

FEBRUARY 2016

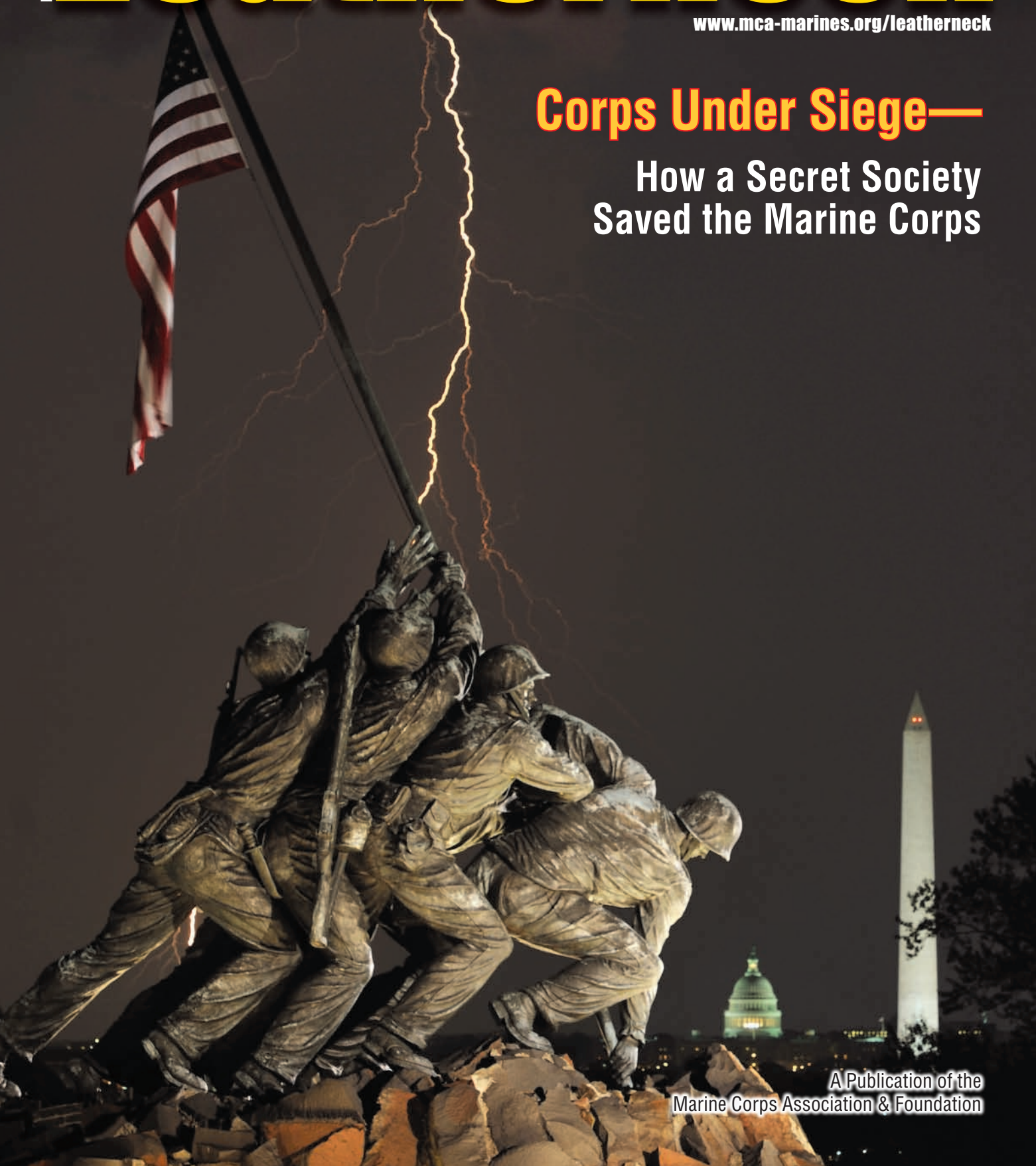
MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

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**Corps Under Siege—**

**How a Secret Society  
Saved the Marine Corps**



A Publication of the  
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*By the staff of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory*

Identifying future challenges and threats to the Corps and developing ways to overcome them is the mission of the Corps' Warfighting Lab as it works diligently to ensure Marines have the latest technology to fight the nation's foes.

## DEPARTMENTS

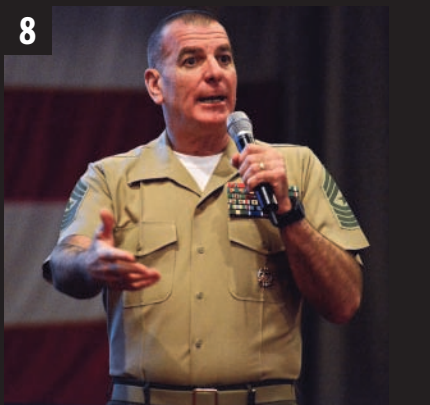


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**COVER:** This perfectly timed photograph captures lightning appearing to strike the Marine Corps War Memorial during a storm in 2010. Photograph by former Marine sergeant and *Leatherneck* staff member Isaac D. Pacheco. Copies of the cover may be 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: leatherneck@mca-marines.org. Due to the heavy volume, we cannot answer every letter received. Do not send original photographs, as we cannot guarantee their return. All letters must be signed, and e-mails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

*Editor's note: This marks the last issue of Leatherneck with Master Gunnery Sergeant Renaldo R. Keene as the "Sound Off" editor. MGySgt Keene is retiring after more than 50 years of service to both the Corps and the "Magazine of the Marines." We thank him for his outstanding contributions to Leatherneck and wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas."*

## Letter of the Month

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

This has been a year to reflect on a time 50 years ago when Marines and corpsmen came together to form 2d Battalion, First Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., for training and deployment to Vietnam.

Our history together with that of current members of 2/1 was triggered by two recent events that made us very proud.

On Aug. 4, 2015, we veterans of 2/1, 1965 attended a ceremony marking the assignment of the current battalion to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit as the Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, First Marine Regiment. The date of the ceremony was 50 years after Aug. 11, 1965, when 2/1 embarked at San Diego for deployment to Vietnam.

Colonel Anthony M. Henderson, Commanding Officer, 13th MEU; Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan R. Smith, CO, 2/1; and the Marines and corpsmen made us feel as if we never left the unit. We compared desert operations with beach landings and jungle operations. We laughed together when we asked how they liked climbing over the side into cargo nets to board their Higgins boats for the trip to the beach. Their very respectful but smiling response was, "Sorry, sir, but we drive to the beach—much quicker and less wet."

This generation's Marines and corpsmen are very strong and very smart, but at least they have a sense of humor too.

In November we attended the 2/1

Vietnam Veterans Association reunion, which started with a joint dedication of plaques with 1st Marines showing the names of the fallen in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972. The company plaques, developed by the 2/1 Vietnam Veterans Assn., were mounted on a wall in the 1st Marines Memorial Garden at Camp Horno. The dedication date of Nov. 6, 2015, also marked the midpoint of our Dagger Thrust raids conducted into Vietnam during the fall of 1965. A lot of memories flooded back seeing the names of our fallen.

We were hosted by the current First Marine Division and regimental commands along with the officers and staff noncommissioned officers of 2/1. The speeches and the bagpipe music were best at making us proud, but then that damn eye-leaking started, and we just blubbered for a while remembering this or that brother.

We were honored to have our platoon corpsman with us for this event. We spent some time reading the names of our fallen "Echo" Company brothers. It was tough for "Doc" to read the names he couldn't save, but after a while, with six of us standing next to him, he began to realize that he saved more than he lost, and I think Doc felt much better after that.

After the dedication, we met with the current Echo Co commander and his platoon commanders who wanted to know about our operations off the beach and in country Vietnam. We got to hear about how they dealt with no trees and miles of sand too. We regaled the Marines with some of our adventures, including missing the beach by 5 miles; the platoon commander who couldn't find the objective because he was standing on it; the water buffalo firefights; the corpsman who set his ass on fire with a flare; and how we were able to save a village of 15 families from annihilation—good days mixed with bad.

We were quizzed about our tactics and training, and we asked about the gear and tactics they bring to their landing force role after so many tours to Afghanistan. I couldn't help but wonder what Gunny Simms (our 1965 training NCO) felt when one of us would ask him what it was like

on Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Are we now the "Old Corps"?

To the Marines and corpsmen of 2/1, I would like to leave you with a rule our platoon sergeant made sure we followed. Staff Sergeant Little reminded us that "when you witness the death of your brother, you take on an obligation of honor to live your life better because you are now living his life too."

We found ourselves proud to take on that obligation. Our lives became theirs, and we think we did OK by them. Seeing the names on the plaques in the 1st Marines Memorial Garden allowed us to say thanks for the honor.

Sgt Tom Isenburg  
E/2/1, 1965-66  
Livermore, Calif.

## Gender Integration, It Is an Order And Will Be Obeyed

This is in response to Colonel John R. Powers' letter on "Women in Combat Units [December 2015]." I wholeheartedly agree with Col Powers. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus is doing nothing more than promoting a liberal social experiment that will ultimately result in Marines and soldiers dying.

I had the honor and privilege to serve as a Marine officer in Vietnam, in a combat role, and I know what the living conditions are like. I understand the physical requirements that are associated with Marines in combat. These are not the type of requirements that are appropriate for the typical woman.

I sincerely hope that, as Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter said, women "must" meet the necessary physical requirements for an infantry military occupational specialty. I suspect that few will meet these, and efforts will be put forth to lower standards. I trust that General Robert B. Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, will not allow the standards to be lowered. Common sense needs to come into play and trump politics.

Capt James S. Vinyard, USMC (Ret)  
York, S.C.



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# Leatherneck

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I totally agree with Col Powers and was surprised that our Secretary of Defense opposed the proposal from the 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps, now Chairmand of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., concerning women in all combat roles.

It is apparent that the Secretary of Defense has never served in a forward combat operation area or been exposed to the conditions that our male Marines must endure for days and weeks at a time. I am sure some of his advisors know the danger of integrating males and females in the field.

I served as an enlisted Marine from 1955 until 1964 when I was selected to attend the 5th Warrant Officer Screening class at Quantico, Va. As an enlisted Marine, I earned the military occupational specialties of 0311 [rifleman], 0369 [infantry unit leader] and 8511 [drill instructor] and served during this time as a seagoing Marine. I served tours of duty with 2d Force Reconnaissance Battalion and as a rifle squad leader with 3d Bn, Second Marine Regiment. I was also a first lieutenant and captain in Vietnam. I have experienced life in harm's way.

The Marine Corps recognizes the competency of women in the Corps; however, keeping them separated from the men in boot camp is essential to unit efficiency. In my limited experience as a rifle squad leader, platoon sergeant and member of 2d Force Recon, the conditions described by Col Powers are accurate. Building upon his one statement, "In live combat, privacy is near impossible," there are also long-range patrols, which last for days and sometimes weeks, and the closeness of the unit is essential, which could lead to sexual harassment by some.

Col Powers made what I consider a workable alternative: Form a Marine all-women rifle company and test them as infantry units over a period of 12 months. There is no doubt that they will excel in training over a brief period. Extend that period to a year and look at the results.

Maj William M. Hemlepp, USMC (Ret)

York, S.C.

*• You undoubtedly have many Marines who agree with you; however, your arguments are, for now, moot. Gen Neller, CMC, on Dec. 4, 2015, a day after the Secretary of Defense announced that gender-based restrictions throughout all the military are lifted, released a succinct 47-second video in which he said, "As Marines, our mission is success in combat; the success of each Marine is a goal of every Marine leader, and my job as your Commandant is to provide trained and ready Marines, as teams or units, where they can fight*

*and win in any clime and place. ... We have a decision, and it's time to move out."*

*He further stated the Corps will immediately begin "full integration of [the] force" and added: "As we move forward, we will maintain our standards and maximize the talent and skills of all Marines—male and female—to strengthen our Corps and increase our combat effectiveness."—Sound Off Ed.*

## Even Team Shooters Pay a Price When It Comes to Hearing

The loss of hearing letter in the December 2015 "Sound Off" by Colonel Wesley L. Fox brought back many painful and expensive memories. I became a victim of the lack of hearing protection during and after boot camp.

It all started, for me, as a competitive rifle shooter in the 1954 Western Division Rifle Matches at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., followed by continued competition through the rest of the year. As noted by Col Fox, I also don't recall ever being warned about hearing loss, nor furnished with adequate ear protection. I eventually faded out of rifle competition, earning a spot on the Marine Corps Pistol Team where we spent months of practice and competition, side by side on a daily basis, firing .45-caliber pistols. And, again, no ear protection.

Several years later, as a civilian trying to earn a living, I found myself sitting in meetings and having a hard time hearing not only the main speaker, but others at my own table. Not being aware of the benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the first set of hearing aids cost me almost \$6,000. The next set, more than \$3,000. The dummy finally wised up (actually following the advice of other vets), and I went to the VA, where I'm now going for help.

J.E. Schneider

Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Assn.

Kentwood, Mich.

## Who Remembers Brooklyn Navy Yard?

If possible, I would appreciate knowing if the Marine Barracks at the Brooklyn Navy Yard are still standing. I served and spent time there from 1954 to 1955.

Roland J. Dana

USMC, 1952-55

Rochester, N.Y.

*• The Brooklyn Navy Yard was established in 1801. The Navy Yard consisted of 200 acres including the Marine Barracks. The Navy Yard grew and flourished, and during World War II, it employed 70,000 workers, 24 hours a day building and homeporting warships.*

*In 1963, a study initiated by the Depart-*



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ment of Defense said dollars could be saved through the closure of unneeded or excess military installations, especially naval ship yards. On Nov. 19, 1964, the closure of the Brooklyn Navy Yard was announced and scheduled to take effect by 1966. The closure was anticipated to save about \$18.1 million annually. The Navy decommissioned the yard in 1966 after the completion of the Austin-class amphibious transport dock USS Duluth (LPD-6). However, it took another 18 months, until the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, before the yard was sold to the city of New York.—*Sound Off Ed.*

## Reader Notes “Discrepancies” And Recalls Boot Camp in the Air Wing

I enjoyed reading “The ‘Wolf Raiders’ of VMA-121 in the Korean War” by Warren E. Thompson [November 2015

*Leatherneck*]. I served in the Marine air detachment at Glenview, Ill., when the squadron was called up for the Korean War.

Having been there, I found some discrepancies in the article. While at Glenview, the squadron was designated as Marine Fighter Squadron 121 and in 1951 was flying F8F-1 Bearcats. The squadron did not get the AD-1 Skyraiders and the VMA [Marine Attack Squadron] designation until it got to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif.

When the squadron was called up, I and other members of the detachment served as drill instructors for the approximately 60 personnel who had no military training, so we held boot camp for them at Glenview. I still remember the detachment commander, who advised us: “Make it rough for them, and I don’t want to hear about it!” We must have trained them well,

as most of them did go to Korea, and they all came back.

I did not serve with that squadron in Korea, but rather across the strip from them at K-6 [Pyongtek] in VMA-212, so I saw them frequently.

GySgt Paul T. Kuras, USMC (Ret)  
San Antonio, Texas

• *Marine Fighting Squadron 121 was, according to its record of lineage, redesignated Marine Fighter Squadron 121 on April 1, 1949. It was then redesignated Marine Attack Squadron 121 on May 15, 1951. It transitioned into AD-1 Skyraiders at MCAS El Toro in 1951. Today they are the “Green Knights” of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 121 based at MCAS Yuma, Ariz.—Sound Off Ed.*

## Taped “Taps”—Give ‘Em the Real Thing

I am writing in reference to the October *Leatherneck* article “Always Faithful, Veterans Organizations Provide Military Funeral Honors” by Emily Churchill, describing funeral honors.

I am a trumpet player and bugler, and my son is a Marine. For many years I have played “Taps” at military funerals, though I am rarely asked. I am familiar with the use of taped “Taps” and the use of ceremonial bugles. I personally find the use of taped or electronic playing of “Taps” dishonoring, and I believe all involved would find the service of a live bugler much more honoring.

I want you to be aware of a group, to which I belong, called Bugles Across America ([www.buglesacrossamerica.org](http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org)). Our organization consists of a large number of buglers who volunteer to play “Taps” at military funerals. We do this at no charge as a service to veterans and their families. You can simply go to the website and click the option to request a bugler. The organization will then contact an available bugler in the vicinity of the funeral.

Unfortunately, most funerals with military honors do not make use of this service, possibly because we are not known to those planning the funeral services. Perhaps an article in your publication could increase the number of funerals employing a live bugler, which would add honor to the veteran and family.

Bob Elmore  
Edina, Minn.

## Footprints on the Island

In the October 2015 issue, in the feature article “Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Celebrates ‘100 Years of Making Marines,’ ” part of a sentence says, “the yellow footprints didn’t come into existence until January 1965.”



I arrived at Parris Island on Sept. 18, 1963, and unless my old memory is playing tricks on me again, I swear there were footprints for us new recruits to stand on once we got off the bus. They may have been yellow, of that I can't be sure, but I'm sure there were footprints. Are you positive the footprints didn't appear until January 1965, or was "yellow" the key word here?

Sgt Al Kimker  
USMC, 1963-67  
Bellingham, Wash.

• *Although Parris Island's official history says 1965, there are good arguments from the Island's alumni who beg to differ, and similar disagreements among graduates of MCRD San Diego, Calif.*

*I mention San Diego because various graduates of that illustrious recruit depot claim to have stood on yellow footprints as far back as 1951, and one even remembers President John F. Kennedy standing on yellow footprints during a visit in 1963. Parris Island and San Diego, more often than not, mirror each other in their training, which leads one to speculate that perhaps the yellow footprints at Parris Island go back further than 1965.—Sound Off Ed.*

### You Cannot Earn the Medal of Honor

In the December 2015 issue, you mentioned that the Medal of Honor was earned by Colonel Wesley Fox, USMC (Ret). I have always been under the impression that the Medal of Honor was awarded, not earned.

By the way, I believe Col Fox as a staff sergeant was my drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., in 1957.

MSgt Jerry Pace, USMC (Ret)  
Stillwater, Okla.

• *Back in the 1970s or '80s someone started saying "win" was verboten when preceding the Medal of Honor as in "he won the Medal of Honor." Prior to that, it was common and correct for Marines and others to use that term. Now, you are intimating that "he earned the Medal of Honor" should be "he was awarded the Medal of Honor," and "earned" is not to be used. You may have a point, but I would bet that no matter which verb is used, someone will have an issue with it!—Sound Off Ed.*

### "Saved Round" Birthday Poem Inappropriate?

I really think you could have picked another poem on November's "Saved

[continued on page 66]

# CALL TO ACTION!

## MARINES & MARINE SUPPORTERS\*

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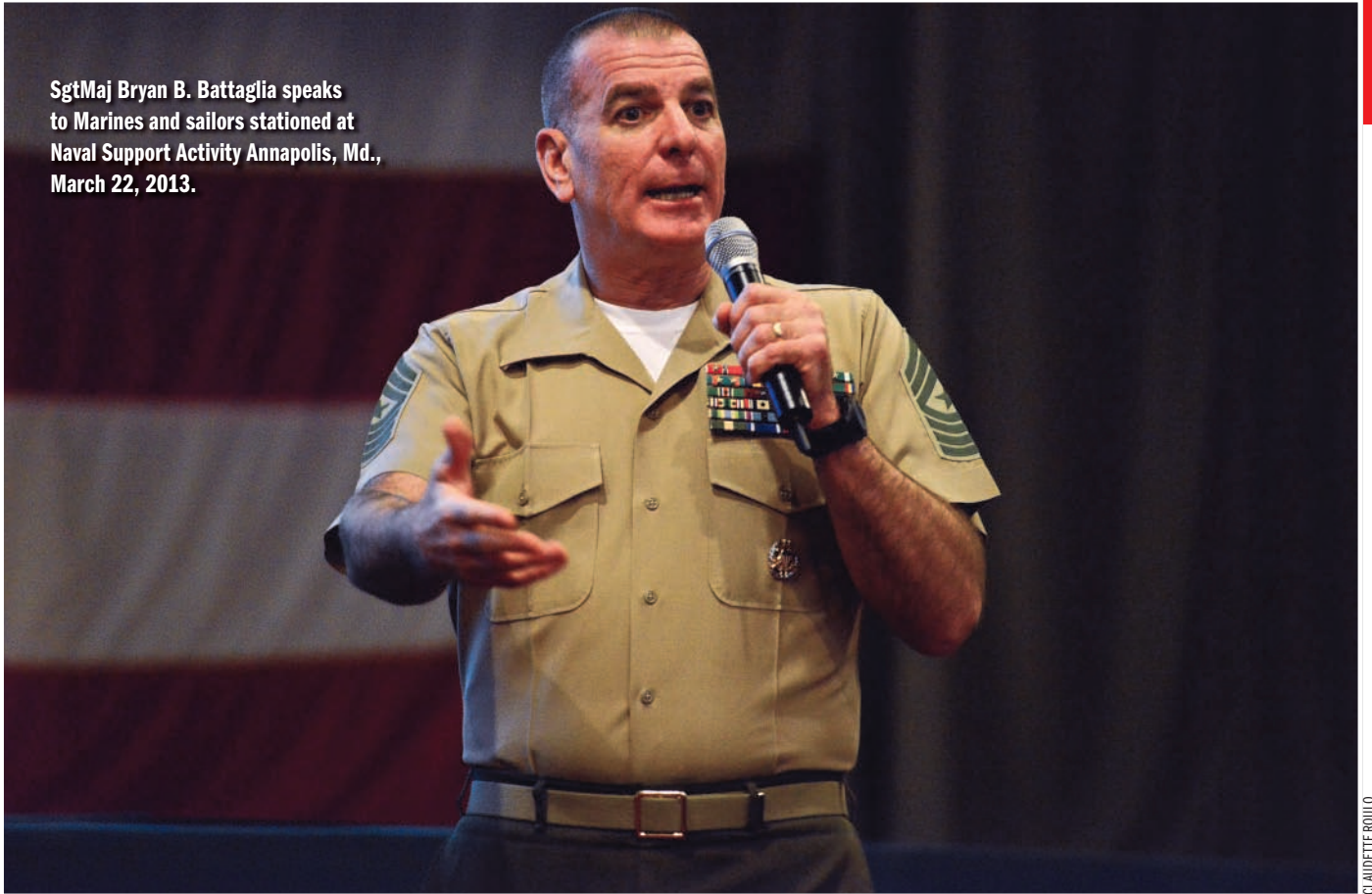
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SgtMaj Bryan B. Battaglia speaks to Marines and sailors stationed at Naval Support Activity Annapolis, Md., March 22, 2013.



# From Boot Camp to the Pentagon

## Sergeant Major Bryan Battaglia Retires, Reflects on His Role as Senior Enlisted Advisor

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

The impressive view from the Pentagon’s “E” ring and its equally impressive location in close proximity to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff’s office indicate the importance of the person occupying its environs. The mementos, knickknacks and memorabilia displayed throughout the office represent a lifetime as a Marine. Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia, the Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEAC) to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), and the first Marine to serve as SEAC, is retiring after a successful 36-year career which took him from the footprints of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego to the halls of the Pentagon.

### The Role of Senior Enlisted Advisors

When he was the CJCS, General Peter Pace, USMC (Ret) created the billet of

SEAC in 2005 to serve as an advisor to the chairman and the Secretary of Defense. Command Sergeant Major (CSM) William Gainey, USA was the first SEAC, but the next CJCS, Admiral Michael Mullen, decided not to replace him when he retired. The billet remained empty until GEN Martin Dempsey assumed the duties as chairman in 2011. He immediately selected SgtMaj Battaglia to fill the job. The timing worked well; Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) was being disestablished, and SgtMaj Battaglia, the JFCOM senior enlisted leader, was available. He assumed the duties as SEAC on Sept. 30, 2011.

GEN Dempsey’s choice proved to be highly successful, and their partnership was especially effective. According to GEN Dempsey, Battaglia’s critical, thoughtful, calm and persuasive voice was especially beneficial to him as the senior leader of the Armed Forces. “SgtMaj

Battaglia was my confidant and my advisor, the lead scout for the joint force, and the champion of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and the mentor of the senior enlisted leaders at the combatant commands.” In his role as SEAC, Battaglia was “invaluable in his obligation to tell me when something wasn’t clear,” said GEN Dempsey at the Change of Responsibility ceremony conducted Dec. 11, 2015, at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va., at which CSM John Troxell, USA assumed the duties as SEAC, and SgtMaj Battaglia was retired.

Having senior enlisted servicemembers advise the most senior officials in both the Department of Defense and the White House is critical, according to SgtMaj Battaglia. He strongly believes that having a SEAC sends a powerful message to the total force, 85 percent of whom are enlisted.



**“When you have enlisted representation at this level who sits at the table, [they] provide a perspective with the credibility of ‘I walked a mile in their boots.’ ”**

“When you have enlisted representation at this level who sits at the table, [they] provide a perspective with the credibility of ‘I walked a mile in their boots,’ he said. “If you’re not part of the process, and [there’s] a significant change in the force, you may be a skeptical believer just like the lance corporal, corporal or tech sergeant. Having me in the loop at various tank sessions and three-star programmer meetings really pays off.”

He also noted, “I’m a Marine through and through, but when I voice an opinion that addresses enlisted perspective, it’s taking into account the active component and the reserve component from all five branches of service.”

Battaglia meets with the services’ senior enlisted advisors, including SgtMaj Ronald L. Green from the Marine Corps, on a monthly basis, and they see each other at various meetings throughout the Pentagon. Battaglia also meets regularly with the combatant command senior enlisted leaders. “They need a vote; they need to be sitting around the table.” He expects CSM Troxell to continue the practice.

### **From the Bayou to the Pentagon**

Born and raised in Metairie, La., Bryan Battaglia joined the Marine Corps in 1979 and received the military occupational specialty of infantryman. His many tours of duty include multiple assignments with 3d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment where he was meritoriously promoted to corporal and sergeant during his initial tour.

On his second tour with the battalion, he was again meritoriously promoted, this time to the grade of gunnery sergeant, while the battalion was deployed to Southwest Asia in 1990.

Tours of duty as a Marine Security Guard at Marine Barracks London, England; as a drill instructor at Parris Island, S.C.; and with the Royal Marine Exchange Program gave him an extensive background in all aspects of the Marine Corps. His numerous assignments as a senior enlisted advisor for Marine units include Marine Barracks Washington, D.C.; 8th Marines/Regimental Combat Team 8 during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and Second Marine Division.



**As one of his final acts as SEAC, SgtMaj Battaglia administers the oath of enlistment to new recruits at the San Diego Military Entrance Processing Station, Nov. 12, 2015. (Photo by Claudette Roulo)**

### **Taking Care of the Troops**

Serving as a sergeant major for almost half of his time in the Corps, SgtMaj Battaglia is exceptionally experienced in ensuring the welfare of the troops and advising senior officers on the myriad issues and challenges facing his Marines and sailors, and later, airmen, soldiers and Coast Guardsmen.

Colonel David H. Berger, the regimental commander when Battaglia served as the sergeant major for 8th Marines, and

now a lieutenant general serving as the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, described Battaglia’s impact on the regiment, saying, “Sergeants major have a tough job of balancing loyalties between the Marine Corps, the command they serve, and their Marines; SgtMaj Battaglia did it with skill.”

SgtMaj Battaglia says his deployments during Operation Iraqi Freedom were especially memorable. “Leading Marines out of Second Marine Division and



**TSGT Jonathan Johnson, USAF discusses the M4 assault rifle with SgtMaj Battaglia at the indoor firing range at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Jan. 16, 2013.**





SSG SUN LEE VEGA, USA

**Above:** SgtMaj Battaglia joins the senior enlisted advisors of the services for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery near the nation's capital on Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2013. From left to right: Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett, SgtMaj Battaglia, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael D. Stevens, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Michael P. Leavitt.



COURTESY OF SGTMAJ BRYAN B. BATTAGLIA, USMC

**Left:** An infantryman throughout his career, PFC Battaglia's first tour of duty was as a Marine Security Guard at Marine Barracks London followed by the first of two tours with 3d Bn, 6th Marines.

Eighth Marine Regiment was the most fulfilling in a way that defined the purpose of why we serve," he said. "You can go through a whole Marine career, never serve in a combat environment and be extremely successful. We train very hard to do our nation's bidding, and when that opportunity comes, you want to be able to showcase your talent, and it was very

refreshing watching [the Marines do] that."

He also excelled as the sergeant major at Marine Barracks Washington. His first commanding officer at "8th and I," Col Dan O'Brien, USMC (Ret), was effusive in his praise of Battaglia. "He's exceptionally hard-working and tireless and held everyone to a high standard. He held himself to an even higher one."

Describing the challenges of hosting weekly parades (most notably, the Evening Parades on Friday nights and the Sunset Parades on Tuesdays during the spring and summer months) with more than 3,000 guests in attendance, O'Brien relied heavily on Battaglia. "SgtMaj Battaglia focused on the Marines doing their jobs, not on senior officers or VIPs in attendance. He concentrated on the Marine [veterans] who came to '8th and I'

for their first and only time. He focused on meeting and touching those people."

According to O'Brien, SgtMaj Battaglia was exactly what a commanding officer needs in a senior enlisted advisor. "He had the courage of his convictions and always gave me unvarnished solid advice that was always in the best interests of the Marines. I had never met him before our time together at the Barracks, but now I consider him a lifelong friend."

### The Impact of Family

One noteworthy change in the Marine Corps that SgtMaj Battaglia has seen during his career is a greater emphasis on family members. "While the training may have changed to some small degree, there is one difference—a lot more family," said Battaglia.

The youngest of five children, Battaglia



## Serving as the SEAC presented Battaglia with numerous opportunities to observe each service's recruit training.

believes family is extremely important. His father, a policeman who served the people of New Orleans for more than 40 years, had a significant impact on Battaglia. "If you're looking for one who has had the most influence on my life to get me where I am today, it would have to be my dad," said Battaglia. "He provided me with some necessary resident skills and behavior, the ethical and moral high ground to build my own standard. It really set a great foundation to come into such a disciplined service such as the Marines."

Resiliency was one lesson Battaglia learned from his father, but there were many others. "He taught me if you don't succeed at first, try, try again. Work real hard for a hard day's work. If you put the effort in, the dollar you make is going to feel really good." Other lessons are especially meaningful to the many young Marines with families of their own. "He taught me a little financial discipline as well. That you don't necessarily have to go out and buy brand-new furniture. Secondhand furniture is OK. You take more pride in something if you happen to buy that secondhand furniture, and strip it all down, paint it yourself and watch the finished project."

His father's influence extended beyond the Battaglia family as the sergeant major discovered on a visit he made to the New Orleans Military Entrance Processing Station during his first year as SEAC. He gave the new enlistees the oath of enlistment and then held a town hall with family members and new recruits. At the end of the meeting, the father of one of the recruits approached him and asked if he had a brother or father who had been a policeman. When SgtMaj Battaglia answered yes, the man told him that he had known the senior Battaglia. "He was my lieutenant. He trained me; he brought me into the force as you are doing my son."

The encounter was very emotional for Battaglia. "My dad had passed by that time, and it was the first affiliation that I had with someone who was impacted by

**As an advisor to both the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense, SgtMaj Battaglia spent much of his tour as SEAC touring military bases and speaking to military personnel and their spouses. At right he is shown speaking at an Operation Shower event in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., May 3, 2015.**



**SgtMaj Battaglia toured the infantry immersion trainer aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 24, 2014.**

my dad. To see someone who had come along in the ranks and say that 'your dad trained me, your dad was my lieutenant,' it was pretty cool."

### The Future

Serving as the SEAC presented Battaglia with numerous opportunities to observe each service's recruit training. "I've done it with the Army at Fort Jackson, the Navy's boot camp, spoke at the graduations, watched it all. How we all mold and develop the transformation. Not something your average garden variety senior enlisted leader would be exposed to."

As he prepared to retire, SgtMaj Battaglia took one last trip to see Marines

in November 2015. He traveled to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in California to serve as the reviewing officer for a recruit graduation. And not just any graduation. Thirty-six years after he graduated from the same recruit company, SgtMaj Battaglia stood proudly as the Corps' newest Marines marched across the parade deck as he, the senior enlisted servicemember in all of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, reviewed the new Marines from "Delta" Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

He described the emotional moment which reminded him that, as a Corps and as a country, "We're OK. We're going to be OK." Battaglia said seeing young





**“I’m all about tradition and keeping the standard since 1775, but in order to deter and prevent, we are going to have to be adaptive.”**

people successfully navigate the rigors of boot camp and earn the title of Marine “puts some charge back in my battery!”

Among the many challenges Battaglia dealt with during his tenure, the education of junior members of the services was especially important. Increasing the emphasis on education of enlisted servicemembers makes him excited for the future. “I’m all about education. I’m glad to see it growing, but I think there’s more growth to be had. Our troops need to be smart enough so that our tech sergeants or corporals can replace our lieutenants or company grades if called upon.”

Expanding on the subject, he envisions possible scenarios where staff noncommissioned officers may fill in for officers. “That’s talent management. It’s part of the Secretary of Defense’s force of the future. We manage talent a whole lot better than what we have in the past.”

Looking toward the future of the military, Battaglia is pragmatic. “How do we remain No. 1? For a professional sports team to always bring the Super Bowl trophy home, there is some adjustment each year, maybe with players, maybe with capabilities, maybe changing the strategy, because others are on to your previous years’ strategy and they are reading you like a cheap novel. That’s the same sort of level of competition that we have against us,” he said. “Inability to change may be more detrimental to us. I’m all about tradition and keeping the standard since 1775, but in order to deter and prevent, we are going to have to be adaptive,” he continued.

### Message to Marines

The concern, affection and respect SgtMaj Battaglia has for Marines, especially those in the junior ranks, is evident in all that he has done throughout his time in uniform. Asked if he had any final message for the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines he has served for almost 40 years, he was reminded of one of the Corps’ most basic tenets. “GEN Dempsey was so impressed with ‘keep our honor clean.’ If you want to be a bona fide upstanding member in the profession of arms, follow that,” said Battaglia. He added, “It’s one thing to hear [that] from a Marine; it’s another to hear it from the chairman, much less a soldier.”



MSS TERRENCE L. HAYES, USA

**Above: Lisa Battaglia, herself a veteran Marine, accompanied her husband, SgtMaj Battaglia, to a scrimmage for the USA Women’s National Basketball Team at the University of Delaware, Sept. 11, 2014.**

**Below: SgtMaj Battaglia’s retirement plans include continuing to volunteer, as he has throughout his career. He returned to his hometown of New Orleans, La., and joined fellow servicemembers in a day of service on June 4, 2014.**



SPC JOSHUA BARNETT, USA

### Retirement

When asked about his retirement plans, SgtMaj Battaglia said, “Well, we will ride off into the sunset and start to settle down in Alabama. That’s where we’ll start off and see how that works.” It will be the 18th time the Battaglias have moved. SgtMaj Battaglia’s wife, Lisa, herself a Marine veteran, is especially excited about the move and the new house they are building. “Lisa had said to me some time ago that wherever we go in, it’s like the walls are always white and I never really

get to choose. So by God, she chose this one! The floor plan, the color, the brick, everything. She chose everything.” As far as a new job, Battaglia wants to continue to serve. “I see myself probably getting involved in some sort of nonprofit work, giving back to the Armed Forces because they’ve given us so much.”

The nation, the Armed Forces and his Marine Corps can say the same thing about Sergeant Major Battaglia—he’s given so much.





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# The **STORM** Is Over



*Editor's note: This originally appeared in the April 1991 issue of Leatherneck. In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the end of Operation Desert Storm, we are reprinting this article by Leatherneck Associate Editor Master Gunnery Sergeant Renaldo R. Keene, USMC (Ret).*

By R.R. Keene

It was all but over in 100 hours. Saddam Hussein in his bunker still babbled something about his army's might, but few were listening. America and its allies had decapitated him from his army so quickly that the head in Baghdad didn't want to realize it had been severed.

Heaps of Iraqi corpses were being interred in mass graves (estimates of Iraqi casualties range from 85,000 to 100,000) throughout the desert littered with 3,700 of their tanks, 1,875 armored vehicles and 2,140 artillery pieces burned or abandoned. Groups of Iraq's best roamed the desert, dazed, hungry, thirsty, humble and pathetic, looking for someone, anyone, to surrender to. Allied estimates say that as many as 150,000 prisoners nearly overwhelmed allied holding areas and flooded military medical facilities to have their wounds

treated. Still others, who deserted the officers who had failed them, headed north to home, having had enough of Saddam's military adventures.

They had fought eight years of war with Iran and gained nothing. They had faced the Americans and their allies and, under six weeks of constant air bombardment (approximately 102,000 allied sorties), capped by four days of lightning-quick war, lost everything, including their pride and honor.

The military architect of what has a high probability of becoming the most studied battle of modern times was Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who also drew up the basic operational order for the ground war in Europe that never came. It called for feints, envelopments, bold tactics, deception and modern equipment operated by professional, thinking warriors. In the Persian Gulf, GEN

Schwarzkopf modified the plan to call for shock troops to charge head-on into the maw of heavily fortified enemy defenses, while his heavy armor made a "Hail Mary" sweep around. It called for Marines.

Marines bristled with more firepower than they would need for the invasion of Kuwait. Gun crews had run countless drills prior to breaching Iraqi lines at the Saudi border.

In what newsmen have facetiously called the "mother of all briefings," given by GEN Schwarzkopf in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Feb. 27, the commander of Operation Desert Storm forces praised all of his units, but particularly the Marines, who in a matter of hours, not only breached the enemy defenses, but also blew halfway through Kuwait in the process.

"I can't say enough about the two Marine divisions," said the general about the First and Second Marine Divisions who worked in tandem for the first time in history. "If I use words like 'brilliant,' it would really be an under-description of the absolute superb job that they did in breaching the so-called impenetrable barrier. It was a classic, absolutely classic



**Opposite page:** Pilots who strafed and bombed vehicles fleeing via the road west of Kuwait City called it the “Highway of Death.” In this photo taken in March 1991, remnants of the Iraqi army, most with loot stolen from Kuwait, died in their vehicles as American and coalition aircraft awaited their turn to unleash their ordnance. (Photo courtesy of BGen Granville Amos)

**Below:** A Marine M1A1 Abrams tank equipped with a mine-clearing plow pushes into Kuwait past an abandoned, shrapnel-riddled truck.



SSGT MASTERS, USMC

military breaching of a very, very tough minefield, barbed wire, fire trenches-type barrier. They went through the first barrier like it was water. They went across into the second barrier line, even though they were under artillery fire at the same time. They continued to open up the breach. And then they brought both divisions streaming through that breach. Absolutely superb operation, a textbook, and I think it'll be studied for many, many years to come as the way to do it.”

Later, when a reporter asked if the defenses the Marines went through were perhaps overrated in the first place, GEN Schwarzkopf shot back, “Have you ever been in a minefield?” The stunned pundit answered that he had not.

“All there’s got to be is one mine, and that’s intense,” the general scolded. “There were plenty of mines out there, there was plenty of barbed wire, there were fire trenches, most of which we set off ahead of time, but there are still some that are out there. ... There were a lot of booby traps ... not a fun place to be. I got to tell you, probably one of the toughest things that anyone ever has to do is go up there and walk into something like that and through it, and consider that while you’re going through it and clearing it, at the same time, you are probably under fire by enemy artillery. That’s all I can say.”

It was enough.

Marines, with Kuwaiti and Saudi forces,

**Below:** Marines go over the top of a sand berm into Kuwait during the first stages of Operation Desert Storm, Feb. 24, 1991.



CPL R.J. ENGBRECHT, USMC

had been in their traditional forefront role on Feb. 24 as more than 200,000 allied troops made a blitzkrieg into Iraq and Kuwait after President George H.W. Bush’s deadline of high noon passed, having been arrogantly ignored by Saddam Hussein and his followers.

It was another in a series of gross miscalculations by the man who many Marines have dubbed as the “Bozo of Baghdad.” In this case, it effectively ended any chance of an eleventh-hour settlement and spelled the end of Saddam’s prized,

fourth-largest army in the world. President Bush said, in effect, that the time for lame speeches was over and that talking from now on would come from the business end of allied howitzers.

What may have been, according to many military experts, the best planned and most perfectly executed massive assault in history caused detractors of Americans and their allies to retreat to the drawing boards. Analysts say the Soviet military, who heavily equipped, supplied and trained the Iraqis, will certainly have



to rethink their methods and re-examine their weaponry. The doomsayers such as one congressman, who in late February confidently predicted 30,000 to 40,000 allied casualties, have been silenced for now, like Iraqi gun positions along the Saudi border. As with the start of the air war on Jan. 16, it immediately became apparent that the ground assault was nothing short of a total success.

The Marines had made a predawn assault at 4 a.m. on Feb. 24. Lieutenant General Walter Boomer, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force, said that 30 minutes after the invasion started, Marines had overrun the minefields, barbed wire and other obstacles of Saddam's highly touted "walls of death." In less than six hours, members of the First and Second Marine Divisions with the Tiger Brigade of the U.S. Army's 2d Armored Division had cleared eight lanes through the minefields, sliced through the Iraqi defenses and waded through a 35-mile sea of surrendering Iraqi soldiers.

Marine combat correspondent Staff Sergeant Ken Pettigrew was with the assault as the 2dMarDiv moved, caravan fashion, into Kuwait and reported his experience:

"Moving delicately through the narrow breaching area (wide enough for one vehicle), the 65 tracked and wheeled vehicles passed through a minefield, well-marked with signs and strands of barbed wire.

"Line charges had been used by engi-

neers to clear the way. Ugly plumes of black smoke billowed from burning oil rigs; the flames of these wells were an unpleasant yellow. Acrid and perhaps toxic fumes dirtied noses, choked the lungs and squeezed the temples. The dirty sky looked like someone had put carbon paper over it, giving everything a dull, ugly appearance. Low-flying birds skimmed along the road, perhaps attracted by the MRE (meals, ready to eat) trail left behind the convoy.

"The vehicles were 10 to 200 meters from each other, depending on the terrain and hazards. Just north of the border was a burnt, abandoned commercial vehicle, perhaps a casualty of the country's civilian exodus.

Several hundred Iraqi soldiers were spotted walking in formation. They were the first prisoners and among them were a general and a colonel.

"The morale of the Marines was high. They wanted to liberate this tiny country and then head back to Camp Lejeune."

It was Teddy Roosevelt's "big stick" policy, updated with high mobility, air, armor and other modern-day weaponry and tactics up against a mustachioed gangster, pseudo-tactician playing World War I trench warfare in his version of World War II's Maginot Line.

"As far as Saddam Hussein being a great military strategist," sneered Schwarzkopf at his briefing, "he is neither a strategist, nor is he schooled in the operational art, nor is he a tactician, nor is he a general, nor is he a soldier. Other than that, he's a great military man."



LtGen Walter Boomer

USMC

Saddam's oath to make the allies swim in their own blood and of making the earth burn beneath their feet was only talk. As the ground war started, the bully of Baghdad abandoned the Palestine Liberation Organization and others who had befriended him, as well as his own troops, while his lackeys over the "Mother of Battles" radio reassured Arabs that his army was winning the jihad (holy war).

His forces knew better. They surrendered in waves that almost overwhelmed the allies. In many instances they were gunned down or beheaded by their own officers or execution squads. The military leadership, unable to face the onslaught and before fleeing north without their troops, took to torching nearly 600 Kuwaiti oil wells which oil-fire expert Paul Neal "Red" Adair estimated will take more than two years to snuff out. They then set out to rape, pillage and murder residents of the capital, Kuwait City, before escaping and reportedly hiding behind thousands of Kuwaiti male hostages.

"The mother of battles has turned into one mother of a corner for Saddam Hussein," said one television commentator.

Indeed. Allied forces stopped counting Iraqi prisoners when in two days their numbers exceeded 26,000, according to Marine Brigadier General Richard I. Neal, Deputy Director of Operations, U.S. Central Command, in the Saudi capital of Riyadh. The number was estimated to be more than 35,000 the next day. There were so many that American soldiers joked that Iraqi soldiers needed to take a ticket number to surrender.

"There were a very, very large number of dead in these units, a very large number of dead," explained Schwarzkopf. "We even found them when we went into the units ourselves and found them in the trenches. There were very heavy desertions. At one point, we had reports of desertion rates of more than 30 percent of the units that were along the front. As you know, we had quite a large number of POWs [prisoners of war] that came across, and so I think it's a combination of desertions, people that were killed, people that were captured and some other people who are just flat still running."

"They look like little ants in a row, coming from a peanut butter and jelly sandwich somebody left on the ground," said Captain John Sizemore, a pilot who watched the trail of prisoners from above the desert. Most were conscripts of the Iraqi Popular Army. In one case, Marines came upon a soldier who, dressed in Bermuda shorts and wearing a Chicago Bears T-shirt, said to them in English any American would understand, "Gee,

**Iraqi POWs who surrendered to Marines of Task Force Shepherd are kept warm and secure as their weapons and personal documents are checked.**



COURTESY OF CPL KENNETH J. LIEWEN, USMC





**Above: Darkening the sky with smoke, oil wells burn out of control in the al-Wafrah Forest after being set ablaze by fleeing Iraqi forces. The burning oil caused respiratory problems for some of the Marines who liberated Kuwait. (Photo by TSgt Perry Heimer, USAF)**

**Below: Marines load AGM-88A high-speed anti-radiation missiles under the wings of an F/A-18A Hornet of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 451 during Operation Desert Storm. Allied forces flew an estimated 102,000 sorties during six weeks of constant air bombardment.**



SGT JEFF WRIGHT, USMC

guys, where the hell have you been?” It turned out he’d been an Iraqi student in Chicago, Ill., who’d gone to Baghdad to see his grandmother, only to be pressed into service in the Iraqi army.

A Marine had his high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle stuck in the sand and saw an Iraqi tank rolling towards him. Thinking he was going to die, he watched

as an enemy tank crewman jumped out, hooked the humvee to the tank, towed it from the rut and then, with the rest of his crew, politely surrendered to a very relieved young man.

Those few who chose to fight were simply outgunned. Marine M1 Abrams and M60 tanks, tracked landing vehicles, light armored vehicles (LAVs), humvees

mounted with tube launched, optically tracked, wire command link, guided missiles (TOWs), AH-1W Sea Cobra helicopter gunships, OV-10 Bronco spotter aircraft and AV-8B Harrier, A-6 Intruder and F-18 Hornet attack jets shot across the desert with power and speed that stunned and devastated the Iraqis. Those Iraqis who did fight mounted a battle formation of 80 tanks only to have three-quarters of them pulverized. Cluster bombs blew 50-foot craters, and incoming 155 mm and 8-inch artillery shells created a vacuum noise as they fell, sending the crescendo of impact and shock waves across the desert floor. “Hellfire” missiles slammed home in blinding blasts and sent jagged parts of Soviet-made T-55 and T-62 tanks flying like so many pieces of shrapnel in every direction. Those few Iraqis who didn’t join the ranks of prisoners or run from the battle died.

“If we had another 12 hours of daylight, most of the forces inside Kuwait would have given up,” said another Marine at the end of the first day. One Marine jumped from his truck deep in Kuwait and shouted, laughing, “Oh man, I love this. Isn’t this great? I’m gonna re-enlist!”

It did seem too easy. Most found it hard not to share the Marine’s exuberance; however, many cautiously waited for the proverbial “other shoe to fall.” It never did.

The advance through eastern Kuwait was so far ahead of schedule that approxi-



Marine AV-8 Harriers attacked on Jan. 27, 1991, and leveled the area around Observation Post 4 on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border, which was occupied by Iraqi forces.



MAJ/SGT GREGORY L. GILLISPIE, USMC

mately 18,000 Marines offshore with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade seemingly had to settle for feints which kept several Iraqi divisions guessing where and when the amphibious assault would come.

GEN Schwarzkopf had never intended for them to land unless required later. “It became very apparent to us early on that the Iraqis were quite concerned about an amphibious operation across the shores to liberate Kuwait, this [pointing] being Kuwait City. They put a very, very heavy barrier of infantry along here [the coast] and they proceeded to build an extensive barrier that went all the way across the border, down and around, and up the side of Kuwait.”

Amphibious ships such as USS *Nassau* (LHA-4), loaded with Marines, waited offshore. They launched helicopters in assault formation without Marines to fool the Iraqis. The ruse worked.

“We continued heavy operations out in the sea because we wanted the Iraqis to continue to believe that we were going to conduct a massive amphibious operation in this area. And I think many of you [the media] recall the number of amphibious rehearsals we had, to include ‘Imminent Thunder’ that was written about quite extensively for many reasons,” Schwarzkopf noted. The U.S. media, some of whom had willingly prostituted themselves as a propaganda vehicle in Baghdad, could hardly cry foul when they

found that an American general had led them to believe a landing was inevitable.

During the assault into Kuwait, several dozen Marine CH-53 and CH-46 helicopters from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit flew in mock assault formation from their ships in the Gulf, confusing the Iraqis. In reality there was literally little room for another major force on the battlefield. Between Kuwait and southern Iraq, the total combined forces of the allied coalition had the Iraqi military surrounded in an open desert the size of Texas.

Schwarzkopf went on. “Very early, [January 16] we took on the Iraqi air force. We knew that [Saddam] had very limited reconnaissance means. And therefore, when we took out his air force, for all intents and purposes, we took out his ability to see what we were doing. ...

“Once we had taken out his eyes, we did what could best be described as the ‘Hail Mary’ play in football. ... We did a massive movement of troops all the way out to the west, to the extreme west, because at that time we knew he was still fixed in his area [southern Iraq and Kuwait] with the vast majority of his forces, and once the air campaign started, he would be incapable



LTCOL CHARLES H. CURETON, USMC

It is afternoon, but looks like midnight as this M60A1 Marine tank with Task Force Papa Bear moves through the battlefield—smoke from burning oil wells is blocking the sun.



of moving out to counter this move, even if he knew we made it.”

By the end of the second day the U.S. Army, with French and British troops, had swept far west in an arc that reached its apex less than 150 miles from Baghdad. Kuwait City was abandoned by the Iraqis and left in the hands of the Kuwaiti resistance. South of the city, Marines were fighting an armored battle near the international airport.

It was there that the Iraqis sent 100 tanks including 50 of their top-of-the-line Soviet-made T-72s up against the aging, Marine M60 tanks. The battle lasted all day and into the night, and Iraqi tank survivors recalled swearing at their Soviet tank sights which in the dust and heat of battle proved useless. The battleships *Wisconsin* (BB-64) and *Missouri* (BB-63) fired their 16-inch guns, sending 2,000-pound Volkswagen-sized shells into the airport. Hangars, terminals and tanks disintegrated, nearly vaporized. Marine tankers picked off the rest of the tanks whose crews were, according to Marine commanders, “literally jumping out of the tanks.” Marine and Army snipers dropped the rest.

The plain around Kuwait City was a graveyard for Iraqi armor, “a field of burning tanks,” according to LtGen Boomer. Outside an oil field, the men of the 1stMarDiv cut off Iraqis who had just set fire to several wellheads. Against a backdrop of orange fires, black soot, burning vehicles and sand turning to glass, the Iraqis counterattacked. It was, figuratively speaking, a firefight in hell.

“We fired on two gathering points, and it wasn’t 30 minutes before we scattered them like rabbits out of the bush,” said Major General J.M. “Mike” Myatt, commander of the 1stMarDiv. “The Cobras and LAVs had a field day.” The “hunter-killer” package of the Marine air/ground team continued to search out and destroy Iraqi equipment before it could be moved out of the area. In other action, a Marine commander reported that when Iraqi forces began attacking his troops, a wave of surrendering Iraqis attempted to surrender ahead of the firing. The Iraqis fired their Soviet-made “Frog” missiles, which fell short, killing their own troops.

Meanwhile, 10 miles north of the airport at the abandoned U.S. Embassy, a scout force of Marines from 2d Force Reconnaissance Company and Army Special Forces soldiers entered the compound. One servicemember, who refused to be identified, did what American fighting men have traditionally loved to do and raised the flag of his country on a makeshift staff. A few yards away, apparently unnoticed, the American flag left

by U.S. Ambassador Nathaniel Howell, who stubbornly held out for more than four months before leaving in December, still flew over the compound and was still there when Edward “Skip” Gnehm, America’s new ambassador to a liberated Kuwait, arrived Feb. 28.

Marines waited in fighting holes for word to move up. Once the word came, they moved so quickly that in less than 100 hours, the war was over.

taking the offensive, five Marines had been killed and 48 wounded.

It is no secret that the allies expected their losses to be higher. With Iraqi air virtually eliminated at the start of the air war, the Iraqi army was pounded mercilessly for weeks, supplies were destroyed and, most importantly, Iraq’s command and control communications were severely degraded. Blind, without spotter ability, unable to come into the



**Above: Artillerymen of the 2dMarDiv sent the first rounds into Kuwait from their M198 155 mm howitzer launching the offensive to free Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. (DOD)**

**Below: Super Cobras, such as this one from Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 269 landing on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS *Nassau* (LHA-4), provided near ground-level close air support for the Marine offensive in Kuwait. (Photo by P01 Olson, USN)**



On Feb. 27, Marine forces surrounded Kuwait City. They paused to allow the Arab forces, led by the Kuwaitis, the honor of liberating their city. The initial success had been nothing less than astounding. Not a single tank or armored vehicle had been lost. However, in the 72 hours since

open and unable to regroup, the army was depleted by lack of food, water, fuel, supplies, intelligence and information. Eight years of war with Iran had tired them more than it had hardened them.

“You can have the best equipment in the world, you can have the largest numbers in

the world,” said GEN Schwarzkopf, “but, if you’re not dedicated to your cause, if you don’t have the will to fight, then, you are not going to have a very good army. ... Many people were deserting, and I think you’ve heard this, that the Iraqis brought down execution squads whose job was to shoot people.

“I’ve got to tell you what: The soldier doesn’t fight very hard for a leader who is going to shoot him on his own whim. That’s not what military leadership is all about. I attribute a great deal of failure of the Iraqi army to fight to their own leadership. They committed them to a cause that they didn’t believe in. They were all saying that they didn’t want to be there. They didn’t want to fight their fellow Arab. They were lied to. They

battle with Iraq’s best, proved what GEN Schwarzkopf had thought all along and caused the American press to stop using the word “elite” synonymously with the Republican Guard.

“The Republican Guard are the ones that went into Kuwait in the first place,” emphasized the general. “They get paid more. They get treated better. They also were well to the rear here so they could be the first ones to ‘bug out’ when the battlefield started folding, while these poor fellows [Iraqi popular forces] up here, who didn’t want to be here in the first place, bore the brunt of the attack. Well, that didn’t happen.”

Saddam Hussein, well to the rear and in a near nuclear-proof bunker, periodically spoke over Mother of Battles Radio

they screamed, waving almost as many red, white and blue American flags when Marines later entered the city.

A reunion took place between a Kuwaiti resistance fighter and his brother, a U.S. Marine who joined when Iraq invaded, when the Marine arrived in his hometown as part of the lead Marine units.

Gen Boomer said, “It was a once in a lifetime experience. There are some things worth fighting for. When you see them regain their freedom and their joy at seeing them [the Iraqis] leave, it is quite a feeling. I’m glad we could be part of returning it to them.”

But, there were also persistent rumors of atrocities and war crimes by the Iraqis who, many claimed, shot, tortured and raped their victims. Though some stories were later discounted, there was evidence of enough brutality to anger and dampen the spirits of victorious Kuwaitis, their Arab allies and other coalition forces. Reports of atrocities in the later stages of the war were, in part, reasons for GEN Schwarzkopf’s eagerness to see the Marines in Kuwait City.

“We’ve heard they took up to 40,000 [Kuwaiti hostages, but estimates have since downgraded the number to nearly 20,000],” he explained, “but that pales to insignificance compared to the absolutely unspeakable atrocities that occurred in Kuwait in the last week. They are not part of the same human race, the people that did that, the rest of us are. I’ve got to pray that’s the case.”

While it was high technology and sophisticated equipment that played a big part in this war, it still came down to individuals, skilled and trained in the professional military arts, to make it all work successfully.

GEN Schwarzkopf explained, “It is not a Nintendo game. It is a tough battlefield where people are risking their lives at all times ... and we ought to be very, very proud of them.

“I would tell you that casualties of that order of magnitude ... is almost miraculous as far as the light number of casualties. It will never be miraculous for the families of those people, but it is miraculous.”

And finally the general credited his boss for providing the military with its most important weapon: trust and confidence. “I’m very thankful for the fact that the President of the United States has allowed the United States military and the coalition military to fight this war exactly as it should have been fought. And the President in every case has taken our guidance and our recommendations to heart and has acted superbly as the Commander in Chief of the United States.”



COURTESY OF CPL CHARLES H. INGRAHAM III

**The Marines’ determination to advance under fire is personified in this photo of Cpl Jeffery D. Brown of 3d Platoon, Company A, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion. In spite of being wounded by shrapnel from an Iraqi artillery barrage that punctured the humvee’s tires and shattered its windshield, Brown and fellow Marines kept advancing until Kuwait was liberated.**

were deceived. Then after they got there [Kuwait], they had leadership that were so uncaring for them that they didn’t properly feed them, give them water and, in the end, they kept them there only at the point of a gun.”

Only Saddam’s Republican Guard made any attempt to stand, and the all-powerful armor of the United States Army, with its French and British counterparts, had thundered across southern Iraq, sealing them off. They rolled so fast that Saddam’s promise to use chemical weapons remained as empty as his capacity for statesmanship. The U.S. Army and its allies, itching for

haggling for a cease-fire as if in some Baghdad bazaar. His efforts fell on allied ears deafened by his previous lies and rhetoric.

His words could not be heard in Kuwait City where Arab forces and a jubilant population exploded in delirious joy that marked the end of seven brutal months of Iraqi occupation. Kuwaitis gleefully paraded a jackass, saying, “This is Saddam Hussein! This is Saddam Hussein!”

Kuwaiti soldiers, choked with emotion, sang their national anthem as they raised the green, white, red and black colors of their country. “Thank you! Thank you!”



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# In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## ■ SOUTHWEST ASIA

### Fight Against ISIL: SPMAGTF Marines Conduct Crisis Response Exercise

Leathernecks with Company C, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force—Crisis Response—Central Command (SPMAGTF—CR—CC) conducted a mission readiness exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Nov. 23-24, 2015.

Deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the Marines of SPMAGTF—CR—CC were focused on the mission of defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

The training exercise consisted of a scenario in which a forward operating base (FOB) in the area of responsibility—which spans 20 nations—required reinforcement from SPMAGTF—CR—CC

as part of its crisis response mission.

The two-day drill allowed the Marines to hone their responsive and reinforcement skills.

“[What] we are trying to get out of this is to gauge how responsive our company is—the standards we are looking for is six hours,” said First Lieutenant Philyp Whitaker, the executive officer for C/1/7. “From notification to tasking, we have six hours to do a rapid playing process, get the Marines embarked on MV-22 [Ospreys] and come in and reinforce.”

During the exercise, Marines sharpened capabilities such as quick reaction force employment, patrol operations, and emplacement and reinforcement of defensive positions.

“One of the things we worked on was our troop tasking when we first got here,” said Sergeant Cole D. Parkison, an assault section leader with C/1/7. “We worked on


how to get organized as far as posts and rotations and how we would be able to run an element standing post, an element on QRF [quick reaction force] and an element out on patrol at the same time.”

The 1/7 Marines identified key components and mission-critical capabilities when responding in support of the simulated FOB.

“We hadn’t loaded that much [gear] into an Osprey before,” said Parkison. “So being able to do that lets us know what we can bring and what is feasible and what’s not feasible.”

The exercise also integrated different assets needed to support a FOB.

“There is more than just the infantry side. There is detailed integration that has to happen with the [Marine Medium Tiltrotor] squadron and our company. Also, the law enforcement detachment is out here working entry checkpoint



Marines with C/1/7, SPMAGTF—CR—CC collect a cargo pallet from an aerial delivery as part of a mission readiness exercise in Southwest Asia, Nov. 24, 2015.



SGT RICARDO HURTADO, USMC



procedures with our guys,” said Whitaker. “In addition to that, we had an aerial delivery to test the survivability of air-dropping water and food to us. So it does integrate the whole MAGTF [Marine Air-Ground Task Force], the command element, logistics command element, ground command element and aviation command element.”

Throughout the duration of the exercise, the Marines also responded to different threats, such as indirect fire, improvised explosive devices, and probing and harassing attacks in the vicinity of the FOB.

The exercise provided the Marines of 1/7 with hands-on experience to tactically execute rapid response missions.

“I am glad that we got to come out here and do this because it gives me a better idea of what I need to work on with my guys to make them more proficient on these kind of operations,” said Parkison. “It’s one thing to talk about it and come up with the greatest plan in the world, but when you come out here, you find out what actually works and what doesn’t.”

Sgt Ricardo Hurtado, USMC

## ■ CAMP SHELBY, MISS. Marine Raiders, Combat Engineers Train Together Along Gulf Coast

The Marine Raiders of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC) continued to improve and strengthen the interoperability between Special Operations Forces and the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) during back-to-back 10-day exercises in the Gulf Coast region of the United States, Oct. 27-Nov. 17, 2015.

Raiders from 1st and 2d Marine Raider Battalions partnered with Marines from 2d Combat Engineer Battalion, Second Marine Division for the exercises, which spanned Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi and focused on mission development and execution.

“This is a perfect opportunity for all personnel involved to work on their ability to plan and execute full-spectrum operations in a unique and dynamic environment,” said the MARSOC G-7 (training and education) director.

Members of the Raider battalions conducted a variety of operations, including foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance and direct action. The assigned missions required the Marine Raiders to incorporate support capabilities including intelligence, communications and logistics.

Marines with 2d CEB played the vital role of a simulated partner nation force, allowing the Raiders to build upon their abilities to advise, train and assist foreign militaries around the globe. The engineers conducted weapons training, close-quar-



GS/SGT J. OSWALD HIGGINS, USMC

**Above: A leatherneck with 1st Marine Raider Bn guides a Marine from 2d CEB during weapons training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 9, 2015.**

**Below: Members of 1st Marine Raider Bn and 2d CEB work together to offload a combat rubber raid craft during a nighttime visit, board, search and seizure mission near Mobile, Ala., Nov. 15, 2015.**



GS/SGT J. OSWALD HIGGINS, USMC

ters battle (CQB) drills, patrolling, and insert and extract drills.

“This is great training and something outside the norm for us,” said Staff Sergeant Adam Chaney, a platoon sergeant with 2d CEB. “We’re often attached to infantry and other combat elements, but these exercises show our Marines different aspects of the Marine Corps.”

This was not the first time 2d CEB had supported MARSOC exercises. The unit has partnered frequently with Marine Raiders to take advantage of what Master Sergeant Thomas Garcia, an assistant operations chief with the battalion, de-

scribed as “very realistic training.”

“It’s not often many of our Marines get to participate in live-fire drills or CQB drills incorporating special-effect, small-arms marking systems [paint simulation ammunition],” said Garcia. “Our support here is a great opportunity for us to work on individual combat skills that a lot of Marines don’t get.”

The realistic training Garcia referred to required a network of “enabler support,” ranging from military aviation for transport and aerial reconnaissance, to cosmetology for simulating combat wounds.

Each mission during the exercise was

intelligence-driven and supported an overall end objective, such as capturing a high-value individual or gathering intelligence for follow-on missions. Marine Raiders were tasked with planning and executing each mission, which often involved nighttime raids, reconnaissance and surveillance, and visit, board, search and seizure of vessels.

“We will take this experience and be a well-versed unit in support of the [MAGTF]. MARSOC requires this training, and our battalion as a whole can only benefit from continuing this partnership,” said Garcia.

GySgt Joshua Higgins, USMC

## ■ OKINAWA, JAPAN Commandant of ROK Marines Affirms Close Partnership With USMC

Key military leaders from the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States met Dec. 11, 2015, at Camp Courtney, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, to discuss regional security on the Korean Peninsula

and the future of the alliance between the two nations.

Lieutenant General Sang-Hoon Lee, Commandant, ROK Marine Corps, met with LtGen Lawrence D. Nicholson, Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force, at the III MEF headquarters building. The two worked together to strengthen plans, operations and relationships between the two corps of Marines.

“The U.S. Marines participated in the Korean War and Vietnam War as comrades in arms, and for 60 years, we have defended against any further aggressions,” said LtGen Lee. “Another important factor to understand is that 60 percent of ROK Marines are currently stationed in the northwest islands as well as the Demilitarized Zone. The Korean citizens, as well as the militaries and the nations surrounding northeast Asia, recognize the fact that we will be the first ones to deploy to the most dangerous area,” he added.

The United States and ROK created the Mutual Defense Treaty in 1953, following

the end of the Korean War.

The treaty is designed to collectively strengthen peace and security throughout the Pacific region. Both generals confirmed that their respective forces are ready to uphold the treaty.

“We call ourselves ‘The Fight Tonight MEF,’ ” LtGen Nicholson said. “We are ‘The Fight Tonight MEF’ because we are prepared, on a moment’s notice, to head to the peninsula and support the defense of South Korea. III MEF has an obligation to be most ready when our nation is least ready. We are the forward-deployed Marine Air-Ground Task Force. We are a great organization. The ROK Marines are a great organization. When you combine them together, we are a formidable force.”

The Combined Marine Component Command (CMCC), of which LtGen Nicholson is designated to be the commander during wartime, consists of ROK Marines, U.S. Marines and select naval units. CMCC represents a focused, combined force prepared to maintain the

## PERSIAN GULF



GYSGT TOMMY R. GORDON, USMC

**BEHIND THE SCENES, AT SUNRISE**—Cpl Tyson Yancey, left, and Sgt Tyler Stafford, right, spend their early morning hours maintaining an AV-8B Harrier on board USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3) in the Persian Gulf in December 2015. Yancey and Stafford are maintainers with Marine Attack Squadron 223, based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., but are currently attached to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 (Reinforced) as part of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.





CPL ABBEY PERRIA, USMC

**LtGen Sang-Hoon Lee, right, Commandant, ROK Marine Corps, greets Col Erik B. Kraft, second from left, III MEF operations officer, before entering III MEF Headquarters at Camp Courtney, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Dec. 11, 2015, as LtGen Larry Nicholson, center, CG, III MEF, looks on.**

safety and security of people in the U.S. and ROK.

“As LtGen Nicholson has mentioned, it’s not about the plan,” said LtGen Lee. “We have a plan, but it’s about the execution—how we train and prepare ourselves for it. We have more than 20 annual trainings together as a ROK and U.S. alliance.”

Exercises and training opportunities, such as the Korean Marine Exchange Program, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Ssang Yong, strengthen ROK-U.S. combat readiness and advance the ROK Marine Corps’ command and control capabilities during the execution of combined amphibious operations.

As an example, Exercise Ssang Yong 14 involved approximately 13,000 personnel from the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, ROK Marine Corps and ROK Navy. Approximately 20 ships from both the ROK and U.S. Navy, as well as more than 55 U.S. Marine aircraft, supported the culminating training event—a combined amphibious assault.

Each meeting and training event further strengthens the partnership and ensures both forces are ready to respond to any contingency on the Korean Peninsula, whether the appropriate response is disaster relief or complex expeditionary operations.

“We constantly work closely with one another,” LtGen Lee said. “We are constantly working on developing a common doctrine, which we will employ on the battlefield. We understand each other and

we know how to fight. The most important thing we share is the same principle and spirit, to fight and win the battle.”

The ROK and U.S. Marine Corps alliance consists of integration of aviation, sea and ground assets, fine-tuned through traditional combined arms live-fire exercises that enhance combat readiness. The U.S. commitment to the ROK is affirmed in not only legal but also moral agreements.

“One of the things the ROK commandant and I will be doing here today is reviewing, in detail, some of the complex

plans that are out there, ensuring they make sense and ensuring our forces are ready to execute the best plan,” LtGen Nicholson said. “Every opportunity to make our forces better and more combat ready is something we always take advantage of.”

Cpl Abbey Perria, USMC

## ■ CAMP SINGO, UGANDA Leathernecks, Ugandan Soldiers Fortify Engineering Skills

U.S. Marines with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response-Africa (SPMAGTF–CR-AF) and soldiers from the Uganda People’s Defense Force (UPDF) completed an engineering exercise designed to help refine the UPDF soldiers’ civil engineering proficiency at Camp Singo, Uganda, Nov. 23, 2015.

The UPDF is improving its engineering skill set as it builds up its forward operating bases and defense positions while it continues its role in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), said Sergeant Sean O’Hair, a combat engineer with SPMAGTF–CR-AF.

The Marine engineers covered topics from site reconnaissance and survivability positions to horizontal and vertical engineering, which includes building roads, flight lines and permanent structures. The soldiers were responsible for constructing a wood-framed building, a permanent structure that could possibly serve as a command post or housing. They also got a chance to display their concrete and masonry skills.

“It is one thing to sit in a classroom, but it is another thing to get hands-on training,” said O’Hair. “So we taught it, they



CPL OLIVIA MCDONALD, USMC

**Sgt Alfred Darsey, a combat engineer with SPMAGTF–CR-AF, helps UPDF soldiers level their structure while taking part in a civil engineering exercise at Camp Singo, Uganda, in November 2015.**





**Marines with 2d ANGLICO's SALT secure an area with coalition force role players at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 10, 2015. The mission rehearsal was designed to prepare the team for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of NATO's Operation Resolute Support. (Photo by Cpl Alexander Mitchell, USMC)**

learned it, and now it's time to put it in action and see what they can do with it."

The UPDF engineer soldiers have a wide variety of responsibilities when they are sent to Somalia, according to Ugandan Lance Corporal Andrew Omongoje, a student and electrician in the UPDF engineering brigade.

The students in the course come from different units with the UPDF and bring different backgrounds and experiences to the class.

Although the students are new to that type of engineering, O'Hair said getting to the fundamentals and working as a team will benefit the soldiers when they deploy to Somalia.

"We gave them basic knowledge of civil engineering," said O'Hair. "We refreshed a few concepts and taught a few. We worked together to form what we have in this practical application."

The Marines and Ugandans also worked on survivability positions—expanding on ways to fortify and maintain a strong defensive position. Covering a variety of

skill sets ensures the soldiers are ready for any challenge they may face.

"We all hope when the course is finished, with the knowledge we have attained, the soldiers will go out and distribute it to the soldiers back in their units," said Omongoje.

The three Marine combat engineers with the team also assisted in improvised explosive device awareness and familiarity training while working with the UPDF. The Marines and sailors of SPMAGTF-CR-AF were training with eight different logistics-related military occupational specialties. A final exercise took place in mid-December 2015, during which all the different specialties worked toward a common goal.

Cpl Olivia McDonald, USMC

### **■ CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. II MEF Team Prepares to Train Coalition Forces in Afghanistan**

The II Marine Expeditionary Force leathernecks with 2d Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO) conducted a mission rehearsal at Marine Corps Base

Camp Lejeune, N.C., in support of an upcoming deployment to train and assist coalition forces in Afghanistan under the authority of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2189 on Dec. 10, 2015.

The Security Assistance Liaison Team (SALT) executed scenario-based realistic training for Operation Resolute Support.

"The SALT itself is running through a couple scenarios such as improvised explosive devices, enemy caches and general support of coalition forces in order to get them on track with tactics and maneuvers," said Sergeant John Karol, the firepower control team chief with 2d ANGLICO.

The Marines focused on their ability to provide fire-support capabilities critical to coalition units.

"Our main purpose is to provide Marine Corps assets to coalition partners," said Captain Brett Erquitt, the fire support officer for one of the teams with 2d ANGLICO. "Many countries have those assets themselves, but many don't, so having a Marine Corps air asset in support



A team leader with 2d ANGLICO motions to a role player during the SALT's scenario-based training at Camp Lejeune, Dec. 10, 2015.



CPL ALEXANDER MITCHELL, USMC

of a coalition is quite a force multiplier.” Despite SALT’s small size, it’s a strong team, thanks to the Marines who are a part of it.

“It’s the reality of manpower,” Erquitt said. “What guys have the legs to make it through the long workup process and have the maturity to be able to function with very little supervision from either staff noncommissioned officers or commissioned officers? We need strong NCOs, and that’s what we’re looking for.”

NATO’s Operation Resolute Support mission exists based on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2189, which established a post-2014 noncombat mission in Afghanistan to aid national defense and security forces.

Cpl Alexander Mitchell, USMC

## ■ EL CENTRO, CALIF. Simulated Expeditionary Environment Gives Squadron Aircrews Experience

Leathernecks with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 465 “Warhorse” flew from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., to Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., to conduct training on Nov. 16, 2015.

Four CH-53E Super Stallion pilots and seven aircrew members trained over a seven-day period while in a simulated expeditionary environment.

According to Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Wilcox, a crew chief with HMH-465, the training consisted of transporting passen-

gers and cargo; aerial gunnery training; fire bucket training with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); and terrain flights.

“The main purpose of all this training is to maximize the potential for a one-plane detachment,” said Wilcox. He explained that since CH-53Es are regularly on standby to assist CAL FIRE, the fire bucket training was an important part of their training mission at El Centro. The opportunity to train with CAL FIRE

happens approximately twice each year.

“Last summer, we got activated for the fires,” said Captain Anthony Parker, an aviation safety officer for HMH-465. “We actually [dropped] water to help the surrounding area of San Diego. That’s why it’s good training. You need to be able to do that.”

According to Parker, the fire bucket training not only allows the squadron to help the city of San Diego during an emergency, but it is also a requirement of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing.

“It’s important for us to do the training before we get activated for fighting fires,” said GySgt Wilcox. “That way we can introduce . . . how the system works, how to conduct the actual mission of fighting fires with CAL FIRE and integrating with them.”

In addition to conducting the fire bucket training, the newer members of the aircrew and newer copilots were tasked with employing and maintaining the .50-caliber machine gun weapon system.

“This training is important because this is the same stuff we’re going to be doing on a [Marine expeditionary unit] or on deployment,” said Capt Parker. “It’s our mission to support the Marines on the ground, and to do that, they have to be able to employ the weapon effectively. That goes for the crew in the back and the pilots putting the aircraft into position.”

The Warhorse Marines were scheduled to complete five flight days and one day of maintenance before returning to MCAS Miramar, Nov. 20, 2015.

Sgt Lillian Stephens, USMC



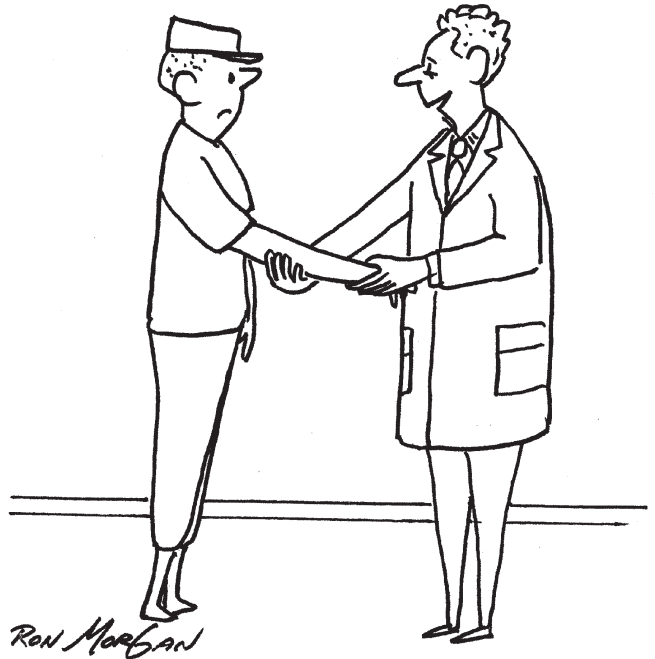
SGT LILLIAN STEPHENS, USMC

Marines with HMH-465 stage .50-cal. machine guns near a CH-53E Super Stallion at MCAS Miramar, Calif., Nov. 16, 2015, in preparation for their departure to NAF El Centro, where they spent seven days training in a simulated expeditionary environment.

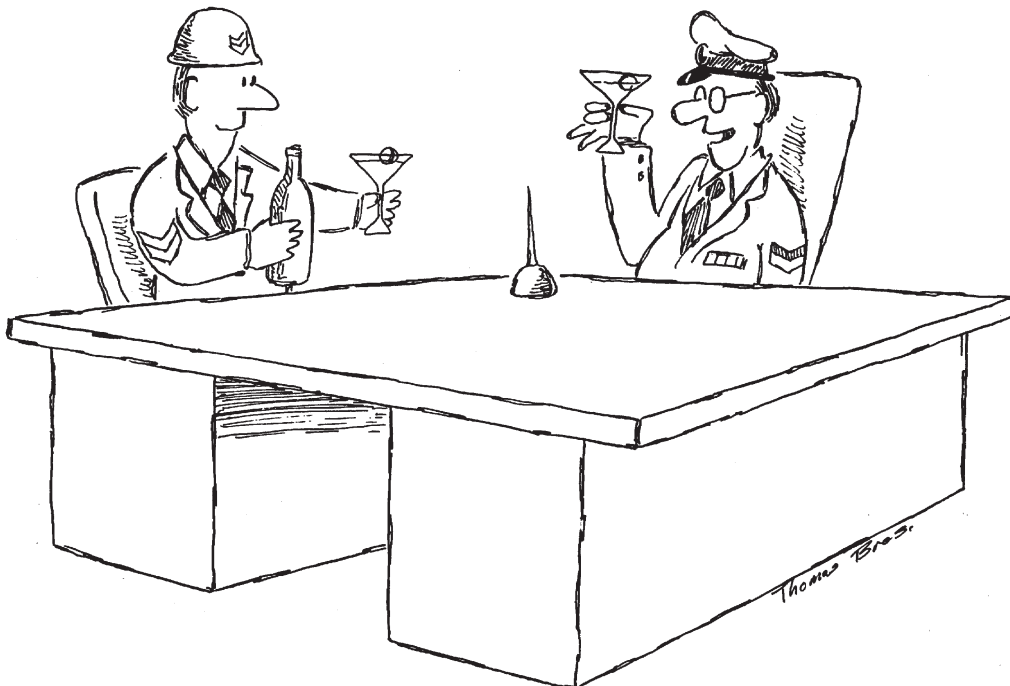
# Leatherneck Laffs



"What manner of devilish code has the great Satan devised now?"



"Nothing serious. 'Salute Elbow,' which will get better when you stop saluting everything that moves."



"Now that's a proper salute."





“Now, that’s what I call field air conditioning.”



“My son is a sweet, sensitive boy. And if you don’t graduate him, I’ll be back!”

# Against All Odds

## The Battle for Wake Island December 8-23, 1941

### Part II

Story by Dick Camp  
Photos courtesy of the author

*Prelude: World War II started for the defenders of Wake Island just shy of noon on Dec. 8, 1941 (Dec. 7 in Pearl Harbor—Wake is across the International Date Line), when 27 Japanese Mitsubishi G3M2 Type 96 attack bombers swept in undetected to bomb and strafe the island. In 10 minutes the raiders gutted Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 211, destroying seven of 12 Grumman F4F Wildcats and killing and wounding more than half the squadron's roster; 23 Marines died in the attack and 11 were wounded. Four pilots were among the casualties. The understrength 1st Defense Battalion, the island's defense force, escaped with little damage, but there was the question in the back of everyone's mind: "Was the Japanese attack a one-time strike or did it foreshadow an invasion?"*

#### The Second Round

Major James P.S. Devereux wrote, "Tuesday, December 9, began bright and clear. All hands were at general quarters for the dawn alert, guns manned, ammunition ready, as the morning patrol [VMF-211] searched the sky and sea around the island. There was no sign of the enemy."

At 1145 the water tank observation post spotted 27 enemy aircraft south of Peacock Point at 13,000 feet. The alert was sounded—three bursts of anti-aircraft fire—sending the Marines to general quarters. As the tight bomber formation approached the bomb release point, two F4F-3s, flown by Second Lieutenant David D. Kliever and Technical Sergeant William J. Hamilton, flamed one aircraft, but had to break off when 3-inch anti-aircraft shells began to explode in and around the Japanese formation. "The two planes were not enough to stop 27,"



From a distance, several Marines on Wake initially mistook the approaching Mitsubishi G3M2 attack bombers as incoming American B-17 Flying Fortresses. The bombers of Japan's 24th Air Flotilla had made a 720-mile flight from their Marshall Island base at Roi.

#### Japanese Aerial Attack Plan

The Japanese commander of the 24th Air Flotilla based in the Marshall Islands was charged with softening up Wake Island. The first raid (Dec. 8, 1941) was directed at the airfield and the Marine squadron. The second attack (Dec. 9) was essentially a mop-up of the first with principal targets being the naval air station, seaplane facilities and supporting establishments. The third raid (Dec. 10) was concentrated on Peale Island in a continuation of the softening-up process.

Devereux said. "The rest of the bombers held the course."

Bombs exploded around Batteries E and A on Peacock Point, along the east leg of Wake Island, and at Camp 2, destroying the hospital, barracks and the radio station. Four Marines and 55 construction workers were killed. The Japanese, however, didn't get off scot-free. One bomber exploded in mid-air, and an enemy report stated that 14 others were damaged.

The Japanese repeated their aerial bombardment on Dec. 10th, scoring a direct hit on a 125-ton dynamite cache. The resulting explosion denuded the greater part of Wilkes, set off all 3-inch and 5-inch

ready ammunition at Batteries L and F, and swept the seacoast battery (L) clean of accessories, light fittings and anything else at all moveable. Miraculously, only one Marine was killed and four wounded. Captain Henry T. Elrod intercepted the raiders and shot down two bombers.

#### Ships in Sight

"Sometime around 0300 [on Dec. 11], I was awakened by a message from the CP [command post] that enemy ships were believed to be off the south shore of Wake," Lieutenant Woodrow M. Kessler recalled. The garrison was immediately ordered to general quarters. All were told



**The Japanese air attack was devastating. Using 100-pound bombs and 20 mm cannon, the strike destroyed seven F4F Wildcats of VMF-211 and severely damaged another.**

to hold fire until Devereux gave the word to, “Commence firing!”

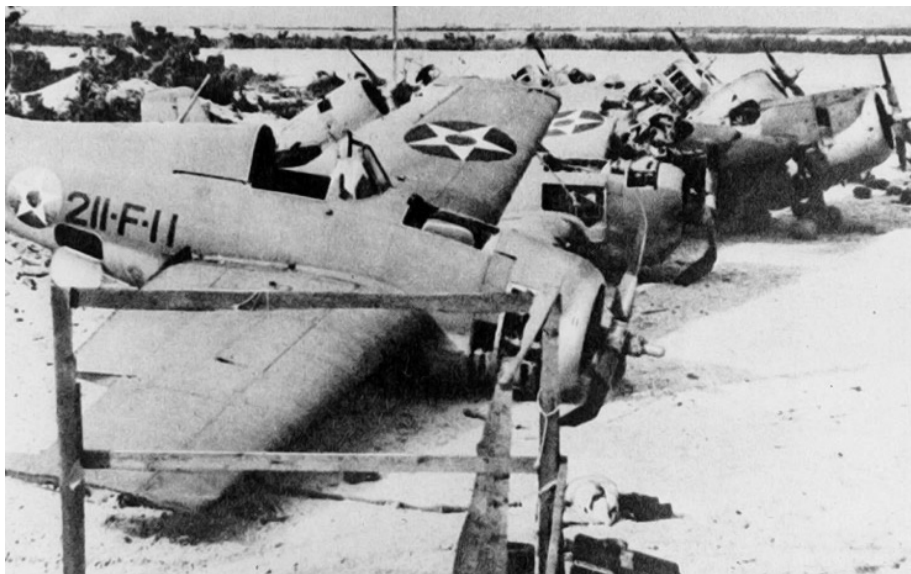
A few minutes after 0500, the enemy cruisers turned broadside to Wake Island and opened fire with their 6-inch guns. After completing their initial firing runs, one cruiser and two destroyers reversed course and closed the range to less than 6,000 yards. At 0615, full daylight, Devereux gave the order to fire. Btry A's first salvo was over. First Lieutenant Clarence A. Barninger ordered the gunners to shorten the range. The cruiser commenced evasive action, but the battery scored two hits.

“Both shells entered her port side about amidships just above the waterline,” Barninger explained. “The ship immediately belched smoke and steam through the side and her speed diminished.” Two more shells struck the cruiser “in about the same place ... her whole side was engulfed in smoke.” Sub-Lieutenant Shigeyoshi Ozeki, a doctor with the Maisuru Independent Special Naval Landing Force, said his thoughts were “shattered by a sudden whoom-clang sound as American shore batteries hit our flagship.” A destroyer attempted to cover her withdrawal with smoke, but a hit from the battery caused the ship to break off. Barninger thought the battery got at least three more hits.

Meanwhile, Btry L opened fire on a multitude of targets—three destroyers, two transports and a light cruiser. At 0652, just after the third two-gun salvo, one of the destroyers blew up. “In less than two minutes, it had vanished with all hands,” Devereux said. The battery shifted to the next destroyer in line and scored one hit before the onshore wind carried smoke in front of the target, concealing her. The transports were next. One shell hit the lead ship before she was able to get away. The battery was able to get another hit on a second cruiser before she too hurried away trailing smoke.

Btry B opened fire on three destroyers at 10,000 yards. “After 10 salvos,” Kessler said, “a hit was made on the stern of the target and a fire could be seen aboard it.” The Japanese returned fire with “great accuracy.” “It was unbelievable to see so many shell bursts in the battery position and yet to suffer no casualties.” Kessler shifted his gun (the second gun was disabled) onto the second ship in column, but she and the third destroyer retired under a smoke screen.

Maj Paul A. Putnam led a four-plane



strike—Captains Henry T. Elrod, Herbert C. Freuler and Frank C. Tharin—against the retiring Japanese ships. Elrod and Tharin scored hits on two cruisers, but in the process, Elrod's Wildcat was hit by anti-aircraft fire, and he was forced to crash-land on Wake. Freuler hit the stern of a transport with a 100-pound bomb that started a gasoline fire on the topside and in the holds. His aircraft was hit, but he managed to land. Lt John N. Kinney and TSgt Hamilton took over and continued the attacks. Just as Kinney pressed an attack on a destroyer, the ship blew with a single tremendous explosion. In all, VMF-211 flew a total of 10 sorties, expending 20 100-pound bombs and 20,000 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition.

From Dec. 11 to Dec. 22, the Japanese aerial bombardment continued to take a toll of men and equipment, but the defenders could still sting. On Dec. 12, 2ndLt Kliever spotted a Japanese submarine on the surface and attacked with



**Capt Henry T. Elrod**



**On Dec. 11, the 5-inch guns of Btry L on Wilkes Island caught the Japanese destroyer *Hayate* well within range and caused a violent explosion aboard the ship. She broke in two and sank.**



**Thick brush only gave Marines a temporary advantage against Japanese forces on Wilkes Island as shown in this 1941 view taken from the general vicinity of Capt Wesley Platt's command post, looking along the lagoon shore toward Wake Island.**

machine guns and two bombs, leaving her submerging in a large oil slick. "Credit Kliever with one Jap sub," Putnam declared. On the afternoon of Dec. 20, a Consolidated PBX Catalina flying boat landed in the lagoon bearing secret dispatches for Commander Winfield S. Cunningham, USN, the island commander. The dispatches stated that Task Force 14 was on the way with reinforcements and should be in sight by Dec. 23 or 24.

"We felt pretty good that night," Devereux said. "We no longer felt like men sitting on the end of a limb that somebody was sawing off."

Devereux's optimism was dashed the next day when Japanese carrier-based planes bombed and strafed the island two hours after the PBX took off. "A Jap task force was closing in on Wake," Devereux

reasoned. On Dec. 22, VMF-211's last two Wildcats were downed but not without a fight. Capt Freuler and 2ndLt Carl R. Davidson intercepted a Japanese raid, and Freuler shot down two before being wounded and forced down. His plane was totaled. Davidson never returned. The last that Freuler saw of the young pilot was as he was diving on an enemy plane with another Japanese on his tail. For the next two days, the island was subject to heavy aerial assault.

#### **"Small Boats Landing on Toki Point"**

At 0145, Lt Kessler reported, "Small boats landing on Toki Point." The alert was sounded, and the garrison went to general quarters. The report proved to be unfounded, but within the hour, Japanese landing craft were grounded along the

south shore—two on either side of the channel that separated Wilkes from Wake—and two destroyer transports were aground off the west end of the airstrip.

Marine Gunner Clarence B. McKinstry received permission to illuminate the beach. The 60-inch high-intensity arc searchlight—800,000,000 candle power—instantly caught the Japanese naval infantry in its beam, giving the Marines a target for their .30- and .50-cal. machine guns. 2ndLt Robert M. Hanna spotted the two destroyer transports (Patrol Craft 32 and 33) looming out of the darkness. The only gun that could hit the Japanese craft was a 3-inch cannon that lacked sights.

Devereux said that "Hanna opened the breech ... and peered through the bore." Together with Corporal Ralph J. Holewinski and three construction workers (Bob Ryan, Paul J. Gay (both later killed in action) and Eric Lehtola), Hanna put the gun in action, hammering 14 shells into the ship and setting her on fire. The flames revealed the second transport, which Hanna's crew took under fire. After 10 rounds it too was burning. It was not enough to stop the Japanese who swarmed down the sides in spite of the accurate cannon fire.

Hanna's position was reinforced by 20 Marines and 15 civilians from the aviation squadron led by Maj Putnam and Capt Elrod. The Japanese were able to get close enough to launch an attack.

#### **Japanese Invasion Plan**

The Japanese invasion force consisted of three light cruisers, six destroyers, two submarines, two patrol boats (converted destroyers) and two destroyer-transports (similar to a U.S. APD), carrying 350 men of the Maisuru Independent Special Naval Landing Force (sometimes called Japanese Marines) and one company of the 6th Base Force. The Japanese planned on landing 150 men on Wilkes Island and 300 men on the south side of Wake Island to capture the airfield. By 0300 on the morning of Dec. 11, the invasion force made landfall.

Sub-Lieutenant Shigeyoshi Ozeki, a doctor with the landing force, stated that "the island was to be a cake-walk ... we were assured that all the big guns had been destroyed ... the battle plan was to soften up the beach defenses before we charged in."



Putnam killed two with his .45-cal. pistol while Elrod sprayed them with a submachine gun. Screaming, “Kill the sons of bitches,” Elrod’s ferocious one-man attack temporarily stopped the Japanese. Putnam’s force was halved by casualties, including Putnam who was shot in the jaw, and it was forced to give ground and rally on Hanna’s cannon. The Japanese regrouped and launched attacks on the American perimeter. Elrod was killed as he tried to throw a grenade during one of the vicious attacks.

### “There Are Japanese in the Bushes”

Despite the heavy Marine fire, many Japanese had made it to shore and were attempting to infiltrate the American positions through the brush. At one point, Devereux’s clerk picked up a voice over the land line, “There are Japanese in the bushes.” Devereux said, “It was like hearing a dead man talk.”

The Japanese on Wilkes were able to take Btry F’s emplacements but were unable to advance further. Under the combined forces of Gunner McKinstry, 2ndLt John A. McAlister and Capt Wesley M. Platt, the Japanese were hunted down and killed. The mop-up was not without cost. Sixteen defenders were casualties—nine Marines and two civilians were among the dead, and four Marines and one civilian, wounded. The Japanese lost four officers and 90 enlisted men.

2ndLt Arthur A. Poindexter, the commander of Devereux’s mobile reserve—two trucks, 20 Marines, 14 construction workers and four .30-cal. machine guns—established a blocking position between the airfield and Camp 1. His men took the landing craft under fire as they maneuvered to get over the reef. Poindexter and three men—a Marine, a sailor and a construction worker—ran to the water’s edge and heaved grenades into the craft, killing and wounding a number of Japanese. After reorganizing his men, Poindexter launched a counterattack and reached the western end of the airfield before being stopped by an overwhelming enemy force.

### “What a Hell of a Way for It to End”

At daylight, Devereux reported the situation to Cunningham, “based largely on guesswork and probabilities” because he was isolated from most of his subordinate units. He had no communication with Wilkes and assumed it had fallen—“Jap flags were reported flying all over”—along with Camp 1, and he thought, “Our forward positions had been overrun or, at best, broken up and isolated in a few helpless ‘last stand’ pockets.” Cunningham replied, “Well, I guess we’d better give it to them.” Devereux thought, “Commander

Cunningham’s decision to surrender was inevitable, beyond argument.”

Poindexter was readying another attack when he spotted a large number of Japanese approaching down the road. They were carrying a white flag. He cautioned his men not to shoot unless fired upon and stepped out to accept their surrender. Capt Platt saw three men—two Marines and a Japanese officer—coming toward him carrying a white rag tied to a mop handle. As they got closer, Platt recognized Devereux. “The island has been surrendered,” the major shouted. “Put down your arms!” Platt was incredulous and was quoted as saying, “What a hell of a way for it to end.” Devereux said Poindexter was grinning as he came down the road. “He thought

fist, and the bayonet,” Gregory Urwin wrote in his doctoral dissertation, “The Defenders of Wake Island: Their Two Wars, 1941-1945.” The Wake prisoners suffered terrible privation and brutal treatment at the hands of the Japanese during their 44 months of captivity. Private First Class Merle Herron said, “I often wonder how a human body and mind could withstand such a beating, lack of food, and terrible living conditions.” Fifteen military and 82 civilians died while in the hands of the Japanese. In addition, five men were beheaded while being transported to the prisoner of war camps in Japan, and 98 civilians were massacred on the island.

American casualties from the battle numbered 52 military personnel (Navy



**Maj James Devereux’s command post during the final battle on Wake was located in this igloo-type ammunition magazine. With communications cut, no relief in sight and facing a massacre, Maj Devereux and CDR Winfield Scott Cunningham, Wake Island commander, surrendered. The defenders, who had fought valiantly, were held captive as POWs. Maj Devereux and CDR Cunningham would later be awarded Navy Crosses.**

the Japs were our prisoners. The truth seemed to stun him.”

All units were ordered to destroy their materiel as best they could prior to the actual surrender. Riflemen and machine-gunners threw the bolts of their weapons into the sea or buried them in the sand. Artillerymen stuffed blankets into the muzzles of their guns and fired them, then dropped grenades down the barrels. They cut all cables, broke gun dials, destroyed the firing locks, and one battery commander personally fired his .45-cal. through the delicate optics and computing parts of the height finder and director. Another battery commander, after damaging the guns beyond repair, ordered his men to eat as much as they could—wise counsel considering what was in store for them.

“The Japanese resorted to the universal language of the rifle butt, and the clenched

and Marine) and approximately 70 civilians killed and 49 wounded. Japanese losses included two destroyers, one submarine, two destroyer transports and more than 1,000 dead.

*Author’s bio: 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 the Marine Corps History Division 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 his most recent nonfiction books, “Shadow Warriors” and “Assault From the Sky,” are available from The MARINE Shop. He is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck.*



# Corps Connections

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## Elk Grove, Calif.

### Parade Reunites WW II Veterans

World War II Marine veteran Sergeant Billy Fox, left, reunited with WW II Coast Guard veteran Ernie Costa, right, at the 15th Annual Veterans Day Parade in Elk Grove, Calif., Nov. 11, 2015. The year prior, Fox had served as the Honorary Grand Marshal of the parade, and Costa, the Grand Marshal.

During the 2015 parade, Fox was a guest judge in the reviewing stands and Costa rode with his local Veterans of Foreign Wars members.

During WW II, Fox spent 35 months in the Pacific theater, seeing action on Guadalcanal and Okinawa. After the war, he moved to California, where he worked as a typesetter for the *Sacramento Bee* for 30 years.

While Costa and Fox didn't serve directly together during WW II, the emotion captured in this photo is indicative of the bond between servicemembers, particularly those who are part of the Greatest Generation.

Submitted by GySgt Jaclyn Kirkwood, USMC (Ret)



HENRY SANCHEZ



COURTESY OF YOUNG MARINES

## Arlington, Va.

### Young Marines Accept Fulcrum Shield Award

The Young Marines, a national youth organization, received the 2015 Annual Fulcrum Shield Award for Excellence in Youth Anti-Drug Education during a ceremony in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Oct. 15, 2015. The Young Marines' national drug demand reduction campaign, "Closing the Gate on Drugs," consists of lessons that help young people learn and practice new skills and strategies for resisting drugs. Youth members from the Shenandoah Valley, Va., Young Marines, along with Michael Kessler, national executive director and CEO of Young Marines, accepted the award.

Since the organization began in 1959, the ranks of the Young Marines have grown to include 7,000 youth and 2,500 adult volunteers. The program promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members and teaches values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline.

Submitted by Andy Richardson





COURTESY OF RAY ELLIOTT

**Virginia Beach, Va.**

**Iwo Jima Veterans Gather at 5thMarDiv Reunion**

Seventeen survivors of the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima gathered in Virginia Beach, Va., at the Fifth Marine Division Association's 66th annual reunion on Sept. 11, 2015. Other attendees included a 5thMarDiv Vietnam War veteran and 62 family members of the Iwo Jima and Vietnam veterans. Because the ranks of Iwo Jima survivors have grown thin in recent years, the association now has turned to its legacy family members, Vietnam War veterans who served with the 26th and 27th Marine Regiments, and others for direction and leadership.

At the association's general meeting, the members committed to raise funds to build a small museum near the old Camp Tarawa site on the Big Island in Hawaii. Camp Tarawa, located on Parker Ranch, was where the Division completed its final training for Iwo Jima in late 1944, returned to rebuild its shattered ranks after the iconic battle and prepared for the scheduled invasion of Japan.

Submitted by Ray Elliott



COURTESY OF JOHN RATOMSKI

**Westbury, N.Y.**

**Hometown Plaque Pays Homage to Vietnam Vet**

At W.T. Clarke High School in Westbury, N.Y., which *Leatherneck* reader John Ratowski attended, a plaque on the announcer's tower, adjacent to the football field, is dedicated to Lance Corporal Weston David Maclean, a Westbury native who was killed in action in Quang Nam, Vietnam, on July 22, 1966.

Maclean graduated from the school in 1965, just one year before he was killed, and this tribute immortalizes him so that future generations can be reminded of him and many others like him who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Submitted by John Ratowski

Our newest department, "Corps Connections," highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks.

We welcome submissions of photographs from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to [s.bock@mca-marines.org](mailto:s.bock@mca-marines.org). Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of submitted photographs.

Below: The WW II battle for Iwo Jima and Mount Suribachi is considered a keystone event in the illustrious history of the Corps.

Right: The flag raising atop Suribachi is immortalized by Felix de Weldon's sculpture of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. After the battle in early 1945, U.S. Navy Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said of the men in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Marine Divisions: "Among the Americans serving on Iwo island, uncommon valor was a common virtue."



SGT LOU LOWERY, USMC

# Intrigue & Skullduggery:

## Little Men's Chowder & Marching Society

Part II  
By R.R. Keene

*The American blood that was spilled on the World War II battlefields of Europe and the Pacific had not yet dried when plots were hatched in the halls of the nation's Capitol to bring the Marine Corps into tow and gut its combat capabilities. Enter a deceptively inauspicious band of Marine officers willing to risk everything for their Corps.*

"The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years," said Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal to Lieutenant General Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith, in the command ship USS *Mount Olympus* (AGC-8) off the island of Iwo Jima the morning of Feb. 23, 1945. The grandfatherly looking Smith, a tenacious battlefield commander, was not such a romanticist, and when Forrestal was out of hearing range, said, "When the war is over and money is short, they will be after the Marines again, and a dozen Iwo Jimas would make no difference."

When the Japanese signed surrender documents aboard USS



James V. Forrestal

TRUMAN LIBRARY

*Missouri* (BB-63) in Tokyo Bay, Sept. 2, 1945, the Marine Corps and its sister services faced a massive task of downsizing their numbers and reorganizing.

"To demobilize a Corps of [500,000] officers and men and 'get the boys home' under pressure of a wave of home-town hysteria that temporarily crippled our foreign policy and is embarrassing to remember," writes historian Colonel Robert Debs Heintz Jr., in "Soldiers of the Sea: The United States Marine Corps, 1775-1962," Congress authorized 107,000 officers and men as the peacetime strength of the Corps in order "to confront ill-defined but disturbing pressures for extensive reorganization of the defense establishment, which boded nothing but trouble for the Marine Corps."

Heintz asserts that the authorization also was "to respond professionally to the chorus of doubts and unanswered questions inspired by the advent of the atom bomb, especially prophecies that 'there would never be another amphibious landing.'" The latter was a swipe at the Corps by Army General Omar N. Bradley.

The efforts to reduce the Marine Corps started as far back as



**"When the war is over and money is short, they will be after the Marines again, and a dozen Iwo Jimas would make no difference."—LtGen Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith**





1943 while the country was at war. In November of that year, GEN George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, signed off on a memorandum that proposed the Air Corps be separated from the Army and that the Armed Services be unified under the Department of War, with a single chief of staff and an Armed Forces general staff.

By 1945 the Army plan was confidently presented to Congress by War Department spokesman Army Brigadier General J. Lawton “Lightning Joe” Collins.

While the Collins plan was being debated on Capitol Hill, a debate with far more direct bearing on the Corps was taking shape, according to Heinl. Initially, GEN Marshall; the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Gen Carl A. “Tooeey” Spaatz; and Army Chief of Staff GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower “saw the overweening ambition inherent to their plan,” writes Robert Coram in “Brute: The Life of Victor Krulak, U.S. Marine,” “because when they codified their ideas into a series of papers known as the JCS 1478 papers, the papers, in arbitrary and unnecessary classification, were stamped ‘TOP SECRET,’ ” and closely held.

When Krulak saw the plan, he said it “would isolate the president, as commander in chief, from broad military advice. A single secretary would counsel the president supplanting both the civilian secretaries of the military departments and chiefs of the services. The new defense secretary would have



GEN George C. Marshall



President Harry S. Truman



Gen Carl A. “Tooeey” Spaatz



General of the Army  
Dwight D. Eisenhower



the responsibility of formulating a single military budget, which the service chiefs would be called upon to defend, but which they would not have had a hand in creating.” Navy Secretary Forrestal believed the plan was “fundamentally against the spirit and genius of American institutions.” Naval officers gasped in the realization that it “meant the end of the naval establishment and all it had stood for.”

Gen Spaatz and GEN Eisenhower outlined the War Department’s plan for the Corps. The Marines would fight “only in minor shore combat operations in which the Navy alone is interested.” Their size would be limited to “lightly armed units, no larger than a regiment, to protect U.S. interests ashore in foreign countries, and to provide interior guard of naval ships and shore establishments.” The total strength of the Corps would be limited to 60,000 with no expansion in time of war; the Marine Corps Reserve would be abolished. Marine units would be held below the size requiring the combining of arms.

Marine aviation would be merged into what might be left of naval aviation or be transferred outright to the Air Force. Marines were to be restricted to the “waterborne aspects of amphibious operations” (duty as landing craft crews and beach labor parties).

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Chief of Naval Operations, read the proposal, fumed and said it was no more than an effort “to eliminate the Marine Corps as an effective combat force.”

The 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, wrote to retired LtGen Thomas Holcomb (the 17th CMC), “The Army is back on the job in full force trying to absorb the Navy and with it the Marine Corps.” The War Department was unfazed. According to Heinl: “A Senate bill (S.2044) was introduced ... that included authority that would permit the new Secretary of Defense to prescribe by fiat, without congressional check, the roles and missions of the Armed Services. This would remove the Marine Corps from the protection of Congress where it had stood since 1798 and would enable accomplishment of the War Department program by the stroke of a staff officer’s pen.”

Sensing victory, the rhetoric got nasty. Army BG Frank Armstrong, a spokesman for the War Department, said during a speech, “As for the Marines, you know what Marines are. They are a small, fouled-up Army talking Navy lingo. We are going to put those Marines in the regular Army and make efficient soldiers out of them.”

Enter the Little Men’s Chowder & Marching Society. The Chowder Society was a group of officers under LtGen Merrill B. Twining who were the intellectual impetus behind the Corps’ efforts to remain a separate service.

It got its name from a popular comic of the day, “Barnaby.”

The title character was short and bore a resemblance to then-Col “Brute” Krulak, one of the principals in the Twining effort. Barnaby had a fairy godfather named Jackeen O’Malley, and he belonged to a club called the “Elves, Leprechauns, Gnomes and Little Men’s Chowder & Marching Society.” Col James D. Kerr hung a copy of the cartoon on Krulak’s office in Quantico, Va.,

with Little Men’s Chowder & Marching Society underlined and Barnaby labeled “Krulak.”

In later years, Twining would write to Marine Corps historian Benis M. Frank, “I knew ... that a government official appointed by the President must act in accordance with the precepts emanating from the White House. Any organized opposition to its dictates is in effect conspiratorial except, and then only arguably, when he is responding to questioning by the legislative branch.

“The Chowder Society conducted its operation with that thought uppermost in order to protect General Vandegrift, from a single moment of sorrow emanating from our efforts. We deliberately, and at my insistence, operated on a totally collegial basis. In other words, we operated without formal organization.”

The Navy, however, organized and was, according to Twining, “soon involved in scandal and detection. They destroyed themselves. We were also constantly under scrutiny, but our method of operation enabled us to avoid detection in ‘*flagrante delicto* [being caught in the act].’ ”

Who were these “Little Men”? The senior was LtGen Twining, a Naval Academy graduate and infantry officer with a background in law. He had helped prepare and execute plans for the Guadalcanal campaign. He also was the nephew of RADM Nathan C. Twining and brother of Air Force Gen Nathan F. Twining.

BGen Gerald C. Thomas, another veteran of Guadalcanal, was also a highly decorated and experienced combat veteran of WW I, Haiti and China. He was smart enough to have taught intelligence and history at Marine Corps Schools Quantico, and, according to Krulak, had “solid grounding in the origins of the Corps.” He “could see through a problem with lightning speed.” He was a man “whose solutions were practical and strong, and whose ability to express himself in clear and persuasive terms was legend.” When briefed on the Army’s unification plan, he described it to Krulak as “pure militarism in the German image and a direct threat to the Corps.”

Others in the group included BGen Merritt A. “Red Mike” Edson, leader of

Edson’s Raiders and recipient of the Medal of Honor on Guadalcanal; Colonels Robert E. Hogaboom and James E. Kerr; Lieutenant Colonel James C. Murray, who, according to Krulak, “had an innovative brain, an agile pen, and a great capacity for work”; and LtCol James D. Hittle, “an articulate writer and a tireless lobbyist whose Capitol Hill contacts were critical.” Others



Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, 18th CMC



LtGen Gerald C. Thomas



MajGen Merritt A. “Red Mike” Edson



LtGen Merrill B. Twining



were Lieutenant Colonels DeWolf Schatzel, Samuel R. Shaw, Robert D. Heintz and Edward H. Hurst, Major Jonas M. Platt and reserve officers Russell Blandford (who later retired as a major general), Arthur Hansen and William McCahill.

Robert Coram, in "Brute," singled out one particular member of the Chowder Society—LtCol Lyford Hutchins, USMCR, a veteran of WW II, and later, Korea and Vietnam. Coram described him as "a shadowy figure who sometimes disappeared for days on end. When he reappeared, he would empty a briefcase onto Krulak's desk, and out would tumble documents so sensitive that Krulak would wonder whether they had been purloined. It was Hutchins who obtained a copy of the JCS 1478 papers that gave Krulak the blueprint for Army unification."

The Chowder Society was anything but a team. Krulak said, "There were times when we were more like a log floating downstream with a thousand ants on it—each of them convinced that he was steering. At best, we were a group of individuals who had a reasonable understanding of the problem and shared similar goals."

Caution was the order of the day. "There was no reason to treat [the 1478 document] with that high degree of sensitivity but, so long as it was thus classified, we would be unable to use the 1478 papers to show what the other services were planning for the Marines' future," according to Krulak. Nonetheless, they had decided to confront the Army head on. Krulak said the unification debate was in reality a "cat fight where the stakes are the preservation of the existing U.S. military structure as well as the survival of the Marine Corps as a national institution." Gen Vandegrift had been called to testify before the Senate Naval Affairs Committee. Twining and Krulak had worked up a response that Twining insisted be tough and truthful. It would be "clear and unequivocal" and would focus on Army motivation.

The Commandant gained everyone's full attention by saying the unification bill was fundamentally flawed, and the Army was deliberately seeking to usurp congressional authority. He then added: "This bill gives the War Department a free hand in accomplishing its expressed desire to reduce the Marine Corps to a position of military insignificance."

He emphasized a crucial point that placed a burden on Congress. "In its capacity as a balance wheel, the Congress has on five occasions since 1928 reflected the voice of the people in casting aside a motion that would damage or destroy the Marine Corps. Now I believe the cycle has repeated itself

and that the fate of the Marine Corps lies solely with the Congress.

"The Marine Corps thus believes it has earned this right—to have its future decided by the legislative body which created it—nothing more. ... The banded knee is not a tradition of our Corps. If the Marine as a fighting man has not made a case for himself after 170 years, he must go. But I think you will agree with me that he has earned the right to depart with dignity and honor, not by subjugation to the status of uselessness and servility planned for him by the War Department."

The secrecy cover was lifted off the Army's plan, and the Army was ridiculed by the media. President Truman was furious, according to Coram, but publicly held his tongue. Leaders of the Senate and the House said the Army bill would not pass if it meant stripping the Marine Corps of its historic functions. Privately, however, the president gave the Commandant "a brutal tongue-lashing."

Accompanied by BGen Thomas and BGen Edson and Secretary of the Navy Forrestal, Gen Vandegrift, according to J. Robert Moskin, author of "The U.S. Marine Corps Story," went to see President Truman and "argued for a Congressional charter for the Corps. [GEN] Eisenhower, now the Army's Chief of Staff, opposed having 'two land armies' and recommended that the Marines be limited to units of regimental size. He told [Gen] Vandegrift that the Army dreaded the Corps' expansiveness ever since the publicity over Belleau Wood [in WW I]."

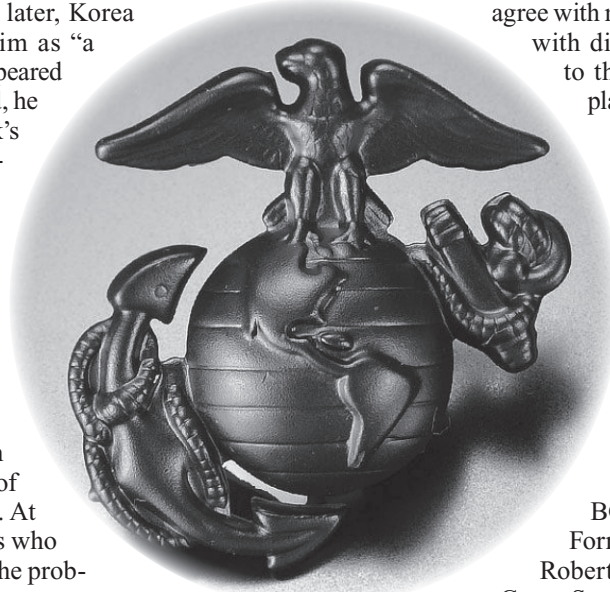
Vandegrift assured Eisenhower that the Corps had no ambition to be a second army and wanted to remain an amphibious partner with the Navy.

The battle, however, continued, but according to Twining, "The public began losing interest in our cause." Members of the Chowder Society marched into Congress "without any idea of what they were supposed to accomplish," but they talked the Corps' case to whoever would listen. Twining said, "Within 72 hours, President Truman was on the phone to Vandegrift—'Get those lieutenant colonels of yours off the hill.'"

For a long time, there was little doubt among military handicappers that BGen Edson, with his war record and record of service to the Corps, eventually would become Commandant of the Marine Corps. However, when he was ordered not to oppose unification in public, Edson retired

to rouse support for the Marine position.

In an article titled "Power-Hungry Men in Uniform," he wrote that he disliked "an American replica of the Prussian general staff system." Immediately after his retirement, he said, "I am a



LtGen Robert E. Hogaboom



BGen James D. Hittle



Col DeWolf Schatzel

**The Commandant gained everyone's full attention by saying the unification bill was fundamentally flawed, and the Army was deliberately seeking to usurp congressional authority.**

**“On the evening that the National Security Act was passed, members of the Chowder Society met as a group for the first time. The meeting was at Krulak’s house where the officers celebrated the fact that America and their Corps had prevailed in a great battle.”—Robert Coram**

military man and proud of it, but when we reach the point where the military are directing, rather than supporting our country’s policies, we are far along the road to losing what this country has always stood for. It was because of this trend of events that I finally reached the very difficult decision to resign.”

Twining later wrote, “Edson sacrificed himself by openly challenging the Army attempt. A selfless act but regrettable ... and we lost our greatest hope for the future.”

In “Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps,” author Allan R. Millett writes, “The 1949 hearings and press coverage of the interservice rivalry over roles and missions, however, stirred Corps champions in Congress, particularly Carl Vinson, the powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. ... Vinson introduced legislation to curb the [Joint Chiefs of Staff] powers over roles and missions and to put the Commandant on the JCS. Similar proposals would also have set the Corps’ strength at 6 percent of America’s uniformed manpower and created an assistant secretary of the Navy to represent the Corps.

Such congressional advocates as Donald L. Jackson, Paul H. Douglas, Mike Mansfield, George A. Smathers (all [Marine veterans]), and ... Clare Hoffman filled the Congressional Record with pro-Marine testimonials and released the suspect JCS 1478 papers to public views. Fifty-five members of the House endorsed legislation protecting the Corps.”

Despite the opposition of the second Secretary of Defense, Louis A. Johnson, the Commandant sought a place on the Joint Chiefs of Staff for discussion of matters affecting the Marine Corps. Secretary Johnson “had little love for the Navy and none for the Marine Corps. Unopposed by a complaisant Secretary of the Navy [John L. Sullivan], he directed sharp cuts in Fleet Marine Force strength for fiscal years 1949 and 1950,” according to BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret) in his book, “The United States Marines, 1775-1975.”

“In a public relations gaffe of the first magnitude,” according to Millett, “President Truman himself handed Corps champions a new opportunity.” In response to a letter from Representative Gordon L. McDonough about legislation that would entitle the Corps to be fully recognized as a major branch of the Armed Forces, he wrote on Aug. 29, 1950: “The Marine Corps is the

Navy’s police force, and as long as I am president, that is what it will remain. They have a propaganda machine that is almost equal to Stalin’s.”

The media also received the letter, and the public’s response did not support the president’s position. Postal sacks stuffed with hostile letters made their way to the White House and what stung most were the unsolicited rebukes from citizenry, most of them from the Marine Corps family.

Less than a week later, the president apologized to the CMC. “I sincerely regret the unfortunate choice of language, which I used in my letter of Aug. 29 to Congressman McDonough concerning the Marine Corps,” wrote President Truman in a Sept. 6, 1950, letter to Gen Clifton B. Cates.

For all intents and purposes, the Corps’ fight for survival ended on July 26, 1947, when President Truman signed the National Security Act organizing the military under a single secretary of defense and establishing the Air Force as a separate arm. The Act was especially important to the Corps, according to Moskin, as it “formalized in law for the first time the Corps’ special amphibious function. The Corps was assigned the mission of seizing and defending advanced bases and engaging in land operations related to a naval campaign.” The Fleet Marine Force was retained and the Commandant also had a seat on the Joint Staff. “The Corps did, in fact, remain virtually a ‘second army’ with a manpower ceiling of 400,000.”

Coram writes: “On the evening that the National Security Act was passed, members of the Chowder Society met as a group for the first time. The meeting was at Krulak’s house where the officers celebrated the fact that America and their Corps had prevailed in a great battle. ... Almost everyone drank too much as they replayed various skirmishes of the long battle. Then the Chowder Society was dissolved.”

According to Krulak, President Truman, in his conversation with Gen Vandegrift had asked quizzically, “You Marines don’t trust anybody, do you?” Krulak noted, “The President was right.”

And he warned future generations of Marines, “I believe the triumph [in the 1947 National Security Act] was due to, more than anything else, the quality of apprehensive vigilance that has characterized the Corps since its birth.”



**LtGen Victor H. “Brute” Krulak**



**Col Robert D. Heinl**



**BGen E.H. Hurst**



**BGen Jonas M. Platt**



**LtCol Lyford Hutchins**



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Xavier Lavelle and Leonard Lavelle Bess  
January 1966  
from the Robert Veasley Collection,  
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**Marine Corps**  
Association Foundation



# We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## NCOs Benefit From MCAF-Sponsored Battle Study in Normandy

Marine noncommissioned officers of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF) walked the sacred, sandy beaches of Normandy, France, Dec. 11-13, 2015, to commemorate the legacy of D-Day during World War II.

“To be able to relive the largest amphibious operation in U.S. military history,

learn how it is connected into our national identity and experience how much the French honor the sacrifice of our forefathers was beyond inspiring,” said Sergeant Miguel A. Ramirez, one of the NCOs in attendance.

Some 70 years before this group of Marines walked on Normandy’s beaches, D-Day was written into legend as the largest seaborne, amphibious invasion

in history; the day of the historic Allied landings into Normandy on June 6, 1944, began the liberation of German-occupied northwestern Europe from Nazi control.

“Sometimes we are so focused on our future that we forget about our past,” said Ramirez. “This experience taught the Marines about the small-unit leadership, resilience and courage of good men that made D-Day successful. Even against the overwhelming Nazi-German opposition, the Allies were able to succeed with sheer tenacity, strategy and force.”

Retracing the footsteps of past leaders, NCOs immersed themselves in the rich military history of Normandy with battlefield studies of the beaches, historic objective points, museums and the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial.

“It’s a critical, awe-inspiring moment when you’re standing on Omaha Beach or the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, and you’re looking at the challenges they faced—how deep the cliffs were, the size of the bluffs, the gun mounts dotted along the front line,” said Ramirez.

The landing operations were the first phase of Operation Overlord, the name assigned to the establishment of a large-scale, defensive enclave on the European continent. Superiority was gained through airborne, seaborne, amphibious and land operations by 13 nations, 10 of which are NATO allies today.

“Even though those soldiers faced insurmountable odds, the pure commitment to the man on their left and right helped them succeed in taking that beach,” said Ramirez.

The Marine Corps Association Foundation and the Marine Corps University Foundation sponsored the trip.

“MCAF is the charitable arm of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation; together, we are dedicated to the professional development and recognition of today’s Marines and to expanding awareness of the traditions and history of the [Marine Corps],” said Stacey Churchill, the director of operations for Marine Corps Association Foundation. “We’re dedicated to funding all of our programs for today’s Marines. Battle studies such as [Normandy] provide outstanding opportunities for Marines to embrace military history and



SGT TATUM WYKAWANDA, USMC

Marine NCOs with MARFOREUR/AF visit historic Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, France, in December 2015. Pointe du Hoc features the remnants of the amphibious Allied landings on D-Day during WW II.





During a December 2015 battle study at Pointe du Hoc, sponsored by MCAF, Marines listen to a guide speak about the rich military history of Normandy, France.

SGT TATUM VAYAVANANDA, USMC

their heritage as warriors. These are hands-on learning experiences for Marines, and they are lessons that will not be forgotten," she added.

Asked how events like the Normandy battle study enrich the Marine Corps as a whole, Churchill responded with a quote by T.L. Gatchel from a 1976 *Marine Corps Gazette* article, which reads:

"The implements of war change; the principles don't. The lessons that can be learned at the site of a battle fought a century ago can be as relevant as those learned at the site of one fought yesterday."

MARFOREUR/AF, in Stuttgart, Germany, is made up of a small number of NCOs for a component staff that supports two geographic combatant commands.

"We don't have a high quantity, but the amount of quality I see in our command's NCO corps is great. We are helping the component support three Marine air-ground task forces in three countries, a combined-arms company in Eastern Europe, and theater security cooperation missions throughout two continents. If you look at the fact that we have only

**Students at the Aviation Water Survival Training Center at MCAS Miramar, Calif., practice using their equipment while upside-down underwater in early December 2015. A refresher course at the center is required for pilots and aircrew every four years.**

about 50 NCOs, it's quite impressive when you take it all in," said Ramirez.

The Allied commitment from WW II remains strong today. The Marine NCOs are called upon to support U.S. European Command for numerous NATO-led operations and exercises around the European continent that enables the alliance to continue its proven, enduring friendships more than 70 years after D-Day.

Sgt Tatum Vayavananda, USMC

### **Brace for Impact: Water Survival Training Center Prepares Pilots, Aircrew for Worst-Case Scenarios**

Instructors circle the pool, keeping a close eye on the students in the water. The students swim to the deep end of the pool and float, waiting for instructions.

"Inflate! Inflate!" the instructors yell.

The students fumble in the water, feeling the pressure while trying to insert the mouthpiece and inflate the back-up



LCPL HARLEY ROBINSON, USMC



equipment they have around their necks.

One student starts to panic and begins sinking, struggling to stay above the water. A safety diver throws him a red buoy and helps him out of the pool.

After the student calms down, he is sent back in the water to continue training.

This scene, which took place Dec. 8, 2015, is common at the Aviation Water Survival Training Center at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

“Anytime we have someone that is panicking, we’ll pull them aside and start working with them a little bit, at a slower pace,” said Petty Officer First Class Brandon McMahan, USN, an instructor with the Aviation Water Survival Training Center. “Our purpose here is not to push as many students through as possible; it is to build confidence and to establish muscle memory.”

The purpose of the training is to put the students through the worst-case scenario, simulating what they should do if they are aboard an aircraft that goes down over water, according to McMahan.

First, the students warm up and swim 50 yards wearing regular swimwear before they put on their flight equipment. They practice floating exercises while wearing full flight equipment.



LCPL HARLEY ROBINSON, USMC

**A student is lifted on the helicopter hoist simulator at the Aviation Water Survival Training Center at MCAS Miramar in December 2015.**

“We require them to swim 50 yards and then do an oral inflation as if their equipment would have failed,” said McMahan. “Once they have demonstrated their aviation water survival skills in flight equipment, then we start working on their underwater problem-solving skills.”

After the swim, the students sit in the Modular Shallow Water Egress Trainer (M-SWET), which trains them to hold on to something for a point of reference before they release their seatbelt.

The M-SWET resembles a segment of a helicopter, with just a seat, a wall and a window. The students strap in, while instructors on either side grab the handles and prepare to flip the students underwater.

“Brace for impact!” the instructors yell before completely submerging the students by rotating the M-SWET 180 degrees. This disorients them and prepares them for the culminating event, the helicopter dunker, said McMahan.

Next, the students learn life raft organizational skills for extended sea stay survival.

The pilots then take turns leaving the raft and swim to the helicopter hoist simulator.

The simulator sprays water in all directions, simulating rotor wash from



LCPL HARLEY ROBINSON, USMC

**Marines and sailors participating in aviation water survival training observe as a student prepares to be flipped underwater in the M-SWET at MCAS Miramar, in early December 2015.**



helicopter rotors, while the students swim to the hoist in the middle of the water and hook on to the hoist. The ability to remain calm under pressure is vital. The hoist lifts them to the top of the platform, simulating a helicopter flying away from the water.

Finally, the students are ready for the helicopter dunker. The “helo-dunker” is a modular helicopter frame suspended above a pool. It seats two pilots and eight passengers. The students buckle themselves into the helo-dunker as it is raised into the air. Next, they brace for impact as the helo-dunker lowers into the water and flips upside down, simulating a helicopter crash.

“We put them in the helicopter dunker with all the skills they’ve learned,” said McMahan. “They have five rounds in the dunker.”

After the long day of training is over, the pilots and aircrew will not have to see the training center again for a while.

“This is a refresher course,” said PO2 Thomas Williams, USN, an aviation water survival training student. “You do it every four years. It’s important to the instructors that every student feels confident before they go out because they don’t have to take this course again for another four years.”

The students leave the pool tired and soaking wet, but with valuable new or refreshed skills.

“There are firsthand accounts of people who have used this training and survived,” said Williams. “So it works.”

LtCpl Harley Robinson, USMC

### U.S. Marine Says It Was an Honor To Represent Corps, Country While Taking Course in New Zealand

For the first time, a U.S. Marine has graduated from the New Zealand Defence Force Command and Staff College.

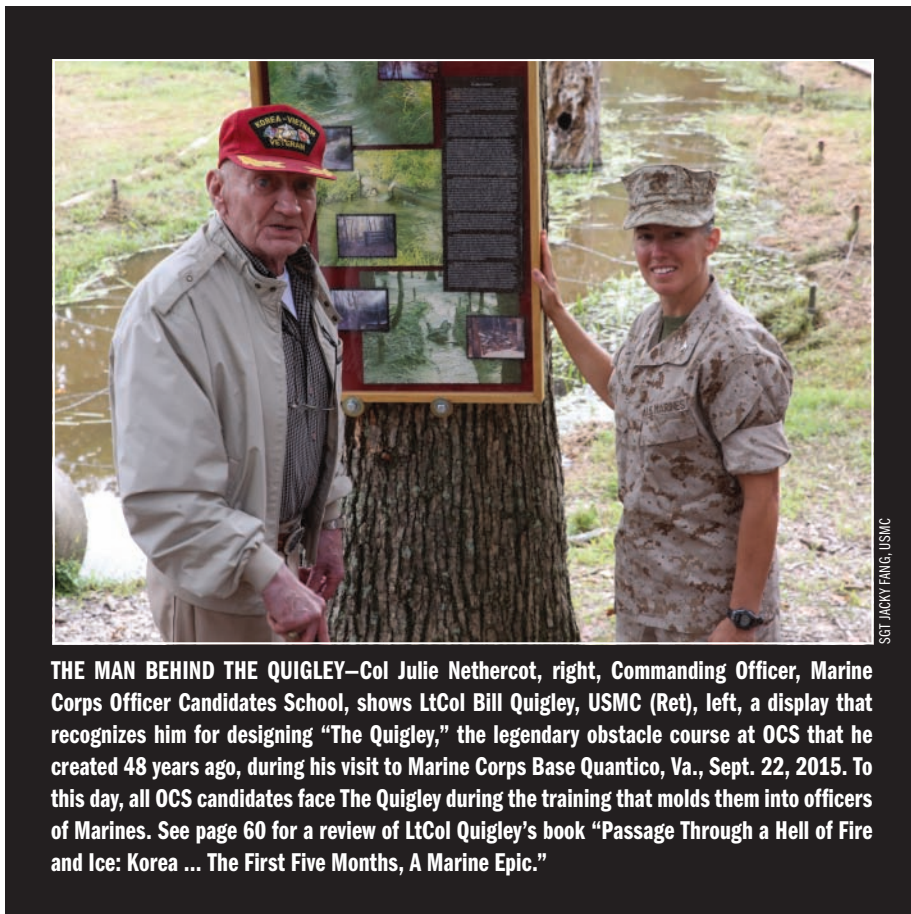
Sergeant Major Christian L. Charkowski, the sergeant major of 3d Combat Assault Battalion, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, completed the Joint Warrant Officers’ Course in Wellington, New Zealand, Nov. 19, 2015.

Warrant Officer Class 1 Rob M. McLean, New Zealand Defence Force, an instructor at the college, verified that Charkowski was the first U.S. Marine to do so, and only the second U.S. servicemember to graduate from any course there.

Approximately 100 students—20 of whom are from foreign militaries—attend the college each year, McLean said.

Charkowski said that the knowledge he gained during the course will help him lead his unit more effectively.

“I have gained a greater appreciation and knowledge of the strategic environment of the South and North China Seas,”



**THE MAN BEHIND THE QUIGLEY**—Col Julie Nethercot, right, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Officer Candidates School, shows LtCol Bill Quigley, USMC (Ret), left, a display that recognizes him for designing “The Quigley,” the legendary obstacle course at OCS that he created 48 years ago, during his visit to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Sept. 22, 2015. To this day, all OCS candidates face The Quigley during the training that molds them into officers of Marines. See page 60 for a review of LtCol Quigley’s book “Passage Through a Hell of Fire and Ice: Korea ... The First Five Months, A Marine Epic.”

Sgt Jacky Yang, USMC

said Charkowski. “I can now bring this to the Marines of my unit and pass on this information, making us more effective in the region.”

The course teaches students how to advise and support senior-level leaders and bolsters their knowledge of regional security in the Southwest Pacific. The course also gives students insight into the workings of different governments.

In addition to studying those topics

formally, the students learn informally by sharing unique experiences.

“Marine students make a big contribution to the course,” said McLean. “Charkowski brought operational focus based on experience that New Zealand does not have. He was a professional throughout his time in the course and was a great ambassador for the U.S. Armed Forces and the Marines planning to attend in the future.”

Charkowski said he benefited from the experience of other students in the course as well.

“I learned a lot from my classmates, as well as my instructors and the other nations’ militaries,” said Charkowski. “I know what makes them successful and what I can bring back to the United States Marine Corps for employment.”

Charkowski said the course allowed him to make long-lasting friends and connected him to people who can give him guidance and support in the future.

“It has been an honor for me to represent the Marine Corps, and I am a better sergeant major now than before I ever attended this course,” said Charkowski.

In 1950, the Command and Staff College was established originally at Whenuapai, New Zealand, as a school for junior officers of the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Cpl Tyler Giguere, USMC



**On Nov. 19, 2015, SgtMaj Christian L. Charkowski became the first U.S. Marine to graduate from the New Zealand Defence Force Command and Staff College.**

Cpl Tyler Giguere, USMC



CPL CARLOS CRUZ JR., USMC

**Members of the local press tour a hush house at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, Dec. 14, 2015. MALS-12 opened the hush house to the press as an opportunity to show what the air station is doing to mitigate noise in the area.**

### **Hush Houses Reduce Noise in Iwakuni**

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, reduces noise in the local area by using new “hush houses.”

Aircraft operate mostly during the day, so nighttime is maintenance time. Use of these hush house facilities allows nighttime testing to be conducted without the sound of the engines disturbing air station residents or people in the local area outside of the station.

“I believe the new hush house is much quieter than older hush houses I have worked with in the past,” said Staff Sergeant George Gallegos, the engine test facilities supervisor with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 12. “When testing engines in the new facilities, anyone standing outside of the building will hear more of a suction of air, vice the actual engine itself.

“Standard operating procedures for aircraft testing is to utilize the hush house facilities during the nighttime to reduce noise pollution,” Gallegos added. “Most of the noise that is heard during the day is from normal airport or flight-line operations.”

Use of the new hush houses began in 2014, and they are operated based on the needs of units on the air station.

“I’ve been here for four years. I’ve seen the old facilities. They are nothing

compared to these new ones,” said Sergeant Arthur Wlodarski, an engine test facilities technician with MALS-12.

Using facilities like these helps strengthen the bond between the air station and the local community by showing that the station listens to the needs of the community and is doing its best to accommodate local citizens.

Cpl Carlos Cruz Jr., USMC

### **Leatherneck Saves Couple From Burning Vehicle**

A couple who found themselves in peril during their Thanksgiving travels were saved from a burning vehicle by a Marine with Headquarters and Service Company, 2d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Nov. 25, 2015.

Sergeant Ian Rivera, an intelligence analyst, departed Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., at approximately 1 p.m. that day, traveling north on Interstate 95 to spend Thanksgiving with his family in Virginia.

About three hours into his drive, near Roanoke Rapids, N.C., a single car triggered a four-vehicle collision that struck a couple in a Mazda 3 the hardest.

“I was about two cars behind,” said Rivera. “I jumped out onto the shoulder of the left side of the road and ran to them. I wanted to make sure they were OK.”

Upon stopping at the driver’s door, he realized smoke was rapidly emerging from what remained of the vehicle’s engine. Rivera quickly mobilized bystanders, several of them other active-duty Marines and soldiers, to tend to the woman in the driver’s seat.

Initially she was incoherent, but eventually revealed that her husband, Captain Ben Sylvester, USA, was immobilized in the backseat.

Sylvester had undergone knee reconstruction surgery two weeks prior, following an injury sustained during an airborne jump. He was helpless due to a hip-to-ankle brace on his right leg.

“Pinned on the floor of a wrecked car ... as smoke and flames visible through the windshield started billowing, was a feeling I’ve never experienced before, and hope never to see again,” Sylvester wrote in an official statement.

Rivera, with the help of others on scene, dragged Sylvester out and then grabbed a water bottle from his vehicle to pour onto the now-burning engine. Shortly afterward, a second fire broke out, this time from under the vehicle, although the fortunate arrival of a bystander with a fire extinguisher allowed Rivera to quickly put it out.

When Sylvester and his wife were evacuated from the vehicle, Rivera again



**Sgt Ian Rivera, an intelligence analyst with H&S Co, 2/8, was responsible for the rescue of two people from a burning car on Interstate 95 in North Carolina, Nov. 25, 2015.**

directed the remaining bystanders to push the wrecked vehicle over to the emergency lane.

Rivera's peers regarded his actions as what would be expected of a Marine of his caliber.

"Sgt Rivera has always been level-headed," said Corporal Nicholas Veasey, an intelligence analyst with H&S Co, 2/8. "The junior Marines under him can always learn from his mentorship."

Rivera spoke with the couple and stayed by their side until police and paramedics arrived on scene approximately 30 minutes later. All others involved in the crash were found to be in safe condition.

"It was a matter of being in the right place at the right time," Rivera said. "It's what I was supposed to do."

Upon his return to base the following Monday, his command recognized him for his heroic actions, with some Marines even nicknaming him "the Hero of 95."

CPT Sylvester and his wife expressed their gratitude to Rivera, acknowledging



CPL PAUL S. MARTINEZ, USMC

that he was instrumental in saving them from clear and present danger.

"I can honestly say I have never been so impressed with a noncommissioned officer's conduct as I was with Sgt Rivera that day," Sylvester wrote. "Through his actions, he literally saved the day. My wife

and I are eternally grateful."

Rivera said he was relieved that through fast thinking and acting, those involved live to see another day.

Cpl Paul S. Martinez, USMC



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



SSGT ROBERT L. FISHER III, USMC

**"Now, let out half your breath and s-q-u-e-e-z-e."**

**Submitted by  
Joe Gabrielli  
Lebanon, Pa.**

### This Month's Photo



LCPL PAUL PETERSON, USMC

(Caption) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org). The winning entry will be published in two months.**



# Now That It's Been a Few Years

## 3d Law Enforcement Battalion Is Ready And Relevant at the Tip of the Spear

Story by Maj Giuseppe A. Stavale, USMC,  
1stLt Nicholas R. Grey, USMC  
and SSgt Kyle R. Soares, USMC

Photos courtesy of 3d LE Bn

There is a common misperception in the Marine Corps that since III Marine Expeditionary Force is the smallest MEF and farthest from the beltway, or “flagpole” as Marines like to say, that it is not busy. Perhaps the distance makes it difficult to understand and appreciate what the MEF is doing. The reality is that III MEF is the smallest of the three MEFs and considering its size and resources—unbelievably engaged, and the ongoing executive policy to rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region constantly underscores this fact!



Many wearing the uniform tend to gloss over the five security alliances the U.S. government maintains in the region and the purpose for having a forward-deployed military presence. These alliances keep III MEF extremely busy with maintaining readiness vis-à-vis several operation plans and concept plans. Toward keeping the

“tip of the spear” sharp in supporting our treaty obligations, III MEF plans and executes more than 70 theater security cooperation exercises annually and maintains the related military and local relationships in the vastest area of operations on the planet.

This reality is unique to III MEF, and in the middle of this high-tempo Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is the newest law enforcement (LE) battalion—3d LE Bn. Activated on June 7, 2012, the battalion became final operations capable (FOC) on March 29, 2013, and is an authentic force multiplier for U.S. forces and allies in the region.

The structuring of Marine Corps military police into battalions first occurred during World War II, when the provost marshal of the Far East Command re-

**Non-lethal weapons and tactics instructors from 3d LE Bn train Marines from one of the Unit Deployment Program battalions on the use of the X-26E Taser, during October 2014.**





An instructor from 3d LE Bn conducts hand grenade training with a Mongolian soldier during Non-Lethal Weapons Seminar 13 (NOLES 13), in August 2013 in Mongolia.

alized that as operations pushed farther into theater, transporting civilians and prisoners of war would no longer be feasible.

Again, during the Vietnam War, units were organized into military police battalions. The 3d Military Police Bn, 3d LE Bn's direct predecessor, fell within the Force Logistics Command, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. Drawing from the lessons learned from previous military police units, one reserve and three active LE battalions were established by Marine Corps Bulletin 5400, released in September 2011, with the mission to conduct law and order operations in order to enhance the security environment and promote the rule of law in support of MAGTF operations.

"We will do what our predecessors have done before and support the MAGTF with the most qualified Marines and with the best expertise and professionalism," said Lieutenant Colonel Amy R. Ebitz in 2012, when standing up 3d LE Bn. Each LE battalion possesses the capability to provide law enforcement and policing operations, investigations, advising and training, and detainee and correctional operations.

Toward establishing each battalion, military police structures from the Major Subordinate Commands (MSC) of each MEF were realigned and placed under the MEF Headquarters Group in general support of each MEF.



**"The consolidation of law enforcement Marines will ensure the battalion is focusing on missions that require the skill set of these Marines."—Capt Cory L. Holiday**

"The consolidation of law enforcement Marines will ensure the battalion is focusing on missions that require the skill set of these Marines," said Captain Cory L. Holiday.

Military police subject-matter experts residing in each MSC as antiterrorism/force protection officers, such as Capt Holiday, were repurposed with additional requirements to serve as integrators for each MSC to advise the planners and leadership on the use of LE battalions in support of its operations and coordinate

for support. At III MEF this has worked well, as 3d LE Bn has been ready and engaged in exercises, contingencies and operations spanning the entire range of military operations and maintaining a specialized force for the alert contingency MAGTF, or ACM element, of the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

The 3d LE Bn has supported the entire MEF and Marine Corps Forces, Pacific with specialized forces for real-world riot control and provided niche capabilities in support of humanitarian assistance and



Above left: GySgt Mark Massalski, a non-lethal weapons instructor, 3d LE Bn, trains Mongolian military forces on riot and crowd control during NOLES 13.

Above right: Oleoresin capsicum, better known as "pepper spray," is used by 3d LE Bn instructors to train members of the Monoglian military on the use of non-lethal weapons during NOLES 13.





**Military working dog handlers from 3d LE Bn conduct water survival training with their canine partners in Okinawa, Japan.**

disaster relief operations during Operation Damayan in the Republic of the Philippines, for example. Specifically, this support includes battlefield site exploitation; investigations in support of the rule of law; police intelligence in support of targeting; main supply route/line of communication, or MSRLOC security; flight line security; convoy security; static security; traffic control; mobile security patrols; incident response; support to air-base ground defense; and the ability to disrupt threats in-depth.

Support also includes crowd/displaced

persons control; customs and border security support; detainee operations; physical security specialists; protective service details; military working dog operations; forensics; narcotics and chemical substance field testing; interview and interrogations; hostage negotiations; marksman-observer teams; and the ability to conduct advising and training in lieu of forces.

Furthermore, 3d LE Bn can conduct mobility operations and, when needed, provide accurate marksmanship (firepower) and rolling stock that would be the envy of any land army unit.

**Any student of warfare can see that current threats, as well as future battlefields, are increasingly becoming asymmetric, requiring forces to constantly adapt.**

The niche capabilities of 3d LE Bn are yet to be fully utilized. As opportunities arise, our enterprise becomes more aware of the unique contribution LE battalions provide to not only III MEF, but to the Marine Corps, the joint force, and alliance partners.

“It’s definitely a good opportunity for we ROK Marines to learn about actual combat tactics taught by the law enforcement Marines with actual wartime experience,” said First Lieutenant Han Kuhm Lee, a military police officer and platoon commander with Military Police Company, 2d Republic of Korea Marine Division.

Additionally, “the LE battalions are poised like no other unit to provide unique support to embassies under threat, presidential support and high-level venues in which the U.S. interagencies request specific military support,” said Sergeant Major Luis E. Hernandez, Sergeant Major, 3d LE Bn.

By establishing these LE battalions with professionals who “think like a cop and fight like a Marine,” commanders are provided with varying capabilities that span the five phases of operations. These LE battalions are saturated in Phase Zero activities but can effectively execute tasks to seize the initiative and dominate with the ability to transition by applying “soft capabilities” as was learned necessary in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Any student of warfare can see that current threats, as well as future battlefields, are increasingly becoming asymmetric, requiring forces to constantly adapt. The LE battalions are a by-product of the many lessons learned and support tasks in each warfighting function which can be leveraged in future conflicts or contingencies.

The III MEF and 3d LE Bn provide an excellent example of the many applications the LE battalions have provided to the MAGTF and alliance partners. In just two years since FOC, 3d LE Bn has executed missions in Operations Damayan (Philippines), Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Onward Liberty (Liberia), and improved the overall MAGTF readiness in the Asia-Pacific region and our interoperability with allies.

This engagement has increased our overall deterrence value by habitually executing joint and bilateral exercises such as the following: Fuji Warrior (Japan); Ulchi Freedom Guardian (Republic of Korea); PHIBLEX (Philippines); Croix de Sud (Australia); Keen Sword (Japan); Yama Sakura (Japan); Spartan Fury (Hawaii); Ryukyu Warrior (Japan); Lava Viper (Hawaii); Key Resolve (Republic



**3d LE Bn Marines instruct Mongolian military forces on the proper use of the M32 Multi-Shot Grenade Launcher during NOLES 13.**

training cadres and engagement events for local U.S. military forces and the interagency.

The III MEF's motto is "The Tip of the Spear," and it applies very well to 3d LE Bn as it quickly has become a high-demand battalion in the Pacific Command's area of operations, thereby validating the need for units with unique policing capabilities in the modern Marine Corps. As III MEF stays heavily engaged in this busy and turbulent part of the globe, you will be sure to find those who "think like a cop and fight like a Marine" in the thick of things upholding our alliance obligations and protecting American interests.

*Authors' bio: Maj Giuseppe A. Stavale is assigned to 3d LE Bn as the executive officer. 1stLt Nicholas R. Grey has been assigned to 3d LE Bn since January 2014 and serves as the assistant operations officer, and Sgt Kyle R. Soares, a staff sergeant select, has been assigned to 3d LE Bn since September 2013 and serves as the Training NCO.*



of Korea); Cobra Gold (Thailand); Khaan Quest (Mongolia); Blue Chromite (Japan); Balikatan (Philippines); Korea Marine Exercise Program, or KMEP, (Republic of Korea); Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar, or NOLES, (Mongolia, Philippines); Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, or CARAT, (Singapore);

Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise, or MEFEX, (Republic of Korea); Marine Rotational Force-Darwin (Australia); and Subject Matters Experts Exchange, or SMEE, (Nepal).

The 3d LE Bn also provides support to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Pacific Ocean) and executes other

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# Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## USO Alliance Set to Expand This Year

In May 2015, the United Service Organizations (USO) introduced the USO Transition 360 Alliance, an initiative to help military personnel and their families successfully transition back into civilian life after their service ends. Further expansion of the program is planned for 2016 and subsequent years.

The alliance partners include the Comfort Crew for Military Kids, Hire Heroes USA, Rally Point/6 (RP/6) and Stronger Families. The USO, a nonprofit organization, has supported America's

troops and their families, providing critical programs and services in more than 160 locations around the world. As a nongovernmental organization with a widespread presence on military installations and 30,000 dedicated volunteers, the USO is uniquely positioned to establish the alliance and collectively reach troops well before they complete their service in order to begin easing their return to civilian life.

Transitioning troops and their families face challenges such as finding a job, moving to a new place or starting at a different school.

The USO Transition 360 Alliance is designed to focus on three key pillars of a successful transition back into civilian life: employment, family strengthening and community reintegration.

Each of the partner organizations supports troops and their families in different ways, whether supporting military kids and teens during transitions; providing career tools, resources and networking opportunities; creating "action" plans for families; and helping military couples reconnect and strengthen their relationships.

"Individually, we could not serve as many troops as well as we can collectively. So the USO has brought these groups together to combine the very best of what each of us has to offer America's transitioning military families, on a scale that no single organization could achieve alone," said J.D. Crouch II, the CEO and president of the USO.

"The transition from military to civilian life is a major adjustment, not just

for American troops, but also for their significant others and their children. When our servicemen and women come home, they need three things to ultimately become thriving, successful veterans: an updated life plan, a career track with a good job, and a strong family," he added.

The alliance became operational in the summer of 2015, and the USO began to roll out a portfolio of tools and resources, including an online experience, in-person representation at USO locations, workshops and case management.

For more information about the USO Transition 360 Alliance, visit [www.uso.org/programs/uso-transition-360-alliance](http://www.uso.org/programs/uso-transition-360-alliance).

USO



## Transition 360 Alliance

## Quantico Community Participates in Wreaths Across America Ceremony

A sea of green wreaths with red ribbons set the scene as more than 300 members of the community participated in the Wreaths Across America holiday wreath-laying ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, Va., Dec. 12, 2015.

The nonprofit organization Wreaths Across America, which was created in 2007 as an extension of The Arlington

Wreath Project, is now a national organization with more than 700 participating locations. The ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery gave the participating community members an opportunity to gather in remembrance of our nation's fallen heroes.

"Many youth groups participated to teach children about American heroes and veterans to whom we owe our freedom," said Richard Leonard, the ceremony guest speaker, who retired in 2000 after 25 years in the U.S. Air Force. Youth from the Civil Air Patrol Squadron of Fredericksburg, Va.; CHCORI (Chancellor, Courtland and Riverbend high schools in the Fredericksburg area) JROTC Battalion; and local Boy and Girl Scouts played a vital role in the ceremony's success.

"A lot of folks that show up are either veterans, family members of veterans or friends of folks buried here," Leonard continued. "This is a special place for me because my parents are buried here as well as colleagues from the police department where I worked."

Buses, cars and motorcycles lined the streets of the cemetery as the participants gathered to lay approximately 5,000 wreaths on headstones during the nationwide wreath-laying ceremony.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Vince Pope of



Teri Reece, president of Blue Star Mothers of Fredericksburg, Va., left, stands with Blue Star Mothers members Rhonda Kuebler, center, and Sharon Kendall during the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, Va., Dec. 12, 2015.





D. MYLES CULLEN

**CHAIRMAN, ENTERTAINERS BRING HOLIDAY CHEER**—Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Ellyn Dunford, gather with the 2015 USO Entertainment Troupe at the start of the 2015 USO Holiday Tour at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Dec. 4, 2015. The Dunfords and participating entertainers were scheduled to visit servicemembers and their families on three continents—Europe, Africa and Asia—during a seven-day holiday season tour. Singer/songwriters Kyle Jacobs, Chris Daughtry, Billy Montana and Brett James, along with actor/director Elizabeth Banks, writer/actor/director David Wain, comedian Sydney Castillo and Boston Red Sox relief pitchers Heath Hembree and Steven Wright, were all part of the troupe.

Weapons Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico, laid one of seven wreaths during the ceremony in remembrance of those who served and those who are still serving in the military.

“It is an honor, because all Marines know that there are those who never come back from a deployment,” Pope said.

He has participated in the ceremony for the past three years to represent the Marine Corps. Pope’s father served in the Navy, his father-in-law retired from the Army, and he has completed seven successful deployments himself.

“Although some people here have never been in the military, they believe in what the military does. They know freedom doesn’t come free. Someone has to sacrifice,” he said. “This event shows how patriotic our community really is, even in the midst of turmoil. People come together for these types of things, because it’s important to remember these veterans.”

Two unique wreaths decorated with gingerbread men and candy-shaped ornaments were created for the children of Gold Star mothers who are part of the Blue Star Mothers of Fredericksburg program. The group is made up of mothers who have children who currently serve in the military or have served in the past.

Since 2008, Blue Star Mothers of Fredericksburg has expanded its membership

in Northern Virginia. Seventy-eight Blue Star mothers raised \$1,600 to donate 320 holiday wreaths to be laid at the ceremony.

Teri Reece, president of Blue Star Mothers of Fredericksburg, said their participation was “very important because our sons and daughters are out there. We are proud to support these mothers. We know one of these gravestones could be our own child, and so we support each other through this network.”

SGT Ida Irby, USA

### **Amidst Global Security Climate, New Policies for Travel Instituted**

In December 2015, the Marine Corps released new policies for Marines on travel outside the United States with Marine Administrative Messages (MARADMINS) 599-15 and 600-15.

The policy update requires Marines who seek to travel outside the country while on leave to have a well thought-out plan.

According to Major Scott Welch, the mission assurance officer for II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., that mission accomplishment requires careful consideration of safety and security.

“Any key component of readiness is safety,” Welch said. “Our Marines should be aware of their surroundings and abide

by the proper precautionary mechanisms put in place.”

The MARADMINS give travel guidance pertaining to unofficial travel in any country in Africa or select European countries. Each battalion within II MEF has a terrorism force prevention specialist who can answer his or her Marines’ questions. They also can keep Marines up to date on recent changes in procedures. The countries in question are subject to change based on the Foreign Clearance Guide, Department of State, Combatant Command, and/or intelligence threat notifications.

“The information and procedures have already been put in place,” said Zulai Baez, the security manager for II MEF. “We want to create muscle-memory within the Marines, so they know exactly who to talk to . . . , plan accordingly and be prepared no matter the situation while aboard.”

For more information and resources, contact your battalion antiterrorism/force protection specialist or visit [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil) to read MARADMINS 599-15 and 600-15.

LCpl Preston McDonald, USMC



# 20 Years of Innovation

## The History and Future of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory

By the staff of the  
Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory

*The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory/Futures Directorate identifies future challenges and opportunities, develops warfighting concepts, and comprehensively explores options in order to inform the combat development process to meet the challenges of the future operating environment.*

### A Possible Tomorrow

In the not-too-distant future, conflict erupts within a dense urban jungle of one of the dozens of mega cities along the littorals of every continent, save the Antarctic. Although regions of these cities may sparkle with modern architecture as well as high-tech transportation and communications, the majority of the inhabitants live in squalor, lacking responsible governance, reliable access to resources, hope and opportunity.

Leveraging the seething unrest, a hostile force equipped with the high-tech weapons of a modern conventional military and harnessing the incredible capability of emerging technologies grows within the “caverns” of high-rise buildings and “marshes” of the sprawling shanty towns. By blending into the population, the hostile force is difficult to detect, identify and engage, and it quickly overwhelms the existing government and becomes a threat to U.S. national interests. To control the growing crisis, the closest Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is dispatched, and while still over the horizon, Marines begin to plan, rehearse and prepare for combat.

### Requirements

For the responding Marines to survive in this environment and prevail against an ever-adapting threat, they must have sound operating concepts, enabling technologies and proficiency in proven tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs). Before and during their deployment, these future

Marines will need improved training to attain and sustain proficiency and the ability to realistically rehearse for missions across the Range of Military Operations (ROMO).

They also will need the ability to sense the operating environment in all domains—long-range, high-endurance, multi-spectral sensor-equipped platforms will provide over-the-horizon awareness while swarms of teamed sensors will provide exquisite local awareness. Detected signatures of interest must be fused into comprehensive representation available to Marines at the tactical edge, and the entire force must be connected with robust and

resilient communications networks.

Responsive and accurate fires with tailorable effects also will be required around the clock in all weather in both the physical and the informational domains. Marines at the tactical edge must be linked to the delivery systems and have the organic capability to make a positive hostile identification (PHID), provide the necessary engagement information and know the effects of fire missions.



CPL MATTHEW J. BRAGG, USMC



**A prototype half-scale Ultra Heavy-Lift Amphibious Connector (UHAC) exits USS *Rushmore* (LSD-47) in the Pacific Ocean, July 11, 2014. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory sponsored the UHAC demonstration during the at-sea phases of the Rim of the Pacific 2014 exercise.**



MC2 AMANDA GRAY, USN

**Opposite page: LCpl Levi Johnson, an intelligence specialist with Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, launches the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Raven drone at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, July 12, 2014. The UAS Raven is part of the Marine Corps Advanced Warfighting Experiment designed to test potential future technologies, solutions and concepts.**

The ability to move quickly and manage their signatures in all domains and to deny detection to the threat also is needed.

In the future, Marines cannot be burdened by the combat loads of today's Marines; their load must be lightened through demand reduction and improved precision delivery options. Casualty care, including robust capabilities at the point of injury, and more rapid long-range medical evacuation also will be required.

The Marines responding in this hypothetical but probable scenario will need

capabilities that today's Marines do not have, capabilities that in many cases do not exist yet and for some may not even be imaginable. Fortunately for these future Marines, they belong to a Corps with a long history of innovation, one that has an organization dedicated to ensuring that when the future arrives, they will be ready. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory/Futures Directorate (MCWL/FD) is charged with leading change and innovation in the Corps and has been doing so since its inception 20 years ago.

## History

On the day he assumed the office as the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Charles C. Krulak published his Commandant's Planning Guidance (CPG) as a keystone document to provide a road map for the future.

One of the Commandant's key objectives was to "encourage—to demand—creativity and innovation in the Corps." Gen Krulak later named this campaign of innovation "Sea Dragon" after a Chinese proverb equating change with a dragon—a beast too dangerous to ignore but too powerful to control. To survive and prosper, the Chinese believed that one must ride the dragon, and Gen Krulak believed that as soldiers of the sea, the





Corps must harness and ride the sea dragon of change. For Gen Krulak, “Sea Dragon is not one particular innovation or idea, but rather a commitment to innovation.”

As a catalyst for this effort, his CPG directed the establishment of a warfighting lab “as the crucible for operational and technological innovation for the Marine Corps.” Tasked as the innovation “cradle and test bed,” the Commandant’s Warfighting Lab (CWL) would be responsible for the “development, field testing, and implementation of future operational and functional concepts, potential doctrinal, organizational, training, educational, and support solutions” and the integration of new technologies.

The CWL became operational on Oct. 1, 1995, and even before it was dedicated in December 1995, the small team of innovators that formed the CWL already was planning several major events.

On Dec. 4-5, 1995, the CWL conducted the first of what would eventually number into the hundreds of wargames, with



**1stLt Chris Christeson, a platoon commander with 1/10, plans for the next fire mission during a limited objective experiment conducted by both 10th Marines and MCWL at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 8, 2015.**

CPL LUCAS HOPKINS, USMC





**Left: MCWL Marines observe as an internally transported vehicle (ITV) is loaded on to a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in preparation for an experimental field exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., Aug. 31, 2015.**

**Below: PFC Jonathan Meissen, a basic rifleman with Company B, 1/1, unloads jugs of water from an ITV during the first phase of a limited objective experiment aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug 13, 2015.**



SGT RICARDO HURTADO, USMC

Rifleman's Combat Optic (RCO), the Personal Role Radio, biometric devices, multiple intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities (Dragon-eye, Wasp and Raven) and the Designated Marksman Rifle.

The organization of MCWL has evolved with its mission and functions. The commanding officer became a commanding general and was designated as the Vice Chief of Naval Research at the Office of Naval Research as well as the Marine Corps' Executive Agent for Science and Technology (S&T). After Sept. 11, 2001, MCWL increased support for engaged Marine forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. New TTPs, technologies and concepts were developed, tested and fielded to meet emerging needs. Support to the counter-improvised explosive device effort was increased, and MCWL added a division for this critical function.

As the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan matured, MCWL was called upon to employ its well-developed urban training capabilities to conceive and create Matilda Village, a mission rehearsal venue for 21 infantry battalion task forces, as well as allied and partnered forces. Each battalion experienced a rigorous, live force-on-force event with a full complement of combined arms to include armor and aviation in direct support, a complex adversary and a neutral role player force employing real-time lessons from theater. Matilda Village was transitioned to Training and Education Command, resulting in the current urban infantry training exercise (ITX) events at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms.

Increasing support for combat operations

did not slow the pace of experimentation and S&T to develop future capabilities, and in 2004, MCWL began in earnest the Distributed Operations (DO) experiment campaign. DO resulted from a concept-based study of all previous experiments, and the campaign (and all subsequent campaigns) was conducted with fleet units after the Corps disestablished the SPMAGTF(X) in 2004.

In the DO campaign, fleet units of platoon size were trained in new concepts and TTPs and equipped with new technologies before participating as the experimental force in field experiments. Following experimentation, those units deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan where they employed experimental concepts, technologies and TTPs in the crucible of combat. Feedback from combat deployments was continually fed into the experimental campaign providing rapid adaptation.

The DO campaign initiated what became a decade-long series of experimental campaigns in Distributed Operations, each with greater size and scope. Following DO, MCWL embarked upon the Enhanced Company Operations (ECO) campaign which culminated with an Advanced Warfighting Experiment (AWE) in 2010 and the Enhanced Marine Air-Ground Task Force Operations (EMO) campaign which culminated with an AWE in 2014. This decade of experimentation resulted in concepts such as the Company Level Intelligence Cell (CLIC), the Company Level Operations Cell (CLOC), the Combat Hunter program, and the "DO Suite" which provided a significant upgrade to infantry battalions' communications and lethality capabilities.

senior Marine leadership participating in a Traders' Game on the floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange. In the autumn of 1996, an experimental Special Purpose MAGTF (SPMAGTF(X)) was added to the CWL, and in March of the following year, the CWL conducted the first live-force experiment in the desert of Twentynine Palms, Calif., as part of the "Hunter Warrior" campaign.

The Hunter Warrior series of experiments was designed to assess concepts centered on dispersed small units operating under a centralized and digital C2 structure. Later that year, the CWL was renamed as the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL).

The Hunter Warrior campaign gave way to Urban Warrior, a campaign of experiments designed to increase the lethality, survivability and effectiveness of small units up to battalion task forces in complex urban settings across the range of military operations. The Urban Warrior series of experiments resulted in the fielding of many emerging technologies such as the



**Below: Capt Jerald Feehery, a project officer with MCWL, discusses tactics with Capt Patrick Parks, commanding officer of Co L, 3/6, prior to MOUT training during a limited objective experiment at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Dec. 8, 2015.**



CPT. MICHAEL DYE USMC

In 2013, MCWL became a part of the newly formed futures directorate under the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration. MCWL/FD is made up of five divisions: futures assessment, concepts and plans, wargaming, science and technology, and experiment. MCWL/FD conducts “horizon scanning” to detect early indications of significant futures change and develops new concepts of operation and employment for naval and Marine Corps capabilities.

The lab crafts wargames and experiments that examine various aspects of military issues by integrating potential warfighting concepts and concepts of operations with existing doctrine. It also harnesses the latest technology emerging from the S&T community to provide potential technology solutions to fill emerging or forecast future needs. The output of the command’s efforts informs the Marine Corps Force Development System and helps to define requirements to enhance warfighting capabilities.

In June 2015, Brigadier General Julian D. Alford took command of MCWL at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and established a bold new path for the next two years with the purpose of orienting the Corps toward what he sees as the most likely threat in the coming decade and beyond. He established several objectives for experimentation:

- Establish and perpetuate the learning environment needed to develop and refine naval and MAGTF TTPs and Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for Distributed Company Operations (DCO).

- Determine the training, organization and equipment requirements to enhance the combat effectiveness of a MAGTF

conducting DCO in the urban littorals.

- Identify the means needed to achieve command and control (C2) integration from the company, across the MAGTF, with joint and coalition forces.

- Develop the training and equipment needed to facilitate logistics demand reduction of forces ashore by foraging, caching and other self-sustainment means.

- Evaluate potential solutions to improve casualty care during the early stages of an amphibious operation.

- Support the development of internally transportable vehicles (ITVs) for infantry forces.



KYLE OLSON

**BGen Julian D. Alford, left, commander of MCWL, and LtGen Robert S. Walsh, right, CG, Marine Corps Combat Development Command Quantico, discuss the Marine Corps’ wargaming plans with Gen Robert B. Neller, center, Commandant of the Marine Corps.**





Marines with Co B, 1/1 escort an M1161 ITV through a simulated combat town during the first phase of a limited objective experiment aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 13, 2015.

SGT RICARDO HURRADO, USMC

- Support Marine Corps Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Enterprise (MCISR-E) by providing opportunities for experimentation with emerging capabilities.

- Identify and assess materiel and non-materiel solutions to a technology denied/degraded environment.

- Enable squad-level units full access to the information available from MAGTF digital systems.

- Identify and evaluate the methods to provide logistics to forces ashore by means other than manned aircraft.

- Identify and evaluate organic company-level precision fires systems and munitions.

- Develop the means to integrate Information Warfare (IW) in support of MAGTF anti-access, area denial (A2AD) challenges and DCO.

- Identify and assess energy efficiencies across the MAGTF.

- Develop CONOPS for the employment of alternative platforms for sea-based littoral operations.

- Refine the CONOPS for and develop TTPs and other capabilities associated

with the Expeditionary Advanced Base (EAB) Ops concept.

The first major effort in the campaign of experimentation will be a MAGTF Integrated Experiment (MIX), conducted with a full Marine expeditionary unit (MEU) and focused on air, logistics and ground force integration with experimental technology and tactics to win against a future threat in a future environment. The MIX will examine the Marine Corps' operational concepts in an A2AD environment.

An airmobile company landing team (CLT) will project from extended range and operate in a military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) complex against a peer force fighting with asymmetric tactics in the midst of a civilian populous. The CLT will be task organized and reinforced with technology enablers to produce a unit with all capabilities inherent in a future MEU and access to joint resources.

A broad range of unmanned systems will be employed to increase the capability and capacity of the digitally connected

squads. Squads that also will have access to precision organic fire support will include information warfare (IW), cyber capabilities and counter-unmanned systems capabilities. All sustainment will be air lifted or foraged, and the unit will operate with expeditionary power, water purification devices and expeditionary medical capabilities.

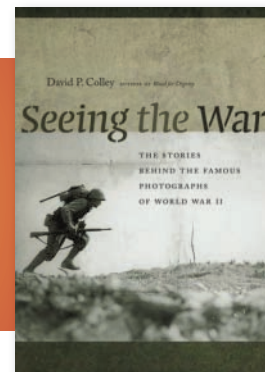
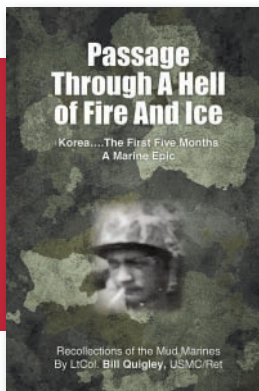
These experiments and all other efforts within MCWL/FD are a continuation of the Corps' legacy of innovation. They are the latest in a long history that has ensured we are the most ready when the nation is least ready. The new concepts needed for the future are being developed and proven through wargaming and campaigns of experimentation, and the technologies that will equip future Marines are being pursued. When the future arrives, the end state for MCWL/FD is that the Marine Corps is ready. In this, MCWL's 20th year, the legacy of Sea Dragon lives on and the mission is as clear as ever—to drive the future of the Marine Corps.





# Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from *The MARINE Shop*. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 6 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 7 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at [www.marineshop.net](http://www.marineshop.net).



**PASSAGE THROUGH A HELL OF FIRE AND ICE: Korea ... The First Five Months, A Marine Epic. By LtCol Bill Quigley, USMC (Ret). Published by Page Publishing Inc. 410 pages. Softcover. Stock #1634176774. \$17.96 MCA Members. \$19.95 Regular Price.**

“Passage Through a Hell of Fire and Ice” is a nitty-gritty tale of a “Mud Marine’s” experiences during the first five months of the Korean War—including the historic Chosin Reservoir campaign.

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Quigley, probably best known for the “Quigley” confidence course he designed at the Officer Candidates School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., has penned a comprehensive recollection of his Marine Corps service from boot camp through being wounded and evacuated in Korea. Quigley introduces the reader to a multitude of fellow Marines—from his drill instructors to his “foxhole buddies.”

The reader is escorted on a journey so graphic in detail that one feels part of the action. He paints a visual picture of events—firefights, incoming artillery, enemy suicide attacks and horrendous weather conditions.

This book is one in which you have to read both the introduction and the foreword. They add immeasurably to the body of work. Bill Quigley’s “The Commentary” at the end of the book gives further insight into a career-Marine officer’s opinions based upon his service and experiences for 30 years.

As he relates his trip by ship to Korea,

you can almost feel the sea breeze hit you in the face and the cramped troop quarters as you work your way through the chow line on the ship’s mess deck.

In the first three chapters, the author takes you with him as he joins the Marine Corps, undergoes recruit training and becomes part of the rapid buildup to provide a Marine Division to General Douglas MacArthur. Again, through his detailed descriptions, you accompany Quigley in the events leading up to his deployment to Korea with the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade as it becomes the First Marine Division. He shares his emotions and feelings with you, again through his extraordinary descriptions. He consistently puts you right in the middle of the action with him. You can hear the bullets going past, feel the shock from the artillery rounds landing nearby, hear the planes providing close air support screaming overhead, and suffer the bone-chilling, 30-degree-below-zero cold.

At the Pusan Perimeter, as he faces his first combat action, he shares his fear of not measuring up and shaming himself, his buddies and his outfit. In his “baptism of fire,” he proves to be more than equal to the task. As he relates wading through the rice paddies, enduring the oppressive heat and the fanatical charging North Koreans, you almost can smell the paddies, experience the heat and share his anxiety as the enemy attacks.

He also relates his emotions upon having Marines in the next foxhole blown

apart by an incoming enemy mortar round and seeing a man he was with at Camp Pendleton, Calif., being carried off as a casualty. As the reader, you easily understand his observation that “no training, no matter how thorough, could totally prepare you for that first experience of seeing our own casualties being hauled off.”

Quigley takes you with him aboard USS *Henrico* (AP-90) en route to the Inchon landing. Again he describes the monotony of shipboard life for embarked Marines. You can visualize the troop compartments with rows upon rows of five- or six-high sleeping racks. You can imagine being there in your bunk loaded with all of your gear and yourself.

He compares the Inchon landing to an end run in football. The idea being to land, drive inland and cut the North Korean supply lines, leaving the enemy stranded farther south. Again he takes great effort to describe in detail the Marines, the enemy, the weather and his own actions. You climb the seawall at Red Beach with him, join him and his fellow Marines in a trench wrestled from the enemy, cross open ground and head for a prize target—a brewery.

At the Chosin Reservoir, on Nov. 23, 1950, the Marines celebrated Thanksgiving with a traditional dinner with all the trimmings. The only problem was that they had to wolf the food down before it froze. Bill Quigley describes it in such a way that you can almost taste the freezing food



as it makes its way to your mouth.

He remembers orders his unit received to move from the east side of the reservoir to the west side and join with the 7th Army Division. The temperature plummeted to a reported 45 degrees below zero.

For someone interested in learning what Marines endured during the Chosin Reservoir campaign, this book will provide a rare insight into what warfare is like. You'll meet a cast of characters who are truly Marine—from Sergeant McCartney to Clancy to Billy Simms to Jose Guadeloupe Mexicano and the typically Marine nicknames they all earned.

Quigley's anecdotes lend to add to the realistic events he relates as do the photos of equipment, enemy troops and battle sites and scenes scattered through the book. His maps add greatly to further understanding the movements and the terrain over which these Korean War battles were fought.

This book is exactly what Bill Quigley claims—"the recollections of a Mud Marine"; the vivid experiences of a Marine who, as in most combat situations, saw the war as it related to his fire team, his squad and his platoon.

Don Gee

*Author's bio: GySgt Don Gee, USMC (Ret) served four terms as the president of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association. LtCol Quigley (as a staff sergeant) was his senior drill instructor at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., in 1957. Gunny Gee is the association manager for the 3dMarDiv Association and the business manager for The Chosin Few.*

**KENTUCKY MAVERICK: The Life and Adventures of Colonel George M. Chinn. By Carlton Jackson. Published by The University Press of Kentucky. 224 pages. Stock #0813161053. \$26.96 MCA Members. \$29.95 Regular Price.**

A few months after the boy's fifth birthday, he was allowed to twirl the crank of a Gatling. Within a week, he was able to dismantle and reassemble in minutes the machine gun's revolving cluster of barrels, although, admittedly, with a touch of trouble on the first try. Who would have believed during those early moments that the boy's natural curiosity would evolve into a lifelong fascination with military weapons development, as well as a special aptitude and affinity for repairing, enhancing and even designing machine guns, light cannons and artillery, as well as other small-arm mounts, carriages, special ammunition, including the lightweight materials needed to mass produce them?

Less than 50 years later, his ordnance inventions and patents, restorations and

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modifications, especially during World War II and the Korean War, classified him as a genius in the minds of the American and British military men. In fact, so much so that officials in the War Department, followed later by those in the Pentagon, denied his final discharge after 26 years as a Marine colonel! This was because of his value and importance to the nation—a brain tantamount to a national treasure not only storing but also retrieving every known fact and bit of information, classified and unclassified, about automatic rapid continuous firing, and also a mind to formulate better light machine guns and heavier weapons for the 21st century.

So, who in the hell was this 300-pound Marine who was a veteran of WW I, WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, earning innumerable ribbons, citations, medals and other decorations such as the Legion of Merit (WW II), the Bronze Star (Korea) and the Meritorious Service Medal (Vietnam), among others?

No one has characterized and defined Colonel George M. Chinn better than biographer Carlton Jackson, distinguished professor at Western Kentucky University and author of numerous other books including "Hattie—The Life of Hattie McDaniel," listed by *The New York Times* as one of America's most notable bio-

ographies. "Kentucky Maverick" tells us how a gun got hold of a little kid's imagination and held it to his dying day, obsession dimming gradually into the first blush of origination and invention.

All psychologists and philosophers nod in approval as Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961), the father of analytical psychology, reminds, "In the end, the essential thing is how the life of an individual was lived."

In Chinn's case, a life was not only lived, but also grew into a life force! He attended military schools "... because dad thought I looked good in a uniform"; enjoyed ROTC, although was often a disciplinary problem; was commissioned an officer from Millerburg Military Institute in December 1918, and was scheduled for departure to France when the Armistice intervened.

He majored in "football penmanship" at Centre College near Harrodsburg, Ky., later becoming known locally, regionally and nationally as one of the most accomplished football coaches in the country; profited from selling illegal liquor and running "games of chance" deep behind the walls of his hot dog and soda stand, "Chinn's Cave House"; and then served as Governor A.B. "Happy" Chandler's political advisor, handyman and bodyguard before joining the Marines in 1943.



Because he was 38, weighing 330 pounds, surpassing the USMC's age requirement by 10 years and weight limit by 118 pounds, the governor had to pull a lot of strings to get him waived in—some said the most significant waiver in all U.S. military history.

Chapter four, "Semper Fi," describes how Chinn's aptitude tests placed him high in experimental weaponry equipment, both ground and aviation. He was sent to Patuxent in Maryland where he was assigned to "Cuckoo Academy" and "Screwball Institute" to troubleshoot inadequate ordnance designs and production difficulties. His invention of the M19 automatic grenade launcher suddenly distinguished him, Governor Chandler boasting to J. Edgar Hoover, "Chinn is the best automatic weapons man the military has."

Hopefully, general readers will indulge aficionados of continuous rapid fire guns a few moments to appreciate the colonel's remarkable achievements: the Navy's EX-6 20 mm aircraft machine gun, its high-velocity 40 mm MK19 machine gun, and low-velocity 40 mm MK20 machine gun; the MK22 high-velocity 20/30 mm aircraft machine gun; the chamber lubricator for the 20 mm Hispano-Suiza machine gun; the blow-back adapter for the .50-caliber M3 high rate of fire aircraft

machine gun; the extractor depressor for the .50-cal. M2 basic machine gun; the flameout eliminator for the gun installation on the F7F fighter aircraft; the slip chamber for the 20/30 aircraft cannon; the muzzle blast combustion control device for the 20/30 aircraft cannon; the belt pull accelerator for all wing-mounted .50-cal. M2 machine guns; the continuous-flow ammunition cans for the turret mounting aircraft M2 machine guns, etc.

To sum him up, there never has been such an officer as Col George M. Chinn in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps with such expertise and enthusiasm for the science of continuous fire, including the accurate flight of projectiles. In addition to "Kentucky Maverick" being a pleasure to read, it can be said to belong on every serious military reader's bookshelf.

The colonel passed away in September of 1987 at the age of 85. A Marine honor guard acted as pallbearers. Col John Marsh was one of the official dignitaries to address the audience. "His grenade launcher which we used continually without a problem against the Viet Cong in the hills of South Vietnam saved countless allied lives, including virtually all those Marines in my own unit."

Sadly, biographer Carlton Jackson passed away in February of 2014. Although

Jackson's manuscript carries a posthumous publication date, the author's two sons reviewed the final copy-edited draft ensuring their father's admiration for George M. Chinn, as well as the colonel's heartfelt respect and love for the Corps.

Don DeNevi

*Author's bio: Don DeNevi, a scriptwriter and author of more than 30 books, frequently reviews World War II books for Leatherneck. In addition, he proudly supervises the recreation programs at San Quentin State Prison in California.*

**SEEING THE WAR: The Stories Behind the Famous Photographs of World War II. By David P. Colley. Published by ForeEdge. Softcover. 192 pages. Stock #1611687268. \$22.46 MCA Members. \$24.95 Regular Price.**

David Colley's new book, "Seeing the War," has uncovered the stories behind some of World War II's most compelling photos. The iconic and often familiar photos portray the men, women and war machines that went into harm's way. Many of the photos selected certainly will be recognized by most military history buffs.

You may quickly recall the faces in the photos, but just never knew who these great Americans were. The stories behind the images are carefully researched and now presented in this wonderful new volume. The author writes: "We have seen their faces for three-quarters of a century." Now we may learn something about these members of the Greatest Generation—then, they were only youth, but, in most cases now, are gone to their glory.

For instance, the book's cover photo of a Marine at war will be familiar to many. It is the image of Private First Class Paul Ison, taken on May 1945 on the battered island of Okinawa. Ison is captured sprinting across Death Valley toting his trusty M1 Garand. On that day, Marines sustained 125 casualties crossing the vast fire-swept wasteland. PFC Ison, age 28, made three harrowing trips across the valley carrying needed ammunition and satchel charges to his buddies at the front.

In 1984, when Ison was interviewed by *Leatherneck*, he recalled his dash between the two enemy-infested ridges on that May day. In the interview, he stated: "I got ready to go first ... and saw a photographer [Private Bob Baily] aiming a camera at me. I didn't slow down to wave or smile, believe me!" After the war, Ison lived in Fort Myers, Fla., before passing on to his final glory in October of 2001.

In another WW II image we all are familiar with, General Dwight D. Eisenhower is shown speaking with a group of paratroopers the day before they were dropped into France on D-Day. The troop-

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er that GEN Eisenhower was talking with was 22-year-old Lieutenant Wallace Strobel, who stood tall in a group of other jumpers, as they listened carefully to their Allied Supreme Commander. The lieutenant recalled that GEN Eisenhower asked him if he was ready to go, and also about the fishing prospects in Michigan.

The likeness of this photo appeared on a postage stamp commemorating Eisenhower in 1991, and on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, Strobel proudly stood next to President Ronald W. Reagan at a ceremony in France. Strobel saw action in Holland and at the Battle of the Bulge. He came through the brutal war without sustaining any injury. He died in Saginaw, Mich., in 1999 at the age of 77.

One compelling and well-reprinted photo is of the wounded Kenny Bratton, from Oxford, Miss., being gently removed from the gunnery turret of his Navy Avenger torpedo bomber. He flew off the aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga* (CV-3). After the war he married and had four children. It was noted that he didn't talk much but was loved by everyone. He passed away from the effects of colon cancer at the age of 62 in 1983.

Another interesting photo in the book shows a nurse, Second Lieutenant Evangeline Coeyman, ministering to a wounded

soldier at the mobile Army hospital somewhere in West Germany. The photo appeared in the Pan American edition of *Yank* magazine late in the war. Today, Coeyman continues to be active in veterans affairs and lives in Allentown, Pa.

The book also contains some photos and stories of several famous warplanes. An incredible photo of the "All American," a B-17 bomber that had been shot all to hell, will be recalled by many. Its tail section had almost been completely sheared off, but, magically, the bomber returned to base and made a safe landing. Perhaps the most celebrated bomber of the war was the "Memphis Bell." She completed 25 missions before being retired from combat. Arguably the least lucky bomber was the "Wee Willie." The dramatic photo of the bomber shows the fuselage completely separated from its right wing. Two of her lucky crewmen managed to jump clear of the stricken aircraft.

Two additional photos of Marines at war include a gritty shot of 19-year-old Faris "Bob" Tuohy of the 22d Marine Regiment after a three-day operation against Engebi in the Eniwetok Atoll. Another memorable shot is of Marine Wayne Terwilliger who landed on Green Beach during the invasion of Saipan. Wayne survived the war and became a major

league ball player.

The author, David Colley, began work on this fine book 20 years ago. His love of history and, in particular, the history of photos of the World War, spurred him on. Colley collected photos and spent time tracking down the participants with vigor. Perhaps he will follow up this fine volume by researching and reporting the stories of our WW II combat photographers who risked their lives shooting these iconic war photos and films.

The book is a joy to read, most interesting, and a must for your military history library collection. If you're like me, an avid reader of all things related to my father's war, you'll certainly want to "Grab it and growl!"

Robert B. Loring

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





# In Memoriam

Compiled by Savannah Norton and Nancy S. Lichtman

"In Memoriam" is run on a space-available basis. Those wishing to submit items should include full name, age, location at time of death (city and state), last grade held, units served in, dates of service and, if possible, a local or national obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear.

## Remains of Marine Killed on Tarawa Buried at Arlington National Cemetery

**Corporal James D. Otto**, 20, of Los Angeles, Calif., was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Dec. 8, 2015.

In November 1943, Cpl Otto was assigned to Company L, 3d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll. Over several days of intense fighting, approximately 1,000 Marines were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded. Otto was reported killed in action on the first day of the battle, Nov. 20, 1943.

In the immediate aftermath of the fighting on Tarawa, U.S. military personnel who died in the battle were buried in battlefield cemeteries. In 1946 and 1947, when remains recovery operations were conducted, Cpl Otto's remains were not recovered. On Feb. 10, 1949, a military review board declared his remains unrecoverable.

In June 2015, History Flight Inc., a nongovernmental organization, notified the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) that they discovered a burial site on Betio Island and recovered the remains of what they believed were U.S. Marines who fought there in 1943.

The remains were turned over to DPAA in July 2015. Scientists from DPAA used laboratory analysis, including dental comparisons, to identify Cpl Otto's remains.

Department of Defense

**CMSgt Aubrey A. Applewhite Jr.**, USAF, 90, of Ocala, Fla. During WW II he served in the Marine Corps in the Pacific and saw action at Iwo Jima. After the war, he joined the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1964.

**Robert J. Bennett**, 92, of East Syracuse, N.Y. He was a Marine who served on Guadalcanal during WW II.

**1stLt Robert M. Bestor**, 97, of East Moline, Ill. He was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II.

**Maj John J. Browning**, 92, of Rushville, Ill. He was a Corsair pilot who flew combat missions during WW II with VMF-115 in the Philippines. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. Subsequent Marine Corps Reserve duty included an assignment as commanding officer of 81st Rifle Co, Springfield, Ill. His awards include two Distinguished Flying Crosses and five Air Medals.

**George W. Brummet**, 89, of Knoxville, Tenn. He served in the Marine Corps during WW II.

**Robert H. "Bob" Clark**, 89, of Vancouver, Wash. He was a Marine who served during WW II. After the war, he had a career in law enforcement.

**Jack Davis**, 94, of La Plata, Md. He was a Marine veteran of WW II and the Korean War.

**LtCol Forest "Gene" Dawson**, 86, of El Paso, Texas. He was a Marine aviator who served for 25 years. He flew combat missions with VMA-212, 1st MAW, during the Korean War, and during the Vietnam War, he was an A-4 Skyhawk pilot with VMA-121, flying out of Chu Lai. Toward the end of his tour in RVN he was the Chu Lai Air Base commander. He later served as CO of VMA-124 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

After retirement, he opened Gene's Flight School in Santa Teresa, N.M., which he owned and operated for 39 years. During his career, he accumulated 30,000 flying hours. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

**Robert F. "Bob" Denny**, 84, of Vancouver, Wash. He was a navigator with the 1st MAW during the Korean War. He returned to college after the war and earned degrees in forestry and engineering. He missed his flying days in the Marine Corps, so he went to work for TWA as a navigator. He later had a job with an aerospace company, helping to develop the camera systems for the SR-71 Blackbird.

**BGen George E. Dooley**, 96, of Carlsbad, Calif. He was a Marine aviator who accumulated 6,000 flying hours during his 31 years of service.

He flew 150 combat missions during WW II. While flying TBF Avengers with VMSB-131 during the Battle of Guadalcanal, he dropped a torpedo that helped sink the Japanese battleship *Hiei*. While CO of VMF-216, attached to USS *Wasp* (CV-18), he was awarded a Silver Star for actions against Japanese forces in the Tokyo Bay area on Feb. 16, 1945. "Participating in one of the initial attacks against a major enemy airfield despite adverse weather conditions, Major Dooley defied intense anti-aircraft fire and hostile fighter opposition to lead a successful low-level strafing attack over the airfield," according to the award citation.

Among his many assignments, he was the XO of MAG-11 at NAS Atsugi, Japan; CO of MAG-13 at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; and chief of staff for III MAF at Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam.

His other awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**Cpl Michael A. Dudash Sr.**, 94, of Yorktown, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943. He was a field lineman and switchboard operator who served with H&S Btry, 1st Provisional Field Artillery Group, 5thMarDiv, during the battle for Iwo Jima. Following the invasion, he set up the field telephones and operated the switchboard, allowing the Navajo Code Talkers to communicate.

He was a member of the MCL Yorktown Det. #1173.

**Don N. Estes**, 66, of Ellijay, Ga. He was a force recon Marine during the Vietnam War.

**Morris E. Ferrell Sr.**, 86, of White Oak, Texas. After graduation from high school he served in the Marine Corps. He later had a career in the oil industry.

**Jack R. Gardner**, 90, of Iola, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943 and served in the South Pacific until the end of WW II. After his return home, he owned and operated an automotive garage. In 1950, he reenlisted in the Marine Corps and spent the rest of his career as an aircraft mechanic.



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Post Tour: St Petersburg

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Post Tour: Battle of the Bulge - Bastogne

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**Nick Gardner**, 50, of Erie, Pa. He was a Marine Corps veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

**SgtMaj Edward P. Grealish**, 76, of Winder, Ga. He was a Marine who served for 25 years, including three tours in Vietnam. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" and three Purple Hearts.

**Capt Frank M. Guenther**, 81, in Dallas, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps Reserve.

**Gordon K. Hargett**, 92, of Longview, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps following the outbreak of WW II.

**Gerald E. "Gary" Heller**, 69, of Sumner, Iowa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 1966. He served in Vietnam. His awards include two Purple Hearts. He was a member of the American Legion Thomas E. Woods Post #223, the Disabled American Veterans and the MCA&F.

**Lewis R. "Dick" Henderson**, 89, in Richardson, Texas. He was a Marine who fought in the Pacific during WW II. He later worked in the insurance industry for 30 years.

**Col Diane Sue Hoeft**, 67, of Fairfax, Va. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, she was commissioned in the Marine Corps. For the

next 28 years, she served not only as a manpower specialist, but in other assignments, including as a White House social aide. She also served four years as the vice president for Marine Corps University.

In 2012 she joined the board of directors of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

**W.R. "Bill" Holdeman**, 91, of Marion, Kan. He was a Marine veteran of WW II who served in the South Pacific. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**MAC Ronald T. Hyson**, USN, 79, of Kittery, Maine. He served in the Marine Corps from 1958 to 1969, including a tour in Vietnam. He later joined the Navy.

**Capt Joseph H. Kelly Jr.**, 86, of Williamsburg, Va. He attended Seton Hall University on a track scholarship before graduating from OCS and receiving a commission in the Marine Corps. He served during the Korean War.

**Stanley W. Mellies**, 89, in Eugene, Ore. He was a Marine who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 5th Tank Bn. During the Korean War, he served with 11th Marines during the Chosin Reservoir campaign.

**Jim Michalec**, 89, of San Marcos, Texas. He served in the Marine Corps and later pitched for the St. Louis Cardinals.

**Doyal E. Scott**, 91, of Chicksaw, Ala. He was a Marine who served during WW II.

He was employed by the International Paper Company for 39 years.

**Ernest A. Shettler**, 69, of Cottageville, W.Va. He was a Marine who served in the Vietnam War.

**SgtMaj William J. Sloan Jr.**, 86, of Jacksonville, N.C. He had a 30-year career that included embassy duty and combat in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was also a "China Marine." His awards include the Bronze Star and the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V."

**Waldemar W.C. "Wally" Sosolik**, 97, of The Woodlands, Texas. He served in the South Pacific during WW II, including Guadalcanal, where he was wounded and received a Purple Heart.

**MSgt Ralph O. Thorpe**, 97, in Carrollton, Texas. He saw action in WW II with the 3dMarDiv, on Guadalcanal, Guam and Bougainville.

**SSgt Loren E. Weillnau**, 87, of Milan, Ohio. He served with the 1stMarDiv at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

**Sgt Howard W. "Bill" Withrow**, 85, of Kenna, W.Va. He served in the Marine Corps, including duty in the 1st Signal Operation Bn at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.





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the name, "How Many of You Remember This Little Acronym?"

AFLT wants equal time along with IAMUWEECAT. When I went through boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., in February 1960 with Platoon 119, in addition to the rearward movements of the M1 rifle, we also learned the forward movements using the acronym AFLT. As I recall, AFLT stood for: the "Action" of the spring bringing the bolt and operating rod forward; "Feeding" of a round by the follower; "Locking" of the bolt; and "Termination" of the forward movement. That may be a little off, but the memory aid for AFLT sounded like it came right out of WW II because the last two letters "LT" stood for Lana Turner. Anyone out there remember this?

Col Forest Lucy, USMC (Ret)  
Carrollton, Texas

**SOUND OFF**  
[continued from page 7]

Round" page. Drinking over the years has been a problem in the Corps, and I see no reason for the babble in the last line. Many other appropriate items could have appeared on this page that could have

spoken to the tradition of the Corps and the bond among Marines.

Art Montegari  
Ridgewood, N.J.

**I'll See Your IAMUWEECAT  
And Raise You One AFLT**

Regarding IAMUWEECAT addressed in the November 2015 "Sound Off" under

**"Doggies" Re-Up, Marines "Ship Over"**

It may be of interest to you that Marines no longer "ship over." I was reading one of the letters in *Leatherneck* recently when I noticed the term "ship over."

When I got back from Vietnam in 1966, we tended to joke about "lifers," and some talked about shipping over. I now work as a contractor with FSMAO-West (Field Supply Maintenance Analysis Office) at



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Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

This year we were at a unit during an inspection and surrounded by young Marines. I mentioned the term "shipping over" to a young lance corporal, and she didn't have the slightest idea what I was talking about and neither did any of the others.

I had to go to one of the retired Marines, an inspector, to find someone who understood what I was talking about. I guess now they just reenlist.

Sgt Duane Tobert, USMC  
1963-67  
Fountain Valley, Calif.

• *Ship over: To reenlist, not re-up, for another cruise. Yes, time for a final sermon: Language, terms and things do change over the years, but as "The Marine Corps Officer's Guide," 1964 edition, states, "The traditions of the Marine Corps, its history, its flags, its uniforms, its insignia—the Marine Corps way of doing things—make the Corps what it is [and set it distinctively apart from other military organizations and services].*

*"These traditions give the Marine Corps its flavor and are the reason why the Corps cherishes its past, its ways of acting and speaking, and its uniforms.*

*These things foster the discipline, valor, loyalty, aggressiveness, and readiness, which make the term 'Marine' ... signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.*

*"One writer on Marine traditions nailed down their importance in [the following] words: 'As our traditions, our institutions, and even our eccentricities—like live coral—develop and toughen, so the Corps itself develops and toughens.'*

*"And remember: whenever the Marine Corps is impoverished by the death of a tradition, you are generally to blame. Traditions are not preserved by books and museums, but by faithful adherence on the part of all hands—you especially."—Sound Off Ed.*

#### Reunions

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn. (Parris Island Chapter)**, April 21-24, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 499-0224, [www.parrislanddi.org](http://www.parrislanddi.org).

• **Veterans of Iwo Jima**, Feb. 17-20, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Dan Zepeda, (951) 201-6251, [zepeda012@msn.com](mailto:zepeda012@msn.com).

• **Subic Bay Marines**, Aug. 30- Sept. 3, Boston, Mass. Contact John Laccinole, (818) 591-8916, [johnlaccinole@aol.com](mailto:johnlaccinole@aol.com).

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• **3d and 4th Defense Bns (Solomon Islands, WW II)**, Sept. 14-17, Billings, Mont. Contact Charles Buckley, (510) 589-5380, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, (512) 638-2075, sharon\_heideman@yahoo.com.

• **1/5 (1986-92)**, May 6-8, Macomb, Ill. Contact Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptimfi@yahoo.com, or see Facebook page: 1/5 USMC Reunion.

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.

• **I/3/7 (all eras)**, April 27-30, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Dennis Deibert, 6007 Catherine St., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717) 652-1695.

• **Btry A, 1/11 (RVN)**, April 15-19, Herndon, Va. Contact Peter Van Ryzin,

(540) 347-3267, vanryzin1@hughes.net, www.a111reunion.com.

• **Btry K, 4/13 (RVN)**, May 18-22, Quantico, Va. Contact Tom Gafford, (434) 546-0774, tomgafford@gmail.com.

• **“Bravo” Co, 4th CEB, 4thMarDiv (Desert Storm, 25th Anniversary)**, May 13-14, Roanoke, Va. Contact Steve Garman, P.O. Box 748, Salem, VA 24153, stevegarman7@gmail.com.

• **1st Provisional Marine Brigade (“The Fire Brigade,” Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, wwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.

• **American Embassy Saigon (RVN, pre-1975)**, Sept. 4-7, Portland, Ore.

Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.

• **TBS Class 5-62**, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Denis W. Retoske, (714) 287-0706, dwrlawyer@gmail.com, tbsclass562@gmail.com.

• **TBS Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

• **TBS, Co E, 5-86**, June 16-19, Quantico, Va. Contact Pete Gill, (423) 502-8963, peteandjonigill@hotmail.com, or Kevin Ainsworth, (212) 692-6745, kainsworth@mintz.com.

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojoto1@gmail.com.

• **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

• **Plt 245, San Diego, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8o06@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.

• **Plt 340, Parris Island, 1963**, is planning a reunion. Contact Garrett W. Silvia, (508) 992-7392, gwsil@comcast.net.

• **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**, is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.

• **Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707) 527-8319, wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 4035, “Papa” Co, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **VMA(AW)-242 (RVN)**, May 1-4, Gettysburg, Pa. Contact Bill Mellors, 4000 Emmitsburg Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320, 242reunion@gmail.com.

• **VMFA-212 (1975-81)**, March 18-20, San Diego, Calif. Contact J.D. Loucks, P.O. Box 1, East Jewett, NY 12424, vmfa212reunion@aol.com.

## Ships and Others

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, May 15-19, Warwick, R.I. Contact David F. Fix, 131 Waypoint Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com, www.ussinchon.com.



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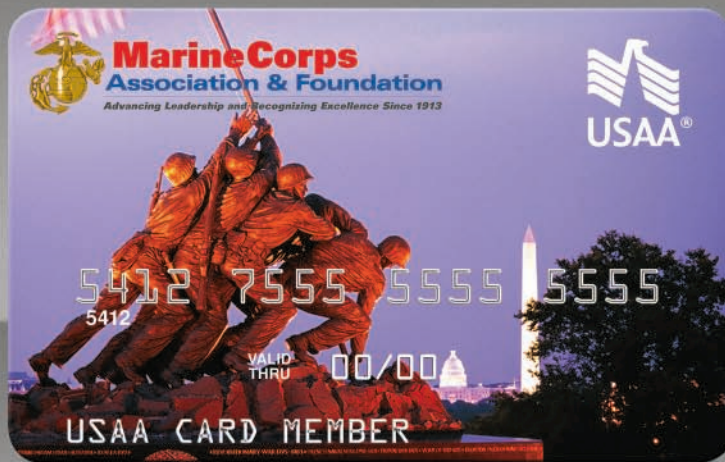






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# Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

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## Mail Call

- Steve Rasner, 12504 N. 2100 St., Marshall, IL 62441, (217) 251-7350, (217) 251-1304, to hear from or about **Lloyd HANSON, E.M. WETZEL, Tommy STEVENS and Rick THOMAS**, who served with him in **Headquarters Co, 3d Tank Bn, 3dMarDiv, RVN, June 1968-October 1969.**

- Edward Sprague, (864) 593-1288, edwardsprague7@gmail.com, to hear from members of **Plt 3016, Parris Island, 1968.**

- Michael Giovinazzo, (845) 225-7151, mgiovinazzo@gmail.com, to hear from Marine veterans who want to share stories of **operations with tanks and M50 Ontos**, for potential publication in the

USMC Vietnam Tankers Association magazine.

- Sgt Michael R. Ries, (218) 345-6211, mrries1@aol.com, to hear from or about **Lt Barry BURKE**, whom he served with in **3d 8-in. Howitzer Btry, Hill 52, RVN, 1968-69, and Schools Bn, Camp Pendleton, Calif.**

- Sgt Stephen Norpel, 206 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com, to hear from members of **Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968.**

## Wanted

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

- Antonio Lomeli, 17710 Red Oak Dr.,

#276, Houston, TX 77090, (346) 333-9053, arlomeli51@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1086, San Diego, 1980.**

- Ronald Saunders, 566 Mildred Pl., Hayward, CA 94544, (510) 828-8903, saundersron77@yahoo.com, wants a **1968 "Guidebook for Marines."**

- William A. LeBlanc, (713) 824-1053, knight7136@att.net, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 208, Parris Island, 1964.**

- Nathaniel J. Session, njsession@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 1081, San Diego, 1987.**



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# Saved Round

Compiled by Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)



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