on the site where her brother was killed while trying to enter the Thuong Tu Gate of the Citadel.

I have attached a photo of him and one of me in Vietnam standing on the sidewalk where Col Meadows retrieved him.

Cindy K. Humphrey
Dubuque, Iowa

I always am delighted to be able to read firsthand accounts of Marines in my war: Vietnam. I was not disappointed in the June issue, especially since the story dealt with a major battle in which I had done a small part to help beat back the Communist hoard that invaded Hue City in 1968.

As I read the personal accounts, I was a bit confused to see the word "tank" appearing only three times in the entire story, and that all three mentions were of Army of the Republic of Vietnam tanks. I have studied "Operation Hue City" with great care and in minute detail, so I know for a fact that four 3d Tank Battalion tanks had led the way supporting 1st Bn, First Marine Regiment into Hue City.

I was so dismayed that I pulled out several copies of books that have been written chronicling the battle so that I could find out exactly where "Golf" Company, 2/5 fit into the battle. I found out that this brave Marine unit had been attached to 1/1 early on, but that they were the second or third unit to actually enter the city. Don't get me wrong, G/2/5 performed heroically

[continued on page 72]

ORIGINAL ISSUE



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around a long time. I joined the Corps in 1943, was commissioned in 1952 and retired in 1968.

After commissioning, we wore French cuffs with shirts with our service "A" and "B." Also, with our khaki summer service "A" and "B," and with the blues, "A" and "B." I think the sweaters came in after I retired. I never had one.

Maj Richard A. Froncek, USMC (Ret)
1943-68
Goodyear, Ariz.

G/2/5's Return to Hue Feature Story

I am a sister of Private First Class Gerald C. Kinny, who was written about in the June issue article "Golf" Company at Hue." My brother was killed in action on his first day in Hue. He was a machine-gunner for Golf Co, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment.

Also featured in the article is retired Colonel Chuck Meadows, with whom I went to Vietnam in 2007. Chuck, with the help of his radioman, retrieved my brother after he saw him lying on the sidewalk. Barney Barnes was featured in the article, too, and now is like a brother to me as are many of the Marines of my brother's G/2/5.

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The Last 12 Hours

Story by MSgt Roy E. Heinecke · Photos by TSgt Roland E. Armstrong

The Marines of "Fox" Company, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment sweated for 720 minutes, figuring the odds of coming out of the war alive.

The word picked up speed as it raced from man to man in the companies on the line and in the outposts. It swept into the battalion command posts and the regimental CPs of the First, the Fifth, the Seventh and the 11th Marine regiments. It came from the "Dragon Lady" and the "Moose Maid"—Chinese women propagandists who shouted the news over their public address systems to the Marines manning the outposts—and it came from the few radios in the bunkers. It leaped with the greatest speed on the omnipresent grapevine.

Although it was only a few minutes after 10 on the morning of 27 July 1953, the word had reached the front-line Marines. It was true; in 12 hours a cease-fire would go into effect.

Despite the early hour, the sun had almost reached its usual broiling stage. Its blistering rays beat down on the shell-pocked 600 yards of Korean real estate that separated Fox Co, 2d Bn, 5th Marines from the Communists. The heat rolled up the hill and into Fox Co's outpost; tiny beads of sweat rolled from the Marines' faces, coursed down their backs, stained their dungarees.

The day was hot—and it would get hotter as the day progressed. These Marines would not only perspire physically but mentally too. They were sweating out the last 12 hours, 720 minutes of figuring what the percentages were in the Reds hitting their little outpost and, if they did hit, how the odds stacked up in getting out of it alive. Those who lived until 10 p.m. would see the end of combat pay.

Fox Co held a unique position. The outpost was 2½ miles out in front of the main line of resistance (MLR). It was the Marines' closest duty station to the Chinese.

Their hill commanded a view unequaled by any other outpost along the 155-mile battle front. To their left, the peace corridor ran from the MLR to Panmunjom, the tiny Korean village which housed the "peace pagoda." The Marines could see the unpainted walls and had watched the Reds working to complete the building for the historical event that had taken place that morning.

To the right and just 600 yards away, Molar Hill rose out of the ground. From this high ground the Chinese directed their mortar and artillery fire onto the Marines' outpost. And it was from this hill that the Dragon Lady, safely hidden in a deep bunker, attempted to needle the Marines with her propaganda broadcast.

From Molar Hill all the way in a three-quarter circle to the right, the Marines could look down on the scarred earth that indicated the Reds' trenchlines. Except for a small area to the rear, the Marines were surrounded by the enemy.

It was a tough spot in which to sit out those last 12 hours.

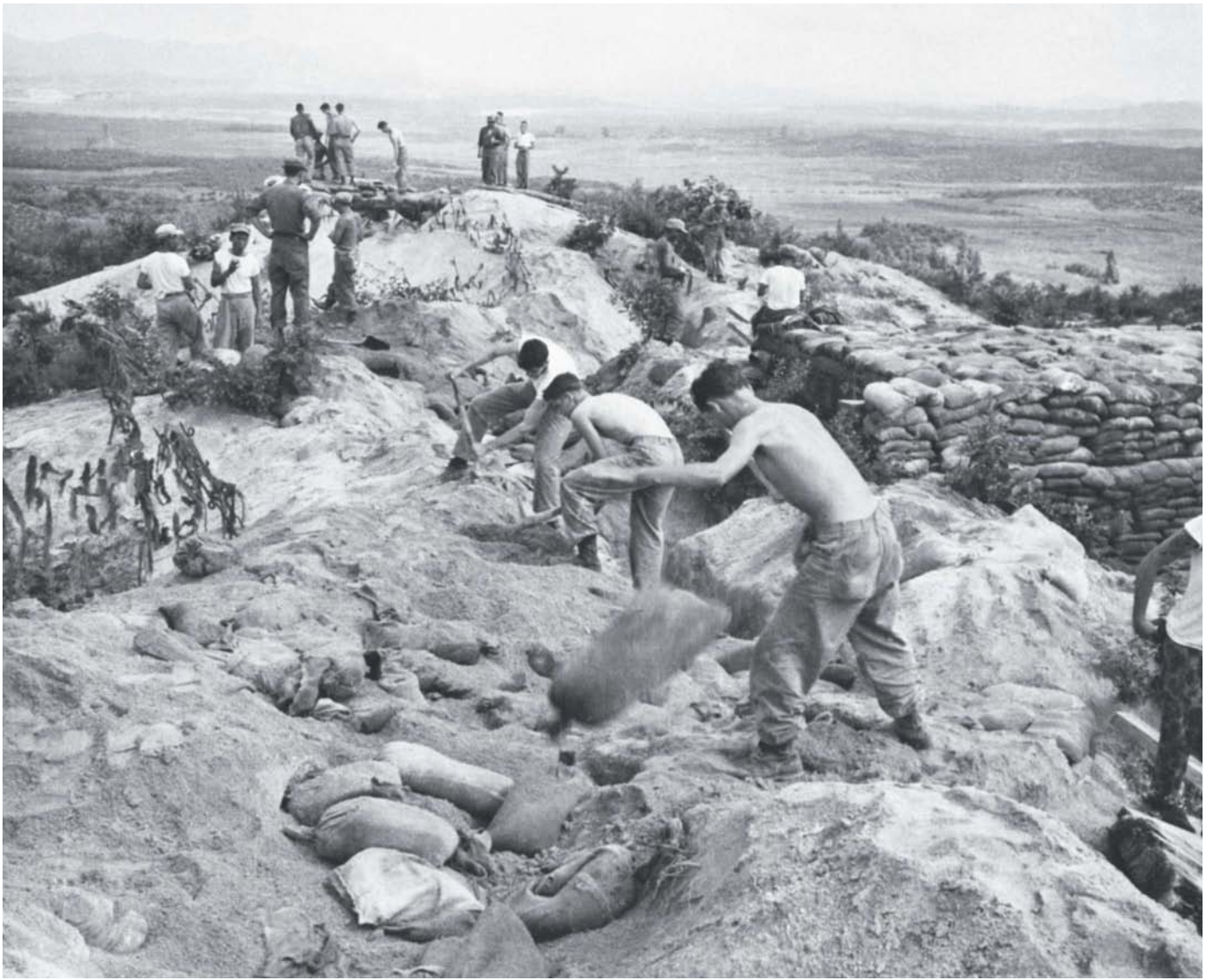
Captain John M. Jagoda, the company commander, and his Marines of Fox Co couldn't be sure that this was the real thing. The Reds had a habit of changing their minds, and the Marine captain, one of the Corps' top rifle and pistol shooters, was keeping his men on their toes. If the Chinese decided to hit his outpost, his Marines wouldn't be caught napping.

Back at the CP of the 2d Bn, 5th Marines, business was being conducted as usual. The men in the dimly lit command bunker were still carrying out their end of a fighting war. It had been only a few days since the big battle for Outpost Esther and the all-night fighting in the Berlin complex by elements of the 7th Marines. Only last night units of the 1st and 7th Marines had repulsed enemy probes on Boulder City Outpost. It could be the 5th's night for action: there were still 12 hours of a war to be fought.

Sergeant Louis M. Williams, an intelligence chief who had checked into the Korean War way back in 1950 and had volunteered for another tour of duty, was having a busy time on the phone receiving reports on the enemy activities. Staff Ser-



Work halts momentarily when men pause to listen to Dragon Lady and her plea for an exchange of farewell gifts as the Marines take apart their bunker systems in the last 12 hours of the Korean War.



The trenches and bunkers were deep, and tearing them down under the broiling sun of 27 July 1953 proved to be exhausting, but the Marines enthusiastically leaned into the task at hand.

geant Albert F. Burda, 2/5's operations chief, was keeping a close watch on his phones and passing along operational data to his boss, Major Everett A. Hedahl, S-3. Maj Jack Dunlap, the supporting arms coordinator, also was in the bunker coordinating artillery fire.

Just a few yards from the underground bunker, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Geer, the commanding officer of 2/5, was keeping a close check on the battle situation from his tent. LtCol Geer, noted author, ex-boxer, bridge builder and sailor, was also on his second tour of duty in Korea. He had fought in the early stages of the war and returned to the United States where he recently finished his latest book on Marines, "The New Breed." Like Williams, he, too, had volunteered to return to the First Marine Division.

Two hours and 10 minutes after the truce had been signed it looked like the Reds were going to go all out in the waning hours of the war. The "hot line" had buzzed,

and SSgt Burda took the message: "An unknown number of enemy attacking Hill 119 and the enemy is now in the Marine trenches."

This was out of 2/5's area, but it could mean anything—until LtCol Geer did some fast back checking with the units involved. He discovered it was a report on the fight of last night and the early morning. The action was an enemy probe at 0800 in the morning, and they had been repulsed by 0830.

Three propaganda shells landed in the vicinity of Outpost Kate at 1150, it was reported to Sgt Williams. The Marine on the other end of the telephone followed this with the additional information that several Marines had picked up a shell load. The leaflets were on their way into the CP and should arrive in the next 10 minutes.

When they arrived, it was discovered there were three different types of leaflets. One had an illustration of an American soldier being kissed by his wife in a rail-

road station while their young daughter clung to her mother's dress. On the reverse side it stated in big black type, "Don't Miss This Chance For Peace." The pamphlet then explained how Premier Chou En-lai had made a new peace proposal that the United Nations had accepted. Another led off the same line of propaganda with: "Don't Miss This Great Opportunity."

Also included were two kinds of safe conduct passes to go over to the Korean People's Army or the Chinese People's Volunteers.

The first official word handed the troops of the truce signing came around noon when Maj Hedahl received a message coming down through the chain of command from the 8th Army. It stated there would be no shooting or celebrating the signing of the truce.

Fox Co got back into the act shortly after noon when the Dragon Lady started her first broadcast of the day. Using English with a heavy Chinese accent, she pro-

claimed to the Marines: "Remember, the more ammunition you fire, the more the burden the American people must bear."

A few minutes later and after the usual musical interlude, she was back on the public address system and in a more cordial tone, said: "Hello, American soldiers, the armistice has been signed by both sides. We will all be home soon. In front of you is a red flag with gifts under it. We will not shoot or fire on you and guarantee there are no explosives in that area."

In calling the Marines American soldiers, it was obvious that the Red intelligence must have missed out on the Marines' return to the front lines several weeks earlier. Nevertheless, the Dragon Lady's little speech was greeted with laughter by both the Marines of Fox Co and the men in 2/5's command bunker. As Maj Dunlap commented: "Boy, she can guarantee more than we can."

The Marines had, in the past few weeks, heavily mined the whole area.

By 1400 very little action had been reported in the 2/5 area. Company mortars had been carrying out their own missions whenever and wherever the enemy made an appearance. The Marines of the 2d Bn

were getting a little optimistic, and speculation on the probable outcome began.

"Maybe they're gonna live up to the agreement after all," a BARman commented.

Over in the 1st Bn, 7th Marines, Master Sergeant Eugene C. Knauff wasn't so sure of the final outcome and said, "Sure, we



Dragon Lady

know now they have a pen in their right hand, but I wonder what they hold in their left?"

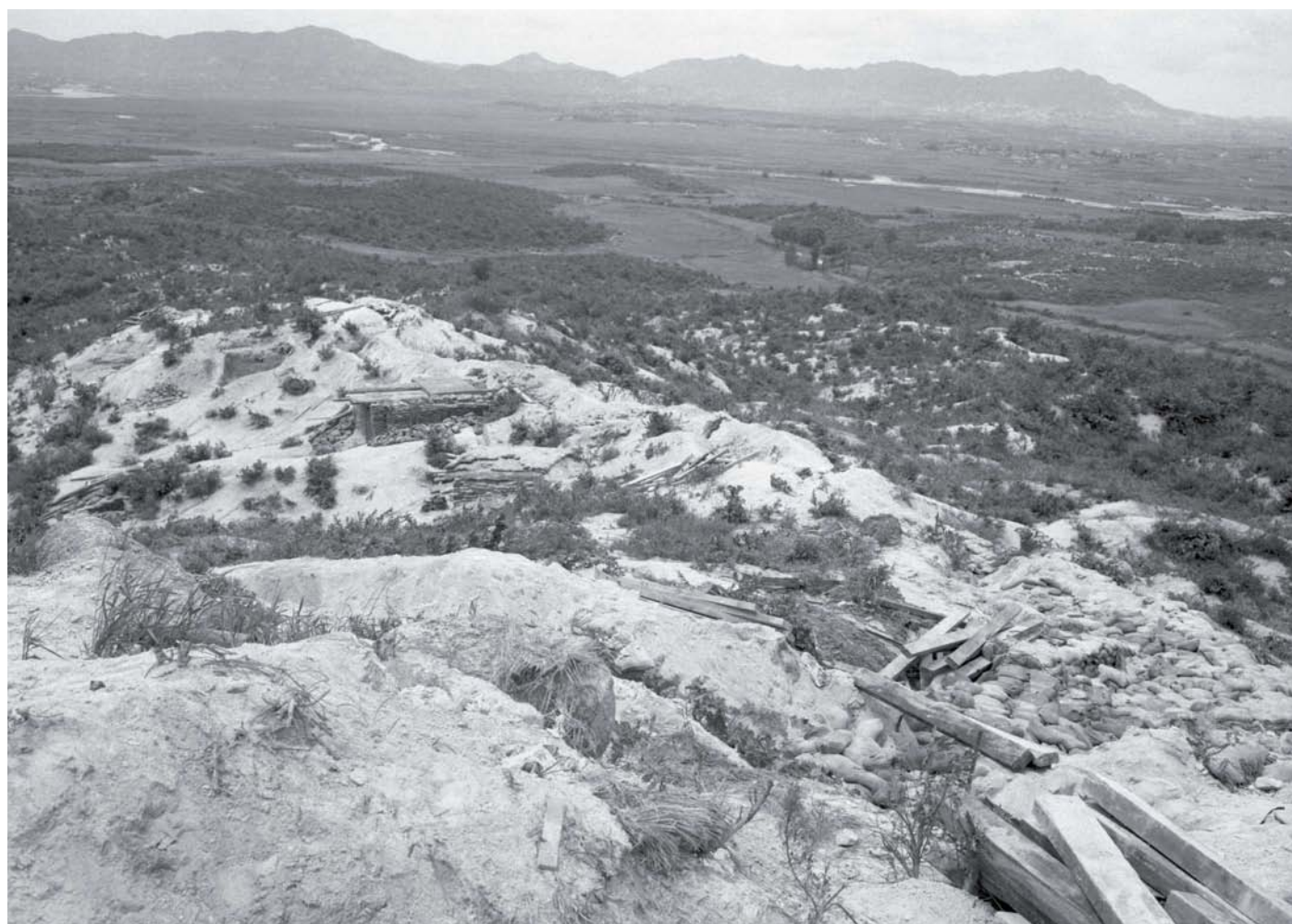
It was 1430 when the Dragon Lady, anxious about the gifts still sitting out in front of Fox Co, asked for an unofficial cease-fire between the Marines on the hill and the Chinese to their immediate front.

"Hello, American soldiers," she began as usual, then continued, "cease fire until three o'clock so you can go out and pick up your gifts. When the cease-fire starts, both sides will stop shooting immediately. Both sides can work freely outside of trenches and bunkers and take whatever outside recreation they want, but shall not go out to posts of other side. Do you agree to have a cease-fire? If so, wave a blanket and a white shirt from your bunker."

The Marines continued to ignore her efforts. Even if they had wanted to take up other than a shooting acquaintance with the Reds, it would have been an impossibility to let them know. It is doubtful there was a white shirt any closer to the battle line than San Francisco.

Easy Co, 2/5, on the other hand, was getting more than propaganda broadcasts. Sgt Williams received a report from the company commander that Easy was under artillery fire and had received 11 rounds of incoming in the past few minutes. Two more rounds landed in their area while the conversation was going on.

Fox Co came back on the phone. This time they said they could now see the Dragon Lady and that "she wasn't a bad-



From their hilltop out in front of the U.N.'s main line of resistance, the leathernecks of 2/5 could look down on the Chinese Communists' positions, as they removed the timber reinforcing their bunkers, emptied sandbags and filled trenches.

looking dish.” Maj Hedahl’s reaction was: “Hell, any woman would look good to those guys out there.”

Then for 10 minutes, from 1445 to 1455, the phones were quiet and Maj Hedahl left the bunker for a conference with LtCol Geer. On his return a few minutes later, he instructed the switchboard operator located in a corner of the bunker to set up a conference call with all company commanders. When all was in readiness the bunker took on an ominous silence. New dope was going out to the companies, and none wanted to miss a word of it. Maj Hedahl picked up the phone and started checking off the company commanders:

“Able, are you on? ... Right! How about Dog? ... Easy Company? ... Fox? ... OK, here it is and I hate to do this to you guys. You’ve got to be able to move out immediately. You can leave enough men to defend your outpost until 10 p.m. After that, everything has to be out and gone within 72 hours after 10 p.m. You got that? ... OK.”

After a few further instructions on what weapons were to be left with the defending troops, the conversation ended.

Easy Co Marines again became the target for the Chinese heavy artillery, and by 1900 they had taken 23 rounds in their area. Fortunately no casualties were reported with the exception of two men who “got shook” when a round exploded on top of their bunker.

Maj Hedahl called the Easy Co commander and asked what he had done to get the Chinese angry with him when the other units were enjoying a little quiet. His answer came back fast: “I guess the Chinamen got the same order we did, and they just don’t want to carry the ammo back.”

Even the regimental CP couldn’t escape the haphazard shooting of the Chinese, and three rounds landed in its area. One, a dud, whistled into a tent, bounced under a cot of a Marine soon to leave with the 24th draft, and ricocheted out the side of the tent without injury to the occupants.

It was 1930, 2½ hours to go, when another message arrived at the 2/5 CP. It said, “There will be no firing after 2145 unless attack by infantry.” The UN Command was leaning over backwards to show they would not be the party to break the cease-fire agreed upon.

At the same time, the battalion CP came under the sweep of the Reds’ heavy artillery. Three rounds crashed into the area; all of them proved to be duds. A forward observer reported the incoming was probably getting sent on its way from Tae Dok San, a Chinese artillery strongpoint to the north. In a few minutes, the 11th Marines’ 105s unlimbered on the



Above: Capt John M. Jagoda leads his Fox Co, 2/5 convoy to the rear after the unit bunkers and trenches were dismantled in July 1953.

Below: At 2138, 27 July 1953, Battery H, 3/11 fired what was thought to be the last artillery mission of the war. From left: SSgt J. T. Bolick, PFC A. Rodriguez and Sgt J. J. Lannert each claimed to have fired the last round of the war.



spot and the Communist guns halted their firing.

As the hour of the cease-fire drew near, instructions started coming into the CP at a fast clip. Another 8th Army message stated, “Firing will be restricted to the minimum justified by the tactical situation.” At 2120 even the Reds had let up on 2/5. It became quiet enough for

LtCol Geer and his staff to start poring over maps for the future movement of the battalion.

There also was time for a short ceremony that involved the three interpreters attached to the battalion. The three Koreans had been drafted into the South Korean Army and were due to leave in the morning. LtCol Geer thanked them for their

outstanding services to the battalion and presented each with a letter of appreciation.

At 2138, How Battery, 3/11 let go a salvo with its 105s which may have been the final rounds fired by the Marines and could possibly be the last shots of the war. Pulling the lanyards for How Btry's six guns were SSgt J. T. Bolick; Privates First Class A. Rodriquez, N. Nixon, A. Hajjar; Sgt J. J. Lannert and Corporal P. Ninehouser.

With five minutes left in the war, which had lasted more than three years, Maj Hedahl was again on the phone ready to give the last firing order to his company commanders. At exactly 10 p.m., each company fired a star cluster proclaiming it would observe the cease-fire order. From the Reds—silence.

Bright moonlight dimmed the illumination of the flares, and as they sputtered out their last feeble rays of light, the strangest war ever fought by man fizzled out. There were no victory celebrations. The men of the 1stMarDiv were glad it was over.

Those were the last 12 hours. Now silence lay across a battlefield that had heard the rumble of war for 37 months. Those Marines who survived the closing

hours witnessed the end of a war like none other in history. And as it ended, many a Marine voiced a puzzling question: "Did we win the war?"

For the present there is no answer. No decisive battle was fought; there is no humble enemy, no jubilant victor. To many we had neither won nor lost the war, and only the passage of time would reveal whether we had won or lost the peace.

But if these men "sweated out" the last 12 hours of the war, there were others for whom the fighting ended all too abruptly with a piece of Communist shrapnel, a North Korean bullet, a Red mine or hand grenade. These were the 146 officers and 2,861 enlisted men of the 1stMarDiv who had fought and died all the way from the Pusan Perimeter until the last enemy probe at 0830 on the day of the truce.

For them the peace is permanent.

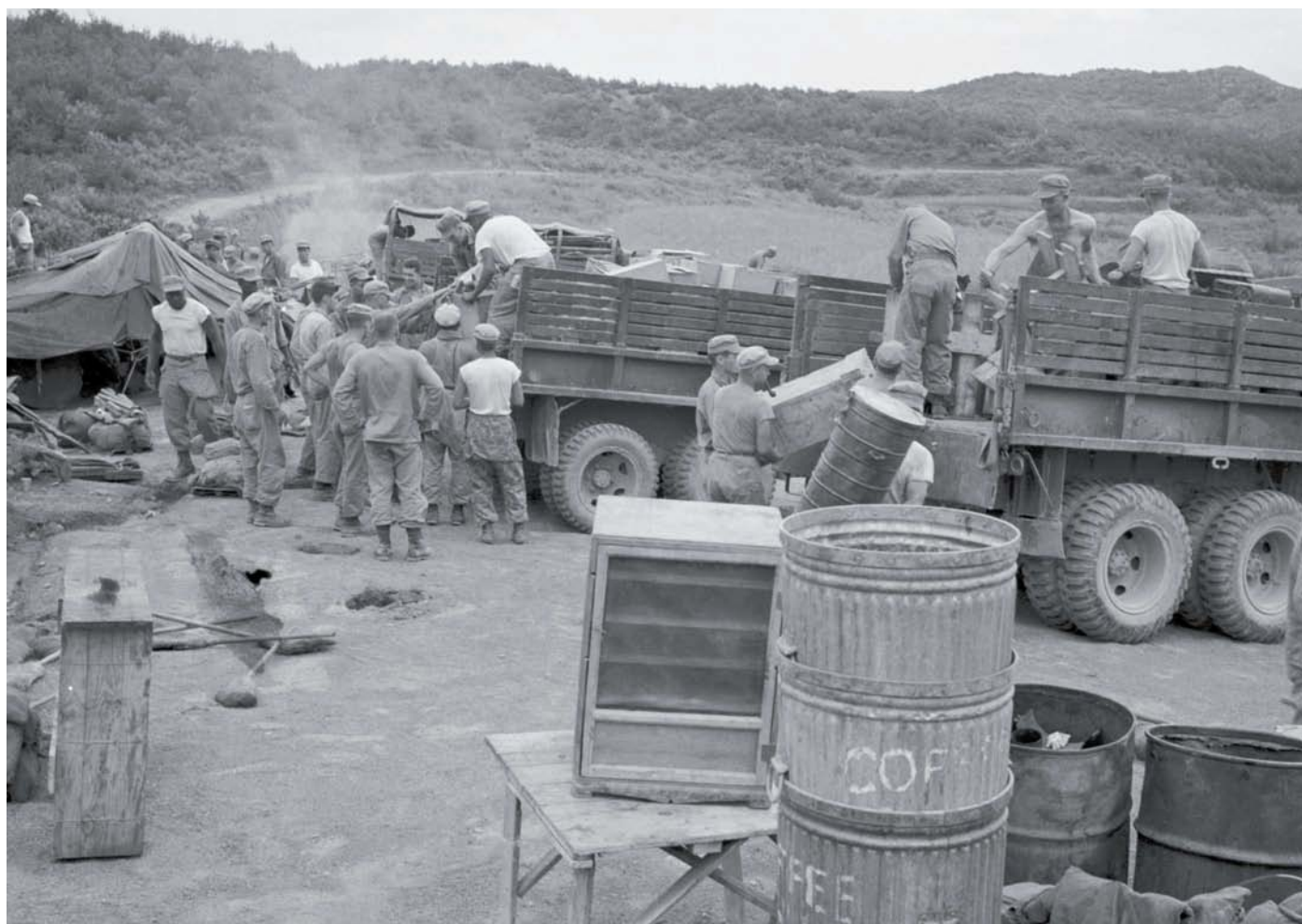
Now the fighting was over. For the first time in the long, drawn-out war, the Marines could sit on top of their bunkers. Cigarettes were lighted and the prospects of getting home were discussed. They talked of the truce in sober tones. Would it last? Where would the "Divvy" go from

here? As the hour grew late, one by one, they left the bunker roofs to go below—some to write letters home, others to sleep through the first night without the sound of the big guns or waiting for the signal that spelled another attack on the outpost by the Reds.

In the morning, Fox Co found that the task of stopping a war was equally as hard as fighting it. According to the terms of the truce, the Marines would be compelled to fall back to new positions a little more than 1¼ miles to the rear. The Reds would do the same on their side, leaving a buffer zone of 2½ miles between the two forces.

Another provision of the agreement stated that all defenses in the buffer zone would be completely destroyed. Bunkers, built to withstand the continual pounding of the enemy's heavy artillery, would have to be torn down. A battalion order implied that all the lumber used in building the defensive positions would be taken out and carried to the new area. Giant 12-by-12 beams supported the sandbags, and tons of dirt covering the bunkers would have to be pulled out and manhandled down the rocky slopes of the outposts.

In just 72 hours, the time limit set for



As the Marines loaded vehicles to move to the rear, giving up hard-won hilltops, there were misgivings and the knowledge that if the truce fell apart, they would bear the bloody burden of retaking the terrain.

Ever the propagandists, the Chinese Communists left this banner when they vacated Molar Hill after the truce.

both sides to be gone from the neutral zone, Bunker Hill, Esther, Hill 119 and Fox Co's outpost would be names of the past along with Reno, Vegas, Berlin and East Berlin outposts.

The task began as the sun climbed out of the east. Chinese and Americans worked out in the open within rifle-shot of each other. Both sides would stop momentarily to gaze on the positions of the other as they became discernible with each shovelful of dirt and as the sandbags were removed.

Molar Hill erupted in frenzied activity. Large signs spelling out peace were hastily erected by the Communists, and the Dragon Lady returned to entertain the Marines. This time she was accompanied by a Chinese hillbilly band that played American tunes popular in the '40s. Before long a jam session started on the Hill, and two Red soldiers clung together in the Communist version of two American hep cats jitterbugging.

The Dragon Lady was not to be left out of the act. She took over the public address system between tunes and pleaded with the Marines to meet the Chinese halfway; to exchange gifts with their "peace loving" friends. As the Marines continued to ignore her pleas, she became more eloquent in describing the peaceful intentions of the Chinese and added a new approach; she promised the company commander, Capt Jagoda, a spanking new bride if he would allow his Marines to come over and exchange gifts. When informed of the offer, his only comment was: "Well, what do ya know? My wife's gonna get a big kick out of this when I write and tell her."

Just before noon the Communists massed on Molar Hill grew bolder. The Dragon Lady moved to a smaller hill in front of their strongpoint so the Marines could get a closer look at her. She stood about 5 feet, 2 inches tall and had black hair hanging to her shoulders with a pert fatigue hat perched on her head. Her khaki trousers were rolled daringly above the knees showing a well-turned leg, and she wore a Chinese military blouse that fitted loosely over her shoulders.

Six Chinese soldiers in ragged uniforms and carrying a huge blue and red banner started working their way closer to the Marine outpost. When they got within 100 yards they halted and started beckoning to the Marines to join them. The Marines still refused to go out, and after several minutes the Chinese grew tired and returned to Molar Hill, leaving the banner and gifts strewn on the ground just in front of the 1st Platoon's bunker.



But if the Communists had visions of taking the Marines' pictures receiving gifts, they were doomed to disappointment. Two Koreans, members of the South Korean Supply Corps, dashed across the 100-yard piece of no-man's land to the banner and gifts. In less than a minute they returned and distributed the bags of Chinese propaganda to the Marines. A platoon leader became the recipient of the banner, and a trophy room in the United States will one day display it for all to see.

Exasperated that her plan had failed, the Dragon Lady berated the Marines for being unfair and begged them to return the Communists' generosity with American gifts.

By 1300, the Marines had grown tired of the Communists' antics on Molar Hill, and the task of demolishing their stronghold continued in earnest. Axes and picks were used to tear down the deeply dug bunkers. In less than the allotted 72 hours, Fox Co and the entire 1stMarDiv had successfully cleared the area and were busy setting up business in their new portion of the 155-mile front.

Although many bemoaned the loss of these key positions, which had cost the blood and lives of many Marines, there

was a secret hope in the hearts of all Marines that if the peace were here to stay, the loss of vantage positions would be worth it. If not, the 1stMarDiv would again shoulder the burden of retaking the positions.

And if there is a next time, the Marines feel sure they won't build any permanent positions in the places of the ones they tore down. They'll be fighting to win; not just to hold an enemy at bay.

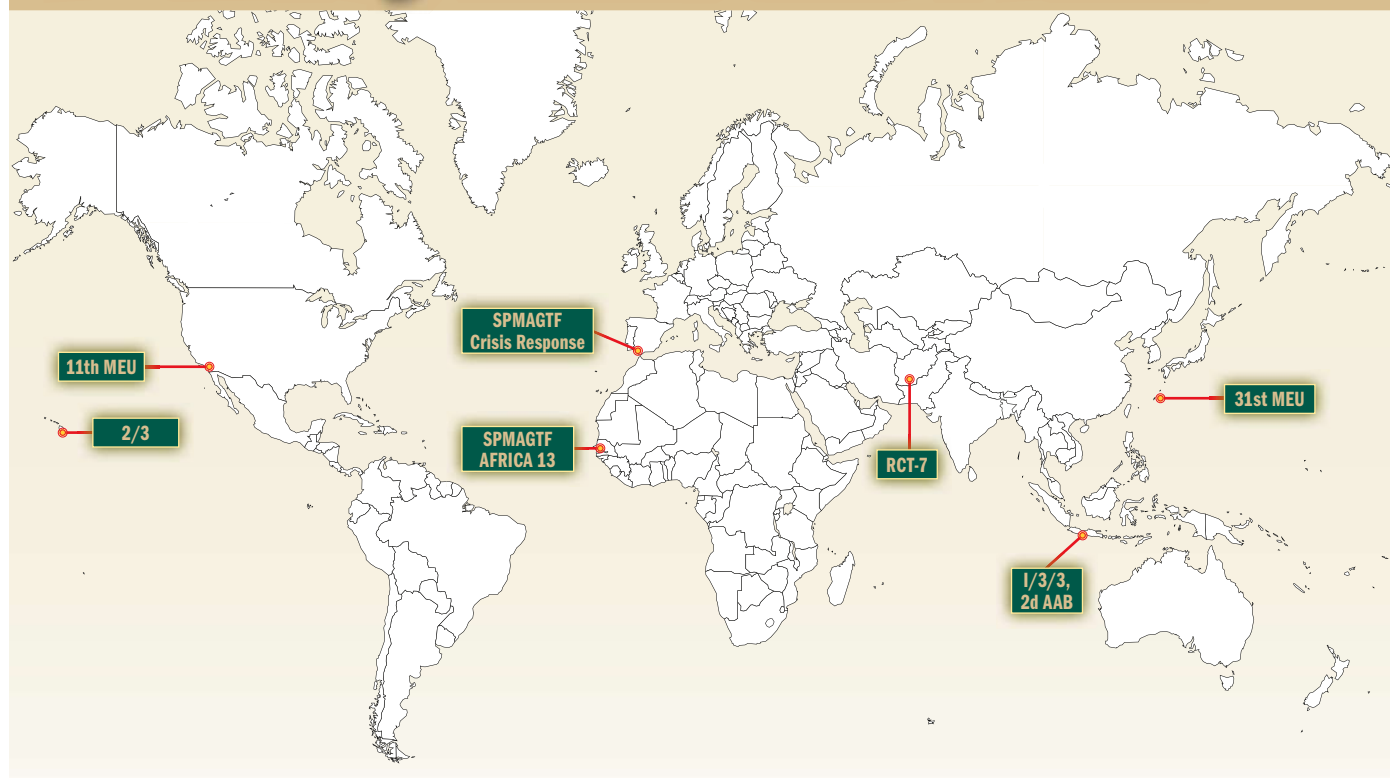
Editor's note: To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps Association's founding by then-LtCol John A. Lejeune and a group of officers at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on 25 April 1913, we will be reprinting significant articles from the Leatherneck archives in each 2013 issue.

The author, MSgt Heinecke, and the photographer, TSgt Armstrong, were active-duty Marines on the Leatherneck staff, forward deployed to Korea when this article was written. If you want to read more of their content or see other past Leatherneck articles, all the content back to 1921 is digitized and searchable online via our website: www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck.



In Every Clime and Place

Edited by
R. R. Keene



■ CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, OKINAWA **Training for Noncombatant Evacuation** **Of a U.S. Embassy Is High Priority**

A U.S. Embassy, distressed over an increase of aggression by a local group of radicals, initiated a request for “assistance” to the U.S. Department of State. This request was quickly transformed into an order and relayed to the Department of Defense: Send in the Marines.

This was the training scenario for Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, as they conducted a noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO) at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, June 3. The complicated operation can be used in numerous situations to include natural disasters and civil unrest, making the mission a realistic possibility for which the unit must be prepared.

“The whole goal when we set up and operate a NEO is to help all the citizens, whether they are American or local national citizens, and evacuate them out of the region safely,” said Gunnery Sergeant Anthony A. Davis, the evacuation control center (ECC) site chief with CLB-31, 31st MEU. “As the force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific, the 31st MEU has to be prepared to respond quickly and efficiently. Every second counts during a crisis.”

The NEO exercise processed and evacuated more than 20 role players through



Marines with CLB-31, 31st MEU conduct a hasty search at the entry point of an evacuation control center during a noncombatant evacuation exercise at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, June 3. The NEO exercise processed and evacuated more than 20 role players through the ECC, which is a collection of tents used to search, identify and process the citizens for transportation out of the dangerous area.

the ECC, which is a collection of tents used to search, identify and process the citizens for transportation out of the dangerous area.

“Conducting this training allows us to become more familiar with the procedures during the evacuation process,” said Sergeant Daniel McGhee, a squad leader with

Landing Support, CLB-31, 31st MEU.

The process of getting evacuees through a control center consists of four key stations: receiving, search, registration and embarkation.

Military police conduct hasty searches for dangerous objects at an initial entry point and then escort the evacuees to a

receiving area for a short brief to familiarize them with the process. It is there that the evacuees are separated, by nationality, to be processed through the ECC.

Next, the evacuees are escorted from the receiving area to the search station. Inside that tent, the evacuees are thoroughly searched by means of a pat down and a metal detector. The station ensures that dangerous and illegal items such as weapons, explosives or narcotics do not make it aboard the evacuation vehicles.

Registration follows the search area, where evacuees fill out paperwork necessary to be added to manifests and entered into a tracking system. The NEO Tracking System is used to ensure accurate accountability of citizens after evacuation.

Once their paperwork is in order, evacuees are escorted to the embarkation area. That is the final station in the process, where they await transportation for evacuation. In a real NEO, Marine helicopters could be used to transport the evacuees to the U.S. Navy ships from which the 31st MEU deploys. These amphibious ships can provide evacuees with billeting, sustenance and medical care, if necessary.

"The NEO provides the [U.S. Ambassador] a means of protecting and evacuating U.S. and local national citizens from a dangerous situation," said First Lieutenant Wesley Jackson, the landing support platoon commander with CLB-31. "The Ambassador has to know that he can rely on his Marines to get the job done."

The NEO exercise was a part of the 31st MEU's predeployment training for its upcoming patrol. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the Marine Corps' force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cpl Cody Underwood

Combat Correspondent, 31st MEU

■ ANTRALINA TRAINING AREA, INDONESIA

U.S. Marines and Korps Marinir Train in the Jungles of Indonesia

More than 300 Marines and sailors with Landing Force Company concluded training with Indonesia's Korps Marinir at the Antralina Training Area during Co-operation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013.

CARAT 13 is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia with the landing force serving as a Marine-operated, subcomponent of the larger exercise. The bilateral training in Antralina was conducted May 22-27 and included jungle patrolling, jungle-survival training, combat lifesaver training and multiple live-fire exercises.

The Landing Force Company is made up of Marines and sailors with Co I, 3d



Above: Indonesia Marines conduct military operations in urban terrain training with U.S. Marines, May 24, during CARAT 2013 in Antralina, Indonesia. The bilateral training and subject-matter-expert exchange included tactical casualty care, MOUT and jungle warfare training. (Photo by Cpl John C. Lamb)

Below: Indonesia Marines demonstrate survival techniques to U.S. Marines during jungle survival training May 26.



CPL JOHN C. LAMB

Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, with a detachment from 2d Assault Amphibian Battalion, Second Marine Division currently assigned to Combat Assault Bn, 3dMarDiv, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. The Indonesia forces are with Co A, 6th Infantry Bn, 2d Infantry Brigade, Korps Marinir.

"The units benefited from the training," said U.S. Marine Major John T. Ryan, the landing force commanding officer. "Everyone worked hard to prepare for this, and that was evident in the successful execution of the training."

The training allowed both militaries to share their knowledge of different tactics and survival techniques, according to Korps Marinir First Lieutenant Yunda Andi, a platoon commander with Co A, 6th Bn. "This training is always beneficial for everyone, as we train with some different methods. This allows us to compare, learn from each other and improve ourselves."

In addition to the new training experiences, Marines and sailors had the opportunity to experience a different side of Indonesia by interacting with the citizens around the Antralina Training Area, according to U.S. Marine 1stLt Brenton Mastro, a platoon commander with "India" Co. "Our interaction with local residents was just as important as our training with the Korps Marinir. It allowed Marines to display their professionalism to the civilian community, as well as get a chance to experience a new culture."

At presstime, Landing Force CARAT 13 was scheduled to participate in a series of bilateral engagements consisting of amphibious operations, bilateral small-unit training, and command and control exercises between the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps and the armed forces of Indonesia, the Kingdom of Thailand, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Singapore and the Republic of the Philippines.

1stLt Noah W. Rappahahn

PAO, Marine Corps Installations Pacific



OPERATION NIGHTMARE—Leathernecks with Company F, 2d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7 and Afghan National Security Forces are inserted by Marine CH-53E Super Stallion to provide security during Operation Nightmare, June 6, in Now Zad.

■ MORON DE LA FRONTERA, SPAIN Mediterranean Special Purpose MAGTF Crisis Response Arrives in Spain

Approximately 500 Marines and sailors arrived aboard Moron Air Base, May 5-13, to serve as Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response, a new expeditionary unit positioned forward to respond to limited crises within the Mediterranean and African area of responsibility.

SPMAGTF Crisis Response is a rotational force of Marines and sailors sourced from a variety of units from II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Temporarily positioned on Moron Air Base, Spain, the force is capable of decisive action across a range of military operations.

"The reason we are here is to provide a scalable force to respond to unexpected crisis," said Major Zane Crawford, the SPMAGTF Crisis Response operations officer. "We can rapidly deploy to support

missions, such as embassy reinforcement, tactical recovery of aircraft, and personnel and noncombatant evacuation operations."

A Marine air-ground task force is a balanced, expeditionary force with built-in command, ground, aviation and logistics elements and, while this is nothing new for the Marine Corps, a SPMAGTF is organized, trained and equipped to accomplish a specific mission, according to Crawford.

The SPMAGTF CR gives U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa a broad range of military capabilities to respond to crises in its area of responsibility including conducting non-combatant evacuation, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and support to U.S. embassies, and other operations, missions and activities as directed by national and command leadership.

SSgt Lukas Atwell

Combat Correspondent, Marine Corps Forces Africa

■ SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA U.S., Japanese Forces Plan for Joint Exercise Dawn Blitz

Leathernecks with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and sailors from the amphibious transport dock USS *San Diego* (LPD-22), Amphibious Squadron 5 and the amphibious assault ship pre-commissioning unit USS *America* (LHA-6) participated in a planning exercise with members of the Japanese Ground and Maritime Self-Defense Forces, June 3-8, at Naval Base San Diego aboard the Japanese helicopter carrier JS *Hyuga* (DDH-181).

The purpose of the weeklong course was to work with the Japanese forces and plan and conduct amphibious operations.

"We know how to conduct amphibious operations," said Colonel Matthew G. Trollinger, 11th MEU commanding officer. "So we are here to be mentors and share our best practices to our Japanese allies so they may be able to increase their knowledge in the planning process and

execution of amphibious operations.”

The self-defense forces received training during the first two days of the course from the Naval War College and Expeditionary Warfare Training Group-Pacific. The next three days, the self-defense forces were given an exercise, and they went through the joint planning process to coordinate its execution.

“We are here to help them [Japanese Self-Defense Forces] coordinate planning between their ground component and maritime component so they can effectively work together when coordinating amphibious operations,” said Navy Commander Chris Kipp, director of the staff planning division.

“I was with this group about nine months ago in Japan, and the progress that they have made between then and now is tremendous. Their planning proficiency is a lot better, and it’s great that we have our Marines and sailors here to be able to explain to them how our blue-green team works together.”

This training is part of Exercise Dawn Blitz, which is one of a series of amphibious training events on both coasts of the United States that take place annually.

“We normally work separately, but it is imperative that our ground and maritime forces work together because the world is joint now,” said CDR Kiyoshi Asano, JMSDF ops staff. “I have worked with the United States during Exercise Iron Fist and have a great appreciation of the training that they have to offer.”

Dawn Blitz 2013 is a scenario-driven exercise designed to test Navy and Marine Corps forces at the Marine expeditionary brigade and expeditionary strike group level, while promoting military-to-military cooperation and interoperability with partnered nations. Participating countries include Canada, Japan, New Zealand and military observers from seven countries.

SSgt Jimmy H. Benton Jr.
Combat Correspondent, 11th MEU



An amphibious assault vehicle makes its way toward the beach during a June 4 water-training exercise in Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The purpose of the exercise was to familiarize Marines with the AAV, its operations and the Marines’ role within the vehicle. (Photo by LCpl Matthew Bragg)

■ KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII “Island Warriors” Hone Amphibious Skills For a More Amphibious Corps

Leathernecks of Company G, 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment executed water-training exercises with amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs) in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, June 4.

Each platoon took turns boarding the AAVs, which were piloted by Marines of Combat Assault Company (CAC), 3d Marines.

After the platoons filled three to four vehicles, the Marines were carried out into Kaneohe Bay approximately 500 meters from the shoreline. From there the AAVs turned around and went back to shore for the second portion of training at Boondocker Training Area.

“The Marines are getting familiar with the water and the vehicles,” said First Lieutenant Kyle Durant, the platoon com-

mander of AAV Platoon, CAC, 3d Marines. “The purpose of this exercise is to help the Marines better understand how to use the vehicles.”

During 1st Platoon’s amphibious training, one of the AAVs lost power, forcing the Marines from the other AAVs to adapt and overcome. Marines tied two ropes to the front of the broken-down AAV and towed it back to the shoreline.

“It’s a good feeling to see the Marines come up with a solution to a problem they didn’t expect to happen,” Durant said. “It gives them a sense of knowing what kind of problems could occur on the battlefield.”

The role of the CAC Marines is to transport infantry units while communicating with other AAVs to address potential threats.

“Our units are basically on standby when we’re in an AAV,” said Lance Corporal Melvin Hall, a rifleman with 2/3. “In case of enemy fire, we’ve got guys stationed by the hatches to man the MK19 and .50-caliber machine guns.”

Once the AAVs reached the shoreline, the crew conducted a quick maintenance check before carrying the platoon aboard to the Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) compound at Boondocker Training Area to execute assault raids and house-to-house clearing. At the MOUT town, the AAVs lowered their doors and

An instructor from the Naval War College goes over staff planning with members of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces on JS *Hyuga* at Naval Base San Diego, June 7. The Exercise Dawn Blitz planning exercise gave Marines and sailors a chance to share how U.S. ground and maritime components work together to conduct amphibious operations.



SSGT JIMMY H. BENTON JR.

Marines practiced exiting and boarding procedures.

“This exercise is different than our usual MOUT town raids,” said Private First Class Konstantin Alekhanov, another 2/3 rifleman. “It’s a new experience learning how to exit the AAV with your fire team and knowing where to move to once you’re out in the open.”

The platoon separated into individual fire teams and took turns raiding the entire compound. The fire teams also communicated with each other via radio as they maneuvered through the streets. Upon finishing their assault on the compound, the Marines withdrew to the AAVs while providing cover for each other.

“The water training gives us an opportunity to learn something new while completing routine training,” Alekhanov said.

LCpl Matthew Bragg
PAO, MCB Hawaii

■ CAMP LEATHERNECK, AFGHANISTAN

Civil Affairs Marines Advise The Progressing Afghan Government

While Marines are involved in advising the Afghan National Security Forces, there are other leathernecks who work directly with the Afghan government.

The Marines with the Civil Affairs De-

tachment, Regimental Combat Team 7 assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with governance and development.

The detachment is made up of 11 Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and is divided into two basic parts: four Marines who work with the RCT command and seven Marines who help with the daily advising of local government officials throughout Helmand province.

At the RCT level, the Marines process reports, attend meetings and provide information about civil affairs projects, said Gunnery Sergeant Dwayne Baters, the detachment staff noncommissioned officer in charge. The Marines also handle information requests and provide logistical support to the civil affairs Marines at the smaller bases.

“The Marines belong to the RCT, so we check on how they live and make sure they are doing well,” said Baters.

Since the Afghan government has taken the lead role in projects and governance, the number of civil affairs Marines throughout the province has been reduced. Many of them operate independently from small bases in support of battalions and government agencies.

“Everyone loves them—the battlespace

owners, the provincial reconstruction teams, the State Department, everyone,” said Major Stefan Sneden, the detachment deputy officer in charge.

The Marines are a valuable asset to local commanders because they are fully trained as Marines and also are trained to understand politics and government, Sneden said. “They’re able to provide commanders with intelligent information about politics in the district. They’re trained to focus on the government and politics and then provide the commander with guidance.”

A few years ago, civil affairs Marines were busy with development projects like building schools and digging wells. Now, the government of Afghanistan is in charge of those types of projects.

Sneden said that fewer projects run by the Marines means more development by the Afghan government.

A few months ago when a number of Afghans in Musa Qa’leh District went to the coalition forces for help for the poor and hungry, the coalition troops told them to contact their local government.

The Helmand provincial governor, Naaem Khan Baluch, heard the appeal and facilitated aid to the people, said Maj Matthew Winkelbauer, the civil affairs detachment officer in charge. “He made a



Marines with the Civil Affairs Detachment, RCT-7 move through the district center in Now Zad, Afghanistan, May 31. “They’re able to provide commanders with intelligent information about politics in the district,” said Maj Stefan Sneden, the detachment deputy officer in charge. “They’re trained to focus on the government and politics and then provide the commander with guidance.”

promise to his people to purchase humanitarian aid packages from the local market with rice and oil, and then he delivered on his promise a few days later,” Winkelbauer said. “They worked through their own system to get their people help.”

Sgt Ned Johnson
Combat Correspondent, II MEF (Fwd)

■ TOUBACOUTA, SENEGAL SPMAGTF Africa 13 Marines, Sailors Go Tactical With Commandos

U.S. Marines and sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa 13 began training Senegalese *Companie de Fusilier Marine Commandos* (COFUMACO) in Dakar, Senegal, April 6.

The training was focused on light infantry tactics and maritime security that helped build proficiency in handling regional stability issues such as drug traffickers or potential hostile activity.

“We’re here because the U.S., and the Marines in particular, have a long-standing relationship with Senegal and the COFUMACO,” said First Lieutenant Kyle Finnerty, SPMAGTF Africa 13 assistant team leader. “They have identified areas where they can improve their military capabilities, and they have asked us to come in and help train them to improve in those areas and build their capacity to provide security for their country.”

Senegal has approximately 330 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline and large networks of rivers along the southern coastline. However, the Senegalese landscape consists mainly of the rolling sandy plains of the western Sahel.

“The COFUMACO are the Senegalese equivalent of the U.S. Marines,” Finnerty added. “They are naval infantry, so they operate in desert and water-based environments.”

The Marines and sailors use interpreters to communicate while in the classroom. The rest of the training is hands-on in the field or on the water to promote muscle memory and an understanding that can come only from experience, Finnerty said. “We started with basic weapons handling and maintenance and then live-fire. We start from the standstill and move up to more advanced skills, such as shooting on the move. We saw them make great progress throughout the week. They are a motivated group of individuals, and they work hard every day and they are exceeding our expectations.”

Like the U.S. Marines, the Senegalese are amphibious, so the training did not stop with land-based activity.

Daily drills of waterway patrolling, land insertions and extractions, live-fire target practice, and scout-swimmer techniques are the challenges the COFUMACO face



CPL TIMOTHY NORRIS

Above: Sgt Blaec Nelson, a SPMAGTF Africa 13 reconnaissance Marine, instructs Senegalese *Companie de Fusilier Marine Commandos* how to accurately engage an enemy during aquatic combat marksmanship training near Toubacouta, Senegal, April 30.

Below: Senegalese Marine Commandos provide “security” during a boat interdiction drill. SPMAGTF Africa strengthens U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa and U.S. Africa Command’s ability to assist partner nations.



CPL TIMOTHY NORRIS

and come out on top, said U.S. Navy Quartermaster Second Class Eric Waters, SPMAGTF Africa 13 riverine instructor. “When we get out [on the water], we teach them how to overcome the heat and environment. Most of the time we get wet out there, but the COFUMACO are very willing to learn. They overcome it and they ask a lot of questions. Once they hear it, they grasp it and they do it.”

The long-term goal of the training is to prepare the training participants to become the next generation of instructors for the Senegalese. “Our goal here is to

train the trainer,” Waters said.

“If you could spend a half hour with them in training, you’d think everyone was old friends,” Finnerty said. “All the shared pain in training and working out during the long hard days, everyone becomes close pretty quickly. Everyone is working hard, but there are a lot of laughs and good times to be had as well.”

Cpl Timothy Norris

Combat Correspondent, Marine Corps Forces Africa





Capt Matthew Bowman, USMC, background, participates in a joint Cyber Flag exercise with U.S. Air Force personnel. The joint exercise was held November 2012 at Nellis AFB in Nevada and is the largest annual DOD cyber exercise.

Marine Forces Cyber: Protecting the Corps

By Andrew Lubin

"In every clime and place" now includes land—sea—air—and cyber.

"If cyberspace is the new battlefield," said Lieutenant General Richard P. Mills, "then it's one more in which the Marine Corps will be a leader."

At this writing, LtGen Mills, the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, also is the commander of Marine Forces Cyber (MarForCyber), located at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and is tasked with protecting Marine Corps communications worldwide.

As warfighting has morphed from conventional war to include counterinsurgency operations, additional enemies have arisen on a parallel track due to the popularity of the Internet. With every aspect of the military, business, government, academia and people's personal lives now so dependent on the Internet for communications and data, servers have become a



LtGen Jon M. Davis, Deputy Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, left, and LtGen Richard P. Mills, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration and Commander, Marine Forces Cyber, meet during a Marine Corps Association & Foundation professional development dinner at MCB Quantico, Va., Oct. 18, 2012.

major target from a variety of potential enemies.

In response to the increasing threats, MarForCyber was established in January 2010 (prior to U.S. Cyber Command's

May 2010 founding) in order to command, control and direct the Marine Corps response. According to LtGen Mills, "The problems don't just come from those countries you read about; we've got hackers trying to breach our systems 'just because.' There's organized crime and terrorist groups, there are a variety of semi-state groups trying to gain access to our system. We deal with a variety of anomalies daily."

"A variety of anomalies daily" might be an understatement. Pentagon officials told Congress that in 2012, the ".mil" networks were probed as much as 250,000 times per hour by both amateurs and professionals from all parts of the globe. But it's also a question of who is the enemy. "It's a wide array," LtGen Mills said. "It's not just some teen hacker trying to crash one of our websites, but it could be a foreign country, a non-state actor hired by that country trying to plant a virus that surfaces to either shut down power plants or take control of combat computers and communications systems in the midst of a battle."

These attacks have advanced so in volume and sophistication that in March, intelligence leaders announced that for the first time, cyberattacks and cyberespionage supplanted terrorism as the top threat facing the United States.

Questions often arise with U.S. Cyber Command (and therefore MarForCyber) relating to constitutional issues such as the right to privacy or domestic spying; however, the answer is complicated due to the complex nature of the cyberworld. If an Asian government agency tries to breach the Marine Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPR) and Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPR) while pretending to impersonate an Eastern European hacker and routing the attack through an American-based dating site, is the threat foreign, domestic or both?

In order to respond legally, U.S. Cyber Command is dual hatted to allow for such exigencies as it operates under Title 10 of the U.S. Code authorizing military operations and Title 50 allowing domestic.

The answer is the same for MarForCyber. Being the Marine component of U.S. Cyber Command and carrying the same legal authority, the Commandant has the ability to task MarForCyber to secure and protect Marine Corps communications.

Just as Marines train constantly in the field, so does MarForCyber. In November 2012 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., U.S. Cyber Command sponsored Cyber Flag 13-1, the second joint cyberspace training exercise conducted. It focused on exercising the command's mission of defending the Department of Defense networks across the full spectrum of operations against a realistic adversary in a virtual environment. All participants had a specific role, playing either the U.S. side or an adversary.

Although details on Cyber Flag 13-1 are not available due to its predominantly classified activities, MarForCyber participated with both the friendly and opposition forces during the force-on-force cyber engagement. The exercise included an enemy cyber force whose mission was to penetrate and disrupt the computer networks of the "good guys." MarForCyber's goal was to exercise and validate existing tactics, techniques and procedures on both offense and defense. At the end of Cyber Flag 13-1, the Marine Corps was recognized as the top-performing military service.

MarForCyber is expanding rapidly in response to the rise in cyberthreats as well as the Pentagon's emphasis on a lean, reduced manpower force. As Washington seems to want to de-emphasize the need for infantrymen and artillerymen in its vision of how to defeat the 21st century's enemies, LtGen Mills expects to increase



COURTESY OF MARFORCYBER

Above: MarForCyber Marines, from left, Cpl Vanessa Ayala, Capt Ryan Rafferty and Sgt Skylar Williams-Rankin, formulate a response to one of the thousands of cyber-issues that daily attack the Marine Corps information systems.

Below: LCpl Kevin D. Drosos, a data network specialist with Cyber Platoon, Communications Company, Headquarters Battalion, Second Marine Division, types commands while troubleshooting for fellow specialists, LCpl Andres E. Roybal, right, and Pvt Javier Gonzalez.



PVT BRIAN M. WOODRUFF

MarForCyber's workforce by approximately 500 Marines (both officers and enlisted) and civilians through FY16.

"But don't misunderstand," said LtGen Mills, "we're still Marines first, and the concept of every Marine a rifleman hasn't changed." Within those parameters, it's generally the intelligence (02) and communication (06) military occupational specialties (MOSs) where MarForCyber finds motivated young Marines with the necessary skill sets. Today's young people

are cyber-friendly. The general noted that they've grown up in the wired world and are familiar with it.

As MarForCyber continues to mature and expand, the related MOSs continue to be refined. These are more than just bureaucratic changes. The Marines assigned the new 0605 MOS will be proficient in information technology (IT), doctrine, tactics, techniques, procedures and the other skills necessary for MarForCyber to fight successfully in cyberspace.

Lieutenant General Jon M. Davis, USMC Deputy Commander, United States Cyber Command

To Lieutenant General Jon Davis, “cyber” is another combat component to be used today; it’s yet one more battlefield on which the enemy needs to be engaged and defeated.

Bringing his Marine experience to his 2012 appointment as Deputy Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, headquartered at Fort Meade, Md., the Marine influence on America’s warfighting capabilities continues into cyberspace.

USCYBERCOM’s mission to “ensure US/Allied freedom of action in cyberspace and deny the same to our adversaries” seems daunting to most. USCYBERCOM will “direct the operations and defense of specified Department of Defense information networks and; prepare to, and when directed, conduct full spectrum military cyberspace operations in order to enable actions in all domains.”

However, LtGen Davis, a Harrier pilot by training and a forward air controller, a Marine School of Advanced Warfighting graduate and former commander of Marine Aviation and Weapons Tactics Squadron (MAWTS) 1 and Second Marine Aircraft Wing, who has devoted his career to advocating for the power of Marine air-ground task force (MAGTF) in winning our nation’s battles, reduces cyber to the most simple of terms: “It’s the newest addition to combined arms,” LtGen Davis explained. “In conflicts today, our infantrymen will be protected and supported by cyber capabilities.”

In addition to integrating the concepts of combined arms and maneuver warfare inside U.S. Cyber Command, LtGen Davis’ team is putting substantial effort into ensuring that cyber training is standardized through the service branches. While it’s the responsibility of the services (including the Corps) to man, train and equip, USCYBERCOM defined what kinds of capabilities and skill sets the services need to produce forces who can perform the cyber mission. “The MOS [military occupational specialty] designations may vary between the services, but at least now we have set descriptions so everyone knows what we need,” LtGen Davis said.

Since earning his wings in 1982, LtGen Davis has flown,

instructed or commanded every type and model of both fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft in the Marine Corps inventory. His expansive background in how Marine aviation is used as a warfighting element in a MAGTF makes his current tenure as Cyber Command’s deputy even more effective.

“There’s a Marine expression I use constantly. It’s ‘equip the man,’ and not ‘man the equipment,’” LtGen Davis said.

He believes the most important entity on the cyber battlefield is not some piece of equipment or technology, but rather the individual warrior who is highly motivated and exceptionally skilled. Drawing on his Marine background, he pushes to find the best people for Cyber Command and then pushes them to excel. “You never take the weapons system for granted,” he said. “It’s a question of recognizing the threat and then pushing the equipment to the limit. The only difference between a rifleman and a cyberwarrior should be the equipment he carries into battle.”

LtGen Davis currently is involved in setting up three separate teams within

USCYBERCOM: Cyber National Mission Forces, which will defend against threats to America’s critical infrastructure; Cyber Combat Mission Forces, which support combatant commanders; and Cyber Protection Teams, which will defend the military’s information systems. “It all leads back to the right of self-defense,” LtGen Davis said. “While it’s using the newest technology to fight these new high-tech threats, it’s still defending the United States against all foreign threats.”

LtGen Davis pointed out that the U.S. Marines have a very solid reputation in the cyber realm and that we will be building more Marine cyber forces in the near future. He noted that the primary attributes we are looking for in cyberwarriors are “a positive attitude and the desire to close with and destroy the enemy. If you fit that description, you would fit in this new mission space.”

He’s also the very proud father of a Marine aviator and a soon-to-be Marine aviator, or “riflemen with wings,” as he refers to his fellow pilots and two sons.

—Andrew Lubin



LtGen Jon M. Davis

RON LUBIN

What makes MarForCyber particularly effective is its blending of “cyber” into the Corps daily routine. “Since warfighting today is speed and information critical,” LtGen Mills explained, “we’re integrating our cyber Marines into the field. A staff needs a variety of combat skill sets, and cyber is one of them.”

Cyber Marines are in the Marine air-ground task forces, the joint forces and in combined exercises and operations with America’s allies. The goal is to have cyber planners in cyber cells providing expertise and the capability of conducting cyber operations with every Marine ex-

peditionary unit, Marine expeditionary brigade and Marine expeditionary force.

Conducting combat or training operations without reliable information, communications networks and assured access to cyberspace is impossible today. Marine Forces Cyber understands that a stable Marine Corps cyber domain means ensuring stability for weapons systems, command and control and Corpwide communications. It’s not just defending facilities at Marine installations in the United States, two years ago the Taliban disrupted Marine e-mail in Regional Command Southwest in Afghanistan requiring the issuing

of new e-mail addresses. It was a minor annoyance at the time but a harbinger of threats to come.

Editor’s note: Andrew Lubin is a frequent Leatherneck contributor and has embedded with Marine units in Iraq and Afghanistan numerous times and accompanied units inside the United States on operational efforts, such as responding to Hurricane Sandy’s aftermath in New York City, and also during training exercises.



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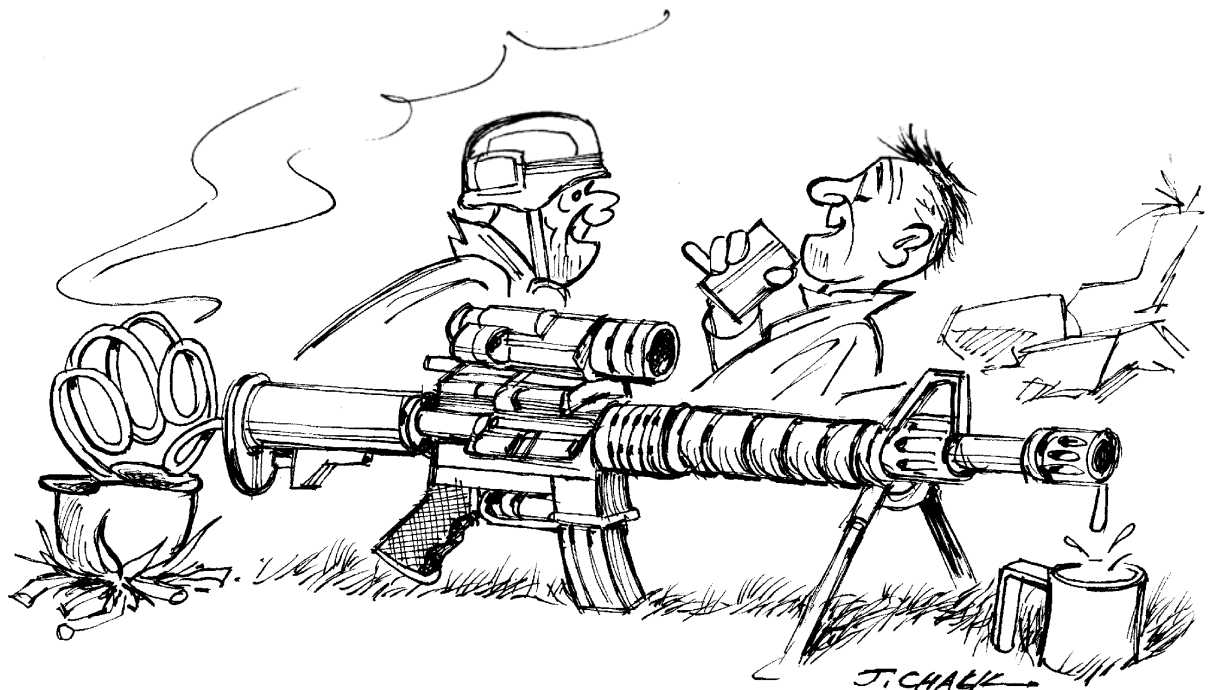
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"Lieutenant, if you're lost, just sort of follow 'Gunny'.
He usually knows where we're going."



"Mommy, is Daddy a vegetarian now?"



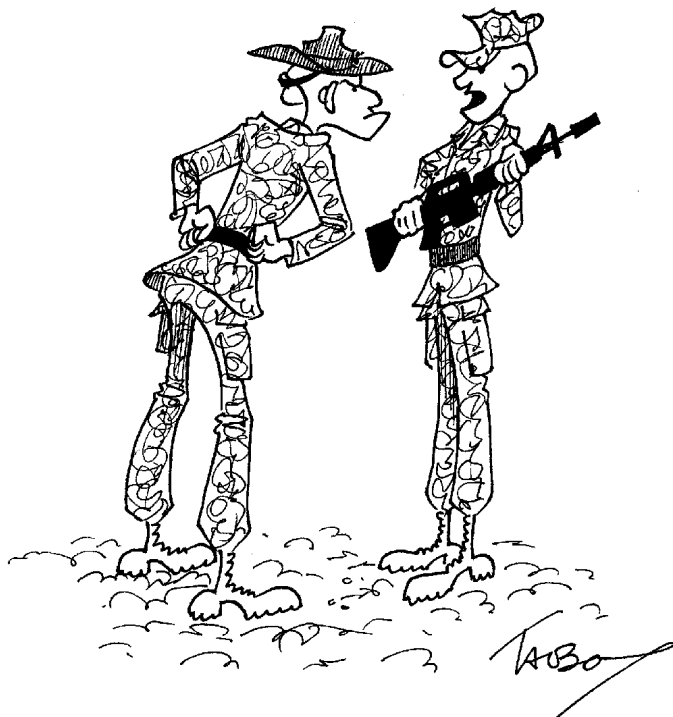
"Not bad. A gentle kiss of Cosmoline. Not bad."

BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout



"I'm not sure. I think my son was here yesterday."



"Sir, I thank the DI! The DI has given me a lot to think about!"



"I looked it up, Smitty. PFC does not stand for 'personal friend of the Commandant.' "

The results of the successful restoration efforts are evident as the UH-34D flies at a 2008 air show at Jones Beach, Long Island, N.Y.



COURTESY OF THE MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON 361 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Vietnam Veterans Restore Seahorse To Honor Squadron Mates

By David Hugel

In July 1969, Corporal Alan J. Weiss began a tour in Vietnam as a helicopter crew chief. He was part of an advance party for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 361, a CH-53 squadron based near Da Nang at Marble Mountain. In late January 1970, after six months in country, Sergeant Weiss left Vietnam as part of President Richard Nixon's U.S. troop reduction program.

Twenty-eight years later, Weiss and a couple of his Marine buddies attended a reunion of the USMC Vietnam Helicopter Association (Pop-A-Smoke), where they saw something that inspired a quest which would consume the next several years of their lives. What they saw was a Vietnam-era helicopter, a restored UH-34D Seahorse, bearing the markings of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 362, the first Marine helicopter squadron deployed to Vietnam, flying over the Pensacola Beach, Fla., reunion site.

The UH-34D, affectionately known by pilots and crewmen as the "Dog," was a versatile and reliable aircraft. The helicopter first touched down in Vietnam on

April 15, 1962, when Lieutenant Colonel Archie Clapp led his squadron, HMM-362, into an abandoned airfield near the village of Soc Trang. The H-34 would prove to be a workhorse during the course of the next seven years of the Vietnam War until retired from combat in August 1969.

After seeing the classic helicopter from the Vietnam War flying at the reunion, Weiss began dreaming about restoring and flying a UH-34D to honor his former squadron, which flew the same model during its first tour in Vietnam from October 1963 through January 1964. Perhaps not by coincidence, the UH-34 was also the helicopter he trained on as a mechanic.

After its tour in the Far East, HMM-361 returned to the States where it later was reconstituted as a CH-53 squadron (HMH-361) based at New River, N.C. Weiss joined the squadron after finishing helicopter school and, before deploying to Vietnam, mastered the skills to qualify as a CH-53 crew chief.

Knowing that it would be an expensive proposition to purchase, restore and operate such a vintage aircraft, Weiss teamed up with retired Colonel Kermit Andrus,

his squadron commander in Vietnam, and Keith Cameron, a former staff sergeant who did two separate tours with HMM-361 in Vietnam, to create a tax-exempt foundation. The Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association was incorporated in 2000 and began raising the money needed to support their dream.

With assistance from other Vietnam veterans and aviation buffs, Weiss located several UH-34 airframes at an aviation salvage facility in Cochise, Ariz. Five had seen duty with HMM-361. After examining every helicopter's physical condition, the logbook for each was reviewed. The logbook contains the history of locations where each helicopter had been assigned and squadrons with which it had served, based on the unique Bureau Number (BuNo) assigned to every aircraft by the Bureau of Naval Weapons.

Based on that review, the airframe with BuNo 150570 was rescued from the boneyard. The helicopter had a distinguished record of service with several Marine Corps squadrons during the Vietnam War and had logged three tours with HMM-361. According to supporting documents, the Bureau of Naval Weapons accepted

The restoration project began with selecting an airframe from an aviation salvage lot in Arizona. At below left is the four-man team of Seppo Hurme, Allan Daniel, Ron Hatton and Alan Weiss, respectively, who made the trip. The selected airframe was taken to an old potato storage barn (below right) in Jamestown, N.Y., where it was restored.



COURTESY OF ALAN WEISS



COURTESY OF ALAN WEISS

the aircraft at Sikorsky's Stratford, Conn., plant in late October 1963.

After being shipped to the West Coast and then to Okinawa, it was received by HMM-361 on board USS *Valley Forge* (LPH-8) in April 1964. Following service with three other squadrons afloat in Southeast Asia, in March 1965 it joined HMM-162 in Da Nang. The aircraft served with HMM-361 again from August to December 1965. After service with other squadrons and periodic repairs and overhauls, it rejoined HMM-361 in April 1966 for another brief tour.

The combat-experienced aircraft began its last tour in Vietnam in January 1969

when it joined HMM-362 at Phu Bai. BuNo 150570 departed Vietnam for the final time in May of that year. By coincidence, HMM-362, the first H-34 squadron deployed to Vietnam in April 1962, was the last -34 squadron to serve in combat.

Having selected an aircraft, the next challenge was hauling it by truck 2,500 miles from Cochise to Jamesport, N.Y., located on the remote eastern tip of Long Island, where it would undergo an extensive restoration. The helicopter's new home was an old potato storage barn the -361 Veterans Association had rented just an eight-minute drive from Weiss' home.

The cost of purchasing the helicopter and hauling it across the country, according to Weiss, was \$15,000, but that was just the beginning. He estimates the total cost of the five-year restoration effort was more than \$350,000.

Weiss stopped keeping time records after volunteers logged 40,000 hours working on the restoration effort, but knows that many more hours were expended to complete the project. He estimates he put in about half the total number of volunteer hours himself, often dropping by the barn that had been transformed into a hangar to work three to four hours on the helicopter after returning home from his job at a local car dealer.

In discussing the restoration, Weiss recalled that the aircraft needed some minor rib repairs, and they were fortunate that one of the volunteers was a Grumman structural engineer who could complete those repairs. He added that the restoration team also had the good fortune to have the aircraft's manuals, including a book of wiring diagrams. One of the most challenging problems was that the wire bundles had been removed and were not attached to the terminal blocks. This required the team to look up every wire number and to correctly attach them to the terminal block. "It was a very tedious job," said Weiss.

Interestingly, the restored UH-34 helicopter that inspired the project would provide critical parts for its reconstruction.

Marine UH-34 helicopters from HMM-361 prepare to insert South Vietnamese Army soldiers into a landing zone to search for Viet Cong insurgents during the squadron's first tour in Vietnam in the autumn of 1963.



DAVID H. HUGEL

Below left: In August 2008, YN 19 made an appearance at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., where it was on display for three days in conjunction with the Pop-A-Smoke reunion.

Below right: The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, with his grandchildren, had an opportunity to admire the restored Vietnam warhorse when it appeared at the May 2012 Armed Forces Air Show and Open House at Joint Base Andrews, Md. (Photo courtesy of the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association)



COURTESY OF THE MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON 361 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



The restoration team was able to use the fuel system, instruments and pylon from that helicopter, donated by its owner, former Marine crew chief Jim Moriarty, following a debilitating ground crash incident in 2004. One way or the other, every part needed for the restoration effort was located and installed.

Among the devoted crew of volunteers working on the project, two Marines, George DeBarge and Ron Hatton, had been crewmembers with HMM-361 during its first tour in Vietnam when the squadron was flying H-34s. They both helped with the mechanical assembly, often putting in 6- to 8-hour days, bunking together each night in a 20-foot camping trailer. Hatton traveled from his home in California to Long Island several times a year, staying a week or two each time, to work on the aircraft's restoration. Weiss estimates that aside from himself, Hatton put in the most hours on the project.

It would be impossible to name all the individuals who contributed their time and talents toward the restoration effort, but another example of the dedication shown by those volunteers is John Griffin. A former H-34 pilot, he spent hundreds of hours with a toothbrush and solvent working in the tail cone, painstakingly removing the 25-year accumulation of sand and grime that built up as the aircraft languished in the Arizona desert. Griffin, who was part of the team that developed space-capsule recovery procedures during

the early days of America's space program, also led the effort to paint the helicopter as the restoration neared completion.

In May 2004, a dozen Marines known as "Tweed's Tigers," who served in Vietnam when LtCol McDonald Tweed was HMM-361's commander, held their reunion at Jamesport so they could contribute their skills to the restoration project. They pitched a large tent, complete with a shower, head facilities and a mess tent,

near the hangar that served as their base of operations after long days of working on the helicopter. It was a labor of love for all who worked on the project.

After receiving FAA certification as an experimental exhibition aircraft, the helicopter made its first test flight on Nov. 13, 2005, after more than four years of restoration work. The first flight was made by two experienced Marine combat veteran pilots, Ben Cascio and Larry Turner,



COURTESY OF BOB KEITH

These HMM-361 UH-34 helicopters stand ready on the flight line during the squadron's first tour in Vietnam in 1963.



COURTESY OF THE MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON 361 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

On Nov. 15, 2008, YN 19 participated in the dedication of a bridge in Sag Harbor, N.Y., honoring LCpl Jordan C. Haerter, who posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross for heroic action in Iraq during April 2008.

both of whom had flown H-34s in Vietnam.

The restored helicopter, freshly painted with HMM-361 markings as YN 19, made its first public appearance in March 2006 at a Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., ceremony activating the Marine Corps' first operational MV-22 squadron, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 263. It was a fitting tribute to the new Osprey squadron's predecessor, HMM-263, with which the restored helicopter had briefly served during the Vietnam War.

Since YN 19 began flying in 2006, it has made countless appearances often hundreds of miles from the aircraft's home on Long Island. Burning 75 gallons of fuel per hour, plus the cost of liability insurance, hangar rental fees and aircraft maintenance expenses, Al Weiss estimates the operational cost of the helicopter as \$1,500 per hour of flight time. These operational expenses are borne by the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association.

The helicopter, known as "Freedom's Flying Memorial," and its dedicated volunteer pilots and crewmen make several appearances each year at reunions, air

shows and other special events. At each appearance, a commemorative display, listing the names of all the pilots and crewmembers killed during the six years the squadron flew combat missions in Vietnam, is prominently featured for all who visit the aircraft to see.

During one of YN 19's most memorable appearances, in mid-November 2008, the helicopter participated in the dedication of a bridge in Sag Harbor, N.Y., named in honor of Lance Corporal Jordan C. Haerter. The young Marine, killed in April 2008 defending a checkpoint in Iraq, is credited with saving the lives of 50 fellow Marines and Iraqi policemen. For his heroism, Haerter posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross.

Over the years, the helicopter twice traveled to New York City to participate in Fleet Week festivities, made the long flight to MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., for an appearance at an air show as a static display and to re-enact a Vietnam medevac mission. It also flew to the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Triangle, Va., where it was on display for three days in conjunction with the Pop-A-Smoke (now known as the USMC/Combat Heli-

copter Association) reunion being held nearby.

Even the Marine Corps Commandant, General James F. Amos, had an opportunity to admire the restored Vietnam warhorse when it appeared at the May 2012 Joint Base Andrews Armed Forces Air Show and Open House, commemorating the 200th anniversary of Marine Corps aviation.

Recognizing that the aging helicopter's useful life soon will be coming to an end, the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association has been actively exploring where to best display the venerable Vietnam War artifact so future generations of Marines and the public can learn about the historic role the UH-34D played during the Vietnam War.

Editor's note: David Hugel has been a longtime contributor to Leatherneck magazine. He enlisted in the Marine Corps following graduation from high school in 1960 and later served with the 1st MAF where he covered early Marine Corps operations in Vietnam while stationed in Da Nang as part of Shufly.





Above: The fighting in Hue was pretty much nonstop. Marines, such as this one, on 18 Feb. 1968, grabbed a catnap wherever and whenever they could.



Leathernecks of F/2/5 cross Highway 1 from the Military Assistance Command Vietnam compound and move toward the treasury building on Ly Thuong Kiet Street reinforced with an M67A2 flame tank called "Zippo." It is Feb. 1, and Fox Co is headed up Tran Co Van Street and a block's worth of bloody fighting.



Above: The Marines had scoured the block where the treasury and post office were located and came across at least 30 Vietnamese civilians who emerged from hiding. They escorted the non-combatants to the Military Assistance Command Vietnam compound.

Right: F/2/5 with an Army of the Republic of Vietnam M41 light tank prepares to move out of Doc Lao Park and into the fighting. Thinking it was going to be a short mission into Hue, the Marines left their packs at Phu Bai.

Below: The leathernecks crapped out in a furnished building, fortunate to be out of the elements. Radio, rifles and Marines found solace and slumber from the fighting that was south of the River of Perfume in Hue.



A Machine-Gunner's Snapshots of Combat During the Battle of Hue

Edited by R. R. Keene · Photos by Cpl Alexander Kandic

Corporal Alexander Kandic was an M60 machine-gunner with "Foxtrot" Company, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment in 1968 during the battle for Hue City, Vietnam.

He also took photos during the fighting. "Since my primary MOS [military occupational specialty] was as a machine-gunner, I was only able to shoot images when the situation permitted."

He used a Nikkormat 35 mm camera



**Machine-Gunner
Kandic**

COURTESY OF ALEXANDER KANDIC

with color slide film. "This particular model had no electronics whatsoever and, therefore, no light meter. I had to use my photo experience to try and guess what exposure to set on the camera." His results are spectacular.

He later was wounded, twice, but had a collection of combat photos relatively unknown until author Eric Hammel saw them and published one on the cover of his book about the Battle of Hue, "Fire in the Streets." Hammel used Kandic's

photos in his book "Marines in Hue City."

Kandic left the Corps and returned to Quebec City, Canada. "I tried my hand at different jobs, but it turned out that professional sales was my strong point, and I worked for several international companies. I am now retired."

But, he fought at Hue in 1968, and not many can say that anymore. "I must confess that it's my service in the Marine Corps that remains the highlight and is what I am most proud of having done in my lifetime."





Portrait of a Wounded Warrior: The Story of Staff Sergeant Jason Pennock

Story Ed Vasgerdsian
Photos courtesy of the author

He survived five deployments to Iraq without a physical scar, but it took just one deployment to Afghanistan to throw Staff Sergeant Jason M. Pennock flat on his back in the hospital. But deployments to both countries have left permanent physical marks on this wounded warrior—one by choice, one by fate.

SSgt Pennock was senior reconnaissance advisor to the Reconnaissance Tolai (Company), 4th Kandak (Battalion), 1st Brigade, 215th Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA). The not-by-choice scars came on July 10, 2012, in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. “It was the usual patrol doing what most patrols do, and that is gather intel information in hopes of uncovering a cache of IEDs [improvised explosive devices], weapons and war material,” Pennock said.

First Lieutenant Michael Denner, Sergeant Sims, SSgt Timothy Williams, Hospital Corpsman Third Class (HM3) Aaron Hernandez, SSgt Roy Lackey and eight Afghan soldiers were part of that team.

According to an official report, the patrol encountered two males in black clothing who seemed suspicious to the ANA soldiers but were not detained. The patrol continued until Lackey discovered spent

5.56 mm cartridge casings and mo-ped tire tracks. Suddenly, the patrol came under fire, which later was estimated to be from 30 Taliban. Pennock, Denner and seven of the ANA troops jumped into a chest-high *wadi* (streambed), forming an assault team for the target area, while Williams, Lackey, Hernandez and one ANA soldier maneuvered eastward.

Pennock continued: “I started to get the feeling we were being watched, and that’s when the first rounds started coming in. Automatic rounds began impacting around me. I returned fire, moved forward until I realized I was alone. Not enough radios; I was 150 meters from my group. Voice contact would only pinpoint me, so I moved back through the canal until I knew it was safe once again to establish voice contact. The enemy was moving toward us, and as I saw the reeds in the canal moving, I opened fire.

“There was no return fire. I managed to get over and across the other side of the canal where Staff Sergeant Tim Williams and his men were. We reorganized and began to move forward once again toward where muzzle flashes from an abandoned house had been seen. A sniper’s bullet spun me around and threw me down, and I rolled into the canal. I fell on my right side into a couple of feet of water. I couldn’t use my left leg, and I couldn’t move my

right leg without experiencing great pain. I wasn’t sure where I had been hit. The ditch water was deep, and I was trying to keep my head above water.”

According to the combat support team report: “SSgt Pennock jumped in to a chest-high *wadi* with 1stLt Denner. With the (8) ANA, they formed the assault element on the compounds to the east. HM3 Hernandez, SSgt Lackey, and SSgt Williams initially took cover behind a berm in a large field before they consolidated in a compound to the south with Sgt Sims. Sgt Sims remained in the compound to coordinate with aircraft while the other (6) Marines maneuvered toward the enemy.

“SSgt Williams, SSgt Lackey, HM3 Hernandez, and one ANA soldier maneuvered east through a small *wadi*. 1stLt Denner, SSgt Pennock, and seven ANA soldiers began to assault the compounds through a bermed field. At 1045, after approximately 45 minutes of moving toward the enemy, SSgt Williams discovered that SSgt Pennock had received a gunshot wound (GSW) to the left hip. After assessing the scene, SSgt Williams applied pressure to the wound and began to conduct buddy aid. Shortly thereafter, HM3 Hernandez arrived to treat SSgt Pennock with gauze and pressure dressings to staunch the bleeding.



Part of Regimental Combat Team 5's Combat Support Advisor Team pauses at a patrol base built in the Bari Desert, just north of the Sistani Peninsula, in May 2012. From left: SSgt Jason M. Pennock, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion; 1stLt Michael A. Denner, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion (CEB); SSgt Robert A. Cale, 1st CEB; 1stLt Andrew E. Mineer, 1st Bn, 11th Marine Regiment; and SSgt Timothy S. Williams, 1st Recon Bn.

"As the ANA and Marines continued to maneuver on the compounds, security was set around SSgt Pennock while a 9-line MEDEVAC report was sent to higher. While under SAF [small-arms fire], SSgt Williams, SSgt Lackey, 1stLt Denner, and HM3 Hernandez moved SSgt Pennock across two shoulder high *wadis* while the ANA soldiers assaulted the compounds.

"Upon trying to move SSgt Pennock to the rear, the team again came under accurate SAF. 1stLt Denner and SSgt

Williams began to maneuver east to alleviate fire from "murder" holes [or firing ports knocked] in the [walls of the] compound to the east, pushing within 150 meters until SAF lifted. At 1135, fire from the northern compound was suppressed by the Marines, who then focused fire to the southern compound. At 1140, aircraft checked on station and SAF lifted. CSAT [combat systems assessment team] members estimate killing 10 Taliban in the initial engagement.

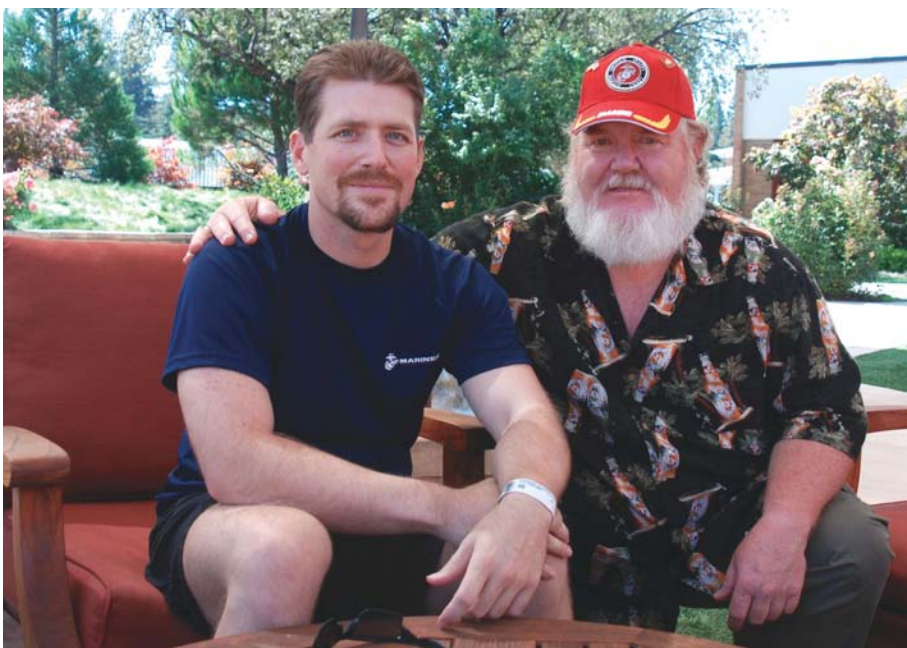
"1stLt Denner and SSgt Williams returned to the Casualty Collection Point (CCP) with SSgt Lackey and HM3 Hernandez to move SSgt Pennock to the MEDEVAC helicopter. ... SSgt Williams fireman carried SSgt Pennock 300 meters to the compound in which Sgt Sims was in. HM3 Hernandez performed a patient turnover as the remaining Marines carried SSgt Pennock to the helicopter. At 1150, the MEDEVAC helicopter departed with SSgt Pennock."

An hour later Pennock was evacuated to Camp Bastion, the main military base in Afghanistan, and learned the sniper's bullet had shattered his femur into 36 pieces on its way through his leg. The remaining patrol engaged the Taliban fighters who were armed with rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and small arms. The Marines returned fire with rifles and medium machine guns. There would be periodic engagements with Taliban fighters until 2000. By the end of the day, 40 Marines were on scene, and 10 Taliban fighters were dead.

A Call Home

Pennock made his first call home and left a message for his father, knowing the sound of his voice at least would be

Sam Pennock, right, proud father of two Marines, joins son Jason on the patio of Building 7, the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care Services.





Comrades in arms, never to be forgotten, are tattooed on SSgt Jason Pennock's back.

positive reassurance. "Dad, don't worry. I'm OK no matter what you hear."

The second call was to his girlfriend, Shanelle D'Amico, and it took on a different tone as he recalled the conversation with a smile.

"I said, 'I got good news and bad news.'

"Shanelle said, 'What's the good news?'

"I said, 'I'm coming home.'

"She said, 'What's the bad news?'

"I said, 'I got shot.' "

Of SSgt Pennock, 1stLt Denner said: "I had the honor of deploying with Jason during our last deployment as advisors to the Afghan National Army. I was on the patrol when he was shot. Jason Pennock is easily the toughest, most determined professional warrior I have ever met. His aggressive audacity and cool demeanor in the face of absolute dire circumstances were crucial to our survival on the battlefield.

"Jason continued to lead and encourage

the rest of the team after he'd been shot. He fought through massive blood loss, dehydration and the effects of morphine to continue directing fires on enemy positions while we awaited the medevac 'bird.' Jason Pennock is a Marine, brother and friend that I will never forget."

Palo Alto Veterans Health Care Services

There were several surgical procedures performed during SSgt Pennock's hospitalizations in Afghanistan; Germany; and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., before arriving at the Palo Alto Veterans Health Care Services (PAVHCS). Palo Alto, Calif., is where PAVHCS is, but the city also is home to many prestigious institutions and individuals, including Stanford University, Hewlett-Packard, Facebook, Nobel Prize recipients, venture capitalists and Silicon Valley CEOs.

Occupying more than 90 acres with

multiple building antennalike extensions, PAVHCS defies its 50-plus years of existence with a continued modernization of health-care services, including Building 7, the polytrauma center. The center provides intensive rehabilitative care to veterans and servicemembers who experienced severe injuries (including brain injuries) to more than one organ system.

PAVHCS is designed to return a veteran or servicemember with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or polytrauma to the least restrictive environment in the community or, as in Pennock's case, a return to active duty, work or school, and independent or supported living.

In addition to the medical staff, two enlisted Marines, Sgt Dina Sanchez and SSgt Jeffrey Jimerson, attend to the administrative needs of Marine patients, while one Navy and one Army liaison representative act on behalf of their service patients. The center is only one of five such treatment centers currently functioning in the United States.

As a patient in Building 7, Pennock had access to physical and psychological service and was determined to get back to full strength as quickly as possible. He was often in the treatment unit before his therapist's arrival doing as many of the prescribed exercises as possible. His hard work began to pay off as he moved from wheelchair to the use of forearm crutches in a matter of weeks.

While there are no visible scars from Pennock's five deployments to Iraq, indelibly tattooed on his back are the names of 20 Marines with whom Pennock served but who did not survive.

In October 2012, for both social and emotional reasons, retired Navy corpsman Donald "Doc" Barker, a volunteer with PAVHCS, Sgt Sanchez and SSgt Jimerson accompanied Pennock to the Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel before his transfer to the Wounded Warrior Battalion-West. The club originally was dedicated as a "living memorial" to the U.S. Marines who served in the Pacific during World War II. By reputation it is prestigious both by location and purpose. It remains a highlight for casual visitors and tourists, both national and international.

On the 10th floor of the historic hotel is a plaque: "To Remember Our Fallen Warriors in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom." Surrounding the plaque are more than 6,600 gold and black tiles with the names of American personnel listed as KIA. The names are listed according to date of death. Doc Barker said, "Jason found the names of Marines he was looking for."

After another corrective surgery, Pennock returned wheelchair-bound to North-



Above left: SSgt Jason Pennock officially is awarded his Purple Heart at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. First Sgt Tate W. Ulven, who had served with SSgt Pennock in Afghanistan, pins on the Purple Heart while Maj Abel J. Guillen, Commanding Officer, Co A, Wounded Warrior Battalion-West, and his first sergeant, 1stSgt Shawn Dempsey, stand ready to present the Purple Heart citation.



Above right: HM3 Aaron Hernandez, 1stLt Michael Denner, SSgt Jason Pennock and SSgt Roy Lackey after SSgt Pennock's Purple Heart award ceremony.

ern California for the Marine Corps Birthday as a guest of the Wine Country Marines in Sonoma, Calif. The event was held on Nov. 3, 2012, at the Jacuzzi Winery. The guest of honor, retired Marine General Peter Pace, the 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke of the Marine Corps and said, "It is a family of those who serve in the uniform of a Marine and, of equal importance, their spouses, parents, children and grandparents."

He remembered his years of combat service in Vietnam and the Marines with whom he served, recalling them by name and said he would never forget them. Then he said he had met another Marine that evening who would never forget those with whom he served and did not return. SSgt Jason Pennock, he said, has the names of those Marines tattooed on his back.

It was difficult for anyone not to have

been moved by the general's sincerity and compassion. His comment stunned Pennock, who was seated in a wheelchair at a table and obscured by others. "It was a birthday I'll never forget," Pennock said.

"Still in the Fight"

The Wounded Warrior Battalion-West motto is more than a slogan or simple phrase. "Still in the Fight" is a reminder that in spite of wounds and disabilities,

Fisher House, Palo Alto



COURTESY OF ED VASGERDSEAN

Fisher House, a short walk across the street from Bldg. 7 in Palo Alto, Calif., provides living quarters for the families of the wounded and injured who are undergoing treatment. Fisher House was Sam Pennock's home during much of SSgt Pennock's treatment.

Fisher House, Palo Alto, Calif., is literally a stone's throw from Palo Alto Veterans Health Care Services (PAVHCS) Building 7, and it is there that Jason Pennock's father stayed during his son's hospitalization. Fisher House is staffed specifically for the families of servicemembers and veterans to stay in while their loved ones are undergoing medical treatment.

There are 61 Fisher Houses located either on military installations or at Veterans Affairs medical centers. A family's financial needs may go beyond what the VA can provide. There may be a need for financial assistance for a family traveling to and from the hospital to ensure a loved one is close at hand for emotional support.

Such financial support may come through local public and private organizations such as the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund (www.semperfund.org) or through many regional veterans organizations such as the Mount Diablo Marine League Detachment #942 of Lafayette, Calif., the latter raising more than \$1,500,000 over seven years through charity golf tournaments.

—Ed Vasgerdsian



During the 2012 Marine Corps Birthday celebration at the Jacuzzi Winery in Sonoma, Calif., the guest of honor, retired Gen Peter Pace, 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, kneeling, and SSgt Jason Pennock, in the wheelchair, commemorate the occasion with, from left, SSgt Jerry Magallanes, HM3 Donald "Doc" Barker, USN (Ret) and Cpl Gavriel Jacobs.

a Marine's pledge to service is constant.

The atmosphere at a medal presentation ceremony may be grand, modest or solemn. At times it may be held at a hospital bedside, on a parade ground or even in a home. On March 1, 2013, SSgt Jason Pennock officially was awarded his Purple Heart on the blacktop of the WWB-West (Camp Pendleton, Calif.) from Co A's commander, Major Abel Guillen. A platoon of Marines from "Alpha" Co stood at attention. Jason's brother, Sam, who served in the Marine Corps from 1997 to 2012 and earned a Bronze Star for valor in Iraq, was present along with his wife and family. Shanelle D'Amico also attended.

For SSgt Pennock, the ceremony would not have been complete without the presence of 1stLt Denner, SSgt Lackey and HM3 Hernandez, the Marine team who continued the tradition of never leaving

anyone behind. The three stood proudly, perhaps with thoughts of the event leading up to the ceremony. Was it instinct or training that led Pennock to believe that he could move toward danger knowing there was trust in those and other men he led?

Maj Guillen made the presentation and congratulated SSgt Pennock and then noted humorously that it was not Pennock's first visit to the battalion and that he'd rather see him elsewhere. The friendly exchange brought chuckles and smiles from all. In April 2011, multiple concussions led Pennock to his first hospitalization at WWB-West.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, each platoon member offered Pennock his congratulations and thanks with handclaps. Jason Pennock's family gathered and offered their congratulatory words and cheer.

As the staff sergeant smiled and joked with Denner, Lackey and Hernandez, did their thoughts return to the events of July 10, 2012? Or, perhaps earlier?

For SSgt Pennock, he recalled joining the Corps. He had wanted to join the military, but not necessarily the Marine Corps. With one son in the Marine Corps and Pennock soon to follow, his father, Stephen Michael Pennock, a 40-year GM repair technician, said, "I was proud of his choice, but the choice had to be his." The family home is in Osawatomie, Kan., a town like many other small Midwest American towns with a high school, town library, movie theater and places to meet friends.

In 2001, after completing the School of Infantry, Pennock was assigned the military occupational specialty of Marine infantryman (MOS 0311). The karate student and former captain of his high-school football team eventually would be deployed to Iraq on five occasions before serving in Afghanistan.

Pennock survived the Second Battle of Fallujah in 2004. Called Operation Phantom Fury, it is equated with some of the deadliest fighting in Iraq. More than 1,000 U.S. troops were injured, and 151 were killed. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device for his actions. Later, while serving as a reconnaissance team leader in 2d Platoon, Co C, 2d Reconnaissance Bn, Sgt Pennock earned the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device for heroic action and created his own memorial for his fellow Marines on his back.

As of May 2013, the Department of Defense reported 18,480 Americans have been wounded in Afghanistan. SSgt Jason Pennock's ordeal is but one of those thousands of stories. His recovery continues with the same deliberate enthusiasm he has demonstrated throughout 15 years of military service. The Marine Corps family of friends and others of whom Gen Pace spoke will continue to serve alongside him and the other wounded warriors.

Editor's note: Ed Vasgerdsian, a retired law-enforcement officer and former Marine security guard who served in the Corps from 1953 to 1959, is a freelance writer, a director of the Marine Embassy Guard Association and a contributing editor to Leatherneck.



Leatherneck—On the Web

To see more photos of SSgt Pennock, visit www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/pennock



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1ST RAIDER BATTALION

Assault and Capture of Tulagi



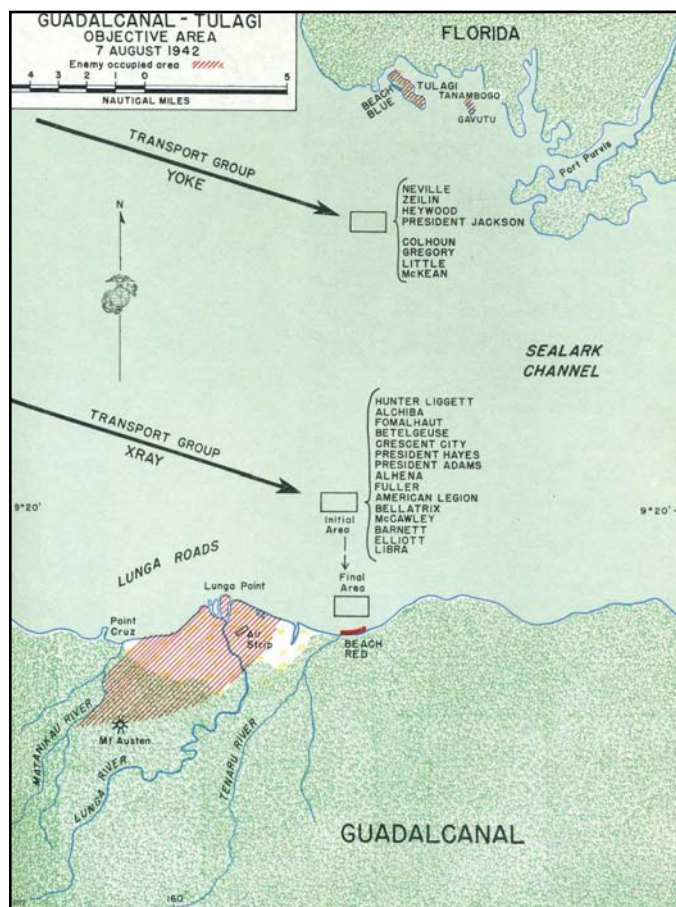
By Dick Camp

Special Lieutenant (JG) Kakichi Yoshimoto, 3d Kure Special Naval Landing Force (Rikusentai), was sound asleep when he was awakened abruptly by the excited voice of his batman. "Strange ships have been seen near Savo Island," the man blurted out. Yoshimoto hurriedly dressed and made his way to the communications station in the predawn darkness. Just as he reached the facility, bright flashes in the harbor caught his attention, followed seconds later by explosions, throwing him to the ground.

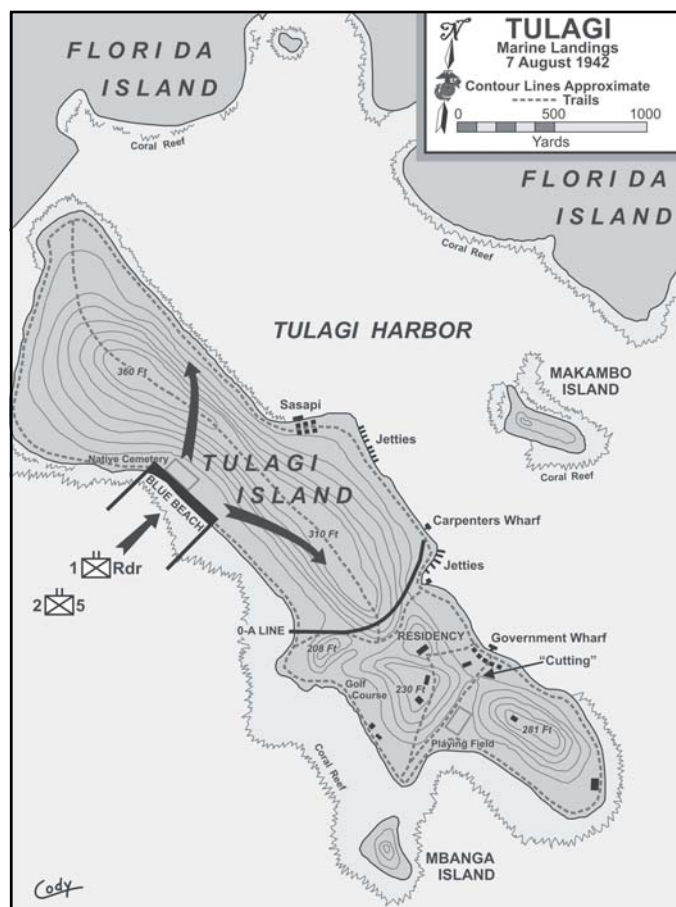
Operation Ringbolt

Operation Ringbolt, the code name given for the seizure of Tulagi Island, was part of Operation Watchtower, a division-size operation to seize Tulagi and Guadalcanal, commencing on 7 Aug. 1942. The First

A Marine Raider takes out a Japanese sniper. The 1st Raider Bn received the M1 in 1943, but the 2d Raider Bn received the .30-caliber rifle for the Makin Atoll assault in August 1942. (USMC photo)



MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION 1949 PAMPHLET "THE GUADALCANAL CAMPAIGN"



LT COL RICHARD "WILD BILL" CODY, USMC (RET)

Marine Division, under the command of Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, was organized into two landing forces, Guadalcanal (Group X-Ray) and Tulagi (Group Yoke), under Brigadier General William H. Rupertus, the assistant division commander.

The Tulagi assault force called for the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, commanded by Colonel Merritt A. Edson, and the 2d Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment (2/5), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Harold E. Rosecrans, to land on the south shore of the island, in column, then wheel right (east) and attack down the long axis of the island. That landing would be followed by further landings by 1st Parachute Bn on Gavutu and Tanambogo, plus a mop-up sweep by a battalion (less one company) along Florida Island's coastline fronting Tulagi Bay.

On Guadalcanal, coastwatcher Martin Clemens was startled by explosions. "Starting about 0610, very heavy detonations, at very short intervals, were heard from Lunga and Tulagi," Clemens wrote in "Alone on Guadalcanal, A Coastwatcher's Story." "There was no doubt what they meant. ... I could hardly comprehend that help had finally come."

At 0625, Radio Tulagi sent an emergency message to the Japanese 25th Air Flotilla headquarters on Rabaul. "Enemy surface force of 20 ships has entered Tu-

lagi. While making landing preparations, the enemy is bombarding the shore, help requested."

At 0715, Radio Tulagi reported, "Enemy has commenced landing," and at 0800, "Enemy forces overwhelming. We will defend our posts to the death, praying for

**The heavily laden men
climbed clumsily over the
sides of the Higgins boats
into chest-deep water—
chin deep for the
shorter men.**

eternal victory." MajGen Oscar F. Peatross wrote in "Bless 'em All: The Raider Marines of World War II," "This was the last transmission from Radio Tulagi, as a few seconds later, a shell from one of the naval gunfire support ships put the station off the air permanently!"

Land the Landing Force

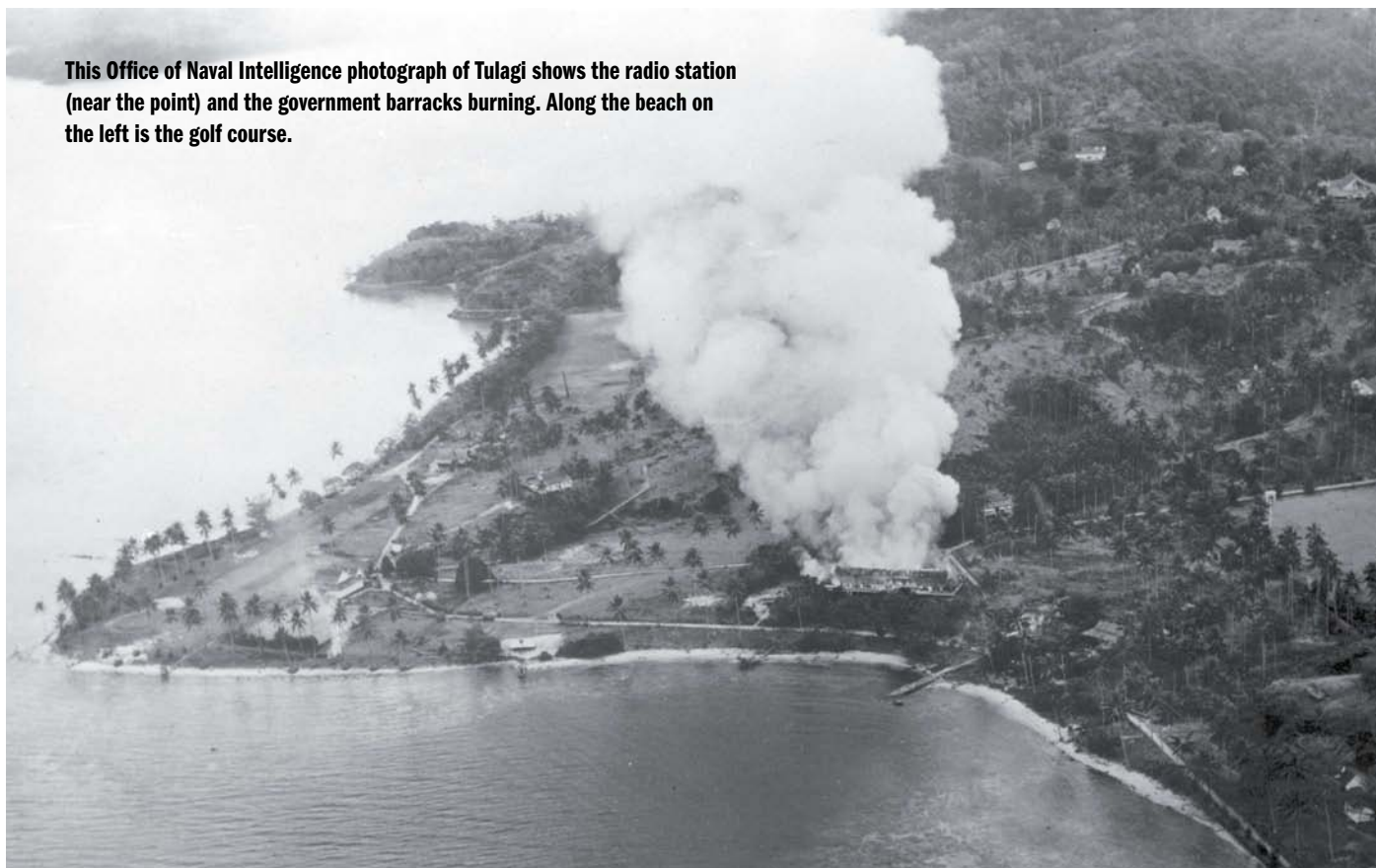
In the early morning darkness, the light cruiser USS *San Juan* (CL-54) and destroyers USS *Monssen* (DD-436) and USS *Buchanan* (DD-484) bombarded Tulagi with hundreds of 5-inch and 8-inch shells. Aboard six transports, the Raiders began climbing down the cargo nets into the

Higgins boats that would take them ashore.

The first wave landed exactly on schedule at 0800 (H-Hour). Until then, the landing had taken the *Rikusentai* by surprise, and the Marines landed unscathed. The only casualty had been a Marine who had died from an accidental discharge aboard ship. "It was the last place that the Japs thought we would land," Captain Justice M. "Jumping Joe" Chambers, the commander of Company D, 1st Raider Bn, said. "The best beach on Tulagi was at the other end of the island and the Japanese had clearly expected that any hostile landing would be made there. So they had very lightly fortified the beach where we landed."

The heavily laden men climbed clumsily over the sides of the Higgins boats into chest-deep water—chin deep for the shorter men. "Everybody had to plunge into the water and wade to shore [50 or more yards to the beach]," Chambers recalled. "This was no fun, as we found out during our training at Samoa, because coral reefs are dotted with holes, and at any moment you are likely to step into water that is over your head. I once went down completely over my head, but I bounced right back up. ... The minute we got across the beach ... we were in very heavy vegetation going up very steep hills. The boys knew what our job was ... get up on the ridge

This Office of Naval Intelligence photograph of Tulagi shows the radio station (near the point) and the government barracks burning. Along the beach on the left is the golf course.



and take off into the jungle. It was, I would estimate, 20 to 30 minutes at the most when we reached our initial objective, the ridge line. So far we had hit no resistance.”

By 0815, Col Edson received a message from the beach, “Landing successful, no opposition.” “Baker” Co crossed the island’s spine and continued down the slope to a small village called Sasapi on the opposite side of the island.

The second wave, consisting of Capt Lewis W. “Silent Lew” Walt’s Able Co and Major Kenneth Bailey’s Charlie Co, landed shortly after the first waves cleared the landing beach. Charlie Co turned right and moved rapidly along the shoreline to its initial objective. Walt’s Able Co had a much more difficult time. The southwest slope of the ridge was extremely steep.

It took Walt and his exhausted men more than two hours to reach their objective and report to Edson’s command post on the ridge. Finally, Easy Co, the last unit to go ashore, reached the ridge and prepared to support the advance with 81 mm mortar fire. At 0900, two M2A4 Stuart light tanks from Charlie Co, 2d Tank Bn landed behind Bailey’s company, but did not get into action. “One got bogged down in a ravine, and I never did

see that damn tank again,” said Maj Samuel B. Griffith II, Executive Officer, 1st Raider Bn. “Then the other one had a mechanical breakdown, so they were actually of no use to us at all.”

Easy Battery, 2d Bn, 11th Marines with its 75 mm “Pack” howitzers went ashore in wooden Higgins “Eureka” landing craft. “A 75 mm Pack howitzer was a difficult piece of weaponry that was manhandled

ashore piece by piece, then put together and pulled by a jeep,” Private First Class Howard Schnauber said. “We had to move through the ‘Tulagi Pass,’ the short-cut through the steep hill separating one side of the island from the other. The slot was level, but it had two caves dug into the limestone, large caves that house quite a number of Japs. The only way past them was for the foot Marines to shoot into the entrance as the jeep pulled the howitzer past. This system worked well, and we managed to get the gun to the opposite side.”

At 0830, LtCol Rosecrans’ 2/5 landed over Blue Beach, crossed Tulagi and attacked northwest to the end of the island without encountering the enemy. Rosecrans then reorganized and moved into position to support the Raiders. “To protect the left flank of the Raiders as they

landed on Blue Beach ... ‘Baker’ Company, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines seized the Haleta promontory on neighboring Florida Island,” retired BGen Samuel B. Griffith II wrote in “The Battle for Guadalcanal.” Baker Co’s landing was unopposed.

Raider Attack

At 1130, Edson gave the signal—a green flare—to start the assault. “We came under fire almost immediately as we began to move along the ridge,” Chambers said. Two of his men, PFCs Leonard A. Butts and Lewis A. Lovin, were hit by machine-gun fire as they moved down the face of the ridge. The *Rikusentai* had shaken off the effects of the air and naval gunfire bombardment and were manning fighting positions dug in the hill. “We thought that coconut trees would not have enough branches to conceal snipers,” Chambers said, “but we found that the Japs were small enough to hide in them easily, and so we had to examine every tree before we went by.”

Bailey’s Charlie Co ran into a buzz saw of enemy fire from the seaward side of Hill 208 despite the fact that the height had been pounded with more than 1,500 5-inch shells. As “Ken Dill,” Bailey’s code name, leapt on a troublesome bunker and attempted to kick through the roof to grenade it, he was shot in the leg. The Raiders learned that Japanese machine-gun dugouts contained 10 to 12 men. When one



MajGen Merritt A.
“Red Mike” Edson

USMC

man was killed, another stepped up and manned the gun, requiring every man to be killed, a dangerous and time-consuming process.

Charlie Co lost its forward momentum, and Edson didn't know why. "Eddie [Colonel Edson] was pretty upset about it and sent me down to find out," Maj Griffith said. "When the company broke out onto the golf course, it got bogged down." Griffith assumed command and got it moving again. "That afternoon—I'd say about 1400—we had taken the golf club house, which had been occupied by the Japs. We found a lot of uniforms hanging, binoculars, rice left in bowls, raw fish and stuff like that."

Dog Co, under fire, crossed the north-south road cut below the former British Residency overlooking Tulagi's harbor. "As we cleared the bridge," PFC Thomas D. "T. D." Smith recalled, "we started taking fire from the right and right front." Chambers appeared and "ordered us to move out, 'right now' and to hell with the fire!" At one point Chambers had taken cover when he heard someone ask, "What's going on here?" "I look up," Chambers recalled, "and there's Edson standing there big as life, smoking a cigarette! I said, 'Colonel, what are you trying to do, get me killed?'" Edson was drawing fire.

"All Edson said was, 'Keep them moving,' and then moved on," Chambers exclaimed. "I think that episode was probably responsible for me getting wounded later on so many times ... because I thought this was the way a battalion commander should act."

Maj Lloyd Nickerson's Baker Co was working its way along the boat docks on the northeastern side of the island when Japanese sniper fire hit the lead platoon. It continued to advance until it reached a point adjacent to the government wharf, where it dug in for the night. "I was now pinching Nickerson out," Chambers explained. "The island had narrowed down, so I had the left flank all the way down to the ocean at this point."

Dog Co had to cross a ravine and go up a hill on the other side. "Several things happened once we got in the ravine," Chambers explained. "There were some snipers in back of us. ... I know I was leaning my head around a big coconut tree, and a Jap laid a round right alongside my head. That's when I thought they were using explosive bullets, because this thing really banged when it hit the tree."

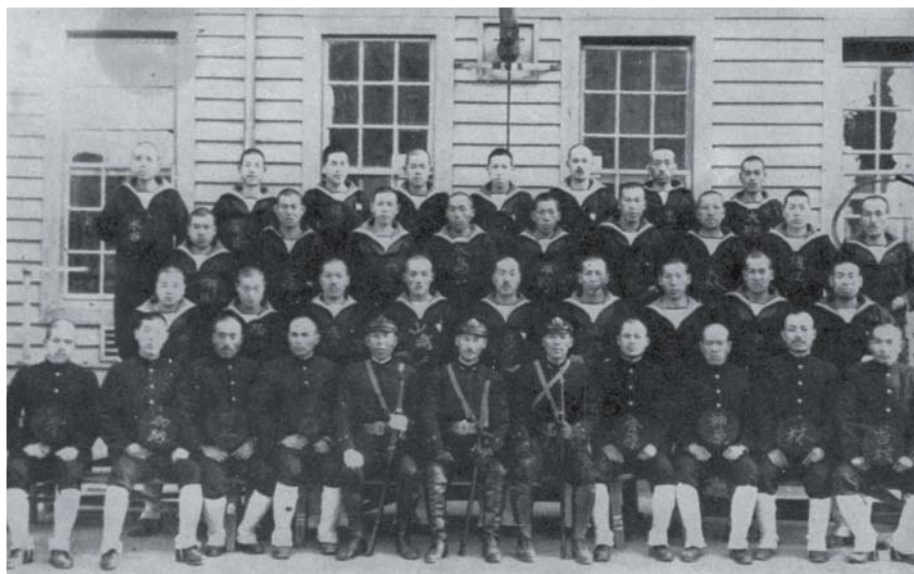
Chambers' luck ran out a short time later. "After we got across the ravine and were going up the other side working against the area where the anti-aircraft was located, I spotted some Japs firing down on Bailey's people. I got my 60 mm

**"There were some
snipers in back of us. ...
I know I was leaning my
head around a big coconut
tree, and a Jap laid a round
right alongside my head."
—Capt Justice M. Chambers**

mortars set up and was calling in the fire. All of a sudden there was this great flash of fire right in front of me, maybe 10 or 15 feet in the air. It [shrapnel] smashed my left wrist, broke my right wrist and took a hunk out of my left leg."

Chambers refused to be evacuated and continued to lead his company, "walking and hobbling," until they reached the final objective, a gun emplacement near the beach. About 1500, the company was held up by two enemy positions. "We were having some trouble because there were some Nips dug in underneath a house," Chambers said. "The boys cleared it out, but a trench line gave us some problems. One of the men threw a grenade in, and the Nips threw it right back at us. We did this a couple of times before the Marine let the fuze run before he threw it. I saw this pair of hands come up to catch the grenade again ... it went off ... and we didn't have any more trouble."

A short time later, they reached the



Above: These are the officers and petty officers of the 3d Kure Special Naval Landing Force that seized Tulagi and Gavutu in early May 1942. The majority of them died in the August 1942 Marine attack.

On 7 Aug. 1942, "Red Mike" Edson established his 1st Raider Bn headquarters in the "Residency," the home of the British Resident Commissioner on Tulagi.





The final assaults on Tulagi were made by elements of 1st Raider Bn and 2d Bn, 5th Marines as drawn on this overprint of a Navy carrier aircraft photograph taken during a 4 May air strike.

gun emplacement and found it empty. The Japanese had pulled out. "At this point," Chambers explained, "I decided to get back to the aid station. I had a piece of shrapnel in the back of my kneecap, and I was bleeding pretty good in my wrists ... and I was sore as hell, but I was ambulatory."

Edson decided to call it a day and dig in for the night. "By this time Edson had moved forward to the Residency and established his command post there," Griffith said. At this point, the battalion had come up against Hill 281, called "Bird Hill," which captured maps and documents indicated was the main Japanese strong-

hold. Second Lieutenant John "Tiger" Erskine, the Japanese-language officer, translated them and found that the Japanese command post was located in the ravine west of the hill, which paralleled the south end of the Raider lines. The map showed two machine guns at the foot of the hill behind the hospital, one on top, and two 8 mm antiaircraft guns on top of the southeast promontory. Bird Hill was the key Japanese defensive position.

Under the watchful eyes of their officers and staff noncommissioned officers, the Raiders quickly turned to and tried to get below ground before dark. All along the line, Edson's men laid out grenades

and stacked ammunition close at hand so it would be easy to reach in the dark. Machine-gunners carefully sited their guns in an attempt to get overlapping bands of fire. Communicators strung wire linking the command posts. The password for the night contained words with the letter "L"—"Lily's thistle," "Philippines," and "Lola's thigh."

Chambers noted, "Any one of them was supposed to keep you from getting shot by your own men because the Japs couldn't pronounce the letter 'L.'" Night fell. The exhausted Raiders peered anxiously into darkness, straining to hear the man-sound of a Japanese infiltrator.

Warrant Officer Albert E. "Bud" Fisher, commanding Easy Co's 2d Machine Gun Plt, said, "We were all pretty nervous as darkness fell. The Nips came out of the caves, making all sorts of weird noises." Chambers explained: "The Japs tried every trick on us that we had been told they would, yet we really never imagined they would. They shouted, whistled and sniped at us all night long. ... At first there was considerable promiscuous night firing, the Japs trying to locate our units by [shooting] at us at random. But our men learned to hold their fire and not give away their position unless attacked in hand-to-hand assault."

Sometime around 2300 a large force of *Rikusentai* struck the seam between Able and Charlie companies, splitting them and leaving their flanks dangling in the air. Able Co quickly reconnected its right flank and prepared to repel boarders. It was not long in coming.

Griffith remembered "a series of attacks, but the real force of the counterattack hit the center of the position; this gave us the first indication of how dumb



Above left: U.S. Navy carrier aircraft "softened" up Tulagi in an early morning raid on 7 Aug. 1942.



Above right: Col "Red Mike" Edson stands in front of the 5th Marines command post on Guadalcanal in 1942.

**“We knew the Japanese
were good fighters,
[but] I think we were taken
by surprise by the
viciousness and tenacity
of these night attacks.”
—Maj Samuel B. Griffith II**

the Japs were, because the center of the position was by any evaluation of the terrain just naturally the strongest.” Griffith explained: “We knew the Japanese were good fighters, [but] I think we were taken by surprise by the viciousness and tenacity of these night attacks. Normally if you make a couple of attacks and get your ass kicked and burned badly, as they did, you’d think they’d stop.”

In all, the *Rikusentai* launched two major attacks and at least five separate small-scale assaults against Edson’s command post near the Residency. Platoon Sergeant Pete Pettus said: “When the Japs got into the house . . . Captain John B. Sweeny gave the word for the machine guns to fire. Some of the Japs were killed in the house, and some were killed as they tried to run out. There were 13 dead in and around the building. All of the Japanese outside were dragged in, and the house was set afire. This saved burial, but it destroyed a perfectly good building!”

A temporary casualty-collection point had been established about 200 or 300 yards on the south side of the Residency, where a large number of wounded had been gathered, including the indomitable Justice Chambers. He was afraid the wounded were directly in the path of a Japanese assault. “We had no protection whatsoever except a blanket. I heard them coming!”

Chambers started moving the wounded. “Those who could walk I told to get moving and help each other out. There were a few corpsmen, and they started taking men out on stretchers. . . . It was a mess!” Chambers found a trench along the trail. It was full of Marines, one of whom he recognized. “Get some men out here and get these wounded to where they can be safe,” he ordered. “From then on out I had no more concern about the wounded.”

For that action, Chambers was awarded the Silver Star. The next morning he was evacuated to the beach. “They were carrying me down on a stretcher, and the Japs shot at me all the way, which was another little black mark I had in my book against the Japanese.” Chambers was taken aboard the hospital ship *USS Solace* and ended up in Wellington, New Zealand, where



The hard-fought victory on Tulagi provided valuable lessons for not just the Raiders. While it became clear that the reputedly invincible Japanese were not, it also became clear that victory in the Pacific would come at a high price.

he recovered in time to lead 3d Bn, 25th Marines in the Iwo Jima campaign where he earned the Medal of Honor.

By first light, the surviving Japanese had melted back into their caves and bunkers that honeycombed Hill 281. Edson sent 2/5’s Easy and Fox companies, along with his own Charlie Co, to clear them out. The troublesome terrain was flanked on three sides and pounded with 60 mm and 81 mm mortar fire. By late afternoon the battalion had made such good progress that Edson radioed MajGen Vandegrift and told him that organized resistance on the island had ended. Tulagi was “secure.”

The fact remained that well-armed *Rikusentai* were still holed up and had to be hunted down before the island was truly secure. The Raiders stayed on the island for three more weeks before being transferred to Guadalcanal. During the

conquest of Tulagi, the 1st Marine Raider Bn suffered 38 men killed in action and an additional 55 men wounded in action. All but three of the estimated 350 Japanese defenders were killed. Griffith “estimated that another 50 to 60 Japs escaped from Tulagi by swimming to Florida [Island].”

Editor’s note: Dick Camp, a retired Marine colonel, is the former director of operations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps, former deputy director and director (acting) of Marine Corps History and a prolific author. His latest e-book, “The Killing Ground: A Novel of Marines in the Vietnam War,” is available online at Amazon.com, and he has two new non-fiction books, “Shadow Warriors” and “Assault From the Sky.” He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.





Pvt Clyde "Tommy" Thomason (above) joined USS *Augusta's* (CA-31) Marine Detachment on 18 Aug. 1936. The ship's complement of Marines was two officers and 67 enlisted men. An element of the detachment is shown in the photograph below. Thomason is third from the left on the front row.

Clyde Thomason

The Forgotten Hero

Story by William Douglas Lansford
Photos courtesy of Col Hugh M. Thomason
USMCR (Ret)

Part one of a two-part article.

In the belly of USS *Argonaut* (SM-1), Sergeant Clyde Thomason had no sense of a world outside, only the endless hum of the engines, the metallic echoes of the boat and the oppressive humidity and heat.

He awoke, opening his eyes to the dim glow of the sub's safety lamps, fighting that claustrophobic sense of being in an iron coffin, a feeling he'd resisted since leaving Pearl Harbor 10 days ago.

Around him, others were struggling out of the cramped, makeshift bunks stacked against the cold bulkheads of a boat built to carry fewer than half the men it carried now. Their breathing came fast and shallow, like that of men fighting suffocation. They were not sailors, selected for their willingness to fight a war under tons of seawater, cut off from sun and sky and air. They were the men of Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson's 2d Marine Raider Bat-

talion, used to the earth under their feet, to open space.

Yet there they were, unwashed, smelly, squeezed together like sardines in a can, crossing 2,029 miles under a dark and hostile sea to attack an island nobody knew anything about, defended by a force of Japanese no one had ever counted and far deeper in enemy territory than any American force had ever been.

Thomason checked his watch. It was going on 0100, 17 Aug. 1942. During the night, USS *Argonaut*, with Major Jimmy Roosevelt and 134 men of Company A, and USS *Nautilus* (SS-168), carrying 82 men of Co B plus Carlson and his five-man command group, had crossed the equator. They should be some 3 to 4 degrees north, nearing the Japanese-held Gilbert Islands. There, among a chain of islets called Makin Atoll lay their target, a palm-lined, V-shaped piece of coral eight miles long by a half-mile wide called Butaritari. Their mission: Land, wipe out the garrison, collect intelligence and destroy all materiel before withdrawing.

Every man aboard knew the odds. Since the beginning of the war, no commando



In 1937, with Pvt Thomason aboard, USS *Augusta*, a heavy cruiser and flagship for the Commander in Chief, Asiatic Fleet, was drydocked in the Philippine Islands for annual repairs and alterations.

raid had been attempted by Americans. The use of submarines to create a beachhead was unheard of. More critically, if the landing failed, the Raiders would be doomed. There could be no rescue, for the nearest Allied base was Pearl Harbor more than 2,000 miles away. It was all unprecedented and a bit insane, yet typical of LtCol Carlson, the man leading the raid.

Scrunched anywhere a man could read, play cards, talk or sleep, Carlson's Raiders had been the guests of the submariners who provided them with food, lent them their bunks and gave encouragement as *Argonaut* and *Nautilus* zigzagged their way toward the objective. Before another sun rose, Carlson, his exec, Maj Roosevelt, and the volunteers they'd trained would test Carlson's guerrilla tactics, ideas dismissed by the tradition-bound Marine brass as "wild and impractical."

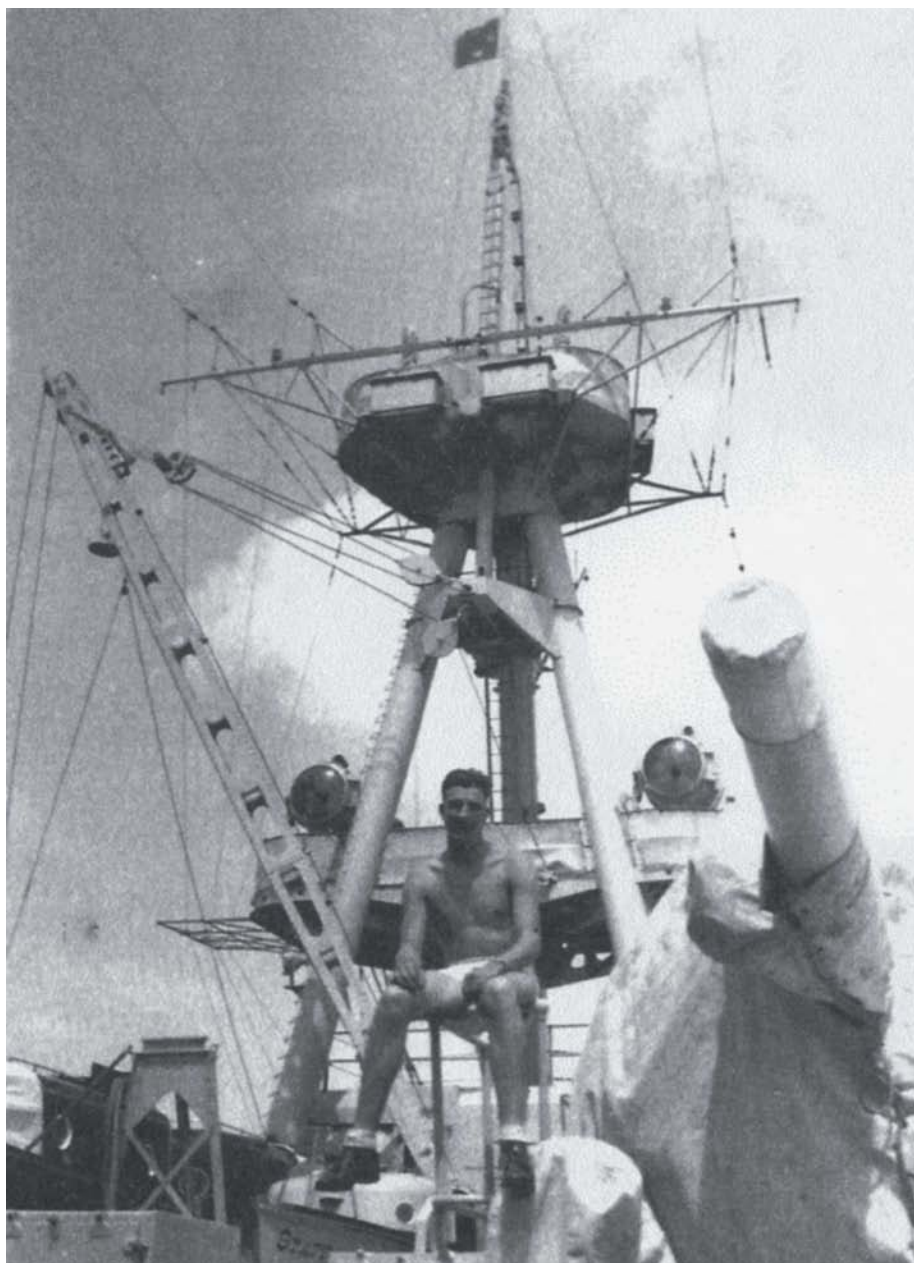
Through the crowded "pigboat," a line of Marines was forming, ending at the ship's galley. It would take three hours to feed all 134 men of Co A, but no one knew when they might eat again, if ever. Already, the wits among them were calling their D-day breakfast "The Last Supper."

As they returned from the galley, the men opened the gunnysacks they'd been issued and began changing from the shorts or skivvies they'd worn against the heat, some into khaki dyed black and others into dungarees. There also was burlap to break the outline of their helmets and camouflage paint for their faces.

Carlson had neglected nothing, for he knew that what happened on Makin would not only impact future Marine operations, but affect the course of the war. Ten days before, the first Marine division ever assembled had made a surprise landing on an island called Guadalcanal, launching the first major American offensive against the Japanese.

If the First Marine Division could hold Guadalcanal, the Japanese drive toward New Guinea and Australia would be stopped cold. Carlson's raid on Makin had two important objectives: (1) to confuse the Japanese as to American strategy and (2) to divert Japanese troops who otherwise might be sent to reinforce Guadalcanal to other islands.

Two Carlson innovations the Makin Raiders would test were "walkie-talkie" handsets issued to squad leaders and a radical 10-man squad comprised of three fire groups, each fire group composed of



a BAR, a Thompson submachine gun and an M1 rifle. The squad leader was armed with an M1. The third change was the structure of the Raider Co itself. Each Raider Co consisted of two rifle platoons and a weapons platoon containing two 60 mm mortars and four light machine guns.

Convinced that his Raiders would fight at extremely close quarters with the enemy and that firepower would prevail, Carlson saw that his leadership was appropriately armed. Most officers and noncommissioned officers wore pistols in cut-down holsters, and many carried a Winchester Model 97 12-gauge shotgun as their main weapon, all of which caused considerable awe among other Marines and, as expected, much derision among Carlson's detractors.

By some fine seamanship, despite complete radio silence and a zigzag course that almost doubled the length of the trip, the

subs reached their target just a few hours apart. In *Argonaut*, Maj Roosevelt with Co A was standing by, while in *Nautilus*, LtCol Carlson was ready with his five-man headquarters and Co B. There was little tension, but considerable gallows humor as the Raiders waited, eager to be off the subs. At 0330, exactly as scheduled, the subs' exit hatches clanked open, and the Raiders, in full combat gear, began climbing up the iron ladders to the decks.

Everything had gone like clockwork, but it was the last break the Raiders would have. Outside, savage winds and rain were battering the subs, whipping up 20-foot swells. Many Makin veterans later would recall the struggles to launch their rubber boats while keeping them from overturning with their equipment. Worse yet was the danger of debarking from the subs' dark, slippery decks as the waves smashed the bobbing 10-man boats against the hull.

Their only option was to jump and pray. "If I miss," one Raider remembered thinking, "I'm gone!"

Those who did miss barely escaped drowning by tearing off their gear and weapons. A few were grabbed by friends and pulled aboard. Even Carlson couldn't avert disaster. As he landed, his face struck a Raider's rifle butt, causing a painful swelling that lasted through the raid.

Within minutes, weeks of planning dissolved into chaos. Boats were everywhere, A and B companies were hopelessly mixed, the landing plan gone to hell. Worse yet, in that rampaging sea, the Evinrude motors were dying; the Raiders struggled with their paddles to keep from sinking. Nowhere near the island, Carlson's operation was fast unraveling.

Evans Carlson was a great believer in individual initiative. He had long preached that a Raider, acting alone, could achieve as much as a group if he kept calm and worked out the problem. Asked by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, if his Raiders could carry out the mission Nimitz was assigning him, Carlson's reply was brief and positive: "We can do it."

With daylight fast approaching, all surprise would be gone. His command in confusion and his mission facing disaster, Carlson demonstrated his own initiative. Standing in his boat, steadied by one of his men, Carlson waved, calling for the boats to follow him.

In the coxswain's seat of his boat, Sgt Thomason either heard Carlson's call or simply guessed the drift of things. Yelling for his crew to secure all gear to the boat,



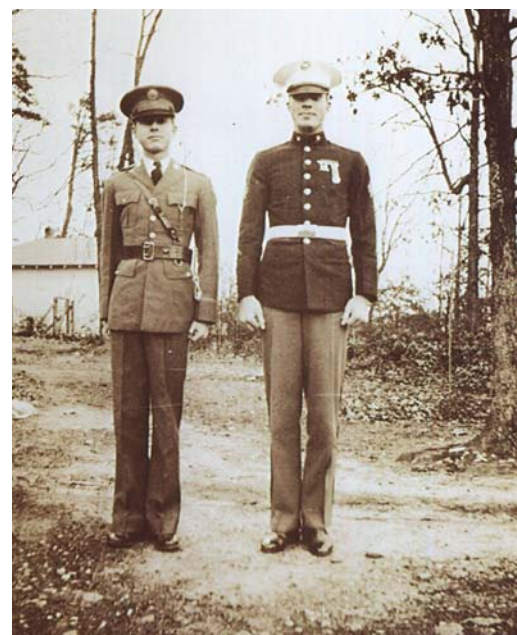
Although the opportunities to visit home were rare for a seagoing Marine, Thomason visited his stepmother, the only mother he ever knew, Mrs. Amie A. Maxson Thomason, as often as he could. He maintained a continuing correspondence with her from ports around the Pacific.

he turned the sputtering Evinrude and headed into the fading night toward the low, sinister outline that was Butaritari Island.

Clyde Aristide Thomason Jr. was born in Atlanta on 22 May 1914, the fifth son of Clyde Aristide Thomason and Sarah Zipporah Evans. His three living brothers were considerably older. Maurice, the second son, had died in infancy. In 1916, Sara Jeanette was born. The following year their mother died suddenly, and the care of the children fell to their grandparents.

In 1920, Clyde's father married Amie Aline Maxson, a young New Englander. For Clyde, who was just 6, she was the only mother he ever would know, and their bond grew so enduring that as a child Clyde began writing letters and poems to his "dear Mama," such as a birthday sentiment that ended with "Who is the sweetest of all on earth, / And one whom no one excels in worth, / Who? You, mother."

In 1921, a boy, Hugh Maxson, was born to the couple. "Max" grew up idolizing Clyde, and for Clyde, the child he called



In these 1 Jan. 1940 photographs, Sgt Clyde Thomason provides guidance on drill to his younger half-brother, Hugh Maxson "Max" Thomason, then a student at North Georgia College, "The Military College of Georgia."

“Mack” or “Max” became the little brother for whom he could care and guide.

In school Clyde was an honor student, earning A's and B's. In high school, he excelled in sports, playing left end on the winning varsity football team. He also acted in school plays, wrote poetry and loved singing, things most teenage boys might have avoided for fear of being considered “sissified.” Whether because of his athletic abilities or his good nature, Clyde had no problems with anyone. In his graduation book, he noted that his favorite sport was football, his favorite car a Chevrolet. His favorite movie star was Maurice Chevalier, and his favorite hero was ADM Byrd. He thought he might become a “world-class tenor.”

In 1932, 18-year-old Clyde graduated from high school and, like many boys of his day, he held a variety of jobs. He worked on his father's road construction crew, joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and tried selling magazine subscriptions with a sales team traveling from town to town. Pushing magazines on wintry streets to housewives struggling to survive the “Hoover Depression” was no get-rich scheme, and when Clyde came home broke and with pneumonia, he reviewed his options and made a decision that would change his life. On 28 Dec. 1934, 20-year-old Clyde Thomason walked into a recruiting station in Savannah, Ga., and enlisted in the Marines.

For the recruit hoping for sea duty in the peacetime Corps, the requirements were high. America wanted “Soldiers of the Sea” who could raise her colors aboard her battleships, cruisers and aircraft carriers around the world, Marines who would inspire admiration wherever her ships dropped anchor.

Blond, blue-eyed, 6 feet 4 inches tall and a trim 167 pounds, Clyde Thomason was a perfect representative. Dressed in blues, with his friendly smile and warm Southern manners, he could have been the young Marine coming home for the holidays in a Norman Rockwell painting.

On 25 May 1936, following a tour at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey, guarding USS *Los Angeles*, the Navy's last remaining dirigible, Private Thomason boarded the troopship USS *Henderson* (AP-1) for Chefoo, China, to join the Marine Detachment aboard the heavy cruiser USS *Augusta* (CA-31), flagship of the Asiatic fleet.

Like the other 67 enlisted Marines aboard, his duties would be to man one of the ship's 5-inch guns and dazzle the citizens of foreign ports with his resplendent uniform and close order drill. For Thomason, *Augusta* was the magic carpet that would introduce him to an exotic



world unlike anything in Atlanta. More significantly, the Sino-Japanese War, then spreading across China, would define how he viewed the Japanese.

While his letters home to “Dearest Mom” were filled with gleeful chatter about China (“Beer here is 30 cents Mex a quart—that's 8 cents U.S. money—and good whiskey \$4.00 Mex—\$1.80 gold per quart. Although I never touch it.”), those to his brother Max told a darker story about the “Jap” slaughter of Chinese civilians, their disdain for Americans and their imperialistic aims. “It seems we ... just can't get along with the Japs,” Thomason wrote. “We had several fights in Shanghai—in the streets and cabarets.” Every day in Chefoo, Shanghai and Peking, run-ins between the leathernecks and Japanese soldiers increased. The Marines talked about “war with the Japs” and hoped it might come soon.

Meanwhile, in Chefoo, he met Lida, a White Russian refugee who danced in a cabaret. She was pretty, educated and the sole supporter of her family, a perfect fit for Thomason's romantic nature. His letters were filled with his growing interest in the exotic girl.

Aboard *Augusta*, a different world waited, and Thomason took to it like a good Marine. He was promoted to corporal and became the gun trainer for the ship's port 5-inch battery. Following the fleet's annual night maneuvers, he wrote home that his Marines had outscored the sailors on the other guns. Less enthusiastically, he wrote to Max that the first sergeant had “volunteered” him for the boxing team, a job he neither wanted nor enjoyed. Nevertheless, Thomason won

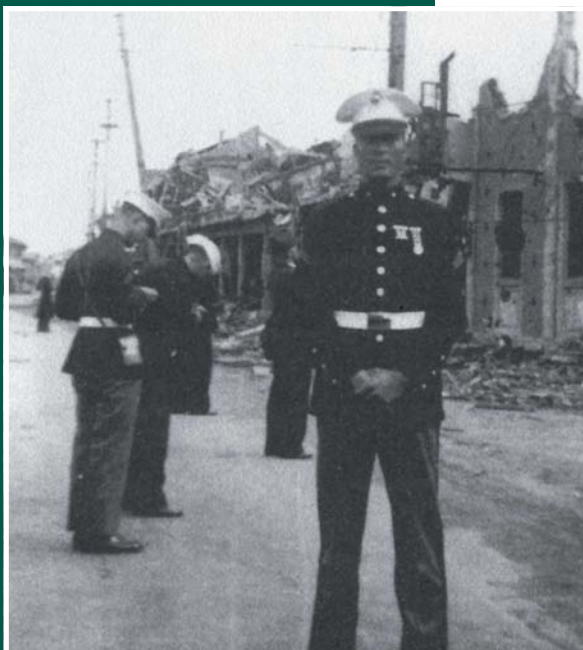
In this 1934 photo, Thomason stands in the center of his magazine sales team. He and his team traveled around the South selling subscriptions to ladies magazines, including *The Delineator*, one of the more popular women's fashion magazines of the time. He joined the Corps at the end of the year.



In early 1939, Thomason surprised his family by writing that he was engaged to Lida, a White Russian refugee he had known for two years. He left China in mid-1939, never to reunite with Lida.



While in *Augusta's* Marine Det, Thomason, standing second from the left (above), competed on all the Marine sports teams. As the Asiatic Fleet flagship, *Augusta* made port calls around the Pacific Rim, affording numerous opportunities for Thomason to observe Japanese soldiers and the ongoing war in China. In this 1938 or early 1939 photograph (below), then-Cpl Thomason is standing in front of buildings in the Chapei district of Shanghai that were destroyed by the Japanese.



the light heavyweight championship for his ship. The idea of beating someone up, even for sport, was distasteful, and he begged off further fighting.

Listening to music, collecting foreign stamps for Max and writing poems to his "dearest mother" were more his style. Despite such contradictions in a "rugged" Marine, Thomason's good soldiering caught the attention of the ship's officers and noncommissioned officers. When a ship's warrant for sergeant became available, four corporals were chosen to test. Of the three testing with him, one scored 84, another 90 and another 95, but Thomason scored 98 and won the stripes. With youthful glee, his next letter home was signed "Sarge."

Augusta's ports of call read like a travelogue, sailing from China to Java to the Philippines, back to China, up the Yangtse River, down the Whangpoo River, on to Malaya, Burma, Hong Kong, then back to Shanghai, Chefoo or Peking and then over to Vladivostok to party with the Russian Navy. Thomason once had written home about *Augusta*, "She's a ramblin' sonovagun." He later would write, "My rambling fever is just about cured."

He had been in *Augusta's* Marine Detachment two years and five months and had sailed over half the world, but his soul was waterlogged, and Georgia called. He decided not to reenlist.

At the end of July 1939, Thomason left China for the States. He wanted to settle in Georgia, send for Lida and start a family. His heart said it was the thing to do, but his heart didn't know the fickleness of fate. While Thomason was en route home, his father died. Amie was a widow and would need his support more than ever.

In a country still deep in a depression, Thomason felt lucky to land a job as an insurance adjuster at \$90.82 a month with the Fire Companies Adjustment Bureau Inc., of Atlanta. The office guys were great, and, as usual, he quickly became a favorite among them. But civilian life was not what he'd expected. The one bright thing besides Amie was being close to Max, a clean-cut youngster anxious to follow his older brother into the service.

Thomason tried to save enough money to send for Lida, but there was little hope on his pay, and it was not easy bringing a Russian immigrant (whatever her political beliefs) to an isolationist America. After a year of seeing his dreams fading, Thomason sat down and wrote a letter that must have broken his heart, a letter telling Lida that she was free to find another life.

Thomason's future seemed dark with Lida gone and a nowhere job, but whatever fates guided his fortunes were not done. On a fateful Sunday morning, Japanese naval forces attacked Pearl Harbor. America was at war.

It was a moment of decision for Thomason. While Max studied for an officer's commission, he could take care of Amie. Thomason headed for the nearest Marine recruiting station and reenlisted in grade as a corporal.

Editor's note: As a Marine sergeant in LtCol Evans Carlson's 2d Raider Battalion in World War II, Bill Lansford earned 18 awards and decorations and acquired a lifelong interest in guerrilla warfare. His first book, "Pancho Villa," was made into a major motion picture by Paramount Studios. It is back in print and available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. He has written numerous articles, several for our Leatherneck readers, and provided a first-person PBS special "The War," directed and produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. He served with Clyde Thomason and wanted Leatherneck to schedule this two-part article around the anniversary of the raid on Butaritari, so Bill submitted the article and photos early.

Unfortunately, Bill's wife, Ruth, reported that we lost him, at age 91, on May 22 in the early morning from one enemy he could not overcome—cancer. He was a special friend to Leatherneck and a devoted Marine.



In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Tina Pearce

Bronze Star Posthumously Awarded To Marine Raised in Punjab, India



Corporal Gurpreet Singh's family was presented the Bronze Star with combat "V" during a ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 30.

Singh, a rifleman, lived in Punjab, India, until he was 10 years old and he and his family immigrated to Sacramento, Calif. He enlisted when he was 17 and eventually was assigned to 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division.

On May 24, 2009, Singh deployed to Nawa District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, where he survived fierce fire-fights and felt lucky to be safe, according to his family.

Upon completing his first combat tour, Singh was assigned to temporary additional duty at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. After six months of temporary duty, he returned to 1/5 at Camp Pendleton and requested an extension of his contract, allowing him to deploy once more to Afghanistan.

His posthumous award citation states

that while operating out of Sangin District, Helmand province, Singh was serving as a fire team leader in Company B, 1/5, leading his Marines on daily patrols through insurgent-infested areas. Despite being struck in his front body armor by small-arms fire on June 4, 2011, he remained undeterred and continued to bravely lead his Marines.

On June 22, 2011, while leading his Marines through a dangerous area, Singh was struck down by enemy fire.

"He is a brave man, and it humbles me as a leader to lead Marines like that," said Captain Ryan Hunt, who commanded "Bravo" Co, 1/5 during Singh's deployment. "After deploying to Nawa District, he had the opportunity to go somewhere else or could have filled another billet to take a break. He chose to come back to deploy again with his brothers."

Hunt said Singh didn't lead his Marines through fear, but led through consistent mentorship and by his own example.

Cpl Joseph Scanlan

Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv

Four Bronze Stars to Leathernecks And Corpsmen of 7th Marines



Four Bronze Star medals with combat "V's" were awarded to leathernecks and sailors of Seventh Marine Regiment during ceremonies May 23 at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

In early September of 2012, Marines with 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines came under intense enemy fire while conducting partnered combat operations with the Afghan National Army in Afghanistan.

The enemy force was larger in size and entrenched in the area, attacking the Marines and Afghans from six separate firing positions. The 90-minute firefight led to two of the Bronze Stars awarded.

Sergeant Arturo A. Ley, a squad leader with B/1/7, was cited after the corpsman in Ley's squad was wounded and separated from the rest of the Marines. Ley led Marines over open ground to the corpsman's aid and helped drag him to cover, where he received treatment. Ley continued to fight even after sustaining a gunshot wound to the neck during an assault on the enemy position. He remained calm and continued to lead his Marines until the enemy was silenced.

First Lieutenant Michael A. Lashutka, 1/7, also was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V." Lashutka, who was the 1st Platoon leader at the time, sustained a gunshot wound to the arm when his element came under fire. Despite his wound, Lashutka courageously directed the evacuation of seven casualties and facilitated fire support on five enemy fighting positions. He then used the impacts made by artillery rounds as cover to transport the casualties to the company's mobile section to be evacuated.

On June 13, 2012, Hospital Corpsman Third Class John J. Crowley, with 3d Squad, 2d Plt, C/1/7, saved the lives of multiple Marines after the detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) during a night patrol. He stabilized a double amputee after the first strike and provided further care to Marines wounded in a sec-



The family of Cpl Gurpreet Singh attends an award ceremony May 30 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Cpl Singh, a native of Punjab, India, posthumously was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" for combat action with B/1/5 in the Sangin District, Helmand province.

CPL JOSEPH SCANLAN



CPL ALI AZIMI



CPL ALI AZIMI

HM3 John J. Crowley (above left) and Sgt Arturo Ley (above right), 1/7, are each awarded the Bronze Star with a combat "V" at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 23, 2013. On June 13, 2012, Crowley saved Marine lives after an IED detonated during a night patrol. Although wounded, the Navy corpsman stabilized a double amputee and provided care to Marines wounded in a second explosion. In early September 2012, Ley, a 1/7 squad leader, led Marines over open ground to the aid of his squad's wounded corpsman, helping drag the corpsman to cover. Ley continued to fight, even after sustaining a gunshot wound to the neck.

ond explosion. Crowley was within close proximity to the second explosion and sustained injuries himself, but maintained the ability and willingness to conduct triage and help move the casualties to a collection point.

In a separate ceremony, 3/7 honored another corpsman, Hospital Apprentice Steven O. Martin, Co K, for his lifesaving actions on two different instances during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.

After an IED had struck his squad leader and caused a double amputation, Martin applied tourniquets to the Marine's legs, despite having suffered a concussion himself. Three days later, Martin once again provided lifesaving care to a single-leg amputee after an IED attack. He boldly rushed to the casualty through an active minefield to stop the bleeding.

"Their actions show why we are the best warfighting force in the world today as United States Marines," said Lieutenant Colonel Seth E. Yost, Commanding Officer, 1/7.

Cpl Ali Azimi
PAO, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.

24th MEU Marines Risk Everything To Extract Crew of Downed Aircraft

Five Marines were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal during a ceremony June 3 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., for their heroism while assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The Marines were recognized for their actions immediately after one of 24th MEU's aircraft crashed while participating in Exercise African Lion 12, a bilateral training event in Morocco, April 11, 2012.

Without regard for their own safety, the

Marines were the first responders to enter the downed aircraft and administer aid and attempt to rescue the crew. During the mishap, two Marines sustained severe injuries while two others were mortally wounded.

The Marines awarded were Gunnery Sergeant Joseph A. Alvarez, Platoon Commander, Company B, Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, Second Marine Regiment; Sergeant Daniel J. Beers, motor transport noncommissioned officer in charge, Combat Logistics Battalion 24; Sgt Christopher J. Ewain, assistant assault amphibious section leader, "Alpha" Co, BLT 1/2; Corporal Michael Z. Pearson, assistant assault amphibious section leader, Alpha Co, BLT 1/2; and Cpl Steve T. Hanson, team leader, Bravo Co, BLT 1/2.

A sixth Marine, Sgt Merritt C. Huntley, a mortar section leader with Alpha Co, BLT 1/2, was not present during the ceremony due to training commitments, but will be awarded the medal at a later date.

"These Marines acted with courage, skill and precision that saved lives," said Colonel Frank Donovan, the former commanding officer of 24th MEU who commanded the unit during the deployment and who presented the awards during the ceremony.

"There was no hesitation with these five Marines," he explained. "Debris still falling, engine still turning, fuel pouring out, these Marines broke into the side of the cabin wanting to recover a fellow Marine. Why did they do it? They did it for a fellow Marine. That's what it's all about."

From the citations: "Recognizing Marines were in danger, [GySgt] Alvarez ... ran to the crash and was the first responder on scene. Debris and fragments continued

to fall, the cockpit was crushed into the ground, the fuselage was erect in the air and spilling fuel, and the engine was still turning. Amidst this scene, he entered the aircraft, saw the visibly injured pilots and crawled into the crushed cockpit. ... Without the aid of tools, he helped tear through metal and straps to free the pilot. After removing the pilot and helping to carry him from the scene, he returned to recover the copilot in a similar manner. Once both Marines were free from the wreckage, [GySgt] Alvarez helped administer aid, guided other Marines in the rescue efforts, and reassured the wounded pilots as they awaited medical extraction."

Sgt Beers "heard a crew chief trapped inside the hull. He searched for an entry, found and tore through a six-inch hole to enter the unstable aircraft. He climbed approximately 20 feet up the fuselage to the tail to get to the injured crew chief who was suspended upside down by his gunner's belt and being choked by his helmet. [Sgt] Beers removed the Marine's helmet, and with the help of two other Marines, cut the gunner's belt and handed the Marine off to others outside of the aircraft."

Sgt Ewain "helped move the extracted pilot away from the scene. He then returned, entered the aircraft and crawled into the crushed cockpit to help retrieve the copilot. Without the aid of tools, he helped fully extract the copilot. He then helped try to remove the deceased crew chief."

Sgt Huntley's citation confirms he also "heard a crew chief trapped inside the hull. He searched for entry, found and tore through a six-inch hole to enter the unstable aircraft. He climbed approximate-

ly 20 feet up the fuselage to the tail to get to the injured crew chief who had been suspended upside down by his gunner's belt. [Sgt] Huntley supported the crew chief's legs while another Marine cut him from the belt. He helped hand the Marine off to others outside of the aircraft and then remained within to search for other wounded and for serialized gear."

Cpl Pearson "helped tear through metal

and straps to free [a] Marine. Another Marine handed him an axe, which was used as he helped cut through debris to free the copilot's trapped leg. Once able to, [Cpl] Pearson helped fully extract the copilot. He then helped remove the deceased crew chief."

Cpl Hanson "searched for an entry, found and tore through a hole to enter the unstable aircraft. He climbed to the in-

jured crew chief who had been suspended upside down by his gunner's belt. [Cpl] Hanson supported the crew chief's upper body while another Marine cut him from the belt. He helped hand the Marine off to others outside of the aircraft and then joined them to help administer aid to him and the pilots."

Sgt Monique Wallace
Combat Correspondent, 24th MEU

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 May:



Silver Star

Sgt Wade D. Wilson, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division



Distinguished Flying Cross With Combat "V"

Maj Michael W. Hutchings, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 365, Marine Aircraft Group 26, Second Marine Aircraft Wing



Air Medal With Combat "V"

Capt David R. Austin, VMM-365, MAG-26, 2d MAW
Sgt Matthew E. Belleci, VMM-365, MAG-26, 2d MAW
Sgt John M. Leist, VMM-365, MAG-26, 2d MAW
LCpl James R. Rohrer, VMM-365, MAG-26, 2d MAW
Capt Joel A. Vandenende, VMM-365, MAG-26, 2d MAW



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

Sgt Samuel S. Fergmeshnick, 3/9, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Joshua W. Hutchinson, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
Capt Robert M. Jones Jr., 1/7, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Oleg J. McDonald, 1/6, 2dMarDiv
Capt Daniel F. O'Brien, 1/8, 2dMarDiv
LCpl Jorge E. Salazar, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Maj Robert C. Sellers, 6th Marines, 2dMarDiv
Capt Glen W. Taylor, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Jeremy L. Tocco, 1/1, 1stMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

Sgt Travis R. Beattie, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Nicholas A. Born, 3/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Tyler B. Broome, 8th Engineer Support Bn, Second Marine Logistics Group
Cpl Auburn L. Bryan, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Randy W. Coole, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Gabriel F. Espinoza Jr., 1/5, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Brandon N. Guess, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2d MLG
SSgt Jamie L. Held, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv
1stLt Michael P. Hubbard II, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv
CWO-2 Timothy W. Killebrew, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3d MAW
Capt Kyle E. Larish, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Michael E. Lesterick, CLR-2, 2d MLG
Capt Justin M. Medeiros, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv
Cpl James S. Monnig, 3/8, 2dMarDiv
SSgt Ryan L. Platfoot, CLR-2, 2d MLG
CWO-3 Owen B. Pottorff, 2d Combat Engineer Bn, 2dMarDiv
SSgt David A. Romero, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
1stLt David R. Smith II, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Capt Curtis D. South, Marine Corps Forces Central Command (Forward)
GySgt Aaron C. Torian, 2d Marine Special Operations Bn, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

Cpl Vyacheslav S. Vorobyov, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Samuel R. Wright, CLR-2, 2d MLG



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

Sgt Brett A. Ader, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Kenneth P. Anthony, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Capt Douglas S. Bevingtonproctor, 3/9, 2dMarDiv
Cpl Benjamin L. Bischer, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Clifton D. Haston, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Anthony Hernandez Jr., 2/7, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Jared M. Jacobs, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
SSgt Jeremiah A. Johnson, 7th Marines, 1stMarDiv
Sgt Herman A. Lubbe, 2d Reconnaissance Bn, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Christopher N. McElrath, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Jonathan M. Mendicelli, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Michael J. Morales, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
Capt Patrick R. Moran, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Scott A. Richmond, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Daniel Royston, 3/1, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Kyle M. Taormino, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
HM3 Timothy J. Vanderzee, 1/1, 1stMarDiv
Cpl Jonathan Velasco, 2/7, 1stMarDiv
LCpl Christopher M. Wilson, 3/9, 2dMarDiv
Sgt Clayton R. Wright, CLR-2, 2d MLG



We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Marines Offer Relief and Support After Tornadoes Devastate Oklahoma

■ Leathernecks serving with 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and their families gathered to help the victims of the tornadoes that devastated Moore, Okla., and Oklahoma City during the week of May 20.

Staff Sergeant David Terryah, a platoon sergeant with 2d Bn, 5th Marines, traveled from Southern California with a U-Haul truck and trailer filled with donations, including everything from children's clothes to a sectional couch, in order to benefit the smaller communities in Oklahoma affected by the disaster.

"This is an amazing effort and show of Americans taking care of Americans," said Terryah, a native of Fresno, Calif. "I know if Californians were in need, we'd see the same response from Marines."

The idea to take donations to families in Oklahoma took off when Terryah's wife, Krystal, became aware of a neighbor who would be driving through Oklahoma and offered to fill any free space in his truck with donations for the victims.

When Krystal called Terryah, he was with Sergeant Phillip Whitener, his assistant platoon sergeant.

Helping Oklahoma families hit close to home for Whitener.

"As I watched my children play, I thought how I would appreciate [it] if somebody would help out if something happened to my community and my children had to go without a home [and] things to wear," said Whitener, a native of Polk County, Ark.

Whitener called his office that afternoon and let them know he would visit the surrounding businesses throughout the San Clemente community and ask for donations. Whitener's wife, Christina, spread the word to the community through various social media websites.

Within minutes of posting word of the collection, friends and neighbors arrived at Whitener's door with donations. The donations continued throughout the week and exceeded what Terryah's neighbor had space to carry in his vehicle to Oklahoma.

During the weekend, Whitener's community filled his garage, living room and

driveway with donations such as clothes, pillows, blankets and toiletries.

"I started talking to my battalion, my family readiness officer and the commanding officer and they were all about doing everything they could to help out," said Terryah.

"We eventually had to start bringing things into the office because I didn't have enough space at my house anymore," Whitener said.



Sgt Phillip Whitener, an assistant platoon sergeant with 2d Bn, 5th Marines, carries boxes of clothes, which were donated by Marines and their families for the victims of the tornadoes that damaged approximately 2,400 homes in and around Moore, Okla., and Oklahoma City during the week of May 20.

With the excess donations, Terryah decided to use his leave time to personally deliver the donations to Oklahoma. With support from the battalion, Terryah enlisted the help of Marines with 2/5, who volunteered their free time to collect, load the truck and organize the donations. More than 20 military families were involved in the process.

While Moore, Okla., has made a majority of the headlines, many of the smaller towns do not qualify for Red Cross aid. Those are the communities to which Terryah reached out. He contacted local churches and community centers in order

to assist those towns.

"We are working to make sure these supplies get to the places that need them the most," Terryah said.

Terryah arrived at those communities with a U-Haul truck filled with supplies donated by the 2/5 Marines and their families, Operation Help A Hero, Team 2/5 Rancho Santa Margarita, Freedom Riders, U-Haul, Walmart and the San Onofre military family community.

They all hope that the donations offered some relief and showed their support to the people of Oklahoma.

Cpl Timothy Lenzo

Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv

Disabled Marine Instructor Recognized for Exceptional Service

■ The Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Marine Unit (CNATTMARU) at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., announced May 31 that one of its instructors was selected as the United States Marine Corps nominee for Outstanding Department of Defense Employee With a Disability.

Staff Sergeant Zavian Simpson officially will be honored later this year during an awards ceremony at the Pentagon.

Proud of the recognition, the staff sergeant says he always has been dedicated to excellence.

"Marines strive in times of tribulation and adversity," Simpson said. "It's an incredible and humbling feeling to represent the Corps. When I was a recruit at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island I was taught that 'Marines improvise, adapt and overcome.' The phrase was etched into my brain, and it has helped aid me to overcome the difficulties associated with being an amputee. I take no day for granted and [I] am proud to continue my service as a Marine."

The award is part of the National Affinity Groups' distinguished service awards, which recognize individual Marines and Marine Corps civilian employees who have distinguished themselves through their professional achievements, significant contributions to their community, and high degree of personal integrity and ethical conduct.

"To a Marine like Staff Sergeant Simp-



CAPT CHRISTOPHER PROUT

PILOT PERSPECTIVE—Capt Christopher Prout with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, Marine Aircraft Group 11, Third Marine Aircraft Wing shoots an AIM-7 Sparrow missile from an F/A-18C Hornet aircraft while participating in a deployment for training near Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., May 16.

son, mission accomplishment is ensuring his students receive the proper training each and every day,” said Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Gutierrez, Commanding Officer, CNATTMARU Cherry Point. “He is a fine example to future naval aviation maintainers that a leader can and will overcome any challenge placed in front of them.”

Simpson was seriously wounded by an improvised explosive device while serving

as convoy commander for 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment during a convoy patrol in Afghanistan in the fall of 2005. Since that time, he has overcome the challenge of adapting to the loss of his right leg below the knee and remained on active duty to continue his Marine Corps career. In 2008, while attending the Staff Non-commissioned Officer Academy Career Course, he was promoted to staff sergeant and awarded the Gung Ho Award for be-

ing an inspiration to his fellow Marines.

As the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of advanced aircraft electrical systems technicians, he is responsible for the training, qualification and scheduling of seven electrical systems instructors, and he is also the command’s Voting Assistance officer.

“Staff Sergeant Simpson set the standard for a model Wounded Warrior Marine by demonstrating that through adversity, a Marine can still conduct his occupational specialty as a Marine, which all others should emulate,” said Michael Applegate, the director of Manpower Plans and Policy Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

Jena Stephenson
PAO, CNATT



CPL GALEB HICKS

SSgt Zavian Simpson, the Marine Corps nominee for Outstanding Department of Defense Employee With a Disability and an instructor at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Marine Unit, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., discusses advanced aircraft electrical systems with students.

31st MEU’s “Boat” Company Shows Attached Japanese Unit the Ropes

■ A platoon-size element of Japanese soldiers spent two days learning from Marines and sailors with Company F, Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, Fourth Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, as they conducted small-boat training operations June 2-3 in Okinawa, Japan.

Japanese soldiers with the 12th Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, Western Army, Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) were attached to the 31st MEU’s “Boat” Company on May 29, as part of



SGT JONATHAN WRIGHT

Sgt Ben M. Miller, foreground, chief scout swimmer for "Fox" Co, BLT 2/4, 31st MEU, draws out formations to designated scout swimmers with the 12th Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, Western Army, JGSDF during familiarization training June 2-3 in Okinawa, Japan.

"In order to be better prepared for any future engagements on Japanese territory, we must strengthen and maintain our amphibious capabilities," said Lieutenant Colonel Koji Hirata with the JGSDF Ground Staff Office and the officer in charge of the Japanese platoon. "Everything we learn builds upon what we know, making us more prepared and able to work alongside the Marines."

"The integration of our Marines and the Japanese soldiers is nearly seamless, speaking to how successful the exchange program has been so far," said First Sergeant Michael C. Waters, the Co F first sergeant. "They have exercised, ate and slept as one unit since their arrival, which is giving our Marines experiences that cannot be received from conventional bilateral exercises."

While the Japanese soldiers are not actively participating in raid exercises with the Marines during their integration, observation of a force experienced in amphibious operations will strengthen the JGSDF's defensive capabilities.

"Japan has a lot of small, secluded islands surrounding its main body and Okinawa," said Hirata. "This type of landing requires skill and stealth, and who better to learn from than the Marines?"

The 31st MEU and personnel of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force continually fortify their bond through shared training in order to enhance security and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

Sgt Jonathan Wright
Combat Correspondent, 31st MEU

the Japanese Observer Exchange Program to act in an observational capacity during training events. For two days, they learned every aspect of operating the combat rubber raiding craft (CRRC).

"We've demonstrated everything with the CRRCs, from boat assembly to breaking them down post-exercise," said Corporal Lorenzo Herrera, chief CRRC mechanic with 2d Platoon, Co F, BLT 2/4, 31st MEU. "This also serves as a refresher

course for us before we deploy with the 31st MEU."

The first of the two training days was dedicated to teaching proper handling and use of the boats, going over everything from the assembly of the CRRCs to their formations in the water and positioning of the scout swimmers. The following day, the Japanese soldiers learned how to operate the boats and the proper handling procedures once they hit the beach.



JAN LOBUR

TOGETHER AGAIN—Forty-six years after their Vietnam tour ended, these Marines from Weapons Squad, "Mike" Company, 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment met at a recent battalion reunion at Lake Barkley, Ky. During the Vietnam War, they collectively earned two Silver Stars, one Bronze Star and five Purple Hearts. They suffered six gunshot wounds, three shrapnel wounds, received Last Rites three times and were hospitalized for two years (cumulative). Their platoon sergeant, Sgt Lawrence D. "Larry" Peters, posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor. From left: John Lobur, Paul Gundlach, Bert Watkins, Howard Manfra and Denis Flood.

MARFOREUR Supports First Polish Air-Ground Integration Conference

■ Marine Corps Forces Europe launched the first-ever Polish Air-Ground Integration (AGI) conference, held at the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland Artillery and Armaments Training Centre in Torun, Poland, May 21-23.

The conference began with opening remarks by Colonel James "Matt" Baker, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group (MCSCG), and Col Piotr Walega, the training and education chief, representing the Polish General Staff Training Directorate and host nation. More than 60 partner nations shared ideologies and tactics in an effort to improve their military procedures.

"Integration of air and ground systems

is difficult when you are dealing with a single service like the Marine Corps; doing so with multiple services and countries is decidedly harder,” said Baker. “Our Polish hosts realize this and put the AGI conference together to enhance interoperability and capability amongst the participants. This event is extremely valuable to the United States Armed Forces and our partner nations.”

The Polish armed forces, with direct support from MARFOREUR and MCSCG, hosted the regional conference in a concerted effort to improve close air support, joint terminal attack control and fires integration skills between the partner nations.

“The synergy produced between our outstanding Polish hosts and the top-notch USMC instructors was amazing, and guidance from EUCOM [U.S. European Command] helped tailor our efforts,” said Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Toland, a MARFOREUR regional planning officer. “The conference also supported the mutual interests of the partner nations that attended, and we look forward to continued engagements with our Polish friends.”

Major Peter “Hef” Janow, an East-Central European Regional Affairs officer with MCSCG, who helped develop the



MSGT WILLIAM PRICE

Col Blaz Pavlin, Slovenian Armed Forces Long-Term Planning Officer, provides a brief on Slovenian aviation May 22 during the first-ever Polish Air-Ground Integration conference, which was launched by MARFOREUR and held at the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland Artillery and Armaments Training Centre in Torun, Poland.

concept for the AGI conference, attributes his experience working for NATO as a training officer with the Joint Force Training Center in Bydgoszcz, Poland, as part of the inspiration to launch the AGI event.

“Working for NATO, already having a background and combat experience in CAS [close air support] and joint fires helped me to understand the unique air-ground integration needs and regional interoperability concerns of many partner nations,” said Janow, an AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter pilot, forward air control-

ler and former JTAC program manager.

Captain Daniel “Hungry” Hipol, a platoon commander in 1st Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, said: “In ANGLICO, we partner with coalition nations, in order to provide a liaison capability and ultimately joint fires. It’s been an honor to work with so many partner nations and learn from each other.”

MSGT WILLIAM PRICE
PAO, MARFOREUR



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL TYLER REIRIZ

“Dear Mom, today the DIs taught us we can bathe and PT at the same time.”

**Submitted by
MSgt Cain Austin, USMCR (Ret)
Lititz, Pa.**

Dream up your own Crazy Caption. Leatherneck will pay \$25 or give a one-year MCA membership for the craziest one received. It's easy. Think up a caption for the photo at the right and either mail or e-mail it to us. Send your submission to Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail it, referencing the number at the bottom right, to leatherneck@mca-marines.org. The winning entry will be published in two months.

This Month's Photo



LCPL JACOB W. CHASE

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

From Marine Sergeant to Georgia Governor; Corps' Values Guided His Actions

By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret)

As Zell Miller sits across the table from Eric England for lunch at a popular restaurant in Blairsville, Ga., a careful observer might see the family resemblance; they're cousins.

What the observer wouldn't know is that the older cousin, Zell, was influenced by the younger cousin, Eric, to become a United States Marine.

That decision in 1953 and his subsequent three-year enlistment is what Miller—whose titles in addition to Marine include professor, author, state and U.S. senator, and governor of Georgia—credits for his success in life.

"Eric was a seagoing Marine, and he had to wear his dress blues all the time," recalled Miller, who was in his late teens when England would return home on leave resplendent in his dress uniform. "Inside of me I knew if I ever went in the Marines, I wanted to be a Marine like Eric," said Miller.

England was undoubtedly a fine example to emulate; he served a distinguished 24-year career in the Corps from 1950 to 1974, retiring as a master sergeant. He still is revered as one of the Corps' top scout-snipers and among the top five American snipers of all time. He was the subject of the book "Phantom of Phu Bai" by Dr. J. B. Turner.

What ultimately thrust Miller upward into the Corps was hitting the bottom of his world.

"Drunk, dirty, disheveled and dejected," Miller wrote in the prologue of his 1996 book, "Corps Values: Everything You Need to Know I Learned in the Marines." With those words he describes his only time behind bars after a losing bout with moonshine whiskey.

"I was 21 years old ... I was in a bad, bad situation and it was no one's fault but my own," he wrote. He had never had a drink all through high school and two years of college at Young Harris College in Georgia. Then he discovered that "if you had a few beers it would sure make



Retired Georgia Governor and Marine veteran Zell Miller shows off a guidon from Plt 311, his platoon in boot camp, at MCRD Parris Island, S.C. He received the guidon on a subsequent visit to Parris Island years after his three-year tour in the Corps.

you look better and stronger and more handsome," he said sardonically.

So it was, with the image of his cousin Eric in mind, that a Marine Corps advertising sign caught his eye in 1953. It promised, "We Make Men," and he remembers thinking, "That's what I need." I walked into the recruiting office, said I wanted to join the Marine Corps and the recruiter said I'd come to the right place," he recalled with a reminiscent chuckle.

Miller didn't tell his mother, who was staying with her sister in Macon at that time, about joining until he was shipping off to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. "They sent us to Macon to catch the bus to Beaufort, and I told her I had joined as I was passing through," he reflected. "I think at that time she figured this was something she wasn't able to give me that a male influence could give me."

Miller's austere upbringing perhaps

prepared him better than he knew for a tour in the Corps. His father died in 1932 when he was only 17 days old, and, along with his older sister, he was raised by a single mother in the rugged hills of Young Harris in far-northeastern Georgia about five miles from the North Carolina border.

"She was a good disciplinarian, but not as strong as I needed as I grew older, although she did the best she could," said Miller about his mother, Birdie Bryan Miller. "For a single mother she had a very strong personality."

"Strong" is perhaps an understatement. Miller relates how his mother went to a nearby creek and literally pulled hand-picked rocks worn smooth by centuries of rushing water onto the banks. "She would always remind me that she got most of the rocks out, but she had help with some of them," he noted.

The rocks eventually would be the

CWO-4 RANDY GADDO, USMC (RET)

building blocks for the Miller home. With the small insurance fund left after her husband died, Birdie Miller hired workers to form the stones into the foundation of their home. Zell Miller now lives with his wife of 60 years, Shirley, in that home, which still features some of those same rocks his mother harvested from the creek.

In 1942, Birdie Miller took her young family to Atlanta to work at the Bell Bomber plant, which is now Lockheed, to help the war effort and raise money to pay for her home. "We moved right back home within two weeks after the war ended," Miller recalled.

So Atlanta was not unfamiliar to Miller when he went alone to the recruiting office there to sign up and promptly ship off to boot camp at Parris Island. Many of the drill instructors were Korean War veterans just coming from combat.

"We didn't know the war was going to end at that point so we had expectations that we'd end up in Korea too," Miller recalled. Drill instructors used the war as the stick to punctuate the importance of boot-camp training.

"Boot camp exceeded all my expectations," Miller quipped as he reflected on boot camp in August 1953. "I didn't know what a sand flea was until then. Eric had told me a lot about boot camp, and I was ready for the physical part; I had been an athlete, played ball. It was the mental part that was so difficult. But I had to live up to that poster; I had to make this change in my life."

Miller related that his senior drill instructor had a ritual that the last person in formation after chow got a "swift kick in the a--," he declared. "I got one, but only

one; I never got another one. It wasn't the kick itself that affected me; it was the shame of failing that made me not want it again. Folks now think that you can't learn from shame, but I think it is a learning tool, and the Marines know how to use it."

After the first week of getting haircuts, their initial issue of uniforms and doing the "seabag drag," Miller said his platoon attempted marching; mostly though it was "hippity hop, mob stop."

"We started trying to march, but all three drill instructors would just jump right into the platoon and get in your face, the yelling part," he related with a pensive grin. "I guess we got used to it towards the end; after the rifle range we were old salts," he said, this time the grin reflecting the proud memory of bloused trousers, shined boots, blocked covers and the inexplicable satisfaction of a razor-sharp platoon marching in step.

The Crucible did not exist in those days; the final exam was a three-day war that tested all the acquired skills qualifying the boy to become a man. "They didn't call us 'Marine' until the last day we were there, a little different than now," he related. "My entire platoon, 311, was issued dress blues because we were the top platoon in the series. That was a big deal. We were learning one of the lessons: 'achievement.' You get rewarded for doing a good job."

Although his mother couldn't make it

to graduation, she had come with her sister the week before. "She knew that I was in a good platoon, but I don't think she understood what that really meant," he recalled. On graduation day Miller marched across the parade deck sharing the pride of his accomplishment with only himself, but he also had other things on his mind.

"I was thinking about getting home to that girl I'd left up in Young Harris, who



Zell Miller, "boot"

USMC

"Eric had told me a lot about boot camp, and I was ready for the physical part. ... It was the mental part that was so difficult. But I had to live up to that poster; I had to make this change in my life."

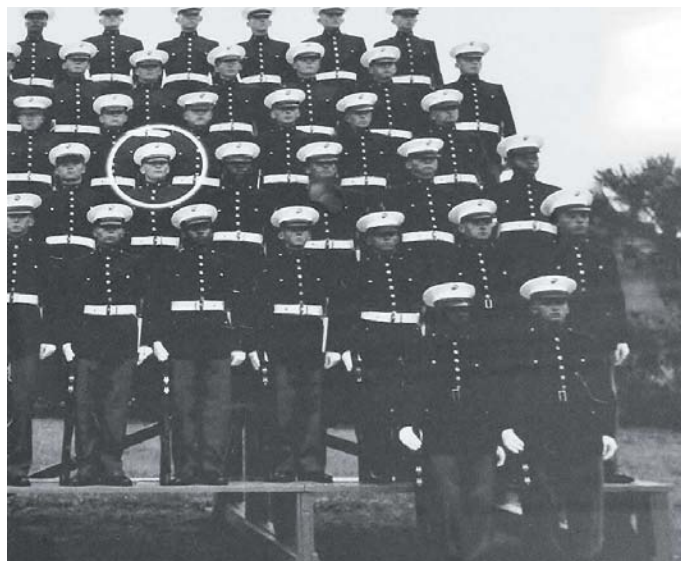
had written to me so many times in boot camp," he laughed, as he shared a conspiratorial smile with Shirley and remembered mail call at Parris Island. "The drill instructors would smell those letters before they gave them out."

"I had sensed the change in him from his letters," observed his wife in a quintessential Southern accent. "It was constantly on my mind as he was in boot camp that he was going to Korea. That was the overriding thought. 'How long is it going to be until they send him?'"

Miller graduated from boot camp as a private first class in November 1953 just



COURTESY OF ZELL MILLER



COURTESY OF ZELL MILLER

Above left: Zell Miller, center, and two of his cousins, retired Air Force MSgt Franklin Hunter, right, and retired Marine Corps MSgt Eric England, a "Distinguished" shooter and renowned sniper.

Above right: Recruit Zell Miller is circled in this photo of a portion of his platoon.



COURTESY OF ZELL MILLER

From left: Sgt Richard Morris, Cpl Nick Vella, Cpl Zell Miller and Sgt John Lynch act as models during photo classes at their basic journalism course, circa 1954.

after the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed, ending the fighting there, at least officially. He married Shirley in January 1954 and then was assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"I finished college at Young Harris in May and I went to Camp Lejeune with Zell; we lived at Camp Geiger, in a trailer," Shirley Miller remembered. "I found a job right off the main gate in a little shopping area on the corner of Midway Park. Zell

was off on maneuvers, and he also spent time at the rifle range as an instructor."

Miller grinned at the memory of being a marksmanship instructor; he barely had qualified on the rifle range in boot camp. But, he wanted to be a good shooter like his cousin Eric, so he worked at it and eventually obtained his Expert badge.

Miller ultimately was stationed with the 10th Marine Regiment to be a "can-noncocker," an artilleryman.

"That's what I was headed to do, until they discovered I had been the editor of my college newspaper and could write a sentence," he said. "They were desperate because the editor of the 10th Marines newsletter, the *Cannoneer*, transferred just after I checked in. He was Wallace Davis, and he went on to become editor of the *Savannah Morning News*."

Operating from a desk in Special Services, Miller wrote, edited, typed and mimeographed about 300 weekly newsletters for the regiment. It was rare for a regiment to have its own newsletter. "I think Davis started it, and I knew I didn't have near the writing skills he had," Miller conceded. In spite of his inexperience, Miller became an editor.

That led him to military journalism school, then at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill. Several months of formal training earned him a military occupational specialty as a Marine combat correspondent reporting on Marine activities and operations.

"That's when you went to work in the office with George Burlage," Shirley Miller reminded him.

"Yes, I'm glad you brought him up," Miller acknowledged. "George Burlage was a very important person in my life."

Burlage, (1918-2008), was a World War II veteran who had been taken prisoner by the Japanese at Corregidor and was a POW for 40 months. After the war, he became a combat correspondent and later a staffer for *Leatherneck* magazine when it was still an official Marine Corps publication.

"He was a master sergeant, and you'll see his byline in the old *Leatherneck* magazines," said Miller, recalling his mentor,



COURTESY OF ZELL MILLER

Above left: Then-Gov. Zell Miller stands at the renovated Andersonville, Ga., Civil War prison with his mentor, former POW George Burlage, who was a *Leatherneck* staffer when the magazine was an official Marine Corps publication.



Above right: Zell Miller and his wife, Shirley, pose for a photo with the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Charles C. Krulak, at a Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of Zell Miller)

Then-Gov. Zell Miller accepts an Iron Mike statue from a Marine Corps League official and the 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James L. Jones, in Washington, D.C.

who enlisted after seeing a Marine poster in 1939 promising, "Travel-Adventure-Romance-Join the Marines." Burlage retired from the Corps in 1959. "He was a great guy. He helped me tremendously with my writing skills," Miller revealed.

In gratitude, Miller dedicated "Corps Values" to Burlage and to Miller's drill instructor, Staff Sergeant William Phetterplace. "In the summer of 1953 [Phetterplace] pounded those Corps values into me."

"Corps Values" was published in 1996 while Miller was in the second of two terms as governor of Georgia from 1991 to 1999. The book, one of several he's written, reveals a list of values he started in boot camp and added to over the years. "I recall with clarity the thoughts I had about what I learned and what I must do to make those values a positive force in my life," he wrote in the prologue.

The book defines 12 values that Miller says "constitute a formula for the survival of a society in which individuals can achieve for themselves and, at the same time, contribute to the advancement of mankind as a whole." The values are neatness, punctuality, brotherhood, persistence, pride, respect, shame, responsibility, achievement, courage, discipline and loyalty.

He recalled an opportunity to repay Burlage for his mentorship, demonstrating the values of loyalty and brotherhood.

"When I was governor, they opened up the renovated Andersonville prison," he related. The Camp Sumter military prison at Andersonville, Ga., was one of the largest Confederate military prisons, holding more than 45,000 Union soldiers in its 14-month existence. Today it is a national historic site memorializing all American prisoners of war throughout the nation's history.

"He wanted to see it, so he came here from Denton, Texas, stayed in the governor's mansion, and we went to the dedication ceremony," Miller said. Later, when Miller was in the U.S. Senate (2000-05), he brought Burlage to Washington, D.C., for a visit.

Miller served three years in the Corps and received his honorable discharge in 1956. He transitioned from the Marine Corps to education, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in history at the University of Georgia. In 1959, he returned to his hometown as a professor of history



COURTESY OF ZELL MILLER

and political science at Young Harris College.

His rise in politics also began in Young Harris when he was elected mayor from 1959 to 1960. His early upbringing in the home built by his mother set the tone for his ruggedly independent political career. Being a conservative Democrat with certain beliefs that crossed party lines, his

popular with supporters on both sides of the aisle. He was a strong supporter of the military. Not happy with the direction the Democratic Party was taking, in 2004 he endorsed Republican President George W. Bush over Democrat John Kerry; he delivered the keynote speech in September 2004 at the Republican National Convention.

Miller has gone back to Parris Island on several occasions to see the changes and remotivate himself. "I got a very different reception than I did when I stepped off the bus in 1953," he said with a grin. He had opportunities to talk with recruits from Georgia. "These recruits are more mature than I was when I went in," he said.

Asked how he would advise a young man or woman interested in joining the Corps, he said, "I would want to know about the person, who they are and about their character and their desire to be a Marine," he remarked, having to think about his answer. "I would try to explain the toughness it would require, but I would encourage them to join."

Editor's note: The author, CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He retired from active duty in 1996 and now is a contributing editor for Leatherneck.



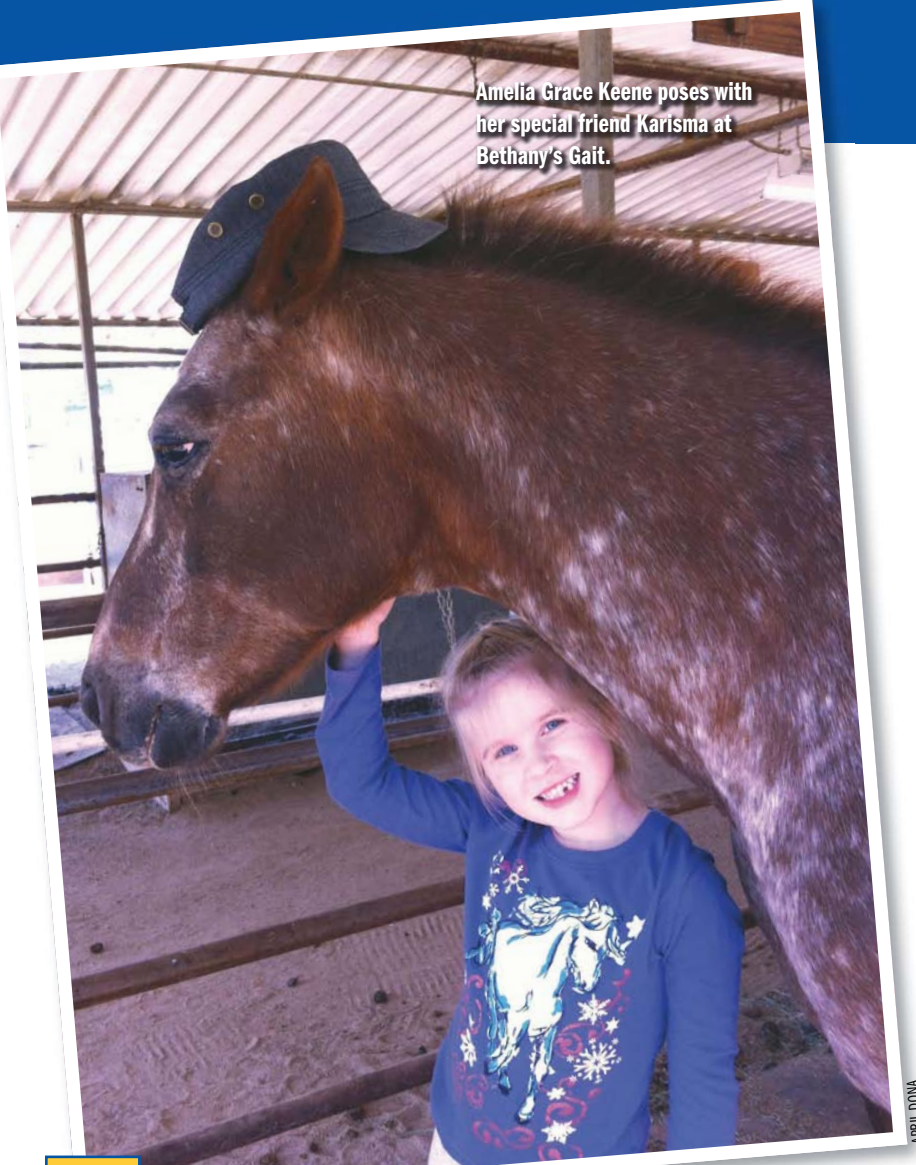
Being a conservative Democrat with certain beliefs that crossed party lines, his political values mirrored the list he developed in boot camp, making friends and foes along the way.

political values mirrored the list he developed in boot camp, making friends and foes along the way.

He was a Georgia state senator, chief of staff for Governor Lester Maddox, served four terms as Georgia's longest-serving lieutenant governor and in 1990 was elected governor and served two terms. He left office with a record 85 percent approval rating. In 2000, he was appointed by Gov. Roy Barnes to the U.S. Senate following the death of Republican Senator Paul Coverdell and won a special election to keep the seat.

Sticking to his principles and values, he preached bipartisanship and was

Amelia Grace Keene poses with her special friend Karisma at Bethany's Gait.



FEARLESS On a Horse

By Bahar Sharareh

Seven-year-old Amelia Grace Keene was very anxious. Her father, Michael, a Marine who recently had arrived home from military duty, was deploying again to Afghanistan.

"My dad just got here!" she complained to her mom, in a desperate plea. He had been home for only 10 months. Soon her anxiety revealed itself in repetitive behaviors. Amelia was feeling out of control of her life. She would become highly obsessive over anything in her environment that she could control. She repeatedly walked around the house in certain pat-

terns and incessantly tapped her plate during dinner.

Aside from her separation anxiety, she constantly felt "empty" because her dad was rarely home. As a typical situation with many military families, even when a servicemember is not deployed, he or she spends a considerable amount of time away from family and in training. Still, at any point, the moment the topic of her father's deployment would come up, Amelia's face would crumble to tears.

Amelia's mom, Leslie, saw that her issues were serious and took her to see her pediatrician. Tears formed in Leslie Keene's eyes as she begged the doctor for

a solution, and they were instructed to see a counselor at the hospital. But days and weeks passed, and the progress with her counseling was minimal. Amelia was withdrawn and discouraged.

One day a friend of Mrs. Keene's called her with a suggestion; she had been riding a horse in an arena and had seen a sign for an organization called Bethany's Gait, a nonprofit organization in Orange County, Calif., that rescues horses and uses them in equine-facilitated psychotherapy programs for military personnel and at-risk individuals. Keene wasn't sure that option would open doors, but she was willing to try anything.

She contacted the organization and with the help of Cristi Silverberg-Rose, the founder of Bethany's Gait who found a sponsor for Amelia, Amelia began attending sessions at the ranch. On the day she arrived, she was paired with April Dona, a marriage and family therapist intern, and a rescued horse of her choice, Karisma. The session involved Amelia grooming and talking to Karisma about her feelings.

Equine therapy began in the 1990s, although the therapeutic influences of animals first were recognized in the 1960s through an accidental discovery by a child psychologist named Boris Levinson. He found that when his dog was around, his uncommunicative child would become a much better communicator.

There are many reasons why horses help clients in therapy, but one of the most important is their ability to read a person's emotional energy and respond to it. The feedback can help clients change their disempowering attitudes and behaviors in order to receive a more positive response from the horse. In addition, horses have a calming presence and are nonjudgmental, which help clients accept themselves.

Shortly after Amelia's visit at Bethany's Gait, her mother took her for an appointment with the same counselor they had seen earlier. It wasn't long before the counselor curiously asked Leslie Keene, "What happened last week?"

"I rode a horse!" was Amelia's ecstatic response.

The sudden change in Amelia's emotional state since their last visit was a complete surprise to the counselor. "She's a completely different girl!" she told Amelia's mother.

It was not only mental and emotional help that Amelia would receive; as she

Amelia rides comfortably as April Dona guides Allie around some obstacles.

attended the equine-facilitated psychotherapy session on a weekly basis, other miracles began to appear. Amelia was born with several medical conditions, although they are “hidden,” and at a glance none of her problems can be observed. However, her playmates who spend hours and days with her notice that she is “different” and make fun of her.

One of her conditions is Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), a disorder where the brain does not receive the correct information needed to process and respond to sensory input. The result can have a devastating effect on a person’s life, although the severity of the disorder can vary.

For example, because Amelia’s brain does not receive the correct sensory input from her body position and muscle control, she has great difficulty performing tasks that require fine motor skills, such as tying shoelaces, zipping zippers and buttoning shirts. SPD also affects her sense of touch. She couldn’t tolerate wearing pants, she found getting wet unbearable, and she could not stand certain food textures in her mouth. That has become the case *sometimes*.

As if by fairy’s dust, her problems have diminished greatly since she started at Bethany’s Gait. Every time she is with Karisma and Dona, she becomes a different girl, and her positive experience has spread to every aspect of her life.

Her aversion to being wet, for example, has greatly decreased, especially when she is around her horse. At times Amelia grooms Karisma after the brown appaloosa mare has taken a bath. Many times Amelia gets wet in the process, but for a mysterious reason, she is completely OK with it. She also is able to open and lock the gates that lead to the arena where she rides another horse, Allie. Karisma experienced abuse prior to arriving at Bethany’s Gait; the aftereffects have left her unable to be ridden.

Amelia even wears light leggings for her therapy. She also has a vision tracking problem, but when she reads to Karisma, her reading ability makes a jump. She still may fear going down the slide in the

park, but she is fearless on the horse. Her parents call the weekly hour on the ranch, Amelia’s “safe haven.”

Her changes are not limited to that one hour, however. She now eats vegetables she would not even consider before due to their “intolerable” texture. She’s OK with her mom clipping her nails, since Karisma’s “nails” get clipped (and painted) too. Leslie Keene is radiant with story after story of how Amelia’s everyday life has improved through Bethany’s Gait, but perhaps the biggest change is how much Amelia has grown as a person.

One day her mother asked Amelia, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

“I want to be like Miss April!” she responded.

“Why?”

“Because she teaches you that it’s OK to be different.”

Amelia has a special bond with Dona; she calls her “my buddy,” but Amelia also has formed a special relationship with her horses, especially

Karisma. Karisma has the saddest background among all of the 13 rescued horses at Bethany’s Gait. When she was rescued from a pony ring in Texas, she was skin and bones with a foal by her side.

Upon being checked by a vet, it was discovered that Karisma was pregnant and likely being fed only enough to keep her alive. Despite this she was kind and thankful for the great care she began to receive, although she had an initial apprehension toward men. By receiving unconditional love and great care from both clients and volunteers at the ranch, Karisma

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

“I want to be like Miss April!”

Amelia responded.

“Why?”

“Because she teaches you that it’s OK to be different.”



LESLIE KEENE



APRIL DONA

After hours of reading to and grooming her favorite equine friend, Amelia has grown very comfortable with Karisma.



LESLIE KEENE

Amelia's confidence and self-esteem grew the first time aboard Allie.

is living a happy existence and always is glad to give a "heart hug" to anyone who needs it. She is, as Dona put it, "the best therapy horse the organization has."

One day April Dona gave Amelia a gift: a bracelet she had made for her from Karisma's hair.

"It has traveled across the United States, it's in our family photos, it sits at the dining table," Amelia's mother said. "The bracelet has given Amelia a piece of Karisma to keep with her at all times." Amelia also has a picture of Karisma in her wallet and is generally shy, but "will talk all day" if someone wants to know about Karisma. One day after her session with Karisma, Keene asked her daughter, "What did you do in therapy today?"

"I can't tell you," Amelia firmly responded.

"Why?"

"Because I tell Karisma all my secrets."

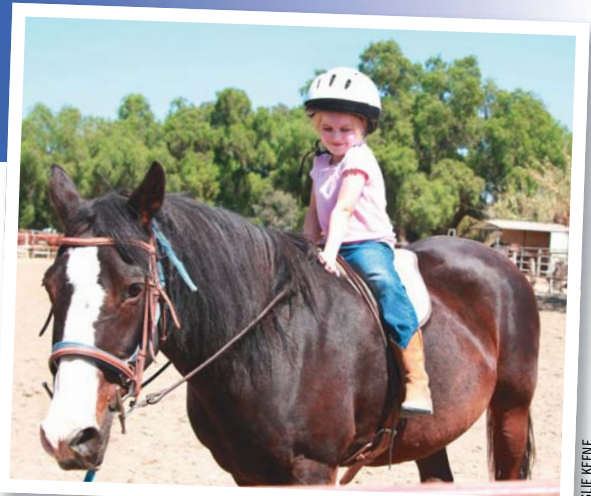
Yet, it's not only children who are helped by Bethany's Gait. The organization also provides assistance to active-duty, Reserve and veteran military personnel and their families.

Craig Kiggins, 73, a Marine veteran who served six months of active duty and 5½

years of active Reserve, was introduced to Bethany's Gait through his wife, who is a volunteer at the organization. Even though Kiggins became a volunteer at Bethany's Gait and never was an actual client, spending time with horses has been almost therapeutic for him. He grew up in a violent household with a dysfunctional family. Furthermore, he was brought up believing that his worth was based on his performance. "I was a compulsive perfectionist," he said.

Because horses are sensitive to a human's internal state, Kiggins learned to create more positive responses from the horses. He learned self-control and how to cultivate positive emotions and behaviors within himself. As months passed, he also became a much more secure person, no longer feeling the need to prove himself to others. He called himself a "recovering perfectionist" whose "spiritual journey has just begun."

Kiggins now owns a horse and is a regular volunteer at Bethany's Gait. He is certified in equine-facilitated psycho-



LESLIE KEENE

It's not only children who are helped by Bethany's Gait. The organization also provides assistance to ... military personnel and their families.

therapy as an equine specialist. He often works with military personnel who attend the program and stated that he has an understanding ear. He said the service-members open up to him on things they never may have shared with anyone.

"Bethany's Gait has opened the door with many members of the military," Kiggins said. According to him, the military personnel who participate in the program "let their hair down" with each other, and their level of personal honesty continues afterward.

Most of the improvements are not only through talk sessions, but by being outdoors and active with the horses. "Sometimes magic happens with a horse," Kiggins said. He believes that young military personnel who suddenly are given a huge responsibility sometimes are not meant to deal with the horrors of war, and he wants to make a difference; "I love this country, and these guys are defending it," he said firmly. "This is the last season of my life, and I can't think of anything better that I could possibly do."

Author's note: To learn more about Bethany's Gait and to see how you might help, visit www.bethanysgait.org/.

Editor's note: Bahar Sharareh is a broadcast journalist and recently graduated with a master's in communications at California State University, Fullerton. She also enjoys writing and loves animals.



LESLIE KEENE

After a riding session, Amelia, April Dona and Allie head to the barn. Before attending Bethany's Gait for therapy, even minor physical contact like holding hands was not possible for Amelia.



Marine Corps Association & Foundation Awards Ground Dinner

CONGRATULATIONS! 2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MARINES OF THE YEAR



**CORPORAL
BRANDON WAYNE**
1st Marine Division
Marine of the Year



**STAFF SERGEANT
NICHOLAS COLLINS**
2d Marine Division
Marine of the Year



**SERGEANT MATTHEW
J. FOGLESONG**
3d Marine Division
Marine of the Year



**SERGEANT JOSEPH
V. DUGAN**
4th Marine Division
Marine of the Year

GROUND LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



**CAPTAIN BENJAMIN
M. MIDDENDORF**
Leftwich Trophy for
Outstanding Leadership



**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2
KEVIN S. GONZALEZ**
Hulbert Award
for Outstanding Leadership
by a Marine Gunner



**CAPTAIN
DUSTIN HAMMIT**
Chambers Award
for Outstanding Leadership
by a Company Grade
Officer in the Marine
Reserve Component



**CAPTAIN
MATTHEW MANOUKIAN**
Zembiec Award
for Outstanding Leadership
in the USMC Forces Special
Operations Command



**MASTER SERGEANT
JOHN BAILLY**
MARSOC NCO/Critical
Skills Operator of the Year

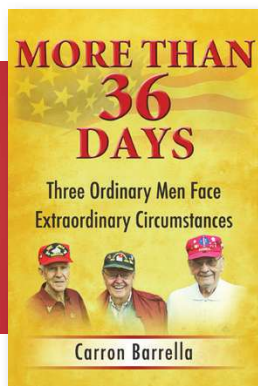


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MORE THAN 36 DAYS: Three Extraordinary Men Face Extraordinary Circumstances. By Carron Barrella. Published by Carron Barrella. 114 pages. Softcover. Stock #098357281X. \$11.66 MCA Members. \$12.95 Regular Price.

A Marine veteran and a former military police officer, Carron Barrella is an exceptional writer, and her human treatment of three Marine veterans of the brutal World War II Battle of Iwo Jima is one of the best accounts I have read about the special group of Marines who fought on Iwo Jima.

Four Marines meet for lunch, coffee and other ceremonies on a regular basis. The youngest, Carron Barrella, hears the amazing combat experience of the three octogenarians who enjoy her close friendship. These members of "the Greatest Generation," survivors of the 36-day Battle of Iwo Jima, formed such a personal bond and friendship that they agreed to let her tell their individual stories. In her touching tribute to her three heroes, she lets us share their lives from their youth to their baptism of fire in arguably the bloodiest battle in Marine Corps history. She also shares their emotional closure and celebration when they returned to Iwo Jima in 2010.

Don Whipple was a dirt-poor Kansas farm kid who enlisted at 17. His Fifth Marine Division unit was in the first assault waves on Iwo Jima. Shrapnel to his leg felled him and would remain with him the rest of his life. He refused evacuation to Guam and pilfered another uniform and

equipment on the ship to make a second landing under fire and rejoin his buddies where he witnessed the American flag being raised over the island.

Max Brown, a tall, athletic Colorado mountain boy, joined the National Guard at age 15 and the Marine Corps in 1941. As a Marine Corps Recruit Depot platoon honorman, he was promoted to corporal and retained as a drill instructor until 1944 when he joined 4thMarDiv to later land on Iwo Jima. As a squad leader, Brown was wounded in his neck and shoulders but refused evacuation. He later was called up and served in the Korean War, but his earlier wounds finally terminated his military service. In 2008, a Bronze Star medal for valor and a Purple Heart he earned on Iwo Jima finally were awarded.

Jim Blane survived three island invasions—Roi-Namur, Saipan and Tinian—before he landed on Iwo Jima. His beachmaster team always was first ashore. There he hauled explosives, water, ammo and evacuated the dead and wounded. He also led Marines to counter Japanese fanatics who penetrated their lines. The combat carnage he witnessed in the four battles was compounded by wounds he suffered in defending the perimeter. But post-traumatic stress disorder would haunt him for the rest of his life.

In her closing, Barrella notes that there is no doubt that 36 days on Iwo Jima changed these men as only war can change men. "They lost friends and a part of themselves and placed all the horrors

behind them to live normal lives ... inspiring everyone fortunate enough to be acquainted with them."

Perhaps these three Marine veterans are little different from most of the others who fought on that island and that, in itself, defines the value of Barrella's tribute.

Col Robert L. Fischer, USMC (Ret)

Editor's note: Col Bob Fischer is a 1955 Naval Academy graduate. During 1961-63, he studied four Asian insurgencies and obtained the Malaya Jungle School syllabus to use at the Counter-guerrilla Warfare Center he established at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in 1965. His book, "Guerrilla Grunt," tells this story (www.virtualbookworm.com/bookstore/product/GuerrillaGrunt_ebook.html). During 1966-68, he was a Vietnamese Marine Corps advisor, and today he devotes his time to the Rocky Mountain Hyperbaric Clinic where veterans suffering from TBI and PTSD are treated and healed.

CHARLIE ONE FIVE: A Marine Company's Vietnam War. By Nicholas Warr. Published by Texas Tech University Press. 400 pages. Stock #0896727971. \$35.96 MCA Members. \$39.95 Regular Price.

The First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment has a long and illustrious combat history. Through the mid-to-late 1960s, "Charlie" Company served the battalion with distinction in the rice paddies and jungles throughout I Corps in South Vietnam. The author, Nicholas Warr, was a junior officer with C/1/5 and has written a moving account of the company.

The foreword is written by First Lieutenant Scott Nelson, one of C/1/5's company commanders. In a briefing given by his new regimental commander, Nelson got the word! "You're here, Lieutenant, to kill the enemy!" To that, 1stLt Nelson simply replied: "Aye, aye, sir!" One of Nelson's platoon commanders who helped accomplish the regimental commander's direction was the author, Second Lieutenant Nicholas Warr. Regarding serving with Warr, Nelson writes: "I admired Nick as a combat officer then, and I admire



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him now as he leads the 1/5 Vietnam veterans. He promotes esprit de corps and assistance for all Marines.”

The battalion landed at Chu Lai in late 1965 and served in the Phu Loc 6 tactical area. Warr asserts: “I’m determined to write the truth about the Vietnam War as I experienced it—how it tasted and smelled, looked and felt, and how it is remembered by those who rose to the challenge of serving their country, risking everything in that worthy endeavor.” The narrative of this excellent work is enhanced by a detailed map section fashioned by frequent *Leatherneck* contributor Lieutenant Colonel Richard “Wild Bill” Cody, USMC (Ret).

At the beginning, C/1/5 acted as a rapid reaction force in 1965’s Operation Starlite and Operation Jackstay. These were the first major combat operations conducted by Marines in South Vietnam. Much of the detailed story of their first actions comes to us through the letters written by Corporal Keith Vollendorf. Serving as a blocking force, Marines of Charlie Co were heli-lifted into Landing Zone Sparrow. In a letter home, Vollendorf wrote: “The operation just got over today. It lasted for about 12 days and they were the most miserable days I’ve ever spent in my life.”

Warr tells the readers that one of the early lessons learned was not to allow their Marines to bunch up around any “inviting” waterhole. Catching the Marines gathered at one such oasis, the Viet Cong remotely set off a massive explosion that killed seven and wounded 15 Marines.

Warr’s description of the frustrations endured by the “grunts” in C/1/5—the monsoonal downpours, the heat, exhaustion, disease and cold, tasteless C-rations—heightened by a combat-experience-draining individual rotation system, clearly demonstrates how Marines faced far more than a highly trained and competent military force. But Warr notes that perhaps even worse for Charlie Co was the replacement of the trusted M14 rifles with the new, untested and frequently malfunctioning M16.

As evidence of the ills of the M16, Warr writes that after the deadly Battle for Hill 110 in 1967, the commander of 1/5, LtCol Peter Hilgartner, said: “I have three main criticisms of the Marine Corps during this time. First, they kept moving the companies back and forth between battalions, which caused serious command and control problems. Second, I hated that stupid M16. I hated it because it kept getting my Marines killed. Third, it seemed like every time we got the enemy on the run, we

always had to stop and count the bodies, and we couldn’t pursue them.”

Warr pulls no punches in describing Charlie, 1/5’s time in country in Vietnam. The unit gave its all while fighting in some of the most devastating actions of the war: Operations Colorado, Osage, Swift and Unions I and II. The losses were great in these major operations, but Warr does not diminish the role of C/1/5 in a multitude of missions while patrolling the hills and paddies surrounding Hoi An, Chu Lai, and in the Phu Loc 6 area.

Veterans, members of the Fifth Regiment and Marines everywhere, will take pride in reading the account of this fine company of fighting Marines. You can proudly place a copy of Nicholas Warr’s book, “Charlie One Five,” on your military history bookshelf beside his other tremendous Vietnam War tale, “Phase Line Green: The Battle for Hue, 1968.”

Robert B. Loring

Editor’s note: A prolific reader and Leatherneck contributor, “Red Bob” Loring is dedicated to supporting social programs that improve the lives of citizens in Pasco County, Fla.



Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

Marine Family Finds Support From Exceptional Family Member Program

Dealing with the stresses, uncertainties and the constant changes of military life isn't easy for Marine families. That difficulty is compounded for those families who have an exceptional needs family member.

When First Sergeant J. Thomas Russo and his wife, Jennifer, first found out their 22-month-old daughter, Giuliana, was autistic, they were devastated.

In the beginning, Jennifer thought Giuliana's behavior was normal for a toddler of her age. It wasn't until after her husband watched a television special about autism that red flags went up. Then a diagnosis changed everything—and the Russos were at a loss about what to do next.

The Exceptional Family Member Program

"There's not a handbook that tells you what to do," Jennifer said. "Your life is forever changed, you know that, but you don't know where to begin."

After some searching on the Internet, the Russos found the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) website, and a case manager introduced them to the vast array of resources available.

They received an information packet with recommended speech, occupational and applied behavior analysis therapists, doctors who specialized in autism and other resources to help their family adjust to the sudden change.

"They had a ton of information," Jennifer said. "Honestly, at first I really didn't know what to do with it, but it felt good to have a starting point. It was just like a shining light after receiving such bad news—and life-changing news—that we never really anticipated."

The EFMP works with Marine Corps family members with exceptional medical, behavioral health and educational needs. This includes wounded warriors, mental illnesses like post-traumatic stress disorder and various other disabilities for spouses, children and dependent adults.

All Marines with exceptional family members are required to enroll them with the Exceptional Family Member Program.

In addition to resources, the EFMP ensures that Marine families with excep-



CPL CHELSEA ANDERSON

Giuliana Russo snuggles with her parents, 1stSgt J. Thomas Russo and Jennifer Russo, at their home in Arlington, Va., May 29. When Giuliana was diagnosed with autism three years ago, her parents contacted the Exceptional Family Member Program for resources, information and support.

tional needs are equipped for the inevitable—a change of duty stations.

Before receiving orders, the new location must have appropriate accommodations in the area to meet the exceptional needs for that family.

"When the Marine receives orders, both the losing and gaining installation EFMP managers are notified," said Michael Flaherty, Exceptional Family Member Program manager at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va. "We have what is called the 'warm hand-off' process that is intended to create a seamless transition and ensure the continuum of care for our EFMP families. All these things are in place so that our Marine families do not have to reinvent the wheel every time they PCS (permanent change of station)."

Living Life Exceptionally

Now, roughly three years later, the Russo family is learning to adjust to life with autism. Giuliana receives daily therapy to help reinforce positive behaviors as well as work on her speech and other skills.

"Progress is so slow sometimes, you wonder, 'Is this even working?'" Jennifer said. "But it is."

Giuliana, who just turned 5, has a hard time using language to communicate her wants and needs. While she has the capacity to identify things and say their names, she often lacks the skills to use her vocabulary in a practical sense. She also struggles with processing and understanding language, but thanks to therapy, she is making progress.

Marine Corps Life

Like other EFMP families, the Russos must learn to juggle their special needs with the expectations of the Marine Corps.

"My wife, Jennifer, and I take each day at a time and find it helpful to connect with other families of special needs children and support groups," 1stSgt Russo said. "It is important to make sure Marines [with EFMP family members] get the support they need so they can focus on accomplishing the mission."

Initially, Jennifer worried that having an exceptional family member might limit her husband's career. That has not been the case.

"There is a fear that EFMP status will harm or limit one's military career, or preclude family members from accompanying sponsors on overseas and CONUS tours," 1stSgt Russo said. "In my exper-

ience, having an exceptional family member has not limited or hurt my career in the Marine Corps. EFMP gives me a peace of mind, knowing that once I receive orders, the receiving installation will be researched extensively to ensure proper supports are available to my daughter. If not, they will start the process again.”

Russo, who currently serves as a company first sergeant at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., will reach his 20-year mark in four years. That means the Russo family will most likely be making a transition to a new location before his retirement.

“When there’s talk of us possibly getting orders and moving to another area, I immediately start to worry if the new school can support her educational needs and therapy needs,” Jennifer said. “Also, that transition for Giuliana might be rough.”

One thing that does give the Russo family comfort is the knowledge that they always will have another Exceptional Family Member Program office at their next duty station to help them make the transition.

Cpl Chelsea Anderson
PAO, Defense Media Activity-Marines

Chaplains Promise Confidentiality

In a recent poll on Navy Personnel Command’s website, 63 percent of 5,049 respondents did not believe that what they say to a chaplain is confidential, and 65 percent of 2,895 respondents believe that Navy chaplains are required to report certain matters to the command.

In light of these results and other anecdotal evidence, the Chief of Chaplains, Rear Admiral Mark L. Tidd, saw an opportunity to roll out an official campaign to help educate servicemembers, leadership and families across the Navy and Marine Corps on SECNAV Instruction 1730.9: Confidential Communications to Chaplains. This policy was established



BOOT PUP—Sgt Chesty XIII, official mascot of the U.S. Marine Corps, right, stares down his successor, Recruit Chesty, during training at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., March 20.

on Feb. 7, 2008, to protect the sacred trust between an individual and a chaplain.

Per Navy policy, sailors, Marines and their families have the right and privilege to confidential communication with a Navy chaplain; chaplains have the obligation and responsibility to protect and guard the confidential communications disclosed to them; and commanders honor and support the unique, confidential relationship between an individual and a chaplain.

Chaplains cannot be compelled by the command, medical professionals or others to disclose what a servicemember or family member shares in confidence.

“Whether you’ve talked to me on the mess decks, in the chow hall, in my office, wherever—whatever you tell me, I can say to no one. The bottom line is: You hold the key. What you say to us stays with us, unless you decide otherwise,” said RADM Margaret G. Kibben, Chaplain of the Marine Corps and Deputy Chief of Chaplains.

Chaplains serve as advocates to help individuals receive the support needed to overcome the challenges they face before matters escalate. “This unique relationship between an individual and a chaplain can serve as a valuable safety valve to the commander to facilitate increased morale and mission readiness,” said RADM Tidd.

Given the continuing stigma servicemembers associate with seeking help, chaplains offer sailors, Marines and their families a safe place to talk, without fear or judgment.

“[Chaplains are] ... one of the best places to go when in doubt with a problem or concern or whatever your situation is. Go talk to the chaplain first. They’re always there,” said Gunnery Sergeant William E. Mottley, USMC (Ret), who formerly served as the uniformed victim advocate for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., and currently is the transition readiness advisor-supervisor for personal and professional development at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In addition to a message to the Fleet on confidentiality, the Chaplain Corps has established a resource page devoted to confidentiality on its website: www.chaplain.navy.mil. This page includes frequently asked questions, a fact sheet and a flier, as well as a link to the policy.

To contact your command chaplain, or to find out who your chaplain is, call 1-855-NAVY-311 (1 (855) 628-9311) or text to: Navy311@navy.mil.

Christianne M. Witten
PAO, Chief of Chaplains



Navy RADM Margaret G. Kibben, Chaplain of the Marine Corps, visits with Marines of “Quebec” Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 15. Per Navy policy, sailors, Marines and their families have the right and privilege to confidential communication with a Navy chaplain, and chaplains have the obligation and responsibility to protect and guard the confidential communications.

LCPL COREY DABNEY

In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

"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.

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, May 1-31, 2013

The following were listed as having died while supporting combat operations:

Staff Sergeant Eric D. Christian, 39, of Warwick, N.Y., with 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 4, in Farah province, Afghanistan.

Corporal David M. Sonka, 23, of Parker, Colo., with 2d MSOB, MCB Camp Lejeune, May 4, in Farah province.

Bill Lansford

Sergeant William D. Lansford—a Marine Raider of World War II, U.S. Army combat correspondent in the Korean War, Hollywood screenwriter, noted historical author, contributor to *Leatherneck* magazine, and an activist in the cause to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the military—died May 22 at his home in Los Angeles after a long fight with cancer, according to his wife of 56 years, the former Ruth Ketcham. He was 91.

He was born in East Los Angeles. After the stock-market crash of 1929 his family fell on hard times. He left school at age 16, joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and became a lumberjack. At 17, he became a dynamiter, blasting holes in the mountains ahead of road-building crews.

In 1940, he joined the Marine Corps and was sent with the Sixth Marine Regiment to Iceland. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Lansford volunteered for the newly formed 2d Marine Raider Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Evans F. Carlson and participated in the Midway, Guadalcanal and Bougainville campaigns.

On Guadalcanal, he was on the "Long Patrol," a 30-day march behind enemy lines where Carlson's Raiders, enduring starvation and disease, successfully decimated a far superior Japanese force. Later, he landed on Iwo Jima where he was wounded and awarded a Purple Heart. He served with, and was a good friend to, the legendary Gunnery Sergeant "Manila John" Basilone, whose story he wrote for the October 2002 *Leatherneck*. He also participated in the occupation of Japan.

In 1945, he was discharged as a sergeant.

Lansford attended college under the GI Bill, then became a reporter on the *Los Angeles Daily News*. After a brief sojourn at the paper, he joined the regular Army to pursue a writ-

ing career with the Armed Forces Radio Service, where he wrote many military and network shows.

During the Korean War, he requested a combat assignment and was posted to the 11th Airborne Division as a second lieutenant. Again requesting combat duty, he served as a military combat correspondent, covering numerous battles on various fronts. For his reporting during the Battle of White Horse Mountain, he was awarded a Bronze Star.

He then left the Army to pursue a writing career. Moving to New York, he wrote for top magazines such as *Collier's*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Argosy*.

He married his wife, Ruth, and while expecting the first of their two sons, the couple returned to Los Angeles. There, Bill's biography, "Pancho Villa," was published. Receiving excellent reviews, its innovative style was compared to Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood," which was published at the same time. Paramount Studios filmed it as "Villa Rides," starring Yul Brynner, Robert Mitchum and Charles Bronson.

Hired as story editor for the TV series "Bonanza," Lansford later wrote for many TV shows including "CHiPs," "Starsky & Hutch," "Ironside," "Fantasy Island," and "Star Trek," and long-form movies such as "The Deadly Tower," starring Kurt Russell, Richard Yniguez and Ned Beatty.

Bored by retirement, Lansford soon "unretired" himself. He recently published several stories in *Leatherneck* magazine, an article for the *Los Angeles Times*, and another book, "The Fighting Leathernecks," a collection of his previously published stories about famous Marines. His latest book, "The Wind and the Ships," a novel, was published in June. He also appears in the Ken Burns documentary, "The War," seen on PBS.

"His greatest regret," according to his wife,

Ruth, "was that he was unable to complete the work he most desired to finish, 'The War in the Jungle—Carlson's Way and the Spirit of Gung Ho.'" But I guess that, at the end, we all leave some things unfinished."

President of the Obregon Medal of Honor Foundation, Lansford was dedicated to erecting a monument at El Pueblo in Los Angeles to not only Marine Private First Class Eugene A. Obregon, killed in action in 1950 and awarded the Medal of Honor, but also the other 39 Latino-Americans awarded the Medal of Honor.

He was a wonderful friend to *Leatherneck*: professional, humorous and with great humility. One only had to read the first lines of his stories to recognize the author. He is missed, but managed to leave us a final two-part story on Marine Raider Sgt Clyde A. Thomason, who was the first enlisted Marine during World War II to win the Medal of Honor. Part one is in this month's issue. Bill Lansford, in the end, left very few things unfinished.

We thank our good friend Ruth Lansford, who provided us with the bulk of her husband's obituary.

"Lucky" Gordon Gayle

Brigadier General Gordon D. "Lucky" Gayle, a World War II veteran of the Pacific who won the Navy Cross and later served in Korea, died April 21 in an assisted-living facility in Farnham, Va. He was 95.

He was a 1939 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. As a captain, he sailed from Norfolk, Va., in May 1942 for the Pacific and remained overseas until late 1944. As a major commanding 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, he earned the Navy Cross in the Battle of Peleliu.

According to the citation, Gayle led 2/5 "over fourteen hundred yards of open ground in the face of intense hostile mortar, artillery and machine-gun fire. Although later wounded, he refused evacuation to continue his duties, thereby contributing materially to the success with which his Battalion seized and held the major portion of the airfield against fanatical enemy resistance and fierce counterattacks."

His son Michael Gayle wrote that "despite his success in command at New Britain and Peleliu, Gayle believed his biggest contribution to the war involved disobedience of an order ... on Guadalcanal. On Aug. 8, 1942, a day after

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the First Marine Division had landed, Gayle's battalion, while sweeping inland from Henderson Field, found a powerful Japanese radio, which Gayle was ordered to destroy. Seeing the radio as potentially useful, however, he ... ordered it left intact, posting two Marines to guard it. That night saw the opening round of Japanese shore bombardments of the First Marine Division, the epic naval engagements of Iron Bottom Sound, and the Division's initial isolation on Guadalcanal.

"After the task force commander was forced to withdraw from the area and until the return of U.S. naval forces to Guadalcanal, the Division's only communication link ... was the radio that Gayle had preserved against orders."

A periodic contributor to both *Marine Corps Gazette* and *Leatherneck*, BGen Gayle had a reputation as a strategic thinker. In the summer of 1963, he was tasked by the Commandant, General Wallace M. Greene Jr., to chair a long-range panel to address the question, "What kind of Marine Corps does the country need in 1985?" His panel's report served the Corps well during the Vietnam War and still today, as one of the recommendations was to pursue vertical short takeoff and landing aviation resources.

He retired in 1968.

Otrede A. Ardoin, 85, of Dallas. He was a WW II veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received at Iwo Jima. He later joined the Dallas Fire Department and retired as captain of Station 51 after 34 years.

Sgt E. Lee Dauster, 85, of Sonora, Calif. He enlisted in 1946 and, by 1950, the air wing squadron intelligence clerk was a forward observer with G/3/1 in Korea. He was wounded in March 1951. In April, he was sent with an FO team to support South Korean Marines. On April 23 and 24, they were under full-scale attack by the Chinese Communists. The Korean Marines withdrew and the FO team held its position all night, killing 30 Chinese soldiers.

Dauster again was wounded and helo-lifted out. His chopper was hit by enemy fire and made a hard emergency landing at the 1stMarDiv command post. From out of nowhere a Marine rushed to give assistance—it was Dauster's brother, Ed. Dauster took 14 months to mend and was awarded the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

Stanley P. Guilbeau, 94, in Lafayette, La. He enlisted in 1939 and, in 1941, was captured on Wake Island by the Japanese. He spent the next three years and nine months as a "guest of the Emperor." He and his fellow POWs were abused and starved. After the Japanese surrendered, he was sent to New Orleans and hospitalized. He recovered and went on to work for Morgan Supply House (later bought out by Himel Motor Supply) in Lafayette.

Self-taught, he read each book of the Encyclopedia Britannica from cover to cover. He taught himself to type and to work on air conditioners. He also learned technical computer equipment.



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SOUND OFF

[continued from page 8]

and fought as difficult a battle as any unit involved in the monthlong fight to recapture the city, but not every single unit that was involved could have been "tip of the spear."

Former Sgt John Wear
3d Tank Bn, 3dMarDiv
New Hope, Pa.

• As you know, the story was about G/2/5, their return to Vietnam and primarily their part in the battle. I went back to Colonel Charles "Chuck" Meadows, USMC (Ret), who was one of the leaders on the Military Historical Tours trip, and asked about USMC tanks as they related to the story we printed.

He said: "The tanks did play a part on the first day. The tanks were initially with A/1/1 as they moved into Hue. As I recall, we saw the tanks as we moved up to the Military Assistance Command Vietnam compound. The tanks of course did not accompany G/2/5 across the bridge. I believe at least one was near the south end of the bridge. I guess the 'tip of the spear' refers mainly to the first USMC unit actually entering the north side of the River of Perfume over the bridge. The

whole 'spear' included A/1/1, G/2/5, the tanks, and the Army quad 50s and the Army Dusters that were all part of the American forces that initially came into Hue on 31 January 1968."

In the July issue's conclusion of the two-part article on Golf Co in Hue City, the value of the tanks is clear. In fact, since we know former Sgt John Wear very well, we went to him to ask for assistance with the caption information for the flame tank on page 36. He provided the tank number, unit and tank commander's name.—Sound Off Ed.

Reunions

• **2dMarDiv Assn.**, Sept. 10-15, Chicago. Contact LtCol David Brown, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 8180, Camp Lejeune, NC 28547, (910) 451-3167, david.brown3@usmc.mil.

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 14-18, Alexandria, Va. Contact GySgt Don H. Gee, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **4thMarDiv Assn. of WW II**, Aug. 25-30, Savannah, Ga. Contact Jim Westbrook, (601) 636-1861, JimWestbrook@aol.com, or Jack Rothermel, P.O. Box 315, Jensen Beach, FL 34958, (772) 334-5677, jackr451@yahoo.com.

• **6thMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 15-18, Quan-

tico, Va. Contact Sharon Woodhouse, (503) 642-2429, sjawoodhouse@gmail.com.

• **26th Marines Assn.**, Sept. 20-23, St. Louis. Contact Sonny Hollub, (512) 825-4730, www.26thmarines.com.

• **First Marine Aircraft Wing Assn. (RVN)**, Aug. 23-25, New Orleans. Contact Al Frater, (201) 906-1197, teanal@optonline.net.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn.**, Sept. 4-7, Branson, Mo. Contact Joe Mouton, (816) 695-7726, moutonjoseph@sbcglobal.net, or Roger Speeg, (866) 937-6262, mustangbusmgr@windstream.net, www.reunionpro.com.

• **China Marine Assn.**, Sept. 18-22, Savannah, Ga. Contact William J. Parker Jr., 183 S. Waterlilly Rd., Coinjock, NC 27923, (252) 453-4124, bp095678@gmail.com.

• **Moroccan Reunion Assn.**, Sept. 10-15, Daytona Beach, Fla. Contact Robert Sieborg, 2717 N. 120th Ave., Omaha, NE 68164, (402) 496-1498.

• **U.S. Marine Raider Assn.**, Aug. 13-18, Wilmington, N.C. Contact Bruce Burlingham, bburlingham@sbcglobal.net, www.usmarineraiders.org.

• **USMC Motor Transport Assn.**, Sept. 15-18, Norfolk, Va. Contact Terry Hightower, P.O. Box 1372, Jacksonville, NC 28541, (910) 450-1841, secretary@usmcmta.org.

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Oct. 31-Nov. 4, San Antonio. Contact John Wear, (215) 794-9052, johnwear@yahoo.com.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn.**, Sept. 5-8, MCRD San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or SgtMaj Bobby Woods, (760) 215-9564, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **Veterans of the Korean War (all branches, 1950-54)**, Oct. 8-10, Virginia Beach, Va. Contact F. D. Newkirk, (757) 340-9801, fnewkirk1@cox.net, or Richard Stacy, (757) 490-8022, p2radio@verizon.net.

• **2d Bn, 3d Marines (RVN-1965)**, Sept. 22-25, Las Vegas. Contact Ted Riccubueno, 170 Cloudcrest Dr., Henderson, NV 89015, (702) 566-4692, gunneyusmc381@yahoo.com, https://www.hotel233.com.

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 19-22, San Diego. Contact Norm Johnson, (989) 635-6653, delta1@centurytel.net; Doug McMackin, (623) 466-0545, gunnymac@hotmail.com; or Jim Taranto, (518) 567-4267, tarantoj@gmail.com.

• **11th Engineer Bn (RVN, 1966-69)** is planning a reunion for 2014. Contact Gene Spanos, (847) 770-9049, genethemarine@gmail.com.

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• **“Stormy” Sexton’s BLT 3/3 (1961-62)**, Oct. 21-25, Wilmington, N.C. Contact H. A. Phillips, (910) 540-2226, hphillips@ec.rr.com.

• **2/1 (RVN)**, Nov. 7-13, Washington, D.C., with 2/1 monument dedication at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va., Nov. 8. Contact Paul Mangan, (515) 360-2600, namgrunt@aol.com, www.firstmarines.org.

• **Co A, 7th Motor T Bn (RVN)**, Sept. 26-29, Amarillo, Texas. Contact Pat Penna, (317) 834-2755, dzh6ck@yahoo.com.

• **2d Topo Co**, Oct. 27-30, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact James Martin, (781) 572-7924, topotrooper@aol.com.

• **ANGLICO**, Nov. 7-10, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Joe Luque, (661) 725-3415, jlluque@sbcglobal.net.

• **A/1/7**, Oct. 13-18, Kerrville, Texas. Contact Roland or Iva Mae O’Con, 1018 High Point Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 367-2801, rgocon@hctc.net.

• **B/1/5 (Korea) “Baker Bandits” (includes A, B, C, Wpns and Hq companies)**, Sept. 9-13, Omaha, Neb. Contact Richard Large, 9505 S. 27th St., Lincoln, NE 68512, (402) 423-6961, rcl9505@inebraska.com.

• **D/1/26 and all battalions, 26th Marines (RVN)**, Nov. 4-11, Branson, Mo. Contact Jack “Monk” Kline, (414) 303-

3534, onemonk1950@gmail.com, or James Fizer, (937) 644-2952.

• **G/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Aug. 14-18, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Ron Myers, (916) 723-7324, rlmyers5@comcast.net, http://golf2-7vva.com.

• **G/3/1 (Korea)**, Sept. 16-19, Dana Point, Calif. Contact “Bing” Bingham, 1453 Patricia Dr., Gardnerville, NV 89460, (775) 265-3596, bingbingham@msn.com.

• **H/2/26 (RVN)**, Oct. 14-19, San Diego. Contact Bill Hancock, 2748 Moeller Dr., Hamilton, OH 45014, (513) 738-5446, hancockw@roadrunner.com.

• **H&S Co, 1/7 (Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, Japan, 1960-61)**, Sept. 26-29, Quantico, Va. Contact John T. Ward, (412) 371-3639, jtwardmarinel@yahoo.com.

• **K/3/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 18-23, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact William Rolke, (262) 780-0993, k37usmc@att.net, or Don Tackett, (678) 725-0329, tdontack@netescape.net.

• **M/3/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 4-7, Natick, Mass. Contact Jim Hastings, (508) 966-0364, snopymike@aol.com.

• **American Embassy Saigon (pre-1975, RVN)**, April 27-30, 2014, Galveston, Texas. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

• **Anacostia Naval Station Marines**,

Sept. 8-13, Branson, Mo. Contact Ron Bursch, (612) 499-0776, ronbur38@gmail.com.

• **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Oct. 22-25, Reno, Nev. Contact C. R. McCarthy, (515) 274-9110, coach430@aol.com.

• **Subic Bay Marine Barracks**, Oct. 28-Nov. 1, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Col Rufus Bowers, USMC (Ret), 1021 Stagecoach Ln., Friendsville, TN 37737, (865) 804-1898, (865) 995-1950, polly21@peoplepc.com.

• **U.S. Navy Site One Holy Loch, Scotland Assn.**, Aug. 27-Sept. 4, Dunoon, Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland. Contact Roland Kitridge, (508) 877-2960, rk01701@yahoo.com, www.holyloch.org.

• **Marine Corps League Tri-State Detachment #494**, Aug. 17, Youngstown, Ohio. Contact Chester Kaschak, (330) 533-6084, or Ed Levisaur, (330) 702-0677.

• **Yemassee Train Depot**, Oct. 18-19, Yemassee, S.C. Contact Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385.

• **MarDet, USS Juneau (CL-119)**, Aug. 23-30, Alaska cruise. Contact William S. Gerichten, 141 Pinelawn Dr., Kernersville, NC 27284, (336) 993-5415.

• **MSG Paris** is planning a reunion. Contact Roland C. Beisenstein, 53 Castle

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Rock Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941, (415) 388-4941.

• **Point Mugu Marine Security Detachment (1946-60)**, Sept. 22-24, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Arthur Smallenberger, (816) 436-6493, pt.mugumarine@kc.rr.com.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Oct. 6-11, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact MSgt Harold Wilson, USMC (Ret), 835 N. Wood St., Logan, OH 43138, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne06@gmail.com.

• **Recruiter's School Class 3-69 (1968)** is planning a reunion. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **38th OCS/SBC 3-66**, Oct. 16-20, San Diego. Contact Terry Cox, (310) 732-6908, tcox95@cox.net.

• **21st SBC (1953)**, Oct. 9-13, Honolulu. Contact LtCol Tom Kalus, USMC (Ret), 98-1927 Wilou St., Aiea, HI 96701, (808) 486-5004.

• **SBCs (Korean War-era, 1950-54)**, Nov. 1-4, San Antonio. Contact Bob Lukeman, (405) 842-3601, jrlukeman@aol.com, or John Featherstone, (310) 833-2190, johnf9375@aol.com.

• **TBS 4-69/52d Special OCC**, Sept. 12-15, San Diego. Contact LtCol W. Todd Frommelt, USMC (Ret), 3402 Celinda Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008, toddfrommelt@

roadrunner.com.

• **Plt 170, Parris Island, 1963**, Oct. 25-27, Parris Island, S.C. Contact former Sgt Pete Sayles, (772) 360-7347, petesayles@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 218, Parris Island, 1963**, is planning a reunion for September in Philadelphia. Contact Tony DiStefano, (215) 438-3630, adister456@aol.com.

• **Plt 280, Parris Island, 1963**, Oct. 4-6, Parris Island, S.C. Contact 1stSgt Malcolm Stewart, USMC (Ret), (904) 282-8319, malcolmstewart@comcast.net.

• **Plt 331, Parris Island, 1959**, is planning a reunion. Contact MGySgt Bob Daniels, USMC (Ret), (904) 579-4346, bertojotol@gmail.com, or Bob Wood, (205) 903-7220, bwood@bellsouth.net.

• **MASS-2/MTACS-2 (all years)**, Sept. 23-26, Las Vegas. Contact George Macartie, (858) 566-5303, mass-2@sbcglobal.net.

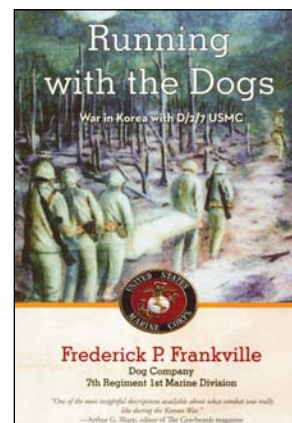
• **Aviation Logistics Marines**, Sept. 20-21, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. Contact Don Davis, (252) 444-1777, greyegl@ec.rr.com.

• **MACCS**, Sept. 18-22, San Diego. Contact Tom Mulkerin, (703) 644-1724, tom.mulkerin@mulkerin.com.

• **MACS-6**, Oct. 11-13, Havelock, N.C. Contact Gene Herrera, (757) 484-0091, geneathome@outlook.com.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons 43 and 49**

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are planning a reunion for September. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), 23 Greenwood Dr., Bordentown, NJ 08505, (609) 291-9617, mabsreunion@comcast.net.

• **Marine Air Groups (WW II-present)**, Oct. 2-5, Branson, Mo. Contact James Jordan, (417) 535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net, or Bob Miller, (636) 327-5854, mbobsue13@gmail.com.

Ships and Others

• **USS Bremerton (CA-130/SSN-698)**, Sept. 8-12, St. Louis. Contact James Jensen, (406) 837-4474, jtbluff@centurytel.net, or R. F. Polanowski, (585) 365-2316, rpolanowski@stny.rr.com.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 2-6, Reno, Nev. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Elokomin (AO-55)**, Sept. 24-27, Lancaster, Pa. Contact Robert F. O'Sullivan, 25 Denny St., Dorchester, MA 02125, (617) 288-3755, theeloman@verizon.net.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8, CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 24-29, Providence, R.I. Contact Carl and Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcv@aol.com, www.uss-hornetassn.com.

• **USS Houston (CA-30/CL-81) Assn.**,

Aug. 20-24, Chicago. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113, dlr7110@yahoo.com.

• **USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2/LHD-7)**, Oct. 2-6, San Diego. Contact Robert G. McNally, 152 Frissell St., Hampton, VA 23663, (757) 723-0317, yujack@megalink.net, ussiwjimagshipmates.cfns.net.

• **USS Philippine Sea (CV/CVA/CVS-47)**, Oct. 24-29, Jacksonville, Fla. Contact USS *Philippine Sea* Assn., P.O. Box 496412, Port Charlotte, FL 33949-6412, (941) 743-5460, philsea@embarqmail.com.

• **USS Randolph (CV/CVA/CVS-15) and USS Terror (CM-5)**, Sept. 22-29, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla. Contact Sal Rizza, 1720 Sandy Ct., Merritt Island, FL 32952, (321) 454-2344.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)** (all members), Sept. 18-22, St. Louis. Contact George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, uss-ranger@yahoo.com.

• **USS Yorktown (CV/CVA/CVS-10)** (1943-70), Oct. 3-5, Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Contact Nina Creasman, P.O. Box 1021, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465, (834) 849-1928, ncreasman@yorktown.net.



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Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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Mail Call

- John Redden, P.O. Box 82614, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 254-6446, davlachap2@hotmail.com, to hear from any **officer or NCO** who served with **Hq and Maintenance Squadron 16** at **MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, 1972-74**.

- Marine veteran Norman Bradshaw, 1505 Chinnapakin Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850) 877-6970, tal.04203@mybsl.net, to hear from members of **Plt 166, Parris Island, 1951 (below)**, for a possible reunion.

- Former Sgt Lawson Alvin Rose, 190 Shelton Rd., Apt. 187, Madison, AL 35758, (630) 532-8514, to hear from **Maj Larry W. FRAKES**, who was stationed at **MCAS El Toro** in the **mid-1970s** and trained in **judo**.

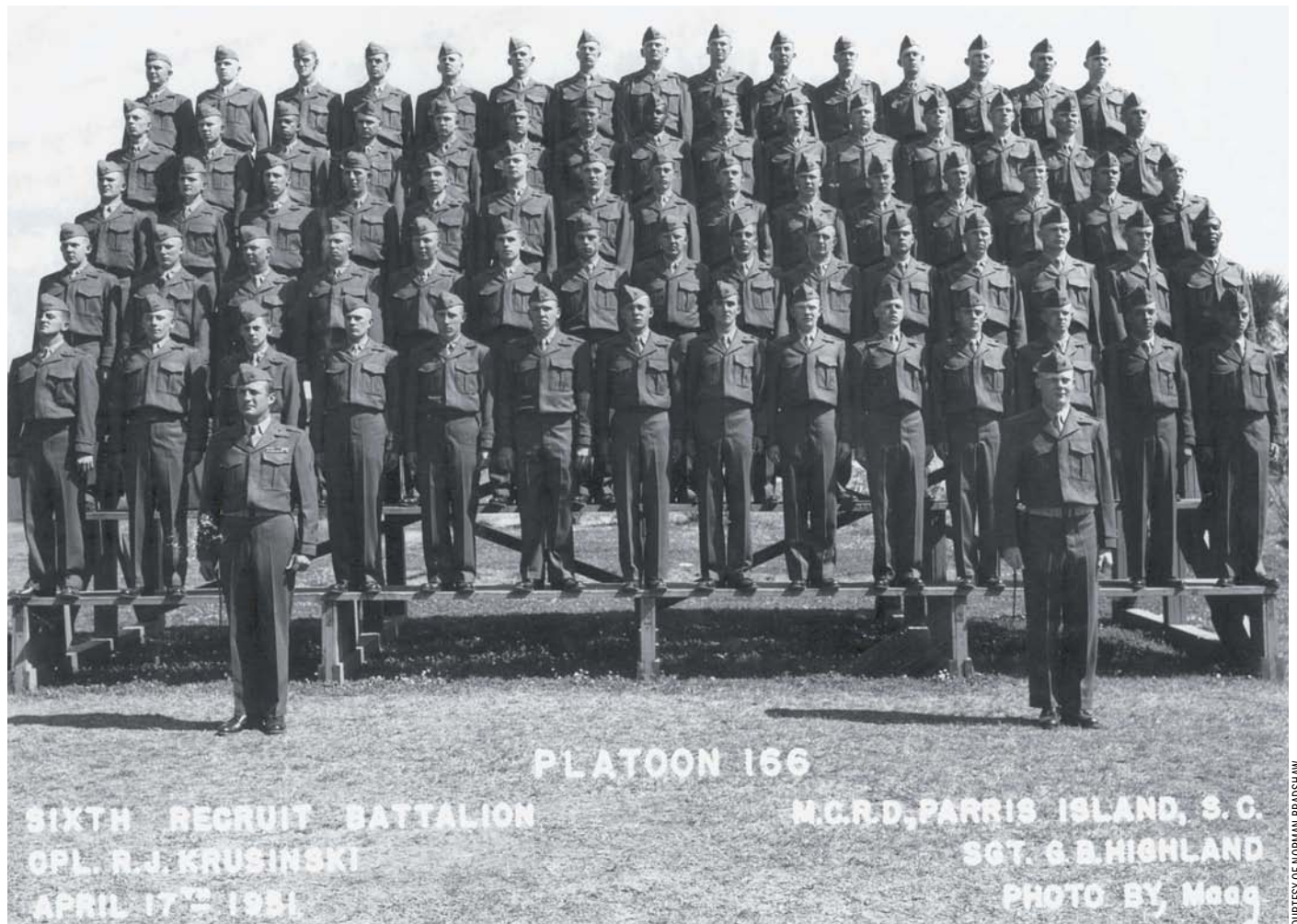
- Ted Geltner, 6238 S.W. 82nd Ter., Gainesville, FL 32608, (352) 281-8755, tageltner@valdosta.edu, to hear from anyone who served with **Harry E. CREWS**, who was at **Parris Island** in **1953** and served with **MWSG-37** from **1953 to 1956**.

- Marine veteran John A. Blazer, (912)

352-1126, hblazer1126@bellsouth.net, to hear from **PFC Frank WHITE** from **New Jersey** and **PFC Eddie HIGGINS** from **Massachusetts (opposite page, top)**, at **Vieques Island, Puerto Rico** in **1949**.

- Marine veteran Thomas S. Tucker, 423 Shadeswood Dr., Birmingham, AL 35226, (205) 822-8836, oldmarine57@att.net, to hear from **Richard HANEY** and other members of **Plt 106, Parris Island, 1957**.

- Sgt Charles W. Byrd Sr., USMC (Ret), 8481 Silverbell Loop, Brooksville,



Norman Bradshaw is looking for members of Plt 166, Parris Island, 1951, for a possible reunion.



COURTESY OF JOHN A. BLAZER

From left: PFC Frank White, John Blazer and PFC Eddie Higgins, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, 1949.



COURTESY OF SGT CHARLES W. BYRD SR., USMC (RET)

From left: Edward Endrinias and Sgt Charles Byrd on board USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2), May 1968.

FL 34613, (352) 556-3673, biggbyrdsr@yahoo.com, to hear from Edward "Short Round" ENDRINAS (above), who was a skimmer boat driver on Jones Creek during the Battle of Dai Do, and any other members of 2/4 who fought at Dai Do, RVN, 1968.

• COL Ken Seymour, USA (Ret), 1200 N. Annapolis Ave., Hernando, FL 34442, (352) 527-3200, eagle585@tampabay.rr.com, to hear from leathernecks who served with Antitank Co, 9th Marines, 3dMarDiv, 1955-56, at Camp Sakai, Japan, and Nupunja, Okinawa, especially Paul SMITH Jr., GIANOGLIO, Lt ACKERMAN, Lt MEYERS, Maj Glen BEACHAMP, Lt BEHAN, Sgt Andrew VERRETT, HALVERSON, Tex RITTER, GySgt GREEN and GySgt GOFF.

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Visit www.ustream.tv/channel/mcaf-events at the appropriate time and see the event livestreamed.



- Marine veteran Steve Shaw, (765) 482-3142, usmctboner1@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who has information on USMC service green chevrons that have red stripes on green serge material instead of green stripes on red felt, possibly experimental in 1959 during the expansion of pay grades to include E-8 and E-9 and the addition of crossed rifles.

- Marine veteran John Mulkern, (716) 822-6113, mulkern@hotmail.com, to hear from members and drill instructors of Plt 2089, Parris Island, 1990, for a possible reunion in 2015.

- Marine veteran George Whitten Jr., 10555 Hwy. 280 E., Richland, GA 31825, (229) 887-9446, to hear from Edwin L. HOUSTON, who was stationed at TBS, MCB Quantico, Va., 1961-63, and served with H&S and "Delta" companies, 1st Bn, 3d Marines at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, 1967-68; and Darrell ELLIOTT, who was stationed at Naval Base Norfolk, Va., and with Hq, 3d MAW, MCAS El Toro, Calif., 1974-76.

Wanted

- Former LCpl Greg Sims, 529 Letha Petrey Rd., Williamsburg, KY 40769, (606) 549-4083, marine.1967@yahoo.com, wants a recruit graduation book

for Plt 1068, Parris Island, 1968, and Plt 2112, Parris Island, 1990.

- Marine veteran Ed Daily, 2057 Royal Pines Dr., New Bern, NC 28560, (252) 637-4732, (703) 408-1432, dailyep@aol.com, wants a recruit graduation photo for Plt 186, Parris Island, 1944.

- Former Sgt Robert Yandura, 38312 Castle Dr., Romulus, MI 48174, (734) 941-8527, wants a recruit graduation book or photo for Plt 361, San Diego, 1953.

- Marine veteran Patrick Scimone, (480) 347-6341, guard_dog_89445@yahoo.com, wants a recruit graduation book for Plt 1038, San Diego, 1969.

- Marine veteran Will Dawson, 4089 Mt. Everest Blvd., San Diego, CA 92111, (858) 232-2272, wcdsd45@att.net, wants photos of the Marine Barracks Guam Drum & Bugle Corps participating in the 20th anniversary commemoration ceremony of the securing of Iwo Jima that was held atop Mount Suribachi in 1965.

- Marine veteran Tom Lynch, 8 Scott St., Plains, PA 18705, (570) 472-8300, tombetsy@epix.net, wants a Marine Raider stiletto knife, a Raider V-44 Bowie "Gung Ho" knife, a Japanese Nambu pistol and a WW II-era U.S. .45-caliber pistol.



Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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Old Glory

In proud farewell she stands waving,
And I pray I shall see her again.
Through the mist and my tears I can see her.
In my heart she will be 'til the end.
She is beauty to all who behold her;
Neither blonde, nor brunette, nor red flame.
She is glorious, fair, awe-inspiring,
Still so young, though Old Glory's her name.
She is red, white, and blue like her mother,
With the stars and the stripes of her babes.
She's been tattered and torn; freedom reborn.
She is mercy and sometimes she's rage.
As she fades from my view I still see her,
While a bugle calls distant and shrill.
On my left are her stars shining brightly.
In my heart she is there flying still.

SSgt Caroline (Silk) Stockbridge, USMC (Ret)

The Man I Knew

Last night I watched in sorrow,
The man whom I once knew.
The man who marched with head held high,
For the red, the white, and blue.

The man who sat before me
Was bent and tired and old.
His hair was gray and almost gone,
His skin was white and cold.

The man I knew was strong and tall,
His arms like mighty oaks.
He stood beside me, teaching me,
And I listened as he spoke.

His love for God and country
Could easily be seen.
You see, this man I knew
Was and is a United States Marine.

His eyes were clear,
His back was straight.
There was nothing he needed to hide.
When he walked into a room, he entered with humble pride.

He is still humble, and yet filled with country pride.
His eyes are no longer clear, his head not held so high.
But I look deep within and I see,
The man I knew inside.

... Not so mean, and not so lean,
But there he sits,
Still a proud Marine.
One of the best men this earth has ever seen.
Joann Dolores Tant Wiener

A Marine Like You

"I wish I can become a Marine, like you,"
The young man wrote my son.
"To raise my hand and take an oath,
Like those before have done.
With sweat and blood and pain endured,
My metal will be forged—
Honed and polished, razor sharp,
To the standard of the Corps.
Raised on God and love of the flag,
And to the Corps, be true.
To stand on deck and fear no man,
If I can become a Marine like you."

Malcolm Ede

Friendship

From ageless, changeless Latin evermore,
"Semper Fidelis," motto for the Corps.
"Always Faithful," young Marines are told,
Shall be your guide in battle, and in war.

Trust your training and those at your side.
Trust your leaders, hardships they too bear.
Do for flag and country all you can,
And know your life may forfeit in the end.

But what, with friendship, has this to do?
Friendliness does not bespeak of war.
Yet "Always Faithful" marks the bond so true,
That friends abide, despite what trials brew.

"Greater love hath no man than he give
His life up for a friend," our Savior said.
Thus, in war and peace is friendship made,
Of faith, love and courage, long sustained.

John R. McDonough





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A high-contrast, close-up portrait of a man's face, likely a Marine, wearing a flat cap. The image is grainy and has a gritty, military aesthetic. The man's eyes are looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

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